


Non-Executive Report of the: Council 5 th October 2022	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Janet Fasan, Director of Legal and Monitoring Officer	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 5th October 2022
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

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

11.1 Question from Councillor Bodrul Choudhury

Following on from last Full Council, could the Lead Member update the chamber on progress with the independent Council-wide investigation? Can the Lead Member tell us who has been appointed and set out a timeline for delivery?

11.2 Question from Councillor Rachel Blake

Will the Mayor or Lead Member provide the options appraisal analysis for removing much needed Council Homes schemes from the Capital Programme instead of other sources of funding?

11.3 Question from Councillor Abdul Wahid

The number of incidents concerning violent crime in the Borough is shocking. Following on from the issues outlined in Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation Report – Inspection of Youth Offending Services, can the Lead Member or Mayor update Council on the measures he will be putting in place to tackle this surge?

11.4 Question from Councillor Maisha Begum

I understand the Mayor will be significantly expanding the Mayor's Office. Can the Mayor tell us how many additional people he is recruiting and at what cost to the Council?

11.5 Question from Councillor Abdul Mannan

Can the lead member clarify the situation regarding large sums of money that were lent to other Local Authorities during the previous Administration, while at the same time cuts to services and staff were taking place?

Will the Council be receiving these funds back anytime soon?

Surely, they are better spent on the residents of our Borough during this Cost-of-Living crisis rather than laying idle in the coffers of other Local Authorities?

11.6 Question from Councillor Asma Islam

Can the Mayor tell us if ANPR cameras were considered as an option when consulting with officers before approving to consult residents on removing Liveable Streets schemes?

11.7 Question from Councillor Kamrul Hussein

Could the Lead Member provide Council with an update on how the Mayor's pledge to build affordable housing is progressing following on from his first one hundred days in charge?

11.8 Question from Councillor Asma Begum

It is understood that the Mayor and Lead Member are reviewing the LIF programme. Could the Mayor/Lead Member confirm:

- a) When the outcomes of that review will be published, and
- b) that the principles of the LIF programme (ie. a minimum of 25% of CIL earned in the area will be spent in the area, and projects based on residents' suggestions), will continue?

11.9 Question from Councillor Musthak Ahmed

This Cost-of-Living crisis has seen the poorest and most vulnerable in Tower Hamlets hit hardest. Can the Mayor/Lead Member provide Council with an update on what measures have been put in place to ease the economic burden on those who are least to blame for this crisis?

11.10 Question from Councillor Amy Lee

Could the Mayor confirm if the Council submitted a formal representation to TFL in regard to the proposed bus routes cuts?

11.11 Question from Councillor Amin Rahman

Could the Lead Member provide an update on the recently published Ofsted report following an inspection of the Borough's children's services?

11.12 Question from Councillor Abdal Ullah

Could the Mayor and Lead Member provide an update on the progress of the much-needed London Docks School in St Katherine's and Wapping Ward, and confirm if the school will be completed by the initial projection date of September 2023?

11.13 Question from Councillor Ahmodur Khan

Could the Mayor provide us with an update on the transformational decision taken to bring all of the Borough's leisure services in-house?

11.14 Question from Councillor Mufeedah Bustin

Could the Lead Member update the council on progress in delivering the new school building for George Green's secondary school on the Island?

11.15 Question from Councillor Jahed Choudhury

Many residents have complained about the constantly shocking levels of filth, vermin and rubbish on Tower Hamlets' streets. Please could the Lead Member or the Mayor provide Council with an update on measures being taken to ensure our residents don't have to suffer such levels of uncleanliness?

11.16 Question from Councillor Leelu Ahmed

Will the Mayor follow Westminster Council's example, and seize dumped e-bikes and e-scooters that are cluttering streets in the borough?

11.17 Question from Councillor Ahmodul Kabir

Could the Mayor provide us with a timeline of when the new Town Hall will be completed, and when Council services can expect to move into the new facilities?

11.18 Question from Councillor Faroque Ahmed

I have been receiving complaints from concerned residents and business owners about the untidy waste left on the streets on Whitechapel Road and has not been cleared for the last few months. Could the Lead Member provide an update on how he is going to tackle this as soon as possible?

11.19 Question from Councillor Harun Miah

Can the Mayor provide Council with an update on his plans to make Tower Hamlets a greener and cleaner Borough?

11.20 Question from Councillor Marc Francis

Will the Mayor and Lead Member update me on the progress of the review of the Car Free Zone / Permit Transfer Scheme policies initiated by former Councillor Kahar Choudhury in late-2021?

11.21 Question from Councillor Ana Miah

Sport and culture have played an historic role in the tradition and identity of our Borough. Can the Mayor tell us more about his plan to encourage young people in the Borough to use sport to take them onto better things?

11.22 Question from Councillor James King

Will the Mayor provide an update on the structural work on Malting and Brewster Houses?

11.23 Question from Bellal Uddin

Following the death of HRH Queen Elizabeth II, will the Mayor endorse the Aspire Group's suggestion for a memorial to the Queen at the new Town Hall?

11.24 Question from Mohammad Chowdhury

Tower Hamlets council has been providing lower skilled training which doesn't encourage or provide higher skilled work opportunities. The cost of living set to increase to the highest amount in 10 years. Upskilling is a proven method of mitigating the impact of inflation for the individual, local communities and wider society.

What is the Council's plan to provide opportunities for residents to move into high skilled professional roles?

11.25 Question from Councillor Abdul Malik

Could the Mayor explain how he plans to strengthen the Trade Union voice in the decision-making processes in Tower Hamlets, and how these changes can be locked in constitutionally?

11.26 Question from Councillor Peter Golds

The revised traffic scheme on Preston's Road will have a serious impact on residents and business on the Isle of Dogs. It has been known for years that the traffic Island close to Yabsley Street has regularly been the location of many accidents. Will the Mayor outline when and what level of consultation was undertaken prior to the commencement of these

works and what happened as a result of the consultation on what appears to be a different scheme?

11.27 Question from Councillor Nathalie Bienfait

Could the Executive outline what they are currently doing to start work on insulating council homes in the borough? Could they also outline any work they are undertaking to understand the current state of home insulation in the borough's council homes?