


Non-Executive Report of the:  <b>Council</b>  17 <sup>th</sup> July 2024	 <b>TOWER HAMLETS</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Linda Walker, Interim Director of Legal and Monitoring Officer	<b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted
<b>Questions submitted by Members of the Council</b>	

<b>Originating Officer(s)</b>	Matthew Mannion, Head of 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 for this Council meeting.
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 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**

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

### **11.1 Question from Councillor Amin Rahman**

Could the Lead member provide an update on the council's outstanding accounts requiring sign off? These accounts were left unsigned for 6 years under the previous administration.

### **11.2 Question from Councillor Mufheeda Bustin**

The Mayor's Budget for 2024-25 included targets for generating income from the island's parks and open spaces. Could the Lead Member provide an update on these plans including what resident engagement has taken place or what is planned?

### **11.3 Question from Councillor Ahmodul Kabir**

Can the Lead Member feedback on progress with the recommendations following the LGA Corporate Peer Review that took place in September last year?

### **11.4 Question from Councillor Marc Francis**

Further to the answer to my question at Full Council on 8th May confirming that the Mayor cancelled the proposed changes at the junction of Fairfield Road and Tredegar Road to improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists, will the Lead Member now be instructing the Highways Team to implement these changes?

### **11.5 Question from Councillor Bodrul Choudhury**

I want to start by thanking the Mayor for delivering his manifesto pledge to create extra parking spaces in my ward Bromley South, especially on Devons Road and Empson Street.

However, can the Lead Member tell us what he will do to help local residents who although grateful, have raised issues with the high curbs which can damage cars driving on to and off the raised parking spaces on Empson Street.

Furthermore, I have seen there is more room for additional car parking spaces that could benefit my constituents.

### **11.6 Question from Councillor Asma Islam**

Can the lead member update me on the progress of the changes being made to the housing options service?

### **11.7 Question from Councillor Jahed Choudhury**

Can the Lead Member provide an update on the current Best Value Inspection?

### **11.8 Question from Councillor Mohammad Chowdhury**

There has been an increase in knife and gun crime incidents over the last few weeks, including in Mile End, could the lead member inform me what the council is doing to prevent this?

### **11.9 Question from Councillor Suluk Ahmed**

Can the Lead Member update the council on the work of the Women's Commission to date?

### **11.10 Question from Councillor Amy Lee**

There have been recent reports of a harrowing and complex court case that received attention from the national press, in which the council was named and criticised by the East London Family Court for its conduct in failing to protect a mother and her children.

Can the lead member inform me as to how the council is responding to the instructions of the court and what actions it is taking to ensure that an incident like this does not happen again?

**11.11 Question from Councillor Iqbal Hossain**

Can the Lead Member update the council on the delivery of the Mayor's Education Maintenance Allowance and University Bursaries for the next academic year. It is understood from various media sources these provisions have not been delivered to date.

**11.12 Question from Councillor Sabina Khan**

Would the chief executive provide council with the membership list of the LBTH Women's Commission

**11.13 Question from Councillor Ahmodur Khan**

Can the Lead Member tell us how the council has ensured that the essential works required to Wood Wharf School will be completed on time and within budget given the historic issues with delivering these works?

**11.14 Question from Asma Begum**

Would the lead member consider meeting with Victoria Park Friends in order to receive feedback and coordinate how they can work together during and after the summer festival season.

**11.15 Question from Councillor Abdul Mannan**

Can the Lead Member update the council on what is being done to tackle the worrying levels of crime and ASB in and around Rounton Road?

**11.16 Question from Councillor Amina Ali**

Could the lead member inform me as to how many residents have been able to access the new council tax relief scheme?

**11.17 Question from Councillor Abdul Malik**

Can the Lead Member update us on the decision taken last September to open up our roads?

**11.18 Question from Councillor Rebakah Sultana**

Could the lead member inform me how many bin collections have been missed in the last 12 months?

**11.19 Question from Councillor Harun Miah**

Can the Lead Member set out what action is being taken to address traffic issues on Whitethorn Street which is a very narrow two-way road with parking on both sides?

**11.20 Question from Councillor Shubo Hussain**

Many residents have contacted me worried about increased costs for their leisure services and loss of access to other leisure facilities – could the lead member inform me as to how many people have cancelled their memberships and does the council have any mitigation measures to retain customers who may consider leaving?

**11.21 Question from Councillor James King**

Could the lead member inform me as to whether there has been progress or discussions with the Tower Hamlets Archives regarding the need to protect the archives and ensure that they are in a suitable and secure space?

**11.22 Question from Councillor Sirajul Islam**

Could the mayor inform me as to whether the council has been able to make progress on the release of LIF funding from TFL?

**11.23 Question from Councillor Nathalie Bienfait**

I was recently shocked to learn that in the period between 1 April 2022 and 28 February 2023, we employed a total of 335 individuals with an average of 5214.80 hours were worked by staff on zero-hours contracts per month. How is the Administration supporting workers on zero-hours contracts to ensure that they are given proper notice of cancelled shifts and for them to receive sick pay, and how it is working to bring all staff onto safer and more appropriate contracts?

**11.24 Question from Councillor Peter Golds**

Has the council met or arranged to meet representatives of Transport for London with reference to the provision of bus routes in the borough, and in particular the threatened D7 route which is a vital link for Poplar, Cubitt Town and Island Gardens and Burdett Road.