



LONDON BOROUGH OF ENFIELD

**COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS
FOR THE COUNCIL MEETING
TO BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 26TH
FEBRUARY, 2020 AT 7.00 PM**

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

Please Reply to: Penelope Williams
Phone: (020) 8379 4098
E-mail: Penelope.Williams@enfield.gov.uk
My Ref: DST/PW
Date: 25 February 2020

Dear Councillor,

You are summoned to attend the meeting of the Council of the London Borough of Enfield to be held at the Civic Centre, Silver Street, Enfield on Wednesday, 26th February, 2020 at 7.00 pm for the purpose of transacting the business set out below.

Yours sincerely

Jeremy Chambers

Director Law & Governance

14. COUNCILLOR QUESTION TIME

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 published on Tuesday 25 February 2020.

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Council Questions – 26 February 2020**Question 1 from Councillor Ergun Eren to Councillor Ian Barnes, Deputy Leader**

Could the Deputy Leader give us an update on the roll out of the Low Traffic Neighbourhood programme?

Reply from Councillor Ian Barnes

Low traffic neighbourhoods (LTNs) are groups of residential streets, bordered by main roads (the places where buses, lorries, non-local traffic should be), where “through” traffic is discouraged or removed. There’s lots of ways to achieve a LTN, but the main principle is that every resident can drive onto their street, get deliveries etc., but it’s harder or impossible for there to be rat running. With through traffic gone, the streets in a LTN benefit from reductions in traffic levels and often speeds too. While residents in a low traffic neighbourhood can still do all their journeys by car if they want or need to, some trips will be a bit more circuitous. This, combined with far quieter, safer-feeling streets, enables residents to switch to more healthy ways of getting around, particularly for short journeys. I see LTNs as an important part of our response to the current climate change emergency.

Currently, our focus is on an LTN for the Fox Lane area, where further local engagement has recently taken place to develop early designs to make sure the approach responds to issues raised by the community. Lessons from Fox Lane will be applied to future LTNs across the Borough to ensure the long-term success of this ambitious and transformative project.

Question 2 from Councillor Joanne Laban to Councillor Mahtab Uddin, Cabinet Member for Public Health

Would Councillor Uddin, Cabinet Member for Public Health commit to fixing the roof at Arnos Grove swimming pool as water comes through the ceiling while the pool is in use?

Reply from Councillor Mahtab Uddin

Repairs such as this are the responsibility of the Council’s Leisure services partner Fusion. Fusion carried out repairs to the roof prior to Christmas. Leaks resurfaced in January and Fusion’s engineers have inspected and are awaiting proposals from their specialist contractor. Officers have asked that Fusion keep us fully updated.

Question 3 from Councillor Guner Aydin to Councillor Ian Barnes, Deputy Leader

Could the Deputy Leader inform us when the Council will make a commitment to transition to 'green electricity' for corporate buildings? And what will be the estimated reduction in carbon of this decision?

Reply from Councillor Ian Barnes

The Council has committed to using green electricity to power its corporate buildings from October as part of its commitment to slash carbon emissions.

Purchasing green electricity is estimated to displace 8,239 tonnes of carbon dioxide annually, out of the 22,000 tonnes of carbon the Council needs to offset or reduce each year.

We are also looking to generate our own green energy, an example is the solar panels which have been installed on the Civic Centre, providing approximately 61,000 kWh of renewable energy per year.

Question 4 from Councillor Joanne Laban to Councillor Mahtab Uddin, Cabinet Member for Public Health

Does the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Leisure have confidence in our leisure provider Fusion Lifestyle?

Reply from Councillor Mahtab Uddin

Fusion have managed the Council's Leisure centres for approaching 10 years. In the past, capital investment in several of the centres saw improvements in participation and customer satisfaction. More recently growth in participation has levelled off and customer satisfaction levels have fallen. It was therefore appropriate to ask Fusion to review their operations and come forward with a plan for improvement and investment.

The Council's Chief Executive and Director of Property & Economy meet quarterly with senior managers at Fusion to discuss management of the contract and at the most recent meeting on 21 February 2020 Fusion presented an action plan to improve customer satisfaction and increase participation. The action plan sets out improvements in customer communication, more proactive maintenance, a new cleaning regime with regular deep cleans, additional capital investment and improved communication with the Council. A number of these actions are already being implemented and officers will continue to monitor performance.

Question 5 from Councillor Mahym Bedekova to Councillor Ian Barnes, Deputy Leader

Would the Deputy Leader be able to give us some idea of the response to the 'Call for Projects' for National Lottery Heritage Funding which closed on 14 February 2020? And what is the next stage in the process?

Reply from Councillor Ian Barnes

We are delighted that there has been a tremendous response to the Council's Call for Projects campaign. We have received exciting ideas from a range of community groups across the borough.

Council and Lottery Officers ran two engagement workshops in January for groups wishing to make a funding application to the National Heritage Lottery Fund. Both workshops in Edmonton and Enfield were fully booked.

Council and Lottery officers will now be reviewing all the submissions in the coming weeks. We expect to be grouping them into:

- Those that are ready to submit direct to the Lottery,
- Those that could be eligible with further work and
- Those that do not meet heritage lottery funding criteria and may better suit other funding streams.

Once we have done this, we hope to offer some further tailored support to help groups develop their projects further.

Question 6 from Councillor Joanne Laban to Councillor Mary Maguire, Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement

Will Councillor Mary Maguire, Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement state when work will begin on the Enfield Highway Carnegie Library, as it has been empty for years?

Reply from Councillor Mary Maguire

At the Cabinet Meeting on 23/01/19 Cabinet approved proposals for the relocation of the Integrated Learning Disabilities Service into a redesigned and refurbished Enfield Highway Carnegie Building. Since then a design team has been appointed; a detailed design developed, costed and agreed with the client service; planning consent and listed building consent submitted and obtained and a tender compliant with our Contract Procurement Rules undertaken. Approval to enter into contract with the preferred tenderer has now been obtained and works will commence in March with completion later this year in accordance with the original programme.

Question 7 from Councillor Christine Hamilton to Councillor Ian Barnes, Deputy Leader

Visa verification has been introduced via the library service. Can the Deputy Leader give us some idea of the uptake of this offer so far?

Reply from Councillor Ian Barnes

Visa verification is a service where the Council receives a fee for undertaking digital visa verification services; the Council is provided with staff training and the equipment; the bookings are undertaken by the commissioning company. In the first instance, it was decided as a Libraries team, to take on a pilot in just two flagship libraries for 3 months to not overburden existing staffing, assess and then present a business case subject to the outcome of the pilot. This was agreeable by HR and Trade Unions. The pilot has been very successful, Enfield libraries have delivered 2,600 applications across just two libraries for the pilot in 3 months, which demonstrates a huge demand for this service.

