

Non-Executive Report of the: COUNCIL 17 July 2019	
Report of: Asmat Hussain, Corporate Director, Governance and Monitoring Officer	Classification: Unrestricted
Motion for debate submitted by an Opposition Group	

Originating Officer(s)	Matthew Mannion, Head of Democratic Services
Wards affected	All wards

SUMMARY

1. Council Procedure Rule 11 allows for time at each Ordinary Council meeting for the discussion of one Motion submitted by an Opposition Group. The debate will follow the rules of debate at Council Procedure Rule 13 and will last no more than 30 minutes.
2. The motion submitted is listed overleaf. In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11, submission of the Opposition Motion for Debate will alternate in sequence between the opposition groups. This Opposition Motion is submitted by the Conservative Group.
3. Motions must be about matters for which the Council or its partners has a direct responsibility. A motion may not be moved which is substantially the same as a motion which has been put at a meeting of the Council in the previous six months; or which proposes that a decision of the Council taken in the previous six months be rescinded; unless notice of the motion is given signed by at least twenty Members.
4. Notice of any proposed amendments to the Motions must be given to the Monitoring Officer by Noon the day before the meeting.

MOTION

Set out overleaf is the motion that has been submitted.

9 – Opposition Motion by the Conservative Group – regarding Climate Change.

Proposer: Councillor Peter Golds
Seconder: Councillor Andrew Wood

This Council notes:

- that the impacts of climate breakdown are already causing serious damage around the world;
- that the 'Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C', published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in October 2018, (a) describes the enormous harm that a 2°C average rise in global temperatures is likely to cause compared with a 1.5°C rise, and (b) confirms that limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society and the private sector;
- that all governments (national, regional and local) have a duty to act, and local governments that recognise this should not wait for their national governments to change their policies;
- that strong policies to cut emissions also have associated health, wellbeing and economic benefits;
- that in recognising this, a growing number of UK local authorities have already passed 'Climate Emergency' motions including our own on 20th March 2019;
- that Tower Hamlets is the 3rd worst borough in London for Carbon Emissions;
- that Tower Hamlets was named as the joint 3rd worst borough in London in the London Cleaning System's 'How Green is your Borough?' in 2018;
- that continued poor Air Quality will mean more of our children growing up with stunted lung growth and will contribute towards worse breathing health for all;
- that annual recycling rates in 2018/19 were 24.3% against a London borough average of 33%;
- And that, Tower Hamlets Council has to play catch up with other London Boroughs on Green Issues because of previous inaction.

In Tower Hamlets:

- The consequences of continued failure to tackle environmental Issues will include:
- Health problems, particularly for children, disabled people and older people
- Higher Energy and food costs
- Increases in social injustice and inequality

This Council resolves:

- Pledge to make Tower Hamlets Council carbon neutral by 2030 – or earlier if possible – and to make sure that in meeting this pledge the Council takes steps to avoid any adverse impacts on vulnerable residents.
- Pledge to develop a Tower Hamlets Carbon Neutral Plan, detailing how the Council's pledge to become carbon neutral by 2030 will be achieved – and requests that this Tower Hamlets Carbon Neutral Plan is brought to Full Council for approval by January 2020 at the latest.
- Pledge to produce, in January of each year between now and 2030, a Tower Hamlets Climate Emergency Annual Report, detailing the Council's progress against the Tower Hamlets Carbon Neutral Plan – which will enable members, residents and other local stakeholders to hold the Council to account for delivery of this pledge.
- Pledge to create the first Tower Hamlets Partnership to focus on climate change and ask our partner organisations to make clear commitments to dealing with this crisis.
- Use our lobbying power as a local authority to campaign at the local, London-wide and national level to draw attention to issue and bring about changes at all levels of government.
- Pledge that the Core Strategy will be reviewed to help ensure we deliver our Carbon Neutral target.
- Pledge to explore all opportunities to divest our pension fund investments, while discharging the relevant fiduciary responsibilities to members of the pension fund, and work to ensure that wherever possible any future investments are assessed against these principles.
- Pledge to ensure that sustainability is central to our Procurement strategy.
- Pledge to make this council free of single-use plastics by 2020 and work towards reducing the use of 175,000 single-use plastics across all council buildings.
- Pledge to install Air Quality Monitors in every Primary and Secondary School in our borough.
- Pledge never to build schools next to main roads again.
- Pledge never to build housing over an area of biodiversity again.
- Pledge to write to the Royal Borough of Greenwich and the Mayor of London to express our opposition to cruise ship moorings without the use of on-shore power supply next to the Isle of Dogs. Cruise ship engines cause significant emission of cancer causing carcinogenic.
- Pledge to replace the remaining 50% of street lighting that are not energy saving LED lanterns but inefficient old street lighting.
- Pledge to replace the council stock of some 200 vehicles (many are diesel) with electric or hybrid vehicles.

- Pledge to install 350 electric vehicle charging points by the end of 2020. Currently there are just 42 borough wide).
- Pledge to lobby TFL for the creation of more hybrid and electric busses.
- Pledge to return to the old home delivery of recycle bags.
- Pledge to enforce the law on fly tipping and to prosecute and fine those who commit this offence.
- Pledge to install more CCTV across our borough to help track those who illegally dump and to take legal actions against perpetrators. Our 350 CCTV cameras are dwarfed in number to that of our neighbouring boroughs.
- Pledge to enforce the law on abandoned vehicles and remove them ASAP.
- Pledge to employ more full time litter pickers, we currently have just 13.
- Pledge to appoint a Street Czar to work with local people to make our streets cleaner and more attractive.
- Pledge to plant significantly more trees rather than wait for the Mayor of London to carry out his 2 million new tree promise by 2020, which he will fail to meet by a considerable margin.
- Pledge to install new bicycle parking spots across the borough including at our new Town Hall site in Whitechapel.
- Pledge to install Solar Panels on all council buildings. The only council building that does have a solar panel is Watney Market Ideas store.
- Pledge to trial 'living wall' moss technology on schools and council buildings which has the capability to remove air pollutants including nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter from the air.