

COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS: 21 September 2011

Question 1 from Councillor Lavender to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council

"On 17th August you were written to by London Councils in relation to the fact Sir Peter Rogers from the Mayor's Office has been in discussion with a range of banks and the Evening Standard about the establishment of a Charitable Fund to support small and medium sized enterprises in recovering from the recent disturbances.

The charitable fund is in addition to the £50m fund pledged by the Mayor to support re-building in London following the disturbances.

To match fund this charitable fund to support re-building in London following the disturbances by banks and the Mayor, individual boroughs were asked for a contribution of £50,000 to this Fund.

Will Councillor Taylor publish his response to that request as an answer to this question?"

Reply from Councillor Taylor

"My response to London Councils (Barbara Salmon) of 18 August is set out below:

Barbara

Like my colleagues in Greenwich and Southwark, I have some reservations about this. As one of the affected boroughs, we are currently dealing with our own businesses both small and large (the destruction of the Sony building is probably the single biggest business loss in London with over 200 jobs).

If this is for presentation issues, I would have preferred London Councils to be the body making the contribution on behalf of all London Boroughs rather than a piecemeal request. We already are facing a variety of funding streams from Government - national and regional - and I'm not clear how this fits into those.

However, having said all of that, I am supportive of a London response and Enfield Council will make a contribution to the fund.

Enfield has pledged £50,000 in support of the Fund."

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

"Does the Leader of the Council believe that the questions procedure at Council can be abused by Members?"

Reply from Councillor Taylor

“Yes I do. Where questions can be answered by officers directly there is a strong argument that Members should simply raise their issues in that manner. Question 34 falls, for example, into this category.

Given that it is unlikely that supplementary questions will be taken past number 25 the policy of dumping questions on the agenda is dubious and may need to be reviewed. “

Question 3 Councillor Rye to Councillor Hamilton, Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing & Public Health

- (a) “What actions did she take to support the restoration of law and order in Enfield after the riots of last month and will she join the Conservative Opposition on Enfield Council in thanking the Borough Commander, Enfield Police Officers and others from elsewhere in the country that worked so hard to contain the mindless looting and criminal damage that many local businesses suffered?
- (b) Does the Cabinet Member support the courts in holding in custody 70% of those arrested in the riots last month and referral to crown court for appropriate lengthy jail terms for offenders?”

Reply from Councillor Hamilton

- (a) “The Cabinet Member and other key partners were involved in several regular "Gold Group" meetings at the invitation of the police. Through this forum, we were able to co-ordinate responses and ensure that order was restored as quickly as possible. This is demonstrated by the " clean up" in Enfield Town, where we had to use volunteers for other work, because the council staff had done the work before the offer was made. The communications between agencies and with the public were effective and a final debrief is planned with the police on Monday 12th at which ongoing actions will be agreed.
- (b) If the courts decided that a remand into custody (RIC) was an appropriate measure, we are supportive of it. These were very extreme circumstances and local businesses and residents need to be protected and will look to all agencies within the Criminal Justice System to do this. The figures shown do reflect the picture locally and we have found that the courts are very supportive of robust policing and enforcement. We hope that consideration is given to the removal of financial penalty from funding formulae for Youth Offending Service (YOS), for use of custody (over an agreed limit) when serious offences have been committed.”

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

“Can the Leader of the Council comment on what the situation is with regard

to the future of Chase Farm hospital?”

Reply from Councillor Taylor

“I am very disappointed to say that the Secretary of State has designed to downgrade Chase Farm Hospital”

Question 5 from Councillor Rye to Councillor Hamilton, Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing & Public Health

“Does the Cabinet Member support the additional £42 million that was provided by the Mayor of London, so that the Metropolitan Police Force could be the first in the country to begin recruiting again?”

Reply from Councillor Hamilton

“We would support any move to provide investment in policing and community safety. Unfortunately this investment may be negated by cuts in other areas such as a Government 60% reduction in the Community Safety Fund, from which much of the more complex pieces of work are supported.”

Question 6 from Councillor Sitkin to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council

“Will the Leader of the Council update the Council on the consequences of the disturbances in Enfield?”

Reply from Councillor Taylor

The information as at 31st August showed that 80 "Commercial" properties were damaged, the majority of those in Enfield Town (33) and 23 in Edmonton.

Information about the list of the private properties which were damaged is not currently available, however, in total 209 offences have been recorded on Enfield Borough relating to this period of disorder. Offences recorded include: Arson, GBH, Robbery, Burglary, ABH and Possession of an Offensive Weapon. A number of significant arrests have already been made, including the arrest of suspects for the Arson to the Sony Building.

Investigation update: Local figures up to 12th September. Force-wide up to 5th Sept.

- Enfield Police are currently investigating 241 criminal allegations as a result of this disorder.
- 19 local officers working full time on this investigation
- They have made 90 arrests, executed 22 warrants, and managed to secure 40 charges.
- They still have 45 people on bail and have a large number of images yet to be identified.

The latest information on arrests and charges Met. Wide is as shown below:

- 2333 total arrests (513 juvenile / 1820 Adults).
- 1354 people have been charged (303 Juvenile / 1051 Adult).

We are continuing to try to identify suspects using the CCTV footage.

Within three days following the rioting most businesses were open and able to trade with a few examples of businesses trading from their back entrance as the entrance to their shop had been damaged - (Mr Shah's Chemist on Coleman Parade).

Enfield Business & Retail Association (EBRA) has been on-going liaising between businesses in our town centres and the Council to share information on how businesses are recovering and the impact on trade. Also businesses that attending the 5 Business Support meetings held in August also shared comments about the impact on trade.