The next step is to review the business case and learning from the initial pilot to develop the next steps. There is an income generation saving in the Medium-Term Financial Plan of £200k in 2020/21 which, from, the pilot we believe is achievable.

However, in addition this brings visitors to the towns of Edmonton and Enfield supporting our towns and in addition, staff have commented that people have visited libraries for the first time in many years providing staff an opportunity to share all the community activities that take place already.

This a good example of the council being commercial to support the budget but at the same time generating wider benefits in terms of town footfall and engaging with communities of the work of our libraries.

Question 8 from Councillor Joanne Laban to Councillor Mary Maguire, Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement

Would Councillor Mary Maguire, Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement state why it has taken over a year for a further decision to be made on Enfield Highway Carnegie Library when originally members were told that work on this building was urgent due to the lease on St Andrews Court?

Reply from Councillor Mary Maguire

At the Cabinet Meeting on 23/01/19 Cabinet approved proposals for the relocation of the Integrated Learning Disabilities Service into a redesigned and refurbished Enfield Highway Carnegie Building. Since then a design team has been appointed; a detailed design developed, costed and agreed with the client service; planning consent and listed building consent submitted and obtained and a tender compliant with our Contract Procurement Rules undertaken. Approval to enter into contract

with the preferred tenderer has now been obtained and works will commence in March with completion later this year in accordance with the original programme.

Question 9 from Councillor Ahmet Hasan to Councillor George Savva, Cabinet Member for Licensing and Regulatory Services

Would the Cabinet Member for Licensing and Regulatory Services give an update on Planning Performance during Quarter 3 and indication of future performances.

Reply from Councillor George Savva

In the past six months, timeliness of decision making in the planning service has improved dramatically. Throughout Q3, the service exceeded their targets for determination. 100% of “major” applications were determined in time whilst the determination of “minor” applications reached 93.9% and “householder” planning applications was 91.9%.

Both January and February show similar levels of timeliness for determination of applications, which is encouraging. To maintain this good performance, the service has recently undertaken a large recruitment push which had some success. The implementation of the agreed Action Plan has improved monitoring and reduced caseloads. As a result, performance in the first part of Q4 continues to exceed our performance targets.

Question 10 from Councillor Lee David Sanders to Councillor Mary Maguire, Cabinet Member for Finance & Procurement

Will Councillor Maguire, Cabinet Member for Finance & Procurement commit to submitting the council’s annual accounts on time this year?

Reply from Councillor Mary Maguire

The Council is fully committed to both submitting the accounts on time and ensuring that that they are signed off by BDO by the statutory deadline of 31 July.

There is an improvement plan in place with monthly updates provided to the Audit and Risk Management Committee. Key actions include: improved liaison with the valuers and earlier valuation work, adoption of the CIPFA Asset Management module, a comprehensive 4-week interim audit which commenced on 17 February, increase in the number of inspections commissioned from 24 to 416.

The PSAA (the national body that appoints the external auditors) reported that at the end of December, there were 85 councils where an audit opinion has not been issued (this equates to just under 1 in 5 councils). Additionally, there is a review of the deadlines underway by MHCLG and a push for a relaxation of the tight 31 July deadline for sign off.

Question 11 from Councillor Claire Stewart to Councillor George Savva, Cabinet Member for Licensing and Regulatory Services

Can the Cabinet Member for Licensing and Regulatory Services give an update on the Consultation for the Private Landlords Licensing and Additional Levels Licensing responses?

Reply from Councillor George Savva

The public consultation on the proposals to introduce additional and selective licensing of the private rented sector properties ran for over 13 weeks and was extensively publicised, it successfully attracted a high level of responses from 1,861 landlords, residents and private renters. Feedback was recorded at four public meetings attended by 241 persons, and 35 written responses were submitted by interested parties and via 10 stakeholder interviews/responses.

Overall, there were high levels of support (about 7 in 10 respondents) for the proposed licensing schemes and the licence conditions, and over half of the respondents thought the proposed licence fees reasonable. By group, Residents' responses were strongly supportive of both licensing schemes as were private renting tenants' responses (over 80% agreed). Landlords' responses were generally opposed to the proposed schemes (only 18% agreed with the introduction of selective licensing and only 30% agreed with the additional licensing scheme).

On 22 January, Cabinet considered the schemes proposals and the consultation responses and the wealth of evidence about poor housing conditions, high levels of deprivation and anti-social behaviour in the borough's private rented sector and then approved the introduction of a borough-wide additional licensing scheme and a selective licensing scheme for 14 wards in the East and South of the borough. The additional licensing scheme comes into force on 1 September 2020, as will the selective licensing scheme if it is approved by the Secretary of State for the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

These licensing schemes will drive up housing conditions and act on factors which make deprivation worse in the private rented sector improving the health and lives of thousands of tenants and improve neighbourhoods too.

Question 12 from Councillor Lee David Sanders to Councillor Mary Maguire, Cabinet Member for Finance & Procurement

Will Councillor Maguire, Cabinet Member for Finance & Procurement commit to keeping to budget in 2020/2021?

Reply from Councillor Mary Maguire

Despite the level of Government cuts to our budget since 2010 and uncertainty over future funding, the Council has set a budget that is realistic, taking into account

anticipated pressures.

The Council has run a robust Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and budget process, including multiple internal challenge sessions to ensure that there is a full understanding of the demand in the system and we have budgeted accordingly.

The Council is already monitoring progress on delivery of the savings with the Budget Savings Tracker up and running and fortnightly senior officer meetings in place.

There is significant increased demand for Council services and there is a robust framework in place for reviewing these pressures especially in Adult social Care, Children's social Care, Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision including transport and also Housing. This Labour administration is committed to protecting our most vulnerable residents and recognises that adult social care and children's services are demand led.

Question 13 from Councillor Chris Bond to Councillor Gina Needs, Cabinet Member for Social Housing

Can the Cabinet Member for Social Housing tell us about the arrangements put into place to protect rough sleepers during the recent severe weather warning?

Reply from Councillor Gina Needs

The number of homeless people dying on the streets of the UK is rising. Figures from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) show that an estimated 726 homeless people died in England and Wales in 2018. This is a 22% rise from 2017. It is not acceptable that in the 21st century people are sleeping rough in the UK and dying in cold weather. Enfield will be holding a vigil on the night of 25 March 2020 along with other North London Boroughs, in order to commemorate the lives of rough sleepers that have died on our streets.

