

<p>Non-Executive Report of the:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Council</p> <p style="text-align: center;">20 January 2021</p>	
<p>Report of: Janet Fasan, Divisional Director, Legal Services and Monitoring Officer</p>	<p>Classification: Unrestricted</p>
<p>Petition Debate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Petition regarding Stop the structurally discriminating consultation process on Liveable street programme. 	

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 a motion is moved during the debate, the motion will be put to the vote in the order tabled. The petition will stand referred to the relevant Corporate Director for a written response.
 - If no motion is moved during the debate, 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 Janet Fasan, Divisional Director, Legal Services, Governance Directorate 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 The following petition containing over 2,000 signatures has been received for consideration at the Council meeting.

The text of this petition is below:

Petition regarding Stop the structurally discriminating consultation process on Liveable street programme submitted by Tonu Miah and others

We the undersigned petition the council to stop or delay the Liveable Street Scheme across Tower Hamlets as it structurally discriminates against people on low income, working families & BAME and against a 'one Tower Hamlets' vision.

The reasons we believe this to be the case are as the following:

1. Consultation under Covid-19 lockdown/pandemic – We are concerned that fair and transparent consultation have NOT taken place, this includes the following:
 - a. Languages of the consultation are in English with no access for people with other languages (no translations), and does not reflect the rich & diverse background and needs of the borough
 - b. Access to technology – Consultation has mostly taken place online, which requires access to a computer / smart phone or internet, as a borough which has high tech poverty, this is unfair to those with such an impact on their lives. Previously on various occasions the council has promoted residents to go to idea stores to gain internet access. Due to the shutdown of idea stores, this avenue has not been possible. This has

therefore been unreachable and as a consequence, unfair to those who are impacted in their lives.

c. Understandable no face to face consultation sessions, if there are few that have taken place, which has resulted in residents not able to attend due to isolating, fear of Covid-19 and access to centre.

d. Overall consultation methods are inadequate and only reach those that sign up to council E-newsletters, bulletins & communication.

2. Lobby by interest group – certain interest group are using this as a push for their agenda and are actively using this as a way to push their divisive agenda and gentrification of this beautiful diverse borough
3. Divisive scheme – We have seen news of protests and bullying (heated online an on-streets) amongst neighbours and friends and is making our borough more divided than united specially in a time of need
4. Businesses – Our small businesses are at a terrible stage due to Covid-19, this further adds more barriers for their business footfall or access leading to further lost trade.
5. Drivers – As much as parents prefer to walk their children to schools, some have extenuating circumstances (due to disability, family responsibilities, care etc) who require their cars on occasion to drop their children to school. Furthermore, some drivers require their cars, for family shopping and require access to their streets without having to join the already congested main roads.
6. Main road networks – Our A-Roads are being congested (including new bus lane rules), as more and more side roads are being closed/changed – this only adds more pollution on those roads, as their standing still and coasting on the roads. The main artery roads across our borough are already congested, this will further add congestion, road rage and pollution.
7. Cost of the scheme – this has doubled specially at a time where cost saving is required and needs for our services (youth, adult social care) is greater.
We strongly believe and care about the air pollution in our borough and around our schools. We care for our neighbours and our community, and this was highlighted during the pandemic, however we strongly believe we need to find alternative ways to tackle those challenges and with real consultation from our community from all walks of life with barriers, hindrance or fear.

We strongly urge this council to stop or delay this scheme and conduct a thorough impact assessment and a fair consultation process open to all.

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.