

Cabinet

Public and Councillor Questions accepted

Date: **Thursday 14 March 2024**

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CABINET – Thursday 14 March 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: Dipaque Bhatt

Asked of: Councillor Anjana Patel, Portfolio Holder for Highways, Infrastructure and Community Safety

Question: Appointing permanent staff at Harrow Council will yield a better service to the residents of the London Borough of Harrow, so why have you now appointed a third Head of Traffic, Highways & Asset Management (Interim) In the past 2 years?

2.

Questioner: Charlotte Woodbridge

Asked of: Councillor Marilyn Ashton, Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Planning & Regeneration.

Question: Why has the council given permission for developments on council land (or land that has been sold by the council for development) that doesn't meet its own affordable housing targets?

3.

Questioner: Andy Paice

Asked of: Councillor Norman Stevenson, Portfolio Holder for Business, Employment & Property

Question: During the last Cabinet meeting on 15th February a decision was made to dispose of the freehold of Vernon lodge, 654 Kenton Lane (Decision 274) subject to the sale being on the basis of best consideration reasonably obtainable.

In the accompanying report I note that as well as considering the selected option of disposing of the site on the open market, a number of other options were considered including: doing nothing; direct delivery of housing; refurbish and utilising for

service delivery; and applying for planning for particular use prior to sale, all of which were disregarded for valid reasons.

However disposal of the land for either self-build, community-self-build or community-led-housing use was not considered.

Considering the legislative requirements on the council to maintain a self-build register and enough self-build plots to meet demand, and the fact that there is also a community-led-housing group within Harrow seeking to build a cohousing development within the borough, why were these options not included when considering options for disposal of this site and should the sale of the site be put on hold whilst these options are now considered?

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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 Natasha Proctor

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

Question: Following the Government's announcement last week to extend the Household Support Grant for a further 6 months until September, please could the Portfolio Holder indicate the additional amount of grant funding which will be received to the Council and the forward plans for investing this locally?

2.

Questioner: Councillor Natasha Proctor

Asked of: Councillor Mina Parmar, Portfolio Holder for Housing

Question: With just 15% of the proposed development of 1100 properties on the former civic centre site being affordable to Harrow residents, will the acquisition of 50 additional properties on the open market be enough to stem the tide of homeless families entering costly and poor-quality temporary accommodation?

3.

Questioner: Councillor Peymana Assad

Asked of: Councillor Anjana Patel, Portfolio Holder for Highways, Infrastructure and Community Safety

Question: The "A reduction in hospital presentations and admissions for assaults with a knife or sharp object and especially among those victims aged under 25" is one of the key measures of success within the Serious Violence Duty strategy. Can you explain what resources the Council will use to make sure this happens?

4.

Questioner: Councillor Peymana Assad

Asked of: Councillor Anjana Patel, Portfolio Holder for Highways, Infrastructure and Community Safety

Question: 86% of young people accused of serious violence by the police in Harrow have been male, this increases to 100% when it comes to personal robbery. The Serious Violence Duty Strategy does not really highlight targeted actions focused on supporting specifically young men and boys in Harrow. Can you explain why that is?

5.

Questioner: Councillor Krishna Suresh

Asked of: Councillor Jean Lammiman, Portfolio Holder for Community and Culture

Question: On page 103 of the Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy is outlines a priority action to;

“Review the options, funding and viability of redeveloping Harrow Leisure Centre with increased pool capacity, at least an 8 court Sports Hall, event space and reprovision of current fitness offer. Consider options for enhancing the Squash provision e.g. providing glass back and potentially with a moveable side wall within the feasibility assessments”

Could the Portfolio Holder indicate what early discussions have taken place or are planned to take place in future to meet this priority action other than the brief information mentioned on page 70?