

Public Document Pack



SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA COUNCIL

13. COUNCILLOR QUESTION TIME (Pages 1 - 16)

The list of questions and their written responses will be published prior to the meeting.

This page is intentionally left blank

Question 1 from Councillor Sinan Boztas to Councillor Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council

Can the Leader update the Council on delivery of the first new homes at Meridian Water?

Answer

The first 20 homes at Meridian One have been completed and are now ready for occupancy. Enfield Council tenants were the first people to be offered housing in the high-quality development. Majority of the homes are family sized accommodation (8 x 4 bed, 10 x 3 bed, and 2 x 2 bed) and two are fully wheelchair accessible, addressing a shortage in such housing.

The homes, Brambling House and Greatcrest House take their names from native bird species. To extend a warm welcome to the first residents, The Conservation Volunteers who are responsible for the community garden at Meridian One are providing freshly harvested produce from the garden to these residents. A further 26 council homes will be completed in the new year.

Question 2 from Councillor James Hockney to Councillor Chinelo Anyanwu, Cabinet Member for Public Spaces, Culture and Local Economy

Can the Council confirm where and when the promised Lido will be delivered?

Answer

The Council is exploring a range of options and locations for a new lido in Enfield and is identifying resource over the Medium-Term Financial Plan and future Capital Programme.

Question 3 from Councillor Chris James to Councillor Ergin Erbil, Deputy Leader of the Council

Can the Deputy Leader set out how the Council honoured the brave men and women in the emergency services for Emergency Services Day?

Answer

Once more in 2023, officers at the local authority worked closely with our Deputy Lieutenant, Ann Cable, and partner representatives to deliver an event that could convey our deep gratitude and respect for the vital role our emergency services provide and the outstanding work they do to keep us all safe and in good health.

The 2023 event was held at 9.00am on the morning of Saturday 9 September outside the Civic Centre. It was attended by many representatives from our local emergency services, elected members and residents and involved a short service

of dedication led by our Deputy Lieutenant with tributes from our Mayor, and senior elected member representatives from both political parties. We closed the morning event with the raising of the 999 Emergency Services flag and a small reception to further say thank you, hosted by our Mayor in her Mayor's Parlour.

We also arranged for the main tower of the Civic Centre to be lit that same evening from dusk until dawn in blue light. This was to further show our gratitude to those who do so much for us across the whole range of emergency services in our borough and to show we recognise they are here to help us night and day, every day of the year.

Question 4 from Councillor James Hockney to Councillor Tim Leaver, Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement

How much was spent on external consultants and solicitors in 2022/23?

Answer

External Consultants

The council uses consultants in order to ensure that appropriate professional advice or services are provided where the expertise is not available within the Council or where an independent view is required. During the last financial year the expenditure incurred on consultants was: Revenue expenditure - £620k; Capital projects - £890k. In respect of specialist external solicitors the council incurred expenditure of 1.021m, this was a reduction on the previous 2 years.

Question 5 from Councillor Nia Stevens to Councillor Abdul Abdullahi, Cabinet Member for Children's Services

Can the Cabinet Member confirm if any Enfield schools have been affected by deteriorating RAAC?

Answer

There are three schools with confirmed RAAC in the borough. Winchmore School has a relatively small amount in the PE area of the school that the school and Council were already aware of and took action to ensure that area was closed and this remains the case. St Ignatius Catholic School has RAAC in several parts of the school and all mitigation actions agreed with the DfE have been taken. Ark John Keats Academy has RAAC in its sports hall and science block and again appropriate actions have been taken including mitigation or temporarily closing off these parts of the school.

No schools in the Borough have had to close due to RAAC and Council officers are

engaging with the Department of Education concerning the funds needed for the necessary building works. Survey work is continuing in other schools to ensure they do not have RAAC and this work should be completed by the end of October.

