

COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS
10 NOVEMBER 2010

Question 1 from Councillor Lamprecht to Councillor Anwar Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion and Capacity Building in the Third Sector

“At the last Council meeting, Councillor Anwar stated that he did not believe the full Council was the appropriate forum for him to disclose exactly who he had met in his Cabinet capacity and for what purpose. Will he confirm to which Council body he would be prepared to divulge such information and was in fact his answer to the question a smokescreen for the fact that since being appointed Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion and Capacity Building in the Third Sector he hasn't actually done much at all? Will he be doing the honourable thing and offering up his own position as the first cut in the Council's budgeting process?”

Reply from Councillor Anwar

“Yes indeed, I did believe and still do that detailed information about the visits I make to various groups, persons or meetings are not appropriate to be divulged to the large meeting such as full Council. I also firmly believe that as part of this administration's transparency policy any decisions made and any input we get from infrastructure community groups, frontline organisations and small voluntary organisations will be given to the full Council and indeed to the general public as a whole without any hidden agenda whatsoever. To put some of the Councillors' concerns at rest I confirm that all the infrastructure organisations supported by the sustainability team have been contacted and various meetings have taken place between the Council and the organisations such as Enfield Racial Equality Council, Enfield Voluntary Action, Enfield Citizens Advice Bureau, Enfield Women's Centre, etc.

Another 25 front line organisations including the Over 50s forum have also been visited, or spoken to, by me during the last 4 months. I have visited the Community House at least four times to see how hot desking in action, is benefiting the community groups, and how happy they are to have those facilities. The purpose of all these contacts is to find out firsthand the thinking of community groups in relation to the Council's support to their work.

The Opposition Members should appreciate the role and the responsibilities of this portfolio. It encompasses community cohesion, community partnership, compact, volunteering, migration impacts, equalities (gender, race disability, sexual orientation and gypsies), capacity building for third sector, grants to third sector, commissioning strategy for third sector, London Councils' grants committee, corporate consultation activities, Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) development and community engagement. To perform my role as a Cabinet Member responsible for community cohesion and capacity building in the third sector does require more than visiting third sector organisations. I believe this part of my work forms only 20% of my total responsibility. I liaise with various departments and research for new ideas to make community cohesion work, and meet regularly with the Director of Place Shaping and her team every month.

During the last 4 months I have attended all the meetings of voluntary sector strategy groups chaired by the Chief Executive and all the meetings of compact's working group as a Cabinet Member. I chaired the Strategic Monitoring Zone Meeting of London Council's on 14th September. I attended hundred hours voluntary awards event on 4th October and handed over certificates of hundred hours volunteering to nearly 50 groups. I attended the Big Society event on 20th October in which MP David Burrowes was the key note speaker. I also attended the AGM of some voluntary organisations including EVA and EREC. I addressed Enfield Children's & Young Person's Services forum on 21st October. I, with our community cohesion team, met and discussed with London Film Foundation about making a local film displaying the talents of our youths. I met the Council's property team with a view to finding out the availability of local Council buildings to be used as community hubs for the deprived eastern part of the borough. My next programme will include to:

- meet the community cohesion and sustainability team on 10th November to work out our three years strategy to help the third sector organisations who will be delivering public services.
- chair Enfield Voluntary Community Services (VCS) BAME Conference 2010 entitled 'Our Community – Our Council' on 22nd November.
- take a report to the Cabinet on 24th November for the approval of the Council's corporate equality and diversity action plan 2010 – 2014.
- attend the London Council' Grants Committee on 25th November as a member of the Committee to discuss the future grants.

We need a policy to build capacity in the Third Sector. My policies will be totally transparent based on robust funding criteria. The grants we make to various organisations will be transparent and accessible to the public. I hope this information will be sufficient for the Member opposite to appreciate the amount of work I have and continue to put in as a daily basis. As a matter of principle I would *not* hold on to a post without achieving real goals and therefore the Member opposite may be rest assured that if I consider I cannot deliver I will reconsider my position without any directive from the opposition.”

Question 2 from Councillor Constantinides to Councillor Taylor Leader of Council

“Under a Conservative Government there will be real increases in spending on public services, year after year. The charge from our opponents that we will cut service becomes transparently false.” George Osborne, September 2007.

“Have the in year cuts and Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) confirmed that the Chancellor has transparently failed to deliver on this assertion?”

Reply from Councillor Taylor

“Yes.”

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

"Has any of the £1.9m additional monies for the third sector been ear-marked for the Turkish supplementary Sunday schools in the borough?"

Reply from Councillor Orhan

"No decisions have been made on allocations to any organisations at the present time."

Question 4 from Councillor Bond to Councillor Taylor Leader of the Council

"By what percentage does the Government intend to reduce funding to Enfield Council over the next 4 years?"

Reply from Councillor Taylor

"We do not have sufficient information to predict Enfield's funding for 2012/13 and beyond because individual Council grant allocations will not be announced until the next Local Government Finance Settlement is published, probably in late November or early December. Furthermore, it is not yet clear whether this announcement will cover subsequent years beyond 2011/12. However, the Secretary for State for Communities and Local Government (CLG) has stated that funding to local authorities from Government departments will reduce by 26% in real terms over the next four years. The reduction grows to 28% if funding for Police and Fire is excluded."

Question 5 from Councillor Hall to Councillor Oykenner Cabinet Member for Housing and Area Improvements

"In his answer to the supplementary question concerning the erection of satellite dishes on the properties of Turkish speaking peoples, Councillor Oykenner embarrassingly conceded, as the Conservative opposition well knew, that there had been no campaign led by Andy Love MP on this issue. How does Councillor Oykenner reconcile this fact with the letter that was published by Andy Love MP and distributed to Turkish speaking people in Councillor Oykenner's ward during the general election which associated Councillor Oykenner with that campaign?"

