


Non-Executive Report of the: COUNCIL 15 th March 2023	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Janet Fasan, Director of Legal and Monitoring Officer	Classification: Unrestricted
Motion for debate submitted by an Opposition Group	

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 Motion submitted by an Opposition Group. 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. In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11, submission of the Opposition Motion for Debate will alternate in sequence between the opposition groups. This Opposition Motion is submitted by the Labour 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in the previous six months; or which proposes that a decision of the Council taken in the previous six months be rescinded; unless notice of the motion is given signed by at least twenty Members.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.

Proposed by: Cllr Sirajul Islam

Seconded by: Cllr James King

This Council notes:

- The importance of Local Government Officers in Tower Hamlets Council, where officers contribute the vital professional expertise needed to deliver the policy framework agreed by elected Councillors. This enables the Council to deliver the highest standards of service and conduct to residents of Tower Hamlets.

- That, with the exception of Political Advisors, officers work to the instructions of their senior officers within the Council framework.

- When the previous Labour administration took over from Tower Hamlets First in 2015, the majority of the Corporate Leadership Team were interim, including the Chief Executive, which was not good for the stability of a functioning local government authority, and the Labour administration worked with the Government Commissioners to have these positions filled.

- In the first seven months of the Aspire administration, there are now a number of interim roles amongst the Corporate Leadership Team once again. This includes the important roles of Chief Executive and Corporate Director of Finance.

- Concern that the main Opposition Group was not notified of the appointment of an Interim Chief Executive or the process until the moment it was published to all Council employees, thereby excluding the Opposition Group from the selection process.

This Council believes:

- That Interim appointments for senior Local Government Officer roles are not healthy for a Local Government Authority and should only be used as a last resort, as it threatens the stability and continuity of good governance and provides uncertainty to their Council employees.

- That it is good practice to ensure any recruitment of a senior Local Government Officer in Tower Hamlets Council should be done in a fair and transparent way with the inclusion of all elected representative of the Council, including those of the opposing party to the current administration and representatives of the trade unions operating in the Council.

This Council therefore resolves:

- To call on the Executive Mayor of Tower Hamlets to immediately publish a timeline on the recruitment of the current Interim Local Government Officer positions, including the Chief Executive role.

- To strengthen the process in which senior appointments, such as the Chief Executive, are made where the administration works with Opposition members, an independent body and trade unions to ensure that the recruitment is fair, transparent and includes input from all the major stakeholders.