

COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS

22 September 2010

Question 1 from Councillor E Savva to Councillor Bond Cabinet Member for Environment, Street Scene and Parks

The previous Conservative administration planted many trees in Edmonton in the period of the last administration to improve the air quality and environment. Will the current administration be continuing with the tree planting programme, in particular in Edmonton to help improve life quality and expectancy?

Reply from Councillor Bond

I can confirm that this administration is continuing to improve both the air quality and environment through the planting of trees on a borough wide basis. The allocation of £150k for planting new trees, funded from this financial year's Borough Capital Programme has all been committed with the Council's Arboricultural Contractor. In addition, we have recently secured money from the Mayor's Woodland Trust specifically for the Edmonton area. We are also receiving a contribution from our Highway Works Contractor of a planted tree per tonne of CO2 produced by their contract in Enfield; within the last year equating to a further 140 trees to be planted.

Question 2 from Councillor Simon to Councillor Georgiou, the Cabinet Member for Public and Service Delivery

"In the Revenue Outturn report for 2009/10 that went to Cabinet on 14 July, it is reported that there was an overspend in the production of additional issues to the Our Enfield magazine. Can you comment on this?"

Reply from Councillor Georgiou

The original budget for Our Enfield 2009/2010 was set on the basis of 6 issues a year. Last year, the Administration wanted to increase the frequency to 10 issues, resulting in an overspend.

However, this year we will be going back to 6 editions due to the financial cut backs. In addition we also propose to reduce by 10% all other marketing budgets

Reply from Councillor Taylor

"The Council has considered the consultation and has responded to the questionnaire attached to the consultation paper."

A copy of the response has been placed in the Members Lounge. I have not had the opportunity to seek the views of the youth offending team as to how the replacing of one Youth Panel with 9 will impact on young defendant. In Enfield in-house legal very rarely prosecute young offenders so we have no comments.

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

"The priorities for the Department for Community and Local Government include 'giving people more say, choice and ownership of their local facilities and services'. Can you point to a new initiative of the Council which will assist with this?"

Reply from Councillor Taylor

As an administration we are committed to a more area based approach with our Ward funding proposals.

Question 5 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Bond Cabinet Member for Environment, Street Scene and Parks

The Secretaries of State for Local Government and Transport have recently written to borough leaders encouraging them to pursue the policy started by the Conservative administration in Enfield of de-cluttering our streets. Will he confirm to council that it is his intention to continue to pursue this policy in Enfield and if so can he provide a costed action plan?

Reply from Councillor Bond

As part of the Council's routine highway inspections, our Highways Officers are continuing to identify and remove any item of street furniture which is considered to be redundant or of no value. All roads in Enfield will now have been inspected at least once on this basis since this practice started under the Conservative administration, and therefore subsequent inspections will generate reduced levels

Question 6 from Councillor Simbodyal to Councillor Oykenner, Cabinet Member for Housing and Area Improvement

"Can you comment on the suggestion of the Chartered Institute of Housing that the caps on housing benefit will hit low income households hard during the recession precisely when they are most in need of support; and can you comment on the specific impact on Enfield?"

Reply from Councillor Oykenner

The Council is currently working with other London Boroughs to estimate the impact of the Coalition Government's proposed benefit changes and the impact on Enfield's residents.

The caps on Housing Benefits will see a reduction in the amount of benefit paid and if the reduction cannot be met from other household income, it is likely that many families will see an increase in rent arrears. It is likely that this will bring increased demand on Council services to advise and assist low income families with debt management and with negotiations with landlords to help them stay in their homes.

In addition, there is a strong possibility that families from high rental areas like Westminster and Camden, will be drawn to suburban boroughs like Enfield, as the housing benefit caps make renting in the private sector in central London extremely difficult.

An increase in families and vulnerable households moving to Enfield will increase the pressure on other services such as health, social care and education.

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

How much was invested from the Council's capital programme on schools in Enfield in the years:

2002-03

2003-04

Reply from Councillor Orhan

2002-03	£17.7m
2003-04	£12.3m
2004-05	£18.6m
2005-06	£23.9m
2006-07	£23.1m
2007-08	£30.5m
2008-09	£33.5m
2009-2010	£28.4m

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

Will Cllr Orhan join me in saying a huge thanks to the hard work and dedication to Enfield school children whom, along with many other school children have excelled in achieving our best ever academic results?

