

# COUNCIL MINUTES

## 4 JULY 2013

- Present:**
- \* Councillor Nana Asante (The Worshipful the Mayor)
  - \* Councillor Mrs Camilla Bath (The Deputy Mayor)
- Councillors:**
- |                              |                     |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| * Husain Akhtar              | * Amir Moshenson    |
| * Sue Anderson               | * Chris Mote        |
| * Marilyn Ashton             | * Janet Mote        |
| * Christine Bednell          | * John Nickolay     |
| * James Bond                 | * Joyce Nickolay    |
| * Mrs Lurline Champagnie OBE | * Christopher Noyce |
| * Kam Chana                  | * Phillip O'Dell    |
| * Ramji Chauhan              | * Asad Omar         |
| * Mrinal Choudhury           | * Paul Osborn       |
| * Bob Currie                 | * Varsha Parmar     |
| * Margaret Davine            | * David Perry       |
| * Mano Dharmarajah           | * Bill Phillips     |
| * Tony Ferrari               | * Raj Ray           |
| * Keith Ferry                | * C Robson          |
| * Ann Gate                   | * Richard Romain    |
| * David Gawn                 | * Anthony Seymour   |
| * Stephen Greek              | * Lynda Seymour     |
| * Mitzi Green                | * Navin Shah        |
| * Susan Hall                 | * Mrs Rekha Shah    |
| * Graham Henson              | * Sachin Shah       |
| * Thaya Idaikkadar           | * Stanley Sheinwald |
| * Nizam Ismail               | * Victoria Silver   |
| * Krishna James              | * Bill Stephenson   |
| * Manji Kara                 | * William Stoodley  |
| * Zarina Khalid              | * Krishna Suresh    |
| * Jean Lammiman              | * Sasi Suresh       |
| * Barry Macleod-Cullinane    | * Yogesh Teli       |
| * Kairul Kareema Marikar     | * Ben Wealthy       |
| * Ajay Maru                  | * Simon Williams    |
| * Jerry Miles                | * Stephen Wright    |
| * Mrs Vina Mithani           |                     |

\* Denotes Member present

## PRAYERS

The meeting opened with Prayers offered by Dr Suzanne Nti.

### 311. COUNCIL MINUTES

Councillor David Perry rose to move amendments to the minutes, which were duly seconded by Councillors Sachin Shah and Keith Ferry respectively, in relation to the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 21 May 2013:

- (i) in relation to Minute 290, 'Election of Mayor' in that the Minute was incorrect. Upon a vote, and clarification that the minutes were not a verbatim record, the amendment proposed was not carried.
- (ii) in relation to Minute 298 'Leader of the Council', the Minute should be amended. Upon a vote, the amendment proposed was not carried.

**RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 28 February 2013, the Annual meeting held on 21 May 2013 and the Extraordinary meeting held on 23 May 2013 be taken as read and signed as correct records.**

### 312. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Mayor invited appropriate declarations of interest.

#### Item 5 – Petitions

During this item, and following the submission of a petition relating to Park High School, Councillor Marilyn Ashton declared a non-pecuniary interest in that she was a governor of Park High School.

#### Item 10 – Health and Wellbeing Strategy Implementation Plan

Councillor Henson declared a non-pecuniary interest in that his wife worked for an organisation that had been referenced to in the report.

#### Item 12 – Questions with Notice

During this item and when asking supplemental question 5, Councillor Barry Macleod Cullinane declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he worked for London Councils Limited.

#### Item 13(1) – A&E Crises

Councillor Husain Akhtar declared a non-pecuniary interest in that his son worked for the National Health Service (NHS).

Councillor Mrs Lurline Champagnie OBE declared a non-pecuniary interest in that she was a member of the Royal College of Nurses.

Councillor Ann Gate declared a pecuniary interest in that she worked for a Chair of Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and at a local walk-in centre. She would leave the Chamber during consideration of this item.

Councillor David Gawn declared a non-pecuniary interest in that his sister worked for the National Health Service (NHS).

Councillor Thaya Idaikkadar declared a non-pecuniary interest in that his children worked for the National Health Service (NHS).

Councillor Krishna James declared a non-pecuniary interest in that she was a qualified nurse and her sister worked at Northwick Park Hospital.

Councillor Mrs Vina Mithani declared a non-pecuniary interest in that she worked for the Health Protection Agency, which was part of Public Health England.

Councillors Chris Mote and Janet Mote declared non-pecuniary interests in that their daughter worked for the National Health Service (NHS).

Councillor Chris Noyce declared a non-pecuniary interest in that his wife was undergoing treatment by the National Health Service (NHS).

Councillor Christine Robson declared a non-pecuniary interest in that she worked for the National Health Service – but not in this borough.

Councillor Sachin Shah declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he worked for the Royal College of General Practitioners.

### **313. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor requested that Council note the engagements she had undertaken and was proud to have attended the 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration of Mrs Dorothy Shires on 2 July 2013 to whom she offered her congratulations.

### **314. PROCEDURAL MOTIONS**

- (i) The Leader of the Council rose to move a Procedural Motion that Rule 17.1.1 be suspended in relation to Item 8. Upon a vote, the Procedural Motion was carried.
- (ii) The Mayor announced that, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 6.2, given the special circumstances set out in the Supplemental Summons, she had agreed that Items 14 and 16 be considered as a matter of urgency.
- (iii) In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.1, Councillor David Perry rose to move a Procedural Motion that the Labour Group be allowed to ask questions without notice on Items 8 - 11.

**RESOLVED: That**

- (1) Procedural Motion under Rule 15.1, seeking suspension of Council Procedure Rule 17.1.1 in relation to Item 8, Members' Allowances, be agreed;**
- (2) Item 14, Appointment of Returning Officer, and Item 16, Severance Payments of £100,000 or Greater, be considered as a matter of urgency;**
- (3) Under Rule 12.1, Members of the Council ask questions of the Members of the Executive questions without notice in relation to Item 8, Members' Allowances, Item 10, Health and Wellbeing Strategy Implementation, and Item 11, West London Waste Authority Infrastructure Loan.**

**315. PETITIONS**

In accordance with Rule 10, the following petitions were presented:

- (i) Petition submitted by a resident containing 37 signatures of residents calling upon the Council to allow residents to park with two wheels on and two wheels off the kerb of Hutton Lane and make changes to allow residents to park in their own driveway or to have the kerb reduced to allow for parking on both sides of the road.

[The petition stood referred to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Safety.]

- (ii) Petition submitted by Councillor Richard Romain containing 34 signatures of residents of Kerry Court and Kerry Avenue requesting that the parking times be extended, as parking had become difficult with Jubilee Cars mini-cabs and other people using parking spaces.