Reply from Councillor Oykenner

"I don't recall embarrassingly conceding anything at the last Council meeting but I did inform Council that there had not been any representation to Enfield Homes on the matter of satellite dishes by Councillor Hasan or Andy Love MP. Further, I made the point that work is being undertaken by Enfield Homes to seek a resolution to a situation so that often isolated and elderly residents can receive television programmes in their own language."

Question 6 from Councillor Simon to Councillor Taylor Leader of the Council

“The Secretary of State for CLG described the Comprehensive Spending Review as a ‘fair settlement’. Do you believe that a 28% cut by 2015 reflects a normal concept of fairness?”

Reply from Councillor Taylor

“If fairness is calculated as hitting the most vulnerable, then the cuts are fair. As we work through the implications of the cuts generally we can clearly see that the impact will most deeply be felt by the most vulnerable. Not everyone is equally feeling the pain. Local Government appears to be doing very badly in the Government settlement, with sneaky cuts like the 1% increase to borrowing costs.”

Question 7 from Councillor Lavender to Councillor Charalambous Cabinet Member for Young People, Culture, Leisure, Sports and the Olympics

“In his answer to the question raised at the last Council meeting concerning the possibility of finding a permanent establishment for The Turkish Football Federation in Pymmes Park, Councillor Charalambous embarrassingly conceded, as the Conservative opposition well knew, that the only Councillor who had been actively progressing this idea was me. How does Councillor Charalambous reconcile this fact with the letter that was published by Andy Love MP to Turkish speaking people, on whose campaign he worked in the general election, that Andy Love MP had been campaigning on this issue with Labour Councillors?”

Reply from Councillor Charalambous

“Whilst I thank Councillor Lavender for bring forward this idea which merits consideration, I am not aware of the letter Councillor Lavender refers to, nor am I a regular reader of the Turkish press. Any questions Councillor Lavender has in relation to Andy Love’s campaign should be referred to the Member of Parliament for Edmonton.”

Question 8 from Councillor Cole to Councillor Georgiou Deputy Leader of the Council

“Could Councillor Georgiou update the Council on progress made to achieve the British Union of Antivivisection Standard (BUAV) since it was raised by this Party earlier in the year?”

Reply from Councillor Georgiou

“Since the motion was passed by Council in November 2009, Corporate Procurement have been working closely with the BUAV, our current suppliers and our cleaning contractors, Enfield Norse, to implement this policy.

We have already taken steps to ensure that all the cleaning products available to purchase through our contracted supplier Greenhams are certified as “not tested on animals.”

Enfield Norse, the Council’s principal cleaning contractors, also purchase their supplies from Greenhams and so they are in a similar position to the Council.

The next step is to work with the BUAV to address gaps in their range of certified products. Because the BUAV standard was originally intended for domestic products, there are a number of products that we, along with other large organisations use as a matter of course for which there is no BUAV certified version. Examples would be floor stripper or graffiti removal agents.

Officers met with Jenny Gowen and Penny Ashcroft of the BUAV on 16th September to discuss a number of issues that we need to overcome to enable Enfield to become the first Council to meet the standard in full. At the meeting a number of the issues were resolved on the spot and now detailed work is going on to broker the inclusion of BUAV products on our supplier’s product list.

As they become available and represent good value for money we will be ensuring that all Enfield purchases are restricted to the BUAV-approved versions of products and we have also offered to become a reference site, so that when we have reached full compliance we can assist the BUAV in helping other Councils to follow suit. We know a number of other Councils are aiming for this standard and some have already contacted us for advice.

Greenhams are a major supplier to UK local authorities and we see it as an advantage to all parties to be able assist in getting as many BUAV-approved products on their list as possible and as soon as possible.”

Question 9 from Councillor Lamprecht to Councillor Goddard Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Improving Localities

“How many vacant shop fronts in the borough are decorated with awnings displaying false pictures of goods for sale (with descriptions embarrassingly in Dutch or otherwise) and are paid for by Enfield Council? What is the cost of this exercise to the ratepayer?”

Reply from Councillor Goddard

"The answer is actually none as none were dressed with ratepayers’ money. However to be helpful, 8 shops have been “window –dressed” in order to avoid the negative impact of shabby vacant premises.

The aim is to maintain a lively appearance in our major town centres, thereby helping to continue to make them attractive to customers. The initiative is designed to support the retail business sector which has been struggling since the recession. Enfield Business Retailers Association have been managing the initiative using the Working Neighbourhood's Grant that is a Government grant to support business and employment.

Consequently there has been no cost borne by the 'ratepayers' of Enfield.

The feedback from the residents and business is that it is a success".

Question 10 from Councillor Sitkin to Councillor Bond Cabinet Member for Environment, Street Scene and Parks

"Newspapers have been carrying the report that Caroline Spelman, the Coalition's Environment Minister, is looking to privatise vast swathes of woodlands throughout the country as her party tries to force their political agenda on the nation. Given the dangers this Conservative policy presents for the sustainability improvements being achieved by Enfield's new Labour Administration, would the Cabinet Member care to comment on this attack on our environment?"

Reply from Councillor Bond

"This relates to the news that Caroline Spelman, the Environment Secretary, will give the go-ahead to sell half of the 1.85m woodland acres run by the Forestry Commission. It is thought the plan, which is likely to anger conservationists, will pave the way for many more golf courses, adventure playgrounds, and Centre Parcs-style resorts. Laws dating back to Magna Carta are likely to be rewritten to allow the woodland sale. It is unlikely that this will affect land in Enfield as we are not aware of any under the ownership of the Forestry Commission."

Question 11 from Councillor Waterhouse to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council

"How many applications for entry on the electoral register and for postal votes were rejected by the Electoral Registration Officer for inaccuracy in the three months prior to the last elections? Given the embarrassing admission at the Electoral Review Panel that a number of such applications had been submitted by at least one Member of his own group on behalf of people not entitled to vote will he agree with me that the system of rolling registration and postal voting is ripe for reform?"

