

Full Council – 19 September 2019

Questions from the Public

1 Mr Hugh Hoad to Councillor Mark Ingall (Leader of the Council):

Why are the Police and Harlow Council not enforcing the Public Space Protection Order in the Town Centre effective from 5 August 2019?

Reply from Councillor Mark Ingall (Leader of the Council):

Following the introduction of the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) there was a two week period to allow for education of the public regarding the Order and for the public notices to be erected. Since then the Order has been enforced by the Police and the Community Safety Team. A large amount of alcohol has been confiscated and many cyclists have been instructed to dismount from their cycles.

In addition there have been several arrests for drunk and disorderly behaviour and public order offences. Eight community protection warnings and two fixed penalty notices have been issued.

It should be noted that with a PSPO the matter only becomes an offence if the perpetrator fails to comply with the request from the Police or Community Safety Officer.

2 Mr Hugh Hoad to Councillor Mark Ingall (Leader of the Council):

Is the Council seeking more funding so further accommodation like Bromley Cottages can be built for the homeless of Harlow?

Reply from Councillor Mark Ingall (Leader of the Council):

The Council continues to seek additional funding in supporting its existing projects and new building/renovating projects to support and prevent people from sleeping on the streets.

As part of the Government's spending review announced in September 2019, additional funding will be made available to reduce homelessness and rough sleeping in 2020/21. More information should be known in December 2019, including on how the funding will be distributed. This funding is intended to deliver the Government's aim to end rough sleeping by 2027 and to halve the number of rough sleepers by 2022.