Enfield Council recognise the need to take urgent action to tackle rough sleeping. We successfully bid for significant funding from the Cold Weather Fund to provide somewhere safe to stay for rough sleepers during the cold weather period. On the 26th November 2019 we opened our 20 bed Winter Shelter in Claverings. Our shelter provides somewhere warm to stay for rough sleepers, along with hot food, and support to find longer term accommodation. In addition, we have procured 20 emergency bed spaces for vulnerable rough sleepers who are unable to stay in the shelter. Enfield have activated the Severe Emergency Protocol (SWEP) whenever temperatures have dropped to 0°C or below. During SWEP our Outreach Workers have worked hard, together with the Thamesreach Rapid Response Team, to offer accommodation and support to any rough sleeper found bedded down in Enfield. As of 31 January, 19 rough sleepers have accepted accommodation and support in our shelter. In addition to this, we have provided 18 emergency bed spaces to rough sleepers such as vulnerable women, couples, and those with high support needs. Enfield have signed up to the "In for good" principle, which means we will

not terminate any SWEPP placement unless we have put in place a robust personal plan to assist the rough sleeper from a life on the streets. Wherever rough sleepers are willing to engage with support, we will aim to move them on into longer term accommodation, with the appropriate support. Between April and December 2019, our rough sleeper team have housed 80 verified rough sleepers found bedded down in Enfield. Our official Autumn count on a typical night in November has seen a reduction in rough sleepers from 78 in November 2018 to 24 in November 2019.

We have ambitious plans to increase our rough sleeper provision from April 2020 to March 2021. We have successfully bid for funding to open our shelter year-round, for 24 hours a day. In addition, we have received funding to secure 8 "Housing First" properties, providing long term council accommodation to our most vulnerable and entrenched rough sleepers, along with intensive support from a specialist Social Worker.

Question 14 from Councillor Edward Smith to Councillor Guney Dogan, Cabinet Member for Environment & Sustainability

Would Councillor Dogan, Cabinet Member for Environment & Sustainability inform the Council of the income received and costs reclaimed from the organisers of licensed music/community events in Trent Community Park for the period January to December 2019?

Reply from Councillor Guney Dogan

The total income for events in Trent Park that included licensed music/community events was c.£138k and the costs reclaimed from event organisers was c.£55k for repairing any damage caused or litter etc on site as a result of events in parks.

Question 15 from Councillor Birsan Demirel to Councillor Gina Needs, Cabinet Member for Social Housing

How will our new Homelessness service provide a better service for people suffering domestic abuse?

Reply from Councillor Gina Needs

We are investing in a new homelessness service model that will deliver better services and outcomes for those experiencing domestic abuse. We are putting in place a specialist team of Domestic Abuse Housing Officers who will help to build a pathway for families to ensure they receive the vital support needed to remain safe, access services, build resilience and move into independent lives free from abuse. This team of staff will work alongside specialist domestic abuse staff within Children's Services and charitable organisations including Solace Women's Aid.

We commissioned a specialist Domestic Abuse Charity called Standing Together to review Enfield's housing and support services for those experiencing domestic

abuse. The approach involved research and a review of Enfield's Violence Against Women & Girls Strategy and Homelessness Strategy, a staff survey, a review of data, casework services and workshops with voluntary, community and statutory services supporting those experiencing abuse. Findings will inform development of the new service model.

On 17 February 2020, Enfield was successful in 2 joint funding bids with neighbouring local authorities for additional support services in the borough to support those at risk of domestic abuse. This additional investment will benefit homeless families overcome the barrier of leaving an abuse relationship.

Question 16 from Councillor Edward Smith to Councillor Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council

The Development Agreement with Vistry (formerly Galliford Try) was signed in January 2020 to build the first 900 homes at Meridian Water. Would Councillor Caliskan, Leader of the Council set out the main milestones and associated dates on the critical path that must be achieved leading up to the estimated date of start on site of the first phase?

Reply from Councillor Nesil Caliskan

The Council signed the development agreement with Vistry in December 2019. Remediation works have been taking place on the site the last couple of years and Vistry will commence the next stage of remediation works summer 2020. Vistry are planning to submit a detailed planning application for Phase 1a in autumn 2020.

Question 17 from Councillor Birsen Demirel to Councillor Nneka Keazor, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Cohesion

Can the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Cohesion describe how Council is utilising the budget approved last year to tackle youth crime in our borough (NEXUS)?

Reply from Councillor Nneka Keazor

Last year the Council allocated £500k to increase service provision to local young people and I worked closely with Council officers, the Police, faith groups and other local organisations to develop 'Nexus' to help make Enfield a safer place to live.

The focus of the numerous Nexus projects has been on:

- Recruiting volunteers to support projects like the Boxing Club.
- Providing mentoring services to vulnerable pupils in primary and secondary schools.
- Working with families to support positive parenting.

- Inspirational speakers at school assemblies.
- Targeted support to pupils at the Pupil Referral Unit.
- Behaviour Management training to school-based staff.
- Detached Youth Work covering hot spot areas.
- Re-invigorating the Community Help Point Scheme.
- Community Events and Presentations across the borough.

I am delighted with the progress being made. Thousands of children and young people in the borough have benefitted from at least one of the Nexus projects and the engagement of schools and local community organisations is very heartening. I am sure that the positive relationships that have been developed between statutory agencies and faith and community groups will help to empower our community to unite, stay connected and ultimately help to make residents feel safer.

Question 18 from Councillor Edward Smith to Councillor Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council

Given the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has the power under the Constitution of a right of information and a right to make recommendations to the Cabinet and the Council in order to fulfil its role of continuous improvement, would Councillor Caliskan, Leader of the Council, inform the Council on the reasons why she thinks the Associate Cabinet Members (ACMs) should not be obliged to attend the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and have their progress against their work plans reviewed?

Reply from Councillor Nesil Caliskan

The ACMs are not part of the Cabinet and cannot be compelled in law to attend scrutiny meetings. This has been the case since the role of ACMs was created several years ago. As the Monitoring Officer has confirmed, there are constitutional provisions that govern the accountability of ACMs. ACMs are accountable to Cabinet.

Question 19 from Councillor Huseyin Akpinar, to Councillor Nneka Keazor Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Cohesion

Can the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Cohesion confirm the outcome of recent events from Operation Boxster?

Reply from Councillor Nneka Keazor

Operation Boxter is the latest in a series of planned operations by the police to tackle prostitution on the Fore Street corridor, especially near to Joyce Avenue. From public events that I have hosted and in enquiries to ward councillors, we know that this issue is a serious concern to residents and is negatively impacting on their lives.

Mindful of the impact of austerity measures on the Metropolitan Police Services (MPS), the Council has funded an additional 15 police officers to patrol Council Estates. This team have played a key role working with other officers and the council's Community Safety Team and other partners in trying to tackle this problem.

