



COUNCIL, 30 JANUARY 2013

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

1 PENALTY CHARGE NOTICES: INCOME

To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Tebbutt)

By Councillor John Mylod

Income from Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) amounted to £2.157 million in 2011/12 compared with £1.602 million in 2010/11, an increase of 35%. Would the Cabinet Member explain the reasons behind this significant increase?

2 VETERANS' CHAMPION

To the Leader of the Council (Councillor Michael White)

By Councillor Denis O'Flynn

Will the Administration support the Labour Group proposal that the Council appoint a 'Veterans Champion' to act as a single point of contact and support for Armed Forces Veterans and Service leavers?

3 RAINHAM LIBRARY - DELAY

To the Cabinet Member for Culture, Towns & Communities (Councillor Andrew Curtin)

By Councillor Jeffrey Tucker

Can this Council inform residents the reasons for the delay in building as promised, the proposed new Rainham Library?

4 TREE REMOVAL POLICY

To the Cabinet Member for Culture, Towns & Communities (Councillor Andrew Curtin)

By Councillor Ray Morgon

Would the Cabinet Member confirm under which criteria of the council's tree policy were the trees in Hornchurch High Street and King George's Playing Fields removed?

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5 HOMELESS PEOPLE IN HAVERING

To the Cabinet Member for Housing (Councillor Lesley Kelly)

By Councillor Paul McGeary

How many people in Havering are currently:

A) Registered as homeless and the Council have a statutory duty to house them; and

B) Rough sleeping?

6 EMPTY ROOMS IN COUNCIL PROPERTIES

To the Cabinet Member for Housing (Councillor Lesley Kelly)

By Councillor Michael Deon Burton

As one who proudly supports local residents with family members who heed the call of their country, I am deeply concerned upon hearing of plans to penalise people in council housing who leave bedrooms empty for more than 13 weeks.

The results of which I am told will mean households with serving members of the Armed Forces will lose hundreds of pounds.

If this is the ramification of the clumsy construction of the governance, I ask the Executive to give assurance that they will accede to my request 'That we in Havering will take all necessary steps to obviate this most unfair affect upon a most cherished section of our community'.

7 PENALTY CHARGE NOTICES: MISUSE OF PARKING FOR THE DISABLED

To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Tebbutt)

By Councillor Barbara Matthews

Of the 47,001 Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) issued in 2011/12, would the Cabinet Member disclose how many were for parking in a disabled bay without a legitimate blue badge?

8 GREATER LONDON FIRE STATION CLOSURES AND REDUCTION OF FIRE ENGINES

To the Cabinet Member for Community Safety (Councillor Geoffrey Starns)

By Councillor Denis Breading

What representations do the Administration propose to make to the Commissioner of the London Fire & Emergency Planning Authority about his proposals to close 12 Fire

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Stations and reduce the number of fire engines at 7 other Fire Stations, reducing the fire fighting capacity in Greater London significantly?

9 LAND IN WILLOUGHBY DRIVE

To the Cabinet Member for Individuals (Councillor Steven Kelly)

By Councillor Mark Logan

Why have a family of gypsies been allowed to park and stay on a parcel of council owned land at Willoughby Drive Rainham RM13 7SX?

10 COST OF HORNCHURCH LIVE EVENT

To the Cabinet Member for Culture, Towns & Communities (Councillor Andrew Curtin)

By Councillor John Wood

Would the Cabinet Member disclose the cost of the 2012 Hornchurch Live event against the allocated budget?

11 WARD COUNCILLOR CONSULTATION AND BRIEFING

To the Leader of the Council (Councillor Michael White)

By Councillor Pat Murray

Will the Administration ensure that before specific decisions are made and/or it is decided to put proposals out formally for public consultation which decisions or proposals impact on particular Wards and areas of the Borough, the Ward Councillors for those areas are informally consulted and/or briefed before they are formally announced to the public?

12 PROTECTING COUNCIL ASSETS

To the Cabinet Member for Value (Councillor Roger Ramsey)

By Councillor David Durant

The Town Hall and Mercury House are valuable Council assets.

Therefore is it wise to outsource the Town Hall and Mercury House security staff or is it more prudent to put staff loyalty and the protection of these buildings before the prospect of a small financial gain?

Also is the possible outsourcing of security staff to make savings, beyond that needed to reach departmental targets - and is the process of tendering costing more than the anticipated saving?

13 **DUPLICATE PAYMENTS**

To the Cabinet Member for Value (Councillor Roger Ramsey)

By Councillor Clarence Barrett

Would the Cabinet Member set out how much was paid out in duplicate payments in each of the last three years?

