



LONDON BOROUGH OF ENFIELD

**SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA FOR THE
COUNCIL MEETING
TO BE HELD ON THURSDAY, 27TH FEBRUARY,
2025 AT 7.00 PM**

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QUESTIONS (Pages 1 - 16)

ENFIELD LIBRARY STRATEGY – UPDATE SHEET (Pages 17 - 18)

NOMINATIONS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

To confirm the following changes to outside body memberships in addition to those included in the Agenda:

Cllr Sabri Ozaydin to replace Cllr Susan Erbil as the reserve member on Local London.

MONITORING OFFICER ADVICE NOTES (Pages 19 - 26)

GUIDE TO PROCEDURAL MOTIONS (Pages 27- 28)

Question 1 from Councillor Chris James to Councillor Ergin Erbil, Leader of the Council

Can the Leader tell us about the Holocaust Memorial Day commemoration ceremony held on the 27th January 2025 and this year's theme, 'For a Better Future'?

Answer:

Enfield Council commemorated Holocaust Memorial Day on Monday 27 January with a special ceremony and acknowledged two sombre anniversaries. This year's Holocaust Memorial Day also marks the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, and the 30th anniversary of the genocide in Bosnia.

This year more than ever, we must remember those who lost their lives, in light of the rise in the politics of hate around the world. The event was a sombre reminder of the importance of standing up against hate and bigotry.

Our event was held at Dugdale Arts Centre (DAC), where local religious and civic dignitaries were welcomed.

Pupils from Wolfson Hillel Primary School in Southgate began the ceremony with a presentation called: 'For a Better Future' which was the theme for Holocaust Memorial Day 2025.

The event saw speeches from Rabbi Emanuel Levy from the Palmers Green and Southgate Synagogue, Rabbi Rich from Southgate Progressive Synagogue, Rabbi Shindler from Cockfosters and North Southgate Synagogue and Marija Hamza from the Roma Support Group charity.

I invite all residents to our Holocaust Memorial Day exhibition which is currently on display in the DAC.

The display features 15 new acquisitions on loan from Jewish Museum London, exploring the relationship between Grete Rudkin (nee Gauber) and her adoptive mother Olive Rudkin. Grete was sent to Enfield on the Kindertransport in 1939. The poem 'To A Child Refugee in a Foreign Land' written by Olive will also be displayed in the borough for the first time.

The artefacts have been loaned to the Council courtesy of Jewish Museum London and will be on display until Saturday 1 March.

Entry to Enfield Museum and all exhibition areas at DAC are free of charge. The museum objects are also available to view on the Jewish Museum London's website.

Question 2 from Councillor Maria Alexandrou to Councillor Rick Jewell, Cabinet Member for Transport and Waste

Can the council confirm that it will not reduce operating hours at Barrowell Green recycling centre and will not consider closing it in the future?

Answer:

We are currently looking at how well Barrowell Green is being used. This is a standard practice to ensure we are managing our recycling centre as efficiently as possible. Once we have completed this review and assessed all the relevant information, we will explore the available options and consult with residents and members on the next steps.

Question 3 from Councillor Ian Barnes to Councillor Rick Jewell, Cabinet Member for Transport and Waste

Can the Leader provide an update on his joint work with the Mayor of London, the Met police, and Transport for London (TfL) to introduce additional average speed cameras on the A10 to cover Edmonton?

Answer:

We've made great progress, and we continue to work with TfL and the Mayor's office to tackle speeding and noise issues on the A10. We are serious about creating a safer Enfield, and I am glad to confirm that after years of lobbying from myself and Cabinet, we have secured an agreement to install average speed cameras from Southbury all the way to the Great Cambridge roundabout, covering Edmonton's section of the A10.

We also continue to work shoulder to shoulder with the police to improve road safety on the A10 and we have received confirmation from the police that they will increase visibility on this main road.

We have already secured an injunction with arrest powers to stop car meets. We are committed to taking action against those who create noise nuisance and engage in illegal car meets in our borough.

We are not going to stop there. We are also looking to improve road safety on Hertford Road, Fore Street and the A406.

We are also working with the police to recruit volunteers for Community and Junior Road Watch schemes, where residents and schoolchildren help police identify speeding drivers.

Question 4 from Councillor Maria Alexandrou to Councillor Chinelo Anyanwu, Cabinet Member for Environment, Culture and Public Spaces

After the recent blackouts with entire streets and areas having no street lighting,

can the council ensure procedures are in place to prevent this from happening again?

Answer:

We have taken major steps to fix the root cause and reduce the risk of street light failures. We have invested a significant amount in street lighting in recent years.

The problem outlined in your question was traced to a rare software fault in the street lighting control system managed by Signify. The first failure happened on 25–26 January 2025, and after advice from Signify, the affected controller was reset on 27 January. However, the issue returned on 1–2 February.

We called an emergency meeting on 3 February with Signify and our contractors revealed that the fault affected newly installed or upgraded controllers. A similar issue was reported in other London boroughs that also use Signify's system. Following this meeting, the system is now monitored daily.

To further improve the system, we have agreed on regular updates, preventive maintenance, and ongoing work with Signify. Quarterly reviews and regular check-ins will track their progress.