[The petition stood referred to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Safety.]

- (iii) Petition submitted by Councillor Jean Lammiman containing 100+ signatures of residents objecting to the planning application for Pickwick Walk, Hatch End, which involved the closure of 10 retail units. The petition stated that the loss of the units would seriously undermine the diversity of the Hatch End shopping area, have a detrimental effect on the whole retail mix and loss of 52 jobs and livelihoods.

[The petition stood referred to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regeneration.]

- (iv) Petition submitted by Councillor Manji Kara containing 149 signatures objecting to the change in planning application P/0940/13 by Park High School, to vary Condition 14.

[The petition stood referred to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regeneration.]

- (v) Petition submitted by Councillor Stephen Wright containing 41 signatures asking for action to be taken to address the craters and bumps in Barrow Point Avenue, including the pavements which needed work.

[The petition stood referred to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Safety.]

- (vi) Petition submitted by Councillor Jerry Miles containing 173 signatures from residents of Windsor Crescent/Close urging the Council to construct new pavements on their roads. The petitioners asked when action would be taken and whether it would have to take another serious or fatal injury to the elderly, children and infirm residents for action to be taken.

[The petition stood referred to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Safety.]

- (vii) Petition submitted by Councillor Keith Ferry containing 395 signatures appealing for a zebra crossing on Kenton Lane outside St Joseph's School to help keep children, parents and residents safer when crossing this busy main road.

[The petition stood referred to the Portfolio Holders for Environment and Community Safety and Children, Schools and Families.]

- (viii) Petition submitted by Councillor John Nickolay containing 73 signatures of residents of Cecil Park calling for Harrow Council to take urgent action to remedy the traffic gridlock, increased traffic flow, volume of cars, regular obstruction to property and escalating pollution on Cecil Park created by the parents of Reddiford School on their twice daily school run. For the safety of their local community, the petitioner suggested parking restrictions be enforced on Cecil Park between 0815 and 0930 am and 3.00 pm and 4.30 pm during weekdays.

[The petition stood referred to the Portfolio Holders for Environment and Community Safety and Children, Schools and Families.]

### **316. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

In accordance with Rule 11, the questions submitted by a member of the public and responded to by the Leader of the Council is contained at Appendix I.

### **317. LEADER AND PORTFOLIO HOLDERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- (i) The Leader of the Council, Councillor Thaya Idaikkadar, introduced his report highlighting the achievements, challenges and proposals since the last ordinary meeting;
- (ii) The Portfolio Holders for Children, Schools and Families, Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing and Planning and Regeneration, introduced their reports highlighting achievements and proposals since the last ordinary meeting;
- (iii) At the conclusion of the item, the Mayor proposed that the time limit for this item be extended by 10 minutes to allow Members to ask questions of the Leader of the Council and the Portfolio Holders. This proposal was agreed;
- (iv) Councillors Susan Hall, Barry Macleod-Cullinane, David Perry, Christine Bednell, Sachin Shah, Mrinal Choudhury, Janet Mote, Graham Henson, and Kairul Kareema Marikar asked questions of the Leader of the Council and the Portfolio Holders, which were duly responded to.

### **318. MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES**

- (i) Further to item 8 on the Supplemental Summons, the Leader of the Council, Councillor Thaya Idaikkadar, moved the recommendation set out in the report;
- (ii) The Leader of the Labour Group, Councillor David Perry, moved an amendment to the recommendation in the following terms: To delete the SRA allowance for the non-Executive Non-Voting Members of the Executive; To delete the increased SRA allowance for the Leader of the third largest Group from £2,040 to £6,630;
- (iii) Following debate, and upon a vote the amendment was lost;
- (iv) Upon a further vote, the substantive recommendation was agreed.

**RESOLVED: That the Members' Allowances Scheme, as amended and set out at Appendix II to the minutes, be adopted and payments be backdated to the relevant date of the individual Members' appointment.**

### **319. ADOPTION OF THE DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT POLICIES DPD, SITE ALLOCATIONS DPD AND HARROW AND WEALDSTONE AREA ACTION PLAN DPD**

Further to item 9 on the Supplemental Summons, the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regeneration moved Recommendation I of the Cabinet meeting held on 20 June 2013.

**RESOLVED: That the Harrow and Wealdstone Area Action Plan Local Plan, the Site Allocations Local Plan and the Development Management Policies Local Plan be adopted.**

**320. HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

Further to item 10 on the Supplemental Summons, the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing moved Recommendation I of the Health and Wellbeing Board meeting held on 19 June 2013.

**RESOLVED: That the Reference from the Health and Wellbeing Board meeting of 19 June 2013 on the Health and Wellbeing Strategy Implementation Plan be noted.**

**321. WEST LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY - INFRASTRUCTURE LOAN**

Further to item 11 on the Supplemental Summons, the Leader of the Council, Councillor Thaya Idaikkadar, moved the recommendation set out in the report.

**RESOLVED: That an addition of £15 million to the Capital Programme to be loaned to the West London Waste Authority be agreed and that the Section 151 Officer be delegated authority for final approval after consultation with the Portfolio Holder after receiving assurance from legal officers on the terms.**

**322. QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE**

In accordance with Rule 12, the questions submitted by Councillors and responded to by Portfolio Holders are contained at Appendix III. Responses to those questions which were not reached during the period allowed for questions are also included and were circulated to Members in written form.

**323. MOTIONS**

**MOTION – A&E Crises**

- (i) At Item 13 (1), the Council received a Motion in the names of Councillors David Perry and Margaret Davine in the following terms:

“The Council is proud of our National Health Service (NHS) and its achievements since its inception. We congratulate NHS on its 65th birthday and resolve to work to make it even stronger and better for the sake of improved health and wellbeing of the people of Harrow and this Country.

However, this Council is extremely worried about the crisis in local A&E services in Northwick Park Hospital. The people of Harrow deserve better services and the Coalition Government is failing local people.

Recent statistics suggest that the A&E waiting times of over 4 hours are the second worst in London at Northwick Park. This is even before the disastrous closure of other local A&E services in neighbouring Boroughs. Alternative provision, in Harrow such as Alexandra Polyclinic has reduced its walk-in hours and locally it is difficult to get a convenient GP appointment quickly.

It also means that the Coalition Government's own target that no more than 5% of patients should wait for more than four hours has been breached.

Furthermore cuts in social care driven by Eric Pickles' reductions to Council budgets is causing patients to stay in hospital longer, blocking beds for operations and for those admitted to A&E.

In Harrow, our residents who are most in need are suffering unnecessarily due to David Cameron's crippling policies in the NHS and beyond. The elderly and parents with children are especially affected by these recent developments and the situation in Harrow is set to get worse.

