

CABINET

THURSDAY 18 JULY 2013

**PUBLIC AND COUNCILLOR
QUESTIONS ACCEPTED**

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CABINET – 18 JULY 2013

PUBLIC QUESTIONS (ITEM 5)

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: Yvomne Lee, on behalf of Harrow Mencap

Asked of: Councillor Krishna James, Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing

Question: “Seemingly the outcome of the day service review is the ghettoization of people with profound and multiple disabilities in day services. How do you justify this?”

2.

Questioner: Devan Pillay, Chief Executive, Harrow Mencap

Asked of: Councillor Thaya Idiakkadar, Leader of the Council

Question: “How is the Council Strategically planning for services to meet the needs of Disabled People to fulfil its priority of protecting the most vulnerable in Harrow?”

3.

Questioner: Angela Dias, Harrow Association of Disabled people

Asked of: Councillor Krishna James, Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing

Question: “Many people in Harrow are reliant on taxicards for achieving access to the local community, and the people who are most reliant on taxicards, are often the most vulnerable people with the most complex needs. Can you please explain how making any kind of reduction to the scheme, which will for some people mean serious social exclusion, is meeting the Council’s stated priority of ‘supporting and protecting people who are most in need?’”

4.

Questioner: Adam Gabsi, representing Harrow Association of Disabled people

Asked of: Councillor Krishna James, Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing

Question: “The stated aims of the Council for clients of Adult Social Care services, are around personalisation and choice, so can you please explain how planning changes such as closing Bentley and other day centres is offering choice to people, who have made it very clear that their choice is to continue attending Bentley?”

5.

Questioner: Norman Stevenson

Asked of: Councillor Asad Omar, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Safety

Question: **Park Grass-Cutting and Maintenance**

I am typical of a number of residents in Pinner South who have expressed concern that Pinner Village Gardens and The Croft parks will no longer have regular grass cutting done. This will mean that these popular and regularly used parks will become wastelands – this is likely to encourage damage to the environment caused by non-indigenous plant-growth, fly-tipping and possibly even encampments such as has been seen in a neglected site in neighbouring Barnet. Do you really want to risk ruining Harrow’s famous green environment and making the borough less safe?

AGENDA PART I

COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS (ITEM 6)

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 Simon Williams

Asked of: Councillor Thaya Idaikkadar, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Business Transformation and Communications, Finance, Performance, Customer Services and Corporate Services, Property and Major Contracts

Question: “McDonald's on Shaftesbury Circle, in my ward of Harrow on the Hill have applied for an extension to its licensed opening hours. Following representation by residents concerned at the amount of litter generated by the restaurant, a public hearing of the Licensing Panel will be held on 22nd July. Objection has also been represented by this Council's Environmental Health based, again, on the amount of litter.

Residents that have presented formal representation are only a few of the residents I spoke with concerned about the amount of litter on and around Shaftesbury Circle and the failure of McDonald's, in this instance, to adequately address the problem. Residents are often reluctant to make formal representation and sometimes find it difficult to speak out, but in my view that is what we are here to do and to speak up for our residents.

Could you advise me please if you think it acceptable for McDonald's to employ a firm of licensing agents to contact residents who have registered representation asking them to withdraw and contact the Council to say they no longer object to the application by the restaurant before the Licence Panel hearing in a few days time. Do you not agree that residents should be free from the fear of a letter from a firm of licensing agents when exercising their rights?”

2.

Questioner: Councillor Paul Osborn

Asked of: Councillor Thaya Idaikkadar, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Business Transformation and Communications, Finance, Performance, Customer Services and Corporate Services, Property and Major Contracts

Question: "Do you believe that Councillor Graham Henson's outsourcing of the Council's IT to Capita has been a success?"

3.

Questioner: Councillor Kam Chana

Asked of: Councillor Asad Omar, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder of Environment and Community Safety

Question: "Could you provide an update on the Council's plans for the pavilion in the Croft Park, off Cannonbury Avenue?"

4.

Questioner: Councillor Kam Chana

Asked of: Councillor Asad Omar, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder of Environment and Community Safety

Question: 'Can you confirm whether your plans to start leaving Harrow's parks unlocked extend to the Croft Park?'

5.

Questioner: Councillor David Perry

Asked of: Councillor Thaya Idaikkadar, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Business Transformation and Communications, Finance, Performance, Customer Services and Corporate Services, Property and Major Contracts

Question: "Do you feel that the unconventional political set up currently in place with your administration is unsettling, and the residents of Harrow should have cause for concern as key services are clearly not receiving the attention they desperately need?"

6.

Questioner: Councillor David Perry

Asked of: Councillor Nizam Ismail. Portfolio Holder for Community and Cultural Services

Question: "At the most recent meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Leader of the Council mentioned your Administration will increase the support provided to the Third Sector. Therefore please could you clarify over the next 12 months what support this will be?"

7.

Questioner: Councillor David Perry

Asked of: Councillor Zarina Khalid, Portfolio Holder for Children, Schools and Families

Question: "Please could you outline the detail of the new policy announcement made by the Leader of the Council, at the recent Overview and Scrutiny committee, in reference to your Portfolio, regarding your administrations intention to use vacant buildings on the Civic Centre site as 'Classrooms'?"

8.

Questioner: Councillor Margaret Davine

Asked of: Councillor Krishna James, Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing

Question: In the report and recommendations on the "Transformation of Day Opportunities in Harrow", which will be considered by the Cabinet tonight, the future use of Bedford House is not clear.

Will the Portfolio Holder please explain her long term plans for the future of this building and its facilities?

9.

Questioner: Councillor Sachin Shah

Asked of: Councillor Thaya Idaikkadar, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Business Transformation and Communications, Finance, Performance, Customer Services and Corporate Services, Property and Major Contracts

Question: "Please could you confirm whether or not you submitted a formal response in your capacity as Leader of the Council on behalf of Harrow Council, to the London-wide draft **LSP5 consultation** on the cuts to the fire service?"

10.

Questioner: Councillor Kam Chana

Asked of: Councillor Asad Omar, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder of Environment and Community Safety

Question: "What is being done to fix the pot holes on Cannon Lane and in Cannonbury Avenue?"

11.

Questioner: Councillor Christine Bednell

Asked of: Councillor Zarina Khalid, Portfolio Holder for Children, Schools and Families

Question: 'Could you please outline your administration's plans to accommodate the increasing and pressing demand for secondary school places?'