

Public Document Pack



LONDON BOROUGH OF ENFIELD

Councillor Questions and Responses

**THE COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY, 19TH JULY, 2018 AT 8.00 PM**

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

**Please
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Date: 18 July 2018

12. COUNCILLOR QUESTION TIME (Pages 1 - 18)

11.1 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.

11.2 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 Wednesday 18 July 2018.

Council Questions - Thursday 19 July 2018

Questions to Cabinet Members

Question 1 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Caliskan, Leader of the Council

Would the Leader of the Council confirm when she requested a political assistant for the Labour Group Office and why she feels she needs one, when the previous Leader, Councillor Taylor managed for eight years without a political assistant and won the largest victory for Labour in the history of the London Borough of Enfield?

Reply from Councillor Caliskan:

The Labour Group has not requested a Political Assistant, rather officers have been asked to explore best practice in other local authorities, as well as research into what the role of a 'Political Assistant' would be, as set out by the national legislation. Post a local election, the responsible thing for the Leader of the Council to do is to discuss with the Chief Executive ways the Council can improve. Ensuring there is adequate administrative support for all political party groups, reflecting how big their Councillor cohort is, is important in ensuring political priorities are translated into Council delivery. Labour Group is proud to have 46 Labour Councillors as a result of the resounding support from Enfield residents for Labour values and vision. Any request for a Political Assistant would only be made if the Labour Group decides it is a post that would benefit the running of the Council to help ensure services Enfield residents rely on are delivered in the most effective way.

Question 2 from Councillor Aramaz to Councillor Maguire, Cabinet Member for Finance & Procurement

Would the Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement give Councillors her view of the Council's finances?

Reply from Councillor Maguire

Times are tough, and Enfield has had to make tough decisions. Our finances are less strong than four years ago because of this Government's sustained period of austerity. However, Enfield is still in a much healthier position than some councils, for example Northamptonshire, which is in crisis and has failed its residents. Enfield is in a good position because it has made responsible budget decisions, protecting its services to vulnerable residents, working efficiently and maintaining a prudent level of financial reserves. In other words, we have and will continue to live within the resources available to us.

Central government funding has been halved since 2010, and future funding levels are extremely uncertain, with many radical changes to funding expected in two years' time. Whilst we will keep lobbying for adequate funding for all of local government, and for fair funding for Enfield, at the same time, we need to ensure we keep a sufficient level of reserves to manage through the uncertainty of future cuts and changes in the funding formula. Financial sustainability and resilience, keeping

council tax as low as possible and targeting inequality in the borough will be key to our medium term financial strategy from 2019/20.

Question 3 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Caliskan, Leader of the Council

Would the Leader inform Council of the total cost of the Mayor's reception following the Annual Council meeting against the budgeted sum for the event?

Reply from Councillor Caliskan

The Mayor's Office has an annual budget of £5,500 to use for entertaining during the mayoral year. There is no fixed budget for Mayor making. The cost for the Mayor's reception, following annual council this year was £1,320.

Question 4 from Councillor Bedekova to Councillor Maguire, Cabinet Member for Finance & Procurement

Can the Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement set out how she is taking forward work on the smarter procurement of the Council's goods and services?

Reply from Councillor Maguire

This administration is committed to ensuring we spend as much as possible of the Council's procurement budget on locally delivered services. That is why I have initiated a programme of work to look at all the Council's bought in goods and services, to identify where it makes sense to deliver those services from in-house resources instead. We know that won't be possible in all cases, but, to get the best from our staff, and to make best possible use of the money we have available, we have started the process of analysing our supplier base. We are, of course, sensitive to the needs of local suppliers, as well as the scope to improve efficiency further within the council, so our analysis will include a look at local businesses, Small and Medium sized Enterprises, improving outcomes, improving resilience of services and joining-up across the Council wherever possible, where that hasn't been done already. Through this process, we will develop a programme setting out how each of the Council's bought in goods and services can best be delivered, for the benefit of local people, local businesses, the taxpayer and our workforce.

I have also initiated a programme to review the management of existing contracts, so that we have a tight grip, across the Council, on our management of suppliers. We have made a number of significant improvements in recent years, and this work will further strengthen our control of these vital services.

Question 5 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Dogan, Cabinet Member for Environment

In connection with the proposed cycle hub at Genotin Road, can the Cabinet Member explain the relative priorities of cyclists over bus users, who, cheek by jowl with the proposed hub, have to stand at a very busy bus stop, particularly during rush hour, on a narrow pavement which is inadequate and potentially dangerous for

bus users? How does he intend to address this?

