

Public Document Pack



LONDON BOROUGH OF ENFIELD

**QUESTIONS FOR THE COUNCIL MEETING
TO BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 22ND
NOVEMBER, 2017 AT 7.00 PM**

**THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS OF THE
LONDON BOROUGH OF ENFIELD**

**Please
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Date: 21 November 2017

14. COUNCILLOR QUESTION TIME (Pages 1 - 24)

14.1 Urgent Questions (Part 4 - Paragraph 9.2.(b) of Constitution – Page 4-9)

With the permission of the Mayor, questions on urgent issues may be tabled with the proviso of a subsequent written response if the issue requires research or is considered by the Mayor to be minor.

Please note that the Mayor will decide whether a question is urgent or not.

The definition of an urgent question is “An issue which could not reasonably have been foreseen or anticipated prior to the deadline for the submission of questions and which needs to be considered before the next meeting of the Council.”

Submission of urgent questions to Council requires the Member when submitting the question to specify why the issue could not have been reasonably foreseen prior to the deadline and why it has to be considered before the next meeting.

14.2 Councillors’ Questions (Part 4 – Paragraph 9.2(a) of Constitution – Page 4 - 8)

Please note that the list of questions and their written responses will be published on Tuesday 21 November 2017.

Council Questions 22 November 2017**Question 1 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Lemonides, Cabinet Member for Finance & Efficiency**

Would the Cabinet Member for Finance and Efficiency inform the chamber how much money we have spent on artificial intelligence so far and the level of savings we have achieved because of the investment?

Reply from Councillor Lemonides

So far £251,000.00 has been spent, which was for the ‘contract’ signature and development environments.

The purpose of the Council’s investment in artificial intelligence is to help manage increasing levels of demand. In other words, to achieve more output with the same or reducing levels of resource. So, a cashable saving is unlikely to be achieved, but it is intended that increases in costs may be avoided. Once the system is live, a full benefits review exercise will be conducted.

Question 2 from Councillor Abdullahi to Councillor Taylor, the Leader of the Council

Can the Leader of the Council comment on the Government’s budget statement and its impact on Enfield?

Reply from Councillor Taylor

Any comment at present would be speculative, and further briefing will be provided as soon as the Budget Statement has been made and analysed. However, I hope it signals an end for Government imposed austerity and a relaxation of the pay cap.

Question 3 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Oykener, Cabinet Member for Housing & Housing Regeneration

We approach the 80th week of a projected 23-week housing improvement scheme on the Parsonage Lane maisonettes EN2. The residents have had to live with extreme inconvenience for all this time because of failures by United Living and poor contract management by Enfield Council.

Would the Cabinet Member for Housing and Housing Regeneration pledge not to charge leaseholders for the works carried out by United Living at the Parsonage Lane maisonettes due to the overrun and inconvenience that all residents have been put through?

Reply from Councillor Oykener

The project referred to in the question was not confined to Parsonage Lane. It also included homes in:

Halifax Road
Ivinghoe Close
Pevensey Avenue
Cheviot Close
Heaths Close
Churchbury Lane
Chase Green Avenue
Bycullah Road

As the question suggests, this project has been beset by difficulties, mainly as a result of actions by the contractor.

Nevertheless, the works that have been carried out are now virtually complete and the installation of new double-glazed windows, new pitched roofs and new entrance doors has improved the appearance of the blocks concerned.

It is not the intention of the Council to charge leaseholders for any extensions to the original works or time extra taken to complete the project; however, it is also not the council's intention to waive the charges originally detailed in the Section 20 notice sent to leaseholders and consulted on at the outset of the work. Leaseholders will benefit from the work through the increase in the value of their asset. The only way to fund the work without recouping the leasehold share of the cost would be by tenants funding 100% of the cost. This would result in the bizarre position of council tenants' rent being used to fund work on homeowners property, from which the homeowners would derive long term financial gain.

Question 4 from Councillor Pite to Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment

For some time, there has been a problem with cars racing and performing stunts along the A10 and A406 posing danger to other road users. Can the Cabinet Member for Environment tell us what actions the Council has taken to seek to address this?

Reply from Councillor Anderson

In response to concerns from residents, the Council, Transport of London (TfL), and the police have been working in partnership to resolve the long-standing problems associated with speeding on the A10. This multi-agency approach involves each organisation taking co-ordinated action.

In the short-term Enfield Council and the police are offering some coordinated measures. The Cabinet last week agreed the introduction of a Public Spaces Protection Order to help deal with vehicle cruising activity, which includes racing and engine revving along the A1 and will allow council officers to support the police in taking action to stop such activity as well as tackling meet ups on the retail parks by issuing on the spot fines of up to £100; whilst the police will continue to undertake speed enforcement operations.

In the medium to longer term, and after some intense lobbying, TfL have now agreed to the rolling out of a fully comprehensive average speed camera scheme, aimed at a reduction in speed and an improvement in the A10's safety record.

However, due to TfL funding constraints, this will necessarily be delivered on a phased transition basis. The first phase will be introduced within the next few months with all parties working towards completion of the scheme within three years.

Combined, the above measures should help tackle and address the speeding menace that has blighted the lives of residents in the vicinity for some years.

Question 5 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Oykener, Cabinet Member for Housing & Housing Regeneration

Would the Cabinet Member for Housing and Housing Regeneration confirm that the works carried out by United Living on the Parsonage Lane maisonettes will be totally completed before Christmas?

Reply from Councillor Oykener

The large part of the works is now already completed and scaffolding has been removed. There are some outstanding snagging works to finish off, but it is anticipated that these too will be completed by Christmas

Question 6 from Councillor Ekechi to Councillor Sitkin, Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Business Development

Could the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Business Development update the Council on the current state of negotiations with the Meridian Water Master Developer Framework Agreement (MDFA) reserve bidder?

