

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY 13<sup>th</sup> JULY 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 13<sup>th</sup> July 2011.
2. The deadline for receipt of petitions for this meeting is noon on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July. However, at the time of agenda despatch the maximum number of three petitions had already been received as set out overleaf.
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 A. Bentham, T. McGrenera and others regarding budget savings:**

“We, who have signed this petition, are requesting the Council rescind its decision to cut £56 million from the budget this year (and in doing so remove the cuts from our midst as East End Life did in its headlines from the front page in the week following the decision).”

**5.2 Petition from A. Kenny and East London Teachers Association/National Union of Teachers regarding academy status:**

“Please say NO to academy status.

We, the undersigned, understand the pressures on schools to convert to academy status, but in these difficult times we believe our schools are stronger together than apart and that academy schools are not appropriate for Tower Hamlets.

We believe that the success of education in Tower Hamlets has been brought about by schools, staff and the Local Authority working together in the best interests of all children. We are concerned that schools going it alone as academies will disrupt the hard work of all of us in providing the best possible education for all our children.

We petition the Council to urge all school governors and headteachers to reject academy status and stay within the Local Authority family of schools.”

**5.3 Petition from E. Dawe and others regarding Council properties in Bruce Road, E3:**

“We the undersigned strongly object to the sale and privatisation of any of the ‘short life’ Council properties in Bruce Road, E3.”