

Council (Council Tax)

Thursday 16 February 2012

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LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW
MAYORAL ENGAGEMENTS
Thursday 16 February 2012

I have carried out the following engagements since the Council Meeting on Thursday 3 November 2011:-

- 4 November Attended Annual Community Diwali Reception at City Hall
- 8 November Hosted Roxeth Primary School Council Visit
Attended Harrow Heroes Award
- 9 November Attended Grand opening of Asperger Centre, Pinner Road
- 11 November Attended Douai Armistice Ceremony
- 12 November Attended Lord Mayor's Show
Attended Harrow Mencap AGM
- 13 November Inspected Parade at St Ann's Centre
Attended United Act of Remembrance Service
Attended Buffet Reception at British Legion
Attended Watford Palace Theatre's Diwali Celebration
- 16 November Attended Rethink Support Groups' Art Presentation
Attended Children Looked After & Care Leavers' Achievement Celebration
- 17 November Attended HAD Collection Event at Morrison's Supermarket, Hatch End
Attended Citizenship Ceremony
Attended Photocall with Julie Howard (Harrow Heroes Award Winner)
- 18 November Attended Mayoress's Committee Christmas Fair
Attended Harrow Council/Harrow Muslim Council/Harrow Asian Multicultural Association's Eid-UI-Adhar
- 19 November Attended Silver Anniversary Shabbat Morning Service, Kol Chai Synagogue
Attended Opening of Barratt Home's Sales Office
Attended Mayoress's Committee Ball
- 20 November Attended Shree Lakshmi Narayan Dham UK's Convention
- 21 November Attended Harrow Community Transport's AGM
- 22 November Hosted Harrow Education Appeals Panel Reception
Attended National Inter Faith Council Week
- 23 November Attended GLA's Pan-London Citizenship Ceremony
Attended Sai Organisation & Sai School of Harrow's Remembrance of the Birth of Bhagwan Sri Sathya Sai Baba
- 24 November Attended Pinner & Northwood Business Club Lunch Reception & Window Competition
Attended Pinner & Northwood Business Club's Pinner Pantomime Evening & Switching of Christmas Lights
- 26 November Attended Young Talent Celebration at Bentley Wood High School
Attended Sangha Mitra's Annual Dinner & Dance
- 28 November Hosted Harrow Education Appeals Panel Reception

Attended Harrow Music Service's Band Festival

29 November Attended Tree Planting at Roxeth Park
Hosted Harrow Camera Club
Attended Citizenship Ceremony

1 December Attended Asian People's Disability Alliance International Day of Persons with Disabilities
Attended Mr Bhagwatidash Mehta's 100th Birthday Celebration
Attended Harrow Town Centre to Light-up Christmas Tree Event
Attended London Borough of Islington's Charity Dinner

2 December Attended Ceremony to received Commemorative DJ Black Poplar Sapling
Attended HAD's Disability Arts Festival

3 December Attended Harrow Mencap Collection at M&S in Pinner
Attended Harrow in Europe Christmas Brunch
Attended Inauguration of Computer Touch Screen Technology at Bedford House
Attended Hatch End Traders' Association's Christmas Event & Switching on Lights

4 December Attended Harrow Apollo Male Choir Concert in aid of Mayoral Charities
Attended Harrow School's Town Carol Service
Attended Grimsdyke Brass & Harrow Arts Centre's "A Brass Band Christmas" Event

5 December Attended University of Westminster's Graduation Ceremony
Attended Launch of Harrow Community Radio

6 December Hosted Tea Party for Teachers from Uganda
Attended HAD AGM & Celebration

7 December Attended Opening of Wooden Spoon Extension at Red Balloon Learner Centre
Attended Mind in Harrow's AGM & Presentation Ceremony
Attended Jack Petchey 'Speak Out' Challenge & Speakers Trust

8 December Attended Christmas Performance (Year 2) at Grimsdyke School
Attended Hatch End High School's Senior Citizens Christmas Party & Concert

9 December Attended Community Link Up (HAD)'s Annual Christmas Party

10 December Attended Lohana Community North London Mahila Mandal's Special Need People's Christmas Party
Attended North Harrow Christmas Event

