

CABINET – Thursday 14 March 2024

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 Highways, Infrastructure and Community Safety

Question: Appointing permanent staff at Harrow Council will yield a better service to the residents of the London Borough of Harrow, so why have you now appointed a third Head of Traffic, Highways & Asset Management (Interim) In the past 2 years?

2.

Questioner: Charlotte Woodbridge

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

Question: Why has the council given permission for developments on council land (or land that has been sold by the council for development) that doesn't meet its own affordable housing targets?

3.

Questioner: Andy Paice

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

Question: During the last Cabinet meeting on 15th February a decision was made to dispose of the freehold of Vernon lodge, 654 Kenton Lane (Decision 274) subject to the sale being on the basis of best consideration reasonably obtainable.

In the accompanying report I note that as well as considering the selected option of disposing of the site on the open market, a number of other options were considered including: doing nothing; direct delivery of housing; refurbish and utilising for

service delivery; and applying for planning for particular use prior to sale, all of which were disregarded for valid reasons.

However disposal of the land for either self-build, community-self-build or community-led-housing use was not considered.

Considering the legislative requirements on the council to maintain a self-build register and enough self-build plots to meet demand, and the fact that there is also a community-led-housing group within Harrow seeking to build a cohousing development within the borough, why were these options not included when considering options for disposal of this site and should the sale of the site be put on hold whilst these options are now considered?