**This Council therefore instructs the Chief Executive to:**

- 1) Write to Jeremy Hunt MP (Secretary of State for Health) urging for a local review.
  - 2) Call on local GPs through the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to increase the hours at Alexandra Clinic for walk-in patients.
  - 3) Invite the Chief Executives of Northwick Park & CCG to attend a meeting in the Council Chamber open to the public to allow local people to discuss the crisis and its causes with the key health service providers and users.”
- (i) There was a tabled amendment in the names of Councillors Barry Macleod-Cullinane and Councillor Susan Hall, which sought to amend the Motion but this was withdrawn.
- (ii) There was a further tabled amendment in the names of Councillors Krishna James and Husain Akhtar, which sought to amend the Motion as follows:

“The Council is proud of our National Health Service (NHS) and its achievements since its inception. We congratulate NHS on its 65<sup>th</sup> birthday and resolve to work to make it even stronger and better for the sake of improved health and wellbeing of the people of Harrow and this Country.

This Council would like to draw attention to the Harrow Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee response to the Joint Overview and Health Scrutiny Committee which in its report, highlighted concerns



regarding potential problems of increased numbers at Northwick Park A & E. This concern was recorded in the final report together with concerns about lack of disabled friendly train access. It is within this context that we would like more and better A&E arrangements at Northwick Park Hospital while recognising the pressure on the hospital resources due to the down-grading of A&E at some neighbouring hospitals.

This Council recognises that any improvement in the status of the hospital and more resources because of this, would eventually provide better hospital services and patient care but in the meantime the hospital should keep looking for ways to provide best patient care and services.

**This Council therefore instructs the Chief Executive to:**

- 1) Write to the Chief Executive of Northwick Park to inform him about our resolve and invite him to keep us informed of future developments such as the hospital becoming a Trauma Unit or acquiring Foundation Trust status. We also urge that measures be taken to maintain good quality services as a part of the hospital business plan for future developments.
  - 2) Write to Jeremy Hunt MP (Secretary of State for Health) urging a local review before any changes are made.
  - 3) Call on local GPs through the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to increase the hours at Alexandra Clinic for walk-in patients.”
- (iii) Upon a vote, the amendment at (iii) was carried;
- (iv) Upon a further vote, the substantive Motion at as amended was unanimously agreed.

**RESOLVED: That the substantive Motion as amended and set out at (iii) above, be adopted.**

**Motion – Planning: Changes of Use**

- (i) At Item 13 (2), the Council received a Motion in the names of Councillors Keith Ferry and Navin Shah in the following terms:

“This Council calls upon the Government to revoke its policy allowing the conversion of offices into residential accommodation without requiring planning permission.

**The Council note that:**

Harrow together with almost every London Borough asked for exemption from the policy but the Government has failed to listen, with

the exception of some inner London Boroughs, to the strong case made against the change of use policy.

Harrow applied for exemption for the 'Intensification Area' but the Government has declined the request leaving the Council to face major problems in achieving its economic, regeneration, jobs and housing objectives.

The Council is outraged that the Mayor of London has failed to stand up to Government and oppose the policy and request exemptions for Harrow and other Outer London Boroughs.

The Council calls upon the Mayor of London to lobby the Government to scrap this policy.

The Council further agrees that the Chief Executive writes to the Harrow MPs and Assembly Member to support this motion and write to the Government and Mayor of London to revoke the change of use policy."

- (ii) There was a tabled amendment in the names of Councillors Stephen Greek and Marilyn Ashton, which sought to amend the Motion as follows:

"This Council calls upon the government to revoke its policy allowing the conversion of offices into residential accommodation without requiring planning permission.

The Council further agrees that the Chief Executive writes to the Harrow MPs and Assembly Member to support this motion and write to the Government to revoke the change of use policy."

- (iii) Upon a vote, the amendment at (ii) was carried;
- (iv) Upon a further vote, the substantive Motion as amended was unanimously agreed.

**RESOLVED: That the substantive Motion as amended and set out at (ii) above, be adopted.**

#### **MOTION – PRISM**

- (i) At Item 13 (3), the Council received a Motion in the names of Councillors Sachin Shah and Phillip O'Dell in the following terms:

"The Council congratulates Councillor Thaya Idaikkadar in being the Chair of the meeting of Cabinet that passed the PRISM business case first time. He showed strong determination in making that tough decision. This decision must now be carried out.

PRISM will achieve a minimum saving to the Council of £1.85 million by changing the way services are organised and delivered, bringing

together similar functions and reducing the number of managers to create a new operating model for the council that delivers for the residents of Harrow rather than a cut in service levels or standards.

The Council therefore fully supports the project and instructs the Chief Executive to continue and swiftly move the project to its logical conclusion, which the Leader of the Council approved himself.”

- (ii) There was a tabled amendment in the names of Councillors Asad Omar and David Gawn, which sought to amend the Motion as follows:

“The Council congratulates Councillor Thaya Idaikkadar in being the Chair of the meeting of Cabinet that passed the PRISM business case first time. He showed strong determination in making that tough decision. This decision can only be carried out with careful thought to ensure that the Council and Residents benefit as proposed.

This Council further congratulates the Leader and his Cabinet for having the courage to take a second look at the impact of Prism on our staff and residents. Whilst PRISM aimed to achieve a minimum saving to the Council of £1.85 million, the complaints from staff have led us, as a listening Council to take a closer look at the impact of PRISM.

The Council commends the Chief Executive and Corporate Director for the work put into further consultation of staff with a view to ensuring that PRISM delivers for the residents of Harrow rather than a cut in service levels or standards.

- (iii) Upon a vote, the amendment at (ii) was lost;
- (iv) Upon a further vote, the substantive Motion at (i) was also lost.

**RESOLVED: That the Motion not be adopted.**

#### **MOTION - Domestic Extensions**

- (i) At Item 13 (4), the Council received a Motion in the names of Councillors Keith Ferry and Mrinal Choudhury in the following terms:

“The Council strongly condemns Nick Boles, the Planning Minister’s policy that would allow extension of homes by as much as 26ft without planning consent – double the current limit – without requiring planning permission. The Council is strongly opposed to this policy and urges the Government to scrap the policy forthwith for the following grounds:

- The policy would lead to uncontrolled proliferation of unsightly buildings and create massive overdevelopment of traditional homes.
- The policy would pitch neighbours against neighbours because of the loss of amenity.

- There would be serious impact on the character of the area with major and unacceptable consequences on homes with smaller gardens.
- Local Planning Authorities (Councils) will be rendered powerless due to lack of control on the quality of accommodation and will put extraordinary pressures on its enforcement responsibilities with no financial help from the Government.
- Increase risk of flooding as warned by the Local Government Association and the Environment Agency.

