

COUNCIL

THURSDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2017

COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS WRITTEN RESPONSES

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LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

COUNCIL MEETING

-

23 FEBRUARY 2017

QUESTION WITH NOTICE

A period of up to 15 minutes is allowed for the asking of written questions by Members of Council or a Member of the Executive or the Chair of any Committee.

Questioner: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

Asked of: Councillor Adam Swersky, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Commercialisation

Question 1:

“How are you picking up good ideas from other London Borough Councils?”

Answer:

"I continually keep abreast of developments in other boroughs through a whole range of means: monitoring national, local government, and specialised press; discussions with council officers who regularly attend meetings with counterparts; and my own meetings with counterparts across London and the country.

I am currently monitoring a number of innovative ideas that other councils are testing and I regularly ask officers to connect with counterparts in other areas to learn more about these.

Our search for good ideas, however, goes far beyond looking at other boroughs. We are constantly monitoring best practice and innovation in the private, social, and public sectors in the UK and abroad. Our ambition is not only to benchmark ourselves against the best of local government, but the best organisations across the public, private, and social sectors."

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

Question 2:

“How long does it take for the Council to provide a business case?”

Answer:

The Council will always look to respond to requests for information in a timely manner. If there is a specific concern about any outstanding information requests, I would be happy to look into it.

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Questioner: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

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

Question 3:

“What are you doing to ensure that Harrow’s newly built schools are safe?”

Answer:

All building works for schools are required to comply with building legislation and regulations both on completion and during construction. Harrow has appointed Project Managers (PMs) to manage the capital programme working with schools and the contractors. The buildings are not occupied by the school until Harrow’s Building Control have verified the works.

If there are works or incidents which cause concern the PM will assess the risk and if necessary instruct the original contractor who carried out the works to rectify the issue. Should the original contractor dispute or delay the rectification the PM may appoint an alternative contractor and seek to claim back any costs from the original contractor. Depending on the incident and if required the incident may be reported to Harrow’s Health and Safety section who will assess the incident to ascertain if there has been any breach for which they need to notify the Health and Safety Executive.

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

Question 4:

“Have you secured any funding to do a proper review of school building works to date and is there any contingency in the budget for such remedial action being required?”

Answer:

For the school expansion programme building works commissioned by Harrow there is a process to handover the buildings on completion. Part of this process includes identifying snags or defects. The contractor is then required to rectify the defects at their costs. Where there is a dispute about a defect if it is evidenced that it is not the contractor's responsibility then the rectification cost would be met by the council. Harrow has appointed advisers to assist with this process across the school expansion programme sites. These costs will be met within the Schools Capital Programme.

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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 5:

“Why do you think it is safe to include savings in this budget that are purely speculation?”

Answer:

The budget for 17/18 does not contain speculative figures. The MTFS for 18/19 and 19/20 does contain some proposals in development that are being worked through to ensure the proposals are fully robust before being included in the final budget for Cabinet / Council approval for their relevant year. This is a reasonable approach when setting a three year budget. Including future proposals in development allows for the long lead time that some savings require.

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

Question 6:

“What actions is the leader taking to ensure departments individually do not overspend?”

Answer:

We have been very open and transparent throughout the year about the continued and increasing demand pressures that are affecting our front line services, which in turn is creating a budget pressure. In setting the budget for 17/18 we have provided for £10.6m of growth to address demand pressures and directorates will continue to be monitored carefully to ensure services are provided for within resources available.

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

Question 7:

“What spending controls is the leader imposing on individual departmental budgets?”

Answer:

My message to the directorates is to ensure that services are run as efficiently as possible, doing everything possible to protect the front line. In summer there was a review of non-essential spend which achieved just under £1m to relieve financial pressures.

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

Question 8:

“How do you think cancelling the cabinet meeting in March will be good for local Democracy?”

Answer:

I do not believe that having meetings with nothing on the agenda, just because that meeting is planned for is good for local democracy as it makes Councils look out of touch. I don't believe any resident would genuinely say the council should continue to have a meeting, even if there is nothing substantial on the agenda just because it has been planned for.

