


Non-Executive Report of the: COUNCIL 16 th November 2022	
Report of: Janet Fasan, Director of Legal and Monitoring Officer	Classification: Unrestricted
Motions submitted by Members of the Council	

Originating Officer(s)	Matthew Mannion, Head of Democratic Services
Wards affected	All wards

SUMMARY

1. The following motions have been submitted by Members of the Council under Council Procedure Rule 11 for debate at the Council meeting.
2. The motions submitted are listed overleaf. In accordance with the Council Procedure Rules, the motions alternate between the administration and the other Political Groups.
3. Motions must be about matters for which the Council has a responsibility or which affect the Borough. 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in the previous six months; or which proposes that a decision of the Council taken in the previous six months be rescinded; unless notice of the motion is given signed by at least twenty Members.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. There is no specific duration set for this agenda item and consideration of the attached motions may continue until the time limit for the meeting is reached. The guillotine procedure at Council Procedure Rule 9.2 does not apply to motions on notice and any of the attached motions which have not been put to the vote when the time limit for the meeting is reached will be deemed to have fallen. A motion which is not put to the vote at the current meeting may be resubmitted for the next meeting but is not automatically carried forward.

MOTIONS

Set out overleaf is the motions that have been submitted.

12.1 Motion to follow

Proposer: Councillor

Secunder: Councillor

12.2 Motion regarding Access to GPs

Proposed by: Cllr Amy Lee

Seconded by: Cllr Ayas Miah

This Council notes that:

- Primary care is in crisis, with people across Tower Hamlets and the rest of the UK struggling to access GP services and dental treatment.
- New figures from NHS England show that 18% of people in the NHS North East London Integrated Care Board, covering Tower Hamlets, could not get an appointment to see or speak to a GP or nurse the last time they tried.
- The Government has failed to remain on track to deliver 6000 additional GPs by 2024-25.
- Our doctors and nurses across the NHS in Tower Hamlets work hard for residents while grappling with the biggest staffing crisis in its history in the face of Government inaction.

This Council believes:

- That everyone should be able to get an appointment to see a doctor when they need to and has the right to receive dental treatment when they need it.

This Council, therefore, resolves to:

- Forward a copy of this motion to the new Secretary of State for Health and Social Care and call on her to urgently bring forward a plan to fix the crisis in primary care, to meet the Government's GP target and ensure everyone who needs an NHS dentist can access one.
- Request the local Members of Parliament support this motion and raise this important issue in Parliament.
- Work with the local NHS trust to ensure Tower Hamlets residents have full access to their GP and dentists.

12.3 Motion on Local Electricity Bills

Proposed by: Cllr Rachel Blake

Seconded by: Cllr Sirajul Islam

This Council notes:

1. The efforts that this council has made under the previous administration to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote renewable energy, including:
 - i. Declaring a climate emergency in March 2019;
 - ii. Launched the Net Zero Carbon (NZC) Partnership Action Plan in November 2021 to become a net zero carbon council by 2025 and a net zero carbon borough by 2045 or sooner;
 - iii. Planted hundreds of street trees;
 - iv. Approved 400 new electric vehicle charging points across the borough;
 - v. In 2021, Tower Hamlets Council was named the greenest local authority in the country.
2. That very large financial setup and running costs involved in selling locally generated renewable electricity to local customers result in it being impossible for local renewable electricity generators to do so.
3. That making these financial costs proportionate to the scale of a renewable electricity supplier's operation would enable and empower new local businesses, or councils, to be providers of locally generated renewable electricity directly to local customers.
4. That revenues received by new local renewable electricity providers could be used to help improve the local economy, local services and facilities and to reduce local greenhouse gas emissions.

This Council resolves to:

1. To support the Local Electricity Bill, supported by 306 MPs which, if made law, would establish a Right to Local Supply which would promote local renewable electricity supply companies and co-operatives by making the setup and running costs of selling renewable electricity to local customers proportionate to the size of the supply operation.
2. Inform the local media of this decision.
3. Instruct the Mayor to write to the borough's Members of Parliament local MPs, asking them to support the Bill.
4. Instruct the Mayor to write to the organisers of the campaign for the Bill, Power for People expressing its support.

