

Section 1 Questions for Cabinet Members

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

Each prospective Labour candidate in the forthcoming elections has been requested to sign a legally binding agreement with the 'Labour in Enfield Forum' obliging each candidate to apply to his or her trade union for monies to fund his or her election campaign.

It is a legal requirement that Councillors set a balanced budget. A number of necessary savings proposed in the budget will have an impact on the number of employees or the terms and conditions of their employment, for example the loss of staff in social services or changes to household waste collection rotas. We understand the Council is currently in negotiation with the unions in relation to delivering such savings.

Does Councillor Taylor recognise the inherent conflict of a Labour Council consulting and negotiating with its unions at the same time as its Labour members are going cap in hand to the very same unions to fund their election campaign?

Does Councillor Taylor agree with me that unless the proposed changes (including for example changes to household waste collection rotas) are incorporated in the budget and delivered in full; that it is quite difficult for the Labour Administration to deny that the unions are being allowed to run this Council in exchange for donations to the Labour Party's election campaign?

In order to enhance transparency, will Councillor Taylor list all those elements of the budget that have been influenced by the unions as a consequence of consultation or negotiation with them?

Reply from Councillor Taylor:

I thank Councillor Lavender for the free legal advice but I do not concur with you.

We keep the unions abreast of progress on the budget process throughout the year. When specific measures affect staff, the unions are also made aware, and we follow the Council's agreed consultation process at the appropriate time. We enjoy productive working relationships with the unions, and the process we follow is essentially unchanged from that used by the previous Administration.

Question 2 from Councillor Taylor to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment

Can the Cabinet Member give an update on any flooding in the Borough during this current rainy spell?

Reply from Councillor Bond:

We have invested to mitigate flood risk in recent years. Improvement works have also been carried out to Saddlers Mill Stream and Goodwin Road culverts to reduce the flood risk at Salmons Brook in the Montagu Road area. The risk of flooding on Turkey Brook in the Turkey Street area has also been reduced by raising two footbridges and modifying the floodplain within Whitewebbs Park to store more water upstream of populated areas in order to reduce the risk of residential homes flooding.

Since last year we have been using CCTV and telemetry as well as rainfall gauges and river level monitors as early warning indicators to see if flooding might occur and visit sites that we think may flood to assess the risk and see if people in the vicinity will be affected and if so, what help they might need.

As far as we are aware there has not been any property flooding in Enfield over the last couple of weeks. The flooding that has occurred has affected open fields upstream of Maidens Bridge and the footpath at Turkey Street adjacent to Turkey Brook. Open fields at Wharf Road on the river Lee have flooded as well as various low lying areas in some parks and other open spaces. Whitewebbs Lane was flooded and we will be continuing with the next phase of drainage improvement works in the next financial year to address this.

There have also been isolated areas of carriageway that have ponded and these have either been dealt with by cleaning the road gullies or, in some cases, by further investigative works to establish if gullies and their connections were blocked or whether the problem was with the Thames Water surface water sewerage system.

It is a shame that the Government have not used parliamentary time to discuss the recent flooding instead of popping off at the Environment Agency and reducing the agency staff by 550 posts.

Question 3 from Councillor Lavender to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council

In order to demonstrate Councillor Taylor's independence from his trade union paymasters, will he join me in condemning the strike action of the unions, which has so unnecessarily inconvenienced those hardworking tube-using residents of Enfield?

Reply from Councillor Taylor:

Bob Crow, Union General Secretary for the RMT, is not particularly fond of the Labour Party. The RMT was expelled from the party in 2004.

I was personally affected by the recent dispute and it would have been infinitely preferable if the 2 sides could have reached a negotiated settlement prior to the action taken.

Question 4 from Councillor Levy to Councillor Stafford, Cabinet Member for Finance and Property

Can the Cabinet Member advise if it is the case that the local Conservative Party issued a newsletter, featuring Nick De Bois MP, inviting return to a Council freepost address without authorisation or permission from the Council.

If so has the Cabinet Member sought legal advice as to whether this breaks any law?

Reply from Councillor Stafford:

There is potentially a case of fraud under the fraud act 2006 but it is not in the public interest to pursue that given the potential level of the loss to the Council, and the necessary requirements to prove dishonesty. However the Conservative party will be sent an invoice for the costs, which they should pay promptly and in full, to avoid being tarnished by this tawdry episode. Because the publisher is not a councillor there is no code of conduct issue.

Question 5 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Stafford, Cabinet Member for Finance and Property

Can Councillor Stafford give the Council the following financial information:

1. The total cost of the Council's payroll for each of the years 2010/11, 2011/12, 2012/13 and 2013/14 and also that cost broken down as follows:
 - a. Non-teaching staff – manual
 - b. Non-teaching staff – officer
 - c. Non-teaching agency staff – manual
 - d. Non-teaching agency staff - officers, including interim managers and senior managers
2. Can he also confirm the rate of any pay increases awarded nationally for each of those categories in each of the four years?

Reply from Councillor Stafford:

1. The staff categories are not recorded in SAP following the introduction of Single Status for Council staff. The table below excludes teachers but splits other staff between those in and not in schools.

	2010/11 Actual £'000	2011/12 Actual £'000	2012/13 Actual £'000	2013/14 Forecast £'000
Non-teacher	123,254	119,601	120,455	116,917
Non-teacher - agency	25,381	22,456	24,019	23,937
Non-Teachers Excluding Schools	148,635	142,057	144,474	140,855
Non-teachers in school	66,967	64,864	68,933	68,933
Non-teacher agency in school	996	1,206	1,127	1,127
Non-teachers Including Schools	216,598	208,127	214,534	210,915

The categories below are not recorded in SAP so the above table shows the most reliable information. Teachers are excluded but non-teaching staff in schools are included in the table at present.

- a. Non-teaching staff – manual
- b. Non-teaching staff – officer
- c. Non-teaching agency staff – manual
- d. Non-teaching agency staff - officers, including interim managers and senior managers

The total cost of the paybill for Council staff for 2010/11 was £125,329,779.1, 2011/12 - £122,825,665.5, 2012/13 - £121,863,010.8 and for 2013/14 - £102,411,974.1.

It is not possible to provide a breakdown of the separate costs of manual and officer pay as the Council no longer differentiates between the two categories since the harmonisation of pay rates under the Single Status Agreement.

It should be noted that during this period the Public Health function was transferred to the Council, the Council has expanded the apprenticeship scheme to reduce youth unemployment in the borough, the Council introduced the London Living wage to protect the low paid staff and the Council has transferred agency workers to direct employment to mitigate against the financial impact of the introduction of the Agency Workers regulations.

2. During the above period staff employed under NJC pay and conditions of service have been awarded a 1% pay increase.

Question 6 from Councillor Constantinides to Councillor Goddard, Cabinet Member for Business and Regeneration

It was reported that the newsletter issued by the Conservative Party, designed to cost the Enfield taxpayer for its return, only produced 21 returns. Can the Cabinet Member comment on whether he feels this is an indication of their continued 'out of touch' approach?

Reply from Councillor Goddard:

I have spent the last 4 years linking the Council to businesses directly and through the North London Chamber of Commerce and Enfield Business Retailers Association. We have established through the Chamber sector groups with businesses in construction, adult social care, green/recycling and logistics.

We have the Employment & Enterprise thematic group of the ESP, the Job Brokerage Board and the Youth Employment Board that focusses on apprenticeships (1,800 so far this academic year). I believe these arrangements have been very effective in improving co-ordination between providers, agencies and the Council and reducing claimant numbers by helping residents into work.

This Council has never been better connected and I believe has the confidence of businesses hence this Administration is very much in touch.

Question 7 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Stafford, Cabinet Member for Finance and Property

Can Councillor Stafford tell the Council how many non-teaching staff, manual and non-manual are housed or based in leasehold accommodation, and the current annual cost thereof for each of the years 2010/11, 2011/12, 2012/13 and 2013/14?

Reply from Councillor Stafford:

For 2010/11, 2011/12, 2012/2013 and 2013/14 there were 4 Council staff in leasehold domestic accommodation. As stated previously we do not differentiate between officer and manual staff.

It would have helped if Councillor Neville had been more specific with regard to the definition of costs.

