

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 28TH NOVEMBER 2012

**MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY
MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

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

SUMMARY

1. Sixteen motions have been submitted by Members of the Council under Council Procedure Rule 13 for debate at the Council meeting on Wednesday 28th November 2012.
2. The motions submitted are listed overleaf. In accordance with the protocol agreed by the Council on 21st May 2008, the motions are listed by turns, one from each group, continuing in rotation until all motions submitted are included. The rotation starts with any group(s) whose motion(s) were not reached at the previous meeting.
3. Motions must be about matters for which the Council has a responsibility or which affect the Borough. 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in the previous six months; or which proposes that a decision of the Council taken in the previous six months be rescinded; unless notice of the motion is given signed by at least twenty Members.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. There is no specific duration set for this agenda item and consideration of the attached motions may continue until the time limit for the meeting is reached. The guillotine procedure at Council Procedure Rule 9.2 does not apply to motions on notice and any of the attached motions which have not been put to the vote when the time limit for the meeting is reached will be deemed to have fallen. A motion which is not put to the vote at the current meeting may be resubmitted for the next meeting but is not automatically carried forward.

MOTIONS

Set out overleaf are the motions that have been submitted.

12.1 'Old Flo' The Henry Moore Statue

Proposer: Councillor Peter Golds

Seconder: Councillor David Snowdon

This Council notes:

- That in 1962 Henry Moore provided the Stifford Estate with the bronze work of art, The Draped Seated Woman, which became popularly known by residents as 'Old Flo'
- That in 1997 'Old Flo' was moved by the Council to the Yorkshire Sculpture Park for safekeeping
- That at a Full Council Meeting in 2010 the Council unanimously agreed a motion proposed by Cllr Archer to bring the statue back to Tower Hamlets and display it for the benefit of all local residents.
- That Mayor Rahman now plans to sell the statue, following no consultation with the people of this Borough
- That the Mayor, by selling the statue, is riding roughshod over the unanimous Overview and Scrutiny Committee decision that he must think again, and the unanimous Full Council Motion from 2010 demanding the statue be moved back to Tower Hamlets.
- The Mayor has not explored all options available on where the Sculpture could be placed so that ordinary working East Enders and Londoners can enjoy this work of art.
- That the Museum of London Docklands has made an offer to house the sculpture at no cost to the local taxpayer
- That the Mayor of London and the director of the Opening Ceremony of the London Olympics, Danny Boyle, have joined calls for Mayor Rahman not to sell the Draped Seated Woman statue and for it to be housed back in Tower Hamlets.

This Council resolves:

- To ask the Mayor and Cabinet to stop the sale of the Henry Moore sculpture
- To ask the Mayor to further investigate the option of housing the Statue at the Museum of London at Docklands and all other sites suggested by local groups

12.2 Council Finances

Proposer: Councillor Carlo Gibbs

Seconder: Councillor Joshua Peck

This Council notes:

- The devastating ideological cuts by the Conservative - Liberal Democrat Government include a reduction to the council's grant formula funding by over 17% since 2011.
- Changes to welfare benefits including cuts to housing benefit, council tax benefit and the introduction of the universal credit amount to an unprecedented attack on the most vulnerable in our society and will lead to a greater demand on council resources.
- In a further attack on vulnerable people, the Chancellor pledged at Tory Party Conference to cut welfare benefits by a further £10bn, while at the same time giving tax breaks for millionaires by cutting the top rate of tax to 45p.
- The Conservative-Liberal Democrat Government's austerity measures have resulted in a double dip recession, continued high unemployment and little economic growth.

This Council also notes that the Council:

- Has a responsibility to our residents to manage our finances efficiently and deliver a balanced budget.
- Is showing in its Medium Term Financial Plan a deficit of £9.5m in year 2014/15, £28m in 2015/16 and £44m in 2016/17.
- Will be spending on average £16m more per year than it is expecting to receive in after 2014/15.
- Is in such a desperate financial position that the cabinet is having to sell the Henry Moore statue of the draped woman, despite this being gifted to the people of Tower Hamlets, and various other council owned properties.

This Council notes that the Mayor:

- Is using £9.5m from reserves to cover the deficit in the 2014/15 budget, to be agreed ahead of the next local elections, and has no plans to deal with the deficit after that time.
- Has a number of big spending proposals including a fund for restoring religious buildings, the Mayor's educational award and funding to replace the cut in council tax benefit, which are not funded after the 2014 elections.

