

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER 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 21<sup>st</sup> September 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**

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

### **8.1 Question from Councillor Khales Uddin Ahmed to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:**

“Can the Mayor tell me how many jobs so far have been taken up by Tower Hamlets residents as a result of the deal made between him and LOCOG?”

### **8.2 Question from Councillor Craig Aston to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:**

“What progress has been made in implementing the Motion which called for the full details of all premises, regulated entertainment and late night refreshment licenses to be published on the Tower Hamlets Website, which assumes ever greater importance to our residents with to the proposed changes in the licensing regime and the current consultation on sex establishments?”

### **8.3 Question from Councillor Carlo Gibbs to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:**

“Can the Mayor list all of the Third Sector organisations that have had their funding from the Council a) reduced and b) cut altogether since April 2011 and explain the criteria used to make those decisions?”

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

“Is the Mayor aware of the comments made by Adrian Tudway, the National (Police) Co-ordinator for Domestic Extremism, reported in the Guardian, that the EDL “are not extreme right wing as a group” and that Muslims “need to open a direct line of dialogue with them [and] that might be the best way to engage them and re-direct their activity”, and does he agree that the several hundred drunken, violent, racist and fascist EDL thugs who gathered on the borders of Tower Hamlets on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September, and the shocking pictures of EDL members with firearms that appeared in the Daily Mail, prove that this claim by Mr Tudway is complete nonsense and entirely vindicates the demand for the EDL to be banned from marching in Tower Hamlets, and would the Mayor agree to ask the Acting Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police if Mr Tudway is still in post and if the words attributed to him represent the official position of the Metropolitan Police and, if so, would the Mayor agree to urge the police both in London and nationally to recognise instead that the EDL is a violent, extremist and racist organisation which has no place in a democratic, tolerant and respectful society?”

**8.5 Question from Councillor Joshua Peck to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:**

“Can the Mayor confirm which fees and charges will be waived for the Mela and whether the same fees and charges will be waived for other community festivals?”

**8.6 Question from Councillor Zara Davis to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:**

“What role did the Council play in reassuring residents and helping businesses affected by the disturbances in Tower Hamlets on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> August?”

**8.7 Question from Councillor Helel Uddin to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:**

“Can the Mayor tell me if he has sold any more Council owned, family sized homes since the last Council meeting and if he has, what income has been received?”

**8.8 Question from Councillor Harun Miah to Councillor Oliur Rahman, Cabinet Member for Children’s Services:**

“Can the Lead Member report on what measures have been taken since the decision by governors at Bethnal Green Technology College and Sir William Burrough Primary to opt for academy status and what further measures it is intended will be taken both to encourage governors at these schools to reverse these decisions, which will be detrimental both to the pupils at these schools and more generally for education in Tower Hamlets, and also to discourage other school governors from making similar decisions?”

**8.9 Question from Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman to Councillor Rabina Khan, Cabinet Member for Housing:**

“Can the Lead Member tell me whether officers visiting tenants under the Decent Homes scheme have been given any scripts or key messages to use when talking them through the works?”

**8.10 Question from Councillor Tim Archer to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:**

“What is the future of Cubitt Town library?”

**8.11 Question from Councillor Md. Abdul Mukit to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:**

“Can the Mayor tell me what proportion of S106 from development in Weavers has been committed or spent in a) Weavers and b) outside of the ward?”

**8.12 Question from Councillor Peter Golds to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:**

“Will the Mayor provide an assurance that he will not take up the extra 100 Olympic tickets offered to the Council by LOCOG, and that he will instead insist that these tickets are returned to the public ballot?”

**8.13 Question from Councillor Anwar Khan to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:**

“Can the Mayor confirm the gross cost to date to the Council of East End Life this financial year, including advertising costs borne by the Council?”

**8.14 Question from Councillor David Snowdon to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:**

“Will Mayor Rahman inform Council as to why he declined to answer my question regarding the Islamic Forum of Europe at last Council? Members have been informed by officials that it is Mayor Rahman who decides who should answer questions (including those directed to him). Therefore why did Mayor Rahman duck this particular question?”

**8.15 Question from Councillor Lesley Pavitt to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:**

“Can the Mayor give me an update on the progress of re-tendering for Home Care contracts?”

**8.16 Question from Councillor Gloria Thienel to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:**

“What plans does the Mayor have to protect the parks on the Isle of Dogs from illegal Camp Site which could be set up during the Olympics in view of there currently being no public toilet facilities on the Isle of Dogs, the absence of which could cause public health problems for the locality?”

It should be noted that during the Royal Wedding in April, Clapham Common became an unofficial site with resultant problems for residents in Lambeth and Wandsworth.”

**8.17 Question from Councillor Judith Gardiner to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:**

“Can the Mayor give me an update on the progress of the Housing Options Appraisal?”

**8.18 Question from Councillor Dr Emma Jones to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:**

“Whilst a Councillor Mayor Rahman submitted regular timesheets.

Will Mayor Rahman therefore inform Council as to why he is not completing timesheets as all Councillors are expected to do, as the lack of a published timesheet reflects a reduction in transparency and accountability, which is not covered by his numerous photo opportunities in East End Life?”

**8.19 Question from Councillor David Edgar to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:**

“Can the Mayor give me an update on when the Council's Enterprise Strategy will be presented at a Cabinet Meeting?”

**8.20 Question from Councillor Kabir Ahmed to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:**

“Could the Mayor give Council his assessment of the events of Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September? What measures is the Mayor taking to prevent a potential return trip by the racist English Defence League and does he think the Government needs to reassess the threat of far-right extremism? What are the Mayor's plans to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the battle of Cable Street on 4<sup>th</sup> October?”

**8.21 Question from Councillor Denise Jones to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:**

“Does the Mayor share my concerns about the Olympic Route Network and the effect it will have on Tower Hamlets residents?”

**8.22 Question from Councillor Stephanie Eaton to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:**

“Would the Mayor join me in requesting Transport for London to prioritise Step 3 Access to Whitechapel Underground Station in time for the opening of the new Royal London Hospital?”

**8.23 Question from Councillor Sirajul Islam to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:**

“Can the Mayor give me an update on the progress made by the Council to promote Fairtrade products amongst Council catering services, residents and community groups and on asking Council contractors to provide Fairtrade goods?”

**8.24 Question from Councillor Aminur Khan to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:**

“What is the Council doing to improve the standard of council housing and does the Mayor intend to implement the Tory Government's new policy of removing tenancy for life?”

**8.25 Question from Councillor Rachael Saunders to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:**

“Will the Mayor support our campaign to achieve a change in the law allow static demonstrations to be banned when they are a threat to people and property, through the same procedure as bans on marches?”

**8.26 Question from Councillor Lutfa Begum to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:**

“Could the Mayor update the Council on this year’s GCSE results, and how do these compare with last year’s results?”

**8.27 Question from Councillor Anna Lynch to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:**

“Does the Mayor agree with me that there should be no sex establishments in Tower Hamlets?”

**8.28 Question from Councillor Md. Maium Miah to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:**

“Why does the Mayor think the recent incidents of rioting and looting were of a lesser magnitude in Tower Hamlets than in neighbouring boroughs?”

**8.29 Question from Councillor Kosru Uddin to Mayor Lutfur Rahman:**

“Does the Mayor share my concerns over cuts to police service in Tower Hamlets?”