



## **LONDON BOROUGH OF ENFIELD**

### **Councillor Questions and Responses**

**FOR THE COUNCIL MEETING  
TO BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 18TH  
NOVEMBER, 2020 AT 7.00 PM**

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

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**Date:** 18 November 2020

**11. COUNCILLOR QUESTION TIME (Pages 1 - 36)**

**12.1 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.

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

The list of questions and their written responses were published on Wednesday 18 November 2020.

**Councillor Questions for November Council – 18 November 2020****Questions for Cabinet Members****Question 1 from Councillor Hass Yusuf to Councillor Mahtab Uddin, Cabinet Member for Public Health**

Can Councillor Uddin, Cabinet Member for Public Health update members on the current availability and location of Covid testing sites in the borough?

**Reply from Councillor Uddin**

We have 5/6 testing sites in the Borough. Mobile Testing Units which takes place once or twice a week at each site, between 10:00 – 15:00, and accommodate both drive in and walk in appointments and have a testing capacity of 400 each per day per site:

- Lower Edmonton (Edmonton Green Shopping Centre North Car Park)
- Palmers Green (Lodge Drive Car Park)

Local Testing Sites, which are open 7 days a week, 0800-2000, accommodate walk in only.

- Upper Edmonton (Raynham Road Car Park, N18 2SL) a testing capacity of up to 360 per day
- Enfield Highway (Boleyn Hall, Boleyn Avenue, EN1 4HS) a testing capacity of up to 144 per day

Regional Testing Centre, which is open 7 days a week, 0800 -2000, accommodate drive in only and have a testing capacity of 1800 per day.

- Lea Valley Athletic Centre – capacity 1800 per day

We have a local agreement with: BEH Primary Care Centre, St. Michaels Site, Gater Drive, EN2 0JB, 0900 – 1400, where we have provision for 20 tests per day for key council workers.

**Question 2 from Councillor Derek Levy to Councillor Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council/Lead Member for Regeneration**

Ward Councillors are directly and democratically elected, and have a specific mandate, to represent the constituents of their respective localities; and individually and collectively bring a wealth of detailed local knowledge and experience to the area, have an in-depth understanding of local needs, and have had the time to develop a firm vision to improve the conditions and invigorate the town and district centres for which they are responsible.

So please will Councillor Caliskan explain why was it, in the emerging development of a Southgate Town Centre Action Plan, that such solid local knowledge - and the ideas local councillors have already started to formulate – was not called upon to lay the foundations of such a plan at the very outset of the process; and why specifically were the ward councillors actively and disrespectfully disengaged from the recent series of three information gathering events with residents and businesses in and from in Southgate Town Centre, culminating in the walkabout, for which the Leader herself prioritised and felt it more appropriate as well as beneficial to be accompanied by four Council officers, with not a single ward councillor involved or in sight – and yet, most telling of all, with a photographer in tow?

### **Reply from Councillor Caliskan**

The development of action plans for our town centres is a community exercise, seeking a broad range of views. The process of development is fluid and will evolve to suit community needs. It was important to publicise and profile the intentions of the Council in creating the action plan.

### **Question 3 from Councillor Joanne Laban to Councillor Ian Barnes, Deputy Leader of the Council**

Will Councillor Barnes, Deputy Leader of the Council follow the example of Councillor Jas Athwal, Labour Leader of Redbridge Council and remove the Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs) in Fox Lane and Bowes?

### **Reply from Councillor Barnes**

The Fox Lane and Bowes Quieter Neighbourhood projects are currently being delivered on a trial basis. As part of these trials, consultations are open to enable feedback to be collected. The Council will continue to progress with the trials and consultation process, enabling all views to be represented. In addition, further traffic data will be collected during the trial to help inform the future outcome of these schemes.

I note that the Enfield Conservative Group once again opposes its own Conservative Government's policies. The Prime Minister supports low traffic neighbourhoods, the Government having funded 92 low traffic neighbourhoods across 18 London boroughs. Our Bowes scheme was paid for by the Government, which also introduced an incredibly short implementation timescale in response to emergency active travel. The Government has also recently announced another £175 million available for further low traffic neighbourhoods.

Given that the Enfield Conservative Group did not call-in the Fox Lane LTN scheme for further scrutiny when it had the opportunity, it is curious that Conservative Councillors are now attempting to make a half-hearted attack on the scheme. I

would encourage Conservative Councillors to focus more on the future health and wellbeing of residents across the borough.

**Question 4 from Councillor Christine Hamilton to Councillor Mahtab Uddin, Cabinet Member for Public Health**

Can Councillor Uddin, Cabinet Member for Public Health update members on progress on implementing local contact tracing?

**Reply from Councillor Uddin**

Recognising the importance of swift action to control the spread of coronavirus, I am pleased that Enfield's Environmental Health team were one of the early councils in London to undertake locally supported contact tracing.

Between 25 August and 11 November 2020, 423 cases have been referred to the Council from Public Health England where they have been unable to speak with the case within 24 hours. Using local knowledge and expertise, Environmental Health Officers contacted all cases passed through from PHE, this is done by telephone or email the same day that we receive the case. If there is no response the officers visit the home address and either door knock or leave a letter for them to contact us. This speedy response is successful and enables the team to check that the cases and their close contacts are self-isolating and follow up any premises that are potential sources of covid transmission.

Some residents that the team have contacted have been extremely ill with Covid, some have (sadly) passed away and others have been very distressed and are finding it difficult to cope. This locally supported contact tracing by our Environmental Health Officers also ensures that our residents are signposted to any support that they need, such as the £500 self-isolation payment, but also help with food, medicines or other support needed from social services.

**Question 5 from Councillor Derek Levy to Councillor Mary Maguire, Cabinet Member for Finance & Procurement.**

In late October, a damning audit report criticised a Labour-run Council elsewhere in London for years of financial mismanagement and accused it of "collective corporate blindness". The same report also stated that the borough in question had a governance culture in which spending decisions were not robustly challenged, scrutinised or even welcomed.

Given that the Draft Statement of Accounts 2019/20 presented to Enfield Council's General Purposes Committee on 15th October 2020 contained significant omissions and raised other concerns over seeming breaches of several policies, will Councillor Maguire provide evidence of a kind to satisfy Full Council and the public of Enfield that no similar criticism could ever be ascribed to this Administration, and to demonstrate unequivocally that she and her colleagues are

fully committed to promulgating a culture which puts absolute accountability and total transparency, as well as value for money at its heart?

**Reply from Councillor Maguire**

As already demonstrated through transparent reporting in the Quarterly Budget and Capital reports, the Treasury reports, Ten Year Capital Programme and detailed reports to the Finance and Performance Panel, this council is already committed to scrutiny and challenge.

Following completion of the external audit of our draft Statement of Accounts, we anticipate that the accounts will be unqualified and that any necessary amendments will be made for the final accounts.

**Question 6 from Councillor Joanne Laban to Councillor Mary Maguire, Cabinet Member Finance & Procurement**

Does Councillor Maguire, Cabinet Member for Finance, agree that using a member of staff's personal bank account to be linked to a JustGiving page for a Council fundraising campaign, when alternative charitable methods were available, was improper and unfair on the member of staff, will she commit to never allowing senior finance officers to consent to such unethical action again?

**Reply from Councillor Maguire**

In response to the coronavirus pandemic Enfield Council had to respond swiftly and decisively to meet the needs of the most vulnerable residents in the borough. Donations received had to be separate from 'normal' Council business and it was felt that using the Mayor of Enfield's charity account was not efficient or appropriate.

Due to the fast pace Enfield Council had to working, a Just Giving page was created, authorising a Council officer to use their own account in the first instance.

Internal Audit is satisfied that the documented procedures around the transfer of funds from the JustGiving page to the Enfield Stands Together bank account were followed and that all funds were duly transferred.

As a result of the Enfield Stands Together campaign, more than 40,000 food parcels were delivered, and the donations received directly contributed to the food distributed to residents in the borough.

**Question 7 from Councillor Elif Erbil to Councillor Alev Cazimoglu, Cabinet Member for Health & Social Care**

What approach is Enfield taking to restart day care support and how can service users and their families be assured of safety re: Covid 19?

