

## **COUNCIL QUESTIONS – 25 JANUARY 2012**

### **Question 1 from Councillor Lavender to Councillors Simon, Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny Committee & Savva, Chairman of the Older People & Vulnerable Adults Scrutiny Panel.**

On 30th December a delegated decision number 1/57/11-12 was published for the expenditure of over £6.8 million in relation to social care. That decision contained no information whatsoever about how that money was to be spent and therefore no audit trail linking the decision to the expenditure. I accept that the fact this occurred was due to an oversight by the spending department.

Nevertheless it is the role of Overview and Scrutiny to scrutinise such decisions.

Had Councillors Simon or Savva, read this report? If so, were they comfortable with the total and complete lack of information, reporting and lack of audit trail? If not, why did they not call in this decision for review? If Councillors Simon and Savva do not consider this to be a decision worthy of scrutiny can they give the council an indication of what they would consider scrutinising or calling in without being prompted to do so by the opposition?

### **Reply from Councillor Simon (as amended 19 January 2012)**

“Thank you to Councillor Lavender for pointing out an administrative error. While the details were indeed omitted, I can assure him that the items he refers to were heavily scrutinised. If he cared to ask any of his members or any member sitting on the Older People & Vulnerable Adults or Health & Well Being Scrutiny Panels he would have been informed that they did address all the issues he refers to. I would like to thank all the members from both sides who sit on these Panels and all officers and co-optees for their hard work and input.

The background to this report is that all Local Social Services Authorities were notified of the funding to be transferred by the Dept of Health through the NHS to Councils, for spend on social care activities that also benefit Health. This formed part of the 2010 government spending review commitments. The confirmed allocation is for 2011/12 & 2012/13, but with no guarantee that it will continue. The money has been treated as non recurrent and the department has sought to spread benefits from it into future years rather than restrict it to two.

Enfield is expected to agree areas of spend with the Local NHS. The Health Cabinet Sub-Committee agreed the broad areas of expenditure in April 2011. In addition areas of funding have in their own right already been the subject of decision at Cabinet and in the case of the Stroke Strategy at full Council. This report deals with the allocation of the funding transfer as a whole. This decision has been on the forward plan for some time.

Both the Older People & Vulnerable Adults and the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Panels want to see improved outcomes for our residents. The development of new

services and improved pathways of care which reflect best practice have been outlined in the joint commissioning priorities across health and social care. These have been considered and welcomed by Scrutiny Panel members.

Draft strategies (and their implementation where applicable) covering many areas of the spending plan within the Key Decision have been scrutinised by the Panels and their working groups. These include primary care development; end of life care; reablement and intermediate care; stroke services; dementia services; personalisation of care (including brokerage, community equipment and adaptations); safeguarding; and telecare/assistive technology.”

**Question 2 from Councillor Ibrahim to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council**

Would the Leader comment on the proposals for change to council tax benefit subsidy

**Reply from Councillor Taylor**

“I am concerned about the Government’s disappointing response to the consultation and have written to Bob Neill, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, to ask that the new grant is linked to caseload and updated annually when funding is considered as part of the next Spending Review.

The letter sets out detailed figures regarding the potential financial impact of localising council tax benefits over the next three years. The range of scenarios created by localisation is set out below. In Enfield, the current trend in increasing caseload of 2.8% per year and forecast council tax increases of 3% results in an additional cost of £10m by 2015/16. Line 3 also shows that a 1% increase in deprivation (caseload) alone creates over £1m of additional cost pressure.

Budget Pressure	Caseload Increase (2015/16)		
	1.0%	2.8%	3.5%
	£'000	£'000	£'000
1. Council tax levels	3,574	3,640	3,667
2. Housing growth	476	485	489
3. Increasing deprivation	1,192	3,398	4,277
4. Council tax non-collection	2,306	2,306	2,306
5 Administration costs	500	500	500
<b>Impact</b>	<b>8,048</b>	<b>10,329</b>	<b>11,239</b>

The response to the consultation acknowledges these concerns but also refers to deriving funding for the next two years using Office of Budget Responsibility forecast spending on benefits. It would have been helpful if the response had set out these

forecasts or given precise reference as to where the information is available. Nevertheless, using the OBR forecast of council tax receipts in the Autumn Statement, our three year increase in benefit cost will only be £5.8m, well below any of our forecasts above. By the time of the next Spending Review Enfield Council may face serious underfunding purely due to the interim arrangements proposed.

The move of council tax benefits from managed to departmental expenditure limits has created a significant risk to many authorities in deprived areas which at a time of public expenditure cuts can only increase deprivation and its consequences.

If the objective of this policy is not to put financial pressure on local authorities but to anticipate that these cuts will be passed on to residents then a large number of residents will receive bills for Council tax they have not received in the past.

I urge the Minister to consider delaying the 10% cut in council tax benefits and ensure distribution of grant continues to follow need as the priority over incentives to cut benefit costs.”

