


<p style="text-align: center;">Non-Executive Report of the:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Council</p> <p style="text-align: center;">30 September 2020</p>	
<p>Report of: Asmat Hussain, Corporate Director, Governance and Monitoring Officer</p>	<p>Classification: Unrestricted</p>
<p>Petition Debate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Petition requesting that the Local Council stop using the Blunt instrument of road closures to stop Rat running through Tower Hamlets • Petition regarding Parking change to mini zones from 1st September 	

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Council's Petition Scheme provides that where a petition includes the names, addresses and signatures of at least 2,000 persons who live, work or study in the borough, the petitioners may request that a debate be held about the petition at the full Council meeting. This is additional to and distinct from the provision in the Council's Constitution that a petition with at least 30 signatures may be presented to (but not debated by) the Council. The relevant extract from the Petition Scheme is attached at Appendix A.

2. PROCEDURE FOR CONSIDERING PETITIONS FOR DEBATE

2.1 The standard format for a Petition Debate for debate is as follows.

- The petitioners to present their petition for a maximum of three minutes.
- Questions and answers for four minutes.
- Debate for 15 minutes. All speeches are limited to a maximum of three minutes
- The Speaker will invite the Mayor or (at the Mayor's discretion) a Cabinet Member to respond to the matters raised
- If no motion is moved during the debate, the petition will stand referred to the relevant Corporate Director for a written response.
- If a motion is moved during the debate, the motion will be put to the vote. The petition will stand referred to the relevant Corporate Director for a written response.

3. MOTIONS ON THE PETITION

- 3.1 During his or her speech any Member may move a motion for the Council's consideration relevant to matters in the petition (this does not require the suspension of standing orders). It is requested that Motions relating to the petition be submitted to Asmat Hussain, Corporate Director, Governance and Monitoring Officer in advance of the meeting to allow full circulation.
- 3.2 Following the petition debate, any motions moved will be put to the vote.
- 3.3 In relation to executive functions, the Council does not have powers to override any executive decision of the Mayor or substitute its own decision. The Council may however pass a motion expressing a view on the matter or referring the matter to the Mayor, calling on him to take some action, or consider or reconsider a decision, with recommendations to inform that consideration. Officers will advise on the constitutional validity of any motion that may be moved

4. CONTENT OF THE PETITION

- 4.1 Two petitions containing over 2,000 signatures has been received for consideration at the Council meeting.

The text of these petitions are below:

Petition regarding to set up to get the Local Council to stop using the Blunt instrument of road closures to stop Rat running through Tower Hamlets submitted by Carlton Boulter

This petition is set up to get the Local Council to stop using the Blunt instrument of road closures to stop Rat running through Tower Hamlets, whereby this also affects all the Local Business and non cyclists. We Residents want the council to think smarter, use tech to stop Rat runners, Use existing techniques to charge "Out of towners" fees to use our roads, Encourage local Electric vehicle use by locals, Build more Electric vehicle infrastructure, all "Smarter" thinking ideas rather than forced st closures. We do not accept the heavily weighted Cycling lobby effect on the current proposals and want the current consultancy company to be dismissed and have a real locally led feedback of forums, set up democratically and led by locals for locals. We need smarter and fit for purpose solutions. not Draconian closures.

We want the council to extend the consultation period by minimum 3 months. We want a non partisan oversight team to undertake real democratic consultation. We would like the council to dismiss the current consultants which we feel are biased and have no vision. We want the council to understand and use tech and existing measures to resolve the serious matter around stopping rat runners, not inflict CLOSE culture on our arteries which adversely affects residents.

We want to enhance the local area by stopping rat runners, and encouraging locals to switch to E – Vehicles whilst keeping the local arteries open for all.

Petition regarding Parking change to mini zones from 1st September

We the undersigned petition the council to Delay the implementation of the changes due to start 1st September that will limit all-day parking to individual mini-zones until: 1. After a proper campaign of publicity including social media and writing to all permit owners (with maps of the mini-zones to make clear the change), not just making a change to the website; 2. Members of our working-class communities have disproportionately been affected by Covid-19. Members who live in the Borough in large intergenerational family networks, older members in these households being reliant on support from family members, who's the only access to that help is via the family car. Nearly 70 years ago Lord Michael Young in his seminal work, "Family and Kinship in East London", wrote about these social relationships, networks of dependence and mutual support that were central to the people's resilience in facing the adversity of insecure and low paid employment. Therefore, in light of this reliance, changes in parking to be implemented post-Covid-19 epidemic.

3. An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) to be commissioned by the Council and published before any implementation of changes, in particular with a focus on socio-economic inequalities. The changes in parking constitute a reduction in public services, therefore an EqIA is mandated by law. And the EqIA should form part of any discussion in regard to the mitigation of the proposed parking changes.

4. This change has been discussed at a public meeting at Tower Hamlets Council allowing Councillors and residents to ask questions before implementation;

5. There has been a full consultation about parking issues more generally in Tower Hamlets, including but not limited to:

- The hours of operation in particular whether they should be extended
- The boundaries of parking zones given new residential areas
- This proposed change to restricting all day parking to mini-zones
- Whether parking permits should be issued based on need rather than address
- How we encourage electric vehicle car charging
- Car club parking
- Taxi stands & where taxis and private hire vehicles can wait for trade
- Car-free development rules
- How to access under utilised private car parks next to roads packed with cars
- How long temporary COVID parking permits should be made available for
- Whether HMOs should be car free or not

APPENDICES ATTACHED

Appendix A – Extract from the Council’s Petition Scheme.

APPENDIX A – EXTRACT FROM THE COUNCIL’S PETITION SCHEME:

5. PRESENTATION OF A PETITION TO ELECTED COUNCILLORS

Subject to your petition containing sufficient signatures as set out below, you may request to present the petition to a meeting of elected councillors. There are a number of ways in which this can be done.

Debate at a Council Meeting

If your petition includes the names, addresses and signatures of at least 2,000 persons who live, work or study in the borough you may request that a debate be held about the petition at the full Council meeting. The Council will endeavour to consider your petition at its next meeting, although on some occasions this may not be possible and consideration will then take place at the following meeting. We will tell you the date of the meeting at which the debate will take place once this is confirmed.

At the meeting, the petition organiser or another signatory to the petition will be given three minutes to present the petition. The person who presents the petition must live, work or study within the borough. The petition will then be debated by Councillors for a maximum of 15 minutes. Following the debate, the Council will decide how to respond to the petition at this meeting. They may decide to take the action the petition requests, not to take the action requested for reasons put forward in the debate, or to commission further investigation into the matter, for example by a relevant committee.

Where the issue is one on which the Council’s Executive (Cabinet) are required to make the final decision, the Council will decide whether to make recommendations to inform that decision. As the petition organiser, you will receive written confirmation of this decision, which will also be published on our website.

In the event that two or more petitions which are substantially the same are received from different petition organisers, the Chief Executive may aggregate the number of valid signatures in each petition for the purpose of determining whether the threshold to trigger a Council debate of the matters raised has been reached if that is the wish of the petition organisers.