


Non-Executive Report of the:  <b>COUNCIL</b>  5 <sup>th</sup> October 2022	 <b>TOWER HAMLETS</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Janet Fasan, Director of, Legal and Monitoring Officer	<b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted
<b>Motion for debate submitted by an Opposition Group</b>	

<b>Originating Officer(s)</b>	Matthew Mannion, Head of Democratic Services
<b>Wards affected</b>	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 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in the previous six months; or which proposes that a decision of the Council taken in the previous six months be rescinded; unless notice of the motion is given signed by at least twenty Members.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.

## **8 – OPPOSITION MOTION FOR DEBATE – SUPPORT OF SMALL BUSINESSES IN THE FACE OF THE ENERGY BILL CRISIS**

Proposer: Councillor Sirajul Islam  
Seconder: Councillor Sabina Akhtar

### **This Council notes:**

- The devastating impact the huge energy bills increase has had on small businesses across the borough, where many are now concerned that they will have to close due to the unreasonable cost.
- Small businesses are only recently recovering from the long term effects of the lockdowns due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The loss of small businesses across our borough will have a very negative affect on the local economy and residents who are already struggling in the face of the Cost of Living Crisis.

### **This Council believes:**

- It is vital that innovative measures are immediately adopted – both at a Government level and at a Local Authority level - to support local businesses in the face of the Cost of Living Crisis, so local businesses, local jobs and local high streets are protected to benefit local residents.

### **This Council resolves to:**

- Request the Mayor:
  - o Immediately set up a Small Business Hardship Fund to help small businesses in the borough in these times of economic crisis.
  - o Provide Business Rates relief to small businesses to help offset the huge increase in the cost of energy bills.
- Work with the local Chambers of Commerce, community groups and business networks to establish a plan going forward on how to protect local businesses.