Reply from Councillor Taylor

"In the three months prior the last elections, the Electoral Registration Officer formally requested further information in respect of 812 applications to register to vote where the information provided was either incomplete or required clarification. In all except 105 cases, satisfactory answers were received enabling either those applicants to register to vote or confirming that they were not entitled to do so. The 105 applications from which no response was received were not processed. There were additional unlogged cases where further information was obtained via telephone contact with applicants.

There were 11 instances where postal vote applications were rejected because they were supplied on incorrect forms (redundant versions) and therefore did not provide the applicants' signatures and/or dates of birth as required by law. Again, there were a handful of additional unlogged cases where applications were

provided on incorrect forms but the necessary information was obtained via telephone contact with applicants.

The Political Parties and Elections Act 2009 put in place a statutory timetable for the introduction of individual electoral registration in Great Britain. The Secretary of State announced to Parliament on 15 September 2010 that the Government proposes to make the process compulsory in 2014 with the proviso that no-one will be removed from the electoral register for failing to register individually until after the proposed 2015 general election. The revised system is designed to assist Electoral Registration Officers in increasing the accuracy, completeness and probity of their registers."

Question 12 from Councillor Sitkin to Councillor Bond Cabinet Member for Environment, Street Scene and Parks

"Could the Cabinet Member comment on some of the difficult measures that we may be forced to take to protect Enfield's environment in the face of the Conservatives' slashing of budgets and mad rush towards privatisation?"

Reply from Councillor Bond

"Despite the anticipated pressures placed on the Council following the recent Spending Review the approach taken by the Council's Environmental Protection Service will continue to ensure that Enfield has a Clean Green and Sustainable Environment. For example;

The Environmental Protection Service provides a range of enforcement which aims to protect and improve local environmental quality across the borough, both for residents and businesses alike. Services include Environmental Crime, who deal with the enforcement of various highway offences, illegal street trading and advertising, Graffiti and street washing, abandoned and nuisance vehicles, litter and dog fouling, flyposting and fly tipping and poor waste management by resident and businesses - Public Health who provide pest control and animal welfare services and responding to complaints about noise and other nuisances, - and Planning Enforcement who take investigate unlawful development and breaches of planning control across the borough. All of these services work closely with each other and other Council services and partners wherever possible.

In the difficult climate referred to, some service provision has already been externalised, for example Litter Patrols are a low cost solution providing effective street litter enforcement, the externalised Stray Dogs service with Capel Manor Kennels is providing a value for money service in partnership with a local business and the Council's animal welfare officer, and the Abandoned and Nuisance Vehicles contract is jointly procured together with London Boroughs of Barnet and Waltham Forest."

Question 13 from Councillor Vince to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council

“Can the Leader please clarify the process for adopting lay Members onto Scrutiny Panels and does he agree this should it be an open process?”

Reply from Councillor Taylor

“I assume from the question that Councillor Vince is referring to co-options to Scrutiny Panels.

Co-options fall within a number of categories

Firstly, we have ‘statutory co-optees’ who have a legal right to sit on scrutiny panels with an education brief. Under our current structure, this means the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Children’s Services Scrutiny Panel. There are 2 parent governor representatives and 3 nominations from the following faiths:

- Roman Catholic
- Jewish
- Church of England

In addition, the Council’s Constitution provides for up to 3 co-options to each Scrutiny Panel with the exception of 4 for the Children’s Services Panel. They are appointed against a set of criteria set out within paragraph 5.14 of the Constitution.

We also have more informal co-options and the selection of expert witnesses to Scrutiny Working groups. These are generally agreed by the groups themselves, for example to bring in particular expertise to help Members or to seek feedback from service users.

All of the above in my view represent an open process.”

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

“Can the Cabinet Member give us the allocations of funding provided to Enfield under London Cycle Network (LCN) and non-LCN cycle schemes or the green waste programmes from 2002-2010?”

Reply from Councillor Bond

“In the past Transport for London provided specific funding for the implementation of the LCN and other cycle schemes not on the LCN (i.e. non-LCN schemes). Up until recently, funding for these schemes was specifically provided from TfL via the annual Local Implementation Plan (LIP) allocation. However, as part of recent reforms to the LIP funding arrangements we have now moved to a formula-based settlement and funds are no longer allocated on a modal basis. In addition, the

current Mayor has shifted the emphasis of cycling away from the LCN and onto Cycle Superhighways (none of which are in Enfield) and Greenways.

The table below which was obtained from the Mayor of London's office this year summarises the funding from TfL allocated to both LCN, non-LCN schemes and, since 2009/10, Greenways and what we actually spent:

Year	Allocation (£000)	Spent (£000)	% Spent
2002/03	238	121	51%
2003/04	398	153	38%
2004/05	141	189	134%
2005/06	207	93	45%
2006/07	315	71	23%
2007/08	113	96	85%
2008/09	305	116	38%
2009/10	313	229	74%
Total	2,030	1,068	53%

£750k has been allocated to progressing the Greenways network during 2010/11 and a further £710k planned for the following financial year.”

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

“Will Councillor Bond review the criteria for consents for off street parking where the applicant has a small vehicle?”

Reply from Councillor Bond

“Could Councillor Zinkin define small for me?”

Question 16 from Councillor Georgiou to Councillor Stafford Cabinet Member for Finance, Facilities and Human Resources

“If the pilot business rate relief for Edmonton Green which was announced by Cabinet proves to be a success, will you consider expanding it to new areas across the borough?”

Reply from Councillor Stafford

“The Cabinet decision in respect of the pilot Hardship Rate Relief scheme for Edmonton Green is subject to call-in to be considered by Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 11th November, 2010. If the Cabinet decision to approve the scheme is confirmed, the pilot scheme will be evaluated after one year's operation and a report to Cabinet produced which will include comment upon the desirability and affordability of extending such a Hardship Rate Relief scheme to other areas.”

