


Non-Executive Report of the: COUNCIL 17 th November 2021	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Janet Fasan, Director of, Legal 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 Aspire 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in the previous six months; or which proposes that a decision of the Council taken in the previous six months be rescinded; unless notice of the motion is given signed by at least twenty Members.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.

8 – Opposition Motion for Debate – regarding the Knife Crime Emergency in Tower Hamlets

Proposer: Cllr Kabir Ahmed

Seconder: Cllr Harun Miah

This council notes:

1. That a petition entitled “Knife Crime Emergency in Tower Hamlets” on Change.org has been signed by 23,310 people. The petition has been organised by Isle of Dogs residents and former Canary Wharf Cllr Maium Talukdar.
2. That knife crime in Tower Hamlets leads to fatalities and serious injury, especially among young people.
3. That knife crime in Tower Hamlets creates a perception among residents that the streets of this Borough are not safe.

This council believes:

4. The reduction in police budgets and closure of local police stations, such as the police station in Manchester Road is harming efforts to deal with this emergency.
5. A great deal of knife crime is related to the sale of drugs and gangs.
6. An effective strategy to tackle knife crime must combine enforcement, education and support for those who may be tempted into carrying or using knives and redirecting them to positive activities.

This council resolves:

7. To declare a Knife Crime Emergency in Tower Hamlets and to devise a strategy to tackle it.
8. That this strategy should be a practical document, assembled as an emergency – and not a bureaucratic paper exercise. It should be brought before the next Council meeting for discussion.
9. That the Strategy should include the following elements.
 - a. The Mayor should ask the borough’s MPs and all LBTH councillors to work with him on making representations to the Government asking for the Council to receive emergency funding to tackle knife crime in Tower Hamlets.
 - b. The Tower Hamlets Mayor should make representations to the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, asking him to find funding for the Council to tackle the Knife Crime Emergency in the borough, including the re-opening of Manchester Road police station.
 - c. To increase the provision of THEOs and extra police officers so that there is a constant and visible presence to deter crime as well as respond to it quickly.
 - d. A strategy to disrupt the attraction in the borough towards carrying knives and other weapons, using a mixture of enforcement, education and support for those who may be or have been drawn towards knife crime in the borough.
 - e. The knife deterrence strategy in the borough should be organised under a clear and measurable slogan.
 - f. A strategy to bring a comprehensive, effective Youth Service in Tower Hamlets back up to a level which can offer support to all those who need it, especially those at risk of being groomed into carrying knives and offending; this service to be based very locally (rather than bring restricted to “hubs”) and offering a companion outreach service.
 - g. A strategy to offer specialist support for victims of knife crime and their families, with appropriate services for young women and for members of the BAME communities.

- h. A strategy to tackle organised crime and disorder by re-investing in a “Gangbuster Unit” that has a multi agency approach and intelligence led to tackle knife crime.