

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 22nd JULY 2015

**QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY
MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE HEAD,
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

SUMMARY

1. Set out overleaf are the questions submitted by Members of the Council for response by the Speaker, the Mayor or the relevant Committee/Sub-Committee Chair at the Council meeting on Wednesday 22nd July 2015
2. 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.
3. Oral responses are time limited to one minute. Supplementary questions and responses are also time limited to one minute each.
4. There is a time limit of thirty minutes for consideration of Members' questions with no extension of time allowed and any question not answered within this time will be dealt with by way of a written response. The Speaker will decide the time allocated to each question.
5. Members must confine their contributions to questions and answers and not make statements or attempt to debate.

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

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

8.1 Question from Councillor Danny Hassell:

Does the Mayor intend to provide some form of monthly report detailing engagements and other important town hall business undertaken?

8.2 Question from Councillor Oliur Rahman to the Mayor and his Cabinet:

Will you be carrying on with the Whitechapel Vision project and the move of the current Town Hall to the heart of community in Whitechapel as part of key jigsaw piece of wider regeneration, as initiated by the previous Mayor's administration?

8.3 Question from Councillor Amina Ali:

Mr Mayor, how many community events or visits have you undertaken since taking office?

8.4 Question from Councillor Andrew Wood:

Developers are proposing to provide much needed new schools at Wood Wharf, Westferry and Wapping print works but there is no indication yet who will operate those new schools. The Mayor will be aware that current legislation requires that new school sites can only be occupied by academy and free school providers. Will the Mayor be using his powers under Section 6A of the 2011 Education Act to encourage the highest quality applicants for these new sites or will they be left empty?

8.5 Question from Councillor Rajib Ahmed:

Will the Mayor update the council on how he aims to build a culture of transparency within the council?

8.6 Question from Councillor Abjol Miah:

Can our New Tower Hamlets Executive Mayor confirm whether he intends to continue with the long awaited demand by Tower Hamlets residents for a reduced cost Community Burial Service for the most needy poor, and if so does he intend to make any changes to the scheme?

8.7 Question from Councillor Sabina Akhtar to the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

Can the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee tell the Council what themes his committee will be considering this year?

8.8 Question from Councillor Rabina Khan to the Mayor and his Cabinet:

Will Mayor Biggs refuse a Compulsory Purchase Order for East End Homes, if they seek to demolish Holland Estate?

8.9 Question from Councillor Denise Jones:

Can the Mayor update the Council on his plans to reduce the size of the Mayoral office?

8.10 Question from Councillor Julia Dockerill:

Will the Mayor support the provision of an easily-accessible, council-run community centre/Ideas Store in St Katharine's and Wapping ward that is open and available to all residents?

8.11 Question from Councillor Helal Uddin:

Mr Mayor, is it your intention to attend meetings of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee?

8.12 Question from Councillor Ohid Ahmed to the Mayor:

I understand that the first ever staff conference of the borough went ahead on 25th June 2015 despite it falling within the holy month of Ramadan. I believe that morning breakfast was offered amongst refreshment breaks to staff with much pomp and grandeur to the behest of those who were observing their faith and those who felt left out and demotivated and somewhat belittled by the event taking place when they are obligated to fast. As a borough that is home to the largest proportion of Muslims in London, I find it troubling that basic etiquettes have been forgotten. Do you agree with this sentiment? If so why what did you do to stop this happening?

8.13 Question from Councillor Andrew Cregan:

Can the Deputy Mayor for Education and Children's Services outline some key priorities for this year?

8.14 Question from Councillor Chris Chapman:

Is the Mayor able to update the council as to what efforts have been made by this authority, to work with the Royal Borough of Greenwich Council in order to minimise the impact of noise and air pollution resulting from the proposed Greenwich cruise terminal?

8.15 Question from Councillor Marc Francis:

Will the Mayor / Lead Member set out what action has been taken since 11th June to minimise the disruption to local residents of the commercial events in Victoria Park?

8.16 Question from Councillor Shafiqul Haque to the Mayor and his Cabinet:

Could you tell the Chamber how many houses were built in Tower Hamlets between May 2010 and June 2015? Please provide detailed breakdown by Wards and affordable housing provision?

8.17 Question from Councillor Cllr John Pierce:

When will Tower Hamlets Homes complete the Decent Homes Works programme?

8.18 Question from Councillor Craig Aston:

Residents of the Isle of Dogs, Limehouse and Wapping are subject to increasing noise from late night party boats. Will the Mayor inform the council what discussions he proposes to undertake with the relevant authorities to help alleviate this situation?

8.19 Question from Councillor Maium Miah to the Mayor and his Cabinet

Could Mr Biggs provide status update about the multi-faith Burial ground project initiated by the previous Mayor Lutfur Rahman's administration?

8.20 Question from Councillor Peter Golds:

Will the Mayor outline the timeline for revising the South Quay Master Plan?

8.21 Question from Councillor Shahed Ali to the Mayor and his Cabinet:

Could you provide the overall borough-wide levels (in terms of percentage and numbers) - for cleanliness, trees planted and recycling between 2010 and June 2015?

8.22 Question from Councillor Mahbub Alam to the Mayor and his Cabinet:

What facilities, staffing, allowances and any other support will the three Deputy Mayors appointed by John Biggs will receive. Could you provide a detailed breakdown and cost for all such provisions, for all three appointees?