### **Reply from Councillor Cazimoglu**

Over the last 5 months, the LBE has worked with Enfield Day Service providers to safely reopen building-based LD and OP day services. The approach taken for Phase 1 reopening includes:

- Consultation with Service Users (SU) and parents/carers to understand if there were any concerns re: reopening
- Weekly Working Group meetings which include professionals from Public Health, Social Care, Provider representation, etc.
- Train the Trainer programme provided to all day care providers to ensure that all staff and SU can be C19 tested within the day service premises on the regular basis
- Implemented a weekly testing regime to ensure highest levels of safety and infection control
- Completed the priority matrix to identify SU as a priority to return to building-based day services
- Ensured that all providers have implemented robust infection control and risk management
- Implemented a bubble system
- Fortnightly meetings with providers to ensure ongoing support and guidance
- Ongoing outreach / online support provided to the SU remaining at home
- Regular communication to parents/carers and SU to update on any new developments
- Ongoing preparations for Phase 2 re-opening when it is safe to do so.

### **Question 8 from Councillor Dino Lemonides to Councillor Gina Needs, Cabinet Member for Social Housing**

Whilst I was Cabinet Member for Housing I identified, by ward and estate, funding and a plan for HRA budgets to deal with all major lift issues and damp issues. Imagine my horror and surprise that nearly 2 years later I was asked to attend, along with my fellow ward councillors, an online Microsoft Teams meeting with the residents of Bliss House who were still complaining of lift breakdowns, damp and leaks, and vulnerable and immobile occupants trapped in their own homes. Please will Councillor Needs explain why these plans were not carried out and why our residents are continuing to suffer?

### **Reply from Councillor Needs**

The Council's lift replacement programme is in active progress and nine of our high-rise blocks (including Bliss & Purcell) will be completed this financial year. At Bliss House we are undertaking a comprehensive programme of improvement works including internal fire safety improvements; the replacement of water infrastructure

to address leaks and block security improvements and residents have been consulted about the sequencing of the works. Work has already been completed on both lifts to prevent further breakdowns ahead of full replacement after Christmas.

I am bringing forward a new Asset Management Strategy to cabinet in the New Year, will continue to focus on the delivery of safe, secure and decent homes for residents.

Over the past year the Neighbourhood team has worked closely with our Resident Liaison team and contractors, to ensure vulnerable residents are identified and supported during periods of lift outages, either due to service failure or during replacement and upgrade works. The Council's new Allocations Policy restricts the nomination of people with mobility issues to high rise flats.

**Question 9 from Councillor Lee David-Sanders to Councillor Ian Barnes, Deputy Leader of the Council**

Would Councillor Barnes, Deputy Leader of the Council outline his plans for reopening all the borough's libraries as soon as restrictions are once again lifted?

**Reply from Councillor Barnes**

All 4 flagships libraries, and the digital Library, are currently open and receiving good feedback from customers.

Reopening face to face services in light of Covid-19 (Cabinet Report June 10<sup>th</sup> 2020) stated the key principles that would be taken into account in considering the reopening of Libraries should be; carefully phased, when safe to do so for customers and staff, with the appropriate changes to work style, physical space etc. and responsive to the dynamic situation.

It is important that we therefore take the safety needs of customers and staff into account. In order to achieve this, more resources are required to keep each Library open. We also do not believe that opening Libraries, only to close them again due to resource or safety considerations, is helpful for the community.

During this second lockdown, the only area of the Library service that has changed from the first is the removal of book browsing, as a result of government restrictions. The vast majority of services remain such as the home library service, test and trace, click and collect, essential pc use, partners activities (such as employment clubs and health and wellbeing support) that fit within government restriction criteria, and community hub face to face council services at Enfield Town and Edmonton Green libraries.

Emerging from the second lockdown, and pending further restrictions, we are working on extending opening hours in some of the Flagship Libraries and after the

festive period to begin by opening 4 community libraries, based on the key principles above in addition to consideration of deprivation and need, the ability to apply social distance measures and the distance from the nearest Flagship Library. Due to the fluid situation as regards the Pandemic, this will continue to be reviewed on a weekly basis.

**Question 10 from Councillor Susan Erbil to Councillor Alev Cazimoglu, Cabinet Member for Health & Social Care**

How are plans progressing to support North Middlesex University Hospital (NMUH) for the forthcoming Winter?

**Reply from Councillor Cazimoglu**

As we know, the NHS faces significant pressures every Winter and NMUH, as the busiest hospital in the area, is certainly not immune to this. However, with the Covid pandemic, this Winter will see additional pressure. Some of this pressure will be relieved by local activity the Council will undertake and some by the approach the partners within North Central London have agreed to undertake.

As in previous Winters, the Council will undertake specific actions to support the care market. For instance, we will commission local home care providers to guarantee that extra hours are available for those going home so people are not delayed in hospital because there is no care worker support available. In addition to this, the Council will support other aspects of the care market, such as care homes, to ensure that people stay safe and well this Winter and thus do not place pressure on acute hospital services. This would include supporting homes with infection control, PPE and Covid testing when their usual routes are blocked.

However, it is actions that the Council undertakes with its partners in health and social care that will give the biggest support to NMUH. Since the start of the pandemic, there has been a higher level of collaboration between the NHS and local Councils than ever before. In North Central London, the five local councils, the 4 community health trusts and 5 acute hospitals have developed plans to support the latter in managing Covid and maintaining, where possible, 'normal' hospital activity.

An example is the NMUH Integrated Discharge Team (IDT). Enfield Council continues to run its 7-day discharge service onsite at NMUH but they are now part of a wider partnership. As mandated by central government, this is led the local community health provider, Barnet Enfield and Haringey Mental Health Trust (BEH) and involves Enfield and Haringey Councils, Whittington Health and receives support from North Central London Clinical Commissioning Group (NCL CCG). Set up in March 2020, the IDT is now the national model for discharge arrangements. Its work means that Enfield residents now leave hospital in a more timely fashion. This is vitally important for the hospital so it can have space for new admissions

and also gives it some flexibility if there were to be a Covid outbreak at the hospital.

The Council has also produced a Local Authority Winter Plan and a joint Health and Social Care Plan. While not specifically concerning NMUH they contain a wealth detail. They can be found at

Link to the Winter Plan – Local authorities is:

[https://mylife.enfield.gov.uk/media/34629/winter\\_plan\\_2020\\_21\\_actions\\_for\\_local\\_authorities.pdf](https://mylife.enfield.gov.uk/media/34629/winter_plan_2020_21_actions_for_local_authorities.pdf)

Link to Joint Health Social Care plan is:

<https://mylife.enfield.gov.uk/media/34630/joint-health-social-care-winter-plan-20-21.pdf>

### **Question 11 from Councillor Derek Levy to Councillor Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council/Lead Member for Regeneration**

The consultative approach being given to the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) is welcome and there is much to commend intentions underpinning the SHLAA to assess and record the potential land supply in the borough, albeit that the very short timescale has been challenging given the scale of the task and the importance of the context.

However, there are concerns within the methodology regarding highly selective discretionary adaptations made to take account of local circumstances which seem far too open ended, given that much land has already being disposed of piecemeal, under delegated authority, with no consultation. This would appear to be a serious democratic, constitutional and environmental oversight, compromising the democratic role of ward councillors and thwarting their capacity to undertake their representative role to full effect.

Will Councillor Caliskan guarantee that the consultation will be genuine and founded on a solid methodological base, taking due account of local councillor input in good time, given I can cite known examples from a single ward (in which I myself reside) which has seen the absence of appropriate engagement on three major initiatives - being the marketing of Whitewebbs, the School Streets project around Lavender Primary School, and The Chase Restoration Project - where in the case of the former two, my elected councillors were informed at the last minute and then only invited to comment on already agreed plans; and will the Leader similarly provide this Council with full assurance that SHLAA will be used to protect the Green Belt and Grade 3a productive agricultural land in Enfield and not merely become part of a toolkit to facilitate the disposal of land in what is increasingly looking like an arbitrary manner, and in the absence of any democratic determination or Government Inspectorate approval?

### **Reply from Councillor Caliskan**

The SHLAA Methodology consultation was a technical consultation on a proposed methodology for analysing land supply in Enfield. This consultation was not about the disposal of any Council land and it is incorrect to suggest there is any relationship.

Work continues on the development of the Council's new Local Plan, which will guide development in the borough over the next 15 years, once it is adopted. Development of a local plan takes several years and involves multiple rounds of consultation before it is examined by an independent planning inspector appointed by the Secretary of State. The last round of consultation on the Local Plan took place in the spring of 2019 and was wide ranging, involving members, residents and local interest groups. Over 3000 people responded to the consultation. The quality of the process was externally recognised by the Planning Awards event where the Council was given a finalist award in the Plan Making category for the consultation. Engagement on the next draft of the plan is scheduled for 2021 following which the Local Plan will continue to follow all statutory processes as required by regulation for adoption. More detail on these procedures can be found on the planning section of the Council's website under "Statement of Community Involvement".

