


Non-Executive Report of the: COUNCIL 18 th January 2023	 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 Aspire 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in the previous six months; or which proposes that a decision of the Council taken in the previous six months be rescinded; unless notice of the motion is given signed by at least twenty Members.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.

ADMINISTRATION MOTION FOR DEBATE – MOTION ON TACKLING CRIME

Proposed by: Cllr Ohid Ahmed

Seconded by: Cllr Bodrul Choudhury

This Council notes:

- The rising levels of crime in Tower Hamlets since 2015.
- That Tower Hamlets is ranked in the top ten of London's most dangerous Boroughs, ranking third out of a possible thirty-two.
- That, according to 2022 data, serious crimes are on the rise and are much higher than the London average, including Anti-Social Behaviour, Drugs, Robberies and Burglaries and violent crime, including periodic explosions in knife crime and murder.
- That it is no coincidence that this rise in crime has coincided with the cuts to police and other key public services in London and the previous administration's indifference and unwillingness to invest in community safety.
- That huge volumes of complaints and concerns have been received by the Mayor at his surgeries and to his office from residents concerned by this increase in crime.
- That crime disproportionately impacts members of the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities and those on the lowest incomes.

This Council believes:

- That the residents of Tower Hamlets should be able to walk their streets and live in their homes in the knowledge that they are safe, secure and protected.
- That the fear of crime alone has a corrosive impact on people's day-to-day quality of life.
- That to achieve this sense of security, serious investment is required in the Borough's Community Safety services – from Police Officers to Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officers (THEOS) – to ensure that these numbers can be driven down.
- That investment in key services, such as Youth Services, Community Services and third sector groups formulates an equally important part of any preventative strategy to reduce crime rates in the Borough.
- That the Mayor of London should assist this Council in providing the resources to recruit additional Police Officers.

This Council resolves:

- To support the Mayor and his administration in investing in Community Safety and procuring additional resources to drive down crime rates in the Borough.
- To task Officers with the formulation of a Crime Reduction Plan that pulls together the relevant agencies and combines prevention, intervention and inter-agency cooperation, subject to due process.

- To work and partner with the Metropolitan Police in the sharing of information and joint-tasking in tackling crime.
- To support this Administration to invest £2.9million in the recruitment of 40 Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officers (THEOs), £1.6million of investment in recruiting 33 new Police Officers over the next three years and £200,000 in CCTV investment.
- To support an additional £8.5million of investment on top of the existing £3.4million in youth services through the new *Young Tower Hamlets* programme, a significant investment in Drug Treatment Services and a redesigned and rejuvenated Community Grants programme to help strengthen community cohesion in the Borough, in turn reducing crime and improving standards of living.
- To work with all housing providers in the Borough to improve the safety of housing and estates in Tower Hamlets, through the assessment of existing planning design and the designing out of crime hotspots and blind spots.