

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 18th SEPTEMBER 2013

**MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY
MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

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

SUMMARY

1. Seventeen motions have been submitted by Members of the Council under Council Procedure Rule 13 for debate at the Council meeting on Wednesday 18th September 2013.
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in the previous six months; or which proposes that a decision of the Council taken in the previous six months be rescinded; unless notice of the motion is given signed by at least twenty Members.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 Motion regarding Antisocial Behaviour

Proposer: Councillor Gloria Thienel

Seconder: Councillor Dr Emma Jones

Tower Hamlets council condemns those whose filthy habits ruin our public spaces. It is never acceptable for residents or visitors to commit antisocial behaviour such as spitting or urinating in public in our borough.

This council classifies spit and urine as waste, and will enforce against it through penalty charge notices, the same as for other forms of littering.

12.2 Motion regarding Xenophobia and immigration

Proposer: Councillor Fozol Miah

Seconder: Councillor Harun Miah

This Council notes:

- with alarm that we are witnessing the development of increasing hostility, xenophobia, discrimination and intolerance towards immigrants;
- with grave concern the tone of public discussion about immigration in the press and from politicians, which is contributing to a climate of hostility and fear;
- this is having a direct effect on many residents in Tower Hamlets whose country of origin was not the UK;
- immigrants make a net contribution to national wealth and contribute to the diversity of our rich, multicultural society;
- the terrible effect that recent immigration rules imposing high income thresholds for spouse to enter the country are having on family unity and life for many families with a spouse resident in Tower Hamlets

This Council welcomes the formation of the Movement Against Xenophobia (MAX) by the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants and the South London Immigration Monitor

This Council calls:

- for an end to attempts by political parties, their leaders and the media to exploit racism and xenophobia for their own vested interests;
- for an immediate amnesty for irregular migrants in the UK, allowing them to work and pay taxes, thus contributing fully to society;
- upon the Government to reject the 'numbers game' politics of immigration and to pursue an immigration system built on human rights and the economic needs of the UK;
- for the media show responsibility and to put an end to the publication of sensational and unfounded stories which incite racial hatred and hatred towards migrants and refugees.

This Council defends the right of refugees to seek asylum in the UK under the 1951 Geneva Convention and insists that while seeking asylum, people should be treated with respect and afforded fundamental liberties.

This Council asks the Mayor to convey this message to the government, all major political parties and the media.

12.3 Motion regarding the Mayor's Decision to Scrap the Watts Grove Depot redevelopment

Proposer: Councillor Carlo Gibbs

Seconded: Councillor Khales Uddin Ahmed

This Council notes:

- The Mayor's decision on the 29th July to scrap the Council's redevelopment of the Watts Grove Depot site.
- That this decision was taken in secret behind closed doors and without any opportunity for scrutiny from residents of councillors as would have been the case were it made at Cabinet two days later.
- Scrapping the development of Watts Grove will mean the 149 planned social homes will now not be built.
- In the report the Chief Finance Officer wrote that *"It is estimated that as a result of the project the net deficit in the HRA will increase by between £200k and £900k from 2015/16 onwards"* making the development unaffordable.
- The motion proposed by Cllrs Gibbs and Peck at this year's Budget which stated:
 - o *That between the Chancellor's Emergency Budget in 2010 and 2017/18, the Council's General Fund budget will have been cut by 50%;*
 - o *The Council's Medium Term Financial Plan is showing a black hole of £39m in 2015/16, £24m of which is unfunded, and a deficit of at least £55m is anticipated in 2016/17;*
 - o *In facing these cuts the residents of this borough deserve openness and honesty about how those elected to represent them will deal with this issue;*
 - o *The Mayor has lost control of the Council's finances and has no proposals - such as an invest to save strategy, star chamber programme or review of service - to deal with this black hole;*
- There are over 20,000 people on the housing waiting list
- The Mayor wrote in his decision that he would *"reconsider the decision to declare the Watts Grove Depot surplus to requirements" meaning the site would not be available for development.*
- The Mayor wrote in the ELA on the 14th August that *"scheme has not been scrapped and it will be going ahead"*

This Council believes:

- That the Mayor was warned about the impact of his mismanagement of Council finances and did nothing.
- The cancellation of Watts Grove could have been avoided had the Mayor listened to Labour councillors and got a grip on the Council's finances.

