

Non-Executive Report of the: COUNCIL 16 th November 2022	 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 Labour 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in the previous six months; or which proposes that a decision of the Council taken in the previous six months be rescinded; unless notice of the motion is given signed by at least twenty Members.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 – MOTION ON SCHOOL STREETS

Proposer: Councillor Asma Begum

Seconder: Councillor Amy Lee

This Council notes that:

- Tower Hamlets has one of the highest levels of motor vehicle traffic in the country, partly due to vehicles travelling through the borough, and the average lung capacity of a child in Tower Hamlets is up to 10 per cent less than the national average.
- The Air Quality Action Plan 2022-2027 was presented at a meeting of the Mayor's Cabinet meeting on Wednesday 26th October 2022 which stated in its research that 'studies, including one carried out in Tower Hamlets, show that children's health is being negatively affected living in highly polluted areas. Children in Tower Hamlets have reduced lung function, which they may never recover.'
- The previous Labour administration introduced 26 School Streets across the borough, an initiative to improve air quality for children by reducing car traffic around schools. This policy was largely successful, resulting in a 30% reduction in pollution near schools and there are now 547 School Streets across nearly every London borough.
- After a thorough consultation and a local campaign headed by parents, teachers and young people in the area, a School Street was installed at Chisenhale Primary School in order to prevent excess car pollution and keep the local schoolchildren and residents safe.
- Despite the scheme having proved successful with large community support, the Mayor of Tower Hamlets has announced that he will remove the School Streets without prior consultation.

This Council believes that:

- The local community has made it clear that they want to keep the School Street at Chisenhale Primary School, and their concerns must be heard.

This Council therefore resolves:

- To call on the Mayor of Tower Hamlets to immediately reverse the decision to close the School Street at Chisenhale Primary School.
- To call on the Mayor of Tower Hamlets to hold a public meeting with parents, local residents, teachers, Ward Councillors and school children about possible alternatives.
- To ensure that in future each School Streets scheme is carefully considered on a case-by-case basis and with thorough consultation with the local community before any action is taken which may cause distress to local residents.