


Non-Executive Report of the: COUNCIL 17 th March 2021	
Report of: Janet Fasan, Director of Legal and Interim Monitoring Officer	Classification: Unrestricted
Motion for debate submitted by an Opposition Group	

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 Motion submitted by an Opposition Group. 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. In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11, submission of the Opposition Motion for Debate will alternate in sequence between the opposition groups. This Opposition Motion is submitted by the Conservative 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in the previous six months; or which proposes that a decision of the Council taken in the previous six months be rescinded; unless notice of the motion is given signed by at least twenty Members.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 – Opposition Motion by the Conservative Group – Regarding the impact of construction on the Isle of Dogs and South Poplar

Proposer: Councillor Andrew Wood

Secunder: Councillor Peter Golds

That the scale of development in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets is the highest in the country, which is why we receive the most New Homes Bonus of any local authority and that the Councils Local Plan 2031 allocates 57% of all new homes in the Borough to the Isle of Dogs and South Poplar area which already contains three of the ten densest small places in the country.

This scale of development seriously impacts on the health and quality of life of existing residents as well as visitors to the area. It also disrupts local roads and transport.

Two residents have died in construction related injuries while living next to or walking past a construction site, namely in Bow and Burdett Road, Limehouse.

There have also been dangerous incidents in the Isle of Dogs and South Poplar caused by construction. During construction of the Calders Wharf development a crane accidentally hit the residential property located on Douglas Path. This year, a bollard being lifted by a crane fell onto Marsh Wall. A metal pole fell from a site next to a dockside path in Crossharbour in February. During the demolition of Robin Hood Gardens concrete fell onto a pavement by the site. Although there were no injuries resulting from these latter incidents they did cause concern to residents.

The impact of construction noise also affects peoples mental health and air quality is affected by construction dust and particles.

The Council also notes the move of economic activity from offices to homes in the area as working from home becomes more common.

This Council therefore welcomes the commencement of an eighteen-month pilot project to explore opportunities to address the cumulative impacts of construction predominantly focussed on the Isle of Dogs and South Poplar.

This Council therefore recommends that the following issues be addressed as part of that project;

- To update the Construction Code of Practise which we think may now be over 14 years old, it refers to Council buildings that no longer exist.
- The Council learn to say no to construction companies that ask for an extension of working hours. To address the culture that seems to prioritise the needs of construction companies over that of residents health.
- That where it says no or modifies what the construction companies have asked for, that it publicises that in order to regain the confidence of residents in its willingness to stand up for them.
- That it makes it easier to find information about construction, construction management plans, permission to grant extended hours and road works and road or lane closures.
- That it considers requests for out of hours street works in the same way as it does for work on construction sites.

- That Construction Management Plans become live easy to find documents that guide everybody (including other Council departments) in the progress of construction and what is being done to mitigate the negative impacts.
- That the Council demonstrates how it complies with the;
 - Noise Policy Statement for England
 - Section 79 of Environmental Protection Act 1990
 - Section 60(4)(d) Control of Pollution Act 1974
- That careful consideration will need to be given to applications which are made in relation to sites in close proximity to residential areas where the request for changing hours is likely to have a significant impact on health (to quote the government guidance on extending working hours during COVID)
- That were work results in closed roads or lanes that it be better co-ordinated with other closures or events.
- That it installs its own live online air quality sensors and noise monitoring sensors close to construction sites which enable the monitoring of a range of pollutants. That the results be made available online in real time.
- That like one central London Borough it only allows noisy works five days of the week where close to homes or at least gives residents an extra hour of rest on Saturday mornings.
- To ensure the safe access for emergency vehicles to residential areas due to development.
- That it discourages the chopping down of trees on or next to sites unless absolutely necessary and even then only at the last moment.
- To replace bollards in some areas like Marsh Wall which are being continuously knocked over and damaged, they are clearly not strong enough to protect pedestrians on pavements.
- That the council requiring developers to sign up to the Considerate Construction Scheme, and ensuring that there is publicity on site and via websites and other information to enable residents to know who to contact in case of problems.
- Establish an offsite waiting area for construction vehicles, as happened on the London 2012 Olympic site, rather have them wait next to people's homes to be called onto site.