

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 26th MARCH 2014

**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 Speaker, the Mayor or the relevant Committee/Sub-Committee Chair at the Council meeting on Wednesday 26th March 2014.
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

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

8.1 Question from Councillor Abdal Ullah

Will the Lead Member for Jobs and Skills apologise for the fact that under Lutfur Rahman's administration the number of 18-24 year olds claiming JSA for over a year has increased by over 110%?

8.2 Question from Councillor Zara Davis

What is the Council doing to accelerate the reopening of the Thames Path, next to Sir John McDougal Gardens?

8.3 Question from Councillor Judith Gardiner to the Speaker of the Council

Can the Speaker inform the Council exactly how many public and councillor questions have been asked at Council meetings since October 2010 as well as how many of these questions have been answered by the Mayor personally?

8.4 Question from Councillor Kabir Ahmed

Congratulations on Tower Hamlets being awarded an "excellent" rating for equalities. Can you tell us how this was achieved and how it reflects on the opposition claims that the Mayor is only for one community and Robin Wales' scurrilous and divisive accusation that there is a form of apartheid in Tower Hamlets?

8.5 Question from Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman to the Chair of the Development Committee

How many social homes have been secured each year of this Council term through the planning permission process by the Labour controlled Development and SDC committees?

8.6 Question from Councillor Peter Golds

On 12th March, the Evening Standard reported that 55 towers of 20 storeys or above are in the pipeline for Tower Hamlets, almost a quarter of the London total. Will the portfolio holder for regeneration outline what steps he is taking to prevent overdevelopment on the Isle of Dogs?

8.7 Question from Councillor Denise Jones

What impact does the Lead Member for Regeneration believe the 2012 Olympic Games have had on the borough?

8.8 Question from Councillor Gulam Robbani

Can the Lead Member give some examples of the events delivered through the Mayor's Community Events Grant that was so strongly opposed by the Labour Party in last year's budget?

8.9 Question from Councillor Ann Jackson to the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Given that the Mayor has chosen not to delegate any of his powers, can the Chair of the O&S Committee tell us how many meetings his Committee has held during this Council term and how many of those the Mayor has attended to account for his administration's decisions?

8.10 Question from Councillor Gloria Thienel

Residents and visitors to Island Gardens are being directed to the London Borough of Greenwich for public lavatories. Will the Mayor or portfolio holder for regeneration explain why this is happening when perfectly usable lavatories transferred to East End Homes are kept locked up, despite their being no future plans for them?

8.11 Question from Councillor Rachael Saunders

Will the Lead Member for Health and Wellbeing tell us what assessment he has made of the impact of the Mayor's 5% cut to the social worker staffing budget last year?

8.12 Question from Councillor Lutfa Begum

Can the Lead Member tell us what is being done to get more people, especially women, into work?

8.13 Question from Councillor John Pierce

What has the Mayor done in the last four years to reduce street urination in the Brick Lane area and the Shoreditch fringe?

8.14 Question from Councillor Tim Archer

Before Christmas, a quote released in the name of Mayor in relation to Anjem Choudary had to be withdrawn after being released without authorisation.

In relation to Cllr Alibor Choudhury's "black cardigan" comment the East London Advertiser quoted the Mayor's office on 28th February as saying "The Labour and Tory groups used their majority in the council chamber to stop the lead member for finance from speaking for part of the budget meeting. This is how the Tower Hamlets Labour-Tory coalition stifles dissent."

Does the Mayor wish to withdraw these comments too?

8.15 Question from Councillor Marc Francis

Will the Mayor be installing CCTV in Grove Hall Park to address the persistent problems with anti-social behaviour there in recent years, including vandalism of the war memorial?

8.16 Question from Councillor Maium Miah

Can the Lead Member tell us what is being done to support residents with the cost of living?

8.17 Question from Councillor M. A. Mukit M.B.E.

Too many families and businesses emerge every weekend to find their streets used as a rubbish dump by the revellers the night before. Whilst we should encourage a vibrant night-time economy, this cannot come at the expense of those who work and live there. Can the Mayor tell us why his complacency has meant little has been done to tackle the problems caused by the night time economy?

8.18 Question from Councillor David Snowdon

Will the Mayor please outline why his Cabinet opposed Conservative budget plans to prioritise repairing potholes, dealing with dog's mess and keeping our parks clear of commercial and private events?

8.19 Question from Councillor Helal Abbas

Does the Lead Member for Environment think it is acceptable that 24,000 bins have been reported uncollected since the Mayor came to power?

8.20 Question from Councillor Aminur Khan

Can the Deputy Mayor tell us how many Members' Enquiries the Mayor and his administration have raised since 2010 and how this compares to neighbouring Mayors and GLA member John Biggs?

8.21 Question from Councillor Shiria Khatun

What response has the Mayor given to Boris Johnson's recent statement that children being radicalised at home should be taken in to care?

8.22 Question from Councillor Dr Emma Jones

What has the Mayor done to improve road safety on zebra crossings?

8.23 Question from Councillor Craig Aston

In the opinion of the Cabinet Member for Jobs and Skills, what is the acceptable waiting time for ESOL classes?