We are doing everything possible to maintain reliable street lighting and minimise disruption.

Question 5 from Councillor Hivran Dalkaya to Councillor Tim Leaver, Deputy Leader

What additional money and resources are we putting into street cleaning and to improving the street scene in 2025/26?

Answer:

We will invest an additional £300,000 to improve the street scene across the borough. This is in addition to our £39.4m we are going to spend on Cleaner Streets in Enfield.

Question 6 from Councillor Julian Sampson to Councillor Chinelo Anyanwu, Cabinet Member for Environment, Culture and Public Spaces

When will the Cabinet Member announce the decision of the Council with regard to the libraries consultation, which closed on 14 November? It was previously announced in response to previous written questions that this would be decided at the February Council.

Answer:

This item will be discussed at February's Full Council meeting.

Question 7 from Councillor Ahmet Hasan to Councillor Chinelo Anyanwu, Cabinet Member for Environment, Culture and Public Spaces

What plans are in place to improve the management of green spaces, grass verges, public highways, and the green spaces in our council estate?

Answer:

We have made great progress on this issue in recent months. Working with the Leader on his priority for improved street scene, a borough-wide cutting schedule has been created, detailing when highway verges, shrub areas, and Council estate green spaces will be cut each week. Residents can check when their areas will be cut and maintained.

Neighbourhood schedules have been shared with Councillors, and they will be published on the Council's website, outlining all cutting plans for 2025.

Service delivery standards for our roads and Council estates will be published alongside the schedule.

A 'look-up' tool will be added to the website, allowing residents to check cutting schedules easily.

Recruitment of skilled agency staff is underway to strengthen teams, ensuring reliable service even during staff absences. More qualified drivers have also been added.

HouseMark software is being fully implemented for tracking work in real-time. Our staff will use the app to record and monitor maintenance, ensuring missed rounds are quickly reported and rescheduled. This will launch in March and will later expand to our parks teams to improve the quality of service for residents.

We continue to improve street scene and our green spaces across the borough.

Question 8 from Councillor Julian Sampson to Councillor Chinelo Anyanwu, Cabinet Member for Environment, Culture and Public Spaces

Will the Cabinet Member please publish, along with the decision, the results of the consultation, showing by library the number of responses and the number that agreed / disagreed with the Council's proposals?

Answer:

This item will be discussed at February's Full Council meeting.

Question 9 from Councillor Destiny Karakus to Councillor Rick Jewell, Cabinet Member for Transport and Waste

What work is being done to take action against those who park vehicles illegally on

our roads, blocking pavements, crossings, and cycle lanes?

Answer:

Last year, we issued over 69,000 penalty charge notices (PCNs) for on-street parking violations, including a 90% rise in pavement parking charges since 2020. However, we continue to work to improve car parking enforcement in the borough.

We are focusing on two key areas to improve our work tackling illegal and inconsiderate parking, they are:

Civil Enforcement Officer (CEO) Numbers

We have recently carried out a 'beat review' to help understand the level of resource needed to tackle on-street parking issues across the Borough. As a result, we will be increasing enforcement. We will take action against those who park on pavements and those who fail to pay for on-street parking.

Camera Enforcement

Enforcement of parking restrictions has been made much more difficult by the previous Government's decision to prevent local authorities from enforcing many parking contraventions using cameras. This prevents us from using images to tackle many of the parking problems we see across the borough.

However, I can assure you that I am pressing for a change to the law so that we can help ensure that traffic can flow on our roads, pedestrians can safely use our footways and cyclists are not blocked when using our cycle lanes.

Question 10 from Councillor Lee Chamberlain to Councillor Ayten Guzel, Cabinet Member for Housing

Can I ask that the Cabinet Member to set out and breakdown all actual and notional expenditure incurred in relation to the blocks since June 2022, including the additional building, heating & electrical works, the security measures taken, tenant engagement/consultation and extra staff costs by type. Heating works costs should be subdivided into the costs related to gas, the abortive Energetik inclusion and electrical. The bouncy castle and home goods giveaway costs should also be included.

Answer:

It is important to keep security to a high standard at these almost empty buildings as we have to do everything we can to prevent vandalism.

Security costs for 2023-24 totalled £469,627 and for 2024-25 £396,921. All of the associated costs should be viewed in the context of managing an end-of-life building and the work and support to residents to achieve vacant possession. This approach was highlighted in the Cabinet report (June 20223 Future of Shropshire and Cheshire House).

There are currently no abortive costs associated with Energetik as the work undertaken will roll forward for any future use of the building or site. The engagement event was very positively received by residents and assisted in helping to shape the decision about the future of the blocks - the bouncy castle cost £200 and home goods giveaway was made available at no cost to the council – through the Household Support Fund. This helped to attract residents to the event as part of our engagement strategy. It is not possible at this stage to disaggregate actual and notional building, heating and electrical works costs.

Question 11 from Councillor Eylem Yuruk to Councillor Ayten Guzel, Cabinet Member for Housing

What improvements are your teams making on our council estates and how will this have a positive impact on our council estate playgrounds and communal areas?