Here is a summary of the impact to date -

- Fear among customers has been a major concern for businesses - pharmacies and optometrists in Fore Street and Enfield Town shared that customers were reluctant to pick up prescriptions and appointments had been cancelled or no-shows and telephone bookings was significantly quieter in the 2 weeks following the rioting.
- Reduced footfall in all our town centres has been a major concern over the past 4 weeks for all types of businesses. August is always quieter due to the holidays, but has been more so following the riots. Weekend shopping has also been quieter than for this time of year.
- Business also shared that the rioting has brought local businesses together who would not otherwise have had the time to do so. There is also a strong commitment to work together and with the Council to put in place marketing to increase footfall.

EBRA shared on Friday 9th September that businesses have noticed an improvement in the first week of September, but are very cautious about how this trend will be sustained and are now thinking of the lead-up to Christmas.

Enfield Council's Sustainable Communities Team and the Communications Team are working with EBRA to prepare tailored marketing campaigns for our town centres. The Communications Team are also preparing an internal campaign to Council staff to promote spending in our town centres.

The campaign will be carried out during October. (These costs will be recovered through the High Street Fund. Their deadline for claiming is 7th November 2011). We will also bid for other funds to support marketing campaigns from November onwards to support the lead-up to Christmas and New Year sales.

Question 7 from Councillor Rye to Councillor Hamilton, Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing & Public Health

“Will the Cabinet member join me in supporting the Mayor of London’s recruitment of more police officers both full time and special constables to ensure that our Borough and the capital city is kept safe. In particular would she inform the Council about anything Enfield is doing to encourage the recruitment of more special officers in particular given the number recruited between May 2008 to March 2011 has almost doubled from 2,510 to 4,696?”

Reply from Councillor Hamilton

“Enfield police have for some time taken an active role in the recruitment of special constables and we have made good use of these officers in support of regular policing activity and partnership work, commissioned through SAFE tasking. Because of the success in recruiting, Enfield is now over its quota for Specials. 127 is the target figure and we have 154.”

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

“Will Councillor Goddard please give an update on Broomfield House?”

Reply from Councillor Goddard

“You will recall that the GLA promised £5.97m to restore Broomfield House and the stables yard and convert them to 18 homes for older people complete with a café and community space on the ground floor of Broomfield House. We carried out a full Feasibility study to check that the scheme was viable. The GLA then granted us half a million pounds for 2011/12 to commence the project. The present situation is that the Council has kept its part of the bargain and has completed detailed designs up to RIBA Stage D which would allow us to make a listed building consent and planning application. We have also carried out extensive public consultation which has shown strong public support for the proposals. However, we have now had to stop work as the promised funding by the GLA has not come forward.

The key issue now is the funding. While the Authority expedited the process on time the allocation in the GLA budget is no longer available as the budget previously identified by the GLA was terminated by the Government. The use, suggested by some, of the North London Sub Region allocation given by the GLA for empty homes, Decent Homes and extensions/de- conversions has been looked into but, I have to report, it has no substance at all - all of the money in it is already fully committed on existing housing projects being carried out by the relevant Local Authorities. We need a different, realistic solution to be tabled by the GLA. A meeting with the GLA will be held on the 13 September to look at this, the outcome of which will be reported at Council.”

Question 9 from Councillor Rye to Councillor Christine Hamilton,

Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing & Public Health

“Does the Cabinet member support the policy of the Mayor for London in getting more uniformed officers out of back room posts and onto the frontline (as we have seen very effectively during the last month)?”

Reply from Councillor Hamilton

“We strongly support visible policing, which is why we have continued to provide additional policing in our parks and on residential estates, through the financing of 24 PCSOs. WE do however recognise that there are cases where the specialist knowledge of police officers is not always visible, but provides an integral part in reducing crime. There are many examples where we have locally required an increased presence (for example at mischief week- Bonfire Night and Halloween), where all police in support roles are required to assist with front line activity. This local flexibility allows us to make the best use of the skills of officers to meet local need. It would be very helpful if, in addition to this the Met agreed to a re- run of the resources allocation formula, which currently sees Enfield disadvantaged as compared with some other areas (100 less officers than Haringey).”

Question 10 from Councillor Levy to Councillor Stafford, Cabinet Member for Finance and Property

“What action have you taken to support businesses following the recent disturbances?”

Reply from Councillor Stafford

“We have held 5 town centre meetings to support businesses in areas where there were disturbances with officer support from business rates, regeneration and the police. We have issued a business support leaflet advising businesses of the different services on offer to assist them. We have given the Enfield Town retailers a tent at the Enfield Show to promote their business as usual agenda and the “I Love Enfield – Keep Smiling” campaign. This business tent was very successful. We have visited damaged businesses directly and made up a Summary of Damage register to ensure that directly affected business receive all relevant information as it comes in from Government and other agencies. We are ensuring that all businesses that were physically damaged or behind a police cordon automatically receive a rate rebate. We have arranged to end the rates on the SONY site, pending reconstruction, in agreement with Government and have assisted the company with relocation and redevelopment advice. We have created a scheme to give businesses directly damaged a grant of £1,200 and this offer was made to relevant businesses in writing last week. We are working with retailers and business associations, in partnership with Enfield Business Retailers Association, to market areas that were directly affected with marketing and publicity which is reclaimable under the Government’s High Street Fund. We have also promoted the private sector High Street Fund.

We will continue to work with EBRA and businesses to restore confidence in town centres, high streets and parades.

In the longer term the Council is working to access the Mayor's funds and funds from central government following the success of the Outer London Round 1 Bid which secured £715k for the A1010 retail areas from Angel, Fore Street to Enfield Highway.

An Economic Development Steering Group made up of Members, businesses and business support agencies has been set up to oversee the short term support to business in the town centres and retail parks following the disturbances. The Group will also oversee support plans for town centres and business through until March 2011 and plan and bid for longer term strategic programmes to regenerate affected areas."

