

Overview and Scrutiny Committee Supplemental Agenda

Date: Monday 17 October 2022

3. **Question and Answer Session with the Leader of the Council and Chief Executive**
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Overview and Scrutiny Committee

17th October 2022

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- Achievements to date
- Finance overview
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- New Priorities
- Accommodation Update
- Regeneration Sites Update

- One hour free on street
- One hour off street free parking in Jan
- Decisions on bulky waste collection for up to 4 items
- Two visits per day to HWRC
- Tall buildings SPD
- Reintroduction of performance reporting in the council
- Appointed a new CEO

Challenging financial environment

- In year overspend projection of £6mil
 - Inflation
 - Likely pay settlement
 - High cost placements
- MTFs Gap
 - £16mil next year
 - Further gaps beyond
- Challenges compounded by
 - Need to restore and retain reserves
 - Anticipated rises in inflation
 - Forecast rise in demand,
 - Assumed that Government will honour previous spending pledges

New Priorities

Restoring Pride in Harrow

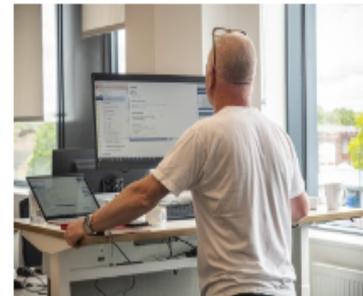
In order to restore the pride in Harrow, the Council will start by putting residents first. We will seek to deliver a well-run Council providing good value for money for all. We will work with partners and businesses to create a clean and safe borough, where residents can be confident to settle, make roots and raise a family.

- Priority 1 – A Council that puts residents first
- ⁶ ● Priority 2 – A Borough that is safe and clean
- Priority 3 – A Place where those in need are supported

Accommodation Update

- Occupation of the Harrow Council Hub commenced in April 2022 with the majority of teams moving there during the summer
- Harrow Council Hub is an office building designed to provide Council staff with a modern, collaborative and flexible workplace environment for staff and integrated service partners
- The building is designed to be for staff and visitors although some events can be supported at ground floor level
- We are currently assessing occupancy levels. With more staff now returning we are planning for more desk spaces to be created
- 'Political group and support office' space will be allocated over the coming weeks

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Providing safe and suitable customer facing facilities

From December 2023:

- In-person interactions with residents will be delivered from **Greenhill Library** in the Town Centre
- Staff there will be fully integrated into the existing Library facility and provide support with self-service transactions and information
- The **Register Office** will conduct ceremonies and register marriages, births and deaths from the Pavilion at Greenhill Library
- Ceremonies will continue to be held in the Moat Room until such time as the Pavilion has been licensed

From January 2023:

- Complex and urgent in-person enquiries, including those services dealing with social care and homelessness, will be managed in **Sheldon House** on Gayton Road
- Fully accessible and welcoming meeting space will be provided with a multi-disciplined staff group based on site available to respond to client needs
- Pre-planned appointments with residents will take place in locations across the borough (NRCs, **Children's Centres** etc)
- These services will continue to be run from Access Harrow until the project is complete
- **Citizens Advice Harrow** will also be accommodated in the adjacent unit in Sheldon House

During the period between the Civic Centre closure and the new Town Hall is built:

- From mid-November 2022, the office of Mayor will be located in the **Gallery in Harrow Arts Centre** and will hold events there
- 13 ● Committee meetings held between now and 23rd November will be in the **Civic Centre Chamber**
- Council meetings will from 24th November be held in Elliot Hall at the **Harrow Arts Centre** (with the KP Centre as an alternative option in the event of a clash)
- From 23rd November, evening Committee meetings will be held in the **auditorium of HCH** until the Town Hall is completed, other daytime committee meetings will be held in 4-MR-03

- The War memorial and El Alamein stone will be moved from the Civic Centre site to a new location (still to be determined) after the 2022 Remembrance Day parade
- Heritage and precious items will be carefully managed with specialist advice and decisions made on their storage, use and display – any essential restoration and refurbishment of items will be considered before they are then transferred for display to the new Town Hall
- Large scale furniture removal will commence in January 2023 with a view to the building being ready for handover to HSDP by the end of March 2023

Regeneration Sites Update

● Greenhill Way

- New Town Hall
- Min 200 units of accommodation
- Possible other uses
- Feasibility studies

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● Poets Corner

- Reduced height
- Additional family homes

● Grange Farm

- Additional affordable homes and more family houses
- Positive land value
- November Cabinet proposes approval of Business plan and incorporation to HSDP

- Byron Quarter

- Increased family housing
- Height reduction opposite neighbouring houses/ Belmont Trail
- Discussions re viability challenges and affordable housing

- 17 ● Peel Road

- Planning feasibility
- Replace HNC with additional residential
- Maintain height in opportunity area

- Milton Road

- Reduction of one storey in height
- Improved scheme opposite residents and Mosque
- Ongoing cost discussions

- HSDP Update and Grange Farm Business Plan

- Overview and Scrutiny: 8th November
- Cabinet: 17th November

- Business Plans

- Byron: January Cabinet
- Peel: January Cabinet
- Poets: possibly January Cabinet

- Greenhill Way/ town hall feasibility and costs

- November discussions

- NB Market and economy

- viability challenges ongoing

Questions?

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