

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 21st JANUARY 2015

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 21st January 2015.
2. The deadline for receipt of petitions for this meeting is noon on Thursday 15th January 2014. 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 regarding a premises license at 121-123 Poplar High Street, E14 (Petition from Mr Dulal Uddin and others)

We oppose the permission (granted by the Licensing Sub-Committee on 18th November 2014) for a premises license under the Licensing Act 2003 for the Lions Express at 121-123 Poplar High Street, E14 OAE.

Our reasons are as follows:-

- There is an off license and a Tesco express already selling alcohol just down the road.
- We feel with another licensed premises will just increase the anti-social behaviour within the area.
- Since the stopping of the alcohol sales at the newsagent on 51 Poplar High Street, we have seen the anti-social behaviour reduced and the whole area is a safer environment for the local community, especially the elders who feel safer to come out of their homes more often.
- There is a college nearby which we feel will be destructive to the students by the selling of alcohol as we have seen previously many alcohol related fights between the students.

5.2 Petition entitled 'Stop G4S Bidding for Contracts in Tower Hamlets' (Petition from Ms Tahsin Ahmed and others)

We the undersigned residents of Tower Hamlets demand the Council adopt an ethical procurement policy to prohibit contracts with G4S until they end their complicity in human rights abuse.

Until G4S can prove to the satisfaction of the Council that all such abuse has ended, and the company has withdrawn from any involvement in the Occupied Palestinian Territories or Israeli prisons, we call on Tower Hamlets to disqualify G4S from bidding for contracts.

5.3 Petition entitled 'Count Tower Hamlets' Votes in Tower Hamlets!' (Petition from Mr Mohsin Uddin and others)

We, the undersigned, are concerned about the proposal to move counting venues from Tower Hamlets for the General Election in May 2015.

We have a thriving multi-party democracy and an award-winning Council providing excellent services to its residents. We believe there are a range of venues in the borough that are suitable for these counts which have been used before; there seems to be no real reason for this proposal.

We believe our counting staff have done incredibly well under very difficult circumstances during the Mayoral and Council elections last May.

Moving the count venue to another borough would misleadingly imply that Tower Hamlets is incapable of managing its own business.

We are urging councillors from all parties to rise above party politics and to do everything possible to keep counting venues for Tower Hamlets' votes in Tower Hamlets.