


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in the previous six months; or which proposes that a decision of the Council taken in the previous six months be rescinded; unless notice of the motion is given signed by at least twenty Members.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

7 – Administration Motion for Debate - regarding COP26

Proposed by: Cllr Asma Islam

Seconded by: Mayor John Biggs

This Council notes that:

1. The UK Government was the host of COP26, held in Scotland in November 2021. This was an opportunity for the UK Government to radically shape global action on climate change, and to use the opportunity to shape how climate change is tackled in the UK.
2. In March 2019 the Council declared a Climate Emergency setting an ambitious target of becoming a Net Zero Carbon Council by 2025.
3. In March 2020, the Council hosted the Climate Engagement event, and it then on behalf of the PEG set up the Climate Task Force representing key stakeholders and partners as identified by the PEG.
4. The Council has just launched the Net Zero Carbon (NZC) Partnership Action Plan.
5. The Council has already taken a number of actions locally to combat climate change, including:
 - a. Sustainable Workplace programme to encourage sustainable behaviours for council employees including: promoting resource efficiency, reduction in single use plastics and elimination of plastic cups from buildings, introduction of food waste collection to council offices to reduce waste being sent to landfill and incineration.
 - b. Adopted Local Plan policies that require all new development to achieve net zero carbon status.
 - c. Review of council Assets for Zero Carbon retrofit feasibility. Proposals include transitioning to low carbon heating and hot water systems and LED lighting, these projects will reduce carbon emissions by 105 tonnes a year.
 - d. Completed initial feasibility for decarbonisation of Barkantine Heat and Power district heating network.
 - e. Promoting Trees for Streets
 - f. Council purchasing 100% renewable energy
 - g. Retrofitting schools projects
 - h. Solar Together London
 - i. Sustained investment through the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund
 - j. Sustained investment in public transport to support a just transition
6. Tower Hamlets has been named the most eco-friendly local authority in England in a study published by In Your Area, which found that the borough has the lowest carbon emissions in the country and it is the best in the UK for energy-efficient homes.

This Council believes:

1. This summer has seen more evidence of the immediate impact of climate change across the world, with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Sixth Report, published in August 2021, found that the global surface temperature will continue to rise until at least the middle of this century. This shows the need for more ambitious and immediate action to tackle this climate emergency at a local, national and international level.
2. The Council has made significant progress but must continue to press its partners and the UK Government for a wider solution while leading by example.

This Council resolves to:

1. Ask the Mayor and the Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning to raise this motion with the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to:
 - a. Call for the UK Government to provide local authorities with the necessary resources to take further action against climate change, and to support a fair and just transition to a Net Zero Carbon UK.
 - b. State our support for more public investment in green projects across the UK to tackle the Climate Emergency.

2. Continue to work with local residents, businesses and council partners to encourage them to take steps to reduce their carbon footprint in order to achieve our net zero commitment.