

Non-Executive Report of the: Council 20 September 2017	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Asmat Hussain, Corporate Director, Governance	Classification: Unrestricted
Questions submitted by Members of the Council	

Originating Officer(s)	Matthew Mannion, Committee Services Manager, Democratic Services.
Wards affected	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 Wednesday 20 September 2017
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

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

8.1 Question from Councillor Danny Hassell

Will the Mayor join me in thanking foster carers across the borough for their tireless work and dedication with some of our most vulnerable young people?

8.2 Question from Councillor Ohid Ahmed

In response to concerns raised about the potential closure of One Stop Shops in the borough, the Mayor stated "We are consulting residents on proposals to merge our One Stop Shop and Idea Stores. This is not, obviously, a proposal to shut One Stop Shops. Indeed a new one will open, it is planned, as part of the Isle of Dogs Idea Store site." Considering this comment, will the Mayor confirm that the 4 One Stop Shops (Bow, Crisp Street, Watney Market and Bethnal Green) will continue to operate as they are with stand-alone One Stop service for residents, and not close down?

8.3 Question from Councillor Rachael Saunders

How many care leavers living in and outside of Tower Hamlets will benefit from the Mayor's new policy to exempt care leavers from paying council tax?

8.4 Question from Councillor Andrew Wood

Did both foster parents of the little girl fostered in the news recently match the child's "religious persuasion, racial origin and cultural and linguistic background." Simple yes or no answers for each category and foster family would be sufficient given the reporting restrictions

8.5 Question from Councillor Shiria Khatun

Can the lead member update councillors on the latest exam results?

8.6 Question from Councillor Rabina Khan

Will the Mayor commit to Rent Controls in the Private Rented Sector throughout the borough?

8.7 Question from Councillor John Pierce

What assessment has been made of the cladding of the PFI block behind Poplar Baths?

8.8 Question from Councillor Oliur Rahman

Will the Mayor provide the latest update about the foster child, looked after by Tower Hamlets Council, about whom a front-page news story was recently published by a national newspaper, The Times, as well as other prominent media outlets?

8.9 Question from Councillor Ayas Miah

How many families are housed by the Council in B&B accommodation for longer than the legal 6 week limit?

8.10 Question from Councillor Chris Chapman

Did the little girl in contact centre reports provide a clear indication of her wishes as regards her fostering arrangements and did the Council give "due consideration.....to such wishes and feelings of the child as they have been able to ascertain

8.11 Question from Councillor Dave Chesterton

Can the cabinet member tell me what impact the Private Renters' Charter will make to residents in private rented accommodation?

8.12 Question from Councillor Abdul Asad

Why has the Mayor made an Individual Mayoral Decision outside of a Cabinet meeting to award a £3.5 million contract to consultants as part the transformation programme?

8.13 Question from Councillor Helal Uddin

What progress is being made to improve the quality of the Council's housing stock?

8.14 Question from Councillor Mahbub Alam

Will the Mayor update about the changes in his Cabinet which took place this year after the resignation of his both female Deputy Mayors who were also Cabinet members, will he tell us who are the 2 Deputy Mayors now?

8.15 Question from Councillor Rajib Ahmed

Can the cabinet member provide an update on the work of the Somali Task Force?

8.16 Question from Councillor Peter Golds

'Is the Mayor aware of the legal requirements as regards child fostering placements in the UK as well as the international norms established by the United Nations General Assembly in the 'Convention on the Rights of the Child'?

8.17 Question from Councillor Clare Harrison

Can the Mayor provide a brief update on recruitment to senior officer positions?

8.18 Question from Councillor Shah Alam

Will the Mayor keep the current operating parking times of 8.30am till 5.30pm Monday and Friday?

8.19 Question from Councillor Candida Ronald

What action is the Mayor taking to prevent noise pollution from events on the Greenwich Peninsula having an adverse impact on residents on the riverside in Blackwall and Cubitt Town?

8.20 Question from Councillor Maium Miah

Will the Mayor meet my ward residents of Kedge House, Winch House and Starboard Way, with me, who have been badly affected by the Westferry Printworks construction?

8.21 Question from Councillor Khales Uddin Ahmed

What support does the Council offer to local businesses to help them grow?

8.22 Question from Councillor Julia Dockerill

Can the Council update residents on progress on the planned development of the new secondary school on the News International/London Dock site in Wapping?

8.23 Question from Councillor Shafi Ahmed

Will the Mayor launch a campaign to recruit Foster Carers in the borough so foster placements can be sensitive to a child's ethnicity, culture and religion?

8.24 Question from Councillor Muhammad Mustaqim

When will the Mayor confirm if he has any plans to change the parking restrictions in any part of the borough this year or the next following the formal consultation conducted by the council about potential changes in various parking zones?

8.25 Question from Councillor Craig Aston

Large trucks routinely enter Narrow Street in Limehouse by accident blocking sections of road, can the Council update residents on its plan to improve signage on the key entry routes especially around the Rotherhithe tunnel entrance.

8.26 Question from Councillor Aminur Khan

Will the Mayor commit to not privatising, cutting or scrapping:

- nurseries
- the careers services
- the Tower Hamlets Youth Sports Foundation?

8.27 Question from Councillor Harun Miah

Following a huge petition by Chris Dunne and thousands of parents, carers and young people at the last council protesting the decision to stop its funding, will the Mayor provide details if any viable and concrete proposal has been put forward and agreed to save Tower Hamlets Youth Sports Foundation as it is one of the most successful sports programmes of its kind in the country?

8.28 Question from Councillor Kibria Choudhury

Following consistent complaints about crime and drug dealing, will the Mayor provide an update about what action has the council taken to deal with the serious problem of Nitrous Oxide being used as a drug across the borough including any cases that have been reported in the last two years?

8.29 Question from Councillor Gulam Robbani

Will the Mayor look into the persistent issue of why the written responses sent to Members Questions, asked and responded to at the full council meetings, are taking so long to come back to Members when most of the information and responses had already been prepared leading up to the meeting by officers and the Mayor's office or provided by the Mayor/Cabinet Members at the meeting?

8.30 Question from Councillor Suluk Ahmed

Will the Mayor provide the total number of people on the Council's housing waiting lists for each year since 2013 until now, and the number of furthest placements made in that time-period with details? Kindly, just provide facts please not the irrelevant details, which are not being requested and I am happy with written answer.