

LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

COUNCIL MEETING -

23 FEBRUARY 2017

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 Adam Swersky, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Commercialisation

Question 1:

“How are you picking up good ideas from other London Borough Councils?”

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Questioner: Councillor

Asked of: Councillor Sachin Shah (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Partnerships and Devolution)

Question 2:

“How long does it take for the Council to provide a business case?”

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Questioner: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

Asked of: Councillor Christine Robson (Portfolio Holder for Children, Schools and Young People)

Question 3:

“What are you doing to ensure that Harrow’s newly built schools are safe?”

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Questioner: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

Asked of: Councillor Christine Robson (Portfolio Holder for Children, Schools and Young People)

Question 4:

“Have you secured any funding to do a proper review of school building works to date and is there any contingency in the budget for such remedial action being required?”

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Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall

Asked of: Councillor Sachin Shah (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Partnerships and Devolution)

Question 5:

“Why do you think it is safe to include savings in this budget that are purely speculation?”

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Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall

Asked of: Councillor Sachin Shah (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Partnerships and Devolution)

Question 6:

“What actions is the leader taking to ensure departments individually do not overspend?”

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Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall

Asked of: Councillor Sachin Shah (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Partnerships and Devolution)

Question 7:

“What spending controls is the leader imposing on individual departmental budgets?”

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Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall

Asked of: Councillor Sachin Shah (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Partnerships and Devolution)

Question 8:

“How do you think cancelling the cabinet meeting in March will be good for local Democracy?”

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Questioner: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

**Asked of: Councillor Adam Swersky, Portfolio Holder for
Finance and Commercialisation**

Question 9:

“Do you think Harrow manages its finances as well as other London boroughs?”

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Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall

Asked of: Councillor Sachin Shah (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Partnerships and Devolution)

Question 10:

“You mentioned in your answer to question 10 at cabinet January 2017 that crowd-funding “is most suitable for those organisations who previously received a small grant or an Outcomes Based Grant or Adult SLA under £5k”
What assistance is in place to help those missing out on the higher funding?”

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Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall

Asked of: Councillor Sachin Shah (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Partnerships and Devolution)

Question 11:

“How many residents have had to have someone sign up on their behalf due to difficulties with accessing the online sign-up?”

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Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall

Asked of: Councillor Sachin Shah (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Partnerships and Devolution)

Question 12:

“As part of the regeneration plans, which of these planning applications have been accepted and refused?”

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Asked of: Councillor Sachin Shah (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Partnerships and Devolution)

Question 13:

“What are the expected time frames for the individual applications to go through the application process?”

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Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall

Asked of: Councillor Sachin Shah (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Partnerships and Devolution)

Question 14:

“One of your key manifesto pledges was to create jobs in Harrow. What assessments have been done on impact will the employment of Social Workers from India have on Harrow’s workforce?”

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Asked of: Councillor Sachin Shah (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Partnerships and Devolution)

Question 15:

“What funding is available for Councils who accept refugees and how long does the funding last for? “

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Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall

Asked of: Councillor Sachin Shah (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Partnerships and Devolution)

Question 16:

“What impact has the procurement merger with Brent had on productivity levels of staff in that department?”

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Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall

Asked of: Councillor Sachin Shah (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Partnerships and Devolution)

Question 17:

“What impact has the procurement merger with Brent had on wages for staff in that department?”

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Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall

Asked of: Councillor Sachin Shah (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Partnerships and Devolution)

Question 18:

“What was the cost of the procurement merger for Harrow in comparison to Brent and how does this create a fair deal for Harrow?”

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Questioner: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

Asked of: Councillor Sachin Shah (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Partnerships and Devolution)

Question 19:

“Do you think it is normal practice to write a business case after they have been asked for?”

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Questioner: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

Asked of: Councillor Sachin Shah (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Partnerships and Devolution)

Question 20:

“What alternative forum will you be providing for residents to ask public questions in March in lieu of the Cabinet meeting you have cancelled?”

