



LONDON BOROUGH OF ENFIELD

**AGENDA FOR THE COUNCIL MEETING
TO BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 7TH
NOVEMBER, 2012 AT 7.00 PM**

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

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Date: 30 October 2012

Dear Councillor,

You are summoned to attend the meeting of the Council of the London Borough of Enfield to be held at the Civic Centre, Silver Street, Enfield on Wednesday, 7th November, 2012 at 7.00 pm for the purpose of transacting the business set out below.

Yours sincerely

J. P. Austin

Assistant Director, Corporate Governance

1. ELECTION (IF REQUIRED) OF THE CHAIRMAN/DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE MEETING

2. MAYOR'S CHAPLAIN TO GIVE A BLESSING

The Mayor's Chaplain to give a blessing.

3. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (IF ANY) IN CONNECTION WITH THE ORDINARY COUNCIL BUSINESS

4. MINUTES (Pages 1 - 14)

To approve, as a correct record, the minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday 19 September 2012.

5. APOLOGIES

6. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Members of the Council are invited to identify any disclosable pecuniary

other pecuniary or non pecuniary interests relevant to items on the agenda.

7. OPPOSITION BUSINESS - CHILDREN'S SERVICES (Pages 15 - 18)

An issues paper prepared by the Opposition Group is attached for the consideration of Council.

The Constitution Procedure Rules relating to Opposition Business are attached for information.

8. A REVISED ALLOCATIONS SCHEME FOR ENFIELD - ALLOCATING SOCIAL RENTED HOMES IN ENFIELD (Pages 19 - 42)

To receive a report from the Director of Health, Housing & Adult Social Care seeking approval of Enfield's new allocation scheme for social rented homes.
(Report No.96A)

Members are asked to note that:

- the report is due to be considered by Cabinet on Monday 5 November 2012. Details of the decision made as a result will be fed back at the Council meeting (**Key Decision – Reference 3413**) ; and
- a copy of the full allocation policy will be available (for reference) in the Members Library, Group Offices and also via the Democracy page of the Council's website. If required, additional copies will also be available by contacting James Kinsella (Governance Team Manager).

9. NEW STANDARDS REGIME: APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSON

At the Council meeting (4 July 2012) approval was given for the Councillor Conduct Committee to commence recruitment of the 2 Independent Persons, required under the new standards framework introduced by the Localism Act 2011.

An update was provided for Council (19 September 2012) on the outcome of the first interview and members were advised that another interview was due to be undertaken in October 2012.

Following completion of the selection process in October, the Councillor Conduct Committee has recommended the appointment of Mr Lawrence Greenberg to one of the positions as Independent Person. This appointment will be for a term of office to expire on 30 June 2013.

Recommendation:

Council is asked to approve and confirm the appointment of Mr Lawrence Greenberg as an Independent Person for a term of office to expire on 30 June 2012

10. USE OF THE COUNCIL'S URGENCY PROCEDURES (Pages 43 - 44)

Council is asked to note the details provided of decisions taken under the Council's urgency procedure relating to the waiver of call-in and, where necessary, the List of Key Decisions along with the reasons for urgency. These decisions have been made in accordance with the urgency procedures set out in Paragraph 17.3 of Chapter 4.2 (Scrutiny) and Paragraph 16 of Chapter 4.6 (Access to Information) of the Council's Constitution.

11. COUNCILLORS' QUESTION TIME (TIME ALLOWED - 30 MINUTES)

11.1 Urgent Questions (Part 4 - Paragraph 9.2.(b) of Constitution – Page 4-9)

With the permission of the Mayor, questions on urgent issues may be tabled with the proviso of a subsequent written response if the issue requires research or is considered by the Mayor to be minor.

Please note that the Mayor will decide whether a question is urgent or not.

The definition of an urgent question is "An issue which could not reasonably have been foreseen or anticipated prior to the deadline for the submission of questions and which needs to be considered before the next meeting of the Council."

Submission of urgent questions to Council requires the Member when submitting the question to specify why the issue could not have been reasonably foreseen prior to the deadline and why it has to be considered before the next meeting. A supplementary question is not permitted.

11.2 Councillors' Questions (Part 4 – Paragraph 9.2(a) of Constitution – Page 4 - 8) (Pages 45 - 82)

The list of sixty questions and their written responses are attached to the agenda.

12. MOTIONS

12.1 In the name of Councillor Charalambous

"Enfield Council recognises the stunning success of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games respectively and congratulates the torch bearers, volunteers, athletes and participants with a connection to Enfield who were involved in making the Games such a spectacular and inspirational global event and in turn proving the sceptics and naysayers so wildly wrong."

12.2 In the name of Councillor Lavender

“Enfield Council welcomes the Government’s support not to increase Council tax for the third year running and undertakes to support this policy and Enfield Council tax payers.”

12.3 In the name of Councillor Neville

“Enfield Council congratulates Councillor Bond on his partial U turn on Sunday car parking charges in Enfield Town. The Council welcomes a free 3 hour car parking period on Sundays in Enfield Town in the weeks from around Christmas 2012 and urges Councillor Bond to complete his U turn and offer free car parking all day all year on Sundays in Enfield Town.”

12.4 In the name of Councillor Hamilton

“Enfield Council calls on the Mayor’s Office for Police and Crime (MOPAC) to continue to support the North London Rape Crisis Centre and not to reduce the financial support as implied. This is not a Pan London approach and is unfairly penalising Boroughs who are trying to protect residents.

The Community Safety Fund has already been cut by 59% over the last two years and the Mayor expects hard pressed local authorities to increase their contributions to the Rape Crisis Centre.

The Mayor of London has backtracked on sharing Borough Commanders. He should now also backtrack on other cuts to the Met Police, including the reduction in police numbers.”

12.5 In the name of Councillor McGowan

“The Council notes the scandalously poor handling of the economy by the Chancellor and his allies in Government. The Council is concerned that despite unprecedented cuts to public services, this economic mismanagement will result in even further cuts to local authorities.

The Council agrees to write to the 3 local MPs asking them to write to the Chancellor expressing opposition to any further cuts to local government, and Enfield in particular, whether in terms of cuts to core funding, recalculations of entitlements, or to specific grants.”

12.6 In the name of Councillor Bond

“The impact of Government cuts is impacting on Enfield residents and the Council should advise the Government on alternatives. Therefore the Council calls upon the Prime Minister to vote against any increase in the EU budget. Hard working Enfield families will not accept any

increase in the EU budget.”

12.7 In the name of Councillor Taylor

“Enfield Council recognises the partial funding for a Council Tax freeze in 2013/14 but calls upon the Government to properly fund Enfield Council including the removal of damping.”

13. MEMBERSHIPS

To confirm any changes to committee memberships.

14. NOMINATIONS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

To confirm any changes to nominations to outside bodies:

15. CALLED IN DECISIONS

None received.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note that the next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday 30 January 2013 at 7.00 p.m. at the Civic Centre.

17. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

To consider passing a resolution under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 excluding the press and public from the meeting for the item of business listed on the part 2 of the agenda on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in those paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006).

No Part 2 items have currently been identified for consideration.

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 19
SEPTEMBER 2012****COUNCILLORS****PRESENT**

Kate Anolue (Mayor), Chaudhury Anwar MBE (Deputy Mayor), Alan Barker, Ali Bakir, Caitriona Bearryman, Chris Bond, Yasemin Brett, Jayne Buckland, Alev Cazimoglu, Lee Chamberlain, Bambos Charalambous, Yusuf Cicek, Christopher Cole, Ingrid Cranfield, Christopher Deacon, Dogan Delman, Marcus East, Patricia Ekechi, Achilleas Georgiou, Christine Hamilton, Ahmet Hasan, Elaine Hayward, Robert Hayward, Denise Headley, Ertan Hurer, Tahsin Ibrahim, Chris Joannides, Jon Kaye, Nneka Keazor, Joanne Laban, Henry Lamprecht, Michael Lavender, Dino Lemonides, Derek Levy, Simon Maynard, Chris Murphy, Terence Neville OBE JP, Ahmet Oykenner, Anne-Marie Pearce, Daniel Pearce, Martin Prescott, Geoffrey Robinson, Michael Rye OBE, George Savva MBE, Toby Simon, Alan Sitkin, Edward Smith, Andrew Stafford, Doug Taylor, Glynis Vince, Ozzie Uzoanya, Tom Waterhouse, Lionel Zetter and Ann Zinkin

ABSENT

Andreas Constantinides, Christiana During, Del Goddard, Jonas Hall, Eric Jukes, Paul McCannah, Donald McGowan, Ayfer Orhan and Rohini Simbodyal

60**ELECTION (IF REQUIRED) OF THE CHAIRMAN/DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF
THE MEETING**

The election of a Chair/Deputy Chair of the meeting was not required.

61**MAYOR'S CHAPLAIN TO GIVE A BLESSING**

Father Emmanuel – Parish Priest of St Edmonds Church, Edmonton, gave the blessing.

62**MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (IF ANY) IN CONNECTION WITH THE
ORDINARY COUNCIL BUSINESS**

The Mayor made the following announcements:

- She thanked Father Emmanuel for offering the blessing.

The Mayor informed Members that since the last Council she had attended various community events in the borough. These events were an opportunity to celebrate achievements and to provide support for the groups and individuals concerned. She was particularly pleased to have enjoyed such

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great weather at both the Edmonton and Enfield Carnivals and thanked everyone involved in organising these events for the community.

Following on from a fantastic summer of sport, the Mayor reported that she was proud to be hosting a celebration of sport in Enfield at Forty Hall on 20 September 2012. She thanked everyone who had taken part in the London Youth Games event, the Mayors Charity Fun Run and the Enfield Night Hike. Special thanks were given to Jan Hickman, Simon Gardner and their teams who had organised many of the activities in the run up to the Olympic and Paralympic Games. In addition she thanked Kelly Jones for her enthusiasm and organisation of the Fun Run and for attracting sponsors.

Special congratulations were also offered to the Borough's Olympic gold medallists - Charlotte Desjardin and Ben Maher both members of the equestrian team. The Mayor felt it was wonderful to have a post box painted gold to reflect their achievements and as a reminder to Enfield of how proud the Borough should be of them.

The Mayor highlighted the following achievement:

1. Association of Public Service Excellence Award – Corporate Scrutiny & Outreach Team

The Mayor was proud and delighted to announce that the Council's Scrutiny & Outreach Team had won a second National award this year.

The award, from the Association for Public Service Excellence, had once again shown the way in which the team, working with councillors from all wards, had been able to reach out and take community engagement into the council's democratic core, linked to scrutiny and the decision making process.

The award showed the team had worked:

- with hard to reach communities including young men and women, those with disabilities and those from the large variety of cultural and ethnic communities in the borough; and
- alongside members during the day, evening and weekends to ensure that they were able to engage communities at time and place that best suited them.

The Mayor formally presented the award to Mike Ahuja and members of the Corporate Scrutiny & Outreach Team.

**63
MINUTES**

AGREED that the minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday 10 July 2012 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

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APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received Councillors Andreas Constantinides, Christiana During, Del Goddard, Jonas Hall, Eric Jukes, Paul McCannah, Don, McGowan, Ayfer Orhan and Rohini Simbodyal.

Apologies for lateness were received from Councillors Simon Maynard, Martin Prescott and Ann Zinkin.

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DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

In response to a request for advice, John Austin (Assistant Director Corporate Governance) advised members who were currently serving as Council appointed representatives on the Enfield Homes Board that they would need to consider declaring a non pecuniary interest in agenda item 8 (Housing Management Review), under paragraph 28 of the Council's new code of conduct. This was on the basis that they were in a position of general control or management on that body but had been appointed by the Council. Any members who declared such an interest would, however, be permitted to, remain in the chamber and vote on the matter.

As a result, non pecuniary interests were declared by the following members on agenda item 8 – Housing Management Review as they were all Council appointed representatives on the Enfield Homes Board:

- Councillor Chaudhury Anwar
- Councillor Lee Chamberlain
- Councillor Marcus East
- Councillor Denise Headley
- Councillor Tashin Ibrahim

All of the above members remained in the meeting during the consideration of this item and voted.

No other declaration of interests were made by members at the meeting.

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CHANGE IN ORDER OF BUSINESS

Councillor Brett moved and Councillor Taylor seconded a proposal to change the order of business on the agenda under paragraph 2.2 (page 4-5) of the Council's procedure rules to enable the meeting to take the following as the next items of business:

- Item 19.5: Motion – in the name of Councillor Hamilton on Primary Health Care Provision & the NHS

This was agreed by the Council, without a vote. Please note the minutes reflect the order in which the items were dealt with at the meeting.

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MOTIONS**

Councillor Hamilton moved and Councillor Cazimoglu seconded the following motion:

“This Council condemns the financial and re-organisational pressures being imposed upon the NHS by this Tory led government which, in Enfield, has resulted in the announcement that the Evergreen Walk-In Centre will reduce opening hours.

Now that Andrew Lansley has been spectacularly sacked by David Cameron, we call upon the new Secretary of State for Health to properly fund Primary Health Care in Enfield and address the £70million shortfall needed for the development of Primary Health Care provision.”

Following a lengthy debate, the motion was put to the vote and agreed with the following result:

For: 28
Against: 23
Abstention: 0

**68
HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) 30 YEAR BUSINESS PLAN**

Councillor Oykenor moved and Stafford seconded the report from the Director of Health, Housing & Adult Social Care and Director of Finance, Resources & Customer Services (No.41A) setting out the Council’s proposed Housing Revenue Account (HRA) 30 Year Business & Treasury Management Plan .

NOTED

1. The recommendations in the report had been approved for recommendation onto Council by Cabinet on 18 July 2012.
2. The Business Plan was the first prepared by the Council within the context of the new system of HRA self-financing, which came into effect on 1 April 2012.
3. The Plan was supported by:
 - a. a fully costed financial model, which had been based on a number of assumptions, detailed within section 4.3 of the report; and
 - b. an HRA Asset Management Strategy, which had been approved by Council on 4 July 2012;These had all been prepared in consultation with key stakeholders, including tenants, leaseholders & Enfield Homes.
4. The Plan and supporting financial model had been subject to internal audit and external validation by independent consultants both of which had resulted in a positive outcome.
5. In addition, Council was advised that confirmation had now been received from the Greater London Assembly regarding the award of the remaining Decent Homes grant funding totalling £26m.

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6. Whilst supportive of the Business Plan, concerns were raised by the Opposition Group in relation to the ambitious size of the Plan, the assessment of risk and need for a robust annual monitoring and review process.
7. In response to the concerns highlighted under 6 above, members were advised that:
 - a. the risks associated with setting a 30 Year Business Plan had been recognised and were detailed within a separate section of the Plan. These were also supported by a full risks, issues and opportunities register;
 - b. the Plan and its supporting model would be subject to ongoing and regular review throughout its duration.
8. The thanks to all officers and key stakeholders for their work in producing the Plan.

Following a debate the recommendations in the report were agreed unanimously without a vote.

AGREED

- (1) To approve the 30-Year HRA Business Plan document.
- (2) To adopt the base business plan financial model as the starting point to move into self-financing.
- (3) To note that, as options relating to the business plan are further developed, these will be reported to Cabinet for decision at the relevant time.
- (4) To note that the HRA Treasury Management Plan included in the document had been prepared in accordance with the Corporate Treasury Management Policy and Strategy.

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HOUSING MANAGEMENT REVIEW

Councillor Oykenor moved and Councillor Georgiou seconded the report from the Director of Health, Housing & Adult Social Care (No.42A) setting out the results of the test of opinion survey undertaken in June 2012 and outcome of the review of housing management arrangements for Council housing stock from April 2013.

NOTED

1. Cabinet (20 June 2012) had considered the outcome of an independent housing consultant review into the efficiency and effectiveness of Enfield Homes and options for management arrangements, once the current Management Agreement with Enfield Homes expired in March 2013.
2. As part of the review process the Council had been required to undertake a comprehensive Test of Opinion consultation exercise with Council tenants, leaseholders and other key stakeholders.

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3. The consultation process undertaken, as detailed in section 3.10 of the report, which had generated over 6000 responses. This represented a response rate of 38.47% (41.8% tenants and 30.3% leaseholders). The results from the Test of Opinion survey had been detailed in section 3.11 of the report.
4. Cabinet (18 July 2012) had considered the results of the survey and as a result had:
 - a. recommended a 2 year time limited extension to the Management Agreement with Enfield Homes, which had been designed to:
 - reflect the findings within the survey and achievements as well as weaknesses identified as part of the relationship with Enfield Homes; and
 - co-ordinate the use of Enfield Homes for delivery of housing management functions pending completion of the externally funded decent homes programme in March 2015;
 - b. agreed, subject to a. above and as detailed in section 3.12 of the report, a range of other changes to leadership and governance arrangements to provide closer partnership and joint working between Enfield Homes and the Council whilst also generating increased efficiencies and reduced costs. In addition the need for further work had been identified to address the reasons for the difference between the levels of tenant and leaseholder satisfaction highlighted within the survey;
5. whilst recognising the success of the consultation process, in terms of responses generated, concerns were highlighted by the Opposition Group in relation to:
 - a. the 2 year time limit on the extension of the Management Agreement, given the high percentage of tenants in favour of Enfield Homes continuing to provide their housing service;
 - b. the uncertainty it was felt this would cause, in advance of a further review and given the aim, as set out in section 3.12.6 of the report, for the Council to agree a smooth transition to a successful Council led Housing Service following expiry of the extended Management Agreement in 2015;
6. The Council would continue to work with key stakeholders and Enfield Homes to agree the shape and transition arrangements of any future led Council led service, which would be subject to a further review in 2014. In the meantime members thanked all those involved in developing, promoting and responding to they survey.

