

Public Document Pack



SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA COUNCIL

22 NOVEMBER 2023

12. COUNCILLOR QUESTION TIME (Pages 1 - 20)

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

15. NOMINATIONS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Any changes received once the agenda has been published will be included in the supplementary Agenda to be circulated at the meeting.

London Councils Greater London Employment Forum – Nomination of Cllr Susan Erbil to replace Cllr Ayten Guzel.

North London Waste Authority – Nomination of Cllr Bektas Ozer as representative.

Local London – Nomination of Cllr Chinelo Anyanwu as reserve member.

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Question 1 from Councillor Doug Taylor to Councillor Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council

Will any proposals set out in the Kings Speech help tackle the number of challenges currently facing Enfield Council and the Local Government sector?

Answer

Local Government is suffering following 13 years of cuts and underfunding from central government, on top of more recent inflation and interest rate hikes. At a time when councils across the country are struggling, with seven local authorities declaring effective bankruptcy since 2020, there was no clarity or commitments from the Government on local government finance or long-promised funding reforms. Every council is having to make difficult decisions to cope with the economic turmoil this government has unleashed.

Question 2 from Councillor Andrew Thorp to Councillor Abdul Abdullahi, Cabinet Member for Children's Services

Does the Cabinet Member take responsibility for the damaging inconsistencies identified in the recent report from Ofsted on the inspection of SEND provision in Enfield? When will the strategic plan be updated, will it be brought to Cabinet, and will he take full responsibility for making sure that the inconsistencies identified in the report will not reoccur in the future?

Answer

The SEND local area inspection took place in March this year, covering health, education, and social care. The inspection recognised the strong leadership that is in place for SEND and the ambition to continue to improve the range of provision available. It was noted the considerable improvements that have been made over the past few years such as the speed in which assessments are undertaken, and the improved quality of assessments. The Council has invested in increased staffing in the special needs team, including educational psychologists, as well as preventative services to support autistic children and those in need of support with speech, language, and communication.

Councillors will know about the increase in available specialist places at the new Salmons Brook Special School and Fern House School, and the successful bid for a further new 100 place primary special schools for children with autism and complex needs. Our specials schools are judged by Ofsted to be either good or outstanding – and all our specialist units are in schools judged good or outstanding.

We acknowledge there is more to do, but this has not been helped by underinvestment by this government over many years in SEND, which has impacted provision across the country. The inspection report also acknowledges how closely we work with parents, carers and young children who are with us on

the journey of constant improvement. The report identified three key areas for the local area to work on and two are specifically focusing on health service provision.

The Council is also investing in an updated technology database solution, which will support an improved approach to annual reviews. In answer to the question about the strategic plan – this has already been updated and has been approved by the DfE. The confidence the DfE have in SEND in Enfield is marked by our involvement in the Change Partnership Programme trialling new approaches to SEND working with Barnet, Camden and Islington. We are not complacent, and we will continue to work hard to do the best we can for our most vulnerable children and young people in the borough.

Question 3 from Councillor Chris James to Councillor Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council

How did Enfield Council mark Remembrance Day in Enfield?

Answer

Enfield Council worked with our local partners at the Royal British Legion and other community partners to design and stage successful and well attended Remembrance Day events at Edmonton Green and Enfield Town on Sunday 12 November 2023.

Our Mayor and I were amongst those who participated at both events and showed our gratitude by laying wreaths at the Cenotaph in Edmonton Green and War Memorial at Enfield Town.

In addition, our Deputy Mayor and elected member representatives also attended the Remembrance Day event in Southgate.

Enfield Council recognises the huge debt of gratitude we owe to those who fought to preserve our freedoms and the way of life we all enjoy as a result. We will continue to do all we can to ensure that those who made such sacrifice will never be forgotten.

I would like to give thanks to all staff involved in the preparation of the day and in particular the grounds maintenance and street cleansing services.

Question 4 from Councillor Maria Alexandrou to Councillor Rick Jewell, Cabinet Member for Environment

Following reports of blocked gullies due to uncleared leaves, does the council plan to increase its street cleansing team, and have a dedicated flood management phone line for residents to call?