**Question 3 from Councillor Lavender to Councillor Lemonides, Chairman of the Audit Committee**

The previous administration increased the head count and resources available to the Internal Audit department. The rationale behind the increase in head count and resources was that the savings realised or the losses prevented, would exceed the defrayed costs. Given this was undoubtedly the case, does Councillor Lemonides support recent cut backs in the head count and resources available to Internal Audit?

**Reply from Councillor Lemonides**

The current internal audit structure is the result of an externally conducted service review with the aim of aligning the service to best practice in both the public and private sectors. The Council has retained a significant Internal Audit Plan which compares favourably with other authorities in benchmarking. The mixed approach of both an in-house team and a highly regarded external provider in PWC is designed to ensure that the Council is better equipped to tackle control and assurance issues.”

**Question 4 from Councillor Simbodyal to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Children & Young People**

Do you welcome the Labour Party review of preparing school pupils for work?

**Reply from Councillor Orhan**

“We welcome the Labour Party’s review relating to preparing young people for work. We place huge importance on preparing young people to be successful in the workplace. Our aim is to ensure that young people are helped to achieve

academically whilst also developing the social, emotional and interpersonal skills required by employers. We support schools, colleges and workplace providers to work collaboratively in order to provide a broad range of appropriate pathways which meet the needs of young people, whether academic or vocational. We are working with schools and other partners to ensure that young people are given high quality information, advice and guidance to enable them to make informed and appropriate choices at key points such as the end of Y9, Y11 and Y13.

It is very important that young people develop the personal discipline and motivation that is so valued by employers. In partnership with the Enfield Business Partnership and other agencies young people in Enfield are offered opportunities for work experience during their time in KS4. Schools also have comprehensive programmes of personal and social education which emphasise the importance of punctuality, reliability, adaptability and resilience. As we prepare for the participation age to rise to 17 in 2013 and then to 18 in 2015 we need to develop and improve still further the preparation for work we offer our young people and will study with interest any recommendations the Labour Party recommendations.”

**Question 5 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment**

Can he inform Council how much has been spent in preparing for consultation and/or implementing 20 mph zones including staff time since May 2010 including the proposed spend on those zones currently out to consultation? Can he also give the sum total of the areas covered both in length of roads and number of hectares.

**Reply from Councillor Bond**

“£800k was allocated to 20 mph zones in 2010/11 and a further £1.3m has been allocated in 2011/12. At present it is proposed to allocate £550k to 20 mph zones in 2012/13, which includes construction of the 20 mph zones that were recently consulted on. This all comes from the £3m+ allocated annually to the Council by TfL for traffic work. The 20 mph zones implemented in 2010/11 totalled 179 hectares, and those that will be implemented in 2011/12 will cover 353 hectares.”

**Question 6 from Councillor Levy to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council**

Can the Leader of the Council comment on the likely level of council tax in 2012/13 and could he comment on any issues relating to a council tax freeze?

**Reply from Councillor Taylor**

“The Government has announced a one off grant for 2012/13 payable to Councils that do not increase their Council Tax. The grant is equivalent to a 2.5% increase and equates to just over £3m for Enfield. The Council Tax level for 2012/13 will be set at full Council on 29<sup>th</sup> February. It should be noted that this grant will balance the budget using one-off funding and is therefore both eroding the taxbase and storing up funding gaps for the future when the grant drops out. We all need to be fully

aware of the funding gap this will create from 2013/14 onwards.”

**Question 7 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment**

Can he inform the council in relation to the proposed introduction of 20 mph zones, why has he not disclosed the full estimated costs of each scheme in the consultation leaflets?

**Reply from Councillor Bond**

“The size and design of these schemes can vary significantly, or even be dropped, following public consultation. Therefore schemes are only designed in outline prior to consultation and an accurate estimate cannot be given. I also note that such estimates were never given in consultations carried out by the previous administration.”

**Question 8 from Councillor Robinson to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment**

Will the Cabinet Member for Environment, give an update on the introduction of 20mph zones

**Reply from Councillor Bond**

“In line with our manifesto commitment we are forging ahead with the introduction of 20 mph zones in all residential streets around all schools in the borough. Since May 2010 we have constructed 8 new 20 mph zones serving 13 schools. I have recently approved reports for a further 8 20 mph zones, serving 14 schools, and these will be constructed over the next 3 months. Another 7 20 mph zones have just completed the public consultation stage, and subject to analysis of the responses, these will be constructed in the summer of this year. All the remaining schools will be treated in 2013.”

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

Can he inform the council in relation to the proposed introduction of 20mph zones, given the existence of a variety of different means of achieving speed reduction some of which were successfully implemented by the previous administration, and the known disadvantages of speed cushions, including delays to emergency services, why has he not offered the public alternative measures to the installation of speed cushions?”

