

## **Council**

**Thursday 25 November 2021**

### **Index of Tabled Documents/Information**

<b>Item on Summons</b>	<b>Document/Subject</b>	<b>Document Pages</b>
6.	<b>Public Questions *</b> There are six public questions attached.	3 - 8
11.	<b>Questions with Notice *</b> There are two Councillor questions attached.	9 - 12
12.	<b>Motions</b> An amendment from the Conservative Group to Motion 4 is attached.	13 - 16

This page is intentionally left blank

**LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

-

**25 November 2021**

**PUBLIC QUESTION**

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 Chair of any Committee.

**Questioner: Dean Sullivan**

**Asked of: Councillor Peymana Assad (Portfolio Holder for Community Cohesion, Crime & Enforcement)**

**Question 1:**

"I note that Harrow Councils Civil Enforcement Wardens are using Mopeds with L (Learner) plates. These Provisional road users have not completed the most basic of DVSA tests to demonstrate they have the ability to ride safely on the Boroughs roads. The use of Provisionally licenced road users for commercial purposes shows a lack of concern for the employee and other road users. The council have a legal responsibility towards the Training, Health & Safety and Welfare of their employees and it seems that in this case their safety & welfare is potentially being compromised by use of inexperienced riders for its commercial activities. Whereas the use of Provisional riders is common practice for certain businesses, the Council should be a leading light and demonstrating best practice by eliminating the use of Provisional licence holders and ensuring that all road users employed by the Council and its contractors employ only those suitably qualified to drive on the boroughs road without L plates.

Will the portfolio holder agree to adopt best practice and to take forward immediate steps to eliminate the use of vulnerable, untrained road users within its business and to ensure the Council and its contractors use only those employees who have passed the relevant DVSA test for the class of Motor Vehicle they are operating?"

**LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

-

**25 November 2021**

**PUBLIC QUESTION**

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 Chair of any Committee.

**Questioner: Suryakant Jadva**

**Asked of: Councillor Graham Henson (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Regeneration, Partnerships and Devolution)**

**Question 2:**

"Why is fly tipping increasing in Harrow?"

**LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW**

**COUNCIL MEETING -**

**25 November 2021**

**PUBLIC QUESTION**

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 Chair of any Committee.

**Questioner: Harice Jesani**

**Asked of: Councillor Varsha Parmar (Portfolio Holder for Environment and Climate Change)**

**Question 3:**

"When will the alleyway between Paulhan Road and Westfield Lane be cleared up by the Council?"

## LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

COUNCIL MEETING

-

25 November 2021

### PUBLIC QUESTION

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 Chair of any Committee.

**Questioner:** David Phelops

**Asked of:** Councillor Simon Brown (Portfolio Holder for Adults and Social Care)

#### Question 4:

"My Name is David Phelops, coordinator of More Than Just A Choir, part of the Harrow Rethink Support Group, a registered Group of the charity Rethink Mental Illness, working with adults, in Harrow, affected by mental illness and social isolation.

In 2016, Councillor David Perry, the then Labour Leader of Harrow council announced, after the Bridge mental health day centre was due to be closed and demolished, that The Bridge would become a "beacon of mental health" after a "...dignified and inspirational campaign..." by Bridge stakeholders.

In 2020, after The Bridge was closed due to the Covid situation, these stakeholders were told that, for health and safety reasons, The Bridge would be closed and reopened when it was safe to do so. In the meantime, London's Community Kitchen, a Community Interest Company, has been operating out of The Bridge, distributing recycled food. They have been using more and more of the building, which was purpose-built to provide mental health services.

Stakeholders are still waiting for The Bridge to be reopened to them. However, with only 1/5th of the floor space now allocated to mental health services, compared to the whole building pre-covid, many of the groups and services meeting at The Bridge and holding together a community of adults affected by mental illness and social isolation have been, effectively, evicted, without a transition period of consultation and co-production.

Is it the case that Harrow Council have taken a decision to prioritise food waste redistribution over Mental Health Services with regards to the Premises known as The Bridge - because it certainly feels that way?"

## **LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

-

**25 November 2021**

### **PUBLIC QUESTION**

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 Chair of any Committee.

**Questioner:** Lisa Hanna

**Asked of:** Councillor Simon Brown (Portfolio Holder for Adults and Social Care)

#### **Question 5:**

“My name is Lisa Hanna and I am a member of The Bridge Mental-Health Day Centre. I found my property and artwork damaged and missing from The Bridge during a planned visit with Julie Proudley, the then Bridge service manager, in May 2021. My fellow Bridge members also experienced loss of their property, personal abuse and discrimination. As the council’s own investigation, conducted by Chris Miller, into these experiences is ongoing, why have the activities of London’s Community Kitchen, who were sole occupiers at the time that these incidents took place, been allowed to continue and expand regardless of the investigation process?”

## LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

COUNCIL MEETING

-

25 November 2021

### PUBLIC QUESTION

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 Chair of any Committee.

**Questioner:**            **Samantha Pali**

**Asked of:**            **Councillor Graham Henson (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Regeneration, Partnerships and Devolution)**

#### **Question 6:**

“In light of the MPs where it was discovered some were not working from their constituency to support their residents, but based elsewhere or overseas in their term of office, can you please advise and publish a list of ALL Harrow Councillor’s who since appointed to office at the last council election up to 4<sup>th</sup> May 2022, i.e. their term of office, have been absent from living in the borough or intend to be, i.e. OUTSIDE the borough or overseas, for 22 days or more (ie. over 3 weeks consecutive) by each year indicating how many days they were absent for from the Borough. Please only include current councillors.”



**LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

-

**25 November 2021**

**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 Chair of any Committee.

**Questioner: Councillor Nitesh Hirani**

**Asked of: Councillor Varsha Parmar, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Climate Change**

**Question 1:**

“Why have you repeatedly delayed maintaining the alleyway in Westfield Lane?”

## **LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

-

**25 November 2021**

### **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 Chair of any Committee.

**Questioner: Councillor Chetna Halai**

**Asked of: Councillor Varsha Parmar, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Climate Change**

#### **Question 2:**

“Why have you still not acted on the petition presented by residents about the overgrown alleyway between Westfield Lane and Paulhan Road?”





## **MOTION - REQUESTING THE PRIME MINISTER AND CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER TO APOLOGISE FOR DELIVERING POOR VALUE FOR MONEY FOR HARROW TAXPAYERS**

25 November 2021

Following this government's ~~poor~~ handling of the Covid-19 pandemic and ~~mismanagement of~~ the ~~strains this has placed on the~~ economy, Harrow households face an increasing tax burden of £3,000 per household, per year, according to the Resolution Foundation. The think tank also found policies announced by Chancellor Rishi Sunak had boosted incomes by 2.8% for the poorest fifth of households.-

The government, through its recent Comprehensive Spending Review and anticipated Local Government Finance Settlement, has placed a starting assumption that all councils have the option to will be required to raise Council Tax, in order to cover the costs of more than a decade of cuts to local authority budgets.-

Harrow is regarded by peers as a high quality, low cost authority, with an extremely low level of financial reserves.-

Harrow has been a historically underfunded borough compared with peers throughout various governments since 2000. It is widely regarded that Harrow Council provides good value for money for Harrow residents and businesses.-

Harrow remains one of the lowest funded Councils both within London and nationally and Council notes:-

- According to the Director of Finance, Harrow Council has received £1,331,014,416 in non-Covid grants since 2018 from the Conservative government, this is an average of £332,753,604 per year.
- The Director of Finance also states that Harrow Council has received £143,105,841 in Covid grants from the Conservative government since the start of the pandemic.
- Combined, Harrow Council has received £1,474,120,257 in grants from the Conservative government since 2018.
- Harrow Council spent £342,639 on LTNs and Ghost cycle lanes. This includes installation, upkeep and removal of these ill-conceived schemes. These unpopular schemes were a waste of time and money which could have been better spent delivering on the real priorities of Harrow residents.
- In the 2020 budget, the Labour administration spent £300,000 on the Council's communications/PR department. The Labour Group chose to vote against the Conservative amendment which would have committed this £300,000 to frontline services.
- In the 2020 budget, the Labour administration spent £140,000 on inflating the back-office HR. The Labour Group chose to vote against the Conservative amendment which would have committed this £140,000 to frontline services.

- Over the past eight years the Council has wasted £46,415,000 on failed regeneration projects.
- In recent years, the Council has spent £3,700,000 on aborted IT projects.
- The Council has also wasted £32,912,000 on other projects.
- The Council's Revenue Support Grant (RSG), its main source of funding from central government, has reduced by 97% to just £1.6m, a reduction of £50.5m since 2015.
- The Council receives no additional funding to meet demographic and inflationary pressures. Therefore, growth of £77.4m has had to be provided to fund the continued pressures on front line services
- The total budget shortfall to find over the nine years of £147.3m to achieve a balanced budget.
- The Council has chosen to increase the Council Tax ~~has been increased largely in line with up to the~~ referendum limits and full use has been made of the Adults Social Care precept, but this has still been below the amount Labour believe they needed to properly fund services.
- ~~The reduced funding grants have meant a transfer of responsibility onto the council taxpayer to 78% – from 51% in 2014.~~

By contrast, this Conservative government has ~~been found to have egregiously wasted taxpayers' money on a~~ invested £20bn in the Test & Trace system of limited efficacy which has allowed the UK to unlock faster (and stay unlocked) compared to any other developed nation, due to the unprecedented pandemic it has also commissioned ~~handed out~~ contracts without bureaucratic ~~due~~ procurement processes in order to meet the urgent need for PPE and other necessary equipment, to friends of Ministers, and supported and backed Conservative MPs who have run inappropriate second jobs, on occasions, not even from this country, let alone their constituency.

~~This government is failing to provide value for money to Harrow residents.~~

#### **THIS COUNCIL RESOLVES:**

- For the Leader of the Council ~~and Leader of the Opposition~~ to write to the Prime Minister requesting an apology for this government's wasteful use of Harrow taxpayer's money
- For the Leader of the Council, ~~the Leader of the Opposition~~, and the Chief Executive to write to the Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer, requesting that Harrow is properly funded for the national services provided
- That once proper funding is reinstated or a Conservative administration is elected in Harrow, the ~~Leader of the~~ Council commits to implementing a freeze in Council Tax, in order to protect Harrow residents from the £3,000 per annum tax increases imposed by this Council Conservative government

Proposed by Cllr Antonio Weiss

Seconded by Cllr Graham Henson

[Amendment:](#)

[Proposed by Cllr Paul Osborn](#)

[Seconded by Cllr Marilyn Ashton](#)

This page is intentionally left blank