Question 6 from Councillor Elisa Morreale to Councillor Susan Erbil, Cabinet Member for Licensing, Planning and Regulatory Services

How many landlords have signed up to the licencing scheme so far? And have any landlords been fined for not signing up?

Answer

The Private Rented Sector Licensing scheme for additional and selective licensing schemes started on 1 September 2020 and 2021 respectively. So far, the council has received over 19,000 licence applications since the start of the schemes.

The success of licensing scheme has been demonstrated by the effective enforcement against landlords and letting agents who fail to comply with the council's licensing requirements and ensure appropriate housing conditions.

Since January 2022, we have issued over 70 final notices of decision, to impose a financial penalty and received over £60,000 in fines from those cases. In addition, 20 cases have been put forward for prosecution, the most recent Gracechurch Property Services Limited in August 2023, who were fined a total of £10,799 for failing to licence a property they managed.

As a deterrent to other landlords, the council publicises prosecution cases to highlight the seriousness of landlords failing to comply with licensing requirements. <https://enfielddispatch.co.uk/edmonton-estate-agents-fined-over-failure-to-license-property/>

Question 7 from Councillor Nicki Adeleke to Councillor Abdul Abdullahi, Cabinet Member for Children's Services

Recently Ofsted inspected both SEND and early years provision. Can the Cabinet Member update the Council about the outcome of the inspections, and any plans for continued improvement?

Answer

In March 2023, there was a local area inspection of special educational needs covering education, health, and social care. The local area received the middle grade of the three possible outcomes with three recommendations for improvement. Two of these recommendations related to health service provision firstly on the sharing of information on transition to secondary school or post 16 provision: and secondly health services providing a smoother transition from children to adult

health services. The third recommendation related to the timeliness of annual reviews to better reflect children's current needs. An action plan is in place to ensure these areas for improvement are addressed and this has been agreed with the Department for Education and has been published on the Enfield local offer website.

A range of improvements are planned for the Council's SEND service. A new IT system will be in place by the spring 2024 to enable officers to monitor annual reviews and provision for children in a more timely and effective way. Additionally, Enfield has been chosen to be part of a Change Partnership Programme which will trial changes to the national special needs system over the next two years – for example introducing a model Education Health and Care plan to be used across the country. There is also a SEND conference with schools in November to look at improving the SEND system within the whole system whilst also looking at good practice within Enfield schools.

The Council is also expanding SEND provision in the Borough having won a bid for a new primary special school for children with complex autism. Officers are working at pace to continuously improve SEND services with the help of local families with experience of the SEND system.

Question 8 from Councillor Mahym Bedekova to Councillor Tim Leaver, Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement

What impact is inflation having on the Council's budget gap for the next financial year?

Answer

Inflation is a key area of risk for the Council's budget for 2024/25, and possibly beyond depending on the trajectory towards the Bank of England's target. The Inflation assumptions totalling £8.5m are contributing towards the £39.4m budget gap reported in September. This equates to double the inflation pressures in the prior four years. The key components of the £8.5m are:

- Adult Social Care inflation accounts for £4.9m and reflects specific factors such as both national and market developments and predicted wage inflation including National Living Wage and a further £0.5m has been built in Children's Social Care inflation.
- Energy costs remain a risk despite recent improvement in market prices. Enfield forward purchases its energy via LASER, the well-known local government energy procurement organisation, and uses its updates to refresh assumptions. Energy costs relate to our corporate buildings and streetlighting within the borough and account for £1m of the inflation pressure.

- As well as general inflationary pressures on Council contracts.

Inflation also impacts on the nationally agreed pay scales for the public sector, this is a further pressure of £10m, unfunded by the Government.

The impact of inflation on the Council's budget for 2024/25 is set out in the September Cabinet report "Medium Term Financial Plan (2024/25 to 2028/29), KD 5641".

Question 9 from Councillor Maria Alexandrou to Councillor Rick Jewell, Cabinet Member for Environment

Will the Labour administration now allow all blue badge holders to be exempt from LTNs like in neighbouring Haringey Council?