Question 17 from Councillor Rye to Councillor Orhan Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services

"How many children have applied for the first time for a school place in Enfield Schools since 31st July 2010 in -

Reception

Yr 1

Yr 2

Yr 3

Yr 4

Yr 5

Yr 6

Yr 7

Yr 8

Yr 9

Yr 10

Yr 11

And can she inform the Council how many are applying from schools in other countries and how many from schools elsewhere in Great Britain?"

Reply from Councillor Orhan

"Following the changes this year in the national code of practice for school admissions, all in-year admissions (that is school admissions applications outside of the standard deadlines for nursery, reception and yr 7 transition arrangements) have applied by the submission of a new application form issued early in the summer.

The following applications have been received through this new process since 31st July 2010:

Reception	80*
Yr 1	288
Yr 2	257
Yr 3	226
Yr 4	175
Yr 5	150
Yr 6	106
Yr 7	40
Yr 8	149
Yr 9	131
Yr 10	90
Yr 11	50

**of these children none are statutory school age until 2011*

It is important to note that the figures presented are a snapshot of the situation as at October 2010 and that the situation is extremely fluid and rapidly (daily) changing.

The School Admission Code states that we cannot ask applicants for any information other than what is required to determine the application. Parents do not have to state previous school, whether in the UK or outside and so this is not available. The School Admission Code limits and defines the information we can ask of applicants for use in determining their application for admission to a school. Parents do not have to state previous schools whether in the UK or outside. Any such information is not therefore recorded on the database.”

Question 18 from Councillor Robinson to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council

“Could the Leader of the Council explain what the impact will be if the Government does not review the way in which local authorities’ annual homeless grant is calculated? Does he believe that the funding allocation should be reviewed?”

Reply from Councillor Taylor

“I agree that the funding allocation should be reviewed, Enfield receives less Homelessness grant funding than Central London Boroughs despite continuing to face significant pressure for affordable working. The changes to the Housing benefit regime proposed in the June budget especially in respect of the Housing benefit capping of high rents will lead to outward migration to boroughs such as Enfield increasing demand in the private rented sector. Westminster Council for example has 6% of London’s households in TA but receives 31% of the total grant compared to 1% by Enfield. The funding mechanism should be reviewed to more accurately reflect the pressure on Councils particularly those in the outer London boroughs with high levels of temporary accommodation usage.”

Question 19 from Councillor Rye to Councillor Orhan Cabinet Member for Education and Children’s Services

“As in question 17 above how many children are there in list each Year Group without a school place at present?”

Reply from Councillor Orhan

“As with the response to question 17 it is important to note that the figures presented are a snapshot of the current position and that the situation is extremely fluid and rapidly (daily) changing.

Reception	181*
Yr 1	48
Yr 2	47
Yr 3	31
Yr 4	34
Yr 5	15
Yr 6	13
Yr 7	6**
Yr 8	16**
Yr 9	23**

Yr 10 11**
Yr 11 0

**of these children none are statutory school age until 2011*

***At the time of writing, all secondary phase applications (56) are expected to receive an offer of a place by mid November.*

During this same period the Council has been able to place a total of 1,118 children in Enfield schools."

Question 20 from Councillor Robinson to Councillor Orhan Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services

"Has the Government yet clarified the future funding for the 3 Academies that were put into limbo as a result of the abolition of 'Building Schools for the Future?'"

Reply from Councillor Orhan

"We are awaiting the decision about capital funding for Aylward Academy, Nightingale Academy and Oasis Academy Hadley and we expect the decision to be taken in December when the Advisory Group on Capital Funding Program (the James Review) will report."

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

"Would the Cabinet member please inform the Council what consultation was undertaken in relation to the 20mph Zone Programme and also what racial impact assessments were undertaken?"

Reply from Councillor Bond

"The Council has a manifesto commitment to introduce 20 mph zones in residential areas surrounding schools. In line with this officers have prepared a programme of 20 mph zones for the 2010/11 financial year. The programme has been prioritised using road casualty data that the Council receives from the Police. The ability to address more than one school in a zone and cost effectiveness has also been factored in. Consultation on individual schemes will form an important part of the design process, and in some instances has already started.

In preparing the 20 mph zone programme the need for a predictive Equalities Impact Assessment was considered in line with the Council's normal procedures. In this instance it was concluded that such an assessment was not required as the programme is clearly aimed at reducing road casualties across the entire community."

Question 22 from Councillor Vince to Councillor McGowan Cabinet Member for Older People and Adult Social Services

“Would the Cabinet member agree with me that the Director of Adult Social Services should not be the chairman of the Adult Safeguarding Board, and that the chairman should be an independent member - as it is in Children’s Services?”

Reply from Councillor McGowan

“I thank Councillor Vince for her question. I know Council Vince is a member of the Adult Social Services and I was pleased to hear that Members received training on Adult Safeguarding awareness before their last meeting demonstrating the importance this Council pays to Safeguarding Adults.

An external review of safeguarding adults’ arrangements in Enfield, held last year, commented that a particular strength of our Safeguarding Adults Board was that it was “chaired at the right level of seniority, and has leadership which drives change and is respected by partners.”

The need to consider an independent chair for the Safeguarding Adults Board was strengthened with the Government response to the review of *No Secrets*, in which it was announced that Adult Safeguarding Board’s will be placed on a statutory footing, similar to Children’s Safeguarding Boards. In addition, recent inspections by the Care Quality Commission have seen independent chairs in a positive light.

The Director of Health and Adult Social Care has already taken steps towards scoping the requirements for an Independent Chair. Information will be made available to Board Members, to ensure the partnership contribution and ownership towards this decision making. In essence, I agree with Councillor Vince that consideration of an independent chair for the Safeguarding Adults Board would be welcomed, and be assured that this is currently being addressed by the Director of Adult Social Services.”

