SUMMARY

1. Set out overleaf are the questions submitted by Members of the Council for response by Members of the Executive. Responses of Lead Members to the questions submitted will be tabled at the Council meeting on Wednesday 28 November 2007.

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 two minutes. Supplementary questions and responses are also time limited to two minutes 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 dealt within this time will be dealt with by way of written responses. 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.

QUESTIONS

Set out overleaf are the questions which have been received.
1. **Question from Councillor Waiseul Islam to the Lead Member for Children’s Services, Councillor Shiria Khatun**

Please can the Lead Member provide a summary of this year’s education results and outline how this compares with performance over the last 10 years?

2. **Question from Councillor Abjol Miah to the Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Sirajul Islam**

How many local people who are on the housing waiting list have managed to afford to buy a home in Tower Hamlets in the last ten years? How many people who have moved into the area have bought a home in the borough?

3. **Question from Councillor Tim Archer to the Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer, Greener, Councillor Abdal Ullah**

Local residents are informing me of an increase in the number of incidents of anti-social behaviour and crime at Canary Wharf. Can the lead member give me a monthly breakdown for the number of reported incidents so far this year and comment on what he is doing to reduce the number of incidents on the Canary Wharf estate?

4. **Question from Councillor Stephanie Eaton to the Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer, Greener, Councillor Abdal Ullah**

Approximately how many premises in Tower Hamlets are affected by the introduction of the workplace smoking ban on July 1, 2007 and how many officers of the Council are employed to enforce the new legislation?

5. **Question from Councillor Ahmed Hussain to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Denise Jones**

Can the leader of the council ensure that the multi faith cemetery will be delivered by 2010? Has she got an alternative target date and a site? Referring back to the last cabinet meeting the officers confirmed that they are happy to look at options under the LDF, if instructed; would the leader assure us that she will ensure that this is the case and will allow the LDF to identify a possible site?

6. **Question from Councillor Marc Francis to the Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer, Greener, Councillor Abdal Ullah**

What assessment been made of the impact of the Good Behaviour Zone on Roman Road during October and November?
7. **Question from Councillor Shahed Ali to the Lead Member for Regeneration, Localisation and Community Partnerships, Councillor Ohid Ahmed**

The parliamentary Public Accounts Committee recently reported that the DCLG "does not know how much the regeneration of the Thames Gateway will cost the taxpayer" although it has already spent a staggering £673m. The report highlighted concerns that the existing 1.45 million residents in the area would not feel the benefit of new jobs and public services in the area: "Without significant improvement in the overall management of the programme, it will remain a series of disjointed projects and is unlikely to achieve its potential." Labour MP Andrew Mackinlay, whose Thurrock constituency also lies within the Thames Gateway region, said ministers were "in denial" over the lack of progress and said the prime minister needed to personally "get a grip" of the project.

Can the lead member inform us whether his group on this council is in denial over the demonstrated lack of progress as illustrated by the report, seconded by Labour MP Andrew Mackinlay and enlighten us with what actions or measures you have taken to date to ensure that this project does not become another New Labour Enterprise ending in another public spending calamity?

8. **Question from Councillor Shirley Hought to the Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer, Greener, Councillor Abdal Ullah**

With the threat of the council fine of £110 for those householders who leave their rubbish or recycling out at the wrong time of day or week, will the Lead Member set out his proposals for levelling the playing field so that residents can also be compensated when their waste is collected at the wrong time, on the wrong day, or not at all?

9. **Question from Councillor Rajib Ahmed to the Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Sirajul Islam**

Does this Council support the concept of resident involvement in decision making, and does this Council value the contribution of residents such as those who served on the Borough Wide Compact Group who give up their time and energy to serve our community?

10. **Question from Councillor Oliur Rahman to the Lead Member, Culture, Councillor Shiria Khatun**

The failing Rich Mix centre now has a new CEO Ms Onna King who is a high profile labour member and ex MP of Bethnal Green and Bow. As half of the councillors of the labour group are board members of the Rich Mix centre, what procedure was taken to ensure that the appointment of the new CEO of the centre was not politically motivated?
11. Question from Councillor Bill Turner to the Lead Member for Regeneration, Localisation and Community Partnerships, Councillor Ohid Ahmed

What are the current levels of attendance by members of the public at LAP events including the numbers of young people attending LAP Steering Groups and what can be done to further improve engagement at this level including sharing best practice across the borough?

12. Question from Councillor Harun Miah to the Lead Member for Regeneration, Localisation and Community Partnerships, Councillor Ohid Ahmed

How many new builds homes have been a) completed or b) granted planning permission since 2006 without parking space? Does the lead member agree that one family and disabled car is essential car use hence council should provide parking space as part of all new build where social housing is being allocated in order to reduce overcrowding?