Reply from Councillor Orhan

We are all delighted with the results this year and are particularly pleased to note the improvements in the early year's foundation stage, at GCSE and at A level. For example the percentage of young people achieving 5 GCSE A* - C including English and Maths has gone up this year to 55.6% from 50.4% in 2009 and over 97% of the A levels entered resulted in a pass.

I am happy to join Councillor Uzoanya in congratulating Enfield school children and I would also like to thank the teachers and the staff of all the schools as well Local Authority officers for all their support in achieving these results.

Question 9 from Councillor Rye to Councillor Orhan Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services

Would the Cabinet Member join the Conservative Group in congratulating schools in Enfield on the excellent public examination results they have achieved this year? Would she confirm that during the Conservative Administration 2002-2010 Public Exam results in Enfield improved significantly and therefore will she acknowledge the excellent leadership of Councillor Vince in this portfolio during this period?

(Provisional based on returns from schools) an increase of 27.4 percentage points.

The average point score for Enfield in 2004 was 332.3 by 2009 this had improved to 401.3. The 2010 information on average point score, is as yet incomplete, but should be available in October.

The percentage of 5 A*-C grades including English and mathematics has been reported since 2005. In 2005 43.0% of pupils in Enfield were getting 5A*-C grades including English and mathematics, the provisional figures in 2010 indicate that this is 55.6% of pupils and increase of 12.6 percentage points.

A-Level tables have been made available through the DfE web site since 2004. Reporting has been of average point score per student and average point score per entry. The point scoring system changed in 2006 to reflect the inclusion of a range of qualifications in addition to A levels.

In 2006 the average point score per examination entry in Enfield was 204.8, in 2010 the provisional figures would indicate a point score per entry of 221.9, this may change as appeals and additional qualifications are reported. The final figures will be published in January 2011.

I can confirm that Councillor Vince enjoyed a period in Office where the Labour Government through funding and policy initiatives greatly supported the young people of the borough.

Question 10 from Councillor Levy to Councillor Anwar, Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion and Capacity Building in the Third Sector

“Now that you are fully established into your portfolio position, what is your considered assessment of the previous Conservative Administration's performance in terms of its relationship with and support for the voluntary sector; and what are your main plans for developing new and innovative measures to ensure that the community and voluntary sector will have the capacity to make a full, proper, and effective contribution to the health and wealth of the most vulnerable people in our Borough, so demonstrating that true community cohesion is achieved through actions.

Reply from Councillor Anwar

conference will be part of the open dialogue that I intend to foster as Lead Cabinet Member between the Council, Partners and the Third Sector so that we can deal with challenges together.

The Labour Administration is demonstrating its commitment to building additional capacity in the Third Sector by investing up to £1.9 million in a diverse programme of support.

Question 11 from Councillor E Hayward to Councillor Bond Cabinet Member for Environment, Street Scene and Parks

Can Councillor Bond say when the lighting columns in Hoppers Road will be operational? The columns have been erected for several months, but no lamps have been fitted and the road is not properly lit.

Reply from Councillor Bond

The Street Lighting Client-Side team will normally only issue instructions on complete roads in terms of design for installation and connection. However, as you are aware there have been particular problems in agreeing the design for Hoppers Road around Winchmore Hill Green area. This has led to a large part of the road having the columns installed but not connected whilst officers attempted to get agreement to the design around the Green. You yourself have been at a number of site meetings with residents and the Conservation Advisory Group in an attempt to agree the style and position of columns whilst ensuring that necessary lighting levels are met. It is my understanding that there have been a number of different designs submitted and rejected although I now believe the situation is nearing agreement. However, I have instructed officers to release the length of Hoppers Road to the North of Bourne Hill to EDF for connection and completion.

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

"The Secretary of State for DCLG has been critical of public bodies spending money on lobbyists. Did the previous administration engage lobbyists and, if so, what was the cost to the Council?"

Reply from Councillor Taylor

Question 13 from Councillor Rye to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services

Will Councillor Orhan inform the council how many children in Enfield in both the primary and secondary sector who are presently without a school place? Would she also confirm that the outgoing Labour Government refused to heed cross-party representations by London Councils that more money was required especially to build new primary schools and provided only a derisory amount to a small number of boroughs in London?