Question 23 from Councillor Lamprecht to Councillor Goddard, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Improving Localities

“Would the Cabinet member please inform the Council what consultation was undertaken on the Section 106 Management Fee proposals and also what racial impact assessments were undertaken?”

Reply from Councillor Goddard

“The response to this question was given in full at the call in at Overview and Scrutiny to which a number of Officers produced reports and were present to answer questions, unlike the member who called in the decision and has asked this question. I therefore refer him to the papers and the response given at the meeting.”

Question 24 from Councillor Zetter to Councillor Stafford Cabinet Member for Finance, Facilities and Human Resources

“Would the Cabinet member please confirm sickness rates of staff by department for each month from June 2010 to date?”

Reply from Councillor Stafford

“The average number of days lost per employee during the period 1 July to 30 September was 2.1 days (i.e. 8.4 days per year). This compares with an average sickness absence rate of 2.7 days per employee for the corresponding period 2009/2010.

The departmental breakdown of these figures are

CEx	2.18
ECSL	1.85
ESS	2.44
FCR	2.19
HASC	2.95
PSE	1.71

or I will arrange for the departmental breakdown of month by month absence levels to be made available in the Members’ Library.”

Question 25 from Councillor E Savva to Councillor Goddard Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Improving Localities

“What plans do you have for the Bury Lodge depot?”

Reply from Councillor Goddard

“The depot will continue to be used for operational services pending a review on depot provision. When that process has been completed, options for future use of the depot area will be taken.”

Question 26 from Councillor A Pearce to Councillor McGowan Cabinet Member for Older People and Adult Social Services

“What measures are being put in place if and when personalisation of adult care commences to ensure the safety of the funding for older and vulnerable people?”

Reply from Councillor McGowan

“I would like that thank Councillor Pearce for her question which focuses on the Personalisation of Adult Social Care. I will answer this in two parts; firstly, how are we protecting and supporting individuals to manage their own finances and individual care budgets and secondly, in respect of the overall funding for older and vulnerable people.

In supporting individuals to manage both their own finances and any individual care budget, we have a number of strategies we are developing:

- E-cards enable transactions to be managed between the Council and individual service users more safely and effectively.
- Reporting of Financial Abuse of individuals can be actioned through Enfield's Adult Abuse Line on 020 8379 5212.
- Brokerage Support is provided to support individuals in managing care budgets.
- In some circumstances where individuals don't have the capacity to manage their own affairs, the Council will take receivership responsibility.
- We have produced a fact sheet on – Financial Planning which aims to give guidance on preventing abuse and fraud.
- The Safeguarding Adults Strategy is developing a range of other initiatives aimed at both responding to alerts of abuse and looking at preventative approaches.

Moving to the wider funding of Adult Social Care the Council will continue to plan budgets taking into account information on named and known clients, and predicted changes in demand from year to year.”

Question 27 from Councillor Joannides to Councillor McGowan, Cabinet Member for Older People and Adult Social Services

“What is the Cabinet member's opinion of the scrapping of the star-rating system by Care Quality Commission (CQC)?”

Reply from Councillor McGowan

“I thank Councillor Joannides for his question.

The CQC have said star ratings in their present form were not compatible with the new registration regime for care providers, which will come fully into force in October 2010. CQC have indicated plans to lay out options for the future of quality ratings before coming to a decision by next April. (2011)

My own view is that many service users, carers and service providers themselves see the value in star ratings both in enabling service users to evaluate providers but also as an incentive on care providers to continue to drive up care quality. Anything that supports care providers to aspire to higher ratings must be valuable.”

Question 28 from Councillor Lamprecht to Councillor Goddard, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Improving Localities

“Would the Cabinet member for Regeneration and Improving Localities please inform the Council if he has made any representations to any third parties about Northern Gateway Access Road in the wider context of the place shaping agenda and if so, what they were and what his views are on Northern Gateway Access Road?”

Reply from Councillor Goddard

“The Council has a continued commitment to consider the exact requirements for transport improvements for North East Enfield and the wider Upper Lee Valley (ULV) which will be dependent on the outcomes of the ULV Transport Study.

The position of the Northern Gateway Access Road has not moved on. Transport issues are as set out in the LDF both at the stage that it was at the election and now.

My own view is that all train and road routes in the Upper Lee Valley and in Enfield need to be kept under constant review to ensure that businesses, their employees and residents can move around effectively and efficiently.”

Question 29 from Councillor McCannah to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council

“In view of Middlesex University's plans to sell the Trent Park Campus either en bloc or in parts, what steps (if any) have been taken by the Council to be involved in this process? If none, does it have any plans to be proactively involved?”

Reply from Councillor Taylor

“On a number of occasions over the past several years, officers of the Council, including the Chief Executive, have met the University's Director of Property and his staff in order to discuss the future of both the Trent Park and Cat Hill sites. In both cases, the University agreed to commission planning briefs or master plans, and that they would be jointly prepared with the Council.

The Cat Hill site is currently being marketed, but with a brief that the Council had no part in other to confirm that the land use planning statements are factually correct, and to confirm that we acknowledged that the existing education use could not be sustained.”

Question 30 from Councillor Prescott to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council

“Would Councillor Taylor inform the Council of Enfield's response to London Council's consultation, on the size and shape of London Councils?”

Reply from Councillor Taylor

“The consultation on the future size and shape of London Councils seeks views from member Councils on how the organisation should change in a time of reducing resources and also whether the current local government environment requires a more radical review of what services are provided for Members.

Enfield's response agreed that London Councils has a vital role in helping Councils to work together to operate effectively in the current financial climate, develop a wide range of better integrated, more cost effective public services locally and provide a collective voice for the boroughs. We also agreed that its

core purpose should be to shape London through being an effective lobbyist and advocate for boroughs; a catalyst for effective sharing of information, knowledge, services etc; and a provider of a range of quality and responsive services to Londoners and London organisations on boroughs' behalf.

