

# Council

**Thursday 24 July 2014**

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10.	<b>CORPORATE PLAN 2014-15</b> (A) Recommendation I: Overview and Scrutiny Committee (23 July 2014)	7 - 12
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**LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW**  
**MAYORAL ENGAGEMENTS**  
**24<sup>th</sup> July 2014**

Agenda Item 3  
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I have carried out the following engagements since the Council Meeting on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2014:-

- 13 June 2014    Attended Opening of New Relate Office  
                    Attended Citizenship Ceremony
- 14 June 2014    Attended St Alban's Church's June Fair & Charity Abseil Challenge
- 19 June 2014    Attended Governor Services' Education Strategy's Governor & Clerk Awards Ceremony  
                    Attended Citizenship Ceremony  
                    Attended Cade Drill Competition at Harrow School
- 21 June 2014    Attended Wealdstone Methodist Church's Open Day
- 22 June 2014    Attended LB of Harrow's Annual Civic Service at St Mary's Church  
                    Attended Knights Court Nursing Home's Annual Summer Fete
- 23 June 2014    Hosted Armed Forces Flag Raising Ceremony and Reception
- 25 June 2014    Attended Coram's Annual Court Reception
- 26 June 2014    Attended Kenton & Harrow Kumon Study Centre's Achievement Awards Ceremony
- 27 June 2014    Attended Global Education Day at Nower Hill High School  
                    Hosted Cheque Presentation by International Siddhashram Shakti Centre
- 28 June 2014    Attended Reserve Forces' & Cadets' Association for Greater London Solemn Drumhead Service of Remembrance Service in the presence of Her Majesty The Queen
- 29 June 2014    Attended Shree Swaminarayan Satsang's Rath Yatra  
                    Attended Lohana Community of North London's Opening of New Building
- 30 June 2014    Attended Harrow Cuts Films' Awards Ceremony  
                    Attended Shia Ithna Asheri Community of Middlesex's Iftaar Party
- 1 July 2014     Attended Harrow Council's Re-Launch of Outdoor Gym Event at Byron Park  
                    Attended Harrow in Europe's AGM
- 2 July 2014     Attended London Fire Brigade & Metropolitan Police Services' Award Ceremony  
                    Attended Leavers' Ceremony at Kingsley High School
- 3 July 2014     Attended English Speaking Union London Debate Challenge Grand Final  
                    Attended Harrow School Improvement Partnership's Film Award
- 5 July 2014     Departed for Douai
- 6 July 2014     Attended Giants Festival at Douai
- 7 July 2014     Attended The John Lyon School's Speech Day
- 8 July 2014     Attended Wealdstone Kumon Study Centre's ASR Award Ceremony  
                    Attended Mayoress' Committee AGM
- 9 July 2014     Hosted Visit by 1<sup>st</sup> Belmont & 4<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> Brownies
- 10 July 2014    Attended Induction of New Rector, Reverend Matthew Stone at St John the Evangelist
- 11 July 2014    Attended Harrow Recreation Users Association's Ceremonial Opening of Park Gate  
                    Attended Harrow Council Public Health's Re-Launch of Outdoor Gym at Harrow Recreation Ground  
                    Hosted a Visit by Gujarati Drama Group from India  
                    Attended 1<sup>st</sup> Stanmore Scout Group's AGM, Awards & BBQ Event
- 12 July 2014    Attended Krishna Avanti School's Summer Fete

