

COUNCIL, 12TH JUNE 2013

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

1 DISMISSAL OF STAFF

To the Leader of the Council (Councillor Michael White)

By Councillor Ray Morgon

Would the Leader of the Council agree that this council should no longer dismiss staff with secret payoffs and signing of compromise agreements, but adopt robust HR procedures so that if any member of staff at whatever level is failing to perform they should be dismissed without compensation paid for by Havering residents.

2 DAMAGE TO ROADS AND FOOTPATHS IN HAROLD HILL

To the Deputy Leader of the Council (Councillor Steven Kelly)

By Councillor Pat Murray

What steps is the Administration taking to ensure that damage caused to roads and footpaths by contractors engaged in the redevelopment of garage blocks and open spaces in Harold Hill are being repaired quickly and to a good standard of workmanship.

3 ANNUAL COUNCIL HONOURS

To the Leader of the Council (Councillor Michael White)

By Councillor Jeff Tucker

Following the last Annual Council meeting. What steps will this Administration now take to ensure all future nominees for honours at Annual Council meetings are addressed in the manner they should be.

4 COUNCIL TAX BILLS AND THE COST OF EU DIRECTIVES

To the Cabinet Member for Value (Councillor Roger Ramsey)

By Councillor Lawrence Webb

In the document YOUR COUNCIL TAX YOUR SERVICES 2013-2014, the Leader of the Council states “we’ve been spending your money wisely” and the rest of the document then gives some indication of how this money has been spent.

Some mention is given to the levy incurred by the council for landfill tax, but NO mention is given to the true origin of this tax, the EU landfill directive 1999/31/EC.

I am sure that people would be very interested to learn that the cost of implementing the EU Energy Efficiency Directive (2012/27/EU) is behind the closure of many of our public buildings such as police stations and hospitals.

At my first council meeting in March you very eloquently extolled the virtues of openness and transparency when talking about the operation of the council; it is in the spirit of this openness and transparency that I ask, can any future breakdown of council tax bills clearly state the cost of implementing EU directives.

5 SPITTING

To the Leader of the Council (Councillor Michael White)

By Councillor Clarence Barrett

In response to my question at full Council in March 2012, the Leader announced that the Administration is to bring in a bye-law to ban spitting in public. Over a year later, we are still waiting. Would the Leader explain why there is such a delay

6 HEATH & SAFETY REGULATION COMPLIANCE

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

By Councillor Denis O'Flynn

What arrangements do the Council put in place to ensure that Contractors and Sub Contractors comply with Health & Safety Regulations

7 CHILDRENS SERVICES

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

By Councillor Deon Burton

A recent Ofsted Inspection team rated Havering's child protection service as 'Adequate overall'. A most encouraging standard, but one we should not be complacent about or allow to be put in jeopardy.

Given the Executive would agree that looking after vulnerable children is one of our highest priorities.

In light of the recent legal action against our colleague London Borough of Haringey, where they have been successfully sued for what was deemed their wrongfully accusation against parents in regards to the protection of a child.

- A. What clear and specific steps are being taken by this authority to protect officers, Members and the Authority from such a fate ?
- B. What considered guidance since the judgement, has been provided to our residents to allay the fears of any who are concerned that they too could face legal action, if they make statements about their neighbours conduct towards children.'

8 EXPENDITURE OVER £500

The Cabinet Member for Value (Councillor Roger Ramsey)

By Councillor Gillian Ford

Would the Leader explain why details of expenditure over £500 has not been updated on the Council website since January 2013.

9 HILLDENE SHOPS – PAY & DISPLAY PARKING AND RESIDENTS PARKING PERMITS.

To the Cabinet Member for StreetCare (Councillor Barry Tebbutt)

By Councillor Paul McGeary

Have the Administration an implementation plan for the introduction of Pay & Display Parking and Residents Parking permits at the Hilldene Shopping Area taking into account the numerous development proposals close by and the disruption likely to be caused by the developments during the construction phases

10 ELMHURST LODGE- TORRANCE CLOSE - HORNCHURCH

To the Deputy Leader of the Council (Councillor Steven Kelly)

By Councillor Mark Logan

A Council care home at Torrance Close Hornchurch was closed down and the large parcel of land sold to a developer, was this done to provide urgently needed homes in LB Havering and to help first time buyers get a foothold onto the property ladder.

11 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUESTS

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

By Councillor Linda van de Hende

Would the Cabinet Member confirm how many Freedom of Information requests have not been completed within the statutory timeframe over the past 12 months

12 DETERRING “COLD CALLERS”

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

By Councillor Denis Breading

Will the Administration facilitate the provision of a standard “No Cold Callers” sign for residents to place in a doorway or front window of their property to deter “Cold Callers”

13 RE-DESIGNATION OF COMMON LAND

To The Deputy Leader of the Council (Councillor Steven Kelly)

By Councillor David Durant

The land status of open spaces in Havering varies and has different levels of protection from development.

For example, Green Belt land is protected and Council parkland and recreational grounds are mostly protected, but common land has only limited protection.

This is why where appropriate, popular common land used by the community should be re-designated as Council parkland or recreational grounds to ensure the green character of Havering and quality of life of residents is retained!

Therefore please explain how a resident who wants common land re-designated as parkland or recreational ground should submit a request to the Council and how their request would be processed?

14 BLUE BADGE APPLICATIONS

To the Cabinet Member for Transformation (Councillor Mike Armstrong)

By Councillor Barbara Matthews

At full Council in July 2012, we were advised that the turnaround time for a blue badge application was two weeks for an automatic application and up to four weeks for a mobility assessed application. Would the Cabinet Member advise what turnaround times have been achieved expressed in numbers of applications and the amount processed within the timescales.

15 PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES

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

By Councillor Keith Darvill

Will the Lead Member for Children Services make a statement about the number of Primary School Places required for September 2013 and the plans he has to ensuring that all primary age children will be provided with a place.