

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 16th MAY 2012

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 16th May 2012.
2. The deadline for receipt of petitions for this meeting is noon on Thursday 10th January. However, at the time of agenda despatch three petitions had been received as set out overleaf which is the maximum number to be heard.
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 Tower Hamlets Federation of TRAs regarding a Residents Charter:

“Our draft Residents Charter has evolved from the Summer Conference 2011 and will be open for consultation and comment by Tower Hamlets TRAs and resident groups until the end of March 2012.

We urge all Councillors to support the principles of the Residents Charter and to do everything in their power to persuade Registered Providers to adhere to it.”

5.2 Petition from Messrs Glyn Robbins, Guy Shennan and others regarding Veolia:

“We the undersigned registered electors of Tower Hamlets wish to petition the council on the issue of Veolia. The council has passed a motion declaring Veolia to be guilty of grave misconduct in relation to its involvement in the illegal Israeli settlements in the Palestinian West Bank and for the council to sever all relations with Veolia. We are dismayed therefore that the council has in fact extended a recycling contract with Veolia. We want the Mayor to accept that this was quite wrong and now to do everything in his power to put it right. We believe he, relevant Cabinet members and officers should agree to meet with representatives of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions campaign urgently who can demonstrate this is not a fit and proper company for the council to do business with. We also believe he should instruct legal officers to investigate urgently terminating all of the Veolia contracts. Finally we want the Mayor to make a public statement that Veolia have misled the council, that Veolia is not a company this council wishes to do business with and that all contracts with Veolia will be terminated as a matter of urgency and in 2017 at the very latest. We believe if the Mayor were to do all these things, it would go a very long way to make amends for his administration having seemingly ignored the express decision of the council and the wishes of the overwhelming majority of Tower Hamlets residents that the council should express its active support for the Palestinian people.”

5.3 Petition from residents of Hainton Close regarding activities of a disruptive nature at Mulberry School for Girls:

“We, the residents of Hainton Close E1, petition against the use of Mulberry School for Girls on weekdays after 8.00pm and weekends, for activities that cause an unreasonable level of noise, pose health & safety risk and disrupt to the quiet enjoyment of neighbouring property.

We agree that the adult football games which currently take place should not be permitted due to the detriment caused to residents and do not agree that the premises should be hired out for any activity at the expense of the enjoyment of the private properties of all of the residents of Hainton Close.

We petition that all offending activities of the aforementioned nature cease with immediate effect.”