



**COUNCIL, 27 MARCH 2013**

## **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

### **1 CAR POOL SCHEME**

#### **To the Cabinet Member for Value (Councillor Roger Ramsey)**

By Councillor June Alexander

A saving of £200,000 was agreed as part of the 2012/13 budget which related to the introduction of a car pooling/car club arrangement whereby staff would use the pool cars instead of their own cars on council business. Would the Cabinet Member advise:

- a) when did the scheme begin and how many cars are involved?
- b) how much of the £200,000 saving will be achieved in 2012/13?
- c) has it led to more efficient working practices?

### **2 TEMPORARY ICE RINK**

#### **To the Leader of the Council (Councillor Michael White)**

By Councillor Jeffrey Tucker

Please would the Leader provide an update on the negotiations that have taken place between the Council, Government, GLA, MPs and ice rink user groups regarding the provision of a temporary ice rink.

### **3 TEMPORARY REPLACEMENT ICE RINK**

#### **To the Leader of the Council (Councillor Michael White)**

By Councillor Keith Darvill

Will he make a statement about progress in facilitating a temporary alternative ice rink within the Borough following the anticipated closure of the Romford Ice Rink in April?

### **4 COST OF INTERPRETERS AND TRANSLATION SERVICES**

#### **To the Cabinet Member for Value (Councillor Roger Ramsey)**

By Councillor Ray Morgon

Would the Cabinet Member confirm the amount of money spent on interpreters and translation services in each of the last four years?

**5 THREAT TO THE GREEN BELT**

**To the Cabinet Member for Individuals (Councillor Steven Kelly)**

By Councillor Deon Burton

Newspapers such as the Sunday Telegraph claims that more than 9,000 acres of land is to be removed from the green belt by local authorities following the government's planning reforms. Newspapers state that at least 40% of councils with green-belt land in their areas have already redrawn, or plan to alter, the boundaries of the protected areas in an attempt to meet demand for housing and development.

Councillors such as myself who fight against overdevelopment and for the protection of Havering's open space, are filled with dread that such moves will make a mockery of promises by ministers that their reforms under the National Planning Policy Framework would not lead to a degradation of the green belt.

Will the Executive give clear and unequivocal assurance that they will not pursue proposals which put a risk our Green Belt and make comment as to this administration's position in regards to the above media statements.

**6 NORTH HILL DRIVE HAROLD HILL PLAY AREA**

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

By Councillor Paul McGeary

What proposals are there to replace play equipment in the North Hill Drive Play Area?

**7 STAFF SICKNESS ABSENCE**

**To the Leader of the Council (Councillor Michael White)**

By Councillor Clarence Barrett

With average staff sickness absence running at 7.9 days per annum per employee (as at December 2012), would the Leader set out what corrective actions are being taken?

8 **RAINHAM WAR MEMORIAL: RENOVATION**

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

By Councillor David Durant

The Council obtained funding from the Veolia community fund towards improvements to the Rainham Conservation Area and War Memorial. Alas for technical reasons the War Memorial itself was not renovated.

Could the Cabinet Members for Rainham Compass and Culture seek further funds to renovate the War Memorial and add new names following the research of local resident Sean Connolly?

9 **PRECAST REINFORCED CONCRETE (PRC) HOMES OWNED BY THE COUNCIL**

**To the Cabinet Member for Housing (Councillor Lesley Kelly)**

By Councillor Pat Murray

Are all PRC constructed homes owned by the Council to be fully insulated to current standards within the Decent Homes Funding Programme?

10 **HORSEMEAT: SAMPLING**

**To the Cabinet Member for Community Safety (Councillor Geoff Starns)**

By Councillor Ray Morgon

Would the Cabinet Member confirm what actions, including sampling, have been taken by the Council in light of the recent horsemeat scandal?

11 **RAINHAM LIBRARY - UPDATE**

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

By Councillor Jeffrey Tucker

Please would the Cabinet Member provide an update on the building of the new Rainham Library?

12 **“BEDROOM TAX”**

**To the Cabinet Member for Housing (Councillor Lesley Kelly)**

By Councillor Denis Breading

How many tenants in Havering will be adversely affected by the introduction of the bedroom tax?

13 **NEW MORRISONS SUPERSTORE: IMPACT ON ROMFORD MARKET**

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

By Councillor Clarence Barrett

The introduction of Morrisons Superstore in Romford will no doubt increase consumer choice in the area. However has the Cabinet Member undertaken any risk based assessment of the potential impact on existing small businesses/retailers in the area and in particular Romford Market?

14 **PARKING INCOME - TARGET**

**To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Tebbutt)**

By Councillor Deon Burton

Minded of the revenue generated by this Council's parking schemes, is there in existence a target amount for the current or forthcoming year?

15 **MEETINGS CLASHING WITH FULL COUNCIL**

**To the Leader of the Council (Councillor Michael White)**

By Councillor Denis O'Flynn

Will the Administration ensure that officers do not arrange meetings where Ward Councillors are expected to attend at the same time as Full Council Meetings?

16 **REMEMBERING THOSE WHO HAVE DIED IN THE SERVICE OF THEIR COUNTRY**

**To the Leader of the Council (Councillor Michael White)**

By Councillor John Mylod

Would the Leader of the Council confirm if he will consider naming new roads in Havering after those Havering residents who have died whilst serving their country abroad?

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**17 OLYMPIC GAMES: GLA LEVY**

**To the Cabinet Member for Value (Councillor Roger Ramsey)**

By Councillor David Durant

Havering residents are required to pay a surcharge on top of the GLA levy towards the cost of the Olympic Games. What will be the total cost of this GLA surcharge to Havering residents and how much has already been paid?

**18 PERFORMANCE INFORMATION**

**To the Leader of the Council (Councillor Michael White)**

By Councillor Ray Morgon

Would the Leader confirm what he thinks is the benefit of looking at performance information at the Value Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the quarter ending September 2012 in February 2013?

**19 "TROUBLED FAMILIES": HELP**

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

By Councillor Ray Morgon

Would the Cabinet Member confirm what progress has been made in helping "Troubled Families" in Havering?

**20 UNEMPLOYMENT IN HAVERING**

**To the Cabinet Member for Individuals (Councillor Steven Kelly)**

By Councillor Nic Dodin

Would the Cabinet Member confirm the following:

- a) The current number of people unemployed in Havering?
- b) The number of long term unemployed?
- c) The number of Young People (under 25) unemployed?
- d) What steps the council are taking to reduce the number of people unemployed in Havering?

**21 LIBRARY SERVICE: PERFORMANCE**

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

By Councillor Linda Hawthorn

Would the Cabinet Member confirm the following:-

- a) How are the number of visitors to Havering's Library in the Members Performance pack calculated?

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b) How many residents hold a library card (split between Havering and non-Havering residents)?

**22 PLANTING STREET TREES - COST**

**To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Tebbutt)**

By Councillor Clarence Barrett

Would the Cabinet Member set out the full unit cost to the Authority to supply and plant a street tree?

**23 RECYCLING REFUSE**

**To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Tebbutt)**

By Councillor Clarence Barrett

While recycling is to be encouraged, the orange recycling bags given to residents are woefully thin and split under the slightest pressure. Would the Cabinet Member confirm what steps are being taken to make the sacks more robust?