

CABINET – 18 JANUARY 2018

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: Dara Foody, Member of UK Youth Parliament for Harrow

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

Question: “Given the high and often unpredictable level of demand for Children's Services, why do you think that it is appropriate to only allocate it the insufficient amount of money set out in the Draft Budget?”

2.

Questioner: John Nickolay

Asked of: Councillor Graham Henson, Portfolio Holder for Environment

Question: “The annual collection calendar providing the dates for refuse collection has not been provided to residents for 2018.

After managing to contact the Council staff by telephone I was told that this very useful item (particularly where collection dates for bank holidays are concerned) has been cancelled.

Could we have an explanation as to why this has happened?”

3.

Questioner: Orlaith Lindsay, Member of Harrow Youth Parliament

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

Question: “In the New Savings and Growth 2018/2019 section of the Draft Revenue Budget, there is a proposal to significantly reduce the council's subsidy to the Harrow Arts Centre. Can you tell the young people of Harrow whether the community directorate have

produced an impact assessment about the effect that this will have; both on the community and on service users, including the students whose education and personal development has been greatly enhanced by travelling to the venue?"

4.

Questioner: Elia Yousf, Deputy Member of Youth Parliament

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

Question: "Seeming that you've proved to be consistently incapable of controlling the children's services budget over your time as portfolio holder, how do you expect the young people of our borough to believe that you'll be able to reduce demand pressures to £2.9 million by the time the budget is set at the same time as maintaining a viable and effective service?"

5.

Questioner: Pranvera Merkaj, Harrow Youth Parliament

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

Question: "If the council really believe that prevention is better than cure, then young people tell me that they would expect more investment in youth centres as well as the front line youth workers who engage with those on the periphery of crime. How do you think they reacted when they found out that the draft budget makes no direct reference to increasing funding in these areas?"

6.

Questioner: Samy Benaferi, Member of Harrow Youth Parliament

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

Question: "The draft revenue budget proposes to slash the Council's subsidy to the Harrow Arts Centre by £150,000 in 2018/19 at a time when it faces increased financial uncertainty. Does destabilising the financial situation of what you yourself described as a "treasured" cultural hub really form part of the council's vision of "Working Together to Make a Difference for

Harrow"?"

7.

Questioner: Nathan James Griffith, Leader of Harrow Youth Parliament

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

Question: "Would you be willing to commit to attend a conference between Harrow Youth Parliament, the Leader of the Opposition, and yourself?"

8.

Questioner: Radhey Patel

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

Question: "When the growth allocated to Children's Services isn't enough to accommodate any further rise in demand, do you understand why young people are becoming increasingly frustrated with this administration?"

9.

Questioner: Ibrahim Abdulle

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

Question: "In light of the fact that the shared public health service with Barnet is soon coming to an end, can you confirm that the council will be looking to adopt a similar model with other boroughs going forward so that we can further reduce costs and instead divert funding to other front line services including children's services and youth centres?"