

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 26th MARCH 2014

**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 26th March 2014.
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

Fifteen public questions have been submitted as set out below:-

6.1 Question from Mr Geoff Juden:

Would full Council agree with the residents of Weavers, Spitalfields and Banglatown that the park atop the arches, within the Bishopsgate Goods Yard development, be a park which, in all circumstances, is able to provide a cleaner air environment. A Forest Garden?

6.2 Question from Ms Pawla Cottage

Does the Cabinet Member for Culture support the on-line petition, signed by 124 people, calling for the building of a Columbia Market war memorial to commemorate the air raid on Columbia Market, Columbia Rd, E2 on the first night of the Blitz, 7th September 1940, whereby a German bomb entered the ventilation shaft of the air raid shelter situated under the Great Hall of Columbia Market, which had a glass roof, causing mass devastation and the loss of 51 lives? The memorial will be dedicated to those who died as a consequence and to those who survived and still survive.

6.3 Question from Ms Shuliy Akhter:

The residents of this Borough are really concerned regarding Sex Establishment and Gambling Issues. While we understand the Council's limitation regarding Gambling because of Gambling Act but this Council could have a "NO Sex Establishment Policy" like other councils. I understand it went to Licensing Committee on 8th October 2013 but the framework was not adopted. Can the Council inform the public those councillors were in favour and against? Since the Oct 2013 how many applications this Council received and how many of these given permission? What other steps Council took to ensure this Council has No SEV policy?

6.4 Question from Mr Mahbub Alam:

The existing Town Hall at Mulberry Place has cost residents over £50 million in rent alone. Can the Lead Member tell us the progress that has been made with the proposed town hall move to Whitechapel and can he tell us why we need to move?

6.5 Question from Mr Brian Nicholson:

What is the update on Watts Grove?

6.6 Question from Mr Stephen Beckett:

Does the Lead Member agree with me that Tower Hamlets is one of the most diverse and cohesive communities in the UK?

6.7 Question from Mr Gary Reddin:

Will the Lead Member for Resources tell me how much money, resources and officer time has been spent on various investigations instigated by full Council motions?

6.8 Question from Mr Suluk Ahmed:

Does the Lead Member agree with me that Tower Hamlets is rich in its diversity and culture due to the contributions of all communities that have settled here?

6.9 Question from Ms Sabia Kamali:

Can the Lead Member outline the role and purpose of the Local Ward Forums?

6.10 Question from Ms Fatima Khatun:

I was deeply concerned to see the rise of media attacks on our community recently, targeting the Council and certain sections of our diverse community. What is the Council doing to address these attacks and protect the reputation of the borough and its people?

6.11 Question from Ms Jusna Begum:

As local women we are deeply concerned at the proposals of Tower Hamlets Labour Party to axe funding for the women into health jobs project. We call on Labour Councillors to urgently overturn such plans. We value the importance of such a unique project which will help women in the borough to access flexible employment and training opportunities, especially for those affected by welfare reform and benefit changes. With Government cuts affecting women the hardest, we ask that Mayor Lutfur Rahman ensures that funding for the women into health jobs project in the borough is retained?

6.12 Question from Mr Mohammed Mufti Miah:

Can the Lead Member confirm the purpose of Council assets and how often they are audited?

6.13 Question from Mr Mickey Ambrose:

The Mayor's record of investing, £17 million to provide free home care to vulnerable residents, £380m in education making Tower Hamlets schools standing in the top ten in the country, building the most affordable homes in the UK should be commended. I also note his investments in high street market to support small high street businesses through these tough times including our markets. Will he commit to continuing to support these initiatives to support local residents like those in Bow?

6.14 Question from Mr Abjol Miah:

Does the Lead Member agree with me that all Members within the Council have a right to be heard?

6.15 Question from Ms Kathy McTasney:

Will the Mayor consider extending Free School Meals at our Primary Schools all year round and not just before an election like the Labour Party?