Over two days last Friday and Saturday, the team worked extra hours and achieved the following:-

Arrests: 3 (3 convictions)

Stop & Search: 35

Intelligence reports: 12

Prostitution Cautions: 14

Crimes: 2 (Burglary of a Jewellers which we came across, whereby 300k-400k was taken & a Cannabis detection)

Weapon sweeps: 5

- Snells Park
- Colyton Way
- Joyce Avenue
- Smarts Place
- Langhedge Lane

The Community Safety Team have conducted numerous patrols and an environmental audit to recommend physical changes to make the area less attractive to street sex workers.

These include additional CCTV and generally opening up the area to remove dark spaces where this activity tends to take place.

In more general terms a member of the Community Safety Team will be holding a surgery at Boundary Hall for residents to call in and raise issues or provide information for half a day each week starting in April.

Operation Boxster is carried out over 2 days every 5 weeks and appears to be very successful at providing a visible police presence on the street and the number of sex workers appear to be reduced at present.

Question 20 from Councillor Clare de Silva to Councillor Alev Cazimoglu, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care

Would Councillor Cazimoglu, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care please outline what steps she is taking to mitigate anti-social behaviour issues stemming from residential support services run by other Local Authorities, but based in

Enfield, such as those in Bush Hill Park so that both local residents and vulnerable service users are protected?

Reply from Councillor Alev Cazimoglu

I thank Councillor De Silva for raising the question and would begin by saying that, whilst we can never discuss the specifics of any particular case, we do take the issue of anti-social behaviour very seriously. Enfield is a net importer of people with vulnerabilities which effectively means we have a lot of people who originate from other boroughs being placed in accommodation in Enfield. When people become very unwell this can and does result in disruption to local residents and neighbours.

This can be really distressing both for the people themselves and for people living in the local neighbourhood. When we become aware of cases like these, we do make contact with the original placing borough, and remind them of their responsibilities and duty of care to these vulnerable people. We will also do all we can to resolve the situation ourselves involving all appropriate organisations where appropriate through our Anti-social Behaviour Team. This can and does include:

- Meeting with local residents and businesses to ensure that everyone is clear about who to talk to if they have concerns
- Working with individual businesses to restrict, for example, the sale of alcohol to individuals
- Working with the police and housing providers to ensure the response and support is appropriate
- If appropriate carry out enforcement action against any accommodation provider not fulfilling their duty of care appropriately
- If appropriate, the police will carry out enforcement action against the person or persons themselves but this would always be a last resort bearing in mind that we are very often dealing with people who are very mentally unwell with a wide range of other problems as well.

Question 21 from Councillor Mary Maguire to Councillor Nneka Keazor, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Cohesion

Can the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Cohesion update members on the outcome of the Public Event on Youth Crime?

Reply from Councillor Nneka Keazor

Update from the Public Event 8 March 2019 at Community House

Events of this type have been held for the past 2 years to advise parents, young people and the wider community of what is being done and how we can work together to improve the lives of young people.

I have heard parents' concerns for their children and the impact this was having on their family, friends and on the community and was proud to announce that a grant of £1.3 million from the GLA's Young Londoners Fund will enable us to increase support in a consortium working with community groups.

Enfield Council have separately committed £1 million over the next 2 years to our youth community programme which funds various projects across the borough to enable a positive impact on Serious Youth Violence.

The meeting heard about a number of projects including:

Holler- inspiring young people through school assemblies - 2000 young people reached

Mentors in school and other settings - A St Giles Worker attended to give an account of his work.

Theatre Groups worked with 200 young people

Edmonton Eagles Boxing Club introduced young boxers who gave a demonstration of their skills.

The police supported the event and I am pleased to note that our panel included Gabriel Dedji, a Young Cabinet Member mirroring my own portfolio.

The attendees commented on the positive work and I look forward to providing further updates at the next meeting prior to the school Summer Holiday.

Question 22 from Councillor Lindsay Rawlings to Councillor Ian Barnes, Deputy Leader of the Council

The Council passed a Climate Emergency motion on 10th July 2019 agreeing that our partners, especially young people, are involved in these plans so that communities have a voice in shaping their future.

The inclusion of two members of the youth parliament in the Climate Change Task Group (CCTG) is welcome but the exclusion of elected members, who represent our partners and communities, is less welcome.

In Council Questions and Responses 18 September 2019 Q1 the CCTG is described as an operational group which potentially looks at commercially sensitive information explains why it is not open to the public but not why members, covered by part 2 proceedings cannot attend.

Would Councillor Barnes, Deputy Leader of the Council tell us why elected members are not allowed to observe the proceedings of the Climate Emergency Task Group?

Reply from Councillor Ian Barnes

There are four elected members on the Climate Emergency Task Force Panel. The panel is not a formal Council committee, is not a decision-making body, and the composition of the panel is at the discretion of this administration. The panel has committed to share its progress; action notes are shared online for all to view and officers have offered to brief other elected members on the ongoing work of the Task Force.

We are now in the final stages of drafting a Climate Action Plan (CAP), which will follow on from the good work of the Sustainable Enfield Plan, that sets out our priorities and actions, along with timelines showing what we need to do and by when. Our target is to publish the draft CAP on the 13 March 2020 for public engagement, followed by a public meeting on the 19 March 2020. I welcome all member involvement in this process and look forward to discussing whether the Council is doing its best to respond to the Climate Emergency.

Question 23 from Councillor Katherine Chibah to Councillor Nneka Keazor, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Cohesion

Can the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Cohesion update members how Council support the LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) History Month?

Reply from Councillor Nneka Keazor

I thank Councillor Chibah for the opportunity to say a little about how the Council is supporting LGBT+ History Month in February. The theme for LGBT+ History month this year is:

Poetry, Prose and Plays – Educate out prejudice and make LGBT+ people visible in all their rich diversity.

As the Cabinet Lead Member for Community Safety and Cohesion, I am fully committed to supporting the LGBT+ community celebrate their sense of pride and to educate the wider community to eliminate prejudice in our society, so all people can go about their daily lives without fear.

I am pleased to share with Members all the good work the Council has done and is doing to support the LGBT+ community in celebrating LGBT+ History Month this year.

No one can have missed the Rainbow Flag flying outside the Civic Centre, nor the LGBT+ display within the entrance to the Civic Centre, revolving door, consisting of the Rainbow Flag, Rainbow balloons, bunting and awareness raising posters. Everyone coming to the Civic Centre will have seen this brightly coloured display.

In our Civic Centre restaurant too, the Council has a colourful display of balloons, rainbow bunting, awareness raising posters. There are interesting featured articles on famous LGBT+ icons and supporting information on display. I hope my fellow councillors were able to sample the rainbow coloured pizza on sale in the Civic Centre restaurant during the second and fourth weeks of February.

