

Proposed Motion in relation to the Safer Streets Petition for Debate

Proposed by Cllr Kabir Ahmed

Seconded by Abu Choudhury

Council notes:

- That In May, the people of Tower Hamlets demonstrated their desire for change, by voting overwhelmingly for Lutfur Rahman as Mayor and the Aspire Party as the largest Party on the Council.
- That the people of Tower Hamlets put their trust in a transformative Manifesto that offered real hope and a real vision for how we could rebuild our Borough.
- That this Manifesto listened to the people of Tower Hamlets, and put their needs and wishes first.
- That one of the central pledges of this Manifesto was to get Tower Hamlets moving by removing the road closures implemented across the Borough by the previous administration.
- That these closures have impacted thousands of working people in Tower Hamlets – from delivery drivers, to taxis and small businesses, carers – registered or otherwise – and people with commitments across the Borough, during a cost of living crisis.
- That the Mayor is committed to ensuring that Tower Hamlets becomes a net-zero Borough as soon as possible, and has already initiated work on delivering the central pledges of his and his Administration's climate and energy offer.

Council believes:

- That it is right to consult residents and stakeholders – including the emergency services and businesses – on any decision to remove these road closures.
- That such a public opinion survey has recently come to a conclusion, receiving thousands of responses from across the Borough.
- That any decision to remove or retain these closures, before considering the results of these public opinion surveys, would pre-empt the right of such residents and stakeholders to have their voices fairly heard.

- That need to understand why people use their cars, what the barriers to public transport are for some, and how we can support them to move away from car usage.
- That this Mayor wants to represent all residents of this Borough and engage with them on this issue in an inclusive way.

Council resolves:

- To wait for all evidence gathered during these public opinion surveys to be analysed and considered with due diligence and process before any decision on the removal of these closures takes place.