

Non-Executive Report of the: Council 19 th July 2023	 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 for this Council meeting.
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

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

11.1 Question from Councillor Kamrul Hussain

Can the Lead Member provide an update on the ongoing costs accrued by the council in redressing the failure to sign off the council accounts under the last administration?

11.2 Question from Councillor Mohammed Chowdhury

We are facing an unprecedented housing crisis in the borough. I have been contacted by many private tenants that their landlord is turning their rented accommodation into Airbnb accommodation for more profit. Some of these private tenants will be homeless soon, which, in turn, enhances the current crisis. Could the lead member for Housing tell us their plan to regulate the increase of Airbnb or similar holiday accommodations in the borough?

11.3 Question from Councillor Shafi Ahmed

Can the Mayor or Lead Member please update on the progress of the LBTH Local Plan refresh, and what he hopes to see achieved in the outcomes of this process?

11.4 Question from Councillor Marc Francis

Can the Mayor and Lead Member explain why they have stopped plans to introduce a raised table zebra crossing on Parnell Road to make it safer for older residents and families with children crossing from Lefevre estate to cross to Roman Road market?

11.5 Question from Councillor Amin Rahman

Can the Lead Member feedback on the recent peer review that looked at our early help service which took place in February and March and the Care Leavers which happened in May?

11.6 Question from Councillor Mufeedah Bustin

With the removal of funding for George Green's school and the cancelling of NCIL projects in the most population-dense area of the UK, what investment is the mayor making on the Isle of Dogs?

11.7 Question from Councillor Bodrul Choudhury

Can the Lead Member update the council on progress with the external independent investigation of our housing management department? Can the Lead Member tell us who has been appointed and set out a timeline for delivery?

11.8 Question from Councillor Asma Islam

How many homeless residents were supported into suitable accommodation for the council year 22-23 and how did that compare against the target set for the year?

11.9 Question from Councillor Ahmodul Kabir

Many residents have complained about the cleanliness of Tower Hamlets' streets. Can the Lead Member or the Mayor provide Council with an update on measures being taken to ensure our residents don't have to walk through dirty streets?

11.10 Question from Councillor Leelu Ahmed

How many affordable homes were delivered by the council for the council year 22-23?

11.11 Question from Councillor Ahmodur Khan

Can the Lead Member explain the number of red and ambers in the Council's Strategic delivery and performance report: Year One Delivery Plan 2022 – 2023, and what measures are being taken to urgently address them?

11.12 Question from Councillor Rachel Blake

How many complaints has the council received about landlords in the private rented sector and how many of these complaints have been investigated by the council?

11.13 Question from Councillor Musthak Ahmed

This Cost-of-Living crisis has seen the poorest and most vulnerable in Tower Hamlets hit hardest. Can the Lead Member tell us what measures have been put in place to support affected residents?

11.14 Question from Councillor Amy Lee

NHS Northeast London have approved cuts of £82 million this year, but have not revealed which services will be affected. What questions have you asked of NHS NEL on this, to ensure that Tower Hamlets residents are not hit by these cuts?

11.15 Question from Councillor Bellal Uddin

Can the Lead Member update the council on progress with implementation of council's new youth service - Young Tower Hamlets?

11.16 Question from Councillor Ayas Miah

How many waste collections have been missed for the council year 22-23 and how does this compare against its target?

11.17 Question from Councillor Harun Main

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

11.18 Question from Councillor Maisha Begum

How many children are receiving EHC assessment decisions within the statutory 6 weeks? How many parents are receiving communication on the outcome within the statutory 16 weeks? How many children are receiving a plan within the statutory 20 weeks?

11.19 Question from Councillor Abdul Mannan

Could the Lead Member update Council on action taken to address the concerns raised by some Somali residents about the lack of support from the housing options service?

11.20 Question from Councillor Sabina Akhtar

How many students have been successful in applying for the EMA/bursary fund and how many applied? How much funding remains in both yearly budgets?

11.21 Question from Councillor Shubo Hussain

How many payments to date have been made from the SME Energy Efficiency Grants programme? Is there a register of successful applicants?

11.22 Question from Councillor Asma Begum

How many meetings have there been of the Mayor's Advisory Board for Climate Change (MABCC) and what is the current membership of the board?

11.23 Question from Councillor Rebekah Sultana

How many meetings of The Mayor's Keep our Borough Moving forum have taken place and who currently sits on the forum/board?

11.24 Question from Councillor Amina Ali

Could the KC advice on the Grant's determination process be published and/or provided to members?

11.25 Question from Councillor James King

How many new cycle parking hangers/racks have been completed by the LBTH this year and what is the completion target for 23-24?

11.26 Question from Councillor Abdal Ullah

Can the Mayor explain why the Council has chosen to retain basketball hoops in Wapping Gardens, despite their commitment to remove these if there was misuse of the MUGA during the trial period, and despite a large amount of evidence from residents that shows there was misuse?

11.27 Question from Councillor Faroque Ahmed

Could we be provided with a progress update on the refurbishment of the mayor's office and the associated costs with the work?

11.28 Question from Councillor Sabina Khan

How many meetings of The Mayor's Keep our Borough Moving forum have taken place and who currently sits on the forum/board?

11.29 Question from Councillor Sirajul Islam

Will the Mayor be able to update me on whether the borough will be accepting £1m LIP funding that is being held by TFL? I have received an inquiry on behalf of a resident who requested an upgrade to a bus stop and to have a bench installed – he was informed that funding was restricted and that negotiations were ongoing with the mayor.

11.30 Question from Councillor Peter Golds

Island Gardens ward residents on Manchester Road and Eastferry Road have concerns regarding the damage done to their homes caused by increased commercial and public traffic on the roads. The decision by the Mayor to cancel the feasibility study and traffic measures on these roads in his revisions to the NCIL scheme could potentially cause serious problems to houses in this area. Will the Mayor reconsider this decision and meet with residents to see personally the current situation?

11.31 Question from Councillor Nathalie Bienfait

I along with all other councillors hear countless stories from constituents that they have had confusing or unexplained contact with the housing team and lettings team at the council. For example: paperwork is lost or not filed, viewings are recorded which never actually happened, viewings which happened aren't recorded, letters are reportedly sent but are never received.

Could the administration please outline what work they are doing to improve the Council's housing service?