If the Councillor believes that the planning service is operating without democratic oversight and outside regulations it would be appropriate for him to raise this with the monitoring officer.

**Question 12 from Councillor Lee David-Sanders to Councillor Ian Barnes, Deputy Leader of the Council**

Will Councillor Barnes, Deputy Leader of the Council explain, given the number of concerns the Metropolitan Police raised in their responses to officers when they were asked to comment on the proposals for the Fox Lane and Bowes low traffic neighbourhoods, why he still thought it acceptable to go ahead with the schemes?

**Reply from Councillor Barnes**

The Council have not received any complaints from the Police. Council Officers meet regularly with the Metropolitan Police and collaborated with them over the development of the design of both Fox Lane LTN and Bowes LTN responding to any concerns as part of this design process.

No objections were raised with respect to the final designs and the scheme was implemented.

As part of the ongoing monitoring of these trials, a discussion was held recently with the Metropolitan Police and no significant concerns were raised.

If Councillor David-Saunders has received any complaints from the Police, he

needs to formally share with officers.

**Question 13 from Councillor Margaret Greer to Councillor Ian Barnes, Deputy Leader**

Could the Deputy Leader share any feedback from residents or businesses on the bright and colourful art crossings that have been installed across our borough?

**Reply from Councillor Barnes**

Local artists created these crossings for the us to provide a boost to residents and light up our high streets at a difficult time and the response from press, residents and businesses demonstrates that we've been successful in this ambition.

The colourful crossings were front page news in the Enfield Independent in September and also picked up by the Enfield Dispatch as a positive addition to the borough. Key local businesses – including Enfield Town Traders Association, representatives of Enfield Market Trust and neighbouring shops - came out to welcome each of the crossings at installation.

Social media, including Palmers Green Parents group and Southgate Families, has included pictures of happy residents on the crossings and thank yous to the artists. The very nature of Art means that the response is subjective but public feedback has been overwhelmingly positive:

Some examples:

- “Fantastic! (It) made my night the other day when coming home late from work. Bright, colours and put a smile on my face. Something positive in an area that often gets overlooked – thanks!”
- “It’s our local crossing and we love it – thanks so much! Really brightens up the high street”.
- “It’s just fantastic, puts a smile on my face every time I see it. We need more of this kind of thing for Southgate High Street”.
- “I love it. Saw it there and had no idea. What a lovely little piece to lighten up Fore Street”.
- “Drove over the crossing on the way home with my daughter, it was lovely”
- “Wonderful”

In addition, officers have now had a request from a local resident’s group in Burford Gardens on how they, too, could get an art crossing for their neighbourhood and an informal enquiry from a local café owner keen to have one lead up to his business.

**Question 14 from Councillor Derek Levy to Councillor Rick Jewell, Cabinet Member for Children’s Services**

On the basis that no child in this Borough should ever go hungry, and probing into the level of actual support this Administration has provided to ensure the extension of the free school voucher system, rather than supportive words followed by referrals to charitable organisations and food banks, during the October half term holiday:

Will Councillor Jewell please tell us to what extent Enfield Council has actually funded the scheme working directly with all schools by way of voucher numbers and their monetary value, to which schools in particular, to how many pupils in each of those schools; and did all eligible pupils receive a proper meal for each of the five weekdays of the half-term break?

### **Reply from Councillor Jewell**

#### **Free School Meals support in Enfield**

##### **October half term 2020**

As a result of the government voting against a motion to fund free school meals for children during the October Half Term holidays, Enfield Council decided to step up our work in partnership with our local schools and the North Enfield Foodbank to provide support for families who would normally be entitled to Free School Meals.

To ensure no child went hungry in our Borough, in addition to the funding already given to the North Enfield Food Bank, we also made it clear that the council would continue to support food distribution where needed, and worked with Enfield food banks during the October half term.

During the school half term Enfield Council had contact with more than 2,500 families on the free school meals list, offering support to ensure no child went hungry over the October half term holiday.

##### **Christmas holidays December-January 2020/21**

Currently, plans are underway, in collaboration with local foodbanks, and schools to ensure that over the Christmas period vulnerable children and their families have access to food. More detail on this will be circulated in the coming weeks.

#### **The Enfield Poverty Action Plan**

The Enfield Poverty Action Plan set out a number of actions including the council supporting the voluntary and community sector to create a Food Action Plan for Enfield. The plan seeks to ensure all families have access to healthy food.

The plans are progressing, as the council works with foodbanks across the borough in a new Food Alliance. This aims to identify and support sustainable, longer term

solutions to meeting the needs of local residents experiencing food poverty.

The Council has recently received notification of the Government's Covid Winter Food Grant which will be used to support these activities over the winter period (December 2020 to March 2021).

**Question 15 from Councillor James Hockney to Councillor Mary Maguire, Cabinet Member Finance & Procurement**

Will the Council consider focusing the unspent (nearly £10 million pounds) of New Homes Bonus, CIL and S106 funds on an 'Emergency Economic Covid response fund' aimed at those communities and age groups that have been disproportionately economically impacted by the lock down?

**Reply from Councillor Maguire**

In 2021/22 our budget gap is £30m, of which £16m is directly related to the impact of Covid19. As things currently stand, there is no information on how the government will fund local authorities in their efforts to lead economic recovery and increasing poverty in the forthcoming year.

S106 and CIL funds are separate from the revenue budget and are contributions from developments in our borough. Their use is legally restricted, with the law dictating that Section 106 money must be spent for a purpose related to a specific development (for example funding a school expansion) while CIL must be spent on infrastructure that is needed to meet the future growth needs of the borough. That means funding schemes such as public transport, sports pitches, new wetlands in parks, and pavement and streets upgrading. The Council cannot spend these development tariffs or obligations through the revenue account on council services for vulnerable residents, day to day services, or police officers. The majority of the funds we currently hold, and which have not yet been spent, have already been allocated to similar improvements.

However, all the reserves are under review and because the new homes bonus reserves have neither restrictions nor conditions placed on its use it is therefore part of this review. One of the uses this money may be to fund the cost of increasing numbers of residents losing their jobs or earning less and needing to applying for Council Tax Support. To date there is no additional government funding for this significant additional cost which could exceed £6m per annum so the Council is looking to step in to support residents.

**Question 16 from Councillor Sinan Boztas to Councillor Ian Barnes, Deputy Leader**

As the UK approaches the end of the transition period, could the Deputy Leader update us on the most recent efforts of the Brexit Panel to reach out to our EU

residents to make them aware that they may need to apply for settled or pre-settled status?

### **Reply from Councillor Barnes**

I thank the Councillor for his question. The local authority continues to take robust action to help ensure that all EU nationals who need to register to remain post-Brexit are encouraged to take action. We have most recently in October 2020 sent a targeted mailshot to all known EU nationals in the borough with a final reminder to encourage those who have yet to register to make urgent efforts to do so.

We continue to work collectively with our partners with regular meetings of our multi-agency Enfield Brexit Panel to ensure that we monitor activity in the borough related to Brexit in the wider context of business support, community safety and policing as well as maintaining a comprehensive risk register to ensure controls and mitigations are in place as the bigger picture evolves. We continue to work with partners such as Citizens Advice Enfield to help fund and offer one-to-one support to those EU national residents who find it difficult to navigate the registration system.

We hope that by remaining vigilant and proactive in what we do that all those in the borough who wish to stay post-Brexit will be in the best position to do so.

### **Question 17 from Councillor Dinah Barry to Councillor Guney Dogan, Cabinet Member for the Environment and Sustainability**

Residents complain that fly-tipping is increasing. The quarterly Corporate Performance Report has been the vehicle for reporting customer reported street scene issues (including litter issues, dog fouling, graffiti, leaves/weeds, fly posting and road sweeping). However, rather mysteriously, this performance indicator that demonstrated that the trend was a significantly upwards trend (i.e. Apr - Sep 2017: 386 reported issues, Apr - Sep 2018: 238 reported issues, Apr - Sep 2019: 513 reported issues) has disappeared from the reporting framework after last being reported at the 22 January 2020 Cabinet Meeting.

