

**CABINET – 22 FEBRUARY 2018
QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Agenda item 5 refers

1. Mr Hugh Hoad to Councillor Emma Toal, Leader of the Council

Why was the Managing Director of Harlow Council appointed without interview?

Reply from Councillor Emma Toal, Leader of the Council

The Managing Director was appointed without interview for the following reasons.

The Council has ambitious and well developed plans for the future of Harlow with significant levels of public and private sector investment earmarked for the town. Public Health England's new Science Hub and HQ equate to £480m investment and Harlow Enterprise Zone's anticipated private sector investment is estimated to be in the region of £500m.

In addition to this, the government supported Harlow and Gilston town project recognises the potential which seeks to deliver 16,000 new homes in and around Harlow. Harlow itself is planned to support in the region of an additional 11,000 new jobs and 9,000 homes in the Local Plan period.

There is now an opportunity for a 'whole place' approach to focus on the people of Harlow and the built environment to deliver both housing and economic growth and the regeneration of the town which will enable Harlow's existing and future residents and businesses to benefit.

The Harlow Local Plan has reached a key milestone, with consultation imminent. It is imperative that there is a clear and stable key leadership role in the context of the Duty to Cooperate Board and the development of the Harlow and Gilston Garden Town project.

During 2017 the then Acting Managing Director was personally involved or leading in all of the major projects referred to above, as well as managing the day to day activities of the Council.

At this important time for Harlow, it is essential that the Council has stability in its Leadership. For this reason the then Acting Managing Director was appointed to the permanent position in order to provide stability in leadership for the Council.