Question 11 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Goddard, Cabinet Member for Business and Regeneration

"Please could Cabinet Member for Regeneration inform the Council how much money the borough has bid for to help businesses in Enfield Town following the riots and looting in early August this year?"

Reply from Councillor Goddard

"The arrangement for the provision of economic support following the disturbances is as follows in Enfield Town:

- Offer of grants of £1,200 to businesses damaged in the riots and more in exceptional circumstances (this will be reclaimed from the High Street Fund)
- An integrated marketing campaign and events to increase footfall (this will be reclaimed from the High Street Fund)
- The clear up of the Town following disturbances will be funded by the Government's Recovery Fund
- We are considering which areas should be included in the next Outer London Commission bid (Round 2) for the Mayor's Regeneration Fund (£50m for London) and the Mayor's Supplementary Fund For Haringey, Croydon and Enfield (£20m.

A special mention should be given to Enfield Business Retailers Association who worked unstintingly with retailers during and after the riots. Enterprise Enfield offered business continuity and other advice to affected retailers from their own resources. My thanks are also extended to the North London Chamber of Commerce."

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

"Can the Cabinet Member for Environment tell the Council what action was taken by his department in reaction to the recent riots?"

Reply from Councillor Bond

“All pay and display machines were emptied of money the day following the riots. Two burnt out vehicles were promptly removed by the parking enforcement contractor. All parking enforcement staff were instructed to be extra vigilant and report any suspicious behaviour as soon as seen. Support to the police in terms of the provision of barriers to cordon off pavement and for diversionary routes. Urgent repairs to road surfaces following the removal of burnt out vehicles. Repairs to damage wall

On Monday 7 August (the day following the disturbances) Regulatory Services staff visited over 60 businesses to ascertain the extent of the damage to businesses and to provide visible support and offer assistance. Many businesses were appreciative that the council were visiting them and seeking to help. The damage assessment was feedback to regeneration to help inform their business support strategy and to also help seek funding streams to help business' recovery and growth.

The graffiti action team also undertook some street washing and graffiti removal connected with the disturbances.

Building control were called out to aid the fire brigade who were fighting the fire at the Sony Centre. This meant instructing Linbrooks to demolish parts of the building to allow access for the fire brigade to fight the fire and also advise on the safety of the structure for Fire Brigade personnel to enter the building. Ongoing monitoring occurred until the site was considered safe/secure to the public.

We also participated in the five meetings with businesses to discuss the impact of the disturbances on them and to understand what support businesses need to recover and grow their businesses.

Trading Standards also undertook visits following the disturbances to pawnbrokers and similar premises to discuss measures they have in place to avoid mistakenly receiving stolen goods and to offer advice about good practice. These visits were featured on ITV's 'London Tonight' and in the Mirror as well and the local papers. Businesses were very receptive towards these visits and had good practices in place.

All waste operational services and parks services operated as normal on the Monday after the recent disturbances that took place in Enfield on the Sunday. The only obvious exceptions were around the main centre of Enfield Town which was cordoned off through out the following Monday after the riots as a police crime scene.

The late shift street cleaning crew were advised by the police that the cordon was to be lifted at around 6pm on the Monday evening and were on standby to assist.

When the cordon was lifted the team worked with the Police to clear the town centre which was declared open again by 11.30pm on the Monday evening. This even included assisting local shopkeepers remove all debris and broken glass from their shop front to enable them to be open for business for Tuesday morning.

The roads that were missed by the refuse and recycling teams as a result of the police cordon were collected on the Tuesday morning.”

Question 13 from Councillor Chamberlain to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council

“Will the Council Leader set out what new provision of resources to protect Council and community property has been put in place since the mass attack of looters upon Enfield, as well as its cost and ongoing costs?”

Reply from Councillor Taylor

“The Community Safety Partnership is working with the business sector to link their commercial CCTV systems with those run by the local authority. This will allow us to have sight of incidents as soon as they arise and to direct services in a timely and appropriate manner. Similar discussions are being held with Transport for London to enable us to link the systems at Edmonton Bus Station with EPSC. These initiatives will complement the work we have already done to develop ‘retail radio’ schemes and early warning alerts for the business community.

We are also reviewing where the CCTV coverage could be enhanced, subject to further investment, and extending the number of ‘lone worker’ devices available to staff to ensure their safety whilst performing their duties around the Borough.

At the Civic Centre, additional security guards have been employed and revised car parking arrangements introduced.”

Question 14 from Councillor Bond to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council

“Given the recent commemoration of the North Atlantic convoys outside the Civic Centre in Enfield with representatives of the Russian consulate, does the Leader wish to advise the Council on any future working with the Russian Federation?”

Reply from Councillor Taylor

“We intend to produce a pack for schools on the support the residents gave the North Atlantic Convoy during the 2nd World War. Residents in Edmonton and Southgate sponsored 2 cruisers in this conflict and we are asking the Federation Ambassador to support this initiative and we are also looking to develop any connection with the Russian Federation that will benefit the

residents and business of Enfield. “

Question 15 from Councillor Chamberlain to Councillor Taylor Leader of the Council

“Will the Council Leader set out what new procedures have been put in place to protect Council Staff and how have these procedures have been implemented (ie training etc) since the mass attack of looters upon Enfield?”

Reply from Councillor Taylor

“The Council is proud of the way in which staff responded to the recent disturbances. While we take ensuring the health and safety of our staff very seriously the recent events were unprecedented isolated incidents which we would not expect to be repeated. In the days immediately following the incidents, staff based in the Civic Centre were advised not to remain at the office until late in the evening. However in the current financial climate and given that no two such incidents are likely to be the same, we do not consider it to be appropriate to spend council tax payer’s money on developing procedures and providing training for staff to cope in circumstances that are not expected to arise again in the foreseeable future. In the extremely unlikely event that there were to be a repetition of such events then appropriate advice and guidance would be given to staff on the day in the light of an assessment of risks posed by that specific incident .”

