

Non-Executive Report of the:  <b>Council</b>  15 <sup>th</sup> November 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**

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

### **11.1 Question from Councillor Shafi Ahmed**

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

### **11.2 Question from Councillor Mohammed Chowdhury**

A significant number of residents in Mile End, as well as throughout Tower Hamlets, are facing challenges when it comes to electric car charging. The availability of both slow and fast chargers is currently insufficient, leading to car owners driving around for extended periods in search of a charging station, which results in time-consuming charging processes. This situation is adversely impacting people's employment and daily routines. Could you please provide information about the council's strategy and plans for the installation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure in the area?

### **11.3 Question from Councillor Amin Rahman**

Can the lead member provide an update on the outcome of the LGA Corporate Peer Review which took place between 18th and 22nd September of this year?

### **11.4 Question from Councillor Marc Francis**

How many homeless families are still currently housed in B&Bs beyond the six-week limit?

### **11.5 Question from Councillor Kamrul Hussain**

Could the lead member explain how he intends to generate much needed income from events in Victoria Park? Can he tell us how many events are being considered over the year, their capacities and how much does he expect to raise? I understand this money will go towards balancing the council budget as well as maintaining the park.

### **11.6 Question from Councillor Mufeedah Bustin**

The Millwall Rugby Club serves a broad and diverse community on the Isle of Dogs. It has established a presence in Millwall arches which they have done up themselves and installed utilities to an underutilised shell. Please could the Mayor and Lead Member explain why the Millwall Rugby Club has received over a 100% increase in its rent for this year?

### **11.7 Question from Councillor Harun Miah**

Can the lead member share feedback from secondary schools regarding the implementation of free school meal introduced by the Mayor this year?

#### **11.8 Question from Councillor Asma Islam**

Could the lead member provide me with the numbers of homes that have been built in the last year for social rent and how that compares against the council's target?

#### **11.9 Question from Councillor Ahmodul Kabir**

Could the lead member update the council on the independent investigation into housing management following the complaint brought by 31 members of staff in the department?

#### **11.10 Question from Councillor Asma Begum**

Could the lead member provide me with the details of which contracts have been awarded in relation to the removal of the liveable streets scheme and which companies have been granted those contracts?

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

Can the lead member provide an update on Local Plan refresh and outline any significant changes which will help bring investment and the delivery of much needed housing?

#### **11.12 Question from Councillor Ayas Miah**

How many waste collections have been missed by the council since the end of the waste strikes?

#### **11.13 Question from Councillor Abdul Mannan**

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 are in place to support residents and how much financial assistance has been provided to date?

#### **11.14 Question from Councillor Rebakah Sultana**

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

#### **11.15 Question from Councillor Musthak Ahmed**

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?

#### **11.16 Question from Councillor Shubo Hussain**

With THH now back in house, could the lead member outline the plans for properties that are currently in disrepair?

**11.17 Question from Councillor Saif Uddin Khaled**

Could the lead member provide an update on how the Council is looking to maximise carbon offset funding for this year?

**11.18 Question from Councillor James King**

What discussions have the council had with TFL about the impact of traffic on commercial road with the opening of Silvertown Tunnel and the tolling of the Blackwall tunnel.

**11.19 Question from Councillor Ahmodur Khan**

Could the lead member provide an update on the progress of the insourcing of Tower Hamlets Homes to Council control?

**11.20 Question from Councillor Amina Ali**

How much did the council spend on private waste contractors during strike action taken by Unite? And what are the names of the companies who were awarded those contracts?

**11.21 Question from Councillor Abdal Ullah**

When are the consultations for the latest proposals for St Georges Pool coming forward?

**11.22 Question from Councillor Sabina Akhtar**

What discussions has the Mayor had with the trustees of the Stifford Centre about its proposed redevelopment?

**11.23 Question from Councillor Leelu Ahmed**

The new playground Rhodeswell Road has been unfinished for months, when will it be completed?

**11.24 Question from Councillor Faroque Ahmed**

Could the lead member provide a final financial figure for the costs of refurbishment of the mayor's office?

**11.25 Question from Councillor Sirajul Islam**

What is the council's current social rent policy, and can the council confirm if it has been modified in the last year?

### **11.26 Question from Councillor Sabina Khan**

What action is being taken by the council to work with the multi-faith forum to recognise and welcome the diverse nature of communities across the borough?

### **11.27 Question from Councillor Peter Golds**

May I be provided with the number and types of new electric vehicle chargers installed by LBTH each calendar year since 2020 and so far this year to the end of October 2023?

### **11.28 Question from Councillor Nathalie Bienfait**

“The response to my previous question regarding the number of homes which meet the decent homes standard has elicited a follow-up.

You said:

“The council has a duty to review local housing conditions and identify appropriate action that may be required across properties which may be hazardous. Following a service request or complaint about poor housing conditions from any resident within the private or social rented sector, council officers will undertake a review with an initial risk assessment will normally be carried out. The council will take further action to deal with health and safety concerns or issues which cause a statutory nuisance.”

Could you please provide data for the last 5 years on how many service requests, complaints and reviews have been conducted by housing officers of LBTH in relation to this kind of complaint?”