

## CABINET – 7 DECEMBER 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:** Mr J Welby

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

**Question:** Can you tell me what the situation is with the Harrow Arts Centre now that there are losses in excess of £200,000 although there was a surplus of £2,000 filed at Companies House as you are Director of Cultura London Ltd when the accounts were filed in July 2017. Did this matter come before the culture committee – of which Councillor Ferry is a member – and how much will Harrow Council lose?”

2.

**Questioner:** Dara Foody, Member of UK Youth Parliament for Harrow

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

**Question:** “At the most recent council meeting, you and your group voted against an amendment which would have put an elected youth representative from the Harrow Youth Parliament on cabinet.

Why is it that you are opposed to giving young people a meaningful ability to influence decision making?”

3.

**Questioner:** Ibrahim Abdulle

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

**Question:** “Considering our sensible amendments to the Community Safety and Violence, Vulnerability and Exploitation Strategy which were

successfully adopted at the most recent Council meeting, why is there an unjustified aversion to having a Harrow Youth Parliament representative on Cabinet?"

4.

**Questioner:** Orlaith Lindsay

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

**Question:** "In the job description for your portfolio, it is stated that you should oversee the "maintenance of positive links with the local Youth Parliament and Harrow members of the UK Youth Parliament". How do you expect the young people of our borough to believe that you adhere to this when you voted down an amendment to put one of their elected representatives on cabinet?"

5.

**Questioner:** Radhey Patel

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

**Question:** "In 2012 you were part of the Redefining Youth Engagement Scrutiny Review which concluded that Harrow Youth Parliament is the recognised voice of young people and recommended that the Youth Parliament be given a representative on a council committee. Why is it then that you denied young people a voice in the ultimate decision making process last Thursday when you went along with your leader and voted against a sensible and reasonable amendment to give a youth representative from the Harrow Youth Parliament a seat on the cabinet?"

6.

**Questioner:** Elia Yousf

**Asked of:** Councillor Kiran Ramchandani, Portfolio Holder for Performance, Corporate Resources and Customer Services

**Question:** "How do you expect the young people of our borough to be meaningfully able to discuss council performance and influence

key decision making when you and your colleagues voted against an amendment which would have given their elected youth councillors a seat on cabinet?"

7.

**Questioner:** Rohil Anjay

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

**Question:** "The council have often claimed that consultation is "at the heart" of what it does. Why did you therefore decide to reject an amendment at last Thursday's council meeting which would have allowed executive members to hear the views of young people when making decisions?"

8.

**Questioner:** Nathan James Griffith

**Asked of:** Councillor Simon Brown, Portfolio Holder for Adults and Older People

**Question:** "Since you rightly voted to support giving young people aged 16 and 17 the vote, you indicated that young people should have the right to something more traditionally reserved for adults and older people - Why then are you opposed to having a Harrow Youth Parliament representative on Cabinet?"

9.

**Questioner:** Eileen Kinnear

**Asked of:** Councillor Graham Henson, Portfolio Holder for Environment

**Question:** "A letter issued to Residents some while ago by the then Corporate Director, Community & Environment Services informed them that a public consultation exercise was starting on proposals for new street lights throughout the Borough.

It stated that since many of Harrow's Conservation Areas had heritage-style street lighting that was in keeping with the architectural and historical character (of those areas) the Council "will ensure" that - should existing heritage style lighting need to

be replaced, "the new lighting apparatus will be of a similar style".

This commitment has not been honoured in certain Conservation Areas on Harrow on the Hill and residents can obtain NO real reply from the Council stating reasons for the reversal. This has gone on for months: even the MP for Harrow West cannot obtain a meaningful response from the Council.

Is it Council policy to ignore Residents' concerns in this way: will you give a comprehensive reply this evening please?"

10.

**Questioner:** Martin Shannon

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

**Question:** "There are many concerned and engaged individuals, users, supporters and groups looking for a commitment to a viable and vibrant future for Harrow Arts Centre.

In the light of the final rejection of the Cultura London plans by the Council in March 2017, the Chief Executive stated at a Hatch End Association meeting that the Council would be looking at some of the good commercial ideas proposed by Cultura in order to boost much-needed revenue at the Arts Centre.

Council taxpayers and supporters are interested in the Council plans for maximising the income of this resource whilst protecting the legacy and fabric of Harrow Arts Centre (including the roof) for the benefit of all current and future users of this important social, cultural and community hub. What are your plans?"