Reply from Councillor Orhan

Information provided on the 3rd September shows that there are currently 94 Reception children without an offer, with 56 children whose parents have chosen to reject the place their child had been allocated. None of the children concerned have reached statutory school age. 47 vacancies remain in the system.

Applications for school places are still being received, as is common after the summer vacation. This administration will make strenuous efforts to provide a school place for every child.

As a Cabinet member for Education and Children's services it is clear to me, as it is to others in Enfield that the previous Conservative administration failed to adequately plan for school places – a failure which the Council's newly elected Labour administration is having to manage.

I recognise the Labour Government's successful Building Schools for the Future programme, which the Conservative-Liberal Democratic Government has cut – a decision that will have disastrous implications for education and children's schooling'.

Question 14 from Councillor Sitkin to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment, Street Scene and Parks

Would Councillor Bond explain the conclusions he has drawn from his review of the old Climate Change Board, and how he will use this process to improve LBE's environmental performance.

Reply from Councillor Bond

Question 15 from Councillor R Hayward to Councillor. Bond Cabinet Member for Environment, Street Scene and Parks

Would Councillor Bond agree that the decision he made to limit the collection of bulky waste to six items per household in any calendar year is likely to lead to more fly-tipping and increase the council's administrative costs due to the need to monitor this limit on bulky waste collections?

Reply from Councillor Bond

NO

Question 16 from Councillor Levy to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services

Will Councillor Orhan also clarify whether such efforts are likely to be sustained over the coming years now that the Building Schools for the Future funding has ended and the growing likelihood that schools will receive less money under the present government than last?

Reply from Councillor Orhan

Clearly, the untimely demise of the BSF programme has left the Authority in a very difficult position. We are currently working on a new strategy for providing pupil places in both the primary and secondary sectors but we are unable to confirm a new strategy until we have the details of the Government's new capital programme. Following the Secretary of States decision in the summer the Government has launched a comprehensive review of all capital investment in schools, colleges and VI forms. The review is being led by Sebastian James, Group Operations Director of DSG International plc. The James Review will guide all future spending decisions over the next Spending Review period (2011-2012 to 2014-2015). It will look at how best to meet parental demand; make current design and procurement cost-effective and efficient; and overhaul how capital is allocated and targeted. The review commenced July 2010 and will report to ministers mid-Sept with a forward plan for capital investment over the next spending review period being produced by the end of the calendar year. I await the outcome with interest and I hope that it provides the resources we need to give our young people the very best opportunities that they deserve.

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

Would Councillor Bond explain the positive sustainability effects of our new parking fee structure, particularly in regards to 4x4 vehicles.

Reply from Councillor Bond

Cabinet recently considered a report on parking charges and a number of proposals could have a positive sustainability effect, in particular the idea of linking charges for residents parking permits to engine size or CO2 emissions as an incentive to encourage residents to move towards owning less polluting vehicles.

We have consulted widely on our proposals and the responses are currently being evaluated. We will listen carefully to all of the responses raised before deciding how the charging structure should be changed. Whilst I am committed to try and reduce harmful vehicles emissions and feel that parking charges could play a role, I am also mindful that many poorer people own older cars and any new system that we introduce must be fair.

Question 19 From Councillor Jukes to Councillor Bond Cabinet Member for Environment, Street Scene and Parks

Would Councillor Bond explain to the Council why changes to waste collection, a vital service to all residents, which necessitates huge expenditure has not been the subject of a full report to Cabinet and Council to allow democratic scrutiny of this big change to waste collection?

Reply from Councillor Bond

The decision to make a change in the waste collection service was made by Cabinet in October 2008 (KD2656) when the decision to introduce a wheeled bin service was approved by the previous administration that you were part

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

Will Councillor Bond provide an indication as to whether the Council has a

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

Would Councillor Bond explain why the Labour Group wish to impose wheeled bins for all properties, irrespective of the suitability to store these in a manner that will not damage the street scene. Will he undertake to reconsider Labour's plans to take into account:

- Single person households which may require smaller bins
- Maisonettes
- Terraced properties with small or no front garden?