Reply from Councillor Dogan:

As part of scheme we have already relocated the bus stop on Genotin Road a little further north, creating more space for waiting bus users. The design also includes a landscaped area where additional seating will be added specifically for bus passengers. So it seems self-evident to me that the needs of all road users have been considered.

Question 6 from Councillor Ergin Erbil to Councillor Maguire, Cabinet Member for Finance & Procurement

Can the Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement update the Council on the London-wide pilot on Business Rates Retention?

Reply from Councillor Maguire:

The London boroughs and the Greater London Authority (GLA) are taking part in a pilot business rates pool in 2018/19. London will retain a greater proportion of any business rates growth achieved in the capital. The actual amount received will depend on actual levels of business rates and will not be known until 2019.

Some of the pooled business rates gains will fund a Strategic Investment Pot, currently estimated at £55m. Bids were invited for projects that would contribute to the sustainable growth of London's economy and increase business rates income, leverage additional investment funding and would have broad support across London government. Enfield has submitted a joint proposal with Haringey and Waltham Forest. This 'Productive Valley' bid is a cross boundary proposal that addresses the market failure facing the Upper Lea Valley, and London more widely, promoting economic growth by unlocking new employment floorspace to create new jobs and additional business rates income in the future. We propose to create a valley-wide fund that will be accessible to businesses seeking to invest in the improvement and intensification of their sites and premises or in new equipment to enable growth. We expect a decision on this shortly.

Question 7 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Caliskan, Leader of the Council

The Leader will be aware that during the last term, I made proposals, to the former Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) Secretary of State, for the law on qualification, to be or remain, an elected member to be amended so that if a prospective or elected councillor was sentenced to any period of imprisonment for a criminal offence, they would be automatically disqualified from council membership.

I have now raised the matter with the Prime Minister personally, who shares my and others concern at this current weakness in the law.

Will the new Leader lend her support for this change in the law so that never again in

this council, or elsewhere, law abiding members are required to sit alongside convicted criminals who have received custodial sentences?

Reply from Councillor Caliskan

I agree that there are weaknesses in the current standards regime. I am aware that the Committee on Standards in Public Life is currently reviewing Local Government ethical standards

The terms of reference for the review are to:

- examine the structures, processes and practices in local government in England for:
 - maintaining codes of conduct for local councillors
 - investigating alleged breaches fairly and with due process
 - enforcing codes and imposing sanctions for misconduct
 - declaring interests and managing conflicts of interest
 - whistleblowing
- assess whether the existing structures, processes and practices are conducive to high standards of conduct in local government
- make any recommendations for how they can be improved
- note any evidence of intimidation of councillors, and make recommendations for any measures that could be put in place to prevent and address such intimidation

The review will consider all levels of local government and will hopefully result in changes to the law when the review has been completed. I would be very happy to support any changes to the Law proposed by the review.

Question 8 from Councillor Akpinar to Councillor Caliskan, Leader of the Council

Could the Leader of the Council give an update on progress with Meridian Water?

Reply from Councillor Caliskan

An update is set out in the three reports going to the Cabinet meeting on the 25 July 2018.

Question 9 from Councillor Hayward to Councillor Brett, Cabinet Member for Public Health

Would the Cabinet Member for Public Health outline to Council her priorities for the current Municipal Year?

Reply from Councillor Brett

Over the coming year our public health priorities will focus on enabling the Council to fulfil the Labour Party manifesto commitment of putting public health at the heart of policies for improving the quality of lives of residents. This will recognise the unique

impact the Council has in preventing illness, promoting healthier lifestyles and extending healthier lives.

This objective appears in the new Corporate Plan as “Health in All Policies” (HiAP) which is an approach that aims to embed the maximising of health benefits and the minimising of potential negative health impacts in all areas of the Council’s work and influence both internally and externally. This will include ensuring that policies that impact the wider determinants of health, such as housing, transport, air quality, planning, education and social care are fully utilised to improve health outcomes and reduce inequalities in health locally.

A key part of improving health is promoting positive behaviour change. We intend to do this by driving forward a coordinated campaign, called 3-4-50, which focuses on the three most common unhealthy behaviours (smoking, poor diet and lack of physical activity) which in turn contribute to developing the four main diseases (cancer, respiratory disease, cardiovascular disease and diabetes), which together are responsible for over 50% of early deaths. This will support the longer and wider work to make the Enfield environment one in which the healthy choice is the easy choice. For example, we are already succeeding in this through our award-winning Cycle Enfield scheme. Here people are physically active because they are going about their everyday business, not because they are having to proactively think about health.