- Attended Annual Public Iftaar Event at Harrow Central Mosque
- 13 July 2014 Attended Sewa Day's Launch of Sewa Day Event at Vishwa Hindu Temple, Southall  
Attended International Siddhashram Shakti Centre's Gujarati Garbo Event
- 14 July 2014 Attended London Mayors' Association's AGM
- 15 July 2014 Hosted Council Visit by West Lodge Primary School
- 16 July 2014 Attended Little Stars Pre-school's Graduation Ceremony  
Attended Wiseworks' Summer Garden Party  
Attended The Lord Mayor's Reception
- 17 July 2014 Attended The London Mayors' Service at St Paul Cathedral & Reception
- 18 July 2014 Attended Woodland School's Graduation Ceremony  
Attended Metropolitan Police's Tour of Harrow Police Station
- 19 July 2014 Attended New Mayors Induction Day
- 20 July 2014 Attended Festival of Cricket's Cricket Tournament  
Attended Elmsleigh Avenue Resident's Association's Street Party
- 23 July 2014 Attended Leavers Celebration Assembly at Norbury School  
Harrow Churches Housing Association's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Buffet Lunch Celebration  
Hosted Afternoon Tea for Harrow Evacuees  
Attended 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration at Fridolins Beauty Clinic  
Attended Iftaar Party at Khoja Shia Ithnasheri Mosque  
Attended Iftaar Party at Khoja Shia Ithnasheri Mosque Centre of Stanmore

**I was represented by The Deputy Mayor on the following occasions:-**

- 15 June 2014 Attended Sri Lankan Muslim Cultural Centre (UK)'s Annual Sports Day
- 17 June 2014 Attended Harrow Music Services' Song Festival
- 22 June 2014 Attended HYM's Senior Band/Steel Concert
- 25 June 2014 Attended Harrow College's Student Awards Ceremony
- 4 July 2014 Attended Harrow & Wembley Sea Cadets Annual Royal Naval Inspection of Cadets & Staff
- 5 July 2014 Attended Balfour Beatty London Youth Games Event
- 6 July 2014 Attended Pinner Hill Golf Club's Surprise Reception for Golf Volunteer of the Year Award
- 8 July 2014 Attended Harrow College's Private View of An Annual Exhibition
- 10 July 2014 Attended Harrow & Wealdstone District Scout's AGM
- 13 July 2014 Attended The 2000 Sport & Social Club Community's Sports Fun Day Event
- 16 July 2014 Attended Metropolitan Police of Harrow's Meet the Commissioner Roadshow Event in Wembley
- 17 July 2013 Attended Central & North West London NHS Foundation Trust & University of Westminster's Launch of New Recovery & Training Centre  
Attended North West London Chamber of Commerce's BBQ Event
- 19 July 2014 Attended The Youth Project's Big Break 2014 Talent Show
- 20 July 2014 Attended Mira Performing Arts' Cultural Programme at Greenford Town Hall

**I was represented by Past Mayors and Honorary Alderman on the following occasions:-**

14 June 2014	Attended Pinner Park Infant & Junior School's Community Summer Fair
15 June 2014	Attended HYM's Academy String/Junior Band/Junior Soul Concert
16 June 2014	Attended AGE UK Harrow's World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Good Practice Workshop Attended Bentley Wood High School's The Heather Murgett International Food & Costume Day
18 June 2014	Attended Harrow Music Services' Song Festival
29 June 2014	Attended HYM's Concert Band/Camerata Concert
3 July 2014	Attended Forest School of Harrow's 1 <sup>st</sup> Annual Open Day Event Attended Citizenship Ceremony
4 July 2014	Attended Summer Art Exhibition at Bentley Wood High School
5 July 2014	Attended North Harrow Community Partnership's Street Festival Attended Grenada Nationals Association & The High Commission for Grenada's 6 <sup>th</sup> Annual Grenadian Heritage Day
6 July 2014	Attended HYM's Gala Concert Philharmonic
10 July 2014	Attended Yogi Divine Society UK's Guru Purnima Utsav
12 July 2014	Attended HYM's Informal End of Term Concert Attended St Luke's Hospice's Summer Proms
13 July 2014	Attended Crossroads Pregnancy Crisis Centre's 10 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Service Attended HYM's Symphonic Winds/Soul Concert

The following Harrow Residents received Awards in the Queen's Birthday Honours List:-

Mr Herman Martyn MBE

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**LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW**

**COUNCIL MEETING -**

**24 JULY 2014**

**QUESTION WITH NOTICE**

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

**Questioner: Will Stoodley**

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

**Question 1:**

“Are you happy with your renewed Labour Group Majority?”