Following a lengthy debate the recommendations were then put to the vote, with the following result:

For: 28
Against: 18
Abstentions: 8

AGREED that

- (1) The Management Agreement with Enfield Homes be revised and extended until March 2015.

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- (2) In the event of a cessation or substantial reduction of Decent Homes funding before March 2015, the Director of Health, Housing and Adult Social Care may terminate the Management Agreement with Enfield Homes in accordance with clause 67.3 of the Management Agreement.

70

THE DRIVE TOWARDS PROSPERITY: ENFIELD'S CHILD & FAMILY POVERTY STRATEGY

Councillor Taylor moved and Councillor Charalambous seconded the report of the Director of Schools and Children's Services and Director of Regeneration, Leisure & Culture (No.43) seeking approval of the Child and Family Poverty Strategy and strategic action plan.

NOTED

1. The recommendations set out in the report had been approved by Cabinet on 18 July 2012 for referral on to Council.
2. The Strategy had been designed as a major cross Council and Partnership activity and had been designed to address a significant area of social concern as well as meet the Council's statutory duty under the Child Poverty Act 2010.
3. Whilst recognising the Council's limited capacity to address, as a single organisation, the issue of children and family poverty the strategy had been developed to identify, coordinate and build on the extensive range of partnership activity already focussed on this issue across the Borough.
4. The Strategy was accompanied by an Action Plan which had identified two challenging ambitions and seven aims, each with a key priority, as detailed within Appendix 1 of the report. These aims had been drawn from a range of council and partnership plans and where possible would be delivered by extending and adapting existing services and from within existing resource provision. They would also act as Enfield's Life Chance Indicators and included performance management measures.
5. The concerns highlighted in relation to:
 - a. The potential impact of the Government's Universal Benefit & Welfare Reform programme;
 - b. The lack of new proposals and focus of the strategy and action plan around existing plans and strategies.
6. The Enfield Strategic Partnership (ESP) had endorsed the strategy and adopted combating child and family poverty as one of its "cross cutting" issues. The work of partners across the ESP had been mapped as part of the development of the strategy with the aim of identifying any gaps and coordinating activities to deliver multiple benefits (including neighbourhood and economic regeneration, education & training, healthier lifestyles and wellbeing) as well as enabling smarter working between service providers and more efficient use of resources.
7. The consultation process undertaken as part of the development of the strategy, as detailed in section 3 of the report.

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After a debate the recommendations were put to the vote, with the following results:

For: 28
Against: 0
Abstention: 22

AGREED

- (1) To approve the Child and Family Poverty Strategy and the Strategic Action Plan, incorporating consultation feedback.
- (2) To note that the individual Thematic Action Groups of the ESP will drive forward, co-ordinate and monitor progress towards achieving the aims, priorities and ambitions of the Strategy.
- (3) To approve the seven Key Aims and Priorities identified within the Strategic Action Plan (Appendix 1).
- (4) To approve the two challenging ambitions to:
 - (a) reduce the percentage of children living in poverty, by 2020, to 25% (compared to 36% in 2008); and
 - (b) narrow the gap between the most and least deprived wards, in child poverty terms, from the current gap of 42% to 30% also by 2020.

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COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 8 - DURATION OF COUNCIL MEETING

NOTED that in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 8 (page 4-8 – Part 4), the remaining items of business on the Council agenda were considered without debate, as the time available for the meeting had elapsed.

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SCRUTINY ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 2012/13

RECEIVED the report of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee (No.65) setting out the 2012/13 annual programme of work for the Council's Scrutiny function.

NOTED that Cabinet (12 September 2012) had approved the 2012/13 annual scrutiny work programme for recommendation on to Council, subject to the following comment:

- The need to ensure that Panels, wherever possible, adhered to the timescales set out in their work programme as this would assist in the effective and planned use of required resources.

AGREED having noted the comment referred on by Cabinet, to formally adopt the annual scrutiny work programme 2012/12 9as detailed in the Appendix 1 of the report.

73

AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2011/12

RECEIVED for consideration and approval the 2011/12 annual report from the Council's Audit Committee, which set out the key issues dealt with over the previous year.

NOTED that the annual report had been agreed and recommended on to Council for consideration by the Audit Committee on 10 July 2012.

AGREED to note and approve the 2011/12 Annual Report from the London Borough of Enfield's Audit Committee.

74

WITHDRAWAL OF PERMITTED DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS FOR HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION VIA A PROPOSED BOROUGH WIDE ARTICLE 4 DIRECTIVE.

RECEIVED the report of the Director – Environment seeking approval to the introduction of a “non immediate” Article 4 Direction to withdraw permitted development rights for small HMOs across the borough.

AGREED

- (1) The Director - Environment undertakes the necessary steps to give 12 months notice on the proposal to make a “non-immediate” Article 4 Direction, covering the whole borough, withdrawing permitted development rights for changes of use from use class C3 (dwelling house) to use class C4 (house in multiple occupation).
- (2) Any representations arising from the process of making the “non-immediate” Article 4 Directions be reported to Planning Committee for consideration.
- (3) To delegate authority to the Planning Committee to confirm the proposed Article 4 Direction and authorise the notification to the Secretary of State.

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ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN REPORT 2011/12

RECEIVED the report of the Director of Finance, Resources and Customer Services (No.80) presenting the Council's Treasury Management Outturn statement for 2011/12.

AGREED to approve the 2011/12 Treasury Outturn report.

76

PETITION SCHEME REVIEW

RECEIVED the report of the Director of Finance, Resources and Customer Services (No.75A) presenting the outcome of a review of the Council's petition scheme.

NOTED that the review had been considered at the Members & Democratic Services Group on 4 September 2012 who had approved and recommended Option 1 (to continue with the scheme in its current format) on to Council. This had been subject to an update of the trigger referral levels to take account of the current population census figures for Enfield.

AGREED

- (1) To approve Option 1 (continue with petition scheme in current format) as detailed in section 4 of the report, including the update of the referral trigger levels to take account of the current population figures in Enfield.
- (2) To note that a privacy statement is to be added to the scheme (as detailed in section 5 of the report).

77

MEMBER GOVERNOR FORUM: TERMS OF REFERENCE

RECEIVED the report of the Director of Schools and Children's Services (No.76A) seeking approval to a number of revisions to the Terms of Reference for the Member Governor Forum.

NOTED that the report had been considered by the Members & Democratic Services Group on 4 September 2012 who had approved the amended Terms of Reference for recommendation on to Council.

AGREED the amended Terms of Reference for the Member Governor Forum, as set out in the report.

78

SCHOOLS FORUM: TERMS OF REFERENCE

RECEIVED the report of the Director of Schools and Children's Services (No.77A) seeking approval to a number of amendments to the Schools Forum Terms of Reference.

NOTED that the report had been considered by the Members & Democratic Services Group on 4 September 2012 who had approved, subject to a further minor change, the amended Terms of Reference for recommendation on to Council.

AGREED

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- (1) To approve the enactment of the Schools Forum (England) Regulations 2012 and amended Terms of Reference for the Schools Forum, as set out in the report.
- (2) In view of comments raised by the Opposition Group and Chair of the Members & Democratic Services Group, the amended Terms of Reference (as approved under (1) above) be referred back to the Schools Forum for further review, with a report to be provided for the Members & Democratic Services Group.

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NEW STANDARDS REGIME: APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSON(S)

NOTED

1. Council (4 July 2012) had authorised the Councillor Conduct Committee to commence the recruitment process for the appointment of two Independent Persons, required as part of the new standards framework introduced under the Localism Act 2011.
2. The Councillor Conduct Committee had conducted its first interview on Monday 17 September 2012 but had not recommended any appointment as a result.
3. A further interview was due to be undertaken, with the outcome of that process to be reported back to the next Council meeting on 7 November 2012.

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COUNCILLORS' QUESTION TIME (TIME ALLOWED - 30 MINUTES)

1.1 Urgent Questions

The Mayor advised that she had received three requests for issues to be considered as urgent questions. All three questions had been rejected as they were not felt to have met the urgency criteria.

1.2 Questions by Councillors

NOTED the thirty eight questions on the Council's agenda which had received a written reply from the relevant Cabinet Member.

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MOTIONS

The remaining motions listed on the agenda, as set out below, lapsed due to lack of time:

1.1 In the name of Councillor Lavender

In order to maintain probity and transparency this Council resolves:

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- (i) to insert in future Conditions of Grant Funding of the Enfield Residents Priority Fund Grant Agreements as a condition of the award of any element of the Grant that the Grant Applicant discloses to the Council in the related Grant Funding Application Form any membership, or other financial or property interest or obligation (each an 'Interest') that any councillor, close relative or dependant of any councillor, or any political party any councillor represents has in relation to:
 - (a) any such Grant Applicant; or
 - (b) any property occupied by such Grant Applicant; or
 - (c) in the Project

immediately upon the Grant Applicant becoming aware of such Interest arising; and

- (ii) that any councillor who either himself or herself has an Interest in, or becomes aware of any of their close relatives or dependants having any Interest in, or whose party they politically represent has any Interest in:
 - (a) any existing or proposed Grant Applicant which has entered into a Grant Agreement; or
 - (b) any property occupied by such Grant Applicant; or
 - (c) in any related Project

shall have a duty to disclose full particulars of such Interest in the register of members' interests.

1.2 In the name of Councillor Lavender:

This Council:

- (a) notes the proximity of Barnet and Enfield Town Centres;
- (b) notes the existence of empty car parking spaces in both town centres;
- (c) notes the announcement on Tuesday 4th September of the reduction of car parking charges in Town Centres by Barnet Council; and
- (d) resolves to similarly reduce car parking charges in its Town Centres, particularly on a Sunday.

1.3 In the name of Councillor Lavender

This Council welcomes the Coalition Government's Infrastructure (Financial Assistance) Bill, which intends to give statutory backing to the UK Guarantees programme announced in July and the housing guarantee schemes to dramatically accelerate major infrastructure investment and provide major support to UK exporters.

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The Council notes that the UK Guarantees scheme has been established to ensure that where major infrastructure projects may struggle to access private finance because of adverse credit conditions they can proceed as planned.

The Council also notes the Government's support for the long-term delivery of new rental homes and that the Government intends to issue debt guarantees to support the building of new private rented sector and affordable homes.

The Council notes that the Government is expediting the legislation in order to ensure that it can take forward detailed discussions with eligible commercial parties as soon as possible and subsequently provide suitable forms of guarantee.

The Council notes the scope of the Bill covers the transport, energy, communications and environmental sectors set out in the National Infrastructure Plan as well as the wider housing sector.

The Council resolves to monitor these developments to explore whether any of the many regeneration projects in Enfield, which were first formulated under the previous administration, but which seem to have ground to a halt under the present Labour administration can benefit from these initiatives.

1.4 In the name of Councillor Charalambous

Enfield Council recognises the stunning success of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games respectively and congratulates the torch bearers, volunteers, athletes and participants with a connection to Enfield who were involved in making the Games such a spectacular and inspirational global event and in turn proving the sceptics and naysayers so wildly wrong.

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MEMBERSHIPS

AGREED the following changes to committee memberships

- 1. Conservation Advisory Group** – Vacancy (name to be notified) to replace Councillor Buckland
- 2. Public Transport Consultative Group** – Councillor Lamprecht to replace Councillor Chamberlain.

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NOMINATIONS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

AGREED the following change to the Council's nominations on outside bodies:

COUNCIL - 19.9.2012

1. **Enfield Strategic Partnership** – Councillor Prescott to replace Councillor Zinkin
2. **Enfield Church Trust for Girls** – Councillor Buckland to replace Graham Eustace for term of office expiring 19.09.16

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CALLED IN DECISIONS

None received.

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DATE OF NEXT MEETING

NOTED that the next meeting of the Council would be held at 7.00pm on Wednesday 7 November 2012 at the Civic Centre.

Opposition Priority Business: Children's Services

In recent months many parents, school governors and other interested parties have expressed concern over the performance of the Children and Young People's Directorate. The issues raised affect many aspects of the Directorate's responsibilities (as set out below) and suggests there are systematic failings.

Our recommendation is that a report is brought to Overview and Scrutiny Committee then to a full Council Meeting setting out what actions are being taken to address these failings:

- Examination Results
- Lack of Nursery, Primary and Secondary School places and proposals to address the shortfall
- Compliance issues in relation to sensitive personal data
- Lack of support to aspiring organisations that wish to create free schools
- The performance of the school lettings service

Examination Results

The examination results for Key Stage 4 in particular were particularly disappointing. 6 of the 18 (33.3%) Enfield secondary schools and academies achieved a percentage of pupils gaining 5 A*-C grades including English and mathematics that met, or was above the FFT D (Fischer Family Trust) estimate (which is based upon children's prior attainment) 9 of the 18 schools (50.0%) met or exceeded the FFT D estimate for 5 A*-C grades.

5 out of 18 (27.8%) schools met or exceeded the FFT D estimate for making 3 levels of progress in English. 8 out of 18 (44.4%) of schools met or exceeded the FFT D estimates for 3 levels of progress in mathematics.

School Places

The failure to act decisively and build new schools on sites the Council controls (Carterhatch Lane Depot, Southgate Town Hall) over the provision of school places has led to children being educated miles away from their homes across different parts of the borough. This has brought about parent action against the Children and Young People's Directorate – to request better provision for the borough's children.

Compliance Issues with personal data

This Council has found itself in the unfortunate position of being named and shamed in national papers – following discovery of sensitive documentation. When the Conservatives were in control, IT and data handling issues were specifically raised at member level in circumstances where premises were being vacated and services relocated, why was this not raised by Labour members handling relocations?

Lack of support to aspiring organisations wishing to create free schools and academies

The Council's lack of support shows an ideological bias against free schools and academies and is preventing the extra provision of outstanding education in the borough.

School Lettings Service

The School Lettings Service has mismanaged the administration of the schools lettings service. This has caused difficulties for schools, particularly site management staff, in planning and managing their lettings. It has also led to additional delays in issuing invoices to hirers and consequently in passing the income on to schools.

Recommendation

That a report is brought to Overview and Scrutiny Committee then to a full Council Meeting, setting out what actions are being taken to address the failings outlined above.

Council Constitution: Part 4 Chapter 4.1 – Council Procedure Rules

13. OPPOSITION BUSINESS

(Updated: Council 23/1/08 & Council 1/4/09 & Council 11/11/09)

13.1 The Council will, at four meetings a year, give time on its agenda to issues raised by the Official Opposition Party (second largest party). This will be at the 1st meeting (June), and then the 3rd, 4th and 6th meetings out of the 7 ordinary meetings programmed each year (unless otherwise agreed between the political parties). A minimum 45 minutes will be set aside at each of the four meetings.

13.2 All Council meetings will also provide opportunities for all parties and individual members to raise issues either through Question Time, motions or through policy and other debates.

(Updated: Council 11/11/09)

13.3 The procedure for the submission and processing of such business is as follows:

(a) The second largest party shall submit to the Assistant Director, Corporate Governance a topic for discussion no later than 21 calendar days prior to the Council meeting. This is to enable the topic to be fed into the Council agenda planning process and included in the public notice placed in the local press, Council publications, plus other outlets such as the Council's web site.

(b) The Assistant Director, Corporate Governance will notify the Mayor, Leader of the Council, the Chief Executive and the relevant Corporate Management Board member(s) of the selected topic(s).

(c) Opposition business must relate to the business of the Council, or be in the interests of the local community generally.

(d) If requested, briefings on the specific topic(s) identified will be available to the second largest party from the relevant Corporate Management Board member(s) before the Council meeting.

(e) No later than 9 calendar days (deadline time 9.00 am) prior to the meeting, the second largest party must provide the Assistant Director, Corporate Governance with an issues paper for inclusion within the Council agenda. This paper should set out the purpose of the business and any recommendations for consideration by Council. The order in which the business will be placed

on the agenda will be in accordance with paragraph 2.2 of Part 4, Chapter 1 of this Constitution relating to the Order of Business at Council meetings.

- (f) That Party Leaders meet before each Council meeting at which Opposition Business was to be discussed, to agree how that debate will be managed at the Council meeting

(Updated: Council 11/11/09)

- (g) The discussion will be subject to the usual rules of debate for Council meetings, except as set out below. The Opposition business will be conducted as follows:

(i) The debate will be opened by the Leader of the Opposition (or nominated representative) who may speak for no more than 10 minutes.

(ii) A nominated member of the Majority Group will be given the opportunity to respond, again taking no more than 10 minutes.

(iii) The Mayor will then open the discussion to the remainder of the Council. Each member may speak for no more than 5 minutes but, with the agreement of the Mayor, may do so more than once in the debate.

(iv) At the discretion of the Mayor the debate may take different forms including presentations by members, officers or speakers at the invitation of the second largest party.