Therefore, please will Councillor Dogan provide comparable figures for the volume of fly-tipped material and number of incidents of fly-tipping in quarters 3 and 4 of the current financial year and quarters 3 and 4 in the two previous years and if our residents are mistaken, why do you think they perceive there to have been an increase: and if they are correct, what is being done to mitigate for this?

### **Reply from Councillor Dogan**

Customer reported street scene issues were removed from the Corporate Performance Report as it did not provide a robust measure for performance.

ENV253 (customer reported fly tips removed) and NI195 performance (% of roads inspected that had acceptable level of cleanliness) has remained on the report and viewed to provide a representative measurement of the cleanliness of the streets.

Financial Year	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
Current FY (2020-21)	Not Available	Not Available
2019-20	1561	1761
2018-19	1331	1632

There has been an average fly tips per day increase to 2.5 for Q3 compared to 1.4 in Q4.

Officers, including our frontline staff, continue to tackle fly tipping and aim to clear them as soon as possible. As part of the waste service change, this administration has invested £500k into the Street Cleansing service and to improve the street cleanliness in Enfield. Initial feedback from local residents' groups in Edmonton has been positive.

**Question 18 from Councillor James Hockney to Councillor Mary Maguire, Cabinet Member Finance & Procurement**

Would Councillor Maguire, Cabinet Member Finance & Procurement, inform the chamber how much the Council spent on external solicitors and consultants for each of the last three financial years and to date? April 2017/2018, April 2018/2019, April 2019/2020 and April 2020 to date.

**Reply from Councillor Maguire**

Please see below the figures for expenditure on external solicitors for the last five financial years and the 2020/21 expenditure to date. A decision was taken three years ago to gradually insource legal work and the reduction in spend clearly demonstrates the progress that the service has made.

**External Solicitors**

	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21 to date
General Fund	1,191,478	1,532,527	942,074	1,225,906	1,015,507	332,466
Capital	1,902,184	1,390,605	886,129	387,806	685,010	191,736
HRA	300,721	565,390	704,101	134,501	254,108	63,166

Total	3,394,383	3,488,521	2,532,304	1,748,213	1,954,625	587,368
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And below those for consultants over the last three financial years and year to date, however, please be advised that the figures for consultancy represent a mixture of both service provision and consultancy services as these are not separately identified in our financial ledger system. For example, within the 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20 total figures of £5.7m, £8.9m and £10.1m, includes expenditure incurred with Ernst & Young providing the co-sourced Procurement & Commissioning hub service in the region of £1.5m, £2.3m and £1.5m respectively.

### Consultancy

2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21 to date
5,731,589	8,899,668	10,051,894	3,720,080

### Question 19 from Councillor Kate Anolue to Councillor Nneka Keazor, Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Cohesion

Can the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Cohesion advise us about the increase in reporting of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) during the first months of lockdown?

### Reply from Councillor Keazor

The Numbers of ASB calls increased by 65% in the 12 months to Sept 2020. This is largely driven by reports of concerns that others were failing to comply with Covid Restrictions. Staff in the Community Safety Unit have continued to work throughout, albeit remotely and have also coordinated activity to minimise the additional risk from Fireworks. The peak months so far have been April and May, although this may increase again in November during the second lockdown.

CCTV is supporting work to identify areas where ASB is a particular issue and have monitored over 20,000 incidents over the past year.

### Question 20 From Councillor Derek Levy to Councillor Mahtab Uddin, Cabinet Member for Public Health

By the time of this Full Council Meeting, it will be approximately nine months since the worst public health crisis the world has seen for over a century began to take hold. As of the time of drafting this question just under 49,000 deaths had been recorded in the UK as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic and we are in the midst of a second national lockdown. During this period the Cabinet Member for Public Health has seemingly kept an extremely low profile with virtually no sighting nor sound.

Please will Councillor Uddin provide some quantitative data on the actions he has personally taken since the outbreak, such as the number of meetings he has attended in person and/or online, the number of decisions he has taken, the number of media interviews he has undertaken etc. which demonstrate his leadership during this period?

### **Reply from Councillor Uddin**

We are living in an unprecedented time. None of us will have experienced anything like these events before. The COVID-19 pandemic has changed our lives in ways that we could not have imagined. The grim death toll nationally now stands at over 50,000 and very sadly over 400 residents of Enfield have lost their lives.

Whilst the government response was often inadequate, we in Enfield, with the clear and strong collective leadership, acted to help our residents wherever we could, and pressured government to step up to act more swiftly, particularly in areas such as the provision of testing. Over the last 6 months, I have written to the Secretary of State to ask questions in relation to major issues relating to Covid19. Often, these letters have been shared with members for their information or in the public domain.

As Cabinet Member for Public Health I worked closely with our Director of Public Health and his team, and with Council member colleagues, to prepare and respond as far as possible. As member of the Health & Wellbeing Board as well as the Community Resilience Board, I have been able to contribute to shaping Enfield's response to the crisis together with our major stakeholders.

Working together with the Leader and Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care we developed a public health communication strategy during Covid19. I am pleased to have organised and taken part in varies community meetings, including those with faith groups. For example, we have held meetings with faith leaders and BAME community leaders (such as the Somalian Community) on what we are doing to safeguard health and how we can work together to protect the most vulnerable.

I have also ensured that members are regularly provide written and oral briefings on the latest information and advice in relation to the pandemic and its local impact.

Through this work, and the determined and dedicated work of all of us as leaders for the communities we serve, and through the tireless work of our officers during this very difficult, and often distressing, time we have put Enfield on a strong footing and well prepared for this winter's second wave. We continue to work hard to keep the residents of Enfield safe during these difficult times.

**Question 21 from Councillor Chris Dey to Councillor Alev Cazimoglu, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care**

Would Councillor Cazimoglu, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care please update all Members each month on the number of care home residents that have been tested for COVID-19 in each rolling 28 day period as well as the number of staff that have been tested in each 7 day rolling period?

### **Reply from Councillor Cazimoglu**

I thank Councillor Dey for his question and putting a focus on this area. The government set themselves a target to deliver Tier 2 testing (asymptomatic testing) for all residents aged 65 and over by the 6 June 2020, excluding a large proportion of the equally vulnerable adults in care homes under 65. Mass testing was promised for residents and staff for all care homes by the beginning of July with residents tested every 28 days and staff every 7 days. This is a full 3 months after the Country went into lockdown.

By the beginning of July 160 people or just under 10% of our care home residents in Enfield had died as a result of this virus, promised mass testing across all care homes for all age groups was not in place either at that time or for months afterwards and I think colleagues will agree that the challenges that both I and the leader of the Council made to government around mass testing were totally justified.

So, six months after the pandemic hit, 96% of our care homes are now receiving regular mass testing as per government guidance. I am happy about that, but I am not happy about the length of time it took to get there. None of us should be. The response was inequitable, continually delayed and for a period of five months, wholly inadequate.

I can tell Councillor Dey that the information he is seeking is currently not being provided or Published by Public Health England.

As advised at the recent Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee a recent exercise was undertaken to speak to each care home and specifically ask the question about level of testing against the government target. You were advised that out of 79 care homes, 76 care homes are receiving test kits to allow staff to be tested weekly and residents every 28 days. The three homes have registered on the government portal but have yet to receive the required tests.

As also advised at the Scrutiny Panel we need to focus social care activities and communications with care homes at managing outbreaks, supporting homes with staffing issues and compliance with Infection control procedures.

I am sure you will agree that responsibility for ensuring the government achieve the targets rests with the government.

**Question 22 from Councillor Anne Brown to Councillor Nneka Keazor, Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Cohesion**

Can the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Cohesion inform us what is the impact of the increase in Domestic Abuse cases in Enfield and has additional work been developed to support victims of Domestic Abuse?

**Reply from Councillor Keazor**

Domestic abuse crimes where there was a physical injury has remained level during the year (to end of September) but incidents local have risen by almost 9%.

The Domestic abuse Hub within Children's services was established quickly and helped to meet the increase in demand which peaked between May and July, where the figures increased to the highest levels for more than 2 years.

Since the launch of the hub there continues to be an increase in MASH contacts and a rise in referrals relating to domestic abuse. This trend has risen sharply again in September 2020 following children returning to school with 1,909 contacts received. There is an increase in referrals relating to domestic abuse which correlates with a rise in child protection investigations to ensure that children are protected from suffering significant harm.

The social media campaign continues to be successful. Over 500 posters are still on display stores across Enfield and adverts have been out across a range of local papers including the ethnic press.

We have secured a two-week poster campaign over the post-Christmas / New Year period. A coordinated programme of partnership work to mark White Ribbon Day on the 25 November 2020 is being established in place of the usual conference.

