

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 27th NOVEMBER 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 27th November 2013.
2. The deadline for receipt of petitions for this meeting is noon on Thursday 21st November. However, at the time of agenda despatch the maximum number of petitions has already been received as set out overleaf.
3. The texts of the 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.
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, other than a Cabinet Member or Committee Chair responding at the end of the item, should confine their contributions to questions and not make statements or attempt to debate.

5.1 Petition to investigate the Roman Road regeneration cash (Petition from Mr S. Barthram, 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.

5.2 ‘Just Money’ Petition regarding payday lending (Petition from Mr David Barclay, Citizens UK and others)

We, the undersigned, are concerned about the growth of payday lending and the way these loans trap people in spirals of unmanageable debt. As part of the Citizens UK Just Money campaign we are working for better regulation of the payday lending sector, including a cap on the total cost of credit. Until such regulation is in place we are calling on all relevant bodies to do what they can to protect people from usurious lending.

As Christmas approaches we know that these companies will seek to use public advertising to target people in our borough who are struggling to make ends meet. We therefore call on the Council to follow the example of Plymouth Council and work with any relevant partners to ban payday loan advertising wherever possible and as soon as possible in public spaces – billboards, bus shelters etc. – as well as ensuring that payday loan adverts are banned from all public computers and any Council publications.

We further request that the Council writes to the Mayor of London Boris Johnson, Sir Peter Hendy (Commissioner of Transport for London) and Vernon Everitt (Managing Director, Customer Experience, Marketing and Communications) informing them of the Council’s decision to ban payday loan advertising in the borough and asking them to consider amending the TfL Advertising Policy to include a similar ban on all London public transport.

5.3 Petition to Stop Homophobia (Petition from students and staff at George Green’s School)

Homophobic behaviour is taking lives and causing self-harm. People who are homophobic tend to use physical and verbal violence to discriminate towards others. We believe that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people should be treated the same as heterosexual people. By signing this petition we can ensure you that your voice will be heard by the MPs in the battle against homophobia.