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Asked of: Councillor Adam Swersky, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Commercialisation

Question 9:

“Do you think Harrow manages its finances as well as other London boroughs?”

Answer:

It is not possible for me to comment on what other London Boroughs do. However yes, in light of the financial challenges Harrow faces, I think Harrow is managing its finances in a responsible manner.

Harrow is not in as fortunate financial position as some other London Boroughs. It's a fact that Harrow is a low funded borough by central government, falling in the bottom quartile in terms of spending power per head. Recent financial settlements have disadvantaged Harrow. Harrow lost £6.4m of its Revenue Support Grant in 2016/17 as a result of central government changing the allocation methodology, Harrow being sixth hardest hit in London.

Despite this Harrow has taken a responsible approach to the financial challenges to ensure financial sustainability. Budgets are set for a three year period to allow an appropriate lead in time for the most challenging savings. General Fund Reserves of £10m have not been applied and there are no intentions to do so. The budget balances risk between traditional service reductions, income generation as part of the commercialisation strategy, efficiencies, partnership working and service innovation.

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

Question 10:

“You mentioned in your answer to question 10 at cabinet January 2017 that crowd-funding “is most suitable for those organisations who previously received a small grant or an Outcomes Based Grant or Adult SLA under £5k” What assistance is in place to help those missing out on the higher funding?”

Answer:

The Council is doing a number of things to support such organisations. Firstly, they will be able to use crowdfunding for suitable projects, there is no limit on the amount organisations can raise. Successful crowdfunding projects have raised from £100 to over £1m. If people like the project they will back it. However for organisations who have never used this method of fundraising before, the advice is to start small and learn from the experience before attempting a larger more complex project.

Secondly, we are also continuing the funding of a Harrow Infrastructure organisation, currently Harrow Community Action, to help bring in new forms of income for the voluntary sector locally, as we believe that although Government are severely cutting Council budgets, they are supporting new ways to invest in charitable activity. We are therefore hopeful that in continuing to work closely with the local voluntary and community sector they will be successful in bringing in new forms of money to Harrow, which will benefit all members of the community.

Thirdly, for some specific organisations, we have channelled some of the external monies the Council receives to support them. An example of this is through the London Crime Prevention Fund, whereby we have helped some of those organisations that have lost a grant to be able to access money for 2017/18 and 2018/19 to help support both the recipients of their services and keep their own organisations running.

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Question 11:

“How many residents have had to have someone sign up on their behalf due to difficulties with accessing the online sign-up?”

Answer:

The number of people who have difficulty in completing an online form is not something that can be measured – other than through our satisfaction surveys about the performance of our different channels.

At Q3 91% users were satisfied with the performance of our web forms.

Software implemented within our website does show where customers have abandoned the completion of a web form so we do hold data on this.

People who find using online services difficult can utilise the self service area in the One Stop Shop where trained and friendly staff are available to support them. This year, over 20,000 people have used the self service facilities available.

The MyHarrow account offers a mediated access facility whereby residents can allow relatives or carers to access their Council affairs online with a secure, designated username and password, where they do not wish to do so themselves. Of the 92,000 registered accounts, there are currently 40 people who have mediated access.

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

Question 12:

“As part of the regeneration plans, which of these planning applications have been accepted and refused?”

Answer:

The first Planning Application for Haslam House, Honey Pot Lane was refused:

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| LPA ref: | P/1112/16 |
| Submission Date | 8 th March 2016 |
| Development Description | Redevelopment to provide two blocks of three storey terraced dwellings , one block of two storey terraced dwellings, one pair of semi-detached dwellings and one detached dwelling (15 in total); Parking; Landscaping; Refuse and Cycle Storage: Alterations to existing vehicle access (RESIDENT PERMIT RESTRICTED) |
| Decision Date: | 1 st July 2016 |

The second was granted:

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| LPA ref: | P/3896/16 |
| Submission Date | 11 th August 2016 |
| Development Description | Redevelopment to provide two blocks of two storey terraced dwellings , one pair of semi-detached dwellings (9 in total); Parking; Landscaping; Refuse and Cycle Storage: Alterations to existing vehicle access |
| Decision Date: | 3 rd October 2016 |

None of the Housing-led regeneration schemes have been refused.

