

Councillor Questions – 8 October 2014

Questions to Cabinet Members

Question 1 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Stafford, Cabinet Member for Finance

Can he tell the Council how many management posts are currently occupied on an interim or agency basis and what is the total cost of such arrangements expressed in monthly and annual terms?

Reply from Councillor Stafford

In the month of August there were 18 management posts occupied on an interim or agency basis at the cost of £91,963.87. Given the nature of interim work it is not possible to accurately predict the annual cost of these posts going forward. It should also be noted that 8 of these posts are in the social care field where it is difficult to recruit and that the costs would be similar if the Council was able to recruit to the positions on an established basis.

Question 2 from Councillor Lappage to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Safety

Can the Cabinet Member give the Council an update on the Council response to the recent murder in Nightingale Road?

Reply from Councillor Bond

I and the Community Safety Unit (CSU) working with press officers have ensured that the Council has fully supported and co-operated with the police investigation into this tragic incident.

I opened a Council led community event on 11 September 2014. This was attended by several Council officers, a number of councillors, including the Leader, and the MP for Edmonton, Andy Love. The police senior leadership team was also present as was the ward sergeant for the area.

Question 3 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council

Given the importance and local concern about the future of the Chase Farm Site, could he explain why no representatives of the Labour administration, nor for that matter, any officers were present at the first stakeholder meeting convened by the Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust on 21 July 2014?

Reply from Councillor Taylor

I thank Councillor Neville for his question on this important issue and can assure him that throughout numerous discussions over recent months, the Council has encouraged the Royal Free London's leadership to carry out meaningful engagement with local people and their representatives.

Councillor McGowan, myself, the Chief Executive and Director of Health, Housing and Adult Social Care have had opportunities for discussion with members of the Royal Free Board and leadership team and would always respect that the primary purpose of the engagement event in question was to give the public and other interested local representatives a chance to hear about and discuss future plans.

We will continue to encourage the Royal Free London to bring forward plans that deliver a long term secure future for much needed NHS services at Chase Farm, whilst insisting that any receipts from the sale of land or assets are reinvested in improvements to health services on that site.

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

Can the Leader comment on the result of the recent referendum in Scotland and its impact on the borough?

Reply from Councillor Taylor

I believe that it was in the interest of both citizens of Scotland, and residents of Enfield for the union to be retained. It does open up the issue of devolution in England and we need to be proactive in that debate.

Question 5 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Taylor Leader of the Council

In connection with the commemoration of World War 1, on 4^{August} 2014, could he tell the Council why none of the Members of Parliament were invited to attend the ceremony?

Reply from Councillor Taylor

The World War 1 event in Broomfield Park was widely publicised and open to all residents who wanted to and were able to attend. Supplementing the general invitation to this event, the Council's Communication Team supplied a list of people that would normally be invited to an event such as this. As well as this list, people associated with Broomfield Park and other people it was felt should be at such an event were individually invited via email to attend on the 4 August 2014. I can confirm that all three of the MP's, who represent residents in Enfield, were invited via an email to their parliamentary offices, via the contacts that we hold, on the 10 July 2014. Only Andy Love MP replied.

Question 6 from Councillor Lemonides to Councillor Sitkin, Cabinet Member for Economic Development

Can the Cabinet Member advise this Council on what progress has been made towards advancing the Lea Valley Heating Network since the summer?

Reply from Councillor Sitkin

Good progress has been made towards advancing the Lea Valley Heat Network in recent months. On the 21 July 2014 the Lee Valley Heat Network was officially launched at its own event at City Hall. In the same week, the Council's Cabinet approved the Business Plan and Summary Programme for Phase 1 of the strategic

network which will serve Meridian Water, together with 3 local satellite schemes at Ladderswood, Alma and New Avenue estate renewal projects.

Subject to final approval being obtained from Council on 8 October 2014, funding of £1.28m will be allocated for development costs through to financial close in September 2015 with governance arrangements for the delivery of the network also having been confirmed. Positive discussions with the North London Waste Authority are ongoing to secure a long term supply of low carbon heat to the network.