Reply from Councillor Bond

As part of the review of the wheeled bin scheme to date, residents views were sought via a comprehensive resident survey carried out by an independent company. In particular the views of residents in small fronted properties were sought and in all instances the levels of satisfaction with the wheeled bin service exceeded 82%. Wheeled bins will only be provided where they can be stored on the property to allow for ease of access and safe use and also placed on the boundary for collection. Further for those residents in maisonettes we are to provide them all with information encouraging them to share bins and to notify the Council of this in advance of the delivery (details are provided in the letter and booklet which will be delivered during September for the next phase).

From September 8th displays of wheeled bins will be going out to key locations in the next phase of the roll out for residents to see. Residents can then request the 'slim line' bins or request to share bins in advance of the delivery. Further details will follow in the letter and booklet which will be delivered in September.

Question 22 from Councillor Levy to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services

Earlier this month, a Conservative Councillor in the West Midlands defected to Labour, specifically over cuts to the Government's schools building programme.

Would the Cabinet Member care to invite members of the minority party in this Council to be similarly honest to themselves, by admitting to their own misgivings, and by following the action taken by Elaine Corrigan of Sandwell Council in

Question 23 from Councillor East to Councillor Anwar Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion and Capacity Building in the Third Sector

Would Councillor Anwar inform the council which items in the Community Cohesion and Capacity Building in the Third Sector capital programme 2010-12 that you will not be proceeding with and explain the rationale for cutting any item in the programme.

Reply from Councillor Anwar

There has been no formal decision to cut any specific projects from the programme and we are still awaiting the outcome of the Spending Review

Question 24 from Councillor Cranfield to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services

The Academies Bill, passed in July allows schools in England that were given an outstanding rating to convert to academy status in time for September. Nationally earlier in the summer 1,100 schools registered interest. Can Councillor Orhan tell us how many schools actually transferred to academy status in September?

Reply from Councillor Orhan

As a result of the new Academies Bill, one school became an Academy by 1st of September.

Question 25 from Councillor Delman to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services

Would Councillor Orhan inform the Council which items in the Education and Children's Services capital programme 2010-12 you will not be proceeding with and explain the rationale for cutting any item in the programme.

Reply by Councillor Orhan

There has been no formal decision to cut any specific projects from the programme and we are still awaiting the outcome of the Spending Review

Question 26 from Councillor Deacon to Councillor Charalambous. Cabinet

Reply from Councillor Charalambous

I would like to thank Councillor Deacon for his question / comment. The development of the new Enfield Youth Parliament will provide our young people with an important platform to participate in the democratic and strategic decision making processes that will shape the borough over the next four years. I would also like to urge all fellow councillors to support this development encouraging our young residents to become the leaders of tomorrow.

Question 27 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Chris Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment, Street Scene and Parks

Would Councillor Bond inform the Council which items in the Environment, Street Scene and Parks capital programme 2010-12 you will not be proceeding with and explain the rationale for cutting any item in the programme.

Reply from Councillor Bond

The Council's capital programme is under review, as part of the spending review this Administration is currently conducting. We are a new Administration, with new priorities, very clear aspirations for all parts of our society and a tough financial climate to deal with. Therefore, it is only right that we consider carefully how the capital programme can be used to meet the real needs of this borough, and we will over the coming months continue with the work to consult our local communities to gauge their views and ideas before making any final decisions.

I should also explain that we have decided to put on hold the project to renovate the park at Forty Hall, simply because at the present time we need to focus on our most pressing capital requirements, especially additional school places and much regeneration of the most deprived parts of the borough. That decision will be brought to full Council in due course in the normal way

Question 28 from Councillor Bearryman to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment

Please give the Council and update on the recent success of Enfield in Bloom?

Reply from Councillor Bond

Business Premises Award - winner the West Lodge Park Hotel

Capital Growth award - winner, The Radiomarathon Centre

The many volunteers and staff involved are to be congratulated on these excellent results

Question 29 from Councillor Hall to Councillor Stafford, Cabinet Member for Finance, Facilities and Human Resources

Would Councillor Stafford inform the Council which items in the Finance, Facilities and Human Resources capital programme 2010-12 you will not be proceeding with and explain the rationale for cutting any item in the programme

Reply from Councillor Stafford

There has been no formal decision to cut any specific projects from the programme and we are still awaiting the outcome of the Spending Review

Question 30 from Councillor Smith to Councillor Oyken, Cabinet Member for Housing and Area Improvements