Reply from Councillor Sitkin

The Council agreed to write to the reserve bidder confirming the outcome of the Cabinet meeting. An initial meeting has been held between PCPD and the Assistant Director of Regeneration and Planning and with the Leader and Cabinet Member. Once four information sharing workshops have been completed, formal negotiations will commence, in early December 2017.

Question 7 from Councillor Dines to Councillor Oykener, Cabinet Member for Housing & Housing Regeneration

Reports on the Haringey Development Vehicle suggest that a large number of social housing tenants are going to be displaced by the plans Haringey Council are submitting.

https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/oct/25/labour-council-regeneration-housing-crisis-high-court-judge?CMP=share_btn_fb

How many people have Haringey Council rehoused in Enfield in 2014/15/16/17, does the Cabinet Member expect that these numbers will increase in the future?

This question has been withdrawn and sent to Haringey Council as a Freedom of Information request.

Question 8 from Councillor Barry to Councillor A Cazimoglu, Cabinet Member for Health & Social Care

This year World Mental Health Day (WMHD) theme was about mental wellbeing in the workplace. Can the Cabinet Member for Health & Social Care tell us what Enfield did to promote this on the day?

Reply from Councillor A Cazimoglu

Enfield Council welcomed the focus on mental wellbeing in the workplace for this year's World Mental Health Day (WMHD) – which it promoted extensively to staff, residents and businesses in the run-up to the WMHD – and on the day.

Promotional activity included the lightening up of the tower in the Civic Centre with the WMHD icon to create a media opportunity and local interest. This was supported by a press release and promoted through all Council communication channels including the website, the Council Facebook page and the Council Twitter feed – giving us the platform to highlight the importance of mental wellbeing in the workplace. Themed banners and balloon displays were also installed at the entrance to some Council customer access centres to attract resident interest.

Internally, information stalls were set up in the Civic Centre and at Morson Road depot providing information and advice for Council staff. These stalls were promoted extensively internally – on the plasma screens, through Enfield Eye and through the weekly staff email. Links to the Healthy Workplace section of the intranet covering guides to mental health wellness and the Counselling and Employee Assistance Programme were included in these promotions.

As well as this promotional activity in the run-up to WMHD, a comprehensive social media campaign was delivered on the actual day. WMHD tweets were among the best performing on Twitter for the month of October. One of our World Mental Health Day posts on Facebook had a reach of over 10,000 people. A staff promotion directing people to an information stall in the Civic Centre canteen was also delivered on the day.

Question 9 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Oykener, Cabinet Member for Housing & Housing Regeneration

In the light of the recent court decision against Southwark Council, will the Cabinet Member inform the Council whether Enfield has acted as agent for Thames Water in collecting water and sewerage charges from tenants, if so will he confirm that the Council has passed all savings on such bills arising from the arrangement back to the tenants?

Reply from Councillor Oykener

Recent challenge has indicated that Enfield has, in the past, been selling Thames Water services rather than acting as an agent for Thames Water in collecting water and sewerage charges for tenants. In line with the decision of almost all other boroughs any repayment will be addressed on a case by case basis.

Question 10 from Councillor Dogan to Councillor Oykener, Cabinet Member for Housing & Housing Regeneration

Could the Cabinet Member for Housing & Housing Regeneration outline the improvements to the delivery of Neighbourhood Services following the completion of the restructure in 2016?

Reply from Councillor Dogan

The Neighbourhood Services restructure was implemented in 2016, against a number of key outcome priorities. We have a new Neighbourhood Management Team, with experience of working in different sectors and have supported the development of a range of new ways of working which will deliver the transformation of this service – examples of this are:

- A new approach to identify and prioritise the expenditure to deliver the annual Neighbourhood Improvements programme which is supported and agreed by the Customer Voice. There is a three-year rolling programme of improvements.
- Implementation of a new Neighbourhood Standards and Monitoring for Cleaning, Grounds Maintenance, Neighbourhood Management, Communal Repairs which are monitored monthly and graded against Gold/Silver/Bronze/Unclassified standards, with a target of 90% of all estates to reach the silver standard by the end of this financial year.
- Learning from the STAR Survey outcomes, the delivery of an action plan to improve services and developing a new matrix to monitor satisfaction on a quarterly basis which will commence shortly.
- Improving resident engagement, through developing new Tenant and Resident opportunities.
- The introduction of a new management and inspection standard for high-rise following the Grenfell fire, such zero tolerance in communal areas.
- A new suite of performance outcomes for each Neighbourhood Officer is being piloted.

We are piloting a new service delivery model pilot to look at how a Neighbourhood Officer can influence and lead on delivering services to a patch. Each neighbourhood will have:

- A 3-year plan to identify priorities to action such as funding for neighbourhood improvements, respond to customer satisfaction and understand their priorities for their homes and neighbourhoods.
- Bespoke service levels and standards to meet customer expectations.
- Resident engagement events.

In this pilot we will be working closely with Public Health on a number of priorities, and will include some or all of the following initiatives:

- Close the Streets: We will include the Avenues as part of the public health initiative to promote healthy play during January and July 2018.
- Tottenham Hotspur Training: to support residents to become trainers and develop a community leadership role.
- Health Start Vouchers: to support our residents on universal credit with children under the age of 5 with £3.20 per child per week for milk.
- Community Food Growing: This is a secured grant and will be commissioned by the end of the financial year, to support education for food growing, veg swaps, recipes and to maximise offer of food growing opportunities through allotment allocation, or veg growing boxes on estates.
- Community Fridge: Develop sites and volunteers to run community fridges for residents.
- Apprenticeship schemes to build food boxes for veg growing.

