

Council Meeting 24th January 2024: Councillors' Questions

Question 1 from Councillor Thomas Fawns to Councillor Ergin Erbil, Deputy Leader of the Council

How will Edmonton benefit from the Council's winning £11.9m Levelling Up bid?

Answer

The funding will build on the hard work of this council to transform one of the most deprived areas in the country and bring about real change. It will enable us to improve public spaces and connections, provide better places for businesses and community facilities and enhance the cultural offering.

This is the continuation of the investment we delivered in Angel Edmonton, including: 35 affordable workspaces for young entrepreneurs at Angel Yard creating a new heard for enterprise in Edmonton; public realm improvements including artworks and murals created with the local community; a cleaner air route and school street at St John and St James's CofE Primary School; and, an upgrade of Fore Street's Library into the Living Room Library, a fully flexible space that can convert into an area for performances, workshops, meetings and social events.

The overall plans for Upper Edmonton support a new vision for the area, shaping it to become a place for learning new skills, experiencing culture, and connecting with local communities.

Question 2 from Councillor Maria Alexandrou to Councillor Rick Jewell, Cabinet Member for Environment

How much does the Green Bin collection service cost, is the increase directed into Waste Services, and how many households have paid for the Green Bin in the year 2022/2023?

Answer

The cost to operate the Council's Garden Waste Service for the year 2022-23 is circa £1.9m. As with all services, many cost variables must be covered by the income generated, including fuel price increases and other inflationary costs. Surplus funds generated from the chargeable service remain ringfenced within the department.

The number of households that have subscribed for the garden waste service for 2022-23 is 29,498.

Question 3 from Councillor Destiny Karakus to Councillor Ergin Erbil, Deputy Leader of the Council

Can the Deputy Leader provide an update on the Council's progress to cut its greenhouse gas emissions?

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Answer

Enfield reports on its carbon emissions annually in a carbon emissions review, assessing council emissions and borough-wide emissions separately, based on the council's own data and regional data sources. The emissions are assessed against the trajectory to achieve carbon neutrality of the Council's operations by 2030 and of borough-wide emissions by 2040.

Using the Enfield Carbon Emissions Review 2022/23, I am pleased to report that the Council has reduced its scope 1 and 2 emissions from its operations by 30%, and borough emissions by 6% from the 2018/19 baseline.

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

What proportion of council vehicles are fully electric? When does the council expect to achieve 100%?

Answer

18% of the Council's total owned fleet has been changed to electric. However, of this, the smaller vans within the council's fleet 95% are electric.

Most of the larger vehicles in the fleet are specialist vehicles such as refuse collection vehicles where the EV models are less well developed.

However, last year we worked with manufacturers to develop Renault Truck's first EV refuse lorry in Enfield, and hope to transition more over the coming years as they become more widely manufactured.

Question 5 from Councillor Doris Jiagge to Councillor Ergin Erbil, Deputy of Leader of the Council

What is the progress on the Joyce and Snell's regeneration scheme?

Answer

The regeneration proposals, overwhelmingly backed by residents, will improve existing homes, and provide much-needed new homes are progressing well. We have succeeded in securing over £90m additional funding for the redevelopment.

Following the announcement by the Government in July 2023 that all blocks over 18m will require secondary means of exit staircases, the planning application is being redesigned and will be resubmitted this year.

Works will commence in early 2025 which will be a huge milestone and a testament to the role of the council in bringing forward solutions to tackle the housing crisis.

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

Please give the progress on introducing mobile fly-tipping CCTV cameras to tackle dumped rubbish in the borough.

Answer

Since the introduction of mobile fly-tipping CCTV cameras, the Waste Enforcement Team have utilised these as a visible deterrent and to assist in the investigation of waste offences. The team have placed units in 29 different locations across the borough since April 2023.

They have been most successful where vehicles have been involved in the offence of fly-tipping. Where cameras have identified fly tipping occurring by persons on foot, then officers will undertake door knocks in the immediate vicinity to try and identify those persons involved.

To assist in the "identification of persons of interest" who are seen fly-tipping on foot, the team have also launched the "Can You Help?" social media page. This is a social media post (You Tube) which shows a short video clip of the CCTV footage showing the person who has fly tipped. To date, we have posted 23 episodes on social media.