- Failed to protect the most vulnerable when he proposed to needlessly slash funding for welfare advice services, some as much as 75%, which would likely increase the financial risk faced by the council.

Further notes the Mayor continues to waste the Council's finances, including:

- Spending £38,000 sending a letter to update to 100,000 residents about his latest policy, despite spending £1m per year on East End Life, which is sent to every door on a weekly basis;
- Wasting £120k that was meant to promote businesses during the Olympics, including spending £40k alone on an "app", following which businesses in Brick Lane faced one of their worst summers of trading;
- Spending £32k on Council banners including £21k with the Mayors face on;
- Wasting £54,000 per year on a rented Mercedes and driver to drive the Mayor around the borough;
- Spending 119,000 on a range of Mayoral advisors and consultants.
- Wasting over £7,000 on taxis for his Cabinet members since October 2010.

This Council believes:

- That the use of reserves to cover deficit spending in 2014/15 is unsustainable.
- That any available resources must be used to build capacity and resilience in the community, as we anticipate further cuts.
- The Mayor is failing to show leadership in the face of the Conservative - Liberal Democrat Government's cuts by ignoring the council's difficult financial state until after the next election;
- The Mayor continues to spend significant amounts of council tax payer money on his own self-promotion and needlessly wastes money on expensive travel for himself and his cabinet, which would be better spent on services;
- The Mayor should be honest with residents about how he will deal with this deficit now, including whether this will include large tax rises or service cuts.

This Council calls on the Mayor to:

- Bring forward a proposal in the up-coming budget process about how the he will deal with the council's deficit from 2014-2016/17;
- Ensure that all decisions regarding service cuts include meaningful consultation with all council members, service users, unions and staff potentially affected;

- Work with community groups, RSLs, other public sector bodies and local business to ensure the most effective way of delivering council services as possible;
- Enact a total ban on the use of Council resources for self-promotion, including a ban on sending policy related letters to residents and moratorium on any further publicity with the Mayor's face on them;
- Enact a total ban of first class travel and the use of taxi's for Councillors (excluding the Speaker and Deputy Speaker) and senior staff before 10pm;
- Agree to a moratorium on new policy announcements that are not fully funded for the entire proposed length of their operation;
- Explain to the people of Tower Hamlets how he intends to fund his spending commitments after 2014/15.
- Immediately review the Council's virements procedures and in the interim agree to bring all £200k virements through full Council.

12.3 Motion against erasing the history of Tower Hamlets

Proposer: Councillor Ohid Ahmed

Seconder: Councillor Gulam Robbani

This Council notes:

1. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) are currently undertaking review of Tower Hamlets Ward Boundaries
2. The decision of the LGBCE on 13 November 2012 to adopt Conservative proposal to abolish the name Banglatown from Spitalfields & Banglatown.
3. The decision of the LGBCE to break up the East India and Lansbury ward and rename it Poplar North.
4. That the decision was taken following representations from the Conservative Party in Tower Hamlets.
5. The final recommendations will be announced by the LGBCE on January, 8 2013.

This Council believes:

1. That the removal of the word "Banglatown" is a blow to community cohesion and sends a clear message to the British-Bangladeshi community that their contribution to the life of the area is being airbrushed from history.
2. That the change will be a blow to the restaurant industry in the area which has built its branding on the name and that rebranding is an expense that small and medium-sized business cannot afford in these times of Tory-led austerity.
3. That the removal of social justice and Labour movement icon George Lansbury from the ward map of Tower Hamlets is similarly a blow against the East End's uniquely vibrant culture and history.

This Council resolves:

1. To condemn in the strongest possible terms the clear attempt by the Conservative Party, led by Councillor Peter Golds, to attempt to abolish historic ward names.
2. To acknowledge the deep offence caused by Councillor Golds' attempts to influence the LGBCE in this way, and demands that the Conservative Group leader publically apologise to the residents of Spitalfields and Banglatown for the offence and upset he has caused.
3. To call immediately for the Mayor to write formally, on behalf of the residents of Tower Hamlets, to the LGBCE, to reinstate 'Banglatown' and 'Lansbury' in their final review of historic ward names and boundaries

12.4 Motion On History Teaching

Proposer: Councillor David Snowdon

Seconder: Councillor Peter Golds

This Council notes:

- Only 11.7% of Tower Hamlets school children pass GCSE History at grades A*-C. This is the fifth lowest number in England, ahead of only Knowsley, Newham, Kingston-Upon-Hull and Manchester.
- Over three times more school children achieve A*-C GCSE History in the top performing council in the country, Hammersmith and Fulham.
- Tower Hamlets has the ninth lowest number of children passing A-Level History in England.

