

CABINET

THURSDAY 12 DECEMBER 2013

**PUBLIC AND COUNCILLOR
QUESTIONS ACCEPTED**

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CABINET – 12 DECEMBER 2013

PUBLIC QUESTIONS (ITEM 5)

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: Jackie Hooper

Asked of: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Adults and Housing

Question: “Employment for people experiencing mental health problems is a stated priority of Harrow’s Health & Well-being Strategy and therefore what supported permitted work opportunities does Harrow Council offer for mental health service users?”
[Note: Supported Permitted Work is a DWP approved scheme allowing people in receipt of welfare benefits to work and earn income.]

2.

Questioner: Raksha Pandya, MIND in Harrow

Asked of: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Adults and Housing

Question: What has been the progress of the Harrow Council commissioned NDTi Mental Health Personalisation Project in terms of the number of people who have engaged with project to date compared to their contracted targets?

3.

Questioner: Mr M Talukder

Asked of: Councillor Susan Hall, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Environment

Question: “Can you please explain why you have implemented a caveat on a political decision when you were the opposition party this relates to the decision to overturn Parks locking; the caveat you

unilaterally placed on this service, is only funding for 2013/14 which was not part of the political decision to reinstate this service?"

4.

Questioner: Mr Davis Searles

Asked of: Councillor Susan Hall, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Environment

Question: "You state that your administration has implemented and supports a fairer Council; can you please explain why operational staff at Central Depot does not receive training especially when Agency staff across the Council are lawfully entitled thus receiving more beneficial employment opportunities against those that have been directly employed in the Council for more than TEN Years thus substantially disadvantaging staff in obtaining redeployment opportunities."

5.

Questioner: Mrs J Lawrence-Ricketts

Asked of: Councillor Kamaljit Chana, Portfolio Holder for Business and Enterprise

Question: "Can you tell me what activities were promoted in Harrow by Harrow Council on the "Small Business Saturday" last week to help local traders and reinforce the benefits of local trading?"

AGENDA PART I

COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS (ITEM 6)

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 William Stoodley

Asked of: Councillor Paul Osborn, Portfolio Holder for Communications, Performance and Resources

Question: "Two Cabinet meetings ago, I raised the issue of detrimental comments made by a Mrs Melanie Lewis about a former Council Officer, Mr Andrew Trehern, on the public website "iHarrow". I was assured the accusations made in those comments are totally false and that they should be taken down.

At the time of writing this question those comments are still up on the "iHarrow" website. Why is it that, even after I have brought this to your Administration's attention, still nothing has been done after all this time about these libellous comments about Mr Trehern?"

2.

Questioner: Councillor William Stoodley

Asked of: Councillor Susan Hall, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Environment

Question: "Do you believe that there is enough incentive, that enough is being done, to teach people to take care of, respect and appreciate their public realm?"

3.

Questioner: Councillor William Stoodley

Asked of: Councillor Stephen Wright, Portfolio Holder for Property and Major Contracts

Question: "Do you feel you can justify all the items of property that you currently propose to sell?"

4.

Questioner: Councillor William Stoodley

Asked of: Councillor Kamaljit Chana, Portfolio Holder for Business and Enterprise

Question: "At the time of writing this question (27/11/13) the President of the North West London Chamber of Commerce, Ms Carole Marblestein, has informed me that she has not heard from you and indeed has not even heard of you!

Bearing in mind that you are the Holder for this newly and especially created Portfolio, would you please explain why, after two whole months, you have not bothered to get in touch with one of the most significant business organisations in our Borough?"

5.

Questioner: Councillor William Stoodley

Asked of: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Adults and Housing

Question: "As you know, because I copied you in on the email, one of our Borough's citizens complained to me about the appalling damp in her privately rented flat, the rent for which is paid for through housing benefit.

Can you please explain why we are using such appalling landlords, why we are not using our registered landlord scheme or, if he is a member then how did he qualify with such an appallingly damp property, and what plans your department has to avoid this happening in the future?"

6.

Questioner: Councillor William Stoodley

Asked of: Councillor Janet Mote, Portfolio Holder for Children and Schools

Question: "With respect to my previous question, the tenant of the flat concerned has a Doctor's certificate confirming that both she and her two children contracted pneumonia almost certainly as a result of the damp living conditions. What machinery do you have in place for safeguarding children from living in unhealthy conditions when it is our own Council paying the rent for them to live like that?"

7.

Questioner: Councillor Asad Omar / Councillor William Stoodley

Asked of: Councillor Susan Hall, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Environment

Question: “If the post of Chief Executive is being deleted, should we not be reconsidering the position of Assistant Chief Executive or the post has also been deleted?”

8.

Questioner: Councillor William Stoodley / Councillor Asad Omar

Asked of: Councillor Susan Hall, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Environment

Question: Since the Council is introducing cashless parking with e-permits starting in December, why can't the trail of 20 minutes free parking continue across the Borough?

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