



**COUNCIL CONTRACTS  
AND DISCOUNTED  
COUNCIL PROPERTIES?**

**QUEUE JUMP  
FOR COUNCIL  
HOUSING?**

**INTERESTED? READ BELOW TO FIND OUT MORE:**

On the 19th of this month a by-election takes place in your ward of Spitalfields and Banglatown. You will, as an elector, may have already received your voting paper either postal or to be used in the polling station.

You may also, like so many other people, not be inclined to bother to cast your vote but we hope, after reading this leaflet, you will. Tower Hamlets is currently run by an elected Mayor whose powers amount to an elected dictatorship.

Lutfur Rahman, the current Mayor, has used his powers to award contracts and council property to friends and supporters in a manner reminiscent of a third world leader rather than the mayor of a London borough.

In the last week two properties worth millions of pounds have been handed over to financial backers of Rahman. A former social services building in Poplar has been handed to a media campaigner who has actively supported Rahman's Mayoral election, by branding him and producing both electronic and print media materials. Another property is in the process of being handed over to Channel 5, a Bangladeshi channel, which was censored and fined by OFCOM for slandering Rahman's opponents.

The former council depot, in Surton Street in Stepney, has also gone to a Rahman supporter and business associate. This multi-million pound site was sold off at far below market value without going through a tendering process. These are just a few recent examples of the corruption endemic in this administration.



Ex-councillor, Sheilna Akhtar

This by-election has uncovered yet more corrupt practices. The election is coming about because of the disqualification of the former councillor, Sheilna Akhtar, after she served a prison sentence for renting out her council flat. She had been allocated the flat by Rahman after she jumped the housing queue because she was in a special relationship with him. This is not the first time he has secured flats for women in return for special services.