

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 22nd JANUARY 2014

**MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY
MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

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

SUMMARY

1. Fourteen motions have been submitted by Members of the Council under Council Procedure Rule 13 for debate at the Council meeting on Wednesday 22nd January 2014.
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in the previous six months; or which proposes that a decision of the Council taken in the previous six months be rescinded; unless notice of the motion is given signed by at least twenty Members.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 the Mayor's statements on the "March against alcohol"

Proposer: Councillor Peter Golds

Seconded: Councillor Tim Archer

This Council notes:

- The possibility of an increase in community tensions arising from the well publicised "March against alcohol" in Brick Lane on December 13th.
- That Brick Lane is known worldwide for its vibrant restaurant offer, and that the beginning of the Christmas period is a highpoint for the local economy.

This Council believes:

- This event would intimidate restaurants and their customers, and attract other extremist groups to the area
- Policing the event was a waste of valuable police resources, with a reduction in the availability of officers across the borough at a particularly busy time.

This Council also notes:

- That the initial statement issued in the name of the Mayor was "We strongly believe in the right to free speech and association, and I am pleased that, with the Police's support, this group were able to exercise that right whilst upholding respect for our communities, which is the hallmark of our 'No Place for Hate' pledge."

This Council also believes:

- That this was an extraordinary response in view of the threats to legitimate local businesses and their customers who were intent on enjoying a pre-Christmas lunch completely within the law.

This Council further notes:

- That following hostile publicity after the release of this statement an amended statement was published, stating "As part of our pledge to 'No Place for Hate', we oppose all groups that seek to impose their views on and bring division to our communities. Council staff worked with the Police to ensure that the businesses, residents and visitors on Brick Lane were protected during the demonstration."

This Council further believes:

- That the confusion around the Mayor's position on this important issue shames the Council, reflecting poorly on his office.

- That there are a number of unanswered questions as to how the original inappropriate statement came to be released, including:-
 1. Why, with a multi-million pound publicity budget he makes such different statements?
 2. Who authorised the initial statement in his name?
 3. What particular event or events the following week encouraged him to change the statement?

This Council resolves:

- To condemn the Mayor's original statement, and the confusion around its subsequent retraction.
- To instruct officers to present a report to the next Council meeting, outlining the procedural failures that led to this debacle; and the steps to be taken to prevent a repeat.

12.2 Motion regarding Government Immigration Policy

Proposer: Councillor Fozol Miah

Secunder: Councillor Harun Miah

This Council notes:

- 1) There has been a concerted campaign of disinformation promoted by certain right wing newspapers and UKIP about immigration into Britain, thereby whipping up racism
- 2) All the major political parties have capitulated to this racist agenda rather than countering it with the facts
- 3) The Government has precisely no information on what the likely effects on the benefit bill will be from migration from Romania and Bulgaria following the easing of restrictions on entry from 1st January
- 4) All the evidence over the past few years is that migrants have contributed more to public funds through taxation than they have received in the form of benefits and that migration has been vital for economic growth
- 5) The problems facing less well off members of the community are not a result of migration but the failure of successive governments to ensure adequate job opportunities and decent housing through deliberate policy decisions
- 6) The Condem Coalition has brought in a new immigration bill which will make even worse the current immigration policy, which, amongst many other things, discriminates against British people, including many residents of Tower Hamlets, marrying whom they wish and living with them, thereby dividing families
- 7) Only 18 MPs, including the former MP for Bethnal Green and Bow George Galloway, voted against this bill

This Council deplores the fact that:

- 1) The Government has pandered to prejudice and ignorance in introducing new legislation on immigration
- 2) The Labour opposition has also capitulated to this prejudice and ignorance by abstaining in the vote on the new immigration bill
- 3) Tower Hamlets two Labour MPs, Rushanara Ali and Jim Fitzpatrick, abstained in the vote on the immigration bill
- 4) The Labour front bench spokesman Chuka Umunna has raised the possibility of a future Labour government further restricting free movement of EU citizens

