


Non-Executive Report of the: Council 20 March 2019	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Asmat Hussain, Corporate Director, Governance	Classification: Unrestricted
Petitions to Council	

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

SUMMARY

1. This report sets out details of the valid petitions submitted for presentation at the Council meeting on Wednesday 20 March 2019. The text of the petition received for presentation to this meeting is set out in the attached report.
2. The Council's Constitution provides for up to four petitions to be heard at each ordinary Council meeting. These are taken in order of receipt, except that petitions for debate (those in excess of 2,000 signatures) will take precedence. Should more than four petitions be received, all remaining petitions will be listed to be formally noted by Council.
3. For Petitions listed as for debate:
 - a. Petitioners may address the meeting for no more than 3 minutes.
 - b. Members may then question the petitioners for a further 4 minutes.
 - c. The petition will then be debated by Councillors for a maximum of 15 minutes. All speeches are limited to a maximum of 3 minutes. During his or her speech, any Councillor may move a motion for the Council's consideration relevant to matters in the petition (this does not require the suspension of the Council Procedure Rules).
 - d. The speaker will invite the Mayor or (at the Mayor's discretion) the relevant Lead Member or Committee Chair to respond to the petition for up to 3 minutes.
 - e. Following the petition debate, any motions moved will be put to the vote in the order they were tabled.
 - f. If no motion is agreed, the petition will stand referred to the relevant Corporate Director for a written response within 28 days of the meeting.

4. For Petitions listed as to be heard:
 - a. Petitioners may address the meeting for no more than 3 minutes.
 - b. Members may then question the petitioners for a further 4 minutes.
 - c. Finally, the speaker will invite the Mayor or (at the Mayor's discretion) the relevant Lead Member or Committee Chair to respond to the petition for up to 2 minutes. The petition will then be referred to the relevant Corporate Director for attention who will provide a written response within 28 days of the date of the meeting.
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.
6. For Petitions listed as to be noted, petitioners may not address the meeting. The Speaker will state where they will go for a full response.
7. Responses to all petitions will be sent to the lead petitioner and displayed on the Council's website.

PETITIONS FOR DEBATE

No petitions for debate had been received by the petitions deadline.

PETITIONS TO BE HEARD

5.1 Petition regarding the A12 from Iana Vidal and others

We the undersigned residents of Tower Hamlets note that:

1. The A12 is a dangerous road. Traffic regularly exceeds the current speed limit of 40mph. It is likely that there will be a serious accident on or near the A12 before too long – not least because there are a number of schools, homes and community facilities near the road.
2. There are an ever increasing number of residential properties being built near to the A12, most notably between the Blackwall Tunnel and the Bow Roundabout. This area is changing significantly, with thousands more residents forecast to move into this part of the borough in the coming years.
3. That crossing the A12 in this area is generally an unpleasant experience – involving either negotiating fast moving traffic at crossings or going through subways, which are poorly maintained and many feel unsafe using at night-time.
4. Some of our schools are very close to the A12, a road that generates more than double the legal limit of harmful air pollution. Pollution levels along this stretch of the road are just too high for a built up residential area

For these reasons we would ask that Tower Hamlets Council contacts City Hall and Transport for London on our behalf requesting that:

1. An air quality and traffic management study be carried out into the impacts of reducing the speed limit on the A12 between the Blackwall Tunnel and Bow Roundabout to 30mph. And that, pending the results of the study, the 30mph speed limit be implemented on at least this stretch of the A12 – including speed cameras to enforce this limit – as has proved successful in similar parts of London with ‘A’ roads in residential areas.
2. A series of pedestrian crossings are installed over the A12, starting with the crossings that have already been consulted on for just north of Bromley-by-Bow station, and requesting that work for these crossings and road improvements is progressed as soon as possible.
3. That the road is redesigned along its entirety in order to encourage safe – and slower – driving and to improve the lived environment. For example, the large gantry installed across the road near Bromley-by-Bow station is much more suited to a large motorway on which cars are travelling at 70mph than a road in a built-up residential area on which cars should be travelling much more slowly.

5.2 Petition regarding New Providence Wharf Cladding from Hemal Rawal and others

We the undersigned petition the council to enhance their pressure on Ballymore to make New Providence Wharf safe by removing any combustible ACM cladding ASAP. We urge the council to take heed of Mr Brokenshire’s announcement in parliament giving local councils the power to remove ACM cladding without delay on any affected building within their council and recover costs from the freeholder.

5.3 Petition calling on the Council to Declare a Climate Emergency and become carbon neutral by 2025 from Rachel Ellman and others

We the undersigned petition the council to declare a Climate Emergency and commit to become carbon neutral as a borough by 2025. We call on the council to put in place a revised action plan to meet this 2025 target, with specific commitments, including:

1. Urgently tackle the air pollution crisis caused by burning fossil fuels in Tower Hamlets, which means that children in Tower Hamlets today are growing up with “stunted lungs” and seriously threatened health:
 - Rapid implementation of traffic free “School Streets” for all at-risk schools
 - An electric-only bus fleet on all TfL bus routes through Tower Hamlets
 - Reduce traffic on routes and junctions that are major sources of illegal pollution levels
 - Widespread electric vehicle charging points on residential streets
2. Divest: immediately divest all Council funds from fossil fuels.
3. Reduce waste going to landfill: including food waste and disposable nappies
4. Improve energy efficiency and access to affordable green energy for local businesses and resident

PETITIONS TO BE NOTED

None.