(v) Where officers are required to make a presentation this shall be confined to background, factual or professional information. All such requests for officer involvement should be made through the Chief Executive or the relevant Director.

(vi) The debate should contain specific outcomes, recommendations or formal proposals

(Updated: Council 22/9/10)

(vii) Before the Majority party concludes the debate, the leader of the Opposition will be allowed no more than 5 minutes to sum up the discussion.

(viii) The Majority Group will then be given the opportunity to say if, and how, the matter will be progressed.

(ix) If requested by the Leader of the Opposition or a nominated representative, a vote will be taken

(updated Council: 22/9/10)

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2012/2013 REPORT NO. 96A

MEETING TITLE AND DATE:

Council – 7 November 2012

REPORT OF:

Director of Health, Housing and Adult Social Care

Contact officers and telephone numbers:

Susan Sharry x 0208 379 3996
or Liz Smale x 0208 379 1936

Agenda - Part: 1	Item: 8
Subject: A revised Allocations Scheme for Enfield - allocating social rented homes in Enfield	
Wards: All	
Cabinet Member consulted: Cllr Ahmet Oykener	

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Housing Act 1996 requires all local authorities to publish an Allocations scheme setting out how the Council will determine priorities between applicants for council and housing association homes in their area.
- 1.2 Enfield's current Allocation Scheme has been in place since 2003 and no longer meets the coalition government's requirements, Mayoral requirements and local housing requirements.
- 1.3 Council and Housing Association homes in Enfield are in short supply and the Allocations Scheme will enable the Council and Housing Associations to make best use of all available housing whilst ensuring homes go to those in greatest need.
- 1.4 The revised Scheme supports the Council's local priorities of meeting the needs of local people and regenerating Council owned estates
- 1.5 The Council is committed to increasing the supply of affordable homes in the borough and promoting housing options and choices for all.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To approve, following consideration by Cabinet, Enfield's new Allocations Scheme.
- 2.2 To approve an on-going review of the Allocations Scheme during the first year of operation from the full implementation date with major changes reported back to Cabinet at the end of one year for a decision on whether to take to full Council.

- 2.3 To authorise the Cabinet Member for Housing to approve minor changes to the Allocations Scheme to address practical issues revealed by the on-going review or made necessary due to further legislation or case law.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Council's Allocations Scheme sets out the rules used to determine who is awarded priority for social housing in the Borough. Social housing includes the Councils' housing stock and any Housing Association properties that Enfield has nomination rights to. By law, every Local Authority must have an Allocations Policy which must be published and kept under review.
- 3.2 A new Allocations Scheme is a target within Enfield's Housing Strategy Action plan 2012 – 2027

Housing Supply and Demand

- 3.3 Enfield is committed to increasing the supply of affordable housing in the borough and our plans for doing this are set out in Enfield's fifteen year Housing Strategy.
- 3.4 There is high demand for Council and Housing Association in Enfield and not enough homes for everyone who wants one. 400 applicants register for housing each year. At 31 March 2012 there were 7,898 households registered on Enfield's Housing register. During 2011/12 a total of 884 homes were let of which 410 were one bedroom homes, 274 were two bedroom homes and only 200 had three or more bedrooms. 743 lets are forecasted for 2012/13 and 732 lets (including lettings for homes for older people) for 2013/14.

Aims

- 3.5 Enfield has undertaken a review of its current Allocations Scheme and has developed a revised scheme with the following aims:
- To have a scheme that is clear and easily understood by everyone
 - To ensure social rented homes are allocated in a fair, flexible, efficient and accountable way
 - To ensure the scheme allows the Council and its partner organisations to make best use of Enfield's social rented homes
 - To enable housing applicants to have a choice of or express a preference about the social rented housing they would like to live in

- To assist in building sustainable and cohesive neighbourhoods in Enfield

Key Features of Enfield's revised Allocations Scheme

- 3.6 The revised Scheme will retain a simplified Points Scheme and continue to use Enfield's Choice Based Lettings System.
- 3.7 Housing applicants will be placed in one of 6 housing groups to reflect local priorities for housing. They are:
- Group 1: Tenants of Enfield Council and Housing Association homes in Enfield, focusing particularly on those who are under-occupying, are severely overcrowded or have an emergency or exceptional reason for moving
 - Group 2: Tenants of Enfield Council living on council-owned estates that are going to be redeveloped.
 - Group 3: Special Applications and Quota which includes a wide range of applicants including care leavers, residents moving on from supported housing schemes, foster carers, armed services personnel and Housing Panel cases for learning difficulties, physical disabilities and mental health.
 - Group 4: Households in accommodation provided by Enfield Council to applicants owed a full rehousing duty under the Homelessness law prior to the Homelessness (suitability of accommodation) Order 2012.
 - Group 5: People who need mobility or accessible homes on one level
 - Group 6: Older people with housing and support needs
- 3.8 Key features on the revised scheme include:
- Implementation of an on-line registration and assessment service providing applicants with timely and better quality information about their housing priority and housing options
 - Strengthened decision-making mechanisms that will enable greater accountability, an audit trail and transparency in assessing applications
 - An annual review of local priorities and target allocations for each Demand Group
 - An enhanced Choice Based Lettings System to limit wasted bidding by applicants and provide them with better access to social housing lettings and work opportunities
 - A new Pan London Mobility Scheme and enhanced mutual exchange options for social rented tenants which make better use of existing social rented homes and Olympic village homes.

- Better monitoring of allocations to make clearer how the limited amount of social rented housing that becomes available for letting in Enfield will be shared out between 6 demand groups.
 - An annual review of the scheme in the first year of operation
- 3.9 Enfield's revised Allocations Scheme is set within a wider housing options approach for addressing housing need in the borough which includes use of low cost home ownership schemes, the private rented sector and Homeswapper for Council and Housing Association tenants.
- 3.10 The revised scheme includes the following key changes:
- Strengthened local connection rules
 - New income and savings restrictions
 - Additional priority for working applicants
 - Strengthened help and support for applicants using the Choice Based Lettings System (CBL)
 - Penalties for applicants who do not bid for a social rented housing using CBL after receiving help and support
- 3.11 Enfield's revised Scheme also reflects local priorities for regenerating council owned estates in the borough and helping local residents.

Legal Context for allocating Social Rented Homes

- 3.12 Under the Localism Act 2011 local authorities now have with significant local flexibilities over who qualifies for housing, the way the housing register is managed and the priority that can be given to locally determined groups that are assessed as being in housing need. The Act also gives government power to make rules regarding the eligibility criteria for joining the Housing Register. Additional information on legal issues is set out in paragraph 6.2 of this report under Legal Implications.
- 3.13 Enfield's revised Allocations Scheme takes account of Community and Local Government's statutory guidance for local housing authorities in England published on 29 June 2012.

Who must the Council help by law?

- 3.14 The Council is legally required to give a housing priority to households who fall into a 'reasonable preference' category. This group of applicants includes homeless households, overcrowded households, households otherwise living in unsatisfactory housing conditions and those needing to move on medical or welfare grounds. The scheme takes account of these categories.

Modelling and Comparing Outcomes between the current and revised Allocations Scheme

Modelling the revised Allocations Scheme

- 3.15 The Community Housing Service has modelled lettings to general needs homes under the proposed Allocations Scheme based on lettings forecast methodology used over the last 3 years which has proved to be sound. These are lettings of homes owned by both the Council and partner Housing Associations.
- 3.16 To support the Council's estate regeneration plans, an average of 120 households per annum will need to be moved from regeneration estates to alternative Council and Housing Association homes. Together with the Council's statutory housing priorities (which includes care leavers) and the desire to maintain the current number of Council and Housing Association tenants able to transfer to other properties, this will result in 128 less lettings to households in accommodation provided to households owed a full housing duty under the homelessness law than would have been the case under the current Allocations Scheme. Section 6.1 of this report outlines mitigation of minor financial impacts arising from this change.
- 3.17 Appendix 2 provides an annual Lettings Plan for 2013/14 for Demand Groups 1-4 under the revised Allocations Scheme. The current forecast is that 622 general needs homes will become available for letting. For 2013/14 it is assumed that the requirements of applicants in Group 5 with mobility and accessible housing needs will be met mostly from general needs lettings (apart from wheelchair-adapted homes which become available for letting). Lettings to Group 5 applicants will be monitored over the coming year to better define their likely needs in subsequent years.
- 3.18 An additional 110 homes for older people in Demand Group 6 will also become available for letting.

Comparing Outcomes

- 3.19 The outcome of letting general needs homes is set out below:
- Council tenants in Group 2 will be allocated more homes in support of the Council's ambitions for regenerating council-owned estates and addressing severe overcrowding for tenants being decanted from those estates.
 - Fewer homes will be allocated to Group 4 applicants in accommodation provided by Enfield Council who are owed a full rehousing duty under the Homelessness law.
 - There is a neutral impact for applicants in Group 3 – Special Applications and Quotas

Appendix 1 provides a graphical representation of General Needs lettings under the current and revised Allocations Scheme

The outcome of letting specialist homes is set out below:

- There is a neutral impact for Group 5 applicants with a disability requiring mobility adapted homes
- There is a neutral impact for Group 6 applicants requiring older persons homes

Consultation

3.20 The Council has carried out extensive consultation on the new Allocations Scheme. Two rounds of consultation about revising Enfield's Allocations Scheme have taken place since mid-November 2011.

3.21 The first round of formal consultation took place between 16 November 2011 and 16 April 2012 and concentrated on seeking peoples' views on ideas and proposals for what could be included in a revised Allocations Scheme. Results from the consultation, including a survey, were used to inform the content of the draft Allocations Scheme which was consulted on in Round 2. Some 10 additions were made to this draft Allocations Scheme as a result of the Round 1 survey outcomes and a further 5 issues were identified for further consultation questions.

3.22 A second round of formal consultation took place between 11 June and 14 September 2012. The second round sought views on the draft revised Allocations Scheme from Housing Associations, Enfield Homes, Council services, residents and Community Groups, using a variety of communication channels including Enfield's consultation web pages, mail shots, focus groups and meetings. Consultation outcomes have informed development of the revised scheme.

3.23 A consultation summary can be found in the Members library and will be published on the Council's website

Implementation Plans

3.24 The assessment of housing applications is currently undertaken by the Council's Housing Options and Advice Service. The allocation of homes is undertaken by the Council's ALMO, Enfield Homes. The creation of a single assessment and allocations function under the Council's control is recommended to improve the efficiency of the service and improve the customer experience.

3.25 Implementation of Enfield's revised Allocations Scheme for Enfield will involve significant IT and operational changes affecting a wide range of internal and external stakeholders. These include

- New and enhanced IT systems including an upgrade to the existing Northgate data base, an improved assessment service and enhanced Choice Based Lettings System
 - Strengthened accountability for assessing applications and letting vacant properties which will involve new procedures and new ways of working in relation to decision-making and ensuring accountability
 - Better communications with stakeholders about the outcomes from the Allocations Scheme, ie, who properties are being let to.
- 3.26 Implementation of Enfield's revised Housing Allocations Scheme has been included as a key project in the Community Housing Service Business Transformation Programme with a strong focus on reducing waste, increasing efficiency and providing better value for money.
- 3.27 Implementation plans including communication plans and training plans have been developed so that planned changes can be implemented from endorsement of the scheme with a full implementation target date of 4 February 2013. A copy of the Communications Plan is provided in Appendix 3 and in the Members' Library.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 Retain the current Allocations Scheme
Retaining the current Allocations Scheme is not an option because it is subject to legal challenges, complex to administer, lacks flexibility and is no longer able to meet local housing priorities.
- 4.2 Make minor amendments to the current Allocations Scheme
Minor adjustments to the current Points Scheme (which measures housing priority) could be made as well as strengthening the scheme to avoid legal challenges around housing assessments and use of the Choice Based Lettings System. The legal and policy context for allocating social rented housing has changed significantly meaning minor adjustments are not recommended.

5. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 Enfield's current Allocations Scheme is subject to frequent legal challenge and no longer meets local priorities for allocating social rented housing in the borough.

6. COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE, RESOURCES AND CUSTOMER SERVICES AND OTHER DEPARTMENTS

6.1 Financial Implications

- 6.1.1 The report suggests that due to the revised scheme, approximately 128 additional households per annum will need temporary accommodation. Three options were modelled to find the best and cheapest way of finding accommodation for the 128 households affected. Table 1 below shows the cost of the best, worst and more realistic scenarios for housing 128 additional families in temporary accommodation.
- 6.12 **Option 1** which gives the worst case scenario involves using 78 Nightly Paid Accommodation properties (NPA) and 50 properties found through the bond deposit scheme to house additional homeless families. The total cost of this option is £183,320.
- 6.13 **Option 2** shows the best case scenario and involves using 78 Private Sector Leased Annexes (PSL) and 50 properties found through the bond deposit scheme to house homeless families. The option shows a benefit to the Council of (£115,340). It is cheaper for the Council to use Private Sector Leased properties but this is dependant on the Council acquiring these properties from landlords and in the current market conditions they may not be easily available. As a result of this, this option is not recommended.
- 6.14 **Option 3** shows a mid point scenario which assumes the use of 39 Nightly Paid Accommodation properties (NPA), 39 Private Sector Leased Annexes (PSL) and 50 properties found through the bond deposit scheme to house homeless families. The total cost of this option is £33,990. This option provides a more realistic scenario and is recommended as it best meets the commitment to estate renewals and quotas of the scheme.
- 6.15 Option 3 which is the most realistic option is recommended as it best meets the commitment to estate renewals and quotas of the scheme. The cost of option 3 is £34k plus start up costs of £26k and this can be funded from the Initiative Reserve for the next five years.

Table 1

Cost of Accommodation for households owed a rehousing duty under homelessness law	Nos	Worst Case Scenario	Best Case Scenario	More Realistic Mid-Point
		Option 1	Option2	Option3
		£	£	£
Acquire additional NPAs (£40 per night) or PSL @ Av. cost of 2 bed property of (£10,771) per annum	78	1,138,800	840,140	989,470
Less offset of income from LHA (£247.90 per week for 2 bed)	78	-1,005,480	-1,005,480	-1,005,480
Total TA Cost/Income (-)		133,320	-165,340	-16,010
Homefinder bond deposit scheme (£1,000 per bond)	50	50,000	50,000	50,000
Total Cost of Accommodation for 128 households		183,320	-115,340	33,990

6.2 Legal Implications

6.2.1 Section 167 of the Housing Act 1996 (the Act) as amended by the Homelessness Act 2002, requires all local housing authorities to have an allocation scheme to determine the procedure for allocation of housing accommodation. Part 6 of the Act, as amended by the Localism Act 2011 now allows local authorities some more scope in defining their allocation scheme, so long as they have to regard to the current Code of Guidance (June 2012) and certain categories of persons are given reasonable preference. An allocation scheme may now be framed with a greater emphasis on local priorities.

6.2.2 While equalities legislation should not be breached, local housing authorities now have the flexibility to:

- set criteria around who may and may not be given social and affordable homes in the borough, and thus accepted onto the Register of those seeking such housing
- devise and apply different rules regarding the allocation of council housing to existing tenants, that is, transfers and to new applicants
- among those with reasonable preference, afford greater priority to those who contribute to their community, notably by working, volunteering or in other ways contributing.

6.2.3 In addition, the Allocation of Housing (Qualification Criteria for Armed Forces Personnel) (England) Regulations 2012 require that local housing authorities in England must not apply residency requirement criteria (local connection) to armed forces personnel or their bereaved spouses or civil partners who are required to leave Services Family Accommodation as a result of the death of their partner spouse or partner in service. Armed forces personnel includes persons who are

currently serving in the armed forces and persons who have served in the armed forces in the five years preceding their application for an allocation of social housing accommodation.

- 6.2.4 The proposed Allocations Scheme also reflects the draft The Housing Act 1996 (Additional Preference for Former Armed Forces Personnel) (England) Regulations 2012 expected to come into force in November 2012. These regulations require local housing authorities to give additional preference to former Armed Forces personnel whose housing circumstances fall within one of the statutory reasonable preference categories and have urgent housing needs.
- 6.2.5 Part 2 4.1 (a) of the Council's constitution requires all "big decisions" about Council Services and functions and the policies and strategies within which they operate to be made by full Council. The approval of the Allocations Scheme is a "big decision" as defined by the Constitution.
- 6.2.6 Housing Act 1996 s. 168 (3) states that when the authority make an alteration to their scheme reflecting a major change of policy, they shall within a reasonable period of time take such steps as they consider reasonable to bring the effect of the alteration to the attention of those likely to be affected by it. Also, 166A (13) Housing Act 1996 as amended states that before adopting an allocation scheme, or making an alteration to their scheme reflecting a major change of policy, a local housing authority in England must— (a) send a copy of the draft scheme, or proposed alteration, to every private registered provider of social housing and registered social landlord with which they have nomination arrangements (see section 159(4)), and (b) afford those persons a reasonable opportunity to comment on the proposals. The Council would therefore need to consult if, on review, there were any major changes to the policy.

