

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER 2010

**QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY
MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE HEAD,
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

SUMMARY

1. Set out overleaf are the questions submitted by Members of the Council for response by Members of the Executive at the Council meeting on Wednesday 15th September 2010.
2. Questions are limited to one per Member per meeting, plus one supplementary question unless the Member has indicated that only a written reply is required and in these circumstances a supplementary question is not permitted.
3. Oral responses are time limited to one minute. Supplementary questions and responses are also time limited to one minute each.
4. There is a time limit of thirty minutes for consideration of Members' questions with no extension of time allowed and any question not answered within this time will be dealt with by way of a written response. The Mayor will decide the time allocated to each question.
5. Members must confine their contributions to questions and answers and not make statements or attempt to debate.

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

19 questions have been received from Members of the Council as follows:-

7.1 Question from Councillor Judith Gardiner to the Lead Member for Children's Services, Councillor Shiria Khatun

"Can the Lead Member tell us how Tower Hamlets' students did in their GCSE and A-Level exams this year and how this compares to previous years? "

7.2 Question from Councillor Zara Davis to the Lead Member for Children's Services, Councillor Shiria Khatun

"In the light of this year's A Level results in Tower Hamlets, which shows that the percentage of entries achieving an A grade is significantly below the national average, what measures are being taken by the Council and the schools and colleges in the borough to deliver a drastic improvement?"

7.3 Question from Councillor Kosru Uddin to the Lead Member for Environment, Councillor Shahed Ali

"How is Tower Hamlets moving towards being a greener borough and how are we performing against targets for recycling?"

7.4 Question from Councillor Gloria Thienel to the Lead Member for Housing, Heritage and Planning, Councillor Marc Francis

"Will the Lead Member announce when the new lettings policy agreed at Cabinet in March 2010 will be implemented?"

7.5 Question from Councillor Aminur Khan to the Lead Member for Community Safety, Councillor Abdal Ullah

"Can the Lead Member give an update on the various community safety initiatives taking place over the summer including the use of CCTV in Whitechapel and tell us how successful they have been so far?"

7.6 Question from Councillor Peter Golds to the Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Joshua Peck

"Does the CCTV facility within the council chamber have a "record" programme?"

7.7 Question from Councillor Amy Whitelock to the Lead Member for Housing, Heritage & Planning, Councillor Marc Francis

“What are the likely effects on the residents of Tower Hamlets of the Coalition Government’s proposed cut to Housing Benefit and their comments about ending lifetime tenancies?”

7.8 Question from Councillor David Snowdon to the Lead Member for Culture & Creative Industries, Councillor Denise Jones

“Will the Lead Member please outline the council's current position on replacing the Isle of Dogs library with an Ideas Store or Ideas Store Local/Metro, and how far this plan has progressed?”

7.9 Question from Councillor Alibor Choudhury to the Lead Member for Health & Wellbeing, Councillor Rachael Saunders

“Can the Lead Member explain what steps the Council has recently taken to tackle the high levels of childhood obesity in the Borough?”

7.10 Question from Councillor Dr. Emma Jones to the Lead Member for Community Safety, Councillor Abdal Ullah

“Will the Lead Member outline the Council's acceptable timeframe for re-housing an individual who is at risk of domestic violence, and has not been provided with suitable accommodation in a refuge?”

7.11 Question from Councillor Ohid Ahmed to the Lead Member for Resources, Councillor David Edgar

“What is the expected annual budget gap for next three years for Tower Hamlets because of Tory/Lib Dem Local Government funding Cuts and what will the leadership will be doing to mitigate the risk of losing the services this council has developed over the years and to continue supporting schemes like buy back to tackle the shortage of family homes?”

7.12 Question from Councillor Mohammed Maium Miah to the Lead Member for Housing, Heritage & Planning, Councillor Marc Francis

“There have been a number of incidents of severe flooding in properties on the Isle of Dogs owned and managed by One Housing which are entirely due to the incompetence of contractors working on the current building works. This has resulted in residents having to leave their homes, often with little assistance from One Housing or their contractors. At the same time, One

Housing is shifting water charges on to tenants. Does the administration still have confidence in One Housing?"

7.13 Question from Councillor Anwar Khan to the Lead Member for Environment, Councillor Shahed Ali

"Can the Lead Member explain how the Council plans to minimise the disruption to residents when events are held in Victoria Park?"

7.14 Question from Councillor Tim Archer to the Lead Member for Housing, Heritage & Planning, Councillor Marc Francis

"Will the Lead Member explain the reasons for not exercising proportionality regarding council nominations to the membership of the boards of RSLs?"

7.15 Question from Councillor Rabina Khan to the Lead Member for Children's Services, Councillor Shiria Khatun

"How many schools in Tower Hamlets have taken up Education Secretary Michael Gove's offer to become academies so far?"

7.16 Question from Councillor Craig Aston to the Lead Member for Health & Wellbeing, Councillor Rachael Saunders

"Will the Lead Member for Health and Wellbeing outline any proposals she has to urge the tightening of regulatory procedures to reduce the increasing number of fast food outlets commonly known as "chicken shops" throughout the borough, in light of the ruling by Judge Cranston whereby he ruled that health and wellbeing is a material consideration on this issue?"

7.17 Question from Councillor Helal Uddin to the Lead Member for Community Safety, Councillor Abdal Ullah

"Can the Lead Member explain what he hopes the current Council consultation on a violence against women and girls strategy will achieve and how it will help to tackle this issue?"

7.18 Question from Councillor Stephanie Eaton to the Lead Member for Environment, Councillor Shahed Ali

"Does the Lead Member share my concern at the recent findings from the Fire Brigade that showed 51.4% of fires in Tower Hamlets are due to dumped rubbish within communal areas being set alight? What does he intend to do to ensure there is less dumped rubbish and fewer fires?"

7.19 Question from Councillor Ann Jackson to the Lead Member for Housing, Heritage & Planning, Councillor Marc Francis

“Can the Lead Member give us an update on the proposed sale of homes within the Crown Estate?”