We will also continue to work with our partners, including the NHS, primarily through the Health & Wellbeing Board, but also through other partnership boards and settings, to drive improvements in key health indicators. The current Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy, which will be refreshed next year, focuses on three areas: Healthy Weight and Obesity, Mental Health and Wellbeing, and achieving the Best Start in Life for our children. The strategy recognises that progress on these major issues will only be possible if all parts of the council and its partners work together in a coordinated way.

I am working with the Cabinet Member of Environment to achieve a healthier environment.

Question 10 from Councillor Savva to Councillor Maguire, Cabinet Member for Finance & Procurement

How many redundancies have been issued during the financial year 2017/2018?

Reply from Councillor Maguire

78 employees left due to redundancy during the financial year 2017/2018.

Question 11 from Councillor Hayward to Councillor Brett, Cabinet Member for Public Health

Will the Cabinet Member for Public Health inform council of any plans to make the borough pesticide free?

Reply from Councillor Brett

The Council seeks to use pesticides to the minimal extent possible.

With regards to the use of herbicides (formally classified as a pesticide), in the public highways a premixed chemical is used and applied using electronically controlled hand held sprayers that are automatically calibrated, throughout the summer. This is a “spot spray” application directly onto weeds. In parks very little herbicides are used, ranging from nothing used in flagship parks to hand held applicators as used in the street. The control of highly invasive plant species (such as Giant Hogweed with a known toxicity or Knotweed for rapid colonisation of the environment) requires the use of a herbicide using direct stem injection whenever possible to reduce the volume of chemical used to an absolute minimum and as a result eliminate any adverse impact upon the environment and also other plants growing in the same area.

Overall, however, it is the Council’s ambition to reduce usage in favour of chemical free applications. At the moment the alternative options do not provide a suitable alternative for the street or park environments. For example, the hot foam application currently trialled at some authorities does not appear to be producing equivalent results at a significant cost increase and has some adverse environmental impacts such as increasing the carbon footprint of frontline operations.

We will keep a close eye on these developments and remain open to consideration of this and other methods of weed control when trials show that they can provide an effective alternative.

Question 12 from Councillor Savva to Councillor Maguire, Cabinet Member for Finance & Procurement

How many agency staff do we employ and what is the annual cost to the council?

Reply from Councillor Maguire:

The current headcount is 735 which is approximately 520 FTE. The total spend for the full year 17/18 was £28,065,850.80 which is an average of £2,338,820.90 per month. Spend for May 2018 was £2,026,158.77 indicating a reduction in spend for 18/19.

Question 13 from Councillor Hayward to Councillor Keazor, Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Cohesion

Would the Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Cohesion outline to Council her priorities for the current Municipal Year?

Reply from Councillor Keazor

My key priority is to ensure Enfield is a safe place to live, work and study, a resilient community that works together to prosper and grow, all I do in the coming year will have that at its core. Central to this will be reducing serious violence in all its forms,

especially serious youth violence; focussing not just on the problem, but its causes.

To this aim we have already met with professionals from Enfield Council and partners and representatives of third sector and community groups and from other authorities to look at what more we can do to ensure Enfield is safe and cohesive. Additionally, we will be holding a Community Engagement event in Edmonton on the 28th July and we are investing an extra £150,000 to engage young people and a £100,000 of this will be used to provide additional youth summer activities.

However, violence and serious youth violence are not my only priorities. Tacking Domestic Abuse is an ongoing priority and one which we continue to invest in and we have a new Domestic Violence Response Co-ordinator starting on the 23rd July 2018 and we will drive forward our implementation and delivery of our Domestic Violence Action Plan.

Anti-Social Behaviour, which can often cross into criminal behaviour and which can encompass issues such as groups of youths creating noise in residential areas through to prostitution and kerb crawling remains an issue of concern for residents. It is an issue that has links with perceptions of serious youth violence and gangs, as youths loitering in and around residential areas making a noise can seem threatening to many residents [whether the youths are engaged in any criminal activity or not] and this leads to further fear of crime. Because of this tackling Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) is a priority and one which the council is very committed to tackling through our work with the Police [16 of which are funded and tasked by Enfield Council specifically to deal with the issues that most concern our residents] and through our own ASB team and through our 834 CCTV cameras. Enforcement against anti-social behaviour remains a key weapon in our fight against ASB and the issue of £100 Fixed Penalty Notices [FPNs] is part of this.

Hate Crime is another issue which we remain concerned about and tackling it will be another of my priorities. We have reviewed the way in which we run the Hate Crime Forum and Executive Group and there is now Member representation on the Executive Group and we hope to continue to work with the Police and Community Groups to improve our response to Hate Crime and improve cohesion in the Borough.