**Reply from Councillor Bond**

“Alternative measures that can be used to create 20 mph zones include chicanes, pinch points and traffic islands. These measures are not as effective as speed

cushions and remove a great deal of parking. In heavily parked areas, such as the proposed 20 mph zone, residents would not support large scale removal of parking. The proposed speed cushions are not being introduced on roads frequently used by the emergency services. They can also be straddled by fire tenders and by the front wheels of ambulances. Councillor Neville claims that the alternative measures he introduced were successful, but they performed poorly compared to speed cushion based 20 mph zones introduced when we were last in power. For example the Tottenhall Road area saw a 73% reduction in casualties (33 collisions in 3 years before to 11 in 3 years after) and the Chalfont Road area saw a 54% in casualties (28 collisions in 3 years before to 13 in 3 years after)."

**Question 10 from Councillor Buckland to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment**

Can the Cabinet Member for Environment give the Council an update on the Forty Hall lottery bid?

**Reply from Councillor Bond**

"The Heritage Lottery Bid for the park and landscape has been successful and is valued at £1.8M. The Council has match funded this with £200K.

The Parks team are meeting with the Heritage Lottery Fund on 25 January to agree the formal sign off of the funds.

The project plan is in place and already agreed with the HLF and following the meeting in January the process begins to appoint a project officer and undertake the works (including tenders for the contracts etc) over a main 2 year development period."

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

What detailed analysis was undertaken of the several proposed zones issued for consultation two weeks before Christmas and how many man hours were spent on such analysis?

**Reply from Councillor Bond**

"Analysis of road casualty data and speed and volume surveys was undertaken, together with on site surveys and office design work. Approximately 75 hours was spent on each of the seven schemes recently consulted on. In order to compensate for consulting over the Christmas period residents were given 5 weeks to respond rather than the usual 3."

**Question 12 from Councillor Brett to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment**

Can the Cabinet Member for Environment give an update on the Forty Hall Green Way?

**Reply from Councillor Bond**

“I am pleased to say that I approved a report on the 19 December that gives the go ahead to implement the Forty Hall Greenway in the summer. This scenic route will encourage walking and cycling and for the first time allow wheelchair access to this route. It will also encourage people to visit Forty Hall by means other than the car and allow parents to park in the Forty Hall car park and walk their children down to Forty Hill School.”

**Question 13 from Councillor Lavender to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment**

Can he inform the Council, in relation to the proposed introduction of 20mph zones, why these zones are so excessively large? Why in particular do most of them incorporate many roads that are so remote from the schools, that are to be protected from any speeding vehicles, that the measures that would be introduced in these roads, whilst causing inconvenience to their residents, would be very likely to have no, or a very negligible, effect on the safety of children attending those schools?

**Reply from Councillor Bond**

“All the streets within the proposed 20 mph zones are within easy walking distance of the schools. As well as reducing road danger these zones will encourage parents and children to walk to school. Most child casualties do not occur right outside schools but in the wider areas around them. Simply treating a short bit of road right in front of the school will not do nearly as much to reduce road danger and encourage walking.”

**Question 14 from Councillor Levy to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment**

What are the costs to the Council of the fare increases imposed by Mayor Johnson?

**Reply from Councillor Bond**

The cost to Enfield of the Freedom Pass concession is £9.8m for the current financial year (2011/12).

The TfL settlement for the whole of London next financial year is £294.6m, which is a 6.92% increase compared with 2011/12. The main drivers of the increase are higher fares and growth in the number of journeys made by Freedom Pass holders. The Mayor announced on 2 December that fares would increase by RPI +1% (6%) on the Underground, DLR and Overground services and by RPI (5%) on buses and trams. This hike in fares has a significant impact on the cost to the Council of the

Freedom Pass concession, which will increase by £800k to £10.6m in 2012/13.

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

With reference to the introduction of Sunday parking charges in Enfield Town can he tell the Council:

1. When was the public consulted on this proposal, by what means and with what result, and on when did he publish a decision to proceed following any such consultation?
2. How many businesses will be affected by the decision?
3. How many churches and churchgoers will be affected?
4. How many vehicles are likely to be affected by the charges?
5. Whether on street restrictions will be extended to Sundays and if so, how many vehicles will be displaced taking account of the answers to 2 & 3 above?

**Reply from Councillor Bond**

“Following extensive consultation I approved a revised set of parking charges in February 2011. The Report (ENV 10/70) included proposals for the introduction of charges in Enfield Town on Sundays to help reduce congestion, ensure a better turnover of spaces and encourage more people to consider more sustainable means of travelling to the Town Centre. The matter was subsequently considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in March 2011 and my decision confirmed.

