

**COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS
30 JUNE 2010**

Question 1 from Councillor Lamprecht to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council

“On 9th June at 13:07 an e-mail was forwarded by the Labour Group Office indiscriminately to addressees on the Council’s e-mail network. The e-mail was from the General Secretary of the Labour Party asking recipients to pay £10 to the Labour Party as part of a fund-raising initiative to publicise its national leadership elections. When will the Leader of the Council take action to stop his office abusing council facilities to fundraise for the national Labour Party? Will he publicly apologise to the public for this abuse which has occurred within a fortnight of his assuming office?”

Reply from Councillor Taylor:

The Monitoring Officer was asked about this e-mail. I print his reply to Cllr Rye below, which undoubtedly you have already seen.

“I have investigated your complaint as set out in your e mail dated 9 June.

The e mail was sent by a temporary officer within the Leader's office who had only been with us a few days. Bernie Butt was away on holiday at the time. The officer concerned says that she circulated the e mail of her own accord and was not requested or instructed to do so by any member. The fact that all members received the e mail was an error. She intended sending it to Labour members only.

You have quite rightly raised the issue of using council resources for party political purposes. The Council's member/officer protocol states that the Council will provide support services to members to assist them in carrying out their roles as Councillors. Such support services must not be used for political campaigning activity. Within that, we have operated a system of trust and within a framework that the group offices are there to support the democratic process of the authority. There will therefore inevitably be grey areas and issues are judged on a 'case by case' basis.

I have told the officer concerned that such e mails must not be sent using Council resources. I will also ensure that in future all new staff in the political group offices are advised of the situation from day one of their employment.

I have also agreed with the Leader that the protocol referred to above will be considered at a future meeting of the Governance Review Group.

I hope this has addressed your complaint.”

Question 2 from Councillor Hamilton to Councillor Stafford, Cabinet Member for Finance, Facilities and Human Resources

"Can the Cabinet Member for Finance, Facilities and Human Resources inform the Council what reductions in support to Enfield have been made by the new Conservative/Liberal Democrat Government?"

Reply from Councillor Stafford:

The Communities and Local Government department confirmed in the information published on 10 June that a range of grants to Enfield Council would be cut in 2010/11, totalling £6.885m. The breakdown of this is set out below:

Grant	Amount
Area-based grant – from Department for Education	2.181
Area-based grant – Supporting People Administration	0.267
Area-based grant – Working Neighbourhood Fund	0.162
Area-based grant – Prevent	0.093
Local Area Agreement Reward Grant	3.600
Housing and Planning Delivery Grant	0.122
Total	6.885

Question 3 from Councillor Kaye to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services

"The Ofsted report published just a week ago says the overall effectiveness of safeguarding services is good. Enfield is an outward looking council which actively develops its own best practice while at the same time importing and adapting the best from elsewhere. Leaders and managers of safeguarding and child protection services are highly committed to improving outcomes for children and young people.

Would the cabinet member like to congratulate her predecessor, Councillor Glynis Vince, the Conservative administration and council officers for doing a fine job?"

Reply from Councillor Orhan:

Of course, I would like to pass on my thanks and appreciation to Councillor Glynis Vince for her achievements as the Cabinet Member responsible for Safeguarding under the previous Administration. I am looking forward to taking the service from "good" to "outstanding" and working with council officers and partner agencies who work so hard to ensure children and young people in Enfield are safe. The report specifically quotes that elected members are diligent in seeking out and acting upon the views of children and young people, and in providing effective and

constructive challenge to services where necessary

Services for Looked After Children were also inspected and assessed as “good”. The inspection concluded the Council and its partners are ambitious for children and young people in their care and are clearly focussed on improving outcomes. A cross departmental, multi-agency corporate parenting group, which includes the Lead Member, meets regular to ensure that all departments and agencies work together to promote positive outcomes for looked after children.

Question 4 from Councillor Brett to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council

"Will Enfield Council fly the Armed Forces flag on June 27th?"

Reply from Councillor Taylor:

Yes, the Council intends to fly the Armed Forces flag from 21 June until 27 June.

Question 5 from Councillor Hall to Councillor Stafford, Cabinet Member for Finance, Facilities and Human Resources

"In a letter dated 3rd June to coalition MPs Eric Pickles MP announced that as part of the £6 billion of savings, the new Government has protected the £29 billion of formula grant which funds councils' frontline services. It has also removed £2 billion of ring-fencing to give councils more freedom to support local priorities. Will Councillor Stafford confirm that given this announcement and given the healthy state in which the Council's finances have been left by the previous administration, as acknowledged and derided by the Labour Party during the election, that if there are any cuts to front line services by this Authority that they will be by the choice of the Labour administration or as a consequence of the Labour administration's mismanagement."