This national 'free-for-all' home extensions policy will have major consequences affecting the environment, character of the local area and the amenity of local residents. The Council resolves that the Chief Executive writes to the Government to scrap this policy. The Council further agrees that the Chief Executive writes to the Harrow MPs and Assembly Member to support this motion and write to the Government to revoke the policy on extensions."

- (ii) There was a tabled amendment in the names of Councillors Stephen Greek and Marilyn Ashton, which sought to amend the Motion as follows:

"The Council strongly condemns Nick Boles, the Planning Minister's policy that would allow extension of homes by as much as 26ft without planning consent – double the current limit – without requiring planning permission. The Council is strongly opposed to this policy and urges the Government to scrap the policy forthwith for the following grounds:

The policy would lead to uncontrolled proliferation of unsightly buildings and create massive overdevelopment of traditional homes.

The policy would pitch neighbours against neighbours because of the loss of amenity.

There would be serious impact on the character of the area with major and unacceptable consequences on homes with smaller gardens.

Local Planning Authorities (councils) will be rendered powerless due to lack of control on the quality of accommodation and will put extraordinary pressures on its enforcement responsibilities with no financial help from the Government.

Increase risk of flooding as warned by the Local Government Association and the Environment Agency.

This national home extensions policy will have major consequences affecting the environment, character of the local area and the amenity of local residents. The Council resolves that the Chief Executive writes to the Government to scrap this policy. The Council further agrees that

the Chief Executive writes to the Harrow MPs and Assembly Member to support this motion and write to the Government to revoke the policy on extensions.”

- (iii) Upon a vote, the amendment at (ii) was carried;
- (iv) Upon a vote, the substantive Motion as amended was agreed unanimously.

**RESOLVED: That the substantive Motion as amended and set out at (ii) be adopted.**

**MOTION - Supporting the Financial Transaction on Tax (FTT)**

- (i) At Item 13 (4), the Council received a Motion in the names of Councillors Sachin Shah and Graham Henson in the following terms:

“This Council notes the suffering forced upon Harrow residents as a result of this Tory led Government’s cuts programme and asserts that there is an alternative to its ideologically driven attack on public services – namely a financial Transaction Tax on the speculative activities that have accelerated the recent enrichment of the few to the detriment of the many. The council therefore calls upon Government to enact the FTT and use the revenues from this measure to reverse on-going shrinkage in central grants to Harrow Council.

The Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition, Chancellor and Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and Harrow’s 3 MPs stating this Council’s support for the FTT.”

- (ii) Upon a vote, the Motion was lost.

**RESOLVED: That the Motion not be adopted.**

**324. APPOINTMENT OF RETURNING OFFICER**

Further to item 14 on the Supplemental Summons, the Leader of the Council, Councillor Thaya Idaikkadar, moved the recommendation set out in the report.

**RESOLVED: That the Chief Executive be appointed as the Council’s Returning Officer and the Director of Legal and Governance Services be appointed the Deputy Returning Officer.**

**325. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Further to item 15 on the Supplemental Summons, and following debate on whether Item 16 should be debated in the public domain, it was

**RESOLVED:** That the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business, on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of confidential information in breach of an obligation of confidence, or of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972:

**Item 16 – Severance Payments of £100,000 or greater - Information under paragraph 1 (contains information relating to any individual).**

### **326. SEVERANCE PAYMENTS OF £100,000 OR GREATER**

- (v) Further to item 16 on the Supplemental Summons, the Leader of the Council, Councillor Thaya Idaikkadar, moved the recommendation set out in the report.
- (vi) Following debate, and upon a vote the recommendation was carried.

**RESOLVED:** That the payment of the contractual and statutory payments to the employee who has been given notice of the termination of his/her employment, as set out in Table 1 of the exempt report, be approved.

### **327. TERMINATION OF MEETING**

- (i) At 10.28 pm, upon the conclusion of Item 13(1), (Motion: A&E Crises), the Mayor put forward a proposal that the closure of time for the Council meeting be extended for the purposes of Item 16 (Severance Payments of £100,000 or Greater). This proposal was agreed;
- (ii) At 10.30 pm, following consideration of Item 13(1) (Motion: A&E Crises), the Mayor advised that the 'guillotine' procedure had come into operation for the determination of the remaining business on the Summons, except for Item 16 which would be debated, and was applied to Items 13(2) (Planning: Change of Use allowing conversion of Offices to Residential Accommodation), 13(3), (PRISM), 13 (4) (Domestic Extension), 13 (5) (Supporting the Financial Transaction (FTT)) and 14 (Appointment of Returning Officer).

**(CLOSE OF MEETING:** All business having been completed, the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 10.54 pm).

**COUNCIL – 4 JULY 2013**

**QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE**

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 Chairman of any Committee.

1.

**Questioner:** Matthew Lloyd

**Asked of:** Councillor Thaya Idaikkadar (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Business Transformation & Communications, Finance, Performance, Customer Services & Corporate Services, Property & Major Contracts)

**Question:** “Harrow is experiencing a housing crisis. The inaction of the previous Conservative administration and the lack of infrastructure funding announced in the latest Spending Review has left Harrow's young people with high rents and very limited places to live in their home borough. Given this is the case, will you condemn the previous council administration for their lack of action and call on the government to follow Labour's infrastructure investment programme to provide the vital housing needed for Harrow residents.”

**Answer:** Thank you for your question.

I agree that there is a shortage of affordable housing in Harrow and that rents following the introduction of the benefit cap will be harder to afford. I also think there are going to be rent arrear pressures following the introduction of direct housing benefit payments.

The pressures will be faced by both families and young people and anything we can do to help more people into work and increase their access to affordable housing is going to help.

However, the last four years has seen a significant increase in the delivery of new housing in Harrow, particularly affordable housing. In April 2013 we celebrated the completion of the 1000<sup>th</sup> affordable home in Harrow since April 2010.

Affordable housing remains a high priority for this administration to continue to exploit all opportunities available to us to increase the supply of housing, especially affordable housing in the borough. That is why we approved plans in June 2013 to build 50 new Council homes on vacant, underutilised housing land in Harrow and why we continue to negotiate with private

developers to make sure they provide the maximum reasonable amount of affordable housing on private housing developments.

At this point, I would like to give credit to Councillor Bob Currie who worked very hard on that and he always talked to me day in, day out, about increasing the housing supply. Thank you Bob.

By increasing the supply of new affordable housing we also aim to improve local employment opportunities and maximise the benefits to the local economy from all of the tendering, partnering and procurement opportunities and maximise the benefits to the local economy from all of the tendering, partnering and procurement opportunities that result from this work.

