

COUNCIL, 29th January 2014

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

1 Bus Stop in Butts Green Road

**To the Cabinet Member for Community Empowerment,
Cllr Robert Benham**

By Councillor Brian Eagling

Question:

In respect of the kerb build-out at the bus stop in Butts Green Road (outside Tesco), would the Cabinet Member explain:

- a) Why he went against the recent recommendations of the Highways Advisory Committee to refuse the application, and having authorised the build-out has now, after a matter of weeks, submitted a request to the Highways Advisory Committee to remove it?
- b) What the cost was of installing the build-out?
- c) What the cost is likely to be for removing the build-out?

2 Homeless People in Havering

To the Cabinet Member for Housing, Cllr Lesley Kelly

By Councillor Paul McGeary

Question:

In view of recent comments by the Lead Member for Housing regarding Hope for Havering and the Homeless Briefing Note how many other people in the Borough are not technically homeless in her view and are not counted within Havering's Homeless figures?

3 Member Allowance Entitlement

To the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Lead Member for Democratic Services, Cllr Geoffrey Starns

By Councillor Jeffrey Tucker

Question:

Cllr Mark Logan has been an elected Member of the London Borough of Havering for nearly six years. During his period in office how much of his allowance entitlement in money terms has he refused to claim.

4 Planning permission new developments

To the Deputy Leader of The Council, Cllr Steven Kelly

By Councillor Lawrence Webb

Question:

When granting planning permission there is often a condition that new developments have a percentage of dwellings designated as affordable, with priority given to Havering residents. Can you confirm how many of these properties are still designated as affordable and given to havering residents when the original occupant leaves?

5 Incidents of Flooding

To the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Lead Member for Democratic Services, Cllr Geoffrey Starns

By Councillor John Mylod

Question:

Would the Cabinet Member advise members:

- a) What emergency plans and contingencies are in place to deal with incidents such as flooding?
- b) are emergency calls from the public routed?
- c) What is the target response time for emergency calls from the public?

6 Children & Families Consultation Service premises move

To the Cabinet Member for Children & Learning, Cllr Rochford

By Councillor Pat Murray

Question:

What representations have been made by the Council to the North East London Mental Health Trust relating to the proposed move of the C&FCS from Raphael House to a former car show room in the Romford Road?

7 Council Savings

To the Leader of the Council, Cllr Michael White

By Councillor David Durant

Question:

At the last Council meeting Cllr Michael White said the merger with Newham, involving a further loss of experienced staff will save £4 million and that this avoids a 4% increase in council tax. But the official council report gives a figure of £3.9 million savings over 5 years and that 25% of these alleged savings are redundancy payments.

But redundancy payments are a cost not a saving so the £3.9 million figure is reduced by 25% to £2.925 million, but even this is an exaggeration, because relocation and other costs are not included! Thus the increase in council tax needed to avoid the merger is reduced from 4% to 3%.

But because the saving is over 5 years, this means only a 0.6% increase is needed in year one, carried over the 5 year period to make the 3%. In other words the Administration has put the future independence of Havering at risk to avoid a 0.6% increase in council tax that would threaten conservative re-election hopes in May.

Cllr Michael White, do you think your misrepresentation of the figures helped secure the almost unanimous vote in favour of the merger, or did other tactics play a part.

8 Rent Payments

To the Cabinet Member for Housing, Cllr Lesley Kelly

By Councillor Lawrence Webb

Question:

How many Havering tenants had their rent taken from their accounts early in the Christmas period, and for those that were left short of funds and unable to afford their basic needs, what compensation did they receive?

9 Removal of barriers – Como Street & Bretons

To the Cabinet Member for Environment, Cllr Barry Tebbutt

By Councillor Barbara Matthews

Question:

Would the Cabinet Member explain why the barriers have been removed from the Como Street car park and from Bretons Recreation Centre, thus increasing the risk of illegal encampment, and give an assurance that suitable barriers will now be installed at these locations?

10 Housing allocation

To the Cabinet Member for Housing, Cllr Lesley Kelly

By Councillor Denis O'Flynn

Question:

Locating families with children in high rise flats.

When was the policy relating to the location of young children above the fourth floor in high flats changed?

11 Licensed Activities

To the Deputy Leader of the Council, Cllr Steven Kelly

By Councillor Cllr Linda Van den Hende

Question:

Would the Cabinet Member set out what arrangements are in place to ensure that licensed activities abide by any conditions set down by a planning agreement (where applicable) and that appropriate enforcement action is taken as and when necessary?

12 Pavement repairs

To the Cabinet Member for Environment, Cllr Barry Tebbutt

By Councillor Ray Morgon

Question:

Would the Cabinet Member please confirm:

- a) What target is set for a repair to a pavement defect after an order has been raised?
- b) How and by whom are orders monitored to ensure completion within the agreed target date?
- c) Where can Members see information on how well the Council is meeting its target as part of its robust performance regime as mentioned in last year's Peer Review?
- d) Provide a list of all pavement defects that were ordered over 2 months ago and have still not been completed?

13 Income & Expenditure for Parking

To the Cabinet Member for Environment, Cllr Barry Tebbutt

By Councillor Clarence Barrett

Question:

Would the Cabinet Member please set out:

- a) The income and expenditure figures for the parking account for 2010/11, 2011/12 and 2012/13 and what have the surpluses been spent on?
- b) The top ten locations in the borough where penalty charge notices have been issued during the calendar year 2013?

14 Bedroom Tax

To the Cabinet Member for Housing, Cllr Lesley Kelly

By Councillor June Alexander

Question:

Would the Cabinet Member set out the number of tenants who are now subject to the Spare Room Subsidy (Bedroom Tax) are in rent arrears and by how much?

15 Non-payment of Council Tax – summons issued

To the Cabinet Member for Value, Cllr Roger Ramsey

By Councillor Gillian Ford

Question:

Would the Cabinet Member set out the number of summons issues for non-payment of council tax between April and December 2013 compared with the same period last year (i.e. to April to December 2012) and what is the total council tax arrears to December 2013?