

## Council

**Thursday 24 November 2022**

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**LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

-

**24 NOVEMBER 2022**

**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: Ms Nicole Lyster**

**Asked of: Councillor Jean Lammiman (Portfolio Holder for Community and Culture)**

**Question 1:**

“Why are the council closing the borough’s only public gallery for visual arts, in order to turn this windowless room into an office for the Mayor, thus depriving local artists, art groups, schools and colleges of their only facility for displaying their art in a designated, accessible art space in the borough’s only Arts Centre?”

## LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

COUNCIL MEETING

-

24 NOVEMBER 2022

### PUBLIC QUESTION

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

**Questioner:**           **Ms Cheryl Gould MRSS (of The Royal Society of Sculptors)**

**Asked of:**           **Councillor Jean Lammiman (Portfolio Holder for Community and Culture)**

Question 2:

“As President of Harrow Art Society, having just discovered by chance whilst trying to make a booking for our Annual Art Society Exhibition 2023, that the White Gallery here at HAC, is to be closed, and allocated for The Worshipful Mayor’s Parlour, I feel sure Councillor Lammiman, as a supporter of the Arts Community understands how vital it is that the Public continue to get a chance to interact with the makers of art, and we Artists get opportunities to keep our presence alive as publicly exhibiting art is our life blood.

The White Gallery was initially founded and funded for the specific purpose of exhibiting art with public funding from the Arts Council and Lottery Funding for the sum of £10,000 in 2012. I am asking if any provision has been made to replace the White Gallery with the same viewing safeguards and facilities as the Gallery offers (such as CCTV, electronic tagging of work, and staff on site) for all Artists and those from our community that use this space ?”

**LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

-

**24 November 2022**

**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 Peymana Assad**

**Asked of: Councillor Anjana Patel, Portfolio Holder for Environment & Community Safety**

**Question 1:**

"We were all shocked and saddened to hear of the tragic death of Awaab Ishak who died 'as a result of a severe respiratory condition caused due to prolonged exposure to mould', which the Secretary of State has called an "appalling case of the utmost gravity and it is abhorrent that anyone should have to live in such conditions in Britain today " and "must never be allowed to happen again".

Harrow has a large number of rented properties through RSLs and private landlords with many residents reporting that landlords are slow to repair their homes, and with the worsening cost of living crisis they cannot afford to heat their homes, which may exacerbate damp and mould conditions.

What actions and priorities will the Portfolio Holder be taking to ensure that housing standards are improved in Harrow".

**LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW**

**COUNCIL MEETING -**

**24 November 2022**

**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 Nitin Parekh**

**Asked of: Councillor Marilyn Ashton, Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regeneration**

**Question 2:**

"Why did you stop the briefings for the planning committee?"

## **LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

-

**24 November 2022**

### **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 Stephen Hickman

**Asked of:** Councillor Anjana Patel, Portfolio Holder for Environment & Community Safety

#### **Question 3:**

"A Harrow on the Hill resident has reported regular fly-tipping in Hornbuckle Close HA2 0YE. It is a regular hotspot and requires weekly attention.

On 9th November, she reported fly-tipping by someone who appears to be a council contractor dumping radiators around the estate.

She reported the fly tip with video evidence but has heard nothing back from the Council.

Can Cllr Anjana Patel ensure this case will be investigated and enforcement action taken?"

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Police and Community Safety Motion

To be moved by Councillor Anjana Patel and seconded by Councillor Paul Osborn:

“Harrow Council notes the recent reforms ~~and improvements~~ to the police across England and Wales since 2019. This council ~~is grateful for~~ has observed consecutive Conservative Governments implement austerity cuts of more than 23 thousand police officers from streets across England and Wales since 2010. The worst of the cuts were inflicted in the Metropolitan Police during Boris Johnson’s term as Mayor of London.

In 2019, crime rocketed to the highest levels it has ever been. In response, the Conservative Government under Boris Johnson u-turned on their cuts to policing and refilled the 3,109 more police officers in London, as a part of the mere over 15,300 more police officers replenished in England and Wales recruited since the worse of the cuts. 2019. The Council notes that an attempt is being made by the Government to return to pre-austerity pre 2010 policing levels.

Harrow Council calls ~~and calls~~ on the government to ~~continue its drive to have~~ confirm that they will not press forward with new cuts to policing in 2023, considering the current cost of living emergency and the harsh Autumn Budget announced by Chancellor Jeremy Hunt. ~~recruited an extra 20,000 police officers by 2023.~~

This Council notes:

- The change to national policy that will see every report of home burglary having a police visit, ensuring that every victim of such an invasive crime will be given the attention they deserve
- Residents’ concern about the impact that the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act will have on their freedom of expression, rights and civil liberties such as the right to protest, something that is enjoyed by all of us. ~~illegal and disruptive protests have had on our country in recent years.~~

Considering the diversity of the London Borough of Harrow, the Council notes the disproportionate unfair impact these draconian measures will have on Black, Asian and Ethnic Minority people.