Answer:

In August 2024, we introduced an estate enhancement service to improve communal areas on our housing estates. Working with our residents through the newly formed Enfield 500 consultative group, community needs are identified, and improvement plans are created. So far, 29 communal areas, including drying areas, bin areas, and shared gardens, have been improved.

A review and risk assessment of 39 playgrounds is underway. This will look at usage, anti-social behaviour, and proximity to other recreational grounds. Local residents and councillors are involved to help decide where investment and improvements would be most beneficial. Feedback will be collected, and a plan will be put in place in March 2025.

Recent data showed an increase in satisfaction with the housing service's contribution to neighbourhoods, rising from 62% to 79%. Satisfaction with the cleanliness and maintenance of communal areas also improved.

Question 12 from Councillor Lee Chamberlain to Councillor Ergin Erbil, Leader of the Council

In your interview published in the Enfield Dispatch (No77 February 2025), you admit that mistakes were made in respect of the Shires Estate, and you claim that lessons have been learned. Will you now set out the details of what was learned, including what mistakes were made and who made them, making clear how next time the administration gets a report stating that a tower block is at risk of disproportionate collapse (or an analogous level of danger), how the administration will respond differently?

Answer:

The safety of our residents and tenants is an absolute priority for the Council. We take a proactive approach to building safety in over 18 metre blocks which are now regulated by the Building Safety Regulator including:

- Undertaking full structural and fire safety surveys which have been undertaken on all these blocks.
- Monthly Building Safety inspections carried out under the High Rise Building monthly inspection programme to identify issues and report back, to check and validate content in Premises Information Boxes i.e. emergency packs, building plans and resident information when this is available. Trends or areas of concern are reported to the Building Safety and Compliance Board.
- Delivering actions arising from our Building Safety Cases reports and assessments completed as part of managing these blocks.

Our approach to all these matters is now informed by the new Building Safety Act which came into place in April 2024.

Question 13 from Councillor Ian Barnes to Councillor Sabri Ozaydin, Cabinet Member for Climate Action and Placemaking

Following requests from our residents, are there any plans to introduce Controlled Parking Zones (CPZ) on council estates where parking is a real problem?

Answer:

I am pleased to confirm that we have secured additional resources to review Controlled Parking Zones (CPZs) on council estates.

Once the initial review is complete, discussions will begin with residents on the estates most affected by parking issues. CPZs can help manage parking more fairly by prioritising residents and their visitors.

This can improve parking availability, reduce congestion, and make access easier for emergency services, deliveries, and those with mobility needs. CPZs also help create a safer and more organised environment by preventing unsafe or obstructive parking.

Question 14 from Councillor Lee Chamberlain to Councillor Ayten Guzel, Cabinet Member for Housing

Does the Cabinet Member agree that it was a mistake for the Administration to plan to build tall buildings with single staircases and that it was a choice which raises questions as to the actual priority placed on Enfield resident safety?

Answer:

All the Councils schemes have been adapted as a result of Building Regulations at every stage. This is despite the significant additional costs, resources and time delays arising. The approach to amend Building Regulations on two separate occasions within a short period was taken by the previous Government.

The safety of our residents is a key priority for us.

Question 15 from Councillor Josh Abey to Councillor Ayten Guzel, Cabinet Member for Housing

When will we meet our 100% decent homes target?

Answer:

We are on course to meet our 100% Decent Homes target by 2026 as part of our programme to invest in council homes with around £200m invested since 2020.

Decent Homes works include:

- Pitched and Flat Roof coverings, chimneys, fascia's and roofline, rainwater goods and chimneys to keep homes weather and watertight
- Window and doors
- Repointing of external walls, re-rendering and repairs to external wall finishes including cladding and the like
- Structural repairs to lintels and other areas as identified.
- Finishes to communal areas i.e., floor and wall finishes.
- Screens and Communal Doors
- Replacement of Kitchens and Bathrooms including associated electrical and heating systems

Question 16 from Councillor Andy Milne to Councillor Chinelo Anyanwu, Cabinet Member for Environment, Culture and Public Spaces

Will the terms of the lease between Tottenham Hotspur and Whitewebbs insist on all planning conditions be met before the football development commences, café, park land, etc?

Answer:

The lease will only be granted once the planning conditions are met. The process is that an Agreement for Lease will be granted. This will facilitate the next parts of the process. This will ensure that conditions are met before the actual lease is granted. One of those milestones is meeting the planning conditions. Once the planning conditions are met, the lease can then be granted.

Question 17 from Councillor Nicki Adeleke to Councillor Ayten Guzel, Cabinet Member for Housing

What improvements are planned for our housing repairs service?

Answer:

We are committed to providing a high-quality and responsive Repairs Service with our housing teams, aiming to deliver best in class performance.

Through technology improvements, we are improving performance and the customer experience of our residents. This includes piloting damp and mould sensors, offering video calls for repair diagnosis, assessing completed works and

using software to identify repeat jobs to ensure we get it “right first time.”

We will work with tenants and leaseholders on a new Repairs Policy that clarifies our responsibilities as a social landlord. Alongside this, we will co-create a Repairs Charter with tenants, providing them with a clear set of promises about how repairs will be delivered.