- 20,000 residents on the housing waiting list have been thoroughly let down by the Mayor who has failed to deliver the much needed council housing he promised, and that it is residents who are paying the price for the Mayor's financial incompetence.
- The Chief Finance Officer's report raises serious concerns about the mechanism used by the Mayor to fund the redevelopments of Dame Colet House and Poplar Baths.
- By taking the decision in secret, behind closed doors, the Mayor further demonstrated his contempt for any kind of scrutiny of his actions and that this is a further insult to residents who are concerned about the housing shortages in the borough and whom he is supposed to represent.
- The Mayor's contradictory and inaccurate statements to the media are misleading and unacceptable.

This Council resolves:

- To instruct the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to investigate the reasons for the collapse of the Watts Grove Depot project, and the sustainability and suitability of the financial mechanisms used to fund Dame Colet House and Poplar Baths and to report back to Council in November on its findings.
- To call upon the Mayor to come clean about the state of the Council's finances and to put in place a plan to balance the Council's books.

To require the Section 151 officer to report to councillors within the week how much money including an estimate of officer time has been spent to date on the Watts Grove Project.

12.4 Motion against the English Defence League

Proposer: Councillor Alibor Choudhury

Secunder: Councillor Ohid Ahmed

This Council notes:

That since the murder of Lee Rigby in May 2013, the EDL has sought to stir up racial tensions in communities across the UK, including in Tower Hamlets on 7 September.

This Council believes:

That all those in the community who worked to counter the EDL's divisive, hateful message and protect community cohesion in the borough, are to be congratulated.

This Council resolves:

To condemn the attempts by the English Defence League to bring their message of hate to our borough on September 7.

To strengthen the council's commitment to our No Place for Hate policies, eradicating hate crime in Tower Hamlets and creating an environment where everyone can enjoy living, working and visiting Tower Hamlets - free from fear, intimidation and attack.

12.5 Motion regarding the WhiteSwan, Commercial Road

Proposer: Councillor Peter Golds

Secunder: Councillor Craig Aston

This Council expresses its concern that once again the Mayor and his administration, despite the reassurances given to petitioners in November 2011, have included The White Swan, 556 Commercial Road within the proposed Sexual Entertainment Venue Policy.

The White Swan has been a landmark for London's Gay and Lesbian Community for well over twenty years.

The White Swan has always enjoyed good relationships with nearby residents and the local community.

The White Swan has never given the police or licensing authorities any cause for concern.

When they White Swan was first included by this administration as a "sex venue" there was a national and international outcry and the administration promised to "think again".

Whilst other inner London boroughs have increasing numbers of Lesbian and Gay friendly venues, in Tower Hamlets the number has reduced in recent years.

The Council therefore resolves:

Calls upon the Mayor to exclude The White Swan from his definition as a Sexual Entertainment Venue.

Support present and future Lesbian and Gay friendly venues within the borough.

12.6 Motion regarding seeking peace in Syria

Proposer: Councillor Harun Miah

Secunder: Councillor Fozol Miah

This Council notes:

- the strong opposition to bombing Syria amongst Tower Hamlets residents;
- this opposition arises from the mistrust in the truthfulness of politicians following the lead up to and the aftermath of the terrible Iraq War and from a belief that bombing Syria will make a terrible situation much worse rather than better;
- the civil war in Syria is encouraging sectarian division across the Middle East and breeding extremism which may have a real impact in Tower Hamlets if it continues

This Council therefore welcomes the decision by the House of Commons to reject any form of military intervention by the UK in Syria

This Council urges:

- the government instead to do everything possible to secure a peace agreement to end this terrible conflict which must include the assistance of both Russian and Iranian government;
- the government to boost aid to the UN agencies struggling with the enormous refugee problem inside Syria and on Syria's borders;
- not to provide any aid or assistance which will further fuel and prolong the Syrian civil war

12.7 Motion regarding the Mayor's failure to deliver on street cleaning

Proposer: Councillor Helal Abbas

Secunder: Councillor Khales Uddin Ahmed

This Council notes:

- That across the borough there have been 667 reports of missed bin collections over the last 6 months in the E3 area alone.
- That in response to the 667 reported missed bin collections in the E3 area the Council has issued just 9 penalty notices to the contractor Veolia.

This Council believes:

- That because the above figures only represent missed bin collections which have been reported by residents they represent only the tip of the iceberg with many more uncollected bins left to litter our streets.
- 667 reported missed bin collections over 6 months in one postcode area is a damning reflection on the Mayor's record on street cleanliness.