I will also continue to ensure a focus on reducing burglary and keeping people safe in their homes

Councillor Hayward, the Council and residents can be assured that despite drastic central government cuts to funding for Enfield Community Safety, Cohesion and Engagement remain priorities, ones we are investing in and ones we strive to continue to impact upon. Using our funding in the most efficient, effective and economic manner, engaging the community and third sector to work with professionals and utilising best practice from other areas to inform our responses ensures we continue to deliver robust and proportionate responses to issues of community safety.

Question 14 from Councillor Lappage to Councillor Lemonides, Cabinet Member for Housing

Thames Water has just been fined £120m for poor performance and not doing enough regarding preventing leakage. The company has agreed to pay £65m back to customers equating £15 per person. Will we be assisting with the claim back?

Reply from Councillor Lemonides

The Council does not have a direct role in this refund programme as it is Thames Waters' responsibility. Housing staff have been made aware of the decision and will signpost residents with queries so that all residents who are entitled will be able to participate.

Question 15 from Councillor Hayward to Councillor Keazor, Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Cohesion

What plans does the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Cohesion have to address the rising incidence of knife crime and gang related activities within the budget and resources she has?

Reply from Councillor Keazor

I refer you to the answer I gave to your earlier question, tackling all forms of violence, not just knife crime, is a key aim and we are being proactive in our response. Knife crime and gang related activities are a complex multi-faceted problem and there are no simple answers, professionals and the community need to work together to deliver a holistic response that deals with the issue and it causes. Our response will include support to ensure the causes are tackled and enforcement is utilised to deal with the issue as it presents; we aim to ensure that carrying knives and committing acts of violence are not tolerated and are met with a very robust response.

To this end the Council held an event in May where we discussed this issue with professionals from the Police, Council, the National Probation Service, third sector, academics, community members and young people. From this event an action plan has been developed which will soon be implemented. To consider how MOPAC can aid us in our response the Leader has met with the Mayor to discuss the issues and myself, the leader and senior officers have also attended pan London events to learn from what other London areas are doing and how we can work together to tackle this issue. Additionally, officers and I have visited colleagues in other exemplar areas in order that we can learn from them regarding how they are tackling these issues in their localities. We continue to engage the public and will be holding a public event on the 28th July in Edmonton and in line with our manifesto commitment we have increased spending on extra youth activities and an extra £100,000 will be spent on a package of summer activities to engage young people.

Enfield Council already funds 16 Police Safer Neighbourhood officers to patrol the borough's housing estates and has an ASB team and 834 CCTV cameras to help keep residents safe but it is not enough, we need more Police and central government cuts to the Police means we have far fewer Police Officers in Enfield, a

subject the leader has discussed with the Mayor and she has written to the Police requesting more officers for Enfield. However, despite cuts to Enfield's funding and unlike many areas no youth centres have been closed down in Enfield and apart from the reduction in the Youth Justice Grant from Central Government we have not reduced funding to the Youth Offending Unit. Additionally, this summer Enfield Council will fund £100,000 of additional youth activities including football, boxing, horticulture and cookery sessions will be delivered as part of our aim reinforce positive messages and behaviour. Also we have recently submitted a bid to the Mayors Young Londoners Fund for £1.5 million over three years to fund a project that will engage young people who are starting to get involved in crime and/or be excluded from school.

However, to develop and support a resilient community we must engage with the community, garner their energy and ensure they are a part of the solution to this issue, something officers and councillors continue to do at all levels, from small groups of individual young people through to community organisations. We want to ensure residents and local organisations are engaged, that parents are supported and we are determined to do everything we can to engage and give our younger residents every opportunity to make the right decisions and follow the right path. We want the young people in our borough to be hopeful, to have their aspirations raised and we want to ensure they feel they are part of Enfield and have confidence that their concerns are responded to. However we also want to ensure they understand that violence and carrying and using weapons is totally unacceptable and will be met with a robust enforcement activity.

Councillor Hayward, the Council and residents can be assured that we are putting a great deal of effort into tackling the issues of gangs and serious youth violence and despite the cuts we are working in partnership and we are deploying the resources we have in the most efficient, effective and economic manner.

Question 16 from Councillor Orhan to Councillor Brett, Cabinet Member for Public Health

I have read and heard about the large number of children having to choose between food and personal hygiene, with 63% of primary schools surveyed saying children turn up dirty. What information do we have about Enfield?

