Council

Thursday 7 July 2011

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ITEM 6

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 the public of a Member of the Executive or the Chairman of any Committee.

Questioner: Matthew Lloyd

Asked of: Councillor Bill Stephenson (Leader of

the Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Business

Transformation)

To be responded to by: Councillor David Perry (Portfolio

Holder for Community and Cultural

Services)

Question 1:

"Will your administration continue the Councils' commitment, to protect the much needed youth facilities such as, Harrow libraries from government spending cuts?"

COUNCIL MEETING - 7 July 2011

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Questioner: Mark Gillham

Asked of: Councillor Bill Stephenson (Leader of the

Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance and

Business Transformation)

Question 2:

"What specific initiatives would the newly established Transformation and Priority Initiatives Fund pay for, which the Council could not otherwise afford?"

COUNCIL MEETING - 7 July 2011

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Questioner: Angela Dias

Asked of: Councillor Bill Stephenson (Leader of the

Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance and

Business Transformation)

Question 3:

"How does the Council intend to fill the gaps in necessary services for local people, (such as the Welfare Benefit service at HAD), arising from services which are no longer being funded, or to deal with the consequent difficulties which will result for vulnerable people?"

COUNCIL MEETING - 7 July 2011

QUESTION WITH NOTICE

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Questioner: Deven Pillay

Asked of: Councillor Bill Stephenson (Leader of

the Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Business

Transformation)

To be responded to by: Councillor Margaret Davine (Portfolio

Holder for Adult Social Care, Health

and Wellbeing)

Question 4:

"Can the Leader of the Council tell us how much the current consultation on proposals to reduce and charge for Adult services will cost the Council and how much savings the Council will make if these proposals are agreed and implemented?"

COUNCIL MEETING - 7 July 2011

QUESTION WITH NOTICE

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Questioner: Avani Modasia

Asked of: Councillor Bill Stephenson (Leader of the

Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance and

Business Transformation)

Question 5:

"When was the application for funding to Department of Health made?"

COUNCIL MEETING -

7 July 2011

QUESTION WITH NOTICE

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Questioner: Brewster White

Asked of: Councillor Phillip O'Dell (Deputy Leader of the

Council and Portfolio Holder for Environment

and Community Safety)

Question 6:

"Why was a Temporary Events Notice (TEN) issued to the Council for an event under s100 of the Licensing Act 2003 for a music event, and granted, for Yeading Walk from 2-4 July 2011, even though Yeading Walk is a Conservation Area?

According to the Harrow Council Unitary Development Plan: Environmental Protection and Open Space, EP45, 'Yeading Walk is designated a Green Chain. Green Chains are managed for nature conservation, public access and open air recreation'.

Were the personnel in Public Realm Maintenance Service - Community & Environment not aware of the Council's policies. Why did they act Ultra Vires?

This application was submitted 12 months ago yet only the residents in the lower half of Lincoln Road and Suffolk Road were informed on Monday 27 June 2011 that such an event would be taking place. The residents of Lincoln Road, Suffolk Road and the surrounding roads are truly dissatisfied with this blatant disregard for the officers duty to residents and their non adherence to Council's policy."

COUNCIL MEETING - 7 July 2011

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Questioner: Pravin Seedher

Asked of: Councillor Bill Stephenson (Leader of the

Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance and

Business Transformation)

Question 7:

"Will the Leader agree to passing on my congratulations to the Executive and staff of Harrow Council in winning the MJ Award for the Best Achieving Council and to what does the leader attribute the reasons for Harrow winning this award?"

COUNCIL MEETING - 7 July 2011

QUESTION WITH NOTICE

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Questioner: Donald Kerr

Asked of: Councillor Phillip O'Dell (Deputy Leader of the

Council and Portfolio Holder for Environment

and Community Safety)

Question 8:

"I would like to know why this wedding event was allowed to take place in Yeading Walk for some 400 people when officers advise us we have to respect the privacy of the event which is a little difficult to do with the marquees and pavilions being right up against the path through the park. This alone would surely have been enough reason together with absolutely no facilities in Yeading walkway for the event to be redirected to a much more suitable park venue with facilities. Residents have seen the officers excuses and they are not adequate for professional staff".

ITEM 15

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 of 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?"

COUNCIL MEETING - 7 JULY 2011

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Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall

Asked of: Councillor Bill Stephenson (Leader of the

Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance and

Business Transformation)

Question 2:

"Can you confirm whether, in the Council's meetings with NHS Harrow over the £2.1 million that has been received under a s.256 agreement, the possibility of giving some of that funding to service-providing voluntary groups was discussed, which s.257 of the Act suggests may be possible?"

COUNCIL MEETING - 7 JULY 2011

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Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall

Asked of: Councillor Phillip O'Dell (Deputy Leader of the

Council and Portfolio Holder for Environment

and Community Safety)

Question 3:

"While I'm pleased to see the town centre police team is being retained, I am still concerned that the size of the team is being cut by two. Given the success the team has had at combatting pick-pocketing and other such crimes, can you clarify how the newly sized team can operate as effectively as before?"

COUNCIL MEETING - 7 JULY 2011

QUESTION WITH NOTICE

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Questioner: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

Asked of: Councillor Bob Currie (Portfolio Holder for

Housing)

Question 4:

"Can you please confirm how much external decoration work to the Council's housing stock was completed in 2010-11?"

COUNCIL MEETING - 7 JULY 2011

QUESTION WITH NOTICE

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Questioner: Councillor Paul Osborn

Asked of: Councillor Bill Stephenson (Leader of the

Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance and

Business Transformation)

Question 5:

"In December last year, you said at a Cabinet meeting that the cost of the 'Let's Talk' campaign to date was just under £13,000. Can you provide both an update on this figure and a breakdown of the areas of cost?"

COUNCIL MEETING - 7 JULY 2011

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Questioner: Councillor Kam Chana

Asked of: Councillor David Perry (Portfolio Holder for

Community and Cultural Services)

Question 6:

"Can you please detail the cost (if any) to the Council of this year's Under One Sky event, as well as confirming the attendance figures?"

COUNCIL MEETING - 7 JULY 2011

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Questioner: Councillor Paul Osborn

Asked of: Councillor Graham Henson (Portfolio Holder for

Performance, Customer Services and Corporate

Services)

Question 7:

"Can you provide an update on when the Council is expecting to switch to the Exchange system?"

COUNCIL MEETING - 7 JULY 2011

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Questioner: Councillor Anthony Seymour

Asked of: Councillor Keith Ferry (Portfolio Holder for

Planning, Development and Enterprise)

Question 8:

"Can you please confirm that the North Harrow Library is to remain on its current site now that Children's Services are moving out of the first floor of the building?"

COUNCIL MEETING - 7 JULY 2011

QUESTION WITH NOTICE

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Questioner: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

Asked of: Councillor Bill Stephenson (Leader of the

Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance and

Business Transformation)

Question 9:

"After Harrow's excellent result at the MJ Awards – winning Best Achieving Council – do you believe you have the best possible leadership team with you in Cabinet to continue and build on this success?"

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Questioner: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

Asked of: Councillor Bill Stephenson (Leader of the

Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance and

Business Transformation)

Question 10:

"Since you last updated us at May's Cabinet, have you appointed any more members of the Labour Group as trial portfolio holder assistants and have any of them received backdated payments?"