This Council believes:

- That the study of history allows our school children to develop high level analytical skills, and helps them to more fully appreciate the world around them. This in turn promotes civic and community engagement.
- That in order to increase the number of Tower Hamlets school children achieving high grades in History, we need to increase the provision of History teaching in our schools.

This Council resolves:

To call on the Mayor:-

- To instruct officers to write to all Head Teachers of schools within the Borough to make them aware of the Council's support for a higher provision of History teaching.
- To instruct officers to contact schools to investigate barriers to a higher level of provision of history teaching and report back to full council within six months.
- To champion the cause of history teaching in Tower Hamlets and investigate what he can do to promote this objective

12.5 Banglatown Ward Name

Proposer: Councillor Joshua Peck

Seconder: Councillor Helal Abbas

This Council Notes:

- The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) has recently released its draft recommendations for new ward boundaries and names in Tower Hamlets.
- That the LGBCE is recommending renaming the successor ward for the current 'Spitalfields and Banglatown' as 'Spitalfields' doing away with the 'Banglatown' name.
- That the LGBCE made its decision following the Conservative Group submission which argued that: *'the Bangladeshi community lives across the borough' and that to include 'Banglatown' in the name 'implies that the Bangladeshi community in Tower Hamlets is restricted to the Spitalfields area alone'*
- The strong local public opinion in support of the retention of the Banglatown ward name.

This Council believes:

- The Banglatown name was introduced to reflect the significant Bangladeshi population and the cross-cultural nature of our community.
- Removing the name would be entirely wrong, especially as local residents have not been consulted by either the Conservative Group or the LGBCE.
- The Banglatown name reflects not only the geographic location but the role of Brick Lane as the cultural heart of Britain's Bangladeshi community.
- The Mayor's proposal, adopted by the Boundary Commission, to reduce the number of councillors from 51 to 45 was a mistake and that with the fastest growing population in the country Tower Hamlets will suffer as a result of the reduction in councillors.
- Were the number of councillors still set at 51, then Spitalfields and Banglatown may have remained a three member ward and the debate over the name could have been avoided.

This Council resolves:

- To call on all political parties to argue in any further submissions to the LGBCE for the reinstatement of the Banglatown ward name.
- To support residents in making appeals to the LGBCE not to abolish the Banglatown ward name.

12.6 Increasing affordable housing provision in Tower Hamlets

Proposer: Councillor Rania Khan

Seconder: Councillor Rabina Khan

This Council notes:

1. Tower Hamlets was the beneficiary of a mass council housing building programme in the decades after the World War Two. This house building programme was accompanied by an ethos that everyone was entitled to live in high quality housing they can take pride in.
2. That legacy has been under sustained attack since the Thatcher government introduced measures to sell off council housing and reduce funding to it.
3. That the consequences of this strategy have consigned a generation of young people to extortionate rents in the private sector and contributed to an inflated housing market. A third of tenants in the south-east and London are paying more than 50% of their take-home pay to landlords. The average deposit for first-time buyers in the capital is now £57,000.
4. That government austerity is further compounding this problem. Tower Hamlets has suffered the 7th highest level of cuts with £204 per head taken from the budget and with less deprived areas, largely Tory-controlled, being relatively lightly hit by the cuts (The Guardian, 'Council cuts 'targeted towards deprived areas'', 14th Nov 2012).
5. That Communities Secretary Eric Pickles has encouraged councils to sell off assets to plug the funding shortfalls created by this Government's ideologically driven cuts.
6. The deep regret with which the Mayor of Tower Hamlets made the decision to sell off the Henry Moore statue, *Draped, Seated Woman*, known locally as 'Old Flo.'

This Council believes:

1. The principle that everyone deserves high quality affordable housing.
2. That local authorities should not be forced into a situation whereby they have to sell off assets in order to raise desperately needed funding.

This Council resolves:

1. To support the Mayor's plan to invest the proceeds from the sale of Old Flo statue into affordable housing and local heritage projects to ensure that Moore's legacy lives on in the area.