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# OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MINUTES

## 23 JULY 2014

<b>Chairman:</b>	* Councillor Jerry Miles	
<b>Councillors:</b>	* Ghazanfar Ali * Richard Almond * Jeff Anderson * Michael Borio	* Barry Macleod-Cullinane (2) * Chris Mote * Kiran Ramchandani * Lynda Seymour (3)
<b>Voting Co-opted:</b>	(Voluntary Aided) † Mrs J Rammelt † Reverend P Reece	(Parent Governors) † Mrs A Khan
<b>Non-voting Co-opted:</b>	Harrow Youth Parliament Representative	
<b>In attendance: (Councillors)</b>	David Perry	Minute 12

- \* Denotes Member present
- (2), (3) Denote category of Reserve Members
- † Denotes apologies received

## RECOMMENDED ITEMS

### 12. Corporate Plan

Members received a report of the Corporate Director of Resources which set out the Corporate Plan. The Plan detailed the Council's strategic direction, vision and priorities for the year ahead. It had been presented to Cabinet and would be presented to full Council the following day. The Leader was in attendance at the meeting.

Following a brief overview of the Plan by the Leader, Members made the following comments and asked the following questions:

- which portfolio would the priority regarding families fall under? The Leader advised that this would come under the Portfolio Holder for Children, Schools and Young people.
- how would the introduction of on-the-spot fines for littering be enforced? The Leader advised that there was a due process to be followed with these and that a report would be submitted to Cabinet in September 2014 which would clarify the situation further.
- the foreword to the Plan was a highly politicised document and used very emotive language. Were the Leader and the Interim Head of Paid Service comfortable with this situation. The Leader stated that the statements made in the foreword were factually accurate and in the public domain.
- a Corporate document should use more neutral language and be less emotive. Was the Corporate Director of Resources comfortable with the tone of the document? The Leader stated that his intention had been to convey the seriousness of the nature of the current and future financial challenges facing the Council. He added that the Plan had been agreed with both Member and officer input and support and final sign-off by Council.
- was the use of corporate resources to promote a party political viewpoint, as in the case of the Foreword, an appropriate use of public funds? The Leader responded that, in his view, this was an objective document, however, he had noted the Members' comments for the future.
- the foreword laid responsibility for the cuts in local government on the Conservative-led government. However, the former Chancellor of the Exchequer had stated in a television interview that whichever political party won the next general election would have been obliged to implement extensive savings and economies. The Leader stated that he had not seen the interview in question and could not therefore comment.

- how did the priority of supporting the 'most vulnerable' fit in with the administration's intention to reduce Council Tax benefits and was this in keeping with his Group's policies, particularly in view of the fact that other Labour-led authorities had chosen to absorb rather than pass on these costs to residents. The Leader advised that supporting the most vulnerable residents in the borough was a priority. However, the budgets for Children's Services and Adults' Service were very large and could not therefore be easily ring fenced. The Localised Council Tax Scheme had been proposed and implemented following extensive consultation and Council Tax benefits were being reviewed currently.
- why were residents, who lived in the borough and paid council tax not being consulted regarding the possible re-instatement of the Chief Executive's post? The leader advised that five thousand council staff, many of whom were Harrow residents were being consulted. He added that, last year, residents had not been consulted regarding the deletion of the Chief Executive's post. Furthermore, it was not feasible to consult residents regarding every decision made by the Council.
- why were the priorities regarding the vulnerable and families listed as separate priorities? Why were homelessness and poverty not linked together? An additional sum of £0.5M had been identified for the recruitment of social workers. What was being done to improve the recruitment and retention of social workers? The Leader stated that the priorities had been agreed on the basis of extensive consultation and on manifesto pledges. Children and the vulnerable and retention of social work staff had been identified as areas of challenge. The figures were not currently available regarding social work, which was an area of challenge. The performance indicators set out in the Plan showed the links between and the actions to be taken in relation to each priority.
- how would older, retired residents of the borough be supported? The Leader advised that Energy Switch auctions, a debt conference, information regarding saving on food bills and volunteering opportunities and other awareness raising measures were planned. He added that behind every pledge in the Plan there were a series of detailed business cases and measures in place, but, this level of detail had not been included in the Plan.
- would the Administration be willing to meet with representatives from the Citizens' Advice Bureau (CAB) to discuss CAB's three-year finance plans? The Leader stated that his Group were committed to the Grants Programme, had always been supportive of Third Sector organisations and that both he and the relevant Portfolio Holder would welcome discussions with CAB.
- how would the new initiative of Community Champions differ from the Neighbourhood Champions initiative? The review of how the Council engaged with the Third Sector had been led by the Third Sector and would look at more effective working between it and the Council. The