Question 16 from Councillor Stafford to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council

“What representations have been made to the Government about the future of Local Government funding, and specifically the issue of grant damping?”

Reply from Councillor Taylor

“The Council takes every opportunity to remind Central Government about the deprivation and resultant high need in the borough. The Council responded to the Local Government Finance Settlement last January expressing clearly that we believe that £15m has been taken away from Enfield through the damping mechanism at a time when the borough has sharply increasing needs. More recently, the Chief Executive discussed this issue directly in a meeting with Central Government officials.

The Government currently has consultation papers out regarding the Local Government Resource Review. The Leader and Shadow Leader have already written directly to the Secretary of State on this matter and as a result a meeting has been set up in October to allow us further opportunity to express our views. We will also reiterate that the Council should receive the full amount we are assessed as needing in both in our response to this consultation paper and any future funding papers until this matter is resolved.”

Question 17 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Bond Cabinet Member

for Environment

“Could Councillor Bond tell the Council how many requests the Council had received from residents of Uvedale Road, Walsingham Road, Amwell Close, Park Crescent and Whitehorn Gardens, prior to commencing his first consultation last summer on extending the Enfield Town CPZ to these roads and will he please give the Council the total cost of the consultation exercise undertaken between May 2010 and the present time including staff costs as well as those of consultants?”

Reply from Councillor Bond

“It was your Administration’s decision following the review of the Parking and Enforcement Plan to embark on a regular review of all CPZs to ensure that they are fit for purpose. It was this rather than requests from specific streets that triggered the review of the Enfield Town CPZ, which was prioritised due to its size, complexity and length of time since its last review.

The consultation costs of reviewing the Enfield Town CPZ breaks down as follows: £44.1k for consultants and £3.6k for LBE staff. All of the funding has come from s106 contributions assigned to the reviews of CPZs.”

Question 18 from Councillor Stafford to Councillor Taylor Leader of the Council

“Senior Tory politicians have called for the policy of a 50% tax rate—introduced by Alistair Darling – to be scrapped. London mayor, Boris Johnson, said that abolition of the 50p rate would be “a signal that London is open for business ... That’s the right direction to be going in“. Does the Leader of the Council think this signals London is open for business or that Enfield will close down for business?”

Reply from Councillor Taylor

“The Treasury appears to be split on the issue with George Osborne reported to be in favour of scrapping the tax by 2013 while Danny Alexander said that those who supported the right-wing policy were living in “cloud cuckoo land“. What does appear to be the case is that the consequence of cuts in public services hits the poorest hardest. Why doesn't the Chancellor stimulate demand to improve growth by investing in public services.”

Question 19 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Bond Cabinet Member for Environment

“While I agree in principle with the idea of maximising road space, and therefore allowing some commuter parking within appropriate zones, can Councillor Bond explain why his scheme would allow commuter parking almost anywhere within a residents controlled parking area within the Enfield Town CPZ, and would he not agree that to do so would cause chaos for residents who under his proposals will have paid substantially increased

prices for their resident permits?”

Reply from Councillor Bond

“It would not as there are no proposals to include commuter parking within the Enfield Town CPZ and never have been.”

Question 20 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Bond Cabinet Member for Environment

- “(a) Can he explain why a significant number of consultation letters in connection with the extension of the Enfield Town CPZ were not delivered until two weeks before the closing date?
- (b) Could he explain why such consultation did not expressly deal with the issue of commuter parking so that unless residents read the statutory notice (the small print) they would not have known that their zone was also have the facility for commuter parking competing side by side with their own parking?”

Reply from Councillor Bond

“A small area did not receive consultation leaflets during the initial distribution but our consultants quickly rectified this. The deadline for responses was also extended to ensure residents had ample time to give us their views.

Commuter parking was not included in the consultation leaflet because there was no intention to include commuter parking within the Enfield Town CPZ.”

Question 21 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Chris Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment

“Does the Cabinet Member agree along with the majority of residents that the recent Enfield Town CPZ consultation was a completely unproductive exercise, wasting the time of the Environment Department and public money?”

Reply from Councillor Bond

“No, we followed through your administration’s policy to review the Enfield Town CPZ and we now have a clear understanding of what the majority of residents want and there is a desire from some residents to amend the current arrangements.”

Question 22 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Bond Cabinet Member for Environment

- “(a) Will the Cabinet member confirm that the emissions from a dual fuelled HGV refuse collection vehicle are generally lower than those from a diesel fuelled HGV refuse collection vehicle?”

- (b) Given his imposition of higher parking permit charges on residents based on vehicle emissions, will the Cabinet member confirm that his environmental credentials did not extend to investing in dual fuelled refuse collection vehicles when he recently presided over the award of a contract for 14 diesel powered HGVs?”

Reply from Councillor Bond

- “(a) The current dual fuel vehicles has a theoretical reduction in carbon emissions of 8%. However in practice we are finding high fuel usage and costs so carbon emissions are very similar.
- (b) I believe Councillor Neville is referring to the purchase of 12 bio diesel refuse freighters. These have much better emissions than standard vehicles. The option on purchasing 'dual fuelled gas' vehicle was considered. However these vehicles required an additional investment of £600k to save about 20 tonnes of carbon a year. I don't believe the additional carbon saving is worth the required £600k investment. Our driver training programme will save more carbon at a fraction of the cost.”

Question 23 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Bond Cabinet Member for Environment

“Will the Cabinet member explain the rationale for changing the Council's policy on the issue of parking permits in CPZs by allowing more than one permit per household and explain how he reconciles this with the Council's “green” agenda?”

Reply from Councillor Bond

“The Council has always allowed more than one permit to be issued per household. If for example in one household a mother, father and children own a car each they would each be entitled to a permit. The restriction was that individuals could only get one permit. A recent change means that if an individual living in a CPZ owns more than one vehicle they can now get additional permits, all be it at a higher cost. This change will obviously make no difference to carbon emissions as only one vehicle can be driven at a time.”