11 December Attended ACE Badminton Club's Badminton Tournament
Attended Harrow Young Musician's Philharmonic Concert

12 December Hosted L & G Drop in Session
Attended Saathi Group's Christmas Party
Attended Harrow High School's 'The Grinch' Pantomime

13 December Attended Opening Ceremony of Newly Refurbished Restaurant & Drive-Thru K & G McDonalds Restaurant
Hosted meeting with Representatives from Afghan Association of London

14 December Hosted Reception for Belmont Fire Volunteers & St Anselm's Church Team's

15 December Attended Harrow Homestart Children's Christmas Party
 Attended CREATE Awards
 Attended London Borough of Brent's Charity Christmas Party

16 December Attended Grand opening of Aroma Restaurant

17 December Attended Portuguese Community Precisa de Falar's Holiday Party

18 December Attended Ashiana Charity Trust's Year End Fancy Dress Party
 Attended Good News Church's 'Carols by Candlelight' Service

19 December Attended Chief Executive's Christmas Quiz
 Attended Christians in Discussion Christmas Carol
 Attended Vaughan Centre's Christmas Celebration for Harrow Mencap & Service Users

20 December Hosted Staff Hanukkah Reception

21 December Attended Housebound Library Service's Informal Christmas Get-Together

30 December Attended Tamu Pye LHU Sangh UK's Gurung Lhosar New Year Event

1 January Attended New Years Day Parade, Reception & Procession

3 January Attended North London Coroner's Court's Swearing in Ceremony of Deputy Coroner & Assistant Deputy Coroners

4 January Attended Launch of Explore Learning Centre

5 January Attended Citizenship Ceremony

6 January Attended Flash Musicals Film Club Event

7 January Attended Laura Silverman's 100th Birthday Celebration
 Attended The Lord Mayor & Lady Mayoress's Fancy Dress Party with Children (Mayoress)
 Attended Brahma Kumaris Healing Hearts & Minds

8 January Attended Service of Parish Communion to Celebration the 918th Anniversary

9 January Attended Busy Bee's National Torch Relay Launch

11 January Hosted Tea Reception for Walkers
 Attended Young Enterprise Interim Competition

12 January Attended Citizenship Ceremony
 Attended The London Government Dinner

14 January Attended Tamil Pongals Celebration

15 January Attended LB of Redbridge's Pantomime event for London Mayors

16 January Attended Newton Farm School Assembly

17 January Hosted visit by Weald Junior School

19 January Attended Circus Star's Indoor Circus Variety Show

20 January Attended Official Launch of next phase of Spectrum's Show Home
 Attended Vivekananda Human Centre's Swami Vivekananda Birth Celebration & Youth Convention 2012

22 January

23 January Chaired HPCCG's AGM

25 January Hosted Tea Reception for Harrow Bereavement Care

26 January Attended Brent Indian Association's Republic Day of India Flag Hoisting Ceremony
 Attended Launch of Street Pastors

27 January Attended Fair Trade Community Summit

28 January Attended Northwood & Pinner Liberal Synagogue's Annual Civic Service
 Attended Rayners Lane Saraswati Puja Committee's Swaraswati Puja Event
 Attended Harrow in Europe's Quiz Supper

30 January Attended North Holocaust Memorial Day

31 January Hosted visit by Anglican Alliance
 Attended Citizenship Ceremony

1 February Hosted Reception for Harrow Mencap Volunteers
 Attended Harrow's Holocaust Memorial Day

2 February Attended Citizenship Ceremony

3 February Attended Hatch End High School's "FAME" Production

5 February Attended "St Agatha" Ladies Sisterhood of St Panteleimon Greek Orthodox
 Community's Annual Dinner & Dance

6 February Attended The Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames Civic Service

9 February Attended Citizenship Ceremony

11 February Attended Mayoress's Committee Charity Indian Evening

15 February Hosted visit by Harrow Probus Club
 Attended Launch of the Memory Lane Community (Dementia Unit), Wilsmere Care
 Home