introduction of Community Champions scheme was a means of building on the success of the Neighbourhood Champions scheme. It would provide additional opportunities to encourage and celebrate volunteering in the borough.

- what plans were there for tackling the issue of domestic violence and how wide-reaching were these? The Leader advised that a multi-agency approach between the Council, the Police, social services and health professions would be used and discussions would be taking place to formulate a detailed strategy. The Head of Policy advised that the strategy would be co-produced with representatives from the Third Sector and this would be presented to Cabinet for approval in September.
- was a District Centre different from a Local Centre? The Leader stated that they were the same.
- what mechanism was there for engaging with and consulting groups such as the vulnerable and their carers and families? The Leader stated that community engagement and involvement was a key priority of his Administration and gave the examples of a representative from the Harrow Association of Disabled People being invited to be a co-opted adviser on the Council's Traffic and Road Safety Advisory Panel, which had responsibility for making strategic decisions with regard to traffic and transportation in the borough.
- how would the pledge of creating 500 new jobs and apprenticeships to support young people into work be achieved? The Leader advised that this would be achieved through building on existing links with businesses, the Excite programme, as well as other measures such as the introduction of questions regarding the anticipated social benefits of a particular contract as part of the tendering process. The 500 figure was a minimum target and had been set for the period 2014-18. The Member stated that the figures relating to the Excite project were misleading as it was not clear whether they were figures to date. The Corporate Director of Resources undertook to look into the figures and update Members after the meeting.
- how would residents affected by the changes as a result of the Care Act, which was due to be implemented in 2015, be supported? The Leader advised that discussions were taking place at a strategic, Member-led level for a smooth transition. The Corporate Director of Resources added that an assessment of the long-term implications of the Care Act was being carried out.
- would full licensing of all homes in the private rented sector drive up costs for landlords and lead to a subsequent reduction in available properties? The Leader advised that this could not be predicted. Private landlords would be encouraged to sign up to a voluntary charter which would bring benefits and security for tenants, however, enforcement would pose challenges.

- was the improved street and environmental cleanliness goal achievable? The Leader stated that the relevant Portfolio Holder was confident that this was achievable.
- how would the £1M set aside for domestic violence be spent? The Leader advised that this figure would be spent over a 4-year period on key targets, however, these targets may change over time and the Council would need to be flexible in order to respond to the changing needs of residents. The Leader stated that to date £200k of the £1M had been allocated and the remaining sum was yet to be allocated.
- how would the procurement process be improved to extract greater value for money from the Council's contracts? The Leader stated that this was an area of priority and the Council was working with the West London Alliance to achieve greater efficiencies.
- what lessons had been learnt from the mistakes made and problems arising from the Capita IT contract and the recent Libraries and Leisure contracts? Was the process for awarding contracts sufficiently robust and what savings could be achieved? The Leader advised that there had been a number of ongoing challenges with the IT contract which was being re-tendered. The Corporate Director of Resources advised that a number of measures such as a Category Management approach to all third party spend, working with the West London Alliance to secure greater efficiencies and a review of all major contracts with a view to re-negotiating prices and specifications, had been implemented. He added that there were no blanket figures designated for procurement savings, as these would be factored into Directorates' budgets instead.
- the Plan stated that resident engagement and involvement would be at the heart of how the Council delivered services and engaged with the community. How far would consultation results, for example, the ones relating to Pinner Park Farm, be used to inform policy decisions? For example, if 51% of consultees were in favour of a particular scheme, would that scheme be implemented as a matter of course? The Leader advised that, in addition to consultation responses, professional advice, other feedback, officer input, legal implications etc would be reviewed in a wider context to inform Members' decision-making.
- how would the targets related to improved relationship with staff be measured? It should be noted that the number of working days lost due to strike action had increased since the previous administration. The Leader advised that an improvement in the relationship with staff was not easily quantifiable in figures alone and that more qualitative data and employees experiences would need to be looked at.
- the Local Government formula grant and any top up grants for Harrow were likely to be further reduced. Would there be an increase in Council Tax to cover this shortfall? The Leader advised that his Group was committed to lobbying central government for a fair grant for the