Answer

In recent months, officers from Street Cleansing Services have reviewed our operating model to improve service standards and customer satisfaction levels, whilst moving to dedicated staff deployed within wards.

Previously, we have operated a predominantly mobile teams in caged vans cleansing model. We have now implemented a hand barrow operational model. This means that staff work as solo operatives and go direct to their area of work. This allows for a more community/ward-based approach to cleansing, with hand barrows and several supporting cage vehicles responsible for street sweeping, litter bins emptying and fly tip removal in their allocated ward this will include leaf clearance.

The benefits of this approach are that:

- The hand barrow operatives take ownership of their beats and have increased accountability for standard of cleansing
- Hand barrow operatives are more visible to the public
- Help to reduce our carbon footprint as less vehicles required

The move to a hand barrow model also allows a more flexible and proactive approach to seasonal variations for Street Cleansing. In addition to our new operating model, Street Cleansing have now deployed five seasonal teams to address the increased demands during the leafing season.

Residents can call the Council's customer services line (in and out of working hours) and arrangements are in place for Street Cleansing staff to respond accordingly.

Question 5 from Councillor Eylem Yuruk to Councillor Chinelo Anyanwu, Cabinet Member for Public Spaces, Culture & Local Economy

What efforts are Enfield Council making to tackle unemployment in the borough?

Answer

STEPS provides one-to-one career advice and individual needs assessments to out-of-work residents aged 19 and above. Since September 2022, STEPs has supported over 450 residents.

Recruitment Fairs are an important element of tackling unemployment. Over 400 residents attended a recruitment day organised by Enfield Council at the start of October 2023 in Edmonton Green. On the 25th November, the Childrens and Family Services are running another recruitment event aimed at residents interested in careers in social care.

Individual Placement Support in Primary Care supports Enfield residents with

primary care needs into identifying and sustaining employment locally. Since July 2023, Individual Placement Support has supported over 50 residents.

The Virtual Health and Social Care Academy is a GLA-funded program that provides information, advice, and guidance on the health and social care sectors to unemployed residents. Since July 2023, the academy has supported over 50 residents.

Working with contractors on section 106 agreements, Enfield Council is supporting the construction sector in meeting skills gaps and supporting local employment. Section 106 agreements require that 25% of the workforce on all developments be recruited locally, apprenticeship obligations be tied in with the value of the build, and supported internships for young people with secondary care needs be tied in with the value of the build.

The Meridian Water Skills Academy is a skills academy operated by the College of Northeast London that is designed to support residents into accessing the necessary skills to work in the thriving construction sector in Enfield.

Enfield is a recipient of Skills Bootcamps, which are short courses co-designed with employers to provide entry level access to priority sectors. Enfield has delivered one Construction Skills Bootcamp, supporting 30 residents, and is currently delivering a second to 18 residents.

Working with the Job Centre Plus, Enfield Council delivers a Youth Hub that supports 16-24-year-olds who are not in education, employment, or training (NEET). The Youth Hub has reached over 150 young people.

Enfield's Learning Disability Service provides supported employment for residents who are out-of-work and have either secondary mental or physical health needs.

The council commissions West Lea School to provide supported internships for 16-24-year-olds with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) or a Statement of Special Educational Needs. The internships are created with employers to provide bespoke pathways into sustainable employment for young people.

Working closely with mayoral academies that hold Enfield as a catchment area for their learners, the council is supporting residents to develop the skills and knowledge they need to find and maintain employment.

These are just some of the ways that Enfield Council is working to tackle unemployment in the borough. By providing residents with the skills and support they need, the council is helping to create a more prosperous and sustainable future for all.

Question 6 from Councillor Maria Alexandrou to Councillor Rick Jewell, Cabinet Member for Environment

Please provide the full cost of each rain garden installed (including ongoing maintenance costs) in the last 4 and a bit year period by Ward and were these fully funded?

Answer

There have been over 150 rain garden installations throughout the borough since 2015, all of which have varied in dimension, the average cost of a new rain garden installation is £800 per square meter. The rain garden installation has been a mixture of capital and external funding, and often found to be incorporated as part of larger capital schemes.

