



FULL COUNCIL, 28 JANUARY 2015

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

1 **Decent Homes Monies**

To the Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Damian White

By Councillor June Alexander

Would the Cabinet member provide a comprehensive breakdown of what Decent Homes monies have been provided to this council, how this money has been spent and what monies are still available to be spent by the end of this current financial year?

2 **Consultation**

To the Cabinet Member for Financial Management, Councillor Clarence Barrett

By Councillor Philip Hyde

When there are government consultations on particular issues would the council agree that it is good practise to make all members aware of them?

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3 **Chafford Swimming Pool**

To the Cabinet Member for Culture and Community Engagement, Councillor Melvin Wallace

By Councillor Jeffrey Tucker

Following discussions between the Chafford School Headteacher and Council Officers, Chafford have submitted a planning application to expand their educational facilities and provide a new swimming pool.

What strategy has been agreed between School and Council to ensure the new pool will be built?

4 **Performance Packs**

To the Cabinet Member for Financial Management, Councillor Clarence Barrett

By Councillor Ray Morgon

Would the Cabinet Member confirm his plans to ensure that Members Performance Packs have comprehensive information on each service, including appropriate data, targets, financial performance, and where appropriate, on an annual basis benchmarking against other London Boroughs?

5 **Briar Road Housing**

To the Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Damian White
By Councillor Philip Hyde

How many of the new homes in the Briar Road development have so far been let to local (Briar Road) residents?

6 **St George's Day Events**

To the Leader of the Council, Councillor Roger Ramsey

By Councillor Graham Williamson

Havering Council's annual promotion of St. George Day in Romford is to be applauded, but can the promotion be extended to Hornchurch with themed events being held and bunting displayed in the Queens Theatre, Fairkytes, Library and High Street?

7 **Quality of Housing Stock**

To the Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Damian White

By Councillor June Alexander

Would the Cabinet Member confirm what steps are in place to monitor the quality and effectiveness of reactive repairs and capital projects to the council's housing stock?

8 **Breach of Planning Regulations**

To the Cabinet Member for Regulatory Services, Councillor Osman Dervish

By Councillor Lawrence Webb

When the council is notified by a resident of a breach of planning regulations what is the time scale for instigating enforcement action?

9 **Council Tax**

To the Cabinet Member for Financial Management, Councillor Clarence Barrett

By Councillor David Durant

The Local Government Minister has announced that a local council tax referendum must be held if councils propose to increase council tax by 2% or more! This will require some soul searching from the Conservative/EHRG Coalition Administration [and from all councillors] because the public budget consultation proposes extensive cuts and a 2% increase in council tax.

This means the Administration will need to hold a legally required referendum costing about £250,000 or reduce the increase to below 2%! But this would mean more cuts because the Council Leader Cllr Ramsey has said the reserves can be used to pay for a referendum [a one off item] but not to off-set the [ongoing] cuts.

In view of this will the Administration 'bite the bullet' and seek cross-party support to hold a council tax referendum for a figure of 2% or more to ameliorate the cuts and help keep our borough green, pleasant and secure?

10 **Section 16 Local London Authorities Act**

To the Cabinet Member for Environment, Councillor Robert Benham

By Councillor John Wood

Would the Cabinet Member confirm why this council is reluctant to use powers under Section 16 of the London Local Authorities and Transport For London Act 2003 to ensure that drivers do not cross the footway without a properly constructed crossover?

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11 Legal Status

To the Leader of the Council, Councillor Roger Ramsey

By Councillor Lawrence Webb

Does this council agree that we are all equal under the law?

12 Road Accidents

To the Cabinet Member for Environment, Councillor Robert Benham

By Councillor Jody Ganly

Given the increasing number of incidents where children have been injured, some seriously, near to schools and colleges, would the Cabinet Member confirm what action the council intends to take to improve safety around schools?

13 Money owed to the Council

To the Cabinet Member for Financial Management, Councillor Clarence Barrett

By Councillor Julie Wilkes

Would the Cabinet member explain why at a time when members are being asked to agree considerable budget cuts has this council millions of pounds owing to it in many cases going forward?

14 Albyans Court, Hornchurch

To the Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Damian White

By Councillor Stephanie Nunn

Would the Cabinet Member explain why the former sheltered accommodation site in Albyans Court, South Hornchurch has been left boarded up for a number of years with the loss of rent estimated to run into hundreds of thousands of pounds, together with additional costs to maintain and secure the site?

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