


Non-Executive Report of the:  <b>Council</b>  21 <sup>st</sup> March 2018	 <b>TOWER HAMLETS</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Asmat Hussain, Corporate Director, Governance	<b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted
<b>Questions submitted by Members of the Council</b>	

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

## SUMMARY

1. Set out overleaf are the questions that were submitted by Members of the Council for response by the Mayor, the Speaker or the Chair of a Committee or Sub-Committee at the Council meeting on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2018.
2. In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10.4, questions relating to Executive functions and decisions taken by the Mayor are put to the Mayor unless he delegates such a decision to another Member, who will therefore be responsible for answering the question. In the absence of the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor will answer questions directed to the Mayor.
3. 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. Oral responses are time limited to one minute. Supplementary questions and responses are also time limited to one minute each.
4. Council Procedure Rule 10.7 (a) provides for an answer to take the form of a written answer circulated to the questioner, a reference to a published work or a direct oral answer.
5. There is a time limit of thirty minutes at the Council meeting for consideration of Members' questions with no extension of time allowed and any questions not put within this time are dealt with by way of written responses.
6. Members must confine their contributions to questions and answers and not make statements or attempt to debate.

## **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

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

### **9.1 Question from Councillor John Pierce**

Can the Mayor please provide details on how much the Council has to pay for the previous Mayor and Cllr Rabina Khan's Housing Public Private Investment (PFI) arrangements, how long these housing PFI deals are for and whether ownership of these assets returns to the Council at the end of the process?

### **9.2 Question from Councillor Oliur Rahman**

Will the Mayor provide a comprehensive update about the National Crime Agency investigation (and any police involvement) into the alleged £2m bribery scandal under his watch in relation to securing a possible planning permission for the 5th tallest skyscraper in Tower Hamlets as exposed by The Sunday Times?

### **9.3 Question from Councillor Rachael Saunders**

Will the Cabinet Member update Council on the number of children and families using children's centres this year, compared to last year?

### **9.4 Question from Councillor Rabina Khan**

Has the Mayor made savings following his devastating decision to charge vulnerable people for homecare?

### **9.5 Question from Councillor Danny Hassell**

Can the lead member please update the Council on the work being done to develop our understanding and response to child sexual exploitation in the borough?

### **9.6 Question from Councillor Andrew Wood**

Will the Mayor explain why are there no Council owned CCTV cameras in any residential areas of Canary Wharf ward although the entrances to the Canary Wharf estate are covered by CCTV?

### **9.7 Question from Councillor Dave Chesterton**

In support of the 'Time's Up' campaign will the Mayor review the Council's policy on Sexual Entertainment Venues (SEVs)? The Council has five licensed SEVs, the purpose of these establishments is the sexual objectification of women by men. Sexual objectification is deplorable and plays an important role in gender inequality. The Council has taken a stand on violence against women and girls, isn't it about time the Council also says Time's Up for strip joints, pole dancing and lap dancing in our borough?

### **9.8 Question from Councillor Ohid Ahmed**

Will the Mayor provide an update about the latest situation relating to Raine's House Community Centre in Wapping?

### **9.9 Question from Councillor Marc Francis**

Will the Lead Member for Environmental Services update me on the proposed consultations with residents in Cadogan Terrace and Fairfield Conservation Area about the extension of Controlled Parking Zone timings?

### **9.10 Question from Councillor Shah Alam**

Why has the Mayor chosen to delete the Higher Education Support Bursary?

### **9.11 Question from Councillor Candida Ronald**

Could the Mayor/Lead Member update on any progress in securing government funding for retrofitting sprinklers in existing tall buildings?

### **9.12 Question from Councillor Peter Golds**

There are increasing problems of poor water pressure on the Isle of Dogs. Residents on the Kingsbridge Estate, Mill Quay, Maritime Quay, Lockesfield Place and Betty May Gray House on the south of the Island are all suffering from this problem. Will the Mayor investigate whether the situation is related to the scale of development on the Island causing increasing demand on existing and therefore overcapacity infrastructure?

### **9.13 Question from Councillor Shiria Khatun**

What progress is being made with Operation Continuum, the ongoing partnership between the Council and Police tackling drug crime in the borough?

### **9.14 Question from Councillor Mahbub Alam**

Will the Mayor inform how many residents have been hit by his decision to remove our free homecare service in the borough?

