

Emergency Motion on Ukraine

Proposed by: Mayor John Biggs

Seconded by: Councillor Peter Golds

This Council Notes:

- 1) The Putin regime's illegal invasion of Ukraine is an horrific attack not only on the Ukrainian people, but also on sovereignty, democracy, freedom and the rule of law.
- 2) The Ukrainian people continue to show incredible courage, dignity and resilience in the face of the horrific acts caused by Putin's invasion.
- 3) The many reports of individual and collective acts of bravery in defence of the nation's freedom and democracy, as well as heart-breaking reports about those who have tragically lost their lives because of Putin's actions.
- 4) The devastating plight of refugees from Ukraine who have been forced from their home in the most brutal manner, causing the biggest refugee migration since World War II.
- 5) The open letter signed by all the political groups in Tower Hamlets to the Ukrainian Ambassador to the UK which outlines support for and solidarity with Ukraine.

This Council believes:

- 1) This invasion is due to the actions of President Putin and is not reflective of the Russian population. Many ordinary Russians have bravely protested the attack on Ukraine.
- 2) The Council stands united with both the Ukrainian and Russian communities in Tower Hamlets, and strongly condemns any abuse and harassment of these communities.
- 3) The East End has always been a magnet for opportunity and an area which has welcomed immigration and diversity throughout its history, and this will continue to be the case for our friends from Ukraine.

This Council resolves:

- 1) To work on a united cross-party basis to offer what support we can for the Ukrainian people affected by this senseless invasion.
- 2) To work with the Government on the 'Homes for Ukraine' Scheme to ensure refugees fleeing the atrocities taking place in Ukraine can have a safe haven in Tower Hamlets, such as the council's ongoing work to support a number of Afghan families.
- 3) To challenge anyone who seeks to sow division by making any derogatory or harassing comments towards anyone in the Ukrainian and Russian communities.