Answer

Enfield Council already has a policy which enables Blue Badge holders who live in a Quieter Neighbourhood area to apply for a permit.

Question 10 from Councillor Kate Anolue to Councillor Rick Jewell, Cabinet Member for Environment

Can the Cabinet Member provide an update on recycling rates in Enfield, and efforts to continue to improve rates each year?

Answer

Enfield's performance data on household recycling rates (NI 192) for year end of 2022/23 will be 34.2%. This is an increase of 3.3% on the previous year which was 30.9%. (This is expected to be verified by Defra in the coming weeks.)

The data is showing that Enfield will have the highest recycling rate of the seven North London Waste Authority boroughs (Enfield, Barnet, Camden, Hackney, Haringey, Islington and Waltham Forest).

This increase is a result of the significant work carried out by officers on the action plan that was created to improve recycling performance through primarily targeting those households that were placing incorrect items in their recycling bins (contamination), and we are seeing the impact that this work has had on our recycling performance. Ensuring that the recycling collected from kerbside properties is of good quality, by minimising contamination levels allows maximum recycling opportunities.

We will be looking at further complementary initiatives, such as maximising recycling from other services, recycling on the go, give and take events and circular economy projects. These projects supplement the kerbside initiatives; they explore offering reuse and recycling opportunities for residents and businesses. These

complementary projects will create a network of reuse and recycling outlets within Enfield achieving the authority's strategic goals to further increase recycling rates.

Question 11 from Councillor Maria Alexandrou to Councillor Rick Jewell, Cabinet Member for Environment

What was the cost to install and maintain the LTN cameras in Enfield, and what is the total cost of the rebranding Journeys and Places logo and website? (Please include cost of signs on LTN planters).

Answer

The cost to install the 9 ANPR cameras in the Bowes and Fox Lane Quieter Neighbourhood was approximately £128k. Regarding the maintenance, the Council publishes its annual parking statistics income and expenditure for the previous financial year on its website and shows that the camera revenue contributes towards the overall surplus fund, which contributes to highways activities and projects including contributing to the cost of concessionary travel/ freedom passes.

Information for prior years can be found on our website here:

<https://www.enfield.gov.uk/services/parking/parking-statistics-and-annual-reports>

The communications regarding the Journeys and Places work programme has a budget of £26k allocated for the promotion and engagement with residents. The costs for the development of effective communication (the rebranding) and on street reflective signs are all covered by TfL external grants.

Question 12 from Councillor Thomas Fawns to Councillor Gina Needs, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Cohesion

Can the Cabinet Member for Community Safety please advise of any new resources to tackle violence, that teams have been successful in accessing for Enfield?

Answer

Enfield Council has successfully secured £146,000 to target work to change the behaviour and reduce offending by perpetrators of Domestic Abuse who come from minority communities.

In addition, since April 2023, the Council and partner agencies have secured over £500k of new investment to support our community safety efforts.

The funding from the Mayor of London's Violence Reduction Unit is being used to support victims of rape and sexual assault, to commission preventative programmes for men who have been violent towards women and girls and to

support parents who experience violence perpetrated by their children. It is part of a wider ambition to better understand the complex, underlying causes of violence.

Question 13 from Councillor Maria Alexandrou to Councillor Rick Jewell, Cabinet Member for Environment

What action is Enfield Council taking to deal with the fly tipping blighting many areas such as Bowes and Ponders End? How many enforcement fines (and the value) have been levied in each of the last three years?

Answer

In order to tackle fly tipping, we have daily fly tip teams that respond to reported fly tips, we also have proactive hot spot routes, and each residential road is visited and cleansed at least once per week.

Waste Enforcement have issued Fixed Penalty Notices for various “waste offences” this includes dropping litter (e.g., cigarette ends), fly tipping (including black bags – domestic waste) and spitting. The amount of each FPN varies according to the offence and ranges from £80 (spitting offence) up to £400 for fly tipping.

