

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 22nd JULY 2015

PETITIONS

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

SUMMARY

1. The Council's Constitution provides for up to three petitions to be presented at each ordinary 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 22nd July 2015.
2. The deadline for receipt of petitions for this meeting is noon on Thursday 16th July 2015. 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 major works at Lister House and Treves House, E1 (Petition from Ms Khaleda Maleque and tenants and residents of Lister and Treves Houses).

We the undersigned tenants and residents of Lister House and Treves House urge Tower Hamlets Homes and Tower Hamlets Council to name a start date for the major works for which our blocks were a pilot five years ago.

We demand transparency on the cost of the works. We further demand an extension of the repayment period from one to ten years for the leaseholders. We ask the Council to facilitate a public enquiry into the whereabouts of the money THH received from the government for the major works none of which have yet been spent on Lister or Treves Houses.

5.2 Petition regarding the Council's service to the local community (Petition from Mr Muhammad Haque and others)

We the undersigned electors and residents in Tower Hamlets and others with close and regular links with the Tower Hamlets borough support the call and demand that Tower Hamlets Council should deliver the service to the local community which the Council has been refusing and/or failing to deliver, as recognised by the Council's own admissions and the de facto evidential concessions made in the High Court during the past one year alone; we also support the demand that Tower Hamlets Council must stop making untrue, false statements and claims to the community and that it must bring into ordinary practice all the duties that it has been neglecting concerning all who are affected by the Council's denial of duties, denial of services.

We also support the demand for Tower Hamlets Council to abide by the laws and to avoid causing people to institute costly and wasteful litigation where democratic audit and accountability should be delivered as ordinary service by Tower Hamlets Council.

5.3 Petition entitled 'Stop the destruction of long standing communities on the Isle of Dogs' (Petition from Mr Arthur Coppin and residents of the Barkantine, Kingsbridge, Samuda and St John's estates).

We, the undersigned, local residents of the Barkantine, Kingsbridge, Samuda and St John's Estates, call upon the Mayor and Council of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets to intervene and help us to stop One Housing Group's proposals to demolish homes on the four estates on the Isle of Dogs, destroying well established traditional island communities.

Independent consultants appointed by One Housing report that residents feel they are treated with contempt and have no trust in their landlord. Services and the quality of maintenance have not improved as promised since the stock transfer, when we voted for the resident-led Toynbee Island Homes. Instead, we are dealing with a secretive and unresponsive landlord with no respect for resident satisfaction,

which does not value the communities they serve, a Housing Association we did not vote for and which stands for the exact opposite of our aspirations.

We call on Tower Hamlets Council to use all possible powers to make One Housing come clean about their development intentions for the four estates and to ensure that these plans enhance and protect our communities, in full consultation with the affected residents.