CABINET

THURSDAY 13 OCTOBER 2016

PUBLIC AND COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS ACCEPTED

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CABINET – 13 OCTOBER 2016

PUBLIC QUESTIONS (ITEM 4)

Under Rule 16 of the Executive Procedure Rules, members of the public may question the Executive and Portfolio Holders at meetings. There is a time limit of 15 minutes for the asking and answering of public questions.

1.

Questioner: Julian Maw, Co-Chair of Hatch End Association

Asked of: Councillor Sachin Shah, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Partnerships and Devolution

Question: “The Hatch End Association was very disappointed to read that the Council had not been able to agree the future of the Harrow Arts Centre and Headstone Manor with Cultura London.

The Council press release, we are pleased to note, states services will continue as normal on both sites. However it also states that the Council will explore a “Different direction” for the Harrow Arts Centre.

The HEA and the 6000 signatories to petitions for maintenance of the Harrow Arts Centre and Headstone Manor are concerned for their future and duration of the ‘Normal Service’.

What is the Council’s plan for fully consulting the residents of Harrow on any proposed changes to the sites’ estate and usage?”

2.

Questioner: Sandra Jayacodi

Asked of: Councillor Sue Anderson, Portfolio Holder for Community, Culture and Resident Engagement

Question: “A number of consultation events in September-October 2016 are stated in the Harrow Council Voluntary & Community Sector Funding Proposals 2016/17 consultation document with local voluntary sector organisations who are affected by the proposed service funding cuts. How will the Council be consulting with mental health service users and other disadvantaged groups, who are impacted by these Proposals, as there is no reference in the consultation document to direct engagement with service users?”
3.

Questioner: Raksha Pandya, Mind in Harrow

Asked of: Councillor Sue Anderson, Portfolio Holder for Community, Culture and Resident Engagement

Question: “As Harrow Council's Voluntary & Community Sector Funding Proposals 2016/17 to cut all non-statutory Adult Social Care SLAs will mean that that all funding to Mind in Harrow's Core Activities and Mental Health User Involvement Project will be cut from April 2017, how will the Council fulfil its statutory duties to consult with mental health service users about Council changes to mental health services and policy in the future?”

4.

Questioner: Leroy Rose

Asked of: Councillor Sue Anderson, Portfolio Holder for Community, Culture and Resident Engagement

Question: “Have you consulted with Harrow CCG and CNWL Foundation Trust about the Consultation for Voluntary & Community Sector Funding Proposals 2016/17?, as the impact of these proposed cuts will have adversely impact both service users and these NHS organisations?”

5.

Questioner: K Patel

Asked of: Councillor Graham Henson, Portfolio Holder for Environment, Crime and Community Safety

Question: “The condition of trees in Harrow Weald Recreation Ground were reported by another resident and myself over a year ago and the then Arboriculture Officer had confirmed that action would be taken within 6 months of his letter of 3 June 2015. Thirteen months down the line we are still waiting for something to be done and the situation has got worse. I have written to the Council and tried phoning the relevant department to find out what is happening but have been passed from pillar to post. When will this matter be addressed?”
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AGENDA PART I

COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS (ITEM 5)

Fifteen minutes will be allowed for Members of the Council to ask a Portfolio Holder a question on any matter in relation to which the Executive has powers or duties.

1.
Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall
Asked of: Councillor Sachin Shah, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Partnerships and Devolution
Question: “Does the Leader of the Council not think that borrowing £356 million warrants discussion at a full Council meeting?”

2.
Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall
Asked of: Councillor Sachin Shah, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Partnerships and Devolution
Question: “In the Labour Group’s manifesto the now Leader of the Council wrote, “We’ll make sure the Council is an efficient and well run Borough.” How does the £356 million Regeneration program fit with this promise?”

3.
Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall
Asked of: Councillor Sue Anderson, Portfolio Holder for Community, Culture and Resident Engagement
Question: “You have said you will explore other options for Harrow Arts centre, what are they and how do you expect to manage the demand for services?”
4.