Our workforce currently completes 97% of jobs on time. These improvements will help us boost the performance of specialist contractors and maintain high levels of resident satisfaction with the quality of repairs.

Question 18 from Councillor Michael Rye to Councillor Ergin Erbil, Leader of the Council

Has Enfield Council placed a bid with the government to be a “new town” of 10,000 new homes? If so, where will these homes be located?

Answer:

We will work shoulder to shoulder with the new Government to build the homes that our communities need. We began discussions with the Government in 2024. At the request of Ministers, we visited the Crews Hill site in summer 2024.

Although the New Town initiative is separate from the Local Plan, our advanced draft Local Plan puts us in a good place to lead on building homes, providing GP surgeries, parks and schools and the infrastructure that our communities need.

Considering this, we were invited to submit a bid for a New Town in the borough. We are at a very early stage so there is no decision on where any new homes would be located.

Question 19 from Councillor Doug Taylor to Councillor Susan Erbil, Cabinet Member for Planning and Regulatory Services

Can you provide an update on planned improvements to our street trading practices?

Answer:

We are making it easier for our businesses to apply for street trading licences. It is now simpler and cheaper for businesses, like cafes, to apply to place furniture on the highway. The Business and Planning Act (BPA) 2020 introduced street pavement licensing, allowing businesses like pubs and cafes to serve food and drink on public land next to their premises during Covid. Before this, the Council issued tables and chairs street trading licenses under the London Local Authorities Act (LLA) 1990.

The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act (LURA) 2023 has now made the provisions of the BPA 2020 permanent. While this provides extra income for businesses and

helps protect hospitality jobs, residents have raised concerns about the number and control of these premises.

To address these concerns and streamline the two licensing processes, we will develop a Street Trading Policy. Although the BPA Act doesn't require the Council to have a policy, it's considered best practice and good governance to implement one.

Question 20 from Councillor Michael Rye to Councillor Tim Leaver, Deputy Leader

Given the challenging budget process for 2025-26 can the Council indicate what is the percentage 25%, 50%, 75%, 100% chance of Enfield being subject to a 144 notice?

Answer:

Together with 29 other councils, the government has agreed Enfield's Exception Financial Support request of £30m covering the years 2024/25 and 2025/26. All other things being equal, this has the effect of boosting revenue reserves by £30m by allowing the use of capital receipts for revenue purposes.

The government have stated that it "is under no illusions about the scale of financial issues facing councils and is committed to restoring stability and bringing forward reform to ensure local government is fit, legal and decent and can play its critical role in providing the services communities rely on. Reform will take time however and there is potential for continued instability as we work to fix the foundations of local government. That is why we confirmed in November 2024 that there will continue to be a framework in place to support councils in the most difficult positions. The government has been clear that while we will continue to expect councils to make sure they are doing all they can locally to deliver for residents, this process will be collaborative and supportive of councils".

We remain committed to being a financially resilient council that invests in Enfield, delivering services that provide for our communities.

Question 21 from Councillor Suna Hurman to Councillor Gina Needs, Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion and Enforcement

What work is being done to support the Women's Night Safety Charter?

Answer

We are working hard to create a safer Enfield. One of our key priorities is to tackle violence against women and girls. We have been leading on the implementation of the Women's Night Safety Charter with businesses. The initial approach has been concentrated on Fore Street and Upper Edmonton, as these areas have been a key focus by the Police and partner agencies due to the open street sex and drug trade that is affecting the safety of women and girls, living, going to school and working in

the area.

In recent weeks Community Safety Officers have also been working with businesses in the Southgate, Cockfosters, and Palmers Green area, visiting over 200 businesses across the borough to date. By developing relationships with businesses, we aim to identify community champions that can pioneer the charter further, fostering a culture that challenges street based sexual harassment taking place within their premises.

To date over 20 businesses have adopted the Women's Night Safety Charter, making a commitment to create safe spaces for women and girls seeking support within the community. This includes training their staff in:

- 'Ask for Angela' (this is a national scheme that helps anyone who is feeling vulnerable on a night out to get the support they need)
- Spike awareness
- Safe Haven (creating safe spaces that support women in vulnerable situations, for instance providing access to phone, charging facility)

The approach has been recognised as best practice by the Safer Business Network who led on the initiative for the Mayor's office across London.

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

Have there been any complaints about any aspect of the refurbished tennis courts since this work was completed?

Answer:

We have worked hard to improve our tennis courts across the borough. Following the successful refurbishment of 39 tennis courts across twelve of our parks and open spaces, we have already had more than 7,000 bookings since May 2024.

The refurbished courts have ensured that our residents have high quality tennis facilities located across the borough to help them keep active and healthy. Whilst the installation of the booking system has enabled our residents to book a court at a time convenient for them, knowing that the court will be available when they arrive.

As part of the tennis investment programme, we have also appointed a tennis operator who is maintaining the courts, fixing any problems quickly & efficiently, and growing tennis participation. The appointment of a tennis operator is key element of our strategy to ensure we have a sustainable funding model that will keep our courts maintained to a high standard.

