

**COUNCIL, 27 NOVEMBER 2013**

**MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

**1 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 Recruitment & Retention**

**To the Cabinet Member for Children & Learning, Cllr Paul Rochford**

By Councillor Cllr Pat Murray

**Question:**

What initiatives is the Council adopting to improve recruitment and retention of key staff particularly social workers in Children's Services?

**3 Bedroom Tax**

**To the Cabinet Member for Housing, Cllr Lesley Kelly**

By Councillor Mark Logan

**Question:**

What action is the housing department taking to ameliorate the impact of the Government's iniquitous bedroom tax aka 'spare room subsidy'?

**4 Duplicate Payments**

**To the Cabinet Member for Value, Cllr Roger Ramsey**

By Councillor Clarence Barrett

**Question:**

Following duplicate payments made by this Council of £44,168 in 2009/10 and £11,403 in 2010/11, would the Cabinet Member set out the amount of duplicate payments made in 2011/12 and 2012/13?

**5 Council Dwellings**

**To the Deputy Leader of the Council, Cllr Steven Kelly**

By Councillor Denis O'Flynn

**Question:**

How many Council dwellings are being kept empty to cater for specific needs and in view of the shortage of family accommodation why are the Council retaining so many empty properties?

**6 Rainham War Memorial**

**To the Cabinet Member for Culture, Towns & Communities, Cllr Andrew Curtin**

By Councillor David Durant

**Question:**

Please provide an update on plans to renovate the Rainham War Memorial and add additional names as compiled by local historian Sean Connelly.

**7      Employment opportunities for young people**

**To The Leader of the Council, Cllr Michael White**

By Councillor Barbara Matthews

**Question:**

What is being done by this Council to provide employment opportunities for young people between 18-24, given unemployment amongst this group in Havering is well above the London average?

**8      Havering's population**

**To The Leader of the Council, Cllr Michael White**

By Councillor Keith Darvill

**Question:**

In view of the anticipated increase in Havering's population as described in the recent Housing Strategy approved by Cabinet recently what plans have the Administration developed to address the severe pressures on public services are likely to occur in the foreseeable future?

**9 TNO Crime Figures**

**To the Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Cllr Geoffrey Starns**

By Councillor Jeff Tucker

**Question:**

The latest TNO crime figures show that the number of crimes committed in Rainham is high and not, as the Council have previously said, '*somewhere in the middle*' of the table of crimes?

In view of this will the Council now seriously re-consider extending the CCTV network to deter and solve crime in Rainham.

**10 Green Belt Land ( Lower Thames Crossing closure)**

**To the Leader of The Council, Cllr Michael White**

By Councillor Linda Van den Hende

**Question:**

Given that the Department of Transport's initial consultation on the proposed Lower Thames Crossing has now closed, what plans does the Council have in terms of resisting the expected preference for 'Option C' which cuts through swathes of Green Belt land in parts of the borough?

**11 Private Sector Leasing**

**To the Cabinet Member for Housing, Cllr Lesley Kelly**

By Councillor Ray Morgon

**Question:**

What action is taken to ensure that properties under Private Sector Leasing arrangements are of the appropriate standard and, in some cases appropriateness for letting and what procedures are in place to ensure that any repairs needed are carried out to the same standard and timescales as a council tenant would expect of the Council?

**12 Potholes**

**To the Cabinet Member for Environment, Cllr Barry Tebbutt**

By Councillor Linda Hawthorn

**Question:**

What is the expected timescale from when a pothole is identified with orange paint to when it is actually repaired?

**13 Proposed Health Centre (former St George's Hospital)**

**To the Deputy Leader of the Council, Cllr Steven Kelly**

By Councillor Nic Dodin

**Question:**

Confirm if the proposed Health Centre on the site of the former St George hospital will be funded through a PFI (private finance initiative) arrangement or some other funding mechanism?

**14 Winter gritting**

**To the Cabinet Member for Environment, Cllr Barry Tebbutt**

By Councillor Ron Ower

**Question:**

In respect of winter gritting, would the Cabinet Member please confirm that:

- a) We have sufficient supplies of grit/salt to distribute/spread during the season?
- b) Have there been any changes in the routes roads areas being given priority?
- c) Has any thought been given for residents to obtain supplies direct from the Council?