

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 10th SEPTEMBER 2014

**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 the Speaker, the Mayor or the relevant Committee/Sub-Committee Chair at the Council meeting on Wednesday 10th September 2014.
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 Speaker 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

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

8.1 Question from Councillor Danny Hassell

Given the issues raised by the inquiry into child sexual exploitation in Rotherham, what steps has this administration taken to ensure that procedures and services are robust in safeguarding young people here in Tower Hamlets?

8.2 Question from Councillor Mahbub Alam

Will the Council join me in congratulating Cllr Rabina Khan in being nominated for the 'Hero of the Year' award in the 2014 European Diversity Awards and also wish her the best of luck?

8.3 Question from Councillor Andrew Wood

The Mayor has stated repeatedly that Tower Hamlets has some of the best urban schools in the world, can he explain why over the last five years the number of children attending primary schools rated by OSTED as Outstanding in the Bethnal Green & Bow area has declined so sharply; and why the percentage of children attending LA primary schools in the borough rated as Inadequate by OFSTED is twice as high as any neighbouring borough?

8.4 Question from Councillor Rachael Saunders

Please could the Mayor make a statement about the Leaving Care service following the details of failure in the service in UNISON's Tower Power publication?

8.5 Question from Councillor Shah Alam

Will the Mayor join with me in calling on the Prime Minister to grant asylum to the Christian and other religious minorities suffering persecution at the hands of Islamic State in Northern Iraq?

8.6 Question from Councillor Chris Chapman

Will the Mayor tell us what steps have been taken to address the issues raised in my supplementary question at the last full council meeting, regarding One Housing's recent track record?

8.7 Question from Councillor Clare Harrison

Recent reports have shown that Government cuts mean domestic violence refuge provision is at a crisis point. What is the mayor doing specifically to ensure that shelters in the Borough stay open and that services for victims of domestic violence are protected?

8.8 Question from Councillor Suluk Ahmed

I am sure many have been saddened to hear of film-actor Robin Williams' tragic death last month, as the result of suicide. Considering the large numbers of middle-aged men who commit suicide, can the council tell us what they are doing to promote the destigmatization of mental health issues, and our most recent progress with the Time to Change plan?

8.9 Question from Councillor Julia Dockerill

Will the Mayor provide details of the change in annual costs of dealing with fly tipping since 2011, and the revenue generated each year through his £15 bulky waste collection charge introduced in 2012?

8.10 Question from Councillor Marc Francis

Can the Lead Member please set out LBTH's position on Gateway Housing's proposal to redevelop Vic Johnson House?

8.11 Question from Councillor Muhammed Ansar Mustaquim

Will the Mayor join with me in offering his best wishes to the delegation of trade unionists and local community activists who are embarking on a fact finding visit to Bangladesh to meet the victims of the Rana Plaza disaster and explore how we in the UK can support them and promote safer working conditions?

8.12 Question from Councillor Craig Aston

Will the Deputy Mayor give an update on the recent outbreak of anti-social behaviour around Narrow Street, Ropemakers Field and Limehouse Basin?

8.13 Question from Councillor Denise Jones

Why hasn't the Mayor agreed to sign up to Source London Electric Vehicle charging scheme with other partners in Tower Hamlets that 27 other London Boroughs and 38 private partners have already signed up to? Some residents in the borough own electric cars and most drivers prefer to charge their vehicles near their homes. Does

the Mayor agree that if there were more accessible charging points residents might be encouraged to buy electric cars which would reduce carbon emissions in the borough?

8.14 Question from Councillor Abjol Miah

It was great to see a new outdoor gym being opened in Leven Road in August, just a month after the new football pitch in Stepney in July. Please can the council let us know the other initiatives that the council run to help keep people fit and healthy for free in our borough?

8.15 Question from Councillor Peter Golds

Will the Mayor provide the details as to the disposal of the land, 111-113 Mellish Street, E14?

8.16 Question from Councillor Rachel Blake

How many empty shops has the council brought back into use on Roman Road through its Town Centre funding?

8.17 Question from Councillor Mohammed Mufti Miah

Please could the Cabinet Member for Housing update us on what work the Council is currently undertaking with the GLA to secure more affordable homes in Tower Hamlets?

8.18 Question from Councillor Amina Ali

How many times have the THEOs patrolled Grove Hall Park in the last 12 months?

8.19 Question from Councillor Khales Uddin Ahmed

Can the Lead Member confirm whether the tower blocks on Rainhill Way – Priestman, Hackworth and Mallard Points – are covered by car free legal agreement?

8.20 Question from Councillor Joshua Peck

How many complaints were received about this year's Lovebox festival and what is your view of the success or otherwise of this year's event?