Question 23 from Councillor George Savva to Councillor Abdul Abdullahi, Cabinet Member for Children's Services

The recent Next Steps event, held on 5th February 2025 at the Green Towers Community Centre, was attended by hundreds of young people.

Can you tell us more about this event and the opportunities for young people to explore careers and help them build their future?

Answer:

I had the privilege of attending this dynamic event involving 100 Year 10 and 11 students from four secondary schools and one youth club in Enfield. This was an opportunity for young people to take a major step towards building their future and explore their career opportunities. The informative event offered information about all the post 16 options available to them so that they can make informed decisions about their education or training and build their confidence in planning for their future.

I would like to thank the Enfield Careers Service for organising the event and our partners at Glenman Corporation, Liberty Mutual, Northside Youth and Community Connexions, Tottenham Hotspur, Warburtons, Matrix SEN, Barnet and Southgate College, Capital City college and First Rung. The event shows that Enfield Council is committed to empowering young people by giving them early access to skills, knowledge and opportunities for a brighter future.

Question 24 from Councillor Joanne Laban to Councillor Ergin Erbil, Leader of the Council

Will the Leader of the Council write to the Chancellor and ask for full compensation for the increase in NIC due to the negative impact on our budgetary position and service we provide to the people of Enfield?

Answer:

I would be glad to join with the opposition and write to the Chancellor to thank her for her budget that has increased funding to the Council from the Government that secures long term growth in Enfield and across the country.

The opposition can join me in thanking the Government for:

The new Recovery Grant & Social Care Prevention Grants that will provide additional support, helping the council reduce financial pressures while expanding social care services.

The increase in Homelessness Prevention Grants ensures that more families can stay in their homes, avoiding emergency accommodation.

The Public Health Grant has increased to £20.4m, allowing investment in mental health support, community health programs, and preventative care.

Question 25 from Councillor Ian Barnes to Councillor Chinelo Anyanwu, Cabinet Member for Environment, Culture and Public Spaces

The successful trial of cattle at Forty Hall and Trent Park has led to the project becoming permanent. Can you explain the benefits of this project and how it meets our goals of creating a Greener Enfield?

Answer:

Conservation grazing involves using cattle to manage habitats such as grasslands and meadows, protecting the environment. This method is supported by groups like Natural England and the RSPB. It also helps with our climate action goals as this method reduces the use of fossil fuels compared to methods like mechanical mowing.

Cattle grazing benefits our green spaces by:

1. Improving Biodiversity
2. Mimics Natural Ecosystems
3. Reduces Scrub Encroachment
4. Improves Soil Health
5. Encourages Natural Regeneration
6. Supports Carbon Sequestration
7. Reduces Mechanical Intervention
8. Creates Habitat Mosaics

These efforts will improve Enfield's green spaces, with positive feedback from residents and volunteers who have enjoyed seeing the cows.

Question 26 from Councillor James Hockney to Councillor Tim Leaver, Deputy Leader

Can the Finance Portfolio Holder confirm how much the Council has spent on external solicitors in each of the last three years?

Answer:

In response to your question on spend on external solicitors, the amounts are shown below:

2022/23	2023/24	2024/25 P1-10
1,021,464	1,027,000	873,353

Question 27 from Councillor Doug Taylor to Councillor Ergin Erbil, Leader of the Council

Can you join me in recognising the acute concern that residents have about the performance of our water companies and agree that we should seek to get answers from them and convey resident concerns to them.

Answer:

I wholeheartedly support the new Government's ambitions to clean our waterways, rivers and lakes. In light of this, we will press both Thames Water and Affinity Water to improve their service and performance for our residents.

While the figures below indicate an improvement in burst water mains over the past three years, there is still room for further progress:

2022 – 528
2023 – 306
2024 – 128
Average: 321

It's important to note that these figures reflect burst mains only and do not account for all repairs carried out on their assets, such as service pipes and foul sewers.

Question 28 from Councillor James Hockney to Councillor Tim Leaver, Deputy Leader

Can the Finance Portfolio Holder confirm the financial impact on the Council of the Government increasing National Insurance Contributions (NICs).

Answer:

The estimated additional employer national insurance costs are £4m.

Question 29 from Councillor Mahym Bedekova to Councillor Rick Jewell, Cabinet Member for Transport and Waste

Can you provide an update on the new recycling centre performance, the uptake from residents and the work being done to promote this new facility?

Answer:

There has been an estimated total of 12,000 visitors at the new ECO Park Reuse and Recycling Centre since it opened in July 2024.

We have been promoting the new recycling centre in our own communications channels, including social media posts on a number of platforms.

