

Non-Executive Report of the:  <b>COUNCIL</b>  16 <sup>th</sup> November 2022	 <b>TOWER HAMLETS</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Janet Fasan, Director of Legal and Monitoring Officer	<b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted
<b>Motion for debate submitted by the Administration</b>	

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

## SUMMARY

1. Council Procedure Rule 11 allows for time at each Ordinary Council meeting for the discussion of one specific Motion submitted by the Administration. 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. The Administration 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in the previous six months; or which proposes that a decision of the Council taken in the previous six months be rescinded; unless notice of the motion is given signed by at least twenty Members.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.

## 7 – ADMINISTRATION MOTION FOR DEBATE – MOTION ON EDUCATION

Proposed by Cllr Maium Kabir Ahmed  
Seconded by Cllr Musthak Ahmed

### This Council notes:

- That education is something that has always been close to the heart of the current Mayor's vision for Tower Hamlets, since entering public office, and serves as the bedrock for thousands to progress and escape poverty.
- That during his previous term, the current Mayor introduced free school meals for all primary school children; introduced the Mayor's Education Maintenance Allowance; introduced the Mayor's University Bursary; invested millions in extracurricular youth services; and continued and enhanced a community language scheme to promote second language skills across the Borough's communities. Several new schools were also built, including St Paul's Way and Bow School, and countless others were improved as part of the Mayor's £380million *Building Schools for the Future* programme.
- That Tower Hamlets had some of the best urban schools in the world under the Mayor's last administration, with wholesale refurbishment, expansion and rebuilding taking place.
- That despite this historic investment and prioritisation of education in Tower Hamlets, the previous administration stripped back and reversed several of these initiatives, leaving education services in the Borough under-resourced, lacking in investment and care, and undervalued.
- That education in the Borough has not accelerated as it should have over the past seven years. Tower Hamlets is behind Islington, Newham, Southwark, Waltham Forest, Redbridge, Lewisham and Lambeth for the % of students staying in education post-18. This is unacceptable.
- That in Newham alone, one school (NCS) sends more pupils to Oxford and Cambridge than all the Schools in Tower Hamlets combined.
- That many of the Borough's best and most promising students are opting to leave the Borough to improve their life chances. This represents a 'brain drain' of the Borough's brightest and best.
- That, for these reasons, education was once again a central tenet of Mayor Lutfur Rahman's transformative *Manifesto*, which was overwhelmingly endorsed by the people of Tower Hamlets in May of this year.
- That the Mayor and his administration have already introduced two key pieces of policy – the reintroduction of the Mayor's Education Maintenance Allowance, and the Mayor's University Bursary – to accelerate education in Tower Hamlets, as approved at a meeting of the Council's Cabinet on October 26th.
- That there is a shortage of teachers in positions of leadership from a background that incorporates protected characteristics, and reflects the social and ethnic diversity of Tower Hamlets.

**This Council believes:**

- That the students of Tower Hamlets are among the hardest working in the whole country, and deserve as much support as is possible.
- That despite the best efforts of teachers, students, parents and schools in the Borough, Tower Hamlets remains someway behind other London Boroughs in terms of performance and top-grade attainment.
- That the Borough's students deserve to realise their dreams and aspirations by having access to the best educational services and facilities on offer.
- That the students of Tower Hamlets need to see teachers in positions of leadership that represents the diversity of the Borough.
- That foundational success alone is not sufficient – education must be accelerated to ensure that Tower Hamlet's young people can access the country's top further educational institutions.
- That more support is therefore required to ensure that Tower Hamlets students can compete with the best performers, not only in London, but across the UK.
- That this should represent a step change in the leadership and management of the Borough's educational services.

**This Council resolves:**

- That the acceleration of educational attainment – from GCSE to University admission – will remain one of the key areas for policy development as part of the Mayor and his administration's vision for Tower Hamlets.
- That to hasten the delivery of excellent educational facilities and services, the Mayor's Leadership Team will oversee the development and delivery of a transformation of the Borough's educational attainment.
- That the Mayor and the Council will establish an Institution of Academic Excellence in Tower Hamlets, to accelerate widespread admission to Oxbridge and Russell Group Universities, while raising all other educational services to this benchmarked standard.
- That the Mayor and the Council will promote the employment of Teachers with protected characteristics into positions of leadership.
- That Officers are instructed to begin the planning of a project to deliver this Institute for Academic Excellence, with a plan to be presented at the first available Cabinet meeting of the Council.