


Non-Executive Report of the:  <b>Council</b>  5 December 2016	 <b>TOWER HAMLETS</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Corporate Director, Law, Probity and Governance	<b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted
<b>Questions submitted by Members of the Council</b>	

<b>Originating Officer(s)</b>	Matthew Mannion, Committee Services Manager, Democratic Services.
<b>Wards affected</b>	All wards

## SUMMARY

1. Set out overleaf are the questions that were submitted by Members of the Council for response by the Mayor, the Speaker or the Chair of a Committee or Sub-Committee at the Council meeting on Monday 5 December 2016.
2. In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.2 as amended, questions relating to Executive functions and decisions taken by the Mayor are put to the Mayor unless he delegates such a decision to another Member, who will therefore be responsible for answering the question. In the absence of the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor will answer questions directed to the Mayor.
3. 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. Oral responses are time limited to one minute. Supplementary questions and responses are also time limited to one minute each.
4. Council Procedure Rule 12.5 provides for an answer to take the form of a written answer circulated to the questioner, a reference to a published work or a direct oral answer.
5. There is a time limit of thirty minutes at the Council meeting for consideration of Members' questions with no extension of time allowed and any questions not put within this time are dealt with by way of written responses.
6. Members must confine their contributions to questions and answers and not make statements or attempt to debate.

## **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

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

### **8.1 Question from Councillor M. Abdul Mukit**

Can the Lead Member update Council on what progress has been made in the regeneration of Brick Lane to boost business there?

### **8.2 Question from Councillor Maium Miah**

Does the Council need to learn any lessons from the tragic death of Bow School boy Nasar Ahmed?

### **8.3 Question from Councillor Amina Ali**

Now that a number of months have passed since it was launched, can the Cabinet Member for Housing provide an update on the landlord licensing scheme and gauge how effective the scheme has been so far?

### **8.4 Question from Councillor Chris Chapman**

Will the Mayor consider the Council deducting Council Tax from the allowances of Councillors who are in arrears for non-payment, as is the practice in the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham?

### **8.5 Question from Councillor Marc Francis**

Will the Lead Member for Environmental Services update me on the action that has been taken since March by LBTH and the Environment Agency and London Legacy Development Corporation to deal with the alleged fly-tipping of industrial waste at 616 Wick Lane?

### **8.6 Question from Councillor Oliur Rahman**

Does the Mayor believe that the Council's communications team should solely serve the Mayor and his administration or do they have some responsibility towards assisting and informing other Cllrs as well?

### **8.7 Question from Conucillor Clare Harrisson**

Is the Mayor concerned about the NHS Sustainability and Transformation Plan for North East London and what steps are he and the Cabinet Member for Health taking to ensure plans are not signed off in secret?

### **8.8 Question from Councillor Andrew Wood**

Will the Mayor update the Council on the status of the Isle of Dogs & South Poplar Opportunity Area Planning Framework and in particular how the negotiation over the new housing targets is going?

### **8.9 Question from Councillor John Pierce**

What are the Council's final legal costs in the housing fraud case of former councillor Shahed Ali?

### **8.10 Question from Councillor Ohid Ahmed**

Will the current mayor be willing to review and reverse his decision to cut the budget of children's services, community safety, community languages and to drastically close a record number of youth centres?

### **8.11 Question from Councillor Helal Uddin**

Can you provide an update on the plans to build four cement and concrete plants on Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park – and what representations the Mayor and Council have made?

### **8.12 Question from Councillor Julia Dockerill**

Does the Mayor have plans to apply for additional police funding from the Mayor of London, either under the London Crime Prevention Fund or the Safer Neighbourhood Board, in order to help our local police force drive down the appalling rates of anti-social behaviour in our borough?

### **8.13 Question from Councillor Danny Hassell**

Can the Mayor or Cabinet Member set out some of the key findings of the Somali Task Force and what the next steps are?

### **8.14 Question from Councillor Muhammad Ansar Mustaqim**

Despite repeated questions, so far, the Mayor has been unable to provide a clear answer and information about the business rate changes and its clear impact on Tower Hamlets. When will the Mayor have 'precise or further details' in relation to changes to business rates affecting the Borough and provide exact details of the amount by which the Council will be 'better or worse off' under the new business rate retention proposal announced by the Government last year in relation to 100% business rate retention and base reset?

### **8.15 Question from Councillor Rajib Ahmed**

Will the Cabinet Member outline what the Council is doing to tackle hate crime?

### **8.16 Question from Councillor Peter Golds**

Government regulations say 15% of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) should be spent in consultation with residents and that money can be spent to support the development of an area. When will the Mayor inform residents and Councillors what the process will be for making those spending decisions?

### **8.17 Question from Councillor Mahbub Alam**

At 20th July 2016 Council meeting, Independent Group members raised several important questions relating to community safety and crime. The Cabinet member for community safety, Cllr Shria Khatun, could not provide the answers at the time and wrote

that she is trying to get the answers to our members' questions - such as, question 8.18 in relation to figures for the Islamophobic racist hate crime, something she'd claimed the Police have started to record separately since November 2015, question 8.20 about crime hot spots, anti-social behaviour in the Borough and lastly question 8.22 from Cllr Ohid Ahmed, about official crime rates and their respective percentages since 2011. Has she now provided or is able to answer these important questions relating to her portfolio and if so can she please provide the requested information to all members and include the answers in the minutes for proper record keeping.

#### **8.18 Question from Councillor Craig Aston**

Will the Mayor give an update on the progress of Decent Homes work at Oast Court, Three Colt Street and Kiln Court, Newell Street?