Additional waiting restrictions will be introduced imminently on the main roads in Enfield Town to prevent obstructive parking and to help maintain access to and around the town centre. Those vehicles that currently park on the main roads will have to make alternative arrangements. Whilst I appreciate that this may be inconvenient for some individuals, we have to take into account the wider need to improve access to the town centre as a whole.”

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

This time last year the Conservative Group were deriding the ability of our Front Bench (Cabinet) and questioning our capability to deliver the budget and offering us their expertise by forming a coalition.

Can the Leader please inform whether he has been advised that the Conservative Group have now amended their view (as - despite unprecedented Government cuts) the budget will be delivered on time and on schedule?

### **Reply from Councillor Taylor**

“Despite unprecedented cuts in funding we have balanced the budget and operated in a prudent and responsible manner. The extent of reduction contrasts with the cuts savings of the previous administration. I am sure that the opposition must now recognise that their role is no longer one of control. I would contrast the debacle of current Government economic policy with our own approach to deficit management. Perhaps the Leader of the Opposition Group could suggest to George Osborne that he ask the Labour administration for advice. He dearly needs some help.”

### **Question 17 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment**

In relation to the introduction of Sunday parking charges:

- has he read the transcript of the judgement of Mr Justice Collins in granting leave to apply for judicial review of Westminster City Council's decision to introduce charges for Sunday parking in parts of the City? and
- Can he indicate any significant difference between Westminster's proposals and his for Enfield?
- In the light of the Westminster case in which the city council was effectively ordered to defer implementation pending a full hearing, can he tell the council why he has declined at the very least to defer the implementation of the new charges in Enfield until the resolution of the Westminster case, as I requested him to do by letter/email around 16<sup>th</sup> December?

### **Reply from Councillor Bond**

“I have taken independent external legal advice to obtain a detailed understanding of the background to the Westminster case. There were 12 grounds of challenge and permission was only granted on two: one a fact specific issue relating to parking stress in Westminster; the other relating to Westminster's approach to the consultation.

It would not be appropriate to go into the detail of this legal advice, for reasons that I am sure Councillor Neville will appreciate. However, I am clear that the grounds for introducing Sunday parking charges are sound and that the consultation exercise that we carried out was robust. There is therefore no reason to delay the introduction of the charges, which will help achieve a better turnover of spaces, encourage some people to walk, cycle or use public transport to visit the town centre, and help reduce congestion.”

### **Question 18 from Councillor Savva to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council**

“Can you comment on the Institute for Fiscal studies report published on January 4th 2012 and the implications it suggests of current Government policy for families?”

## **Reply from Councillor Taylor**

“Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment on this very detailed report, “The Impact of Austerity Measures on Households with Children”, commissioned by the Family & Parenting Institute.

It raises a number of issues of concern around falling income for the UK’s poorest families and predicts a rise in increased child poverty, both of which are likely to result in an increase in demand for local authority support services. The report predicts that the UK’s poorest families will be disproportionately hit by the Government’s austerity measures. The IFS predicts that families with children will lose more through tax and benefit changes than pensioners or childless adults, both before and after the introduction of universal credit (UC).

The report finds that the introduction of universal credit, rising cost of childcare and below inflation pay settlements are among the key factors in the drop in income. It highlights “a very real concern” as single parents face the challenge of finding a flexible job in a tough labour market, as well as meeting their childcare costs.

Some of the key findings from this very comprehensive report are:-

- Median income among families with children will fall by 4.2% between 2010 and 2015, largely due to benefit changes.
- For a couple with 2 children this equates to £1,250 less per year by 2015, “significantly” steeper than the 0.9% drop felt across all households and the fall in income of £215 a year for couples with no children.
- Larger families will be affected most; the median household with three children will see their income drop by almost 7% by 2015, while those with just one child will see income fall by 3.3%.
- The study found that families in the poorest tenth of the population would be about 10% worse off than they would have been had no changes been made to the tax and benefit system. Even after the introduction of UC this group loses more than the average, at just over 6%.
- Lone parents not in employment would be particularly disadvantaged. They would lose more than 12% of their income on average by 2014/15, or £2,000 per year.
- The IFS estimates that around 500,000 more children will fall into absolute poverty by 2015/16. The measure, as defined by the Child Poverty Act 2010, is where family income is below 60% of the middle income in 2010/11.
- More than half the children, 300,000, will come from households where the youngest child is under five.”

**Question 19 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment and Councillor Goddard, Cabinet Member for Business and**

## **Regeneration**

Could they explain to Council how they reconcile the recent decision to impose car park charges on Sundays at Palace Gardens and other car parks in Enfield Town with exercise of their powers and duties to promote the economic well being of the area?

### **Reply from Councillor Bond**

“As Councillor Neville will recall from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee back in March 2011, we commissioned a detailed study to examine the link between parking charges and town centre vitality before increasing the revised charges. The report by Colin Buchanan & Partners concluded that there was no published evidence to confirm that an increase in parking charges would result in long term harm to the town centre. This conclusion is supported by evidence from the Palace Exchange Car Park which already charges to park on Sundays but remains well used.