7. KEY RISKS

- 7.1 There is a risk of legal challenges to decisions made under the new Allocations Scheme. The risk has been mitigated by having regard to Allocations legislation, case law and the new statutory Code of Guidance. An Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken to mitigate the risk of a legal challenge on the grounds of direct or indirect discrimination. An expert legal opinion has also been obtained. In addition, the Council will allow for further adjustments to the scheme once it is operating, to take account of any challenges arising on a case by case basis.
- 7.2 The Allocations Scheme is a mechanism for sharing out a very scarce social rented housing resource. There is a risk that elements of the scheme may be disliked by some Stakeholders. This risk has been

mitigated through two rounds of extensive consultation with key stakeholders to inform development of the scheme.

- 7.3 It is important to demonstrate that properties are being allocated fairly under the new scheme. There will be careful monitoring of allocations made after implementation and outcomes will be considered during a further review of the Scheme during its first year of operation. Outcomes will be reported to customers and stakeholders
- 7.4 Significant changes to IT and business process are required to support successful implementation of the new Allocations Scheme. A Business Change Programme has been in place since June 2012 with dedicated resources to support strategic, operational and IT changes. A Communications Plan (Appendix 3) has been developed to provide applicants and stakeholders with Information about the new allocations Scheme and support implementation. Copies can also be found in the Members' Library.

8. IMPACT ON COUNCIL PRIORITIES

8.1 Fairness for all

Fairness for all will be demonstrated in the following ways through the Allocations Scheme:

- Setting the Allocations Scheme within a wider housing advice and options approach
- Assisting applicants with a disability, older people and those with support needs to apply for housing through the Housing Register
- Enabling housing applicants to exercise choice through our choice based lettings system and taking preference into account when we make direct offers
- Maximising the supply of accessible homes for those with a disability

Enabling everyone to understand how social rented housing is allocated through:

- Having a revised Allocations scheme that is transparent and reasonably simple, clear, easily understood and accessible
- Explaining who makes decisions, how long people may have to wait to be housed
- Managing expectations and raising awareness by providing facts and figures about local pressures and the amount of housing available for letting
- Monitoring and publishing better quality information about the people we house and the properties we let

- Explaining what is being done to increase the amount of social rented housing

8.2 Building Strong Communities

Building Strong Communities will be demonstrated in the following ways through the Allocations Scheme:

- Addressing severe overcrowding within social rented homes
- Supporting households back into work and creating a more balanced mix of residents on every housing estate in the borough.
- Requiring housing applicants to have a local connection with Enfield to be considered for affordable and social rented homes in the borough.
- Developing local lettings plans to address specific issues on estates or neighbourhoods.

8.3 Growth and Sustainability

- Make best use of social rented homes by:
 - Addressing under occupation
 - Bringing empty homes back into use quickly
 - Regenerating Council-owned estates
 - Enabling tenants to participate in mobility schemes

9. **EQUALITIES IMPACT IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out to examine the effect of the proposed changes to Enfield's Allocations Scheme on those with protected characteristics as set out under the Equality Act 2010. Each of the protected characteristics, Race, Age, Disability, Gender and Marital Status, has been examined by analysing current housing register data and modelling the current and proposed Allocations Schemes for lettings in 2013/14.
- 9.2 For all protected characteristics examined there will be no more than a 4% reduction in the proportion of lettings to any group. The outcomes of the Scheme will be monitored over the year to ensure there are no significant adverse impacts for any particular group.
- 9.3 More detailed data can be found in Enfield Council's Predictive Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) - Equality Analysis.

10. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The Allocations Scheme will be kept under review during its first year of operation, with minor changes to address practical issues revealed by the ongoing review or made necessary due to further legislation or case law being approved by the Cabinet Member for Housing.
- 10.2 All lettings will be monitored on a monthly basis by Demand Group and bedroom size to ensure that quota targets are likely to be met.
- 10.3 The number of lettings through the choice based lettings system or by direct offer will be calculated and reviewed at least quarterly, as will the number of bids received for each type of property by each Demand Group.
- 10.4 Enfield's Housing Services Board will have a role in monitoring the first year's operation of the Scheme and receive relevant reports on the operation of the Scheme.
- 10.5 Information will be published on the Council's website and Enfield Homes website about the people we house and the homes we let.

11. HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

12. HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

The revised Allocations Scheme will impact positively on health and well-being terms in a number of ways including the mental and physical health of individual households and contributing to building socially cohesive neighbourhoods. Examples are:

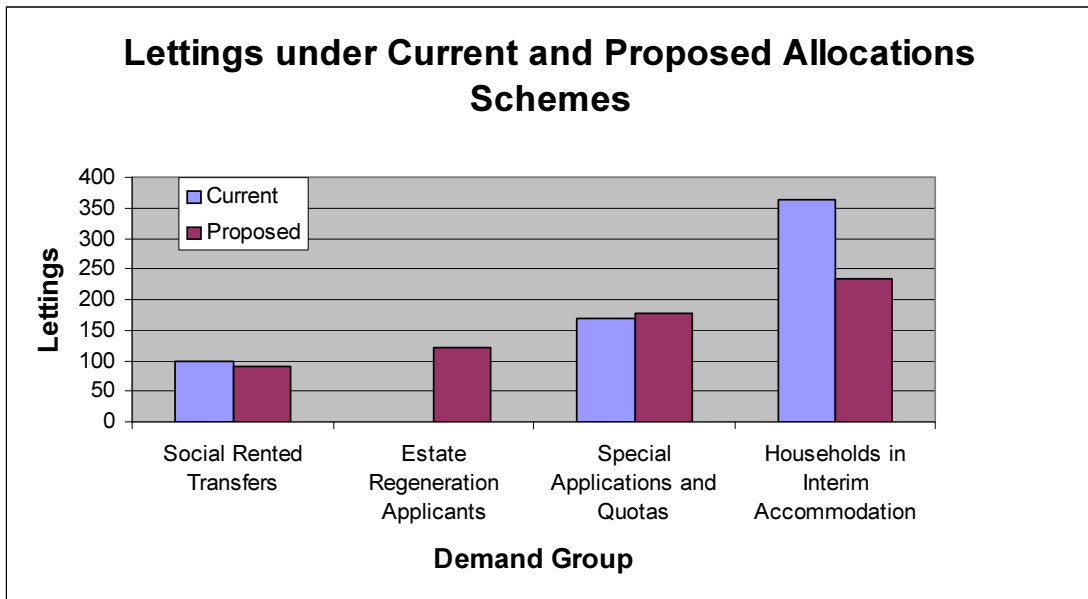
- Ensuring that the best use is made of social rented homes in the borough by giving priority to housing applicants with disabilities who need homes with one or more of these aspects:
 - a home on the ground floor,
 - a home with level access
 - a home which is mobility- or wheelchair-adapted
- A new Health and Well-being Assessment considers health and housing needs holistically and clearly defines and prioritises levels of housing and health need

- A new system for assessing and prioritising applicants for homes for older people takes into account both housing and support needs including health needs
- Enfield's revised Allocations Scheme prioritises existing tenants in social rented homes who are severely overcrowded through lacking 2 more bedrooms. Being severely overcrowded can impact on the educational outcomes for children in these situations if they do not have a quiet place to study and can also have implications for the mental health of some people.
- The revised Allocations Scheme gives priority for people who are working. Being employed or engaged in training or volunteering has positive effects on a person's mental health and wellbeing and raises aspirations. It is particularly important to encourage young people into work or training to boost their self-esteem. In particular, additional priority is being given in the revised Scheme to young people leaving care who are working and also people moving from supported housing to independent living who are working. A limited number of working adult children of existing Council tenants will be able to move into a social rented home of their own. The revised Allocations Scheme will enable Enfield to join the Mayor of London's pan-London Mobility Scheme, Housingmoves, which enables mobility for existing council and housing association tenants to take up work opportunities
- Working age under-occupying social rented tenants and working tenants in temporary accommodation will be prioritised to move to cheaper social rented accommodation. This will help reduce the mental and physical stress of financial difficulties caused by not being able to afford rent payments.
- Prioritising the moves of tenants on estates that are going to be rebuilt to more suitable and better quality homes will significantly improve the well-being of the households involved.
- The introduction of local lettings plans with clear principles set out in the revised Allocations Scheme will assist in build socially mixed and cohesive communities particularly on newly regenerated estates.

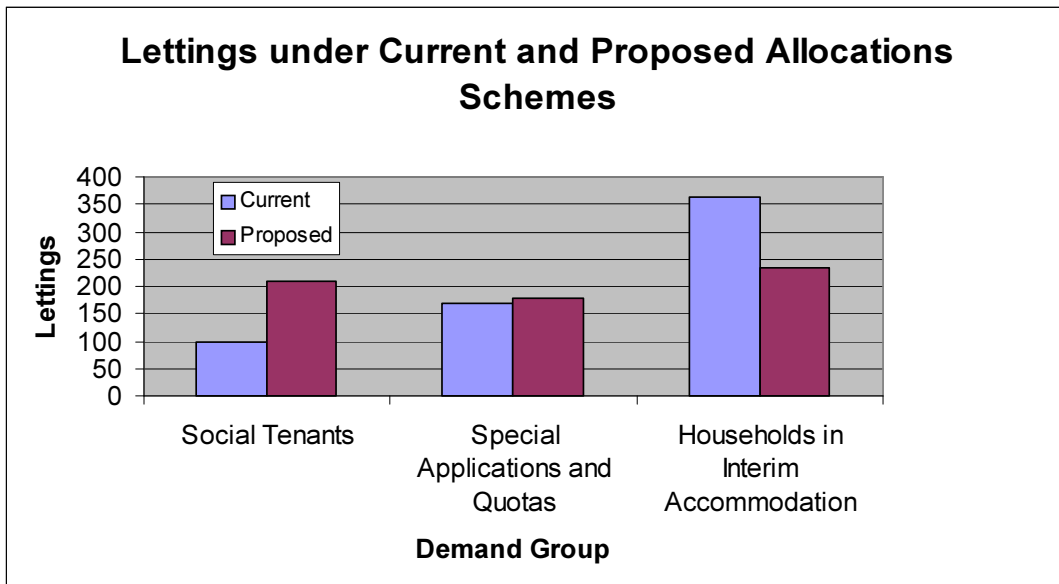
Background Papers

None

**Appendix 1:
Overview of lettings under the current and revised Allocations Scheme**



The Table below is similar to the one above. It shows the outcome of combining lettings to Social tenants and Estate Regeneration Tenants



Appendix 2

Annual Lettings Plan 2013/14

The table below provides an overview of proposed lettings of general needs homes to the main housing Demand Groups

The Lettings Plan is based on a forecast of 622 general needs homes becoming available for letting in 2013/14.

	Council and Housing Association Tenants (Transfers)	Estate Regeneration Council Tenants (Decants)	Special Applications and Quotas	Households in Temporary Accommodation	Total
1 Bed	10%	11%	55%	24%	256
2 Bed	15%	24%	12%	48%	202
3+ Bed	20%	26%	8%	46%	164
Total % of Lettings	14%	19%	29%	38%	100%

- Group 5 Mobility Applicants will be drawn from the above numbers
- 110 Group 6 Older Persons homes are predicted to become available for letting in the year.

Appendix 3
Communications Plan for implementing Enfield's revised Allocations
Scheme

Communications Plan for Implementation of Allocations Scheme – ACTIONS FOR GROUP 1 STAKEHOLDERS

This group includes Members, Local Support Agencies and Council Services responsible for delivering the Allocations Scheme or delivering information about it.

Stakeholders that have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High contact with our affected customers and can directly help to deliver our message. A high impact on their service. 	2012												2013																													
	Week Commencing												Week Commencing																													
	15 th Oct	22 nd Oct	29 th Oct	5 th Nov	12 th Nov	19 th Nov	26 th Nov	3 rd Dec	10 th Dec	17 th Dec	24 th Dec	31 st Dec	7 th Jan	14 th Jan	21 st Jan	28 th Jan	4 th Feb	11 th Feb	18 th Feb	25 th Feb	4 th Mar	11 th Mar	18 th Mar																			
Internal Department Team Briefings																																										
Delivery of Summaries of New Scheme and a "You Said - We Did" summary following review of consultation suggestions.																																										
External Council Team Briefings (e.g. Local Support Agencies & Partnership Groups)																																										
Delivery of Summaries of New Scheme and a "You Said - We Did" summary following review of consultation suggestions.																																										
Websites updated & Other Council Publications.																																										
Enfield Council & Enfield Homes websites updated with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Announcement of Cabinet & Council Approval Copy of Approved Scheme Scheme summaries "You Said - We Did" summary Enfield Eye (Council) and Staffnet (Enfield Homes) websites updated for staff with the same. Other Council & Enfield Homes Publications and Local Press releases.																																										
1st Email to ALL Stakeholders																																										
Email to alert High Stakeholders that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Websites have been updated Links to online documents 																																										
Reception Area Information																																										
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Posters and Leaflets distributed 																																										
2nd Email to all ALL Stakeholders																																										
Email alert reminder of new scheme sent with attached Briefing Document and FAQs, with links to online documents including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Copy of Approved Scheme Scheme summaries "You Said - We Did" summary Enfield Eye (Council) and Staffnet (Enfield Homes) websites updated for staff with same.																																										
1-to-1 Training/Meetings (e.g. Local Support Agency Representatives, Panel Representatives)																																										
Delivery of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scheme Summaries FAQs In-depth Briefing 																																										
Workshops (e.g. Members, Assessments Team, Rehousing Team, Housing Options & Advice, Accommodation Services)																																										
Workshops delivering training and overview of new scheme to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refresher training of purpose for new scheme and analysis of differences between current scheme and new scheme Manual assessment of applications under new scheme (excl Members) IT system use under new scheme to process applications (excl Members) 																																										
3rd Email to ALL Stakeholders																																										
Email sent to inform that new Allocations Scheme about to GO-LIVE with links to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Copy of Approved Scheme Scheme Summaries Scenarios Briefing Document Revised FAQs. 																																										
ALLOCATIONS SCHEME GOES LIVE																LIVE																										

Communications Plan for Implementation of Allocations Scheme – ACTIONS FOR GROUP 2 STAKEHOLDERS

This group includes partnership groups - Shelter, housing associations, community and voluntary groups, non frontline Council services

Stakeholders that have:	2012											2013															
	Week Commencing											Week Commencing															
	15 th Oct	22nd Oct	29th Oct	5 th Nov	12 th Nov	19 th Nov	26 th Nov	3 rd Dec	10 th Dec	17 th Dec	24 th Dec	31 st Dec	7 th Jan	14 th Jan	21 st Jan	28 th Jan	4 th Feb	11 th Feb	18 th Feb	25 th Feb	4 th Mar	11 th Mar	18 th Mar				
Internal Department Team Briefings																											
Delivery of Summaries of New Scheme and a "You Said - We Did" summary following review of consultation suggestions.																											
External Council Team Briefings (e.g. Local Support Agencies & Partnership Groups)																											
Delivery of Summaries of New Scheme and a "You Said - We Did" summary following review of consultation suggestions.																											
Websites updated & Other Council Publications.																											
Enfield Council & Enfield Homes websites updated with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Announcement of Cabinet & Council Approval Copy of Approved Scheme Scheme summaries "You Said - We Did" summary Enfield Eye (Council) and Staffnet (Enfield Homes) websites updated for staff with the same. Other Council & Enfield Homes Publications and Local Press releases.																											
1st Email to ALL Stakeholders																											
Email to alert High Stakeholders that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Websites have been updated Links to online documents 																											
Reception Area Information																											
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Posters and Leaflets distributed																											
2nd Email to all ALL Stakeholders																											
Email alert reminder of new scheme sent with attached Briefing Document and FAQs, with links to online documents including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Copy of Approved Scheme Scheme summaries "You Said - We Did" summary Enfield Eye (Council) and Staffnet (Enfield Homes) websites updated for staff with same.																											
1-to-1 Training/Meetings (e.g. Local Support Agency Representatives, Panel Representatives)																											
Delivery of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scheme Summaries FAQs In-depth Briefing 																											
Refresher Briefings (e.g. Local Support Agency Representatives, Partnership Groups, Internal Council Teams)																											
Delivery of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scheme Summaries FAQs Briefing Document Scenarios 																											
3rd Email to ALL Stakeholders																											
Email sent to inform that new Allocations Scheme about to GO-LIVE with links to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Copy of Approved Scheme Scheme Summaries Scenarios Briefing Document Revised FAQs. 																											
ALLOCATIONS SCHEME GOES LIVE																											

LIVE

Communications Plan for Implementation of Allocations Scheme - ACTIONS FOR GROUP 3 STAKEHOLDERS

This Group includes central, regional and local Government departments, eg, CLG, DWP, GLA, London Councils, Homes and Communities Agency, North London sub Regional Partnership

Stakeholders that have:	2012											2013												
	Week Commencing											Week Commencing												
	15 th Oct	22 nd Oct	29 th Oct	5 th Nov	12 th Nov	19 th Nov	26 th Nov	3 rd Dec	10 th Dec	17 th Dec	24 th Dec	31 st Dec	7 th Jan	14 th Jan	21 st Jan	28 th Jan	4 th Feb	11 th Feb	18 th Feb	25 th Feb	4 th Mar	11 th Mar	18 th Mar	
Websites updated & Other Council Publications.																								
Enfield Council & Enfield Homes websites updated with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Announcement of Cabinet & Council Approval Copy of Approved Scheme Scheme summaries "You Said - We Did" summary Enfield Eye (Council) and Staffnet (Enfield Homes) websites updated for staff with the same. Other Council & Enfield Homes Publications and Local Press releases.																								
1st Email to ALL Stakeholders																								
Email to alert High Stakeholders that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Websites have been updated Links to online documents 																								
Reception Area Information																								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Posters and Leaflets distributed 																								
2nd Email to all ALL Stakeholders																								
Email alert reminder of new scheme sent with attached Briefing Document and FAQs, with links to online documents including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Copy of Approved Scheme Scheme Summaries "You Said - We Did" summary Enfield Eye (Council) and Staffnet (Enfield Homes) websites updated for staff with same.																								
3rd Email to ALL Stakeholders																								
Email sent to inform that new Allocations Scheme about to GO-LIVE with links to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Copy of Approved Scheme Scheme Summaries Scenarios Briefing Document Revised FAQs. 																								
ALLOCATIONS SCHEME GOES LIVE																								

Communications Plan for Implementation of Allocations Scheme – ‘LIVE’ Applicant Customer Group

This group includes all those applicants that have been deemed to have a priority need and are 'LIVE' and 'Eligible' to bid for Social Rented Housing through the Council's Choice-Based Lettings (CBL) process.

