

Non-Executive Report of the:  <b>Council</b>  17 <sup>th</sup> November 2021	 <b>TOWER HAMLETS</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Janet Fasan, Director of Legal and Monitoring Officer	<b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted
<b>Questions submitted by Members of the Council</b>	

<b>Originating Officer(s)</b>	Matthew Mannion, Head of 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 Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2021.
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**

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

### **11.1 Question from Councillor Eve McQuillan**

Will the Mayor provide an update on the Liveable Streets programme given his recent announcement?

### **11.2 Question from Councillor Peter Golds**

Will the Mayor state how many CCTV cameras there are provided and managed by the council in the borough?

### **11.3 Question from Councillor Shah Ameen**

I am thrilled to hear about the £9.3 million Levelling-Up funding that the Council secured in my ward, Whitechapel. Please can the Lead Member tell me how this money will be used to regenerate the area?

### **11.4 Question from Councillor Kabir Ahmed**

The council is required to publish its accounts by 31st of May each year and formally approve and audit the accounts by 31st July, but due to the COVID pandemic it has been extended to 30th September. Can the Mayor confirm that in line with the accounts and audit regulations 2015 and also the amendment for 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22 that Tower Hamlets council's accounts for the last tax year 2020/2021 have been published, audited and certified?

### **11.5 Question from Councillor Victoria Obaze**

How much is the Council spending on projects related to the Mayor's Covid-19 Recovery Fund?

### **11.6 Question from Councillor Andrew Wood**

Will the Mayor provide an update on the discussions with utility providers and the GLA as to the capacity of the utility networks (gas, water, sewage, electricity) specifically to and underneath Marsh Wall to support the developments approved by LBTH along Marsh Wall or close to it?

### **11.7 Question from Councillor Faroque Ahmed**

How will the Council implement the recommendations put forward by the Poverty Review?

### **11.8 Question from Councillor Harun Miah**

The road marking In Watney street and Cable Street junction is increasingly causing a hazard to pedestrians, cyclists and motorists.

Can the cabinet member urgently look into this and install a give way sign to cyclist to minimise harm?

### **11.9 Question from Councillor Val Whitehead**

Recent polling shows 80% of Britons across all regions and ethnicities feel anxious about climate breakdown. We know that in order to avert a catastrophe we will need macro and micro change.

What is the Council doing to empower its residents to make a difference?

### **11.10 Question from Councillor Marc Francis**

Will the Lead member for Housing state when Tower Hamlets Homes will begin consulting residents on introducing a new Traffic Management Order to enable parking enforcement for the St Stephen's estate, Usher Road and Annie Besant close?

### **11.11 Question from Councillor Amina Ali**

The £20 cut to Universal Credit has caused severe hardship to many vulnerable people in Tower Hamlets, and the Government's response to this issue in the Spending Review has not even touched the surface of this problem.

What is the Council doing to support families affected by this cut?

### **11.12 Question from Councillor Helal Uddin**

Can the Mayor provide us with an update on the Parks investment program?

### **11.13 Question from Councillor Puru Miah**

In light of the Public Sector Equalities Duty, how many schools in Tower Hamlets have an up-to-date Equality Information and Objectives Policy, especially in the light of recent finding in regard to the disproportionate number of Covid deaths in certain demographics? And how many schools have adopted the model policy advocated by the Runnymede Trust?

### **11.14 Question from Councillor David Edgar**

The interim report of the Competition and Markets Authority reports that private providers of children's homes are making 'significant and persistent' profits by charging councils elevated prices for placements with the largest providers charging councils an average of £3,830 a week per child with an average operating profit margin of 23%.

What is the response of the council to this report and is it considering with other councils the option of providing children's home directly?

### **11.15 Question from Councillor Bex White**

Can the Cabinet Member please provide an update on the Local Infrastructure Fund consultation with residents for the coming year?

### **11.16 Question from Councillor Rabina Khan**

Following my visit with the Director for Environment to Watney Market in Shadwell raising concerns of disrepair to the Market, traders and businesses to have better improved premises, storage and stalls to operate from improve, cleaner and sanitised areas both in the underground parking and in the market square and improved lighting, will the Mayor

commit to ensuring that Watney Market is improved by addressing the issues identified from the visit.