

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

5.1 QUESTION FROM JONATHAN HAYNES OF THE GREENWAY, UXBRIDGE TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CORPORATE SERVICES & PROPERTY - COUNCILLOR BIANCO:

Given that Blue Horizon have been appointed as consultants to find a new operator to run the Beck Theatre, what assurances can LBH give that they will act fast and with urgency to secure a new operator assuming one is found, and ensure the Beck's long-term future? We are at a critical phase and have warned that if the venue closes in January, it will be very difficult for it to re-open - we need to ensure a deal is agreed in order for a seamless de-coupling with Trafalgar and keep the doors open.

5.2 QUESTION FROM EMILY HOPLA OF RUISLIP COURT, RUISLIP TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES & EDUCATION - COUNCILLOR O'BRIEN:

What evidence exists to support the Council's claim that there is no demand for the SRP at Coteford School when families like mine requested placements, and I have multiple emails from February—before the consultation closed—stating the SRP was no longer accepting admissions, suggesting this decision was predetermined?

5.3 QUESTION FROM BETHANY GATES OF FORBES WAY, RUISLIP TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES & EDUCATION - COUNCILLOR O'BRIEN:

Regarding the proposal to close the SRP at Coteford Infant School, how can the Council claim that children in the SRP are in a mainstream setting 100% of the time when we have clear evidence, including timetables, that show speech and language therapy, physiotherapy and other essential interventions are provided outside the classroom in a specialised setting within the school?

5.4 QUESTION FROM HARPAL TAMBER OF GREAT PARK CLOSE, UXBRIDGE TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CORPORATE SERVICES & PROPERTY - COUNCILLOR BIANCO:

Can the Council categorically confirm or deny that they are in possession of drawings showing a new residential development scheme on the Beck Theatre site?

5.5 QUESTION FROM GEORGINA SWAKER OF HALE END CLOSE, RUISLIP TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES & EDUCATION - COUNCILLOR O'BRIEN:

The recent consultation report on the SRP at Coteford states that children with physical disabilities can have their needs met in any mainstream school. However, parents report being turned away because local schools state they lack the necessary resources. How can the council justify closing the SRP without first ensuring that all mainstream schools are adequately equipped and prepared to meet the needs of physically disabled children?

5.6 QUESTION FROM LINDA GATES OF FORE STREET, EASTCOTE TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL - COUNCILLOR EDWARDS:

The results report on the Consultation to close the SRP at Coteford Infant School state that 96% of the community wants the SRP to stay, showing overwhelming opposition to its closure. Given the fundamental purpose of a consultation is to consider community impact and opinions, does the Leader of the Council genuinely care about the views of constituents, or will this decision disregard the voices of the very people it affects most?

5.7 QUESTION FROM STACY MCGOURAN OF GREEN LANE, NORTHWOOD TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES & EDUCATION - COUNCILLOR O'BRIEN:

The council states that the SRP closure at Coteford School is "in the name of inclusivity," yet this decision removes vital therapies for children with physical disabilities without clear guarantees, funding, or support to replace them. How can this be considered inclusive when it leaves families struggling and children without the specialist care they need? Is this decision truly about inclusion, or is it a cost-cutting measure?

5.8 QUESTION FROM NIKKY HUDSON OF MOUNT PARK ROAD TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES & EDUCATION - COUNCILLOR O'BRIEN:

As a parent, I'm concerned that EHCPs don't cover essential costs like therapy and equipment, leaving already deficit-hit schools to fill the gap. How will the Council ensure my child's needs are fully funded without shifting the burden onto schools?

5.9 QUESTION FROM LEANNE FISHER OF DOVEDALE CLOSE, HAREFIELD TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES & EDUCATION - COUNCILLOR O'BRIEN:

The Council claims "nothing will change" as SRP therapies move to the NHS, yet this shift risks harmful delays for children with special needs, causing developmental regression and long-term damage. How can the Council deny this harm, and what steps are being taken to address it?

5.10 QUESTION FROM EILISH STONE OF HATCH LANE HARMONDSWORTH TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CORPORATE SERVICES & PROPERTY - COUNCILLOR BIANCO:

My relationship with the Beck goes back over 30 years when my sons performed with the Youth Theatre and in Summer Projects. This gave them 'skills for life' transferable to many different careers, including performing arts.

Our Council's tardy response to securing the future of the theatre has caused much upset and uncertainty to the employees, service users and community groups. As a member of the community choir I despair of our elected Council/Cabinet members who claim to put 'residents first'. It seems you only woke from your slumber when our media campaign to Save The Beck took off! Before that it was silence!

Have you a new operator to take over the running of the Beck when the Trafalgar Group exits on 13 January and, if not, what is your plan to ensure the theatre does not close?