In relation to maintenance, for the first twenty-four months all aspects of rain garden maintenance are funded through the aftercare agreed at the installation phase of the project. After this period, there is an annual cost of £5 per sq meter for shrub, litter and general maintenance.

Question 7 from Councillor Ayten Guzel to Councillor Chinelo Anyanwu, Cabinet Member for Public Spaces, Culture & Local Economy

How are we meeting our commitment to expand Café provisions in the borough?

Answer

The Council is investing in Enfield and our parks and green spaces, and our vision for Cafes are in our culture and open spaces is:

- For the café and hospitality operation to add value and enjoyment to our frequent visitors' experience and encourage a sense of community.
- To become a destination catering offer and attract visitors to Enfield Parks and Cultural attractions.
- For the café and hospitality operation to be compatible with and sympathetic to the character and quality of the building, location, and nature of the venue
- For the café and hospitality operation to promote sustainable, seasonal and regional foods and be a benefit to the local community and our environment.
- To provide catering that meets the needs for refreshment requirements across the diverse range of visitors, friends, and members of our community.

We are in the process of evaluating submissions for food and beverage opportunities in the below spaces:

- Trent Park,
- Town Park

- Oakwood Park
- Whitewebbs Park
- Fortyhall
- Dugdale Arts Centre
- Town Library

As part of this process, Enfield Council are also seeking expressions of interest for brand new investment opportunities at three further park locations (Jubilee Park, Enfield Playing fields and Pymmes Park).

A mailing list has been coordinated for contact for future opportunities to support the expansion of café provision in the borough.

Through building relationships with mobile concession suppliers, the expansion of the food and beverage provision in key locations is supported, such as Trent Park, Town Park, Whitewebbs Park and Oakwood Park.

Question 8 from Councillor James Hockney to Councillor Tim Leaver, Cabinet Member for Finance & Procurement

Can the Finance Cabinet Member confirm how much of the £286m 2023/24 Council budget was from Government Funding?

Answer

The Council's 2023/24 approved net revenue budget of £286.942m is primarily funded through Council Tax, Business Rates and Core Grants. There are also smaller amounts for the benefit arising from business rates pooling arrangements, and a Collection Fund surplus which has been taken into the General Fund budget in 2023/24.

The funding of the net revenue budget in 2023/24 which came directly from Government was £103.2m. This represents a 53% real terms reduction in government funding since 2010.

Question 9 from Councillor Destiny Karakus to Councillor Abdul Abdullahi, Cabinet Member for Children's Services

Enfield schools are under increasing financial pressure, with more schools moving into or close to a budget deficit. Can the Cabinet Member explain how our local schools are coping with this financial pressure and how our Education Department is supporting them?

Answer

Schools are under increasing financial pressure and 18 local authority schools now have deficit budgets – this is the highest number it has ever been and represents over a quarter of maintained schools.

All schools are struggling because this government has not been funding schools properly for years. This financial year the teachers' pay rise was 6.5% whilst the DfE only gave schools 3% meaning schools had to find 3% of this from their stretched budgets. In 2024/25, on the figures we have received from the DfE, Enfield schools will receive between 1-2% increase in funding – inflation as we know is currently running at 6% and teachers and support staff pay is likely to increase by at least 4% – so there is another funding shortfall for schools to find.

This has meant schools losing support staff, cutting back on curriculum activities and putting more stress and pressure on headteachers. It is getting harder for our schools to provide the high-quality education that our children deserve – the impact of which is often harder on more vulnerable pupils, many of whom were impacted by COVID and now have less classroom support to help them succeed in their learning.

Our education department is working closely with schools who find themselves in financial difficulties supporting them find budgetary solutions and have engaged specialist school advisers to support some schools whilst also using experienced school business managers and headteachers to support less experienced colleagues as in peer-to-peer support. It is a credit to our schools though that Enfield schools are now ranked in the top 20 local authorities in the country in terms of Ofsted gradings.

Question 10 from Councillor Lee Chamberlain to Councillor George Savva, Cabinet Member for Social Housing

I ask you to set out the number of LBE homes in Enfield we now have available for occupation as of 1 November 2023 as compared to the number of homes on 1 November 2009? This should include the gross as well as net total figures. Not including Housing Gateway, but you can provide that figure in addition if you wish.