12.7 Motion: Social Landlords

Proposer: Councillor Zara Davis

Seconder: Councillor Tim Archer

This Council Notes:

- That the Minister for Housing and Local Government has praised social landlords such as Viridian and Home Group for their plans to publish expenditure over £500.
- That the Minister calls on social landlords to follow Viridian and Home Group's example and become more transparent.
- That the Government is committed to a consultation with social landlords on whether to expand the scope of the Freedom of Information Act to apply to them.

This Council Believes:

- That the example shown by Viridian and Home Group is a step in the right direction and that all social landlords should consider following their lead.
- That the government should extend the Freedom of Information Act to apply to social landlords and all Housing Associations; so that they will publish spending over £500.

This Council Resolves:

- To support the government in its consultation.
- To encourage and support Housing Associations/Social landlords in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets to publish all spending over £500.

12.8 Unemployment in Tower Hamlets

Proposer: Councillor Anwar Khan

Seconder: Councillor John Pierce

This Council notes:

- That unemployment in the UK has increased since the Coalition Government came to power.
- Tower Hamlets continues to experience significantly above average rates of unemployment.
- Over the course of the Olympics and its build up the number of Job Seekers Allowance claimants in Tower Hamlets increased.
- Over the same period of time, neighbouring Olympics boroughs took advantage of the Olympics to significantly decrease the number of unemployed residents.
 - Newham – 715 fewer JSA claimants
 - Hackney - 808 fewer JSA claimants
 - Waltham Forest – 475 fewer JSA claimants
- In particular youth unemployment in Tower Hamlets is a severe problem with the number of long-term unemployed young people in the borough increasing by 141% between September 2011 and September 2012 according to ONS figures.

This Council believes:

- That the Olympics offered a golden opportunity to provide jobs and skills for young people in Tower Hamlets.
- The Mayor and his Cabinet failed to grasp the opportunity of the Olympics as unemployment in Tower Hamlets increased between July 2012 and September 2012.
- The Mayor has let the borough down by missing the opportunity to get more people into jobs during the Olympics.

This Council resolves:

- To formally censure the Mayor for his failure to implement an effective strategy to reduce unemployment during the Olympics unlike neighbouring Labour boroughs.
- To request the Mayor presents the Council with a clear and coherent plan for jobs in Tower Hamlets.

12.9 London Living Wage

Proposer: Councillor Abdul Asad

Seconder: Councillor Shafiqul Haque

This Council notes:

1. That in November 2008, the then Leader of the Council and now Executive Mayor of Tower Hamlets, Lutfur Rahman, instituted the London Living Wage in the Council.
2. Under the Mayor's administration by 2011 the London Living Wage policy was included in 28 contracts worth £77million, this has risen in 2012 to 37 contracts worth £123 million.
3. That the Labour Leader Ed Milliband pledged to bring in a living wage for all government contracts.

This Council believes:

1. That paying a living wage is a cornerstone of social and economic justice.
2. That in these times of Tory-led economic stagnation, cuts and devastating welfare reform, it is more important than ever to ensure that the incomes of the most vulnerable are protected.

This Council resolves:

1. To reaffirm its commitment to the London Living Wage
2. To support the Mayor in the battle to continue to ensure the Council's contracting practices use every measure within the law to widen the agreement to deliver the London Living Wage.

12.10 High Earners and Council Housing

Proposer: Councillor Tim Archer

Seconder: Councillor David Snowdon

This Council Notes:

- There are some 6,000 Council houses across the UK that have tenants earning more than £100,000 a year living in them.
- That it has been reported that there are 15,000 tenants in social housing earning more than £80,000 a year.
- That there are a number of such tenants resident in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. These people including key supporters of the Mayor and his administration.
- That the Minister for Housing and Local Government has brought forward plans that would give social landlords new powers to increase rents for high-income tenants.

This Council Believes:

- That these new powers granted to social landlords by the Department for Communities and Local Government will help solve this problem and return much needed social housing to those in need.