In fact, by ensuring a better turn over of spaces, our proposals should help increase the number of space available for shoppers on Sundays.

£1 for up to 1 hour and £2 for up to 2 hours

800 vehicles on Sunday 06/11/2011

The Secretary of States’ statutory Guidance to Local Authorities on the Civil Enforcement of Parking Contravention. Para. 13 states:

13. Enforcement authorities should design their parking policies with particular regard to:

- Managing the traffic network to ensure expeditious movement of traffic, (including pedestrians and cyclists), as required under the TMA Network Management Duty;
- Improving road safety;
- Improving the local environment;
- Improving the quality and accessibility of public transport;
- Meeting the needs of people with disabilities, some of whom will be unable to use public transport and depend entirely on the use of a car; and
- Managing and reconciling the competing demands for kerb space.”

### **Question 20 from Councillor Hasan to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People**

Would the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People give an update on the percentage of child protection conferences held within the statutory timescales?

### **Reply from Councillor Orhan**

“We are currently reporting 100% figure for the time gap between Strategy meetings

and Conference date.

However, we are awaiting a government response to the Munro report which will give guidance to local authorities on timescales for children's social care work. Once this guidance has been issued by the DfE we will implement any changes around timescales for initiating child protection investigations and conferences. We remain vigilant and proud of the excellent work our staff are doing in a highly sensitive area of our work."

### **Question 21 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment**

In relation to his decision to implement Sunday parking charges on 8 January:

- (i) can he confirm that he is familiar with the statutory Guidance issued by the Secretary of State for Transport in February 2008, and explain how the decision fits within the criteria set down in paragraph 13 of the Guidance; and
- (ii) does he accept that the statutory Guidance explicitly discourages using parking charges to raise revenue; and
- (iii) the Cabinet Member for Finance & Property has said equally explicitly that the purpose of the proposal was to raise revenue;
- (iv) can he tell the Council how much income he is expecting from the introduction of Sunday charging, and the costs of implementation and enforcement?

### **Reply from Councillor Bond**

"I am familiar with para. 13 of the February 2008 Statutory Guidance. I am also familiar with the more current Operational Guidance to Local Authorities published in November 2010. Paragraph's 3.1-3.6 and Section 8.2 of my Portfolio Report from February 2011 very clearly highlighted the legal framework that applies to the setting of both on and off-street parking charges.

I was not present when the Cabinet Member for Finance & Property may have spoken about parking charges so cannot comment on what he may have said. However, as the relevant decision maker, I have always been absolutely clear that the proposed charges have been introduced for proper traffic management reasons.

Unlike the report he commissioned in May 2008 on Sunday parking that was clearly a revenue raising scheme on the back of parking residents

The gross income generated by the introduction of Sunday charges in Enfield Town is estimated to be in the region of £100k per year. The marginal cost associated with the introduction of the Sunday charges was relatively low as, most of the costs were incurred when the borough-wide on and off-street charges were revised earlier in the year. The additional enforcement cost associated with the introduction of

Sunday charging is not clear at this stage but is likely to be at least £12k per year, assuming that only two Civil Enforcement Officers are deployed.”

### **Question 22 from from Councillor Simbodyal to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People**

Would the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People give an update on the achievements of The Enfield Parent Engagement Panel (PEP), Enfield Training Services and Enfield Community Learning Service and of the Enfield Council and Living Well.

### **Reply from Councillor Orhan**

“Enfield Parent Engagement Panel (PEP) was successfully launched in September 2011 with 49 Parent Champions (PC) graduating. A further **75** parents are currently being trained or are awaiting training to become Parent Champions.

### **Achievements/Actions**

- **8** parents have just completed a 12 week intensive breastfeeding course and will be assisting health visitors/midwives in and around Children Centres in Enfield.
- **30** parents have expressed an interest in becoming named Crime Parent Champions having attended initial one day awareness training. **18** will be trained in February to deliver LEAP (a 6 week programme) working in partnership with YEP (Youth Engagement Panel). The LEAP programme is delivered in schools and the Youth Offending Service with a focus upon conflict resolution in order to reduce youth crime.
- We have over **20** parent practitioners trained to deliver accredited parenting programmes alongside professionals. Parents deliver alongside professionals in schools and children centres across the Borough.
- Volunteering in Schools- Parent Champions are working in schools with reading and writing projects, In particular our ROMA Parent Champion is working between Eldon and Nightingale Academy with a focus upon transition and preventing ROMA young people dropping out of secondary school.
- Volunteering in the Community Parent Support Service- Parents will be joining Community Parent Support Advisors as they go into all schools on a rolling basis to promote the service.
- Parent Champions within the Community are also:
  - Supporting other parents to meet with respective professionals to meet additional needs such as school teachers, educational psychologists, health visitors, Parent Support Advisors
  - Encouraging parents to join their local PEPs
  - Discussing and delivering key messages within their community
- PEP & Parent Champions will also agree Health action plan for the next year.
- PEP is meeting with Child Poverty coordinator in order to devise an action plan outlining the role of PEP and Parent Champions in reducing Child Poverty