Would Councillor Oyken inform the Council which items in the Housing and Area Improvements capital programme 2010-12 you will not be proceeding with and explain the rationale for cutting any item in the programme

Reply from Councillor Oyken

There has been no formal decision to cut any specific projects from the programme and we are still awaiting the outcome of the Spending Review

Question 31 from Councillor Joannides to Councillor McGowan, Cabinet Member for Older People and Adult Social Services

Would Councillor McGowan inform the Council which items in the Older People and Adult Social Services capital programme 2010-12 you will not be proceeding with and explain the rationale for cutting any item in the programme

Reply from Councillor McGowan

Reply from Councillor Goddard

There has been no formal decision to cut any specific projects from the programme and we are still awaiting the outcome of the Spending Review

Question 33 from Councillor Joannides to Councillor Charalambous, Cabinet Member for Young People and Culture, Leisure, Sports and the Olympics

Would Councillor Charalambous inform the Council which items in the Young People and Culture, Leisure, Sports and the Olympics capital programme 2010-12 you will not be proceeding with and explain the rationale for cutting any item in the programme

Reply from Councillor Charalambous

There has been no formal decision to cut any specific projects from the programme and we are still awaiting the outcome of the Spending Review

Question 34 from Councillor Hall to Councillor Stafford, Cabinet Member for Finance, Facilities and Human Resources

Grant Thornton's Report on the 2009/10 Annual Statement of Accounts which covered the period under Conservative Control confirms that the council performed well with respect to its financial performance and maintained robust budgetary control, it has good arrangements in place to comply with corporate governance and that an unqualified conclusion was reached with respect to value for money. This is pretty much as good as it gets and reflects extremely well on the previous Conservative administration. Does the Cabinet Member disagree with that conclusion?

Reply from Councillor Stafford

"I welcome this report from Grant Thornton, which reflects very positively on the hard work done by all Councillors and officers to ensure that the Council manages its resources as effectively and efficiently as possible. The production of the accounts is a huge and increasingly complex task, and I would like to thank the many staff, in all departments, as well as some of our partners, who have contributed to this work. I have every expectation and intention that this excellent

payers funds before doing so and that such risk register is available to the audit committee?

Reply from Councillor Stafford

Grant Thornton has recently completed a review into how the Council manages risk in partnership working. As Councillor Delman will know, this was reported to the Audit Committee on 9th September.

The review concluded that “Overall, the Council has a robust risk management framework for managing risks in partnership working.” As with all audit reviews, there were suggestions for improvement and an action plan has been drawn up and agreed with Grant Thornton (also reported to the Audit Committee). One action point relates to the maintenance of a risk register log to ensure that all significant partnerships have a ‘live’ risk register. This will be actioned by 31 December 2010 and regularly reviewed. I am also pleased to say that on 9 September, the Audit Committee agreed that this was an area that we would work closely together on, so that in all our dealings with partners we have a proportionate commissioning and risk management process.

Question 36 from Councillor T Neville to Councillor Bond Cabinet Member for Environment, Street Scene and Parks

In relation to the bulky waste service, could the Cabinet Member please tell the Council the numbers of requests received for first, second and third collections in the year 2008-9?

Could he please indicate how many in each of the categories for both years 2008-9 and 2009-10 are said to be “abusers”?

Reply from Councillor Bond

Number of bulky waste service requests (excluding white goods) per household per annum (2008/9 and 2009/10)

	1	2	3	4	5
No. of requests 2008-09	7,305	2,216	483	92	15

Question 37 from Councillor Hall to Councillor Stafford, Cabinet Member for Finance, Facilities and Human Resources

Grant Thornton's Report on the 2009/10 Annual Statement of Accounts makes a second recommendation that the Council needs to identify and deliver new ways of increasing productivity and improving efficiency. Will the Cabinet member confirm what those new ways of increasing productivity and improving efficiency are likely to be?

Reply from Councillor Stafford

The LEANER programme continues to identify opportunities to increase the quality of services, our efficiency and the capabilities and skills of staff. We are using a number of tools to increase productivity and efficiency including the use of IT for more efficient working, integrating with and supporting the voluntary sector and other partners, shared services, more self-service options online, better procurement and contract management, reducing costs of support services, flexible working and generating more income. We tailor these tools to the needs of each service and its customers, to ensure that the Council's resources – people, time, assets and money – are used as efficiently as possible.

