

LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

COUNCIL MEETING -

28 FEBRUARY 2013

QUESTION WITH NOTICE

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 Chairman of any Committee.

Questioner: Mic Sayer

Asked of: Councillor Phillip O'Dell (Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Safety)

Question 1:

“On behalf of the environmental groups of Harrow can the Council please advise us when the consultations will be for the proposed Budget open space savings e.g. opening and locking park gates and park maintenance.”

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Questioner: **Angela Dias**

Asked of: **Councillor David Perry (Portfolio Holder for Community and Cultural Services)**

Question 2:

“There is a substantial body of evidence which proves that the Third sector provides excellent social and economic value on the contracts we deliver, and also makes a firm impact on the council being able to meet its' targets in areas where they receive ratings/ accreditation. Given that our services make a massive difference to well over 25% of Harrow people in key areas such as achieving independence, economic well being etc, can you explain why such a small proportion of council contracts are with the third sector?”

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Questioner: Jeremy Zeid

Asked of: Councillor Thaya Idaikkadar (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Property and Major Contracts)

Question 3:

“Does the Council's Code of Conduct for members still have a blanket exclusion from members participating in any debate or vote, to the point of having to leave the room/chamber if they have declared, or have a prejudicial or pecuniary interest in a particular item?”

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Questioner: Jack Welby

Asked of: Councillor Sachin Shah (Portfolio Holder for Finance)

Question 4:

“Can the Portfolio Holder for Finance and magician in finances kindly explain why he does not use the £350,000 profit from the sale of Endeavour House whose value was £1 million according to Councillor Ferry, in keeping front line services running and the balance for restoring cuts to the budget for 2013/14”

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Questioner: Steve Porter

Asked of: Councillor Sachin Shah (Portfolio Holder for Finance)

Question 5:

“Further to my question and later letter to Sachin Shah concerning the removal of DDR to charity shops, would he now agree that this issue needs looking into again?”

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Questioner: Julie Browne

Asked of: Councillor Thaya Idaikkadar (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Property and Major Contracts)

Question 6:

“Subsequent to the decision to cut the VCS Grants budget by 25% Cabinet reinstated 100k to the budget; Can the Leader of the Council please assure us that this reallocation did not impact adversely on the total funding available to the Third Sector to deliver services”.

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Questioner: Gerry Devine

Asked of: Councillor David Perry (Portfolio Holder for Community and Cultural Services)

Question 7:

"The reduction in the amount available for grant funding will have a serious impact on the voluntary sector in Harrow, which for some organisations may prove terminal. Whilst the efforts of the Council to restore some funding for 2013-4 are appreciated, the seriousness of the funding situation makes it essential that process of sourcing and allocating funds is as transparent as possible.

Can the Council explain what has happened to the net cut of £70,000, made without notice to the grant allocation, compared to the figures presented during consultation with the voluntary sector last autumn?"

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Questioner: Pravin Seedher

Asked of: Councillor Sachin Shah (Portfolio Holder for Finance)

Question 8:

In view of the fact that Local government minister Brandon Lewis urged councils to find savings of between 0.5% to 0.9% to achieve a council tax freeze, why has this administration rejected a government hand out in order to increase council tax on residents - whilst in the same breath bemoaning the level of government assistance to Harrow even though other outer London Boroughs which are implementing a freeze receive less assistance?