- That the number of missed bin collections show that the Mayor and his independent Cabinet member for Cleaner and Greener, Cllr Shahed Ali have failed to get to grips with managing the basic services residents rely upon.
- By only issuing penalties to the contractor on 9 occasions despite 667 incidences of failure to fulfil the rubbish collection contract the Mayor and Cllr Ali have shown astounding complacency and ineffectiveness.

This Council further notes:

- The Mayor's 2012 Budget chose to cut street cleaning to only two days a week, as well as introducing charges for pest control services and bulk rubbish collection.
- That Labour councillors opposed the Mayor's decision to cut the street cleaning budgets highlighting the potential for it to degrade the borough.
- The Mayor's 2013 Budget included £70,000 of cleaner streets funding for resident 'education' designed to 'align the perception and the reality of the condition of the borough'.
- Last year's Annual Residents Survey showed that 41% of residents have a negative view of street cleaning services with 35% unhappy with rubbish collections.

This Council believes:

- The Mayor's cuts to street cleaning are having a demonstrable effect on the state of our borough's streets.
- By spending £70,000 of taxpayers' money on propaganda campaigns to 'educate' residents how clean the streets are the Mayor is missing the point, we need cleaner streets not more propaganda.
- That the Mayor should spend less time being ferried around the streets in his tax payer funded Mercedes and actually get out and see the results of his cuts to street cleaning.
- The Mayor's claims that the streets are 97% are ridiculous and just shows how out of touch he and his Cabinet are.

This Council resolves:

- To censure the Mayor and Cllr Ali for their failure to effectively manage the Council's contract for bin collections with Veolia.
- To instruct the Section 151 officer to investigate the fulfilment of the Council's bin collection contract to ensure that tax payers are getting best value for money and to report back to Council.

12.8 Motion against Boris Johnson's Tower Hamlets Fire Cuts

Proposer: Councillor Oliur Rahman

Seconder: Councillor Aminur Khan

This Council notes:

1. The deplorable decision by the Mayor of London to proceed with budget cuts that will see Bow Fire station close and the loss of 14 fire engines and 552 operational posts across the capital.
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 26 November 2012 to discuss how best he can support their campaign to save the fire stations.
4. That Mayor Rahman has consistently support the FBU's campaign including its representations at City Hall on 14 June 2013.
5. That in August, Mayor Lutfur Rahman instructed the council to join with Camden, Greenwich, Hackney, Islington, Lewisham, Southwark and Waltham Forest in writing to the Secretary of State to appeal against the Mayor of London's decision.
6. That if the Secretary of State fails to intervene and overturn this decision, Mayor Rahman and the council leaders of the above boroughs intend to seek judicial review.

This Council believes:

1. That the Mayor of London's plans will have a devastating impact on fire safety across London and Tower Hamlets.
2. That the plans to close Bow Fire Station put residents' lives and livelihoods at risk.

This Council resolves:

1. To condemn Boris Johnson's dangerous decision to cut the London Fire Brigade's operational capacity and close Bow Fire Station.
2. 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.
3. To support Mayor Rahman's plan for judicial review of the decision in the event that the Secretary of State fails to overturn the Mayor of London's decision.

12.9 Motion regarding 'Affordable' rent cap

Proposer: Councillor John Pierce

Seconder: Councillor Rajib Ahmed

This Council notes:

- That a government-appointed planning inspector recently recommended that Boris Johnson delete paragraphs from his Draft London Plan which would prevent councils from setting localised caps for affordable rent.
- The planning inspector reported that nine councils had provided "*compelling evidence about the lack of affordability of homes at 60-80 per cent of market rents for many of their poorest residents*"
- Boris Johnson has since indicated that he will reject the inspector's recommendations and press ahead with mandating affordable rent for London at 80% of market rates.
- Many residents in Tower Hamlets cannot afford rents at 80% of market rates and will be forced to look outside of the borough for housing options in the future.
- Labour-led Islington Council have said that they are exploring the possibility of legal action against the Mayor of London's decision.

This Council believes:

- The Conservative 'affordable rent' model is a farce which is totally unaffordable for many of those currently living in London
- Boris Johnson's refusal to allow councils to set a localised 'affordable' rent is a clear abdication of his duty to protect the poorest in our society.
- Not allowing councillors to set localised 'affordable' rent shows the hollow nature of the Conservative's much promoted localism agenda.
- That this decision is indicative of the gentrification agenda of a Conservative Party who would rather see lifelong residents turfed out of London than supported.