A summary of the last 3 years for paid FPNS is detailed below:

2020-2021: 2,853 = £164,700 paid (NB – covid year)

2021-2022: 9,174 = £270,500 paid

2022-2023: 3,904 = £230,835

Waste Enforcement have also introduced re deployable CCTV and a social media ‘Can You Help’ page. This enables us to post CCTV footage asking members of the public to help us with our enquiries.

Specifically, for Ponders End we have deployed CCTV cameras at the following locations: Glyn Road Car Park, Kingsway, Eagle House Footpath - Back of Clydesdale road - Junction with Scotland Green Road, Morson Road.

Waste enforcement officers regularly patrol the Borough and this summer we introduced some stencilling in hot spot locations, again to try and deter fly tipping. Officers will also undertake joint days of action with colleagues in private sector housing to identify possible problematic HMOs; officers will give advice and education and liaise with landlords to ensure correct bin provision. Waste Enforcement have also engaged and are working with Community Payback to support the Council in ensuring the Borough is cleaned and maintained as such.

Question 14 from Councillor Hivran Dalkaya to Councillor Gina Needs,

Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Cohesion

The recent news on attacks by the "XL bully" breed of dog has been extremely concerning. Is the Council aware of how many attacks by dogs have occurred this year and what work is being done to prevent these incidents?

Answer

We have received 10 reports of concern about dogs in the last year, one being a dog on person attacked (Hern House) and two of dog-on-dog attacks. The most recent dog-on-dog attack was in August and the police are investigating the incident.

The others concern reports of suspected pit bull breeds or dogs loose in public areas. For any cases where there are reports of dog attacks reported to be dangerous, which are associated to a council tenancy, further action is taken for breach of tenancy (this can be a tenancy warning or Notice of Seeking Possession (NOSP) depending on the nature of incident and dependant on actions taken by Police.

The Council has also engaged with the Borough Commander regarding incidences of dangerous or out of control dogs who are taking targeted operations across the Borough, through Ward teams, which are recording and monitoring dogs of concern through home visits and provision of advice from specialist officers. Where appropriate, banned breeds are also seized during these engagements, and officers take the opportunities to ensure correct recording of microchipping, inoculations and ownership.

Question 15 from Councillor Edward Smith to Councillor Susan Erbil, Cabinet Member for Licensing, Planning and Regulatory Services

Will the Member inform the Council of the date on which the Clavering Industrial Estate was put on the market and when they expect tenders to be received back?

Answer

Claverings Industrial Estate has been live on the agent's website since 4 August, together with the Enfield Council website. In terms of bids from interested parties these are due back at the closing date on 26 September. It is likely, dependent upon the level of interest, that a second round of bids (best and final offers) will be implemented which will extend the timeline but is designed to maximise sale proceeds.

Question 16 from Councillor Doris Jiagge to Councillor Chinelo Anyanwu, Cabinet Member for Public Spaces, Culture and Local Economy

What plans are being made for the celebration of Black History Month this October?

Answer

Black History Month will be enjoyed across Enfield with a wide-ranging programme of theatre, spoken word and music encompassing this year's theme - Celebrating Our Sisters. DAC and Forty Hall will be the focal point for the public celebrations, offering the following a broad range of entertainment and activities:

At DAC

Every Friday in October, you can enjoy a film celebrating notable stories of identity and culture

For music fans, singing sensations Janet Kay, Carroll Thompson and Queens of Lovers Rock will be celebrating sisterhood with an evening of conversation and performance.

A tiara making workshop will take place at DAC with Shari Royer House Designs, A menopause workshop hosted by Marva Williams will offer a safe and informative space to women from all walks of life to speak openly about the menopause.

At Forty Hall

Historic Forty Hall will host the African Concert Series in conjunction with Arts Council England, bringing the joyful sounds of South Africa and West Africa to audiences of all ages.