This Council urges the Mayor to do all he can to dispel the ignorance and prejudice about migration amongst Tower Hamlets residents and to point out the benefits that everyone in Tower Hamlets will gain from migration, to inform residents that the problems facing many in Tower Hamlets are the product of deliberate government policy in relation to the economy, housing and jobs and not from migration and that the right way to address these problems is by securing a complete change of government and policy

12.3 Motion regarding Cost of Living

Proposer: Councillor Rachael Saunders

Secunder: Councillor Sirajul Islam

This Council believes:

- That families in Tower Hamlets are feeling the pinch, with prices rising faster than wages, and too many local people finding it difficult to access decent work.
- That the Conservative-led Government is complacent about the difficulties people are facing, as demonstrated by Ian Duncan Smith's refusal to even speak to representatives from the Trussell Trust who run many of the country's food banks.
- That it is shameful that people in the UK are dependent on food banks
- That Lutfur Rahman is weak and out of touch with the real needs of local people – whilst his administration has plenty of short term gimmicks, he has done little to tackle to real issues that local people face.

This Council notes:

- That despite much fanfare at launch, Tower Hamlets Power has so far only helped 237 residents with their electricity bills despite spending over £12,000 on publicity for the scheme and plans to spend a further £37,351 promoting it this month.
- That Lutfur Rahman's cuts to funding for already overstretched advice services have left many families with no access to support. Whilst other London boroughs such as Labour controlled Camden and Islington are increasing their funding for these kind of advice services in light of increasing demand.
- That CAB applied for funding from the events grants funds, but was refused yet the Mayor instead decided to fund events by commercial media organisations.
- That the weak, insular approach of the current administration means that opportunities to support local people in tough times are being missed.
- That most high streets in Tower Hamlets feature at least one pay day loan shop.
- That with a Mayor that refuses to answer questions in public, Tower Hamlets has little chance of being taken seriously by business or other local stakeholders.

This Council resolves:

- To support Ed Miliband's cost of living pledge, which sets out the real action a Labour government would take:
 1. Stop the Government's raid on pensioners and block its £40,000 tax cut to 14,000 millionaires
 2. End rail rip-offs by capping fares increases on every route

3. Force the energy firms to cut gas and electricity bills for 4 million over-75s
 4. Stop excessive fees charged by banks and low cost airlines
 5. Defend working families from the raid on their tax credits by reversing the Government's pension tax break for those earning over £150,000
- To condemn Boris Johnson's rip off rises to fares on tubes and buses.
 - To campaign for effective benefit take up advice for Tower Hamlets residents and to call upon the Council to use the communications tools at their disposal for the benefit of local people not the ludicrous self promotion of the Mayor.
 - To call on Lutfur Rahman to reconsider the grant funding that goes to his cronies, and to reinstate the previous levels of funding to our advice services.
 - To call on the Council to provide logistical support to those organising food banks, including offering the use of Council buildings for collections.
 - To condemn Lutfur Rahman for his failure to work with business to secure apprenticeships or work experience opportunities in the borough, or to secure Living Wage commitments for Tower Hamlets workers outside the Town Hall.

12.4 Motion regarding issuing fines for spitting or urinating in public

Proposer: Councillor Gloria Thienel

Secunder: 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.

12.5 Motion regarding the shooting of Mark Duggan

Proposer: Councillor Harun Miah

Secunder: Councillor Fozol Miah

This Council notes:

- 1) The jury at the Coroner's Inquest into the shooting by police of Mark Duggan concluded that he was unarmed when he was shot
- 2) Police officers colluded to concoct a story about the circumstances of the shooting which the jury concluded was untrue
- 3) The jury illogically concluded that although Mark Duggan was shot whilst he was unarmed, the killing was nonetheless lawful
- 4) The shooting of Mark Duggan and the illogical conclusion of the inquest jury has further undermined confidence in the police amongst significant sections of the community
- 5) This lack of confidence in the Police is itself the product of many years of institutionalised racism in the Police
- 6) This institutionalised racism, evidenced by the use of stop and search powers disproportionately on younger members of the ethnic minorities, appears to be continuing despite the Macpherson Inquiry and recommendations arising out of the disgracefully botched investigation into the killing of Stephen Lawrence