Question 8 from Councillor Simon to Councillor Stafford, Cabinet Member for Finance and Property

The Labour Administration has frozen the Council Tax each year but is it true that in the first year of their last Administration, the Conservative Council increased the Council Tax by 15%. Would you agree this is a staggering and unprecedented tax hike?

Reply from Councillor Stafford:

Yes, this was Enfield Council's increase excluding the GLA. There was a 40.9% increase in Council Tax over the 8 year period of the Conservative Administration.

Question 9 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Stafford, Cabinet Member for Finance and Property

Can Councillor Stafford confirm the cost of a 1% change in the rate of Council Tax at Band D?

Reply from Councillor Stafford:

A 1% increase in the 2014/15 Council Tax will yield an additional £976k.

Question 10 from Councillor Simbodyal to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

Can the Cabinet Member provide an update on her Primary Schools expansion program?

Reply from Councillor Orhan:

This administration will have provided an additional **4410 primary school places for local children once we have completed the first phase of the PEP programme.**

This first phase will see 1680 permanent primary places across six schools. We already created 180 new reception places last September with a further 60 to be available during this academic year (30 places at Edmonton County, who will also provide additional Year 1 places and 30 places at George Spicer School) another 60 spaces guaranteed for September 2014.

Building work is well underway at 4 schools in the borough (George Spicer, Edmonton County, Highfield and Chesterfield) with works planned to start at another two schools (Prince of Wales and Worcesters) in the coming months.

I have recently visited the brand new primary provision at Edmonton County School and can assure Members that both pupils and staff are thrilled by the quality of the school environment that we have created. Furthermore, we are pleased to be delivering on our commitment to parents to provide local schools for local children.

Members will be aware that the Cabinet and Council agreed the recommendation to extend the Primary Expansion Programme last summer and with £65M added to the capital programme to bring forward the next phase of school expansions.

This is in addition to the £118M expenditure this administration has committed to providing school places to date.

Planning Committee has already agreed plans for the further expansion of Grange Park School with an application to completely rebuild Garfield Primary School submitted to planners. Officers are currently looking into the feasibility of a further six schemes, including the expansion of the Secondary Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) in the north of the borough.

Our achievements are all the more remarkable given the backdrop of reduced funding from the Coalition Government to support local authority maintained schools.

Question 11 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Stafford, Cabinet Member for Finance and Property.

Can Councillor Stafford tell the Council which of Enfield's services are shared with other local authorities and how many manual and non-manual staff respectively employed by Enfield, are involved in such shared services?

Reply from Councillor Stafford:

The Council has a number of shared service arrangements, which are part of our overall agenda to reduce costs and ensure services remain high quality. The shared services are:

- A joint procurement service with Waltham Forest, covering 21 non-manual staff;
- We have a joint head of contracts, with Waltham Forest covering 14 non-manual staff;
- We have a co-source arrangement with PwC for internal audit work covering approximately 24 non-manual staff;
- A joint venture with the Norse Group, covering approximately 450 manual staff;
- A shared property service with GVA Grimley, covering approximately 14 non-manual staff;
- A shared IT service with Serco, where the teams work jointly on delivering the Council's IT services, covering approximately 80 non-manual staff;

In addition to this, we provide a payroll service to schools outside the Borough, and a Schools HR Service that supports schools outside the Borough.

Question 12 from Councillor Brett to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment

The Mayor of London, in his road strategy, supports the roll out of 20mph limits in borough roads – do you agree?

Reply from Councillor Bond:

The Council is keen to pursue measures that are effective at reducing road casualties and encouraging walking and cycling. We have introduced 20 mph zones in residential roads around every school in the borough where local residents support it. We will continue to work with local residents and the Police on reducing speeds in residential roads, exploring measures that are effective and affordable.

Question 13 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Stafford, Cabinet Member for Finance and Property

Can Councillor Stafford tell the Council in his quest for economies, which services not already shared have been actively considered for sharing and rejected, by whom, on what basis, and when such decisions were published if at all?

Reply from Councillor Stafford:

We consider the most cost-effective solutions for all services that the Council runs, and adopt the most suitable operating model for each. There is not one size that fits all, nor one operating model that is the panacea. Sharing services is part of that on-going discussion and debate, but not the only solution, and we will continue to use it where it makes sense, for us, for the Borough and for the staff.

Question 14 from Councillor Georgiou to Councillor Stafford, Cabinet Member for Finance and Property

Can the Cabinet Member indicate how much Council Tax rose under the 8 years of the Conservative's last Administration?

Reply from Councillor Stafford:

£319.24 for a Band D property, equating to a 40.9% increase.

Question 15 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Stafford, Cabinet Member for Finance and Property

Can Councillor Stafford tell the Council what consideration has been given to outsourcing any services, which services were considered and with what result?

Reply from Councillor Stafford:

I refer you to my response to question 13

Question 16 from Councillor Cazimoglu to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

Can the Cabinet Member inform the Council how Enfield's new initiative, the Single Point of Entry (SPOE) is doing?

Reply from Councillor Orhan:

The SPOE was launched in October 2012 as part of the 'Building Resilience Strategy and under the auspices of Enfield's Safeguarding Children Board. Since that time it has continued to grow and develop. A number of initiatives, including the amalgamation of the Common Assessment (CAF) and the Children's Social Care referral document into a single 'Early Help Form' has led to an increased referral rate into the SPOE – and therefore an increased number of children, young people and their families receiving help at the earliest opportunity.

The SPOE incorporates a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) with core membership from the Metropolitan Police, Education Welfare Service, Health, Community Parent Support Service and Children's Social Care. The aim of the MASH is to improve information-sharing between agencies about our most vulnerable children in order to ensure that their needs are appropriately met.

The SPOE has continued to develop partnerships with a number of children's support agencies including most recently the voluntary sector. These agencies provide 'early intervention' to those families where difficulties have been identified but where their needs do not warrant statutory intervention. There is a daily multi-agency meeting which partners attend, designed to target particular areas of need e.g. Adolescent Services including Young Runaways project and Youth Offending Service send representation each Tuesday, whilst child and adult substance misuse services are represented each Friday.

The SPOE contains an Independent Domestic Violence Adviser who is able to offer targeted support to parents who are victims of domestic violence. It is of significance that upwards of 70% of all referrals being considered by the SPOE has domestic violence either as the primary presenting issue or as a historical feature. Enfield was one of the first authorities to develop this targeted early response within its MASH arrangements.

From January 2013 to January 2014 the SPOE has had a 75% rise in the monthly referral rate. In January 2013 we helped 204 families and in January 2014 that number had risen to 354 families.

The SPOE has been inspected by the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) receiving very positive feedback and Enfield is getting a good reputation for being proactive with its early intervention response. The SPOE have been visited by a number of other Authorities to look at how it works and its model of early intervention.

Question 17 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Stafford, Cabinet Member for Finance and Property

Can Councillor Stafford tell the Council:

- a. What the level of borrowing was in May 2010 and what it is today and for each figure can he give the revenue cost of that borrowing?
- b. What additional borrowing is required for the Administration's proposals adopted by Council but as yet unimplemented, with the additional revenue costs?
- c. What is cost of capital proposals planned to be adopted if any, before May 2014?

Reply from Councillor Stafford:

- a. Borrowing in May 2010 was £220.3m. The planned outturn position for March 2014 is £290.5m, an increase of £70.2m (including a £28.8m loan for HRA self-financing). The annual revenue cost of this increase borrowing is £1.3m (with an average interest rate on new short term borrowing of 1.74%.)

- b. The indicative borrowing requirement to fund the 2014/15 capital programme will be £62.8m funded from internal and external borrowing sources. Actual external borrowing will be driven by prevailing interest rates and cash flow movements.
- c. As part of the 2014/15 Medium Financial Plan all capital projects have been included in the Capital Programme.

Question 18 from Councillor Lemonides to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

Can the Cabinet Member tell the Council of her long term plans for Enfield to meet the London-wide school places' shortage caused by this Government's reluctance to invest fully in all schools?

Reply from Councillor Orhan:

Our pupil places strategy is reviewed each year following analysis of the updated population projections from the Greater London Authority in Spring and a comparison of the demand for places against current and planned increases in capacity. Of course in recent years this has become increasingly difficult with the current Government allowing the random opening of free schools and academies, sometimes in areas where there is no apparent need for extra places.

