

Question 1 from Councillor Nawshad Ali to Councillor Ergin Erbil, Deputy Leader of the Council

Can the Deputy Leader set out how the Council marked Emergency Services Day this year, and celebrated the brave men and women that work in our blue light services?

Answer

Our emergency services play an essential role in our community. They are there to help us in times of need, no matter what the emergency may be. They are a vital part of what makes our community safe and resilient.

The job of an emergency responder is demanding and often dangerous. They face countless challenges, including long hours, traumatic experiences, and the threat of physical harm.

Despite these obstacles, they remain steadfast in their commitment to serving our communities. Their resilience and dedication are truly inspiring, which is why I was pleased to join members, officers and residents at a council-organised flag raising ceremony at the Civic Centre on Sunday 8th September to mark Emergency Services Day, to honour those important workers in our “blue light” services. There was a coordinated approach with the blue light related activities arranged by the local community, for families in Enfield Market and Palace Gardens Shopping Centre.

The event was well attended by colleagues across all of the emergency services, as well as emergency services cadets, who raised the Emergency Services Day flag at the event. Following the event, the Civic Centre was lit blue for the evening of 8th and 9th September.

Question 2 from Councillor Chris Dey to Councillor Ergin Erbil, Deputy Leader of the Council

The (new) MEQ system is now 2 years old. The system is clunky, inefficient and time consuming for Councillors to use. Many Councillors have full time jobs and whether they do or not I believe the Council should be doing everything in its power, to make completing case work for the residents we are elected to serve straightforward, effective and efficient. Councillors are now routinely bogged down in time consuming admin to log a Members Enquiry (when the system is functioning) what job officers used to do. The current process takes at least four times longer than the previous system did. The time spent is valuable time for Members and could be used more effectively on other tasks. This is especially the case for those who do work full time elsewhere, have young families and/or other commitments.

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Please can you agree to review the current arrangements and work with me to implement a better and less time-consuming system for Members to use?

Answer

I am pleased to report that the response times to MEQ's has increased in Q1 and the Head of Service, Lee Shelsher is currently working on a list of system improvements (based on feedback over the last 6 months from Councillors) to make the system more user friendly.

Once this list is completed the team will be setting up a small working group made up of officers and Councillors from both parties to progress the next steps with system enhancements.

Question 3 from Councillor Nia Stevens to Councillor Chinelo Anyanwu, Cabinet Member for Environment, Culture and Public Spaces

Can the Cabinet Member set out how the recently updated Climate Action Plan will continue the Council's progress towards a net zero Council by 2030?

Answer

Five years since we passed our Climate Emergency motion – one of the first local authorities to do so – Enfield Council has made important strides in tackling both organisational and borough-wide emissions and made good progress on our commitment to be a carbon-neutral council by 2030 and borough by 2040.

The Council's direct emissions have reduced by 30% in the last four years, achieved by:

- Installing 10 heat pumps in council buildings
- Installing solar panels on council, community, and school buildings
- Making 18% of the council's fleet electric
- Replacing all street lights to energy saving LED bulbs
- And much more...

In that time, borough-wide emissions, which we pledged would become carbon-neutral by 2040, have fallen by 6%, achieved by:

- Retrofitting council homes
- Introducing 20 School Streets
- Planting 80 hectares of woodland and 1,905 new street trees
- Delivering 112 new rain gardens and 4 new wetlands

In June this year, the Council published its updated Climate Action Plan, ensuring we continue on this trajectory and achieve our net zero goals. It ensures we respond to rapidly changing contexts we are operating in, with new demands and

technological solutions every year.

We have also further developed our approach based on what we have learned and listened to the feedback and ideas of local people. It also recognises we cannot do this alone – most of the borough-wide emissions are out of our hands, and need residents, businesses and other public bodies to all do their part to prevent a climate emergency.

Since the Plan was published in June, we have secured Zero Carbon Accelerator (ZCA) funding from the GLA for two decarbonisation schemes one for social housing and one for schools. We have also kicked off the Green Mark accreditation pilot for small businesses and will be launching the landing page for businesses to register their interest within the next few weeks. Match funding from the Carbon Compensation Fund for a tool library based in Palmers Green library has been approved, we are working with Library services and external stakeholders to raise the necessary further funding to deliver the project.

We have extended our license for the OnePlanet platform that will be used for publishing our annual progress report next year and we also set up a Climate Action Plan dashboard to collect the data reported on by the teams that is relevant to the Plan.