Question 7 from Councillor Nawshad Ali to Councillor Tim Leaver, Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement

Can the Cabinet Member provide an update on the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan following the Autumn Statement, and whether any additional funding from the government was announced to support local services?

Answer

The Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement, which followed the Autumn Statement, provided more detail on any additional funding that might be forthcoming. Enfield saw an increase of 5.6% in its Core Spending Power, which was the second lowest for any London Borough, the average across London being 6.5%. Had we been funded at the average that would have seen an additional c£2.4m.

Social Care grants (these are included in the core spending) had previously been announced last year. The net impact of this for Enfield is an increase of £5.7m in grant compared to last year. This is set against the backdrop of the increase in the National Minimum wage increase of 9.8% and London Living wage increase of 9.6%. These measures will place additional pressure on social care services.

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However, the net increase in Social Care grants were offset by some unexpected reductions to other grants such as the Services Grant and the New Homes Bonus; these reductions are £3.1m on 2023/24 grant levels.

In summary, 8% of our £39.4m budget gap has been met through government funding announced in the provisional settlement.

Question 8 from Councillor Maria Alexandrou to Councillor Rick Jewell, Cabinet Member for Environment

What are the total enforcement fines and money received from illegal fly tipping? What percentage of fines has been paid from those issued over last 3 years?

Answer

For the last 3 years the total enforcement fines and money received from illegal fly tipping is as follows:

2021/2022 a total of 2,720 FPNs were issued with 1,118 paid within the required timescale.

2022/2023 a total of 4,035 FPNs were issued with 1,624 paid within the required timescale.

April 2023 to December 2023 a total of 4,160 FPNs have been issued with 1,645 paid within the required timescale.

Where fines are not paid, in line with the industry standard practices and other local authorities similar to other areas of enforcement such as traffic offences, reminder letters are sent explaining the matter may be referred to court for prosecution if the offender does not pay the FPN.

Cases are reviewed by the Legal Team and where cases meet the evidential standard and the legal burden of proof (i.e. where we can prove beyond all reasonable doubt) then we will proceed to Court.

Question 9 from Councillor Bektas Ozer to Councillor Tim Leaver, Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement

What clarity has the Council received from the Government regarding the continuation of the Household Support Fund, and what will the impact be on Enfield if the funding is cut?

Answer

Household Support Fund is currently due to end 31 March 2024, and there was no further allocation in the provisional settlement for 2024/25 that was released in December.

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There is uncertainty in the sector as to whether the funding will be extended. London Councils has written to the Chancellor to set out why they believe the funding should be extended for at least another year at the current level.

If the funding is cut, £5.6m worth of support will not be given to Enfield residents for food, energy costs, wider essentials, crisis support and debt advice, help with school uniforms, school meals in the school holidays and support for residents in Temporary Accommodation.

Question 10 from Councillor Edward Smith to Councillor Tim Leaver, Cabinet Member for Finance & Performance

Will the Cabinet Member list the capital schemes and their associated full scheme costs that were intended to start in 2024/25 that have been moved to the Pipeline?

Answer

The budgets held in pipeline are for potential new capital projects that require the preparation and approval of robust business cases. This means they were not included in the 2024/25 programme to begin with.

The capital projects planned to commence in 2024/25 in the November 2023 Capital Strategy but now moved to pipeline are the Mental Health and Wellbeing Centre (£3m) and Migration to Cloud and Infrastructure rationalisation (£1.2m). Both have been moved to pipeline as the business cases and detailed project proposals are being worked up.

Question 11 from Councillor Chris James to Councillor Alev Cazimoglu, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care

Can the Cabinet Member set out how the Council's Adult Social Care Team is supporting local NHS hospitals this winter by freeing up beds through hospital discharge?

Answer

Enfield continues to be the top-performing borough of all North Central London Boroughs for getting people home safely and quickly. We work very closely with NHS colleagues to ensure that people occupying hospital beds who are medically fit for discharge are supported in a safe and timely way.

We have an Integrated Discharge Team located within our local hospitals which works very closely with our Community Equipment and Brokerage Service to source the right care and support at the right time for residents leaving hospital.

For people returning home, our Enablement and Occupational Therapy-led Discharge to Assess Teams work hard to provide the right balance of rehabilitation, care and support that enables people to regain as much independence as possible.

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Just under 90% of those people continue to live independently in their own homes three months post-discharge.

We work closely with the NHS Rapid Response service to make sure that getting people home safely and appropriately is our priority.

