

CABINET – 23 May 2017

AGENDA PART I

COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS (ITEM 5)

Fifteen minutes will be allowed for Members of the Council to ask a Portfolio Holder a question on any matter in relation to which the Executive has powers or duties.

1.

Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall

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

Question: What is the administration doing to manage and control the Council's wage structure?

2.

Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall

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

Question: How much money have the directors of Concilium Business Services been paid since being appointed?

3.

Questioner: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

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

Question: Why do you think it is appropriate for the administration to still not have provided answers to 88 Councillor questions asked at the Cabinet meeting on 13th February 2017 and 69 Councillor questions asked at the Cabinet meeting on 27th April (totalling 157 unanswered questions)?

4.

Questioner: Councillor Richard Almond

Asked of: Councillor Christine Robson, Portfolio Holder for Children,

Young People and Schools

Question: What “adversarial union activity“ has there been in connection with the implementation of the “Early Intervention Service Redesign” ?

5.

Questioner: Councillor Richard Almond

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

Question: Are there any criticisms and/or recommendations in the 2017 Ofsted Report on the Inspection of services for children and Review of the effectiveness of the Local Safeguarding Children Board which you consider unjustified?

6.

Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall

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

Question: How will the Council mitigate the impact the Voluntary Sector Funding Cuts could have on Flash Musicals’ ability to make the rent payments of the new lease for the property at Methuen Road?

7.

Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall

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

Question: The Council will be providing funding equivalent to market rent to NHCL on an annual basis which will be repaid to the Council’s head lease. How will the Council support NHCL to ensure that the repayments are met?

8.

Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall

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

Question: How much money have the directors of Concilium Group been paid since being appointed?

9.

Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall

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

Question: How much money have the directors of HB Public Law been paid since being appointed?

10.

Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall

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

Question: What is the maximum financial loss you are happy for the Council to incur before closing the Concilium Business Services/Smart Lettings?

11.

Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall

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

Question: From what budget is the Council's loan to Concilium Business services from?

12.

Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall

Asked of: Councillor Sachin Shah, Leader of the Council and Portfolio

Holder for Strategy, Partnerships and Devolution

Question: What is the likelihood of the tenets on which the numbers of the financial plan for Concilium Business Services/Smart Lettings are based on, materialising by March 2018?

13.

Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall

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

Question: What is the administration doing to promote Scrutiny focussing more effectively on Children's Services?

14.

Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall

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

Question: Why does the multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH) not handle referrals of children with lower levels of need as quickly as it should?

15.

Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall

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

Question: Why does Children's Services not utilise all key agencies as effectively as it could do?

16.

Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall

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

Question: How is the administration ensuring Children's Services bear specific consideration of culture and ethnicity when dealing with children in need?

17.

Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall

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

Question: How is the administration improving emotional well-being, education, employment and training for care-leavers?

18.

Questioner: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

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

Question: What is the minimum and maximum height and number of storeys of the new Civic Centre that can be provided by the proposed site?

19.

Questioner: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

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

Question: What is the proposed minimum required floor space of the new Civic Centre that the proposed site needs to accommodate?

20.

Questioner: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

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

Question: What are the dimensions of the footprint of the site the Council is working with for the new Civic Centre Building?

21.

Questioner: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

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

Question: Are you proposing the New Civic Centre to be less than 1/3 of the height of the 17-storey Palmerston Road/Masons Avenue development?

22.

Questioner: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

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

Question: Are you proposing the New Civic Centre to be less than 1/2 of the height of the 17-storey Palmerston Road/Masons Avenue development?

23.

Questioner: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

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

Question: Are you proposing the New Civic Centre to be less than 2/3 of the height of the 17-storey Palmerston Road/Masons Avenue development?

24.

Questioner: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

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

Question: Given the lack of progress with opening North Harrow Library – do you think it is appropriate for a public notice to still be displaying the old opening times of the Library?

25.

Questioner: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

Asked of: Councillor Glen Hearnden, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Employment

Question: Can you confirm how much money is coming in to the HRA as a result of commercially leasing the Churchill Place car park?

26.

Questioner: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

Asked of: Councillor Glen Hearnden, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Employment

Question: Who is paying for the electricity usage for the Churchill Place car park, where the lights are permanently switched on?

27.

Questioner: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

Asked of: Councillor Glen Hearnden, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Employment

Question: Is there a detailed savings plan for proposed savings to control costs within the HRA to prevent a raid on the reserves? If yes, please can I have a copy? If no, then why not as there is a projected raid of around £5 million to the HRA in the coming years?

28.

Questioner: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

Asked of: Councillor Glen Hearnden, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Employment

Question: When the budget was presented at Council in February, your administration made a big play on how it was protecting Reserves – but the HRA budget projects a raid of over £5 million over the next 3 financial years (from £6.2m to £4.8m in 2017/18, from £4.8m to £1.9m in 2018/19, and

from £1.9m to £1.0m in 2019/20). Why did you not correct claims that reserves would be untouched?

29.

Questioner: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

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

Question: The MTFs covering the HRA, passed at Council in February, “assumes £1.15m unidentified savings can be made over the two years 2018/19 and 2019/20.” What progress has been made to date in identifying these “unidentified savings”, including where these savings might come, their monetary amounts, phasing and when will they be implemented?

30.

Questioner: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

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

Question: What are the timescales for answering the 88 outstanding questions we asked at the Cabinet meeting on 13th February 2017 and the 69 outstanding questions we asked at the Cabinet meeting on 27th April 2017?

31.

Questioner: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

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

Question: What is the timescale for answering the questions we have asked at this Cabinet meeting?