When the outcomes of this pilot are evaluated we will be implementing a similar model to all Neighbourhoods as a phased approach.

Question 11 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment

Payments to the contractor for the A105 scheme from September 2016 when work started to July 2017 are reported via FOIs as follows:

A105 2016/17 Payments to RJ's	Contraction	Design
Interim Valuation No. 1 (Sep)	£100,000.00	£200,000.00
Interim Valuation No. 2 (Oct)	£163,969.88	£ 83,783.82
Interim Valuation No. 3 (Nov)	£352,516.08	-
Interim Valuation No. 4 (Dec)	£507,214.51	£ 11,212.32
Interim Valuation No. 5 (Jan)	£481,493.66	£ 32,295.10
Interim Valuation No. 6 (Feb)	£992,919.20	£ 14,590.21
Principle Road I.V.	£415,000.00	-
Interim Valuation No. 7 (Mar)	£224,356.40	-
Total	£3,237,469.73	£341,881.45

A105 2017/18 Payments to RJ's	Construction
Interim Valuation No. 8 (Apr)	£597,706.48
Interim Valuation No. 9 (May)	£503,703.51
Interim Valuation No. 10 (Jun)	£555,485.38
Interim Valuation No. 11 (Jul)	£899,002.86
Total	£2,555,898.23

$$£3,237,469.73 + 341,881.45 + 2,555,898.23 = £6,135,249.41.$$

The work continues, well beyond its original six months estimate and so of course will costs.

Can Councillor Anderson tell the Council how much more has been paid to the contractors and other professionals since July 2017, including what is likely to be paid from now until the work is finally completed?

Reply from Councillor Anderson

As I have previously explained to Councillor Neville in my response to Question 14 at September's Full Council Meeting, the estimated completion time for the construction works along the A105 was before a detailed construction programme was developed, which subsequently provided the current timeframe. In addition, the programme has been reviewed on a weekly basis ensuring it is responsive to the challenges of working on a live network and also to reduce the number of concurrent road closures and reduce the levels of severe disruption, hence the longer completion time.

With regards to the payments, Councillor Neville should remember that the entire Cycle Enfield programme is fully funded, primarily by the Mayor of London's Mini Holland and Transport for London.

In addition to the payments identified, a further 3 contract payments have been made to Ringway Jacobs totalling just under £1.8m. There will be further payment as the project is finalised.

Question 12 from Councillor Lappage to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Education, Children's Services & Protection

Would Councillor Orhan update this Council on Enfield schools physical education provision in comparison to other councils and the numbers of schools in Enfield entering sports competitions?

Reply from Councillor Orhan

Once again, Enfield topped this year's National School Games Kitemark awards as the local authority with the most schools achieving Gold.

29 Primary Schools were awarded the Gold Level and they are listed below.

Nationally, schools apply annually for the Government bronze, silver or gold Kitemark award according to how many sports competitions they enter over the year. The different levels are also awarded for a school's commitment to high quality PE and school sport. All of the Gold winners have established effective school sport councils, as well as representing the Borough at the London School Games finals or London Mini Youth Games. Most importantly, these schools are ensuring that there is something for everyone and have offer a wide selection of sports competitions that all students can access. They also ensure every pupil receives at least 2 hours of PE per week.

I extend our gratitude to the hardworking staff in our schools and the excellent performance of our students who do us proud.

School	2016/17
Brettenham	Gold
Bowes	Gold
Bush Hill Park	Gold
Capel Manor	Gold
Carterhatch Jun	Gold
Chase Side	Gold
Cuckoo Hall	Gold
Durants	Gold
Eldon	Gold
Eversley	Gold
Forty Hill	Gold
Hadley Wood	Gold
Hazelbury	Gold
Hazelwood	Gold
Houndsfield	Gold
Prince of Wales	Gold
Raglan	Gold
Russet House	Gold
St Edmunds	Gold
St George's	Gold
St Michael at Bowes	Gold
St Monica's	Gold
St Andrew's Southgate	Gold
St James	Gold
Starks Field	Gold
Suffolks	Gold
Waverley	Gold
West lea	Gold
Worcesters	Gold

Question 13 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment

I understand that several months and umpteen emails from various informed residents warning officers of the fact, they have finally concluded that the width of the cycle lane at Winchmore Hill Broadway is too wide, as a result of which unsurprisingly the pavement is too narrow for the footfall along the Broadway. As a consequence, yet another two weeks disruption is to be inflicted on the long-suffering businesses along the Broadway.

Will Councillor Anderson now publicly apologise for this mess and inconvenience and give the Council a full explanation how something so obviously wrong occurred on his watch?

Reply from Councillor Anderson

As Councillor Neville should understand and appreciate, this is a major infrastructure project and as such is subject to continuous and ongoing review, particularly during the implementation stage. As such, there will undoubtedly be occasions where changes to the final design are deemed appropriate and necessary and there is contingency built into the budget to account for that.

Furthermore, in spite of claims to the contrary, we listen to all concerns that are raised and whilst we will not always agree that changes are required, we will act wherever and whenever necessary to amend aspects of the scheme.

In this particular location, although the original design was adhered to, we, alongside local residents and business owners, had concerns about the width of the pavement. As a result of which we decided to adjust the balance between the footway and the cycle track widths, making the former wider and the latter narrower. At the same time, cognisant of concerns about drainage we have decided to introduce a more permeable surface on the cycle track which will further enhance water absorption.

We, of course, accept that these changes will create some additional disruption in the very short-term. However, we think it is right to make these changes now so as to create the type of environment we want to see in this part of Winchmore Hill.

