

Cabinet – 20 November 2014

Transcript of Question and Answer in relation to Public Question 6 due to inaudible recording.

6.

Questioner: Claire McDermott

Asked of: Councillor David Perry, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Partnerships and Corporate Leadership

Question: “Could we not lobby the government for all or part of the £400 that David Cameron wants to give to the high earner as a tax break each year so that it is donated to the arts and museums in Harrow?”

Answer: Thank you for your question.

The one thing I can say is we are lobbying on this to the Government and to give Harrow a realistic level of grant. While Harrow has the problems of an inner London borough, for years we have been systematically underfunded with no recognition of deprivation or our population pressures. If we were fairly funded I am sure we could support the arts in Harrow and a good many more things besides. We will be taking the case again to Government both on our own and working with London councils.

Supplemental Question: Okay, so my other question would be, should we not get donations from the council payers - £1 per person or £2 per person for arts and sports? It is just a way to get it funded. So maybe £1 from everyone, just for the arts or if you wanted to fund sports and arts, then £2 from each tax payer, from the council tax payers.

Supplemental Answer: That is very interesting. I think that is one of the ideas or one of the things we will be looking at; especially with regards to the recent interest in the Arts Centre proposal, is to work with service users, in order for a long term sustainable future and one of the ideas that service users and the University of the Third Age themselves have come forward with is that they would maybe want to contribute more, in order to help protect its future and that would be discussions we would be keen to tease out and I am glad that you and them are on the same page and naturally we will be looking at that.

Ms McDermott: Brilliant. Thank you.

Cllr Perry: Okay, thank you for your question.