

CABINET – 15 MARCH 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: Mike Coker

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

Question: “In 2014, we were pleased to see you recognised that carers in Harrow needed more support as a result of the impact their caring roles were having on their wellbeing. In your Manifesto from the 2014 local election you pledged to “Invest an extra £1m to tackle domestic violence, support carers and stand up for those in need.” Carers have continued to do the caring over the past 4 years but the pledged extra investment has not yet happened and the amount spent on services for carers has reduced.

In the October 2017 Cabinet meeting your response to a question from Cllr Mote was that the extra funds have been sitting in a reserve account and this would be looked at over the administration.

Can you please tell us what, if anything, you have done with this extra investment and when carers can expect to see the extra support which was promised, bearing in mind that this administration ends in May 2018?”

2.

Questioner: John Nickolay

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

Question: “I assume you have been aware of the public consultation regarding the proposed expansion of Heathrow Airport that took place at the Harrow Leisure Centre between 12pm and 8pm on Thursday 8th March, and that you might have taken the trouble to pay it a visit.

Whether or not you did participate could you explain whether it is intended for this Council to support what is proposed or do you need details of the problems that still exist that would be likely to be opposed by the residents of our Borough (or others in the North West of London)?”

3.

Questioner: Dara Foody, Harrow Youth Parliament

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

Question: “According the Council's Ambition Plan, it would seem that "protecting the Most Vulnerable and Supporting Families" is a priority for the local authority. Can you explain how this aim was achieved when the council decided to abolish the Young People's Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Service as part of the budget?”

4.

Questioner: Pranvera Merkaj, Harrow Youth Parliament

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

Question: “Would you consider the cessation of the Young People's Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Service to be appropriate, assuming that you understood the impact that this would have on vulnerable young people who are reliant on it?”

5.

Questioner: Maya Soni, Harrow Youth Parliament

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

Question: “Can you tell us how you expect the community library - proposed as part of the council's regeneration strategy - to be orientated to the needs of young people?”

6.

Questioner: Shania Malik, Harrow Youth Parliament

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

Question: “The young people of Harrow have told the Harrow Youth Parliament that crime in their local area is becoming more and more of an issue, with a specific emphasis on drug and gang-related incidences. Would you - and the directorate that you are involved in overseeing - agree with the young people of our Borough on that point, Councillor?”

7.

Questioner: Jamaar Grant, Harrow Youth Parliament

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

Question: “Can you please explain what measures you have taken to actively support the Youth Parliament's Curriculum for life campaign?”

8.

Questioner: Rohil Anjay, Harrow Youth Parliament

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

Question: “Are you satisfied that the Harrow Music Service has the resources that it requires to provide young people with an appropriate musical education in Harrow's schools?”

9.

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: "I'm pleased that you have committed to working with Harrow Youth Parliament on getting young people in Harrow more involved with local policing through Police Ward Panels, a plan

which is now being piloted in Queensbury. Can you commit to encouraging all Councillors in this Council to do the same in their wards?"

10.

Questioner: Farooq Sayed, Harrow Youth Parliament

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

Question: "The recent creation by the council of the crossing near St Dominic's Sixth Form College - which I represent as a Harrow Youth Parliament Youth Councillor. Are you confident this will improve road safety for students?"

11.

Questioner: Zayd Johar, Harrow Youth Parliament

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

Question: "Do you believe that Harrow Council has done enough to ensure that there are sufficient road safety arrangements for young people who go to school in the Rayners Lane and South Harrow area."

12.

Questioner: Radhey Patel, Harrow Youth Parliament

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

Question: "In the council's ambition plan, it is stated that the council will "seek to empower and inspire local people to become more active citizens". Do you believe that this should apply to Harrow's young people?"

13.

Questioner: Sarah Kadiri, Harrow Youth Parliament

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

Question: “How important does the council believe that mental health budget - which is used to provide support to many young people - is?”

14.

Questioner: Matthew Goodwin-Freeman, Harrow Youth Parliament

Asked of: Councillor Sachin Shah, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Partnerships and Devolution
and
Councillor Christine Robson, Portfolio Holder for Children, Young People and Schools

Question: “At a time where the relationship the Council has with other important bodies whom, in my opinion, should be very closely connected, I have found value in breaking this mould. Therefore, working together is better than apart. My question is do you value this too? Working together, on the same boards, on the same platforms, towards the same interests. Can we carve a new relationship, where meetings WITH councillors dominates my week, instead of the preparations to shout down at you? Mental Health, my work, and all that I do is built upon this understanding. So, Councillors, and in fact to everyone here - can we work together, listen to our voices, and improve young people’s Mental Health services in Harrow, together?”

15.

Questioner: Elia Yousf, Harrow Youth Parliament

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

Question: “Recently the council took the decision to cease a Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Service for young people as well as significantly reducing the funding for mental health promotion and other public health programmes which they benefit from. Exactly how much additional demand pressures do you expect that the council are going to be faced with as a result

of these decisions?”

16.

Questioner: Samy Benaferi, Harrow Youth Parliament

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

Question: “The Harrow Youth Parliament is a voluntary organisation that is run by the Council to inspire a youth voice toward issues within the community and to run campaigns to tackle local problems directly to benefit the lives of young people. Many candidates running in our annual elections agree with me in saying that HYP as an organisation should return to having an effective and productive relationship with Harrow Council so that together we can be more effective in tackling the same issues. With our incredible young volunteers working on the present day problems such as Mental Health amongst youth, Youth Crime and Sexual Harassment within schools, will the Council show it's support for our work and campaigns and allocate a budget for HYP as it has done in the past to ensure the work to make Harrow the best borough in London for young people?”