

CABINET

THURSDAY 10 DECEMBER 2015

PUBLIC AND COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS WRITTEN RESPONSES

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Written Response to Questioner 3 not present at the meeting

3.

Questioner: Shambhu Gupta

Asked of: Councillor Varsha Parmar, Portfolio Holder for Public health, Equality and Wellbeing

Question: Will there be increased pressure on the family GP and the local hospitals after the health visitor service is cut?

Written Response: At Harrow Council's Cabinet meeting, the Health Visiting Service budget savings proposal was withdrawn before the Draft Budget.

We are undertaking a review of the Health Visiting Service in Harrow, and we are awaiting further details from government about the funding settlement for the Council, on top of the £83m of cuts imposed by the Conservative Government on Harrow Council, and our residents, from 2014 to 2018.

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Written Response to Questioner 5 not present at the meeting

5.

Questioner: Kate White

Asked of: Councillor Varsha Parmar, Portfolio Holder for Public health, Equality and Wellbeing

Question: As commissioning responsibility for health visiting services were only transferred to the Council in October, it is clear that the Council will not have had sufficient time to consult with relevant stakeholders, consider options for mitigation, consult with service users, and assess how this cut would impact on the local community in comparison to possible cuts in other areas. It is out of keeping with international acknowledgement (see e.g. Michael Marmot and the WHO) of the need to invest in people from the youngest age possible, and the clear economic and social benefits of doing so. How can the Council justify making this decision when it has clearly not had the opportunity to fully think this through, particularly when it is so out of keeping with local, national and international strategy?

Written Response: At Harrow Council's Cabinet meeting, the Health Visiting Service budget savings proposal was withdrawn before the Draft Budget.

We are undertaking the review of the Health Visiting Service in Harrow, and we are awaiting further details from government about the funding settlement for the Council, on top of the £83m of cuts imposed by the Conservative Government on Harrow Council, and our residents, from 2014 to 2018.

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Written responses to Councillor Questions 8-12 not reached at Cabinet

8.

Questioner: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

Asked of: Councillor Glen Hearnden, Portfolio Holder for Housing

Question: “When do you expect the finalisation of the Garage Strategy Review?”

Written Response: The Review has completed. It has identified potential development sites which are included in the infill development programme.

9.

Questioner: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

Asked of: Councillor Glen Hearnden, Portfolio Holder for Housing

Question: “When are the proposed dwellings for private sale expected to come to market so as to provide funds to help finance the building of new affordable rent and shared ownership homes in Harrow?”

Written Response: The first of the private sale houses are on Masefield Avenue with works scheduled to commence in March 2016 with a target of Feb 2017 for completion. Marketing will start in advance of completion.

We are in the process of developing designs for additional sales units with target completion dates of July/August 2017.

10.

Questioner: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

Asked of: Councillor Anne Whitehead, Portfolio Holder for Adults and Older People

Question: “Are you confident the sizeable commercial ambitions regarding My Community ePurse, as set out in the draft budget, are achievable?”

Written Response: Yes.

11.

Questioner: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

Asked of: Councillor Varsha Parmar, Portfolio Holder for Public Health, Equality and Wellbeing

Question: “The ‘review’ of health visits in the draft budget appears to remove the entirety of the funding for this provision. Can you confirm if funding or provision will be made-up elsewhere, or will this ‘review’ effectively stop this service?”

Written Response: At Harrow Council’s Cabinet meeting, the Health Visiting Service budget savings proposal was withdrawn before the Draft Budget. We are undertaking the review of the Health Visiting Service in Harrow, and we are awaiting further details from government about the funding settlement for the Council.

12.

Questioner: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

Asked of: Councillor Simon Brown, Portfolio Holder for Children, Schools and Young People

Question: “Can you explain what impact the cut proposed in the draft budget to the special needs service will have on service delivery, given at £1.1m it’s approaching half the total funding?”

Written Response: The saving will require substantial transformation of how services are provided and this is likely to require working together with other authorities in a shared service arrangement.

We are being forced into this position by the £83m of cuts imposed by the Tory Government on Harrow Council, and our residents, from 2014 to 2018.

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Written responses to Councillor Questions 13-14 not reached at Cabinet

13.

Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall

Asked of: Councillor Sachin Shah, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Major Contracts

Question: “Do you anticipate using any of the general reserves during the 2016-17 financial year?”

Written Response: Based on current plans, there is no need to use our general reserves.

14.

Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall

Asked of: Councillor Sachin Shah, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Major Contracts

Question: “Do you plan to make any more in-year (2015-16) cuts to departmental budgets?”

Written Response: Due to the £83m of cuts imposed by the Tory Government on Harrow Council, and our residents, from 2014 to 2018, we have to make tough choices as a Council. We are awaiting further information from the Conservative Government about the funding settlement for Harrow.

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