This significant investment from the Mayor of London and Transport for London (TfL) demonstrates our ongoing commitment to deliver huge public realm improvements to the Borough.

Question 14 from Councillor Barry to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Education, Children's Services & Protection

As councillors we have heard the tremendous difficulties many schools in Enfield are having and the hard decisions they are having to make to keep from going into a deficit budget. Indeed, members of this Council are either governors, parents or grandparents of children who go to local schools and so know first-hand the financial difficulties faced by our schools. So it must have been a huge concern to you Councillor Orhan that despite the lobby by yourself the many teachers, parents and the Fair Funding for schools campaign the Government chose to propose a lower lump sum to fund schools in Enfield. Could Councillor Orhan brief this Council of the amount of the lump sum reduction and of the implications of this reduction to Enfield schools?

Reply from Councillor Orhan

You are right to highlight the tremendous difficulties many schools are facing and the huge challenges to the schools budgets. Unfortunately we have also seen as part of the Government's arrangements for implementing the National Funding Formula, there is indeed a reduction in the lump sum that local authorities receive.

I have made much of the fact that Enfield has historically been underfunded therefore, it becomes a concern to me that the Government's change will also see

funding move from smaller schools and/or those attracting less deprived and/or more able pupils to secondary schools.

We have acted swiftly and my officers have developed models that will help to manage this change and ensure stability in funding for all schools. This is being achieved, for next year, by proposing each Enfield school receive the same pupil funding as this year. The proposal and models are part of a consultation document that was recently published and circulated to all schools and academies and I encourage all schools to respond to the consultation.

Question 15 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment

Given the circumstances outlined in question 13, will Councillor Anderson tell the Council how he proposes to compensate the businesses who will doubtless be affected by the further disruption required to correct the incompetence on the part of both the council and the contractors which has given rise to the requirement for these further works.

Reply from Councillor Anderson

I entirely reject Councillor Neville's suggestion of incompetence and have already explained the circumstances for the further works in this location. As he should be aware council officers have worked closely with the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) to negotiate a 10% reduction in business rates for the period over which works were conducted in each location and are in further discussion to see if this can be extended to cover the additional period of works.

Question 16 from Councillor Chibah to Councillor Georgiou, Deputy Leader, Cabinet Member for Public Service Delivery

How is Enfield Council helping to support local shops and businesses in the run-up to Christmas?

Reply from Councillor Georgiou

The latest edition of Enjoy Enfield is now out. This has been deliberately themed throughout to promote everything festive Enfield has to offer, encouraging local people and visitors to shop and spend locally this Xmas. Content includes local shopping havens, gift ideas, festive events, eateries and even volunteering opportunities.

As well as going to every home in the borough this edition has been distributed at key train and tube stations coming into the borough and at targeted arts and leisure venues in North London to encourage visitors and workers to spend and shop in Enfield.

A new Enjoy Enfield website has also been launched, allowing place marketing activity to direct people on-line to find out more about all the shops, eateries, businesses and cultural and leisure facilities our borough has to offer.

We've already had lots of positive feedback – and have also seen an increase in bookings for some of our own services on the back of some of the features and articles:

"Your magazines are all around our shop, they have such great content inside!", "We have already put it in our insta story and are promoting it", Local business "Great! It's really impressive and definitely doesn't look like a local government magazine - bravo!" Local resident.

We're now gearing up to give local enterprises another push for Small Business Saturday. This promotional activity includes an outdoor advertising campaign, a cover wrap in the local paper including editorial, posters to be displayed in shop windows across the borough, a media relations and social media campaign and an internal promotion to Enfield Council staff.

Question 17 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment

Is Councillor Anderson satisfied that The Broadway western side shared space drainage will work with the kerbs at their present height, given that it appears that the threshold levels of the shops cannot be changed? Widening the footway and narrowing the cycle track presumably means that the drainage will only work above ground if there is a longitudinal drainage channel on the footway, which pedestrians would have to walk through it. Surely that is unacceptable. Can he assure the Council that this will not be the result even if it means removing the kerb and the cycle track and relaying them at a lower level?

Reply from Councillor Anderson

I'm afraid that Councillor Neville further demonstrates a lack of understanding of the infrastructure design. This is not 'shared space', but rather a cycle track running parallel to the footway - there is a clear demarcation between the two, in the form of a series of granite setts - the same setts I may add that are used in the pedestrian areas of the Palace Exchange Shopping Centre which have been in place for years and has not created any problems with people tripping up.

As I have also explained in my response to question 13 above, at the same time as adjusting the footway widths in this area we are installing additional drainage solutions.

We will continually review the project and listen to all concerns and where appropriate make necessary adjustments, and this is a clear example of us doing what we have always said we would.

However, Councillor Neville can't have it both ways. He can't complain that we never listen, but then complain when we do.

Question 18 from Councillor Levy to Councillor Lemonides, Cabinet Member for Finance & Efficiency

Can the Cabinet Member for Finance & Efficiency tell us what is the latest position on the reforms to local government funding in respect of business rates and fair funding?

Reply from Councillor Lemonides

Reforms to the business rates system were delayed following the General Election. However, the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and the Local Government Association (LGA) are now working up new proposals.

There are also proposals for the London boroughs and the Greater London Authority (GLA) to take part in a pilot pool in 2018/19, which is the subject of a report on today's agenda. These proposals have been developed by London Councils, the boroughs and Central Government. Participation in a pilot could mean Enfield keeping approximately £4m more of business rates in 2018/19. The position after that remains unclear, and whilst business rates retention may provide many opportunities for the borough to benefit directly from the growth in the local economy, there are also risks, and, therefore, we will ensure that both the risks and opportunities are brought to ministers' attention as the Government's position develops.