The Council's review last year led to the establishment of the second phase of Council-led primary school expansions. £65m is now allocated for this, of which £13m will need to be borrowed. That review indicated that there would be pressure on secondary school places from 2017 so a more in-depth review of secondary provision is programmed for this year. The Council works in partnership with education professionals and will work with Head Teachers as part of that review so that their practical experience is part of our school place planning. There will be an initial discussion at the Head Teachers conference on Friday 14th February with further discussions expected in March and April when the updated population statistics are available. Part of that will be trying to understand any free school or academy plans and whether they match the reality of the local demand for places. Clearly, any further shortfall in funding from Central Government will mean additional costs for this Council.

Question 19 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Stafford Cabinet Member for Finance and Property

As of now, what amount of previously planned and approved savings is still to be delivered?

Reply from Councillor Stafford:

Please refer to the revenue monitor to Cabinet, where this information is provided and updated at each meeting.

Question 20 from Councillor Ekechi to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment

As part of your plans going forward to keep Enfield moving, will you ensure that Enfield considers?

- Reshaping junctions
- Corridor improvements
- Call-cancel technologies at selected traffic signals

Reply from Councillor Bond:

I will of course consider a range of measures that enable road users, including buses, cyclists and pedestrians, to move safely and efficiently around the borough. In the short term, we have been working with Transport for London to introduce further intelligent traffic signals that constantly monitor traffic conditions to try and reduce delays as much as possible. All of the traffic signals on Southbury Road now have this system and this, together with the footway parking scheme we implemented, have made traffic run more smoothly. Further traffic signal upgrades are planned for other parts of the borough too, including the Mollison Avenue/Bullsmoor Lane corridor.

In the longer term, we have been actively engaged in the Mayor's Roads Task Force and look forward to developing balanced proposals that recognise both the 'movement' and 'place' functions of our key corridors.

Question 21 from Councillor Waterhouse to Councillor Stafford, Cabinet Member for Finance and Property

Can the Cabinet Member state:

- a. What was the amount budgeted for the freepost address for the 2014/15 Budget consultation?
- b. What was the total cost to the Council from residents using it?
- c. What expense was incurred following the letter from Nick de Bois MP to 334 residents encouraging them to use the freepost address to take part in the consultation on the issue of business rates?

Reply from Councillor Stafford:

- a. All Council postage costs are managed centrally apart from Council tax, business rates and benefits. The budget for 2013-14 is £395k which includes the cost of consultations across all services.
- b. We do not have the final cost because we do not know how many Nick de Bois sent out.

- c. I have no knowledge of how many were sent out. Had the Council been asked for advice, we would willingly have managed the process and ensured the consultation document was balanced in its questions.

Question 22 from Councillor Bakir to Councillor Goddard, Cabinet Member for Business and Regeneration

At the last Council meeting, Councillor Prescott claimed that VAT had little impact on small businesses. Does the Cabinet Member believe that Councillor Prescott is the authentic voice of small businesses?

Reply from Councillor Goddard:

I am always pleased to hear Councillor Prescott's individual views, correct or not.

Question 23 from Councillor Waterhouse to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment

The Council has finally agreed to undertake a consultation with residents regarding width restrictions on Morley Hill and Kilvinton Drive after a long campaign from the Chase Ward Councillors. Despite advertising the Council's website address on the consultation document, why has the Council chosen not to allow residents to complete the form online and therefore save the Council money in freepost returns?

Reply from Councillor Bond:

The introduction of width restrictions in the Browning Road area was always intended to be on a phased basis and the recent consultations on Morley Hill and Kilvinton Drive were not as a result of Chase Ward Councillor campaigning. Last summer a width restriction was introduced on Browning Road following complaints from local residents about lorries using that road. Officers were aware that this may lead to some lorries diverting to Morley Hill or Kilvinton Drive but held off introducing width restrictions on those roads due to the amount of on street parking they would remove.

Following complaints from Morley Hill and Kilvinton Drive residents, and our own surveys that confirmed some lorries have migrated to these roads, we organised the recent consultation. The consultation was not published on-line in this instance due to time pressures. Whilst we do normally like to offer residents the option of giving us their views on-line, it should be noted that in many previous consultations only a very small percentage of respondents used the on-line facility.

Question 24 from Councillor Murphy to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

Can the Cabinet Member tell this Council how well Enfield's Looked After Children have done in their educational achievements?

Reply from Councillor Orhan:

Better than any other Local Authority in England!

In December 2013, the Department for Education (DfE) published figures in their “statistical first release” which indicates that, on their calculations, 58.3% of our Key Stage 4 cohort of looked after students who had been in care for at least 12 months on the 31st March 2013 obtained 5 A* - C GCSEs (or equivalents - any subjects) whilst 41.7% obtained them with English and Maths. These results continue to build on the 2012 figures, particularly with regard to students who achieved good grades including English & Maths, and, on the basis of the DfE figures, Enfield is the top English Local Authority in this category for 2013. For mainstream schools only, we calculated that 81% obtained 5 A*-C GCSEs and 56% obtained them including English & Maths in 2013. We have also looked at the GCSE achievement of our looked after students for the past 3 years. Cumulative figures for 2011- 13, based on our own calculations, are 46% obtaining 5 A*-C GCSEs and 29% obtaining them including English & Maths.

For comparison the DfE national (England) 2013 figures for Looked After Children in Key Stage 4 are 36.6% obtaining 5 good GCSEs and only 15.3% obtaining them with English and Maths; for London the respective figures are 38.9% and 20.8%

We would like to congratulate the young people and thank their teachers, carers, social workers and others who have supported them on these outstanding achievements. Nevertheless we are not complacent. There were still 5 students who did not make the expected levels of progress based on earlier results, in most cases due to significant emotional and/or behavioural difficulties impacting on their school engagement and reflecting disruptions in their current or previous family lives. Also our Key Stage 4 cohorts are relatively small (between 25 & 30) and so, statistically, we expect variation from year to year. The current Year 11 cohort who complete Key Stage 4 this summer contains a higher proportion of students with various learning difficulties and we do not expect them to achieve at the same level as in previous years.

For the Key Stage 2 results (end of primary school) we have calculated that all our children in mainstream schools (8 out of 9 i.e. 89%) achieved the (expected) Level 4 or above in Reading in 2013 whilst 5 (56%) achieved Level 4 in Maths. Three children (33%) achieved Level 5s in both Reading and Maths. As the cohort was small we do not have DfE published figures to confirm these calculations. Compared with the 2013 national statistics our Maths results are average but our Reading results significantly above.

In addition we currently have 18 students in higher education - 11% of the total cohort, a figure which we also believe to be above the national average

Question 25 from Councillor Waterhouse to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment

Can the Cabinet Member confirm which streets have been sent consultation documents regarding traffic flow improvements on Lancaster Road, and can he explain why the Council has chosen not to allow residents to complete the form online and therefore save the Council money in freepost returns?

Reply from Councillor Bond:

The consultation leaflets for the Lancaster Road scheme were delivered to all premises on Lancaster Road. Again, the consultation was not published on-line in this instance due to time pressures. Whilst we do normally like to offer residents the option of giving us their views on-line, it should be noted that in many previous consultations only a very small percentage of respondents used the online facility

Question 26 from Councillor Hamilton to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

Can the Cabinet Member provide a brief overview of the excellence of partnership work in Enfield and in schools in areas such as volunteering, apprenticeship and work readiness?

Reply from Councillor Orhan:

Our services have a recognised track record of high quality work in this area. In the most recent OfSTED report for the Skills for Work service, the following was noted:

“Partnership working to develop the provision is outstanding. The service works very effectively with the subcontractors and a significant number of organisations, community groups and voluntary agencies, which has clear benefits for learners.”

Our services work effectively in partnership with local community providers, FE colleges, schools and children’s centres to deliver Community Learning in Enfield. In the last academic year, this service alone worked in partnership with 29 schools, 8 Children’s Centres, 6 local community organisations and 3 libraries and there were 1805 enrolments received.

We offer high quality work experience, vocational learning including traineeships and apprenticeships, careers education, information and guidance and also build very strong relationships with local employers to be involved with primary, secondary and college students.

