

CABINET – 13 JULY 2017

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: Hugh Brown

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

Question: “On 18th February 2016, Harrow Council emailed the Education Funding Agency to confirm that there is a basic need for additional primary school places, and to confirm its support for Mariposa Primary School at our proposed site. In that email, Harrow Council highlighted Harrow’s “ambitious regeneration programme” which is expected to “increase the projected basic need for school places” and acknowledged that there are “very few if any, options available to expand existing schools”. Now a year later, Harrow Council have contacted the EFA to say there is no longer a demand for a new primary school. With Harrow Council's data showing that Reception places at all 6 primary schools in Central Primary Planning Area have been fully allocated throughout the last few years, how can you reassure families living within Central Primary Planning Area that the new housing developments will not impact their chances of securing a place for their child at a good school within walking distance?”

2.

Questioner: Dara Foody

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

Question: “Due to the abolition of the Youth Development Team, it has become increasingly difficult to intervene at an earlier stage to prevent issues surrounding vulnerable young people from escalating. How does the council expect us to believe that this forms part of the more effective early intervention service which we have been guaranteed?”

3.

Questioner: Nathan James Griffith

Asked of: Councillor Varsha Parmar, Portfolio Holder for Public Health, Equality and Community Safety

Question: “As a result of the continued underfunding of CAMHS, mental health services are simply no longer equipped to support vulnerable young people with an array of mental health conditions. How can the Council claim to provide adequate support to these vulnerable young people when the needs of many have been disregarded in light of efficiency savings?”

4.

Questioner: Samy Benaferi

Asked of: Councillor Sue Anderson, Portfolio Holder for Community, Culture and Resident Engagement

Question: “At present dozens of cultural services across the Borough such as Harrow Music Service are facing serious financial difficulties. Isn't it that case that the council has failed in its entirety to adequately equip these services with the funding that they need to provide the decent quality service our young people deserve?”

5.

Questioner: Matthias Brown

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

Question: “We only get one chance at childhood and children need to run and play. Why is the council suggesting new schools with very little outside space, instead of supporting Mariposa Primary School, which will have the most amazing school site?”

6.

Questioner: Raksha Pandya, Mind in Harrow

Asked of: Councillor Sue Anderson, Portfolio Holder for Community, Culture and Resident Engagement

Question: “Mind in Harrow and other local charities have expressed concerns to the Council officers that as funding to all specialist advice/information/support services have been cut and Harrow CAB is the only remaining funded non-statutory advice service from (1st August 2017) that many vulnerable residents will not be able to access welfare benefits, housing and debt advice when they need it. The vulnerable residents we are concerned about include people with learning disabilities, physical disabilities & sensory impairment, mental health problems, ASD, older people, carers, young people and people for whom English is not their first language. How are you addressing these concerns?”