Question 4 from Councillor Michael Rye to Councillor Rick Jewell, Cabinet Member for Transport and Waste

The Enfield Town Controlled Parking Zone was put in place many decades ago and before Sunday trading. Sunday is now as busy as Saturday for traders, but the Enfield Town CPZ only applies Monday to Saturday. This means vehicles can park within the CPZ and on single yellow band causing inconvenience to residents who have difficulty accessing their own drives, there is a loss in carpark revenue for the Council and parking in a number of roads around the Town including Church Street Silver Street and The Town becomes congested and emergency vehicles cannot access the area easily. Can the Enfield Town CPZ be amended to include Sundays and Bank holidays to support traders, residents, the emergency services, and the Council's carparking revenue?

Answer

It is worth noting that there is already a sub-zone within the larger Enfield Town CPZ (covering Sydney Road, Raleigh Road and Essex Road) where restrictions apply between 8am and 6:30pm Monday to Sunday. Whilst there are no immediate plans to change the operational hours of the remainder of the Enfield Town CPZ, I will ask officers to review the scheme and present options for consideration. The options can be considered further as we develop our future CPZ programme.

Question 5 from Councillor Bektas Ozer to Councillor Tim Leaver, Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement

What progress has the Council made with distributing vital Household Support Funds to residents?

Answer

For the period 01/04/24 to 31/08/24, the fund has been used to:

- Assist 765 residents suffering financial hardship with a Council Tax Support Hardship payment, with an average award of £390.00 per household.
- Assist 126 households in temporary accommodation with deposits and rent advances, as well as essential furniture packs.
- Assists 331 households with a £250.00 payment towards essentials, such as energy and water bills and food, as well as the provision of white goods.
- Assist 9 households with housing costs not eligible for Discretionary Housing Payments.
- Credit the council tax account of 11,778 households with £140.00 (or less to clear the balance). These were households previously protected under our Council Tax Support Scheme 2023/24 but lost their protection under the 2024/25 scheme.
- Secure a Citizens Advice Bureau debt advisor for 6 months, who advised on 741 issues across April to June 2024, with 546 enquiries relating to debt and financial capability.
- Fund 4 Senior Assessment Officers within the Welfare Advice & Debt Support Team for 6 months, who assess applications to the Household Support Fund, provide income maximisation advice, budgeting advice, help with appeals, attend court with Housing, and promote discretionary support. 1154 referrals were received from 01/04/24 to 31/08/24, 720 of whom are vulnerable (62%).
- Top up the government allocated funding for Discretionary Housing Payments by £70K to assist 42 households with rental costs not covered by Housing Benefit to prevent homelessness.

Question 6 from Councillor Reece Fox to Councillor Rick Jewell, Cabinet Member for Transport and Waste

Can the Cabinet Member advise of the Council's plans for more fly-tipping cameras? I was advised by officers that we only have 10.

Answer

From our review of CCTV usage to date, we are seeing the most success where the CCTV has been located where the fly tipping is being carried out by persons from a vehicle. We have successfully prosecuted four and 60 investigations are ongoing. New cameras continue to be considered in future financial planning but are dependent on available resource. In the meantime, we are:

- Focusing on areas where fly-tipping from vehicles occurs
- Use our current network of CCTV cameras at the Enfield Public Safety Centre to capture evidence of vehicles entering or leaving an area where we have some footage or knowledge of certain vehicles being in the area.
- Use our powers to seize vehicles where they have been involved in fly tipping or suspect to be involved.

Question 7 from Councillor Ahmet Hasan to Councillor Gina Needs, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Cohesion

Could the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Cohesion provide an update on efforts to deal with car meets?

Answer

Officers from the Council's Anti-Social Behaviour and Community Safety and transport teams have been working closely with Landowners, TfL and the Met Police. While we have seen less car meets, and those known as 'A10 car meets', due to physical restrictions put in place by owners of car parks such as the old B&Q car park on the A10, the problem still exists. Earlier in the summer we saw that these were displaced to Tesco's car park in Glover Drive, and more recently to Morrisons Car Park on Southbury Road. Both Tesco and Morrisons have implemented controls to prevent access.

Perpetrators previously cut locks off the gates at Morrisons to gain access, but most recently, there was a large car meet at Crown Rd and after being displaced by the police, they later appeared at Innova Park. In addition to the joint working and physical intervention we are progressing an application for an injunction, this is currently being prepared by the legal team for submission. Additionally, we will shortly go out to consultation to implement a PSPO – Public Space Protection Order to enable FPNs to be issued to offenders and finally we continue to pursue TFL to install more 'Average Speed Cameras' on the southern section of the A10

from Southbury Road to the North Circular.