Question 24 from Councillor Kaye to Councillor Orhan Cabinet Member for Children & Young People

“Does the Cabinet Member for Children & Young People welcome the opening of Enfield's first Free School, the Woodpecker Hall Primary Academy in Edmonton, and how will she be leading the celebrations?”

Reply from Councillor Orhan

“I welcome many contributions and commitments towards the education of the children of this Authority. This Administration will continue to work towards excellence in education and I am very proud of the work and excellent support of all our schools including our Partner schools. I want to take this opportunity to congratulating every single Head Teacher, Teachers and all staff, including those in this Authority for working so very hard in the interest of all children, irrespective of which school they go to.”

Question 25 from Councillor Vince to Councillor Orhan Cabinet Member for Children & Young People

“At the a meeting of the Member Governor Forum on Monday 18th July, concerned was expressed, this was minuted, by Chairmen of Governors about the Lead Member’s lack of attendance at meetings. As this meeting is an important tool for the Lead Member to hear the views of Chairmen of Governors, how does the Cabinet member intend to hear the views and work with Chairmen of Governors?

There has also been concern expressed by others about her attendance record.

Would the Cabinet member inform the Council on her attendance at the following meetings where she has stayed for the full length of the meeting since May 2010

- 1) Member Governor Forum
- 2) Staff Forum/Joint Consultative Group
- 3) Schools Forum
- 4) The Children's Trust
- 5) Corporate Parenting”

Reply from Councillor Orhan

“It is not always possible, when working full-time with family commitments, to attend all of the large number of meetings due to the wide remit of my role and responsibilities across the department. I am a committed Member of the Cabinet but also one who values the skills and expertise of the Director, management and all staff of the department, and I am confident that where there are many competing meetings, Ward work and work responsibilities, on the occasions I am unable attend, the department and staff have been excellent in keeping me abreast of the key issues at my weekly meetings. I can further assure the minority side that I receive the reports, minutes and recommendations of meetings and make time to read these.

I would like to thank all those officers and partners who attend the many forums across the council, because I believe that my decisions are better informed as a result of all this work.

I continue to prioritise my visits to schools, school councils and engagement with children and young people and to listen and hear their views on a range

of matters affecting their education and their lives, and I maintain that this is an important part of my work.

Finally, may I say that, I am pleased that this question has been posed for it allows me the opportunity to say how very disappointed I am that on the occasions I have invited Members to events for young people, the minority side have either rarely attended or not at all. I think this is rather sad and shows their lack of empathy for the youth of this borough.”

Question 26 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Goddard, Cabinet Member for Business and Regeneration

“Please could the Cabinet Member explain why in the Meridian Water masterplan, it does not estimate the types of affordable housing that we hope to provide?”

Reply from Councillor Goddard

“As outlined in the document which is not an agreed masterplan (page 14), this consultation document is not intended to be a consultation on the detailed draft Masterplan itself, but instead provides an opportunity to discuss and consult on what considerations will be at the heart of the Masterplan and provided an initial concept design for the potential layout of the area, taking the Councils existing policies in to account.

This approach ensures that the community and key stakeholders have the opportunity to shape the Masterplan throughout its development and be engaged from the very beginning of the process.

The feedback from this consultation will help the Council to modify the shape and nature of the proposals, and develop a single plan for the future of the area in the form of the Meridian Water Masterplan. The Council intends to issue a draft Masterplan built around these comments and feedback for a formal consultation in early next year.

Therefore whilst the consultation document acknowledges the Council’s ongoing commitment to the development of affordable housing within Meridian Water, it will be the Masterplan itself that will provide detail on the level and nature of affordable housing within Meridian Water rather than in this concept document.

Also I am more than willing to have a discussion at the Scrutiny Panel where Councillor Laban is a member as these matters are more properly discussed rather than written replies. The matters are also discussed at at the LDF Sub-Committee where Councillor Lavender is a co-opted member.

The Meridian Water Masterplan will be adopted by the Council as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) rather than a Planning Brief, giving it significantly more weight in decision making than would be offered by a Planning Brief.

LDF Core Policy 3 – Affordable Housing of the Councils adopted Core Strategy sets out the Council’s approach to the level of affordable/social housing within the Borough, including in Meridian Water. The Council will look to provide a target of 40% affordable housing units in any new development, and of that percentage, 70% would be social rented accommodation and 30% would be intermediate provision in line with the Mayor’s London Plan targets and National Planning Policy guidance.

The land owner of Meridian Water is not the Council therefore as with any development, any eligible housing provider or RSL would be able to work with private developers to deliver the affordable housing on their sites. The Council will play an active role in these discussions to ensure the highest quality of housing is achieved for our communities, however providing these standards are achieved the final decision on who would be invited to provide these affordable homes would lie with the developer with the approval of the Council.

In relation to the generation of energy from the waterway, you may be aware that the generation of electricity from waterways is based around having sufficient flow and speed to turn a turbine at the required speed to generate electricity. Unfortunately modelling undertaken by the Environment Agency shows that there is not enough speed of flow or volume of water to generate electricity in this area from these waterways.

The document discusses access to green space in the “Open space and play” section (Page 9) setting out the intention to create new green space and play areas throughout the development site to create a “broad range” of different spaces in a wide variety of locations, particularly linked to areas of residential development.

In respect of the area of green space identified in Councillor Laban’s question it is currently an area of existing Green Belt land inaccessible to the public and the Council is working closely with the Lee Valley Park Authority and Thames Water (the site owners) through the Masterplan process to reopen this area as an integrated part of the Lee Valley Park. This existing open space would be in addition to new green space created within the Meridian Water proposals, helping to create a variety of open spaces in a number of locations across the development area.”