13. Question from Councillor Philip Briscoe to Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer, Greener, Councillor Abdal Ullah

Local authorities now have the power to pay for additional Police Constables as well as additional Police Community Support Officers. Given that many other London councils are leading the way in this provision, and that the latest crime figures show a continuing trend of local underperformance (the 4th smallest reduction in crime in London), can you outline the proposals and timescale for Tower Hamlets to employ additional Police resources?

14. Question from Councillor Tim O'Flaherty to the Lead Member for Regeneration, Localisation and Community Partnerships, Councillor Ohid Ahmed

Given the recent major fire on the site of the 2012 Olympics, what assurance can he give the residents of Tower Hamlets that work on the Olympics site will be carried out with due care and not place the residents and workers of Tower Hamlets at risk?

15. Question from Councillor Rania Khan to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Denise Jones

In light of the information provided at the last Cabinet meeting, would the leader consider abolishing the 1 & 2 band of the pay scale to reflect the living standard cost of the borough? Would the leader commit to a deadline? If not by this year, maybe by 2010 before this council term ends?

16. Question from Councillor Mohammed Shahid Ali to the Lead Member for Culture, Councillor Shiria Khatun

What initiatives have been undertaken this year in order to increase participation in sport and physical activity in the borough?
17. Question from Councillor Fozol Miah to the Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Sirajul Islam

What steps is the lead member taking to ensure that new builds are suitable to local and family needs and that new builds are not designed exclusively with open plan kitchens/living rooms; with bathroom toilets together or entering into kitchen through living room etc.

18. Question from Councillor Simon Rouse to the Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer, Greener, Councillor Abdal Ullah

Would the Lead Member confirm whether he stands by the comment he recently made about a potential site for a Tower Hamlets cemetery and why?

19. Question from Councillor Azizur Rahman Khan to the Lead Member for Children’s Services, Councillor Clair Hawkins

Does the Lead Member agree that the teaching of community languages is essential for increasing children’s educational attainment generally and, if so, what does she plan to do to increase the provision of Bengali/Sylheti mother tongue classes in the mainstream education curriculum?

20. Question from Councillor Lutfa Begum to the Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Sirajul Islam

Does this council regard current measures to monitor RSLs to be working effectively, and in any case agree to create a group under the housing directorate that will monitor the RSLs and also visit the various local (estate boards) boards of the RSLs to ensure that these are still operating as “resident lead” initiatives and delivering on what they have promised?

21. Question from Councillor Alibor Choudhury to Lead Member for Resources and Performance, Councillor Joshua Peck

How does the Council Tax level in this borough compare with the rest of London and is this situation likely to continue into the future?

22. Question from Cllr Dulal Uddin to the Leader of the Council, Cllr Denise Jones

In the last cabinet the Joint HR Director said that there will be a minimal cost to increase the 2 year pay freeze to 5 years, would the leader agree that it will be appropriate to increase the 2 years to 5 to better contribute the council employees, and therefore would increase it to 5 years.
23. Question from Councillor Dr. Emma Jones to the Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer, Greener, Councillor Abdal Ullah

Following the recent spate of fires on one of the Peabody Estates, would the lead member inform the council as to what he and his colleagues are doing to ensure we are safe in our homes?

24. Question from Councillor Abdul Matin to the Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer, Greener, Councillor Abdal Ullah

How many people use the East London Line currently, and given the imminent closure of the line what specific provisions are proposed to assist people affected by the closure?

25. Question from Councillor Mohammed Abdus Salique to the Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer, Greener, Councillor Abdal Ullah

What steps are being taken by the Council and its partners to build on the Safe Routes to Schools Programme and to tackle crime in areas around schools?

26. Question from Councillor Peter Golds to the Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer, Greener, Councillor Abdal Ullah

Will the lead member inform the council as to why, after sending a private email from a personal account to members of the Labour Party on a matter which the leader of the council stated that he was speaking in a personal capacity and not as a lead member, he is using the council legal system and therefore public money in defending the subsequent legal case.

Would he also explain, in relation to this matter, how he selected the circulation list bearing in mind that various recipients immediately forwarded the email to opposition councillors and the local media, thereby causing the public furore?

27. Question from Councillor Louise Alexander to the Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer, Greener, Councillor Abdal Ullah.

How quickly do residents who ask for a delivery of recycling bags have their request fulfilled?

28. Question from Councillor Rupert Eckhardt to the Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer, Greener, Councillor Abdal Ullah

Does the lead member have any proposals for altering the regularity of household rubbish collection and installing microchips in dust bins to check what is being thrown away?