

Non-Executive Report of the: COUNCIL 16 March 2022	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Janet Fasan, Director of Legal and Monitoring Officer	Classification: Unrestricted
Motions submitted by Members of the Council	

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

SUMMARY

1. 4 motions have been submitted by Members of the Council under Council Procedure Rule 11 for debate at the Council meeting on Wednesday 16th March 2022
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in the previous six months; or which proposes that a decision of the Council taken in the previous six months be rescinded; unless notice of the motion is given signed by at least twenty Members.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 Cost of Living Crisis

Proposed by: Councillor Mufeedah Bustin

Seconded by: Councillor Candida Ronald

This Council notes that:

1. During 2022 a number of factors combined will present a significant additional financial burden to the people of Tower Hamlets, which include rising energy bills, increased National Insurance contributions, rising food prices and the uncertain economic impact of the tragic events in Ukraine.
2. London Councils has estimated that boroughs require up to £2bn of additional funding to meet underlying demand, inflation and the ongoing impact of Covid-19 on lost income and additional spending.
3. Tower Hamlets Council has had to save over £200m since 2010 due to Government austerity and increasing demand.
4. The Tower Hamlets Poverty Review found that in a typical classroom of 30 children, 17 are living below the poverty line, while at the other end of the age spectrum 44% of older people live in low income households. It also found that inequality and poverty go hand in hand; families that have a disabled member, those from Black Minority and Ethnic backgrounds, lone parents and larger families are all at greater at risk of being in poverty.
5. The Poverty Review also confirmed that the main causes of poverty lie outside the control of local authorities: reduced welfare support; worklessness; and rising housing costs.
6. The good work the Council has done in its recent Budget to protect the universal services Tower Hamlets residents rely on and maintaining support for those facing hardship.
7. The Council's investment in initiatives to tackle poverty since 2015, such as food programmes, employment support, crisis grants and free school meals for children.

This Council believes that:

1. Tower Hamlets, like other London Councils, has seen an increase in underlying demand and has had to respond to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.
2. Many Tower Hamlets residents are having to make choices about whether to spend the little income they have on heating or eating.

This Council resolves to:

1. Recognise that the people of Tower Hamlets are heading towards a 'cost of living' crisis and calls on the Government to immediately take any measures necessary to mitigate the impact.
2. Continue to stand up for Tower Hamlets residents and push the Government for fairer policies to fight for social justice and equalities in society.

12.2 Motion regarding Infrastructure to support development

Proposed by: Councillor Andrew Wood

Seconded by: Councillor Peter Golds

This Council notes:

- The Mayor of London set Tower Hamlets Council a target in March 2020 to deliver 34,730 homes in ten years between 2019/20 and 2028/29
- In addition he has set a target for Isle of Dogs Opportunity Area to deliver 29,000 new homes and space for 110,000 jobs
- In addition there are additional housing and jobs targets for the following Opportunity Areas which partially includes areas within Tower Hamlets - City Fringe/Tech City, Poplar Riverside and Olympic Legacy
- The Councils own Local Plan adopted in January 2020 requires us to deliver 54,889 homes in fifteen years between 2016 and 2031 – mainly in the Aldgate, Whitechapel, Poplar and Isle of Dogs areas.
- Tower Hamlets is the densest Borough in the country, the Isle of Dogs contains 3 of the 10 densest places in England.
- The requirement of the Isle of Dogs Neighbourhood Plan for an Infrastructure Impact Assessment to be produced for strategic planning applications to encourage developers to look at wider infrastructure issues.

