

Non-Executive Report of the:  <b>Council</b>  27 <sup>th</sup> September 2023	 <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 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**

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

### **11.1 Question from Councillor Amin Rahman**

Could the lead member provide an update on the status of the council's outstanding accounts requiring sign off? These accounts were left unsigned for many years under the previous administration.

### **11.2 Question from Councillor Mufeedah Bustin**

When will the Mayor be in a position to communicate the outcome of his review of the council's asset portfolio? Many organisations are left in limbo, including those waiting 18 months for decisions on meanwhile use properties, and in my ward, lease renewals for the Mudchute and operators for Island Gardens café.

### **11.3 Question from Councillor Musthak Ahmed**

Can the lead member share the findings of the independent investigation into housing management following the complaint brought by 31 members of staff in the department?

### **11.4 Question from Councillor Asma Islam**

Can the Mayor and lead member clarify what percentage of the administration's 1000 a year house building target will be for social rent?

### **11.5 Question from Councillor Shafi Ahmed**

Could the lead member provide an update on the purpose, parameters and processes of the LGA Corporate Peer Review that took place between 18th and 22nd September?

### **11.6 Question from Councillor Rachel Blake**

Could the lead member inform me when residents in Bow East will have their regular food waste collections resume. Residents in my ward and across the borough have spent weeks without collection.

### **11.7 Question from Councillor Kamrul Hussain**

Could the lead member outline how the council is looking to make Workpath more accessible to the residents of Tower hamlets? It is understood plans are being discussed to redesign the service and move it to the new Town Hall in Whitechapel as part of an efficiency and improvement exercise.

### **11.8 Question from Councillor Amy Lee**

Residents are concerned about proposed changes to leisure services and the impact this will have on them. Can the lead member outline plans, for John Orwell Sports Centre and provide reassurance to residents that the service they receive will not diminish?

### **11.9 Question from Councillor Saif Uddin Khaled**

Following coverage of issues within the council's housing management service, can the lead member provide an update on what steps have been taken to address outstanding issues and how future issues will be addressed?

### **11.10 Question from Councillor Ayas Miah**

DVLA statistics show that there has been a drop in the number of low emission vehicles registered in the borough in the last year, despite numbers increasing elsewhere in the country. Could the lead member inform me what the borough is doing to increase the uptake of electric/low emission vehicles and explain why this may not be working?

### **11.11 Question from Councillor Bodrul Choudhury**

Following the launch of free school meals for over 38,000 additional children across tower hamlets - including at secondary level - could the lead member provide an update on what schools, parents and pupils have had to say about the new service?

### **11.12 Question from Councillor Sabina Akhtar**

Can the lead member confirm:

- whether all buildings within the LBTH estate have been surveyed for RAAC (including schools)?
- Can he detail the mitigation measures for where RAAC has been found?
- If surveys have not been completed, can he provide a timeline for their completion?

### **11.13 Question from Councillor Ahmodul Kabir**

Could the lead member provide an update on the ongoing work to address the service issues outlined in the waste emergency declared by the Mayor last year?

### **11.14 Question from Councillor Shubo Hussein**

What are the future plans for the LBTH community hubs? Residents in Bromley South have been informed that their community hub has been closed as the council decided not to renew the lease.

### **11.15 Question from Councillor Abdul Mannan**

Following complaints from across the community about the effectiveness of drug treatment services in the borough, can the lead member outline what is being done to tackle heroin and crack cocaine addiction which has been an issue in Tower Hamlets for so long.

### **11.16 Question from Councillor Asma Begum**

Over the past months residents in this borough have spent weeks without their bins being collected, could the lead member tell me whether specific measures are being taken to clear the backlog of missed collections?

### **11.17 Question from Councillor Ahmodur Khan**

Following on from the administration's motion, could the lead member explain how the council pursues best value when disposing of council owned assets?

### **11.18 Question from Councillor Rebakah Sultana**

A recent study found that young women in tower hamlets are four times more likely to be hospitalised for self-harm than their Male counterparts – could the lead member inform me whether there are any specific programmes or workstreams concerned with women's mental health?

### **11.19 Question from Councillor Harun Miah**

The Mayor has overseen several housing away days. Could the lead member explain what progress has been made in these sessions, and how it will help to tackle the ongoing issue of overcrowding in the borough?

### **11.20 Question from Councillor Amina Ali**

Could the lead member provide an update on the progress of operation continuum? Since 2022 how many operation continuum events have taken place?

### **11.21 Question from Councillor James King**

Over the summer concerned parents contacted Labour councillors because they were informed that the council was withdrawing funding from district sports teams and their children could no longer attend sessions – could the lead member confirm whether the council did withdraw funding from sports clubs in the borough, if so why and if not then commit to investigate as to why some parents believed this to be the case?

### **11.22 Question from Councillor Abdal Ullah**

Could the lead member for community safety inform me whether the council is aware of the frequent disruption residents in Wapping are facing from young men choosing to use the streets of the borough as a race circuit – often these illegal race meets leave nitrous oxide canisters littering the street. Could the lead member meet with me to discuss the installation of speed humps/noise monitoring equipment as a means of getting to grips with the issue?

### **11.23 Question from Councillor Faroque Ahmed**

Could the lead member confirm whether GLL is cancelling reciprocal arrangements ahead of schedule for residents in this borough ahead of leisure services coming in house – residents in the borough have been in touch with me over the summer to say that they were denied access to other GLL facilities.

### **11.24 Question from Councillor Sabina Khan**

There have been a number of high-profile departures from Canary Wharf in the last year who act as major employers directly and indirectly on the island.

What is council doing to retain and attract global businesses in Canary Wharf? Has the council modelled scenarios or planned for further exits from Canary Wharf and assessed whether there are risks to the council and residents?

### **11.25 Question from Councillor Sirajul Islam**

Will the Mayor be able to update me on the ongoing negotiations between himself and TFL regarding LIP and any other funding that is being withheld from the borough?

### **11.26 Question from Councillor Peter Golds**

Residents in many parts of the Isle of Dogs including Lockesfield Place, Masthouse Terrace, Midland Estate, Livingstone Place and Crews Street have, in a short period, registered a significant number of complaints about the collection of food and organic waste. All to no avail, despite logging them via the website and the telephone systems.

Will the Mayor give an assurance that this problem will be resolved?

### **11.27 Question from Councillor Nathalie Bienfait**

Could data be provided on how many homes in Tower Hamlets fail the Decent Homes Standard, split by ward?

Could details be provided of whether, and if so, how, the Housing Team uses information from the English Housing Survey to inform their work?