This Council supports:

- 1) Any attempts that the Duggan family make to overturn the illogical conclusion of the inquest jury that Mark Duggan's killing was lawful
- 2) Changes to the law relating to police shootings so that police officers are unable to collude in concocting untrue versions of events
- 3) The Mayor pressing Tower Hamlets Police and the Met Police more generally to take concrete actions to address the widespread belief that the Police continue to discriminate against members of the ethnic minorities and of less well off communities.

12.6 Motion regarding commercialisation of the Borough's public spaces

Proposer: Councillor Joshua Peck

Seconder: Councillor Abdal Ullah

This Council notes:

- That Tower Hamlets is a densely populated borough where many people don't have their own gardens
- That an increasing number of Tower Hamlets residents live at or near the poverty line, with all of their disposable income going on housing, heating and food, leaving nothing left over for leisure or entertainment
- That many of our residents rely on free access to our parks, open spaces and community facilities for recreation, physical and mental health and community cohesion
- That parks and open spaces represent important public places for people of all communities to come together strengthening community cohesion and building One East End.
- That the current Mayor has been increasingly using the borough's parks, open spaces and community facilities to raise money, at the expense of their intended purpose as a community asset and public service, including:
 - Letting a four year contract to Lovebox for seven days of festivals each year in Victoria Park, despite significant complaints from residents about disturbance from events, huge damage to the Park and significant spikes in crime when Lovebox takes place each year;
 - allowing a cider company to run a pop-up bar in Victoria Park;
 - renting out Island Gardens for an Oktoberfest event;
 - changing the use of the Mile End Park Arts Pavilion from a community art gallery to a wedding and commercial events venue
 - and a proposal to allow parties on Trinity Square Gardens, adjacent to the war memorial, which attracted national condemnation.
- That whilst many residents accept the need for revenue-raising activities as council funding is severely cut by the Government, the nature and frequency of many of these commercial events is having a disproportionate effect on the ability of residents to use and enjoy them.
- That the proportion of funding raised from these facilities that is reinvested in them is dropping dramatically – for example, falling from 73% of funding raised by Victoria Park in 2010 being reinvested in the Park and free events in it to just 29% in 2012.
- That free events for residents put on by the Council – which also used to be paid for by these funds – is also reducing:
 - The popular Paradise Gardens was cancelled by the Mayor in 2012

- The Victoria Park fireworks were cancelled by the Mayor in 2012, on the pretence that this was to allow three fireworks events to take place across the borough, but in 2013, only one event took place, and that the number of residents attending the fireworks has dropped from 80,000 in 2011 to just 16,000 in 2013

This Council believes:

- The primary and over-riding purpose of our public parks, open spaces and community facilities should be for the free and unfettered use of our residents
- Some commercial use of these facilities is acceptable as long as it is done in a way that does not unduly impact on users and local residents

This Council further notes:

- That on 16 May 2012 this Council resolved to amend the Open Spaces Strategy to put reasonable restrictions on the use of parks and open spaces for commercial events, in order to protect their primary purpose
- That as a result of the Council's process for resolution of disputes between the Council and the Executive, the Open Spaces Strategy was referred back to the Mayor for consideration and should have then been brought back to Council for a final decision, yet 19 months later, it still has not been considered by the Mayor and been brought back to Council.

This Council resolves:

- To restate its position that reasonable limits must be put on the use of open spaces and community facilities for commercial events
- To instruct the Head of Paid Service to report in writing to all Councillors as to why a revised Open Spaces Strategy, implementing the decision of Council on 16 May 2012 has not been put forward to the Mayor to consider and then brought to Council.

