


Non-Executive Report of the: Council 22 nd January 2025	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Linda Walker, Interim Director of Legal and Monitoring Officer	Classification: Unrestricted
Questions submitted by Members of the Council	

Originating Officer(s)	Matthew Mannion, Head of Democratic Services
Wards affected	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

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

11.1 Question from Councillor Sabina Akthar

Can the Lead Member update the council on the delivery of new homes and a stand-alone community facility on the Harriot, Apsley and Patterson House (HAP Regeneration) site in my ward Stepney Green?

11.2 Question from Councillor Amy Lee

Can the Mayor outline plans and a timeline for improvements at Shadwell Basin and King Edward Memorial Park via Section 106 funds allocated as part of Tideway sewer works?

11.3 Question from Councillor Sabina Khan

Can the Lead Member tell us what is being done to address the serious road safety issues on St Paul's Way, Thomas Road and Bow Common Lane in Mile End Ward? There were 14 car collisions recorded on Bow Common Lane between 2017 to 2022, alone. These roads for different reasons, are prone to accidents and are worryingly close to three schools, a church, community centre, mosque and commercial units with large footfalls.

11.4 Question from Councillor Asma Islam

Numerous residents have contacted me concerned about the future of Bethnal Green Weightlifting Club. Can the lead member inform me on what is being done to support a proud and historic organisation in our borough and commit tonight to ensure that this council does not cause actions that could bring about its collapse?

11.5 Question from Councillor Harun Miah

Given the positive outcomes highlighted in our recent Ofsted inspection, can the Lead Member outline how this success will be built on to ensure continuous improvement in Children services and the learning from this taken to service areas where challenges remain?

11.6 Question from Councillor Mohammad Chowdhury

Tower Hamlets lacks an adequate number of fast electric chargers, and the slow chargers on streetlamp posts are often inaccessible due to parked cars. I have heard of electric vehicle drivers spending hours searching for an available slow charger. What plans does the council have to address this issue and support our electric vehicle drivers?

11.7 Question from Councillor Amin Rahman

The council has a proud record of supporting residents through the Cost-of-Living crisis, and that there has been an increase in funds and provisions to help those residents most in need. Can the Lead Member provide an update on the latest HSF allocation, including increased support through direct food vouchers for those affected by the two-child benefit cap; increased direct food vouchers for those families with SEND needs; and increasing accessibility and choice through more organisations throughout the borough through the Food Hub?

11.8 Question from Councillor Mufeedah Bustin

A notification has been sent that the Grants Determination Sub Committee will be considering a number of SLAs, including for Mudchute Farm on the Isle of Dogs. Could the Lead Member indicate what the plans are for the SLA, and whether the farm has been engaged in discussions on this?

11.9 Question from Councillor Ahmodur Khan

Given the recent decision of the pension committee to look to divest all investment from the council's pension fund from problematic practices such as arms dealing, and today's

reiteration of that commitment through the administration motion, can the Chair of the Committee provide an update on what next steps will be taken to expedite this divestment?

11.10 Question from Councillor Shubo Hussain

Over the last few months, I am aware of a number of road accidents on Devon's and Violet Road – at what point will the council consider installing speed humps or other traffic calming measures?

11.11 Question from Councillor Iqbal Hossain

Following the significant re-investment in the Youth Service can the lead member update the Council on progress with establishing a safe space for young people in every ward?

11.12 Question from Councillor James King

Please could the Lead Member confirm what the administration's plans are for the South Dock Bridge, an important infrastructure investment to improve accessibility on the Isle of Dogs?

11.13 Question from Councillor Suluk Ahmed

Can the Chair of the Strategic Development Committee confirm if the Trumans Brewery owners have submitted a planning application or are in pre-planning dialogue with council officers and if so, can you tell us how many family sized social housing units are being proposed, along with the number of amenity spaces for locals?

11.14 Question from Councillor Faroque Ahmed

Residents have written to me expressing their concern about waste management near Hessel Street with rats being reported to be seen around Delafield House. Will the lead member consider investigating this matter and working with myself to see that it is resolved?