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Question 13:

“What are the expected time frames for the individual applications to go through the application process?”

Answer:

The expected planning application submission dates for future applications, which have been programmed to date, are:

- Vaughan Road – March 2017
- Poets Corner masterplan/phase 1 (Existing Civic Centre site) – June 2017
- Byron Quarter masterplan/Phase 1 (Leisure Centre and surrounding land) – Summer 2017, targeting August
- New Civic Centre – Summer 2017, targeting September

All are major planning applications with an anticipated determination period of up to 16 weeks.

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

Question 14:

“One of your key manifesto pledges was to create jobs in Harrow. What assessments have been done on impact will the employment of Social Workers from India have on Harrow’s workforce?”

Answer:

The recruitment of qualified and experienced social workers is a national problem experienced by all Local Authorities. This problem is more acute across London, and as a result Harrow competes in a very competitive market. Currently there are 74 permanent social workers, and 40 agency social workers working in Harrow’s Children’s Services. Each agency social worker costs Harrow Council an additional £10,000 per annum. As a result of this pressure Harrow Children and Young People Service has a comprehensive workforce strategy. The recruitment of permanent social workers is a fundamental building block in the strategy that has supported the improvement journey of the service. The recruitment of 20 experienced social worker practitioners from the Indian sub-continent is one strand of our recruitment work stream. Other aspects of recruitment work stream include refreshing the Harrow social work recruitment micro-site, attending recruitment fairs, partnerships with Step Up to Social Work and Frontline training programmes and being an active partner in the West London Social Work Teaching Partnership. The implementation of the Indian social work recruitment project is on track to be successfully completed by September 2017, and does not have any detrimental impact on local workforce arrangements but rather supplements a shortage of experienced UK HCPC registered social workers. All 20 social workers are subject of appropriate sponsorship and immigration clearance. This project increases the skill and

experience in Harrow's social work workforce, mirrors the ethnic diversity of our community, and will reduce the budget pressure impact of the use of agency social workers in Harrow. The recent OFSTED inspection noted and commented positively on the innovative and effective approach Harrow had taken with this project, and the workforce strategy as a whole.

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Question 15:

“What funding is available for Councils who accept refugees and how long does the funding last for? “

Answer:

The Council receives a Central Government Grants to support us fulfil our responsibilities towards Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC). The main UASC grant is paid at the following rates. For young people under 16 we receive £114 per day, for 16/17 year olds £91 per day and for over 18 year olds £200 per week.

We do receive on average 3 new young people each month. Currently Harrow receives funding for 4 young people under 16, 28 young people 16/17 olds and 55 young people over 18

Harrow supports and cares for these young people as part of the National Transfer scheme and the London Rota, and has also helped reunite 12 young people from the Calais camp with known relatives in Harrow, known as Dublin 3 children.

The Government has also invited bids from Local authorities for a Controlling Migration fund where grants are available to assist local authorities manage the additional pressures and costs presented by recent migration. We have submitted a bid to support our work with UASC to the Department of

Communities and Local Government. We have received favourable feedback and will receive a formal response by the end of March.

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Question 16:

“What impact has the procurement merger with Brent had on productivity levels of staff in that department?”

Answer:

Procurement staff from Brent were TUPE transferred to Harrow on 1 September 2016. Both before and post merger all staff in procurement have been working very hard to deliver Harrow's (and now additionally Brent's) requirements.

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

Question 17:

“What impact has the procurement merger with Brent had on wages for staff in that department?”

Answer:

None – all staff are on the same salaries as before the merger.

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Question 18:

“What was the cost of the procurement merger for Harrow in comparison to Brent and how does this create a fair deal for Harrow?”

Answer:

The Procurement service with Brent will enable Harrow in a full financial year to save £290K and Brent £272K on staffing costs.

