

Cabinet

Public and Councillor Questions

Date: **Thursday 20 April 2023**

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CABINET – THURSDAY 20 APRIL 2023

AGENDA PART I

PUBLIC QUESTIONS (ITEM 4)

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: Keith Hewat

Asked of: Councillor Anjana Patel – Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Safety

Question: “With regard to working in co-operation with service partners and community groups, how does the Council propose to engage directly between relevant Operational Managers (specifically Parks, Enforcement, Licencing and Street Cleaning, but potentially others) and voluntary groups including (but not limited to) the Harrow Litter Pickers, in order to ensure the most efficient use of voluntary resources? “

2.

Questioner: Hugh Brown

Asked of: Councillor Jean Lammiman – Portfolio Holder for Community and Culture

Question: “As per the update published on Harrow Council’s website on Friday 14th April, I note that Premier Tennis has been appointed to operate Harrow’s Park tennis courts. Could you outline the terms agreed between Harrow Council and Premier Tennis, including and limits/controls for pay-per-play fees and conditions for allowing free access to the courts?”

3.

Questioner: Apira Sivanantharajah

Asked of: Councillor Anjana Patel – Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Safety

Question: “There have been some very big potholes that I have seen around Harrow. What is being done to address the vast number of potholes that are scattered around Harrow?”

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CABINET - THURSDAY 20 APRIL 2023

AGENDA PART I

COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS (ITEM 5)

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 Simon Brown

Asked of: Councillor Pritesh Patel - Portfolio Holder for Adult Services and Public Health

Question: "In the Harrow Council budget 2023/24 it was stated that:-

"The Social Care Grant was confirmed at £6.822m over 2 years, an increase of £567k and is largely the repurposed funding for Adult Social Care reform. The Autumn Statement 2022 confirmed the delay of the reforms until October 2025. However, there is significant uncertainty regarding what will happen to this additional Social Care Grant in 2025/26 after the implementation of the reforms. For this reason, a prudent approach has been taken and year 3 of the MTFS (2025/26) assumes a scenario that the grant is either ceased or repurposed to fund the reforms or retained to continue funding social care pressures."

At the time this was a prudent assumption and the right approach to take.

However, earlier this month the Government "signalled an end to its social care reform package", after confirming that funding promised in 2021 for the adult social care workforce is being halved. Promises of an ambitious reform package made in two white papers in 2021 have been dashed following the announcement of how £2 billion of previously announced funding will be spent, including a cut from £500 million to £250 million for workforce initiatives. Alongside that 50% cut there is no mention of £300 million that was promised to "integrate housing into local health and care strategies"

As this forms a significant amount and high risk within the Council budget that will directly impact our most vulnerable residents in Harrow, could the Portfolio Holder for Adult Services and Public Health confirm how much the funding has been cut for Harrow and what proposals are being considered to fill this additional gap, taking due cognisance of the significant budget cuts and services changes announced by the Council in

February within the budget presented by the Conservative group that have still not been delivered?”

2.

Questioner: Councillor Simon Brown

Asked of: Councillor David Ashton – Portfolio Holder for Finance and Human Resources

Question: “Given the recent budget saving for the discretionary freedom passes is so small, and the support the scheme offers to vulnerable residents with mental health illness is so significant, why is your administration going against your corporate plan priority of *“a place where those in need are supported”* only one month from approving it at full Council?”

3.

Questioner: Councillor Simon Brown

Asked of: Councillor David Ashton – Portfolio Holder for Finance and Human Resources

Question: “Why was the recent consultation into changes with the discretionary freedom passes scheme postponed online?”

4.

Questioner: Councillor Simon Brown

Asked of: Councillor Anjana Patel - Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Safety

Question: “Vulnerable residents in Harrow are raising concerns that the Cashlite proposals recently rolled out on parking meters, is confusing and deterring them from attending their local high streets for shopping, how will your administration address these concerns?”

5.

Questioner: Councillor Eden Kulig

Asked of: Councillor Anjana Patel - Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Safety

Question: “Since April 2022, the council has received over 10,000 fly tipping reports. Stated in the Harrow Flytip strategy (page 11) only 600 have received a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN). How many of these FPN have been paid?”

6.

Questioner: Councillor Eden Kulig

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

Question: “Could the Portfolio Holder provide an update on the installation of the Michael Pope memorial bench on Harrow-on-the-Hill, to be placed opposite Vaughan Library?”

7.

Questioner: Councillor Eden Kulig

Asked of: Councillor Mina Parmar - Portfolio Holder for Housing

Question: “What urgent action will the Council be taking to resolve the plumbing issues at Alma Court, Hornbuckle Close, which have caused flooding and uninhabitable living conditions for elderly and vulnerable residents in this sheltered accommodation?”

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