

CABINET - THURSDAY 29 JUNE 2023

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 Antonio Weiss

Asked of: Councillor Marilyn Ashton – Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regeneration

Question: “Could the Portfolio Holder please update us on the current progress and plans for the Greenhill Way car park?”

2.

Questioner: Councillor Stephen Hickman

Asked of: Councillor Stephen Greek - Portfolio Holder for Performance, Communications and Customer Experience

Question: “A resident from Harrow on the Hill has been in touch with me this week about his frustrations with contacting the Council to make a complaint about our refuse services.

He writes ... "I was unable to find any functional communication channel with Harrow Council to file a complaint other than the online Complaints and Compliments form to which I received an **unhelpful response without the right to escalate or even to respond.**"

What reassurance can the Portfolio Holder give Dr Azzawi that in the new system he will be able to have correspondence with named staff / departments rather than nameless generalised email responses?”

3.

Questioner: Councillor Stephen Hickman

Asked of: Councillor Anjana Patel - Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Safety

Question: “Residents around Greenford Road / Sudbury Hill have noticed a significant deterioration in their streets in recent months. They have reported an increase in littering, fly tipping and anti-social behaviour.

Sudbury Hill Residents are angry that their area seems to be an overlooked part of the borough in comparison to other high streets. They also note that the Ealing and Brent sides of Greenford Road are much better cared for and their Councils are more proactive in their responses to resident concerns.

Can the Portfolio Holder tell them how many Fixed Penalty Notices have been issued and paid - for littering, ASB and fly-tips in the Sudbury Hill community in the last 12 months.

4.

Questioner: Councillor Stephen Hickman

Asked of: Councillor Norman Stevenson - Portfolio Holder for Business, Employment and Property

Question: “Harrow's leafy green image can often mask some of the real challenges facing residents.

Unemployment in Harrow has doubled since the pandemic, 17.4% residents have no qualifications, much higher than the London average. Harrow is also a low-wage borough, with gross weekly earnings £514.20 - 37% less than the London average of £815.90

The economic plan identifies that UK Shared Prosperity Fund has allocated 1.4m of funding to Harrow for local investment by March 2025.

Can the Portfolio Holder identify specific projects that this money will be spent on?

5.

Questioner: Councillor Graham Henson

Asked of: Councillor Mina Parmar - Portfolio Holder for Housing

Question: “The cost-of-living crisis is hitting Harrow residents hard and the out-of-control interest rates are driving huge increases in rents across the borough within the expensive private rental housing market, which many tenants are finding unaffordable and are facing eviction. How many residents are there currently living in temporary accommodation?”

6.

Questioner: Councillor Graham Henson

Asked of: Councillor Mina Parmar - Portfolio Holder for Housing

Question: “Are you content with the increases to service charges that you implemented within your budget in February this year and the increased charging for leaseholders, where you stated that there had been extensive user involvement and residents had been fully consulted?”