Question 8 from Councillor Maria Alexandrou to Councillor Rick Jewell, Cabinet Member for Transport and Waste

Will the council consider re-introducing weekly household blue bin collections to push up recycling rates in Enfield?

Answer

There is very little evidence to suggest that weekly household blue bin collections will result in increasing recycling rates in Enfield. Our research confirms that our residents are recycling c.55-60% of their waste from the 89,000 properties that are serviced using the wheeled bin service. By comparison, the amount of waste that is recycled from collections from our flats is c.15% and is the area that we need to be where we focus our efforts.

As part of the Resource and Waste Strategy, Defra have introduced new statutory requirements for Waste Collection Authorities - Simpler Recycling. Part of this is to deliver the following services to all residents (both in houses and flats) from March 2026:

- *Provide residents with collections for glass, metal, plastic, and paper & card in kerbside recycling collection services*
- *Provide residents with collections of separate food waste at least once a week*

The teams continue to deliver the action plan to improve recycling performance through primarily targeting those households that were placing incorrect items in their recycling bins (contamination), and we are seeing the impact that this work has had on our recycling performance. Ensuring that the recycling collected from kerbside properties is of good quality, by minimising contamination levels allows maximum recycling opportunities. We continue to deliver complementary Reuse and Recycling initiatives, such as maximising recycling from other services, recycling on the go, Give and Take events and circular economy projects in partnership with the North London Waste Authority. Further, we are looking to deliver a project across the borough that targets the reuse and recycling of items that are not easily recycled from the kerbside such as small electrical items, vapes and batteries.

These projects supplement the kerbside initiatives; they explore offering reuse and recycling opportunities for residents and businesses that are essential for changing behaviours. These complementary projects will create a network of reuse and recycling outlets within Enfield achieving the authority's strategic goals to further increase recycling rates.

Question 9 from Councillor Mahym Bedekova to Councillor Gina Needs, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Cohesion

Could the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Cohesion provide an update on Enfield's Public Safety Centres (CCTV), impact on crime prevention and detection?

Answer

The multi-functional control centre has over 1200 cameras covering Council housing, corporate buildings and main highways, parks, shopping areas, industrial estates and runs a 24/7 service, 365 days of the year. The CCTV cameras and control room assists the police to manage incidents by providing live CCTV feeds to the police.

The CCTV cameras and control room also assists in the protection of the public, especially the vulnerable by proactive patrolling and reporting of incidents directly to the appropriate services.

Enfield Public Safety Centre has over the past 5 months proactively aided with twenty-two arrests where police have been directed to an offence taking place that has been observed by the CCTV team. Over the past 5 months the centre has dealt with over five thousand incidents and aided the police in evidence retrieval and local operations. Since 2003 to 2024 the centre has dealt with 227,795 incidents with a total number of arrests of 15,558.

The Current system is constantly being improved due to changes in camera technology and to ensure the system moves forward and assist in the prevention and detection of crime in the Borough of Enfield.

Question 10 from Councillor David Skelton to Councillor Chinelo Anyanwu, Cabinet Member for Environment, Culture and Public Spaces

What is the Council doing to support local farmers in its procurement practices and in its in-house catering and what communications have the Council had with local farmers about improving access to local produce for Council workers?

Answer

Pick your own at Parkside Farm is open to the public and well known within the community and the farm shop at Botany Bay is well advertised along the ridgeway. There is also a farm shop at Forty Hall. Our Sustainability Lead Officer is reviewing food growing within the borough and will have further information later in the year.

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In addition to this, we now also have a new Head of Rural Transformation who is working with farmers across the borough to develop their businesses.

Question 11 from Councillor Elif Erbil to Councillor Abdul Abdullahi, Cabinet Member for Children's Services

As we know, Ofsted recently inspected Enfield Local Authority Children's Service. Can you tell us the outcome of that inspection?

Answer

The inspection assesses 4 areas, and the outcome is:

- The impact of leaders on social work practice with children and families - good
- The experiences and progress of children who need help and protection - good
- The experiences and progress of children in care - outstanding
- The experiences and progress of care leavers – good

The overall effectiveness is good.

Ofsted found that children and families living in the London Borough of Enfield receive consistently good services. Since the last inspection in 2019, committed political and corporate leadership has enabled services for children and families to remain strong, and some services have improved.

This administration has been active in strengthening service provision, implementing the family hubs, developing the purpose-built building for children's social care at Thomas Hardy House and tackling sufficiency issues through developing greater support for foster carers. Leaders are aware there is more work to be done and have firm plans to address shortfalls.