For medically fit people but who are not yet able to return to their own homes we have step-down services available for a time-limited period both in care homes and Extra Care Supported Living Schemes. These provide 24/7 support to ensure the recovery and rehab process is monitored and delivered safely. Intensive support from NHS led clinical staff and services in people's own homes is also available for those who need it.

Getting people home safely and quickly not only reduces the number of NHS hospital beds which remain blocked but improves the quality of life for some of our most vulnerable residents and, overall, is more cost-effective. Long stays in a hospital bed reduce mobility and increase the likelihood of acquiring other types of infection. Unnecessary delays often result in a higher number of long-term placements in care homes.

It does also need to be said that supporting this increased level of activity from our hospitals comes at a significant additional cost and whilst the government has put some additional funding into adult social care to support discharges, half of this has gone to the NHS rather than Councils and overall, it simply is not enough.

Question 12 from Councillor Edward Smith to Councillor Chinelo Anywanwu, Cabinet Member for Public Spaces, Culture & Local Economy

Will the Cabinet Member inform the Council when each of the council's leisure centres have fully re-opened or are expected to re-open for business following the transfer of management to GLL?

Answer

Greenwich Leisure Ltd. took over management of the Leisure Centres on Monday 4th December 2023. All of the centres were closed 4th – 6th December to allow Greenwich Leisure Ltd. to install their computer systems, train staff who had TUPE transferred from Fusion, install new signage, repair broken gym equipment and deep clean all of the facilities. Albany Leisure Centre, Arnos Pool, Bramley Bowls, Southbury Leisure Centre and Southgate Leisure Centre all reopened as planned on the 7th December and have remained open since.

Unfortunately, in the days leading up to the transfer, new maintenance issues were identified at Edmonton Green Leisure Centre that affected the pool plant and the fire safety system, which Greenwich Leisure Ltd. needed more time to fully investigate. These were in addition to the ongoing problems affecting the air handling unit and the persistent leaks from the flats above the centre which are owned and managed by a housing association.

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Given these issues, the decision was taken to keep the centre closed whilst further assessments were undertaken. Comprehensive fire risk assessments and intrusive surveys of the pool plant, building and air handling system have since been undertaken, and in the last few days, the reports have started to be shared with officers and are being reviewed.

Whilst the centre remains closed, centre users have had their membership upgraded to Enfield-wide memberships, meaning they can use any of the Council's other leisure facilities. The sports clubs that had been using Edmonton Leisure Centre have also been engaged and supported to find alternative facilities.

The Council's priority is to ensure that our leisure centres provide a comfortable and safe environment for our residents to exercise and spend their leisure time.

Question 13 from Councillor Mohammad Islam for Councillor Alev Cazimoglu, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care

How will the Council use the additional substance misuse treatment grant recently allocated to Enfield by the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID)?

Answer

The Council received supplementary funding for improving drug and alcohol service provision in 2023/4 and this will continue in 2024/5. During 2023/4 this has been utilised to provide enhanced harm reduction provision and increased treatment capacity through the Enable service (Enfield's commissioned adult substance misuse provider). This has included the capacity building to provide long-acting opioid therapy. Alongside this, a Combating Drug and Alcohol Partnership has been established to oversee care pathways, clinical governance and performance.

In 2024/5 this investment will continue to enhance treatment capacity against a backdrop of increasing prevalence and need. Commissioners are working across the partnership to develop an approach to recovery to promote change, especially where potential service users who have not been in treatment before. This will be supported by the further development of a Lived Experience Representative Organisation (LERO) to ensure that service user input is fully recognised in treatment and support.

Question 14 from Councillor Edward Smith to Councillor Chinelo Anywanwu, Cabinet Member for Public Spaces, Culture & Local Economy

Will the Cabinet Member inform the Council of the name of the successful bidder to manage the Millfield Theatre going forward and set out the principal features of the new lease?

Answer

The marketing process of Millfield Complex was completed in December 2023 and

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a Cabinet report to award a lease to the successful bidder is due to be brought forward in February. As part of the marketing of the property, the key features and requirements of the lease were:

- A lease term of up to 30 years
- Any future use of the site to retain cultural and community use.
- Leasee to retain and improve accessibility to the community library currently located at Millfield.

Confirmation of the successful bidder, who will provide the above requirements, will be provided upon completion of the governance process.

