

LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

COUNCIL MEETING -

26 FEBRUARY 2015

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 Chairman of any Committee.

Questioner: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

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

Question 1:

“According to the Council’s Pay Policy, new starters usually start at the lowest pay band of any pay scale, except in “exceptional circumstances”. The recent appoint of the Chief Exec was at the second highest pay band on the pay scale; what were the “exceptional circumstances” that justified the appointment at this level?”

Response

As I explained in response to your recent question at Cabinet; exceptional circumstances may include where the selected candidate’s current pay is above the lowest pay point or they bring knowledge, skills or experience which makes their appointment of greater value.

In the case of the recent appointment of the Chief Executive, the exceptional circumstances were that not only did the candidate have previous experience of working at Harrow in the same role, but that also he brought with him recent knowledge and experience of working for local government on the national stage as the Executive Director of Finance & Policy at the LGA. I consider such a mix of local and national knowledge and experience to be exceptional.

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Question 2:

“What work has the Chief Executive undertaken on the senior management restructure?”

Response

The Labour administration shall be bringing proposals forward in due course.

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Question 3:

“When will the results of the senior management restructure be published?”

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

Question 4:

“What are the predicted savings and likely implementation costs of the senior management restructure?”

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

Question 5:

“What is the timetable for implementation of the senior management restructure?”

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Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall

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

Question 6:

“When will the Leader of the Council honour his promise to the residents of Harrow and appoint a voluntary sector non-executive representative on the Cabinet?”

Response

This promise has been delivered through the changing of the Council constitution at the Budget Full Council meeting and also a personal meeting directly with the voluntary sector representatives, who will be responding in due course.

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Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall

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

Question 7:

“When will the Leader of the Council honour his agreement and invite the opposition onto Cabinet as non-executive members?”

Response

This request has been noted

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Questioner: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

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

Question 8:

“Does the Leader support the role of Scrutiny in ensuring a well-functioning Council?”

Response

Yes I do. It is important to make sure that there are robust arrangements in place to make sure we as a Council are being held to account.

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

Question 9:

“How much involvement (and when) did the Chief Executive have with the development of Labour’s new Corporate Plan?”

Response

The Chief Executive is fully supportive of the Council’s current corporate plan and although he was not in post when the plan was drafted the Chief Executive will continually add value to the plan on an on-going basis.