

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY 17<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2013**

**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 17<sup>th</sup> April 2013.
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 David Edgar**

Could the Mayor provide an update on the consultation arrangements with local residents on the work associated with the refurbishment and redevelopment of Poplar Baths?

### **8.2 Question from Councillor David Snowdon**

On how many occasions over the past year has Tower Hamlets council conducted testing of food at restaurants to ensure that the meat served to customers is the same meat as has been ordered?

### **8.3 Question from Councillor Lesley Pavitt**

What is happening to Old Flo? Where is she? Has the question about who owns her been resolved and what is the Mayor's plan for her?

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

Can the Mayor tell us his opinion on the Boundary Commission changes?

### **8.5 Question from Councillor Joshua Peck**

What plans does the Mayor have to transfer the old caretaker building on Arbery Road to Old Ford Housing?

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

Will the Mayor join me in encouraging Tower Hamlets schools to bid for a share of Boris Johnson's £24m London Schools Excellence Fund, which has been created to help drive up standards across the capital? With the first round of applications for the funding closing at the end of April, will you be actively promoting the fund to schools in our borough?

### **8.7 Question from Councillor Anwar Khan**

Has the Mayor applied to DCLG for an exemption from the new rules allowing conversion from business to residential use without planning permission?

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

Now that the Electoral Commission, Police and the Council have completed their investigations into alleged electoral fraud, can the Mayor tell us what their findings were and how much this has cost the ratepayers?

### **8.9 Question from Councillor Ann Jackson**

Following the recent landmark vote to legalise gay marriage will the Mayor confirm that, once the Bill is enacted, he will allow gay marriages to take place in appropriate council premises?

### **8.10 Question from Councillor Peter Golds**

Will the Mayor please inform the council what additional posts are to be created (both directly employed and contractors) within the Mayor's Office as a result of the Mayoral Decision to increase the budget of his office by £296,000 against the democratic will of Full Council?

### **8.11 Question from Councillor Marc Francis**

What action the Mayor is taking to deal with the persistent problems of anti-social behaviour in Grove Hall park?

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

Following the recent allegations and reports of an attempted break-in on the first floor of the Town Hall, can the Mayor update us on progress with the inquiries?

### **8.13 Question from Councillor Abdal Ullah**

With crime reported to be increasing in the borough can the Mayor say what steps he has taken to ensure that burglary and theft from homes and small businesses is reduced? These are crimes which can have a devastating impact on those affected.

### **8.14 Question from Councillor Tim Archer**

Will the Mayor detail how the Council is supporting the community right to acquire principles as enshrined in the Localism Act?

### **8.15 Question from Councillor M. A. Mukit MBE**

How many people in Tower Hamlets will be affected by the Government's Benefit Cap and what impact does the Mayor expect this to have?

### **8.16 Question from Councillor Lutfa Begum**

Given the draconian welfare reform measures the Tory-led Government has introduced from 1st April, can the Mayor tell us what he is doing to support Tower Hamlets residents?

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

What locally based provision will be delivered by the Mayor through the newly devolved Social Fund?

### **8.18 Question from Councillor Gloria Thienel**

What is the Mayor doing to prevent and clear up Dog Fouling on the Isle of Dogs?

### **8.19 Question from Councillor Rachael Saunders**

What impact does the Mayor expect his decision to cut 5% from the staffing budgets of the borough's adults and children's social workers, to have on the delivery of services to the most vulnerable in the borough?

### **8.20 Question from Councillor Aminur Khan**

With the Tory-Labour coalition's continued obsession with the Mayor; what steps is the Mayor taking to ensure that he continues to deliver for the residents of this borough, which he was overwhelmingly elected to do, despite the divisive rhetoric from the opposition?

### **8.21 Question from Councillor Carlo Gibbs**

Does the Mayor believe a £1m discretionary payments fund will be sufficient enough to mitigate the impact of welfare cuts?

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

Why is the Mayor carrying out a second costly review of East End Life, which Government legislation will abolish before this end of the Parliament, given one was carried out in 2011, and how much will this review cost?

### **8.23 Question from Councillor Denise Jones**

The Women's library is an important community resource and one which the Council actively supported when negotiating the transfer of the Old Baths building to house the collection. Does the Mayor agree with me that now the London Metropolitan University Trust have decided to give the collection to the LSE the building should be retained as a community and specifically women's resource?

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

Will the Mayor please comment on the High Court's decision on March 8 that Tower Hamlets council was following an unlawful policy in discriminating against family and friends carers as they were not eligible to be paid the fee/reward part of the fostering allowance paid to professional carers?