

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY 13<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2011**

**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 13<sup>th</sup> April 2011.
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**

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

### **8.1 Question from Councillor Kosru Uddin to the Mayor, Lutfur Rahman**

“Given the impact of the recent cuts and loss of jobs and the subsequent rise in unemployment, in particular the significant rise in youth unemployment, what is the Mayor proposing to do to help address unemployment in the borough and help young residents who are out of work and bordering on the realms of disillusion and feelings of dejection?”

### **8.2 Question from Councillor Tim Archer to the Mayor, Lutfur Rahman**

“As previously stated, Parliament completed the process by March 31st to introduce a revised code of practice which will prevent local authorities from wasting taxpayers money on vanity newspapers such as East End Life. Therefore why is the Mayor persisting with his money wasting consultation exercise regarding East End Life?”

### **8.3 Question from Councillor David Edgar to the Mayor, Lutfur Rahman**

“Could the Mayor report on the action he has taken to engage with local GPs and the Primary Care Trust on the transfer of health commissioning to GPs, with the PCT on the transfer of public health responsibilities to the Council, and with the PCT on the future of community health services in the borough?”

### **8.4 Question from Councillor Fozol Miah to the Mayor, Lutfur Rahman**

“Would the Mayor agree that there is a delicate balancing act between encouraging the vibrant atmosphere around Brick Lane and the scourge of anti-social behaviour afflicting both residents and visitors alike, and would he undertake an urgent investigation into the scale of the problem of anti-social behaviour and the measures that might be taken to address it?”

### **8.5 Question from Councillor Amy Whitelock to the Mayor, Lutfur Rahman**

“What assessment has the Mayor made of the impact that the Government's raft of welfare benefits changes, coming into force between 2011 and 2014, will have on Tower Hamlets residents?”

#### **8.6 Question from Councillor Peter Golds to the Mayor, Lutfur Rahman**

“Further to the Council Motion passed over two months ago regarding the Thames Water Tunnel, can the Mayor confirm that the support for the Thames Tunnel as proposed by Thames Water and agreed by his Cabinet in December 2010 has been withdrawn? Also, when will the Mayor be meeting with Thames Water to discuss alternative routes?”

#### **8.7 Question from Councillor Bill Turner to the Mayor, Lutfur Rahman**

“Can the Mayor tell me how he plans to reduce council expenditure on consultants and agency staff?”

#### **8.8 Question from Councillor Harun Miah to the Mayor, Lutfur Rahman**

“Would the Mayor agree with me that there remains an acute shortage of homes in this borough for larger families, that urgent action needs to be taken to alleviate the scourge of overcrowding and that this could be achieved through buying back certain kinds of top floor flats which would allow dormer extensions to be built?”

#### **8.9 Question from Councillor Carlo Gibbs to the Mayor, Lutfur Rahman**

“Can the Mayor update me on how successful the Council has been on tackling benefit fraud in the Borough?”

#### **8.10 Question from Councillor Emma Jones to the Mayor, Lutfur Rahman**

“Given the Council's health scrutiny review of access to GPs and dentists, how many residents of the borough are still not registered with a dentist?”

#### **8.11 Question from Councillor Anwar Khan to the Mayor, Lutfur Rahman**

“Does the Mayor support the MP for Poplar and Limehouse, Jim Fitzpatrick in his attempts to tackle the problem of legal loan sharks who charge extortionate interest rates to often vulnerable people and will he ensure the Council does everything in its power to prevent residents being exploited by them?”

#### **8.12 Question from Councillor David Snowdon to the Mayor, Lutfur Rahman**

How many staff does the Mayor directly employ in his office (including advisors and consultants), and what is the Mayor's Office Expenditure for this municipal year 2010/11 and for the next municipal year 2011/12?

### **8.13 Question from Councillor Anna Lynch to the Mayor, Lutfur Rahman**

“Bearing in mind the previous administration’s decision to cut all catering except tea and coffee at meetings due to the pressures on the Council’s budget, can the Mayor tell me if he has maintained that policy and how much the Council has spent on refreshments for meetings involving him and/or his Cabinet since he took office?”

### **8.14 Question from Councillor Zara Davis to the Mayor, Lutfur Rahman**

“What progress has been made by the administration to find capital funding for the expansion of the Mudchute nursery?”

### **8.15 Question from Councillor Joshua Peck to the Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Rabina Khan**

“What progress has been made in agreeing to create back gardens for residents at 1-8 Sheffield Square?”

### **8.16 Question from Councillor Craig Aston to the Mayor, Lutfur Rahman**

“The Olympic Delivery Authority has written to every London Borough offering to sell them Olympic tickets and it has been established that this letter and invitation has been received by Tower Hamlets Council. Does the Mayor and this Council intend to purchase any tickets for the Olympics Games and if so, what is the cost and what will be done with them?”

### **8.17 Question from Councillor Stephanie Eaton to the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Ohid Ahmed**

“Could I be advised what plans the Council has for an alternative to the cancelled East End Gay Pride event to enable residents of Tower Hamlets to demonstrate unity, solidarity and friendship with LGBT residents of the Borough?”

### **8.18 Question from Councillor Maium Miah to the Mayor, Lutfur Rahman**

“Will the Mayor update me and residents as to what progress has been made to reinstate parking provision for the residents of Phoenix Heights, Byng Street?”

### **8.19 Question from Councillor Gloria Thienel to the Mayor, Lutfur Rahman**

“Following the revelation that members of this Council used Council facilities to provide testimonials to a Court for a convicted sex offender, what proposals does the Mayor have to tighten up procedures to ensure that this does not happen again?”