## PEP Strategic Involvement

- Influencing strategies at local level, coordinated workshop with PEP parents joining Councillors, Borough Commander, Chief Executive and many others to influence development of strategic plans
- Members of the Young People's Life Opportunities Committee, Health Scrutiny Board and Parenting Strategy Steering group
- Coordination of a Parents Summit following the August disturbances
- Influencing practice at National level parent Champion delivered key note speech to Social Workers at the Community Care live conference (May 2011).
- Parent Champions met with Sarah Tether (Children's Minister) at Westminster in May and December 2011 to discuss what is happening in Enfield promoting how early intervention can protect and safeguard children

## Project Recognition

On the 5<sup>th</sup> of December the PEP won the first London Safeguarding award from London Councils for emerging practice' category for "Safeguarding Across Cultural Divides".

Both the Enfield Training Services (ETS) and the Enfield Community Learning Service (ECLS) were inspected by Ofsted in April 2011 and the quality of the provision was judged to be **Good**. The arrangements for safeguarding adults and children were judged to be **Outstanding** which is a fantastic achievement.

The Enfield Training Services provides work-based training programmes to young people and offers local young people provision for Advanced Apprenticeships. It works with a wide range of people - apprentices and foundation learners, excluded pupils, future job fund and Enfield work out participants and a range of others.

### Achievements include:-

- Success Rates (Apprenticeships)  
98.6% Business Administration  
80.0% Hairdressing
- Youth Mark Silver Award for ETS
- Framework for Excellence Survey  
8.5/10 Learner satisfaction  
9.3/10 Employer satisfaction

The Enfield Community Learning Service provides courses and other learning and development opportunities for adults, young people and children, the programmes includes education, family learning, study support, out of school hours learning, and manages externally funded training and curriculum enrichment projects.

### Achievements include:-

- 1678 enrolments
- 342 enrolments on ESOL courses
- 259 learners achieved qualifications

- Retention of 95%
- Achievement rate of 89%
- 11 primary and 6 secondary schools participated in Playing for Success activities involving 226;
- 88 students attended Lee Valley Athletics Centre Academy & Star Track holiday programmes;
- Managed a WebEx pilot project with 6 supplementary schools to explore the use of online meetings and lessons;
- Set up physical activity programmes in schools, leisure centres sports clubs and community settings for over 1000 young people.”

**Question 23 from Councillor Lamprecht to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment**

On each Area Forum residents are usually provided with information of activities undertaken and forthcoming.

Why was there no mention of the upcoming consultation at the Bowes, Southgate Green and Palmers Green Ward Area Forum on upcoming 20mph zones at:

- Firs Farm Primary School 20 mph zone
- Oakthorpe Road (St Anne’s Catholic High School) 20mph zone

Leaflets for the Firs Farm 20mph have been delivered to residents but the consultation is not available on the consultations page of the web site. Why? Residents can comment at [www.enfield20mph.co.uk](http://www.enfield20mph.co.uk) but there are no plans.

Why was this the case?

**Reply from Councillor Bond**

“The decision to go out to public consultation on these schemes had not been finalised at the time of the last Bowes, Southgate Green and Palmers Green Ward Area Forum, and so was not reported. If Councillor Lamprecht had looked more closely he would have seen that plans were in fact viewable on our consultant’s website. There was also a link on the Councils website to our consultant’s website.”

**Question 24 from Councillor Buckland to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People**

“Would the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People give an update on the work of the Enfield teenage pregnancy team work?”

**Reply from Councillor Orhan**

“The Enfield Teenage Pregnancy team continue to work hard with young people in conjunction with the Youth Service, schools, parents, the voluntary sector and partner agencies. They are currently looking to introduce more innovative and

modern ways of reaching young people and are leading on a social networking strategy to include Facebook, Twitter and Text Messaging.

Achievements include:-

From having one of the worst situations in London in 2006 Enfield has become one of the most improved London boroughs. Enfield has the second largest decrease in Teenage Pregnancy rate in London. Our achievements have been recognised in The Guardian national press putting Enfield in a very positive light.

The text messaging service has recently won a Highly Commended award in Advice and Guidance category of prestigious *Children and Young People Magazine Awards 2011* and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the team for this achievement.”

**Question 25 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment**

“Following the increase in off street parking charges at the Palace Gardens Centre introduced in April 2011, can he tell the council how much revenue was generated by the issue of tickets for up to two hours parking for the period from the introduction of the higher charges to the most recent date on which data is available and likewise for the preceding equivalent period.”

