


Non-Executive Report of the: Council 2 nd October 2024	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Linda Walker, Interim 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 those petitions for debate (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 is one petition to be heard:
 Petition to Save the Attlee Centre
 - 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 to Save the Attlee Centre

Statement:

We the undersigned petition the council to Renew the existing 25 year lease on peppercorn rent for the Attlee Centre.

Justification:

The Attlee Centre has been a cornerstone of our community, providing invaluable services and support to children, young people and families since 1982 as the first inclusive adventure playground in the borough.

Without a lease, the Centre is unable to secure funding to continue its services which are all free at the point of access. Without funding, it will have to close. Its closure would have a profound and negative impact on countless lives in the local community.

The Attlee Centre offers a wide range of programs and services, including:

- Youth Engagement: Creating opportunities for young people to engage in positive activities, develop skills, and build confidence.
- Community Support: Providing a safe and welcoming environment for community members to come together, share experiences, and support one another.
- Educational Programs: Offering educational resources and programs for children and teens, fostering lifelong learning and personal development.
- Health and Wellness Services: Promoting physical and mental well-being through play.

The closure of this vital organisation would not only deprive the community of these essential services but also dismantle the strong sense of unity and support that has been cultivated over the years.

We urge you to renew the Centre's lease to allow it to continue its mission of serving and uplifting our community. We believe that with the right support and investment, the Attlee Centre can continue to be a beacon of hope and opportunity for all.

Background info: we have been trying to discuss our lease renewal since June 2023 but have been met with some reluctance. We have been told that discussion of renewal will not happen until closer to expiry but no date / timeline has been provided. We have written to the Mayor numerous times and received zero response from him or his office. Cllr Kabir Hussain requested a members enquiry in June 2024; we still have not had a response to that. In order to get some sort of response, we are now forced to involve the community whom the centre's services affect.

As well as this e-petition, we also have a paper petition which we hope to submit at the same time.

Submitted by: Tania Shaikh

Date submitted: 02/08/2024