

## **CABINET - Thursday 15 February 2024**

### **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 Peymana Assad

**Asked of:** Councillor Paul Osborn, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy

**Question:** Please could the portfolio holder explain why the council is proposing to reconsult on the Bentley Priory and Old Redding Public Space Protection Order?

**2.**

**Questioner:** Councillor Peymana Assad

**Asked of:** Councillor Paul Osborn, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy

**Question:** The Council has received £4.3 Million from government in the recent announcement by Michael Gove, this is the latest ever that final settlements and Grants have been told to local Councils, whilst grateful for such funding, does the Leader acknowledge this is not a sustainable way to manage Local Government Funding?

**3.**

**Questioner:** Councillor Graham Henson

**Asked of:** Councillor David Ashton, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Human Resources

**Question:** Could the portfolio holder update on what future plans the council has in place regarding the schemes being funded through the household support grant which is due to end on 31st March?

4.

**Questioner:** Councillor Graham Henson

**Asked of:** Councillor Mina Parmar, Portfolio Holder for Housing

**Question:** There are currently over four hundred families in Bed & Breakfast or hotel accommodation in Harrow, whose life chances are being reduced until they can move to somewhere they can call home. There are also eight hundred families living in expensive temporary accommodation, at least a third of whom have been moved to properties out of Harrow, away from family support structures, schools, and work.

Due to the cost-of-living crisis and the consequential significant increase in rents over the past 2 years there is now an increased reliance on the much more expensive nightly rated accommodation, which is a significant cost to the council.

What are you as the Cabinet member with responsibility for Housing doing to ensure that policies and strategies across the council are focussed on improving the quality and quantity of affordable housing in Harrow, especially on council owned sites?