Question 15 from Councillor Kate Anolue to Councillor Rick Jewell, Cabinet Member for Environment

How much of the Government's recently announced additional pothole funding will Enfield Council benefit, and how much of our funding gap will it cover?

Answer

Before Christmas, the Government announced that London boroughs had been allocated extra funding to help maintain their road networks. The additional funding has been distributed based on road length, with Enfield receiving an allocation of £310,000 for both 2023/24 and 2024/25.

This funding will cover less than 1% of Enfield's road network which currently requires investment and improvements. Highway asset investment continues to be underfunded by the Government.

Question 16 from Councillor Lee Chamberlain to Councillor Tim Leaver, Cabinet Member for Finance & Procurement

Will the Cabinet Member inform the Council of the status of the Council's Build for Change Programme and set out his intentions for the future of the Civic Centre?

Answer

The Build the Change (BtC) Programme has successfully delivered the Housing Hub in Edmonton and the Children and Family Services Hub in Enfield Town which have provided significant improvements to those front-line services whilst also making operational cost savings through asset rationalisation.

The next phase of the BtC programme, as described by KD 5280 and approved at Cabinet in April 2021 is the reconfiguration and refurbishment of the Civic Centre to enable the relocation of staff from remote buildings and their subsequent disposal; providing improvements to those services whilst also making operational cost

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savings through further asset rationalisation.

However, the current UK economic crisis of high inflation and interest rates has required a review of the whole capital programme and the deferral of many schemes including the BtC project at the Civic Centre.

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

What progress has the Council made in its pledge to deliver new wetlands in Enfield?

Answer

Works continue on the Salmons Brook flood management; this is a rural scheme which sees the introduction of over a hundred individual wetlands. Albeit they are small in dimension, they support flood alleviation and offer protection for thousands of Enfield homes.

Three further wetland parcels are being installed within the grounds of Trent Country Park. The installations will assist with the hydrology of the park and remove areas of historic flooding issues.

This year, a feasibility study will be completed to review the proposal of a new wetland at Chase Green. As well as assisting with enhancing biodiversity and flood management, this installation will support and improve the water condition of the new river loop.

Question 18 from Councillor Lee Chamberlain to Councillor George Savva, Cabinet Member for Social Housing

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

Answer

The blocks have the recommended safety mitigation measures in place to allow for the prioritised decanting.

The following progress has been made:

	Shropshire House	Cheshire House
Voids	50	44
Council Tenants remaining	37	34
Leaseholders remaining	15	24
Total	102	102

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The following residents are due to move at the beginning of February:

	Shropshire House	Cheshire House
Accepted offer – Due to Move	8	11

This leaves 52 tenanted households over both blocks and we are working closely with these households to meet their needs and to expedite the buyback of leaseholder properties. Several new homes being made available on the ALMA estate could half the remaining number of households left to accommodate.

Question 19 from Councillor Nicki Adeleke to Councillor Abdul Abdullahi, Cabinet Member for Children's Services

In December 2023, we opened the first family hub in the Borough, Ponders End Family, which was a manifesto commitment. Can the Cabinet Member for Children's Service update us on how its work is progressing and how it is perceived by the residents?

Answer

Ponders End Youth and Family Hub service development offer is going from strength to strength since its launch. Families with children can access the following new services from the Ponders End Youth and Family Hub alongside of an existing strong youth offer:

- Family Support – which includes support from a Family Hub Navigator who is able to provide information, advice and guidance, signpost to services, and support families to access services if that is required
- Advice and Guidance for Looked After Children
- Adolescent & Youth Work
- Parenting programmes
- Employment, debt and welfare benefit advice
- Support for victims of domestic abuse
- Midwifery services (Antenatal/postnatal appointments, parent classes)
- Health Visiting (Healthy Child Clinic, 6-8 week clinic, child development reviews, Henry programme)
- Infant feeding support (Including Breast feeding)
- Infant parental mental health support, and perinatal support
- Stay and Play sessions and speech and language screening
- Physiotherapy for babies and toddlers with SEND
- Support with early language and home learning
- SEND Parent Support (Our Voice)

In the first week of opening of Ponders End Youth & Family Hub, there were 17 families accessing the Hub, with this number doubling within two weeks. The week

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commencing 4th of December, there were 54 families accessing the Hub. We expect the trajectory of a number of families accessing and benefiting from Ponders End Youth & Family Hub to increase as the Hub service offer matures.

