

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS
COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY 18th NOVEMBER 2015
QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC
REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF LAW, PROBITY AND GOVERNANCE

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 18th November 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

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

6.1 Question from Ms Lillian Collins:

Can the Mayor update me on the progress regarding Poplar Baths, including when the work will be completed, and when we can expect it to be open for local residents?

6.2 Question from Mr Ahmed Hussain:

I have been previously informed by Councillor Blake that procedures surrounding Compulsory Purchase Orders are of equal status for both social landlords and freeholders. Given this, would the Council support the freeholders of Alpha Grove, E14, to purchase amenity space and garages within the freeholding area, and if so what assistance could the Council offer?

Freeholders could re-develop the freeholding area and provide the Council with at least 33.33% social housing (town houses with a garden).

6.3 Question from Mr Jamir Chowdhury:

Can the Mayor please explain what he is doing to get more women into employment, particularly from the BME community?

6.4 Question from Mr Frederick Michael James:

Can the Mayor give an update on the current programme for Landlord Licensing Scheme?

6.5 Question from Mr Owen Corrigan:

Recent figures released by the London Metropolitan Police show an increase in reported hate crimes across London. Measures for Homophobic, Islamophobic and Anti-semitic hate crimes all increased city-wide. Homophobic crimes were up by 27%, Islamophobic crimes were up by 64%, and Anti-semitic crimes were up by 62%. We can all be pleased to note that in the borough of Tower Hamlets Islamophobic hate crimes actually fell in the year to Sept 2015 - by 12%. However, reported Homophobic hate crimes increased in this period by 15% ; Anti-semitic hate crimes increased by fully 100% - doubling in the previous 12 months.

I ask the Cabinet Member, what measures are already in place to tackle the issue of hate crime in the borough and what is the Council's strategy to ensure that next year's figures show a decrease across all categories of hate crime in Tower Hamlets?

6.6 Question from Mr Sean Michael:

Can the Cabinet Member please inform me as to what are the rights of East Thames Housing association to evict 142 residents including key workers with a few months' notice and neither the housing association or the local council advising on any real options that don't result in their lives being shattered. Whether it's a much longer time for people to buy the rent properties via shared ownership (as is proposed by East Thames but without enough time to do it), or help to move somewhere else affordable for those who cannot afford to move?