The Skills for Work Service in partnership with Enfield Education Business Partnership (EBP) works with over 3000 local employers and 16 community and voluntary groups on a regular basis to maximise the opportunities to develop employability skills and vocational learning for children, young people and their families. This work breaks down barriers for young people who do not have access to high quality employers through family contacts and especially those families in second generation unemployment and high risk of continuing this behaviour pattern.

Much of our work revolves around engaging employers in supporting education and employment for the residents of Enfield and raising aspirations of young people to consider careers outside of their immediate experiences.

To summarise, the activity by the skills for work service, in partnership with the EBP, over the last academic year, is as follows:

- 2836 work experience placements were delivered.
- Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics Network (STEM) activities delivered to 3000 primary and secondary pupils
- Junior Citizens programme delivered to every year 6 pupil totalling 2829 pupils
- First Class Skills delivered to 382 year 5/6 pupils in 7 schools
- Enterprise and work related learning delivered to 1100 secondary pupils for 5 schools
- 200 young people trained in apprenticeships or vocational provision that incorporates work experience or employment
- 30 specialist work experience placements and employer mentoring for year 12 pupils
- 60 young people studying business and health and social care benefited from employer input from the sectors to support lessons with current industry practice
- Many employers as speakers in schools and visits to places of work for pupils.
- September Guarantee carried out which measures the number of young people in year 11 and year 12 that reside in Enfield that have been offered a suitable place in post 16 learning for the current academic year, 97.5% yr 11, 92.3% year 12 and a 2% improvement on last year.
- 1500 adult learners benefiting from ESOL, Maths and English functional skills, family learning and community cohesion activities for life-long learning are being funded by the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) contract and a contribution of funding from some service users. This work is commissioned to over 16 community partners including supplementary schools, over 50's network, Somalian Women's groups and other voluntary sector organisations.
- The community learning has been enhanced by UK Border Agency funding over the last 3 years with eight European partners to great effect. It would be beneficial for this work to continue once new funding opportunities arise as this often match funds work which is essential in the community such as developing community ambassadors to promote Council priorities and improve communication.
- We provide professional Careers Education Information and Guidance (CEIAG) for pupils, both to prevent them becoming NEET (not in education, employment or training) and for learners with learning difficulties and disabilities (LDD), and a traded arm in 12 secondary schools and colleges. The service has already secured paid employment for a learner with LDD and a long term voluntary placement for another similar learner.
- We both run and attend regular careers and jobs fairs an example of which is the successful event run in August 2013 with over 300 young people attending the careers fair.

From August 2013 up until now Youth Action Volunteering Enfield (YAVE) are currently in the following schools placing/accrediting young people in volunteering opportunities: A total of 305 young people have signed up to YAVE so far this year from the following schools:-

- Bishop Stopford CE School
- Broomfield School

- Chace Community School
- Edmonton County Upper School
- Enfield County Upper School
- Enfield Grammar School
- Highlands School
- Kingsmead School
- Latymer School
- Lea valley High School
- Oasis Academy Enfield
- Southgate School
- St Annes RC School for girls
- St Ignatius College
- Winchmore School

And YAVE have just started going into:

- Aylward Academy
- Nightingale Academy
- Oasis Academy Hadley

YAVE are also working with the Youth Service and accrediting young people from the Ponders End Youth Centre and Alan Pullinger Youth Centre.

Question 27 from Councillor Waterhouse to Councillor Stafford Cabinet Member for Finance and Property

Given Councillor Stafford's "outrage" and "anger" reported in the Enfield Advertiser after 21 residents used the Council's freepost return address to make the case for cutting business rates as part of the Budget consultation (totalling £10.50), is he incandescent with rage that the Council has failed to make recent consultations available for completion online, therefore unnecessarily racking up tens of pounds in freepost return costs?

Reply from Councillor Stafford:

The budget consultation was on-line. We have also made consultations available on paper to ensure those without access to IT are able to participate. We are, after all, a listening Council and this point about paper consultations was made at a number of Area Forums.

Question 28 from Councillor Murphy to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

Can the Cabinet Member update the Council of her department's work in engaging with parents, through the Parents' Engagement Panels, through the Children Centres and with young people through schools and the Youth Parliament?

Reply from Councillor Orhan:

As Lead Member I am very keen to ensure that we are listening to and taking account of the views of children and young people and their families and these projects are key in enabling us to do that:

Parent Engagement Panel

1. Background:

The Parent Engagement Panel, or PEP, was commissioned by the ESP in 2010, following a recommendation from the Young People Life Opportunities Commission.

This innovative project aims to build resilience through positive engagement which empowers Enfield parents and carers to provide informal support, information and guidance within their own communities. Parent Champions bridge the gap between the community and targeted professional support and engage both across and within communities.

They work with parents in keeping children and young people safe through:

- Supporting parents to participate in service planning and delivery
- Developing a structure for training and on-going support
- Challenging discipline methods and improving child protection through awareness within communities
- Increasing low level parent to parent support within communities
- Strengthening community roles in reducing Anti-Social Behaviour and offending
- Improving parents and young people's aspirations and life opportunities and thus contributing directly to reducing Child Poverty

2. PEP organisation arrangements

The PEP structure gives parents the opportunity to participate at two different levels - as members and champions - as their capacity and interest allows.

PEP Members - there are currently 184 registered PEP Members, with 40 new PEP members recruited to the project since September 2013

Parent Champions – these are PEP members who are trained to offer support at a higher level. They then take on outreach work visiting schools, children's centres and parenting programmes in the borough to promote the project and recruit new members.

There are currently 39 Parent Champions, four of whom graduated in October and a further 9 in December.

Area PEPs

The PEP currently operates through four area based groups which serve 13 wards who meet on a monthly basis, based at:

- Angel Children's Centre
- Cuckoo Hall Academy
- Lavender Children's Centre

- Honilands School.

These enable parents in 13 wards to participate, namely Turkey Street, Enfield Lock, Enfield Highway, Jubilee, Lower Edmonton, Edmonton Green, Haselbury, Upper Edmonton, Bush Hill Park, Palmers Green, Town, Chase, Grange.

Work has begun to expand this further with two new Area PEPs planned:

- A pilot group has been established for the Enfield Town PEP, meeting at Lavender Children's Centre.
- Discussions have taken place to develop a new Area PEP with Bowes and Garfield Children's Centre.

3. Future PEP

Support for the PEP has been invigorated through a new management team to steer the next phase of development for this vital community based project. As this embeds over the coming year PEP members will have more opportunities to further develop and expand the valuable work they do and influence the future direction of the service.

Projects for Parent Champions in 2014

- Continue to work with schools and Children's Centres to offer low level parent to parent support and further expand the provision. Several schools have expressed an interest in working with Parent Champions to offer additional general support
- Discussions are taking place with school Parent Support Advisors (PSA) in Edmonton to promote the project and to develop more collaborative working.
- A pilot project has been agreed to support the work of the Edmonton Food Bank offering a signposting service to community members accessing the facility.
- An antenatal project is being developed to engage with families in Enfield before their child is born.
- The project is currently recruiting three paid PEP Support Workers directly from PEP members. This clearly recognises the quality of volunteers involved in the Project and their development.

Enfield Youth Parliament (EYP) - Enfield Council's formal youth democratic structure

1. Background

The Enfield Youth Parliament is made up of 16 elected members, representing the four Area Youth Forums, ensuring representation across the borough, and four co-opted members who represent specific services for young people who are vulnerable or hard to reach.

2. Election Process and Results:

- Elections to the second Enfield Youth Parliament took place during 7th-18th

October 2013 and were linked to European Local Democracy week.

- Work was carried out in schools and youth centres to encourage young people to stand for election and participate in the vote
- 27 Candidates stood across the four election areas, with between 6 and 8 candidates in each, who developed their own manifesto
- 17 schools and colleges held ballots – an increase on the 14 which participated in the last election in 2011
- There were 9,674 voters representing a very impressive 65% turn out. This again was an increase compared to 2011 of both voters (9,190) and turn out (63%)

3. Enfield Youth Parliament Progress

Youth Parliament members have already shown their commitment to their new role of representing their peers:

- Members have attended a residential weekend where they were able to bond as a group and set their priorities for the coming year.
- a Chair and Vice Chair have been elected
- In January, members were invited to meet Cabinet Members and Directors as part of the budget consultation process ensuring that we were made aware of the views of young people in the borough.
- Youth Parliament members attended Making Democracy Happen training delivered by the British Youth Council.
- In February EYP will elect two members and two deputy members to represent Enfield at the UK Youth Parliament.