In addition, we are providing grants to people living in Council properties to encourage them to free up their properties for people more in need.

Of course, I would call on the government to support programmes of local employment and new affordable housing. I would also urge the government to consider relaxing the borrowing cap for local authorities that, like Harrow, can afford to pay back borrowing to fund new housing but the treasury rules prevent this from happening at the moment.

**Supplemental Question:** Given that is the fact, will the Portfolio Holder agree with me that residents will be shocked to hear that Council Tax is up; funding for housing is cut and yet Conservative expenses are going up; taking away the money that is meant to be going towards housing and stuffing the pockets of Councillors with taxpayers' hard earned cash?

**Supplemental Answer:** You have got to look at all these things and the wider economy. The way the country is and what caused all these problems. We can only manage what we can afford.

I can only understand and sympathise with people who are suffering. We should do everything we can to help them. This is why the community project is going to help a lot. Did you know we spent £2billion in Harrow, government money, where all the agencies are together. There are a lot of duplications, there is a lot of waste. That will be a way to help you.

Thank you.



# Schedule 1

## Special Responsibility Allowances (SRAs)

There are 9 bands of SRAs:

<b>Band</b>	<b>Post</b>	<b>SRA - £/annum</b>
<b>1</b>	Deputy Leader(s) of the largest Group (s) Chief Whips of the two largest Groups Chairman of Standards Committee Chairman of the Grants Advisory Panel Support Members for Cabinet	<b>£2,040</b>
<b>2</b>	Performance Lead Members for Scrutiny Policy Lead Members for Scrutiny	<b>£3,060</b>
<b>3</b>	Vice Chairman and Nominated Member of the party not holding the Chair of the Planning Committee Chairman of the Traffic Advisory Panel Chairman of Governance, Audit and Risk Management Committee Chairman of the Pension Fund Committee	<b>£4,590</b>
<b>4</b>	Leader of the third largest Group Chairman of Licensing and General Purposes Committee Chairman of the Performance and Finance Scrutiny Sub Chairman of the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Sub Nominated Member of the largest party not holding the Chair of the Performance and Finance Scrutiny Sub Nominated Member of the largest party not holding the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee  <i>Portfolio Adviser (The SRA to be paid only if there is agreement from the Leader and relevant Cabinet Member. In such an event the entire SRA paid to the Portfolio Adviser at Band 4 will be deducted from the SRA of the Leader at Band 7 or the relevant Cabinet Member at Band 6)</i>	<b>£6,630</b>
<b>5</b>	Chairman of the Planning Committee Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Leader(s) of the Largest Group(s)	<b>£8,670</b>
<b>6</b>	Deputy Leader of the Council with Portfolio Adviser Cabinet Members with Portfolio Adviser Cabinet Non Executive Members	<b>£13,060</b>
<b>7</b>	Deputy Leader of the Council without Portfolio Adviser Cabinet Members without Portfolio Adviser	<b>£19,690</b>
<b>8</b>	Leader of the Council with Portfolio Adviser	<b>£24,169</b>
<b>9</b>	Leader of the Council without Portfolio Adviser	<b>£30,799</b>

**LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW**

**COUNCIL**

**4 JULY 2013**

**QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE (ITEM 12)**

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 Bill Phillips

**Asked of:** Councillor Zarina Khalid (Portfolio Holder for Children, Schools and Families)

**Question:** “Following a previous Conservative Administration’s decision to abolish the ceremony to celebrate the achievements of looked after Children, the previous Labour Administration reinstated that ceremony. At the Ofsted inspection in 2012, Ofsted Inspectors were pleased with the Labour Administration’s decision to reinstate this. Does the PH give her commitment to continue with this ceremony which means so much to vulnerable children in the Borough?”

**Answer:** Thank you for your question.

The short answer is yes, I definitely will.

The Children Looked After and Young People Leaving Care ceremony, as you mentioned, has been reinstated since 2011, with the leadership support of Catherine Doran, our Director, to take place annually and provide a rewarding and aspirational experience for Children Looked After and Young People leaving care.

The Corporate Parenting Panel, I know, will continue to support this aspiration and I most certainly will hope to ensure meaningful celebration of achievement, where real achievements are recognised and all young people can celebrate. All young people have valued this opportunity and support from the Council.

We will look to discuss proposals at the next Corporate

Parenting Panel on 8 July. The event this year will take place on 29 October at Harrow Arts Centre and will be hosted by the Children Looked After Service Manager and Placements Service Manager with support from the newly established virtual school and myself. Recognising economic restraints, costs are being reduced from previous years but managed within the budget held by the Children Looked After Life Chances Forum with the Care Matters Grant. With feedback and participation from young people, the event is being restructured to have an afternoon session for younger Children Looked After, then will have a break and an early evening session for the older children looked after and careleavers. We will be engaging foster carers and social workers as Corporate parents to cook and prepare food to bring and would welcome Councillors to be engaged to do the same, as actively undertaking our role as corporate parents. I hope that many of you will come along.

Members and senior officers across all parties will be invited as before to contribute to this event, recognising the Council's responsibility as Corporate parents, across all parties.

**Supplemental Question:** I agree with you that these young people are very important to us. We are Corporate parents and everybody should be at that achievements meeting and I am pleased with what you are doing. What I would like to know is what achievements are our young people working towards?

**Supplemental Answer:** That is quite a specific question. I have not got the detailed answer that I know you might well have wished.

I know that we will be celebrating the educational achievements of our CLA. I understand that we are not reaching the targets that we quite want in terms of education but the teams are working very hard to improve this. Our virtual school is working with these children but I would have to provide that answer – about the exact achievements of each child - to you at a later stage.

2.

**Questioner:** Councillor Susan Hall

**Asked of:** Councillor Asad Omar (Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Safety)

**Question:** "Can you provide an update on recruitment to the Neighbourhood Champion; is the decline that set in under the previous Portfolio Holder, Cllr. Phil O'Dell, still continuing?"

**Answer:** Thank you for your question.

The number of Neighbourhood Champions has remained fairly constant for the last 2 years, with annual figures of around 1,000, +/- 10%. At the end of Quarter 4 2011/12 there were 1,110 Neighbourhood Champions and at year end 2012/13 there were 919 active Neighbourhood Champions and that includes 24 Members.

The original scheme allowed Neighbourhood Champions to be anonymous which led to the situation where some roads were unable to access their Champion because they did not know who their Neighbourhood Champion was. At the Neighbourhood Champion Conference it was decided by the majority that this practice could not continue and they were given the option to opt out of the Scheme. Some did leave the Scheme because of that as they did not want their name to be known to the residents living in their street but we have maintained a fairly stable but reduced membership since that time.