borough and would not increase council tax above the rate of inflation, per their manifesto pledge.

**Resolved to RECOMMEND:** (to Council)

That the Committee's comments on the Corporate Plan be forwarded to Council.

**LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

-

**24 JULY 2014**

**QUESTION WITH NOTICE**

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**Questioner: Councillor Georgia Weston**

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

**Question 1:**

“The recent consultation regarding the future of Pinner Park Farm was a closed questionnaire with two options – a country park with some authorised development, or a country park with some more authorised development. There was no third option allowing residents to express a view to retain the working farm, and as such they were denied any real choice regarding the future of Pinner Park Farm.

Would this council now recognise the error of their ways and move swiftly to a meaningful conclusion that there is a need to work with the tenant farming family, who wish to invest in the future of Pinner Park Farm, in order to secure a working farm on this site and thus enable an area of great historical importance, outstanding natural beauty and rural delight to continue to be enjoyed by the people of Harrow for generations to come?”

## **LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW**

**COUNCIL MEETING -**

**24 JULY 2014**

### **QUESTION WITH NOTICE**

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**Questioner: Councillor James Bond**

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

#### **Question 2:**

“The Leader of the Council, in a speech at the last full council meeting, congratulated councillors of all political persuasions on their success at being elected at the May local elections. I saw this as a signal of good intentions that, whilst there will always be obvious political differences of opinion amongst us all, there was a desire for more cooperation and greater scrutiny of council decisions.

Will the leader and his group consider not only appointing councillors from the main opposition group to his cabinet as non-executive members without further delay, but also extend the time limit for both councillor and public questions at cabinet meetings to 30 minutes in order to aid better engagement with the council by both members of the public and other councillors?”

**LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW**

**COUNCIL MEETING -**

**24 JULY 2014**

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**Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall**

**Asked of: Councillor Varsha Parmar (Portfolio Holder for Environment, Crime and Community Safety)**

**Question 3:**

“Can you confirm how many staff positions will be lost (if any) as part of the change you intend to make next year from cyclical to zonal residential street cleaning?”

**LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW**

**COUNCIL MEETING -**

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**Questioner: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane**

**Asked of: Councillor Sachin Shah (Portfolio Holder for Finance and Major Contracts)**

**Question 4:**

“Can you rule out council tax rises as a way of balancing the budget over the next 4 years, and specifically 2015-16?”

**LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW**

**COUNCIL MEETING -**

**24 JULY 2014**

**QUESTION WITH NOTICE**

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**Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall**

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

**Question 5:**

“You have started a consultation on whether to restore the Chief Executive position. Can you confirm that your final decision on this will be bound by the result of the consultation?”

**LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW**

**COUNCIL MEETING -**

**24 JULY 2014**

**QUESTION WITH NOTICE**

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**Questioner: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane**

**Asked of: Councillor Glen Hearnden (Portfolio Holder for Housing)**

**Question 6:**

“Can you advise on progress on revising the policy for repayment of capital works for leaseholders?”