A strong and stable leadership team has maintained consistently good practice for children and their families in Enfield. When children receive statutory services, they experience consistently good core social work practice from all the teams, which is making a difference for them and their families. Social workers enjoy working for Enfield and workforce stability is improving, with a strong training and well-being offer allowing good social work to flourish.

Question 12 from Councillor Joanne Laban to Councillor Chinelo Anyanwu, Cabinet Member for Environment, Culture and Public Spaces

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Could the Cabinet Member for Environment, Culture and Public Spaces confirm the reopening date of Edmonton Leisure Centre?

Answer

Since Edmonton Leisure Centre closed, officers have been working closely with Greenwich Leisure Ltd. to establish the full scale of the health & safety problems and maintenance liabilities affecting the centre since the transfer from Fusion to GLL. Comprehensive intrusive surveys identified significant maintenance liabilities, which officers have been working hard to identify options to fund their repair. We are committed to reopening the centre and will bring forward options next month.

Question 13 from Councillor Chris James to Councillor Abdul Abdullahi, Cabinet Member for Children's Services

According to a recent BBC report, thousands of children in England with complex needs are missing out support as majority of local authorities fail to issue educational health care plans (EHCP) with the 20-week legal time limit.

Can the Cabinet Member for Children Services reassure us that Enfield Council is meeting its legal obligation by issuing EHCPs with the legal time limit?

Answer

The Enfield special needs team have a strong record in ensuring that requests for Education, Health and Care plans are assessed promptly. Against a national average of 50% of requests being completed within 20 weeks, Enfield is currently on 84% well above the national average. This will improve as the Autumn progresses as this figure is impacted by the summer break when completing assessments is challenging. In the last official figures from the DfE for 2023, Enfield completed 95% of assessments within 20 weeks. The aim is to reach 100% but this is impacted by matters out of the control of the SEND team as the process involves schools and a variety of assessment processes as well as working in partnership with families.

Question 14 from Councillor Andrew Thorp to Councillor Chinelo Anyanwu, Cabinet Member for Environment, Culture and Public Spaces

Swimming is an important skill for life and according to sport England statistics, is down 6.3% for 11-year-olds on pre-pandemic levels. The closure of Edmonton Leisure Centre has put strain on schools' ability to provide swimming lessons.

Previously, many Edmonton schools would walk to the leisure centre for swimming lessons at no cost and a small amount of travel time outside of the classroom. They are now travelling to Southbury Leisure Centre for lessons. It takes pupils way from the classroom for increased travel time and puts pressure on budgets due to increased costs.

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Each Edmonton School is around £5,500 out of pocket due to new travel costs. Will the Cabinet member commit to refunding schools for these costs, incurred due to the failure of Enfield Council to keep Edmonton Leisure Centre open? This money can then be returned to school budgets and spent on vital classroom resources

Answer

The closure of Edmonton Leisure Centre has resulted in 15 swimming programmes being displaced to the borough's other leisure centres. This school term, 2 of the 15 displaced swimming programmes are using the Council's transport service to travel to an alternative centre that was previously walking to Edmonton.

"We had to close Edmonton LC to establish the full scale of the health & safety problems and maintenance liabilities affecting the centre since the transfer from Fusion to GLL. Comprehensive intrusive surveys identified significant maintenance requirements which has taken time to identify options for.

"The Council remains committed to working with schools to facilitate swimming in our leisure centres and will continue to work hard to try to accommodate the school's requests, and we are bringing forward options for the centres reopening next month.

Question 15 from Councillor Doug Taylor to Councillor Ayten Guzel, Cabinet Member for Housing

The Grenfell report has been a reminder for us all of what an avoidable tragedy it was. Can the Cabinet member confirm that Enfield Council will ensure that they learn from the findings of the report?

Answer

I am sure we all remember the shock we felt following the Grenfell Tower tragedy, and I can assure Council that we have delivered significant investment in the safety of our housing stock since that night in 2017.

I can also assure Council that since the tragedy the Council has ensured it has complied with all new legislative and regulatory changes.

This includes significant investment in fire risk assessments and remedial works to comply with the Fire Safety Act – in 2023/24 we delivered more than £2.5 million of works, including new fire doors for communal areas and new flat entrance doors and work has continued this year, including new signage and compartmentation works.

All our high-rise blocks are registered with the new Building Safety Regulator and all Building Safety Cases are drafted ready to comply with any call-in by the Building Safety Regulator.

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An initial review of the Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase Two Report has already been undertaken, and findings will be applied to our strategies, policies and working practices as we work collaboratively with other London Boroughs and the London Fire Brigade making sure resident safety is foremost.

