

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 30TH JULY 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 30th July 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

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

8.1 Question from Councillor John Pierce

Why has the Mayor of Tower Hamlets not continued funding for the ASB dog patrols in Weavers Ward after the successful pilot which led to a reduction of unwelcome guests in blocks heavily affected by anti-social behaviour?

8.2 Question from Councillor Mufti Miah

Tower Hamlets has been named by the department for education among the top 10 boroughs in the country for the proportion of students who go to university. Will the Mayor join me in congratulating our young people for their remarkable achievement?

8.3 Question from Councillor Chris Chapman

Will the Mayor inform the council as to when he last met officials of One Housing?

8.4 Question from Councillor Helal Uddin

I assume the administration is aware of the recent congregation of youths around the Devons Road area. Can the Lead Member brief us on what action is being taken by the council to prevent further incidents?

8.5 Question from Councillor Mahbub Alam

Can the Lead Member provide an update on progress with protecting our GP surgeries that are under threat from the Tory government's cuts?

8.6 Question from Councillor Andrew Wood

Will the Mayor update the council as to what steps will be taken to implement the Openness of Local Bodies Regulations 2014 when they come into law, and will he follow local best practice on press access in copying Hackney, Newham, Lewisham & Greenwich Boroughs in providing a permanent table for the press?

8.7 Question from Councillor Denise Jones

Does the Mayor intend to press ahead with the sale of Old Flo despite LB Bromley's contest of ownership and if so when does he expect this to go ahead?

8.8 Question from Councillor Maium Miah

Will the Speaker of the Council outline his principal engagements for the coming month?

8.9 Question from Councillor Julia Dockerill

On 13 June a young gay couple were subject to a violent attack on Whitechapel Road, only moments away from Altab Ali Park, a public space which symbolises this borough's unity and determination to stamp out any intolerance and violence shown towards our neighbours. I welcome the Mayor of Tower Hamlets' wholehearted condemnation of this homophobic attack and statement that 'we take a zero-tolerance approach to homophobia'. Can he please reiterate these sentiments in this Chamber; update us on the work of the Hate Incidents Panel following the referral of this case to them; and advise us on the work he is doing to promote tolerance towards people of every sexuality within our community?

8.10 Question from Councillor Rachel Blake

Following the motion passed by the Council in April last year, will the Mayor update us on what progress he has made to formally investigate the conditions attached to the sale agreement of the old bath houses by Tower Hamlets Council and to recognise the Women's Library as a community asset for women's and community use?

8.11 Question from Councillor Abjol Miah

Will the Cabinet Member for Development outline the timetable and progress with the Whitechapel Vision?

8.12 Question from Councillor Peter Golds

Will the Mayor give details as to the disposal of the land, 111-113 Mellish Street, E14?

8.13 Question from Councillor Amina Ali

The council will be aware that the drug Khat has recently been made illegal. What has the Mayor done to link up with health professionals and police to support people coming off Khat?

8.14 Question from Councillor Ansar Mustaqim

Will the Mayor continue to support families through the Temporary Accommodation Fund even though the current government is cutting benefits for the most vulnerable in our society?

8.15 Question from Councillor Craig Aston

Will the Mayor give details as to the disposal of the Limehouse Library site at 638 Commercial Road?

8.16 Question from Councillor Marc Francis

How many pensioners and disabled residents have had their homes redecorated under the council's Tenant Decoration Scheme in a) 2013/14 and b) 2014/15?

8.17 Question from Councillor Shah Alam

What is the council's plan for centenary commemoration of WW1 in the borough?

8.18 Question from Councillor Joshua Peck

What is the vacancy rate in each of the borough's district and local town centres and how does the lead member intend to reduce these?

8.19 Question from Councillor Harun Miah

A few weeks ago the Mayor attended the People's Assembly March against Austerity to protest at this Tory-led government's attack on the poor and the most vulnerable in our community. What are being done to protect our residents from the brunt of these vicious cuts?

8.20 Question from Councillor Amy Whitelock-Gibbs

What assessment has the Lead Member made of road safety in the borough and how regularly is this reviewed for each ward? Is the Lead Member satisfied that current measures – such as speed limits, traffic calming and enforcement of speeding – are sufficient to protect residents, cyclists and drivers from accidents?

8.21 Question from Councillor Gulam Kibria Choudhury

The Tour de France cycling ride through our borough was an amazing spectacle that brought back memories of the London Olympics. How is the Mayor supporting cyclists and budding athletes in the borough?

8.22 Question from Councillor Danny Hassell

What is the current wait for an Occupational Therapy assessment ahead of Decent Homes work?

8.23 Question from Councillor Suluk Ahmed

Tower Hamlets has become one of the first councils in London to be an accredited London Living Wage employer, how will this benefit our residents and staff?

8.24 Question from Councillor Asma Begum

Is the Lead Member for Housing happy with the current performance of Registered Housing Providers in the borough?