NLWA has undertaken the following to promote the new Reuse and Recycling

Centre in Edmonton:

- Paid social media campaign in the lead up to and after the opening
- Leaflets distributed to 103,000 homes and businesses in a 1.5-mile radius around the EcoPark site
- Billboard display outside London Energy, visible from the North Circular (coming early-March)
- Advertisements in local monthly newspapers, including Enfield Dispatch, Haringey Community Press, and Waltham Forest Echo
- Advertisements in local weekly newspapers, including Ham & High Express and Enfield Independent
- Added the new centre to Enfield, Haringey and Waltham Forest council websites as well as NLWA's website
- Included a write-up about the new centre in council newsletters to residents and businesses
- Additional promotion is being planned for this year.
- There was a mobilisation project and the usual ongoing social posts

Question 30 from Councillor James Hockney to Councillor Ergin Erbil, Leader of the Council

Has the Leader of the Council written to the Mayor of London calling for the following three actions to tackle dangerous A10 speeding, noise and Borough car meets – (1) Average Speed Cameras on the A10 Southbury Road junction to Great Cambridge Road roundabout. (2) Noise Cameras on the A10 corridor (3) Implement Operation Vision Zero (that provides roads transport Police resource)?

If the Leader has not written calling for the above three actions – will he now commit to doing so?

Answer:

We've made great progress, and we continue to work with TfL and the Mayor's office to tackle speeding and noise issues on the A10. We are serious about creating a safer Enfield, and I am glad to confirm that after years of lobbying from myself and Cabinet, we have secured an agreement to install average speed cameras from Southbury all the way to the Great Cambridge roundabout, covering Edmonton's section of the A10.

We also continue to work shoulder to shoulder with the police to improve road safety on the A10 and we have received confirmation from the police that they will increase visibility on this main road.

We have already secured an injunction with arrest powers to stop car meets. We are committed to taking action against those who create noise nuisance and engage in illegal car meets in our borough.

We are not going to stop there. We are also looking to improve road safety on Hertford Road, Fore Street and the A406.

We are also working with the police to recruit volunteers for Community and Junior Road Watch schemes, where residents and schoolchildren help police identify speeding drivers.

UPDATE SHEET
Council Meeting
27 February 2025

Item 6 – Enfield Council Library Strategy

The reports to Cabinet and Full Council state at paragraph 63 that opening hours at the 4 large libraries at Enfield Town, Edmonton Green, Palmers Green and Ordnance Unity Centre will remain unchanged from the consultation proposals.

However, there has been a small change. At the consultation stage the proposal was to extend the opening hours at Palmers Green and Ordnance Unity Centre libraries by 10.5 hours, but the opening hours at those libraries will now be extended by 4.5 hours rather than 10.5 hours as originally anticipated. This is due to the additional costs associated with keeping Oakwood library open, while still making the desired savings from the library service. These libraries were popular alternatives for those impacted by the proposed closures and have high usage levels.

Overall, the 9 remaining libraries will be open for a total of 454.5 hours per week. This would mean that the opening hours at the 9 libraries will have a net increase in their weekly opening hours of 18 hours per week. Officers consider that this revised proposal will enable the Council to have a geographical spread of 9 libraries with suitable opening hours in fit for purpose buildings.

Once the new operating model has been implemented, officers intend to annually review our opening hours to ensure they are at optimal times for communities.

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Monitoring Officer Advice Note No. 3b: Dated 21.2.25

Declaring Interests at any Council Tax Calculation meeting or the Budget Meeting

Introduction

I issued a Monitoring Officer Advice Notes in February 2023 and 2024 giving advice to members in the form of some FAQs about whether members would have to declare a pecuniary or other interest in items appearing on the agenda for the budget council meeting. Further FAQs have been provided since then. I have updated that advice for the forthcoming budget meeting. I hope you find this useful. In you are in any doubt, please email or call me straight away and I will be happy to help.

What interests do I need to declare?

Paragraph 8.1 of the Enfield Member Code of Conduct requires members to always draw attention to any relevant interest in any proceedings of the Council or its committees. Such disclosures should be made even if the interest has already been included in the register of Interests.

Paragraph 14.1 states that if you have an interest in a matter under discussion at a meeting of the Council, you must disclose the interest to the meeting, unless the Monitoring Officer advises that the interest is sensitive and need not be disclosed publicly. If your interest is specifically a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, as defined in the Constitution, then you should declare and leave the meeting. If it is some Other Pecuniary Interest or if it is a non-pecuniary, you can remain and may vote.

Can I vote on the Council Tax if I have Some Council Tax Arrears (FAQ 3):

In accordance with section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (“the 1992 Act”), where a payment of Council Tax that a member is liable to make has been outstanding for **two months or more** at the time of a meeting, the Member must disclose the fact of their arrears (though they are not required to declare the amount) and cannot vote on any of the following matters if they are the subject of consideration at a meeting (and must withdraw from the meeting):

- (a) Any decision relating to the administration or enforcement of Council Tax
- (b) Any budget calculation required by the Local Government Finance Act 1992 underlying the setting of the Council Tax
- (c) Any recommendation, resolution or other decision which might affect the making of the Annual Budget calculation.

Any members who are in arrears of Council tax should seek immediate advice from the Monitoring Officer.

Can I vote on the Council Tax Support Scheme if I am in receipt of Council tax Support?

This is not covered by the budget report this year but ordinarily, yes, you should declare the interest. Please see previous advice notes on this subject.

Can I vote on the Rent Setting report if I am a Council Tenant?

Yes, but you should declare the interest.