Question 16 from Councillor Paul Pratt to Councillor Rick Jewell, Cabinet Member for Transport and Waste

Can the Cabinet Member explain how the proposed expansion of the Arnos Grove Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ), including the extension of operating hours, aligns with the statutory purposes outlined in the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, particularly in light of concerns that these measures appear to be driven more by environmental policies rather than addressing specific parking issues as intended by the legislation?

Answer

The Council is currently consulting on CPZ proposals for Arnos Grove, Palmers Green East, Electric Quarter and Alma Estate. This early engagement is a key part of the process that will help inform us of the next steps.

Comments will be carefully considered along with all the other representations received as part of the consultation.

Question 17 from Councillor Gunes Akbulut to Councillor Ayten Guzel, Cabinet Member for Housing

Can the Cabinet member provide an update on works in progress to improve and regenerate our housing stock in Enfield?

Answer

The Council is again this year investing circa £50m in existing homes to bring them up to the Decent Homes Standard having made significant progress last year achieving 84.4% of homes meeting the standard.

There are 4 major regeneration projects underway in the borough which demonstrate our ability to directly deliver and to work in partnerships to secure improved places and additional housing.

- 1) Joyce & Snells – led by the Council this scheme received approval to grant planning permission in July 2024 for a comprehensive redevelopment including over 2000 homes of which 52% will be affordable. Officers are now progressing the s106 and liaising with the GLA on the terms of the affordable housing agreement. We have selected constructor Hill for the first phase and enabling

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works will start on site in October 2024 with construction of the first phase of affordable housing commencing in November 2025.

- 2) Alma Estate – The redevelopment of the existing estate has planning permission for 1,080 homes, of which 444 are to be affordable. Of the existing permission, 679 homes have been completed or are under construction and due for completion this year. Viability issues are challenging the progress of the next phases, and the development partner Vistry has submitted a planning application for an extra 322 homes. This includes the final 187 affordable homes that are set out in the current planning permission, protecting the original number of affordable homes to be delivered. We are pleased to confirm that the final obsolete council block, Curlew House has been decanted and will now be demolished.
- 3) Ladderswood - Phase 4 is forecasting completion in October delivering 82 private homes, 26 affordable homes and 2 shared equity homes. The council is the landowner of the existing estate, but the new affordable housing is owned by Riverside, however the council is reviewing the opportunity to acquire the 82 private homes for affordable housing which will increase the number of affordable homes on the site. Phases 5 & 6 have planning permission for 517 homes, but due to viability issues the programme the development partner is reviewing the options for a higher density development.
- 4) New Avenue - Regeneration of an existing Council owner estate through a development agreement with Countryside Partnerships constructing 505 new homes. All 127 previous homes are now demolished. Phase 1 is complete providing, 103 affordable homes. Phase 2 completes in January 2025 providing 59 affordable homes between the council and Newlon Housing Trust, with potential to for the council acquire up to a further 53 private units for conversion to social rent. Phase 3 is due to start on site in 2025 with planning permission for 226 units including 60 affordable homes. Again, there is potential to convert a further 159 private units to social rent.

Officers are also reviewing proposals to undertake regeneration development of The Shires Estate and another scheme is being assessed for viability. These proposals are at any early stage but reflect the council's priority for investing in and improving our council estates contributing to wider place transformation.

Question 18 from Councillor Paul Pratt to Councillor Rick Jewell, Cabinet Member for Transport and Waste

Given that the primary legal basis for Controlled Parking Zones under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 is to manage parking and ensure equitable access to parking spaces, can the Cabinet Member explain how the Council's revised approach - particularly the significant increase in parking permit costs and the use of CPZs as a tool for environmental policy - does not contravene these statutory objectives?

Answer

The revised approach to CPZs set out in the relevant report (KD 5545) does not change the position regarding permit prices. The legal implications of the new approach were fully considered at the time and are set out in the report.

Question 19 from Councillor Eylem Yuruk to Councillor Alev Cazimoglu, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care

How will Enfield Council's new Health and Wellbeing strategy empower every Enfield resident to live healthier for longer at every stage of their lives?

Answer

The strategy builds on and aligns with the North Central London Population Health and Integrated Care Strategy, introducing local evidence and priorities shaped by the needs of the Enfield population. The strategy has been developed using a collaborative process including partners as well as a public consultation.

The strategy has been developed using a population health approach. This aims to improve the health and wellbeing of our entire population, while reducing health inequalities. As an approach it recognises that there are lots of factors (or determinants) that effect our health and wellbeing, many of which are outside of the reach of health and care services.

