

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY 15<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2015**

**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 15<sup>th</sup> April 2015
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**

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

### **8.1 Question from Councillor Sirajul Islam:**

Does the Mayor support Rushanara Ali and Jim Fitzpatrick's campaign to secure a new deal for leaseholders – including calling for an extension to the current repayment period for major works from 12 months to 10 years and providing much greater transparency on all charges and proposed major works?

### **8.2 Question from Councillor Mohammed Mufti Miah:**

Does the Cabinet Member for Resources accept a local Labour politician's comments in the Court that Tower Hamlets Council is a 'generally well-run council' and has 'some good policies'?

### **8.3 Question from Councillor Craig Aston:**

Would the Mayor confirm that his executive decision of March 6th, which was completely restricted, was to continue to contest the case with the London Borough of Bromley over ownership of 'Old Flo', that the hearing is taking place today (April 15th), and if so what the total costs of this case will be to the borough?

### **8.4 Question from Councillor Asma Begum:**

TfL is carrying out works along Whitechapel, Mile End and Bow Roads to implement the CS2 Cycle Superhighway upgrade. These works have put the safety of pedestrians at risk. What is the Council doing to resolve this and will Council officers meet with TfL urgently to address the risks to pedestrians?

### **8.5 Question from Councillor Gulam Kibria Choudhury:**

Could the Lead Member for Housing inform us as to when did the Mayor request you to investigate longer repayments for leaseholders in relation to Major Works Charges?

### **8.6 Question from Councillor Julia Dockerill:**

Is the Mayor aware that a significant number of major developments are either underway or at planning stage on both sides of the Highway, including the London Dock, the Topps Tiles and Alan Day sites, Tobacco Dock Hotel and the Thames Tideway Tunnel. Is the Mayor also aware that at peak construction, the Thames

Tideway tunnel alone will lead to an extra 82 HGV movements per day. What work has the authority carried out with TfL to assess the cumulative impact of major construction works over the next five years on the Highway in terms of traffic volume and access to Wapping, and is a clear timeline of those works available?

**8.7 Question from Councillor Amina Ali:**

At a meeting of the Audit Committee on the 17<sup>th</sup> of March, members heard that the review of the council's contract with Veolia found there were no key performance indicators included. Does the Mayor accept that the lack of performance indicators has contributed to failings in local waste management provision?

**8.8 Question from Councillor Mohammed Ansar Mustaqim:**

Can the Deputy Mayor update us on the work of the appointments Committee in complying with the Secretary of State's direction on appointing the 3 statutory officers of the Council?

**8.9 Question from Councillor Andrew Wood:**

Last year government launched a fair funding consultation for schools; the result is that Tower Hamlets gets more money per pupil in the next financial year than any other borough in the country at £7,007 per pupil, which is 5% or £334 more than the next highest borough Hackney. How is the Mayor intending to use the highest funding per pupil in the country?

**8.10 Question from Councillor Joshua Peck:**

How much income was made from the use of Victoria Park for commercial events in 2014?

**8.11 Question from Councillor Abjol Miah:**

Since Labour's shameless proposals to cut funding to our valuable smoking cessation service, what actions has the Lead Member taken to promote and encourage residents to quit smoking?

**8.12 Question from Councillor Chris Chapman:**

Would the Mayor inform the council how many residents used FiFiLi in the last six months, and how that compares to expectations when it was set up?

**8.13 Question from Councillor Clare Harrison:**

Does the Mayor support the Labour Group's campaign to ensure proper, local provision of waste management services and does he agree with the Labour Group that all options should be considered, including the possibility of bringing some parts of the waste management contract in-house?

**8.14 Question from Councillor Mahbub Alam:**

Will the Lead Member for Resources note that after the criticism made about organisations receiving grants that allegedly did not meet council criteria, only three of these thirty organisations, have now judged to be underachieving, and the Commissioners have agreed to continue funding twenty-three of them?

**8.15 Question from Councillor Peter Golds:**

Will the Mayor comment on the purpose of 4 Tower Hamlets First councillors visit to Greece, and further inform us as to why the Greek government is taking lessons in economic illiteracy from members of the Mayors economically and morally bankrupt administration?

**8.16 Question from Councillor Danny Hassell:**

Can you confirm how many young people including those over 18 the council believe are in Syria from Tower Hamlets – what steps are being taken to prevent young people from travelling to Syria?

**8.17 Question from Councillor Shah Alam:**

Can the Cabinet Member for Resources update us about council services provision for residents on Fish Island area of the borough?

**8.18 Question from Councillor Amy Whitelock Gibbs:**

What are the levels of council tax arrears experienced by families in Tower Hamlets and what measures has the lead member put in place to safeguard children from damaging debt collection practices?

**8.19 Question from Councillor Suluk Ahmed:**

Will the Lead Member concerned commend the Council for upholding the Joiners' Arms Asset of Community Value status in spite of reported pressure from external bodies, and reaffirm this administration's commitment to preserving the heritage of all communities in our borough?

**8.20 Question from Councillor John Pierce:**

What investigations have the Council carried out on the impact of providing another 1,000 parking spaces on its pledge to make Tower Hamlets London's most cycle friendly borough?

**8.21 Question from Councillor Mohammed Maium Miah:**

Could the Lead Member for Housing inform us if there is a relationship between the major repair works and other issues being faced by Leaseholders and Housing Stock Transfer decision taken by a previous Council administration in the Borough?

**8.22 Question from Councillor Helal Uddin:**

Does council have any predictions of how many families will be affected once Universal Credit is operating in the borough?

**8.23 Question from Councillor Marc Francis:**

Will the Lead Member for Housing & Development set out the action she has taken since the Full Council meeting in September 2014 agreed that it did not support Gateway Housing's proposed redevelopment of Vic Johnson House and what the outcome has been?

**8.24 Question from Councillor Rachel Blake:**

What has the Mayor done to secure a supermarket on Roman Road at the former Safeways/Morrisons site?

**8.25 Question from Councillor Rachael Saunders:**

What more can the Mayor do to stop constant fly tipping on glass, bricks and other building materials at the corner of Ropery Street, very near a local school?