

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 11th JULY 2012

**QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE HEAD,
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

SUMMARY

1. Set out overleaf are the questions submitted by members of the public, for response by the Mayor or appropriate Cabinet Member or committee chair at the Council Meeting on 11th July 2012.
2. The Council's Constitution sets a maximum time limit of twenty minutes for this item.
3. A questioner who has put a question in person may also put one brief supplementary question without notice to the Member who has replied to his or her original question. A supplementary question must arise directly out of the original question or the reply. Supplementary questions and Members' responses to written and supplementary questions are each limited to two minutes.
4. Any question which cannot be dealt with during the twenty minutes allocated for public questions, either because of lack of time or because of non-attendance of the questioner or the Member to whom it was put, will be dealt with by way of a written answer.
5. Unless the Speaker of Council decides otherwise, no discussion will take place on any question, but any Member of the Council may move, without discussion, that the matter raised by a question be referred for consideration by the Cabinet or the appropriate Committee or Sub-Committee.

QUESTIONS

Seven questions have been submitted as set out below:-

6.1 Question from Mr Steve Walker:

Given the high incidence of Tuberculosis in this borough, could the council take the necessary steps to introduce a by-law that would ban spitting in public?

6.2 Question from Mr Stuart Madewell:

Following the recent Weavers by-election when the Mayor supported the Respect candidate Abjol Miah can the Mayor please clarify what his views are in relation to Resident Social Landlords.

Does he agree that residents and councillors should be residents should be represented on the boards of Housing Associations or does he agree with Respect that Housing Associations are a form of privatisation that we should have nothing to do with?

6.3 Question from Ms Christine Whaite, Spitalfields Open Space; Chair, The Friends of Christ Church Spitalfields:

Does the Mayor agree that there is a lack of public open space in the borough, and please will he tell us what positive action he is taking to increase it for residents?

Specifically, is the Mayor aware that besides 350 letters to the planning department last year, the current petition requesting that the churchyard at Spitalfields be returned to public green open space has 600 signatures local, national and international, including those with expert knowledge? Is the Mayor willing to work alongside local people to find alternatives to meet educational needs **and** at the same time protect public open space and the historic environment; and what IMMEDIATE action is the Mayor taking to stop the terrible and unnecessary loss of this 2,500 sqm public open space, the Setting of Hawksmoor's finest work, Christ Church Spitalfields, in the most densely populated area of his borough?

6.4 Question from Mr S Mohammed:

Last month I read a shocking article on the front page of the Evening Standard alleging threats of violence against a female councillor. Why has the council failed to suspend this councillor who has clearly brought this authority into disrepute?

6.5 Question from Mr Amirul Islam:

We the residents are struggling with rising prices for gas and electricity. Living in a cold home is a huge health risk, particularly to the very young, the very old and other vulnerable groups. What is Mayor Rahman doing to tackle fuel poverty?

6.6 Question from Mr Iqbal Hussain:

What does the Mayor think about the coalition's recent moves to reform the welfare state?

6.7 Question from Ms Kathy McTasney:

Since 1998 Tower Hamlets has had a policy to promote a "workforce to reflect the community" What has the Council done to promote this?

In view of the Council's support for this policy, why when opportunity arose to appoint the first black CE did the Council make such a fuss?

Many of the workforce have been waiting for years for equality to be shown in this council however are we still living in the 1960's.