

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 16th SEPTEMBER 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 16th September 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

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

8.1 Question from Councillor Sabina Akhtar

Can the Mayor provide an update on his work surrounding the opening of the Jack the Ripper 'Museum' – and in particular outline any efforts to address the deplorable way planning permission was sought?

8.2 Question from Councillor Gulam Kibria Choudhury to the Mayor:

Does the Council have any standard policy to protect tenants from unjust evictions by private landlords?

8.3 Question from Councillor Amina Ali to the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

Can the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee update the Council on the committee's Transparency Commission and how it is ensuring that it engages with all councillors, across all parties?

8.4 Question from Councillor Chris Chapman:

Will the Mayor inform the council as to the progress of his pledge to abolish East End Life, which continues to be published weekly?

8.5 Question from Councillor Danny Hassell:

What is the Council doing to improve the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people in our borough?

8.6 Question from Councillor Oliur Rahman to the Mayor:

Can the Mayor give details of how often all Council managed parks are inspected and when was the last time inspections took place?

8.7 Question from Councillor Marc Francis:

Will the Lead Member for Environmental Services set out the current estimate of food waste recycling in Tower Hamlets and proportion of properties in the borough currently benefitting from this service?

8.8 Question from Councillor Andrew Wood:

Will the Mayor inform the council as to the current status of the South Quay Masterplan? Since it was launched in 2013 it has been repeatedly delayed, the last delay being welcome as the publicly published Masterplan was inadequate given the scale of challenges in the area. Residents are expecting an update on its status, proposed changes and when it might be published?

8.9 Question from Councillor Candida Ronald:

What will the Mayor do to ensure a fair and transparent grants process which ensures that residents have confidence in the fairness of decisions taken by this council?

8.10 Question from Councillor Shahed Ali to the Mayor:

What is the total area – in sq metres - given to the Conservative Group Office and Independent Group Office under the Mayor John Biggs new renovation plan for the first floor? Has the space allocation based upon proportionality of members i.e. 15 Independent Group members compared to 5 Conservative Group members as is with committee positions, or has the allocation been based upon 'returning the favour' to the Conservative party for 'borrowed votes' in the 2015 mayoral election as stated by the Conservative Group leader, Cllr. Peter Golds?

8.11 Question from Councillor Andrew Cregan:

Following the publication of a Money Advice Trust report on the issue last month, can the Mayor share with the Council what measures he will take to address a legacy of this local authority whereby we are ranked among the top 10 worst in the country for resorting to bailiffs for the recovery of resident debts?

8.12 Question from Julia Dockerill:

To ask the Mayor whether he will be making a decision shortly on the long-term future of St George's Swimming Pools, to enable the council to move forward as soon as possible with a comprehensive leisure strategy for the West of the borough?

8.13 Question from Councillor Councillor Shah Alam to the Mayor:

There seems to be a general increase in anti-social behaviour, drug dealing, cannabis being smoked and youth hanging around in private sector properties and their adjoining areas in the Borough – what action can you take to address and minimise such issues that have a clear impact on the residents, community spirit, local atmosphere and the general environment of our streets in the Borough?

8.14 Question from Councillor Peter Golds:

Will the Mayor update residents on the current status of Project Stone (the re-development of the four One Housing Group estates on the Isle of Dogs) and what discussions have taken place with One Housing Group so far, and confirm when the council first become aware of Project Stone?

8.15 Question from Councillor Mahbub Alam to the Cabinet Member for Environment:

Can the Cabinet Member for Environment, Waste Management, Transport, Parking Services, Road Safety and Highways illustrate his priorities for the forthcoming year?

8.16 Question from Councillor Craig Aston:

Parts of the Borough especially Limehouse, Wapping and the Isle of Dogs suffer from frequent road and bus interruptions especially from the regular sports events that pass through the area. Such sports events are welcome but in geographically constrained locations they cause a great deal of disruption and annoyance to residents. Will the Mayor work with other Boroughs across East London to vary the routes where possible, possibly on a rota basis to ensure that the effects of such disruption is more widely spread without losing the ability to host such events in London?