This is not an interest which is included in the list of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests but is still a pecuniary interest as it affects your finances more than the rest of the population in the borough. Members who are Council tenants will therefore have some 'Other Pecuniary Interest' in the rent setting report and should therefore declare the interest at the meeting. It is not a DPI (Disclosable Pecuniary Interest) so you may stay and vote if you wish.

Do I have to declare an interest in an item of business relating to budgets, financial strategies or a budget/capital re-alignment if I am a director of a Council-Owned Company?

Yes, it is best to declare the interest in the interests of openness and transparency but you can stay and vote.

The holding of a position in a local authority company which may be mentioned in a budget report is unlikely to amount to a DPI (as it does not fall under one of the categories listed in the Code of Conduct) so you are not precluded from voting on the matter. Nevertheless, since it affects a company in respect of which you hold a position of management or control, you should declare this as a non-pecuniary personal interest but you may remain, speak and vote on the item. This may be relevant to you if you are a director of Energetik, Montague or HGL Ltd, for example. It would also apply if another organisation such as NLWP was affected.

Like most councillors, I am a Council Tax Payer, do I need to declare an interest in the item on setting the Council Tax (or Council Tax Support) simply because I am a councillor living in the borough?

Generally speaking, you do not need to declare this as you share this interest with most other residents in the borough. Advice from DCLG in 2013 provided:

“Any payment of, or liability to pay, council tax does not create a disclosable pecuniary interest as defined in the national rules; hence being a council tax payer does not mean that you need a dispensation to take part in the business of setting the council tax or precept or local arrangements for council tax support. If you are a homeowner or tenant in the area of your council you will have registered, in accordance with the national rules, that beneficial interest in land. However, this disclosable pecuniary interest is not a disclosable pecuniary interest in the matter of setting the council tax or precept since decisions on the council tax or precept do not materially affect your interest in the land. For example, it does not materially affect the value of your home, your prospects of selling that home, or how you might use or enjoy that land. Accordingly, you will not need a dispensation to take part in the business of setting the council tax or precept or local arrangements for council tax support, which is in any event a decision affecting the generality of the public in the area of your council, rather than you as an individual.

This advice was echoed by the LGA more recently in guidance they provided on a new model code of conduct issued by that organisation, namely:

“The LGA is clear that you do not have a DPI simply if you are voting to set the Council Tax or precept. Guidance issued by the Government in 2013 made clear that ‘any payment of, or liability to pay, council tax does not create a disclosable pecuniary interest as defined in the national rules; hence being a council tax payer does not mean that you need a dispensation to take part in the business of setting the council tax or precept or local arrangements for council tax support.

The Council Tax and precept are charges on all relevant properties in the area and do not directly relate to any single property in such a way as to give rise to a DPI. Members are therefore fully entitled to vote on the matter (subject to rules about Council tax arrears).”

Can I vote on setting the Council Tax Base and estimates if I am in arrears of Council tax?

The rules relating to arrears of Council Tax apply to any decisions on calculations used for setting the Council tax so they apply to the Council Tax Base Report as well (usually done at a different meeting). Accordingly, where a payment of Council Tax that a member is liable to make has been outstanding for **two months or more** at the time of a meeting where the Council tax Base is set then the Member must disclose the fact of their arrears (though they are not required to declare the amount) and cannot vote on the matter (and must withdraw from the meeting).

Any members who are in arrears of Council tax should seek immediate advice from the Monitoring Officer.

Do I have to declare an interest in any Budget items?

Members will not normally have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in the budget report as it is not generally constructed in a way which affects specific interests. You may have children in education or parents in care but you share those interests with many other residents of the borough and so they do not amount to a DPI. Obviously, if there is something very specific in the budget that directly affects an interest of yours then you may well need to declare it and, in some cases, not vote. If in doubt, please seek advice from the Monitoring Officer before the meeting.

Do I have to declare an interest if the budget or some other item of business mentions the NHS in some way and I work for the NHS or a close relative works for the NHS?

Unless there is something very specific which directly relates to you or your relative or to the part of the NHS you work for, it is unlikely that you will have a pecuniary or personal interest in the item. It is unlikely you need to declare it at the meeting as the item is probably so broad that it would be unlikely to constitute an interest for you personally. If an item specifically relates to a hospital you work at, then you may wish to declare a personal interest but you can remain, speak and vote on the item unless it directly affects you personally in a financial way. If it is likely to directly impact on your own personal financial situation then you may have a pecuniary interest and would need to declare that interest and absent yourself from that item.

What about if I am a school governor or a member of an academy board?

If the item relates to schools generally, then you are unlikely to have a personal interest or a pecuniary interest as the interest is probably so broad that it would be unlikely to constitute an interest for you personally.

If an item relates to a specific school or schools in which you have an interest i.e. as a governor or as a member of an academy board or similar then you may wish to declare a personal interest as it would be likely to affect you more than other residents in the borough. However, it is unlikely to amount to a pecuniary interest and so you can remain, speak and vote on the item.

Do I have to declare an interest in the Pay Policy Statement if my partner or another family member works for the Council?

No. This report merely sets the pay policy and does not affect the finances of any particular individual.

