

## **Conservative Amendment 1: 2014/15**

**Proposed by: Cllr David Snowdon**

**Seconded by: Cllr Zara Davis**

This Council Believes that:

1. That the Mayor's spending on his private office is obscene. Cutting £502,000 from the budget will still allow him to enjoy suitable political and administrative support. The Mayor's duplication of roles within the council and inflated number of advisors is not acceptable.
2. Eliminating the Mayor's hated stealth tax, the bulk waste collection charge, will lead to a cleaner borough, reduce cleanup costs to the council and help hard working local families.
3. Local residents want to see more police on the streets, and taking advantage of London Mayor Boris Johnson's reduced cost 'Buy-One-Get-One-Free' offer is a cost-effective way of doing so.
4. Tower Hamlets Council should not be providing refreshments for Councillors, and that this funding should be re-invested in local services.
5. Local residents are opposed to the commercialisation of our parks and open spaces, and would welcome the elimination targets to raise income from them.
6. The Mayor of Tower Hamlets has failed the people of this Borough on keeping our roads in good condition and cleaning up dog mess. Extra spending in both these areas will ensure our public realm is of a much higher quality.
7. Local residents would have greater opportunities if more provision was available for English language classes (ESOL). This should be financed by eliminating spending on non-statutory translation.
8. The government has legislated for the abolition of East End Life. Acting now to close down this "newspaper" would be in the best interests of local residents.
9. A 5.75% Council Tax Rebate for 2014/15 will help hard working local families in these still difficult economic times. The public would rather see their money returned to them than frittered away on the Mayor's private office and his pet projects.

This Council Calls Upon the Executive to:

*Implement the following increases in spending*

Description	2014/15 impact	Detail
Pot Holes	£120,000	Provide additional resources to identify and fix pot holes
Dog mess	£100,000	Provide additional resources to clean up dog mess
Fireworks	£100,000	Reinstate the fireworks across the borough that were cancelled in 2013
ESOL Classes	£75,000	Fund extra classes with the aim of abolishing waiting lists for ESOL
Police Constables	£73,000	Add 6 Police Constables, on top of any planned increases in police numbers
Council Tax Rebate	£3,245,795	Alter the planned rebate to instead provide a 5.75% rebate to all households in the borough worth £50.92 to Band D households, at a total cost of £3,820,795, offset by the £575,000 already set aside for a rebate
<b>Increase in spending</b>	<b>£3,713,795</b>	

*Reduce income as follows:*

Description	2014/15 impact	Detail
Commercial Events in Parks	£163,000	End all corporate, commercial and private events except already contracted events
Bulk Waste Charges	£60,000	Scrap charges completely
<b>Reduction in income</b>	<b>£223,000</b>	

*Increase income as follows:*

Description	2014/15 impact	Detail
Council Tax Collection Rate	£431,574	Maintain Council tax collection rate of 96.65% as achieved in 2012/13 and projected to be achieved in 2013/14, rather than rate set for 2014/15 of 96%
<b>Increase in income</b>	<b>£431,574</b>	

*Implement the following cuts to council spending*

Description	2014/15 impact	Detail
Faith Buildings	£875,000	Remove funding for 2014/15
Mother Tongue	£776,000	Remove budget for Mother Tongue
Mayor's Office Budget	£502,000	Cut the budget for spin doctors and advisors
Communications	£300,000	Reduce this excessive spending

<b>Budget</b>		
Trade Union Facility Time	£250,000	Scrap taxpayer subsidy for political activities
Translation services	£246,888	Stop non-statutory translation of documents into foreign languages in order to promote our One Tower Hamlets objective and follow DCLG best practice.
Arts and Events Budget	£200,000	Retain community grants budget, but reduce TH Arts & Events budget
Councillor Pensions	£126,333	Scrap entirely, in line with DCLG guidance
External Venues	£118,000	Stop hiring out external venues for internal Council meetings and away-days (though enable Members to continue holding surgeries in the community)
Reprographics	£50,000	Reduce printing needs by making better use of IT
Mayoral Car	£42,000	Abolish the Mayoral car
Town Hall Subscriptions	£15,000	End subscription to Randalls Parliamentary Service and Meltwater PR
Refreshments	£4,000	End refreshments at Council meetings
<b>Reduction in spending</b>	<b>£3,505,221</b>	