The Council further notes that:

- The failure to build the approved bridge (PA/11/00637) across the Lea river by the Leven Road gas works site despite knowing that major developments were planned in the area and allowing the new gas works application to invalidate that planning permission by permitting building on land reserved for the new bridge
- The continuing delays to the 4th attempt to build a new pedestrian only bridge across South Quay whose budget has now increased to over £20 million. The failure to provide cyclists with cycling access on that new bridge.
- That Thames Water still need to dig up Burdett Road between Mile End and Westferry station to ensure enough fresh water supply to support development in the E14 area
- That UKPN do not have the capacity to support all new developments on the Isle of Dogs and somebody may need to spend £20 million to improve electricity capacity to Marsh Wall.
- That the GLA funded Development Infrastructure Funding Study (DIFS) completed in November 2017 and discussed with Council officers in June of 2017 detailed the need to spend over a billion pounds on infrastructure to support the growth required to meet the the above targets between April 2017 and March 2041.
- It was written by Peter Brett Associates LLP (PBA) with Cushman & Wakefield (C&W) and Gardiner & Theobald (G&T) for the Greater London Authority (GLA), London Borough of Tower Hamlets (LBTH) and Transport for London (TfL).
- The DIFS estimated that a number of organisations including LBTH had to spend £503.7 million on new infrastructure to support growth on the Isle of Dogs and South Poplar between April 2017 and March 2022 (£156.8 million by TfL on new DLR trains)
- The closure of St Georges Leisure Centre due to known issues not resolved sooner

- The delayed re-opening of Tiller road leisure centre and York Hall due to problems found in 2020
- That on a number of approved planning applications either no Infrastructure Impact Assessment has been produced as required by the Isle of Dogs Neighbourhood Plan or what has been produced does not suggest any need for the developer to help provide new or additional infrastructure.

That the Council has £587 millions of reserves including substantial sums of s106 and CIL monies from developers and New Homes Bonus from government – all due to previous developments completing.

This Council therefore recommends:

- To ask Council officers to work with stakeholders to provide an update on progress of the DIFS recommendations and actual spend as at March 2022
- To provide an update on the infrastructure improvements to be delivered by March 2022 to support growth in the City Fringe/Tech City, Poplar Riverside and Olympic Legacy areas
- To confirm the status of Thames Water network improvements to the Isle of Dogs and other growth areas in Tower Hamlets
- To confirm the status of electricity supply issues to the Isle of Dogs and other growth areas in Tower Hamlets and what the Council and the GLA are doing to help alleviate the bottlenecks
- To provide a briefing to the Strategic Development Committee and the Community Development Panel for the Isle of Dogs and South Poplar on the delivery of infrastructure.
- To develop an Infrastructure Impact Assessment template for developers to use that look at wider infrastructure issues and is pre-populated with agreed data and the latest infrastructure issue.

12.3 Motion regarding Ukraine

Proposed by Councillor Peter Golds

Seconded by Councillor Andrew Wood

This Council notes:

- The unprovoked attack President Putin on a peaceful European nation with the objective of reversing decades of peaceful development by Ukraine as a separate democratic state
- The attacks on civilians
- The refugees fleeing their homes in Ukraine, most to neighbouring eastern European nations but some to the UK
- That this conflict is an ideological struggle between those who have chosen Europe, peace and democracy and a dictator who believes in neither
- The existence of Russian troll farms where Russians are paid to post dis-information into western social media networks in order to divide and confuse democratic societies

This Council further notes:

- The Ukrainian & Russian community in Tower Hamlets
- The likely economic consequences of this crisis on Tower Hamlets due to the concerns over the increase in energy and food prices in particular
- The presence of a large number of commentators in Tower Hamlets social networks with hidden profiles or profiles that lack clear local connections posting contradictory, threatening, or anti-Semitic messages

This Council therefore recommends:

1. To reassure our Russian residents that they are safe and welcome here. Russia is a dictatorship where Putin's opponents get jailed i.e. Alexei Navalny or widely believed to have been killed on his orders, e.g. Boris Nemtsov as well as opponents in this country, such as Alexander Litvinenko. Russian citizens here are not to blame for Putin's decision to recreate the Russian empire and may well live here because they do not want to live in Putin's Russia.
2. To offer support to our Ukrainian neighbours both emotional and practically (to be agreed at a later stage)
3. To ask the government to relax visa restrictions on Ukrainians especially for those with family and friends here, those who may well be in danger as well as others who need help.
4. To always challenge posts or comments made by profiles which post anti-Semitic, threatening or divisive comments.
5. That if Ukraine falls to occupation, to offer the Ukrainian diaspora physical help and space within the borough to create their own version of the Polish Social and Cultural Association in Hammersmith, London. Slava Ukraine