Breakdown of customers: • Maximum of 2000 applicants	2012												2013										
	Week Commencing												Week Commencing										
	15 th Oct	22 nd Oct	29 th Oct	5 th Nov	12 th Nov	19 th Nov	26 th Nov	3 rd Dec	10 th Dec	17 th Dec	24 th Dec	31 st Dec	7 th Jan	14 th Jan	21 st Jan	28 th Jan	4 th Feb	11 th Feb	18 th Feb	25 th Feb	4 th Mar	11 th Mar	18 th Mar
Enfield Council & Enfield Homes websites updated with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Announcement of Cabinet & Council Approval Copy of Approved Scheme Scheme summaries "You Said - We Did" summary Other Council & Enfield Homes Publications and Local Press releases.																							
CBL - Message of the Day module displays a message when applicants log on to place their bids for social rented accommodation properties. This will have links to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final Approved Scheme Scheme Summaries FAQs "You Said - We Did" summary following review of consultation suggestions. 																							
Stakeholder Communication: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Posters on display and Leaflets available in all stakeholder reception areas. Enfield Council & Enfield Homes Websites updated regularly on countdown. 																							
Re-assessment Letters sent to Applicants with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Rehousing Group Re-Assessed Points level. Points Thresholds for properties. Literature for other Housing Options included. 																							
ALLOCATIONS SCHEME GOES LIVE																LIVE							
Customer Query Hotline: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interactive Voice Response (IVR) functionality with option for Allocations Re-assessment queries. Manned by a dedicated Task Force. 																							

Communications Plan for Implementation of Allocations Scheme – ENFIELD’S ESTATE REGENERATION SCHEME Customer Group

This group includes all tenants that are being rehoused as part of the first phase (Phase 1) of the current Alma Towers Regeneration Scheme.

Breakdown of customers:	2012												2013										
	Week Commencing												Week Commencing										
	15 th Oct	22 nd Oct	29 th Oct	5 th Nov	12 th Nov	19 th Nov	26 th Nov	3 rd Dec	10 th Dec	17 th Dec	24 th Dec	31 st Dec	7 th Jan	14 th Jan	21 st Jan	28 th Jan	4 th Feb	11 th Feb	18 th Feb	25 th Feb	4 th Mar	11 th Mar	18 th Mar
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approx 120 Applicants 																							
One-to-One's carried out by the Regeneration Team, linking with the current Regeneration Communications Strategy, with distribution of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scheme Summaries FAQs 																							
Enfield Council & Enfield Homes websites updated with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Announcement of Cabinet & Council Approval Copy of Approved Scheme Scheme summaries "You Said - We Did" summary Other Council & Enfield Homes Publications and Local Press releases.																							
CBL - Message of the Day module displays a message when applicants log on to place their bids for social rented accommodation properties. This will have links to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final Approved Scheme Scheme Summaries FAQs "You Said - We Did" summary following review of consultation suggestions. 																							
Stakeholder Communication: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Posters on display and Leaflets available in all stakeholder reception areas. Enfield Council & Enfield Homes Websites updated regularly on countdown. 																							
Re-assessment Letters sent to Applicants with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Rehousing Group Re-Assessed Points level. Points Thresholds for properties. Literature for other Housing Options included. 																							
ALLOCATIONS SCHEME GOES LIVE																							
Customer Query Hotline: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interactive Voice Response (IVR) functionality with option for Allocations Re-assessment queries. Manned by a dedicated Task Force. 																							

Communications Plan for Implementation of Allocations Scheme – Assessed Applicants with No Priority for Housing & General Public Customer Group

This group includes all those applicants that have not been deemed to have a priority need for Social Rented Housing, yet their application has been accepted and recorded within the last 12 months.

Breakdown of Group:	2012												2013										
	Week Commencing												Week Commencing										
	15 th Oct	22 nd Oct	29 th Oct	5 th Nov	12 th Nov	19 th Nov	26 th Nov	3 rd Dec	10 th Dec	17 th Dec	24 th Dec	31 st Dec	7 th Jan	14 th Jan	21 st Jan	28 th Jan	4 th Feb	11 th Feb	18 th Feb	25 th Feb	4 th Mar	11 th Mar	18 th Mar
Assessed non-priority Applicants Enfield Council & Enfield Homes websites updated with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Announcement of Cabinet & Council Approval Copy of Approved Scheme Scheme summaries "You Said - We Did" summary Other Council & Enfield Homes Publications and Local Press releases.																							
Stakeholder Communication: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Posters on display and Leaflets available in all stakeholder reception areas. Enfield Council & Enfield Homes Websites updated regularly on countdown. 																							
Letters sent to Applicants informing that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The councils Allocations Scheme has changed. Scheme Scenarios. Literature for other Housing Options included. 																							
ALLOCATIONS SCHEME GOES LIVE												LIVE											
Customer Query Hotline: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interactive Voice Response (IVR) functionality with option for Allocations Re-assessment queries. Manned by a dedicated Task Force. 																							
General Public Enfield Council & Enfield Homes websites updated with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Announcement of Cabinet & Council Approval Copy of Approved Scheme Scheme summaries "You Said - We Did" summary Other Council & Enfield Homes Publications and Local Press releases.																							
Stakeholder Communication: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Posters on display and Leaflets available in all stakeholder reception areas. Enfield Council & Enfield Homes Websites updated regularly on countdown. 																							
ALLOCATIONS SCHEME GOES LIVE												LIVE											

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Use of the Council's urgency processes involving a waiver of the call in process which have been agreed following the last update presented to Council on 4 July 2012.

Council is asked to note the decisions taken and the reasons for urgency.

1. Decision: Affordable Housing Programme – 167/167a South Street

1.1 Reason for Urgency:

The Cabinet member for Housing agreed (26 June 2012) to acquire 2 flats and the freehold interest in 167 South Street, as a Portfolio decision. The decision was approved as part of the estate renewal and regeneration scheme for Alma Estate, with the costs funded from within the Affordable Housing Programme.

As one of the flat owners needed to complete the exchange as a matter of urgency, in order to avoid losing a new property, approval was given to waive the usual call-in requirement, enabling the terms of the acquisition to be approved with immediate effect.

2. Decision: Temporary Closure of Barrowell Green Household Waste & Recycling Centre for essential repairs

2.1 Reason for Urgency

The Cabinet member for Environment agreed as a Portfolio decision (9 August) to the temporary closure of the Barrowell Green Household Waste & Recycling Centre (HWRC) during October 2012, in order to allow essential maintenance and other health and safety works to be undertaken at the site.

This was subject to approval under the Rule 16 urgency decision as it had not been possible to provide advance notice of the planned decision on the list of Key Decisions and an immediate decision was required, in terms of public notice being provided.

The detailed reasons provided for urgency were as follows:

- The urgent works required had been identified as a result of a health & safety inspection and were a priority in order to ensure full operational capabilities at the site were maintained;
- The works would require the temporary closure of the site to the public, so there was a need to allow a period of time to consult with the public and service users in advance of the closure;
- There was a need for the works to be undertaken ahead of the winter period;
- It had not been possible to provide advance notice of the decision as a key decision, as the decision to retain Barrowell Green HWRC and not transfer it to the North London Waste Authority had only been agreed by

Cabinet on 18 July 2012 i.e. after the deadline for publication of the list of Key Decisions for August.

3. Decision: Receipt of GLA Outer London Fund Round 2 Capital & Revenue

3.1 Reason for Urgency

The Leader of the Council (acting on behalf of the Cabinet member for Regeneration & Business) agreed as a Portfolio decision (21 September) to:

- (a) accept a Grant award of £1.897m of capital and revenue funding from the Greater London Authority designed to enable regeneration projects in Enfield Highway, Enfield Lock and Ponders End to continue; and
- (b) to note the match funding commitment of £213,000 capital and £65,000 revenue, which had been agreed from the Neighbourhood Regeneration Capital Programme and 2012/13 and 2013/14 revenue budgets respectively.

This was subject to approval under the Rule 16 urgency decision as it had not been possible to provide advance notice of the planned decision on the list of Key Decisions and an immediate decision was required, in terms of the Grant Agreement being sealed.

The detailed reasons provided for urgency were as follows:

- There was a need for the Grant Agreement to be signed and sealed by the Greater London Authority and Council by 26 September 2012, otherwise access to the funding would be lost;
- It had not been possible to provide advance notice of the decision on the list of key decisions as the Council had not been made aware of the September deadline for sign off and sealing of the agreement until 12 September 2012.

COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS: 7 November 2012**1.1 Questions to Cabinet Members****Question 1 from Councillor Lavender to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council**

When the Conservatives were in control of this Council a member of the administration chaired property strategy meetings. Before the Council vacated properties, not only were issues such as timing, alternative site provision and realisation of proceeds considered, but also other matters such as HR, IT, logistics of removal, records and business continuity addressed. In other words Conservative members took responsibility for our actions, as you were so quick to point out when you opposed the Conservatives' proposed use of Southgate Town hall for a school.

I understand that the property strategy meetings have been abolished by the Labour administration. That being the case, following the vacation of the Southgate Town Hall site and the continuing use of the site by third parties, including film crew, which member of the Labour Council had political oversight in relation to the failure to safely secure at Southgate Town Hall or elsewhere children's services files containing sensitive personal data, including data relating to children in care, abused children, foster and adopting parents? Was it (i) Councillor Orhan as Cabinet Member for Children & Young People, (ii) Councillor Stafford as Cabinet member for Finance & Property, (iii) you, with ultimate responsibility as leader or (iv) has every member of your group abdicated political oversight of such matters? In your opinion, which member of the administration ought to resign or be dismissed over such a failure of political responsibility and oversight?

Reply from Councillor Taylor

The Council is currently investigating the potential breach of data protection and is in communication with the Information Commissioner's office (ICO). Due to a possible forced entry within the building to a secure area, the police have also been notified.

So as not to undermine or jeopardise the investigation(s) I do not wish to comment further. As you will appreciate the matter may result in potential legal or other action involving the ICO, the Council, officers, members and third parties.

Question 2 to from Councillor Sitkin to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council

Could Councillor Taylor update the Council on the allegation of confidential files being found in Southgate Town Hall.

Reply from Councillor Taylor

Please refer to the response provided for Question 1.

Question 3 from Councillor Kaye to Councillor Orhan Cabinet Member for Children & Young People

Were you aware that Children's Services sensitive records including those on Victoria Climbié were available for anyone using Southgate Town Hall to access including the production company crew and actors on set there? Do you take responsibility for this calamitous breach of confidentiality and what actions have you taken to address this scandalous failure in safe guarding? Will you be resigning as Cabinet member?

Reply from Councillor Orhan:

Please refer to the response provided for Question 1.

Question 4 from Councillor Savva to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council

Could Councillor Taylor update the Council on whether the Government will change its mind on the £8 million it has taken from the borough that is damping?

Reply from Councillor Taylor

Regretfully, there are no signs that the Government will take action to stop this unfairness. In fact, the Government's new business rate localisation scheme will build the £8m into our funding for many years to come. As you know, we have lobbied hard against this injustice but our efforts have fallen on deaf ears. Nevertheless we will continue to lobby strongly and continue to fight for the interest of Enfield's residents.

Question 5 from Councillor Lavender to Councillor Taylor Leader of the Council

What actions have you taken to deal with the appalling breach of confidentiality and safe guarding in Children's Services at Southgate town Hall where records of adopted and fostered children and serious individual cases such as that of Victoria Climbié were available for any casual user of Southgate Town Hall to access? Have any officers been suspended, will any member of your Cabinet take responsibility for this shocking breach and resign?

Reply from Councillor Taylor

Please refer to the response provided for Question 1.

Question 6 from Councillor Cicek to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment

Could Councillor Bond update the Council on the progress being made to modernise our Waste services including current recycling rates?

Reply from Councillor Bond

- The last quarter figures show recycling rates in Enfield at their highest ever at 40% (39.8%)
- We are introducing On Board weighing for the trade and commercial rounds to eliminate over production of waste
- Vehicles have and are being fitted with cameras to provide total cover of all incidents to operatives (e.g. road rage to operatives)
- Wheeled bin roll out completes in November
- Rather than shutting an HWRC site (Carterhatch) we've upgraded Barrowell Green.
- Procurement of a new Depot to ensure our staff's welfare and safeguard our service.

Question 7 from Councillor Chamberlain to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment

When attending a meeting of Weir Hall Ratepayers Association on 16th October, which covers a few roads in my ward, a complaint was raised from residents about the very high pollution levels in Pymmes Brook, flowing through Palmers Green, which was reckoned to qualify as an open sewer rated on the level of bacteria found in the water.

In fact Thames21, an independent charity which was developed from a partnership of Keep Britain tidy and number of public bodies to promote river cleanliness in the capital, states on its web-site: 'The rivers in the Lea Valley are the most polluted in Britain. The Lea, The Ching, Salmon's Brook and the Pymmes Brook are being damaged by sewage, household chemicals and oil on a daily basis.'

Given part of the cause is the discharge of sewage from residential properties, my position was that Enfield Council has a role and should be taking action, however does the Cabinet member agree with the position taken at the meeting by his fellow councillor, Councillor Savva, not contradicted by Councillor Cole, that this was not a matter for the Council, but for the Environment agency?

Reply from Councillor Bond

Contamination of water courses like Pymmes Brook can be caused by a

number of factors; one of which is drainage misconnections where foul water is incorrectly connected to surface water drainage.

The Environment Agency are responsible for the water quality in water courses. The enforcement of misconnections is undertaken by the Council's Environmental Protection Team which uses Building Act legislation to get the misconnections corrected so that foul water goes to foul water drains and not surface water drains which run into water courses. The team also works with Thames Water to identify and enforce misconnections and are working on a particular programme of this work during this year.

We are also participating in the Lower Lee catchment pilot being led by the Environmental Agency with other organisations (including Thames 21) to improve the water quality in the whole of the River Lee; into which Pymmes Brook and other water courses feed.

Question 8 from Councillor Murphy to Councillor Goddard, Cabinet Member for Business and Regeneration

Would Councillor Goddard update the Council on the bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for Broomfield House.

Reply from Councillor Goddard

As all Members will know Cabinet considered and approved a report on Broomfield House at its 10th October meeting.

This report outlined how Broomfield House had come to be in its present distressed condition, alluded to a much more positive future for the House, Gardens and Stable Yard produced by the Broomfield House Trust and Friends of Broomfield Park, who have been working with the Council. It also proposed that the Council submit a Stage 1 funding application to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) by no later than the 22nd October 2012, for a grant of £4,175,000 towards the restoration of the House, which is a key heritage asset for Enfield, Greater London and the Nation.

That report also pointed out that, following discussions with the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Gardens and Stable Yard would be the subject of a separate, and later, funding bid to Parks for People.

Since Cabinet a lot of work has taken place behind the scenes to finalise the Stage 1 bid for the House, and progress has been reported to both the Friends of Broomfield Park at a meeting held on 17th October and to the Bowes, Palmers Green, Southgate Green Area Forum on the 18th October.

I am really pleased to see how well the Friends and the Council have worked together to produce and inform the Stage 1 HLF bid, and the strength of this

partnership can only auger well for the future, especially as if we are successful at Stage 1, there will be plenty of work to do before Stage 2 can be submitted, and many hands make light work, relatively speaking.

I am also greatly heartened to see how many letters of support have been received from various people and organisations, which have all been included in the HLF bid, as this shows a real depth of support for this project. Support has come from, for example:

- The Green Lane Business Association
- The Enfield Conservation Advisory Group
- The Fox Lane and District Residents' Association
- The Enfield Society
- Southgate District Civic Trust
- The Federation of Enfield Residents and Allied Associations.

I am grateful for their support, as I'm sure are all Members of the Council.

The one thing that I should say, is that the HLF bid has been submitted, and although the competition for HLF funds is fierce, and success cannot be taken for granted, I believe that we have submitted a very good bid which merits support from the HLF; and to coin a phrase 'if we aren't in it, we can't win it !' Let's keep our fingers crossed as it's all in the hands of HLF now.

Question 9 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment

Is he satisfied that he has sufficient numbers of building control staff to deal with the growing number of unregulated building operations on houses in the borough which are resulting in poor and unlawful drainage connections leading to serious pollution in local rivers?