We will be undertaking a user satisfaction survey to evaluate the effectiveness and impact of the Hub on families accessing the service and seek feedback on how we can further improve access and service offer.

Question 20 from Councillor Lee Chamberlain to Councillor Ergin Erbil, Deputy Leader of the Council

Noting that in your reply to question 12 (November 2023 Council) you were unable to say with any precision when the overdue delivery of the majority of Meridian Water homes most recently promised in 2022 for 2023 would be delivered, are you able now to say when and how many of these homes will be available for occupation in the Meridian Water project by of 1 April 2024?

Answer

The number of homes available for occupation by 1 April 2024 will be 80

The tenure mix is as follows:

- 35 Shared Ownership
- 35 London Affordable Rent
- 10 Private Market Sale

Question 21 from Councillor Ayten Guzel to Councillor George Savva, Cabinet Member for Social Housing

On addressing our homelessness challenges, how are the new policies which have been introduced to help residents access housing which is more affordable and sustainable?

Answer

The Council is experiencing unprecedented demand from residents losing their homes. In January 2023, 117 households approached the Council for assistance. By October 2023 this had grown to 604 households.

The primary cause has been the number of households evicted from the private rented sector. High interest rates have meant that many landlords are selling up and those that remain are increasing their rents to well above Local Housing Allowance (LHA). This has driven both increased homelessness and made it more difficult for the Council to secure homes for homeless households. These issues are being felt across the country but are most acute in London.

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The supply of private rented properties to the Council at LHA reduced by 90% between April 2021 and January 2023. This also reflected the Council's focus on securing properties locally. In January 2023, just 7 properties were available to rent by homeless households. The shortage of private rented accommodation meant that the number of households moving out of temporary accommodation fell and that the Council became increasingly dependent on bed and breakfast accommodation. This is inherently unsuitable for families and very expensive to the Council.

In response to this, a new Placement Policy has been introduced. From June last year, we began to offer accommodation nationally, focusing on areas where rents are affordable to residents on benefits or low incomes.

By the end of December, we had secured 241 homes across the country for Enfield residents. 162 of these were outside London, with the majority being outside the South East.

In November 2023, the Council moved to a single offer of accommodation to reduce the amount of time families spent in hotels and to provide clarity for residents on what we can do to assist them. This is in line with our statutory duty.

Under the new arrangements there has been a focus on reducing the number of households entering temporary accommodation and on ensuring that households are moved into more suitable accommodation as quickly as possible. We are seeing a reduction in the length of time families are in B+B accommodation but the demand is still very high so this form of accommodation continues to be relied upon.

The discontinuation of the Household Support Fund will have a major impact on the support that can be made available to assist residents to move.

Question 22 from Councillor Lee Chamberlain to Councillor George Savva, Cabinet Member for Social Housing

Using the latest figures available, please set out the breakdown of Enfield's housing stock with occupant numbers by types of homes; ie flat (low rise), flat (high rise), house, bungalow, maisonette etc.

Answer

Bedsit – 260

Bungalow – 110

Flat – 8,155

House – 3,080

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Maisonette – 3,488

Question 23 from Councillor Mahym Bedekova to Councillor George Savva, Cabinet Member for Social Housing

Can the Cabinet Member for Social Housing give an update on the Council's implementation of its Council Housing Anti-Social Behaviour policy, introduced last year?

Answer

Good progress is being made in delivering against the new policy aims. We have updated our website to make it easy to report ASB, in addition to providing advice, information and guidance.

Following a successful trial of a noise app, to support our work around noise nuisance, this application has been purchased and is being deployed effectively. ASB case load is high, our new processes have helped improve satisfaction with the ASB service to 64% in our latest survey of residents, this has increased from a satisfaction score of 37% from the previous survey.

Question 24 from Councillor Lee Chamberlain to Councillor George Savva, Cabinet Member for Social Housing

Given that equity swap was mentioned as a possibility for LBE to offer leaseholders in the Shires Estate, where instead of just paying off leaseholders they would be able to continue as leaseholders with the council as freeholder, how many equity swap offers, if any, have been made?

Answer

There have been no equity swaps made.

Question 25 from Councillor Gunes Akbulut to Councillor Susan Erbil, Cabinet Member for Licensing, Planning and Regulatory Services

Can the Cabinet Member share details of the successful prosecution of the operators of the "Jurassic Encounter" event at Grovelands Park in 2021?