Reply from Councillor Stafford:

I am absolutely committed to ensuring that this round of savings, and future savings that are on the horizon, are managed effectively, with the impact on front line services minimised wherever possible. And, of course, we need to ensure that the Council's finances are well managed over the long term, with appropriate levels of reserves, and the right balance struck between reserves and risks that the Council faces. We also need to ensure a viable capital programme, with borrowing levels that are sustainable over the longer term. It is these issues which this Administration is now addressing, as part of our work to develop and finalise next year's budget. I will be making a statement at Council on 30 June to provide more detailed information about how we will be handling the 2010/11 cuts.

Question 6 from Councillor Cranfield to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council

"(a) When was Community House in Edmonton opened?
(b) When did work begin for a skateboard park in Edmonton?
(c) When did work begin for the redevelopment of Edmonton Green that resulted in a new and better housing, a new shopping centre, a new leisure facility and a new bus station?"

Reply from Councillor Taylor:

a) Community House opened summer 1996.
b) The work on the skateboard park commenced in 2008 and the facility was opened in the summer 2008
c) The development lease with St. Modwen commenced March 25th 1999. Work did not start immediately as planning issues needed to be resolved. St. Modwen proposals changed over time and the actual development to deliver the refurbished shopping centre, leisure centre, primary care centre and bus station continued up until 2008.
Consultation with the residents of the Barbot Estate commenced in 1995 and the stock transfer to Green Horizons took place in 1999. The building programme to provide new and refurbished housing at Victoria Road, Plevna Road, Montagu Road and Edmonton Green Shopping Centre was completed in 2008.

Question 7 from Councillor Maynard to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services

"At the end of May the Rt. Hon. Michael Gove MP wrote to all schools in the country inviting them to apply for academy status; the intention being that successful in addition to failing schools should benefit from this status. The response was overwhelming with 1,114 schools responding in the first week showing an interest in opting out of local authority control and devolving power to local people, parents and teachers. Would the Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services please inform the Council of how many schools in Enfield applied for such status and what steps were taken by the Council to advise schools of the benefits of such an application?"

Reply from Councillor Orhan:

Currently only "outstanding" schools can apply to be Academies from September 2010. In Enfield we have 21 outstanding schools that could be eligible. We have written to all schools to communicate and clarify the small amount of information that we have about this process and about our experience of developing Academies so far. We have asked them to let us know if any schools are contemplating becoming an Academy but we have not had any definite responses yet.

Question 8 from Councillor Simbodyal to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services

"Can the Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services tell us when the Council started preparing for the development of the Building Schools for the Future project and how much budget was approved by the last administration before May 2010. How much capital is at risk if Building Schools for the Future is curtailed in Enfield?"

Reply from Councillor Orhan:

The Council started preparing for development of the project by establishing a base budget provision of £72.5k in 2007/08. Once approval was given to proceed in 2008, Enfield Cabinet agreed in April 2008 a budget for work up to Financial Close in the sum of £3m to fund the cost of external specialist advice, management and delivery of the programme and specialist surveys. The Council has received £50k in grant funding from Partnerships for Schools (the government agency with responsibility for schools' capital funding) in 2008/09 and further £50k in 2009/10 towards the costs of project management.

Projections of the cost of developing the project to financial close in September 2011 showed that a total of almost £4m in excess of base budget provision. At its meeting on 10 December 2009, the Schools Forum gave approval to this extra £1m funding being met from the schools budget funded by dedicated schools grant.

If the Building Schools for the Future programme is curtailed in Enfield, then the Council will not be able to access of £110m of capital funding from the Department for Education and costs incurred so far of approximately £1.7m will be lost. The BSF programme is for the following initial schools in the programme.

The PUPIL REFERRAL UNIT- currently inadequate/ time expired/ insufficient provision at the PRU at Eldon Road. Current provision is for 40 places. We cannot currently accommodate students or provide satisfactorily at this site. The scheme provides a new build PRU for 100 students at Ponders End with joint provision for the Youth Service.

EDMONTON COUNTY SCHOOL- an additional three forms of entry will be provided for in the major remodelling of this site. The school is to be remodelled into two separate but parallel schools each of six forms of entry. Both sites (Cambridge and Bury) will undergo new build/ remodelling and refurbishment.

BROOMFIELD SCHOOL- a new 11-18 school (PFI) will be built on this site, with the flexibility to become an all age (5 to 18) school in the future when funding for additional primary places becomes available)

THE GLADYS AYLWARD SCHOOL- BSF will remodel the interior of the school via the removal of a 1970's clasp building .

TURIN GROVE SCHOOL- remodelling and refurbishment of the buildings to complete the capital works that have consolidated the school on to the Turin Grove site over a number of years

ICT provision- all project schools will become a part of a fully integrated ICT service under BSF. Schools not in the project will also have the option to buy in to the managed service.

Question 9 from Councillor Neville JP OBE to Councillor Stafford, Cabinet Member for Finance, Facilities and Human Resources

“Would the Cabinet Member for Finance, Facilities and Human Resources please confirm the size of the unearmarked balances and unearmarked and earmarked reserves left by the previous Conservative administration, indicating in each case whether the reserves and balances are of a revenue or capital nature and the purposes for which each is earmarked where this is the case.”