The review of Fair Funding was also delayed by the Election. Proposals are expected soon. As you know, Enfield has, with cross party support, been campaigning for fairer funding for many years, particularly in relation to the unfair impact which damping has had on its settlement.

Business rates reform and a fair funding review won't tackle the underlying issue of systemic underfunding.

For example, the 2017-18 provisional local government finance settlement confirmed cuts to core funding of 26 per cent in real terms over 3 years. This comes on top of a cumulative cut to core funding of over 50 per cent in real terms since 2010-11, meaning core funding from central government will have fallen by 63 per cent in real terms over the decade to 2019-20.

Recently, the Leader and the Leader of the Opposition wrote jointly to the Secretary of State, calling on him to make the case within Government for tackling the long-standing issue of underfunding in local government.

The letter also offered to work with the Secretary of State and his team to inform the upcoming financial settlement, offering to share the work which Enfield led on, highlighting the key issues affecting outer London boroughs.

Question 19 from Councillor Rye to Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment

At Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 12th October 2017 members were

informed that “The Planning Enforcement Team is currently undertaking work to enforce against retailers whose empty units are blighting our high streets” could Councillor Anderson update the Council on any enforcement action undertaken, especially with regard to the many vacant units in Enfield Town?

Reply from Councillor Anderson

Under the auspices of the emerging Enfield Town Framework Master plan, it is recognised there are presently a number of vacant shop units which due to their appearance, detract from the appearance of the town centre and that proactive intervention is necessary.

However, before any formal action can commence, a detailed condition survey of the town centre retail units was first necessary to inform the content of the planning enforcement notice and the specification for the works to be undertaken and bring about an improvement in their external appearance.

These notices are now ready and further discussion has taken place with colleagues in Regeneration on the specification for the steps necessary to create a more active shop front rather than an obscured screening solution. Alongside this, local traders and premises’ owners are being written to explaining why the Council feels this course of action is necessary given the importance it places on making the town centre an attractive and vibrant place to visit.

Question 20 from Councillor McGowan to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council

Could the Leader of the Council report on any response from the Minister on Universal Credit?

Reply from Councillor Taylor

I wrote to Damien Hinds - Minister for Employment on 13 October 17, setting the concerns about the service design of Universal Credit and the problems that this would cause local residents of Enfield – particularly in the run up to Christmas. I received a response on the 1st November 2017, coincidentally the date that Universal Credit started being rolled out across Enfield.

Unfortunately, the Minister’s response did not address the concerns that we all share. The Minister appears content that design of Universal Credit has enough welfare clauses to ensure that local residents will not get into difficulty. Advance payments and alternative payment arrangements were highlighted as the ‘safeguards’ within the design of the scheme that local residents can access and delays in payment were attributed to problems caused by applicants failing to complete their claims properly.

No delay to the rollout was offered.

In summary, Universal Credit continues to roll out in spite of the calls for a delay and rethink. Local residents are still subject to the long waiting period of at least 6 weeks

for the first payment and a Universal Credit help line that can cost up to 55p per minutes is still in place, waiting for Government to honour their commitment to make it free.

Reports and concerns continue to be generated – from the National Audit office to the Citizen's Advice Bureau. These echo the concerns of hardship, rent arrears, debt, eviction and homelessness that were raised in this Chamber.

In his letter the Minister did hint that 'improvements could be made along the way', so we await the Autumn Statement in hopeful anticipation but not perhaps genuine expectations.

Question 21 from Councillor Smith to Councillor Sitkin, Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Business Development

Will Councillor Sitkin confirm when he was notified by officers that the deal with Barratts was unlikely to proceed?

Reply from Councillor Sitkin

Councillor Smith knows very well from our direct discussions in the presence of officers that the formation of opinion regarding the likelihood of the Barratts deal proceeding was a gradual process and therefore involved no "notification" per se. Different stakeholders came to the opinion he refers to at different points in time from August 2017 onwards, with the ultimate consensus coinciding with (and spurring) the October letter we wrote to Barratts.

Question 22 from Councillor Pite to Councillor Sitkin, Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Business Development

Can the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Business Development tell us how the Enfield Town Masterplan consultation is progressing?

Reply from Councillor Sitkin

Public Consultation of the Draft Enfield Town Framework Masterplan ran over the summer months, from the 10th July through to 25th September 2017 and progressed with great passion with many expressing a strong desire to see a vibrant future for Enfield Town. A vision to celebrate Enfield Town's heritage and identity was firmly endorsed with some acceptance for a need to adapt and change in order to respond to the challenges facing the town centre, in particular the high street offer.

Four well attended public drop-in sessions took place where many took the opportunity to raise a number of good questions; express areas of concern; and put forward some fresh ideas for future opportunities within the town.

Throughout the consultation period officers hosted a number of focused sessions and site visits with groups such: The Conservation Advisory Group, Area Partnerships, Business Reps, The Old Enfield Charitable Trust, The Enfield Society, The Enfield Conservation Area Study Group and Resident Associations including:

Bush Hill Park; Enfield Town; and Chalkwell Park Residents.

In total some 200 responses were received from a range of stakeholders, statutory consultees, residents and businesses. Officers are now in the process of analysing the responses and undertaking some follow-up sessions as we begin the process of responding, amending and refining the draft masterplan towards adoption next year.

Question 23 from Councillor Smith to Councillor Sitkin, Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Business Development

Will Councillor Sitkin inform the Council what percentage and acreage of the total Meridian Water site is designated as Strategic Industrial Land (SIL)?

