

Non-Executive Report of the: Council 21 September 2016	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Corporate Director, Law, Probity and Governance	Classification: Unrestricted
Questions submitted by Members of the Council	

Originating Officer(s)	Matthew Mannion, Committee Services Manager, 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 at the Council meeting on Wednesday 21 September 2016.
2. In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.2 as amended, 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 12.5 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

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

8.1 Question from Councillor Andrew Cregan

The recent independent report into electoral fraud highlights a number of positive changes we have made to tighten up our electoral systems. Does the Mayor agree that while we have taken important steps to guard against electoral fraud, it makes a mockery of our democracy that we still have councillors whose election was benefitted by 'corrupt and illegal practices'?

8.2 Question from Councillor Oliur Rahman

Can the Mayor provide an update on the motions passed by the Council Chamber since 2010 with a breakdown of how many were implemented and/or remain outstanding since 2013, with a percentage breakdown for each year?

8.3 Question from Councillor Sabina Akhtar

Could the Cabinet Member for Environment list what awards our parks in Tower Hamlets have achieved?

8.4 Question from Councillor Julia Dockerill

Following the decision by the Mayor in Cabinet to make permanent the borough wide 20mph speed limit, will he explain exactly how this is to be enforced, as currently pedestrians, cyclists and motorists face safety problems from those who choose to ignore the limit due to the lack of enforcement?

8.5 Question from Councillor Rajib Ahmed:

Can the Cabinet Member for Children's Services update the Council on the recent school exam results?

8.6 Question from Councillor Mahbub Alam

Has current mayor of Tower Hamlets John Biggs written to Labour's new Mayor Sadiq Khan of London asking him to save the people of Tower Hamlets from the dreadful plans which the developers have for Bishopsgate Goods Yard?

8.7 Question from Councillor M. Abdul Mukit MBE

Members may be aware that the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, has launched a review of Boris Johnson's cuts to London's Fire Service. Does the Mayor welcome this review?

8.8 Question from Councillor Chris Chapman

Would the Mayor comment on Lincoln Plaza, on the Isle of Dogs, being crowned winner of the 2016 Carbuncle Cup for worst new building in the UK? It was described by the judges as: the "architectural embodiment of sea sickness, waves of nausea frozen in sheaths of glass and coloured aluminium that, when stared at for too long, summon

queasiness, discomfort and, if you're really unlucky, a reappearance of lunch as inevitably as puddles after a rainstorm?"

8.9 Question from Councillor Helal Uddin

Can the Mayor or Cabinet Member set out what measures the Council is taking to tackle anti-social behaviour?

8.10 Question from Councillor Ohid Ahmed

The current Mayor was made aware of unacceptably high increase in parking charges by Poplar Harca and how strongly the residents who are affected felt about this unjust and high level of increase. Can the Mayor confirm if Poplar Harca is treating freeholders and leaseholders differently and whether or not, and if, the issue has now been resolved?

8.11 Question from Councillor Denise Jones:

Residents' frequently raise concerns about 'boy racers' in Wapping, and the increasing use of nitrous oxide across the borough. What steps are being taken by the Council, working with the police, to tackle these problems?

8.12 Question from Councillor Andrew Wood

Will the Mayor be encouraging support for the four residents who led the successful election petition who face financial problems due to the failure of former Mayor, Lutfur Rahman, to pay his court debts?

8.13 Question from Councillor Danny Hassell:

Can the lead member please update the council on the steps have been taken to campaign for access to Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis, (PrEP) for residents of Tower Hamlets who are at greatest risk of HIV?

8.14 Question from Councillor Muhammad Ansar Mustaqim

Residents of Northesk House, Tent St E1 signed a petition and submitted to the current Mayor. John Biggs responded to elected local councillor that the Council will set up a meeting on 1 August for local residents to discuss the issue. However, that letter was sent to the local councillor after 16 August (more than 2 weeks after the actual meeting). I checked with residents who signed the petition and majority don't seem to know anything about the meeting arranged. Can the current mayor explain why such incidents are becoming a regular theme in his mayoralty?

8.15 Question from Councillor Candida Ronald:

Lincoln Plaza on the Isle of Dogs has recently been awarded the Carbuncle Cup for this year's worst designed development – "jarring, unsettling and shambolic" according to critics.

What is the Mayor/Lead Member doing to ensure that developments in Tower Hamlets are fine examples of great design rather than the opposite?

8.16 Question from Councillor Peter Golds

With the contract with Veolia due to expire within the next twelve months, will the Mayor confirm to residents that they will be continue to be expected to perform in accordance with the existing contract and remove rubbish when timetabled, the difficulties of which are an ongoing problem on the Isle of Dogs?

8.17 Question from Councillor Clare Harrisson:

Following our recent visit to Middleton Green in St Peter's ward, can the Mayor or lead member update me on progress so far in dealing with the ASB issues raised by local residents?

8.18 Question from Councillor Rabina Khan

Does the Mayor believe that children and young people's interests are of importance in the borough?

8.19 Question from Councillor Amy Whitelock Gibbs

Can the Lead Member for Culture please update us on how the council has been supporting the Stairway to Heaven Memorial to progress and what the timescale is for the memorial to be completed?

8.20 Question from Councillor Craig Aston

There have been a number of recent incidents on Three Colt Street in Limehouse including a bride being punched in the face on her wedding day by a robber as well as long standing ASB issues in Ropemakers Fields. Now that the Regulation 123 list has been approved specifically mentioning CCTV as a strategic investment will the Mayor indicate when Limehouse can expect to receive its first Council funded CCTV camera?

8.21 Question from Councillor Marc Francis:

Where will the Age UK centre and pensioners lunch club be located if Gateway Housing Association secures planning permission to redevelop Appian Court?

8.22 Question from Councillor Gulam Robbani

Following a petition signed by a record number of residents, will the Mayor inform us if he is minded to give the local Weavers residents an opportunity to have a say whether or not they wish to host the Boisakhi Mela locally?

8.23 Question from Councillor Amina Ali

Can the Deputy Mayor and Lead Member for Children's Services update me on the plans to open a new primary school on the site of the former Bow Boys Secondary School on Fairfield Road?

8.24 Question from Councillor Gulam Kibria Choudhury

Does the current mayor John Biggs supports our schools turning into academies in Tower Hamlets? Could the current Mayor be transparent and provide a straight forward answer whether or not he supports the principle of turning schools into academies?

8.25 Question from Councillor Dave Chesterton

Is the Mayor yet in a position to set out the allocation process by which the operators will be chosen for the new secondary school planned for the Westferry Printworks site?