12.7 Motion regarding Tower Hamlets Schools

Proposer: Councillor Oliur Rahman

Seconder: Councillor Kabir Ahmed

This Council notes:

- The recent “Transforming Education for All” academic report naming Tower Hamlets schools as some of the best urban schools in the world
- The dramatic turnaround from being ranked the worst Local Authority for education in the country, to being one of the best
- The 380m investment by the Mayor which has allowed us to transform and rebuild secondary in the schools, rendering no need for new academies to be built
- That the Mayor has worked hard to resist academisation of its existing schools
- That every secondary maintained school in the borough is rated either as Ofsted “Outstanding” or “Good”
- The Mayor’s 1.5m funding to replace the Educational Maintenance Allowance axed by the Tory Government

This Council believes:

- That Tower Hamlets is an example to the world, providing a better education for a commonly under-served demographic than is often available in many of the country’s richer boroughs
- That the success story evidences the potential of our young people, which Tory governments would rather leave behind
- That grants such as the Mayor’s Educational Allowance, opposed by both Labour and Tory councillors in this administration, has been pivotal in helping many of these young people secure a better education and a better future
- That the Council has proven the ability of local governments to turn schools around without the profit motive
- That the work the Mayor to resist academisation has been both relevant and successful

This Council further believes:

- That the Government’s academisation plan is an ideologically driven crusade which has no bearing in local authorities who have a proven track record in turning schools around
- That Labour and Tory councillor’s opposition to the Mayor’s Educational Allowance was misplaced and ill-judged

- That the Mayor has a record second-to-none for advancing this Council's impressive academic record

This Council resolves:

- To continue the opposition to academisation within the borough, as the Local Authority has a clear track record in changing schools around
- To call on the Government to review its ideologically driven policy of forced academisation
- To continue to support our under-served demographic through grants such as the Mayor's Educational Allowance

12.8 Motion regarding Leasehold Service Charges

Proposer: Councillor Marc Francis

Seconder: Councillor Carlo Gibbs

This Council notes:

- In 2008, Full Council agreed a motion authorising the Lead Member for Housing to commission an independent audit of leasehold service charges following concerns about the two-thirds increase in the level of Management & Administration fees, numerous historic disputes over the costs recharged and a Scrutiny Review which called for much greater transparency and accountability in the calculation of service charges;
- In 2009, a Project Steering Group (PSG) involving councillors, Tower Hamlets Homes (THH), Tower Hamlets Leaseholders Association (THLA) and other leaseholders agreed detailed Terms of Reference for that audit, commissioned Beavers & Struthers Ltd to carry it out;
- In spring 2010, THH attempted unilaterally to introduce new methodology for the calculation of management fees and a new policy to charge to ground floor leaseholders for services they did not benefit from, which was blocked by the Lead Member;
- In summer 2010 a draft version was produced for the PSG, identifying a series of very challenging issues for THH around the management of leasehold services, value for money, caretaking, repairs and maintenance, management and administration fees, and several Service Levels Agreements with LBTH;
- However, publication of the final audit report was delayed by the Mayoral Election in October 2010 and not finally signed off by the PSG until May 2011, by which time LBTH/THH had already begun consultation on a "Leasehold Policy Review" which was claimed to have been based on its findings;
- The Mayor and Lead Member subsequently established a Leasehold Action Plan Working Group (LAPWG), including representatives of leaseholders to bring together the Beavers & Struthers' recommendations, those of the Audit Commission and THH's own Leaseholder Service Improvement Group, and a Statement of Intent was agreed by all those involved to implement the 54 recommendations or agree an alternative remedy;
- Over the next 18 months, just five of the 54 recommendations were implemented and in October 2012, THH sent leaseholders "actuals", which included significantly increased charges in most areas, particularly block/estate cleaning, a 17 per cent "Overhead" fee and new SLAs with LBTH. They were told these costs had been calculated on the B&S audit and had actually been "dampened" and so would increase further over the next two years;
- In spring 2013, the St Stephen's Estate Leaseholders Association published a damning scrutiny report, which exposed the failure to implement the recommendations in the original Beavers & Struthers audit;

- In response, the current Lead Member for Housing & Development, is now proposing an “review” of the original B&S audit.