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

Question 19:

“Do you think it is normal practice to write a business case after they have been asked for?”

Answer:

If a member or senior officers have not asked for a business case, then how could the officer writing it know that they need to write it? It has to be asked for by someone before it's written.

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Question 20:

“What alternative forum will you be providing for residents to ask public questions in March in lieu of the Cabinet meeting you have cancelled?”

Answer:

As well as my ward walks, I attend community events which allow me to meet people, I also do surgeries and over the last few months spoken to many people in Roxbourne about the work of the council. There are also opportunities for the public to ask questions at other committees of the council.

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

Question 21:

“Can you confirm that a Cabinet meeting will go ahead as planned in April?”

Answer:

Yes

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Question 22:

“The LGA Peer review noted that there was no clear line of sight through the Council’s regeneration plans for growing the local economy. With business rate retention on the horizon how much extra business rates does the leader expect to be generated through the measures outlined in the corporate plan and the budget?”

Answer:

We must not forget that Harrow has an extremely low, and historically reducing, Business Rates tax base compared with our neighbouring authorities. This is due to the makeup of the borough. Although this can and will be positively influenced by the local plan and on-going specific geographical regeneration, the tax base will never see meteoric increases.

The Local Government Finance Bill has proposed legislation to introduce 100% rate retention. However, we have already seen that Harrow will not retain 100% of this tax. For example the GLA, from 2017/18 will retain 37% due to it being a London pilot and having the Transport for London’s capital investment grant and the GLA’s RSG grant rolled into the rates retention system. As a result the GLA’s share will increase from its current 20% to 37%. What this means, and subject to the appropriate legislation being put in place, is that Harrow will not keep more than the potential maximum of 63% of business rates collected. This will be further reduced by the offset required due to the loss of RSG and Government’s ultimate decision regarding further responsibilities to be devolved to local Government which will need to be funded from this extra Business Rates retention income.

The reality is that Harrow may well have little extra net income from the rates retention system. At this stage, we need to know what the top up / tariff scheme will be and how the baseline will be reset. Without all the above information it will be difficult to predict what impact additional growth in the business rates tax base will have on the amount of business rates Harrow will be allowed to retain.

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

Question 23:

“How many large-scale businesses are expected to be relocated to Harrow and contribute significant amounts of business rates (i.e. above the business rate relief level, typically enjoyed by startups)?”

Answer:

In general, all commercial property with a rateable value of £12,000 or higher will not be subject to the small business rates relief exemption (although a tapered relief scheme will apply for rateable values between £12,000 and £15,000; from 100% relief below £12,000 to no relief above £15,000).

In effect all businesses with a rateable value of £15,000 and above will pay business rates. Whilst our regeneration program and the local plan will give an indication of likely new commercial property locations, it is not possible at this time to ascertain the sizes of the sub-units within planned buildings, or who might occupy them. Without knowing if the occupiers may qualify for relief, and without knowledge of the way some buildings may be sub-divided to accommodate market demand at that time, we can only guess at what the additional rates income growth might be.

On the other hand, if there is a specific large building being planned, for example a large supermarket, then comparable data will be available and our Revenues Service will work with the Valuation Office (VOA) who has jurisdiction for assessing rateable values, to ascertain the value and likely completion date, so the additional income can be factored into future MTFs's.

The regeneration programme is actively promoting and incorporating commercial and business opportunities and will deliver a number of specific schemes including new commercial and business premises. These include opportunities at Harrow View, Harrow Square (College Road), Poet's Corner (existing Civic Centre site), Greenhill Way and elsewhere in the town centre. These include both privately owned and Council sites which will bring new hotels, supermarkets, workspace and industrial provision to the Borough, but it is not possible to quantify these at this stage.

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Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall

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

Question 24:

“You mentioned in your answer to question 14 at cabinet in January that “The Council cleaned 1,439 roads last week. As result of obtaining 5 new street cleaning machines you set the Council’s target of cleaning every road in Harrow at least once per week. This leaves 600 roads left out. You noted that there were less roads cleaned than intended due to gritting operations being in progress. How many roads were cleaned in the weeks when there were no gritting operations?”