Reply from Councillor Bond

Yes. I'm sure however that Councillor Neville will agree that the Conservative Party proposals to relax planning rules for rear extensions will only increase the risk of unlawful drainage and consequent serious pollution to Enfield's rivers.

Question 10 from Councillor Bakir to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment

Could Councillor Bond update the Council on the progress being made to improve street cleansing across the borough?

Reply from Councillor Bond

- The streets are cleaner than they've ever been.

- In response to the residents satisfaction survey, work has been carried out to re-profile the street cleansing service to be more adaptive and responsive to areas of need and priority
- Investment has been made into new street cleaning equipment – additional mechanical sweepers and caged cleansing vehicles
- The National Indicator scores for litter and detritus are the best they have ever been for the borough
- Cleansing schedules are being merged to incorporate open spaces wherever possible to ensure improved continuity and consistency of service
- We have recently won a Clean Britain Award for high standards of street cleanliness.
- We have employed on a full time basis 3 apprentices from the borough apprentice scheme as a part of our succession planning for the service and our commitment to employ local people
- We've maintain the budget after the previous administration cut it by £250,000

Question 11 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Bond Cabinet Member for Environment

Can he tell the Council why it has taken so long for him to realise that introducing Sunday parking charges in Enfield Town was detrimental to the attempts by the town's businesses to weather the present economic downturn.

Reply from Councillor Bond

The review was conducted with the timescales outlined at previous Council meetings. I seem to recall it took the Conservative Group two years to agree their Parking Enforcement Plan. I also note that at the cabinet meeting (October 2009) that group considered and ruled out 15 minutes free parking in town centres.

Question 12 from Councillor Constantinides to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment

Could Councillor Bond inform the Council about the on-going capital expenditure programme for roads and footways within the borough?

Reply from Councillor Bond

The Capital programme involves implementing planned maintenance schemes to improve the condition of Enfield's highway infrastructure.

The overall budget is divided into a number of separate work streams as follows:

Carriageway Renewal Programme	3,750,000
Structures & watercourses separate capital allocations	450,000
Structures & Watercourses	50,000
Partial Resurfacing Programme	850,000
Carriageway Joint Repair Programme	50,000
Partial Footway Replacement Programme	2,600,000
Safety fencing renewal	50,000
Verge and Shrub Bed Renewal Programme	100,000
Highway Trees Removal & Replacement Programme	150,000
Rights of Way	25,000
Renewal of street nameplates	30,000
Minor Highway Improvements Programme	200,000
Provision of pedestrian dropped kerbs	45,000

Individual work streams have their own specific delivery programmes, which are programmed throughout the year in coordination with other activities on the highway. I receive regular progress reports from Officers and can confirm that all proposed carriageway and footway schemes for 2012/13 are either completed, on site, or programmed with the Council's contractor for completion by 31March 2013.

In particular on the Carriageway renewal programme, 35 schemes have been completed of the 52 programmed and of the 42 partial footway replacement schemes, 6 have been completed and 10 are on site.

I am pleased to confirm that the Council is continuously reviewing processes and techniques in order to achieve greater value for money for Enfield's residents, such as the use of recycling carriageways rather than full reconstruction, thereby achieving significant reductions in CO2 emissions, time, costs and disruption to residents.

Question 13 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment

Can he tell the Council what was the turning point which persuaded him to vary significantly his policy of charging for Sunday parking in Enfield Town?

Reply from Councillor Bond

As previously stated we always said we'd keep these charges under review. We've listened to all the views and acted. That's what mature, responsible organisations do. If anyone has significantly changed their policy on Sunday Parking it is the minority side of this Council who when in power rejected a 15 minute free period, but now due to a government driven recession are in favour. This flip flopping of policy is not good for business and leaves shoppers

and residents somewhat confused.

Question 14 from Councillor Simon to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment

Could Councillor Bond comment on Conservative Party proposals to relax planning restrictions on rear extensions and the effect that this proposal will have on our residents?"

Reply from Councillor Bond

The proposals are bonkers. The impact upon residents is immeasurable and we will resist using all available powers and welcome the support of the new Deputy Leader of the Opposition of this Council in this regard.

Question 15 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment

Does Councillor Bond accept that increasing parking charges in town centres as he did in 2010, is also detrimental to the centres in the present economic climate and will he now follow the example of Barnet who had the grace to realise their mistake, and reduce Enfield's on street charges in town centres to the 2010 levels?

Reply from Councillor Bond

Response "To Follow" due to amendment on original wording of question.

Question 16 from Councillor Cranfield to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment

Could Councillor Bond comment on the very positive reception from traders on the new parking charges on Enfield Town and what further work is coming forward?

Reply from Councillor Bond

The proposed changes to Sunday parking restrictions show that we have been able to strike a sensible balance between

- meeting the needs Enfield traders
- detering and displacing long stay parkers
- successfully achieving a good turnover of spaces in the car parks for shoppers

The changes have been very well received by the traders and we look forward to continuing to work with them on a number of initiatives to boost trade, some related to parking, others aimed at encouraging more people to cycle to the

Town Centre, and others that will form part of the Town Centres Strategy. This Strategy will include a variety of projects to promote our town centres, ranging from introducing Wi-Fi hot spots to co-ordinating festivals and events. Further press releases will follow shortly.

Question 17 from Councillor Prescott to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment

At the meeting of the Public Transport Consultative Group held on 27th September 2012 it was agreed that a review steering group of the PTCG should be established to undertake a comprehensive review of bus services in Enfield leading to a report setting out the Council's short, medium and long term priorities for bus service improvements.

Why were the following interested parties not included in that review steering group:

- (i) the Enfield Transport Users' Group
- (ii) FERAA
- (iii) EBRA
- (iv) a member of the public
- (v) a member of PTCG nominated by the minority party

Why is it that this Council is not engaging with users, local businesses and residents associations in relation to this matter? Does he not consider that this would have been a suitable opportunity and time to involve local businesses in such an important issue?

Reply from Councillor Bond

I'd like to thank Councillor Prescott for highlighting an excellent initiative by this Labour Council. We want a clean, efficient and convenient bus service for residents. I fail to see what the previous administration's contribution in this area was, other than of course wanting to close a bus lane in London Road. The Steering Group is made up of appropriate members and the draft conclusions will be published for comment and as I've already demonstrated we will listen to our resident's views. The Transport Users Group provides an excellent forum for all the individuals mentioned above to contribute. And the charismatic chair, Councillor Derek Levy has already encouraged all concerned to attend and participate.

Question 18 from Councillor Ekechi to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment

Could Councillor Bond update the Council on the work of our Trading Standards team to support the most vulnerable within our community and bring rogue traders to task?

Reply from Councillor Bond

Enfield Council's Trading Standards Team is at the forefront of an approach to combat Rogue Trading and fraudsters in our borough. Rogue Traders and fraudsters damage legitimate local businesses. They prey on vulnerable people, deceive the public with substandard goods and can endanger public health by selling unsafe products and services. Tackling this issue is vital to improving consumer confidence, supporting local businesses and ensuring that our residents are safe and feel safe

The Trading Standards Team's approach is:

- (1) Delivering a co-ordinated strategy to target and reduce incidence of door step crime, through
 - A successful advice programme supporting residents
 - A hotline and rapid response for all "live" rogue trader incidents.
 - Implementation of No Cold Calling Zones (to deter traders and others trying to sell on the doorstep)
 - Extensive partnership working with police, safeguarding adults , other Trading Standards authorities, community safety, envirocrime team, council tax and benefits team, and the voluntary sector
 - Implementation of a 'Build with Confidence' scheme (vetted and approved builders)
 - Direct referrals from Building Control regarding any dubious builders they may encounter.

- (2) Provide robust enforcement against those traders who operate fraudulently together with the successful application of Proceeds of Crime legislation, through:
 - Planned intelligence led operations
 - Partnership Working
 - Supported the Illegal Money Laundering team in investigations concerning loan sharks leading to successful conviction.
 - Application of the Proceeds of Crime (POCA) legislation

Question 19 from Councillor Kaye to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Children & Young People

Does the Cabinet Member support the Headteacher of Lea Valley High School in banning all parents and families from supporting sporting fixtures. Would she agree with me this is an incongruous way for a Sports College to support the Olympic legacy?

Reply from Councillor Orhan

As a Sports College, Lea Valley High School hosts a vast number of PE matches involving secondary and primary pupils. At these matches normal staffing would be 1 teacher per team, 1 of whom is acting as referee. Following a number of difficult situations that put pupil and staff safety at risk, often involving non family members, a decision was made to restrict access to certain matches. Unfortunately, this communication was sent in error to all parents and caused the resulting concern. It was never the intention of the school to ban parents and families. This situation has now been resolved by supporters having to apply for tickets/permits in advance so that the school knows who is on the premises and exclude any potential trouble makers.

Question 20 from Councillor Uzoanya to Councillor Oykenor, Cabinet Member for Housing

In the Enfield Advertiser on 10 October, Councillor Lavender, the Leader of the Conservative Group, is quoted as saying: 'It must be pretty upsetting for residents in north-eastern Enfield, who are losing Kettering Hall, in Ordnance Road...!'

Is there any accuracy in Councillor Lavender's statement?"

Reply from Councillor Oykenor

Councillor Lavender's statement is incorrect. Kettering Hall is being replaced with a new, fully accessible modern community hall which will form part of the new Joint Services Centre in Ordnance Road, including a GP Centre, Dentist Surgery and Library. This will have the benefit of being located near to other local services and will still be accessible in the evenings and weekends when the other services may not be open. This is due to open in the summer of 2014.

In the meantime the current Kettering Hall will remain open to the local community. A full public consultation is underway regarding the proposed Joint Service Centre development."

Question 21 from Councillor Kaye to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

Given the extremely disappointing, if not disastrous, 16+ results for Enfield students in public examinations in the 2011/2012 academic year can the Cabinet member for Children & Young People please confirm what action plan is in place to improve this performance or when she will be in a position to provide the Council with a suggested action plan?

Reply from Councillor Orhan

Following this year's fiasco with the grading of English GCSE papers, Enfield is

currently supporting a legal challenge to OFQUAL to try to secure an equitable outcome for all our young people. However, looking at the current invalidated results for our maintained schools, Enfield is currently at 58.6% 5+ English & Maths. This is slightly above the National average as it is currently assessed. (If we include the academies this would fall to 54.5%). This cannot be described as disastrous. Since the results, one of our secondary schools which was seriously affected by the shifting grade boundaries has been judged outstanding by Ofsted on all measures. The School Improvement Service is working closely with all schools to identify those pupils particularly affected and putting in place intensive support for Heads of English & Maths to prepare them to meet the challenges of new grade boundaries.

Question 22 from Councillor Lemonides to Councillor Stafford, Cabinet Member for Finance and Property

The Conservative Group on Enfield like to complain about Labour's economic competency. Do you think they are financially literate? Conservative Government borrowing is up a staggering £802 per second compared to last year despite their claim to be cutting borrowing.

Reply from Councillor Stafford

One must not be too harsh on the financial plight caused by this Conservative Coalition Government. After 13 years of boom, economic success and growth delivered by the previous Labour Administration, it is only to be anticipated that the current Government would pall by comparison. Councillor Lemonides is correct in highlighting that the national financial gloom contrasts sharply with the prudent sound financial management practised in Enfield.

Question 23 from Councillor Kaye to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

Given the statistics for Child Obesity in Enfield are significantly above National and London averages, what actions has the Council taken since May 2010 to address this major health concern?

Reply from Councillor Orhan

The Children and Young People's Plan 2011 – 2015 has the following performance indicators which are monitored by the Children's Trust Board.

- Obesity in primary school aged children in Reception: 12% by 2011/12
- Obesity in primary school aged children in Year 6: 21% by 2011/12

The Children's Trust 2012 Review reported the following measures put in place address childhood obesity:

- Under 5s health and obesity training has been provided to a range of practitioners including Parent Engagement Panel members (over 70 people trained). The aim is to increase the number of information providers and advisors to parents/carers and children to keep them healthy.
- Schools have been supported by various means (including Enfield PE Team) to engage fully with opportunities presented by the run up to the 2012 Olympics through a variety of sports and recreational activities. Activities have included:
 - ❖ 360 pupils participated in multi skills athletics challenges at Lee Valley Athletics Centre;
 - ❖ 50 pupils took part in a football fun day;
 - ❖ 12 schools participated in a Paralympics fun event for children with physical and learning impairments;
 - ❖ 1300 pupils danced on stage at Millfield Theatre for the Enfield's Schools Dance Festival;

Enfield's Childhood Healthy Weight Strategy 2011 – 2021 was originally produced in 2009 but has since been updated to respond to the rising threat of childhood obesity in Enfield. Tackling obesity requires long-term action and requires concerted and sustained effort by all partners. Our aims are to:

- Halt the trend: stop levels increasing and maintain current obesity levels until 2015;
- Reverse the trend: by 2021 see a reduction in rates of childhood obesity.

The strategy is divided into 5 areas:

1. Promoting healthy lifestyles
2. Creating healthy environments
3. Workforce and community development
4. Establishing a care pathway to meet different levels of need
5. Making effective use of data

The strategy was signed off by the Children's Trust Board in October 2011.

Progress includes:

- The Child Health Steering Group represents excellent multi-agency working.
- Participation in the Government's 'Eat Better, Start Better' programme. We will be training staff in early year's settings to enable them to deliver healthy eating messages.

- A number of information campaigns – particularly through the Children's Centres
- Let's Get Cooking is a national network of cooking clubs that has been used in many schools across the Borough and another 20 will start in the next six months. The aim of the clubs is that children will learn new healthy eating skills and replicate these at home.
- The Sport Development Team has been involved in a wide range of developments to promote easier access to a range of physical activity opportunities.
- The Commissioning Team work very closely with health and commission early years practitioners to focus on the health and well being of children under five at all levels of their development. Much of the work focuses on feeding and nutrition.
- The Change for Life 8 week programme has been embedded across the Children's Centres and focuses on the promotion of physical activity and healthy eating.
- Children's Centres are being used to deliver the Healthy Child Programme run by the Health Visiting Service. This includes new parents groups providing support around nutrition, healthy eating, weaning etc.
- Since 2009, Health Visitors have used Children's Centres to deliver the 2 year development reviews, and since 2010 to deliver the 3½ year development reviews which include advice about nutrition and healthy eating.
- Resources are set aside each year to devolve to Children's Centres for local commissioning to support a number of priorities, a key one of these is anti-obesity work and many centres commission their own programmes to support this.
- Children's Centres have developed a network of parents to provide breastfeeding support to new mums. 12 new volunteers have been trained to provide this support and a further two cohorts will be trained by the end of March 2013.
- Issued the Play Strategy 2012 – 2015 with the aim of encouraging all developments across the Council to consider the development of play and play space encouraging families and young people to become more active.
- The School Nurses are commissioned to weigh and measure every child

in Enfield in Reception and Year 6, some 7,500 children in total as part of the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP). Last year the NCMP was made more effective locally by using the Department of Health parental feedback tool to inform parents of their children's weight status; this was piloted with approximately one fifth of parents. Following last year's successful pilot this year we have sent results to all families. Where a child is overweight or obese, they have been offered support from health trainers.

- During 2011 a local weight management programme was set up following a successful bid for Local Area Agreement funding. The programme was successfully evaluated, but unfortunately came to an end when funding ceased. Training was provided to schools and Children's Centre staff to encourage them to deliver Change 4 Life programmes and provide sustainability for the programme.
- The Road Safety Team worked with schools on their travel plans to promote and encourage more children to walk cycle or scooter to school.
- Working with Environment, Street Scene and Planning Policy Team to restrict planning permission to takeaway premises within proximity of schools.
- Influencing the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and Health and Well Being Strategy to ensure that childhood obesity remains top priority with regard to commissioning children's health services.
- Implemented a "Free School Meals (FSM) Pilot" in Eastfield Primary School. The aim of the pilot scheme is to provide a free school meal to every child that wanted one, regardless of eligibility, to see whether it had an impact on children's weight, body mass index (BMI), behaviour attendance and attainment. Initially it was agreed that the pilot would run for 2 years, 2011/12 – 2012/13, however, it has now been agreed that the pilot should run for a further year to 2013/2014. At the end of year 1, 90.6% of children at Eastfield are having a FSM. The parent's survey showed that 70% of parents believed that their child was doing better at school as a result of the pilot and 82% believed that their child was eating healthier as a result of the pilot. The school has yet to submit the attainment and behaviour data, but anecdotally the Headteacher reports that in KS1 all children have made above the 3 points of progress expected.
- The School Catering Service ensures that their all their menus meet the Government's food and nutrient based standards. They have launched an ethnically diverse menu which they hope will make the meals more appealing to children and young people. There is currently a campaign to encourage families to check whether they are entitled to a free school

meal.

We believe that the Childhood Obesity Strategy is comprehensive and has put in place a wide-range of initiatives across our partners to address this area. Reducing childhood obesity is undoubtedly a challenge in Enfield and changes will not be seen immediately, hence a 10 year Strategy. CMB have agreed, as a priority, further research into this area starting in January 2013.