Reply from Councillor Stafford:

This information is attached (subject to external audit), and replicates that presented to the Audit Committee at its meeting on 29 June, at which the end of year accounts were reviewed.

Question 10 from Councillor Ekechi to Councillor McGowan, Cabinet Member for Older People and Adult Social Services - withdrawn

Question 11 from Councillor Lavender to Councillor Stafford, Cabinet Member for Finance, Facilities and Human Resources

“Is it the intention of the Labour Administration to keep to its promise to not increase the rate of Council Tax next year? This is a bold manifesto promise given unforeseeable variances in council tax base, costs of and demands for services and changes to formula grants and precepts, nevertheless we presume that some attempt must have been made to have costed this promise. To make answering this question easier, on the assumptions that the Council Tax Base remains static, that there will be no change in the cost of or demand for services (save for indexation), no change to formula grant and that precepts increase in line with RPI (as at April 2010 – being last published figures), and in the case of the precept levied by the NLWA, by the figure advised to us, what will be the cost to this council of a 0% Council Tax increase for the year 2011/2012 as opposed to an increase at RPI (as at April 2010 – being last published figures)?

Reply from Councillor Stafford:

It is the intention of this Administration to deliver on all its Manifesto commitments over the life of this 4 year Administration. Whilst I understand fully the pressures on the Medium Term Financial Plan, this Administration also understands the impact the recession is having on the citizens of the Borough, and it is the balance between these two issues that we are attempting to strike. I am not prepared to quote a specific figure, because there are so many variables between now and the setting of the Budget in February 2011 that it would be misleading in these tight financial circumstances to quote figures.

Question 12 from Councillor Cicek to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council

"Will the Leader of the Council report on the London Congress of Leaders of June 15th?"

Reply from Councillor Taylor:

I attended the London Congress of Leaders of 15th June hosted by the Mayor of London. This event saw the publication of his proposals for greater devolution in London.

The key question for Enfield may well be what further devolution should take place in the boroughs?

Question 13 from Councillor A Pearce to Councillor Charalambous, Cabinet Member for Young People and Culture, Leisure, Sports and Olympics

"In the Labour Party's manifesto 'Making Enfield Better' the Labour Party stated that many of Enfield's leisure facilities are too expensive for some residents and gave a commitment to introducing a pricing policy suitable for all users. Would the Cabinet Member for Young People and Culture, Leisure, Sports and Olympics give an indication of when this pricing policy is to be introduced and what size budget is set aside to further subsidise such facilities?"

Reply from Councillor Charalambous:

As you are aware, this is a four year manifesto. Members will also be aware that a new operator, Fusion Lifestyle has been appointed to run the Councils Leisure Centres. This partnership delivers a reduced cost to the Council, more people taking part in Sport and Physical activity and provides significant investment in the Council leisure facilities. The new operator takes over running our Leisure Centres on the 1st July. Officers are currently working with Fusion to identify opportunities to deliver the manifesto commitments and will be looking at all options. These options will be reviewed to identify the greatest impact in terms

increasing affordability as well as value for money. It is intended that during the first few months of Fusion running our Leisure Centres we will have identified a number of different ways of delivering this commitment."

Question 14 from Councillor Sitkin to Councillor Charalambous, Cabinet Member for Young People and Culture, Leisure, Sports and the Olympics

"Can the Cabinet Member for Young People and Culture, Leisure, Sports and the Olympics please advise me whether the proposed relocation of Palmers Green library has been halted?"

Reply from Councillor Charalambous:

Since August 2009 when this unnecessary and ill conceived proposal was given credence by the equally ill fated Conservative administration of Enfield Council, I and a number of my fellow Labour Councillor colleagues received many comments and views from local residents in opposition to the library relocation which was to be carried out without any proper or meaningful consultation with local residents. Despite being presented as a fait accompli, I campaigned hard on this issue and I can confirm that one of the first things that this Labour administration did, when we took office on 7 May 2010, was to put a halt to the proposed relocation of Palmers Green Library. The Palmers Green library campaign contributed in no small measure to Labour's local election success and should serve as a salutary lesson to the Conservatives as to what happens when they arrogantly refuse to listen to the public; they were out of touch and are now out of office!

Question 15 from Councillor Zinkin to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment, Street Scene and Parks

"In the Labour Party's manifesto 'Making Enfield Better' the Labour Party gave a commitment to limit traffic speeds to 20 miles per hour in all residential roads near schools. This was an initiative piloted and rolled out by the previous Conservative administration; this is not a manifesto commitment with which we would disagree in principle. The issues regarding its further roll are ones of identification, prioritisation and cost. Would the cabinet member for Environment list the roads to be affected, indicate the likely costs of this exercise and whether such speed limits are to be imposed on such areas without further consultation. Over what period is this initiative to be rolled out?"

