


Non-Executive Report of the: Council 23 March 2016	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Director, Law, Probity and Governance	Classification: Unrestricted
Questions Submitted by the Public	

Originating Officer(s)	Matthew Mannion, Committee Services Manager, Democratic Services.
Wards affected	All wards

SUMMARY

1. Set out overleaf are the questions submitted by members of the public, for response by the Mayor or appropriate Cabinet Member at the Council Meeting on 23 March 2016.
2. The Council's Constitution sets a maximum time limit of twenty minutes for this item.
3. A questioner who has put a question in person may also put one brief supplementary question without notice to the Member who has replied to his or her original question. A supplementary question must arise directly out of the original question or the reply. Supplementary questions and Members' responses to written and supplementary questions are each limited to two minutes.
4. Any question which cannot be dealt with during the twenty minutes allocated for public questions, either because of lack of time or because of non-attendance of the questioner or the Member to whom it was put, will be dealt with by way of a written answer.
5. Unless the Speaker of Council decides otherwise, no discussion will take place on any question, but any Member of the Council may move, without discussion, that the matter raised by a question be referred for consideration by the Cabinet or the appropriate Committee or Sub-Committee.

QUESTIONS

One public question has been submitted as set out below:-

6.1 Question on Poplar HARCA Parking Charges:

Mohbub Ali

Will the Mayor intervene directly to stop unjustified and extortionate increase in residential parking permit for residents by Poplar Harca?

Ruful Tafadar

Is the Cabinet Member aware of the major increases in parking charges that Poplar HARCA has implemented – and does the cabinet member have view of these?

6.2 Question from MD Sumsul Talukder

How much savings did the Mayor made by cutting burial subsidy for poor residents in his budget?

6.3 Question from Jamir Chowdhury

Is it wise to spend £100k for Head of Mayor's office, £25k for personal publicity and £60k for new vanity manager in his office - on top of £100k for Head of Marketing while the Mayor cuts vital services and whacks up Council Tax by record 4%?

6.4 Question from Tahera Ayazi

Regarding the Incontinence Laundry Service, what has the council done to make sure people can make alternative arrangements, and can it say what measures are now in place to guarantee that no-one requiring help is left without assistance?

6.5 Question from Emma Adams

I have had a letter asking if we agree can they close my son's CAMHS support for the time being. He is autistic, his behaviour changes from day to day, and when we were 1st given his diagnosis we were told he would have a CAMHS worker until he is 16.

I want to know:

- How many other parents have had similar letters out of the blue in the last month?
- Has there suddenly been a change of policy?
- Is the proposed change to my son's support related to the reorganization of CAMHS and the £200,000 the council voted to cut from CAMHS funding on 24 Feb?

6.6 Question from Dionne Cayley

In relation to Queen Mary nursery:

We have been told that it has been closed because of the asbestos in the boiler room, and that because there isn't enough nursery spaces in the other local authority nurseries but there are spare staff they are doing sessions in sure start centre so the children that are having to stay at home can mix and see their friends while the asbestos is removed.

I want to know:

- When do you expect that the nursery will go back to its original venue?
- What guarantees you can give us that it will not be quietly wound down given the massive cuts to Children's and Early Years services you voted through last month?
- I believe the building is owned by the Methodist Church and therefore is it there responsibility to pay for the removal off the asbestos and if the council are having to pay a percentage what budget is that money coming from?

6.7 Question from Jack Beaken

Hereford Estate is part of Tower Hamlets Council's new build infill programme.

The consultation process run by Tower Hamlets Homes has been seriously flawed and inadequate : incorrect dates, cancellations of meetings with no notice, incorrect information and ignoring resident's concerns.

In view of the flawed consultation process, will Tower Hamlets Council intervene and restart the process so ensuring residents' views are given a proper hearing?