Now there are new initiatives to bolster the number of Neighbourhood Champions; the new Neighbourhood Champion Portal, using the 'My Harrow' account, will provide new and improved access to Council information and will improve access to information for the police.

We have also worked with the Police over the last year. They have carried out recruitment exercises across multiple Wards to identify residents that are interested in joining the scheme.

**Supplemental Question:** Can you assure us that you will put in every effort into getting some more Neighbourhood Champions? I had asked the previous Portfolio Holder but to no avail.

**Supplemental Answer:** Yes, I can assure you that personally I have already put some effort into it because, as you know, there have been some neighbours interested in becoming Champions and there was training scheduled for June. There were two training days but there was very low take up so they were cancelled. I have asked them to do, as soon as possible, is set the next training which will be in September over two days. I hope those who have not been trained, they will be trained, they will come along and, again, we will be recruiting through the Police and SNTs.

3.

**Questioner:** Councillor Susan Hall

**Asked of:** Councillor Nizam Ismail (Portfolio Holder for Community and Cultural Services and Housing)

**Question:** “What are the full costs, including a quantification of officer time by total hours and total cost, of organising this summer’s UnderOneSky, and how much has income has sponsorship and ticket sales generated?”

**Answer:** Thank you for the question.

I am delighted to say that Under One Sky was a great success in terms of attendance and feedback this year. 95% of those attendees who were surveyed thought the event was great. We estimate around 8-9,000 attended and participated. Considering it was a different venue this year, this is excellent and certainly due to the excellent marketing which included free editorials/marketing in the Harrow Observer and Harrow Community Radio’s, as well as our own Facebook and Twitter sites which generated a lot of interest. Comments at the gate were that it was very family friendly and felt safe.

Officers are still finalising the costs with some invoices yet to arrive so clearly I cannot give you the detailed breakdown you are requesting this evening because it is just only four days since we had Under One Sky.

It is clear that a major event of this kind cannot be staged without incurring cost to the Council. However, I can say that we achieved ticket sale income of £13,500 which is above the target of £13,000. Unfortunately, we did not achieve our sponsorship target of £9,000; although we did receive expressions of interest, not all of these came through and we received around £2,000 not counting the advertising that paid for the programme and other in kind support. I am happy to ask officers to provide you with the detailed breakdown you are requesting as soon as possible. Officers will also be reviewing the event and preparing a full report for me on the delivery and lessons learnt for the future.

**Supplemental Question:** Can you tell me then how much money that you would have estimated that you needed to take or to achieve, in order for the event to achieve what it said?

**Supplemental Answer:** First and foremost, I would like to thank the officers for all their efforts in making Under One Sky a great success in the midst of the changing of the Portfolio Holders but as you know, indeed the sponsorship has been very short of money. I did not have much time to explore and get the sponsorship as I would have liked to if I had had enough time but we estimated to have received around £27,000.

I am not sure about the figures yet but obviously a thing of this calibre, something which supports the community cannot be assessed in terms of finance only. There are also invisible

incomes that have to be costed, such as service to the community. I will provide you with a figure when every account and invoices are paid.

4.

**Questioner:** Councillor Simon Williams

**Asked of:** Councillor Asad Omar (Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Safety)

**Question:** “Across the borough, give-way lines and markings, yellow lines and other road markings – particularly on the High Street, in my ward of Harrow on the Hill, have virtually worn away leaving motorists with little or no information about parking restrictions or rights of way; can you provide a timescale as to when this backlog of maintenance inherited from the previous Labour administration will be addressed?”

**Answer:** Thank you for your question.

Engineering Services are aware of the condition of road markings in your area and across the borough. They recognise that there have been some difficulties in getting the lining remarked due to contractor issues.

We are working with May Gurney to address these supply problems and a new lining contractor has been commissioned to improve the service.

It should however be noted that maintenance budgets have been cut this year and there has to be a backlog of highway maintenance which will delay or cause some maintenance works to remain unrectified for some time.

**Supplemental Question:** Could you please as a matter of priority review the road markings on the Hill itself within the Conservation Area and in particular the double yellow lines marked recently? On many of the streets some of the double yellows look like zigzag lines especially around the Castle pub.

**Supplemental Answer:** Yes, I will take note of that and I will see that they are done as a priority but what I would say is that May Gurney have got a new contractor called Excel and they are working on the backlog as well and also the ongoing marking as well. So hopefully within a short time we will be able to re-mark all of the roads.

5.

**Questioner:** Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

**Asked of:** Councillor Thaya Idaikkadar (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Business Transformation & Communications, Finance, Performance, Customer Services & Corporate Services, Property & Major Contracts)

**Question:** "Does the Council's continued membership of the LGA represent good value for taxpayers' money and why?"

**Answer:** Thank you for your question.

Given the very challenging settlement for local government both in the 2010 and the recent Comprehensive Spending Review, I believe that it is vitally important that local government has a strong voice to feed into central government setting out the real challenges we face whilst also proposing how less central government interference will enable Councils to deliver more effective services to our residents. Successes in the last year from LGA influence have been on securing a voice for local government with central government on the merits of community budgets, successfully renegotiating the budgets for the recently acquired Public Health responsibilities (which saw Harrow gain an additional £1m in 2013/14) and challenging the government on the importance of a local solution for health and social care integration.

Both you and I saw some of the benefits of the LGA in the last couple of days.

I believe that the need to have a collective local government voice has never been more important and it therefore makes sense to remain an LGA member and to work with them to give voice at a national level to the issues which matter to our residents. The cost of membership for 2013/14 is £38,044. This compares to £39,045 in 2012/13, £43,553 in 2011/12 and £50,040 in 2010/11. This is an overall decrease of £11,996 over the last 4 years which demonstrates better value for money for the same level of support.

**Supplemental Question:** Thank you very much for a very comprehensive answer.

Perhaps we could look at the LGA's value for money through a scrutiny review along with the LGA and other external bodies. It will be worth looking at those things but also at the LGA Conference there was a very interesting section on Magna Carta and we are coming up to the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that and perhaps it might be useful that we can establish a Working Group to take that forward to make sure that we engage with the

separations of that?

**Supplemental Answer:** I think that is a sensible suggestion. I agree with you but in all this I would like to see is still meeting a need because the number of outside bodies now is getting complicated and the Magna Carta again, I am quite happy to set up a cross-party Working Group so that we can go forward on that.

*The following questions were not reached in the time limit of 15 minutes. It was noted that written responses would be provided, which have been reproduced below:*

6.

**Questioner:** Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

**Asked of:** Councillor Asad Omar (Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Safety)

**Question:** “Can you advise me and my residents what they can expect from the new street-sweeping regime across Belmont ward that was introduced by Labour’s budget in February 2013, which you voted for, which you are continuing to implement?”