Reply from Councillor Sitkin

18 hectares (44.5 acres) of Meridian Water, that is the entire parcel of land to the east of the River Lea Navigation, is designated as Strategic Industrial Land. That is 33% of developable land which is currently calculated as 55 hectares (136 acres) across Meridian Water.

Question 24 from Councillor Ulus to Councillor Oykener, Cabinet Member for Housing & Housing Regeneration

Could the Cabinet Member for Housing & Housing Regeneration outline the changes to the cleaning and caretaking services for each council owned housing block, and the expected improvements to the internal and external areas?

Reply from Councillor Oykener

We have carried out a Review of Communal Services which was completed in June 2017, since this time we have introduced a range of improvements to the service:

- Introduced service standards and monitoring of all sites, satisfaction of cleaning is 78% and our aspiration is to reach 85% by the March 2019.
- The standard for cleaning meets the national Housemark standards adopted by other landlords.
- Each block has a programme of cleaning based, and new cleaning notices will be sent to residents informing them when to expect their caretaker to be on site and the tasks they will be doing when they are on site.
- We will be reducing the number of agency staff which is currently 43, through recruiting to these posts; this will be completed by January 2018.
- We have reviewed all our costs of cleaning against each block to ensure that leaseholders and tenants are charged the correct service charge.
- Caretakers can now report communal repairs directly to the contractors meaning we have reduced the delay in communal repairs being completed.
- We are introducing a programme of jet washing all our external hard surfaces such as paths, drying areas, play areas.
- We have started to work closely with colleagues in Waste Services to match our cleaning schedules with refuse collection dates.

- We have improved productivity by around 48% and have incorporated enhanced cleaning of internal areas as part of the block schedules.

Question 25 from Councillor Smith to Councillor Sitkin, Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Business Development

What contingency plans has Councillor Sitkin put in place if the Mayor decides not to re-designate the SIL (Strategic Industrial Land) at Meridian Water for Housing which seems likely?

Reply from Councillor Sitkin

Plan1: In recent correspondence, the GLA (Greater London Authority) has confirmed that SIL (Strategic Industrial Land) release at Meridian Water is accepted in principle if suitable SIL compensation land can be found in Enfield which offers the same or better access to the strategic road network as the Harbet Road site (and is not already existing industrial use).

Enfield Planning team is working to identify potential for SIL compensation either within the Edmonton Leeside Area Action Plan (ELAAP) boundary or beyond within the Local Plan.

Plan2: The GLA have confirmed that as part of the new London Plan to be published on 29 November 2017, they are working on a policy approach which allows additional uses (including residential) in industrial locations on a no net loss of floor-space through co-location or intensification and is in discussion with Enfield as to how this can be developed at Meridian Water.

Question 26 from Councillor Hasan to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Education, Children's Services & Protection

In the light of the Government's recent National Funding Formula (NFF) for funding schools would Councillor Orhan tell us if she sees particular difficulties for the future of Enfield schools, children and young people as the funding strongly indicates a focus of funding for secondary schools whilst robbing early learning and primary schools?

Reply from Councillor Orhan

There is a dichotomy in the NFF as it asks local authorities to maintain a reasonable balance between primary and secondary funding, a suggested funding ratio of 1:1.29 in favour of secondary. However, if we were to fully implement the NFF given the current figures in Enfield this would place the ratio at 1:1.38 in favour of secondary schools. For this reason and also because we have not been given enough money by the Government to fully implement the NFF, we are currently consulting with schools over different models for school funding for 2018-19.

Our preferred option is to move 50% of the way towards the NFF, but also ensuring all schools receive the same per pupil funding as this year. This model provides the least turbulence in school budgets as well as the best ratio for primary and

secondary at 1:1.31.

As a Head Teacher pointed out, depriving the primary phase of funding only magnifies any problems at secondary.

There is no doubt that as we move towards the full implementation of the NFF maintaining a reasonable ratio between the sectors could prove to be challenge.

Question 27 from Councillor Smith to Councillor Sitkin, Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Business Development

Will Councillor Sitkin confirm the level of additional costs that are likely to be faced by Energetik if the start of development at Meridian Water is delayed by two years?

Reply from Councillor Sitkin

Firstly, we have been asked by the Meridian Water Team to model a 6 month delay not 2 years so we are not expecting that scenario to arise.

Question 28 from Councillor Doyle to Councillor Fonyonga, Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Public Health

Can the Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Public Health update the Council on actions to reduce sugar intake across Enfield?

Reply from Councillor Fonyonga

Excessive sugar consumption is extremely detrimental to adult and children's health in many ways. Furthermore type 2 diabetes for example, is a condition that costs the NHS some £25,000 per minute and is partially caused by excess sugar. As such the Public Health team continues to do extensive work in this area and will be proposing to the Health and Wellbeing Board on 21 November 2018 that the Council signs up to the Local Government Declaration on Sugar Reduction. This will mean agreeing to a series of pledges which avoid promoting unhealthy food and drink.

Our range of other work includes:

- Sugar Smart is a campaign run by the Jamie Oliver Foundation and Sustain, which encourages a range of settings to make a pledge to become Sugar Smart i.e reduce sugar consumption. We are currently engaging 14 settings, including schools, nurseries, leisure centres and community groups to become Sugar Smart, ahead of our launch in January 2018. We aim to encourage 100 settings to become Sugar Smart over the course of a year.
- We are currently undertaking a review of food provision in a range of council owned and council leased properties with an aim to understand the scale of the problem and use the evidence to inform action to improve the food environment across the borough.

Question 29 from Councillor Smith to Councillor Sitkin, Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Business Development

Would Councillor Sitkin confirm the annual estimated revenue cost to the Council of running four trains an hour as planned through the relocated Angel Road train station?