A free African Concert Series available to primary schools within the borough

Enfield Council will also deliver a series of educational projects aimed at younger people in Enfield. These specially created projects include:

- Spoken word workshops in local schools in partnership with Write2Speak. This will culminate in a public showcase event on 31 October at DAC.
- A Black History Month educational resource pack in partnership with Holler UK who will deliver inspirational assembly talks to Enfield schools

To complete the month's celebrations, Enfield Council has supported four cultural projects:

- Femetamorphosis Theatre performance at the Living Room Library, Fore Street, Edmonton
- An exhibition and musical celebration with Platinum Performing Arts
- A documentary on black women in leadership by SRTV Media, based in Edmonton
- A family-friendly workshop and celebration of black women throughout history that have made a difference in the world of gardening and nature conservation by The Conservation Volunteers

Question 17 from Councillor Edward Smith to Councillor Susan Erbil, Cabinet

Member for Licensing, Planning and Regulatory Services

Will the Member inform the Council when they expect the first phase of the redevelopment of the Montagu Industrial Estate to be completed, and whether the preferred option for the relocation of the waste handler on site (GBM) has been settled?

Answer

The phase 1 scheme was completed in November 2021. The council are in dialogue with GBN regarding relocation and the Joint Venture with Henry Boot. continues as usual.

Question 18 from Councillor Ayten Guzel to Councillor Chinelo Anyanwu, Cabinet Member for Public Spaces, Culture and Local Economy

What impact has the Government's replacement of the Energy Bill Relief Scheme with an "Energy Bill Discount Scheme" had on local businesses, charities, and the public sector in Enfield?

Answer

We recognise that energy costs represent a real cost pressure for businesses and charities in Enfield and nationally. The Energy Bill Discount Scheme (1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024) replaced the Energy Bill Relief Scheme (1 October 2022 to 31 March 2023). The original scheme was assessed and automatically applied to accounts by suppliers where eligible. The new scheme is far more limited with reduced eligibility and reduced benefits.

Earlier this year, the federation of small businesses estimated that 93,000 small firms could be forced to close, downsize or radically restructure their businesses as a result of this scheme reduction.

<https://www.fsb.org.uk/resources-page/cost-of-doing-business-crisis.html>

Question 19 from Councillor Chris Dey to Councillor Gina Needs, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Cohesion

Please can you update Council on the progress being made with the recruitment of the Community Enforcement Officers?

Please cover the following points in your response. 1) When will the job adverts be placed. 2) On what date will residents see the officers walking the streets.

Answer

As part of developing the community enforcement team, officers have visited other

London Boroughs such as Hackney and Hammersmith & Fulham who have similar teams in place. These visits have been very informative in the way the teams are structured, systems used and the various operating models that are in place. We are currently formulating and exploring resource implications of different models within the context of the Medium Term Financial Plan.

In the meantime, we have recruited two additional ASB wardens on a two-year contract, and Housing Services have restructured some roles in the service to create positions which will deal specifically with ASB across our estates, with three people in post. Additionally, we are revising our ASB policy, so residents know what to expect from the Council and we continue to strengthen our partnerships that are in place with the police to address concerns.

Question 20 from Councillor Margaret Greer to Councillor Alev Cazimoglu, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care

Can the councillor for health and adult social care provide an update on the Reardon Court Extra Care supported living scheme?

Answer

Reardon Court, which will provide 70 extra care flats (64 x 1 bed and 6 x 2 bed with courtyard and communal facilities – including residents lounge, laundry room and hairdresser/wellbeing room and library) is on track to complete by the end of April 2024 and meet the administrations manifesto commitment to support the most vulnerable residents in the borough.

Procurement of the care and support services provider is also on track, with the award of contract to the selected provider expected by February 2024, to have all services in place by handover. The specification for the service places emphasis on quality services for the vulnerable Service Users who would be living at Reardon Court. The provider will provide a 24-hour on-site care presence, supporting Service Users with support and care tasks throughout the day and night taking on board specific needs in care and support in a person-centred way.

