


Non-Executive Report of the:  <b>COUNCIL</b>  11 March 2020	 <b>TOWER HAMLETS</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Asmat Hussain, Corporate Director, Governance and Monitoring Officer	<b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted
<b>Motions submitted by Members of the Council</b>	

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

## SUMMARY

1. Three motions have been submitted by Members of the Council under Council Procedure Rule 11 for debate at the Council meeting on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020
2. The motions submitted are listed overleaf. In accordance with the Council Procedure Rules, the motions alternate between the administration and the other Political Groups, with the Opposition Group motions starting with the largest Political Group not to have that meeting's Opposition Motion Debate slot.
3. Motions must be about matters for which the Council has a responsibility or which affect the Borough. 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in the previous six months; or which proposes that a decision of the Council taken in the previous six months be rescinded; unless notice of the motion is given signed by at least twenty Members.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. There is no specific duration set for this agenda item and consideration of the attached motions may continue until the time limit for the meeting is reached. The guillotine procedure at Council Procedure Rule 9.2 does not apply to motions on notice and any of the attached motions which have not been put to the vote when the time limit for the meeting is reached will be deemed to have fallen. A motion which is not put to the vote at the current meeting may be resubmitted for the next meeting but is not automatically carried forward.

## MOTIONS

Set out overleaf is the motions that have been submitted.

## 12.1 Motion regarding NJC pay

Proposer: Councillor Ehtasham Haque

Secunder: Councillor Tarik Khan

This Council notes

1. Local Government has endured central government funding cuts of nearly 50% since 2010.
2. Between 2010 and 2020, councils will have lost 60p out of every £1 they have received from central government.
3. The 2019 LGA survey of council finances found that 1 in 3 councils fear they will run out of funding to provide even their statutory, legal duties by 2022/23. This number rises to almost two thirds of councils by 2024/2025 or later.
4. The LGA estimates councils will face a funding gap of £8 billion by 2025.
5. Faced with these cuts from central government, the local government workforce has endured years of pay restraint with the majority of pay points losing 22 per cent of their value since 2009/10.
6. At the same time as seeing their pay go down in real terms, workers experience ever increasing workloads and persistent job insecurity. Across the UK, an estimated 876,000 jobs have been lost in local government since June 2010 – a reduction of 30 per cent. Local government has arguably been hit by more severe job losses than any other part of the public sector.
7. There has been a disproportionate impact on women, with women making up more than three quarters of the local government workforce.

This Council believes

1. Our workers are public service super heroes. They keep our communities clean, look after those in need and keep our towns and cities running.
2. Without the professionalism and dedication of our staff, the council services our residents rely on would not be deliverable.
3. Government funding has been cut to the extent that a proper pay rise could result in a reduction in local government services.
4. The government needs to take responsibility and fully fund increases in pay; it should not put the burden on local authorities whose funding been cut to the bone.

This Council resolves to

1. Note the pay claim submitted by GMB, UNISON and Unite on behalf of council and school workers for a £10 per hour minimum wage and a 10 per cent uplift across all other pay points in 2020/21, whilst recognising that local authorities as employers are bound by the results of any national negotiations undertaken by the unions and the NJC.
2. Call on the Local Government Association to make urgent representations to central government to fund the NJC pay claim.
3. Write to the Chancellor and Secretary of State to call for a pay increase for local government workers to be funded with new money from central government.
4. Meet with local NJC union representatives to convey support for the pay claim.
5. Encourage all local government workers to join a union.

## **12.2 Motion regarding Martyn's Law and the Protection of our residents and visitors**

Proposed by: Councillor Andrew Wood

Seconded by: Councillor Peter Golds

### **This Council notes that;**

That there have been a number of attacks in London identified as terrorism, these have involved the lethal use of knives and the use of vehicles to knock down, kill and maim vulnerable pedestrians in well visited areas of the city and in a location in the vicinity of a Mosque. Tower Hamlets is a borough with many tourist attractions, many located on streets which have large numbers of pedestrians.

