

CABINET – 17 SEPTEMBER 2015

PUBLIC QUESTIONS (ITEM 4)

Under Rule 16 of the Executive Procedure Rules, members of the public may question the Executive and Portfolio Holders at meetings. There is a time limit of 15 minutes for the asking and answering of public questions.

1.

Questioner: Asif Iqbal, MBE - President of Harrow United Deaf Club

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

Question: **“Call to Harrow Council for the Recognition of Sign Language**

The Government officially recognised British Sign Language on the 18th March 2003 and the official recognition of British Sign Language as a minority language under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.

Harrow Council needs to recognise British Sign Language (BSL) and all its variations as a local community language. Harrow Council will and in the spirit of the Equality Act, The Human Rights Act 1998 and British Sign Language and all its variations and for those who wish to use it and to seek equal status for sign languages with other spoken languages.

I am calling to the Cabinet to accept the recognition of BSL and the equal status of English and British Sign Language and to recognise the right of all deaf residents as equal citizens and to provide equal access to Council services and to participate in the integration of Harrow’s communities. Will you do this?”

2.

Questioner: Raksha Pandya, Mind in Harrow

Asked of: Councillor Varsha Parmar, Portfolio Holder for Public Health, Equality and Wellbeing

Question: “What is public health planning to do in Harrow this year on October 10th 2015 to commemorate World Mental Health day?”