

## Cabinet – 21 April 2015 – Question not reached

8.

**Questioner:** Councillor Susan Hall

**Asked of:** Councillor Sue Anderson, Portfolio Holder for Community, Culture and Resident Engagement

**Question:** “The Arts Centre business plan contains an ambitious fundraising goal of £3.8 million in less than a year, with 90% of it needed by December. Are you confident of this goal being reached?”

**Written Response:** The Council have indicated that we would be prepared to fund £1million of this sum and the capital repayments for this have been incorporated in the business plan in front of Cabinet tonight. £2.8million is still a significant sum to find and I do not underestimate the challenge. However, the financial situation we find ourselves in means that, in order to maintain an Arts Centre in Harrow, we have to explore every means of doing so. There is a tremendous amount of goodwill amongst the residents and key stakeholders to see if there is a way forward. By setting a target, we will see if we can achieve our goal of maintaining an Arts Centre at no cost to the Council.

9.

**Questioner:** Councillor Susan Hall

**Asked of:** Councillor Sue Anderson, Portfolio Holder for Community, Culture and Resident Engagement

**Question:** “The Arts Centre/Museum/Music Service Cabinet paper mentions the fundraising responsibilities of the new trust but does not give much in the way of specifics. Could you elaborate on the sort of fundraising activity this trust will likely engage in, given the amount of money it has to raise and the time it has in which to do it?”

**Written Response:** Fundraising information is contained within the part B Business Plan on page 39-41. The aim is to start fundraising in June 2015 once an Interim Board is in place with the appointment of a fundraiser. Discussions have already taken place with Heritage Lottery Fund and the Cabinet Office. Applications will also be made to Clore Duffield, Arts Council England, Garfield Weston Foundation and other funders as indicated. In addition, the interim Board will explore philanthropic giving and membership schemes as also outlined.

10.

**Questioner:** Councillor Susan Hall

**Asked of:** Councillor Sue Anderson, Portfolio Holder for Community, Culture and Resident Engagement

**Question:** “Regarding the Arts Centre; the Cabinet paper essentially suggests that, if the required money is not raised in time the Centre will close. Given the high stakes of this decision, why does there not appear to be a ‘plan B’?”

**Written Response:** With the financial challenges facing the Council and after the thorough work that has been undertaken, it is clear that the Arts Centre needs to radically change its delivery model in order to be sustainable. As outlined in the report, a review of progress will be undertaken at the end of October and Cabinet will receive a report in January 2016 with recommendations for the way forward. This report will set out all of the options for Cabinet to consider.