**Question 23 from Councillor Dino Lemonides to Councillor Mary Maguire, Cabinet Member for Finance & Procurement**

The Localism Act 2011 facilitated the community's right to nominate a building or piece of land, the use of which furthers the cultural, social or leisure interests of the local community establishing assets of community value. Successful nominations enable community groups to delay the sale of an asset, giving them time to raise funds to buy the asset.

Will Councillor Maguire please tell us how many applications for "Assets of Community Value" have been made since May 2018, and what were the respective outcomes?

**Reply from Councillor Maguire**

There have been 2 applications since May 2018, and both have been successful in achieving the status as an Asset of Community Value. All outcomes are available on the council's website at <https://new.enfield.gov.uk/services/property-and-economy/assets-of-community-value/>

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

Residents who have a missed waste collection which they have reported within the correct timeframe are receiving messages that their bins have been emptied when they have not. Would Councillor Dogan, Cabinet Member for Environment inform Council what procedures are in place to ensure that such erroneous messages are not sent out?

**Reply from Councillor Dogan**

Residents are able to report missed collections via the Council's website. As a result of the website's integration with the Waste Services In-Cab solution, the website will advise the resident if there have been any issues with the collection and provide appropriate information (e.g. contamination, bin not placed out, side waste presented, etc) and on next steps.

If a bin has been genuinely missed, this is automatically allocated to the team that missed the bin for collection the following working day. In most cases the process works as intended. However, on occasion, the waste service experiences a glitch in the system and emails can be auto generated and/or there is an administrative error by the service. When officers are notified of this, they work with colleagues in IT to look at how this can be quickly resolved, to avoid resident frustration and confusion in the future.

Waste services carry out circa.190,000 collections from properties every week and over the last four weeks have an average missed rate of 0.16% or to be more positive the average collection rate is 99.84%.

**Question 25 from Councillor Kate Anolue to Councillor Nneka Keazor, Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Cohesion**

Can the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Cohesion update us with progress of Operation Boxter in the priority estate area?

**Reply from Councillor Keazor**

In June 2020 in response to numerous complaints about street prostitution, Operation Boxster was formed as a permanent team, dedicated to solving the problem. The team is formed of 1 Police Sergeant and 6 Police Constables.

The Council's Housing and Community Safety Teams have worked with the police for some time to deter sex workers- this has included:

Review of CCTV, and operatives are proactively identifying sex workers, and kerb crawlers – providing details of those to the MPS.

Target hardening areas: We have worked with colleagues in Housing and Highways and other departments to fence off areas used by sex workers, removed Bin sheds which were littered with condoms and other paraphernalia. Other open areas which suffered with poor lighting were subject to enhancement and additional lights have been added.

Conducted deep cleans of residential areas littered with used condoms and wet wipes.

Redesigned road-furniture which was used to facilitate sex work and drug users. In addition, the partnership has included charities who carry out outreach to help support the women, identify cases of modern slavery and make referrals to drugs treatment services.

Residents have started to positively comment on the work.

### **Question 26 From Councillor Dinah Barry to Councillor Gina Needs, Cabinet Member for Social Housing**

The Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman recently found Enfield Council at fault for not having a housing procurement policy in place detailing how it would meet expected demand. The Ombudsman Michael King said: "*The law doesn't allow councils to leave people in unsuitable accommodation just because it can't find anything suitable. It should have enough housing.*" I am sure Councillor. Needs will agree that even one decision against Enfield by the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman is one too many.

I am aware of at least one family living in council-owned accommodation that officers have agreed is unsuitable and dangerous for them, but to whom we have been unable to offer anything suitable for some years.

Will Councillor Needs please tell us how many families are currently living in council-owned accommodation that we are aware is unsuitable for them and what are we doing to ensure they can be offered more appropriate accommodation soon, so as to not fall foul of the Ombudsman again?

### **Reply from Councillor Needs**

There are currently 5 tenants in Council owned accommodation who need an adapted property. The need for adapted properties is also reflected in the Council's development programme, including the new affordable homes to be delivered at Meridian Water in phase one.

The launch of Enfield Let also enables us to take a more proactive approach to the supply of adapted properties in the private rented sector to which the Ombudsman case related. Because properties will be leased from the landlord by Enfield Let, the Council will be able to adapt these properties. The Housing Advisory Service works closely with the Grants Team responsible for administering disabled facilities grants. This will increase the supply of adapted properties in the private rented sector.

Cabinet approved the Placement Policy in April 2020 which sets out our new approach to placing households in the private rented sector. For the first time, the new policy also introduced minimum standards of accommodation.

The new Housing Advisory Service includes a team responsible for inspecting the properties that are used either as temporary accommodation or as a permanent home to make sure that these standards are being enforced. The service will work closely with the PRS Enforcement Team.

**Question 27 from Councillor Lindsay Rawlings to Councillor Guney Dogan, Cabinet Member for Environment**

Does Councillor Dogan, Cabinet Member for Environment agree with the Labour MP for Edmonton, Kate Osamor that the incinerator project should be paused?

**Reply from Councillor Dogan**

The Council relies on the NLHPP Project for its future waste disposal services, which will be secured through the construction of a world-class Energy Recovery Facility at the Edmonton EcoPark. The Project will also help to increase recycling rates through the delivery of a Resource Recovery Facility with capacity to manage 135,000 tonnes of recyclable material every year, as well as the first ever public Reuse and Recycling Centre (civic amenity site) at the site.

Enfield Council has declared a Climate Emergency and the NLHPP is part of the response. Enfield has a clear policy of preventing waste from being sent to landfill. Its Climate Action Plan 2020 highlights the major greenhouse gas savings that will be achieved through the NLHPP, which amounts to up to 215,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents each year compared to landfill – equivalent to taking 110,000 cars off the road.

Enfield Council is committed to Net Zero emissions across new build homes across the Borough. The NLHPP is essential for achieving this at Meridian Water – the

largest regeneration scheme in the borough. The new ERF will connect to Energetik, the Council's decentralised heat network, to provide low-carbon heat for up to 10,000 new homes in the scheme.

**Question 28 from Councillor Doug Taylor to Councillor Mary Maguire, Cabinet Member for Finance & Procurement**

The cyber-attack in Hackney places greater spotlight on our cyber security measures, please can you set out how the Council ensures that our systems and data are secure and any additional steps that have been taken following the Hackney incident?

**Reply from Councillor Maguire**

The Council is alert to the potential impact arising from Cyber Attack and an assessment of our risks had already been undertaken and a Cyber Security Remediation Plan is already in place. This plan was reported to the General Purposes Committee in July of this year and several parts of the plan are already implemented specifically around ensuring testing out awareness and compliance and implementing the standards set by the Government's National Cyber Security Centre. However, we are not complacent, and following the Hackney Cyber-attack, this plan has been reviewed to apply any lessons learned from Hackney's experience. We will accelerate the delivery of the critical workstreams in the plan and that includes reviewing our Emergency Planning arrangements to ensure they are responsive in the event of an attack.

**Question 29 from Councillor Daniel Anderson to Councillor Ian Barnes, Deputy Leader of the Council**

In answer to question 28 of the Council Questions to the last Full Council meeting, on the Borough-wide project to replace existing Pelican crossings with radically designed new designs, which cost in the region of £9,500 each, where I asked Councillor Barnes whether they afforded pedestrians the same protection as the crossings they replaced. He assured me that they did not affect the legal operation of the crossings. However, I was informed by the Head of Cultural services development on 26 October 2020 that one of the said crossings, namely the one which was installed in Enfield Town opposite Barclays Bank was removed just a couple of weeks after installation, as a 'precaution', which seems to suggest that it was not safe as I was led to believe.

Will Councillor Barnes therefore please demonstrate to Council and Enfield's residents the nature of the 'precaution' that led to the removal of this crossing which demonstrates a failure of due diligence and led to nearly £10,000 of Community Infrastructure Levy/Section 106 funds being wasted?

### **Reply from Councillor Barnes**

The overwhelmingly positive resident feedback about the crossings can be seen in the Q13 answer. It is disappointing that Cllr Anderson is instead being negative about this initiative and as such our incredibly talented artists across the borough.

Officers from Traffic and Transportation team were closely involved with the art crossings project from the outset and fully support the initiative. However, when in situ, the artwork at the Enfield Town crossing created a striped effect that could have been misinterpreted by some as implying that pedestrians stepping onto the crossing had priority (as is the case with a zebra crossing). This is not the case with a signal-controlled crossing and, although the risks were low, it was decided to put safety first and remove any doubt by replacing the artwork.