In our flag ship Enfield Town Library, we have an LGBT+ display consisting of more rainbow balloons, bunting, and awareness raising posters. There is also an array of information articles on famous LGBT+ people and related books of interest not only to people from the LGBT+ community.

We continue to produce regular newsletters for the LGBT+ staff group and circulate this widely. The current issue is dedicated to LGBT+ History Month.

Finally, it gives me a sense of pride to report that despite financial restraints, we continue to provide, through the Third Sector Development Team, a modest annual infrastructure grant to the Enfield LGBT+ Network. The Network is based at the Lancaster Centre, which was recently refurbished and reopened on 27th February. This, along with some additional funding from Public Health provides much needed help and advice to the LGBT+ community.

Through such initiatives the Council is playing its part in supporting the LGBT+ community and is tackling prejudiced and combatting Hate Crime as well as working with our Health partners in providing additional support services.

LGBT+ History Month is about Education, Support and Community Cohesion. I believe we, in Enfield, are playing our part in doing this effectively.

Question 24 Question from Councillor Lindsay Rawlings to Councillor Guney Dogan, Cabinet Member for Environment & Sustainability

The Council passed a Climate Emergency motion on 10th July 2019 agreeing that all strategic and policy decisions, budgets and approaches to planning decisions are in line with a shift to carbon neutrality by 2030.

There is public interest in understanding how this plays out in different departmental areas. Would Councillor Dogan, Cabinet Member for Environment & Sustainability, explain how this has been applied within his portfolio (Environment and Sustainability) including an example which illustrates a practical change that has taken place as a result?

Reply from Councillor Guney Dogan

Since declaring a Climate Emergency, the Council has built on our successful initiatives and made new commitments so that we are carbon neutral on or before our target date of 2030.

We have taken action across the Council by moving to green power, reducing energy consumption, getting people out of their cars, making our roads safer, improving air quality and enhancing the Borough's natural environment. Specific examples of change that that has taken place since July:

- Enfield purchased its first 3 fully electric vans in December 2019.
- Provision of 5,000 cycle training spaces so that, in every school in Enfield, children in one school year will have a place.
- Expanded the existing scheme to plant new trees with the first 60,000 in northern Enfield to recreate an area of ancient woodland which could capture up to 7,800 tonnes of carbon emissions each year.

Alongside this we have set up a Climate Change Task Force, with details of the meeting outputs provided on the Council's website. These include a baselining exercise, one of the most extensive in London, which has given us a figure for our direct emissions as an organisation.

We are now in the final stages of drafting a Climate Action Plan (CAP), which will follow on from the good work of the Sustainable Enfield Plan, that sets out our priorities and actions, along with timelines showing what we need to do and by when. Our target is to publish the draft CAP in early March so we can get wider input including from Councillors, residents and climate change groups.

Question 25 from Councillor Mahym Bedekova to Councillor Rick Jewell, Cabinet Member for Children's Services

Can the Cabinet Member for Children's Services provide an update on the progress being made locally on implementing the new care leavers legislation?

Reply from Councillor Rick Jewell

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 introduced new legislation to improve support for looked after children and care leavers. Each Local Authority was required to publish a local offer for their care leavers by January 2019 and extend their support to those former care leavers over the age of 21 and up to the age of 25.

The local offer is there to increase care leavers understanding of their entitlement, Enfield's local offer was published January 2019. Each care leaver under 21 and those former relevant care leavers over 21 that were now eligible for support were sent a letter and a copy of the local offer. To date we have had 16 former relevant care leavers over the age of 21 approach us for help and a further 25 young people who have remained open to the service as they needed ongoing support after reaching the age of 21.

It is expected that the Local Authority review the local offer annually. Consultation has taken place during 2019 with Kratos (Children in Care Council) and 73 care leavers, currently there is a small group of care leavers involved in finalising the revised local offer and it is expected to be published in April 2020 and widely circulated again.

Question 26 from Councillor Lindsay Rawlings to Councillor Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council

The Council passed a Climate Emergency motion on 10 July 2019 agreeing that all strategic and policy decisions, budgets and approaches to planning decisions are in line with a shift to carbon neutrality by 2030.

There is public interest in understanding how this plays out in different departmental areas. Would Councillor Caliskan, Leader of the Council explain how she has applied this within her portfolio(s) (Strategic Development of the Council, Housing Strategy and Supply, Organisational Development) including an example in each case which illustrates a practical change that has taken place as a result.

Reply from Councillor Nesil Caliskan

Since declaring a Climate Emergency, the Council has built on our successful initiatives and made new commitments so that we are carbon neutral on or before our target date of 2030.

We have taken action, across the Council by moving to green power, reducing energy consumption, getting people out of their cars, making our roads safer, improving air quality and enhancing the Borough's natural environment. Specific examples of change that that has taken place since July:

- The council became a plastic free organisation in November 2019.
- Commitment to trialling Passive house standards on a housing development, as we committed to in our new Housing and Growth Strategy.
- Commitment to power Council operational buildings with green electricity from October 2020.

Alongside this we have set up a Climate Change Task Force, with details of the meeting outputs provided on the Council's website. These include a baselining exercise, one of the most extensive in London, which has given us a figure for our direct emissions as an organisation.

We are now in the final stages of drafting a Climate Action Plan (CAP), which will follow on from the good work of the Sustainable Enfield Plan, that sets out our priorities and actions, along with timelines showing what we need to do and by when. Our target is to publish the draft CAP in early March so we can get wider input including from Councillors, residents and climate change groups.

Question 27 from Councillor Tim Leaver to Councillor Alev Cazimoglu, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care

I understand that there is a significant change in the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguard. What is the Council doing to prepare for implementation in October?

Reply from Councillor Alev Cazimoglu

The Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards, or DoLS, are a series of checks that aim to make sure that any care that restricts a person's liberty is both appropriate and in their best interests. As present DoLS only apply to people in care homes and hospitals and are authorised by the Local Authority.

Due to the Mental Capacity Amendment Act 2019, our DoLS processes will be changing to Liberty Protection Safeguards, or LPS. The Mental Capacity Amendment Act 2019 received Royal Assent on 16 May 2019. As you've highlighted, the aim is for the new Liberty Protection Safeguards system to come into force on the 1st October 2020.

