

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 8TH DECEMBER 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 8th December 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 Chair 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

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

8.1 Question from Councillor Carlo Gibbs to the Mayor, Lutfur Rahman

“Can the Mayor give me an update on the effectiveness of the Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officers since the pilot programme began, particularly with regard to their policing of the Drinking Control Zone in Whitechapel, and whether the Mayor has considered extending the control zone to cover the whole borough?”

8.2 Question from Councillor Tim Archer to the Cabinet Member for Resources, Councillor Alibor Choudhury

“Will the Lead Member for Resources outline what the council's Senior Management Team is doing in these times of austerity to lead by example when it comes to prudent spending and effective cost control?”

8.3 Question from Councillor Amy Whitelock to the Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Rabina Khan

“What assessment has the Lead Member made of the likely impact of the Conservative-Liberal Democrat Government's significant changes to the available funding and eligibility criteria for Decent Homes funding on regenerating housing stock in the borough, and how does she plan to respond?”

8.4 Question from Councillor Peter Golds to the Mayor, Lutfur Rahman

“Will the Mayor please comment on why he feels the need to employ a town hall staff comprising the newly created role of Head of Office (salary up to £59,982), an Executive Assistant, a Personal Assistant, a Political Advisor, a Policy Advisor, an Administrative Officer, and also splash cash on new iPhone 4 when Tower Hamlets Council has just issued a Section 188 notice to unions giving notice of over 100 possible redundancies?”

8.5 Question from Councillor Rachael Saunders to the Mayor, Lutfur Rahman

“What meetings or correspondence has the Mayor had with Tower Hamlets PCT since his election in October?”

8.6 Question from Councillor Zara Davis to the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Ohid Ahmed

“In the light of the proposal from the Department for Communities and Local Government to limit the publication of Council newspapers to once a quarter, how quickly will this council follow best practice and reduce the frequency of East End Life or abolish it?”

8.7 Question from Councillor Anna Lynch to the Mayor, Lutfur Rahman

“Can the Mayor tell me what is the estimated additional full year cost to the Council's budget of setting up and staffing his office?”

8.8 Question from Councillor Craig Aston to the Mayor, Lutfur Rahman

“What progress has been made by the council in respect of holding planning and licensing meetings in the relevant LAP areas rather than in the Town Hall, as per the motion passed at the last Full Council?”

8.9 Question from Councillor Khales Uddin Ahmed to the Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Rabina Khan

“What action will this administration take to ensure that there is representation of local councillors on the board of Swan Housing Association, in particular their London branch?”

8.10 Question from Councillor Dr. Emma Jones to the Cabinet Member for Resources, Councillor Alibor Choudhury

“Would the Cabinet Member outline what preparations the Council has made to ensure that there will be enough resources to deal with snow this winter in areas which are not covered by Transport for London and other agencies?”

8.11 Question from Councillor Bill Turner to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Councillor Oliur Rahman

“Can the Cabinet Member tell me what steps he has taken to ensure that families, quality of service and local providers are not adversely affected by changes to the Personal Care Contract for disabled children in the Borough in light of the decision to transfer the contract away from local service providers with their roots in Tower Hamlets to multinational private companies?”

8.12 Question from Councillor Gloria Thienel to the Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Rabina Khan

“Considering that private tenants of some estates are provided with the facility to park and therefore have a car, why is the council discriminating against those in social housing who live on the same estate by imposing a no car policy?”

8.13 Question from Councillor Carli Harper-Penman to the Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Rabina Khan

“Why has the Council decided to change the name of the Bow Quarter to the ‘Bow Quarter Estate’ against the wishes of local residents?”

8.14 Question from Councillor David Snowden to the Mayor, Lutfur Rahman

“What progress has been made on publishing details of all licensable activities on the Tower Hamlets website as per the motion at last full council?”

8.15 Question from Councillor Shiria Khatun to the Cabinet Member for Children’s Services, Councillor Oliur Rahman

“Does the Lead Member agree with me that the decision by the Conservative-Liberal Democrat Government to cut the Schools Sports Partnerships Programme will have a damaging impact on the health of our schoolchildren, especially considering its success in increasing participation in sport and our high levels of child obesity in the Borough?”

8.16 Question from Councillor Mohammed Maium Miah to the Mayor, Lutfur Rahman

“Considering that London Borough of Tower Hamlets is in the bottom quartile of London boroughs when judged on the condition of our principal roads, will you ensure that road maintenance and repair work is accorded a high priority for funding, particularly in view of the recent tragedies in Millwall ward?”

8.17 Question from Councillor Shafiqul Haque to the Mayor, Lutfur Rahman

“Can the Mayor tell me how he will ensure that when exercising his executive powers he takes into account the views and comments of all the Councillors?”

8.18 Question from Councillor Stephanie Eaton to the Mayor, Lutfur Rahman

“Could the Mayor explain the reason for the delay to the delivery of three Drug Awareness Campaign weeks by August 2010?”

8.19 Question from Councillor David Edgar to the Mayor, Lutfur Rahman

“Could the Mayor outline his budget strategy in response to the cuts imposed by the Conservative-Liberal Democrat government?”

8.20 Question from Councillor Aminur Khan to the Mayor, Lutfur Rahman

“Your priorities are improving housing and education and reducing crime and unemployment, how will you deliver this despite the Con-Dem cuts?”

8.21 Question from Councillor Abdul Asad to the Mayor, Lutfur Rahman

“Can the Mayor give us an indication of crime rates in the two and a half years since May 2008 and give us an indication of how he plans to build on the excellent work that previous Labour administrations have done in combating crime?”

8.22 Question from Councillor Lutfu Begum to the Cabinet Member for Resources, Councillor Alibor Choudhury

“What is the current budget situation in Tower Hamlets? Can you give us an idea of the cuts being forced on us by the Con-Dems and what are you doing to soften the blow?”