

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY 27<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2013**

**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 at the Council Meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2013.
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**

Eleven questions have been submitted as set out below:-

### **6.1 Question from Mr Mahbub Alam**

In this time of austerity and cuts, what are you doing to engage local people in democracy?

### **6.2 Question from Mr Chris Chapman**

Will the Mayor state which organisations have been permitted to hire Millwall Park during 2013 and 2014, what is the financial reward to the council from such hirings and how much of this is reinvested on the Isle of Dogs?

### **6.3 Question from Mr Terry McGreenera**

Why does the Tower Hamlets Council put restrictions on members of the public on exercising their democratic rights at meetings of the council?

### **6.4 Question from Mr Paul Dietman**

Why has the council stopped accepting cash for parking permits?

### **6.5 Question from Mr Daryl Stafford**

Will the Mayor explain why he regards the White Swan as a sex establishment and if not what he will be doing to exclude the White Swan from his proposed policy on sex establishments?

### **6.6 Question from Mr Desmond Ellerbeck**

Will the Mayor outline his proposals for curbing the antisocial behaviour prevalent in the public gallery during council meetings? So far I have witnessed personal insults, racial, misogynistic and homophobic chanting and heckling, often in more than one language, and always in full view of LBTH staff. Please explain how a 71 year old disabled Alzheimer's sufferer who takes out a camera is pounced upon by numerous security staff and the meeting is adjourned, yet no action is taken to curb the monthly occurrences of verbal abuse and intended intimidating actions listed above?

### **6.7 Question from Mr Neil King**

Will the Mayor publicly state his revised policy on use of Taxis by members of his administration?

### **6.8 Question from Mr Carlton Boulter**

In August we were proud to host the East End Coronation Anniversary Gala in Bow. This community-led event which unified and showcased all diverse sections of our borough coincided with the handing back to the community of our centre - the Francis Lee Community Centre. The Centre was re-opened on the day by Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Gloucester. However, with regret, Old Ford Housing Association are now refusing to allow residents to fully manage our centres, merely offering us management in the evenings. This is not acceptable to our local community. What can you do to help us put localism into action and empower our vibrant community?

### **6.9 Question from Ms Carlie Barnes**

An invitation has been received from the Governor of Jenin to enter into formal twinning with Tower Hamlets. What is the Mayor's position on this?

### **6.10 Question from Mr Guy Shennan**

You will be aware of the extensive links between schools and community groups within Tower Hamlets and Palestine. Are you keen to further develop these links?

### **6.11 Question from Mr Seb Lynch**

With regards to the gay friendly venue the Joiners Arms on Hackney Road, why are the Council considering reducing the licensing hours of one of the very few gay pubs left in the borough?