Some of the changes we are preparing for are:

- That LPS will apply in all settings, including domestic settings, and will not be tied to accommodation or residence and can be used to authorise day centre and transport arrangements
- LPS will cover 16 and 17-year old's, and we have been working very closely with the Children's team to raise awareness of this.
- New "Responsible Body" roles will apply to CCGs and Hospital Trusts, where in the past these roles which approve Deprivations of Liberty have been held in the Local authority.
- Care homes are to coordinate some assessments, for example for self-funders and for reviews
- Explicit duty to consult with carers and families

We are anticipating the draft LPS Code of Practice will be published for public consultation later in 2020. The final draft of LPS Code of Practice and regulations should be available for us to start implementing by spring 2020.

These are tight timescales which have been set by central government and we are taking steps to ensure that there will be a smooth transition.

Key stakeholders and managers from across Enfield have been identified and will be invited to a Steering Group once the Code of Practice has been published. We have also appointed a Change officer to support the transition.

Our preparatory work so far has included:

- A mapping exercise to estimate potential figures of those aged 16+ who will require LPS, and the Council's Performance team have been engaged to identify clients who may qualify for LPS authorisation.
- We are delivering awareness raising sessions around how LPS will impact teams to the Council's Adults and Children services, as well as sessions with Health colleagues (GPs, Continuing Care and North Middlesex Hospital).
- A training plan has been developed with the Council's Learning and Development Team to assist managers and practitioners with the changes in legislation and will be made available once the Code of Practice is ready. Training is currently being provided to staff on LPS and mental capacity to help raise awareness and manage expectations.

So, a lot of preparatory work has been completed, and we will be looking forward to implementing the new systems once the LPS Code of Practice is published.

Question 28 from Councillor James Hockney to Councillor Guney Dogan, Cabinet Member for Environment & Sustainability

Road safety around the Raglan School, Bush Hill Park, remains a serious concern locally. Residents have lobbied to have a full 20mph speed limit on all roads around the whole perimeter of the School.

Would Councillor Dogan, Cabinet Member for Environment & Sustainability inform the Chamber on the Council's position on extending the existing 20mph speed limit as requested by residents?

Reply from Councillor Guney Dogan

I appreciate residents' concerns and understand the arguments for reducing speeds on all of the roads surrounding Raglan School rather than just on Wellington Road. However, we have limited funding available and must therefore take an evidenced-led approach to road safety. I have therefore asked officers to carry out a speed survey in Amberley Gardens and review the latest collision records to better understand the extent of the problem.

Question 29 from Councillor Margaret Greer to Councillor Alev Cazimoglu, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care

Can the Cabinet Member explain what you are doing to address the issue of Modern Slavery?

Reply from Councillor Alev Cazimoglu

As you may be aware, we are working on an Enfield Modern Slavery strategy, which will be one of the first in London.

Multi-agency working is vital in tackling this heinous and often hidden crime, and to oversee this, an Enfield Modern Slavery Board was established on 5th November 2018. This Board, which meets every 6 weeks, is chaired by the Director for Health and Adult Social Care and brings together a range of Local Authority partners, the Police, Health colleagues, and the Home Office.

The Modern Slavery Board oversees the work of the newly created multi-agency Modern Slavery Team which sits in the Strategic Safeguarding Adults Service. The Modern Slavery team is made up of Modern Slavery lead officer, two Local Authority Investigating Officers and two Civilian Police officers.

The team has been working on awareness raising across Enfield.

Two important areas of our success have been:

- our training programme for Council staff, which has seen over 300 council employees receive face-to-face training, and now, mandatory online training for new starters;
- and our multi-agency conference.

Our first Modern Slavery Conference was held at the Dugdale Centre on 16th May 2019. I opened this event, alongside the Director for Health and Social Care. This was a great conference attended by over 100 delegates. Because of the success of the event another one has been scheduled for 13th May 2020 and will be extending the invitation to local businesses as well as practitioners.

We have developed our responses to concerns about Modern Slavery cases. The Modern Slavery team analyse intelligence held on contextual modern slavery issues and jointly investigate gang masters and criminal behaviour at a higher level. Concerns for potential victims will continue to be referred to the respective Multi Agency Safeguarding Hubs (MASH) for enquiries to be completed; and where the level of risk is very high the case will be referred to the police immediately.

Enfield has been a driving force in improving practice across London. Sharon Burgess who is the Head of Strategic Safeguarding Adults and Principal Social Worker at Enfield Council has led in the establishment of, and now Chairs, the

London Modern Slavery Leads group. This group is supported by the London Councils and the Human Trafficking Foundation and is working to improve practice and coordinate a joined-up approach with counterparts across London.

Due to these initiatives being successfully established by Enfield Council, Sharon Burgess (Head of Strategic Safeguarding Adults Service) and Fiana Centala (our Modern Slavery lead) were nominated for an Anti-Slavery Day Award by the Human Trafficking Foundation.

Question 30 from Councillor James Hockney to Councillor Guney Dogan, Cabinet Member for Environment & Sustainability

It is welcome news that the A10 will have, by the end of the year, a full speed camera network. This is thanks to community campaigning by many locally.

However, it has been said that the current Road Traffic Police efforts will be redeployed in the Spring. Would Councillor Dogan, Cabinet Member for Environment & Sustainability the Council confirm to the Chamber that he will make representations to continue the Road Traffic Policing efforts and presence?

Reply from Councillor Guney Dogan

TfL are indeed working on having the permanent camera system in place by the end of the year. In the meantime, they also plan to introduce a temporary camera system this Spring and only when this is in place will Police resources be redeployed.

The Leader continues to press for the scheme to be introduced as soon as possible and met with senior officers from TfL on 25th February 2020 to ensure that they deliver on their commitments.

Question 31 from Councillor Chris Bond to Councillor Mahtab Uddin, Cabinet Member for Public Health

Could the Cabinet Member for Public Health update the Council on the current situation with regard to Coronavirus (Covid 19) and summarise how the Council is preparing for any possible escalation in risk to residents?

Reply from Councillor Mahtab Uddin

Covid 19 is the nomenclature that is being used to identify the corona virus that emerged from Wuhan, China. It is the cause of flu-like illness. As of 11th February 2020, 43,100 cases and 1,016 fatalities had been reported worldwide. The vast majority of these cases were in China (42,638) but a further 27 countries have reported cases.

As members will be aware this is a fast-moving situation but as of 11th February

2020 there were 8 patients who had tested positive for the virus. A further 1,350 people had been tested for the virus and been found to be negative. All infected patients are in specialist NHS facilities, 3 in the Royal Free. The UK Chief Medical Officers have raised the risk to the public from low to moderate. New powers have also been invoked to allow the quarantine of people during a potential incubation period.