This Council believes:

- The Mayor and THH have not implemented the recommendations contained in the independent audit in accordance with the agreed Statement of Intent and that the original aim of increasing transparency and accountability has been lost;
- Leaseholders should be fully recharged for the costs of the services they receive, but that the 2011/12 “actuals” are not based on the methodology set out in the recommendations in the B&S audit, but are instead opaque and represent very poor value for money;

This Council resolves to call on the Mayor to:

- Explain why only 5 out of 54 of the recommendations in the B&S audit have so far been implemented;
- Explain why an 17 per cent “Overhead” has been introduced across most Heads of Charge;
- Justify the Service Level Agreements between LBTH and THH and explain what action is being taken to ensure best value;
- Instruct THH to publish a report detailing how the actions it has taken since October 2010 to achieve “savings” have resulted in reduced costs to council leaseholders and tenants.

12.9 Motion regarding Transport for London fare rises

Proposer: Councillor Shahed Ali

Seconder: Councillor Aminur Khan

This Council notes:

- The recent decision to raise Transport for London fares by as much as an additional 4.8%
- That the rise is above that of inflation this year, despite Osborne's promises that that increases would be limited to the rate of inflation
- The total rise of some fares by more than twice their original amount since 2005
- That people in Britain will only receive a 1% pay rise on average this year, and will feel less in their pockets due to rising energy, food and rental bills
- The report commissioned by the Campaign for Better Transport, which has found
- The TUC's finding that typical London commuter now pays around 14% of their income on a monthly rail pass, compared to just 4% in Germany France and Spain
- That Europe's more unified publicly-owned railways cost less to run and provide cheaper fares
- That direct public expenditure on rail has more than doubled since privatisation and is currently running at £4 billion a year, despite fares which are higher than in other major European countries.
- The findings of the Centre for Research on Socio-Cultural Change (CRESC) that Rail privatisation is the 'great train robbery' which has artificially boosted profits of the privately owned Train Operating Companies through billions of hidden subsidies.

This Council believes:

- That rail privatisation is leading to ever higher fares and staff cuts and it is not in this country's interests to keep our railways privatised
- That it is not fair to continue raising travel fares in line with inflation when people's wages do not rise by the same amount
- That the privatisation of the railways is costing the taxpayer and has been a complete disaster since day one.

This Council resolves:

- To support Action for Rail; the TUC and rail union campaign that fights cuts to jobs and services and campaigns for a national, integrated railway under public ownership.
- To call on our local MP's to support Early Day Motion 419 on the public ownership of the rail and its demand 'that the interests of passengers, taxpayers, the economy and environment could be better served by a unified railway under public ownership, with fairer fares and proper staffing levels'

12.10 Motion regarding Local Authorities Mental Health Challenge

Proposer: Councillor Amy Whitelock Gibbs

Seconded: Councillor Rachael Saunders

This Council notes:

- 1 in 6 people will experience a mental health problem in any given year.
- The World Health Organisation predicts that depression will be the second most common health condition worldwide by 2020.
- Mental ill health costs some £105 billion each year in England alone.
- People with a severe mental illness die up to 20 years younger than their peers in the UK.
- There is often a circular relationship between mental health and issues such as housing, overcrowding, employment, family problems or debt.
- The local Mental Health Strategy notes that “Tower Hamlets has amongst the highest levels of mental health need in England.”
- The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has recently investigated the links between mental health and housing, such as how the lettings system does not always appropriately assess and respond to mental health problems as a priority need.

This Council further notes:

- Despite signing up to the Time to Change pledge to tackle mental health discrimination, Executive Members continue to use stigmatizing mental health language in public meetings and press releases, which undermines the aims of Time to Change and perpetuates negative attitudes to those with mental health problems.

This Council believes:

- As a local authority we have a crucial role to play in improving the mental health of everyone in our community and tackling some of the widest and most entrenched inequalities in health.
- Mental health should be a priority across all the local authority’s functions, from public health, adult social care and children’s services to housing, planning and public realm.
- All Councillors, whether members of the Executive or Scrutiny and in our community and casework roles, can play a positive role in championing mental health on an individual and strategic basis. This includes never using negative mental health language for political purposes, particularly directed as an insult.