I was represented by The Deputy Mayor on the following occasions:-

5 November Attended Zahira Old Boys' Association Annual Dinner

11 November Attended Staff Armistice Ceremony
 Attended Friends at Kingsley & Harrow Mencap's International Evening

12 November Attended St Mark's Patient Forum Event
 Attended Harrow Philharmonic Choir Concert

19 November Attended St Albans Church's Christmas Fair

20 November Attended Road Peace's World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victim

24 November Attended National Council of Hindu Temples UK Diwali Celebrations

1 December Attended Citizenship Ceremony

5 December Attended Harrow Christmas Care's Community Lunch

12 January Attended Bentley Wood High School's Award Ceremony

28 January Attended Young Lohana Association of North London's L Factor Talent Show

16 January Attended Citizenship Ceremony

I was represented by Past Mayors and Honorary Alderman on the following occasions:-

- 3 November Attended Citizenship Ceremony
- 5 November Attended 22nd World Scout Jamboree
- 10 November Attended Citizenship Ceremony
 Attended Yodi Divine Society's Annakut Mahotsav
- 11 November Attended Armistice Ceremony
 Attended Remembrance Day Service at Harrow High School
- 13 November Attended St Panteleimon's Greek Orthodox Church's Annual Dinner & Dance
- 18 November Attended Historic visit by Archbishop of Westminster at Zoroastrian Centre
- 20 November Attended Interfaith Week "Living Well with Austerities" at Jain Centre
 Attended Interfaith Week "Festival of Music & Food" at Jain Centre
- 24 November Attended Citizenship Ceremony
- 26 November Attended Winter Ball at 131 Commando Unit TA Centre
- 7 December Attended St Dominic's Sixth Form College's Concert of Music for Christmas
- 8 December Attended Citizenship Ceremony
- 14 December Attended Rooks Heath College's Winter Music Concert
- 15 December Attended Bentley Wood High School's Christmas with Friends, Families & Neighbours Party
 Attended Kenton Learning Centre's Graduation Ceremony
 Attended Citizenship Ceremony
 Attended Stanmore College's Annual Awards
- 17 December Attended Harrow Young Musician's Christmas Concert
- 18 December Attended Christ Church Roxeth Christmas Carol Service
- 20 December Attended Caribbean Themed "Creating Opportunities 4 Young People" event
- 22 December Attended Citizenship Ceremony
- 23 December Attended Collection at Asda by Harrow Mencap
 Attended Harrow Mencap's Raffle Draw at Vaughan Centre

The following Harrow Residents received Awards in the Queen's New Year's Honours List:-

Dr Terry Butland	OBE
Mrs Daphne Vernede Hamblin	MBE
Mr Leslie Norman Moss	MBE
Mrs Morella Kayman	MBE

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ITEMS 8 - 11 - CORPORATE PLAN
REVENUE BUDGET
HRA
CAPITAL PROGRAMME
TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY/PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS

THIS NOTE REFLECTS A CONSENSUS BETWEEN THE LABOUR AND CONSERVATIVE GROUPS ON THE PROCEDURES THAT WILL APPLY FOR THE DETERMINATION OF THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET & COUNCIL TAX AND THE CORPORATE PLAN.

- OPENING** If there are to be amendments to the Cabinet Recommendations, at the request of the Political Groups, the Leader will move the Cabinet Recommendations and the Mayor will then call for amendments.
- AMENDMENTS** The Political Groups may then move and second any amendments.
- JOINT DEBATE** It is desirable that the Council should hold one comprehensive debate on its budget and Items 8 - 11, so **all** amendments will be considered to have been moved together.
- ADJOURNMENT** Should significant amendments be received the Mayor will propose an adjournment of up to thirty minutes to allow Members to read and assimilate the detail of any amendments.
- EXTENDED SPEECHES** Up to three identified Members of each Group will be allowed a total of **20 minutes** to talk to the recommendation, and to move and second any amendment. The order will be as follows:
- (1) Labour (20 minutes)
 - (2) Conservative (20 minutes)
- DEBATING RULES** All other speakers will be restricted to the usual **3 minutes**. To conclude the debate the Groups will be allocated **1 winding-up speech of 5 minutes**, in the following order:
- (1) Conservative
 - (2) Labour
- VOTING ON AMENDMENTS** Following the final winding-up speech, the Council will immediately move to voting on the amendments. **NO** further debate will take place between the voting on the amendments.
- The amendments will be voted on in the following order:
- (1) Liberal Democrat / Independent
 - (2) Conservative
 - (3) Labour

One separate vote will be taken on each amendment.
If any amendment is carried it becomes the substantive proposal.