Enfield has a robust pandemic flu plan which it will work to during this period. The first meeting of the multiagency pandemic committee was held on 11th February chaired by our Director of Public Health. This included representation from the CCG, the Royal Free, the North Middlesex, Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health Trust and the Police. Agencies were updated on current issues and guidance. Each of the Acute Hospitals has instigated algorithms and protocols for the testing of patients potentially positive for Covid 19. At the present time guidance is centred around self-isolation of people for 14 days who suspect that they might be positive and calling medical services on 111 by telephone for advice. Good respiratory and hand hygiene is emphasised.

UK planners are working on 3 potential scenarios for the development of Covid 19; that it is contained and burns out in China, that we experience the equivalent of a bad winter flu but modelling suggesting that the peak will be in the summer and a potential pandemic similar to that of the 1957 flu outbreak.

The Influenza Committee will continue to meet and coordinate actions throughout this period reacting to national guidance and any potential cases in Enfield. The Public Health Team are in regular contact with Public Health England, the Association of Directors of Public Health and the Chief Medical Officer. Daily updates are being sent to our Public Health and Emergency Planning teams and our Comms team has linked our website to Public Health England messages.

Information has been sent to schools in preparation for half-term and any families that may be thinking of travelling abroad and to our social care teams. Within this it is important to provide information to residents without causing undue alarm. Enfield Management Team will also be kept updated as appropriate throughout this period.

Question 32 from Councillor Glynis Vince to Councillor Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council

With reference to my question submitted to council on 26 January and the Leader's response (as set out below), does Councillor Caliskan, Leader of the Council, not agree with me that it would be better to fix the dates for the coming council year a full year ahead, allowing officers and indeed councillors to plan their annual leave and that this would be more conducive to a good work/life balance.

You are right that the Calendar of Meeting dates is always submitted to the May Annual Council for formal approval in May, however in previous years there have

always been draft Council dates included a year in advance.

As the Council calendar does not vary greatly from year to year and there are specific timescales that must be adhered to, would Councillor Caliskan, commit to introducing at least a 2-year rolling calendar for council meetings?

“Question 18 from Councillor Glynis Vince to Councillor Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council

Would the Leader of the Council confirm when the Calendar of Meetings dates for 2020/21 will be available? In previous years there has always been a draft list of future dates for the council year ahead.

Reply from Councillor Nesil Caliskan

The Calendar of Meeting dates for 2020/21 will be included on the agenda for Annual Council on Wednesday 13th May 2020 where it is submitted for formal approval, as is usual practice. Draft meeting dates will be circulated for consultation to Executive Management Team, the Leader of the Council, Leader of the Opposition and the Political Group Whips for comments in the weeks leading up to Annual Council.”

Reply from Councillor Nesil Caliskan

The calendar of meetings can be provided a year in advance on the proviso that these dates are draft. Dates will need to be changed due to meeting clashes when committee memberships are confirmed.

Question 33 from Councillor Mahmut Aksanoglu to Councillor Mary Maguire, Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement

As housing benefit is our largest single grant funded budget spend on a single service, would the Cabinet Member for Finance & Procurement explain how we make sure residents make claims, but also how we ensure that we are able to claim every penny of grant to match the benefit the Council pays out?

Reply from Councillor Mary Maguire

The Smith Institute Poverty Commission report stated that, ‘Enfield is a Borough with inner-London problems and outer-London funding and infrastructure.’ This differential between need and funding is evidenced in housing benefit. Enfield has the fourth highest Housing Benefit subsidy nationally at £297m per annum; but receives the 18th highest benefit administration fee. Every year our Housing Benefit Claim is audited over 5 months, if errors are identified, the council can incur penalties, reducing the grant and incurring cost for the council. For some local authorities, these penalties have resulted in loss of grant in excess of a million pounds. In Enfield, over the last four years, due to the diligence of officers and robust processes the council has incurred no penalties on the claim for £297m; I am pleased to recognise the work of this team.

Further, this team works hard to ensure that advice is provided to residents. The rules around claiming Housing Benefit have become more complex with the introduction of Universal Credit. New claims for Housing Benefit are now only made by those in Temporary Accommodation, Supported Accommodation and those receiving certain disability benefits. There are currently 26,402 claimants in Enfield, and around 2,300 new claimants a year. Advice is given to claim Housing Benefit or Universal Credit at key touch points:

- On the rent collection teams upon chasing payment where the tenant is on a low income.
- To those going into Temporary accommodation as part of the sign-up process.
- To those that are vulnerable via support services who may also give assistance to claim.

From April 2020, the level of available support and opportunity for more proactive work will be possible with the new Welfare Advice and Debt Support Team fully operational.

Question 34 from Councillor Maria Alexandrou to Councillor Guney Dogan, Cabinet Member for Environment & Sustainability

There have been a number of incidents with people falling over the cycle lane orcas. A resident is reported to have sustained life changing injuries as a result.

Will the council review the orcas, consider the safety aspects and perhaps remove them in some places? If not, will the council look at other safety measures like putting warning signs or reflector lights on the orcas?

Reply from Councillor Guney Dogan

As part of monitoring for the Cycle Enfield project there is an incident reporting process in place. Since the summer of 2019, the Council have received 4 reports of orca trips where the person reporting the issue has indicated that an injury has been sustained. The Council are aware of one further incident not reported. All incidents such as this and any others on the public highway are always regrettable. Orcas are used to increase the level of protection between people cycling and motor vehicles.

They are a recognised approach and included in the London Cycling Design Standards and they have been installed following the manufacture's guidelines. However, it is important that the Council consider the context in which they are used, and Enfield Council have looked to ensure they are not placed in areas of high pedestrian use. In addition, the Council have ensured that they are not used very close to pedestrian crossing points - the number of zebra crossings along the route has also increased significantly. As part of this ongoing monitoring, some

orcas have previously been removed close to the Sainsburys in Winchmore Hill.

The Council do continue to review different products as the market develops and has already trialled a number of alternative approaches, as they have been developed. Enhancements will continue to take place to both existing and future Cycle Enfield projects as part of the Healthy Streets programme – helping to design streets that encourage more active and sustainable forms of transport for existing and future generations.

Question 35 from Councillor Sinan Boztas to Councillor Mary Maguire, Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement

Two of the recommendations in the recent poverty commission report referenced the impact of debt on poverty and our role in supporting residents to ensure they are aware of all the benefits to which they are eligible, please would the Cabinet Member for Finance & Procurement set out what steps have been taken to respond to that recommendation in the budget?

Reply from Councillor Mary Maguire

Enfield Council is working towards agreeing a Debt Management Strategy to deliver some of the recommendations of the Enfield Poverty and Inequality Commission Report. The vision for the Council's Debt Collection Management is to:

Modernise the debt recovery process with ethical enforcement and to address poverty and inequality within the borough. LBE will continue to collect as much debt as it can from those that 'won't pay' and ensure best practice processes and targeted support is in place for those that 'can't pay'.