Other Participation Opportunities

In addition to this formal, elected representation other participation events have been held to ensure there are opportunities for younger children and young people in general to influence

Say it Like It Is – three events are held annually – two for primary and one for secondary age pupils. School are invited to send representatives of their School Councils to discuss work with key decision makers and explore specific issues in the borough.

Area Youth Forums

The four established Area Youth Forums (AYFs) meet monthly and any young person aged 11-19 (up to 25 with learning difficulties or disabilities) can attend to voice their views and ideas. Members of the AYF are recruited through youth groups, projects and organisations in the local area as well as secondary school Councils. The role of the elected AYF members is to represent young people locally; therefore links to other groups and forums are vital.

Youth Summit

Two Youth Summits have been held to further widen participation opportunities for all young people in Enfield. These have a specific focus to engage those young people who are not in formal education or training and whose views may therefore

be unrepresented by the more formal mechanisms. Their views and experiences have been fed into the work of the EYP.

Children's Centres

Work is on-going to link Parent Engagement Panels and Children's Centre activities, with a view to ensuring Children's Centre staff and parent representation at all PEPs by April 2014.

Question 29 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment

The Labour Council proposes to increase the price of bulky waste collection by four times the rate of inflation.

The increase in the cost of this service will have a direct impact either negatively or positively on the overall yield. Secondly the increase in the cost of this service may have a direct effect on the increase in fly-tipping. Thirdly the costs of addressing fly-tipping may far outweigh any increased income arising from the proposed price increase.

- a. How has the Council arrived at a price for these services which represents an increase four times the rate of inflation?
- b. Can the Cabinet Member for Environment give a cast iron assurance that, after addressing fly-tipping, this price increase will not result in a reduction in net income and a messier environment?

Reply from Councillor Bond:

The proposed increase on the bulky waste collection is 7% which is above the Council standard 2.8%. The basis for this charge is cost recovery and some of the costs associated with the service are above the rate of inflation.

Other changes to the bulky waste charges have not seen a related increase in fly tipping or a decline in the demand / income from the service. Further charges have been benchmarked and are reasonable when compared to other boroughs and the private sector alternative.

Question 30 from Councillor Stafford to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

Can the Cabinet Member tell this Council the enormous challenges her department will face if this Government continues with its current level of cuts to Local Government?

Reply from Councillor Orhan:

Since 2010 my department has worked tirelessly with schools, and other educational providers to raise the attainment of all our young people and to mitigate against the negative impact of the increasing challenges facing them. This has been against

continuing cuts and reductions in budgets for all of my teams. If the level of these cuts increase, I am seriously concerned that the good progress we have been making will be at risk. The teams will not have the capacity to maintain the excellent knowledge base about our schools and other educational providers so that we can identify and avert problems before they build. Our ability to respond to schools about to be inspected and to those in difficulties will be reduced meaning that there could be increasing numbers of schools slipping into difficulties and compromising all our hard work and ultimately limiting the life chances of our children and young people. We know that more of our families are facing real hardship and a range of barriers to success. The numbers of children are increasing and so are the complexity of the problems they face. We need to develop provision and support - not cut it.

Question 31 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment

I understand that you have listened to opposition concerns about the costs of winter gritting not being funded through the Public Health Budget but via the general winter maintenance budget. Thank you. Given the depletion of the Council's reserves, would you please indicate what financial contingency arrangements you have in place if through extensive bad weather more funds are required to be employed on this service from the general winter maintenance budget?

Reply from Councillor Bond:

I did not seek or ask for funding from a public health budget for winter gritting. I can confirm that the Council has sufficient reserve funds in place to cover a potential overspend on the winter maintenance budget. The 2014/15 Budget Report sets out the minimum prudent level of balances and this confirms that the Council has sufficient funds available to meet one-off expenditure in the short term (Appendix 8a).

Question 32 from Councillor Goddard to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

Can the Cabinet Member tell this Council what the impact will be on Enfield, if the Government fails to provide the much needed capital funding to build new schools in areas of new development, such as Meridian Water for example?

Reply from Councillor Orhan:

The Council knows that the future well-being and educational achievement of all our children rests on the provision of sufficient high quality appropriate provision and our pupil places programme is designed to ensure that these places are developed where and when they are needed. It is even more important to ensure that areas of new development are not just about building houses but it is vital that there is also the right infrastructure in terms of all the services needed to attract the families to the area and to develop thriving and successful communities. Outstanding Schools are essential if we want to achieve our ambitions for all Enfield's residents and these cannot be developed without the capital funding from the government - the future of our children depends on that. We must have the appropriate funding from central

government.

Question 33 from Councillor Lavender to Councillor Stafford, Cabinet Member for Finance and Property

During opposition priority business I accused the Labour Administration that it would fudge its capital programme, such that unaffordable and unbudgeted proposals, such as Palmers Green library would be promised without the means to fund them. Lo and behold page 17 of the budget report reveals exactly that, namely the existence of a £4m hole in the capital budget. Will Councillor Stafford identify which projects within the capital programme are currently unfunded or otherwise identify which Council assets are currently under-performing and earmarked for sale?

Reply from Councillor Stafford:

As the Opposition knows, the Council aims to generate new capital receipts of £4m in each of the years 2014/15 and 2015/16. Potential property disposals are reported to Cabinet for consideration of retention, re-use or sale. Since 2010, five reports have been submitted to Cabinet, the last being 16th October 2013. In addition, there are specific projects such as the redevelopment of Southgate Town Hall which involve the generation of new capital receipts. The programme is monitored each quarter and if the profile of sales changes a decision will be made on using alternative funding or rescheduling projects.

We have collected £28m of useable capital receipts in the three years to March 2013. So far this year we have raised a further £5.16m against a target of £4m.

Question 34 from Councillor Uzoanya to Councillor Hamilton, Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing and Public Health

Will the Cabinet Member inform the Council of the success of the new Safety App?

Reply from Councillor Hamilton:

I am very proud of the new personal safety app that Enfield and Southwark are piloting. "Tap-it" is a free app which will revolutionise the way we think about public safety and how we let our friends and family know we are OK. It will not only help keep people safe but it will help them feel safe as well.

Tap-it has only recently been launched, but is already attracting endorsement and recommendation and is available to download for free from Android and Apple stores. It uses GPS technology to provide loved ones with your exact location should you run into a troubled situation.

Tap-it is easy to use, operates off one touch and can be tailored for different uses - it can act as a reminder that the kids need picking up from after school clubs, elderly people can use it to let their children know they are safe and well and friends on a night out can use it to get back in touch if they get split up.

I look forward to seeing this product develop and updating Councillors in the future with figures on the success of the scheme

Question 35 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment

The proposed saving from the Mortuary Budget is due to the fact that the budget is underspent in most years and that underspend is transferred into and employed by the department's general fund. It follows that the budgeted saving is from the department's general fund, which is in fact fully spent.

What corresponding savings have been made to the department's general fund to meet this saving?

Reply from Councillor Bond:

There have been cost reductions in expenditure for the mortuary service. Therefore this underspend of the budget is put forward as part of the medium term financial savings. The underspend is not being used to offset against overspend elsewhere in the budget. The mortuary saving along with other savings will continue to be managed within the cash limit of the overall budget.

Question 36 from Councillor Deacon to Councillor Oyken, Cabinet Member for Housing

Will the Cabinet Member inform the Council of its partnership with British Gas to insulate homes and reduce energy costs for many households in the borough?

Will he also tell the Council what is the expected average saving for these households?

Reply from Councillor Oyken:

The Council is working with British Gas to improve both private sector housing and council housing to increase energy efficiency and insulation in residents' homes. The existing council housing stock will be upgraded (in addition to Decent Homes works) with energy retrofit measures wherever possible, utilising external funding streams such as ECO, Green Deal and Renewable Heat Initiative. These measures will help to drive forward the 'Green Agenda' in Enfield and will contribute significantly to the Carbon reduction targets set for 2020. Enfield Council has been pro-active in being one of the first Authorities in London to bring forward suitable schemes for ECO funding and Energy retrofit measures, since the initiative went live in December 2012.

