

# Cabinet – 21 March 2024

## Questions from Councillors

### **1 Councillor Chris Vince to Councillor Dan Swords (Leader of the Council):**

At the last cabinet meeting I asked the leader about the meeting he had with Arriva about the ongoing situation with cuts to services across Harlow, in particular the number 9.

I was promised at that meeting the minutes of the meeting he had in January, however, at time of writing I have yet to receive them, can I ask again publicly for those minutes and also the actions which came from that meeting?

### **Reply from Councillor Dan Swords (Leader of the Council):**

I apologise for this slip. I will fully brief Cllr Vince on this matter and bring him up to speed with the ongoing work.

### **Supplementary question from Councillor Vince:**

Can you email minutes first and then arrange a meeting between us?

### **Supplementary reply from Councillor Dan Swords (Leader of the Council):**

Yes.

### **2 Councillor Chris Vince to Councillor Dan Swords (Leader of the Council):**

The taxi industry news website 'taxi point' recently wrote an article stating that Wolverhampton and Milton Keynes councils have entered into a shared enforcement plan.

Due to the issues raised previously about taxis from neighbouring council areas, and also the need of Harlow Council to close a rather large budget gap over the next 4 years, has a shared enforcement plan been looked at between Harlow council and neighbouring authorities?

### **Reply from Councillor Dan Swords (Leader of the Council):**

We are committed to improving our enforcement and are looking at a number of ways to potentially introduce shared enforcement. We have carried out joint enforcement sessions with other authorities such as Wolverhampton and, in Essex, the matter of sharing enforcement with neighbouring authorities is being

looked into collectively by a new formed Essex Working Group and will hopefully be moving forward with this in the next few months.

**Supplementary question from Councillor Vince:**

When the meeting happens, can we lobby the government to reverse some of the Deregulation Act 2015?

**Supplementary reply from Councillor Dan Swords (Leader of the Council):**

I agree and have met with ministers about this. The changes undermine the standards that are expected.