

12.1 Labour Group Amendment to the Aspire Group Motion on RSL Service Standards

Proposer: Cllr Amina Ali

Secunder: Cllr Asma Islam

Additions in red and underlined

Deletions in red and struck through

This Council notes:

- The inadequate conditions that residents in the Milo and Diagoras House estate in Bow have been living in since September 2022, with issues exacerbated by the cold weather.
- That Bow East Councillors had been working with residents to secure fire safety works since 2020.
- That many residents in the estate were without hot water and heating for 91 days – three months – as of the 22nd December, and that several properties remain unheated and without hot water.
- That this has caused an increase in damp and mould in properties, which can be particularly dangerous for children and the elderly.
- That internal works to rectify these issues did not begin until the 31st October – over a month after the initial failings had been reported.
- That there have been reports of serious respiratory, skin and other internal illnesses as a result of these failings, with many of those worst affected being children.
- That in September and October 2022 Bow East Councillors worked with residents to identify the necessary compensation and mitigation for the works.
- That residents were not sufficiently informed of the progress of the works, with shifting deadlines, physical disruption and the aforementioned threat of illness creating an intolerable atmosphere of distress and uncertainty for those affected.
- That many residents feel let down and betrayed by the level of care and support that has been offered to them by Swan Housing – who are the Registered Social Landlords (RSL) for the properties – with many suffering mental health and financial issues due to the turmoil created by their indecision.
- That the purpose of a Registered Social Landlord, as defined by the National Government's own criterion, is: "to carry on for the benefit of the community the business of providing housing and any associated amenities for persons in necessitous circumstances upon terms appropriate to their means"
- That homes across Tower Hamlets are affected by delays to fire safety works.
- That Bow East Councillors have a good track record for holding housing associations to account including securing investigations into Clarion Estates and have campaigned widely on this issue with other Councillors.
- That Bow East Councillors have called for regular updates from Swan Housing and were in regular contact with residents throughout the Christmas and New Year break regarding the progress of the works.
- That Bow East Councillors have been invited by residents across Tower Hamlets to support them with securing repairs from Swan Housing.
- That the serious detriment test for consumer regulation within the current framework – which prevents the Regulator for Social Housing intervening unless tenants are at risk of 'serious detriment' – is not sufficient for protecting tenants.
- That the Conservative Government has historically abandoned the proper consumer regulation of housing providers and needs to prioritise the Social Housing Regulation Bill that is currently going through parliament.

- That Mayor Lutfur Rahman directly addressed landlords in his transformative Manifesto, which stipulated the following: “There is a social housing crisis in Tower Hamlets. Having a roof over your head is a basic human right, but at the moment we cannot house the people who want to live here and too many live in housing that doesn’t meet their needs or struggle with unresponsive landlords.
- That this document further highlighted the role that social landlords should play in ‘improving the condition of the homes they let and the service they provide to their tenants’, and that they should work with the Council, ‘collectively and individually, to improve housing services, stock condition and governance’. 1 Guidance for charitable registered social landlords, Guidance for charitable registered social landlords (publishing.service.gov.uk), p.2 (Objects of Charitable RSLs) 2 Aspire Manifesto, p.10 Page 98

This Council believes:

- That Swan Housing is providing an inadequate service to residents. It failed to provide stable and adequate temporary accommodation to countless residents, while at the same time failing to provide the associated amenities for residents in necessitous circumstances.
- That Swan Housing controls a large amount of properties formerly owned by the Local Authority that have since been transferred under Housing Choice, with the provision that they would improve and maintain the stock sufficiently.
- The aforementioned failures to rectify the issues faced by residents in Milo and Diagoras house exposes Swan Housing’s inability to adequately provide and maintain good standards.
- That the residents of Tower Hamlets should not be subjected to poor housing conditions and should expect warm, decent, comfortable homes, where any issues that arise are resolved swiftly and with minimal delays.
- The Mayor of Tower Hamlets has not established sufficient monitoring arrangements for Housing Association performance.
- That Swan Housing’s right to provide homes to residents of this Borough should be reviewed and scrutinised accordingly, following such inadequate performance. That Swan Housing should be referred to the Social Housing regulator for their contractual failings at Milo and Diagoras House.

This Council resolves:

- To review stock transfer agreements and the contractual situation and agreement relationship between Swan Housing and the London Borough of Tower Hamlets as a Local Authority.
- To enforce any outstanding requirements from the Stock Transfer agreements.
- To ~~adopt~~ bring the forthcoming Mayor’s Decent Homes Charter to Full Council for debate as a prerequisite for all RSLs to adhere to if they are to continue as housing providers and partners with Tower Hamlets Council.
- To invite residents to meet with the Mayor to outline their views and frustrations at their mistreatment by Swan Housing.
- To call on Officers and the Housing Scrutiny Committee to review the process of scrutiny relating to RSLs in the Borough, to ensure that it is as rigorous as possible, and holds those RSLs failing to deliver the levels of excellence expected of them by this Council to account.

- That a paper should be prepared for a [Housing Scrutiny](#) spotlight session on the failings of Swan Housing with a view to extend the scope of this scrutiny session to other RSLs if required.
- That the findings and recommendations of this scrutiny session are to be brought to the earliest possible meeting of Cabinet for the Executive's consideration.