The Council demonstrated due diligence by monitoring use of the crossing and taking prompt action when a possible risk relating to the striped pattern of the artwork was identified. Although a low risk, we have put safety first and removed any doubt by replacing the artwork.

The same artist has prepared an alternative design at nil cost, which will be installed by our contractor, also at nil cost.

### **Question 30 from Councillor Edward Smith to Councillor Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council**

One of the consequences of the delay in the Council reaching a negotiated settlement with Cadent (the gas distribution network company) over the last 5 years is that start on site for the first phase of Meridian Water will be further delayed. Will Councillor Caliskan, Leader of the Council confirm when it is estimated the PRS relocation works will be completed and when Vistry can start on site constructing the much-needed homes at Meridian Water?

### **Reply from Councillor Caliskan**

The Cadent Pressure Reduction Station (PRS) is not on the critical path for the start of the first construction works for new homes at Meridian One. The Cadent PRS works are programmed to commence in Spring 2021 and complete in autumn 2021, but they will not delay the start of construction of new homes.

The first homes on Meridian One will commence construction in spring 2021. This is subject to a satisfactory reserved matters planning permission, as well as the Council as Landowner and the Developer, Vistry Partnerships, meeting the conditions precedent within the Development Agreement. Currently Vistry and the Council are on track for spring.

**Question 31 from Councillor Christine Hamilton to Councillor Mary Maguire, Cabinet Member for Finance & Procurement**

From 28 September, residents that are asked to self-isolate via Test and Trace, and cannot work, may be eligible for a £500 payment. Please can you provide an update on the scheme and take up to date.

**Reply from Councillor Maguire**

To date the council has received 279 self-isolation payment claims and made the £500 payments to 46 residents who have met the criteria.

The regulations for this grant are strict – the resident needs to have received a notification from NHS Test and Trace to self-isolate, are employed or self-employed, can't work from home and will lose income as a result of isolating and be on a low income in receipt of or claimed certain benefits in order to be eligible. All the applications have been assessed within 3 days and it is possible to apply both online and paper.

There are a number of residents contacting us who are not eligible, the website guidance has been reviewed in order make the eligibility clearer. In addition, we are considering if there are any options, we can apply to extend the discretionary scheme within the government guidance.

**Question 32 From Councillor Daniel Anderson to Councillor Mary Maguire, Cabinet Member for Finance & Procurement**

The 2010-15 Coalition Government's Programme for government contained a section on government transparency, which stated the 'need to throw open the doors of public bodies, to enable the public to hold politicians and public bodies to account. We also recognise that this will help to deliver better value for money in public spending'.

Residents rightly commend hardworking public servants delivering key services at a time of significant pressure. However, Enfield Council's Draft Statement of Accounts 2019/20 presented to the October meeting of the General Purposes Committee demonstrated serial breaches of the Council's own Statutory Pay Policy 2019/20, specifically Section 3.3, Section 3.5.1, Section 3.6, Section 3.6.4, Section 3.9.3 and Section 3.20. The Council also appears to be in breach of Sections 48 and 49 of the Local Government's Code of Transparency (2015) and the Localism Act (2011).

Given that Councillor Maguire has been unequivocal in her condemnation of central government funding cuts that has left Enfield Council £193m poorer, whilst continually reminding Enfield residents that she has established 'a robust and resilient financial position' will she now explain to Council and Enfield's residents

how she has instead demonstrated a shocking level of financial mismanagement and a failure of governance.

### **Reply from Councillor Maguire**

Whilst it is not appropriate to discuss individual Officers, the figures accounted for within the draft statement of accounts 2019/20, reflect senior officers' pay which is aligned to the Council's pay policy.

Under the terms of the Council's Constitution, all permanent appointments to posts graded Director, Executive Director and Chief Executive are made by an Appointments' Panel drawn from the Staff Appeals, Appointments & Remuneration Committee. Staff will normally be appointed at the minimum point of the grade unless there is an objectively justifiable reason for appointing to a higher salary and this is a) recorded and b) approved by the chair of the Appointments' Panel that made the appointment and c) reported to the next Council in the case of the appointment of an Executive Director. The Council has not made any recent Executive Director appointments.

The requirements of openness and accountability and the principles of transparency are met by existing procedures, this is set against the potential delays in waiting for a full Council meeting before being able to offer a job, or having to renegotiate the salary, risk losing good candidates and increasing recruitment costs.

Enfield Council has a robust incremental pay structure in place and does not set basic % pay increases which are negotiated for senior officers through the National Joint Council (NJC). There has been no breach of the Council's stringent Pay Policy.

Furthermore, although Enfield Council offers membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme to all its employees, it is up to individual officers if they take up this membership. If individuals do opt into the pension scheme the levels of contribution, payable by the Council as an employer's contribution is calculated once every three years by the Fund's actuaries and approved by the Pension Policy and Investment Committee.

You will be aware, since 2017 Enfield Council has cut its senior management team and costs by over a third (£1 million) – at a time of unprecedented pressures and demands on local government. Enfield Council now has one of smallest senior management teams in London in relation to the size and complexity of the borough.

Senior Management Structure and salary levels over £50k, and a list of responsibilities is posted on our website under the transparency menu: -

<https://new.enfield.gov.uk/services/your-council/what-we-spend-and-how-we-spend-it/>

On a final note, I can confirm that the “header” ‘Housing Revenue Account’ on the draft Statement of Accounts on several pages is an error; this will be amended.

**Question 33 from Councillor Edward Smith to Councillor Gina Needs, Cabinet Member for Social Housing**

Will Councillor Needs, Cabinet Member for Social Housing set out her plans for the £9 million awarded by Her Majesty’s Government to support rough sleepers?

**Reply from Councillor Needs**

Enfield Council received the highest allocation in England to support permanent housing for rough sleepers - at £9 million this translates into 73 homes along with a package of support – 4 years of support for every home delivered. Our need is much higher, but the grant will deliver good results for Enfield residents.

Officers are currently negotiating with the GLA on the details of the programme but at the current time they anticipate the homes being provided through the purchase of properties on the open market. The timetable is very short but that is important to support our residents. Work has already started on the purchase of properties, but officers continue to actively seek properties more that can be secured before 31 March.

The grant is recognition from the Government that Enfield Council is doing a good job on this agenda and will spend the money to create a sustainable pathway for rough sleepers back into the wider community. Bringing rough sleepers into accommodation will have a major impact on their quality of life and life expectancy.

**Question 34 from Councillor Achilleas Georgiou to Councillor Nesil Caliskan, Leader**

On Saturday 31st October 2020, Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced that England would go again into a national lock down as a measure to stop the further spread of Covid-19. Can the Leader of the Council provide Full Council with her response to this major announcement?

**Reply from Councillor Caliskan**

Below is a statement that I put out at the time of the announcement:

*“The latest announcement to lock down the entire country signals the arrival of a difficult and worrying time for the people of Enfield.*

*While I welcome the decision to introduce a lockdown, I have been clear for a*

*number of weeks that I believe this announcement should have been made sooner.*

*In my view, the lockdown would have been more effective if it had been timed to coincide with the October half-term.*

*I understand residents' fear and frustrations at this difficult time and I know how hard it is to face the prospect of more disruption and pain.*

*But the Council and our communication can, and will, rise to the challenge once again and will come together to take care of each other over what looks like will be a difficult winter.*

*However, I would like to remind the Government that the impact of coronavirus will linger long after lockdown ends and life returns to a semblance of normality.*

*That is when we will redouble our efforts to help the communities struck by the long term impact of COVID-19 and that is why I call again on the Government to fully fund all of local government's costs associated with coronavirus as they said they would in March."*

Since the announcement Enfield Council has been closely monitoring the situation and implementing actions to enforce the national lock down measures:

- 903 visits made to provide businesses with advice
  - 505 (55.9%) = Compliant
  - 227 (25.1%) = Partially compliant
  - 171 (18.9%) = Non-compliant
- 156 re-visits made to ensure businesses were compliant
  - 111 (71.1%) = Compliant
  - 26 (16.7%) = Partially compliant
  - 19 (12.2%) = Non-compliant (these will be revisited after lockdown as they are closed at present)
- 5 Fixed Penalty Notices served. These businesses were all given advice previously. These are £1000 and double for repeat non-compliance, up to £10, 000 in total

**Question 35 from Councillor Daniel Anderson to Councillor Ian Barnes, Deputy Leader of the Council**

At the recent Overview & Scrutiny Meeting, which discussed the petition signed by 1,611 residents against the Bowes Primary and surrounding Quieter Neighbourhood Low Traffic Neighbourhood (LTN) out of a population of 7,200, Councillor Ian Barnes stated that it was disappointing that not once did the petition mention the potential benefits of the LTN.

