

# Council

**Thursday 22 September 2016**

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**LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW**

**COUNCIL MEETING -**

**22 SEPTEMBER 2016**

**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 Chair of any Committee.

**Questioner:** Mr Jeremy Zeid

**Asked of:** Councillor Sachin Shah (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Partnerships and Devolution)

**Question 1:**

“Now that Harrow has been named as being the 4th worst in the country for Female Genital Mutilation, what are the Council in partnership with various agencies, doing to tackle this issue?”

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**Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall**

**Asked of: Councillor Sachin Shah (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Partnerships and Devolution)**

**Question 1:**

“Does the Leader believe the introduction of the brown bin charges has been a success for Harrow residents?”

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**Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall**

**Asked of: Councillor Sachin Shah (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Partnerships and Devolution)**

**Question 2:**

“Is the Leader of the Council ashamed by Harrow’s decline in recycling rates?”

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**Questioner: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane**

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

**Question 3:**

“How have the new council homes, built by your Administration, contributed to tackling homelessness problems since 2014?”

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**Questioner: Councillor Richard Almond**

**Asked of: Councillor Adam Swersky (Portfolio Holder for Finance and Commercialisation)**

**Question 4:**

“Would you describe one “robust” measure you have already taken to tackle revenue over-spending?”

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**Questioner: Councillor Richard Almond**

**Asked of: Councillor Christine Robson (Portfolio Holder for Children, Schools and Young People)**

**Question 5:**

“How do you propose to bring Children’s Services revenue spending within the budget by the end of the current financial year?”

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**Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall**

**Asked of: Councillor Sachin Shah (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Partnerships and Devolution)**

**Question 6:**

“How many people employed by the Borough, either directly or indirectly, earn less than the London Living Wage?”

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**Questioner: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane**

**Asked of: Councillor Sachin Shah (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Partnerships and Devolution)**

**Question 7:**

“The average salary of residents in Harrow is just over £31,000 per year. Does the Leader of the Council believe it is right to award pay rises to officers already earning over £100,000 at the expense of residents earning a third of that?”

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**Questioner: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane**

**Asked of: Councillor Adam Swersky (Portfolio Holder for Finance and Commercialisation)**

**Question 8:**

“What steps are you taking to ensure that the HRA is balanced, given the 1% year-on-year reduction in rental income, following the change in Government policy – a risk of HRA regime change that Scrutiny previously warned about?”

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**Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall**

**Asked of: Councillor Sachin Shah (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Partnerships and Devolution)**

**Question 9:**

“Does the Leader of the Council agree with me that the key to social mobility is in providing every child with a good education?”

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**Questioner: Councillor Richard Almond**

**Asked of: Councillor Christine Robson (Portfolio Holder for Children, Schools and Young People)**

**Question 10:**

“A report by the Children’s Society published last week highlighted some of the many difficulties facing children leaving care. What is Harrow Council doing to support this vulnerable group?”

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**Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall**

**Asked of: Councillor Sachin Shah (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Partnerships and Devolution)**

#### **Question 11:**

“The Secretary of State for Local Government and Communities said last week; “If we’re going to live with each other, work with each other and tolerate each other, we have to understand each other.” What steps is the Leader of the Council taking in promoting interfaith cohesion among residents in Harrow?”

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**Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall**

**Asked of: Councillor Sachin Shah (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Partnerships and Devolution)**

**Question 12:**

“Why is this Labour administration incapable of staying within its own budget?”

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**Questioner: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane**

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

**Question 13:**

“How much savings have been achieved to date in terms of reductions in crews, vehicles and staff numbers from introducing paid-for collections of brown bins, since the majority of households that had brown bins have not signed-up for the paid-for collection?”

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**Council – 22 September 2016**

**Urgent Motion - Boundary commission proposal**

Harrow Council is concerned about the new parliamentary boundaries announced on September 13, which are proposed by the Boundary Commission for England. We believe that the new boundaries will divide our cohesive communities and do not take into consideration the increased voter registration prior to the European Union referendum.

Harrow Council instructs the Council Leader and the Chief Executive to write to the Boundary Commission with detail around how their proposals will affect Harrow's diverse and cohesive communities.