Question 24 from Councillor Cazimoglu to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment

Could Councillor Bond update the Council on the progress being made to improve our Parks service and what investment is being made for the future.

Reply from Councillor Bond

- The merger of parks into one operational Division with waste has generated a new streamlined management structure across the services within 18 months.
- Enfield In Bloom continues to win awards.
- We have retained our Green Flag parks.
- Volunteer hours are increasing and are now reviewed and agreed and logged and properly organised.
- We have already invested over £300K in new parks equipment – with more to come – a further £170K this year. We had to throw out 30% of existing equipment due to a lack of investment by the previous administration.
- We have a full apprenticeship programme in parks linked to Capel Manor training programme – from which we have employed 4 gardeners and 2 arborists and currently have 11 apprentices working with us.
- We are working with the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) re the Phase 2 HLF bid for Forty Hall that will bring a further £2M investment to this park.
- We are to launch an events strategy for parks in November at the annual parks Friends Conference.
- At the same time we will launch the Parks Friends Agreement – whereby there is a formal agreement with the Council and the Friends Group(s) in terms of expectation and responsibility.
- We have received a number of bids from community groups to take over assets in parks and run community or social enterprise operations.
- We've made £600 savings per day through a reorganisation.

Question 25 from Councillor Kaye to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

Given the statistics for Child Poverty in Enfield are significantly above National and London averages, what actions has the Council taken since May 2010 to address child poverty?

Reply from Councillor Orhan

In May 2010 we commissioned the child poverty needs assessment to better understand the factors affecting child poverty so that we can work with partners and the community to provide a better future for children and families in the Borough. It is also a requirement of the Child Poverty Act (Part 2, Section 21) that the Local Authority prepares and publishes an assessment of need of children living in poverty in its area. The needs assessment told us that 37% of Enfield's children live in poverty. The ward with the highest number of children in poverty is Edmonton Green with over half the resident children living in poverty.

As a result of the assessment the Council produced the Child and Family Poverty Strategy which was consulted on between Aug – Nov 2011. The Strategy and Action Plan was approved by full Council in September 2012.

The Strategy has 7 key aims:

- Aim 1: Developing employment, education, training and skills
- Aim 2: Maximising income and supporting financial resilience
- Aim 3: Supporting families to achieve their aspirations
- Aim 4: Improving children and young people's experiences
- Aim 5: Narrowing the gap – reducing health inequalities
- Aim 6: Encouraging the development of sustainable housing
- Aim 7: Reducing and preventing crime

Neil Rousell, Director of Regeneration, Leisure and Culture became the Council's Child Poverty Champion in 2011-12.

We are now working towards implementing the action plan, and can report that:

- The Children's Centre Commissioning Team fund the Citizens Advice Bureau to ensure that young families are able to maximise their income and access benefits advice. The workers also run money management workshops.
- Edmonton Children's Centre have directly employed a Welfare Benefits Advisor. They also commission services to encourage families into work - ESOL classes at all levels, confidence building and some literacy and numeracy.
- Services are provided to families living in temporary accommodation.
- This year we have also made a donation to the food bank, to be spent on baby milk, nappies and other essentials for families with children under five.

- We are delivering the Reed in Partnership programme. This programme is designed to get people back into work and is funded by European Social Fund. The Council is working in partnership with Reed Employment by referring people to the scheme. Of the 68 referrals, 53 have been via Children's Centres. We are tracking whether families are accepted onto the programme and monitoring their outcomes. (since March 2012).
- Children's Centres have commissioned "Women Like Us" to deliver 3 x 4 week programmes supporting families regarding work readiness, targeting 45 families in this financial year. 3 programmes ran in the last financial year and supported approximately 40 families. (Since Nov 2011)
- It should be noted that the child poverty situation may be exacerbated by the national changes to the welfare benefits system and financial support for poorer households. In addition, there may be an influx of lower income households into the Borough from inner London. We have been fully engaged with the Council's Benefit Taskforce identifying those families most at risk from changes/reforms to the benefits system. Community Access, Childcare & Early Years (CACEY) have also developed a promotional programme of information for families to help them through the initial transition period as follows:
 - ❖ have run a joint promotional campaign with Job Centre Plus to advise lone parents of the initial change of moving to Job Seekers Allowance from Income Support when they have a child aged 6 (May 2012) and will be advising parents of the next change from August 2012.
 - ❖ intend to run a promotional campaign with regard to Child Benefit from December 2012 to advise parents of the changes.
 - ❖ intend to run a promotional campaign from March 2013 to advise parents about the changes to tax credits.
- The Play Development team continue to offer parents/carers best possible value at after school clubs and holiday playschemes, as well as open access play provision and "Reach Out and Play" sessions.
- We have implemented the Children's Centres 'Core Purpose' strategy. The core purpose sets out to improve outcomes for young children and their families, with a particular focus on the most disadvantaged, so children are equipped for life and ready for school, no matter what their background or family circumstances.
- Barriers to Access Steering Group – this group works with our partners to look at barriers to take up of employment and childcare.

- Targeted outreach programme to support the 2 Year Old Offer. By September 2013 disadvantaged/vulnerable 2 years olds will be offered 15 hours of free early education. We are working with settings to raise quality to best support delivery of the offer.
- Participation in the Government's 'Eat Better, Start Better' programme. We will be training staff in early years settings to enable them to deliver healthy eating messages.
- We have ensured that workless adult families are included in the targeting of our Troubled Families provision, including those who may be impacted by benefit reform.
- We have successfully exceeded our targets against those recorded as NEET.

Question 26 from Councillor Cranfield to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council

Can the Leader of the Council define the word 'Pleb' and can he give us an example of when this word would be used in Enfield?

Reply from Councillor Taylor

I suspect the Councillor is referring, by inference, to Andrew Mitchell MP, the privately educated, Cambridge educated, investment banker. As you know, he resigned for allegedly using this word to denigrate the police in Downing Street.

The word dates back to Ancient Rome and was a term for the non-aristocrats who could not stand for high office. Today it is value laden, derogatory and suggests inferiority.

Despite a splash of eau de Cologne, the stench of Tory elitism has resurfaced vividly with this term.

I would advise Members opposite to refrain from referring to Council staff or residents with this term. My side requires no such advice.

Question 27 from Councillor Kaye to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

Those Councillors who attended the SPOE (Single Point of Entry) launch on Friday 19th October 2012 heard that Enfield has 3,000 young people referred via the CAF (Common Assessment Form) flagging serious concerns. How many CAFs have been referred in each of the last three academic years 2011-12, 2010-11, 2009-10 and can these be broken down into pre-school, Nursery, Yr. 1, Yr.2, Yr.3, Yr. 4, Yr. 5, Yr.6, Yr. 7, Yr. 8, Yr. 9, Yr. 10, Yr. 11, Yr. 12, Yr.

13, any that are 16+ and not in full time education?

Reply from Councillor Orhan

Within Enfield the use of CAFs and integrated working agenda (with teams around the family) was first launched in April 2008. Agencies were asked to complete a CAF identifying any child, young person, family requiring additional services (outside of their own service delivery) to meet the assessed need.

We are unable to breakdown the information into each school year as requested as we are still collating information manually until we are able to retrieve statistics from our electronic database E-CAF. It is expected that data will be able to be retrieved in this way from 2013.

In order to respond to the Councillors query data has been collated manually as best as we can from the following years:

April 2009 - March 2010

April 2010- March 2011

April 2011- March 2012

It is not possible to identify data for each school year group but we have collated data for pre-school, primary school, secondary school and others as follows:

Between April 2009 -March 2010:

818 CAFs were received

26 were completed by pre-school agencies

293 were completed by primary schools

223 were completed by secondary schools

17 CAFs were for young people aged 16-18

Between April 2010 - March 2011:

736 CAFs were received

122 pre-school

263 primary school

258 secondary school

29 CAFs were for young people aged between 16-18

Between April 2011- March 2012:

587 CAFs were received

103 pre-school

271 primary school

165 secondary school

10 CAFs were for young people aged between 16-18

For the first 6 months of this year we have received over **500** CAFs.

We do have CAFs by age but it would be several days work to put it into specific ages as requested by the Councillor.

At this present time I am unable to identify primary presenting concerns from back dated information therefore unable to give a true representation on NEET as referred through CAF. From next month we will be capturing primary presenting concerns at the point a CAF is completed. This will allow us to be able to report on NEET issues as well as many other initial presenting concerns.

Question 28 from Councillor Keazor to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council

Can the Leader of the Council advise it's membership of when it would be acceptable to use first class fares on Council business?

Reply from Councillor Taylor

I think this question arises as a result of the media interest in George Osborne's Standard Class rail ticket whilst sitting in First Class.

Although it is not specific in our member's allowances scheme, it is Council policy that all members travel by the cheapest means, which we would normally assume to be second class travel. We do not pay for first class travel.

Question 29 from Councillor Kaye to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

How many children are there in each Year Group being educated outside of the Borough (possibly at Special Schools) at the Council's expense and what is the cost of each such education plan by Year Group?

Reply from Councillor Orhan

No child's education can be described as being funded at the Council's expense. Money for pupil places is funded from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) which is allocated directly by the Government. If a child/young person requires provision outside mainstream or Enfield Local Authority provision, this is also funded from the DSG. This would be the case for pupils with SEN, Looked After Children (LAC) or those complex needs cases that require residential out of borough provision.

We currently have a total of 212 children and young people in a range of schools, including mainstream, special and residential schools, placed outside

of the borough. This is at a cost of £5m which is funded from the DSG.

However, we also have children placed in our borough by other Local Authorities, for whom we receive income for their placements. In 2011/12 we received £1.062m for such placements in our mainstream and special schools.

Our net expenditure therefore is £4m. However, a significant proportion of this relates to highly specialist and residential placements, particularly for LAC and those with complex needs. The table below shows the number of pupils and the costs by year group.

LONDON BOROUGH OF ENFIELD'S STATEMENTED PUPILS BEING EDUCATED OUTSIDE THE BOROUGH

This information relates to children in each year group being educated outside the borough – this includes residential and day independent placements, mainstream outborough and special outborough placements.

SCHOOL YEAR GROUP	£	Number of pupils per year group
RECEPTION	18,287	2
YEAR 1	8,641	1
YEAR 2	128,624	7
YEAR 3	105,953	6
YEAR 4	189,166	5
YEAR 5	76,989	8
YEAR 6	249,640	13
YEAR 7	107,285	10
YEAR 8	362,389	14
YEAR 9	535,297	19
YEAR 10	655,953	27
YEAR 11	690,946	27
YEAR 12	702,698	28
YEAR 13	616,964	25
YEAR 14	269,451	13
YEAR 15	282,482	7
TOTAL CHARGE	5,000,765	212

PLEASE NOTE - All children's education are funded from the dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and this is the information that has been provided.

Income raised for financial year 11/12	
Mainstream	£510,093
Special	£552,877
Total income raised	£1,062,970

Question 30 from Councillor McGowan to Councillor Stafford, Cabinet

Member for Finance and Property

The Opposition has suggested in a recent press article that Council consultations are intrusive and asked irrelevant questions about gender and race. Is this critical allegation accurate?

Reply from Councillor Stafford

The view of the Council is that it is not. Council consultations are designed to illicit the views and opinions of our residents and service users. The Council conducts an extensive range of engagement activities, which help to ensure our services remain relevant, meeting needs and aspirations, while also delivering Value for Money.

Excellent services are predicated on good engagement. In terms of collecting demographic data from respondents, the Council's policy is that we only collect information that is appropriate within the context of the consultations.

The Council is committed to 'fairness for all' and best practice; we seek the views of all sections of our population, service users and non-service users.

Under the Equality Act 2010, the Council is also obliged to

- Eliminate discrimination
- Advance equality of opportunity and access
- Foster good relations between different groups in the community.

In determining relevance and proportionality, we must have regard to protected characteristics, as defined by law. These are:

1. Race
2. Disability
3. Gender
4. Age
5. Religious belief
6. Sexual orientation
7. Gender reassignment
8. Pregnancy and maternity
9. Marriage and civil partnership (eliminating discrimination only)

The gathering of equalities monitoring data is used to analyse results from consultations by these key groups within the community. It helps to ensure that all members of the community have equal access to our services and are not unintentionally discriminated against. It helps to inform how services should be developed and improved and is an integral part of the service planning process.

The questions we ask in our consultations are relevant, proportionate and designed to deliver on our key strategic aims of fairness for all, growth and sustainability and strong communities.

Question 31 from Councillor Kaye to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Children & Young People

In order to take up a school place are primary school age children living in Enfield having to travel further for their education than they did four years ago?

Reply from Councillor Orhan

The Local Authority has not collected this data during the period requested. This data could be misleading, as parents do choose schools that are not their local school for a number of reasons e.g. Wolfson Hillel is our only Jewish Primary School and therefore pupils will travel a considerable distance to get to that school. Also, once a parent has chosen a primary school, they may then subsequently move house and wish to remain at that school, any siblings would still be entitled to attend that school even if the family live a considerable distance.

However, we do monitor every year the percentage of parents that get their preferred choice of schools. There is only a direct comparison over the last 2 years as the system has changed. Full co-ordination across the London boroughs came in for the 2011 admission round. We have been able to maintain 94% of parents being able to secure a place at one of their preferred schools for the last two years.

Question 32 from Councillor Hasan to Councillor Stafford, Cabinet Member for Finance and Property

The Opposition has suggested in a recent press article that consultation on Welfare Benefit Reform could result in pensioners suffering cuts. Is this critical allegation accurate?

Reply from Councillor Stafford

No it is not. We have made it clear throughout the consultation that we want to protect pensioners from cuts. We await the outcome of the passing of the legislation to see whether this will be possible once the Government's scheme is clear.

Question 33 from Councillor Kaye to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Children & Young People

Did the Cabinet member for Children & Young People attend the Academies Show in May in London or is she planning to attend the Academies Show in Birmingham later this year?

Reply from Councillor Orhan

I get invited to attend conferences on a regular basis and work in Enfield comes first. I did not attend the Academies show in May, and I will not be attending later this year.

Question 34 from Councillor Levy to Councillor Stafford, Cabinet Member for Finance and Property

The Opposition has suggested in a recent press article that this Administration has bankrupted the Council. Is this critical allegation accurate?

Reply from Councillor Stafford

No it is not. The Council's finances continue to be strong, despite the tough economic times. I am proud of our track record, which balances strong financial management with social justice. The District Auditor has recently reviewed our finance, and, for the second year running given us the highest marks possible in the annual Financial Resilience review.

Question 35 from Councillor Kaye to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Children & Young People

With through schools being proposed, what consultation has there been with parents and governors at Broomfield School and Edmonton County?

How much would the expansion of Broomfield and Edmonton County cost?

Are there any Primary Schools with vacant places?

Are there any Secondary schools with vacant places?

How many children still do not have a place at an Enfield school

Given Broomfield School's experience of special measures should it not be concentrating on improving its existing education services before embarking on opening up primary classes? Edmonton County only achieved 48% A*-C including English and Maths in 2012. Again, should Edmonton County focus on improving its secondary standards and not be distracted by expanding into the primary sector?

Reply from Councillor Orhan

At Edmonton County the consultation process is underway. It began on 26 September and the informal consultation stage runs until 31 October. Two public meetings were held at the school and Dr Tranter has consulted with her Governors and at a recent Governing Body meeting all Governors present voted unanimously to support the proposals.

Broomfield is a Foundation School and as such has the responsibility for its own consultation process. The Council has met with Broomfield's Governing Body who voted in favour of expanding to become an all-through school. However, with agreement between the Governing Body and the Council, this will be deferred until a future date when the school has made sufficient progress to be removed from the category.

- How much would the expansion of Broomfield and Edmonton County cost?

It is likely that the expansion of Edmonton County will cost in the region of £3.5 million.

There are no current costings for Broomfield, as the feasibility study is not yet developed with the school, and will only be developed once the decision to proceed or not is made.

- Are there any Primary Schools with vacant places?

Yes - There are a number of reasons why some schools have vacancies (e.g. pupils leaving, parental preference, religious criteria) and the Admissions Service work with schools to fill the vacancies as soon as we are made aware of them.

- Are there any Secondary schools with vacant places?

Yes - There are a number of reasons why some schools have vacancies (e.g. pupils leaving, parental preference, religious criteria) and the Admissions Service work with schools to fill the vacancies as soon as we are made aware of them.

- How many children still do not have a place at an Enfield school?

There is sufficient capacity across the secondary sector for all children to have access to a secondary school place.

In relation to primary, as of 25.10.12 there are currently 178 primary aged children who are without a current offer of a primary school place.

- Given Broomfield School's experience of special measures should it not be concentrating on improving its existing education services before embarking on opening up primary classes? Edmonton County only achieved 48% A*-C including English and Maths in 2012. Again, should Edmonton County focus on improving its secondary standards and not be distracted by expanding into the primary sector-

The decision to expand any school is based on a number of criteria including local demand, available space and of course educational benefit. The Headteacher of Edmonton County School has had considerable experience in developing all age provision. She is determined to ensure that the needs of the secondary pupils will not be affected by the primary expansion and there will be clear benefits for both age groups in terms of enhanced facilities, supporting transition and developing staffing and effective cross phase working for all abilities. (Edmonton County results are now 51% A*-C and likely to rise further).

