

**SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENTS FOR
COUNCIL
7.30 pm on Thursday 16 September 2021
In the Council Chamber, Civic Centre**

The attached documents are due to be considered at the meeting listed above and were unavailable for circulation when the agenda for the meeting was published. The agenda item to which the documents relate is noted below.

AGENDA

6. Questions from the Public (Pages 2 - 3)
7. Questions from Councillors (Pages 4 - 6)

Full Council – 16 September 2021

Questions from the Public

1 Hugh Hoad to Councillor Andrew Johnson (Leader of the Council and Lead on Economic Recovery):

When the public space protection order in the town centre was introduced he wanted begging as a thing that wasn't allowed, but his idea wasn't accepted. Now he is Leader will this be introduced?

Reply from Councillor Andrew Johnson (Leader of the Council and Lead on Economic Recovery):

The Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO) in the Town Centre (x2) were implemented in August 2019 and will remain in place for a period of three years until August 2022.

It may be possible to extend or vary the PSPOs, for example to change the size of the area covered by the PSPO or to remove or add new prohibitions, such as begging. However, before any changes can be made the council must follow a process to make sure that a number of statutory conditions have been met. The council will also need to gather evidence to show that it has reasonable grounds for any specified problems contained within the PSPO, with clear data and other evidence to justify any variations and additions to it.

During the coming months the council will begin to gather evidence to determine whether or not an extension or variation to the PSPO under any grounds, including begging, can be justified. If the view is that it can, then there will be appropriate consultation and other necessary legislative requirements to undertake before a Cabinet decision can be made on the precise nature of the PSPO.

The council is determined to provide community leadership to address the root cause of begging, that of homelessness, by working with charities including Streets2Homes to identify local issues and signpost individuals to the appropriate support.

2 Hugh Hoad to Councillor Andrew Johnson (Leader of the Council and Lead on Economic Recovery):

As we have not had a separate food waste collection will there be a refund on next year's council tax?

Reply from Councillor Andrew Johnson (Leader of the Council and Lead on Economic Recovery):

Food waste collections were temporarily suspended for two weeks due to Veolia operatives having to isolate due to being pinged by the Covid 19 app.

We will bring forward council tax proposals next year as part of the normal budget process.

Full Council – 16 September 2021

Questions from Councillors

1 Councillor Jean Clark to Councillor Joel Charles (Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Community Resilience):

Pets' Corner took huge steps to remain a sustainable, popular service. What are the new Administration's expectations regarding the future of Pets' Corner? Are there plans to generate more income? If so, what exactly are they?

Reply from Councillor Joel Charles (Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Community Resilience):

Pets' Corner is a much-loved council asset that makes an important contribution to the health and wellbeing of our community.

Our administration is exploring options to invest in the council's valued non-statutory services, which includes Pets' Corner in the wider portfolio. There are no plans to make changes to the council's community services budgets that will negatively impact frontline delivery.

Work continues by our administration on delivering an updated medium-term financial strategy and a budget for the next municipal year that focuses on extending opportunity and prosperity – the guiding focus that flows through everything the council will aim to achieve in the future. The council's community services will play a key role in promoting inclusion to help realise the goal of extending opportunity. To practically achieve this on the ground, our administration is exploring opportunities for additional income generation at Pets' Corner, which includes looking at further educational opportunities, and scoping the potential to expand the use of the Learning Centre as a more established conference facility.

2 Councillor Mike Danvers to Councillor Russell Perrin (Portfolio Holder for Finance and Governance)

Do all sitting Harlow District Councillors live in Harlow?

Reply from Councillor Russell Perrin (Portfolio Holder for Finance and Governance):

All Conservative Councillors live in Harlow.

3 Councillor Mike Danvers to Councillor Simon Carter (Portfolio Holder for Housing)

Given the situation over the last three months could he outline both the short term and long term strategy for repairing and maintaining the Clock Tower at Puffers Green? Would he consider giving the iconic building a small separate capital budget from the housing revenue capital account schemes for annual maintenance?

Reply from Councillor Simon Carter (Portfolio Holder for Housing):

A budget was allocated as part of the Housing Capital programme for 21/22 approved by Cabinet in January 2021.

This forms part of the Council's Housing Investment Programme (HIP) External Works. The scope of works has been developed and been extended to include both internal and external works refurbishing the property. HTS (Property and Environment) Ltd have been awarded the works. They are developing an implementation plan which is expected to complete in December 2021. This will following the planning application required with a listed building and Essex County Council approvals, which are taking longer than usual due to revised Covid-19 working arrangements. The revised updated timetable has been discussed with the tenant.

The clock and bell ringing mechanism is in working order following extensive repairs. The Council is establishing a longer term specialist works agreement to ensure servicing and repairs are mainstreamed should the need arise.

4 Councillor Tony Durcan to Councillor Andrew Johnson (Leader of the Council and Lead on Economic Recovery):

Last week was the twentieth anniversary of 9/11 were 2,977 people were murdered.

Your Harlow reminded us all of a local lad born and educated in Harlow who was a victim of this tragedy, Simon Maddison. Whilst he moved to America he should be remembered by Harlow in some way. I ask the council at the next opportunity that we find a naming opportunity to recognise Simon life and his ambitions.

Could we send a message to his family in America and at a suitable time enable them to be aware that Harlow never forgets its own?

Reply from Councillor Andrew Johnson (Leader of the Council and Lead on Economic Recovery):

9/11 remains one of the most poignant and tragic events in our lifetime and the twentieth anniversary last weekend was a powerful reminder to reflect on those that lost their lives, including Simon. I was moved by the tribute to Simon in Your Harlow and I'm aware that BBC Essex also carried out an interview with Simon's family in America where they spoke about his life in Harlow and his family home at Paddock Mead.

We should be guided by the wishes of Simon's family and I will ask Officers to gather contact details for his family and so we can ask them what they feel would be an appropriate memorial for Simon.