


Non-Executive Report of the: COUNCIL 17 th March 2021	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Janet Fasan, Director of, Legal and Interim 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in the previous six months; or which proposes that a decision of the Council taken in the previous six months be rescinded; unless notice of the motion is given signed by at least twenty Members.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.

7 – Administration Motion for Debate - regarding the Climate emergency

Proposer: Councillor Asma Islam

Seconder: Mayor John Biggs

This Council notes:

1. In March 2019, Tower Hamlets became one of the first councils in the country to declare a climate emergency;
2. The Council has committed to becoming a net zero carbon Council by 2025 and a net zero carbon borough by 2050;
3. The Council is implementing its Net Zero Carbon Action Plan which sets out the aim to do all we can to reach zero carbon by 2025, including actions around the new Town Hall, procurement, the electrification of the council's vehicle fleet, amongst other actions. The Net Zero Carbon 2025 action plan sets out our commitment to tackling the climate emergency:
<https://democracy.towerhamlets.gov.uk/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=165906>
4. The council is delivering against its climate emergency ambitions through a number of actions and decisions including:
 - Switching to a renewable energy supplier – in October 2019 LBTH transferred to a 100% renewable electricity tariff
 - The Pensions Committee have actively engaged with the climate change agenda and are looking at revising their investment strategy towards a greener portfolio
 - Commenced a Sustainable Workplace programme to instil sustainable behaviours for council employees including: promoting resource efficiency (reducing energy use; moving to paperless working); reduction in single use plastics including elimination of plastic cups from buildings; and introduction of food waste collection to council offices to reduce waste being sent to landfill and incineration
 - Adoption of Tower Hamlets Transport Strategy which sets out our vision and priorities for travel in Tower Hamlets from 2020 – 2041 through sustainable means of transport
 - Commenced the Liveable Streets programme which aims to improve the look and feel of public spaces in neighbourhoods across the borough and make it easier, safer, and more convenient to get around by foot, bike and public transport
 - Continuing to deliver our tree planting programme to deliver over 1000 street trees. This programme will increase carbon capture
 - Our programme of installation of electrical vehicle charging points across the borough, with 159 new points to be installed between February and April 2021
 - Adopted Local Plan policies that require all new developments to achieve net-zero carbon status.
 - Commenced a review of Council Assets for Zero Carbon retrofit feasibility and successfully bid for the public sector decarbonisation fund to tackle our highest emitting buildings
 - Completed initial feasibility for decarbonisation of Barkantine district heating network
 - Undertaking a review of design standards for new council development to ensure that requirements align to the climate emergency declaration and deliver net-zero carbon objectives
 - Developed a draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for waste and recycling developments, currently out for consultation, which aims to revise planning policies to encourage and enforce waste reduction and recycling

- Commenced a review of Tower Hamlets Homes properties for Bio-solar retrofit
- Other retrofit initiatives as set out in the housing capital programme, and the Net Zero Carbon Plan
- Continued delivery of carbon reduction projects: grants programme for schools to deliver carbon reduction measures; grants programme for SME's for energy efficiency measures; residential heating efficiency project
- Undertaking a review of new civic centre proposals to ensure design is as energy efficient as possible and the operating environment and systems are low carbon
- Continuing to roll out the phased programme of LED street lighting upgrades to replace all lamp columns in the borough
- Focus on delivering the proposal to roll out flats recycling package, as recommended by the Resource London project "making recycling work for people in flats".

This Council also notes:

1. The Climate Engagement Event organised for 17th March to raise awareness and demonstrate progress made by the Council and its partners since the Climate Emergency Declaration.

This Council believes:

1. We continue to face a climate emergency and need to take immediate action at a local, national and international level;
2. That since the declaration of a Climate Emergency in Tower Hamlets, the Council has made significant progress but must continue to focus on this as a priority issue for the borough;
3. The Council must continue to lead by example but given it accounts for a relatively small amount of the borough's carbon, it is vital that we use our community leadership role to encourage and work alongside residents, businesses and partners to make changes in order to address the crisis;
4. Tower Hamlets is known for its diversity and we will use positive approaches to engage BAME residents with the climate emergency agenda.

This Council resolves:

1. To deliver its Net Zero Carbon Action Plan;
2. To continue to work with local residents, businesses and council partners to achieve our net zero commitment, including developing an action plan to meet our target;
3. To review our recycling targets and revise our waste strategy;
4. To set up a new waste and recycling board to enable us to work with our partners and residents which will work towards mitigating issues and help us work towards the aims of our waste strategy;
5. To adopt a targeted campaign strategy to decrease contamination and encourage recycling amongst residents and businesses.