


Non-Executive Report of the: Council 15 th March 2023	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Janet Fasan, Director of Legal and Monitoring Officer	Classification: Unrestricted
Petitions to Council	

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

SUMMARY

1. This report sets out details of the valid petitions submitted for presentation and debate at this Council meeting. The text of the petitions received are set out in the attached report.
2. The Council's Constitution provides for up to four petitions to be heard at each ordinary Council meeting. These are taken in order of receipt, except that petitions for debate (those in excess of 2,000 signatures) will take precedence. Should more than four petitions be received, all remaining petitions will be listed to be formally noted by Council.
 - a. There are two petitions to be heard
 - i. Asking for the removal of road closures
 - ii. Saving of Chisenhale School streets
 - b. There are no petitions to be debated or noted.

PETITIONS TO BE HEARD

3. For Petitions listed as to be heard:
 - a. Petitioners may address the meeting for no more than 3 minutes.
 - b. Members may then question the petitioners for a further 4 minutes.
 - c. Finally, the speaker will invite the Mayor or (at the Mayor's discretion) the relevant Lead Member or Committee Chair to respond to the petition for up to 2 minutes. The petition will then be referred to the relevant Corporate Director for attention who will provide a written response within 28 days of the date of the meeting.
4. Members, other than a Cabinet Member or Committee Chair responding at the end of the item, should confine their contributions to questions and not make statements or attempt to debate.
5. Responses to all petitions will be sent to the lead petitioner and displayed on the Council's website.

5.1 Petition regarding Recognise Cockney as a community language

We the undersigned petition the council to ensure Cockney language, identity and its unique cultural heritage related to the East End of London be recognised as a community language and be celebrated annually on 21st February on International Mother Language Day, and for Cockney to be included in any community language provisions by the Council.

5.2 Petition regarding Road Safety Measures Urgently Needed on Bow Roundabout connecting the A12, Bow Road and Stratford High Street

We the undersigned petition the council to engage with Transport for London to urgently implement road safety measures to Bow Roundabout to create a safer environment for pedestrians, including children, parents and carers who use the crossing for school pick up and drop off, and for residents living in the area needing to cross the roundabout for access to transport, shops, places of worship etc. The roundabout is primarily designed for road traffic, it is a very busy crossing and there are regular instances of cars driving through red lights over pedestrian crossings. Overall the roundabout feels unsafe for pedestrian using it and road safety measures are urgently needed to communicate to drivers that the roundabout is also a pedestrian zone. Better crossing would encourage more walking and cycling, and improving links will benefit the local economy and residents moving into new developments.

5.3 Petition regarding Redevelopment of Chrisp Street Market and Surrounding area

We petition to ask why Poplar HARCA and Tower Hamlets Council have failed to keep shopkeepers and market traders informed of what has happened since plans were approved for the redevelopment/gentrification of Chrisp Street Market and surrounding area.

5.4 Petition regarding Fairtrade

We would like the Council to reaffirm and step up its support for Fairtrade in order to address the imbalance of power between the Global North and Global South. Fairtrade works with 1.9 million farmers in 71 countries across Africa, Asia, Latin America & Oceania to build trade justice, climate justice, sustainability and ethical consumerism, The fairtrade standards that farmers, employers of agricultural workers and traders must meet lay down requirements for social, economic and environmental justice and quality. We ask Tower Hamlets Council to reaffirm its support for Fairtrade, to encourage schools, shops and cafes to stock Fairtrade and help increase consumption of, for example, Fairtrade tea, coffee, and cocoa and to build solidarity between producers and consumers as inhabitants of a shared planet. 25% of the standards that farmers must meet relate to the environment and help tackle the Climate Emergency.