

## **CABINET – THURSDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2023**

### **AGENDA PART I**

#### **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:** Dipaque Bhatt

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

**Question:** “What is Harrow Council doing about public baiting for rats in areas where there is a known infestation across our borough? West Harrow seems to have a ridiculous amount. However, baiting seems to be left to the residents.

I do think that Harrow Council should be working in collaboration with Thames Water drains to bait drains for example. And also deploy public baiting in high-risk areas.”

**2.**

**Questioner:** Finley Harnett

**Asked of:** Councillor David Ashton – Portfolio Holder for Finance and Human Resources

**Question:** “The Portfolio Holder will be aware that the Council’s consultation on Discretionary Freedom Passes closed on 3 September. I am opposed to the proposals to cease issuing Freedom Passes for people with mental health issues and phase out the existing passes. As a number of local organisations and charities including Mind in Harrow have argued, freedom passes are an indispensable lifeline for some of the most vulnerable people in Harrow. They tackle loneliness, support independence, and ensure fares aren’t a barrier to passholders making crucial appointments. Pinner residents opposed to the proposals have raised with me their concerns that the feedback they have given via the consultation will be ignored, and that the Council will press ahead with the cuts regardless of the level of local opposition. To allay their concerns, then, I wonder what assessment Cllr Ashton has made of the potential merits of publishing the full criteria by

which a final decision will be made, so that Harrow residents can be assured their feedback will be given due weight?”