The Oxford English Dictionary definition for a petition is 'a formal written request, typically one signed by many people, appealing to authority in respect of a particular cause'. It is not about presenting supposed pros along with the cons. By contrast, the Oxford English Dictionary definition of a consultation is 'The action or process of formally consulting or discussing.' Furthermore, Government guidelines state that a consultation should 'Give enough information to ensure that those consulted understand the issues and can give informed responses. Include validated impact assessments of the costs and benefits of the options being considered when possible'.

Will Councillor Barnes therefore confirm that the consultations on both the Bowes LTN and the Fox Lane LTN will indeed conform to the expected standards of a consultation, ensuring that questions are unbiased and that both the pros and cons of the respective schemes are equally weighted and fully represented in any subsequent cabinet member report that considers the outcome of the trials?

### **Reply from Councillor Barnes**

Council officers will prepare a detailed report for these projects which will set out any themes provided through the consultation process, along with a response from the Council (the full set of raw data will be able to be viewed where requested). The report will aim to balance the range of feedback and other data collected throughout the trial, to aid and inform any recommendations of how to move forward. The report and any subsequent decision will be subject to the normal process of scrutiny.

I recall that Cllr Anderson, the Cabinet Member responsible for rolling out Cycle Enfield, once said *"Many thought that if they could break me they could stop the scheme, but they were wrong. You've got to hold your nerve. If you crumble, then you're finished."*

In contrast, my view is that when rolling out traffic measures it is crucial to have a pragmatic approach and a good process in place that allows residents to feedback and for the council to design the scheme in the best possible way going forward. The council will work to incorporate the feedback of residents so that all LTNs are shaped for the local community.

The Overview and Scrutiny Meeting on the 21 October 2020, was an opportunity for members to hear an update on the LTN. I also welcomed the opportunity to provide clarity and accurate information addressing specific points in the petition that were untrue. As I expressed during the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting, it is important misinformation is challenged and clarified so that residents are not left confused and anxious because they have read inaccurate information about traffic schemes.

**Question 36 from Councillor Maria Alexandrou to Councillor Ian Barnes, Deputy Leader of the Council**

Would Councillor Barnes, Deputy Leader of the Council inform the chamber if an impact risk assessment on businesses was carried out before the implementation of the Bowes and Fox Lane Low Traffic Neighbourhood Schemes?

**Reply from Councillor Barnes**

A separate impact assessment for local businesses has not been carried out. The consultation process that forms part of the trial enables local businesses to share their feedback – there is a specific category in the consultation for businesses to identify themselves as such, enabling business responses to be clearly identified as part of the analysis.

**Question 37 from Councillor Mahym Bedekova to Councillor Nesil Caliskan, Leader**

Can the Leader of the Council provide an update on how Enfield Council is contributing to and shaping London's economic recovery plan?

**Reply from Councillor Caliskan**

London's recovery is led by the London Recovery Board, chaired jointly by the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, and the Chair of London Councils. It brings together leaders from across London's government, business and civil society, as well as the health and education sectors, trade unions and the police, to oversee the long-term recovery effort. The Recovery Board has agreed nine missions:

- A Green New Deal - Tackle the climate and ecological emergencies and improve air quality by doubling the size of London's green economy by 2030 to accelerate job creation for all.
- A Robust Safety Net - By 2025, every Londoner is able to access the support they need to prevent financial hardship.
- High Streets for All - Deliver enhanced public spaces and exciting new uses for underused high street buildings in every Borough by 2025, working with London's diverse communities.
- A New Deal for Young People - By 2024 all young people in need are entitled to a personal mentor and all young Londoners have access to quality local youth activities.
- Helping Londoners into Good Work - Support Londoners into good jobs with a focus on sectors key to London's recovery.
- Mental Health and Wellbeing - By 2025 London will have a quarter of a million wellbeing ambassadors, supporting Londoners where they live, work and play.

- Digital Access for All - Every Londoner to have access to good connectivity, basic digital skills and the device or support they need to be online by 2025.
- Healthy Food, Healthy Weight - By 2025 every Londoner lives in a healthy food neighbourhood.
- Building Strong Communities - By 2025, all Londoners will have access to a community hub ensuring they can volunteer, get support and build strong community networks.

Leaders across London have helped to shape the missions through London Councils.

To define and to take forward the work on London's recovery, a Taskforce has been set up. Sarah Cary, Enfield Council's Executive Director of Place, is the co-chair for the High Streets for All mission taskforce.

**Question 38 from Councillor Maria Alexandrou to Councillor Ian Barnes, Deputy Leader of the Council**

Will Councillor Barnes, Deputy Leader of the Council inform the chamber what criteria the council will use to measure the overall success or failure of the Low Traffic Neighbourhood Schemes and when will full details be published?

**Reply from Councillor Barnes**

There will be a range of assessments that will need to be considered when judging the overall success of the trial. Assessments will include:

- Residents views on how the benefits of the scheme compare against the disbenefits
- Data on the volume of motor vehicle movements in the area
- Data on the speed of motor vehicles in the area
- Impacts on the primary roads surrounding the area
- Air quality considerations
- Bus journey time considerations through discussion with Transport for London
- Outcomes of ongoing dialogue with the Emergency Services

Reporting on the trial will also consider whether the scheme supports the delivery of the Enfield Council Plan, with a particular focus on community health and climate action. The current consultations are scheduled to last until Spring 2021, however some of the schemes are currently suffering from vandalism which could result in an increase to the consultation period – ensuring an appropriate period of stability for the trial.

**Question 39 from Councillor Elif Erbil to Councillor Gina Needs, Cabinet Member for Social Housing**

Can you update Members on the progress with rehousing rough sleepers taken into temporary housing and what are we doing to prevent rough sleepers during the current lockdown?

### **Reply from Councillor Needs**

Enfield's Rough Sleeping Service has housed and supported 212 verified rough sleepers found bedded down by Outreach Workers in Enfield since the first Covid-19 lockdown was announced on 23 March 2020. As of 28 October 2020, 93 rough sleepers have moved on from their emergency accommodation. 72 of these were helped into longer term accommodation with support. Officers have successfully bid for Government funding to in order to quickly secure new housing schemes for our rough sleepers including private rented lets, reconnection to family and friends, and supported housing schemes for rough sleepers with high support needs including our "Housing First" housing model and a new supported housing scheme in partnership with One Housing.

During the current lockdown, the Council will continue to house rough sleepers found bedded down in Enfield, carrying out rapid needs assessments and protecting them against COVID-19 in a safe environment. In particular, we will prioritise those who are clinically vulnerable, as well as those with a history of rough sleeping. We will use recent funding secured from the Government's Cold Weather Fund and Next steps Accommodation Programme to provide emergency accommodation and support for rough sleepers during the current lock down and the winter period.

We have plans to remodel and reopen our Somewhere Safe to Stay Hub in Claverings, Edmonton, to provide rapid access, assessment and intensive support for rough sleepers during the winter period. In addition, we will step up our "move on" provision using our Next Steps Accommodation Programme and £9m Rough Sleepers Accommodation Programme funding to secure longer term accommodation and support including 73 long term Housing Gateway homes.

### **Question 40 from Councillor Clare de Silva to Councillor Rick Jewell, Cabinet Member for Children's Services**

Would Councillor Jewell, Cabinet Member for Children's Services explain why he let down local children by sending a press release just before half term stating that Enfield would save the day and provide vouchers to replace free school meals during half term, when the reality of the scheme was rather different?

In fact, it was not the Council, but food banks and charities who were left to pick up the pieces. Families were bounced from councillors to schools and then council officers for days before being told that the vouchers were not actually supermarket vouchers as before, but rather vouchers for food banks.

There was a substantial gap between the rhetoric and reality of Enfield Councils press statement and also a chaotic approach to implementation. Struggling families in Enfield deserve an explanation as to why their needs were used to score political points, whilst in practice they were let down by the delivery of the scheme.