Harrow Council encourages councillors and members of the public to respond to the consultation and attend the public meeting organised by the Boundary Commission, that is due to take place in Kenton Hall on October 24 and 25.

Proposed: Cllr Graham Henson

Seconded: Cllr Sachin Shah

Reason for Urgency - The Boundary Commission only published their proposal on 13 September, which was after the deadline for submitting motions to Council. The public meeting is before the next meeting of Council.

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**Council – 22 September 2016**

**Amendment to Motion 1 – Condemn Racism, Xenophobia and Hate Crimes  
Motion**

“We are proud to live in a diverse and tolerant society. Racism, ~~xenophobia and hate~~xenophobia, hate crimes or crimes of any sort have no place in ~~our any country~~society. We, the London Borough of Harrow, condemn ~~racism, xenophobia and hate~~all crimes unequivocally and especially those crimes that are particularly heinous, such as racially aggravated crimes and offences against the person. We will not allow crime or hate to become acceptable. The London Borough of Harrow will work to ensure local bodies and programmes have support and resources needed to fight and prevent ~~racism and xenophobia~~crime. We reassure all people living in the London Borough of Harrow that they are valued members of our community.

This Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to the leaders of the major political parties and ask them to clarify their stance on crime and on members of their parties who incite or associate with those who incite hate and crime”

**Proposed – Councillor Amir Moshenson**

**Seconded – Councillor Susan Hall**

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## **Council – 22 September 2016**

### **Amendment to Motion 2 – Southern Rail**

To be moved by Councillor Barry Kendler and seconded by Councillor Graham Henson:

“This Council supports the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, in his bid to persuade HM Government to move Southern Trains into TfL – London Overground - and requests that the chief executive and the leader of the council write to the government minister responsible stating our support and take any other action necessary in support of the bid.”

This Council regrets the disruption to residents caused by strike action.

Furthermore, this Council also recognises the progress across the world in automated technology and asks the Chief Executive to lobby the Government for greater investment in more driverless train in London. We would also ask him to encourage the Government to negotiate a no strike clause for transport workers to minimise disruption.

**Proposed – Councillor Susan Hall**

**Seconded – Councillor Kanti Rabadia**

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## **Council – 22 September 2016**

### **Amendment to Motion 3 – Mental Health Challenge Motion**

To be moved by Councillor Adam Swersky and seconded by Councillor Varsha Parmar:

“This council notes:

- 1 in 4 people will experience a mental health problem in any given year.
- The World Health Organisation predicts that depression will be the second most common health condition worldwide by 2020.
- Mental ill health costs some £105 billion each year in England alone.
- People with a severe mental illness die up to 20 years younger than their peers in the UK.
- There is often a circular relationship between mental health and issues such as housing, employment, family problems or debt.

This council believes:

- As a local authority we have a crucial role to play in improving the mental health of everyone in our community and tackling some of the widest and most entrenched inequalities in health.
- Mental health should be a priority across all the local authority’s areas of responsibility, including housing, community safety and planning.
- All councillors, whether members of the Executive or Scrutiny and in our community and casework roles, can play a positive role in championing mental health on an individual and strategic basis.

This council resolves:

- To sign the Local Authorities’ Mental Health Challenge run by Centre for Mental Health, Mental Health Foundation, Mental Health Providers Forum, Mind, Rethink Mental Illness, Royal College of Psychiatrists and Young Minds.
- We commit to appoint an elected member as ‘mental health champion’ across the council, who shall produce an annual written report to the council of his or her achievements in that role and appear on invitation before the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to answer questions thereon.-
- We will seek to identify a member of staff within the council to act as ‘lead officer’ for mental health.

The council will also:

- Support positive mental health in our community, including in local schools, neighbourhoods and workplaces.
- Work to reduce inequalities in mental health in our community.
- Work with local partners to offer effective support for people with mental health needs.
- Tackle discrimination on the grounds of mental health in our community.
- Proactively listen to people of all ages and backgrounds about what they need for better mental health.
- Sign up to the Time to Change pledge”

**Proposed – Councillor Richard Almond**

**Seconded – Councillor Susan Hall**