

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY 18<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 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 18<sup>th</sup> September 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**

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

### **8.1 Question from Councillor Judith Gardiner**

The Mayor was elected to serve and answer the people of Tower Hamlets. Does he not understand that by refusing to answer residents' and councillors' questions he is insulting the people who elected him?

### **8.2 Question from Councillor Zara Davis**

What is the Mayor doing to ensure that Tower Hamlets benefits from the legacy of the 2012 Games?

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

Will the Mayor join me in thanking residents and politicians of all parties for their support in resisting the EDL march and agree with me that issues such as this should not be about political point scoring but uniting to protect our community?

### **8.4 Question from Councillor Fozol Miah**

Would the lead member join with me in congratulating the teaching staff, parents and pupils who have ensured the extraordinary level of success in Tower Hamlets schools in the context of one of the most deprived communities in Britain and in applauding the Mayor's education strategy which has helped to facilitate this success and would the lead member say what threats there are to continuing this success from the break-up of Tower Hamlets education community through the government's iniquitous policy of encouraging schools to become academies and the growth of so-called free schools?

### **8.5 Question from Councillor John Pierce**

What is the aim of Cllr Khan's new review of Beever & Struthers recommendations for THH leaseholder charges?

### **8.6 Question from Councillor Gloria Thienel**

Why has the Mayor allowed Millwall Park to be used as a venue for the London Oktoberfest for four days, including Sunday as a "family day"?

### **8.7 Question from Councillor M. A. Mukit, MBE**

Why did the Mayor use East End Life to take credit for the recent Redchurch Street clean up when it was Labour councillors who were there helping the local community?

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

Can the Lead Member tell us what was done by the administration to galvanise the community against the EDL?

### **8.9 Question from Councillor Helal Uddin**

Why was it that the Mayor lost control of the Watts Grove project resulting in the cancellation of 149 new council homes?

### **8.10 Question from Councillor David Snowdon**

Will the Cabinet member for Jobs and Skills please outline what the borough is doing to promote English language learning for those for whom it is not their mother tongue?

### **8.11 Question from Councillor Ann Jackson**

Why did the Mayor use his executive powers recently to remove Labour councillors from the boards of 37 different local community groups in some cases leaving unfilled vacancies?

### **8.12 Question from Councillor Harun Miah**

In the wake of the debacle over the closure by the government of Lewisham Hospital A&E to pay for the bankruptcy of a neighbouring trust, now fortunately overturned by judicial review, could the lead member indicate what assessments have been made of the economic viability of health care in Tower Hamlets for the foreseeable future, given, in particular, the burden of costs imposed by the PFI scheme under which the new Royal London Hospital was built and the real cutbacks being suffered by the NHS despite the government's claims to have ring-fenced health spending?

### **8.13 Question from Councillor Helal Abbas**

Figures have emerged recently which show that there have been 667 reported missed rubbish collections in the last 6 months in the E3 area alone but that the Council has only issued 9 penalties against the contractor. Can the Mayor explain why?

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

Does the Mayor agree that Canary Wharf College's achievement of an "Outstanding" assessment from OFSTED 2 years after launching proves that we need more Free Schools in Tower Hamlets?

#### **8.15 Question from Councillor Rachael Saunders**

Last month the Care Quality Commission issued a worrying report on some services at Whipps Cross Hospital. What representations has the Council made to the Barts trust regarding this issue?

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

Can the Lead Member tell us what is being done to challenge Boris' Johnson's proposed Fire Station Closures in Tower Hamlets?

#### **8.17 Question from Councillor Khales Uddin Ahmed**

How much did the abandoned Brick Lane Summer Saturdays project cost the Council?

#### **8.18 Question from Councillor Peter Golds**

Will the Mayor join with me in welcoming the formation of the Friends of Island Gardens, and state his opposition to planning applications which impinge upon the park?

#### **8.19 Question from Councillor Marc Francis**

What is the current average length of time taken for an Occupational Therapy assessment for those seeking rehousing on medical grounds?

#### **8.20 Question from Councillor Gulam Robbani**

Can the Lead Member tell us how our pupils have performed in this year's GCSE and A-Levels?

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

Can the Mayor explain to me and the full Council why he has failed to attend the last two overview scrutiny committee meetings?

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

To ask the Mayor how much has been spent to date on posters in Tower Hamlets advertising street cleaning services?

### **8.23 Question from Councillor Anwar Khan**

How many new jobs has the Mayor created since the beginning of the year, that has gone to residents of Tower Hamlets and what age group were they in?

### **8.24 Question from Councillor Maium Miah**

Can the Lead Member tell us what is being done to reassure residents after the tragic murder of Ajmol Alom on Spey Street last month?

### **8.25 Question from Councillor Bill Turner**

Following the motion passed by the Council in January what steps has the Mayor taken to ensure that the Council does not support or contract with companies which engaged in the practice of blacklisting workers until they have issued formal apologies and compensation to those affected?

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

What is the Council doing to protect wildlife in Tower Hamlets, particularly around Shadwell Basin?

### **8.27 Question from Councillor Joshua Peck**

Whether he intends to complete Decent Homes works on the Malmesbury and Alfred Estates by May 2014?

### **8.28 Question from Councillor Lutfa Begum**

Can the Lead Member tell us what is being done to hold the council's waste management contractor to account for instances of missed rubbish collections?