The strategy has 12 priorities and uses a life course model, whereby priorities are based around different phases of our lives: 'Start Well' (conception up to the age of 19 or up to 25 if a young person has Special Educational Needs and Disabilities), 'Live Well' (up to 65), and 'Age Well' (65+).

Over the summer, the Council has worked with partners to develop a draft operational action plan for the strategy. The Health and Wellbeing Board and Enfield's Borough Partnership have selected three priorities from the strategy (one for each phase of life) to focus on collectively for the first action plan. This enables us to collectively action plan as a system, in a meaningful and deliverable way. As a multi-agency plan, this will help us to coordinate work within our system, enabling collaboration and reducing duplication of work.

The strategy's action plan will have a 2-year lifecycle with progress reported to the Health and Wellbeing Board every 6 months – this will allow us to remain responsive to changes in the local, regional and national context. Actions are being developed within the current financial and resource constraints across both the Council and the wider health system. We intend for an additional set of priorities to be added in the next 2-year cycle.

An operational action planning workshop will be held in October and will include

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members of the Borough Partnership and Health and Wellbeing Board. This includes elected Members, Council officers, colleagues from the Integrated Care System/NHS, and Voluntary and Community Sector partners. Importantly, additional stakeholders and senior decision makers from across the Council's five departments are being invited to attend, to ensure a population health approach is at the heart of our actions.

Question 20 from Councillor Peter Fallart to Councillor Rick Jewell, Cabinet Member for Transport and Waste

Many Lime rental bikes are being discarded in public areas across the London Borough of Enfield. This is unsightly and a potential hazard to vulnerable residents. What measures is Enfield Council taking to remove them?

Answer

Our fly tip team have removed two bikes recently and continue to respond where issues are raised by residents, but we would encourage residents to report abandoned E- bikes directly to the bike provider. Details of the bike providers can be found online by undertaking a google search, support@li.me.

Question 21 from Councillor Doris Jiagge to Councillor Rick Jewell, Cabinet Member for Transport and Waste

Can the Cabinet Member provide some details on how the Kerbo Charge scheme will benefit residents across the borough?

Answer

The Council has a manifesto commitment to install 1,000 EV charge points by March 2026. In reality this target will be exceeded, with the installation of a combination of standard, fast and rapid chargers being rolled out in the coming months. Supporting the shift to EVs is a key part of the Council's Climate Action Plan, enabling the transition to low carbon travel.

In addition, to conventional public charge points, the Council is trialling the provision of a footway channel to give residents without off-street parking the option of charging their vehicles using their domestic energy supply at a much cheaper rate compared to public charge points. Whilst it is accepted that there are upfront costs associated with the installation of the channel and obtaining the necessary licence, residents who chose to make use of this option will get a return on their investment relatively quickly, depending on the mileage covered.

It is hoped that the new channel will encourage more residents to switch from petrol and diesel vehicles to electric vehicles.

Question 22 from Councillor Edward Smith to Councillor Chinelo Anyanwu, Cabinet Member for Environment, Culture and Public Spaces

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Could the Council be advised on when a new, revised service level agreement covering road verges and the borough's parks will be put in place and indicate what it will say about cutting frequency, removing grass cuttings, and the road verges and other and green areas to be left for re-wilding?

Answer

Grass management involves cutting across 132 parks and open spaces, 49 hectare grass and shrub road verges, 36 hectare of housing estate, 110 football pitches, 15 cricket pitches, 8 school's grounds and sports pitches and includes the management of over 250 rain gardens and many newly created wetlands.

We are currently benchmarking other London boroughs cutting regimes, we can then agree what Enfield's regime will be for delivery standards and timings of cutting the verges and create the SLA agreement that supports this.

Over the next 12 months we will ensure that all the parks and open spaces have a simple management plan map which allows work plans to be created, delivered and monitored. These plans will set out the cutting regimes on site, i.e. which will be regularly cut amenity areas, and which can become wildflower meadows, left for a later annual cut.

With regards wetlands in our parks and open spaces, we are currently working with the Watercourses team to develop simple management plan maps for all the wetlands that the parks team can use to guide their work.

Question 23 from Councillor Josh Abey to Councillor Susan Erbil, Cabinet Member for Planning and Regulatory Services

How do Enfield Council plan on responding to the Government's consultation on the new National Planning Policy Framework?

Answer

Enfield Council is thoroughly reviewing the Government's consultation on the new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) to ensure that our response reflects the needs and priorities of our borough. Our main focus will be on three key areas:

Green Belt Protection: A major priority in our response will be the safeguarding of our Green Belt areas where there is opportunity for recreation, biodiversity, and environmental resilience, while also recognising the opportunities with the introduced focus on previously developed land (PDL) and "grey belt" land – of which there are sizeable opportunities in Enfield for growth.