Enfield is the first Local Authority to enter into a contract with Indesser to collect current year council tax arrears for customers receiving council tax support. The pilot scheme will help low income households avoid expensive court and bailiff costs and to agree affordable payment arrangements. Indesser is a private business, jointly owned by the Government, which offers fair and ethical collection services which take account individual circumstances. As a partner to the Government a share of the company earnings goes back to the public purse.

A further £170,000 has been committed in the 2020/21 Medium Term Finance Plan (MTFP) to support residents to make sure they get all the benefits they are entitled to by setting up a Welfare Advice and Debt Support Team that will:

- Work with internal and external partners to support the most vulnerable residents in the borough, to ensure that debts are addressed, they are prevented from becoming homeless and income is maximised
- Provide targeted support to ensure those not claiming the benefits they are entitled to are advised to do so and are assisted to claim.

The team aim to provide support to over 1000 residents each year.

Question 36 from Councillor Maria Alexandrou to Councillor Mary Maguire, Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement

Would Councillor Mary Maguire, Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement inform the Chamber what positive action the Council is taking to bring empty properties back into use, including how property owners will be supported to ensure this is realised?

Reply from Councillor Maria Alexandrou

Like many other Local Authorities in London, Enfield is experiencing an acute housing shortage. Bringing empty private sector properties back into use is an important element in our Housing & Growth Strategy. It not only increases the supply of housing for households in need, it also removes the negative impact that neglected empty homes can have on the local neighbourhood. Empty properties can encourage squatting, antisocial behaviour, overgrown gardens, vermin and other social problems.

Enfield proactively brings empty homes back into use by analysing information and data including Council Tax records, planning, building control, Land Registry, Utility Company's records and other external sources. We use this data, along with reports from neighbours and external partners to identify owners and maintain a Private Sector Empty Homes Database.

We aim to bring 60 long term empty properties back into use between April 2019 – March 2020. We achieved 43 properties up to December 2019.

We aim to bring empty properties back into use through negotiation and by offering support to the owner. This support includes Offering leasing schemes, awarding grants, providing help to sell the property and help to let privately. Where the Council offers assistance via the above schemes, it expects the property to conform to the Decent Homes Standard before it is re-occupied.

When encouragement and assistance are not successful and owners do not engage, enforcement action may sometimes be considered as a last resort. The aim of enforcement action will always be to ensure that neglected properties and the surrounding area are brought into a good state and the home is reoccupied as quickly as possible.

We plan to invest and help more homeowners through our Empty Property Programme for 20 /21. This additional investment includes helping up to 30 homeowners struggling to fund property improvements with grants and incentives, in exchange for leasing properties to the Council for those at risk of homelessness. We also plan to work with owners to increase the supply of disability adapted homes where possible.

Question 37 from Councillor Christine Hamilton to Councillor Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council

Please can the Leader provide an update on the Poverty and Inequality Report commissioned by Enfield Council?

Reply from Councillor Nesil Caliskan

I am pleased to say that following the launch at the House of Lords on Monday 20th January 2020, we have held our first partnership event.

The local event, which took place on the 10 February, was hosted by Edmonton County School and attended by elected members, internal and external stakeholders. The report makes a series of recommendations that The Smith Institute believe will help Enfield Council and local partner agencies address the issues of poverty and inequality in our borough. This local launch event and workshop session was our first step in collectively identifying the actions that will help us work together to achieve this.

The local authority will continue to lead on collating these pledges of support and creating an agreed action plan. Together we will inspire a joined-up response with local providers and other front-line service providers, to implement and review progress on these recommendations over the coming years. This will ensure we create a lifetime of opportunities for everyone in the borough.

Question 38 from Councillor Chris Dey to Councillor Nneka Keazor, Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Cohesion

The community group Love your Doorstep organised an open meeting in January which was held at a packed Dugdale Centre. The focus of the meeting was to establish how we could work better together as a community to reduce serious youth violence. It was a positive meeting with lots of offers from within the community to do various things. Enfield has had 501 incidents of Serious Youth Violence in 2019 an increase of 30% on 2018 and the highest rate of any borough in London.

Would Councillor Keazor, Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Cohesion inform the Chamber how the council proposes to work with Love your Doorstep to engage with the whole community and utilise all the offers of help that were received on that night?

Reply from Councillor Nneka Keazor

The Community Safety Unit are committed to working with community groups and this was a key part of the discussion at the recent event at Community House on the 8 February 2020.

The successful bid to the Young Londoners Fund includes over 20 small projects led by individuals and community organisations who are working with us to deliver positive action.

Question 39 from Councillor Susan Erbil to Councillor Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council

Please can the Leader provide an update on the decision to review ongoing estate renewable programmes to increase the number of Council homes?

Reply from Councillor Nesil Caliskan

The three regeneration schemes already underway (New Avenue, Alma and Ladderswood) commenced in the context of the HRA borrowing cap being in place, thereby limiting the extent to which the Council could directly finance and lead housing development or estate renewal projects. As a result, it was necessary to fund new social housing through partial disposal of the sites to enable a cross subsidy model.

As a result of the lifting of the HRA borrowing cap and a GLA programme for Councils to build affordable housing the Council can now take a direct delivery role and facilitate schemes to deliver a better mix – for example more family homes than may otherwise be achieved.

Against this background, officers have worked to enhance the existing schemes and develop new schemes, taking more control over design quality. This has resulted in a projected increase in the number and percentage of affordable homes on New Avenue (from 468 to 505) and Alma (from 993 to 1086), a significant number of additional Council tenancies planned for Joyce Avenue & Snells and Joyce; all subject to planning. Ladderswood is also being reviewed to increase the number of homes, including council homes.

The council has also purchased 25 additional new homes at New Avenue, increasing the proportion of affordable housing to 40%. With this and other initiatives, the Council will be able to offer first right of refusal for surplus homes to previous residents of the estate being renewed. This is particularly welcome for the Alma estate regeneration project where a large number of residents chose to leave the estate. The Council's decision to increase the number of Council homes on the estate, providing the option for more residents to return to their estate, reiterates our commitment that regeneration should primarily benefit local residents.

Question 40 from Councillor Chris Dey to Councillor Nneka Keazor, Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Cohesion

Would Councillor Keazor, Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Cohesion confirm what target setting has taken place to reduce the incidents of serious violent crime, if so, what are they and if not explain why?

Reply from Councillor Nneka Keazor

A Strategic Assessment is being completed to inform the Safer Stronger Communities Board (SSCB) and the partnership will agree priorities for a refreshed strategy and decide how to drive this forward. Targets will need to reflect those of key partners such as the police.

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