

Non-Executive Report of the: Council 8 th May 2024	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Linda Walker, Interim 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

23 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 council's outstanding accounts which were left unsigned for 6 consecutive years under the previous administration.

11.2 Question from Councillor Mufeedah Bustin

Residents have heard rumours that the administration is planning to turn the Stebondale Street football pitches, in to floodlit pitches available for hire until 9pm at night. Please could the administration confirm what their plans are for the Stebondale pitches.

11.3 Question from Councillor Musthak Ahmed

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

11.4 Question from Councillor Asma Islam

Could the Mayor inform me as to whether he has been in communication with Peabody HA? Peabody tenants across the borough have written to me expressing alarm about dramatic increases to service charges – With many tenants also raising poor quality maintenance and substandard conditions?

11.5 Question from Councillor Shafi Ahmed

Can the Lead Member share how much it cost the taxpayer to unsuccessfully take one of our MPs - Apsana Begum to court? Can he explain how this represented Best Value?

11.6 Question from Councillor Amy Lee

Can the lead member explain why there has been a delay to free community care? And when residents can expect Aspire to deliver on a key manifesto promise?

11.7 Question from Councillor Bodrul Choudhury

Mr Speaker can the Lead Member tell us what steps have been taken to collect the money owed to the Council, from the Rich Mix Centre. The Rich Mix was loaned a substantial amount of taxpayers money under a previous Labour administration, and it is understood whilst this loan remains unpaid more money was given to the organisation under the last Mayor. It will help to provide precise figures and an explanation as to how this constituted Best Value?

11.8 Question from Councillor Asma Begum

Could the lead member inform me as to how the insourcing of THH and Leisure services will affect the council's commitment to reach net-zero by 2030?

11.9 Question from Councillor Harun Miah

Mr Speaker, I want to start by thanking the Police, council and community groups for keeping our borough safe and cohesive despite attempts by a minority to portray Tower Hamlets as a No-Go area - which is utter rubbish.

Can the Lead Member share feedback from the council's Tension Monitoring Group in relation to the Palestine Flags, can he tell us how many complaints have been received and what action was taken?

11.10 Question from Councillor Rebakah Sultana

Could the lead member update us on the progress of the Council's Women's commission and inform us how it will work in relation to the operations of the council?

11.11 Question from Councillor Ahmodur Khan

Can the Lead Member provide an update with timelines on the insourcing of Tower Hamlets leisure services from GLL?

11.12 Question from Councillor Shubo Hussain

Could the lead member inform me of what steps are being taken to communicate with residents regarding the changes to leisure services and reassure them that they will still receive the same services in the interim?

11.13 Question from Councillor Abdul Malik

Can the lead member provide an update on the outcome of refreshed Local Plan consultation and if possible, outline any significant changes which will help bring investment and the delivery of affordable housing?

11.14 Question from James King

What steps has the council taken to address the continuous vandalism of cars down Milligan Street and around Limehouse Causeway and Narrow Street?

11.15 Question from Councillor Ahmodul Kabir

Last Ramadan there were numerous complaints of anti-social behaviour, illegal trading and people fighting in the streets at the back of East London Mosque during and after night prayers. We saw videos of young people wielding machetes and terrified women and children running into the mosque for safety. Can the Lead Member set out what

action will be taken to prevent the scenes we saw last year and stop prohibited activities in the vicinity?

11.16 Question from Councillor Abdal Ullah

Could the Lead Member consider whether a dog park could be installed at Wapping Rose Gardens? Residents have written to me suggesting that a designated space for dogs would benefit the whole community with our canine friends being able to exercise in a space for them and residents reassured that their green spaces are clean and safe for everyone.

11.17 Question from Councillor Bellal Uddin

Can the Lead Member provide an update on the regeneration of the Clichy Estate (known as HAP) which will see around 400 homes being built? It is understood the scheme has progressed significantly under the current Mayor and it will help to share where we are to date and work going forward.

11.18 Question from Councillor Rachel Blake

Can the lead member inform me what is the average waiting time for housing OT assessments in each of past two years please?

11.19 Question from Councillor Saif Uddin Khaled

I understand the independent investigation, initiated by 31 members of staff, into housing management across housing options and homelessness has concluded, can the Lead Member share the findings and recommendations?

11.20 Question from Councillor Sabina Akhtar

Could the lead member inform me of progress of development of the Clichy Estate?

11.21 Question from Councillor Sirajul Islam

Could the lead member inform me of whether the council is communicating with relevant partners and reassuring THCH residents now that the proposed merger with Poplar Harca has reportedly ended?

11.22 Question from Councillor Marc Francis

Will the Mayor and Lead Member update Full Council on the action that has been taken in the past two years to improve the safety of pedestrians and cyclists at the mini roundabout at the junction of Tredegar Road and Fairfield Road?

11.23 Question from Councillor Peter Golds

Would the Mayor confirm as to whether there were discussions between the administration, either members or officers or both, and the Regulator with respect to the proposed merger between THCH and Poplar Harca?