Reply from Councillor Brett

An independent study commissioned by Kind Direct, a UK charity, polled 2,000 parents and found that many are facing financial hardships with some families being forced to choose between food or personal hygiene products such as hygiene and cleaning products. This data is self-report data from a nationally representative sample of 2000 parents who were questioned between 20th and 27th April 2018. No information of this sort has been forthcoming from schools in Enfield.

Question 17 from Councillor Vince to Councillor Achilleas Georgiou, Cabinet Member for Children's Services

Would Councillor Achilleas Georgiou inform the Council what his and the

administration priorities are for Children's Services, especially for our most vulnerable children?

Reply from Councillor Achilleas Georgiou:

In line with the promises set out in the Labour Manifesto, we will give all young people the best possible start in life and make life better for Enfield's families.

In Children's Social Care, the immediate priority is to ensure the safety of children, with increasing complexity of need in a climate of diminishing resources. It is important to get the right services around the family and we will be re-launching the revised threshold document to assist partners in doing this.

It is essential to retain the workforce and we are looking to address the difficulties in recruiting and retaining social workers due to supply and competition issues.

Another area of focus is to monitor the effectiveness of practice in readiness for external inspections by Ofsted, CQC and HMIP and the newly formed Practice & Performance Board is overseeing this activity.

In the medium to longer term we will:

- Implement the new "Working Together" guidance, including developing new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements by September 2019;
- Implement new legislation (Children & Social Work Act 2017) with new requirements for care leavers, regional adoption agencies and the workforce.
- Join a Regional Adoption Agency by 2020; and
- Deliver the Troubled Families programme to sustain an intensive early help offer beyond 2020.

Within Education Services, the focus is to review the service provided to families with special educational needs (SEN) children and work with schools to increase provision for SEN pupils within the borough. Longer term plans are in place for a new social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) school to be built on Bell Lane, which will provide additional capacity from 2020. Alongside this, Durants Special School is expanding and extra places will be available for secondary pupils with Autism in 2019.

The service continues to implement the Reading Intervention Project funded by the Strategic Schools Improvement Fund to raise standards to support reading in the early years, and the aim is to raise standards at the end of all key stages. The inspection framework continues to change and we will work with all schools to ensure there is sufficient capacity locally to support schools that cause concern.

We also continue to support schools in these particularly challenging financial times to help them manage their budgets.

Question 18 from Councillor Greer to Councillor Lemonides, Cabinet Member for Housing

What steps are being taken to improve performance on Council Housing repairs?

Reply from Councillor Lemonides

As Cabinet Member for Housing I am very aware of the concerns of residents, members and other stakeholders about the repairs service provided to our tenants. It is one of my top priorities and I am now receiving weekly briefings from senior managers on these issues.

As members will be aware our responsive repairs are delivered by two 'term contractors' appointed in 2015. The relevant contracts run until 2019 and we are considering the options available to us for the future. In the interim we want to see an improvement in the current partnerships, and there is a full range of activities underway to bring this about.

The Property Services team has been reorganised to create a more stable staffing structure and reduce the number of agency and temporary staff. A new permanent Head of Housing Property will spearhead the improvement programme, which will be based squarely on improving the experience of residents. The number of outstanding complaints has already been reduced, and we now are analysing those complaints in detail to identify what needs to be improved. We will also be taking more assertive action to enforce the terms of the contract, and working with contractors to reduce the number of repeat visits to complete each individual repair. I am confident that the effect of this broad package will be to deliver a significant improvement in the coming months, moving us towards a modern and responsive service that reflects the investment and commitment of the Council to our housing assets, our residents and our communities

Question 19 from Councillor Smith to Councillor Caliskan, Leader of the Council

Would the Cabinet Member confirm whether a revised offer has been received from PCPD for Meridian Water, including when it was or will be presented to the Labour Group as well as when is it expected to be determined by Cabinet?

Reply from Councillor Caliskan

PCPD notified the Council on 10 July 2018, that they are withdrawing from Meridian Water.

Question 20 from Councillor Barry to Councillor Lemonides, Cabinet Member for Housing

Can the Cabinet member provide an update on the new rooftop homes in Lychet Way?

Reply from Councillor Lemonides

The Council has developed 25 units for affordable rent on the roof tops on the Lychet Way estate.

The development was completed in February 2018 and is currently all let and occupied by people from the Council's housing register.

Question 21 from Councillor Alessandro Georgiou to Councillor Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council

Does the Leader of the Council have the authority to unilaterally decide on whether there should be staff restructuring?

Reply from Councillor Caliskan:

No.

