

<p style="text-align: center;">Non-Executive Report of the:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Council</p> <p style="text-align: center;">18 January 2017</p>	
<p>Report of: Graham White, Acting Corporate Director, Governance</p>	<p>Classification: Unrestricted</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">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 18 January 2017
2. The deadline for receipt of petitions for this meeting is noon on Thursday 12 January 2017. However, at the time of agenda despatch the maximum number of petitions has already been received as set out overleaf.
3. The text 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 Speed Humps at Stainsby Road (Petition from Richard Caley and others)

We the undersigned are requesting that the council takes pro-active action to put in place speed humps. Given the dangers of speeding by irresponsible drivers several near fatal incidents have taken place putting pedestrians and cyclists in danger.

We are calling on all our elected members to ensure that they support us in delivering a safer street so that we as residents are able to tackle the speeding of dangerous driving.

5.2 Island Health Trust (Petition from Doris Joyce Penn and others)

We the undersigned, local residents and patients of the Island Health Centre, call on the Mayor and Council of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets to intervene to prevent Island Health Trust, the landlord of the Island Health Centre, from damaging health services on the Island.

The Island Health Centre came about through a campaign by local people in the 1980s. The health centre was funded through a mixture of loan finance and grants from the London Docklands Development Corporation and Tower Hamlets Council; the Centre and its land are public assets. The Landlord's main sources of income are the rent paid by the NHS and the service charges paid by the Doctors. From this, the landlord has accumulated a surplus of £1.3m; this money is also a public asset. In spite of holding these substantial reserves the Landlord is charging the Practice an unaffordable service charge, equivalent to the salaries of two doctors. The Practice has now been forced to vacate the first floor of the health centre because it can't afford these charges. The school's psychiatric service has also been forced to move out because of the high costs and the other services are likely to follow.

For the first 25 years of its life the Trust (Landlord) was managed by local Trustees. This changed on 1 April 2016 when the Chair appointed a new board, entirely made up by people with no local connection. The Trust has ambitions to demolish the Island Health Centre and exploit this valuable site. They are seeking the Practice's consent to vacate the Centre to unidentified temporary accommodation to facilitate this development. The Island Health Trust needs to be run by local trustees, and the £1.3m invested to support patients of this practice and health services for local people.

5.3 Council Tax Reduction (Petition from Sam Ashton and others)

We the undersigned are opposed to Tower Hamlets Council's proposal to cut Council Tax Reduction to thousands of the borough's poorest residents. We note that where other boroughs have introduced 'Minimum Payment'

schemes, as currently proposed by Tower Hamlets, the result has been to push residents deeper into poverty.

We understand that the Government's funding cuts have placed Tower Hamlets in a difficult position, but feel strongly that our borough's poorest residents shouldn't be made to bear the burden. We call on the Council to maintain the existing Council Tax Reduction scheme with 100% support for working age claimants.