

**LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW**

**COUNCIL MEETING -**

**7 JULY 2011**

**QUESTION WITH NOTICE**

A period of up to 15 minutes is allowed for the asking of written questions by Members of Council or a Member of the Executive or the Chairman of any Committee.

**Questioner: Councillor James Bond**

**Asked of: Councillor Bill Stephenson (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Business Transformation)**

**Question 1:**

“Last year, Harrow’s Citizens Advice Bureau helped over 12,000 people, an increase of almost 80%. It has the second lowest core grant of all 32 London Boroughs, now under £80,000, which is less than a third of the average.

The CAB’s Chief Executive tells me that with a grant of this level, its future financial viability is at risk.

Given that the service is mainly delivered by 39 local trained volunteers who donate time which if paid for would have cost the council more than £225,000, is this the right time to have cut their grant by 27% and leave the CAB facing potential closure?

Should we not instead make a special case for the CAB and actually be working to expand their service to meet the inevitable increase in demand for their services by the most vulnerable members of the population?”