

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 26TH NOVEMBER 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 November 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

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

6.1 Question from Mr Terry McGreenera:

Does the Council's Constitution or the legislative introducing the Executive Mayoral system permit an alternative way to elect a Chair of the Council, a Councillor, other than by Councillors?

6.2 Question from Mr. Stuart Madewell:

Has the Mayor estimated what the likely cost to Council Tax Payers in Tower Hamlets will be for the three Commissioners imposed by the DCLG and supported by the Labour Party?

6.3 Question from Mr. Stephen Beckett:

Why did Communities Secretary, Eric Pickles, send auditors to the Council?

6.4 Question from Mr. Mickey Ambrose:

What did the Police say about the allegations of fraud and corruption that PWC came in to find at the Council?

6.5 Question from Mr. John Allison:

Residents are rightly concerned how the recent PwC report and Eric Pickles' comments have portrayed the borough. Can the Cabinet Member assure us that Council services aren't being affected by this?

6.6 Question from Mr. Mohsin Uddin:

There are reports that Eric Pickles has sent a "hit squad" to Tower Hamlets Council and has taken over the running of the Council. Can the Lead Member confirm is this is true?

6.7 Question from Ms. Kathy McTasney:

Which Organisations received MSG funding from the Council? Was it just Bengali and Somali groups?

6.8 Question from Mr. Gilbert Lindsell:

How much has it cost for the PwC report and where is the funds coming from?

6.9 Question from Mr. Khalik Miah:

Why has the One Stop Community Centre been given a notice to quit?

6.10 Question from Mr. Will Nutland

Could the Mayor tell us why the Council is still spending public money on external lawyers to take Rich Mix, a successful and well loved charity, through proceedings in the High Court when Rich Mix have made a public offer to settle the case with the Council which would ensure that the Council receives the entire £850k it is claiming was paid to Rich Mix, even in the absence of any loan agreement being put in place at the time any money was advanced or any executed agreement being provided to the High Court?