

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 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 the Executive at the Council meeting on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> November 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**

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

### **8.1 Question from Councillor Lesley Pavitt**

Will the Mayor explain why he secretly cancelled the Decent Homes work due to take place this year on the Bancroft estate in my ward?

### **8.2 Question from Councillor Peter Golds**

In affirming the decision to sell our Henry Moore statue, Mayor Rahman spoke for just 97 seconds. This was before he had even heard the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's report from Cllr Jackson, which called on him to think again. Can the Mayor tell me why he treated the Overview and Scrutiny committee report on the sale of 'Old Flo' in such a dismissive manner?

### **8.3 Question from Councillor Sirajul Islam**

At the last election the Mayor pledged to halve the number of homes that fall below a decent standard, yet figures from the Council have shown that last year there were over 1,700 more indecent homes than when he was first elected in 2010. Can the Mayor explain why the number of indecent homes has increased?

### **8.4 Question from Councillor Gulam Robbani**

Given that residents from Spitalfields and Banglatown are up in arms about the Tory proposal to obliterate Banglatown, the spiritual home of Bangladeshis in Britain, can the Mayor tell us what action he is taking and whether he will publicly condemn this shameful proposal, if he hasn't done this already?

### **8.5 Question from Councillor Amy Whitelock**

Is the Mayor aware of the recent muggings that have taken place on the Regent's Canal footbridge which connects Mile End Park and Meath Gardens, and if so, what steps is he taking to improve safety and protect residents in the area?

### **8.6 Question from Councillor Zara Davis**

What action is being taken to address the severe shortage of school places on the Isle of Dogs?

### **8.7 Question from Councillor Abdal Ullah**

At this month's London Councils Leaders Committee the Mayor had the opportunity to raise residents' concerns about the closure of Bow and Whitechapel fire stations with the Chair of the London Fire Authority. Will the Mayor explain why he sat in absolute silence and didn't speak out against these savage cuts which will put lives in danger?

### **8.8 Question from Councillor Kabir Ahmed**

Can the lead member tell us what the special responsibility allowances are for opposition members and what this equates to as an hourly rate when compared to their timesheets?

### **8.9 Question from Councillor Joshua Peck**

Can the Mayor please tell me why, despite Council's resolution of 13th April 2011, he has yet to rename the Council building on Ewart Place, in memory of GMB official John Onslow?

### **8.10 Question from Councillor Tim Archer**

London City Airport has announced plans to upgrade its terminal to increase the number of flights from 70,000 to 120,000 flights per year. What will the Mayor be doing to ensure that Tower Hamlets and Isle of Dogs residents do not suffer from increased noise pollution resulting from over flights?

### **8.11 Question from Councillor MA Mukit MBE**

Can the Mayor explain why his administration proposed cutting the budgets of the borough's vital and well used advice centres by up to 75%?

### **8.12 Question from Councillor Cllr Maium Miah**

Can the lead member tell us what has been achieved towards the Mayor's affordable housing target?

### **8.13 Question from Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman**

At our last meeting Council agreed that the Mayor should issue an apology to residents and Minister Syed Ashraf Islam MP for his decision not to allow this meeting to be held in the Council Chamber, forcing him instead to hold his meeting outside. Can the Mayor read the Council the apology he has made? If he has not apologised can he explain why?

### **8.14 Question from Councillor Dr Emma Jones**

How is the Council working with health partners in the Borough to improve dementia diagnosis rates?

### **8.15 Question from Councillor Denise Jones**

Islington Council - who invented the Fairness Commission model that you have copied - found that two principles were key to its effective operation: the establishment of political consensus on the need for the Commission, and the inclusion of cross party councillors. Why have you not sought to do either?

### **8.16 Question from Councillor Aminur Khan**

We have learned recently that the big energy companies may have been engaging in price-fixing. Can the Lead Member tell us what local residents can do to lower their energy costs?

### **8.17 Question from Councillor John Pierce**

What plans does the Mayor have to introduce income limits so that people earning over a certain amount cannot join the housing list?

### **8.18 Question from Councillor David Snowdon**

How many war memorials are there in Tower Hamlets? Will the Mayor please give a commitment to ensure that funding is available so that any repairs can be carried out ahead of the 100 year anniversary of the start of the Great War in 2014?

### **8.19 Question from Councillor Kosru Uddin**

The Office for National Statistics recently announced that youth unemployment had reached a staggering one million, what is the mayor and council doing to reduce youth unemployment in Tower Hamlets now that the Olympics are over?

### **8.20 Question from Councillor Lutfa Begum**

Can the Lead Member tell us how many young people attended the Mayor's Education Awards, how many received awards, what the cost of the event was and how it was met?

### **8.21 Question from Councillor Anwar Khan**

What is the council's policy on offering work experience for students post 18? How many has been offered in the last 12 months?

### **8.22 Question from Councillor Craig Aston**

Tower Hamlets CCTV cars have been photographed parked in bays marked as only for "Doctors", and on double yellow lines. Does the Mayor believe that this sets a bad example for local residents irrespective of the legal position?

### **8.23 Question from Councillor Shiria Khatun**

What steps has the Mayor taken to undertake a feasibility study into a mattress recycling scheme along the lines of the one operating in Labour controlled Lewisham and as proposed by Labour councillors and agreed by Council in September this year?

## **8.24 Question from Councillor Gloria Thienel**

In the article in the 23 July 2012 article entitled 'Cockneys campaign to protect rhyming slang from extinction' in the *Evening Standard* the Mayor stated "It's really important we keep the older traditions alive and support them, not as fossils, but as living traditions."

Can the Mayor tell me what he and the council are planning to do to keep these old Eastend traditions alive? In particular would he support an annual Cockney Heritage Day starting in 2013?