Question 22 from Councillor Bedekova to Councillor Lemonides, Cabinet Member for Housing

Can the Cabinet member give me an assurance that the Housing service is alert to the risk of housing fraud, i.e. people living in Council accommodation who are not entitled to social housing?

Reply from Councillor Lemonides

Enfield Council is working to recover properties from fraudsters to ensure that people in genuine housing need can be given a suitable home.

In the last financial year the Council's fraud investigation team recovered a total of 59 Council properties which were being occupied by people with no right to reside in them. By taking back these properties the Council will save approximately £850,000 a year in temporary accommodation costs by being able to move households from expensive privately owned temporary accommodation, often out of the borough, into these recovered Council homes.

Since April 2018 a further 17 properties have been recovered, and over 80 further cases of possible sub-letting, abandonment or other irregularities are now being investigated. We have also ensured that in 16 cases last year a Right to Buy application did not proceed based on irregularities in the application, with another 8 applications turned back this year so far. I would like to thank the Housing Neighbourhoods team and their colleagues in the specialist Housing Audit and Counter-Fraud team for their diligent efforts in ensuring that our much-needed Council housing stock is only occupied by those in genuine need.

Question 23 from Councillor Alessandro Georgiou to Councillor Dogan, Cabinet Member for Environment

Will Councillor Dogan conduct a site visit with me to parts of Cockfosters Ward that

are blighted with pot hole ridden roads and inappropriate parking measures?

Reply from Councillor Dogan:

The best option would be to report the pot holes via the Council's website so that they can be reviewed by one of the Council's highway inspectors without delay and appropriate action taken. It would also be helpful if, in the first instance, Councillor Alessandro Georgiou raised his concerns about parking controls via the established members' enquiry system.

Question 24 from Councillor Orhan to Councillor Achilleas Georgiou, Cabinet Member for Children's Services

Given the importance of attracting foster parents, would the Cabinet Member for Children provide an update on recent work the Council has undertaken to achieve this?

Reply from Councillor Achilleas Georgiou

Councillor Orhan, I am very pleased that you ask this question. It allows me to bring to the Council's attention the work you did while in Cabinet and how we are building on that success.

Attracting foster carers remains a priority and we currently have 125 in-house carers. In 2017-18 we recruited 18 new foster carers – the highest out of the 6 north London Consortium boroughs. The recruitment team have a database of approximately 140 prospective carers they keep in touch with at a frequency agreed with each individual.

Marketing and publicity activities: When it comes to adverts we have generic ones encouraging people to think about fostering and we look to attract people at certain points throughout the year with themed messages. For example, with the World Cup 2018 we have adverts with the strapline 'Make Fostering Your Goal this World Cup 2018'.

Adverts appear on a frequent basis to generate fostering awareness and promote our monthly fostering information session, these include Retirement magazine aimed at people over 50 – the age ranges we have the most number of enquiries from – and Pour Homme aimed at male audiences across north London – in a bid to generate more interest from men who can foster. We also advertise in school publications such as Primary Times – that are sent out with school book bags and Families North London who target the independent school sector and the new Little Ones magazine.

We are also attempting to reach out to emergency services personnel who we understand work to shift patterns that can accommodate fostering. Adverts have appeared in magazines for that sector.

Council channels are also fully utilised and fostering adverts appear in Our Enfield resident magazine, the Council staff newsletter Staff Matters and on the Council

offices plasma screens. We launched our 'World Cup' themed advert at the beginning of July through the Council's dedicated street poster sites across Enfield.

Another new channel we have adopted for this year is the GP appointment cards which has just been launched across all of the Enfield GP practices. So when they receive their next appointment reminder our advert appears alongside the appointment table.

All publicity is monitored and evaluated to see where our successes have been, to guide where we spend our marketing budget going forward.

Social media presence: We are growing our presence through our dedicated page on Facebook and regular posts on Twitter. Paid advertising is strategically applied to specific posts such as the next fostering recruitment event or information session. Noting some see fostering as a career choice we are also looking to do more through LinkedIn. We know social media community pages in Enfield are popular amongst residents and are in our plans for use.

New dedicated fostering and adoption website: This went live in April 2018, where we were only getting a couple of hundred visits, at most, per month the new site received over 1000 visits in April and continues to receive similarly high numbers of visits for the subsequent months too. There has also been an increase in the number of online enquiries too.