Following votes on each amendment the Council Meeting will have either:

- if an amendment has been carried, a new substantive Budget / Council Tax proposal / Corporate Plan proposal; or
- if no amendment has been carried the original Recommendations.

**DETERMINATION
OF ITEMS 8 – 11**

A new substantive Budget/Council Tax proposal (if an amendment has been carried) or the Cabinet Recommendation **if not amended** will be put to a formal vote of the Council to be adopted, without further debate.

**SUSPENSION OF
COUNCIL RULES**

The procedures set out above vary the rules regarding the moving of a recommendation from the executive, and the rules of debate. Council will be assumed to have endorsed under Rule 25.1 the suspension of the rules for the limited purposes of items 8 – 11 on the Summons, taken as a single item.

ITEM 6

LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

COUNCIL MEETING -

16 FEBRUARY 2012

QUESTION WITH NOTICE

A period of up to 15 minutes is allowed for the asking of written questions by members of the public of a Member of the Executive or the Chairman of any Committee.

Questioner: Jessica Lawrence

Asked of: Councillor Phillip O'Dell (Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Safety)

Question 1:

"When is an investigation going to be undertaken regarding the expenditures of the arboricultural department and the manner in which payments are made to contractor Gristwood & Toms and an investigation into the dissatisfactory works they carry out in mismanaging the trees in the borough which in my neighbourhood of West means pollarding in an excessive and particularly unsightly manner"

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LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

COUNCIL MEETING -

16 FEBRUARY 2012

QUESTION WITH NOTICE

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Questioner: **Dennis Foxley on behalf of non-teaching staff from Cannon Lane Junior School**

Asked of: **Councillor Brian Gate (Portfolio Holder for Schools and Colleges)**

Question 2:

“What consideration has the Council given to the detrimental impact the proposed changes to terms and conditions, (or reductions in salary) to non-teaching staff employed in schools, would have on the education of children in Harrow schools?”

Non-teaching staff have already suffered a pay freeze for 3 years whilst teachers have enjoyed annual increments. A further loss in salary would be divisive, resulting in a demoralised workforce and would erode support that is given to teachers. Without the commitment and goodwill of the non-teaching staff there would be a decline in the provision of high quality teaching and learning in Harrow schools.”

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LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

COUNCIL MEETING -

16 FEBRUARY 2012

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Questioner: Jeremy Zeid

Asked of: Councillor Bill Stephenson (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Business Transformation)

Question 3:

“What are the costs and revenue implications of Bailiff Incentives that have now come into practice and what is being done to monitor and regulate performance while also protecting those at the receiving end from ill-treatment and unreasonable charges?”

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LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

COUNCIL MEETING -

16 FEBRUARY 2012

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Questioner: Joan Penrose

Asked of: Councillor Bill Stephenson (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Business Transformation)

Responded to by: Councillor Margaret Davine (Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care, Health and Well-being)

Question 4:

“Five of the six users and carer members of the Mental Health Day Care Steering Group put questions to the 6th February Cabinet meeting complaining about the current consultation on mental health day services.

What are you going to do to address our many concerns which include:

1. Consultation questionnaire fails to ask stakeholders (users, carers and staff) what their needs are;
2. Consultation questionnaire fails to state what proposals for new day services actually are – except in the most general terms.”

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LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

COUNCIL MEETING -

16 FEBRUARY 2012

QUESTION WITH NOTICE

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Questioner: Ann Freeman

Asked of: Councillor Bill Stephenson (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Business Transformation)

Responded to by: Councillor Margaret Davine (Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care, Health and Well-being)

Question 5:

“Why does Harrow Council continue to refuse the request to investigate the neglect of people living in the units in Weldon Crescent, Greenhill Road, Field End Road and receiving Floating Housing Support from the Supporting People Service, over 10/11 years, that is prior to change to the new Provider, Richmond Fellowship? (The new service is gradually proving to be everything that a person with mental illness needs to feel at home and to be given confidence and skills to live independently).”

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LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

COUNCIL

16th February 2012

Item 8(A) – Integrated Planning: Corporate Plan 2012/13

With regard to the issue of the Affordable Homes, it is proposed that the Priority Action be amended from “providing affordable new rented and intermediate housing to address housing priorities across Harrow” to read:

“139 affordable housing units delivered. This reflects an appropriate affordable housing proportion as set out in the Core Strategy for Housing target and the current delivery pipeline reported by Housing”.

