

<p style="text-align: center;">Non-Executive Report of the:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Council</p> <p style="text-align: center;">20 July 2016</p>	
<p>Report of: Melanie Clay, Corporate Director, Law, Probity and Governance</p>	<p>Classification: Unrestricted</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Petitions to be Presented to Council</p>	

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 20 July 2016.
2. The deadline for receipt of petitions for this meeting is noon on Friday 14 July 2016. 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. The petition will then be referred to the relevant Corporate Director for attention who will provide a written response 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 Sex Education in Schools (Petition from Shuily Akthar and others)

According to the national curriculum, SRE is a compulsory subject from Year 7 onwards. After reviewing the resources of the subject SRE, we, the undersigned, parents/carers of children studying at Culloden Primary School, think that our children are exposed to pictures and videos which are very explicit and not appropriate for our children. We object to our children being taught the entire SRE subject including the science part. We call upon the education board to:

1. Stop the teaching of SRE across all children under the age of eleven.
2. Investigate the actual resources and policies which are being forced into place.
3. Fully consult with parents to insure both parents and children are happy with the content being taught.

5.2 Special Responsibility Allowances (Petition from Glyn Robbins and others)

We, the undersigned, are dismayed by the decision taken by Mayor Biggs, voted for by his Labour Councillors, to increase his own salary by 11.7%, appointing three Labour Councillors as his Mayoral Advisors with additional £21,000 perks, after delivering £17.4m cuts to residents' services, making 110 staff redundant and shutting 18 youth centres. The decision also includes a mammoth 40% pay increase gifted to Tory Group leader Cllr Peter Golds. We understand that the Independent Group voted against this decision which was narrowly won with 24 votes for and 19 against. We request that Mayor Biggs, Deputy Mayors Rachael Saunders, Sirajul Islam and Shiria Khatun, as well as his Labour colleagues immediately reconsider and overturn this decision particularly when the residents and staff are suffering under Tory austerity cuts.

5.3 Save our Youth Clubs (Petition from Khadizah Sikder and others)

We the undersigned are adding our names to a petition to keep existing local youth provisions local and open. Our young people/we will not travel across other areas to attend the one youth club in our LAP1 which is being proposed/planned for. It is not a safe option. It is not a realistic approach to youth provision in Tower Hamlets. Our young people/we need safe, well-resourced provision run by qualified and experienced youth workers in our Local communities.