A feature of concern has been crowded places which includes shopping centres, sports stadia, bars, pubs and clubs and residential areas which are easily accessible to the public and attractive to terrorists. Concerns have grown with regard to public security inside venues where people congregate as well as measures to protect our streets. The Shoreditch Triangle which includes, Bishopsgate, Spitalfields and parts of Bethnal Green is already a visitor hotspot with a large night-time economy and is intersected by busy roads.

In February the Government announced a consultation on new counter-terrorism laws to be introduced to ensure public venues and spaces are safer from attack. These changes follow a campaign run by the mother of Martyn Hett who was among 22 people killed in the 2017 Manchester Arena bombing. The changes will be to consider airport-style security checks to be mandatory at major sporting and entertainment venues. No such law currently exists so security remains the decision of individual operators.

That the proposed new law, to be consulted on in the spring, would require venue operators to consider the risk of a terrorist attack and take "proportionate and reasonable measures to prepare for and protect the public from such an attack", according to the Home Office. This could include increased physical security, training, incident response plans and exercises for staff on what to do during an attack

That The City of London continues to invest in security measures which include manned checkpoints, rising street bollards, restricted roads and crash-proof barricades. These precautions follow a warning by MI5 that the "eastern cluster" of towers planned around Bishopsgate is "highly sensitive to the threat of a hostile, vehicle-borne" attack and will replace the previous ring of steel installed to ward off IRA attacks.

That in addition the City of London is seeking S106 funds from developers in order to help fund this work.

That within Tower Hamlets only the Canary Wharf estate and the Tower of London has a similar level of physical protection.

That elsewhere in London concrete or other barriers have been erected to protect pedestrians from vehicle attacks.

### **The Council further notes;**

That in February 1996 the IRA bombed Marsh Wall which killed two and injured and maimed many more, some who died of their wounds years later. This location was deliberately chosen as a less defended target than Canary Wharf estate to the immediate north but one with the same level of publicity value.

That like the City of London Tower Hamlets has emerging clusters of tall towers in Aldgate, Blackwall, Marsh Wall and the areas to the north of Canary Wharf.

That some areas containing high value targets have no public CCTV cameras.

### **This Council believes that;**

The borough needs to review our security measures and have appropriate security measures in place to protect and deter potential attacks.

### **The Council calls on the Mayor to;**

Initiate a full security and safety review of the Borough which will be submitted to Cabinet, Overview and Scrutiny and the full council for consideration and final recommendations, and;

1. Consult with the Security Services on the potential threats to Tower Hamlets given its strategic location and national assets
2. Consider adding to future S106 agreements additional funding for additional security measures over and above those funded through CIL
3. Identify in advance likely targets and consider what steps would be required to mitigate the impact of any future attack using vehicles or other methods
4. Publicise such preparation where appropriate, in order to reassure residents and deter potential attackers
5. Implement security measures in the areas adjoining Canary Wharf and other possible targets such as the Whitechapel Road, Brick Lane and East London Mosque.

### **12.3 Motion regarding The Right to Know**

Proposer: Councillor Rabina Khan

The Council Notes:

1. Research by the Fawcett Society has demonstrated the scale of equal pay issues across society, with six in ten women either in the dark on pay, or knowing they're paid less than a male comparator.
2. In the anniversary year of the Equal Pay Act 1970, the charity is calling for women to have the 'Right to Know' the pay of a male comparator, with appropriate safeguards to ensure information is correctly used.

The Council Welcomes:

1. This council has a commitment to fairness and abiding by equality law when it comes to pay and benefits of our staff.
2. We have an opportunity to demonstrate that commitment through pledging transparency to our employees.
3. Council employees can already access pay data through Freedom of Information requests, or by taking a court case if they suspect discrimination - but these are time-consuming, and costly, for both officers and the council.

The Council Resolves:

1. To that end, the council moves that its human resources staff introduce a presumption of transparency on pay data.
2. Where a member of staff approaches the council seeking information about pay in order to determine whether a comparator of the opposite sex, or a different protected characteristic, is paid more than them, the council will be transparent in sharing that information, whilst taking due account of other legal duties.