Answer:

All roads are swept a minimum once a week.

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Questioner: Councillor Paul Osborn

Asked of: Councillor Kiran Ramchandani (Portfolio Holder for Performance, Corporate Resources and Customer Service)

Question 25:

“Does the Council have a protocol for dealing with complaints made to Councillors about the activities of companies it owns or controls?”

Answer:

HB Public Law Ltd has got protocols in place to deal with complaints (HBPL Ltd is an ABS which is regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA), its directors are subject to vetting prior to appointment by the SRA and complaints procedure is a requirement of the SRA).

With regards to Concilium Group, Concilium Business Services and Concilium Assets LLP such protocols are not currently in place. (However, whilst there are no protocols to deal with complaints specifically relating to the Council's companies, any complaints would be dealt with in accordance with the Council's complaints procedures.)

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Questioner: Councillor Paul Osborn

Asked of: Councillor Kiran Ramchandani (Portfolio Holder for Performance, Corporate Resources and Customer Service)

Question 26:

“As directors, does remuneration count towards “remuneration package” under local Government regulations?”

Answer:

No. There are no relevant regulations. Under section 38 of the Localism Act 2011, local authorities are required to prepare a pay policy statement each year. Under section 40, in preparing any such statement, a local authority must have regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary of State. The relevant guidance is ‘Openness and transparency in local pay: guidance under section 40 of the Localism Act’ which states that:

full council, or a meeting of members should be offered the opportunity to vote before large salary packages are offered in respect of a new appointment. The Secretary of State considers that £100,000 is the right level for that threshold to be set. For this purpose, salary packages should include salary, any bonuses, fees or allowances routinely payable to the appointee and any benefits in kind to which the officer is entitled as a result of their employment.

The guidance refers to an overall package offered to new appointees to local authority posts. An appointment to the post of director in Concilium is a separate appointment and has no bearing on the salary package of the individual in their Council post.

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Asked of: Councillor Kiran Ramchandani (Portfolio Holder for Performance, Corporate Resources and Customer Service)

Question 27:

“Please list all directors of any Council controlled company and their remuneration.”

Answer:

HBPL – Hugh Peart and Jessica Farmer – No remuneration paid

CG- Terry Brewer, Alex Dewsnap and Kanta Halai

CBS- Jane Fernley, Kanta Halai, Alison Pegg and Venetia Reid-Baptiste

LLP- Carol Yarde, Alex Dewsnap, Paul Nichols and Rajul Kanabar.

For CG, CBS and LLP - Remuneration shall be paid at a rate of £250 for a half day (4 hours) or £500 for a full day (8 hours) service.

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Asked of: Councillor Kiran Ramchandani (Portfolio Holder for Performance, Corporate Resources and Customer Service)

Question 28:

“If the directors’ remuneration pushed the officers’ remuneration package over £100,000 would it require approval of the Chief Officer’s Panel?”

Answer:

No. The statutory guidance quoted in the answer to question 26 has been reflected in the terms of reference of the Chief Officers’ Employment Panel as follows:

to approve remuneration packages of £100,000 or over for any Council post

As stated in the answer to question 26 above, the appointment to director of Concilium is separate from their Council employment.

LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

COUNCIL MEETING -

23 FEBRUARY 2017

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 Chair of any Committee.

Questioner: Councillor Paul Osborn

Asked of: Councillor Kiran Ramchandani (Portfolio Holder for Performance, Corporate Resources and Customer Service)

Question 29:

“Are companies owned or controlled by the Council subject to FOI requests in the same way that the Council would be?”

Answer:

Yes. All they are subject to FOIA obligations

LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

COUNCIL MEETING -

23 FEBRUARY 2017

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Questioner: Councillor Paul Osborn

Asked of: Councillor Kiran Ramchandani (Portfolio Holder for Performance, Corporate Resources and Customer Service)

Question 30:

“Could you outline the process for appointing a director to companies owned or controlled by the Council?”

