

Cabinet – 15 October 2015 – Responses to Questions not reached at Cabinet

7.

Questioner: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

Asked of: Councillor Simon Brown, Portfolio Holder for Children, Schools and Young People

Question: “The Governing Body of Stag Lane School has set out its concern about the current problems faced by many other schools in Harrow ‘where the current building works have over run or been problematic which has impacted on budgets’. What steps will the Council take to address this lack of confidence in its ability to manage school building projects?”

Written Response: The difficulties experienced under the Council’s partnership arrangement with Keepmoat have been reported regularly to Cabinet in School Expansion Programme quarterly update reports.

Cabinet approved the use of a suitable national or local public sector Framework to procure the contractor for the third phase of the school expansion programme to ensure tight contractual arrangements for delivery and cost. Decision has been made to proceed with the SCAPE framework and with Willmott Dixon as the single supplier. Under this framework we will be putting in place robust damage clauses to ensure Harrow is not financially compromised.

To put the position in context, the schools capital programme had 29 projects at schools over the summer period. Through the determination and commitment of the school staff, including Headteachers and site supervisors, the contractor and Schools Capital Team, the majority of these projects were delivered on time.

9.

Questioner: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

Asked of: Councillor Sachin Shah, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Major Contracts

Question: “Can you provide a list of all consultants who have been engaged by the Council during 2015-16 to date; including details of their responsibilities/projects and their total cost?”

Written Response: Yes, a list will be provided to the Councillor.

Gathering the data requested will however take some time as not all of the detail requested is recorded in the finance systems and the data will need to be referred back to the service departments so that they can provide that detail.

10.

Questioner: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

Asked of: Councillor Glen Hearnden, Portfolio Holder for Housing

Question: "What plans do you have to publicise Right to Buy in Homing In magazine and, if so, in which issue?"

Written Response: Information on the Right to Buy is available on the Council's website and via personal enquiry to the Leasehold Team. There is information on the Communities and Local Government website and the gov.uk websites. The government has also run extensive publicity campaigns recently. Since the increase in the RTB discount sales of Harrow council properties have risen significantly, from 0 in 2011/2012 to 14 in 2012/2013, 36 in 2013/2014 and 37 in 2014/2015.

We have no immediate plans to publicise the Right to Buy in Homing In.

11.

Questioner: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

Asked of: Councillor Glen Hearnden, Portfolio Holder for Housing

Question: "What other plans to do you have to publicise Right to Buy to Harrow's tenants?"

Written Response: Information on the Right to Buy is available on the Council's website and via personal enquiry to the Leasehold Team.

We have no other plans to publicise the Right to Buy.