Infrastructure and Sustainability: Enfield Council will emphasise the importance of aligning housing growth with infrastructure capacity. We need clear guidance on

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how boroughs can ensure sustainable development alongside new, necessary, local infrastructure.

Collaboration with Regional Plans: Our response will advocate for a closer alignment between the NPPF and the London Plan to ensure that the unique housing, transport, and environmental challenges of London are adequately addressed.

Once our review is complete, we will submit a robust response that reflects the needs of our communities while ensuring that growth is managed sustainably and responsibly. We will continue to advocate for a balanced approach to development that respects local priorities and the long-term vision for Enfield.

Question 24 from Councillor Edward Smith to Councillor Chinelo Anyanwu, Cabinet Member for Environment, Culture and Public Spaces

Subject to the final determination of the Local Plan, approximately what percentage of Enfield's Green Belt will in future be earmarked for re-wilding, housing and other development, and farming?

Answer

Subject to the final determination of the Local Plan, Enfield Council remains committed to the careful stewardship of our Green Belt, ensuring a balanced approach that supports the needs of our community while protecting our natural environment.

Re-wilding: A significant portion of the Green Belt is earmarked for re-wilding and enhancing biodiversity as part of our commitment to environmental sustainability. This aligns with our goals under the re-wilding strategies, which seek to restore natural habitats, support wildlife, and contribute to our broader climate change mitigation efforts. While the exact percentage will depend on ongoing consultations, it is anticipated that re-wilding will play a substantial role, particularly in areas less suited for development or farming.

Housing and Other Development: The Council recognises the importance of addressing local housing needs, but we are equally mindful of preserving the Green Belt. Development in these areas will be limited and highly focused on areas where there is minimal impact on the natural environment. We anticipate that a small percentage of the Green Belt, primarily areas classified as "grey belt" or previously developed land, may be allocated for housing and other infrastructure needs. The percentage is around 13% but is still being determined through the Local Plan process.

Farming: Agriculture remains a crucial aspect of Enfield's Green Belt. We will continue to support farming activities, particularly those that align with our

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sustainability and food security objectives. A portion of the Green Belt will remain designated for agricultural use to ensure that local farming can thrive, contributing to both local food production and the character of Enfield's rural areas.

Our approach will ensure that any development is balanced with environmental conservation and agricultural viability, safeguarding the Green Belt for future generations.

The Local Plan and relevant strategic documents indicate that the Council intends to balance various priorities, including re-wilding for biodiversity, housing development, and agricultural use, based on factors like environmental sustainability and local needs.

Question 25 from Councillor Suna Hurman to Councillor Susan Erbil, Cabinet Member for Planning and Regulatory Services

Can the Cabinet Member provide details on the success of Enfield's borough-wide HMO scheme since it was introduced in 2020 and explain how the Additional HMO licensing policy will build on this?

Answer

Enfield introduced a borough wide additional HMO licensing scheme in September 2020. This scheme provides our residents, especially the most vulnerable who may have limited housing options, with the assurance of knowing that their homes are safe and well managed.

While many landlords in Enfield provide decent and well managed HMO properties that do not pose issues for tenants or the community, unfortunately, our officers continue to find renters living in conditions that are not only unacceptable but often dangerous. Since the launch of our current scheme in 2020, we've made remarkable progress in improving property conditions and management standards of many HMOs across the borough.

Officers have inspected more than 1,000 HMOs, improving conditions for over 4,100 households ensuring they are living in safe, secure and functional accommodation. We have received over 1,300 complaints relating to HMO properties, indicating an increased awareness of renters reporting poor standards and management practices. Our evidence suggests that there are still many more properties requiring licensing to meet the necessary property and management standards.

It is our aim that we continue to enforce our licensing scheme rigorously, to protect our residents and ensure that all HMOs in Enfield are safe and well managed.

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This is why we want to build on the success of our existing HMO licensing scheme by implementing a further HMO licensing scheme, if approved in September 2025. We aim to support responsible landlords while protecting tenants from substandard living conditions and ensuring that every resident has access to safe, secure, and well managed housing.

Question 26 from Councillor Lee Chamberlain to Councillor Ayten Guzel, Cabinet Member for Housing

It has now been over two years since a structural report identified the Shires Estate tower blocks as being in danger of disproportionate collapse, please set out the latest figures for residents remaining in the unsafe tower blocks with the expectations as to how long will it be before they can be relocated?

