

Tower Hamlets Council
Council meeting 18th November 2020

Motion Regarding Covid-19 Test Centre in Watney Market, Shadwell

Proposer: Cllr Harun Miah

Seconder: Cllr Rabina Khan

This Council notes:

1. Tower Hamlets has one of the highest levels of deprivation in the United Kingdom. With Shadwell being one of the most deprived areas in the Borough. With a large BAME community.
2. The Idea Store which was built to provide a place for people who suffer from data poverty to access the internet, provide a study area for individuals who live in overcrowded households has now been given over for SERCO Covid-19 test centre.
3. The test centre is adjacent to sheltered housing for the elderly, in a busy market, densely populated residential area, surrounded by bus stops, and half a dozen schools including the Bishop Challoner Secondary School and Mulberry Secondary Girls School and Sixth Form.
4. There was a visit to the area by Council Officers, Lead Member and Civil Servants from the Cabinet Office, before the announcement of the test centre. No local stakeholders, local councillors or members of the BAME community were invited to that meeting. Nor was there any local consultation.
5. According to the Covid-19 Dashboard incidences in Shadwell are on the rise.

This Council Welcomes:

1. The Mayor and his Lead Member embracing the Blacks Lives Matter movement, by wearing T-Shirts and posts on social media.

The Council Encourages:

1. The Mayor and his lead member to engage with the BAME community and deprived working-class communities in decisions that have an impact on their lives. As the BAME and working-class communities have their own voices and views and are not passive and silent actors.
2. Make the support for the Black Lives Matter movement deeds in actions and not just mere words and take account the views expressed in the petition to remove the Covid-19 test centre from Shadwell, engage positively with the petitioners.

The Council Resolves

To remove the Serco Covid-19 Test Centre from Watney market and remove it to a more suitable location.