Answer

In 2009 the Council had 11, 357 Council homes in ownership and in 2023 it has 10,419. There are several Government policies that have had an impact on the numbers of Council homes that we have in the Borough.

First, 1131 homes have been lost to the social housing sector since 2012 due to the Governments Right to Buy scheme. Whilst I support access to home ownership, generally our experience on estates is that around 40% of homes sold through RtB have ended up in the private rented sector.

The pre 2018 model for the development of new homes relied on housing associations and the private sector utilising cross subsidy through private sales.

This has meant that our regeneration projects have been funded through the creation of mixed tenure schemes. Despite this, and due to an absence of funding for the investment in the replacement of aged expired homes, the Council has used these projects to tackle stock condition issues with the demolition of blocks such as Curlew House on the ALMA estate which is due for demolition in May 2024.

Since 2018, the Council has been able to fund and directly deliver new homes and will build 3,500 new council homes as set out in our Housing and Growth Strategy. However, the housing industry has been significantly impacted by inflation and interest rate hikes, which is why the Council has joined calls on Government to enable councils to continue with their programmes and to deliver the much-needed homes that were planned.

Increased grant rates to reflect current costs, complete flexibility over the use of Right to Buy receipts and a larger and continuing reduction in PWLB rates for social housing schemes is a priority the Chancellor must deliver in his Autumn statement. The right measures from Government are essential to tackling the lack of housing supply and the growth in council homes that is required to meet the acute housing pressures faced by many Enfield residents at this time.

Question 11 from Councillor Gunes Akbulut to Councillor Abdul Abdullahi, Cabinet Member for Children's Services

Data from the latest Enfield Safeguarding Annual Report shows that there has been a significant increase in the number of families and children accessing Children's Social Care. Can the Cabinet Member explain the reasons for the increase, as well as the impact this has on the service?

Answer

Children's social care have seen a continuing trend in increasing demand following the pandemic coupled with ongoing changing demographics. The complexity of need has heightened, requiring much higher levels of support for much longer periods for children and families. The presenting complexities have included adolescent mental health including suicidal ideation, violence and aggression, parental mental health and domestic abuse.

The administration recognised the significant pressure children's social care face and from April 2023 invested over a million pounds into the service to recruit more social workers and increase business support to manage demand, mitigate risk, maintain reasonable caseloads, strengthen workforce stability and improve staff morale.

Question 12 from Councillor Lee Chamberlain to Councillor Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council

How many homes are available for occupation in the Meridian Water project as of 1

November 2023?

Answer

As of the 1st November, all of the first twenty homes have been allocated through choice based letting, to households in housing need. The first two blocks, Brambling House and Greatcrest House, have provided a good mix of much needed family homes, including two, fully wheelchair accessible, three bedroomed maisonettes. The other properties in the block consisted of two, one bedroomed flats, eight, three bedroomed maisonettes and eight four bedroomed maisonettes. This focus on larger homes has been achieved through the Councils leadership of the project.

The homes were let on a local lettings plan, which prioritised households in the Edmonton wards and there was a high level of interest in these new, high quality, thermally efficient homes.

Over the next few months, a further 200 much-needed, high quality homes will complete. The regeneration of this area continues to provide an ongoing pipeline of much needed, multi-tenure homes, as well as excellent amenity areas and transport links.

Question 13 from Councillor Nawshad Ali to Councillor Alev Cazimoglu, Cabinet Member for Health & Social Care

What is the Council doing to prepare for a possible increase in cases of measles?

Answer

Measles the most infectious known disease with a reproductive number (the number of people an infected person might pass the infection onto) of between 12 and 18. Through vaccination the UK was declared measles free by the World Health Organisation (WHO) in 2016. Unfortunately, as vaccination rates dropped this status was lost in 2019. The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has now indicated that London is facing a possible outbreak of between 40,000 and 160,000 cases with a hospitalisation rate of 20%. Consequences of measles include deafness, brain swelling (encephalitis), learning disability and death.

