


Non-Executive Report of the: COUNCIL 15 th March 2023	 TOWER HAMLETS
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in the previous six months; or which proposes that a decision of the Council taken in the previous six months be rescinded; unless notice of the motion is given signed by at least twenty Members.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 on REAFFIRMING FAIRTRADE IN TOWER HAMLETS

Proposed by: Cllr Abdul Wahid

Seconded by: Cllr Nathalie Bienfait

This Council notes:

- Next year will be the 30th anniversary of the U.K. launch of the Fairtrade Mark, a labelling scheme administered by the Fairtrade Foundation that identifies products grown and processed to Fairtrade Standards, including sustainable social, economic and environmental criteria. Many of the organisations involved are cooperatives of small-scale farmers and workers.
- Tower Hamlets Council passed a unanimous resolution on the 1st of March 2006 to actively support and promote Fairtrade. Council acknowledges in particular, the work of the Teams which have supported Tower Hamlets in its Fairtrade journey: Sustainability, Procurement, Contracts and Communication.
- A Tower Hamlets Fairtrade Borough Steering Group was set up, and on 11th January 2007, it was successful in applying for Fairtrade Borough Status, having satisfied Fairtrade criteria including Council support, Council use of Fairtrade products, availability of Fairtrade products in local shops, catering establishments, workplaces and community organisations, and popular support for Fairtrade campaigning.
- Since 2007, the Council has maintained its support for Fairtrade-related activities, notably through the integration of its support for Fairtrade with its sustainable and ethical procurement policy. Making it a requirement for the supply of bananas and juices to be Fairtrade in the Schools Canteen Contract contributed to Tower Hamlets being awarded the Soil Association Gold Food for Life Award.
- The Tower Hamlets Fairtrade Steering Group has worked with local stores, cinemas, bookshops, cafes and other establishments in Fairtrade-related events and activities. Local residents and workers have contributed to and supported Fairtrade campaigns. This has enabled Tower Hamlets to retain its Fairtrade Borough status since 2007.
- There are now over 600 Fairtrade Communities in the UK and more than 2,000 globally. London is the biggest Fairtrade City in the world and Tower Hamlets contributes to that positive story.
- Tower Hamlets is home to a diversity of communities with many having family, cultural ties and roots in farming communities in a multitude of countries worldwide. Many have their own experiences to inform their personal support for Fairtrade.
- Efforts to combat injustice and deprivation, fight climate change and improve social and economic conditions in the borough have established a tradition of community support for social justice, economic reform and global solidarity which aligns with the Fairtrade movement.
- The U.K. Fairtrade market is now one of the world's largest. Globally, Fairtrade sales have generated hundreds of millions of pounds in Fairtrade Premiums which have enabled

farmers in 73 countries to invest in health, education and social welfare measures, as well as attempt to mitigate the devastating impact of climate change, increase sustainable production and bolster global food security.

- Despite this positive news, exploitation remains rampant in global supply chains. More than 40 million people are trapped in modern slavery and 152 million young people in child labour. Hundreds of millions are earning less than a living income or wage. Fairtrade and its supporters in Tower Hamlets have the capacity to influence change in global supply chains, including in the textile industry and garment trade and the cocoa and chocolate sector, as well as in the general areas of child labour and modern slavery.

This Council resolves to:

- Fairtrade and the wider Fair Trade movement has a significant contribution to make towards ending exploitation, mitigating the impact of Climate Change and achieving the U N Sustainable Development Goals.
- The recently agreed International Fair Trade Charter should be welcomed, with its vision of transforming trade to work for people and planet.
- The Fairtrade principles of paying minimum prices to protect producers from market volatility, and a 'premium' that is wholly managed by farmers and workers themselves are crucial to systemic change.
- Public bodies, including local authorities, should support ethical procurement policies, using their purchasing power to implement Fairtrade principles and standards and ensure that their supply chains, at home and abroad, are sustainable and free of exploitation, including modern slavery.
- Council suppliers operating through global supply chains should be encouraged to operate sustainably and responsibly. They should ensure that their trading practices uphold human rights and Fairtrade principles such as the payment of living wages and the achievement of living incomes for all.

This Council resolves to:

- Renew its commitment to maintaining 'Fairtrade Borough' status, including serving Fairtrade certified tea and coffee in meetings and ensuring that Fairtrade Mark - certified food and drink options are widely available internally in its canteens and vending machines, including at the new Town Hall in Whitechapel.
- Review its procurement policy, including its catering offer, to ensure that Fairtrade produce is chosen wherever possible, and that Fair Trade considerations are included as a preference in any contracts going out to tender.
- Be recognised by the residents and business community of Tower Hamlets, suppliers, employees and other local authorities as a borough that actively supports and promotes Fairtrade.

- Continue to work with the Fairtrade Borough Steering Group, by identifying a lead member to support the work going forward, including increasing awareness and availability of Fairtrade products within Tower Hamlets' cafes, shops, schools, universities, faith groups, workplaces and organisations.

12.2 Motion regarding Access to GPs

Proposed by: Cllr Amy Lee

Seconded by: Cllr Ayas Miah

This Council notes:

- Primary care is in crisis, with people across Tower Hamlets and the rest of the UK struggling to access GP services and dental treatment.
- The current pressures on hospitals, along with rising ambulance waiting times, is having a huge knock-on effect on our already pressed GP services across the borough.
- 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 Secretary of State for Health and Social Care and call on him 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 continue to raise this important issue in Parliament.
- Call on the Executive Mayor and the Lead Member for Health and Wellbeing to proactively 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 Bill

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.