Question 21 from Councillor Lee Chamberlain to Councillor George Savva, Cabinet Member for Social Housing

I ask that you list LBE tower blocks of eight stories and over with the date which they last had a structural survey.

Answer

The Asset Management Strategy agreed by Cabinet on the 14th of September 2023 has a full list of all high-rise buildings over 18 metres in height. All Large Panel system blocks were reviewed for structural safety in 2017. We are currently undertaking further survey works to all high-rise buildings in the light of new building

safety legislation. The work will be completed by Q1 next year.

Question 22 from Councillor Gunes Akbulut to Councillor Alev Cazimoglu, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care

How is the council working with Care Homes to maintain Infection Prevention and Control measures as we enter flu season?

Answer

To support social care providers to maintain high standards of infection prevention and control the Safeguarding Service Improvement Team and Public Health team have been working together to develop a plan of support for the forthcoming winter pressures and flu season. Regular provider newsletters are sent to all providers which includes information from Public Health on information and guidance from the UK Health Security Agency. The Autumn 2023 newsletter contains key information and advice and guidance on all vaccination campaigns and current infection prevention and control measures, along with information, contact details and protocols for providers who experience 'outbreaks' of covid or other notifiable infectious diseases.

Public Health reports on a weekly basis to the Director and operational managers on infection control concerns and general public risk, which includes care homes. 6 weekly reports are provided to the Director of Adult Social Care and the senior management team for infection control prevention activities as part of the provider complex case updates. Regular updates are given on infection control in the quarterly provider forums. Infection control is a standing agenda on the 6 weekly Safeguarding Information Panel, which includes updates from Public health and the work of the Improvements and Standards Manager on activities and any challenges. Ensuring good infection control is in place continues all year round and we rely on care home staff do undertake this work to a high standard.

Question 23 from Councillor Lee Chamberlain to Councillor George Savva, Cabinet Member for Social Housing

I ask that you list LBE housing's non-traditional build buildings of eight stories and over, also setting out whatever estimates exist for their remaining 'life expectancy' as usable dwellings.

Answer

These blocks are listed in the Asset Management Strategy. We will review the outcome of survey works in progress including obtaining an expert opinion on future lifespans having regard to the building typology. We will also consider the economic lifespans in the light of any investment works required. The results will feed into our next Asset Management Strategy review.

Question 24 from Councillor Mahmut Aksanoglu to Councillor Susan Erbil, Cabinet Member for Licensing, Planning and Regulatory Services

Trading Standards teams across the country are under huge pressure due to government funding cuts. Can you provide assurance that Enfield Council continues to safeguard residents against unfair trade and illegal business activities through Licensing Enforcement?

Answer

Enfield Council continue to maintain its Trading Standards service albeit with a smaller team due to the impacts of austerity. Enfield Council is committed to and will continue to protect residents and local businesses by ensuring a fair and safe trading environment. We will ensure that we continue to meet our mandatory duty, protecting residents from rogue traders and unsafe products.

Our teams work closely with the Corporate Fraud Team to track down perpetrators and prosecute and also secure Proceeds of Crime Awards (POCA), following successful prosecutions. Additionally, our teams will pursue financial penalties to deal with letting agents who failed to belong to a Client Money Protection Scheme (CMP) and a redress scheme (protection of tenants) which supports the existing work streams undertaken by Private Rented Sector Housing Licensing Team (PRSH).

Our teams will continue to work with other Council Services such as Public Health, Licencing and Building Control to mitigate any potential wider impacts.

Question 25 from Councillor Lee Chamberlain to Councillor George Savva, Cabinet Member for Social Housing

Given the safety concerns I ask that you confirm if you will set a deadline for fully decommissioning the Shires Estate tower blocks and what that deadline will be?