By far the greatest intervention to prevent a measles outbreak is to secure the recommended vaccination rates of 95%. LBE has been working with the NHS and VCS partners to increase these rates since during the pandemic targeting a number of vaccine hesitant populations. Interventions have included vaccination campaigns through traditional and social media work, evening and weekend work with church groups, encouraging our own and Care Home staff to be vaccinated and commissioning the VCS and learning the lessons from the Covid pandemic.

Question 14 from Councillor Lee Chamberlain to Councillor Nesil Caliskan,

Leader of the Council

What is the total cost of the Meridian Water project since May 2010 up to the latest figures you have?

Answer

As of mid-October 2023, the spend since 2010 is £433.88m

Question 15 from Councillor Margaret Greer to Councillor Alev Cazimoglu, Cabinet Member for Health & Social Care

How is Enfield Council responding to the Government's recently published paper 'Stopping the Start: our new plan to create a smoke-free generation'?

Answer

Local Government funding cuts since 2010 have led to smoking cessation services being cut or reduced by most Councils leading to over a decade of services not being able to help people to stop smoking.

Smoking is the greatest cause of preventable mortality and morbidity in the borough resulting in approximately 200 deaths a year in Enfield. 'Stopping the Start: Our plan to create a smoke-free generation' contains two major announcements relevant to the Local Authority; raising the age at which someone can buy tobacco by a year every year and the announcement of funding for Stop Smoking Services.

Under currently proposed legislation raising the age at which tobacco may be purchased means that in practice anyone aged 14 and below today will never be able to legally buy tobacco in this country. A consultation on this proposal is open until 6th December. Given that most people who smoke become addicted whilst teenagers, the Council welcomes this proposal and is coordinating a response from the Enfield Tobacco Forum.

Question 16 from Councillor Lee Chamberlain to Councillor George Savva, Cabinet Member for Social Housing

As of the latest figures you have, how many residents are still living in the unsafe Shires Estate Tower Blocks?

Answer

The housing team continues to provide onsite support to the remaining residents in the Shires blocks to assist the tenants and leaseholders with their onward moves. Building safety risk mitigation measures continue to be in place and will continue until the end of the decant process.

Seventy-two properties are now vacant and good progress is being made with the

remaining tenants and leaseholders to identify suitable properties.

	Shropshire House	Cheshire House	Total
Voids	39	33	72
Council Tenants	48	42	90
Leaseholders	15	27	42

Tenants have been using the Choice based lettings process to bid on properties, which is now being supplemented with direct offers with a number having been accepted and with residents in the process of moving. In order to encourage tenants to move as quickly as possible an offer of retaining decant points has been made if moving to a new home on an interim basis.

Of the 48 remaining tenants in Shropshire house, 9 residents have accepted an offer and are in the process of moving. There are also 4 properties which are under review due to occupancy arrangements.

Of the 42 remaining tenants in Cheshire House, 4 residents have accepted an offer and are in the process of moving.

All leaseholders have been provided with their buy-back offer and an officer is available on-site to assist them with considering the various options and assess affordability for onward moves. The Council has engaged a financial advisor to provide additional advice and review of the options available to the leaseholders, which include shared ownership and shared equity.

Question 17 from Councillor Nia Stevens to Councillor Rick Jewell, Cabinet Member for Environment

What action have Enfield Council taken to achieve the highest recycling rates in North London?

Answer

The household recycling figure (NI 192) for 22/23 is due to be verified by Defra in the coming weeks. Our own projections estimate that Enfield's performance will be 34.2%* for 22/23 and this is expected to be the highest in the North London Waste Authority area (Enfield, Barnet, Camden, Hackney, Haringey, Islington and Waltham Forest).

This increase is a result of the work carried out by officers on the action plan that we produced 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.

The next focus is to increase the amount of kerbside recycling from our 89,000 households that have kerbside recycling. Other areas of opportunity will be to deliver complementary initiatives, such as maximising recycling from other services, recycling on the go, give and take events and circular economy projects. These projects explore offering reuse and recycling opportunities for residents and businesses that are essential for changing behaviours. 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 18 from Councillor Paul Pratt to Councillor Chinelo Anyanwu, Cabinet Member for Public Spaces, Culture & Local Economy

What is the meaning of Arnos Park being downgraded to a Satellite Park and what are the implications of this?