12.2 Aspire Amendment to Motion regarding Access to GPs

Proposed by Councillor Maium Talukdar
Seconded by Councillor Kibria Choudhury

Additions in red and underlined.

Deletions in red and struckthrough

This Council notes that:

- Primary care is in crisis, with people across Tower Hamlets and the rest of the UK struggling to access GP services and dental treatment.
- New figures from NHS England show that 18% of people in the NHS North East London Integrated Care Board, covering Tower Hamlets, could not get an appointment to see or speak to a GP or nurse the last time they tried.
- The Government has failed to remain on track to deliver 6000 additional GPs by 2024-25.
- Our doctors and nurses across the NHS in Tower Hamlets work hard for residents while grappling with the biggest staffing crisis in its history in the face of Government inaction.
- That social and domiciliary care in this Borough have declined over the past seven years, following on from a series of cuts, underfunding and poor policy decisions.

This Council believes:

- That everyone should be able to get an appointment to see a doctor when they need to and has the right to receive dental treatment when they need it.
- That preventative measures and initiatives, such as a good, effective social and domiciliary care service, will also push down the demand on GPs and appointment spaces.

This Council, therefore, resolves to:

- Forward a copy of this motion to the new Secretary of State for Health and Social Care and call on her to urgently bring forward a plan to fix the crisis in primary care, to meet the Government's GP target and ensure everyone who needs an NHS dentist can access one.
- Request the local Members of Parliament support this motion and raise this important issue in Parliament.
- Work with the local NHS trust to ensure Tower Hamlets residents have full access to their GP and dentists.

- Support the Mayor in his pledge to invest in the provision of care for vulnerable members of society, including children and adults, to enhance preventative measures against demand for appointments and on GPs.
- Support the Mayor in his pledge to look after Tower Hamlets' care workers to make sure they are adequately rewarded, and supported, for their work for the most vulnerable members of our community.

12.3 Aspire Amendment to Motion on Local Electricity Bills

Proposed by Councillor Saied Ahmed
Seconded by Councillor Musthak Ahmed

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This Council notes:

1. The efforts that ~~this council has made under the previous administration~~ the current administration has made to improve the previous administration's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote renewable energy, including:
 - ~~i. Declaring a climate emergency in March 2019;~~
 - ~~ii. Launched the Net Zero Carbon (NZC) Partnership Action Plan in November 2021 to become a net zero carbon council by 2025 and a net zero carbon borough by 2045 or sooner;~~
 - ~~iii. Planted hundreds of street trees;~~
 - ~~iv. Approved 400 new electric vehicle charging points across the borough;~~
 - ~~v. In 2021, Tower Hamlets Council was named the greenest local authority in the country.~~

- i. The development of a Mayor's Greener Future for Tower Hamlets policy programme, including the creation of four interconnected bodies to deliver this plan including:
 - a. The Mayor's Energy Fund to help the poorest and most vulnerable with their energy bills
 - b. The Mayor's Advisory Board on Climate Change to develop a cohesive strategy that tackles the threats of the climate emergency
 - c. The Mayor's Waste Management Taskforce to tackle the appalling levels of dirt and waste on the Borough's streets left to this Administration
 - d. The Keep Our Borough Moving Taskforce to ensure that people can move cleanly and quickly around Tower Hamlets.
- ii. Committing to reducing the Council's shift towards net-zero as soon as possible, without punishing the working and most vulnerable people of Tower Hamlets;
- iii. Committing to plant a greater number of trees compared to existing levels;
- iv. Increasing the number of charging points for electric vehicles
- v. Installing green heating systems on our estates, including the use of solar panels, wind turbines and heat and power schemes

- ~~2. That very large financial setup and running costs involved in selling locally generated renewable electricity to local customers result in it being impossible for local renewable electricity generators to do so.~~
 - ~~3. That making these financial costs proportionate to the scale of a renewable electricity supplier's operation would enable and empower new local businesses, or councils, to be providers of locally generated renewable electricity directly to local customers.~~
 - ~~4. That revenues received by new local renewable electricity providers could be used to help improve the local economy, local services and facilities and to reduce local greenhouse gas emissions.~~
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2. That the Mayor has committed £28million worth of subsidization for 850 businesses across the Borough with help for their energy bills.
 3. That the Mayor has already held several meetings with businesses, residents and stakeholders to continue this support.
 4. That the Mayor has already pledged to use Section 106 money from the Council's Carbon Fund to ensure that schools, businesses and homes receive as much new, green technology to keep energy prices down.

This Council resolves to:

1. To support the Local Electricity Bill, supported by 306 MPs which, if made law, would establish a Right to Local Supply which would promote local renewable electricity supply companies and co-operatives by making the setup and running costs of selling renewable electricity to local customers proportionate to the size of the supply operation.
 - ~~2. Inform the local media of this decision.~~
 - ~~3. Instruct the Mayor to write to the borough's Members of Parliament local MPs, asking them to support the Bill.~~
 - ~~4. Instruct the Mayor to write to the organisers of the campaign for the Bill, Power for People, (at 8 Delancey Passage, Camden, London NW1 7NN) expressing its support.~~
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2. Support the Mayor and his administration to continue to liaise and work with key stakeholders, including other elected representatives, businesses, residents and third sector organisations to ensure that existing support continues and is built upon.

3. Call on all members support the Mayor and his administration in delivering these changes and savings.