- That the- ~~Government Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act~~ took three long years to support our Police by putting the Police Covenant on the statue books, and only after a Labour amendment did the Government finally protect all police forces in the Police, Crime and Sentencing and Courts Act not just those serving in the Home Office. ~~has strengthened the power that police have tackling such action~~

- The Conservative Government voted against Labour’s proposals to increase minimum sentences for rapists, stalkers and those who break the anonymity of rape survivors, against making it easier for victims of rape and sexual violence to give evidence, against a new offence of street sexual harassment, against committing to make misogyny a hate crime and against toughening sentences for domestic abusers and murderers. ~~The further positive impacts of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act on dealing with sexual offences, including extending the scope of the offences in the Sexual Offences Act 2003, providing greater powers for the management of sex offenders and toughening around child sex offences. The Bill pushes higher sentences for damaging a statue than the minimum sentence for rape.~~

-There are good and important reforms in the bill. Some of the best measures come from campaigns by Labour MPs: Stephanie Peacock on dangerous driving, Chris Bryant and Holly Lynch on protecting Emergency Service Workers, John Spellar on reform of the DBS scheme and Sarah Champion on

sexual abuse by people in positions of trust. We support these measures and those taken from the Lammy Review.

- The ~~substantial~~ increase of police funding to £16.9 billion, part of which will be used to give every police officer a £1,900 uplift in their salary this year
- Under Mayor Sadiq Khan's tenure at City Hall, the Conservatives reduced the budget of the Mayor of London and forcibly closed -38 police stations ~~have been closed~~, reducing the visibility of local policing. We note that this doesn't come close to the 68 police stations that Boris Johnson closed during his tenure.
- ~~Mayor Khan has increased his office budget by over 60% since 2016 and now costs the London taxpayer over £6 million. The Mayor of London's office adds value to the lives of the people of London, for example Mayor Sadiq Khan has funded 1,300 more police independently of the Conservative Government.~~

The Conservatives talk tough on crime but, they've spent the last decade denying police forces the resources they need to keep the public safe since 2010.

This Council resolves to:

- ~~Lobby Cooperate with~~ the government to secure future funding for our local police service and make sure that the proposed uplift in the salary promised to police officers is not yet another - policy U-Turn
- Support officers new to the area through providing forums for them to meet with residents
- Provide resources for residents to keep in contact with new police officers in the area
- Call on the Conservative Government Mayor Khan to slash his office budget and stop the tax cuts for bankers profits, and to reinvest the funding in further extra policing across our Borough including—such as a dedicated Harrow Town Centre Police Team."

Proposer: Cllr Peymana Assad

Secunder: Cllr Shahania Choudhury

## **Labour Group Motion - Free School Meals**

Council acknowledges that we are in the midst of a cost of living crisis that is affecting households right across our borough. Families are really struggling, which is having an awful impact on children who are not getting the food they need to grow up healthy.

Given the scale of the challenge, Free School Meals guarantee children a hot, nutritious meal every lunchtime. They help hard-working families save money, and support pupils to learn and concentrate at school.

### **Council Notes:-**

- The financial burden food costs place on families, particularly those on lower incomes.
- The evidence from the voluntary sector and community and faith groups, who are supplying food to an increasing number of Harrow residents.
- The evidence of the growing number of Harrow primary schools offering food parcels to the families in their communities.
- Reports from school leaders that more children are bringing in an unsatisfactory lunch with many going without.
- Currently only pupils in reception and KS1 are entitled to universal Free School Meals in Harrow. Given the cost of living crisis, this Council is deeply concerned that Nursery children in our maintained schools and nurseries are excluded from this offer and that the eligibility is set too low for many families who are struggling to benefit (currently £7,400).
- The existing commitment to supporting less well-off families with cost of food during school holidays through the recent and welcome funding from central government via the Household support fund, however this is only short term with no guarantee for the future.
- Currently there are 800,000 children in England who are living in poverty but don't qualify for Free School Meals.
- Children of parents who receive Working Tax Credits do not qualify for free school meals.
- The recent Government report published on the 29th September, with the Resolution Foundation estimating that absolute poverty will increase by over 3 million people between 2021/22 and 2022/23, including 1 million children.

### **Council believes that:-**

- We should do all we can to help children living in poverty to achieve and thrive.
- That ensuring our youngest students are included in our Free School Meal offer is a critical tool to achieving the longer-term benefits a healthy start in life brings and that it is right that the potential of such a scheme be explored.