Outreach: The fostering recruitment team regularly organise fostering information stalls in key public spaces such as the Council Civic Centre, libraries, retail parks and supermarkets, hospitals and at the larger community events such as the Enfield Town and Country Show. They tend to be quite successful in coming away with a number of expressions of interest for follow up. This was particularly successful for the events we organised over the Foster Care Fortnight period in May 2018. We attended the Civic Centre, Edmonton Green Library and North Middlesex Hospital and came away with close to 20 expressions of interest.

We are developing stronger links with Enfield's faith groups with a view to attending any events and themed talks they may be holding that can link with fostering. We attended a church Mother's Day talk and are speaking to one of Enfield's mosques about coming to their open coffee morning.

Another approach we are looking at based on another local authority's success in the north of England is the idea of using foster carers to host recruitment parties in their homes and invite family, friends and their neighbours to pop in and find out more about fostering. They will be supported by the team and rewarded with the find a foster carer bonus if we successfully recruit from their party and develops to that person receiving a placement from us.

Digital marketing: With the support of the Council's preferred digital marketing supplier – Council Advertising Network - we put out a 3-month campaign last year which increased traffic to our web pages by as much as four times the usual monthly numbers during the campaign months. Another campaign is to be launched over the summer and direct people to our new site.

We have two fostering promotional videos which we created in 2017. We launched these in March 2017 with a Facebook promotional campaign offering visitors the chance to log interest immediately below the video window. This generated 18 direct enquiries. We launched the same Facebook campaign again in March 2018 but this time round we received a greater number of enquires – 54.

Enfield Council specific offers to note: The Council is developing a policy to support Council employees who choose to foster. We know juggling work and being a foster carer may deter some people but if we can develop this opportunity we may be able to get other organisations to learn from us and follow what we do.

Question 25 from Councillor Alessandro Georgiou to Councillor Oykener, Cabinet Member for Property & Assets

Will Councillor Oykener be feeding into the Government's Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) review? If so could we have prior notice of his submission?

Reply from Councillor Oykener

In March 2018 Government published consultation documents containing changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Alongside proposed revisions to the NPPF, which was very much focused on how the planning system can improve housing delivery, changes were also proposed alterations on how the Council can implement and review its Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Section 106 planning obligations. "Supporting housing delivery through developer contributions".

The key objectives that the Government is seeking to achieve through the reform of developer contributions and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) are to make the system of developer contributions (Section 106 agreements and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)) more transparent and accountable.

Consultation closed on the 10th May 2018, an officer level response was submitted on both the draft NPPF revisions and proposed reforms to developer contributions. Officers will continue to report to me on when the reforms take shape as part of Enfield's CIL Review which is to take place as part of the emerging New Local Plan process and will be reported through Cabinet and Council appropriately.

Question 26 from Councillor Lappage to Councillor Cazimoglu, Cabinet Member for Health & Adult Social Care

What is the Council doing to tackle social isolation?

Reply from Councillor Cazimoglu

Thank you for asking that question. As we know loneliness has an enormous impact on people's health and well-being so I'm delighted to say that on 22 June, the Dugdale Centre hosted the Friendship Matters event. This was aimed at addressing loneliness and isolation in Enfield. Organised by the Older Persons Partnership Board but involving disability groups, too, the event was aimed at those who may be

experiencing loneliness and isolation. I'm delighted to say that it was very well attended. Over 30 local agencies from across the statutory and voluntary sector had stalls and there were a number of useful talks and exercise groups throughout the day. However, it would not have been possible without the fantastic work of the Partnership Board and the particular efforts of Council's Community Development Officer, Debbie Gates and Nancie Alleyne, Service Development Officer for Older People and Physical Disabilities.

Question 27 from Councillor Alessandro Georgiou to Councillor Achilleas Georgiou, Cabinet Member for Children's Services

Would Councillor Georgiou be willing to conduct a site visit with me to three local primary schools in Cockfosters to see how a voluntary one-way system would benefit both local residents and parents at peak times?

Reply from Councillor Achilleas Georgiou:

I am always happy to look at ways to improve safety around schools and make it easier for children to walk and cycle. If that should mean a site visit with you, of course I would join you; but your request might also best be put to the Cabinet member for Environment, Councillor Dogan.

I understand that Hadley Wood has been operating a voluntary one-way system for some time and that this is generally working well.

Hadley Wood and De Bohun schools are fully engaged with our school travel planning programme, with both achieving the highest 'gold' standard. Their travel plans identify a number of practical measures that can be taken to encourage walking and cycling, as well as safety in the vicinity of the school.

The travel plan developed by De Bohun School does not promote the idea of a voluntary one-way system. However, they did request a new pelican crossing on Bramley Road, and I am pleased that this has recently been completed.