Reply from Councillor Bond:

As you are aware, this is a 4 year manifesto. It is only 8 weeks since we won and you lost the election. In your 8 years of power, you only got four 20 mph zones and seven part time 20 mph speed limits done. Currently a review of all schools is being undertaken to see when all schemes can be implemented. I

look forward to Cllr Zinkin's support when further information is available which will be circulated to the Council as and when decisions are made.

Question 16 from Councillor Bearryman to Councillor McGowan, Cabinet Member for Older People and Adult Social Services

"Does the Cabinet Member for Older People and Adult Social Services welcome the Carers Centre in Baker Street, Britannia House, which opened recently and what does he expect the centre to offer?"

Reply from Councillor McGowan:

The Carers Centre is indeed to be welcomed. Those who attended the opening on Monday, 14 June will have been impressed with the quality of the building and the adaptations undertaken and of the opportunity which this presents for developing a range of services for carers.

Interest has already been expressed in the newly opened centre, other local authorities have visited the centre and been impressed with what it has to offer.

The Carers Centre will be a focal point for carers in Enfield providing for a range of carers services from across the borough, to come together. The centre will provide an environment within which carers can access services ranging from information and advice to counselling and therapeutic support. The Centre also provides an environment in which carers can share their experiences in delivering these vital and important services in Enfield.

The Centre will also provide a place at which the voice of carers can be heard and from which carers can continue to engage with the Council in the development of service strategies and a range of opportunities for service improvement and development. This will be achieved through a growing membership of the Carers Centre Board which is the body established by the Council to take a lead role in developing and improving services for carers. The Carers Centre is now managed by the Carers Centre Board.

The main purpose of the centre is to support carers in continuing to remain able to sustain their caring role which as members will know, at a national level is estimated to save the state £67 billion per annum .

The carers Centre and carer's services provide a key part of the Council and HASC preventative services. centre will be a first point of access to the customer pathway and two assessment for services.

The work to be undertaken at the Carers Centre will increase the number of carers known to Enfield and will be the key agency in developing creative options for support to carers in their important work. The centre will play a key role in

facilitating a greater number of carers to identify themselves and to access support services.

The centre provides a base for training to be provided for carers to better understand their role as carers and to develop a relationship with both health and social care services. It is anticipated that there will be a significant role for the centre to play in developing carer's confidence and capacity to find their way back into the employment market if that is what they wish to do. Reducing isolation experienced by carers and navigating the councils systems for access to services and support in one place also count among the expected benefits from the opening of the Centre.

Question 17 from Councillor Rye OBE to Councillor Stafford, Cabinet Member for Finance, Facilities and Human Resources

“Would the Cabinet Member for Finance, Facilities and Human Resources confirm the number of staff employed directly by the council and by its schools, both full-time and part-time, together with the number of whole-time equivalents and in each case whether the costs of such staff are supported by third party grant funding.”

Reply from Councillor Stafford:

The Council employs 4192 non schools staff in 3611 full time equivalent posts. 2759 staff work full time and 1433 part time. A further 6224 are employed in schools in 4982 full time equivalent posts. 2912 work full time and 3312 part time.

The way records are held on the Council's SAP system does not directly link specific posts to the receipt of specific grants. In the time available to prepare this response, it has not been possible to prepare this analysis. However, I would be happy to arrange for this information to be sent to Cllr Rye as soon as it is available.

Question 18 from Councillor McCannah to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment, Street Scene and Parks

“In the Labour Party's manifesto 'Making Enfield Better' the Labour Party gave a commitment to 'implement prevention measures' to reduce fly-tipping. This was a priority for the previous Conservative administration; this is not a manifesto commitment with which we would disagree in principle. The issue concerns the effectiveness of measures, rather than mealy-mouthed promises. Would the Cabinet Member for Environment, Street Scene and Parks indicate what these 'prevention measures' are to be? Over what period is this initiative to be rolled out and what are the costs likely to be?”

Reply from Councillor Bond:

As you are aware, this is a 4 year manifesto. It is only 8 weeks since we won and you lost the election. Although this may have been a Conservative administration priority, you clearly failed to reduce flytipping as per the Green Party report. The closure of Carterhatch clearly increased flytipping particularly in the east of the Borough and we are looking with partners to put schemes in place to reduce flytipping. A further report will come forward to the appropriate forum when initial work is complete.

Question 19 from Councillor Smith to Councillor Oyken, Cabinet Member for Housing and Area Improvements

“In the Labour Party’s manifesto ‘Making Enfield Better’ the Labour Party gave a commitment to compulsory purchase derelict, empty homes. This was an initiative piloted and rolled out by the previous Conservative administration; this is not a manifesto commitment with which we would disagree in principle. The issues regarding its further roll are ones of identification, prioritisation and cost. Would the cabinet member for Housing and Area Improvements confirm how many properties in the borough lie derelict and empty and the likely costs to the council of compulsory purchasing them. Over what period is this initiative to be rolled out?”