Answer

The park has not been downgraded to a satellite park, the status and characteristics remain the same. The methodology of maintenance has been altered – it is facilitated through a mobile maintenance team, which operates at an agreed frequency and work schedule indicated no moeet loss to the park in relation to maintenance.

Question 19 from Councillor Kate Anolue to Councillor Rick Jewell, Cabinet Member for Environment

How have Enfield Council prepared for snow and ice this winter?

Answer

We currently have in stock 1100t of road grit ready for the winter season. 5 x Volvo 18t Grit trucks are in place ready to go, all fitted with route navigation systems, and programmed with predetermined routes which have all been tested prior to the season beginning. Staff call out rotas are in place. Also additional to last year, 10 x hand barrow spreaders and 4 x small towable pavement spreaders were procured at the end of last season in preparation for this year.

The council's Winter Plan is published on our website which provides details of the scope and priorities on what and where we will grit as a highway authority.

Question 20 from Councillor Paul Pratt to Councillor Chinelo Anyanwu, Cabinet Members for Public Spaces, Culture & Local Economy

When asked what the annual expenditure was in the last 4 years across certain parks I was told by the Assistant Director of Finance 'We do not record expenditure

on a park by park basis, and it is not possible to provide this information.' Am I and residents of Arnos Grove incorrect in thinking that this is basic financial information which would be required to efficiently manage this part of the Council?

Answer

Our parks budget is held in one cost centre, the Parks Operations Team and its budget is resourced by the management team across the Boroughs parks and open spaces to deliver its duties economically, efficiently, and effectively. This is standard approach for running front line services and accounting in local government.

Question 21 from Councillor Hivran Dalkaya to Councillor George Savva, Cabinet Member for Social Housing

The cost of homelessness is putting a significant pressure on the Councils finances. What lobbying has been done to secure adequate funding for homelessness services?

Answer

The funding for Homelessness services has fallen well behind the costs of providing accommodation. At the same time demand for services has increased to unprecedented levels and supply of private rented accommodation on LHA rates has reduced since 2020 by 41%.

However, Government funding through the Homelessness Prevention Grant is based in part on an assumption of costs for the three years from 2019 – 2021 which bears no relation to the pressures being experienced today. To short-change Councils from the right level of this vital funding enabling us to meet our statutory duties means offering residents accommodation.

Further the failure, since 2020, to raise LHA levels so that they cover 30% of the lower quartile of the rental market means that there is little accommodation affordable to residents on benefits in London on any one day. This includes most residents who are working but still in need of welfare support.

The Leader has written to the Minister for Local Government, Lee Rowley (prior to the recent Government reshuffle) to raise the challenges and the impact for Enfield residents. We also continue to join the London Council's campaigning on this matter which has earned cross-party support, with the Leader's of each political group co-signing a letter to the Chancellor in support of an LHA rate rise. The Autumn Statement is the Government's opportunity to provide the urgent funding that Councils need as well as support to residents to make the housing market accessible.

I call on all members across the Chamber to join in this effort so that a home can be a sanctuary and a bedrock of a stable life rather than a cause of anxiety and often despair when faced with bed and breakfast accommodation for pro-longed periods

because no other options can be accessed.

Question 22 from Councillor Edward Smith to Councillor Chinelo Anyanwu, Cabinet Members for Public Spaces, Culture & Local Economy

Would the Cabinet Member inform the council of the progress being made in re-marketing the leases for the park cafes recently forfeited and provide details of any interim facilities being provided?

Answer

We are currently in the evaluation process for submissions for the food and beverage provision at seven existing sites.

With over forty vendors having applied, the interest in the locations has been encouraging. All submissions have now been evaluated against the scoring criteria, with the shortlisted parties being invited to panel to pitch their bids.

Whilst the evaluation process is underway, mobile concession providers have been engaged with to provide interim facilities. This includes seven concessions, ranging from specialist coffee and pastries to gourmet burgers and fries, located at the four affected parks on weekends. Some of these mobile concessions have also bid for permanent residency in our park café buildings to expand their local businesses.