Question 38 from Councillor Maynard to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment Street Scene and Parks

The tenant of Trent Park Golf Course has provided the council with a report recommending golf course improvements, diversification of revenue streams and more efficient use of the buildings. The report concludes that additional facilities will likely cause controversy as Trent Park is a sensitive location. Given the Council's interest as corporate landlord as opposed to its interest as planning authority, can Councillor Bond inform the Council what consultation will take place and with whom regarding any such proposals?

Response from Councillor Bond

"In commercial leases a tenant would normally need to obtain their landlord's consent in advance of undertaking the types of activities outlined in the tenant's personal report to the Green Belt Forum

Individual negotiations between the Borough as landlord and a tenant are commercially confidential"

Question 39 from Councillor Vince to Councillor Ayfer Orhan Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services

Will Councillor Orhan confirm which schools she has visited in her capacity as Cabinet member, the date of each visit, who she met, the purpose of each visit and any outcome?

Reply from Councillor Orhan

Since the elections in May and the commencement of the school summer holidays at the end of July, I have had a productive couple of months visiting numerous schools and seeing many children and young people within the school environment. Such visits have included Galliard Primary, Houndsfield Primary, Chace Community Secondary, Churchfield Primary, Nightingale Academy, Oakthorpe and Highlands Secondary School.

Since my time as Cabinet Member for Education & Children's Services, I have also visited Charles Babbage House to meet the Children in Need Team and have a planned visit to Triangle House to meet the Looked After Children Team to see the frontline in operation and to familiarise myself with the challenging work social workers perform. During the next school term I have planned visits to other schools, including Russet House, the PRU, Winchmore Secondary, Oasis Academy (Enfield) and Oasis Academy (Hadley).

All of my visits will help inform the good work that officers are doing within Education & Children's Services.

Question 40 from Councillor D Pearce to Councillor Choudhury Anwar, Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion and Capacity Building in the Third Sector

Will Councillor Anwar confirm which voluntary and third sector organisations he has visited in his capacity as Cabinet member, the date of each visit, who he met, the purpose of such visit and any outcome?

think that it is appropriate for me to share all of the detailed information of these visits in a forum such as Full Council. If Members have concerns about specific groups please write to me. All of my visits will help inform the work that officers are doing with the Third Sector to develop new principles of working.

Question 41 from Councillor R Hayward to Councillor Bond Cabinet Member for Environment, Street Scene and Parks

Due to the drought in June-July many shrubs and bushes have died throughout the borough. Disease is also killing many of our oak and horse chestnut trees. In this time of austerity will the Environment Department find the funds to replace them?

Reply from Councillor Bond

Shrubs and Bushes

During the drought period in June/July it appears that we have had minor losses of the main established stock of shrubs and bushes and also within new planted areas. However during part of the hot spell we implemented additional watering and weeding of the new planted areas, as the plants were wilting and under a lot of stress. Most of the plants have survived, and look a lot healthier now following the change in the weather conditions..

Due to the financial restraints that we are all under there will be limited areas of new planting this year, however there is a minor gapping up programme included and funded within the Grounds Maintenance Contract.

Trees

The whole country including Enfield is losing trees of all species inclusive of Oaks and Chestnuts to numerous pests and diseases; however the species most affected at present that appears to be losing the battle for survival throughout most of the South East of the country including Enfield are Horse Chestnut trees that are being affected by a number of pests and diseases that has resulted in many losses borough wide.

Worst affected roads experiencing large loss of Chestnut trees are Cannon Hill N14, Southgate Green N14, Village Road EN1, Merrivale N14, Prince George Avenue N14, Palmers Green Triangle N13 and Cecil Road EN1

Question 42 from Councillor R Hayward to Councillor Bond Cabinet Member for Environment, Street Scene and Parks

Local Authorities are now able to benefit from the Electricity Feed in Tariffs. This gives a subsidy of 9 pence/kilowatt hour, plus the value of the electricity. Will this enthruse the London Borough of Enfield in generating renewable electricity?

Reply from Councillor Bond

Although feed-in tariffs were introduced in April 2010, Local Authorities have only been permitted to sell electricity generated from renewable sources since 18th August, which offers an even greater incentive. In Enfield, we welcome this amendment to the Local Government Act and will be pressing ahead with a detailed feasibility study into using Local Authority assets as potential sites for renewable electricity production.