Further Advice and Guidance

If you have any concerns or questions please contact me at terry.osborne@enfield.gov.uk or, in my absence, the Deputy Monitoring Officer at claire.johnson@enfield.gov.uk

Terry Osborne,

Director of Law and Governance

Supplementary MOAN on declarations of interest for this meeting

Council Meeting Feb 2025

Do I have to declare an interest in the Pay Policy Statement if my partner or another family member works for the Council or if I work for a Trade Union engaged in negotiations around pay? (based on FAQ 16).

No. this report merely sets the pay policy and does not affect the finances of any particular individual and is not influenced directly by any TU negotiations.

Do I have to declare an interest in an item of business that relates to or affects a library or leisure centre which I or a family member belongs to? (based on FAQ 17).

This is not a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest. The test for whether to declare any other type of non-disclosable pecuniary interest or any other interest at a meeting is to ask yourself whether a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts reasonably regard your interest as so significant that it would be likely to prejudice your judgement of the public interest. If the answer to this question is yes, then you should register the interest and/or declare it at a meeting where the item is relevant to business being transacted (paragraph 8.6 of the Code of Conduct).

Many people in the borough will belong to a library or will have family members who belong to a library. Councillors who belong to a library or who have family members who belong to a library are in the same position as the majority of other residents in the borough. All libraries are potentially affected by the review. Accordingly, and having regard to the requirements of paragraph 8.6, I do not consider that members need to declare they belong to a library.

However, if you work at a library or have a close family member who works at a library which is likely to be affected, then you may have a pecuniary interest and you should consider declaring the interest at the meeting and not vote on the item.

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Monitoring Officer Advice Note 4 dated 22/2/23

Reminder of the Rules on Raising Points of Order or Points of Personal Explanation at Council Meetings

It is up to the Mayor whether to entertain a request by a councillor to raise a Point of Order or Point of Personal Explanation and any member who is declined the right to raise such a point is respectfully asked to accept the decision of the Mayor and be seated. The right to raise a Point of Order or a Point of Personal Explanation should not be used simply to secure a further opportunity to speak or to argue with a point made by another councillor. Such request will be resisted by the Mayor.

Point of Order: In the event that there has or appears to have been a breach of the Council Procedure Rules then the relevant Group Whip or Group Leader may wish to raise this as a *Point of Order* under **CPR 13.35**. The councillor may only raise a Point of Order at the end of a speech to which it relates.

The Councillor must stand and indicate to the Mayor that he or she would wish to raise a Point of Order. The Mayor will then invite the councillor to specify which CPR the point of order relates to and the way in which he or she considers it has been breached. The councillor must state clearly the CPR which is alleged to have been breached. The CPRs are listed in the Supplementary Agenda. The councillor's explanation will be limited to 1 minute.

The Mayor will then ask the member to be seated whilst he or she seeks advice from the Monitoring Officer. The Monitoring Officer will advise the Mayor and he or she will then respond to the councillor. No further discussion should take place as the Mayor's ruling on a Point of Order is final.

Point of Personal Explanation CPR 13.36: At times, a councillor may feel they need to raise a point of personal explanation. If so, the councillor may do so only at the end of the speech to which it relates.

A personal explanation may only relate to some material part of the councillor's earlier speech which may appear to have been misunderstood in the present debate. The councillor must stand and indicate to the Mayor that he or she would wish to raise a Point of Personal Explanation. The Mayor will then invite the councillor to explain which (material) part of the councillor's earlier speech appears to have been misunderstood in the present debate and the reasons why. The councillor's explanation will be limited to 1 minute, or longer with the consent of the Mayor.

The Mayor will normally simply thank the member and move on. This is not an opportunity for further debate or argument and the Mayor will not invite other councillors to comment or accept or deny the explanation given.

Terry Osborne, Monitoring Officer

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Quick Guide to Procedure Rules

Motions which may be moved during debate **13.20**

(At the end of a councillor's speech):

- Withdraw a motion or recommendation; 13.20 (i)
- Amend a motion or recommendation; 13.20 (ii)
- Amend the timings or the order of business under Rule 4 to allow further time for debate; 13.20 (iii)
- Proceed to the next business; 13.20 (iv)
- Request the question be now put; 13.20 (v)
- Adjourn a debate; 13.20 (vi)
- Adjourn the meeting; 13.20 (vii)
- Allow further time for debate on the item and to vary the timings set out in the agenda and/or to extend the meeting. 13.20 (viii)

Point of Order **13.35**

A councillor may only raise a point of order at the end of the speech to which it relates. A point of order must relate to an alleged breach of these Council Rules of Procedure or the law. The councillor must indicate the rule or law and the way in which they consider it has been broken. The councillor's speech will be limited to 1 minute, with any additional time to be agreed at the discretion of the Mayor. The ruling of the Mayor on the matter will be final.

Personal Explanation **13.36**

A councillor may only make a point of personal explanation at the end of the speech to which it relates. A personal explanation may only relate to some material part of the earlier speech by the councillor, which may appear to have been misunderstood in the present debate. The councillor's speech will be limited to 1 minute, with any additional time to be agreed at the discretion of the Mayor. The ruling of the Mayor on the admissibility of a personal explanation will be final.

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