

CABINET – 18 FEBRUARY 2016

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: Meherin Aklas

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

Question: “The Harrow Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2014-20 identifies mental health as a top 3 priority for improvement for Harrow Council and all statutory partners and other stakeholders. The Council’s three-year savings plan, being voted on this evening, recommends substantial cuts to services for people experiencing mental health problems on the basis that these service reductions will contribute to a balanced budget 2016/17.

What is your evidence that these cuts to services will not result in higher cost pressures on other Council services and therefore not real savings, which has been repeated feedback during consultation sessions?”

2.

Questioner: Raksha Pandya, Mind in Harrow

Asked of: Councillor Anne Whitehead, Portfolio Holder for Adults and Older People

Question: “How is the Council Administration working with the NHS Harrow CCG Board and CNWL Board to ensure that proposed service reductions 2016/17 for Harrow residents experiencing mental health problems are avoided?”

3.

Questioner: Helen Kasin

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

Question: “How come actions have been taken which effectively mean that the decision to close the Bridge had been taken prior to the

cabinet meeting on 18th February and before any consultation had taken place with service users who only found out about this proposal 3rd February and given two weeks to respond?”

4.

Questioner: Ravi Ruparelia, Director of Premier Banqueting, London

Asked of: Councillor Keith Ferry, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Business, Planning and Regeneration

Question: “As many councillors are aware the imminent closure of Peel House Car Park will mean the destruction of our business, which currently generates £106,792.00 per annum for the car park, £50,286 per annum in business rates and in 2015 £417,723.56 in expenditure to local suppliers.

The council should be aware that for the past 12 months we have been seeking a site to relocate with no luck whatsoever. We want to continue to run our business and serve Harrow. If the civic centre is not moved to Wealdstone and the council proposing flats on the Peel House Site, I would like to ask the Councillor in charge of Business who should be supporting good business in Harrow – what benefit would that bring compared to the loss of a very successful business in Harrow Wealdstone, which generates income and provides 120 jobs to the local economy? And my remind the council that we have currently over 3000 petitions to save the car park and to support our business.”

5.

Questioner: Richard McBride

Asked of: Councillor Anne Whitehead, Portfolio Holder for Adults and Older People

Question: “The Bridge save lives – it is a fantastic place where one to one key worker support is available from trained mental health recovery workers. This key worker support works out a ball park £30 a week per client – something around £5 a day! This support keeps people out of hospital and I strongly feel that the true cost to the taxpayer will be far greater than any short term savings achieved by closing the Bridge. The Council needs to take a holistic approach to health and well-being and I would like to know what impact assessment has been undertaken with regard to the recent announcement to close the Bridge?”

6.

Questioner: Joan Penrose

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

Question: “As a resident I am aware of the terrible financial shortfall in Harrow because of Government cuts. We wish to support the ‘159’ campaign to get Harrow its missing millions. I would like to know the best way for the residents and the voluntary sector to support this campaign?”