


Non-Executive Report of the: COUNCIL 20 March 2019	
Report of: Asmat Hussain, Corporate Director, Governance and Monitoring Officer	Classification: Unrestricted
Motion for debate submitted by the Administration	

Originating Officer(s)	Matthew Mannion, Head of Democratic Services
Wards affected	All wards

SUMMARY

1. Council Procedure Rule 11 allows for time at each Ordinary Council meeting for the discussion of one specific Motion submitted by the Administration. The debate will follow the rules of debate at Council Procedure Rule 13 and will last no more than 30 minutes.
2. The motion submitted is listed overleaf. The Administration Motion is submitted by the Labour Group.
3. Motions must be about matters for which the Council or its partners has a direct responsibility. A motion may not be moved which is substantially the same as a motion which has been put at a meeting of the Council in the previous six months; or which proposes that a decision of the Council taken in the previous six months be rescinded; unless notice of the motion is given signed by at least twenty Members.
4. Notice of any proposed amendments to the Motions must be given to the Monitoring Officer by Noon the day before the meeting.

MOTION

Set out overleaf is the motion that has been submitted.

8 – Administration Motion regarding Councils at Breaking Point

Proposer: Mayor John Biggs

Seconder: Councillor Candida Ronald

This Council notes that many council budgets are now at Breaking Point. Austerity has caused huge damage to communities up and down the UK, with devastating effects on key public services that protect the most defenceless in society – children at risk, disabled adults and vulnerable older people – and the services we all rely on;

1. Tory cuts mean councils have lost 60p out of every £1 that the last Labour Government was spending on local government in 2010;
2. Councils had to spend an extra £800m last year to meet the demand on vital services to protect children by over;
3. With an ageing population and growing demand adult social care faces a gap of £3.5 billion – with only 14% of council workers now confident that vulnerable local residents are safe and cared for
4. Government cuts have seen over 500 children's centres and 475 libraries close, potholes are left unfilled, and 80% of councils workers now say have no confidence in the future of local services
5. Northamptonshire has already gone bust due to Tory incompetence at both national and local level, and more councils are predicted to collapse without immediate emergency funding
6. Councils now face a further funding gap of £7.8 billion by 2025 just to keep services 'standing still' and meeting additional demand. Even Lord Gary Porter, the Conservative Chair of the Local Government Association, has said 'Councils can no longer be expected to run our vital local services on a shoestring'
7. Tower Hamlets has lost 64% of its core government funding since 2010 that's £148 million with a further cut of £44 million over the next three years.
8. Despite this we have protected frontline services and are investing in a tackling poverty fund.
9. The Fair Funding Review poses a threat to inner city borough with high levels of deprivation like Tower Hamlets.

This Council notes that Prime Minister Theresa May has also claimed that "austerity is over" despite planning a further £1.3bn of cuts to council budgets.

It notes that we have lost over 200 police officers from the streets of Tower Hamlets and the council has had to step in and invest £3 million to pay for council funded police officers so increasingly there are areas where the council is having to step in.

This Council agrees with the aims of the 'Breaking Point' petition signed by Labour councillors across the country, in calling for the Prime Minister and Chancellor to truly end austerity in local government by:

1. Reversing cuts to council budgets, with the Local Government Association warning that many popular council services could disappear by 2025 due to a £8bn funding black hole;
2. Investing £2bn in children's services and £2bn in adult social care to stop these vital emergency services from collapsing;
3. Restoring council funding to 2010 levels over the next four years.

This Council resolves to:

1. Support the 'Breaking Point' campaign, recognising the devastating impact that austerity has had on our local community;
2. Ask the Mayor to respond to the Government consultation 'A review of local authorities' relative needs and resources' and continue to make the case for Tower Hamlets to be protected against moves by the Government to introduce a so called 'Fair Funding Review' which could see funding diverted from areas of high deprivation.