Answer:

There is no appointment process specified in the documentation, other than to say that the Council can nominate a director and that their proposed appointment shall only take effect once s/he has accepted and signed the letter of appointment. In addition the Council shall determine the number of directors (not less than 3 and not more than 6).

With regards to the LLP, the Council is entitled to appoint and remove up to two board representatives and CG up to one. The board currently has four board members and it is up to the Council to determine the maximum number to be appointed.

The absence of a specific process means that the Council may determine what process it undertakes.

HBPL – Appointments are made by ordinary resolution of shareholders, in this case the shareholder is the Council. Appointments can also be made by a director.

LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

COUNCIL MEETING -

23 FEBRUARY 2017

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Questioner: Councillor Paul Osborn

Asked of: Councillor Kiran Ramchandani (Portfolio Holder for Performance, Corporate Resources and Customer Service)

Question 31:

“Could you outline the process for removing a director to companies owned or controlled by the Council?”

Answer:

The Council is entitled to remove the directors (CG and CBS) to the board on one month's notice in accordance with their letters of appointment.

LLP - the Council is entitled to remove up to two board representatives and CG entitled to remove one and this can be done on the service of one month's notice.

HBPL – directors can be removed by the shareholder passing an ordinary resolution, in this case the sole shareholder is the Council.

LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

COUNCIL MEETING -

23 FEBRUARY 2017

QUESTION WITH NOTICE

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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 32:

“How many Members, staff and associated staff/consultants are attending MIPIM this year?”

Answer:

MIPIM is the world’s largest property, development and regeneration conference. It brings together all the major developers, contracting companies, regeneration specialists and city/local authorities engaged in delivering regeneration programmes. The GLA and a large number of London Boroughs routinely attend the event to promote development opportunities, particularly in the London Pavilion, a very large exhibition stand hosting all the major players in this city.

Harrow Council attended for the first time last year. Our delegation was able to: directly promote the opportunities on key development sites in the borough from the Harrow Council stand; establish initial contact with numerous potential developers and contractors; host developer workshops to review our programme and opportunities; and promote Harrow on the stage of the London Pavilion as a borough which is open for business.

There are two Council representatives attending MIPIM this year: Cllr Keith Ferry (Portfolio Holder, Business Planning and Regeneration) and Paul Nichols (Divisional Director, Regeneration Enterprise and Planning).

This year's delegation will be continuing the work of marketing Harrow as a major opportunity for high quality developers who share our values. They will also be building detailed industry knowledge ahead of a number of major procurement exercises which will be undertaken later in the year in order to implement the Harrow regeneration programme. They will be taking part in numerous meetings with prospective investors and developers, to convince them of the merits of the opportunities Harrow offers relative to other investment opportunities available to them. Many of these meetings are pre-booked; some will take place via the exhibition stand in the London Pavilion that the delegation has commissioned. They are attending to ensure that Harrow is firmly on the map for investors and potential new businesses.

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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 33:

“How much is it costing the Council to send Members, staff and associated staff/consultants to MIPIM from Harrow this year? Please give full details.”

Answer:

As for 2016, there is no cost to the Council of attending MIPIM. Details of the funding arrangements are provided in response to the next question.

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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 34:

“Who is footing the bill for all Harrow Members, staff and associated staff/consultants to attend MIPIM this year?”

Answer:

All costs of Harrow Council’s attendance at MIPIM are met through a sponsorship package arranged by 3 Fox International, the development marketing company which also produces the BIG (Build Innovate Grow) series of bi-annual magazines promoting Harrow. The sponsorship package is provided by a number of major developers who are active in the Borough and development industry companies with an interest in Harrow. Whilst at MIPIM, the delegation and their programme is managed and facilitated by 3Fox International.

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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 35:

“For members, staff and associated staff/consultants being sponsored by developers to attend MIPIM; how is it being made sure that there is no conflict of interest?”

Answer:

Council representatives will be dealing with declarable interests and hospitality in accordance with the Codes of Conduct for members and officers, in order to ensure transparency and to avoid any perception of conflict of interest.