

LABOUR GROUP AMENDMENT:

OPPOSITION MOTION REGARDING KNIFE CRIME EMERGENCY IN TOWER HAMLETS

Proposer: Cllr Sirajul Islam

Secunder: Mayor John Biggs

Added text is underlined.

Deleted text is scored out.

This council notes:

1. That tackling crime and anti-social behaviour is a police responsibility, however local councils have an important role to play in supporting the police to do this.
2. That a petition entitled "Knife Crime Emergency in Tower Hamlets" on Change.org has been signed by 23,310 people, and the council fully recognises the concerns that are regularly raised about crime and is working hard to address them, alongside the police and other partners. ~~The petition has been organised by Isle of Dogs residents and former Canary Wharf Cllr Maium Talukdar.~~
3. That knife crime ~~in Tower Hamlets~~ is a serious issue across the whole country and leads to fatalities and serious injury, especially among young people.
4. That knife crime ~~in Tower Hamlets~~ creates a perception of a lack of safety among residents ~~that the streets of this Borough are not safe, and that elected representatives have a public duty not to sensationalise these serious issues, but instead must engage in careful debate that does not cause fear.~~
5. That Tower Hamlets Council funds additional police officers in order to fill the gaps in policing caused by Tory Government cuts. Between April and June this year, Tower Hamlets saw 4,664 hours of uniformed and plain clothes patrols conducted by council-funded police officers

This council believes:

6. The reduction in police budgets and closure of local police stations, such as the police station in Manchester Road is a direct result of the Tory Government's austerity agenda and risks harming efforts to deal with this emergency.
7. A great deal of knife crime is related to the sale of drugs and gangs and the council's partnership work with the police through Operation Continuum (including utilising council-funded police officers) is making significant steps in disrupting this crime.
8. 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:

9. To ~~declare a~~ continue its work to tackle Knife Crime ~~Emergency~~ in Tower Hamlets, including through the violence, vulnerability, and exploitation (VVE) and to devise a strategy to tackle it launched earlier this year, and the Community Safety Partnership

Plan that came to Full Council in March, among the other measures the council takes.

10. ~~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.~~
11. ~~That the Strategy should~~ To continue its work, including 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~~ Continue to lobby the Government asking for the Council and the police to receive emergency funding to restore the funding lost through the last ten years of austerity, which would help 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 continue his lobbying of the Government for additional ~~find~~ funding for the Council and police to tackle ~~the~~ Knife Crime Emergency in the borough, including the re-opening of Manchester Road police station, as Government-imposed funding cuts have forced the closure of police stations right across the country.
 - c. ~~To increase the provision of~~ THEOs and extra police officers ~~so that there is~~ which provide a constant and visible presence to deter crime as well as respond to it quickly.
 - d. ~~A strategy~~ Its work 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. Whilst noting that any ~~The~~ knife deterrence strategy in the borough ~~should be organised under a clear and measurable~~ cannot rely on just a slogan or rhetoric alone.
 - f. ~~A strategy to bring a~~ Our comprehensive, effective Youth Service in Tower Hamlets ~~back up to a level which can~~ which offers 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.~~ Through hubs and detached youth work.
 - g. ~~A strategy~~ Continuing 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. Continuing our work ~~A strategy~~ to tackle organised crime and disorder ~~by re-investing in a “Gangbuster Unit” that has~~ through Operation Continuum, a multi agency approach and intelligence led approach to tackle knife crime.