It is worth mentioning that the "9 pence per kilowatt hour" tariff that Councillor Hayward is quoting only refers to existing energy generators and, in fact, the potential tariffs for new schemes can go as high as 40p per kWh. (A table of 2010-11 tariffs is below). However this rate is likely to go down every April, so, although once the tariff is set for a scheme it will remain for 20 or 25 years*, the later a generator is installed the lower the long-term tariff will be.

*** Each year the set level of the generation and export tariffs will be adjusted pro-rata to the retail price index. The Tariff administrators (Ofgem) will publish the updated tariff levels.**

The feed-in tariff also encourages the setting-up of community based energy schemes and a working group is being set up to look at how the Local Authority could facilitate these in Enfield. We have already successfully bid for direct support from specialists in considering the feasibility of more use of biomass in the borough and awareness training for officers is to be held on 13 September. Please note that biomass generation does not qualify for feed-in tariffs at this stage.

NB: Under EU law, the payment of feed-in tariffs must comply with rules on the provision of State Aid. Therefore, this may affect the interaction between feed-in tariffs and grant-funded installation programmes.

Table of feed-in tariffs from April 2010

Energy Source	Scale	Generation Tariff (p/kWh)^[A]	Duration (years)
Anaerobic digestion	≤500kW	11.5	20
Anaerobic digestion	>500kW	9.0	20
Hydro	≤15 kW	19.9	20
Hydro	>15 - 100kW	17.8	20
Hydro	>100kW - 2MW	11.0	20
Hydro	>2kW - 5MW	4.5	20
Micro-CHP ^[B]	<2 kW	10.0	10
Solar PV	≤4 kW new ^[C]	36.1	25
Solar PV	≤4 kW retrofit ^[C]	41.3	25
Solar PV	>4-10kW	36.1	25
Solar PV	>10 - 100kW	31.4	25
Solar PV	>100kW - 5MW	29.3	25
Solar PV	Standalone ^[C]	29.3	25
Wind	≤1.5kW	34.5	20
Wind	>1.5 - 15kW	26.7	20
Wind	>15 - 100kW	24.1	20
Wind	>100 - 500kW	18.8	20
Wind	>500kW - 1.5MW	9.4	20
Wind	>1.5MW - 5MW	4.5	20
Existing generators transferred from Renewables Obligation		9.0	to 202

Notes:

[A]: These tariffs are index-linked for inflation.

Could Councillor Anwar confirm how he intends to embrace the Government's Big Society agenda and its plans to place the third sector at the heart of its strategy to develop community cohesion? Further, could the Cabinet member confirm what plans he has made to ensure that Enfield is well-positioned to benefit from this programme and how it will inform the Labour administration's policies in this area?

Reply from Councillor Anwar

I will be attending the October workshop organised by Enfield Voluntary Action to discuss the potential impacts of the Big Society agenda in Enfield. At the moment many commentators have seen it as a rather unclear initiative.

Question 44 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Stafford Cabinet Member for Finance, Facilities and Human Resources

Given his vociferous campaign to grant hardship relief to businesses based in the east of the borough prior to the 6th May, would Councillor Stafford confirm

- a) how many businesses have been granted hardship relief since 6th May?
- b) The amount of such relief?

Reply from Councillor Stafford

No rating hardship relief cases have been agreed since 2002. Recognising the business need particularly in the east of the borough where deprivation is highest, fair and affordable revisions to the hardship relief guidelines are in preparation and will be submitted to Cabinet.

Question 45 from Councillor Smith to Councillor Oyken Cabinet Member for Housing and Area Improvements

Councillor Hasan and Andy Love MP have led campaigns to allow satellite dishes to be installed on all properties irrespective of planning, structural or service charge considerations. Could Councillor Oyken inform us as to what representations have been made to Enfield Homes by Councillor Hasan and Andy Love MP and does he support their campaign:

Reply from Councillor Oyken

Question 46 from Councillor Kaye to Councillor Charalambous Cabinet Member for Young People and Culture, Leisure, Sports and the Olympics

Andy Love MP pledged support to the Turkish FA to extend the number and availability of pitches and to find them a permanent home. Councillor Bakir amongst others supported this campaign.

Would Councillor Charalambous inform us what representations have been made on behalf of the Turkish FA and what racial equality impact assessments have been carried out?