Question 27 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Goddard, Cabinet Member for Business and Regeneration

“Please would the Cabinet member say what percentage of social housing (broken down by rent and shared ownership) he is intending to specify in the planning brief for Meridian Water and will Enfield Homes be invited to provide it?”

Reply from Councillor Goddard

Please refer to the response provided for Question 26.

Question 28 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Goddard, Cabinet Member for Business and Regeneration

“Please could the Cabinet Member explain why in the Meridian Water masterplan, the sustainability section does not mention anything about using water as a means of creating sustainable energy since the area is on top of a river?”

Reply from Councillor Goddard

Please refer to the response provided for Question 26.

Question 29 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Goddard, Cabinet Member for Business and Regeneration

“Please could the Cabinet Member explain why in the Meridian Water masterplan the intended green space is not near the residential area when in the London Plan it stipulates that any residential build that is intended to attract families must have play space?”

Reply from Councillor Goddard

Please refer to the response provided for Question 26.

Question 30 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Goddard, Cabinet Member for Business and Regeneration

“Please could the Cabinet Member assure the Council that the mistakes made by the previous Labour administration at Enfield Island Village with regard to community facilities and youth centres will not be replicated at Meridian Water, Ponders End and Ladderswood Estate.”

Reply from Councillor Goddard

“I am sure we could point to examples throughout this Council’s history where, with hindsight, area development should have been more comprehensive.

In opposition, the Labour Group supported such an approach, therefore the plans for the areas listed in the question and any major development will address the social economic needs that make a neighbourhood (including Community and youth facilities). In short the Council has my assurance and I thank Councillor Laban for the opportunity to make our approach clear.”

Question 31 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment

“What action has the Cabinet Member taken to ensure the continuous green algae currently in the New River is finally removed?”

Reply from Councillor Bond

“The problem with New River Loop and many water courses in Enfield and the UK is: - Common Duckweed, *Lemna minor*.

The parks team (assisted by volunteers) spent over 200 hours recently cleaning by hand the New River Loop of this invasive weed.

This particular weed has been a problem in our waterways and ponds for some years.

The parks team have referenced a report from the University of Liverpool regarding the use of an herbicide to reduce this weed in the future but need to be clear that it is appropriate and its use authorised by the Environment Agency.

It is a costly and labour intensive programme of works to remove this by hand.”

Question 32 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment

“Please could the Cabinet Member explain why Gentlemen's Row in my ward is being considered for wheeled bins when he personally confirmed at area forum that homes in Conservation Areas would not receive them?”

Reply from Councillor Bond

“Nice try. What I did say was that I would visit the area which I have done. No decision has been made yet.”

Question 33 from Councillor Chamberlain to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment

“Will the Cabinet Member for Environment set out what changes to the allocation of street sweeping staffing and resources have been made since May 2010?”

Reply from Councillor Bond

“There have been no reductions in front line service however in June 2010 lone worker schedules for handbarrow operatives were merged into Tidy Teams enabling staff to work together to achieve cleansing targets rather than as individuals. A total of 5 Tidy Teams working in the Hertford Road and Fore Street corridor have contributed to an improvement in productivity and standards of cleanliness. We will continue this process into Edmonton and Edmonton Green wards reflecting areas of greatest need.

We have rescheduled the flytip teams to focus on areas of most activity.

The weed spray programme was brought in-house over the last month in view of problems with performance although there will be a lead in period before the new working arrangements will show an improvement for residents.

18 new vehicles have been procured to support the residential cleaning teams and a further £225k will be spend this year on new mechanical sweepers. The 18 new vehicles are specially adapted to support the mechanical sweepers and ensure that teams work more closely and effectively together as well as reduce the impacts on the environment (water and fuel usage). This process of integrated working will continue with changes to residential cleansing teams over the next few months.”

Question 34 from Councillor Chamberlain to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment

“Will the Cabinet Member set out on a ward by ward basis, with description, the traffic schemes under consideration or planned to be implemented in 2011/12, along with details of the proposal.”

Reply from Councillor Bond

“The current traffic scheme programme is laid out in the report “Local Implementation Plan Programme 2011/12 – Amendments to Proposed Traffic Schemes” which I approved in June.”

Question 35 from Councillor Chamberlain to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment

“Will the Cabinet Member implement measures to reduce the impact of displaced parking in areas adjacent to CPZs, now or in the next financial year, following consultation and where there is resident support to do so? What are his views on the free provision of measures such as white line markings for driveways and restrictions to improve sight lines and vehicle turning, as well as restrictive markings opposite driveways where roads are narrow and parking opposite impedes access and exit?”

Reply from Councillor Bond

“Where residents demonstrate clear support in an area for parking measures we will investigate and implement where needed. The Council already has powers to enforce obstruction of driveways and uses these when residents request us to do so. If residents would like a white line marking we will provide this but for a charge. We would not consider the introduction of parking restrictions to accommodate individual private driveways as this would remove large amounts of parking for all road users including local residents.”

Question 36 from Councillor Chamberlain to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment

“Will the Cabinet Member for Environment authorise the review of parking in Queen Annes Gardens, ahead of any wider review? It is an area adjacent to the Bush Hill Park CPZ where such measures mentioned in an earlier question on CPZs could be piloted, subject to resident support.”

Reply from Councillor Bond

“If residents in and around Queen Annes Gate demonstrate clear support for a controlled parking zone, say by submitting a petition signed by the majority of local residents, then we will investigate, carry out statutory consultation and implement.”

Question 37 from Councillor Chamberlain to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment

“Will the Cabinet Member for Environment instruct officers to conduct a review of traffic speeds in Bush Hill Park Ward?”

Reply from Councillor Bond

“The Council carries out speed surveys on roads where a specific problem has been identified. We would not waste resources doing blanket traffic speed reviews across an area.”