**Reply from Councillor Bond**

For the two periods requested above income generated across all of the Council's Enfield Town car parks for periods up to 2 hours from the commencement of the financial year for a forty week period the income generated was:-

2010/11 £551,855.10  
2011/12 £690,807.60”

**Question 26 from Councillor Lavender to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment**

“Does the Cabinet member for Environment support the decision of the Council not to consult residents about the Trent Park New Year's Eve All night event? This seems to have been acknowledged as a failing at the Licensing Committee which determined the matter. What action does he propose to take to ensure that residents are properly consulted in future?”

**Reply from Councillor Bond**

“The Council complied fully with its statutory responsibility in terms of consultation for a licence. The notice was published in accordance with the regulatory framework.

In future any other event that requires a licence will be managed in line with the regulatory guidance and framework.”

**Question 27 from Councillor Rye to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council**

“At the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting to hear a call in on the sale of The Bourne car park, a member of the public asked, why the Council had not consulted the public, given that the Enfield Compact states that there will be public consultation on issues directly affecting residents. Cabinet Members present at this meeting were unable to answer this question. Would he inform the Council, when the Enfield Compact on public consultation applies and when it does not apply?”

**Reply from Councillor Taylor**

“The Enfield Compact is a partnership agreement about how Enfield’s statutory sector and the voluntary and community sector will work together. The Enfield Compact states that 12 weeks should be the standard period for written consultations with the statutory sector and the voluntary and community sector. The Compact does not relate to direct consultation with households and individuals.”

**Question 28 from Councillor Kaye to Councillor Charalambous Cabinet Member for Culture, Sport & Leisure**

“I note that the overwhelming majority of the Olympic Working Group are verbal updates. This makes it very difficult for you to liaise with group members and obtain a steer on issues prior to any decisions being taken and increases the risk of call in. Will Councillor Charalambous ensure that reports are prepared in future?”

**Reply from Charalambous**

“Officers have been instructed to provide written briefings and reports wherever possible. It should be noted that with the 2012 London Games less than 200 days away and with the volume of information that is being provided verbal updates are sometimes necessary to ensure Members are fully informed of the current situation. Wherever possible this will be kept to a minimum.”

**Question 29 from Councillor Lavender to Councillor Stafford Cabinet Member for Finance and Property**

“Would Councillor Stafford please confirm to the Council the costs to the Council (including actual or lost opportunity costs) of funding any trade unions either with cash, free offices or funded posts?”

**Reply from Councillor Stafford**

“The budget for trade union facility time is currently £53,380p.a. In addition, the unions have been given the use of 2 rooms within the Civic Centre which accommodate up to 8 people.

These are the same facilities and nominal costs as those of the previous 8 years of the Conservative administration.”

**Question 30 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Orhan Cabinet Member for Children & Young People**

“Could the Cabinet Member for Children & Young People explain to the council what action her department is taking to help Starks Field Primary School in Edmonton now that its Key Stage 2 results make it one of the worst performing primary schools in the country?”

**Reply from Councillor Orhan**

“There is so much excellent progress and an enormous amount of work taking place in our schools and in this Authority, especially at a time of unprecedented attack on education and massive cuts to our budgets and I just want to take a moment to thank everyone for all the hard work.

But let me assure you Councillor Laban that as soon as the results became known in July the Head and Deputy Head of School Improvement visited the school to set up intensive programmes of support, monitoring and evaluation. The first visits identified where teaching and provision were weak or inadequate and targeted intervention was put in place. All staff have been trained in assessment for learning and effective lesson planning. LA consultant or Advanced Skills Teacher support is in place for literacy, numeracy from years 1 to 6 and the Foundation Stage.

In order to strengthen leadership and management, the LA recruited and initially funded a very experienced deputy head teacher. A whole school review was undertaken in September and the outcomes shared with the Chair of Governors and the Director at a meeting where the imperative for rapid improvement was shared with the head teacher. An action plan was produced, shared with and accepted by the school leadership.

A further review was carried out on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of January which identified some improvements, particularly in Y6, where the quality of teaching is now good with outstanding features.

The associate deputy head is ensuring that the school’s self-evaluation is increasingly rigorous and accurate. The Deputy Head of School Improvement is the school’s designated Improvement Adviser and makes regular visits at which the leadership is held to account for pupil progress.

I continue to be vigilant and my Director continues to hold regular meetings with the Chair, head teacher and officers to review progress.”

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

“What action is the Cabinet Member for Children & Young People taking to improve primary school provision in the borough considering that 11 Enfield Schools did not meet the target of 60% level 4 English and Maths at Key Stage 2?”

**Reply from Councillor Orhan**

“The results for 2011 are still not validated and the final list of schools below the floor has not been confirmed. I am happy to provide Councillor Laban with more details of the work of our School Improvement services and how we priorities and work with schools who at times may have to deal with some challenging circumstances.”