Answer

There has been proactive work undertaken to reduce risk, and assist the residents in the two blocks, to find alternative accommodation. As well as the two officers who are based at Shropshire House, three days a week to support the tenants, an additional officer will be on site with an independent financial advisor, to work with the leaseholders, so they can explore their options. All leaseholders have received their buy-back offers.

The approach has been to enable tenants and leaseholders to exercise choice in their onward moves and therefore a timeline of one year was agreed from the Cabinet report on 19th April 2023, which provided a number of options for both tenants and leaseholders, to improve their chances of finding suitable accommodation. There has been good engagement from both the tenants and leaseholders, and we will continue to work with all residents to get them moved as

soon as possible.

Question 26 from Councillor Nawshad Ali to Councillor Susan Erbil, Cabinet Member for Licensing, Planning and Regulatory Services

How is the council adapting to the government's new measures for modernising gambling regulation, as presented in the April 2023 Gambling Act Review white paper?

Answer

Although the Gambling Act Review was published in April 2023, it only sets out the government's plans for modernising the regulation of gambling in Great Britain. To progress the proposed plans following the initial review, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has launched subsequent consultations on:

1. Online slots and
2. Land-based gambling

(Consultations close on the 4 October 2023).

Enfield Council will be responding to the land-based consultation, which is the only form of gambling activity that can be authorised by Enfield Council as a Licensing Authority. The council does not oversee online gambling in terms of licensing or complaints, this is instead undertaken by the Gambling Commission.

As a result of these further DCMS consultations, the Gambling Act has not been updated yet. The findings of the current consultations will need to be evaluated, and then the process of enacting the amended legislation must be followed. Enfield Council supported the Local Government Associations submission, which included the view that current 'aim to permit' approach to gambling venue licensing should end. It may be sometime before the updated Gambling Act is enforced (unlikely to be any earlier than summer 2024). Only then will Enfield Council have the powers to adopt any new measures finally implemented in the updated Gambling Act.

Question 27 from Councillor Tom O'Halloran to Councillor Rick Jewell, Cabinet Member for Environment

Can the council advise what its responsibility is and what its legal standing (locus standi) is to take action, legal or otherwise, against private road owners where the private road connects publicly adopted highways (and may indeed be the only road connecting the public highways) and the private road falls into significant disrepair?

Answer

The Highways Act 1980 ("the Act") provides powers relating to private streets. In summary, responsibility for the maintenance of private streets rests with the relevant landowner(s) or frontagers, not the Council. However, the Act provides the

Council with powers to make up private streets in certain circumstances, with provision for its costs to be recovered by apportioning them to premises liable to be charged.

Question 28 from Councillor Doug Taylor to Councillor George Savva, Cabinet Member for Social Housing

How will the Council's HRA Asset Management Strategy ensure the Council delivers on the ambitions of the administration for every council tenant to live in a decent and energy efficient home?

Answer

The adoption of the Housing Asset Management Strategy shows our commitment to providing homes that are warm, comfortable, decent, and safe. Having good quality and well-maintained homes impacts upon the health and quality of life of our residents.

There is £100m set aside for investment in homes over the next two years and the Strategy provides the framework for this significant expenditure. This year has seen a continuation of the ambitious work programmes started in 2022/23, including replacement kitchens, bathrooms, electrics, heating, door entry systems, fire rated door replacements, and fire safety improvements. Our aim is to deliver and maintain all homes to the Decent Homes standard by 2026.

In the Council's Climate Action Plan, we have committed to retrofit council housing to increase the SAP to a minimum score of 86, which is EPC B, by March 2030. Therefore, the Asset Management Strategy commits the Council towards improvements in SAP ratings which will also reduce carbon emissions. In addition to the Decent Homes component replacements that support with this (for example, heating replacements), we are also including pricing options for elements like triple glazing in our procurement of capital programmes so we can undertake these works, should they be required, as part of normal investment works.

This page is intentionally left blank