### **This Council resolves to:**

- Call upon the Leader of the Council to:

- Publish a detailed assessment of the issues and costs associated with an extension of Harrow's Free School meal offer to include all 3 and 4 year olds in maintained nursery and primary schools in the Borough, given the importance of this, to do so by the end of November 2022;
- Include the assessment in the development of the 2023 Council Budget as part of the budget setting process.
- Implement the Auto-enrolment to free school meals.

**Proposer: Cllr. Rashmi Kalu**

**Seconded: Cllr. Simon Brown**

## Labour Group Motion - Free School Meals

~~The Council has previously acknowledges that we are in the midst of a declared a cost of living emergency, crisis that which is affecting households right across our borough, due to Putin's illegal war in Ukraine and the ongoing economic fallout of the Covid pandemic.~~ Families are really struggling, which is having an awful impact on children who are not getting the food they need to grow up healthy. The Council and the government have provided significant support to help Harrow's residents.

~~Given the scale of the challenge,~~ Free School Meals guarantee children a hot, nutritious meal every lunchtime. They help hard-working families save money, and support pupils to learn and concentrate at school.

### Council Notes:-

- The financial burden food costs place on families, particularly those on lower incomes.
- The evidence from the voluntary sector and community and faith groups, who are supplying food to an increasing number of Harrow residents.
- The evidence of the growing number of Harrow primary schools offering food parcels to the families in their communities.
- Reports from school leaders that more children are bringing in an unsatisfactory lunch with many going without.
- Currently only pupils in reception and KS1 are entitled to universal Free School Meals in Harrow. Given the cost of living crisis, this Council is deeply concerned that Nursery children in our maintained schools and nurseries are excluded from this offer and that the eligibility is set too low for many families who are struggling to benefit (currently £7,400).
- The welcome and massive existing commitment to supporting less well-off families with cost of food during school holidays through the ~~recent and welcome funding from~~ central government's ~~via the~~ Household ~~s~~Support ~~f~~Fund, ~~however this is only short term with no guarantee for the future.~~ This has resulted in Harrow receiving £4.5 million over the last 18 months and we are projected to receive a further £3 million in 2023/24.
- ~~Currently there are 800,000 children in England who are living in poverty but don't qualify for Free School Meals.~~
- Children of parents who receive Working Tax Credits do not qualify for free school meals.
- ~~The recent Government report published on the 29th September, with the Resolution Foundation estimating that absolute poverty will increase by over 3 million people between 2021/22 and 2022/23, including 1 million children.~~
- The Conservative government has implemented a number of measures to ease the cost of living, including:
  - A £150 Council Tax rebate and a £400 discount to energy bills in the autumn.

- £326, the first of two cost of living payments, was automatically paid into 7 million bank accounts in July 2022 as part of the government's £37 billion support package. The second instalment of £324 was paid to qualifying residents in October 2022.
- The government confirmed at the Autumn Statement that working age benefits would be uprated by 10%. On average, a family on Universal Credit will benefit by around £600.
- The government will provide an additional cost of living payment of £900 to households on means tested benefits in 2023/24.
- Harrow Council's new Conservative administration are introducing policies which will save residents money and supporting those in need:
  - 1 Hour of free on street parking commenced in August 2022.
  - 1 Hour of free parking in Council owned car parks will be available from January 2023.
  - In January 2023, the Council will introduce a free bulky waste collection service for residents.
  - Extended holiday free school meals through to Easter 2023. The Council transferred £753,817 to schools for them to provide free school meals vouchers for approximately 6,500 households with children during the school holidays.
  - Has supported Help Harrow and the London Community Kitchen to continue providing crucial food provision for those in need.

**Council believes that:-**

- We should do all we can to help children living in poverty to achieve and thrive.
- That ensuring our youngest students are included in our Free School Meal offer is a critical tool to achieving the longer-term benefits a healthy start in life brings and that it is right that the potential of such a scheme be explored.
- The government deserves credit for the extensive support Harrow Council has received.

**This Council resolves to:**

- Call upon the Leader of the Council to:
  - Publish a detailed assessment of the issues and costs associated with an extension of Harrow's Free School meal offer to include all 3 and 4 year olds in maintained nursery and primary schools in the Borough,

given the importance of this, to do so by the end of  
~~December~~November 2022;

- Include the assessment in the development of the 2023 Council Budget as part of the budget setting process.
- ~~Implement~~Continue with the Auto-enrolment ~~for~~ free school meals.

**Amendment:**

**Proposer: Cllr Paul Osborn**

**Seconded: Cllr Marilyn Ashton**

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