

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY 26<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2013**

**PETITIONS**

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

**SUMMARY**

1. The Council's Constitution provides for up to three petitions to be received at each Council Meeting. These are taken in order of receipt. This report sets out the valid petitions submitted for presentation at the Council meeting on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2013.
2. The deadline for receipt of petitions for this meeting is noon on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June. However, at the time of agenda despatch the maximum number of petitions has 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 against the closure of the Isle of Dogs Police Station** (Petition from A.Sheridan and others)

We, the undersigned residents of Isle of Dogs, are writing in support of Mayor Lutfur Rahman and local Cllr. Maium Miah, to protest Boris Johnson's decision to cut police funding across the capital that will lead to the closure of the Isle of Dogs Police Station. The police station is a valued community resource and we believe that its closure will put the safety and wellbeing of thousands of residents in jeopardy. We call on Boris Johnson to reverse his decision.

**5.2 Petition against Casinos and Betting Shops in Tower Hamlets** (Petition from Kelly Begum and others)

We, the undersigned, are concerned about the large number of betting shops and adult amusement arcades being opened in the borough and their impact on children and vulnerable adults as a result. We are also worried about the effects this may have on the level of crime in the borough.

We urge the Council to proactively work to minimise any adverse effects this may have. We also urge the Council prevent 'casinos' being established in Tower Hamlets.

**5.3 Petition regarding benefit cuts and the 'bedroom tax'** (Petition from Eileen Short on behalf of Tower Hamlets Benefit Justice).

The bedroom tax will hit at least 4,000 households in Tower Hamlets, benefit caps another 3,264. The Council say this will cause more poverty, rent arrears, homelessness, overcrowding and force some people to move out of London.

Disabled people face the end of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) with the government aiming for a 28% cut in support.

1. We oppose all benefit cuts. The government is trying to scapegoat and divide people so they can make the poor pay for the economic crisis we did not cause.
2. We oppose any evictions and legal action for arrears due to these benefit cuts.
3. Tower Hamlets Council should help and support those affected and commit not to evict anyone in arrears due to benefit cuts. It should call on other local landlords to do the same.
4. Councillors must link up across London and nationally to support campaigns for Benefit Justice and to actively oppose benefit cuts.