12.4 Motion on Road Safety

Proposed by Councillor Nathalie Bienfait

This council notes that:

- There have been a recent spate in road traffic accidents across Tower Hamlets, including:
 - In St Katherine's & Wapping on 29 February 2022 – a motorcyclist was left with life changing injuries.
 - In Whitechapel in May 2022 – in which a cyclist was rushed to hospital after having been hit by a lorry.
 - In Limehouse on 22 August 2022 – a man was left with life threatening injuries.
 - In Shadwell, a man died on 11 September 2022 after being hit by a lorry.
 - On Mile End Road on 9 October 2022 – in which a teenager was seriously hurt.
 - Along Bow Road on 21 October 2022 – in which a several pedestrians were injured.
 - In Bow West, along Old Ford Road, a young man was left with life changing injuries after a crash in August 2022.
 - Also along Old Ford Road, two crashes in 2022 left neighbours with serious property damage which is still being repaired.
 - Outside Olga Primary School, a child was hit by a car in October 2022, and is mercifully unharmed but the experience was very traumatic for all witnesses.
- A number of campaign groups have highlighted the need for road safety improvements in the last few months.
- Traffic speed limits in all areas of the borough are consistently flouted and there are few areas where speed cameras enforce the speed limits on drivers.
- That the most vulnerable road users and those going about their lives should be protected from poor driving behaviour.

This council acknowledges that:

- Railings and other protective infrastructure for vulnerable road users is not sufficient to genuinely ensure pedestrian safety.
- The removal of Chisenhale School Street and other school streets risks the safety of children and their carers when attending schools in the borough.
- The regular serious accidents make people across the borough feel unsafe around roads, discouraging residents from choosing healthier modes of transport

This council resolves to:

- Request the Mayor of Tower Hamlets to set up a comprehensive programme to improve safety for road users which echoes the Highway Code's hierarchy of road users which acknowledges the risks of vehicle transport and gives priority for vulnerable road users such as pedestrians.
- Increase the number of speed cameras and other speed enforcement infrastructure by 100%.
- Encourage and support local groups to engage in speed watch with local police teams.

- Make all school street schemes which are currently under experimental traffic orders across the borough permanent.
- Request the Mayor of Tower Hamlets to write to the Mayor of London to request speed enforcement cameras along all TfL roads in the borough.
- Instruct the Highways Team to research methods of reducing traffic speeds in residential areas, such as planting schemes, continuous pavements etc. and present their findings to the administration.

12.5 Motion on a new Thames Party Boat

Proposed by: Councillor Peter Golds

This council notes that Newham Council is to decide on a licence for the Oceandiva, a specialist “party boat” which will be the largest “party boat” ever to operate on the Thames. It is 86 metres in length comprise of three decks, two of which offer large open outdoor deck areas, and is designed to carry 1,500 passengers, 500 of which on the outdoor areas.

The council further notes that:

Oceandiva has a capacity almost three times larger than the current maximum passenger “party boat” operating on the Thames.

The licence being sought by the owners will be to operate from Monday to Sunday between 11am and 2.30am the following morning, and to extend all licensable activities on 6 days until 3.00am in the morning.

That the owners are seeking to dock the boat at St Katharine’s Pier and the Tower Millennium Pier within Tower Hamlets.

That this application has, to date, resulted in 980 objections, representation from the City of London and the boroughs of Greenwich, Southwark, Tower Hamlets and Westminster, the Newham council noise team, and the Metropolitan Police Service covering Newham and Tower Hamlets.

That the individual objections cover residential management groups, tenants associations and individual residents living on the riverside.

That people living close to the Thames river already regularly suffer from late night noise from existing smaller party boats which traverse the Thames from central London to as far as the Thames barrier, affecting residents in Newham, Greenwich, Lewisham, Southwark, the City of London and Tower Hamlets.

That resulting from the turning around mid-river residents suffer from two passes by each boat which can last for up to 10 minutes depending on how quickly the boats are travelling and the level of noise.

That noise travels long distances across water.

That the boats generate noise both from music, the voices of DJ’s and especially from users partying on the outside areas of the boats.

That sleep provides important physical and mental health properties, that lack of sleep has known negative health qualities.

That the existing lack of enforcement and co-ordination on this issue affects tens of thousands of people on both sides of the river.

That the Met Police Service considers night-time to be from 11pm to 7am with regard to late night night activity in the open.

This council further notes that:

Such are the volume of objections that Newham Council expect the application to be considered over two days in February 2023.

The Thames riverside is increasingly a residential area, with numerous new housing developments currently under way, and that a “party boat” of this size would operating until 3.00am will increase noise pollution to residents.

That the prospect of up to 1,500 people leaving a “party boat” in the early hours of the morning will be a magnet for noise and potential anti social behaviour at the various piers.

That granting an operating licence for these hours will likely encourage the smaller “party boats” to seek similar operating hours.

The council therefore resolves to:

Work with the adjoining boroughs, the Mayor of London and the police to ensure that this vessel does not disturb residents living close to the Thames by operating at unsocial hours.

That the Councils public health team submit a representation on the importance of sleep and the negative health affects of lost sleep.

That the Council calls on the Secretary of State for Transport to extend the existing trial for noise cameras which target noisy cars to see if the technology could also be used to monitor party boats as well.