**Question 32 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Orhan Cabinet Member for Children & Young People**

“Could the Cabinet Member for Children & Young People explain the rationale behind allowing Bowes Primary School to manage additional provision in the borough when there are 25 other schools in Enfield which achieve better Key Stage 2 results?”

**Reply from Councillor Orhan**

“Bowes Primary school has been judged to be outstanding by Ofsted in three consecutive inspections. The head teacher has been accredited by the National College for School Leadership as a National Leader in Education and as such is expected to take a leading role in securing school improvement within the LA. Whilst not the highest results in Enfield, the school is judged by Ofsted to have outstanding achievement and teaching given the starting points and capabilities of the children. Bowes School is currently being considered for designation as a, flagship Teaching School, in accordance with the current government’s policies. The Foundation Stage provision at the school is outstanding and held up as a model of excellent practice by the LA Early Years Adviser. The school and its head teacher have an outstanding track record of providing high quality and effective support for schools in challenging circumstances. Another consideration has been the stability and security and strength of the leadership at Bowes, which means the LA is confident that Bowes has the capacity to lead on additional provision without damaging the quality of education at the school. Therefore with these qualities, I am extremely proud that Bowes School, its staff and head teacher is part of the family of schools in this Authority.”

**Question 33 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Charalambous, Cabinet Member for Culture, Sport & Leisure**

“Could the Cabinet Member for Culture, Sport & Leisure update the council on the progress of building works at Southgate and Albany Leisure Centre?”

**Reply from Councillor Charalambous**

“Albany Leisure Centre build programme has begun and is currently due to be completed and open on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April. This is currently 8 weeks behind the anticipated completion date, following delays associated with work to a Gas Main that was not anticipated at the design stage of the project. The Council, Fusion, Project managers and the builders are working hard to mitigate these projected delays and it is hoped to reduce them between now and April. Albany's changing facilities will be upgraded with a gym and studio being added, this will make the facility a multi use facility rather than a predominately swimming site as it was in the past.

Southgate Leisure Centre build programme has begun and is currently due to be completed and open on the 10<sup>th</sup> August. Work is well underway with the centre being kept open through the use of temporary accommodation. This accommodation has inconvenienced some local residents but the Council and Fusion are working hard to minimise the impact. Southgate developments will provide improved gym and studio space modernising the services that can be provided. It will also provide much improved changing and reception facilities. The life of this forty year old facility will be extended by at least twenty years.”

**Question 34 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Goddard, Cabinet Member for Business and Regeneration**

“Following the August riots in Enfield Town several meetings with representatives of businesses were held, at which undertakings were given to provide in particular the Palace Gardens Traders Association and the Enfield Town Business Association information on what bids were being made for the funds set up by the Mayor of London and the government respectively to assist those town centres affected by the riots and their progress. Could he explain why it is that as at 9<sup>th</sup> January this year, despite repeated requests no information has been provided to either of the associations and since his officers seem unable to tell the businesses, could he tell the council what the position is in relation to Enfield Town?”

**Reply from Councillor Goddard**

“The Director of Regeneration, Leisure and Culture and the Head of Sustainable Communities have met with Enfield Town Business Association and Enfield Business Retailers Association (who are commissioned to run town centre management in Enfield) several times since the disturbances. The ETBA has a representative from the Palace Gardens Management and some of the Palace Gardens retailers. The first two meetings were concerned with the immediate aftermath of the riots in terms of exchanging information and ensuring that businesses benefited from rate rebates and grants where they were eligible. These meetings also focussed on increasing confidence and footfall in Enfield Town and EBRA, with the help of the ETBA, planned and implemented the ‘We Love Enfield Campaign.’ This has been funded by the Council and will be recouped from the High Street Fund. At the last meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2011 the Association and EBRA were keen to look toward the future in terms of reviewing future proposals for Enfield

Town following the riots. That discussion has been scheduled for the ETBA meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2012.”

**Question 35 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment**

Following publication of "The Council Business Plan 2011 /14", could he explain the figures shown on page 43 of the Plan under the heading "Street Cleanliness", relating to litter and graffiti respectively and their significance?

**Reply from Councillor Bond**

The results reported in the Council Business Plan relate to the period between April 2010 and March 2011. They show that there was an unacceptable level of litter in only 5% of inspected locations, which compares with 8% in 2009-10 and 10% in 2008-09.

This result meant that the 10% target, which had originally been agreed with Defra and the Government Office for London as part of the 2008-11 Local Area Agreement (LAA) back in 2008, was easily surpassed.

Also, as part of the LAA, the Council agreed to achieve a 5% target for the level of graffiti in the borough in 2010-11. As the Council Business Plan outlines, this 5% target was achieved.

This figure also indicates an upward trend – this means that the level of cleanliness is improving and the cleanliness of borough roads is at its best level ever.“