The response noted that the proposals for reduced improvement and efficiency activity would impact on Enfield, as the networks currently supported by London Councils provide useful opportunities for networking and information exchange. Our suggestion was that these might continue, hosted by member boroughs on a rota basis.

Enfield's priorities in improvement and efficiency were listed as Local Authority Performance Solution (LAPS), procurement and member development work. We expressed concerns that the success of projects such as LAPs, depends on continuing commitment from all London Boroughs and that their effectiveness would decrease if some boroughs decided to withdraw their support. There is also a danger that the reduction in London Council resources would slow down progress in some areas.

The policy and public affairs role of London Councils is of particular importance within the context of managing and responding to the current financial climate and cuts in public expenditure including welfare reforms. We are also of the view that London Councils has an important role to play in shaping and supporting boroughs with devolution and localism. The proposed reductions in London Councils' policy and public affairs work will mean that Enfield will need to undertake more policy, lobbying and research work and respond to more consultations.

Our response made the point that it is important that London Councils continues to maintain some work in this area as it is important that the collective voice of London local government is still heard. We also believe that networking and information sharing opportunities should remain, and that there is value in exploring cheaper methods such as online communities of practice, social networking etc. Enfield feels it is vital that some face to face meetings and events, such as the Leaders Committee, continue as they provide leading Members with the opportunity to meet and drive work across London.

We felt that there needs to be greater clarity on how the key areas of London Councils' policy work will be decided and that this should include consultation and discussion with boroughs.

Enfield's response highlighted the area of housing and housing related issues. This is a major issue for the Council and the pan London approach and lobbying on key housing policy issues has been of great benefit to Enfield. We feel that it is vital that London Councils continues to influence government thinking and provide a range of support in this area."

Question 31 from Councillor Lamprecht to Councillor Goddard, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Improving Localities

“Could the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Improving Localities please update the Council on progress with relocating businesses from the New Southgate industrial Estate in preparation for the redevelopment of the Ladderswood Way Estate?”

Reply from Councillor Goddard

“Discussions with the businesses located on the New Southgate Industrial Estate are held regularly. Agreement has now been reached with the majority of the lessee on restructuring their leases to allow for the development to proceed when a developer is appointed. Negotiations continue with the remaining lessee to seek agreement to allow the development to proceed. It is expected that all negotiations will be concluded prior to the appointment of the developer.

The proposals for the new development have included the specification for 3,000 m2 of commercial space. This amount of space is approximately equal to the area of the existing commercial space and will allow for the relocation of the existing lessee's should they wish to continue operating their businesses from this location.

The Council is also actively pursuing alternative sites in the vicinity to ensure that if there is a need for relocation that businesses are able to continue to operate during the construction period and for those businesses that will be permanently relocated.

The current plan is that the industrial part is not due for redevelopment until 2013 therefore detailed discussion for these reasons is premature and the contingencies outlined above are being made to cover any eventuality.”

Question 32 from Councillor E Savva to Councillor Bond Cabinet, Member for Environment, Street Scene and Parks

“How many trees were planted by the Council by ward in 2008-09, 2009-10 and how many does his administration plan to plant by ward in the year 2010-11?”

Reply from Councillor Bond

Ward	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Bowes	1	69	16
Bush Hill Park	31	75	29
Cockfosters	4	32	48
Cockfosters and Southgate		4	
Chase	65		11
Grange	10	33	27
Edmonton Green	109	114	100

Enfield Highway	73	60	5
Enfield Lock	60	72	10
Haselbury	54	9	9
Highlands	3	33	
Jubilee	74	170	4
Lower Edmonton	235	68	45
Palmers Green	16	80	26
Ponders End	82	13	
Southbury	4	94	13
Southgate	20	41	51
Southgate Green	10	53	94
Town	64	18	134
Turkey Street	21	111	
Upper Edmonton	110	189	192
Winchmore Hill	4	72	9
Total Planted	1050	1410	823

Question 33 from Councillor Zinkin to Councillor Bond Cabinet Member for Environment, Street Scene and Parks

“When will the Cabinet member bring forward to Cabinet and Council the Labour administration’s overall plan for refuse disposal, rather than making piecemeal statements to the press, Overview and Scrutiny Committee and unsubstantiated portfolio decisions such as that on Bulky Waste Collection?”

Reply from Councillor Bond

“A Waste Strategy for the borough is being developed during 2010/11 that builds on work and partnerships already in place. It is anticipated that this will be consulted on in spring 2011.”

Question 34 from Councillor A Pearce to Councillor Simon, Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny Panel

“What assurances can Councillor Simon give this Council after the statement in the newspaper recently that Labour Members of his Overview and Scrutiny Panel were predetermining decisions?”

Reply from Councillor Simon

“It is a travesty to suggest that my email to my colleagues (clearly intended as private, but impolitely forwarded by a colleague of hers to the local paper) showed that any Members had predetermined their position. It is normal for Committee chairs to want to ensure that a majority of Members attend the meeting.”

Question 35 from Councillor Zinkin to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment, Street Scene and Parks

“At the last Cabinet meeting on September 15th his colleague Councillor Stafford stated that the Labour administration’s priorities were Education, Housing and Social Affairs. Could he explain to the Council where the environment and street scene fits in his administration’s priorities?”