This Council resolves:

To sign the Local Authorities' Mental Health Challenge run by Centre for Mental Health, Mental Health Foundation, Mind, Rethink Mental Illness, Royal College of Psychiatrists and YoungMinds.

We commit to:

1. Appoint an elected member as 'mental health champion' across the Council – this would be a Full Council appointee
2. Identify a 'lead officer' for mental health to link in with colleagues across the Council
3. Follow the implementation framework for the mental health strategy where it is relevant to the Council's work and local needs
4. Work to reduce inequalities in mental health in our community
5. Work with the NHS to integrate health and social care support
6. Promote wellbeing and initiate and support action on public mental health
7. Tackle discrimination on the grounds of mental health in our community
8. Encourage positive mental health in our schools, colleges and workplaces
9. Proactively engage and listen to people of all ages and backgrounds about what they need for better mental health
10. Restate the commitment to the Time to Change pledge and pledge to never use stigmatizing mental health language for political purposes
11. Introduce mental health awareness training for all elected members and promote the local authority challenge guide, to ensure we can support our constituents.
12. Introduce training for frontline staff, such as housing and lettings teams, so they can identify and support people with mental health needs appropriately.

12.11 Motion on Nelson Mandela

Proposer: Councillor Rabina Khan

Seconder: Councillor Rania Khan

The Council notes:

- On the 5th December 2013, South African anti-apartheid revolutionary Nelson Mandela passed away.
- Mandela served 27 years in prison after being convicted of attempting to overthrow the state while an international campaign lobbied for his release.
- After his release, Mandela joined negotiations with President FW de Klerk to abolish apartheid and establish multiracial elections, lead the ANC into victory where he became South Africa's first black president and won the Nobel Prize for Peace.

The Council believes:

- Despite Margaret Thatcher describing Nelson Mandela as a 'terrorist', and the refusal of the Tory government at the time to unite with the rest of Europe in imposing sanctions on South Africa, Nelson Mandela died perceived universally as a courage and principled politician whose example in resisting oppression and inequality inspires all those struggling for racial equality and social justice.
- In a borough where so many different races live side by side, Mandela's determination to create racial equality and unite the black and white people of South Africa holds a particular importance.

The Council resolves:

- To remember Nelson Mandela, in particular, to use every relevant occasion to remind the young of the borough of the importance of both fighting for their beliefs and reconciliation.
- To name a building on the Blackwall redevelopment after Mandela to ensure that his legacy will always be upheld and achievements be acknowledged in Tower Hamlets.

12.12 Motion regarding Protecting Community Pubs

Proposer: Councillor Denise Jones

Seconder: Councillor Amy Whitelock Gibbs

This Council notes:

- That in addition to the provision of its own services the Council should support through its policies and the exercise of its powers a network of well-run community facilities, including shops, pubs, advice centres, places of worship and other local forums and services which are valued by residents. As an example of these, community pubs provide a valuable community service for those who choose to use them.
- Twenty-six pubs close every week across the country. In Tower Hamlets many pubs have already been converted to flats or stand empty.
- Recently local pubs such as The Sun in Bethnal Green and the Britannia pub in Mile End have closed down, to the disappointment of local residents.
- Pubs inject an average of £80,000 into their local economy each year and support almost one million UK jobs, 46% of whom are 16 – 24 year olds.
- That whilst some pubs can have anti-social behaviour problems which the Council should challenge, the majority offer a positive contribution to our borough and are part of a balanced and inclusive community offering that helps to define the local quality of life.

This Council further notes:

- The recently adopted Managing Development Document policy DM8 specifies that social and community facilities, such as public houses, will be protected where they meet an identified local need and the buildings are suitable for their use.
- That while conversion of pubs to residential use would be resisted as contrary to planning policy, this does not automatically mean such applications would be rejected.
- Residents often feel they have no opportunity to prevent their local pubs from being sold off or converted to flats.
- The demolition of pubs is classed as “permitted development” means planning permission is not required. Between 2003 and 2012, 414 former pubs were demolished in London alone.

