

LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

COUNCIL MEETING -

25 FEBRUARY 2016

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 Chair of any Committee.

Questioner: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

Asked of: Councillor Graham Henson (Portfolio Holder for Environment, Crime and Community Safety)

Question 1:

“Given the frequency of complaints about Housing of Multiple Occupation from across the borough and the need for more inspection and enforcement (which generates increased costs to the authority, why has the Council decided to freeze HMO fees for 2016-17?”

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Question 2:

“Given the Leader of the Council has condemned the increase in betting shops, and called for a reduction in the permitted stakes on Fixed Odds Betting Terminals and has lobbied the Government to give councils “the power to protect our communities from the effects of reckless gambling”, why has his administration chosen to freeze all the fees and charges relating to Gambling and Betting (lines: 61, 62a, 62b, and 62c)?”

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Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall

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

Question 3:

“Will you please reconsider the closure of The Bridge – especially given your commitment to supporting the most vulnerable, who will be most adversely affected by this decision?”

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Question 4:

“Why are you dismissing the flexibility the social care precept could afford you in continuing to support the Bridge, as was pointed out to you at Cabinet?”

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Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall

Asked of: Councillor Keith Ferry (Portfolio Holder for Business, Planning and Regeneration)

Question 5:

“Can you explain how potentially forcing Premier Banqueting to close in any way builds into their manifesto pledge of ‘supporting businesses’?”

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Question 6:

“What message does this Labour administration have for those staff who could lose their jobs if Premier Banqueting closes or is forced out of Harrow?”

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Asked of: Councillor Keith Ferry (Portfolio Holder for Business, Planning and Regeneration)

Question 7:

“Despite recognising in the latest revenue monitoring report that the amount of business rates collected are in drastic decline in Harrow, and given the Government's decision to base council funding in business rates, why doesn't your draft Corporate Plan describe how your administration intends to reverse this decline?”

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Asked of: Councillor Keith Ferry (Portfolio Holder for Business, Planning and Regeneration)

Question 8:

“What is the total amount of business rates collected from the businesses in the High Street and immediately adjoining roads in central Wealdstone?”

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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 9:

“For each department, please itemise all magazine, newspaper and journal subscriptions that the Council has, and confirm for each if they represent good value for taxpayers’ money?”

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Question 10:

“Can you provide a service/capital financing assessment for each line of the capital budget?”

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

Question 11:

“Can you itemise the cost of each of the Council’s outside bodies’ subscriptions, memberships and other associated costs, and confirm for each if they represent good value for taxpayers’ money?”

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Question 12:

“Can you provide us with a ward-level breakdown for business rate collection in Harrow for the most recent financial year, and confirm whether any individual wards have seen an increase in collection from previous years?”

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Questioner: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

Asked of: Councillor Glen Hearnden (Portfolio Holder for Housing)

Question 13:

“Can you provide an update on your administration's lobbying efforts to get the Government to exempt Harrow from the Government-mandated 1% reduction in council rents for the next 4 years?”

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Asked of: Councillor Glen Hearnden (Portfolio Holder for Housing)

Question 14:

“What is the estimated timescale for construction to be started, completed and then for sale of the two houses proposed for private sale in Masefield Avenue to cross-subsidise the provision of social housing in Harrow?”

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Asked of: Councillor Glen Hearnden (Portfolio Holder for Housing)

Question 15:

“What assurances can be given that all newly-acquired properties for use in council lettings will be properly maintained by the Council given that it often struggles to maintain its existing HRA properties in a good state of repair, the proper maintenance of estates and to ensure improvements are carried out in a reasonable timeframe?”

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Asked of: Councillor Graham Henson (Portfolio Holder for Environment, Crime and Community Safety)

Question 16:

“What is the justification for the 340% increase in application fees for riding establishments?”

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Question 17:

“Why has the Council significantly reduced initial application fees (by 65%) and renewal fees (by 81%) for Sex Shops whilst hiking fees for Occasional Licences (by 4-6%) and for Special Treatments (by 4%)? Does this emphasis on promoting the economic opportunities of Sex Shops reflect the council's new corporate values?”

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

Question 18:

“Can Cllr. Whitehead enlighten us as to the whereabouts of the £305 million brand new hospital at Northwick Park that Gareth Thomas promised Harrow residents back in 2005 and which was due to have been operational by 2010?”