This Council Resolves:

- To support the Department for Communities and Local Government in putting in place these new powers.
- To encourage all Social Landlords in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets not to subsidise rents for those high earners earning over £80,000

12.11 Motion on the sale of Henry Moore Sculpture

Proposer: Councillor Denise Jones

Secunder: Councillor Anwar Khan

This Council believes:

- That the sculpture Draped Seated Woman ('Old Flo') belongs to the people of Tower Hamlets and should be retained by the council and displayed in a public place in Tower Hamlets
- That the sculpture was sold at a discounted price to the London County Council by the artist Henry Moore because he believed that art is beneficial, and should be accessible, to all, including the East End's working class, not just those rich enough to be able to afford to own it
- That Moore based the sculpture on his Wartime Shelter drawings of East End resident sheltering in the Central Line at Liverpool Street and elsewhere, and this gives the sculpture even greater connection to the people of East London, where thousands of people died during the war and 172 were killed in the Bethnal Green tube disaster.
- That the council should respect the wishes of the artist that it should be displayed for public enjoyment as a symbol of peace.
- That the sculpture is part of Tower Hamlets' cultural and heritage legacy and once sold will leave a void in that legacy

This Council further believes

- That despite the huge funding challenges facing the Council, a £5-20million capital receipt from this sale will make little impact on a £44million deficit predicted in 2016/17.
- As a capital receipt this money cannot in the long-term be used to fund on-going service provision, or fill the gap created by Government cuts.
- That the Mayor tried to sell the sculpture when he was Leader of the Council, before the Council faced its current budget cuts, and so he cannot claim that this is his motivation.
- That the Mayor's claims that the sculpture cannot be safely returned to Tower Hamlets have been proved to be untrue, as a number of organisations – including the Museum of London at Docklands, Queen Mary University, the Friends of Christ Church Spitalfields and a local school – have all offered to house it in publicly accessible places, with other organisations including the Art Fund and Whitechapel Gallery offering their expertise in transporting and maintaining the sculpture.

- That the relocation of the sculpture in Tower Hamlets could be a boost to tourism in the borough, and bring economic benefit to local businesses.
- That the Council owns numerous pieces of public art that could be at risk of sale after the decision to sell this sculpture.
- That, whilst housing, education and health are important priorities, they should not be at the expense of the cultural wellbeing of the borough and its residents.

The Council resolves:

- To condemn the Mayor's proposed sale of the sculpture, to request that he halts it and secures its return to public display in Tower Hamlets, either on Council land or at one of the institutions which have offered to house it.

12.12 The Impact of Housing Benefit 'reform' on women and families

Proposer: Councillor Oliur Rahman

Seconder: Councillor Rabina Khan

This Council notes that:

1. Since April 2011, the Tory-led government has implemented cuts to housing benefit that include decreasing the local housing allowance level, increasing non-dependant charges, increasing the threshold for age threshold for the Shared Accommodation Rate of Local Housing Allowance from 25 to 35 for new claims.
2. In April 2013, the government is due to implement the most severe of all the reforms – The Benefit Cap of £500 for a couple and £350 for a single family.
3. The Council has launched a Prepare and Act Now Campaign to ensure that residents are aware of the changes and can seek advice and assistance from the Council and third sector organisations.
4. Of the 149 families visited by housing officers last week, 50% were single mothers, this compares to the percentage of single mother families in our entire borough's population, of around 7%.
5. The November 2012 Homeless Bound study from the National Housing Federation (NHF) shows that 1,660 families with children and pregnant women were temporarily living in B&Bs in the three months after January last year in London, the South East and East of England, a 60% increase on 2010 figures.
6. The Lead Member for Housing has written to the two new housing ministers, Mark Prisk MP and Don Foster MP, as well as to Simon Hughes MP, The Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrats to raise awareness of the impact these reforms will have on the residents of Tower Hamlets.

This Council believes that:

1. These measures will have an adverse and disproportionate effect on Tower Hamlets residents.
2. The Benefit cap will increase the difficulty for residents on housing benefit to pay for private sector rent in this borough.
3. The disproportionately affected single mother households are some of the most vulnerable people in our community and many of these families will have been housed by the Council, following domestic violence incidents.
4. Many of these families have deep roots in Tower Hamlets, including family networks and will have children at local schools.

5. The impact of welfare reform on these women will be devastating – removing them from support networks they rely on and making it more unlikely they will access employment

This Council resolves:

1. To condemn the Tory-led government's policy of targeting the cuts at our most vulnerable residents.
2. To encourage councillors from all parties to work with the Mayor to lobby against these policies which clearly have a discriminatory affect on the residents of Tower Hamlets.
3. To continue to highlight the negative impact these reforms will have on families in Tower Hamlets, especially single mother families.
4. To continue offer support and guidance to residents, to ensure they are aware of the changes and have the support they need to prepare for them.

