

Cabinet

Public and Councillor Questions accepted

Date: **Thursday 15 February 2024**

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CABINET – Thursday 15 February 2024

AGENDA PART I

PUBLIC QUESTIONS (ITEM 4)

Under Rule 16 of the Executive Procedure Rules members of the public may question the Executive and Portfolio Holders at meetings. There is a time limit of 15 minutes for the asking and answering of public questions.

1.

Questioner: Khushi Shah.

Asked of: Cllr Paul Osborn, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy

Question: Could Harrow join 25 councils worldwide, including Edinburgh, Norwich, Lambeth, Exmouth and Haywards Heath in the UK, by endorsing the call for a Plant Based Treaty initiative and taking meaningful steps to expand access to healthy plant-based food?

2.

Questioner: Roger Shakeshaft

Asked of: Cllr Paul Osborn, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy

Question: Will Paul Osborn and other members of this cabinet commit to visiting and protecting the 60 plus mature trees at the end of Rayners Lane High Street, adjacent to The Close - to see for themselves this picturesque heart of historic Metro-land before taking any decisions that might destroy this special place - and to stop the North Harrow Flood Alleviation Scheme from destroying this community and environmental asset?

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AGENDA PART I

COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS (ITEM 5)

Fifteen minutes will be allowed for Members of the Council to ask a Portfolio Holder a question on any matter in relation to which the Executive has powers or duties.

1.

Questioner: Councillor Peymana Assad

Asked of: Councillor Paul Osborn, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy

Question: Please could the portfolio holder explain why the council is proposing to reconsult on the Bentley Priory and Old Redding Public Space Protection Order?

2.

Questioner: Councillor Peymana Assad

Asked of: Councillor Paul Osborn, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy

Question: The Council has received £4.3 Million from government in the recent announcement by Michael Gove, this is the latest ever that final settlements and Grants have been told to local Councils, whilst grateful for such funding, does the Leader acknowledge this is not a sustainable way to manage Local Government Funding?

3.

Questioner: Councillor Graham Henson

Asked of: Councillor David Ashton, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Human Resources

Question: Could the portfolio holder update on what future plans the council has in place regarding the schemes being funded through the household support grant which is due to end on 31st March?

4.

Questioner: Councillor Graham Henson

Asked of: Councillor Mina Parmar, Portfolio Holder for Housing

Question: There are currently over four hundred families in Bed & Breakfast or hotel accommodation in Harrow, whose life chances are being reduced until they can move to somewhere they can call home. There are also eight hundred families living in expensive temporary accommodation, at least a third of whom have been moved to properties out of Harrow, away from family support structures, schools, and work.

Due to the cost-of-living crisis and the consequential significant increase in rents over the past 2 years there is now an increased reliance on the much more expensive nightly rated accommodation, which is a significant cost to the council.

What are you as the Cabinet member with responsibility for Housing doing to ensure that policies and strategies across the council are focussed on improving the quality and quantity of affordable housing in Harrow, especially on council owned sites?