

<p style="text-align: center;">Non-Executive Report of the:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Council</p> <p style="text-align: center;">21 September 2016</p>	
<p>Report of: Graham White, Interim Service Head, Legal Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer</p>	<p>Classification: Unrestricted</p>
<p>Petitions to be Presented to Council</p>	

SUMMARY

1. The Council's Constitution provides for up to three petitions to be presented at each ordinary Council meeting. These are taken in order of receipt. This report sets out the valid petitions submitted for presentation at the Council meeting on Wednesday 21 September 2016.
2. The deadline for receipt of petitions for this meeting is noon on Thursday 15 September 2016. However, at the time of agenda despatch the maximum number of petitions has already been received as set out overleaf.
3. The texts of the petitions received for presentation to this meeting are set out in the attached report. In each case the petitioners may address the meeting for no more than three minutes. Members may then question the petitioners for a further four minutes. Finally, the relevant Cabinet Member or Chair of Committee may respond to the petition for up to three minutes.
4. The petition will then be referred to the relevant Corporate Director for attention who will provide a written response within 28 days.
5. 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.

5.1 Drug dealing (Petition from Owen Corrigan and others)

We the undersigned, for the purposes of decreasing the illegal sale and supply of drugs in our local area, do hereby call on Tower Hamlets Council to take action to control the flow of traffic from south Pelter Street through Strout's Place (at the corner of the old Joiners Arms pub) by erecting a bollard or other traffic control mechanism at the intersection of these two streets.

5.2 Poplar HARCA parking (Petition from Doros Ullah and others)

The petition of residents of Tower Hamlets declares that the increase in parking charges by Poplar Housing and Regeneration Community Association (Poplar HARCA) is unfair, unjust and unrealistic; further that leaseholders and tenants who are named on the lease have had their parking charge cost increased by 105%; further that the leaseholders and tenants who are not named on the lease and freeholders have had their parking charge cost increased by 665%; further that these increases are significantly more than the increases in similar local housing associations where parking charges have risen by no more than 20%; further that a book of scratch card (10 in one book) charge cost increased by 250%; further that Poplar HARCA have also withdrawn the "any vehicle permit" which allowed permit holders to park any vehicle in their allocated bay; further that the new parking policy categorises residents into four different groups which serves to discriminate against certain residents and divide the community; and further that Poplar HARCA did not consult with residents of the Poplar Estate Board when making its decision; notes that Tower Hamlets Council's parking policy is less divisive as the parking charges are set at the same level for all residents; and further that Tower Hamlets Council parking policy should be a model for Poplar HARCA. Further that leaseholders have had their service Charge increased significantly.

We urge the Executive Mayor John Biggs to take affective action to solve those issue immediately.

Next time any increases must consult residents and tenants before increased. Also, increase must be matching line with inflation

If the Executive Mayor of Tower Hamlets John Biggs and all the councillors do not act with the interests of residents and tenants of Poplar HARCA then we will have no other option but to take this matter to the Secretary of State. And will demand to Secretary of State to give us voting rights either we want to stay with Poplar HARCA or move back to the council.

If Poplar HARCA do not agree with our demand, we urge the mayor John Biggs and all the councillors to suspend all the relationship with Poplar HARCA to show support to the residents and tenants of Poplar HARCA.

The petitioner's therefore request that the mayor of Tower Hamlets Council John Biggs to put pressure on Poplar HARCA to change its divisive and unfair parking charge policy and to follow the model espoused by Tower Hamlets Council in this regard.

5.3 Old Ford Housing Association (Petition from John Forster and others)

We the undersigned are opposed to Circle Housing Group's plans to close down Old Ford HA and centralise all services under its own direct management. We believe it is a breach of the promises made to residents on the Housing Action Trust estates and Parkside estates prior to transfer that Old Ford should be a "Community Based" housing association – locally-managed and locally-accountable. Given our experience with Circle's management or its repairs and maintenance contract, including the current gas repair contract, and its failure to complete the estate regeneration promises made to Parkside residents in 2005, we believe services will get worse not better if they are centralised. We call on the Mayor of Tower Hamlets and local Members of Parliament to oppose raise our concerns with the Homes & Communities Agency regulator and the Housing Minister.