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ITEM 15

LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

COUNCIL MEETING -

16 FEBRUARY 2012

QUESTION WITH NOTICE

A period of up to 15 minutes is allowed for the asking of written questions by Members of Council or a Member of the Executive or the Chairman of any Committee.

Questioner: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

Asked of: Councillor Bob Currie (Portfolio Holder for Housing)

Question 1:

“With the small fall in RPI inflation since the Government’s rent determination, will the Council pass on this fall to tenants in terms of its rent demands for 2012/13?”

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LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

COUNCIL MEETING -

16 FEBRUARY 2012

QUESTION WITH NOTICE

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Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall

Asked of: Councillor Phillip O'Dell (Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Safety)

Question 2:

“Your administration reduced police numbers by cutting the Council-funded team. Why did you not use this budget as an opportunity to correct said cut and both restore and increase the size of the team, thanks to the 2-for-1 offer from the Metropolitan Police?”

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LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

COUNCIL MEETING -

16 FEBRUARY 2012

QUESTION WITH NOTICE

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Questioner: Councillor Paul Osborn

Asked of: Councillor Bill Stephenson (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Business Transformation)

Responded to by: Councillor Graham Henson (Portfolio Holder for Performance, Customer Services and Corporate Services)

Question 3:

“Why have you not extended to us the same courtesy I always extended to you to ensure you were always briefed on business cases before they were passed and why, in relation to the Mobile and Flexible Working, did the Corporate Director move the arranged briefing to 22nd February on the basis it wouldn’t go to Cabinet until March?”

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LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

COUNCIL MEETING -

16 FEBRUARY 2012

QUESTION WITH NOTICE

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Questioner: Councillor Kam Chana

Asked of: Councillor Margaret Davine (Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care, Health and Well-being)

Responded to by: Councillor Bill Stephenson (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Business Transformation)

Question 4:

“It was reported this week that the majority of people in Lambeth who receive Discretionary Disabled Freedom Passes will lose them as a result of new eligibility criteria. Can you confirm both the number and the proportion of recipients in Harrow who will lose their Discretionary Passes as a result of your administration’s new eligibility criteria – introduced last October?”

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LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

COUNCIL MEETING -

16 FEBRUARY 2012

QUESTION WITH NOTICE

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Questioner: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

Asked of: Councillor Mitzi Green (Portfolio Holder for Children's Services)

Question 5:

"The funding for Children's Centres is to be cut by £1 million over the next two years. How have you assured that those residents who rely on the services the Centres provide most of all will not be affected by these cuts?"

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LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

COUNCIL MEETING -

16 FEBRUARY 2012

QUESTION WITH NOTICE

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Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall

Asked of: Councillor Bill Stephenson (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Business Transformation)

Responded to by: Councillor Keith Ferry (Portfolio Holder for Planning, Development and Enterprise)

Question 6:

“Harrow has the highest average number of people per house in the whole of London. This is because we have solid communities with families sharing homes. Families need houses not flats. In the last 12 months the Council has approved over 400 flats but only just over 100 houses. The Council's own Annual Monitoring Report boasts that they have built “well above the target densities” - cramming people into densely built flats. As Chairman of the Major Developments Panel, why is your administration undermining the structures of family homes and open spaces that underpin much of what is best about Harrow?”

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LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

COUNCIL MEETING -

16 FEBRUARY 2012

QUESTION WITH NOTICE

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Questioner: Councillor Paul Osborn

Asked of: Councillor Bill Stephenson (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Business Transformation)

Responded to by: Councillor Keith Ferry (Portfolio Holder for Planning, Development and Enterprise)

Question 7:

“In the last 12 months Harrow was the worst borough in West London in terms of job creation, and self employment dropped in the last 12 months to the lowest level since 2004. What is your administration doing to help this situation?”