Reply from Councillor Bond

“Environment & Streetscene are a key priority for the Council. The Labour Administration's Manifesto sets out many ambitions to Making Enfield Better, including key priorities for Environment and Street Scene. These will provide an additional focus to improving the Environment by:

- **20mph zones** - Speed limits in all residential roads near schools will be restricted to 20mph
- **Reduce fly-tipping** - The menace of fly-tipping continues and Labour will work to clear fly-tips, implement prevention measures and prosecute fly-tippers.
- **Sustainability in planning** - Labour will be rigorous in the Council’s use of planning powers to ensure that all major planning applications meet the highest environmental and sustainability criteria.
- **Reduced carbon footprint** - A Labour Council will audit and monitor Enfield’s carbon footprint and take action to reduce the Council’s impact upon the environment
- **Pensioner discounts on CPZ parking permits**
- **Increase recycling** - Labour will encourage residents to reduce their waste and give them the means to recycle more in our battle to build a sustainable environment
- **Support animal welfare** - As a first step in recognising and tackling the number of stray dogs and cats in our neighbourhoods, a Labour Council will work with partners to identify and implement remedies.
- **Invest in cycling** - Conservative’s Enfield Council has let down cyclists. We will work with Transport for London and cyclists to invest in and encourage cycling
- **Work with traders and the Police to develop a Retail Police Scheme** to tackle crime in our shopping centres
- **Develop the alley-gating scheme in shopping areas** to reduce criminal activity and fly-tipping”

Question 36 from Councillor Kaye to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Education and Children’s Services

“How many Members of staff were employed specifically to deal with Building Schools for the Future (BSF), and what has happened to those staff now the funding is no longer available? Surely these staff are no longer required?”

Reply from Councillor Orhan

“Most of the people working on the former BSF programme were employed on a consultancy basis: these arrangements all ceased following the government announcement in July. Altogether there were 11 staff employed. The breakdown being 3 were agency staff who are no longer engaged by Enfield. We had 6 specialist consultants who were stood down according to the terms of their contracts with immediate effect following the Governments announcement and the 2 remaining employees who worked on the programme are now working on other Council priorities including the regeneration proposals for Ponders End.”

Question 37 from Councillor Rye to Councillor Taylor Leader of the Council

“Will the Council arrange a Civic Reception for Leon Baptiste and other Enfield athletes who have been successful in the Commonwealth Games in India and would he join with the Conservative group in sending congratulations to Leon and other successful athletes?”

Reply from Councillor Taylor

“I think it appropriate to congratulate Enfield athletes on their success. I will consider the suggestion of a Civic Reception.”

Question 38 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Simon, Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny

“Would he inform the Council of those decisions made by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel between 2006 and 2010 which referred decisions called in for scrutiny back to the Cabinet Members or to the Council for reconsideration? Could he also tell Council of decisions of that committee which, whilst approving the decision called in, secured undertakings for the Cabinet Member to take a particular course in implementation?”

Reply from Councillor Simon

“Between May 2006 & April 2010, a total of 24 issues/ reports were called in and considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC). The outcomes can be summarised as follows:-

- 1 call-in was withdrawn
- 5 call-ins were referred back to the Cabinet or the Cabinet member for further consideration
- 1 call- in was referred to full Council
- 17 call-ins were confirmed following consideration by the OSC; in 9 of those, the Cabinet member gave undertakings to take a particular course in their implementation.”

Question 39 from Councillor Kaye to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Education and Children’s Services

“With a shortage of school places likely in Enfield over the next few years, does the Cabinet Member for Education and Children’s Services welcome the fact that

three groups have expressed an interest in setting up three new Free schools in the borough?"

Reply from Councillor Orhan

"To date there have been three enquiries with regard to setting up a new Free School in the borough, each of these is at a different stage of development and, as yet, none of them have received formal approval from the Department for Education (DfE) to proceed.

The Council takes the view that it wants to ensure the very best education, life chances and safety for all the children and young people in the borough, regardless of their status or location. Whatever type of school its children attend, be that local community or voluntary aided school, academy or free school it will continue to work with them to maintain a "family of schools" and maintain good relationships with and between them.

In common with most other London boroughs, Enfield has experienced a continuing increase in demand for primary school places in recent years. The main driver of this increase has been a significant rise in the birth rate in the borough during the last decade, but new housing and international migration have also been major factors. The Authority has developed a strategy to provide a combination of both temporary and permanent provision to meet short term peaks and projected longer term sustained demand. This strategy will be considered by Members at the 3rd November Cabinet.

Whilst it is possible that Free Schools may receive DfE approval, and provide additional spaces in the longer term, our priority will be to work with them to ensure that any new establishments are able to provide our young people with a good quality education within a suitable and safe setting."

Question 40 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Bond Cabinet Member for Environment, Street Scene and Parks

"In the recent Part 1 of the Town Area Controlled Parking Zone consultation leaflet, would Councillor Bond agree with me that it would have been helpful to residents if the leaflet had explained what a CPZ is?"

Reply from Councillor Bond

"Yes"

Question 41 from Councillor Headley to Councillor Stafford Cabinet Member for Finance, Facilities and Human Resources

"There is a new pawnbroker opening in the North Square in Edmonton. Could Councillor Stafford reassure the Council that the Council's rate subsidies are not subsidising such enterprises in the borough?"

Reply from Councillor Stafford

“Every application for Hardship Rate Relief is considered on its merits and all such applications are carefully considered in accordance with the relief scheme guidelines which include evidence that hardship is being sustained, identification of the amenity to the area that the organisation provides, the number of employees and the effect on other businesses in the area if trading of the organisation ceased. Extension of these guidelines in the pilot scheme for Edmonton Green is subject to call-in to be considered by Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 11th November 2010. No Hardship Rate Relief has been granted by the borough to pawnbrokers under this or previous administrations.”

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

“Would the Council confirm how much money it intends to spend on CCTV in the coming year? Can it further confirm what percentage of CCTV footage obtained from cameras in the borough would be admissible as evidence in Court?”

Reply from Councillor Bond

“Net Council revenue spend is £836,960

Regarding what percentage of CCTV footage, would be admissible as evidence in court, 100% of our CCTV footage would be admissible in court due to the high standard of our CCTV cameras, evidence continuity and processes we use to ensure that footage is collected in accordance with the Police and Criminal Evidence Act requirements.