**Written Answer:** As a result of the financial challenges facing Harrow, we have to make savings to balance our budget. The funding challenge is too great to maintain current levels of service provision in all areas; however we have worked to minimise impact and target our services very carefully.

In the Belmont Ward there are two changes affecting street cleansing.

The cleansing cycle on residential roads has been reduced from a four week cycle to six weeks.

The changes in cleaning cycles may result in some increase in litter but we have ensured that a reactive workforce is in place to respond to customer referrals in the case of fly tips or excessive littering.

The other change will be to the area of Belmont Circle where the static sweeper who operates Monday to Friday covering Belmont and Queensbury Circles will be changed to a mobile crew. The new arrangements are that a mobile team undertakes one single cleansing operation only, ensuring that the area is cleansed early in the day. We have contacted traders in these areas to discuss ways that we can work together to discourage littering throughout the day.

The Rapid Response fly tip service will still be able to react to



requests from residents in the case of fly tipping.

7.

**Questioner:** Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

**Asked of:** Councillor Asad Omar (Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Safety)

**Question:** “With the cuts to the public realm budgeted initiated by the previous Labour administration, as part of the Budget you voted for, what measures are being taken to reduce the amount of littering in Centenary Park, on the border of Belmont and Queensbury wards?”

**Written Answer:** We have had some talks with the school and they are taking better care of the park than previously, school staff monitor daytime use and encourage students to respect the park. As an unregulated Open Space there is little we can do to control day-to-day activities of park users. However, with regard to longer term aims, the park franchise which is currently held by 'Centenary Park Sports Club and covers the Pitch and Putt course, Putting Green and Multi Sports area' is reaching the end of its term. As a part of the re-tender process we are looking to formalise school use and extend the franchise area to accommodate a larger area of the park and encourage greater community sports participation. The school use of the park for semi formal activities will be integrated to ensure balanced use of the park and adequate maintenance.

8.

**Questioner:** Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

**Asked of:** Councillor Asad Omar (Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Safety)

**Question:** “Under the previous Labour administration, a number of roads across the borough, such as Ventnor Avenue in Belmont, were “treated” with a new surfacing, leaving lots of loose chippings which are particularly problematic to cyclists, and often were not properly marked – when will they be properly resurfaced and properly lined?”

**Written Answer:** Ventnor Avenue is one of the roads where a trial of a surfacing process called Microasphalt was carried out earlier this year.

Microsphalt puts a thin new surface on the road which after initial laying further compacts under vehicular traffic to provide an impervious road surface sealing up the underlying layers to make the road waterproof and stop the formation of potholes.

Immediately after laying there are small loose stones on the surface and as this process is unlike the more normal resurfacing a detailed letter drop was carried out to all affected frontages and ward councillors to get the message across that this was not the more normal type of surfacing.

Microsphalt was chosen as the cost of the resurfacing in this material was between 10 and 170% cheaper than traditional methods depending on the original construction of the road. This saving allowed more roads to be repaired with the available budgets.

There was a delay in completing some of the lining works following the resurfacing for the reasons outlined in Q4 above but these have all now been addressed and the lining works are completed.

We are currently monitoring the effectiveness of the Microasphalt trial and until we are satisfied of the overall effectiveness of the treatment no further roads will be treated in this way.

9.

**Questioner:** Councillor Susan Hall

**Asked of:** Councillor Asad Omar (Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Safety)

**Question:** "What is being done to reverse the drop in recycling figures that began under the Labour administration's Portfolio Holder, Cllr. Phil O'Dell?"

**Written Answer:** Recovering the position to achieve 50% again is likely to be difficult. We have done all the easy and most of the more difficult things (e.g. alternate week collections, compulsory recycling). Without doubt there are still materials in the residual waste bin that could be recycled or composted. It is some years since we had a general campaign to remind people of what can go in each bin. Such a campaign may be useful. During the major changes in 2005/6 and 7 the publicity and information campaign was based on a figure of £2 per household pa. A budget of £1 per household would probably be sufficient for a leaflet to each home and an advertising campaign. If the campaign diverted 600 tonnes of waste from landfill to recycling it would pay for itself. A diversion of 900 tonnes would increase the recycling rate by 1% (and produce a net saving).

In the past year we have introduced recycling to the remainder of our flats and this has met the predicted tonnage targets from those households.

We will be looking to introduce a trade waste recycling service to businesses within the borough. Whilst we currently offer this service the participation levels are low and we will now focus on assisting business in reducing the waste taken to landfill and increase their recycling.

Attending events within the borough in partnership with the West London Waste Authority to provide information on recycling and waste minimisation to residents.

Continue with the work on the upper level of the Civic Amenity Site in ensuring waste taken to the site is separated into the correct recycling bays to increase recycling and reduce the waste taken to landfill.

10.

**Questioner:** Councillor Susan Hall

**Asked of:** Councillor Asad Omar (Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Safety)

**Question:** "Can you confirm how many SmartWater kits and as a percentage of the total number ordered remain to be distributed to Harrow's households?"

**Written Answer:** A total of 42,000 Smartwater kits were purchased and were paid for in 2010. These kits were delivered to the Council in stages as the kits have a defined shelf life. The final batch was delivered in May 2013. Approximately 6,000 kits are currently held in stock by the Council. This stock amounts to approximately 14% of the total purchased.

11.

**Questioner:** Councillor Susan Hall

**Asked of:** Councillor Asad Omar (Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Safety)

**Question:** "How much larger would have been the fall in burglary rates across Harrow if the previous Labour Portfolio Holder, Cllr. Phil O'Dell, had been more robust and proactive in pushing for greater distribution of the SmartWater kits to households across the borough?"

**Written Answer:** Smartwater has been distributed by the Police in targeted operations since 2010. These operations are ongoing.

Burglary rates, as with rates of all crime types, have been

influenced in the intervening time by a wide variety of factors, presumably including the distribution of Smartwater.

There is no accepted means of determining the actual impact of individual measures. Any attempt to do so would be mere speculation.

12.

**Questioner:** Councillor Susan Hall

**Asked of:** Councillor Zarina Khalid (Portfolio Holder for Children, Schools and Families)

**Question:** “With the expansion of Vaughan School only being approved in mid/late June, what are the implications for education provision at Vaughan, what has been or is being done to reduce any negative impacts, and are there any wider implications for the provision of primary education places in Harrow?”

**Written Answer:** Vaughan school is able to house the additional expansion class arriving in September 2013 in the current school building. This was always the plan as construction was due to start in the spring of 2013 with phase 1 of the building programme running for one year.

