

Non-Executive Report of the: Council 22 March 2017	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Graham White, Acting Corporate Director, Governance	Classification: Unrestricted
Petitions to be Presented to Council	

Originating Officer(s)	Matthew Mannion, Committee Services Manager, Democratic Services.
Wards affected	All wards

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 22 March 2017
2. The deadline for receipt of petitions for this meeting is noon on Thursday 16 March 2017. However, at the time of agenda despatch the maximum number of petitions has already been received as set out overleaf.
3. The text 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 Compensation for no heating and hot water in Killick Way, Ocean Estate Tower Hamlets (Petition from Muhammad Raihan Shohid and others)

Residents of Killick Way, Ocean Estate were without hot water and heating in one of the coldest spells of the year due to the leak to a communal pipe, which was the case for well over a month.

Local families with young children, elders and infirm suffered detrimental impact on their health and welfare. In addition, this situation created an unnecessary stress and unbearable financial strain on the families who were already struggling due to the increase in Council Tax, other expenses and were/are 'just about managing'. The situation, arising from incompetence, lack of care, planning and coordination has made the matter worse for them.

We request urgent action, intervention and leadership from the Council and its current Mayor.

We urge the Mayor of Tower Hamlets to do the following in order to help us:

1. Show the same level of support and commitment he showed in regards to One Housing;
2. Write to the Chief Executive of East Thames, Yvonne Arrowsmith, who sits with the Mayor John Biggs on his Housing Policy Commission at Tower Hamlets Council and ask East Thames to offer a fair compensation to the tenants and leaseholders in their respective rent and rates for the duration of time they suffered as a result of this problem, which should also take into account the astronomical increase in the electricity bills they had to endure due to the use of portable electricity heaters as a last result to keep warm.
3. Refer East Thames to the Housing regulator; and
4. Meet with our Independent Group Ward Councillor, Mahbub Alam, who has been campaigning tirelessly on the issue and who visited affected families regularly, to update him of the progress.

5.2 Tower Hamlets Nursery Schools (Petition from Rachel Ellis and others)

To call on Tower Hamlets Council

To urge the government to recognise the school status of State nursery schools & fund them accordingly.

Why is this important?

Nursery Schools in Tower Hamlets and across the country are under threat of closure due to government plans for the future funding of childcare.

State nursery schools have very good outcomes with regard to closing the achievement gap and supporting children with special needs. State nursery schools are legally required to employ highly-qualified teaching staff, who are proven to give young children the best opportunities for academic achievement and enabling social mobility.

5.3 Construction/building work in Aston Street E14 (Petition from Adm Azim Khan Chowdhury and others)

We the undersigned residents of Lorne House, Cromarty House and surrounding buildings in Tower Hamlets call upon Mayor John Biggs to immediately address the following issues in regards to the construction work taking place in Aston Street, E14. We have been working with our Ward Councillor Mahbub Alam who has raised this issue with the Council, together with some of us who have directly complained to the construction staff, but nothing has changed.

We have urgent and serious concerns about the complete lack of planning, thought, health and safety issues, nuisance and negative impact on our health as well as to school going children who have to pass this dreadful construction site everyday affecting their lungs - causing allergies and adverse skin reaction since there is no barrier or cover around the construction site. Our cars are covered with dust and debris from the construction site. Some of us who have lived in various parts of London for over more than 25 years and have never seen such disregard, planning and lack of respect for residents and the neighbourhood.

We ask Mayor John Biggs to help our ward Councillor Mahbub Alam in resolving this matter for us and to ensure that the builders/construction company immediately addresses the issues set out above.