Question 23 from Councillor Ayten Guzel to Councillor Gina Needs, Cabinet member for Community safety and cohesion

What action is Enfield Council taking to stop disruptive car meets taking place in the borough?

Answer

Car meets are often organised on social media platforms, making it crucial for us to work with the police to enable them to respond swiftly and maintain public safety.

Measures which have been put in place so far are;

- Physical barriers have been placed in the old B&Q car park off the A10, this has reduced the amount of meets and the police are working with the owners of the car parks to make more modifications.
- We are working with private landowners to deter car cruising and anti-social driving, by using installing cameras.
- We have partnered with Transport for London (TFL) to implement camera solutions that address speeding on public highways.

- We are also exploring road surface solutions that may prevent drifting at roundabouts, enhancing safety for all road users.
- We are considering a borough-wide injunction to curtail illegal car meets and related activities.

A planned operation on Saturday night 18 November, resulted in:

- Police seized 2 vehicles from Dearsley Road (old B&Q car park) one arrest for drug driving
- 2 PSPO FPN's being issued.

Question 24 from Councillor Edward Smith to Councillor Chinelo Anyanwu, Cabinet Members for Public Spaces, Culture & Local Economy

In the light of the recent decision to appoint GLL to manage the Council's Leisure Services, would the Cabinet Member set out her views on the future of the Edmonton Leisure Centre?

Answer

Earlier this year, officers commissioned detailed independent health & safety and building condition surveys of Edmonton Leisure Centre along with other Council's leisure centres, following concerns regarding pool closures, heating issues and statutory compliance. Significant maintenance liabilities were identified and action was undertaken immediately to ensure that the centres were safe for users. Following discussion with Fusion's senior managers, agreement was reached to end the partnership between the leisure operator and Enfield Council to enable Fusion to concentrate on other areas of their business.

In September, I was pleased to announce the appointment of Greenwich Leisure Ltd. who will take over the management of the centres from 4th December. Detailed mobilisation plans have been developed by GLL to ensure a smooth transition for our residents, which include further robust maintenance checks to help GLL prioritise the initial capital spend allocated by this administration.

The Council wants to maintain existing leisure provision across the borough, and discussions have commenced with GLL regarding future capital investment that will deliver the longer-term improvements that we know are required. In the meantime, officers continue to seek opportunities for grant funding including a recent bid to the Swimming Pool Support Fund for decarbonisation measures.

We are confident that under GLL's management, measurable improvements will be made to the services provided to our residents.

Question 25 from Councillor Nicki Adeleke Councillor Gina Needs, Cabinet member for Community safety and cohesion

How will Enfield Council be marking White Ribbon Day?

Answer

The Council is running an annual White Ribbon Day event on 22nd November 2023 at Forty Hall, promoting current services and initiatives in place to reduce domestic abuse and partnership work initiatives tackling Violence Against Women and Girls.

The event is supported by various partners and professionals, including council staff, commissioned services, Police, VCS organisations, and a service user sharing their experience of forced marriage.

Through the 16 days of activism, the Community Safety partnership has developed a calendar of events taking place across the borough. The Civic Centre will be flying a white flag during the sixteen days of activism to show support. There will also be two events for Council staff:

- on Monday 27th November 23, 12.30-2pm at Civic Centre – personal safety and domestic abuse workshop,
- on Tuesday 5th of December 2023, 12.30-2pm at Civic Centre – promoting the Night-Time Safety Charter to increase sign up and support for this valuable initiative.

Question 26 from Councillor Chris Dey to Councillor Chinelo Anyanwu, Cabinet Members for Public Spaces, Culture & Local Economy

This question pertains to Enfield Town Park in Grange Park Ward. How and on what basis the unlawful leasing of the former bowling green to the former cafe proprietor came about. Who negotiated the deal and more importantly, who authorised it?

It is unlawful under Article 11(2) of the 1967 legislation regulating parks and open spaces in Greater London, to exercise any powers under the legislation in such a way as to deny access to public open space within a park other than for purposes authorised by the legislation.