Reply from Councillor Sitkin

Network Rail is currently on site building a 3rd track which will provide a 2-4 train per hour service at no revenue cost to the Council. At present Enfield has not been advised as to whether there will be any revenue running cost to the Council of a regular four trains per hour through the relocated Angel Road station (Meridian Water). Enfield is working with Network Rail to complete a revised timetable exercise to identify feasibility. The output of this exercise is due in spring 2018.

Question 30 from Councillor During to Councillor A Cazimoglu, Cabinet Member for Health & Social Care

The Annual Adult Safeguarding Board report is here tonight at Full Council for noting. Would the Cabinet Member for Health & Social Care please explain the importance of all statutory and non-statutory agencies working together to keep our vulnerable residents safe?

Reply from Councillor A Cazimoglu

The continued commitment from all statutory and non-statutory agencies to working together to keep our vulnerable residents safe is vital in maintaining our excellent work in safeguarding adults. Our strong partnerships mean that we have a co-ordinated and effective response when managing safeguarding concerns; it also means we can properly plan and implement projects that prevent abuse from happening at all.

The Safeguarding Adults Board Annual report highlights examples of the partnership working that takes place in Enfield and the difference this is making in keeping vulnerable adults safe from abuse. Two examples of note:

The first, is the work of our Safeguarding Information Panel, which brings together the Local Authority's Safeguarding Adults team, the Care Quality Commission (CQC), the Enfield Clinical Commissioning Group, the Police, the London Fire Brigade and others, to share intelligence about quality issues in Enfield's care and support provider organisations: we have 160 CQC registered providers, one of the highest numbers in London. The panel has a strong prevention role, co-ordinating (where appropriate) work of agencies with providers to improve issues of poor quality before they escalate to safeguarding concerns. The panel is often cited by the CQC as an example of best practice in London.

The second, is an excellent piece of work from our Quality Checkers (our 50-plus local service user and carer volunteers who help us assure quality of services) and the NHS Care Home Assessment Team to understand issues around hydration of

residents in care homes. This piece of work culminated in the development of a Hydration toolkit, which includes a dehydration card to assist staff and family members visiting care homes to understand what dehydration is, how to recognise this and what to do.

There are many other excellent examples detailed in the report involving work in areas such as domestic abuse, fire safety, targeted awareness raising within community groups. What these examples show is the importance of strong partnership working between agencies to safeguard adults at risk of abuse, and how effective our arrangements in Enfield are.

Question 31 from Councillor Smith to Councillor Sitkin, Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Business Development

Will Councillor Sitkin inform the Council what contingency plans he has put in place to develop Meridian Water without Barratts?

Reply from Councillor Sitkin

In accordance with Cabinet on 20th October 2017 (KD 4241), negotiations have commenced with the reserve bidder, PCPD. Negotiations will progress in accordance with the timeframe and sequence as set out in the draft letter attached to the Cabinet Report.

Question 32 from Councillor Simon to Councillor Georgiou, Deputy Leader/Public Service Delivery

Can the Deputy Leader/Public Service Delivery please update us on the Enfield Conversation?

Reply from Councillor Georgiou

Enfield Conversation had its first two pilot surveys in the east of the borough in September 2017. A further three were carried out in the first week of November 2017 together with one for the Youth Parliament on 13 November 2017. Currently the responses are being compiled and analysed. The aim of the survey is to obtain local opinion on growth and priorities for Enfield over the coming 30-40 years

Question 33 from Councillor Smith to Councillor Lemonides, Cabinet Member for Finance & Efficiency

Will Councillor Lemonides confirm the total cost (including borrowing) incurred to date to the Council of the Meridian Water scheme?

Reply from Councillor Lemonides

To date, the Council has spent £161.6m on the Meridian Water project.

Question 34 from Councillor Jemal to Councillor Fonyonga, Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Public Health

Creating a healthier Enfield is an absolute priority for this Council. What work is Enfield Council doing to communicate the benefits of a more active lifestyle and a better diet and encourage residents to change their unhealthy behaviours?

Reply from Councillor Fonyonga

It is estimated that three behaviours: physical inactivity, smoking and poor diet cause or contribute significantly to 50% of deaths through cancer, heart disease or respiratory disease.

In addition to the work the public health team are doing to reduce the sugar intake across Enfield, the Council have run a successful Move More Enfield campaign, encouraging residents to incorporate physical activity into their everyday lives. This includes major projects like Cycle Enfield and working closely with planners to ensure that public health objectives are embedded in planning policy and decision-making.

Furthermore, the sport and physical activity team “Active Enfield” promotes events such as the Mayor’s Annual Charity Fun Run, a night hike in aid of the Nightingale Hospice and a vast range of term time and holiday programmes of activities for young people, adults and over 50s on the new look “Active Enfield Website” – please do visit it if you haven’t already.

As a result of this increased promotion linked to various new methods of booking, including more user friendly online booking, we are seeing a rise in attendance at these courses. The Active Enfield team also promotes activities through Enfield Presents Magazine and Our Enfield, through social media using Facebook and Twitter daily to promote our service and to highlight good news stories from around the Borough. We are also working closely with Fusion to continue to provide targeted offers to encourage all residents to Move More.

Question 35 from Councillor David-Sanders to Councillor Daniel Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment

Would the Cabinet Member for Environment consider installing additional signage to aid pedestrians where either the crossing points have been either changed or reconfigured on the A105 Cycle Enfield as this has worked very well where this has been done on Cycle Super Highway projects?

Reply from Councillor Anderson

I thank Councillor David-Sanders for his question. We're always interested in exploring ways in which the schemes can be improved and we'll discuss the approach taken by Transport for London on their Cycle Superhighways. If Councillor David-Sanders has any particular signs in mind then I'd be keen to hear from him.