A pilot project centred on Scott House (and other selected medium-rise blocks), has already been announced with British Gas as the funding partner, which will see a major investment during 2013 and 2014. The works at Scott House include new External Wall Insulation, Replacement Windows, Roof Insulation and replacement Communal Heating Boilers (including a fuel change). The Scott House works will be

completed by March 2014. The medium-rise blocks will have insulation installed in the 'Hard to Treat' cavities and this work will be on-going up to March 2015.

This investment will help to tackle significant 'Fuel Poverty' issues for hundreds of households in the Borough. The measures being installed at Scott House are estimated to save in the region of 40% of the total fuel bill, which could be as much as £400 per family, per annum.

Further ECO related projects, including insulation works, boiler upgrades and other applicable measures for private sector homes (owner occupied and private rented), focused in the Edmonton area, are now under consideration and we will be seeking Energy Company investment in these additional schemes in the coming months.

Further announcements will be made as British Gas confirms scheme details with the Council

Question 37 from Councillor Kaye to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment

I am sure the Cabinet Member for Environment would agree with me that schools should spend as much as possible on delivering the best education possible. As part of its budget, the Council is proposing an increase in the price of Health and Safety checks undertaken in schools. This is yet another means of raiding school budgets thereby taking away vital funds for new books, classroom and playground equipment?

- a. Do you have the agreement of the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People [Cabinet member for education] to this increase?
- b. What consultation has taken place with schools?

Reply from Councillor Bond:

Firstly I should explain that none of the community schools are charged for the health and safety service provided by the Council.

Non community schools such as Academies, Foundation, Voluntary Aided or Independent schools can choose to purchase the Council's service through a Service Level Agreement (SLA). This SLA is **not compulsory** and those schools who take up the offer are also free to find alternative providers. However, the majority of these non-community schools **do** choose to take up Council services because they represent high quality. **This is demonstrated by the achievement, for 6 years running of the highest international industry standard.**

With respect to the service itself, we provide more than solely health and safety checks. Our service provides a complete safety management system, a model that includes, inspection, on-line accident reporting, a suite of computer based training modules, auditing, policies, guidance, training courses, specialist consultancy and expert advice on areas such as asbestos management, fire safety, legionella and other health and safety issues.

- a. The Cabinet Member has agreed to a small increase to cover the cost of the service and the small uplift is the first for the past 4 years.
- b. Schools are appraised of the costs associated with the service through an annual brochure produced by Schools and Children's Services which is provided in time for the yearly Head Teachers conference.

As outlined **no schools are obliged to take up the service, but almost (91 out of 96) all do** make the business choice to engage with us, recognising that the service represents both quality and good value when compared with external providers. We regularly benchmark our services against the market to ensure that we provide value for money as well as the highest quality.

Question 38 from Councillor Sitkin to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment

Will the Cabinet Member inform the Council how much money has been attracted from the Greater London Assembly's vision for cycling and how that money will be used to benefit Enfield residents?

Reply from Councillor Bond:

So far Enfield Council has attracted a total of £621,460 for the next three years from the 1st round of funding released from the Mayor's Vision for Cycling. This is called the Borough Cycling Programme and funding was specifically allocated for:

- Schools and adult cycle training
- Safer Lorries and Vans initiatives
- Driver training for HGV drivers
- A schools cycling officer employed by charity Sustrans, to work with 12 schools on a project known as 'BikeIT'
- Cycle parking – on street & residential
- Updating our current cycling strategy to reflect the Mayor's Vision for Cycling and our Mini-Holland bid

We are awaiting the outcome of two other bids from the Mayor's Vision for Cycling; one for approximately £700,000 for the Cycle to School Partnership initiative in Edmonton Green, and the other £35million from the Mini-Holland fund.

Question 39 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment

It is proposed that a price of a commemorative tree for a loved one will increase by over £300. This will squeeze even more money out of people at their most vulnerable time and result in fewer trees being sponsored or cared for.

Please could the Cabinet Member for Environment explain this increase when other areas of the budget have seen little change?

Reply from Councillor Bond:

The cost of providing this service has been reviewed and the proposed rate recovers the full cost of on-going aftercare associated with the tree.

Question 40 from Councillor Keazor to Councillor Charalambous, Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure, Youth and Localism

Will the Cabinet Member inform the Council how much money has been allocated to the Enfield Residents' Priority Fund in the last three years?

Reply from Councillor Charalambous:

The Enfield Residents' Priority Fund is reaching the end of its third successful year. To date £4,957,180 has been awarded to more than 600 projects developed by local people and groups, working with ward Councillors, to improve their neighbourhoods and community wellbeing, focusing on reducing all forms of deprivation.

These projects have included street parties and community festivals to strengthen community spirit; green gyms offering free exercise for everyone; sports and leisure activities for people of all ages; courses to improve residents' language and employment skills; support to community and residents' associations to encourage participation and build resilience and many more. A community hub in Albany Park and community cafes in Arnos and Broomfield Parks offering opportunities for community activity, social enterprise, learning and employment will be a permanent legacy of the Enfield Residents' Priority Fund.

Question 41 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment

Given recent talks with the unions would the Cabinet Member for Environment comment on whether the proposed change in the household waste collection schedule will actually be deliverable?

Reply from Councillor Bond:

Yes the proposal is deliverable

Question 42 from Councillor Cicek to Councillor Goddard, Cabinet Member for Business and Regeneration

Will the Cabinet Member inform the meeting how the Council is supporting Enfield businesses with the rejuvenation of the Enfield Business Centre?

Reply from Councillor Goddard:

As part of the Mayor's Outer London Fund (Round 2), Enfield has been awarded £385,000 to remodel the existing Enfield Business Centre and forecourt to create a better presence on the High Street.

The improvements to the EBC will include opening up the ground floor to create a modern, flexible workspace to support start-up and business development.

The new EBC Business Support Hub will include:

- A reception desk to serve EBC tenants and direct visitors to EBC
- A café and seating area
- A meeting room for hire to support work with entrepreneurs or hired by entrepreneurs and start-up businesses
- Provision of 4 hot desks, which entrepreneurs can hire for flexible periods
- 50 secure mailboxes for hire by start-up and growing businesses from 3 months-1 year

The improvement plans have been developed in partnership with: Enfield Business & Retail Association, Enterprise Enfield and North London Chamber of Commerce, agencies responsible for supporting entrepreneurs, supporting high street businesses and supporting the development of existing businesses.

Question 43 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council

One of the planks of the Labour Party's previous election campaign was to reduce health inequalities in the Borough: something incidentally it seems to have failed to achieve. Please could you explain to the chamber and to the residents of the east of borough how as late as January his Administration was proposing to use the public health budget on winter gritting, therefore taking away funds used to reduce health inequalities, which particularly affects eastern Enfield?

Reply from Councillor Taylor:

Spend will be in accordance with the government's Determination under Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003 of a Ring-fenced Public Health Grant to Local Authorities for 2014/15. Public health Ring-fenced grant determination 2014/15: No 31/2241. I refer Councillor Laban to the response provided on Question 1 at the Council meeting that took place on 29th January 2014.

Question 44 from Councillor Cole to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment

Will the Cabinet Member inform the Council how much money the authority has spent on maintaining and improving the conditions of Enfield's roads, pavements and highways between 2010/11 and 2013/14?

Reply from Councillor Bond:

The authority has spent £8.45m each year from its own Highways Capital Programme on improving the condition of roads and pavements since 2010/11. This budget has also included improvement works to grass verges, replanting trees and maintenance works to bridges, culverts and ditches which all form part of the highway network. In addition we have received about £1m per year from Transport for London to do resurfacing work on our Principal Roads. Over the 4 year period

work has amounted to **£39m**.

In addition, we spend approximately £2m per year of our revenue budget on routine and reactive highway maintenance works such as repairing defects, re-painting road markings, cleaning road gullies and, of course winter maintenance . This amounts to a further **£8m** over the last four years.

Question 45 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment

Will Councillor Bond explain what methodology has been used to determine the amount by which the price of junior football and cricket pitch hire fees have been increased?