### **9.15 Question from Councillor Khaled Uddin Ahmed**

Can the Lead Member confirm when regeneration work will start at Stroudley Walk?

### **9.16 Question from Councillor Abdul Asad**

Will the Mayor reverse the decision to charge disabled people paying £8 per week in council tax following his decision to change the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme?

### **9.17 Question from Councillor Helal Uddin**

Can the Mayor or Lead Member please provide an update on the borough-wide Big Clean Up events that have taken place as part of the Clean & Green campaign?

### **9.18 Question from Councillor Chris Chapman**

The Mayor will be aware that recycling across London is increasing, whilst in Tower Hamlets the figures are decreasing. On the Isle of Dogs, half of all public recycling points were removed last year due to fly tipping. However, fly tipping across the Island and in particular the Samuda and St John's estates has increased whilst nobody has been prosecuted by Tower Hamlets for this practice in over ten years. What does he

intend to do to make the Borough and the Isle of Dogs cleaner and greener?

#### **9.19 Question from Councillor Ayas Miah**

Can the Mayor explain what changes are planned for Raines House, what is the timetable for any building works and will the pensioners who use the building for social gatherings be able to continue their daytime bingo sessions and social evenings?

#### **9.20 Question from Councillor Maium Miah**

Will the Mayor inform how many hard-working self-employed and vulnerable residents have lost their Council Tax Support after his decision to make cuts to the scheme in April 2017?

#### **9.21 Question from Councillor Clare Harrisson**

Drug dealing around Teale and Coate Street has increased rapidly over the last 6 months. This has escalated into fights on the street in the last few months, which is very distressing to residents. What Council projects and initiatives are planned to tackle the drug dealing problem in these areas?

#### **9.22 Question from Councillor Shafi Ahmed**

Does the Mayor believe he is doing enough to address the increase of knife crime in the borough?

#### **9.23 Question from Councillor Julia Dockerill**

The Mayor will be aware of the importance of Raines House as a hub for local elderly residents, will he guarantee that following the proposed refurbishment of Raines House, the facility will remain as financially accessible as it is today for elderly residents with the same or improved facilities?

#### **9.24 Question from Councillor Muhammad Ansar Mustaqim**

Will the Mayor provide parking income generated by the council for 2017/18, 16/17 and 15/16?

#### **9.25 Question from Councillor Abjol Miah**

Will the Mayor agree to reverse the decision to privatize council funded nurseries?

#### **9.26 Question from Councillor Craig Aston**

It has been announced that there is likely to be a further Big Half Marathon in 2019. What steps will the Mayor take to ensure that residents are, unlike this year notified well in advance of both road closures and interruptions to public transport?

#### **9.27 Question from Councillor Gulam Kibria Choudhury**

Will the Mayor confirm the total Community Safety Service budget for each year since 2014/15 until this budget year?

### **9.28 Question from Councillor Aminur Khan**

Does the Mayor believe that the 6 council funded youth centres are sufficient for a growing young population?

### **9.29 Question from Councillor Suluk Ahmed**

Will the Mayor update the Chamber about the result of the Council's decision to initiate regulatory proceedings against the Times/Sunday Times in relation to a foster child story?

### **9.30 Question from Councillor Mufti Miah**

Will the Mayor inform us about his meeting and any result in relation to extortionate increase parking charges by Poplar Harca?

### **9.31 Question from Councillor Harun Miah**

Will the Mayor demonstrate how the Social Value Act is being put in practice to secure better social value and benefits for our residents when the Council commissions services or engage with relevant stakeholders?

### **9.32 Question from Councillor Gulam Robbani**

Will the Mayor provide statistics of the total numbers of crime and ASB committed in Spitalfields and Banglatown Ward for each year since 2014 until now?

### **9.33 Question from Councillor Andrew Cregan**

Will the Council revise its decision to reject the application for Cable Street Studios to become an asset of community value? Cable Street Studios is a heritage building housing a range of arts units that form a unique venue for creative collaboration and cultural exchange, serving as a great asset to the local community in Shadwell and Limehouse, and well beyond. The much celebrated grassroots live music venue at its heart, Jamboree, is clearly on its own enough to secure ACV status. This decision to reject must be revised urgently, and the process for appeal outlined to the applicants.