Reply from Councillor Oyken:

As you are aware this is a 4 year Manifesto. As of April 2010, there were 3702 empty properties registered on the Council Tax database, 68% of these properties have been empty for 6months or more and 196 properties have been empty for 5 years or more.

Empty property audits are undertaken to determine the condition of the properties the last audit in 2007 revealed that 60 properties were deemed to be in a poor state of repair and a further 28 to be derelict or in severe disrepair. This information has formed the basis for the Enfield enforcement and CPO programme.

The costs involved in CPO activity are complex, and it cannot be assumed that dealing with every property will incur the same costs. However, the in-house legal cost for the processing the Orders are estimated at £3,750 per property. If there are objections and a Public Local Inquiry is required, a further cost in the region of £10,000 per property would be incurred.

The cost of property disposal is estimated at £3,500 per property this presumes an element of £1,500 for security and maintenance as needed.

Sales of properties at auction have resulted in fees being charged in the region of £750 per property. This estimate does not allow for the possibility of a contested valuation that cannot be negotiated to a settlement, which could go to the Lands Tribunal.

In practice, most properties subject to CPO are sold on prior to compensation being claimed. Therefore compensation due to an owner will be met from the proceeds of onward sale. However, The *Planning And Compulsory Purchase Act 2004* introduced an entitlement for former owners to claim basic loss payments of 7.5% of the value of the person's interest in the land, with a cap of £75k. The council has been able to avoid such liabilities for basic loss payments through the service of enforcement notices which negates an owners entitlement to claim such additional compensation.

A fifth CPO report comprising up to a further five properties is planned for submission to Cabinet and Council towards the end of 2010. A sixth CPO report is currently being scoped.

Question 20 from Councillor R Hayward to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment, Street Scene and Parks

"In the Labour Party's manifesto 'Making Enfield Better' the Labour Party gave a commitment to 'take action to reduce the Council's impact upon the environment'. We presume that the commitment is to take action to reduce the Council's 'negative' impact upon the environment rather than to reduce its positive impact and if that is the case it is not a commitment with which we would disagree in principle. The issue concerns the effectiveness of such action, rather than mealy-mouthed promises. Would the cabinet member for Environment, Street Scene and Parks confirm what action is to be taken, what the cost to the Council would be of taking such action and when it is to be taken?"

Reply from Councillor Bond:

As you are aware, this is a 4 year manifesto. The first part of this Labour manifesto's commitment to reduce the Council's impact upon the environment has been fulfilled by winning the election. Again, I look forward to Cllr Hayward's support in the future when further reports, which will not be mealy-mouthed promises, come back to the Council for their consideration.

Question 21 from Councillor Zetter to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment, Street Scene and Parks

"In the Labour Party's manifesto 'Making Enfield Better' the Labour Party gave a commitment to granting pensioner discounts on CPZ permits. Would the cabinet member for Environment, Street Scene and Parks confirm the level of discount, when this is to be introduced and the likely costs to the Council of implementing such a measure?"

Reply from Councillor Bond:

As you are aware, this is a 4 year manifesto. It is only 8 weeks since we won and you lost the election so we are unable to give a level of discount within CPZs at the moment.

Question 22 from Councillor Prescott to Councillor Bond the Cabinet Member for Environment, Street Scene and Parks

“In the Labour Party’s manifesto ‘Making Enfield Better’ the Labour Party gave a commitment to encourage residents to reduce their waste and give them the means to recycle more. In principle this all sounds acceptable. The issue concerns the effectiveness of measures which achieve this encouragement, rather than mealy-mouthed promises. Would the Cabinet Member for Environment, Street Scene and Parks confirm what measures are to be introduced to encourage residents to reduce their waste, what means are to be given to residents to recycle more, when these measures and means are to be introduced and what their likely cost is?”

Reply from Councillor Bond:

As you are aware, this is a 4 year manifesto. I do not believe you will use a phrase like mealy-mouthed promises in a question to Council, so to whoever wrote this question, the answer is we are looking at various means of educating waste across the Borough with partners and will bring forward reports to Council for consideration later in the 4 year cycle.

Question 23 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Bond the Cabinet Member for Environment, Street Scene and Parks

“Will the Cabinet Member for Environment, Street Scene and Parks give a commitment to residents to maintain weekly refuse collections for the next four years, ‘Yes’ or ‘No’? A one word answer is requested.”

Reply from Councillor Bond:

The Conservative Party produced leaflets in the last local election, which you lost, stating that it was Labour Party policy to collect the refuse on a fortnightly basis which is completely untrue. Does this mean that Cllr Laban did not believe what she was pushing through people’s doors and why did the leaflets misrepresent the position?

Question 24 from Councillor Vince to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment, Street Scene and Parks

“In the Labour Party’s manifesto ‘Making Enfield Better’ the Labour Party gave a commitment to recognise and tackle the number of stray dogs and cats in our neighbourhoods and to work with partners to identify and implement remedies. Would the Cabinet Member for Environment confirm how many stray dogs and cats there are in the Borough and provide the source of the statistic? Who are the partners he is going to work with to identify and implement remedies?”