Answer

This successful prosecution was as a result of an accident at Grovelands Park which was investigated by our Environmental Health Officers. The company who organised the 'Jurassic Encounter' dinosaur event in Enfield was prosecuted and fined £160,000 at Highbury Magistrates Court on 29 November having been found guilty of three charges related to Health and Safety at Work laws.

A five-year-old boy suffered an eye-related injury when a large animatronic

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Diplodocus dinosaur fell on top of him at the event organised by Event 2020S Limited previously called Cultent Event Ltd at the time of the offences in Grovelands Park on 26 July 2021.

Event 2020S Limited were also ordered to pay £20,988.21 of the Council's costs, making a grand total of £180,988.21.

This was a good example of the excellent and diligent work our regulatory services team do to protect our residents and visitors throughout the borough and should send a message to all event organisers of the dangers and consequences of poorly planned and managed events. We want good, safe and enjoyable events to take place in Enfield for everyone to enjoy.

Question 26 from Councillor Lee Chamberlain to Councillor George Savva, Cabinet Member for Social Housing

Given that equity charges are used by LBE to reclaim costs of works to council estates, how many leaseholders are liable to have pre-existing or new charges made for work done to the unsafe Shires Estate tower blocks?

Answer

There are 15 leaseholders in Shropshire and 26 in Cheshire. They are liable for works that have been consulted on and delivered.

Question 27 from Councillor Josh Abey to Councillor Susan Erbil, Cabinet Member for Licensing, Planning and Regulatory Services

On 6th December 2023 the Government took the decision to raise planning fees by 35% for major development and 25% for all other applications. How has the Council prepared for this and what impact is the change expected to make?

Answer

The Planning Service was prepared for the increase in planning fees introduced on 6th December. These had been anticipated for some time; originally identified to take effect in the early part of the year.

In September 2023, Planning Portal published an advance notice of the increase of planning fees and continued to promote the changes impacting applicants throughout November as over 98% of Enfield applicants submit their planning applications through Planning Portal. A mailshot was then issued to applicants at the end of November giving the deadline for submission prior to the changes. Following this, a 'forthcoming' copy of the new fees was published on the Council's website on 21 November 2023.

It's too early to know if the fee increases will impact application numbers, but the number of applications received over the last month has been as expected for this

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time of year.

While the fee increases are welcomed, and the introduction of indexation will create greater financial stability and reduce the burden on other local service providers, they still will not cover the service costs associated with processing most planning applications.

Managing applications efficiently, as introduced through the Planning Wellness and Improvement Project will remain a priority for the service going forward.

Question 28 from Councillor Alex Georgiou to Councillor Tim Leaver, Cabinet Member for Finance & Procurement

Can the Cabinet Member please provide a breakdown of all leisure facilities in Enfield that he has deemed as saleable assets and their current identified value?

Answer

Concerning the question regarding leisure facilities, I assume that the meaning attributed to "saleable assets" are those which have formal approval to sell, or Cabinet have formally approved to sell.

In that respect, no leisure facilities have been approved for sale.

Question 29 from Councillor Margaret Greer to Councillor Chinelo Anyanwu, Cabinet Member for Public Spaces, Culture and Local Economy

Can the Cabinet Member for Public Spaces, Culture and Local Economy provide details on progress done to improve Boundary Brook Park and watercourse?

Answer

Works on site commenced 8th January 2024. Through consultation in 2023, there is clear support for the works, with 85% of respondents supporting the improvements, an equally confirming this would increase their use of the space.

The scheme will support the improvement of the water condition and the reduction of shrubs and improvement to pathways will aid in the feeling of a safer environment

Question 30 from Councillor Alex Georgiou to Councillor Ergin Erbil, Deputy Leader of the Council

Can the Deputy Leader please tell us whether he believes Brimsdown Recreation Ground is an appropriate location for a Tower Block as identified in the Draft Local Plan?

Answer

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The draft Local Plan includes the site as a site allocation 'URB.01'. Design principle G explicitly states that "tall buildings are not considered acceptable on this site" meaning it has explicitly not been identified as appropriate for tower blocks – this has been set out on pages 445 and 456 of the pre-publication version of the Local Plan, where it also states the site is "appropriate to provide renewed community uses".