Answer

We have acted in accordance with our structural engineers expert advice and therefore do not accept the erroneous statement that our residents have been left in unsafe buildings. This simply isn't true.

Question 27 from Councillor Mahmut Aksanoglu to Councillor Chinelo Anyanwu, Cabinet Member for Environment, Culture and Public Spaces

How did Enfield Council celebrate South Asian Heritage Month 2024?

Answer

South Asian Heritage Month was celebrated at the DAC, through the Free To Be Me. The programme was a resounding success where across three events, we attracted an audience in excess 300 audiences to celebrate South Asian Heritage, culture and artistry.

Culture Services worked with 10 local artists to deliver the programme, including D-Lish (DJ) and Nivetha Tilakkumar (DJ and poet), Liba Ravindran (poet), Pooja Jeshang (artist and illustrator), and Nine Levels (rapper). We also supported two emerging young producers, including our own Cultural Events Apprentice Nafeesa Hassan, to produce a community event which celebrated Bangladeshi heritage and Enfield's Bengali and Bangladeshi communities.

They also worked with local community groups such as Sisters in Islam Youth Club, and renowned theatre companies Tamarind Theatre and Mukhul and Ghetto Tigers, who brought diverse and established new talent into Enfield, were also critical to the success of SAHM.

At the end of the programme, we also host a surprise celebrity visit, from Enfield resident Priya Kansara. Priya is the star and lead actor of Polite Society, and we were honoured when she joined us with her family and friends for our screening of

the film and held a post film Q&A with the audience.

Question 28 from Councillor James Hockney to Councillor Alev Cazimoglu, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care

Has the Council assessed how many Pensioner households in the Borough will be impacted by the Government cuts to the Winter Fuel Allowance?

Answer

It is estimated that 2,618 of Enfield's pensioners in receipt of Housing Benefit or Council Tax Support, will no longer be eligible for the Winter Fuel Allowance.

The Council regularly undertakes successful pension credit campaigns to ensure pensioners are able to access the welfare support that is available to them. The Council's Cost of Living web pages will be updated to promote the uptake of pensions credit. The Council's third phase of the pension credit campaign which will be launched over the autumn. The Council uses a data insights tool to target our campaign to specific households who we believe may be eligible. In addition, the Council continues to support pensioners financial resilience through £12m of Council Tax Support, Welfare Advice & Debt Team support for individual casework.

Question 29 from Councillor Sabri Ozaydin to Councillor Chinelo Anyanwu, Cabinet Member for Environment, Culture and Public Spaces

How will the birth of baby beavers in Forty Hall continue to enhance our local biodiversity and improve our natural flood defences?

Answer

1. Increased Dam-Building Activity

As kits grow, they eventually participate in dam and lodge maintenance and construction. More beavers working on dams can lead to larger or additional structures, increasing the creation of wetlands. These wetlands improve water retention, reduce erosion, and create habitats for a wide variety of species.

2. More Complex Wetlands

With more beavers, additional dams and lodges can be built, leading to the creation of more ponds and wetlands. These water bodies support greater biodiversity by providing habitats for amphibians, fish, birds, and aquatic plants. They also filter and purify water.

3. Better Water Distribution

As beaver activity increases, the network of water channels, ponds, and wetlands

expands. This can improve water distribution across the landscape, benefiting plant growth and supporting a variety of aquatic and terrestrial species. It can also recharge groundwater, improve water quality, and help mitigate droughts.

4. Enhanced Plant Growth

Beavers' tree-cutting activities create open spaces that allow sunlight to reach the forest floor, promoting the growth of grasses, shrubs, and other plants. As more beavers cut trees, these open areas increase, enhancing habitat diversity. Fallen trees also provide habitats for other species like birds and insects.

5. Carbon Sequestration

Wetlands created by beavers can store significant amounts of carbon in the form of organic matter. More beavers mean more wetlands, which can potentially increase carbon sequestration and reduce the overall carbon footprint of the habitat.

In short, additional beaver kits contribute to the expansion and maintenance of the habitat, leading to richer ecosystems with greater biodiversity, better water management, and enhanced carbon storage.

Question 30 from Councillor James Hockney to Councillor Tim Leaver, Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement

With the extension of the Household Support Grant until April 2025; how much funding will the Council receive? What efforts is the Council making to lobby Government that the HSG should continue beyond April 2025?

Answer

Funding has been confirmed at existing levels. This means Enfield Council will receive £2,847,994.64.

Over the coming few weeks plans will be drawn up to continue to target funding to support our most vulnerable residents with the cost of living.