

**CABINET – 14 JUNE 2018**  
**QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

Agenda item 6 refers

1. **Councillor Michael Hardware to Councillor Danny Purton, Portfolio Holder for Environment**

What additional arrangements has he put in place to encourage a meaningful response from residents of Harlow to the current Regulation 19 consultation on the Local Plan? I am sure he will agree that just over 120 responses to the Regulation 18 consultation was really not adequate or a proper representation of the views of residents, and the Council really should do better to promote the consultation and ensure residents can better understand the Local Plan and easily be able to provide their comments.

**Reply from Councillor Danny Purton, Portfolio Holder for Environment**

The Local Plan follows the procedures set out in the Town and Country Planning Regulations 2012 and we have now reached the stage known as Regulation 19 where the Plan is being tested against the “Tests of Soundness” together with the legal compliance of the Plan. More specifically, the consultation is being undertaken in accordance with the Councils’ recently adopted Statement of Community Involvement (September 2017). For example, to date the Council has sent out over 2,000 letters and emails to statutory undertakers, members of the public, businesses and a range of interest groups; and has also made hard copies of the draft Plan available at Council premises and public libraries across Harlow. Currently we have had 130 expressions of interest, although whether they become representations depends upon whether they consider they need to formally respond.