Question 38 from Councillor Chamberlain to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment

“Will the Cabinet Member confirm that he is not in favour of any proposal to implement further bus lanes in any road leading to any major shopping area in the borough, including Enfield Town?”

Reply from Councillor Bond

“There are no proposals to implement further bus lanes in Enfield at present. However if in the future, after weighing up all the benefits and disbenefits, a proposed bus lane is shown to provide an overall benefit I will consider its introduction.”

Question 39 from Councillor Chamberlain to Councillor Stafford, Cabinet Member for Finance and Property

“Will the Cabinet Member set out what bodies or organisations have received new grants or such indirect financial support as free or lower building rent since May 2010?”

Reply from Councillor Stafford

“Since May 2010 there has been no change to the way that premises forming the Council's "investment portfolio" are managed. As a general principle all properties are let at market rental value.

The Council supports its tenants in many ways and seeks, in all cases, to adopt a supportive, but fair approach to all tenants. Since the onset of the recession, it has introduced additional help and aims to work with tenants to mutual advantage. Examples of this help include:

- Agreed stepped rental increases;
- Agreed, at lease renewal, annual rolling break clauses, in the tenants' favour only, upon 6 months prior written notice;
- Agreed to widen the user clause where there is no conflict with other nearby users;
- Agreed to tenants paying rent by monthly direct debit, rather than quarterly in advance;
- Agreed repayment plans, to spread back rent, in some cases over a 2 year period;
- Agreed to use part of tenants' rent deposit to pay off arrears whilst remaining in occupation;
- Agreed some rent free periods on new lettings.”

Question 40 from Councillor Smith to Councillor Oyken, Cabinet Member for Housing

“Will the Cabinet Member state what the Council’s policy is with regard to Council Housing tenants that are convicted of any crime related to the recent riots being evicted from Council housing in Enfield?”

Reply from Councillor Oyken

“The Council will seek to take the firmest possible action allowed against people involved in recent violent disturbances and would urge the courts to do the same.”

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

“Will the Cabinet Member for the Environment confirm if there have there been any discussions between the Council and Network Rail since May 2010 regarding the level crossing at Lincoln Road, and if so what is the nature of the discussion and does it include automation or a change in hours of operation?”

Reply from Councillor Bond

“No such discussions have taken place with Network Rail.”

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

“Will the Cabinet Member for the Environment confirm if there have been any

discussions with Network Rail regarding the service level provided to residents on the Enfield Town line, including longer coaches and the need for more a frequent service?”

Reply from Councillor Bond

“Network Rail is responsible from the provision of track and other infrastructure rather than the frequency of service, which is the responsibility of the franchise operator – National Express East Anglia until February 2012.

Longer eight car coaches are being rolled out by NXEA and should be the norm on most services by the time that the new timetable is introduced in December 2011, providing a welcome improvement in terms of capacity.

Unfortunately, the Government has decided to offer a short-term, ‘caretaker’ franchise from February 2012 until only July 2014. We have met with each of the three short-listed franchise bidders to make clear the Council’s priorities, which include improvements to and from Enfield Town, particularly in the off-peak. We will also seek an early meeting with the newly appointed train operator when the decision is announced later in the year. However, the fact that the franchise only runs until July 2014 means that there is limited incentive for the incoming operator to provide new services in the short term.

Since May 2010 the Council has continually pushed for unified rail services on all lines to support regeneration proposals.”

Question 43 from Councillor Waterhouse to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment

“Does he agree that Civil Enforcement Officers that use mopeds to carry out their duties should hold more than just provisional licences?”

Reply from Councillor Bond

“Scooter riders only need a provisional motorcycle licence for driving mopeds under 50cc as long as they have completed Compulsory Basic Training (CBT) All NSL moped riders undergo this training.

I am sure Councillor Waterhouse would not wish to place further barriers in the way of employment opportunities.”

Question 44 from Councillor Waterhouse to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment

“(a) What is the Council’s policy with regard to marking out parking bays in front of dropped kerbs?

(b) How many such bays exist?

(c) What plans does the Council have to remove them?”

Reply from Councillor Bond

“In line with best practice, I would not normally mark parking bays across dropped kerbs as this provides conflicting information to motorists. In particular, such markings make it impossible to enforce in the event that a motorist parks across someone else’s driveway and blocks them in. However, such a situation exists in Winchmore Hill following a decision made by the previous administration and I am currently looking into this with officers as part of the on-going review.”

Question 45 from Councillor Waterhouse to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment

“What action will the Council be taking following the traffic survey (conducted by the Council) that showed 15% of vehicles travelling northbound on Browning Road in Chase Ward were doing so in excess of 34mph?”

Reply from Councillor Bond

“The Council will shortly be consulting residents in this area on a proposed 20 mph zone. This will include traffic calming measures to stop speeding on Browning Road.”

Question 46 from Councillor Hurer to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment

“Which groups were consulted prior to the decision on Barrowell Green car park?”

Reply from Councillor Bond

“I have not consulted any groups in relation to the sale of Barrowell Green Car Park as the disposal was managed by my colleague Councillor Stafford.

However there was no consultation as this would suggest that the administration was willing to consider an alternative option. Due to your governments financial restrictions this is not possible, the car park is very considerably under utilised for 5 days of the week. In the current financial climate this administration is maintaining its capital expenditure on its priorities school places and the highway improvements.”

Question 47 from Councillor Zetter to Councillor Oyken, Cabinet Member for Housing

“Ahead of the possible redevelopment of Shepcot House will the Cabinet Member responsible ensure that stairway and landings are regularly and thoroughly cleaned?”

Reply from Councillor Oyken

“The Council will be advising Enfield Homes to ensure that the cleaning of Shepcot House continues during the redevelopment of the estate.”

