


Non-Executive Report of the: Council 15 January 2020	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Asmat Hussain, Corporate Director, Governance	Classification: Unrestricted
Questions submitted by Members of the Council	

Originating Officer(s)	Matthew Mannion, Head of 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 15 January 2020.
2. In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10.4, 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 10.7 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:-

9.1 Question from Councillor Dipa Das

Can the Mayor update members on the pledge to welcome 10 unaccompanied child refugees to our borough, under the Dubs scheme?

9.2 Question from Councillor Peter Golds

Will the Mayor comment on how the Council will use the recently announced £5.1 million homeless grant from government?

9.3 Question from Councillor Sufia Alam

How is the Council preparing for any forthcoming inspection of Youth Justice Services?

9.4 Question from Councillor Andrew Wood

Has the council been involved in or signed off on the large salary increases granted by Veolia to staff before they transfer to Tower Hamlets Council from the 1st April 2020?

9.5 Question from Councillor Kyrsten Perry

What steps are we taking as a Council to tackle the climate emergency?

9.6 Question from Councillor Shah Ameen

Can we have an update from the cabinet member on the two recent fatal incidents in Whitechapel ward and what the police and the council are doing to improve confidence amongst residents?

9.7 Question from Councillor Leema Qureshi

What progress has been made against the commitment to plant 1,000 trees across the borough?

9.8 Question from Councillor Mohammed Pappu

When will the identified changes that are urgently needed regarding parking around City Island & Orchard place be implemented?

9.9 Question from Councillor Denise Jones

With continued austerity for local government, what level of savings is Tower Hamlets required to make over the coming years and is there any indication from the new Conservative Government that this situation will improve any time soon?

9.10 Question from Councillor Puru Miah

Can the Mayor please give an update on the implementation in the Council of the All-Party Parliamentary Groups Islamophobia definition, passed by the Council in March?

9.11 Question from Councillor Val Whitehead

What action will the Mayor and lead Member take to ensure Clarion Housing improve their contact centre and repair service which is causing severe detriment to our Bow residents?

9.12 Question from Councillor Dan Tomlinson

How are discussions with Transport for London progressing with respect to the construction of new pedestrian crossings over the A12 at Bromley-by-Bow? This scheme has been consulted on, developer contributions are available for it, and yet there has been little sign of progress over the past year.

9.13 Question from Councillor John Pierce

What actions has the Mayor of Tower Hamlets taken to tackle anti-social behaviour in the Boundary Estate?

9.14 Question from Councillor James King

Can I have an update on the process and funding thereof of the structural repair of Malting and Brewster Houses?

9.15 Question from Councillor Marc Francis

Will the Lead Member for Housing Services explain the rationale for the proposal to scrap Band 3 of the Choice Based Lettings scheme effectively denying those 8,000 households the chance of a move to social housing in Tower Hamlets unless they become disabled, homeless or overcrowded?

9.16 Question from Councillor Asma Islam

The Conservative Party's general election manifesto promised to 'continue the roll-out of Universal Credit' – does the Mayor think this is the right thing to do given the impact of universal credit on residents in Tower Hamlets?

9.17 Question from Councillor Kahar Chowdhury

A study from the Institute for Public Policy Research, has found that social security payments are now at their lowest level since the launch of the welfare state, and the Trussell Trust reveals that the demand for food banks has risen by 3,772% over the last decade. What steps is the council taking to mitigate some of the worst impacts of the benefit changes in Tower Hamlets.

9.18 Question from Councillor Rabina Khan

The community language service campaign held another meeting in December 2019 raising concerns that the service may not be running as promised by the Mayor? Will the service be running as previously?