

# Council

**Thursday 29 November 2018**

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**LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW**

**COUNCIL MEETING -**

**29 NOVEMBER 2018**

**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 Paul Osborn**

**Asked of: Councillor Graham Henson, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Partnerships, Devolution and Customer Services**

**Question 1:**

'Are you satisfied that all of the Council's commercialisation projects are going to plan?'

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and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Partnerships,  
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**Question 2:**

'Are the Council's regeneration plans on schedule and on budget?'

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**Question 3:**

'Are the regeneration plans and any changes that have been made to them, fully accounted for in the draft budget?'

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**Question 4:**

'What priorities will you as Leader be setting for the Council's new Chief Executive?'

**Labour Group Amendment**

**Temple Burglaries Motion**

To be moved by Councillor Ajay Maru and seconded by Councillor Graham Henson :

**This Council notes and condemns:**

- The burglary of Shree Kutch Satsang Swaminarayan Temple in Kenton, Harrow.
- The burglary of the Shree Swaminarayan Temple in Willesden, Brent.
- Hate crime incidents at the Sree Ayyappan Temple in Masons Avenue, Harrow
- Any crime carried out against any religious establishment.

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**This Council believes:**

- ~~Harrow~~ That diverse and cohesive communities are what makes Harrow the great place that people want to call home
- That all residents deserve to feel safe ~~has a diverse community that deserves to feel safe and have the right to freely practice whatever religion they follow.~~
- Local communities and religious establishments should be protected.
- Any crime carried out against any religious establishment is unacceptable.

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**Harrow Council welcomes/supports:**

- The work carried out to date by the Police to investigate the incidents
- The partnership work undertaken directly with the affected places of worship by Harrow Council, Councillors, Police and Assembly Member for Brent & Harrow to strengthen working relationships, enhance security of the premises and to convey the message of reassurance to the community.

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**This Council resolves:**

- To instruct the interim Chief Executive, Leader of the Council and Leader of the Opposition to send a cross-party letter to these places of worship both Temples, condemning the burglaries criminal incidents and offering solidarity and support.
- As part of the Council's on-going work on community cohesion, to offer a meeting to representatives from the Kenton Temple with the Leader of the Council, the Leader of the Opposition and relevant Council officers to discuss this work and explore whether Harrow can provide further support. how the Council can provide better support."

Mover: Cllr Natasha Proctor  
Seconder: Cllr Sarah Butterworth

[Amendment to Women Against State Pension Inequality Motion](#)

[Moved by Cllr Norman Stevenson](#)

[Seconded by Cllr Marilyn Ashton](#)

**Women Against State Pension Inequality Motion**

Harrow Council calls upon the Government to make fair transitional state pension arrangements for all women born on or after 6th April 1950, who have unfairly borne the burden of the increase to the State Pension Age (SPA) with lack of appropriate notification.

Thousands of women who live in Harrow, and hundreds of thousands nationally, had significant pension changes imposed on them by the Pensions Acts of 1995, [2007](#) and 2011 [under successive Governments](#), with little or no personal notification of the changes. Some women had only two years notice of a six-year increase to their state pension age.

Thousands of women born in the 1950's are living in hardship. Retirement plans have been shattered with devastating consequences. Many of these women are already out of the labour market, caring for elderly relatives, providing childcare for grandchildren, or suffer discrimination in the workplace so struggle to find employment. Women born in this decade are suffering financially. These women have worked hard, raised families and paid their tax and national insurance with the expectation that they would be financially secure when reaching 60. It is not the pension age itself that is in dispute - it is widely accepted that women and men should retire at the same time. The issue is that the rise in the women's state pension age has been too rapid and has happened without sufficient notice being given to the women affected, leaving women with no time to make alternative arrangements.

[The state pension is by far the largest benefit paid in the UK. It is paid from National Insurance receipts paid by those in work - predominantly much younger people. They are contributing to this benefit for an increasing proportion of our ageing population. This is why both equalisation and extending the starting age were essential to make it more affordable. Clearly a particular group of women have been adversely affected by this and communication of the changes was poor. This is why we support the review of transitional arrangements which will be carried out. The review should also include the effectiveness of communication with people affected by legislative changes. The issue is not the fault of the present government but the failure of successive Governments to communicate these changes and is not party political. The WASPI campaign has cross-party support.](#)

Harrow Council calls upon the Government to reconsider transitional arrangements for women born on or after 6th April 1950, so that women do not live in hardship due to pension changes they were not told about until it was too late to make alternative arrangements.

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