Given the importance these facilities have for the health and well-being for younger people, can he give me an assurance that the price increase has not been determined purely as a means of balancing the budgets, given the ability of making alternative budget savings by reducing Council costs, rather than raising income?

Reply from Councillor Bond:

The block booking charges for cricket have only had an average increase of 2.67% which is below the Council's standard increase. The casual cricket fees have been increased above this to reflect the additional administrative cost that one-off matches incur. Further benchmarking against neighbouring boroughs shows these as comparable rates.

For junior football there are a range of pitches and junior pitches. The increases for these pitches are all broadly in line with the standard rate of increase. Casual junior football has been increased above the Council's standard rate of 2.8% to encourage teams to make a regular block booking within Enfield. Block bookings as stated above are easier for the Parks Service to manage and increases opportunities for joint football development e.g. joint funding bids.

Question 46 from Councillor Ibrahim to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment

Will the Cabinet Member inform the Council how much money the authority has spent on maintaining and improving Enfield's parks between 2010/11 and 2013/14?

Reply from Councillor Bond:

Spend on parks from 2010/11 – 13-14:

- Capital spend over £4.3m
- Gross revenue spend on maintaining the parks and open spaces has been £22.9m
- External and other funding into parks and open spaces has been £3.1m

Question 47 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment

- a. Would the Cabinet member for Environment confirm that the saving listed in the Labour Administration's Budget consultation paper, "revised waste collection schedules" will not mean any loss of service and can he confirm that the Labour party are committed to retaining weekly collections for all waste?
- b. Would the Cabinet member for Environment confirm that the saving listed in the Labour Administrations Budget consultation paper "grounds maintenance contract efficiency savings" will not mean any loss of service?

Reply from Councillor Bond:

- a. I can confirm that the revised waste collection schedules will not result in any loss of service.
- b. I can confirm that the grounds maintenance efficiency savings will not affect the main contract services for Grass maintenance and Shrub maintenance. Indeed, we have included a number of public rights of way within the maintenance schedule.

The frequency of the grass and shrub maintenance that will be provided under the new grounds maintenance contract will continue as follows:

- Grass cutting maintenance – this will be completed on a 10 working day cycle between the months of March and October, which evaluates to 17 cuts per year, and 1 winter cut in February
- Shrubs and shrub bed Maintenance – the shrubs and shrub beds will receive 3 maintenance visits a year between the months of Dec - Feb, Apr - June and Aug - Sept

However there have been some changes in certain areas of the service in line with the biodiversity plan and with good horticultural practice to allow for wildlife and the bird nesting season.

- Countryside Hedges, High Hedges and footpaths – the Countryside Hedges will receive 2 maintenance visits a year between the following months, full hedge pruning in Sept – Nov (This will allow for the bird nesting season to finish) and 1 light hedge prune in Mar – Jul (this is to keep the highway and footpaths clear and to light prune around traffic signs and lighting).
- Grass cutting on Countryside verges - the countryside verges will be cut 4 times year

This Administration has invested in these services saving tax payers money in waste disposal which has the highest satisfaction rate ever recorded in Enfield; this is to be compared with the previous Conservative Administration's constant diverging of what to do - to invest or not to invest in the same services.

Question 48 from Councillor Robinson to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment

Will the Cabinet Member inform the Council what steps it is taking to encourage residents to join 'The Big London Energy Switch' and how much, on average, they can save?

Reply from Councillor Bond:

Enfield Council is joining 22 other London boroughs to support London Councils deliver the next phase of the 'Big London Energy Switch' this February. The collective energy switching scheme helps residents club together to secure cheaper deals on gas and electricity by using a third party 'switching provider'.

Residents have until midnight on Monday 17 February to register and the auction will take place the following day. Information will then be sent to everyone who has registered and offers are expected from 28 February. There is no obligation to accept the offer to switch energy supplier and savings are not always guaranteed – this will depend on individual energy consumption and tariffs.

An article on the February auction was published in the Enfield Independent on 4 February. More detailed information has been uploaded on the Council's website with links to the Big London Energy Switch homepage where registrations can be made.

Pull-up banners advertising the scheme have also been displayed in several corporate buildings (e.g. the Civic Centre, Enfield Town Library).

In April 2013, 26,000 residents registered for the first phase of the 'Big London Energy Switch' across London, joining a total of 160,000 residents nationwide. London residents who switched energy suppliers at that time saved an average of £122 on their energy bills.

Question 49 from Councillor Smith to Councillor Oyken, Cabinet Member for Housing

Would the Cabinet Member for Housing confirm that the saving listed in the Labour Administration's Budget Consultation Paper, "reduction in employee budgets" will not mean any loss of service and can he confirm how many posts are being deleted?

Reply from Councillor Oyken:

Community Housing Service has undertaken a complete review of processes across all areas of the service, to improve customer access and achieve business efficiencies, this has included investment in IT systems and the implementation of customer self-service which has improved customer access. Steps have been taken to ensure that vulnerable people and those with no access to IT systems are assisted either through the Libraries Service, Customer Services Centres, the voluntary and community sector services or by a home visit where appropriate. As a result of these changes 7.5 posts are no longer required.

Question 50 from Councillor Buckland to Councillor Charalambous, Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure, Youth and Localism

Will the Cabinet Member inform the Council how much money the authority has spent on maintaining and improving Enfield's libraries between 2010/11 and 2013/14?

Reply from Councillor Charalambous:

I am pleased to advise my colleague that this Administration has spent in excess of £11.5m over the past 4 years maintaining and improving the Council's libraries and buildings. I think you would all agree that the Library Service is more than safe in this Administration's hands.

Question 51 from Councillor Headley to Councillor McGowan, Cabinet Member for Adult Services, Care and Health

Would the Cabinet member confirm that the saving listed in the Labour Administration's Budget Consultation Paper, "Older people/physical disabilities care purchasing" will not mean any loss of service and that the vulnerable elderly and disabled will not be disadvantaged by this specific large saving?

Reply from Councillor McGowan:

I thank Councillor Headley for her question.

I can confirm that I have received assurance that each case will be carefully assessed and subject to on-going review to ensure that the care package continues to respond appropriately to individual needs.

The level of saving required is proportionate to that expected of other care groups. Whilst no social care service can ever be completely without risk, the department has a strong history of delivering savings, whilst maintaining or improving quality, including the £5.5 million savings already safely delivered in 2013/14.

Given that context and the level of overall savings required as a result of reductions in central government funding, the need for savings in adult social care are unavoidable, but they will continue to be carefully managed by committed and talented staff throughout the service to ensure we protect the wellbeing of those members of our community in greatest need of care and support.

Question 52 from Councillor Murphy to Councillor Hamilton, Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing and Public Health

Will the Cabinet Member inform the Council of the various initiatives being undertaken by the authority to improve public health in the borough?

Reply from Councillor Hamilton:

The Council has always done an enormous amount to improve the health of residents from the provision of good educational services, supporting schools to be healthy environments and supporting people to get into employment and ensuring people have good quality housing.

With public health now moving into the local authority we have both the responsibility and opportunity to support NHS commissioning. In practical terms we have already helped the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to improve the management of blood pressure and cholesterol levels and to improve the quality of primary care. We are working to reduce the late diagnosis of HIV and are commissioning sexual health services for Enfield residents. We are commissioning the provision of high quality drug and alcohol treatment services, school nursing services, stop smoking services and healthchecks.

Our particular area of focus is tackling health inequalities; in particular narrowing the life expectancy gap particularly for women. I'm delighted at the progress of the upper Edmonton Life Expectancy project which is working with local residents to support them to live longer healthier lives and working to improve the quality of primary care in South East Enfield.

Question 53 from Councillor Kaye to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

- a. Would the Cabinet member confirm that the saving listed in the Labour Administrations Budget consultation paper, "Commissioning savings" will not mean any loss of service and can she explain why vulnerable families (Father's Service) is no longer being funded to save 84k and counselling for parents/families is receiving a 30k cut in service?
- b. Would the Cabinet Member explain the saving listed in the Labour Administrations Budget Paper for 2014-15 "SEN transport optimization" saving of 100k will not mean any loss of service to vulnerable children and their families?