Question 48 from Councillor Zetter to Councillor Charalambous, Cabinet Member for Culture, Sport and Leisure

“Will the Cabinet Member confirm whether the council has abandoned plans to close libraries in Enfield?”

Reply from Councillor Charalambous

“There are no plans to close any of the libraries in the Borough. However, the Library & Museum Service is currently undergoing a Leaner Review to explore and develop strategic options for the future delivery of the service. As part of this process Residents are being urged to take part in Enfield Council’s consultation on what services should be offered in Enfield’s libraries. The consultation, which ends on Sunday 2nd October, asks for views about the range of services on offer and what should be the Council’s service priorities. Consultation documents are available at all libraries, the Dugdale Centre, selected children's centres and leisure centres, Community House in Edmonton, John Wilkes House in Ponders End and the Enfield Civic Centre or people can find the consultation online at: www.enfield.gov.uk/librariesconsultation.

All the responses will be considered before the Council formulates options for the future of the service and these options cannot be worked up until the end of the public consultation. No decisions have been made, but once we are in a position to do so these options will be presented through the Cabinet process in the usual way.”

Question 49 from Councillor Rye to Councillor Taylor Leader of the Council

“Does he support the Leader of his party Ed Miliband that Labour Councillors should contribute 7% of their Council Allowances to help save the Labour Party from Bankruptcy and can he confirm that no direction has been given to officers of this authority to deduct any sum at source from Labour Councillors Allowances to go straight into Labour Party Funds (as happened when Labour were last in majority on Enfield Council)?”

Reply from Councillor Taylor

“I am unaware of this suggestion”

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

“Could he tell the Council what works have been carried out in the Labour group offices during the Christmas recess 2010-2011 and again during the

summer recess and what is the aggregate cost of the works including decoration and refurnishings?

If the reason for the works is related to the presence of asbestos in the ceiling could he also tell the Council why it has suddenly become necessary to do this work at this particular time when no such urgency existed in the previous eight years?"

Reply from Councillor Taylor

"Thank you for your question.

Office works in December were intended to clean up the office and replace soiled carpet tiles and divide the general office. There are more Members working in the office than in the previous Administration and they need space to work and to meet officers and residents. Several Members work full time in the office.

To keep costs low, temporary screening has been used to create a workspace for meeting residents and dealing with administrative matters.

A second improvement required was to reduce noise between the general office space and the Leader's office. Discussions of confidential personnel and contractual issues were not possible because of the acoustics. However this could only be rectified effectively by creating barriers in the void above the ceiling to reduce the noise travel. When investigated it was found that the walls, doors and ceiling all contained asbestos. Broken and damaged asbestos insulating board (AIB) containing a significant amount of Amosite (Brown Asbestos) was found in the ceiling void. Amosite is recognised as more carcinogenic than Chrysotile (White Asbestos). The air conditioning system in the area also gave rise to increased concern as the ceiling void is under slight positive pressure and air is pushed through tiny perforations in the ceiling. The Council's Asbestos Team recommended the complete removal from this area of all asbestos-containing materials and associated contaminated building components.

Best practice and safety requirements meant that officers recommended complete removal of all asbestos and associated contaminated building components in the office (doors, ceiling, and walls) and replacement with modern, safe materials. This is the practice in all Council buildings where there is a risk to health. Once identified, there is no choice but to act. Not to act would be both negligent to the health of staff and visitors, and also put the Council corporately, and senior officers individually, at risk of prosecution.

This work was carried out in August, in line with Health and Safety Executive guidelines and procedures. The asbestos removal costs and reconstruction of the office were £88,000 of which asbestos related works amounted to £70,000. The £18,000 covers internal recharge of in-house design fees and partitioning, general refurbishment, electric upgrade and finishing. Obviously a large percentage of this cost is created as a consequence of the asbestos

removal.

As you will know, asbestos removal costs the Council a significant sum. The cost of asbestos removal from B Block South has cost £152,000, for example.

Prior to the work, I informed the Leader of the Opposition of the situation and he quite rightly raised issues about the state of the building. He suggested that an option to move should be considered. I concur with this as it is clear even minor works are likely to have huge 'asbestos costs' and this may inhibit business efficiency decisions. Therefore I have asked the Director of Finance, Resources and Customer Services to prepare for Cabinet an options appraisal on the future of the Civic Centre.”

Question 51 from Councillor Lamprecht to Councillor Goddard, Cabinet Member for Business and Regeneration

“Does Councillor Goddard support the Labour administration’s proposals for Southgate Town Hall?”

Reply from Councillor Goddard

“The proposals in the consultations have to be set in the context of the Council’s broader strategies for library improvement, creating community facilities, ensuring good health (GP) centre facilities and meeting the need for housing. The economic position of the Council following the cuts to LA funding by the Government restricts our ability to devise schemes that do not recoup all costs and contribute to pressing objectives. A failure to factor this in will lead to capital/revenue reductions elsewhere. For these reasons, the proposed scheme is the best solution to ensure the retention of facilities on the site which was a manifesto promise.

It is a proposal tailored by circumstance.”

Question 52 from Councillor Lamprecht to Councillor Charalambous, Cabinet Member for Culture, Sport & Leisure

“Does Councillor Charalambous support the Labour administration’s proposals for Southgate Town Hall?”

Reply from Councillor Charalambous

“The proposals in the consultations have to be set in the context of the Council’s broader strategies for library improvement, creating community facilities, ensuring good health (GP) centre facilities and meeting the need for housing. The economic position of the Council following the cuts to LA funding by the Government restricts our ability to devise schemes that do not recoup all costs and contribute to pressing objectives. A failure to factor this in will lead to capital/revenue reductions elsewhere. For these reasons, the proposed scheme is the best solution to ensure the retention of facilities on the site which was a manifesto promise.

It is a proposal tailored by circumstance.”