This Council believes:

- Local pubs are a hugely important community hub, bringing local people together and providing social inclusion opportunities.
- While pubs that cause antisocial behaviour should be subject to enforcement action, well managed community pubs should be protected by the council.

This Council resolves:

- To work with residents to list local pubs as Assets of Community Value under the Localism Act, giving greater protection against pubs being sold off to developers
- To support the Sustainable Communities Act proposal: “That the Secretary of State help protect community pubs in England by ensuring that planning permission and community consultation are required before community pubs are allowed to be converted to betting shops, supermarkets and pay-day loan stores or other uses, or are allowed to be demolished.”
- To work together with Local Works and the Campaign for Real Ale to gain support for the proposal from other councils in the region and across the country.

12.13 Motion regarding anti-social behaviour arising from illegal raves

Proposer: Councillor Ohid Ahmed

Seconder: Councillor Maium Miah

The Council notes:

- The stabbings that occurred in Wapping on 23rd December 2013 during an illegal rave at a property on Pennington Street.
- Seven people were injured during the tragic incident including one Police officer.
- The Police acted remarkably when dealing with the massive crowds in the illegal rave and prevented further casualties from occurring that night.
- The Mayor has supported the Police through:
 - Introducing enforcement officers (THEO's) in 2009 and funding an additional ten THEO's.
 - Investing £2 million to deploy 35 police officers alongside the £2.2 million funding for THEO's.
- Illegal raves created on the social media are a new phenomenon.

The Council believes:

- Illegal raves are disruptive and are a nuisance to the community.
- The issue is not with disused buildings but with illegal raves being created on social media forums which are a new phenomenon. The social media 'allows young people to spread ideas incredibly quickly and {this is} unregulated. These parties are a reflection of that culture, of the notion that in just a few hours an idea can reach millions in a way it never has before.'
- The assertion that the ASB occurred as a result of disused buildings is limited as the popular attendees of the parties are activists and anarchists who are prone to cause disruption. Furthermore, the disused building/space that was used during the illegal rave is a private property and liability lies with the owners. Hence, the Council has limited authority and jurisdiction over this property.

The Council resolves:

- To support the Mayor in tackling anti-social behaviour in the community.
- To support the Mayor, the Council and police officers in adopting measures to prevent and address the new phenomenon of illegal raves created on social media forums.

12.14 Motion regarding the Government's war on the poor

Proposer: Councillor Alibor Choudhury

Secunder: Councillor Rabina Khan

This Council notes:

- George Osborne's announcement of a further £25 billion of cuts, half to come from the welfare budget.
- According to DWP figures - produced before a range of welfare cuts including the bedroom tax and the abolition of council tax benefit were introduced - an additional 900,000 people were plunged into poverty during the first year of the coalition government, including 300,000 more children.
- This entire increase in children counted as in poverty came from working households. Children living below the poverty line were now twice as likely to come from working families than those without employment.
- More than 60% of those affected by the recent three-year benefit and tax credit cap are in work. These include 300,000 nurses, 150,000 teachers and 40,000 soldiers.
- The concerns of housing charities that plans to axe housing benefits for the under 25's will increase the homelessness.
- The findings of the Institute for Fiscal Studies that real wages in Britain have suffered their biggest drop in over one hundred years.
- Despite Government claims austerity would reduce the national debt borrowing is still expected to be at historically high levels of more than £100bn this year.

This Council believes:

- This Government want to blame others for an economic crisis created by bankers and made worse by austerity.
- Contrary to the Prime Minister's claim that 'we are all in it together' the impact of the cuts is falling overwhelmingly on the poorest in our society, increase inequality and help tip hundreds of thousands of children into poverty.
- Government measures puts at risk the real progress made in in Tower Hamlets to reduce child poverty.

This Council resolves:

- To support the Mayor's policies designed to try protect residents from the worst impact of Tory driven austerity.