12.4 Motion regarding Bleed Kit

Proposer: Cllr Rabina Khan

This Council Notes:

1. In the year ending March 2020, there were around 46,000 (selected) offences involving a knife or sharp instrument in England and Wales.
2. London recorded the highest rate of 179 offences involving a knife per 100,000 population in 2019/20, a slight increase on a rate of 169 in 2018/19.
3. The ONS reported that more than 46,000 offences involving knives or sharp instruments were recorded by police in the year ending March 2020.
4. Tower Hamlets has a growing young population and has witnessed an increase of violent crime in recent years involving knives and sharp objects.
5. One of the most recent incidents at the time of submitting this motion involved a teenager suffering a significant knife wound after being stabbed in Tower Hamlets on September 12.
6. Tackling knife crime and violence is a key priority for the Council which requires a whole system approach. This is addressed not just by Tower Hamlets Council, but in partnership with other key agencies such as the Metropolitan Police Service, public health and wider partners.
7. The Council has committed to adopt a public health approach to tackling violence and knife crime, and this commitment has been embedded within the new Tower Hamlets Community Safety Partnership Plan 2021-24: focusing on early intervention and prevention, and the wider determinants of crime and community safety to address violence locally.
8. In 2020, Tower Hamlets renewed its commitment to tackling knife crime through its development of a Violence Reduction Action Plan setting out how the Council will address violence in partnership with the Police, the Voluntary Community Sector, Probation, schools, and other community safety partners. It details the approach that will be taken including enforcement, reducing access to weapons, safeguarding, and educating young people, working alongside communities and neighbourhoods, supporting victims of violence and diverting those who have committed violent offences away from crime.
9. The Tower Hamlets Public Health team is committed to investigate the effectiveness of bleed control kits in saving lives and to assess the first aid training available in schools and will make a recommendation to the Community Safety Partnership on the intervention for consideration of inclusion in its Violence Reduction Action Plan.

This Council believes:

1. That every measure needs to be taken to save the lives of victims of violent knife crime and congratulates The Daniel Baird Foundation for its work in promoting the use and installation of Bleed Control Kits around the country.
2. The Daniel Baird Foundation was established by Lynne Baird after her son Daniel was stabbed to death in Birmingham after a dispute outside a pub in 2017.
3. A Bleed Control Kit is a small critical injury pack which contains specialised

dressings, a tourniquet, instructions and other specialised medical supplies designed to stop or control the severe bleeding that often follows when someone is stabbed.

4. The public access kits are designed to be used by non-emergency personnel in much the same way that heart defibrillators ('shock machines') specifically designed for use by those with no First Aid training are becoming a common sight in London and the UK.
5. While we still need an effective Public Health approach to reduce the catastrophe that is knife crime, Bleed Control Kits can be another way to treat victims.

This Council resolves:

1. To support the Tower Hamlets Public Health team to work with The Daniel Baird Foundation, the NHS, Metropolitan Police Service and the London Ambulance Service to develop the best strategy for the deployment of Bleed Control Kits across the borough.
2. To seek sponsorship of Bleed Control Kits from commercial partners to reduce costs of purchase and installation go Bleed Control Cabinets.
3. To work with secondary schools and colleges in the borough to assess the first aid training that is available and to increase the potential benefits of any Bleed Control Kits that have to be used.
4. To publicly thank Lynne Baird for her tireless efforts in memory of her son Daniel to establish The Daniel Baird Foundation and hope that her good work saves many lives.