11.15 Question from Councillor Ahmodur Kabir

Could the Lead Member provide an update on what the BVI Inspection team found concerning the surety and sustainability of the Council's finances?

11.16 Question from Councillor Abdi Mohamed

Can the Lead Member outline how this administration is prioritising efforts to tackle hate crime in the borough, particularly in light of the forthcoming review of community safety by the council?

11.17 Question from Councillor Abdul Mannan

We live in difficult times, and much has been done by this administration to help those in need. In terms of support for our elderly residents, can the Lead Member outline steps taken to combat poverty and isolation?

11.18 Question from Councillor Maisha Begum

In light of the Council's commitment to sustainability, how are environmental considerations integrated into the planning and execution of highways and transportation projects, and what steps are being taken to minimize the carbon footprint of these initiatives?

11.19 Question from Councillor Bodrul Choudhury

Our residents have welcomed the opening of several Residents Hubs across the borough. They offer those digitally excluded or with literacy issues a chance to interact with an officer. Can the Lead Member breakdown what services will be delivered at these places, and can we expect to see a 'One Stop Shop' approach where support with filling in benefit forms, welfare benefits advice, parking, housing repairs, council tax enquiries and homelessness is provided?

11.20 Question from Councillor Rebaka Sultana

The recently published Youth Justice Service report identifies that 32% of post-16 young people under YJS supervision end their interventions as NEET. What additional measures is the Council implementing to support these young people in accessing education, training, or employment opportunities?

11.21 Question from Councillor Abdul Malik

Can the Lead Member provide an update on highway improvements and road safety measures implemented on the Isle of Dogs over the last 12 months?

11.22 Question from Councillor Sirajul Islam

Could the Mayor inform me as to whether the council has been contacted regarding or consulted on the future of Billingsgate Fish market? Before Christmas the City of London announced that the plans to secure the future of the market were being scrapped.

11.23 Question from Councillor Bellal Uddin

Can the Lead Member provide an update on when the Meals on Wheels scheme will be rolled out across the borough, who will benefit, and how it can be accessed?

11.24 Question from Councillor Abdal Ullah

Residents of Wapping have raised concerns about increasing levels of anti-social behaviour and crime, particularly around key public spaces like Wapping High Street and the Shadwell Basin. What specific steps is the administration taking to ensure adequate police presence, improve community safety, and address residents' concerns in Wapping?

11.25 Question from Councillor Leelu Ahmed

Residents in Mile End have raised ongoing concerns about issues with waste collection and persistent fly-tipping in key areas such as Burdett Road and around the Regent's Canal. What specific actions is the administration taking to improve waste management services and tackle fly-tipping hotspots in Mile End?

11.26 Question from Councillor Amina Ali

Over Christmas and New Year there were several missed waste collections around the borough with rubbish building up in Grove Road, Morgan Street, Tredegar Square and Lichfield Road. Why were these collections missed, and can the lead member provide assurances that these errors have now been rectified?

11.27 Question from Councillor Marc Francis

Will the Lead Member for Environmental Services explain what action has been taken to improve the safety of pedestrians crossing the A12 slip roads at the junction of Wick Lane in the past two and half years?

11.28 Question from Councillor Nathalie Bienfait

Will the Administration please re-instate the camera-controlled school street closure of Chisenhale Road outside the primary school for a hour in the morning and in the afternoon for drop off and pick up? Will you also provide your position and reasoning for whatever you choose?

11.29 Question from Councillor Peter Golds

Residents in Poplar, the Isle of Dogs and Mile End have campaigned for many years to protect the D7 link between Poplar, Cubitt Town and Mile End, despite TfL attempting to scrap the route. It is significant that repeatedly D7 and 277 buses increasingly run in convoy northwards from Westferry Road. Will the Mayor and administration support residents by raising the importance of retaining the D7 for residents of Poplar and Cubitt Town as the only link to Mile End.