

Non-Executive Report of the: Council 15 th November 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 three petition to be heard:
 - Public Space Protection Order to ban nuisance vehicles
 - Refund fund for missed waste collections;
 - Tower Hamlets Housing Allocation System for Single People
 - 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 requesting Public Space Protection Order to ban nuisance vehicles.

Statement

We the undersigned petition the council to The Council currently has no powers and the Police only limited powers to stop vehicles being used to commit anti-social behaviour. We request the Mayor to introduce a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) to allow the Police and Council to deal with nuisance vehicles more effectively. Whether they are tunnel running through the Borough, revving their car engines in the early hours or delivery riders riding on pavements as they rush to deliver food, they all cause disruption, noise, and danger to residents. The Council also needs to consider other changes to deter nuisance vehicles.

The Council currently has no powers to stop the use of vehicles (cars, motorbikes, and motor scooters) being used to cause anti-social behaviour. The Police have only very limited powers and none at the scene of an incident if the vehicle is in good working order. A Public Space Protection Order would give them the power to issue fines to vehicle drivers and enforce behaviour change.

Examples of nuisance vehicles include (but are not limited to);

- Cars revving their engines early in morning next to people's homes
- Racing cars on residential streets
- Revving engines in road tunnels underneath people's homes late at night
- Blocking traffic on A roads and slowing down emergency vehicles like they do in Westferry Circus so that they can perform stunts;
- Being used as the base for parties or social events late at night next to people's homes;
- Racing through tunnels at night, revving engines to create noise for those who live above the tunnels;
- Stopping in tunnels to release smoke flares which then reduce visibility for other drivers;
- Delivery drivers driving on pavements or pedestrian bridges to save themselves time but risking accidents while they do so

This behaviour either causes noise that disrupts residents usually late at night, obstructs traffic on public roads and/or is a danger to residents and visitors. This happens across Tower Hamlets so any PSPO should be for the whole Borough.

Councils like Newham and Dartford both have Vehicle Nuisance PSPOs to help control ASB, we should too.

In addition, the Council should also look at other physical changes to discourage these drivers. For example:

- The use of noise cameras that can record video or pictures of vehicles making noise
- Speed bumps on residential streets like Cassilis
- Changes in parking layout inside Westferry Circus so that stopping is also a parking offence for most of the roundabout

This Petition ran from 31/08/2023 to 12/10/2023 and has now finished.

707 people signed this Petition.

5.2 Petition requesting Refund fund for missed waste collections

Statement

We the undersigned petition the council to All areas in Tower Hamlets have been affected by missed rubbish and recycling collections this summer. We demand that an appropriate refund be given to all Council Tax payers, paid for by the compensation that Veolia must have paid to LBTH.

Council Tax payers have not received part of the service they have paid for. Accordingly, they should receive a refund.

This Petition ran from 07/09/2023 to 19/10/2023 and has now finished.

83 people signed this Petition.

5.3 Tower Hamlets Housing Allocation System for Single People

Statement

This petition seeks to prevent any further deaths, following the fatal fire in Shadwell, by demanding changes to Tower Hamlets Housing Allocation System so that single people, who currently have little or no hope of being housed in safe, secure social accommodation, are treated more fairly.

This is a paper petition received 25/10/23.

50 people signed this Petition.