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Amendment for Motion (6) – NHS

To insert after “opposition to these market driven plans to privatise the NHS from the backdoor in the name of modernisation” and before “This Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to the 3 MPs to express our concerns about the risk to the NHS” the following:

‘This Council notes for information that, under the existing organisational structure of the National Health Service:

1. Harrow Primary Care Trust (PCT) was rated as the sixth worst PCT in the country in 2010 (138th out of 144) by the Health Service Journal, with the second worst competency rating.
2. Despite receiving 5% extra funding from the previous government, Harrow PCT is making up to £57 million of cuts during this year to tackle its own financial mismanagement. Harrow PCT's former chief executive said that its financial problems were "probably bigger than any other PCT in London".
3. Harrow PCT has already cut £2 million out of mental health services, vital to some of Harrow's most vulnerable residents, and is now looking to cut IVF and other services.
4. Harrow PCT ranks in the bottom third for England and the bottom 15% for London for recovery rates for depression and anxiety, with just 35% of patients given psychological therapy for depression and anxiety returning to full health. Harrow PCT ranks 25th out of 29 in London, and 111th out of 152 nationwide.
5. Harrow PCT abruptly closed the Pinner Village Surgery in 2010 without proper consultation and weak justification, inconveniencing thousands of Harrow residents.’

Cllr. Barry Macleod-Cullinane
Deputy Leader of the Opposition



Cllr. Simon Williams
Harrow on the Hill Ward



Amendment for Motion (7) – Step Free Access

To insert after: “This Council congratulates Campaigners who have continued to keep the issue of step free access at Harrow’s stations in the public eye” and before “This Council instructs that the Chief Executive write to the Mayor of London” the following:

‘This Council notes that the collapse of Metronet has delayed getting step-free access for Harrow on the Hill station.

This Council further notes that using capital presently earmarked for investment for revenue support purposes would necessarily reduce the funds available for infrastructure works on the Underground network and thus create further delays in securing the funds for implementing step-free access upgrades at Harrow on the Hill and other stations across Harrow.’

Proposed by:

Cllr. Susan Hall
Leader of the Opposition



Seconded by:

Cllr. Barry Macleod-Cullinane
Deputy Leader of the Opposition



Amendment for Motion (8) – London Living Rent

To insert after “strong communities to be built in the borough” and before “This Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to Harrow’s 3 MPs...” the following:

‘This Council notes for information that rent control, of which the London Living Rent is a variant, has been described by Swedish economist Assar Lindbeck “as the most efficient technique presently known for destroying a city – apart from bombing.”

‘This Council therefore refers this motion to Cabinet with a recommendation that it commission a report from the Housing Department on the impact the London Living Rent would have on Harrow; specifically with regard to housing demand and supply.

Cllr. Barry Macleod-Cullinane
Deputy Leader of the Opposition



Cllr. Paul Osborn
Vice-Chairman, Overview & Scrutiny



Amendment for Motion (13) – Council Tax

To insert after: “recognises the challenge the Council faces next year in budgeting with its commitment to protect services on which our residents depend” and before: “This Council calls on Government to provide funding to Local Authorities for a Council Tax freeze in the next financial year – 2013/14”, the following:

‘This Council notes for information that on page 36 of the Budget, under the title *Council Tax Strategy*, paragraph 15 states:

“The assumed Council tax increase from 2013-14 is 2.5% per year, however it should be noted that if the Government were to offer a one year only Council tax freeze again next year, it is unlikely that the Council would be able to accept this due to the adverse effects on the Council tax base for future years.”

Proposed by:

Cllr. Susan Hall
Leader of the Opposition



Seconded by:

Cllr. Barry Macleod-Cullinane
Deputy Leader of the Opposition



Council – 16th February 2012

URGENT MOTION

Council Prayer Motion

This Council notes with concern the recent High Court ruling regarding Bideford Town Council and the lawfulness of prayers at the beginning of Council meetings.

This Council believes that were said ruling to apply in Harrow it would serve to undermine the superb relationship between our diverse religious communities and our belief in the importance of fostering respect and inclusion between faiths.

This Council is proud of and celebrates Harrow's status as the most religiously diverse borough in the UK and will seek to continue to support all types of diversity in the way the Council is run. This Council therefore states our commitment to the continuation of the tradition of holding prayers at the opening of Council meetings.

Proposed by:

Cllr. Susan Hall
Leader of the Opposition



Seconded by:

Cllr. Barry Macleod-Cullinane
Deputy Leader of the Opposition



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