I understand that voluntary one-way systems can be useful in some cases. However, the overriding need is not for people not to drive their children to school, but to encourage children to walk and cycle so that they can benefit from the regular physical activity – and given that you, Councillor Alessandro Georgiou, are a keen cyclist, I hope that you would agree with me.

Question 28 from Councillor Akpinar to Councillor Cazimoglu, Cabinet Member for Health & Adult Social Care

How is the Council working with Health to integrate Social Care?

Reply from Councillor Cazimoglu

Thank you for your question. As we know, people who use our services want a joined up, integrated approach to their health and care needs. They don't want to have to explain themselves more than once and they want services that understand

their various needs. As a Council we need to deliver services that support this. I am pleased to say that we have excellent arrangements for people with learning disabilities and those in receipt of mental health services. With regard to our older residents and those with a physical disability, the Council and its local health partners in Health, Enfield Health, who deliver community nursing and therapy services, and Enfield Clinical Commissioning Group, are working together to organise their various services into locality teams. In doing so, they will be better equipped to work in a distinctive area, rather than looking at the borough as a homogenous whole. In health circles this is known as care closer to home and by joining up adult social care and community service staff into core teams, staff will start to address the wishes of those who receive services that encompass health and social care services.

Question 29 from Councillor Jewell to Councillor Cazimoglu, Cabinet Member for Health & Adult Social Care

On the 70th anniversary of the NHS, what does the Cabinet Member for Health & Adult Social Care think the key achievements have been?

Reply from Councillor Cazimoglu

The NHS's key achievements:

1. Provide care based on need and free at the point of delivery. Before the launch of the NHS, access to healthcare was determined by a patient's ability to pay, their area of residence and their workplace insurance systems. The NHS embodies Aneurin Bevan's belief that health is a basic human right, a cost that is shared by society and not borne by the individual. Care based on need, not ability to pay is a core British value and makes the NHS a symbol of equality, compassion and care.
2. Limiting commercial influence on patient care. Patients place a high value on knowing that clinicians are not influenced by commercial interests when being offered advice on treatments. Trust is at the heart of the NHS, and this is a key achievement.
3. General Practice as the foundation for patient care. General Practice makes the majority of patient contacts for the NHS and makes up 8% of the overall budget. This alleviates pressure across the NHS and delivers care close to home. The trust that patients have with their family GPs is unique in healthcare and a great achievement.

Questions to Chairs of Statutory Committees

Question 30 from Councillor Edward Smith to Councillor Derek Levy, Chair of the Licensing Sub Committee meeting held on 30 May 2018

Would Councillor Levy confirm whether following the recent grant of a licence the Safety Advisory Committee have met to review the missing event management procedures from Mad Husky, including the date they met and who was present?

Reply from Councillor Levy

See below, response to Q31

Question 31 from Councillor Edward Smith to Councillor Derek Levy, Chair Licensing Sub Committee 30 May 2018

Would Councillor Levy confirm whether the Safety Advisory Committee confirmed that it was satisfied that following the grant of a licence to Mad Husky that all the missing event management procedures were subsequently provided by the 4th July deadline and that they considered them to be satisfactory from a health and safety point of view?

Reply from Councillor Levy

All documentation was provided to the Safety Advisory Group (SAG) by Mad Husky on the 4 July 2018. The SAG members are now in the process of reviewing these. The SAG comprises the emergency services and various Council Officers.

Representatives of Mad Husky including the event organiser; their health and safety officer; traffic management company and security company will be attending the next SAG meeting on 17 July 2018. This will give stakeholders of the SAG and the event organiser the opportunity to ask any questions regarding the documents and procedures for the day. The purpose of this is to ensure, should an incident arise, that Mad Husky are able to effectively implement their plans and procedures. It is ultimately the responsibility of the event organiser to provide a safe event.

Question 32 from Councillor Edward Smith to Councillor Derek Levy, Chair of the Licensing Sub Committee 30 May 2018

Would Councillor Levy inform the Council whether he has or will be reconvening the Licencing Sub Committee to determine whether the events management procedures are in place and are satisfactory from a health and safety point of view?

Reply from Councillor Levy

As explained above, the events management procedures were provided to the Safety Advisory Group (SAG) in accordance with the licence condition set by the Licensing Sub Committee. Should the SAG not be satisfied with the safety arrangements in place, then one of the Licensing Responsible Authorities (eg the Police or Environmental Health) has the opportunity to make an application for review of the licence. The Licensing Sub-Committee would then reconvene to determine that review (eg whether the licence should be revoked or other measure under the Licensing Act open to the Sub-Committee to invoke).