

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 27th NOVEMBER 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 Mayor or relevant Committee/Sub-Committee Chair at the Council meeting on Wednesday 27th November 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

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

8.1 Question from Councillor Rachael Saunders

Is the Mayor prepared to be honest about how his re-election campaign is being funded?

8.2 Question from Councillor Tim Archer

Will the Mayor please outline how his "Community Champions" were selected, and what steps were taken to ensure they were representative of the entire Tower Hamlets community?

8.3 Question from Councillor Carlo Gibbs

Why has the Mayor suspended the community chest and transferred the funds to the community events fund?

8.4 Question from Councillor Fozol Miah

Would the lead member agree with me that the system of corporate governance and accountability of free schools to parents and community has been found to be seriously flawed in the light of a number of scandals besetting free schools across the country and would the lead member confirm that the council is doing everything necessary to ensure that any free schools set up in Tower Hamlets have a system of corporate governance and parental and community accountability far above the minimum standards currently set by the government?

8.5 Question from Councillor Shiria Khatun

Why has enough not been done to reduce ASB on the brownfield estate in my ward?

8.6 Question from Councillor David Snowdon

A number of new parking spaces have recently been marked out on Westferry Road opposite the Clifton Restaurant and Supermarket. Cllr Davis and I have had a large number of complaints that cars parking in these spaces have led to reduced visibility for cars turning off and onto Westferry Road.

Will the Mayor explain as to whose instigation were these parking spaces marked out?

8.7 Question from Councillor Abdal Ullah

What has the Mayor done about the decimation of Safer Neighbourhood police teams?

8.8 Question from Councillor Kabir Ahmed

In the light of the rising number of deaths and injuries to cyclists both in Tower Hamlets and across London, can the Lead Member tell us what can be done to improve cycle safety?

8.9 Question from Councillor John Pierce

What has the Mayor of Tower Hamlets done to improve cycle safety in the borough?

8.10 Question from Councillor Peter Golds

The 4th November Edition of East End Life contained on pages 16 and 17 what can only be described as a Council-paid advert for the administration.

Will the Mayor give an undertaking to pay to Tower Hamlets the commercial rate for this double page spread, not least as the Local Audit and Accountability Bill, which received an unopposed second reading in the House of Commons, will soon receive Royal Assent and the Secretary of State will be legally empowered to direct the closure of East End Life?

8.11 Question from Councillor Denise Jones

Does the Mayor agree that fraud has no place in our politics?

8.12 Question from Councillor Harun Miah

Would the lead member join with me in deploring the tragic deaths of cyclists in Tower Hamlets in recent weeks and in extending our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and friends and would the lead member agree that much more needs to be done both to ensure that there are safe cycle lanes preferably not shared with motorized traffic and that more is done to educate cyclists on safe cycling practice?

8.13 Question from Councillor Ann Jackson

Can the Mayor enlighten us on the allocation of social housing in the Olympic park on a per borough basis and the rationale used for allocation?

8.14 Question from Councillor Dr Emma Jones

Will the Mayor tell me how much was spent on this year's Borough Fireworks display, and why once more no outside sponsorship was sought?

8.15 Question from Councillor Joshua Peck

What assessment has the Mayor made of the supply of large family homes (over three bed) in the open market in the borough and what does he plan to do to ease the shortage to allow growing families to stay in the borough?

8.16 Question from Councillor Aminur Khan

I read an article in the local paper that says there has been a 9% per cent increase in crime since 2010. Could the lead member confirm if these figures are accurate and also what the source of these figures is?

8.17 Question from Councillor Anwar Khan

What is the current vacancy rate in each of the borough's town centres?

8.18 Question from Councillor Zara Davis

What steps is the Mayor taking to ensure that Isle of Dogs residents do not suffer increased aircraft noise pollution as a result of the works proposed in the two major London City Airport planning applications recently submitted?

8.19 Question from Councillor M. A. Mukit, MBE

How many incidents of anti-social behaviour in Weavers over last year?

8.20 Question from Councillor Gulam Robbani

Can the lead member tell us what was the purpose of the raid on Whitechapel market some weeks ago and whether it was carried out by the UK Border Patrol or Trading Standards?

8.21 Question from Councillor Marc Francis

Can the Deputy Mayor and Lead Member for Community Safety services tell us what action is being taken to improve the safety of residents in Fish Island using the Hackney Cut and Hertford Union canal towpath?

8.22 Question from Councillor Gloria Thienel

Will the Mayor confirm for how long Social Care visits are timed within the borough?

8.23 Question from Councillor Zenith Rahman

Why does the Mayor think almost 20,000 incidences of anti-social behaviour in one year is acceptable? If he doesn't, why hasn't he acted?

8.24 Question from Councillor Maium Miah

Can the Mayor please tell what is being done to prepare for the 100th Anniversary of the First World War that takes place next year?

8.25 Question from Councillor Craig Aston

Will the Mayor indicate what actions he has taken to ensure the safety of residents and pedestrians in the vicinity of 96 Narrow Street, following the erection of hoardings across the full width of the pavement, thereby forcing pedestrians to use the road?

8.26 Question from Councillor Lutfa Begum

Can the lead member provide a detailed list of all road resurfacing, traffic calming, road and cycle safety measures enacted in the borough over the last 18 months?