

## 10 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

### 10.1 On reports of the Cabinet or Committees

A Member of the Council may ask the Leader or the Chair of a Committee any question without notice upon an item of the report of the Cabinet or a Committee when that item is being received or under consideration by the Council.

### 10.2 Questions on notice at full Council

Subject to Rule 10.3, a Member of the Council may ask:

- The Mayor;
- The Leader
- Any Member of the Cabinet; or
- The Chair of any Committee or Board
- The Council's representative(s) on any outside body;

a question on any matter in relation to which the Council has powers or duties or which affects Haringey.

### 10.3 Scope of questions

The Monitoring Officer may reject a question if it:

- Is not about a matter for which the local authority has a responsibility or which affects the well-being of the Borough;
- Is defamatory, frivolous or offensive;
- Is substantially the same as a question, motion or deputation which has been put at a meeting of the Council in the past six months; or
- Requires the disclosure of confidential or exempt information

### 10.4 Notice of questions

- (a) A Councillor may ask one substantive question per meeting, in accordance with rule 10.5 (d), provided that they have been received in writing by the Democratic Services Manager no later than 10 am so as to leave ten clear days prior to the Council meeting, stating which Member of Council the question is to be addressed to. Should a question be rejected, the questioner will receive a written response

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advising of this, including the reasons for the rejection. Each question should be confined to one substantive topic.

- (b) There will be up to 9 questions from Councillors which will receive direct oral answers. Questions on notice for oral answer will be set out on the Summons to the Council meeting.
- (c) A Member of the Council may ask the Leader or the Chair of a Committee any question without notice upon an item of the report of the Cabinet or a Committee when that item is being received or under consideration by the Council.
- (d) Questions for written answer and the answers provided will be published on the Council's website as soon as practicable after the relevant meeting.

### 10.5 Order of Questions

- (a) There will be 9 questions which will receive direct oral answers. All other questions will receive written answers. Questions from each group will be placed so as to alternate on the agenda is so far as is practicable with 5 from the majority group and 4 from the opposition. 3 minutes will be allocated to answer the main question and 2 minutes allocated to answer supplementary questions
- (b) A total of 45 minutes (allowing for any adjournments) shall be allowed on questions and answers under this rule; a question being answered at the time limit (and any supplementary questions to it) shall be completed.
- (c) All questions and answers must be made as questions/answers, addressing the subject matter, and must not be a speech or statement.
- (d) Any oral questions remaining unanswered after the time limit must be answered in writing and shall be circulated to all Members on or before the fourth working day after the Council meeting.
- (e) Each Member of the Council may ask one question for written answer in addition to those for oral answer. Each question and response should be confined to one substantive topic.

### 10.6 Response

An answer may take the form of:

- (a) a direct oral answer;
- (b) where the desired information is in a publication of the Council or other published work, a reference to that publication; or

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- (c) where the reply cannot conveniently be given orally, a written answer circulated later to the questioner. Written answers will be supplied to members no later than the meeting

### 10.7 **Supplementary questions**

The Councillor asking any question may ask the first supplementary question without notice of the Councillor to whom the first question was asked. The second supplementary question, relevant to the original question, may be asked by a Councillor of the other political party or groups unless they do not wish to use it in which case it reverts to the party asking the original question. In allocating the second supplementary questions, the Mayor will have regard to: the overall time period for Council questions, their constitutional role and function in chairing the Council meetings set out in Article 5, and the political party or group's proportional representation on the Council. (In principle this would usually be four questions to the first opposition group and one question to the second opposition group) Each supplementary question must arise directly out of the original question or the reply. No supplementary questions may be asked on written answers.