The first phase of construction works is planned to commence shortly and the new junior block will be ready for September 2014. The infant school classes will then move to allow the renovation of the infant block. The new junior block will have enough classrooms to hold the current infant and junior school pupils, and the additional expansion class arriving in September 2014. Although the delay in receiving planning permission will delay the completion of the infant school block until Easter 2015, there will be sufficient accommodation on site at all times for the annual increases in pupil numbers. We therefore do not expect the delayed planning permission to affect the education provision at Vaughan.

Given that the planned pupil places will come onstream as planned as part of the Phase 1 Primary Expansion Plan, there should not be any effect on pupil place planning in the short term as a result of the planning permission delay. The Primary Expansion Plan Phase 2, the focus of the Cabinet report tonight, provides essential growth for the projected pupil numbers in the medium term, including the peak pupil number projection later in the decade.

13.

**Questioner:** Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

**Asked of:** Councillor William Stoodley (Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regeneration)

**Question:** "Can you provide an update on the Planning Committee's proposed review of Stanburn School's Travel Plan set as a condition to its expansion?"

**Written Answer:** Stanburn School have been working with Harrow Council to achieve at least a Silver Accredited Travel Plan for the academic year 13/14. Unfortunately, their travel survey results have shown a consistent increase in car use since 2008 and as such the Star-accreditation system can only award them a Bronze at present.

The School Travel Plan Advisor and the Safety Education officer intend to work with Stanburn School to reduce car usage and meet the targets required for Silver Accreditation.

Stanburn School are aware that their Travel Plan is to be promoted and maintained at a Silver level, as agreed with Planning as part of their expansion, for a period of at least 3 academic school years and their co-operation and engagement is paramount to achieving this target.

14.

**Questioner:** Councillor David Perry

**Asked of:** Councillor Thaya Idaikkadar (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Business Transformation & Communications, Finance, Performance, Customer Services & Corporate Services, Property & Major Contracts)

**Question:** "Could you indicate how you feel the new Cabinet set-up is progressing?"

**Written Answer:** Women are better represented in the Cabinet. BME Members are better represented in the Cabinet to reflect the community.

We are better scrutinised and the public says that the last Cabinet meeting was the best they had. I believe the current set up is the best we have had for a long time in the eyes of the public.

15.

**Questioner:** Councillor Phillip O'Dell

**Asked of:** Councillor Asad Omar (Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Safety)

**Question:** "What is the final percentage for last year (2012/13) for recycling rates in Harrow?"

**Written Answer:** 44.7%.

16.

**Questioner:** Councillor Sachin Shah

**Asked of:** Councillor Thaya Idaikkadar (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Business Transformation & Communications, Finance, Performance, Customer Services & Corporate Services, Property & Major Contracts)

**Question:** "In the June cabinet papers, you list around half a million pounds of spend in the carry forward as 'minor projects'. Do you think the council tax payers in Harrow will agree with you that half a million pounds is 'minor'?"

**Written Answer:** The Revenue and Capital outturn report detailed how the council spent its £172m budget during the course of 2012-13.

As stewards of public money it is important that all expenditure is scrutinised, particularly in this time of reducing budgets.

Minor projects is a collective term for small pieces of activity that would be too numerous to detail in the cabinet report. That notwithstanding, the appendix 4 of the report does give further detail regarding the Minor Projects for example "Training and Development Programme and recruitment costs" and "Pinner Park Farm and priority action energy green deal"

£0.5m represents 0.3% of the Council's budgets.

17.

**Questioner:** Councillor Phillip O'Dell

**Asked of:** Councillor Asad Omar (Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Safety)

**Question:** "Does the PH support the Borough Commander of Harrow Police aim to make Harrow the safest borough in London?"

**Written Answer:** Harrow has, for many years, been one of the safest boroughs in London, with one of the strongest crime reduction partnerships in the city. This partnership has been supported strongly by a succession of Portfolio Holders from across the political spectrum. Indeed one of the strengths of the Harrow partnership is that crime reduction has not been a party political issue in recent years. As the current Portfolio Holder, I am committed to building on the work of my predecessors and fully support the Police in the aim of making Harrow the safest borough in London.

18.

**Questioner:** Councillor Sachin Shah

**Asked of:** Councillor William Stoodley (Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regeneration)

**Question:** "It is very bold of Barnet Football club to send the Chair of the Planning committee an email showing they are in breach of planning conditions. Do you think they did this because they don't believe the council will act, or because they are truly sorry for the problems they are causing?"

**Written Answer:** The Council officers are following up a number of lines of investigation in respect of planning matters at the site. The Chair of Planning and Senior officers from the Environment & Enterprise directorate have been providing challenge to Mr Kleanthos in response to feedback from local councillors and the community on the current planning proposals, and recent alleged breaches of the existing planning conditions. Officers are working with the Club to try and ensure that the lawful use of the site for non league football, now planned by Barnet FC is properly managed, alongside the other permitted activities. The objective is to ensure that the concerns and interests of the wider community are respected alongside the need for the site to operate on a financially sustainable basis that will enable it to continue to provide high quality facilities to the community at large in this part of Harrow.

19.

**Questioner:** Councillor Bill Phillips

**Asked of:** Councillor Nizam Ismail (Portfolio Holder for Community and Cultural Services and Housing)

**Question:** "What are the Portfolio Holder's plans and commitments to collect the monies outstanding on commercial properties owned by the HRA and will you ensure that all debtors of the HRA are

treated equally.”

**Written  
Answer:**

The Council has 31 properties in the HRA which include 25 shops in five parades, one church, one theatre, one office, one doctor's surgery and two advertising hoardings. The total current rent roll is £326,000 with two properties vacant and currently being marketed for rent.

The Council approach is to work positively with all its commercial tenants to try to ensure that rental arrears do not accrue. However, in cases where tenants fail to keep up with their rental payments then the Council employs all the recovery methods applicable under the commercial lease agreements to ensure payment of the sums due is made to the Council.

We will of course ensure that we treat all organisations equitably and that we deal robustly and transparently with those where it is clear that there are arrears to be paid. Where we have inherited longstanding issues, going back years, that have not been resolved (such as Flash Musicals), we will make sure that we bring a solution that will work for everyone whilst not giving preferential treatment.

20.

**Questioner:** Councillor Sachin Shah

**Asked of:** Councillor Thaya Idaikkadar (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Business Transformation & Communications, Finance, Performance, Customer Services & Corporate Services, Property & Major Contracts)

**Question:** “For the months of April, May and June, will the Portfolio Holder please provide the expenditure from the Mayor’s budget on:  
Staffing costs  
Staff overtime  
Agency costs  
Catering costs”

**Written  
Answer:** **Total Mayoral staffing costs** (not including Agency staff) =  
£34, 251.34

**Staff overtime** = £2,615.11

**Agency costs** = £ 6,725.73

**Catering costs** = £6,001.66