Question 36 from Councillor Maguire to Councillor Fonyonga, Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Public Health

Will the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Public Health tell the Council whether there are any plans to mark the forthcoming White Ribbon Day?

Reply from Councillor Fonyonga

The Metropolitan Police, health groups and Enfield Council will join forces Thursday 23 November 2017 to raise awareness about domestic violence ahead of White Ribbon Day.

Enfield Council reaffirmed its commitment to the White Ribbon pledge which empowers women and girls to stand up to violence. At a special conference held at the Dugdale Centre the Council will be officially recognised for its work with an award, presented by White Ribbon UK to Enfield Council.

The White Ribbon UK campaign aims to end male violence against women. Enfield Council was the first London borough to achieve White Ribbon status in 2010. At the conference the Council and its partners will discuss the two-year partnership plan to address a range of areas affected by domestic violence and how we plan to offer united support. The Council has doubled the number of Independent Domestic Violence Advocates that it funds (from 2-4) and is focussing award winning communications campaigns towards young women.

There is no place in a civilised society for a cowardly and abhorrent crime such as this, and we are determined to raise awareness not only amongst women but for men to engage the campaign too. We will also continue to work with our partner organisations to do everything within our power to bring those responsible for committing violence to justice and to help protect domestic violence survivors."

We have in partnership with other Boroughs been part of successful bids totaling over £1m during the past 18 months to support our work to keep the most vulnerable people safe.

At the conference, pupils from Heron Hall Academy, which is championing this cause, will present a dramatic piece based around a workshop on relationships. This will be delivered by the charity Tender Education & Arts* which has been working with the school. Students who took part in the project were asked to discuss some of the pressures of being in relationships with particular emphasis on social media.

These themes have also been brought to light via Enfield Council's awareness campaign 'Boyfriend Material', aimed at helping women to realise when their relationships have become unhealthy or abusive. This is the second phase of Enfield Council's award-winning domestic violence campaign.

Question 37 from Councillor Hurer to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Education, Children's Services and Protection

Would the Cabinet Member confirm whether Cuckoo Hall Academy Trust has

approached the Council since Cuckoo Hall Primary School was rated as being in special measures following its latest Ofsted inspection?

Reply from Councillor Orhan

As Councillor Hurer is well aware this school is an academy and as such is the responsibility of the Government.

However, I can confirm to you that the local authority has been approached by the Trust.

Question 38 from Councillor N Cazimoglu to Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment

I understand that measures are being considered to increase the clampdown on anti-social behaviours which blight the quality of lives of many residents. Can the Cabinet Member for Environment tell us what are these measures and what impact will they have?

Reply from Councillor Anderson

Cabinet last week approved the introduction of a range of Public Space Protection Orders based on extensive public consultation which demonstrated overwhelming support for them in tackling a range of anti-social behaviours.

- Alcohol consumption.
- Vehicle cruising (speeding, driving in convoy, racing, performing stunts, sounding horns and revving engines as to cause a nuisance, and wheel spins) involving cars, motorbikes, mopeds, trucks, vans and lorries and other vehicles.
- Holding of fireworks to cause intimidation etc and throwing of fireworks.
- Dog controls; such as dog fouling (clearing it up and carrying bags), dogs on leads or excluded in certain parks or parts of parks.
- Persons loitering in Council housing estates causing nuisance etc.
- Intimidatory begging.
- Possession, use and supply of psychoactive substances (formerly known as 'legal highs').
- Persons windscreen washing/selling goods.
- Prostitution.
- Smoking in playgrounds.
- Flying of drones.
- Vehicles deposited for an unreasonable period of time on Council land or land adjoining the highway.
- Riding of mopeds to cause alarm, distress, annoyance or criminal damage.
- Loitering by persons in certain locations causing intimidation, harassment, alarm or distress and/or drug dealing/use.

We are aiming to introduce them in mid-January, which will enable the police and authorised council officers to issue Fixed Penalty Notices of £100 where these orders apply, or to prosecute. This will compliment other enforcement powers to

enable both the police and the Council to tackle and reduce anti-social behaviour in the borough, and improve the feelings of safety of the community.

Question 39 from Councillor Stewart to Councillor Brett, Cabinet Member for Community, Arts & Culture

Over 400,000 more children could fall into poverty by 2021, if the Government pursues its planned benefit and tax reforms, according to a new report. The Institute for Fiscal Studies combined official economic forecasts with the projected impact of planned reforms, and found that relative child poverty could increase from 27 per cent to 31 per cent. Separate research from the Child Poverty Action Group revealed that almost half of working parents with an annual household income under £30,000 feel they do not have enough money to support their families. Could the Cabinet Member for Community, Arts & Culture tell us what will be the impact on Enfield residents?

Reply from Councillor Brett

There is strong evidence that deprivation is strongly associated with poorer health and wellbeing and adversely affects life chances.

Poverty is an important component of multiple deprivations and is measured in many ways.

The evidence suggests that living in relative poverty is particularly damaging to health and wellbeing as expectations are harder to realise for less well-off households, surrounded by better off households. This is a particular feature of Enfield's very mixed population.

The Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC)'s child in low income families' measure is an attempt to measure relative poverty and is the most commonly used child poverty measure in England. It is defined as:

"Number of children living in families in receipt of Child Tax Credit (CTC) whose reported income is less than 60 per cent of the median income or in receipt of Income Support or (Income-Based) JSA (Job Seekers Allowance), divided by the total number of children in the area (determined by child benefit data)

The latest data on this is for August 2014 when 24,240 children were considered to be in low income families, which was 28.3% of all children in the borough. (dependent children under 20).

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