This Council resolves:

- To call upon the Mayor of London to reconsider his decision and to allow councils to set localised affordable rent caps which reflect the needs of their local populations.
- To call upon the Mayor of Tower Hamlets to support Labour-Led Islington council in its potential legal action against the Mayor of London's decision.
- To call upon the Tower Hamlets Conservative Group to publically condemn the Mayor of London's decision.

12.10 Motion opposing Boris Johnson's Rent Increases

Proposer: Councillor Rabina Khan

Secunder: Councillor Kabir Ahmed

This Council notes that:

- The average market rent for a 2 bed property in Tower Hamlets Private Rented Sector is £353 a week;
- The development industry in Tower Hamlets is extremely active and we are delivering the most number of new homes in the Country;
- The Mayor is on track to deliver 4,000 affordable homes over the course of his first term;
- In 2011, the Government introduced the new affordable housing programme for 2011 – 2015, which reduced the level of grant available per affordable home and allowed registered social landlords to charge up to 80% of market rent;
- In all recent planning documents the Council has pursued a policy of restricting rents on affordable homes to a level our research states are affordable to local residents. These are as follows:

1 bed	65%
2 bed	55%
3 bed	50%
4 bed	50%

- The Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, has consistently opposed our policy:
 - o In March 2012, during the Examination in Public of our Managing Development Supplementary Planning Document, The Mayor of London objected to this approach and the planning inspector ruled in his favour;
 - o In April 2013, following the removal of this policy from the Managing Development Supplementary Planning Document, we introduced the Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document, which contained this policy;
 - o In 2012, The Mayor of London published alterations to his London Plan which prevented boroughs from implementing policies designed to keep the rent of affordable housing below the 80% level;
 - o At the Examination in Public, we united with 8 other London boroughs (Islington, Kensington and Chelsea, Brent, Camden, Enfield, Hackney, Southwark and Westminster City Council) and made strong representations against this. The inspector ruled in our favour;
 - o The Mayor of London rejected this ruling and gained approval of the Secretary of State, Eric Pickles, to reject this ruling;
- On 03rd of September the London Assembly debated the London Plan and the Labour, Liberal Democrat and Green Groups united to try to defeat the plan. They were unable to gain the number of votes required to defeat the bill.

This Council believes that:

- There is a real need for affordable housing in Tower Hamlets;
- The planning process should deliver homes which ordinary families in Tower Hamlets can afford;
- The new “affordable” rent level of 80% of market rents is unaffordable for the people of Tower Hamlets.

This Council resolves:

- To condemn Boris Johnson, the Mayor of London, for his disregard for the needs of ordinary residents in Tower Hamlets and London.
- To support the Council's on-going campaign to re-instate our affordable rent policy.

12.11 Motion regarding London City Airport

Proposer: Councillor Anne Jackson

Seconder: Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman

This Council notes that:

- The significant noise nuisance experienced by many Tower Hamlets residents caused by planes taking off from London City Airport
- This noise nuisance continues to increase as permitted aircraft movements increase by 50,000 to 120,000 a year.
- This Council unanimously resolved to oppose any further expansion of London City Airport and has raised its concerns about the noise nuisance experienced by its residents but been consistently ignored by the Airport.

This Council further notes that:

- London City Airport will shortly apply to the London Borough of Newham for expansion of stands at the airport, to facilitate the growth of the airport and the increase to 120,000 aircraft movements a year.

This Council resolves to:

- Continue to oppose any further expansion of London City Airport
- To formally object to the Airport's most recent planning application to Newham
- To publicise in East End Life this planning application and to encourage residents to make their views known to Newham Council

12.12 Motion – Defend the NHS

Proposer: Councillor Abdul Asad

Seconder: Councillor Lutfa Begum

This Council notes:

1. That the number of patients waiting for hospital treatment is at a five-year high, with almost 2.9 million people on the waiting lists.
2. That the NHS Confederation report that 64% of senior officials believe the Government's £20bn 'efficiency savings' will worsen patient experience.
3. That the Royal College of Nurses report that almost two-thirds of nurses have considered quitting their jobs in the last 12 months. Staff morale is plummeting and stress levels soaring amid cuts and poor working conditions.
4. That privatisation of the NHS is accelerating. Recent sell off's include a contracts worth up to £1.1 billion for the provision of health care for older people in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Plasma Resources UK, the company responsible for the supply blood to the NHS, has been sold off to a US private equity firm.
5. That Due to the impact of government 'efficiency savings' and the short-sighted Private Finance Initiative Barts NHS Trust has now been put under special financial measures.
6. That Unite, Unison, GMB, the TUC and other unions have called for a mass protest at the Tory Party conference on 29 September in Manchester to defend the NHS.