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Questioner: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

Asked of: Councillor Sachin Shah (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Partnerships and Devolution)

Question 21:

“Can you confirm that a Cabinet meeting will go ahead as planned in April?”

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Questioner: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

Asked of: Councillor Sachin Shah (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Partnerships and Devolution)

Question 22:

“The LGA Peer review noted that there was no clear line of sight through the Council’s regeneration plans for growing the local economy. With business rate retention on the horizon how much extra business rates does the leader expect to be generated through the measures outlined in the corporate plan and the budget?”

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Questioner: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

Asked of: Councillor Sachin Shah (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Partnerships and Devolution)

Question 23:

“How many large-scale businesses are expected to be relocated to Harrow and contribute significant amounts of business rates (i.e. above the business rate relief level, typically enjoyed by startups)?”

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Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall

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

Question 24:

“You mentioned in your answer to question 14 at cabinet in January that “The Council cleaned 1,439 roads last week. As result of obtaining 5 new street cleaning machines you set the Council’s target of cleaning every road in Harrow at least once per week. This leaves 600 roads left out. You noted that there were less roads cleaned than intended due to gritting operations being in progress. How many roads were cleaned in the weeks when there were no gritting operations?”

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Questioner: Councillor Paul Osborn

Asked of: Councillor Kiran Ramchandani (Portfolio Holder for Performance, Corporate Resources and Customer Service)

Question 25:

“Does the Council have a protocol for dealing with complaints made to Councillors about the activities of companies it owns or controls?”

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Questioner: Councillor Paul Osborn

Asked of: Councillor Kiran Ramchandani (Portfolio Holder for Performance, Corporate Resources and Customer Service)

Question 26:

“As directors, does remuneration count towards “remuneration package” under local Government regulations?”

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Questioner: Councillor Paul Osborn

Asked of: Councillor Kiran Ramchandani (Portfolio Holder for Performance, Corporate Resources and Customer Service)

Question 27:

“Please list all directors of any Council controlled company and their remuneration.”

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Questioner: Councillor Paul Osborn

Asked of: Councillor Kiran Ramchandani (Portfolio Holder for Performance, Corporate Resources and Customer Service)

Question 28:

“If the directors’ remuneration pushed the officers’ remuneration package over £100,000 would it require approval of the Chief Officer’s Panel?”

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Questioner: Councillor Paul Osborn

Asked of: Councillor Kiran Ramchandani (Portfolio Holder for Performance, Corporate Resources and Customer Service)

Question 29:

“Are companies owned or controlled by the Council subject to FOI requests in the same way that the Council would be?”

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Questioner: Councillor Paul Osborn

Asked of: Councillor Kiran Ramchandani (Portfolio Holder for Performance, Corporate Resources and Customer Service)

Question 30:

“Could you outline the process for appointing a director to companies owned or controlled by the Council?”

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Questioner: Councillor Paul Osborn

Asked of: Councillor Kiran Ramchandani (Portfolio Holder for Performance, Corporate Resources and Customer Service)

Question 31:

“Could you outline the process for removing a director to companies owned or controlled by the Council?”

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Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall

Asked of: Councillor Sachin Shah (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Partnerships and Devolution)

Question 32:

“How many Members, staff and associated staff/consultants are attending MIPIM this year?”

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Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall

Asked of: Councillor Sachin Shah (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Partnerships and Devolution)

Question 33:

“How much is it costing the Council to send Members, staff and associated staff/consultants to MIPIM from Harrow this year? Please give full details.”

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Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall

Asked of: Councillor Sachin Shah (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Partnerships and Devolution)

Question 34:

“Who is footing the bill for all Harrow Members, staff and associated staff/consultants to attend MIPIM this year?”

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Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall

Asked of: Councillor Sachin Shah (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Partnerships and Devolution)

Question 35:

“For members, staff and associated staff/consultants being sponsored by developers to attend MIPIM; how is it being made sure that there is no conflict of interest?”