**Questioner:** Councillor Susan Hall  
**Asked of:** Councillor Sue Anderson, Portfolio Holder for Community, Culture and Resident Engagement  
**Question:** “How much of Harrow Taxpayer’s money have been pumped into the ill-fated Harrow Arts Centre project?”

5.

**Questioner:** Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane  
**Asked of:** Councillor Sue Anderson, Portfolio Holder for Community, Culture and Resident Engagement  
**Question:** “In the Revenue and Capital monitoring report for Q1, 2016-17, a pressure of £442k was reported at Period 3 relating to the transfer of the Arts and Heritage service to Cultura; with the commentary that “the pressure will increase if the transfer date is further delayed the Directorate is unlikely to be able to contain further additional costs associated with this within its budgets.” With the transfer abandoned, how big is this resulting pressure?”

6.

**Questioner:** Councillor Richard Almond  
**Asked of:** Councillor Adam Swersky, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Commercialisation  
**Question:** “How much do you expect the “robust actions” which you have taken to save the council during the current financial year?”

7.

**Questioner:** Councillor Richard Almond  
**Asked of:** Councillor Christine Robson, Portfolio Holder for Children, Schools and Young People  
**Question:** “Has your view of the prospect of your bringing Children’s
Services revenue spending within the budget by the end of the current financial year changed since the September Cabinet?

8.
Questioner: Councillor Richard Almond
Asked of: Councillor Keith Ferry, Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Business, Planning and Regeneration
Question: “What changed between the July 2016 Cabinet and 28th September with regard to the administration’s intentions for development on the Waxwell Lane car park and the nature of the consultation?”

9.
Questioner: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane
Asked of: Councillor Kiran Ramchandani, Portfolio Holder for Performance, Corporate Resources and Customer Services
Question: “Can you provide a list of all the social media accounts managed by Harrow Council?”

10.
Questioner: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane
Asked of: Councillor Kiran Ramchandani, Portfolio Holder for Performance, Corporate Resources and Customer Services
Question: “Can you detail all the training offered to Harrow Council staff and councillors on the use of social media?”

11.
Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall
Asked of: Councillor Sachin Shah, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Partnerships and Devolution
Question: “The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has recently highlighted the problems of land banking, whereby developers delay building new homes which they have been granted planning permission for in order to wait for the land to increase even more in value. Of planning applications granted in Harrow to build new homes in the last two years, what percentage have been completed?”

12.
Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall
Asked of: Councillor Sachin Shah, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Partnerships and Devolution
Question: “The Leader of the Council has previously spoken of working with the charitable sector for the benefit of Harrow residents, what steps has he taken to reach out to local and national charities?”

13.
Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall
Asked of: Councillor Sachin Shah, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Partnerships and Devolution
Question: “Does the Leader of the Council agree that all children in Harrow are unique and that many will reach developmental milestones at different times?”

14.
Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall
Asked of: Councillor Sachin Shah, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Partnerships and Devolution
Question: “As I am sure all Cabinet Members will know, last week saw celebrations for Jewish New Year, how many of the six synagogues and Jewish congregations in Harrow has the Leader of the Council visited since becoming Leader?”
15.
Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall
Asked of: Councillor Adam Swersky, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Commercialisation
Question: “Does the Executive Member for Finance believe the assumptions and predictions made in order to set 2016/17 Budget were sound and reliable?”

16.
Questioner: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane
Asked of: Councillor Graham Henson, Portfolio Holder for Environment, Crime and Community Safety
Question: “How many households who have contracted with the Council for the paid-for brown bin collections have been reimbursed for non-collections since charging began?”

17.
Questioner: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane
Asked of: Councillor Graham Henson, Portfolio Holder for Environment, Crime and Community Safety
Question: “Are you worried that the Council’s repeated failure to actually collect many residents’ paid-for brown bin collections constitutes a breach of contract?”
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