

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 13th APRIL 2011

PETITIONS

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE HEAD,
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

SUMMARY

1. The Council's constitution as amended provides that a maximum of three petitions are received at any meeting. These are taken in order of receipt. This report sets out the valid petitions submitted for presentation at the Council meeting on Wednesday 13th April 2011.
2. The deadline for receipt of petitions for this meeting is noon on Thursday 7th April. At the time of agenda despatch one petition had been received as set out overleaf. Any further valid petitions received before the deadline will be notified to Members separately.
3. In each case the petitioners may address the meeting for no more than three minutes. Members may then question the petitioners for a further four minutes. Finally, the relevant Cabinet Member or Chair of Committee may respond to the petition for up to three minutes.
4. Any outstanding issues will be referred to the relevant Corporate Director for attention who will respond to those outstanding issues in writing within 28 days.
5. Members should confine their contributions to questions and answers and not make statements or attempt to debate.

5.1 Petition from Mr Brian Nicholson and others regarding East End Life

“We, the undersigned welcome the Mayor’s budget for rejecting the Tory proposal to abolish East End Life (EEL) and Labour’s proposal to make it quarterly. We believe that EEL performs an important role in keeping residents informed of the Council’s decisions and its services. The Harmony section, in particular makes the Bengali and the Somali communities feel part of what the Council is doing.

EEL provides the most cost effective means of advertising the Council’s statutory notices and other services such as housing options. Most of what it costs to run EEL is recouped through advertising revenue. Without the weekly EEL, the Council would have to advertise in a number of local newspapers to reach nearly as many people as EEL does. This would be very expensive. We believe it is not a viable option especially as we have to save every penny we can during these tough economic times.

We believe that EEL is a community asset without competing against or affecting local commercial newspapers. We would ask the Mayor to protect EEL and lobby against Eric Pickles’ attempts to impose a code on Council run papers which has no support at any level of local government.”