### **Reply from Councillor Jewell**

#### **Free School Meals support in Enfield**

##### **October half term 2020**

As a result of the government voting against a motion to fund free school meals for children during the October Half Term holidays, Enfield Council decided to step up our work in partnership with our local schools and the North Enfield Foodbank to provide support for families who would normally be entitled to Free School Meals.

To ensure no child went hungry in our Borough, in addition to the funding already given to the North Enfield Food Bank, we also made it clear that the council would continue to support food distribution where needed, and worked with Enfield food banks during the October half term.

During the school half term Enfield Council had contact with more than 2,500 families on the free school meals list, offering support to ensure no child went hungry over the October half term holiday.

##### **Christmas holidays December-January 2020/21**

Currently, plans are underway, in collaboration with local foodbanks, and schools to ensure that over the Christmas period vulnerable children and their families have access to food. More detail on this will be circulated in the coming weeks.

#### **The Enfield Poverty Action Plan**

The Enfield Poverty Action Plan set out a number of actions including the council supporting the voluntary and community sector to create a Food Action Plan for Enfield. The plan seeks to ensure all families have access to healthy food.

The plans are progressing, as the council works with foodbanks across the borough in a new Food Alliance. This aims to identify and support sustainable, longer term solutions to meeting the needs of local residents experiencing food poverty.

The Council has recently received notification of the Government's Covid Winter Food Grant which will be used to support these activities over the winter period (December 2020 to March 2021).

**Question 41 from Councillor Birsen Demirel to Councillor Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council**

What are we doing to ensure estate regeneration plans can continue, despite the Government's intention to remove funding for the replacement of existing homes?

**Reply from Councillor Caliskan**

I am disappointed that the government's (MHCLG) funding settlement to support affordable housing for the GLA at £4bn for 4 years was considerably less than the need presented by the GLA of £4.9bn per year for four years.

In addition, I understand that grant will now not be available for the replacement of homes in regeneration schemes. This represents a serious challenge for the viability of estate renewal schemes in Enfield and across London. Officers are working to lobby for alternative sources of funding to address the funding gap – this has included a sector webinar led by the Leader to raise the importance of such funding and to explore alternative options.

The council has a strong track record of affordable housing delivery through regeneration and new schemes have the potential to unlock the delivery of many more affordable homes so the changes to the funding criteria are set to have a serious impact. Cabinet will receive a report in January reviewing the Council's strategy in response.

**Question 42 from Councillor Terry Neville to Councillor Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council**

As the Leader knows, the national economy is going through a very difficult time as the government strives to protect jobs and support businesses in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, yet many jobs have been lost and it is inevitable that more will follow. The latest figures from the Office for National Statistics show that the percentage of unemployed claimants in London stands at 8.3%, and is above the national average, many of these claimants will be from Enfield.

Against that background, many responsible companies large and small have postponed pay increases for their most senior staff. I understand that here in Enfield a pay review for Executive Directors, Directors and Heads of Service has taken place. Will Councillor Caliskan, Leader of the Council tell the chamber the total cost for each of the three categories mentioned, including any performance related pay or other additional payments, together with numbers of officers affected in each category?

**Reply from Councillor Caliskan**

Since 2017, Enfield Council has cut its senior management team and costs by over a third (£1 million) – at a time of unprecedented pressures and demands on local government. The Council now has one of the smallest senior management teams in London in relation to the size and complexity of the borough.

The last pay review for these group of staff was in 2018. This review reported to the Remuneration Committee, and I note you were a member of that committee.

You may wish to talk to your Group Leader about the nationally negotiated pay award for Local Government staff, as she was part of the employer side negotiations. The national negotiated and agreed pay award was a 2.75% pay increase for all staff, as similarly implemented across all other London Councils.

Details of senior officer salaries and their numbers are published on the Council's Website.

### **Questions to Board Members of the North London Waste Authority**

#### **Question 43 from Councillor Dinah Barry to Councillors Kate Anolue and Hass Yusuf who are in receipt of Special Responsibility Allowances for representing Enfield on the board of North London Waste Authority (NLWA).**

Enfield and other Local Authorities in NLWA are working hard to increase recycling. NLWA has suggested that there will be much less residual waste needing incineration in the future *“recycling rates in north London will be much higher than today – with household recycling levels reaching 50 per cent.”*

If this is the case, it must affect the business model for the proposed incinerator. Please will you, as Enfield Council's representatives on the NLWA board tell us what is the average mass of the waste that is currently recycled each year, what would the mass be if residents and businesses recycle as effectively as NLWA is predicting they will in future and how much has the business model estimated that this will change in the next ten years as a result of e.g. further improvements in recycling and to packaging?

#### **Reply from Councillor Anolue**

The quote included in Councillor Barry's question is partial. The full response provided by NLWA to Councillor Barry answers the very question that she is posing:

*“We have sized our new ERF on the basis that recycling rates in north London will be much higher than today – with household recycling levels reaching 50 per cent. We have planned our Project carefully so that it responds to a more circular economy in the future, including the achievement of borough's ambitious Reduction*

*and Reuse Plans and the Mayor of London's Environment Strategy (2018)*" (NLWA response to Councillor Barry in July 2020).

The NLHPP is underpinned by thorough waste forecasts that were put forward as part of the Development Consent Order (DCO) for the Project. The forecasts indicate that residual waste tonnages in north London are likely to lie within the ranges set out below.

The ranges are based on household recycling rates that are higher than today (between 40% and 60%). The ERF is therefore consistent with NLWA and Enfield's efforts to help residents reduce their waste and recycle more.

- in 2020/21 between 567,000 tonnes and 661,000 tonnes
- in 2036/37 between 491,000 tonnes and 687,000 tonnes and
- in 2050/51 between 509,000 tonnes and 713,000 tonnes.

We expect residual waste tonnages to be within that range in 2020/21, and it would be irresponsible to assume that waste arisings in future years would fall wholly outside these ranges. The ERF therefore continues to be a properly justified project and the seven north London constituent boroughs remain supportive of this.

**Question 44 from Councillor Dinah Barry to Councillors Kate Anolue and Hass Yusuf who are in receipt of Special Responsibility Allowances for representing Enfield on the board of North London Waste Authority (NLWA).**

NLWA's Monitoring report makes it clear that the proposed incinerator will increase the amount of waste being transported by road because it will come to Edmonton rather than to Greatmoor: *"In 2018/19, 99,300 tonnes of waste from Hendon waste transfer station was transported by rail to Greatmoor energy-from-waste facility ... The remaining 23,873 tonnes of residual material from Hendon waste transfer station was transferred by road to the Edmonton EcoPark for energy recovery."*

This seems to be in contravention to the aims of NLWA's Implementation action 7. C1 *"The Partner Authorities will support transfer of waste by rail wherever this can be shown to offer Best Value and is in accordance with this strategy."*

If measures to reduce the use of single use plastics are effective, the amount produced by the seven boroughs in NLWA will be reduced and it seems likely that waste will need to be imported to fulfil contracts for energy.

Please will you, as Enfield Council's representatives on the NLWA board explain what measures are planned to mitigate for the damage that transporting this waste will cause to the environment, when will they come into effect and what percentage reduction in emissions is this expected to achieve?

### **Reply from Councillor Yusuf**

The existing energy from waste plant at Edmonton EcoPark has reached capacity and cannot manage all of north London's residual waste. That is why some residual waste is currently sent to the Greatmoor energy from waste facility in Buckinghamshire. It reinforces the urgent need to build the new ERF, which will be a modern, state-of-the-art replacement facility fitted with the world's most advanced technologies. This includes the world's best emission control technologies and the ability to export low-carbon heat to local homes.

The cost of disposing of waste at Greatmoor is significantly higher than using our own facility. The new ERF represents the best financial outcome, as well as the best outcome for the environment.

Moreover, managing waste within north London is in line with the Mayor's Environment Strategy. The Mayor is clear that communities should take more responsibility for the management of their own waste. By 2026, the Mayor expects that all of London's waste will be managed within London. Without the NLHPP, this will not be possible.

With regard to emissions from the transportation of waste, emission levels will clearly be much higher if the NLHPP is not built. The alternative is to export north London's waste to other disposal sites across the country. The majority of these sites would require longer journeys by road.

Considerable action is being taken to reduce emissions from waste vehicles in north London. North London's boroughs and London Energy Ltd, the operator of Edmonton Eco Park, are investing in modern, low-emission vehicle fleets. This is in line with the Mayor of London's requirement that local authority waste fleets are compliant with London's Ultra Low Emission Zones. In Enfield, this includes new food recycling vehicles, as well as trialling zero emission electric vans.