Reply from Councillor Bond:

As you are aware, this is a 4 year manifesto. The Council’s contractor advises that we have over 400 stray animals a year in Enfield. If Cllr Vince wishes to assist us in any way to deal with this problem, ie counting animals as she has a lot of spare time at the moment, we are more than happy to accommodate her. Since winning the elections which you lost, we have relet an enhanced contract for stray cats and dogs and we will continue running our Top Dog scheme across the Borough.

Question 25 from Councillor Lavender to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council

“In the Labour Party’s manifesto ‘Making Enfield Better’ the Labour Party gave a commitment to allocating a fund to residents in each ward to prioritise how to spend and improve where they live. This is to be an average of £100,000 per ward in each year, costing £2.1m each year. Would the Leader of the Council confirm whether this is to be additional money or whether it is to be vired from existing budgets and if so from which budgets. Would he confirm whether this expenditure is to be of a revenue or capital nature. Given the commitment to delivering this ‘each year’ would he confirm for how many years this initiative is to run. Given the reference to ‘average’ would he confirm whether it is his intention that some wards get more money than others. If this is the case which wards are to get more than others? Would he confirm the decision making procedure to be put in place to give effect to this initiative?”

Reply from Councillor Taylor:

As you are aware, this is a 4 year manifesto. Proposals are currently being prepared by officers to bring this manifesto commitment to life, and I will make an announcement on the details of this scheme in due course.

Question 26 from Councillor D Pearce to Councillor Oykenor, Cabinet Member for Housing and Area Improvements

“In the Labour Party’s manifesto ‘Making Enfield Better’ the Labour Party gave a commitment to allocating ring-fenced funds to each estate for tenants and leaseholders to decide how that money is to be spent to improve their areas. Would the Cabinet Member for Housing and Area Improvements confirm whether this is to be additional money or whether it is to be vired from existing budgets and if so from which budgets. Would he confirm whether this expenditure is to be of a revenue or capital nature. Would he confirm the decision making procedure to be put in place to give effect to this initiative?”

Reply from Councillor Oykenor:

As you are aware this is a 4 year Manifesto. Enfield Council is proposing to invest some £15m revenue funding and £55m of capital funding into the housing stock and it's estates in 2010/11 managed through Enfield Homes.

Enfield Homes are committed to listen to the views of it's residents on how this investment should be prioritised generally and provision will be made within these budgets for devolving some of this funding to area and estate level to provide residents with real choices that can make a real difference. Enfield Council and Enfield Homes are currently discussing how this might be best achieved and provide best value for money.

It is proposed that the Area Panels and Tenant & Resident Associations will be key in this local decision making process.

Question 27 from Councillor Waterhouse to Councillor Georgiou, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Public and Service Delivery

“In the Labour Party’s manifesto ‘Making Enfield Better’ the Labour Party gave a commitment to making the Council accessible. This is a laudable objective with which the Conservative opposition would not disagree. However it is very easy to make non-specific promises of a mealy-mouthed and uncostered nature. Would the Cabinet Member for Public and Service Delivery confirm exactly what measures the Labour Party has in mind, when they are likely to be implemented and their likely cost?”

Reply from Councillor Georgiou:

As you aware this is a 4 year manifesto. We are determined to reconnect Enfield Council with its people, being an open and accessible organisation that listens to local people and shapes services around their needs.

Our first priority is to embed a culture within the organisation where everyone recognises the value of placing the community first, working as one team and being ambitious in what is possible to achieve, even in tough financial times. There are excellent people working for Enfield Council who are totally committed to serving local people well but we recognise that customers currently get an inconsistent service. By leading a cultural change within the council in the first instance, we deliver equality of access and experience and fairness for all.

Question 28 from Councillor Kaye to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services

"In the Labour Party's manifesto 'Making Enfield Better' the Labour Party gave a commitment to introducing a free school meals pilot scheme. Can the Cabinet Member for Education confirm when this pilot scheme is to be introduced, where it is to be introduced and the likely costs of such a scheme."

Reply from Councillor Orhan:

As you are aware, this is a four year manifesto. Work is currently underway in order to determine the arrangements for introducing the free school meals pilot scheme. I will be pleased to provide Councillor Kay with more details of the scheme once we have concluded our discussions, including discussions with schools, to include information about the nature, timing and estimated costs of implementing this commitment.

Question 29 from Councillor East to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services

"In the Labour Party's manifesto 'Making Enfield Better' the Labour Party gave a commitment to restoring school uniform grants. Would the Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services confirm from when this is to take effect and what the likely cost is to be.

Reply from Councillor Orhan:

As you are aware, this is a four year manifesto. Work is currently underway to finalise the arrangements for implementing our commitment to re-introduce school uniform grants. I will be pleased to provide Councillor East with details of the scheme once we have concluded this work to include information about the timing and estimated costs of the arrangements.