Evidence collection is dealt with in the main by a seconded Metropolitan Police Officer working within the Enfield Public Safety Centre (EPSC) and by the Council's own EPSC Supervisor. Indeed, we have just had a very good report from a snap inspection by the Office of Surveillance Commissioners only last week praising our staff's knowledge and procedures on directed surveillance and RIPA's (Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act).”

Question 43 from Councillor Maynard to Councillor Stafford Cabinet member for Finance, Facilities and Human Resources

“Hammersmith and Fulham Council has become the first Council to publish an online register of its property assets. Will the Council commend this initiative? And will it implement a similar scheme in Enfield?”

Reply from Councillor Stafford

“The Council is in the process of evaluating options for a new Asset Management System to meet two main objectives, namely to facilitate the provision of asset valuation and associated information in the production of the Council's annual Statement of Accounts under International Finance Reporting Standards (IFRS), and in connection with the Council's Corporate Landlord responsibilities to ensure all health and safety checks are carried out much more efficiently. Once the

Asset Management System has been produced, we will consider publishing an on line register of property assets.”

Question 44 from Councillor Maynard to Councillor Anwar Cabinet member for community Cohesion and Capacity Building in the Third Sector

“Please could the Council publish a list of the bodies we give grants to and the amounts?”

Reply from Councillor Anwar

“Yes.

At present we give the following infrastructure grants to the voluntary and community sector so that these organisations help the other smaller organisations to get funding and support following a Cabinet approval under the last Administration.

CAB	£406,758
Enfield Racial Equality Council	£84,767
Enfield Women's Centre	£34,779
Victim Support	£30,172
Enfield Voluntary Action	£89,985
Tamil Relief Centre	£23,186
	£669,647

As a Council we grant or commission over £6m to the VCS. Officers are currently carrying out their annual detailed check of all funding and contracts the VCS have with the Council and these will be published on line on the Enfield4community part of the Council's website in January 2011 where this is not commercially sensitive to the VCS organisations.”

Question 45 from Councillor Maynard to Councillor Orhan Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services

“What encouragement do we give to the establishment of Saturday morning reading classes run by volunteers using phonics to teach those children to read who are failing to learn to read at our schools?”

Reply from Councillor Orhan

“Identifying and supporting those children who are underachieving in terms of developing reading skills is a key priority for us. The School improvement service works closely with all schools to support and train teachers in a range of strategies. The teaching of phonics is a key strategy and we have invested considerable resources in ensuring that schools are equipped to address the needs of all pupils at whatever age they need support and for whatever reason

they are having difficulty. Many of our schools run classes for pupils and parents outside the normal school day (not just on Saturday)

In addition to this there are a number of supplementary schools that are run by different community groups to support young people. Some are linked with our schools and they are proving to be very effective in making use of a range of strategies to raise achievement. The Local Authority runs a support network for these schools that offers advice and access to information and training. This is co-ordinated through our Adult learning service who also provide a range of training opportunities for parents and other adults in supporting young people to read.”

Question 46 from Councillor Joannides to Councillor McGowan, Cabinet Member for Older People and Adult Social Services

“Can Councillor McGowan now explain what are the priorities for Adults Social Services under the present administration?”

Reply from Councillor McGowan

“I thank Councillor Joannides for his question and for highlighting the challenging agenda we have for Social Care at the present time. Adult Social Care provides statutory services to adults with complex and challenging needs and much of this work goes unrecognised, but is vital for the protection, care and support of people in our community. This work and Safeguarding Adults from abuse will continue to be a priority for this administration. I would however like to highlight a number of priority areas we are working on:

- Firstly in Labour Party's manifesto “Making Enfield Better”, we gave a commitment to creating an Older People’s Carers Centre. The development of a Carers Centre for the people of Enfield, and the opening of the centre on Monday 14th June 2010, was a welcome addition to the range of carers services made available by the Council.
- Delivering the Personalisation agenda remains another priority for this administration. You may be aware to this end Cabinet recently received a detailed report – Transforming Social Care, Personalising the Customer Pathway. The purpose of this report was to detail changes required as a result of implementing the Personalisation agenda in Enfield. It is intended that these structural changes in the design of Adult Social Services in Enfield will provide service users and their carers with greater choice and control over their care and support arrangements.
- Formont Centre Refurbishment – The major programme for improving facilities for people with complex learning and/or physical disabilities was completed this month, with formal launch expected later this Autumn. The Centre has been made suitable for this group of severely disabled service users with complex needs and includes provision of a hydrotherapy pool.
- The re-provision of Elizabeth House with a Dual Registered Care Home is progressing and the background work is being finalised to seek formal tenders from providers.

- Finally, in light of the Health White Paper – and the intention that the Council take greater responsibility for some aspects of Health, we will be working on 4 key areas: Firstly the further development of our Health and Wellbeing Board, secondly the transfer of Public Health responsibilities from NHS Enfield to the Council; thirdly providing leadership in respect of Local Joint Commissioning and finally, were we can support Primary Care development locally.”

Question 47 from Councillor Maynard to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Education and Children’s Services

“What encouragement do we offer to private firms, groups of parents and charities to start their own schools? Do we assist with finding locations and planning policies conducive to this?”

Reply from Councillor Orhan

“We are awaiting the Free School Guidance and there is a planning guidance being consulted on in relation to free schools.”

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

“Will the Council consider setting up a vacancy management panel to scrutinise Council recruitment and ensure a Councillor approves every new post?”

Reply from Councillor Stafford

“The process set up by the previous administration to authorise the filling of every vacant post continues to be operated at officer level by the Director of Finance & Corporate Resources. In addition, this process has been broadened to include the approving the appointment of any essential agency workers and consultants and any requests to subsequently extend these placements.”