12.13 Motion against Free Schools

Proposer: Councillor Shahed Ali

Seconder: Councillor Ohid Ahmed

This Council notes:

1. The recent decision by the planning committee to grant permission to Wapping Free School to operate from the former Polly Peck offices on the corner of New Road and Commercial Road.
2. That national Labour Party policy is consistently opposed to Free Schools
3. That only 1.7 per cent of pupils at the first Free School to establish itself in Tower Hamlets are on school meals, compared to 48 per cent for the borough as a whole.
4. The remarkable improvement in GCSE results by the borough's children that has been achieved by years of investment by the Mayor and his Labour predecessors in the borough's state schools and teaching infrastructure.

This Council believes:

1. That Free Schools are divisive, elitist and a negative influence on community cohesion.
2. That the Labour Party's national stance against Free Schools should be endorsed.

This Council resolves:

1. To ask the Mayor to write to the Education Secretary, Michael Gove, to highlight the unrepresentative and divisive nature of Free Schools.

12.14 Motion on Fire Cuts

Proposer: Councillor Alibor Choudhury

Seconder: Councillor Oliur Rahman

This Council notes:

1. The deplorable decision by the Mayor of London to proceed with budget cuts that could potentially close two fire stations in Tower Hamlets
2. That on 18 October 2012, Mayor Lutfur Rahman, issued a press statement 'Save Our Fire Stations'
3. The Mayor's meeting with the FBU on 26th November to discuss how best he can support their campaign to save the fire stations.
4. That on 25 October 2012, MPs Jim Fitzpatrick and Rushnara Ali's concerns were noted on East London Advertiser and welcomes the broad consensus forming around the issue.
5. That the final decision about these closures will be made in the new year

This Council believes:

1. That the Mayor of London's plans to shut 17 fire stations and axe 600 jobs will have a devastating impact on fire safety across London and Tower Hamlets.
2. That the plans may well lead to the closure of stations in Bow and Whitechapel, putting residents' safety at risk.

This Council resolves:

1. To call on the residents of Tower Hamlets, and politicians from across all political parties, to join with the Mayor of Tower Hamlets in supporting the Fire Brigades Union's campaign to stop these cuts.
2. To call on the Mayor and the local MPs to write a joint letter to the Mayor on behalf of the people of Tower Hamlets urging him to reverse his decision.

12.15 Motion supporting Energy Co-operatives

Proposer: Councillor Rabina Khan

Seconder: Councillor Shahed Ali

This Council notes:

1. That the Mayor has launched an initiative to sign people up to an energy co-operative that will allow them to purchase gas and electricity much more cheaply than through mainstream providers.
2. That to date nearly 2000 people have expressed interest in joining the co-op.
3. The recent news reports indicating “Libor-like” manipulation of the price of energy by the big providers.

This Council believes:

1. That encouraging residents to sign up to the energy co-op is an effective way to ease the burden of Tory-led cuts, economic stagnation and welfare reform.

This Council resolves:

1. To call on Group leaders to work with the Mayor to publicise the Energy Co-op and the benefits it could bring to residents, especially those on low incomes.

12.16 Recorded Votes

Proposer: Councillor Shafiqul Haque

Seconded: Councillor Ohid Ahmed

This Council notes:

1. That Council's constitution includes a provision for 'Recorded Votes'.
2. That this provision is designed to allow for maximum accountability.
3. That until 25 January 2012 the threshold of members required to trigger a Recorded Vote in Full Council was 10.
4. That on 25 January 2012 a motion was carried by a majority in Full Council increasing the threshold from 10 members to 20.
5. That this threshold is unreasonably high without precedent in Tower Hamlets and elsewhere.
6. That in Camden, the threshold is 7 members, in Barnet it is 10 members, in Newham it is 6 members, in Westminster it is 10 members, and in Greenwich it is 5 members.

This Council believes:

1. That the 'Recorded Vote' thresholds are generally low so that a minority can make their views known when votes go against them, to communicate to the public that whilst something they did not support may be Council policy, it is not unanimous and the minority opposed it.
2. That having a threshold of 20 members defeats the object of this provision, since (assuming whipping) recorded votes can only go ahead if the majority group is in favour.
3. That raising the threshold from 10 to 20 members was a backward step as regards the health of local democracy, and a grave mistake.
4. That having the highest threshold in the land, particularly when compared to the other aforementioned London boroughs, is deeply embarrassing for this authority.

This Council resolves:

1. To lower the threshold of support required to trigger a recorded vote from 20 members to 7 members.