Question 30 from Councillor E Savva to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services

"In the Labour Party's manifesto 'Making Enfield Better' the Labour Party gave a commitment to providing allotment land for schools. Which allotments have been

identified by the Labour Party as suitable for school children to use and what risk assessments or consultation with existing allotment holders has been carried out?”

Reply from Councillor Orhan:

As you are aware, this is a four year manifesto. Work is currently underway between officers in Education, Children's Services and Leisure and in Place Shaping and Enterprise in order to make allotments available to schools in a safe and attractive manner and in consultation with existing allotment holders. I will be pleased to provide Councillor Savva with more information shortly about the implementation of this manifesto commitment.

Question 31 from Councillor E Hayward to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services

“In the Labour Party's manifesto 'Making Enfield Better' the Labour Party gave a commitment to employ 'detached youth workers'. Would the Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services explain what a 'detached youth worker' is, how many the Council aims to employ, when it aims to employ them and what the likely cost of such an initiative is?”

Reply from Councillor Orhan:

As you are aware, this is a four year manifesto. A detached youth work team would engage young people congregating on the streets and other public places in various locations in the borough

The team would enthuse and motivate these young people to engage in positive activities that result in learning and achievement, develop life skills and involve them in community leadership and volunteering.

Officers of the Council are preparing a project proposal outlining how this can be achieved by a combination of re-profiling the use of existing resources and additional investment of £50k from 2011/12.

Question 32 from Councillor Barker to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services

“In the Labour Party's manifesto 'Making Enfield Better' the Labour Party gave a commitment to creating a 'Youth Achievement Foundation'. Would the Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services explain what a 'Youth Achievement Foundation' is, when she intends to establish it and what the likely costs of it are to be?”

Reply from Councillor Orhan:

As you are aware, this is a 4 year manifesto. The authority is investigating the work of the Leading Youth Work charity, UK Youth who have been recently opening the latest Youth Achievement Foundation™ at UK Youth's headquarters, Avon Tyrrell Activity Centre in Hampshire. Youth Achievement Foundations are unique due to them being created around UK Youth's highly successful non-formal curriculum. The young people who attend a Youth Achievement Foundation are recommended by their Local Education Authority and are either excluded or at risk of exclusion. UK Youth are opening 10 foundations across England through the period 2008-2011. This commitment could make a real difference to the young people of Enfield and ensure that excluded young people are given an opportunity to access education pathways. A full evaluation of this approach will be undertaken first before we invite UK Youth into Enfield.

Question 33 from Councillor Jukes to Councillor Oykenner, Cabinet Member for Housing and Area Improvements

“In the Labour Party's manifesto 'Making Enfield Better' the Labour Party stated that they would make it a requirement that all houses in multiple occupation and new buildings over 3 stories high have fire sprinkles [sic] installed. Would the Cabinet Member for Environment inform the Council of the legal means by which it can insist on the installation of sprinklers as a condition of planning consent and secondly in relation to existing houses in multiple occupation?”

Reply from Councillor Oykenner:

As you are aware this is a four year manifesto. We are committed to engaging with the private sector landlords and agents who have property in Enfield and working with them to create a vibrant and good quality private rental sector.

The current minimum standard of fire safety for a house in multiple occupation includes:-

- communal area emergency lighting
- obstruction free escape routes
- exit signs and exit doors leading to openable space without use of key
- fire doors and with fire resisting construction
- interlinked smoke detectors and alarms that provide early warning signals

We intend to use the partnerships, which have already achieved improvements in the quality of private sector property management, as exemplified by a reduction in evictions from privately rented properties, to drive further change.

We will seek to pursue best practice and through our partnership working with landlords and agents will be seeking to drive up the standards beyond the statutory minimum.

Question 34 from Councillor Headley to Councillor Goddard, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Improving Localities

“In the Labour Party’s manifesto ‘Making Enfield Better’ the Labour Party gave a commitment to use income from business rents to help regenerate Enfield’s economy. Would the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Improving Localities confirm how much income as a percentage is to be so used and how exactly it is to be employed to regenerate Enfield’s economy?”

Reply from Councillor Goddard:

As you are aware, this is a 4 year manifesto. It will only be possible to consider how we can best support economic growth in Enfield once we have the full picture of income available to the Council. A key element of this, of course, will be decisions made by the National Coalition Government who have already cut the Local Authority Business Growth Initiative (LAGBI) and the Future Jobs Fund whilst the Working Neighbourhoods Fund is under review. As part of our approach to support businesses, the Cabinet Member for Finance is currently reviewing the existing hardship scheme criteria.

Question 35 from Councillor Hurer to Councillor Goddard, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Improving Localities

“In the Labour Party’s manifesto ‘Making Enfield Better’ the Labour Party gave a commitment to use ring-fenced area based grants to encourage business development. Would the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Improving Localities confirm who will be making the grants, to whom they will be granted and the size of the grants?”