Answer

On 14 March 2017, a lease was entered into permitting use in Enfield Town Park, let via all Council governance and due diligence processes set out in KD4336. Under the Ministry of Housing and Local Government Provisional Order Confirmation (Greater London Parks and Open Spaces) Act 1967 a local authority may let to any person, for any of the purposes mentioned in the relevant Article, any building or structure erected or maintained, and any part of an open space set apart or enclosed pursuant thereto.

Question 27 from Councillor Sabri Ozaydin to Councillor Susan Erbil, Cabinet

Member for Licensing, Planning & Regulatory Services

What targeted action is Enfield Council taking regarding unlicensed moped users?

Answer

All moped users must complete a compulsory basic training (CBT), motorcycle theory test, practical test on all powered 2-wheeled moped, for mopeds capable of speeds from 25 to 45 km/h. Licenses are issued by the DVLA and enforced by the police. Where we get reports of parking on the footpaths these are reported to parking enforcement and any associated ASB is referred to the police.

Question 28 from Councillor Joanne Laban to Councillor Gina Needs, Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Cohesion

What steps has she taken to maintain and improve community cohesion following the Hamas terrorist attack on Israel on 7th October?

Answer

The Community Safety Prevent Team has proactively engaged with various community and faith groups in the borough since the terrorist attack on Israel and subsequent conflict. This has enabled the early identification and response to new community cohesion concerns by the police, providing greater reassurance to partners and local communities.

The team and some elected members have taken part in special community feedback events at local mosques to better understand community concerns and ensure there is supported inter community dialogue.

There has been pro-active engagement with local schools with over 20 training events and workshops delivered to schools' personnel in the past two-months period. The team has been in a regular contact with a Jewish school to support responses to issues of concerns from parents and pupils, including a letter from the Leader to school headteacher in October. As part of the Prevent programme, the team is in a regular contact with most of our educational settings, providing training for teachers on Prevent. The team has trained over 1,000 professionals in the last year, ensuring school staff are skilled and vigilant to spot and respond to signs of radicalisation.

The team have also taken part in the Community Partnership Meeting, in response to the situation in Israel and Gaza. The team is in a regular engagement with the Enfield Faith officer and gathers information from the Enfield Racial Equality Council to monitor and understand any wider concerns.

The Council has also published two public statements since the attack – on 10th October and 1st November – and has set up an online donations page to encourage residents to support organisations helping people affected on the ground.

Question 29 from Councillor Cllr Thomas Fawns to Councillor Susan Erbil, Cabinet Member for Licensing, Planning & Regulatory Services

Please provide an update on the opening events at the Drumsheds music venue.

Answer

Regulatory Services have supported Broadwick in their creation of a new 15,000 capacity entertainment space at the old Ikea site in Edmonton, known as Drumsheds. This is an exciting temporary development which will host a variety of music and corporate events.

The first event was held on the 7th October. Officers from Regulatory Services attended this event and were present for the duration. I am pleased to say that there were no issues raised by Regulatory Services or any complaints received.

This demonstrates that when partners and event organisers work with and engage the council and officers at the planning stage it enables such events to proceed safely and without disruption to the community.

Question 30 from Councillor Joanne Laban to Councillor Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council

Could the Leader of the Council explain why the Local Plan is due for consultation in March/April much later than she advised the Regeneration and Scrutiny Committee Members in June?

Answer

The Enfield Local Plan is a crucial document shaping the future of our borough and the Council is taking significant steps to ensure transparency, thorough consideration, and public engagement in the process. This includes a 13-week publication period where the draft Local Plan, Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) and Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) will be publicly available for councillors and residents before a Full Council meeting on 6 March 2024 to consider the Plan and approve the next phase of the consultation. This early publication aims to provide ample time to review the Local Plan.

During this time, officers will be on hand to respond to feedback from members before the March Full Council, although the 13-week period is not a formal consultation. Its purpose is to provide councillors time to thoroughly consider its content.

While minor adjustments may occur before the Full Council meeting, these changes will be explained transparently in an appendix to the officer report. Assuming approval, the draft Local Plan will undergo a statutory consultation under Regulation 19, starting on 7 March 2024, or shortly thereafter.