

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 18th SEPTEMBER 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 26th June 2013.
2. The deadline for receipt of petitions for this meeting is noon on Thursday 20th June. However, at the time of agenda despatch the maximum number of petitions has already been received as set out overleaf.
3. A further petition was deferred from the last ordinary meeting of the Council on 26th June 2013 to this meeting. In order that this does not prevent one of the three new petitions from being presented, the Council is invited to resolve that Procedure Rule 19.2 be suspended to enable four petitions to be presented on this occasion.
4. The texts of the four petitions received for presentation to this meeting are set out in the attached report. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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 J Cray 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 regarding Tower Hamlets Community Housing/green space in Trahorn Close (Petition from residents of Trahorn Close, E1)

We the undersigned residents/tenants and members of the families living in the street addresses listed below again reiterate our support to the representation of our collective demand that the LB Tower Hamlets Council, as the elected Local Democratic representative body responsible for the community, carry out its undertaking given to all the Council housing tenants and residents, at the time of the Housing stock transfers to THCH that the Council would continue to do its duty and to uphold the rights and meet the needs of the residents, tenants and their families. We are supporting this latest demand in light of the fact that despite years of our representation to the THCH to abide by our preference for their actions to create an environment conducive to peaceful, crime-free and decent living, they are unreasonably seeking to impose on our area a most unwanted additional problem. We have clearly asked THCH to stop the plan for an alteration to the green space located in the centre of Trahorn Close that will then be turned into a most likely, even a veritable draw for anti-social activities thus creating additional stress, anxiety, lack of peace and quiet and most likely to all degrees of antisocial and violent disorder thus causing serious detriment to the quality of our lives but THCH appear determined to ignore us, adamantly insisting that they must add to problems for this neighbourhood. We are asking all our local Ward Councillors, the Executive Mayor and all the LBTH Council members to ensure that our preferences are heeded and that THCH are not allowed to foist and impose the additional new problems on us.

5.3 Petition to investigate the Roman Road regeneration cash (Petition from Mr N. McCollum, Chair of Tredegar Monteith Lefevre Resident Group and others)

We, the undersigned, residents of Bow, are concerned about the whereabouts of £1.6 Million that was promised to regenerate Roman Road market back in 2010. We appreciate that this was before the Mayor came into office in October 2010 but would urge him to investigate the use of the funds, undertake a review of the programme that was overseen by our Labour councillors, including whether there were any foul play in awarding contracts and did these contracts offer value for council tax payer money?

We want to know what Labour did with the money because Roman Road has not been regenerated and we want the Mayor to launch a Full Inquiry.

5.4 Market Traders Petition (Petition from Tower Hamlets Traders Business Association UK and others)

We the undersigned stall holders call upon the Mayor to reverse his changes to market stall provision in Tower Hamlets. Specifically we wish him to:

- Reverse his cuts to market stall pitch sizes and reinstate the gangways beside each stall
- Increase the number of stall pitches available and improve the market surface and permanent stall structures.
- Remove unnecessary benches from the market and provide appropriate lavatory provision for stall holders and general public.
- Encourage diversity of traders selling different products.
- Celebrate and promote the borough's markets to encourage more visitors.