Reply from Councillor Goddard:

As you are aware, this is a 4 year manifesto. The question suggests a misunderstanding that we will be providing grants to businesses – this is not the case. In the light of Government cuts particularly to the Area based Grant, the Council will have to examine, with other partners, the use of both ringfenced and non ringfenced grants to achieve key priorities including social exclusion and the stimulation of investment.

Question 36 from Councillor Prescott to Councillor Goddard, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Improving Localities

“In the Labour Party’s manifesto ‘Making Enfield Better’ the Labour Party gave a commitment to developing a Retail Police Scheme. Would the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Improving Localities confirm the particulars of such a scheme, its likely cost and who will pay for it?”

Reply from Councillor Goddard:

As you are aware, this is a 4 year manifesto. It is the intention to work closely with the Borough Commander and to strengthen existing arrangements to ensure that we have safer and more secure town centres and industrial estates. As previously stated, we are undertaking a comprehensive review of priorities in the light of the government's cut-backs in funding to local authorities. We shall continue to work closely with Enfield Business and Retailers Association to extend the existing initiatives to combat crime in our town centre.

Question 37 from Councillor Lavender to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council

"In the Labour Party's manifesto 'Making Enfield Better' the Labour Party gave a commitment to give residents control over their local Community Forums. Would the Leader of the Council indicate what exactly is to be controlled by residents and how and when this decision is to be implemented?"

Reply from Councillor Taylor:

As you are aware, this is a 4 year manifesto. We will look at the best way to involve residents and will reflect on the feedback we have had in the past on Area Forums. No decision has yet been made on how best to do this.

Question 38 from Councillor Joannides to Councillor McGowan, Cabinet Member for Older People and Adult Social Services

"In the Labour Party's manifesto 'Making Enfield Better' the Labour Party gave a commitment to creating an older people carer's centre. Would the Cabinet Member for Older People and Adult Social Services confirm the likely cost of such a proposal, where it is proposed to be located and whether a business plan has been created to ascertain its cost effectiveness?"

Reply from Councillor McGowan

As you are aware this is a 4 year manifesto.

The development of a carers centre for the people of Enfield, and the opening of the centre on Monday 14th June 2010, is a welcome addition to the range of carers services made available by the Council.

I recognised there has always been cross party consensus (and the willingness of central Government to commit resources to this area) in relation to the valuable contribution which carers make in Enfield and the development of the Carers Centre now implements proposals which were developed under the previous administration with cross Party support. Both political parties were

present at the opening of the Centre and have supported the work of the Carers Centre Board in bringing this proposal to fruition.

The annual costs of the carers centre are estimated to be:

- cost of premises, adaptations and equipment -- £80k
- staffing costs for the appointment of a chief executive officer and appropriate support -- £72k
- premises running costs (i.e. gas and electricity) £72k

These costs will continue to be met from existing resources and there is strong evidence that providing support that enables carers to continue in their caring role significantly reduces the cost of care the State might otherwise need to provide.

Members will know that the carers centre was officially opened by the Mayor on Monday, 14 June. The centre is located at Britannia house on Baker Street. It is located in an adapted building close to the centre of Enfield with good communication and its location and subsequent adaptation, followed extensive consultation with carers and with the Carers Centre Board. Britannia House is a building in Council ownership and its use for this purpose makes best use of this resource.

The Carers Centre Board is now well established with Board membership and the election of officers, confirmed at an AGM in April 2010. The Board is developing as a user led organisation, to advocate for and meet the needs of some 29,000 carers in Enfield. The Board is a registered company and is close to achieving charitable status. Commissioners in health and adult social care are providing direction and support to the Carers Centre Board. A service and funding agreement is planned to be agreed by the Board on Monday 21st of June 2010 and further support will now be provided to the board to assist in the production of a business plan which will implement the service priorities identified within the service and funding agreement. These service priorities are drawn from the draft Enfield Carers Strategy and are aligned with the National Carers Strategy to deliver improvements in the medium term. They will be funded from earmarked resources identified within the carers service budget.

Members will wish to note that funding for carers of services was provided through a dedicated Carers Grant which is now identified as a specific source of investment by the Council within the Area Based Grant. The cost effectiveness of services provided will be subject to annual review and the service and funding agreement includes opportunities for research activity to be undertaken under the Boards direction and in partnership with commissioners, to evidence the effectiveness of continued and further investment in this key preventative service.

Question 39 from Councillor Lamprecht to Councillor Goddard, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Improving Localities

“In the Labour Party’s manifesto ‘Making Enfield Better’ the Labour Party gave a commitment to developing the alleygating scheme in shopping areas. Would the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Improving Localities confirm the likely cost of such a scheme and who will pay for it?”

Reply from Councillor Goddard:

As you are aware this is a 4 year manifesto. It is only 8 weeks since we won and you lost the election, the figures are not yet available.