

Non-Executive Report of the: Council 24 th January 2024	 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

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 council's outstanding accounts requiring sign off? These accounts were left unsigned for 6 years under the previous administration.

11.2 Question from Councillor Mohammad Chowdhury

Can the Cabinet Member follow up on suggestions at the recent Health and Wellbeing Board that housing officers be part of the consultation in combatting drugs work?

11.3 Question from Councillor Ahmodul Kabir

Residents in Wharton House in Bethnal Green East recently went without heating and hot water for weeks, and in some cases over a month. In an emergency such as this can the Lead Member tell us what the council doing to a) ensure that the registered provider, in this case One Housing is supporting residents and b) deploy its own resources to assist those most vulnerable.

11.4 Question from Councillor Marc Francis

Can the Mayor and Lead Member provide details of the number of applications that were in the queue awaiting an Occupational Therapist (OT) assessment in each month since April 2022? It would also be helpful to know how many assessments were carried out (a) within and (b) outside the two-month target time, broken down by (i) Homelessness and (ii) Lettings in each of 2022/23 and so far in 2023/24?

11.5 Question from Councillor Shafi Ahmed

I thank the current administration for introducing a borough-wide Public Spaces Protection Order to curb drug related Anti-Social behaviour, particularly the use of NOX (laughing gas) on our streets. Can the Lead Member set out the impact this has had in addressing the problem to date?

11.6 Question from Councillor Mufeedah Bustin

Following the allocation of NCIL to fund the Mayor's Community Grants programme, when will councillors receive copies of:

- 1) the legal advice provided to the Mayor validating the use of NCIL in this way
- 2) the breakdown of NCIL allocation to grants at a project and location level

11.7 Question from Councillor Harun Miah

Can the Lead Member provide an update on progress with senior management recruitment and achieving a workforce to reflect the community - in Tower Hamlets?

11.8 Question from Councillor Asma Islam

Could the Mayor provide us with an update of the conversations he has had with THCH regarding the condition of Vollasky house?

11.9 Question from Councillor Abdul Mannan

Can the Lead Member update us on progress with the recommendations following the LGA Corporate Peer Review which took place in September last year?

11.10 Question from Councillor Asma Begum

Could the relevant cabinet member inform me what new investment there is in the 2024-25 council budget related to the council's net zero commitments?

11.11 Question from Councillor Kamrul Hussain

Could the Lead Member share feedback from the Women In Business Festive Fair last month? What was on offer and how well was it attended?

11.12 Question from Councillor Rebekah Sultana

Could the relevant cabinet member inform me what sort of actions are being taken to support individuals without housing during the winter months and whether the council could be take actions such as lowering the threshold in which Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) protocols can be initiated?

11.13 Question from Councillor Ahmodur Khan

Community safety is a huge concern, and this is felt quite strongly on the Isle of Dogs. The previous administration did very little to address crime and even less to save the only police station on the Island. Can the Lead Member tell us what he is going to do help Islanders feel safer?

11.14 Question from Councillor Shubo Hussain

How many GCSE booster classes have the council supported schools in delivering since 2022?

11.15 Question from Councillor Saif Uddin Khaled

Now that the independent investigation, initiated by 31 members of staff, into housing management across housing options and homelessness has concluded, can the Lead Member provide an update as to what will happen going forward.

11.16 Question from Councillor James King

When is the council going to get round to fixing the front door of Padstow House on the Roche estate? It has been hanging off its hinges for six months.

11.17 Question from Councillor Abdul Mailk

Can the Lead Member provide a list of all the road safety and traffic management schemes on the Isle of Dogs delivered under the current Mayor and measures that are planned in the next 12 months?

11.18 Question from Councillor Amina Ali

What actions has the council taken to support residents and business owners affected by the recent flooding on Fish Island?

11.19 Question from Councillor Bellal Uddin

The previous administration had very little regard for Cubitt Town Library. This historic building has received a boost from Mayor Rahman and is now also operating as a much-needed Resident Hub. Is the Lead Member aware of plans to move the library service and if so, will he work to keep the provision in Cubitt Town?

11.20 Question from Councillor Abdal Ullah

Can the Mayor give us an update on progress with Mulberry Academy London Dock?

11.21 Question from Councillor Amy Lee

Can the Mayor tell me what representations he has made to relevant partners in regards to the boat the OceanDiva?

11.22 Question from Councillor Sabina Akhtar

How many £100 free school vouchers were delivered to parents over the Christmas period?

11.23 Question from Councillor Faroque Ahmed

Could the relevant cabinet member inform me how many times the housing emergency task force has met and its membership?

11.24 Question from Councillor Sirajul Islam

How many housing enforcement officers have been funded and resourced since 2022?

11.25 Question from Councillor Sabina Khan

Could the relevant cabinet member provide an update on any actions taken by the tension monitoring group over the last three months?

11.26 Question from Councillor Nathalie Bienfait

How much progress has been made on installing new EV chargers across the borough?

- Please provide details of chargers installed in the last 12 months broken down by ward.
- Please provide details of plans to install chargers in the coming 12 months
- In both cases above, please provide the following information: about where and when chargers will be/were installed, what type of charger (e.g. fast/slow), where they are located on the pavement or street and whether/what proportion have a dedicated parking bay for them.

11.27 Question from Councillor Peter Golds

Pavements across the Isle of Dogs and elsewhere in the borough are increasingly being obstructed by abandoned lime bikes. These are a particular hazard to the disabled, those with sight impediments and parents with buggies. Many local authorities across London are introducing restrictions on these bikes to prevent the problems they create. Will Tower Hamlets consider implementing such restrictions?