

CABINET

THURSDAY 21 MAY 2015

**PUBLIC AND COUNCILLOR
QUESTIONS ACCEPTED**

Contact: Daksha Ghelani, Senior Democratic Services Officer
Tel: 020 8424 1881 E-mail: daksha.ghelani@harrow.gov.uk

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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: Abdi Gure, Mind in Harrow

Asked of: Councillor Varsha Parmar, Portfolio Holder for Public Health, Equality and Wellbeing

Question: "In relation to the Khat ban on 25 June 2014, how many Somalis have been supported over the past year since the Khat ban to the present date by Harrow Council Public Health commissioned services with a breakdown by individual services?"

2.

Questioner: Eileen Kinnear

Asked of: Councillor Keith Ferry, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Business, Planning and Regeneration

Question: **Re - PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON HARROW SCHOOL STATUTORY PLANNING DOCUMENT**

"This document was put out to Public consultation on 30th March 2015: the closing date originally was 1st May, subsequently extended to 31st May.

We are told that this is a 'Draft' but that once the Consultation period has closed public representations on it will go to the LDF Committee and then direct to Cabinet - i.e. the substantive document will not be put out to (further) Consultation as has been the case ordinarily with Conservation Area documents in the past. This means that Officer's comments on the representations made by the public is what the Committee will consider and consultees will have no further opportunity to comment on those analyses presented to the Committee or on any suggested revisions.

We are also told that - once it is adopted the Document will carry material weight in dealing with Planning Applications for the area.

Why have you chosen to deal with the 'Consultation' in this way

please?"

3.

Questioner: Clare Goldschmidt, Representing Hatch End Association

Asked of: Councillor David Perry, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Partnerships and Corporate Leadership

Question: "In the paper [for Agenda item 8] on future options for Harrow Arts Centre, there are several references to the Council's Regeneration Strategy and potential development of rented housing on the Harrow Arts Centre site but the interrelationship is not entirely clear. In what ways – if any – is the paper's recommended Option C dependent on the Strategy aims and in what ways might it hinder them?"

4.

Questioner: Raksha Pandya, Mind in Harrow

Asked of: Councillor Anne Whitehead, Portfolio Holder for Adults and Older People

Question: "When is the final version of the report from NDTI commissioned by Harrow Council to further improve the uptake and experience of personal budgets for people with enduring mental health needs to be published?"

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AGENDA PART I

COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS (ITEM 5)

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 Susan Hall

Asked of: Councillor David Perry, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Partnerships and Corporate Leadership

Question: "Which councillors have been involved in meetings or have been briefed by officers regarding the pending Judicial Review concerning the 'Take Part' consultation, and what has their involvement been in advising officers how to proceed?"

2.

Questioner: Councillor Kam Chana

Asked of: Councillor Graham Henson, Portfolio Holder for Environment, Crime and Community Safety

Question: "An increasing number of councillors, myself included, have had cases of noise and other nuisance brought to our attention by residents. They are particularly frustrated that they cannot report these nuisances when they occur, which is usually out of working hours. Given you cut the out of hours service in your budget earlier this year, will you consider its re-instatement or alternatives in light of the problems now being reported?"

3.

Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall

Asked of: Councillor Sue Anderson, Portfolio Holder for Community, Culture and Resident Engagement

Question: "Could you clarify the purpose of what the literature dubbed 'Engagement Project 2015', by which the Council offered £50 cash incentives to households willing to host officer visits?"

4.

Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall

Asked of: Councillor Sue Anderson, Portfolio Holder for Community, Culture and Resident Engagement

Question: “What was the take-up of this engagement project by households, and what is the timetable for its implementation and roll-out?”

5.

Questioner: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

Asked of: Councillor Anne Whitehead, Portfolio Holder for Adults and Older People

Question: “In light of the BBC's alarming and distressing report that vulnerable adults, many with learning difficulties, have been sexually-abused while within the framework of council care services, can you confirm whether or not Harrow was one of those 106 councils?”

6.

Questioner: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

Asked of: Councillor Anne Whitehead, Portfolio Holder for Adults and Older People

Question: “Can you give me an assurance that both this administration and you as the new portfolio holder are as committed to the personalisation agenda as your predecessors?”

7.

Questioner: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

Asked of: Councillor Anne Whitehead, Portfolio Holder for Adults and Older People

Question: “What steps are you taking to ensure that Harrow takes advantage of the new opportunities afforded by the Government's commitment to devolution so as to improve Adult social care?”

8.

Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall

Asked of: Councillor Sue Anderson, Portfolio Holder for Community, Culture and Resident Engagement

Question: “The Arts Centre business plan contains an ambitious fundraising goal of £3.8 million in less than a year, with 90% of it needed by December. Are you confident of this goal being reached?”

9.

Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall

Asked of: Councillor Sue Anderson, Portfolio Holder for Community, Culture and Resident Engagement

Question: “The Arts Centre/Museum/Music Service Cabinet paper mentions the fundraising responsibilities of the new trust but does not give much in the way of specifics. Could you elaborate on the sort of fundraising activity this trust will likely engage in, given the amount of money it has to raise and the time it has in which to do it?”

10.

Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall

Asked of: Councillor Sue Anderson, Portfolio Holder for Community, Culture and Resident Engagement

Question: “Regarding the Arts Centre; the Cabinet paper essentially suggests that, if the required money is not raised in time the Centre will close. Given the high stakes of this decision, why does there not appear to be a ‘plan B’?”

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