


<p style="text-align: center;">Non-Executive Report of the:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Council</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5 December 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 Monday 5 December 2016.
2. The deadline for receipt of petitions for this meeting is noon on Tuesday 29 November 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 Air quality (Petition from Anisur Rahman Anis and others)

We the undersigned petition the Mayor and Council to commit to addressing the serious issue of air quality and to utilise resources across the Council to do so. We believe this is a serious health issue. Nearly 9,500 Londoners die early every year because of air pollution. Figures from the British Lung Foundation show people in Tower Hamlets are twice as likely to die from lung cancer and other lung diseases than people in London's most well off boroughs like Westminster or Kensington and Chelsea.

5.2 Cuts to Early Years Budget (Petition from Christine Trumper and others)

We implore you to reverse the decision to make cuts to Tower Hamlets Early Years' Budget. Our children deserve a sure start in life and making these cuts will have a detrimental effect. The future generation and their families need the support the Children's Centres and Satellite Sites such as One 'O' Clock Clubs offer throughout Tower Hamlets. The services that are offered are a lifeline to a lot of our families and help strengthen our communities.

5.3 Mopeds in Tom Thumb Arch (Petition from Ben Haigh and others)

As a resident of six years in Bow, East London, I have watched as Tom Thumb's Arch -- a pedestrian walkway -- has increasingly become a shortcut for mopeds and motorised scooters (Tom Thumb's Arch connects Ordell Road to Malmsbury Rd E3).

In recent months, I have repeatedly seen mopeds speeding through the walkway with no regard for pedestrians. I have reported these incidents to the local police who are endeavouring to catch the riders. They are unfortunately hampered by low resolution CCTV and barriers that do not currently force a moped rider or cyclist to disembark and walk their vehicle or bike through the arch.

This summer, my 15-month-old daughter was being pushed through the walkway, when a moped sped through and clipped our buggy. Fortunately, our child is fine, but my wife was shaken not just by the incident, but also the attitude of the moped rider who seemed to blame my wife and buggy for using this walkway.

Further to this dangerous incident, I am calling on Tower Hamlets Council to replace the existing railings with barriers that force any moped rider or cyclist to disembark. I also call for the current CCTV cameras to be reviewed to see whether they are best suited for capturing images of those responsible. An extremely serious injury or worse is inevitable if these changes are not implemented.