Reply from Councillor Orhan:

- a. The commissioning savings referred to reflect a considered and strategic approach to the identification of need, and review of services delivered through our children's centres programme. Having reached the end of a contract period, we have been able to review the services delivered to date, along with evidence of their impact on outcomes for children and families. Through this review we have been able to identify where there have been elements of duplication across services from a range of providers, or areas where value for money might be increased further through commissioning more targeted service delivery.

Fathers are a target client group for children's centre outreach support, the work of the Family Nurse Partnership and YOS and we are confident that this group will still be supported through the programme through remaining resources.

Similarly, the counselling programme has been reshaped to focus on the clients where we are witnessing the greatest demand from referrals into the centres, and where the provider has developed significant skill and expertise.

Whilst all existing commissioned services have been reviewed, we are still finalising the commissioned services allocations. To this end we are working in partnership with the VCS and key stakeholders to co-design the final support elements of the service menu for 2014, and to develop this for 2015, ensuring that we maintain a balanced view of need, demand, impact, outcomes and value for money.

- b. A review of the travel routing arrangements was undertaken following the move of this service to the new Depot at Morson Road. New routing of transport has not resulted in a loss of service to vulnerable service users, their parents and carers. The review was conducted in full consultation with our partners in Special Educational Needs (SEN) and Health, Housing & Adult Social Care, SEN Schools, Day Centre Managers, parents and carers. Statutory performance indicators will be maintained and the savings arise from improved efficiencies to both new route schedules and improved occupancy on buses.

Question 54 from Councillor Lavender to Councillor Charalambous, Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure Youth and Localism

In a recent press release, Councillor Charalambous was reported as saying (well actually the press team said it for him) that:

'The Enfield Residents Priority Fund (ERPF) has gone from strength to strength, and I am delighted to see even more projects being agreed...'

Is he able to confirm whether the Enfield Residents Priority Fund is budgeted for in future years and if so what changes are to be made to it?

Reply from Councillor Charalambous:

In the 2014/15 Budget report, £500,000 is allocated for the Enfield Residents' Priority Fund. Consideration of any changes to the criteria will follow an evaluation of the implementation of the Fund over the past three years.

Question 55 from Councillor Chamberlain to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment

In relation to Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) charges:

What is the expected outturn of income from CPZ charges in 2013/14 for each zone and how does this compare with the budget?

Reply from Councillor Bond:

As of 12th February, the projected outturn for CPZ permits is £335,580, compared with the projected revenue budget for 2013/14 of £299,610. The breakdown of revenue received for each CPZ is as follows:

CPZ Area	PERMIT TYPE					
	Business	Resident+65	Resident	Visitor	Carer	Carer+65
Arnos Grove	£1,200.00	£542.50	£6,590.00	£1,192.50		
Bush Hill Park	£1,440.00	£612.50	£6,775.00	£1,192.50	£50.00	
Chase Farm		£700.00	£3,655.00	£1,755.00		
Enfield College		£340.00	£2,240.00	£1,230.00		
Enfield College x2hr		£140.00	£1,640.00	£495.00		
Enfield Town	£7,260.00	£6,252.00	£67,360.00	£630.00	£360.00	£95.00
Gordon Hill	£120.00	£70.00	£2,420.00	£780.00		
Grange Park	£1,200.00	£395.00	£3,325.00	£600.00		
North Middlesex Hospital		£1,910.00	£28,520.00	12000.00	£420.00	£45.00
Oakwood	£1,140.00	£445.00	£3,975.00	£862.00		
Palmers Green		£260.00	£8,525.00	£5,550.00	£220.00	
Queens Avenue		£135.00	£3,425.00	£975.00		
Southgate 1 hour		£170.00	£1,895.00	£490.00		
Southgate All Day	£825.00	£1,440.00	£15,305.00	£6,435.00	£190.00	
Wilson Street		£360.00	£2,785.00	£570.00		
Winchmore Hill	£5,220.00	£2,585.00	£22,075.00	£8,227.50		

Question 56 from Councillor Chamberlain to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment.

In relation to CPZ charges:

What is the budgeted income from CPZ charges in 2014/15?

Reply from Councillor Bond:

The projected revenue budget will be kept at the same level as 2013/14 at £299,610.

Question 57 from Councillor Chamberlain to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment

In relation to CPZ charges:

What is the total amount received from enforcement of CPZs for each year since 2010/11 in total and broken down by year and each CPZ?

Reply from Councillor Bond:

Please refer to Appendix 1 for response.

Question 58 from Councillor Chamberlain to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment.

In relation to CPZ charges:

What is the legal advice of the Assistant Director Legal regarding the current and proposed charging and fines structure for CPZs, given the apparent exclusion of fines from income as per the figures provided to me in Council questions and the legal ruling known as the Barnet judgement?

Response from Councillor Bond:

As previously advised the Barnet judgement makes no comment as to what an appropriate level of charge might be in any given CPZ. We are informed that at present permit revenue does not cover the cost of enforcing CPZs. The response to Question 39 at Full Council meeting of 4th July 2012 still applies and the Barnet judgement does not affect the Council's position.

The Barnet judgement confirms that it may be prudent to make a surplus but that it must not be the aim of the authority to make a surplus, when setting charges; this is the case in Enfield.

Question 59 from Councillor Chamberlain to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment.

In relation to CPZ charges:

To what extent have the assumptions in the Council's budget for 2014/2015 reflected the advice set out in the answer to Question 58 above and has there been a change in those assumptions compared to previous years?

Reply from Councillor Bond:

I refer to the response in Question 56. There has been no change to the 2014/15 budget or previous year's budgets.

Question 60 from Councillor Chamberlain to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment

The 191 bus route currently provides a uniquely valuable service enabling people in the eastern part of the borough to get to Enfield Town via the Town loop part of the route. This is also of economic benefit to Enfield Town.

Does Councillor Bond, who I know advocated the removal of the town loop of the 191 bus route, still support this change to the 191 bus route?

Reply from Councillor Bond:

I never advocated any change to the 191 bus route and he is wrong on that assumption. As Councillor Chamberlain should be aware, the independent Enfield Transport User Group (ETUG) has carried out an excellent piece of work to help inform the Enfield Bus Review. One of the proposals put forward by ETUG was to change the 191, which is currently one of the least reliable bus routes in the borough. This needs to be seen in the context of a package of other measures aimed at improving services for residents. We are now liaising with senior officers at London Buses to look into this and other ideas in more detail. At this stage, no decision has been made on the future of the 191.

Section 2 Questions to Scrutiny Chairs

Question 61 from Councillor Hasan to Councillor Sitkin, Chair of Sustainability and the Living Environment

Will the Chair of the Sustainability and The Living Environment inform the Council of the work of his Scrutiny Panel with Intel to introduce 100 pollution monitors across the borough?

Reply from Councillor Sitkin:

The starting point for this deal was the interest we have taken in the "smart cities/big data" agenda taking off in other forward-thinking municipalities worldwide. On that basis, I cold-called Intel's UCL research lab to determine areas of mutual interest. They reacted warmly, following which the Council's Environment Department did a great job getting Intel to spend much of its Technology Strategy Board "catapult" funding in Enfield – one of only three boroughs nationwide to collaborate with the American giant. The project's goal is to develop a more detailed understanding of the diffusion of pollutants, in the hope that communicating this information to drivers can spark more eco-friendly behaviour. More specifically, it will involve:

- Installation of 100 small, low-cost air quality sensors throughout the borough by 31 March 2014; the locations have been agreed in principle and more sensors placed near busy roads such as the A406 and A10
- Each sensor will monitor nitrogen oxides, sulphur dioxide, carbon dioxide and will include particulates
- They will be placed near our existing high quality, calibrated air quality monitors, in buildings and schools, and locations we normally wouldn't be able to locate air quality monitors such as lamp/traffic columns
- They will provide us with an unprecedented monitoring network enabling a greater focus of interventions to improve air quality
- This project will help develop low cost, good quality air quality sensors

This huge success for Enfield validates the Labour Administration's proactive approach towards regeneration and sustainability, one where we refuse to wait passively for the "market" to sort things out. With this kind of outward-facing engagement, Labour offers Enfield the hope that our borough can thrive despite the swingeing cuts that this short-sighted Government is forcing upon us.