With regards to Broomfield there is a real shortage of primary places in the vicinity of the school and no space to build a new school. We are of course concerned about the pressure on a school currently in Special Measures which is why the start date for this expansion has been deferred. Also the Local Authority School Improvement Service, working closely with outstanding primary Headteachers, have guaranteed that they will take the lead in the initial implementation of the scheme while Broomfield continues to concentrate on making rapid improvement.

Question 36 from Councillor Constantinides to Councillor Stafford, Cabinet Member for Finance and Property

The Opposition Leader suggested in a recent press article that Capital Expenditure had been diverted from Enfield North to build a community facility in Edmonton. Is this critical allegation accurate?

Reply from Councillor Stafford

No, it is not. We are investing in Enfield North and Edmonton.

Question 37 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Goddard Cabinet Member for Business and Regeneration

With reference to your reply to my Question 37 at last Council, I was referring to a meeting on 4 November 2010. Can you confirm to Council that when the Aessica Pharmaceuticals site (now the proposed Highways depot) was mentioned to you by Bill Price at that meeting as a suitable council site, you responded by saying that the council had no need for it and no money to purchase the site?

Reply from Councillor Goddard

As I stated for the last Council Councillors' Questions, I think you refer to a meeting about CCTV held about 2 years ago. I recall, but not in any detail, Mr Price raised the future of the site. What is clear is that the landowner made no contact with the Council, and the property was not marketed publicly.

Question 38 from Councillor Simon to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member

for Environment

Could Councillor Bond update the Council on the Brimsdown Avenue petrol station situation?

Reply from Councillor Bond

The Council has been working closely with the agent for the owners of the site to attempt to remove the squatters and all of the vehicles they are storing on the site. The landowner has secured a court date when they will seek to obtain an eviction order to evict the squatters. If this action is successful the Council will expect the owner to clear the land and secure the site to prevent any further unauthorised occupation. It is understood that the court date is likely to be in the new year.

The Council has advised the landowner's agent that it has been more than patient in its approach. The further delays in this matter will again leave the local residents with what can only be described as an eyesore within the Brimsdown area.

We are looking at options for gaining entry to the site in order to further fully assess the environmental impact of the current condition of the land on the illegal tenants and surrounding properties and residents. Following any visit and dependent on the findings we will consider the use of appropriate powers to address the issues on site.

Question 39 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Goddard Cabinet Member for Business and Regeneration

In your reply to my question 37 at the last Council you also said "What is clear is that the landowner made no contact with the council...". Will you now accept that you were mistaken, in that CBRE the agent acting on the disposal of the Aessica Pharmaceuticals site brought it to the attention of Navigant, a consultancy instructed by the Council to find a site for the consolidation and relocation of the depots, in 2010?

Reply from Councillor Goddard

This was not mentioned as I recall in the meeting that I attended and therefore I have no knowledge of this.

Question 40 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment

As Cabinet member for Environment can you inform the Council (as a separate answer to each numbered point):

1. Why Navigant was instructed in the search for a site for the consolidation and relocation of the depots?
2. What were Navigant's terms of reference?
3. Specifically, were Navigant required to report back on all sites coming to their attention which might be suitable?
4. When did Navigant report on the Suez Road site and to whom?
5. What fee was paid to Navigant?
6. Who negotiated the terms for the lease of the former Aessica site to the council?

Reply from Councillor Bond

The Agreement to Lease has been negotiated by Property and Legal on behalf of the Council with assistance from Navigant.

Question 41 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment

With reference to the Council's search for a new depot site (now the former Aessica Pharmaceuticals site) will he confirm that the Suez Road site was the preferred choice of officers as being "the best operational solution available"?

Reply from Councillor Bond

No.

Question 42 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment

When and why was the Suez Road site rejected as a potential location for the new depot given that it was considered by officers to be "the best operational solution available"? Were you consulted about this decision to reject the site, before it appeared in the Cabinet report No 16 and if not, which Cabinet Member was consulted?

Reply from Councillor Bond

The site was rejected due to proposed lease arrangements.

Question 43 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council

Reflecting on the decision at the July Council meeting to proceed with a lease of the former Aessica site at an initial rent of £650k per annum for 40 years with no opportunity to break, can he explain why he believes that council tax payers who, over that period will pay a minimum of £26million in rental alone, aside from rates and running costs, will have had value for money from this

transaction?

Reply from Councillor Taylor

Councillor Neville should be the one reflecting. The previous administration repeatedly failed, over an 8 year period, to secure long term depot provision. In fact the refuse service is on a leased site, with no protection under the Landlord and Tenant Act, which means the council, can be evicted at any time after June 2013. No alternative depot means no refuse service, so a long term depot is essential for our residents. Furthermore the District Valuer has stated that the rental value for this site is appropriate.

Question 44 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council

Following the Council meeting on 4 July when the proposed lease to the council of the Aessica site was raised by me, debated and voted upon, did you request officers to attempt to renegotiate the principal terms of the lease, in particular the lack of any break clause over the 40 year term, and if not why not?

Reply from Councillor Taylor

Full Council agreed as you are aware the recommendations of the report including the term of the lease.

Officers advised me that there are no break clauses in the lease, as would be best practice, to protect the council's investment and provide complete security of tenure.

Question 45 from Councillor East to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for the Environment

Whilst the foxes in the borough contribute to the unique character of Enfield, some residents in Chase ward have been affected by leashes of foxes skulking in their gardens, creating noise, mess and unnerving residents as they become increasingly bold and enter houses.

What is the council policy for dealing with foxes when they become established in residential areas and cause issues by fouling, attacking domestic pets and disturbing refuse?

What services are available from the council to help residents who are experiencing such difficulties caused by foxes - particularly some of our older residents who may not be able to deal with the issues easily?

Reply from Councillor Bond

The introduction of wheelie bins throughout the borough should help with the storage of waste in a manner that prevents foxes breaking open bin bags. We have found that areas where wheelie bins have been installed, and where they are used correctly, the instances of fox and pest sightings have reduced.

We advise residents disturbed by foxes to:

- Repair any holes in fences
- Not to leave food scraps outside
- Keep grounds well maintained to remove overgrown areas that could provide shelter
- Regularly watch for holes dug under sheds.

Further advice on foxes can be found at the fox project website (www.foxproject.org.uk) or on their advice line 01892 824111 (open Monday - Friday 9am - noon). Alternatively they have a recorded helpline on fox deterrence on 01892 826222.

A private pest control company may be able to provide assistance in the removal of foxes in a specific location. We do not hold any details of private pest control companies that provide this service so advise the public to contact companies themselves.

Question 46 from Councillor Zetter to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for the Environment

What is the cost to the Council of the re-tendering process for the Trent Park Cafe?

What is the cost to the original bidders of the re-tendering process for Trent Park Cafe?

Albeit on a smaller scale, how does Councillor Bond reconcile calls from the Labour Party for the Transport Secretary to resign for similar types of error with respect to the tendering of the West Coast Rail route when he has responsibility for similar errors at Enfield Council?

Reply from Councillor Bond

On a smaller scale? The Government's West Coast line fiasco has probably cost taxpayers £40m and the decision was only reversed after Virgin took the government to court. It's also alleged (in the Daily Mail) that government spent £1m on trying to nationalise the service before going cap in hand to Virgin at the last minute.

In comparison the Council's internal officers identified an administrative error with the tendering process. Being completely transparent officers decided to re-

run the tender. Unlike the Government's west coast line fiasco no politicians were involved.

The cost of re-tendering won't be known until afterwards. But it won't be anything like the cost of the Government's West Coast fiasco

We don't know the costs to bidders. But it won't be anything like those associated with the Government's West Coast fiasco.

Question 47 from Councillor Lavender to Councillor Bond, Cabinet member for Environment

A few weeks ago new double yellow lines were painted on Sheringham Avenue, near the junction with Prince George Avenue, on the triangle in front of St Thomas's Oakwood. On 4th October residents received a letter from Enfield Council about a Carriageway Resurfacing Improvement Scheme that is going to resurface this section of Sheringham Avenue on 10th and 11th October. Two weeks prior to that double yellow lines had been painted on the very surface of road that was resurfaced. Will Councillor Bond please ensure that there is better planning in future of such matters?

Concerning the painting of the double yellow lines, residents were asked to write to the traffic consultation TG52/1134. Certain residents did not receive a reply, even though the letter from Enfield Council and Halcrow said, 'any objections will be carefully considered and we will write to residents again once a final decision has been made'.

Will Councillor Bond please confirm the number of letters sent about the scheme in the first place, the number of representations received by the Council and the number of letters sent by the Council about the scheme once a final decision was made?

Will Councillor Bond please also explain why the double yellow lines were necessary in the first place given that a single line was already there.

Local residents do not consider the introduction of these double yellow lines in this matter as the best use of public resources. Does Councillor Bond support these residents' views?

Reply from Councillor Bond

The new Oakwood Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ), which includes Sheringham Avenue, had a specific start date and, whilst it was understood that resurfacing would follow shortly, due to parking problems and residents' expectations of the new controls, a conscious decision was made to lay the yellow lines.

I accept this would be a temporary situation before the road was resurfaced.

However, these controls were introduced to help maintain highway safety and, as I'm sure you would agree, it's impossible to put a value on someone's life.

With regards to letters, numerous documents were sent to Oakwood residents during our extensive 3 stage consultation process. 2459 consultation leaflets were distributed across the entire Oakwood area at stage 1. 1079 were distributed at stage 2 across the existing CPZ and in streets that had expressed an interest in an expanded CPZ at stage 1. A similar number were distributed at the final statutory stage, and 14 formal objections were received.

I approved a report on the 21 May that recommended some minor expansions of the Oakwood CPZ and the introduction of double yellow lines at junctions for safety reasons. The report also carefully considered all 14 formal objections to these proposals. On the 25 June 157 letters were posted to residents within the CPZ expansions or adjacent to new double yellow lines. This letter gave details of the new scheme and went to all 14 objectors and households adjacent to the new double yellow lines on Sheringham Avenue. However, unfortunately it would appear a number of these letters did not reach their destination.

While this is regrettable, the safety and congestion argument for the double yellow lines is clear. Sheringham Avenue / Prince George Avenue is a busy junction that needs to be kept clear at all times of the day and night to ensure safety and the free flow of traffic. Understandably some local residents are concerned about the subsequent loss of on street parking. However the need to maintain good visibility at this junction outweighs these concerns, especially when the houses next to it have off street parking.

Question 48 from Councillor Smith to Councillor Oyken, Cabinet Member for Housing

When the Conservatives were in control of Enfield Council it submitted an audacious bid to the Mayor of London to assist in the wholesale purchase of the properties which fronted the North Circular Road and to regenerate the area. That bid was successful, demonstrated Boris Johnson's commitment to Enfield and helped to regenerate the south west corner of the Borough. The Conservative Mayor of London Boris Johnson has now launched a £100 million fund for new intermediate housing.

Bids are being invited for a slice of the funding, which the Greater London Authority says is aimed at providing homes for people 'on a range of modest incomes'.

The fund will be open to developers of intermediate housing, including councils, housing associations and house builders. It will provide homes for households on a maximum joint income of £64,300 a year, or up to £77,200 a year for families with children purchasing larger homes.

Boris has said: 'London's success is built by its workforce and if we are to maintain our vitality as a city we have to provide Londoners with a fairer housing deal. For an increasing number of Londoners the capital's current housing market is just not working and failure to deal with the issue could lead to a damaging exodus that will hamper our competitiveness.' I am sure that both parties agree with these sentiments.

Organisations have until 30 November to submit their bids. Given the important housing regeneration schemes being undertaken in the Borough, which the Government's housing revenue reforms have helped to make financially viable, given the stresses which have been placed on regeneration schemes by land values and prices paid, particularly for example in places such as Cat Hill and Ponders End and given the Council's properties continuing to lay derelict in Town and Chase wards, will Councillor Oykenor confirm whether Enfield Council has submitted any bids, if so what those bids are and if not, why not?

Reply from Councillor Oykenor

The Mayor's Housing Covenant funding offer was made at the beginning of October. The Council's Housing and Regeneration departments are currently working on a joint bid with the aim of supporting first time buyers to access affordable home ownership products in our neighbourhood regeneration areas.

This bid will be submitted before the 30th November deadline however as discussions are at an early stage no detail is yet available.

Question 49 from Councillor Headley to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council

I understand that meetings have been held between Enfield Council and Haringey Council concerning Haringey's proposals to sell off Bull Lane recreation ground. How successful have those meetings been in safeguarding this public open space for public use. Given the acknowledged pressures on school places has the Council considered purchasing the site for education purposes and if not why not?

Reply from Councillor Taylor

Both Haringey and London Borough of Enfield are committed to retaining the current space at Bull Lane playing fields.

An adjacent site is currently being reviewed by London Borough of Haringey for redevelopment purposes and it may be necessary to review access arrangements to the south of the open space with a resultant small land take, however, it is certainly not the intention of London Borough of Haringey to substantially build on Bull Lane as has previously been suggested.

It is anticipated that any potential proposals for the area will be capable of being shared with local residents by the end of the calendar year. I am also pleased to advise that in support of this statement Haringey have this week agreed to withdraw their 2003 planning application which contained the residential development proposal. Alternative options for the site will no doubt be discussed in the future."

Question 50 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council

Will Councillor Taylor confirm that no officer or consultant employed by the Council is paid through a service company whether for the purposes of avoiding employer's contributions or otherwise?

Reply from Councillor Taylor

I can confirm that no officers employed by the Council are paid through a service company for the purposes of avoiding employer's contributions or otherwise. I can also confirm that no consultants hired by the council are paid through a service company for the purpose of avoiding employer's contributions.

Question 51 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Stafford, Cabinet member for Finance & Property

With the continuing pressures on the Council's finances, will Councillor Stafford tell the council what steps he is taking to renegotiate some local conditions of service to ensure better value for money for the council tax payer against the present economic background?

Reply from Councillor Stafford

The Council is aware of the need to provide a set of local conditions of service which are fit for purpose in the current financial climate balancing the requirement to reduce expenditure with the need to reward staff for their achievements. At this point in time, there is no intention to break away from national pay and conditions of service.

Question 52 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Stafford, Cabinet member for Finance & Property

Could he tell the Council what steps he has taken to introduce flatter organisational structures within departments to bring about a lower ratio of managers to those managed?

Reply from Councillor Stafford

Each year the Council reviews the organisational structures to ensure they effectively deliver services to the local community. In the last 2 years there have been a number of reviews which have resulted in the creation of flatter management structures.

Question 53 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment

Please would the Cabinet Member for Environment explain why there has been no visible progress to clear the former petrol station on Brimsdown Avenue of its gypsy encampment?

Reply from Councillor Bond

That's because legal action is only visible if you're in court. Please refer to question 38.

Question 54 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Charalambous, Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure, Youth & Localism

Please would the Cabinet Member update the chamber on when the upgrade of Southgate Leisure Centre will be finally completed?

Reply from Councillor Charalambous

In response to Councillor Laban's request for an update on the handover of Southgate Leisure Centre; the centre was handed over by the building contractor on Friday 26 October with an agreed list of outstanding snagging items. The centre is now fully open to the public. This is later than expected as there were a number of issues which delayed the project: This included the discovery of asbestos that was not known about, the construction of one of the original walls meant there were delays whilst it was supported before building work commenced and finally the Builders at the facility have been struggling to get the site clean enough to hand back in an acceptable condition to both the Council and Fusion Lifestyle. Once the builders hand the facility to Fusion there will be a short period of time before the building is operational and a further 3 - 4 weeks whilst snagging takes place, external landscaping is conducted and the removal of the temporary buildings is completed.

Question 55 From Councillor Laban to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment

Please would the Cabinet Member for Environment consider reopening Church Road in order to alleviate the dreadful traffic on South Street Ponders End that its closure has created?

Reply from Councillor Bond

No – Residents wanted it closed. We closed it!

Question 56 from Councillor Kaye to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Children & Young People

Please would the Cabinet Member explain the rationale behind the proposal to allow a secondary school in special measures to open primary school classes?

Reply from Councillor Orhan

Please see response to Question 35

Question 57 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Charalambous, Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure, Youth & Localism

Many residents have contacted me about the Council's recent application for an entertainment license for events on Chase Green as they believe it would be inappropriate given the close proximity of the war memorial and homes for events to be held there. Please would the Cabinet Member explain further his department's plans for events on Chase Green?

Reply from Councillor Charalambous

The Council is looking to develop more events and activities in and around its Parks and open spaces. One of the spaces identified for the development of the New River Festival is the Chase Green Site.

The Council is applying for a licence for this area so that the New River Festival 400th Anniversary event can be developed. The licence that has been applied for is a permanent licence so that repeat "one off" licences aren't required. Officers are looking to develop a New River festival proposal. Initial discussions centre around a Sunday but could include some build up and legacy. It will celebrate the River's heritage. We are looking to see if elements of poetry/photography/Story telling/ Biodiversity and a lasting built sculpture can be included. These proposals will be developed over the coming months.

Question 58 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment

Please would the Cabinet Member for Environment ensure that his department does everything possible in relation to scheduling the timing of pavements being dug up by utility companies as roads and pavements have been dug up twice as well as pavements in roads in close proximity to one another in a short space of time in my ward causing massive inconvenience to residents?

