

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 16th MAY 2012

**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 16th May 2012.
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 Speaker 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

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

8.1 Question from Councillor Carli Harper-Penman:

Following the recent announcement by the Ministry of Defence that a high velocity missile system is to be located within the Bow Quarter, can the Mayor update Council about the discussions that have taken place with the MoD and the steps that he will be taking to ensure that residents of Tower Hamlets are not endangered or unduly inconvenienced by the presence of such a system?

8.2 Question from Councillor David Snowdon:

Will the Mayor urge Social Landlords in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets to publish all their spending over £500, in line with Viridian and Home Group's example?

8.3 Question from Councillor Shiria Khatun:

Can the Mayor explain what he has done regarding his proposed charges for bulk rubbish collection & rat control?

8.4 Question from Councillor Fozol Miah:

Would the Mayor join with me in congratulating the former MP for Bethnal Green and Bow, George Galloway, on his landslide victory in the Bradford West by-election and would he agree with me that this extraordinary election result, gained in one of the shortest by-election campaigns ever as a result of the choice of the Labour Party, shows enormous dissatisfaction with the old established parties and a desire for change, a desire expressed in Tower Hamlets in the election of an independent mayor for Tower Hamlets and the election of Respect and an independent councillor in successive by-elections in the Spitalfields and Banglatown ward?

8.5 Question from Councillor Bill Turner:

Will the Mayor outline the numbers of children on roll at the new free schools in the borough who are eligible for free school meals? Do any other organisations with which the Council has an existing relationship in other ways propose to open free schools in the borough, and if so what discussions has the Council had with such organisations. Does he support or oppose any such plans which they may have and does he share the view of the Labour Group that the universal provision of excellent comprehensive education is the best way of ensuring that our children get the education they need?

8.6 Question from Councillor Peter Golds:

Will the Mayor inform the council when he decided to install speed humps on Jesus Green, E2, and what consultation took place for this particular proposal?

8.7 Question from Councillor Ann Jackson:

Can the Mayor detail how the Council is supporting residents who are affected by the Government's reduction in rent and council tax benefit?

8.8 Question from Councillor Harun Miah

Would the Mayor agree with me that drug use and dependency constitutes a major threat to the well-being of our young people in Tower Hamlets and would he also agree that there has to be a multi-faceted approach if we are to get on top of this problem, including education, job opportunities for young people as well as the appropriate use of the criminal law and would he outline recent initiatives on this matter?

8.9 Question from Councillor Rachael Saunders:

On what basis did the Mayor make his decision to close the in house domiciliary homecare service?

8.10 Question from Councillor Craig Aston:

Will the Mayor provide an update on the status of the Limehouse Library building and site?

8.11 Question from Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman:

Can the Mayor inform the Council, if he or a member of his family (including brother) has been involved in collecting Postal Ballots from residents in Spitalfields Ward?

8.12 Question from Councillor Kabir Ahmed

Following the judgement by the Local Government Standards in England Tribunal to uphold this Council's Standard Committee decision to suspend the last Leader of the Council; does the Mayor agree with me that the Leader of the Labour Group has done nothing about this? And does he also agree with me that Cllr. Abbas should apologise to restore public faith, and to ensure there is not any abuse of power, bringing the office and the council into disrepute by breaching staff member protocol?

8.13 Question from Councillor Lesley Pavitt

I would like to ask the Mayor whether in view of the fact that we have a young persons' mayor he has considered having an older persons' mayor as well?

8.14 Question from Councillor Tim Archer:

Will the Mayor give details to the Council on the sale of Poplar Town Hall situated on Poplar High Street?

8.15 Question from Councillor Dr Stephanie Eaton:

What specific type of surface to air missiles does the Ministry of Defence propose to install on the Lexington building in Bow? If these are to be Starstreak II missiles with three projectiles to increase the probability of impact with an unauthorised aircraft, what is the impact on people and property on the ground of the projectiles that do not impact on the target? What powers if any does the Council have to oppose or veto the installation of these missiles?

8.16 Question from Councillor Zara Davis:

How much has the Council spent on purchasing Olympic tickets?

8.17 Question from Councillor Lutfa Begum

Housing shortages and overcrowding remains one of the most pressing needs for local residents, can the Mayor update this meeting how many houses he has built? And will any Tower Hamlets residents suffer the fate that some Newham residents have due to the government's welfare reform changes by moving 100 miles from the borough?

8.18 Question from Councillor Gloria Thienel:

Are there any proposals by the council to rent out our Council Charity Collection bins to private companies for profit?

8.19 Question from Councillor Gulam Robbani

How will the Mayor ensure that any disruption to local people is minimised by using Victoria Park as a live site during the 2012 Games?

8.20 Question from Councillor Dr Emma Jones:

How many residents have contacted the Council this year about the amount of time taken for land searches to be processed when buying or selling property?

8.21 Question from Councillor Maium Miah

With less than 100 days to the greatest show on earth, can the mayor update us how the council is preparing for the Olympic Games, and how Tower Hamlets residents will benefit from the Games?

8.22 Question from Councillor Aminur Khan

ASB and fear of crime remains one of the main concerns for local people, can the Mayor update us on the work of the THEOs?