14 **COMPENSATION AWARDED TO CLAIMANTS BY THE COUNCIL AS A RESULT OF POORLY MAINTAINED HIGHWAYS IN HAVERING**

To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Tebbutt)

By Councillor Denis O'Flynn

What was the total amount of compensation paid by the Council to claimants for each of the past three financial years in respect of claims for personal injury and damage to vehicles caused by poorly maintained highways

15 **MAKING SAVINGS**

To the Cabinet Member for Value (Councillor Roger Ramsey)

By Councillor Jeffrey Tucker

Will this Council will now consider all points on how to save and make money, that will benefit the Council Tax paying Residents of Havering?

16 **REMOVAL OF HIGHWAY TREES**

To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Tebbutt)

By Councillor Ray Morgon

Would the Cabinet Member advise why there is a reluctance for StreetCare to remove trees from the highway even when there is a long history of damage being done to the footway?

17 **HOMELESS FAMILIES IN BED AND BREAKFAST ACCOMMODATION IN HAVERING**

To the Cabinet Member for Housing (Councillor Lesley Kelly)

By Councillor Keith Darvill

How many homeless families are currently placed in bed and breakfast accommodation and how many of them have been placed in such accommodation for more than six weeks?

18 **REGIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGY: ABANDONMENT**

To the Cabinet Member for Housing (Councillor Lesley Kelly)

By Councillor Mark Logan

What are the implications for Havering of the recent national Government decision to stop the Regional Spatial Strategy for housing?

19 **INTRODUCTION OF "LIVING WAGE"**

To the Cabinet Member for Value (Councillor Roger Ramsey)

By Councillor Ray Morgon

Would the Cabinet Member confirm whether Havering will be introducing a 'Living Wage' along with other councils and organisations?

20 **SUNSET DRIVE CARAVAN SITE LICENCE**

To the Cabinet Member for Housing (Councillor Lesley Kelly)

By Councillor Keith Darvill

Will the Council make urgent representations to the site owner to ensure that it grits the roadways serving the Sunset Drive Mobile Home Site during freezing weather conditions?

21 **CHAFFORD SCHOOL: SIXTH FORM**

To the Cabinet Member for Children & Learning (Councillor Paul Rochford)

By Councillor David Durant

Has the Administration any plans to restore a 6th Form to Chafford school, Rainham - and if not why not?

22 **SPENDING ON RECRUITMENT**

To the Cabinet Member for Value (Councillor Roger Ramsey)

By Councillor Clarence Barrett

Would the Cabinet Member set out how much has been spent on recruitment over each of the last three years in the following two categories:

- a) Adverts in newspapers/journals/trade magazines
- b) Recruitment Consultants

23 **QUEENS HOSPITAL: HYGIENE**

To the Cabinet Member for Individuals (Councillor Steven Kelly)

By Councillor Mark Logan

Has the Queens hospital been meeting the required NHS hygiene standards?

24 **ACADEMIES AND FREE SCHOOLS: SEN ADMISSIONS**

To the Cabinet Member for Children & Learning (Councillor Paul Rochford)

By Councillor Gillian Ford

There has recently been national concern over Academy and Free schools discriminating against SEN admissions. Would the Cabinet Member advise this Council if this has become an issue in Havering?

25 **ACCESS TO DVLA DATABASE**

To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Tebbutt)

By Councillor Nic Dodin

Would the Cabinet Member confirm whether this Council has been denied access to the DVLA database at any time over the past four years?

26 **BINS FOR DOG WASTE**

To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Tebbutt)

By Councillor Ray Morgon

Would the Cabinet Member consider installing suitable bins which can be used for dog waste close to areas of green open space in the borough?

27 **SALE OF FORMER GARAGE SITES**

To the Cabinet Member for Value (Councillor Roger Ramsey)

By Councillor Ron Ower

Would the Cabinet Member reveal how much has been raised from the sale of former housing garage sites since 2010?

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28 PARTNERSHIPS WITH OTHER LOCAL AUTHORITIES

To the Leader of the Council (Councillor Michael White)

By Councillor John Mylod

It was recently reported that 337 councils have set up partnerships between each other to help drive down costs. Would the Leader set out:

- a) How many partnerships have we with other local Councils and which ones?
- b) Details of any savings achieved through these partnerships?
- c) Have we an indication whether they are successful?

29 STAFF SICKNESS

To the Leader of the Council (Councillor Michael White)

By Councillor Gillian Ford

Would the Leader set out the average levels of staff sickness over each of the last three years and the cost to the authority respectively?

30 AGENCY STAFF

To the Cabinet Member for Value (Councillor Roger Ramsey)

By Councillor Linda Hawthorn

Would the Cabinet Member set out how much has been spent on agency staff in each of the last two years broken down by division?