This Council believes:

That the NHS is not safe in the hands of this government.

This Council resolves:

To support the lobby of the Tory Party conference in Manchester on Sept 29 and encourage residents to attend.

12.13 Motion regarding Filming of Council meetings

Proposer: Councillor Sirajul Islam

Seconder: Councillor Rachael Saunders

This Council notes:

- Longstanding resident and campaigner John Wright's protest at the last council meeting about not being allowed to film meetings.
- The Labour Group 2012 budget amendment which proposed introducing a live-webcasting system for Council meetings but which was blocked by the Mayor
- John Biggs' commitment to openness and transparency.
- Recent Labour Group press statements calling on the Mayor to open up the Council chamber and allow filming of Council meetings.
- Government guidance that Council's should allow residents to record meetings.
- Cllr Islam's letters to Head of Paid Service, Stephen Halsey – 4th July and the Mayor – 18th July calling for a live streaming system .
- The statement by the Speaker of the Council at the beginning of the last meeting highlighting that she had asked officers to ensure the arrangements were in place to allow filming of meetings from September.
- That the Constitution states: "No photography or video or audio recording of any kind may take place at any Council Meeting without the express permission of the Chair."

This Council believes:

- As elected representatives we should be as open and transparent as possible, including in Council meetings.
- The Mayor's rhetoric does not match his actions – issuing press statements in favour of transparency whilst at the same time blocking attempts to introduce a modern live-streaming system.
- Whilst any change in the rules on recording of Council meetings must be in keeping with the law and respectful of those in the public gallery, the Council and the Speaker has made it clear they want meetings to be filmed and this should be made to happen.
- From September Council meetings should either be live streamed or recorded to allow residents who are unable to attend the Council Chamber to observe the meeting should they wish.

This Council resolves:

- To request the Speaker of the Council instruct that relevant officers implement the live streaming of Council meetings using equipment currently available to the Council, effective as of and including this meeting.
- To call on the independent Mayor to approve the introduction of a modern live-streaming system as soon as possible.

12.14 Motion – Solidarity with the people of Jenin

Proposer: Councillor Rania Khan

Seconder: Councillor Shahed Ali

This Council notes:

1. The recent trip by a Tower Hamlets delegation including Cllrs Ohid Ahmed, Lutfu Begum, Rania Khan and Shahed Ali to Jenin in the West Bank, Palestine.
2. That the occupation and settlement of the West Bank by the state of Israel are in violation of international law.
3. The strong bond of friendship between the people of Tower Hamlets and the people of Jenin.

This Council resolves:

1. To ask the deputy mayor to write to the mayor of Jenin to express the thanks of the delegation and the people of Tower Hamlets for the hospitality of the people of Jenin
2. To reaffirm our solidarity with the Tower Hamlets Jenin Friendship Society

12.15 Motion in support of the London Living Wage

Proposer: Councillor Shafiqul Haque

Secunder: Councillor Abdul Asad

This Council notes:

- 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.
- That the Council is seeking to extend the Living Wage into its agreements with sub-contractors to ensure that they too pay a fair and decent wage to workers.
- That the Labour Leader Ed Milliband pledged to bring in a living wage for all government contracts.
- That with the Government's wholesale war on the welfare state and the rights of the poorest, the living wage is more important now than ever.

This Council believes:

- That paying a living wage is a cornerstone of social and economic justice.
- 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:

- To reaffirm its commitment to the London Living Wage.
- 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.

12.16 Motion regarding Energy Co-operatives

Proposer: Councillor Shahed Ali

Seconder: Councillor Rabina Khan

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 over 3000 people have expressed interest in joining the co-op.
 3. That following the success of our initiative, London Councils have now created The Big London Energy Switch; a scheme backed by 20 other London boroughs.
 4. Following an Auction in April, residents who have signed up to T.H.E. Community Power, could save an average of £122 on their annual energy bills.
1. Residents can still sign up to the scheme and will receive savings through future auctions.

This Council believes 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 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.

12.17 Motion regarding Recorded Votes

Proposer: Councillor Ohid Ahmed

Secunder: Councillor Shafiqul Haque

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 further notes:

1. The recent report by the electoral commission on voter fraud in Tower Hamlets that found no evidence of widespread fraud as alleged by some in the opposition.
2. That the report cited a "breakdown of trust" between politicians in this chamber and that this heightens the need for public accountability.

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