

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY 21<sup>st</sup> JANUARY 2015**

**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 21<sup>st</sup> January 2015.
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**

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

### **6.1 Question from Ms Margaret Bradley:**

Why are the leaseholder services provided by Tower Hamlets Homes so dreadful?

### **6.2 Question from Mr P.B. Prasad:**

We believe that the East End Homes (EEH) have not met their responsibilities under the terms and spirit of the transfer of stock agreement as outlined in the 34 clauses of the main documents which they signed back in 2006. They seem to have flouted the promise to make improvements to the Holland Estate. Despite this blatant disregard, the company – EEH – wishes to now demolish our homes to make a profit which we fully oppose and will fight against. We know that the Mayor Rahman and Tower Hamlets First is a listening administration and have a strong track record on housing related matters nationally. With this in mind, could the Executive Member shed some light on the conduct of EEH and their plans and whether the Council think that it is the right approach by East End Homes to deal with our housing stock and the local residents in such an irresponsible way?

### **6.3 Question from Ms Ghulshana Begum:**

In November 2014, women in Tower Hamlets and up and down the country, proudly celebrated White Ribbon Day to eliminate violence against women and to hope for a world where women and girls can live free from the fear of violence. Could the Executive Member please provide an update about what Tower Hamlets Council is doing to promote this important initiative in the Borough?

### **6.4 Question from Mr Mark Taylor:**

Forced evictions when reporting or asking for repairs, unacceptable standards and rogue landlords continue to pose serious problems for tenants and renters and are negatively affecting many lives. The Coalition Government's welfare reform has exacerbated the situation. A great majority has experienced problems in their homes of damp, mould, leaking roofs or windows, electrical hazards, animal infestations and gas leaks. In its current state, the private rental market does not function to ensure that homes are let in a decent condition.

Could the Executive Members provide an update in relation to Tower Hamlets and the Council's Licensing Scheme to ensure such issues are being looked at and addressed in Tower Hamlets on a priority basis?

**6.5 Question from Mr Azizur Rahaman:**

How are the Government cuts affecting the people and Tower Hamlets Council?  
Could you give a full breakdown of cuts since 2010 by the Government and other funding bodies for the Council?

**6.6 Question from Ms Eileen Short:**

On January 31<sup>st</sup> tenant organisations, trade unions and housing campaigners from all over London will come together on the March for Homes. As the general election approaches, we want to make sure politicians don't forget the millions of people - many of them in Tower Hamlets - who are in housing need. Everyone deserves a decent home. We demand investment in council housing, rent control and security of tenure. Can the Lead Member for Housing please state if the Council will support the March for Homes and welcome it to the borough if it passes through Tower Hamlets?

**6.7 Question from Mr Lukman Miah:**

Could you tell us what powers actually the so-called Pickles' Commissioners have and how does it affect service delivery by the Council. Can they stop the Mayor or Executive Members from their duty of serving the residents?

**6.8 Question from Mr Khairul Alam:**

Considering the fact that St Dunstan's has the most new houses built, what is the Council doing to fulfil the promise made in the increased parking manifesto?

**6.9 Question from Ms Momina Begum:**

As a result of budgetary pressure and Government cuts, the Council was considering closing some nurseries in the Borough. Some residents, especially mothers of those affected, were not happy with that option and rightly so.

Have you taken the time to listen to these concerns of the effected residents or not?  
And could you provide an update please?