Reply from Councillor Charalambous

The Turkish FA currently block book 5 pitches on a Saturday and Sunday at Pymmes Park. This arrangement has been in place for the last three years and followed representations from the Turkish Federation who were keen to secure pitches in close proximity to where the majority of their teams played.

Last year the Turkish Federation approached the Council to seek further use of the sporting facilities in Pymmes Park including the exclusive use of the existing changing rooms as a clubhouse. A series of discussions took place including a site visit with the Directors of ECSL and PSE and the Cabinet lead at that time Councillor Michael Lavender, where they considered whether this initiative would both address the needs of the Turkish FA and also provide a community wide opportunity. Further decisions have been put on hold, however, as a number of other sporting groups have enquired along similar lines regarding a number of venues across the borough. In line with the Council's objective to ensure "fairness for all" it is appropriate to review how our sports facilities are used; maintained; developed and promoted and to ensure they are available for the whole community to enjoy, play sport and stay healthy. The Council's Parks and Open Spaces Strategy in its 10 year Delivery Plan recognises the need for a review: Under Objective "Deliver activities for everyone promoting health and wellbeing" it identifies the need to prepare and adopt a Playing Pitch Strategy to facilitate improved management of playing pitches and sports areas for a changing population (Timescale 2012). "Everybody Active" the Council's Sport and physical activity strategy aims to make physical activity part of everyday life for all residents by encouraging participation and making physical activity a lifelong habit. It looks to develop facilities that encourage this and says that we will work

I believe the question actually relates to the Council's Earmarked Reserves, rather than cash balances, and it is at that point I will address. I assume, the councillor is unclear about the right terminology. The Council's earmarked reserves are currently at approximately the same level as at the end of March 2010, and we anticipate spending around 20 million in 2010/11. That is to be expected, for two reasons. First, as I have announced already, the capital programme, which is a big driver of the level of earmarked reserves, is being reviewed. And, second, the overall level of earmarked reserves will be set as part of the spending review this Administration is currently conducting. I am keen to ensure that we have enough reserves and provisions to meet future unforeseen circumstances whilst, at the same time, ploughing as much resource as possible into meeting the current and future needs of this Borough.

Question 48 from Councillor Maynard to Councillor Stafford Cabinet Member for Finance, Facilities and Human Resources

Almost 40 councils across the country have adopted spending transparency by publishing on line all payments to suppliers in excess of £500. Does Councillor Stafford have any plans to introduce such a measure in Enfield?

Reply from Councillor Stafford

Enfield Council is pleased to be as transparent as possible in all aspects of its business. As part of that, information on monthly expenditure on goods and services exceeding £500 is planned to be published later this year.

Question 49 from Councillor McCannah to Councillor McGowan Cabinet Member for Older People and Adult Social Services

Would he inform the Council which facilities in his portfolio that are either Council run or managed by our partners, that he has visited since 6th May 2010, who he has met and what was the outcome of any such visits?

Reply from Councillor McGowan

I thank Councillor McCannah for his question which raises the profile of Older People and Adult Social Services in Enfield. This is an important area of work for the Council but one which often receives little press for the good work, often in difficult and challenging circumstances undertaken by many hard working and

able to meet with Service Users, Carers, staff and Managers. I have participated in a variety of meetings with senior NHS officers and GPs discussing health issues.

I have also had the opportunity to visit the Integrated Learning Disabilities Services. This enabled me to meet Staff and Managers across both Health and Social Care at St. Andrews Court. I was able to see where clinics operate from and the environment in which Service Users and their families are assessed. I also visited Elizabeth House where Service Users with profound and multiple learning and physical disabilities are temporarily receiving their community service. I was also able to meet Service Users at New Options, who also have very complex needs.

In addition I have had a number of visits/meetings with representatives from Age Concern, North London Hospice, Ruth Winston House and our new Carers Centre.

The above visits have given me the opportunity to support partnership working, give a message to both Staff and Service Users that they were valued and important, to acknowledge the challenges and reinforce the importance of working with Services Users and Carers. I was able to see first hand the willingness of Staff to deliver high quality innovative services in often challenging circumstances.

I already have agreed dates in September to visit Older People Services, where I will be going to Residential and Day Centres, the Intermediate Care Team and the Hospital Social Workers at Chase Farm.