A highly specialised and experienced team is in place to work with the Council to deliver the Network, including a Project Delivery Director, Project Manager, Technical, and operations and maintenance advisors. They bring with them significant experience of delivering the heat network at the Olympic Park and other private sector projects.

Work is now concentrating on preparing different parts of the programme for competitive tender. Technical work is also advancing on defining the optimal route for the strategic heat network from the Edmonton EcoPark to Meridian Water. This is programmed to be concluded in early 2015 to coincide with the planning and construction of first phases of infrastructure at Meridian Water.

Question 7 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Sitkin, Cabinet Member for Economic Development

Given the importance of the business community to the borough and the protection of its interests, is he satisfied that Enfield Business and Retail Association (EBRA) is sufficiently independent of the Council given the increase in funding authorised by the Council shortly before the May 2014 election?

Reply from Councillor Sitkin

Yes.

However Councillor Neville is incorrect. There has been no increase in funding for EBRA between the financial year 2013/2014 and the financial year 2014/2015.

Question 8 from Councillor Maguire to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Safety

Can the Cabinet Member give us an update on Cycle Enfield?

Reply from Councillor Bond

At the end of March 2014, the Leader of the Council received a letter from Transport for London (TfL), confirming that Enfield's Mini-Holland bid was successful and granting an initial allocation of £700K to enable the Council to start developing the schemes contained in its bid. Since that time, the following key tasks have been completed:

- Completed topographical surveys and traffic surveys for the A105 corridor and Enfield Town
- Appointed a Programme Manager on 18/08/14 to lead the Cycle Enfield Delivery Team

- Prepared a base line programme
- Commissioned Ringway Jacobs Ltd to prepare a business case through the London Highways Alliance Contract (LoHAC). This will be submitted to TfL in early October 2014 to help secure the release of further funding for detailed design and implementation
- Commissioned Ringway Jacobs Ltd to undertake preliminary design and modelling through the LoHAC contract
- Launched the Cycle Enfield brand at the Town Show on 13/09/14
- Established the governance arrangements for the Cycle Enfield project. These arrangements were approved by Cabinet 17/09/14.

Question 9 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Georgiou, Deputy Leader of the Council

I was copied in on a letter addressed to the Leader of the Council by the Minister for Local Government, Kris Hopkins which asserted non-compliance with the recently enacted code for local government publicity and gave you on behalf of the council, ten working days to respond to the letter with a threat of High Court proceedings if that response was not received or was unsatisfactory.

I have now seen your response to Mr Hopkins letter. A number of questions arise:

- a. Will he publish it?
- b. The letter states that Our Enfield is “politically neutral”. How does he reconcile that with the fact that
 - i. Our Enfield regularly has a Leader’s column in which he often criticises the government.
 - ii. The magazine regularly carries photographs of cabinet members and quotes from them, but no such opportunity is given to their Shadows.
 - iii. The letter claims that “the content is very different from our local newspapers as the primary focus is information relating to the council and council services”. A recent analysis shows that Our Enfield regularly uses press releases already issued to the local papers.
 - iv. The letter states that prior to publication the magazine is sent to the opposition to ensure political neutrality – if political neutrality is being sought then there should be an opportunity to both the Leader of the Opposition and any of his Shadow Cabinet members to comment on particular issues.
 - v. All that said, the reality is that the New Code of Practice which has statutory effect requires fewer issues to be published at the taxpayers expense. How can he justify defying that and is he waiting for the Government to take Enfield to the High Court thereby incurring further costs, in order that the code can be enforced?
 - vi. Will he state how much is spent in producing and publishing this magazine and how much of that funding comes from advertising?

Reply from Councillor Georgiou

Councillor Neville’s reference to a letter from the Minister “*which asserted non-compliance with the recently enacted code for local government publicity*” presents an incomplete picture. We can now bring matters up to date.

The relevant statutory duty is in section 4 of the Local Government Act 1986. This section empowers the Secretary of State to issue “one or more codes of recommended practice” regarding local authority publicity, and it requires local authorities to “have regard to the provisions of any such code in coming to any decision on publicity” (emphasis added).

The Council has at all times complied with its duty to have regard to the code’s provisions.

The letter from the Minister for Local Government on 15 August 2014 asked for the council to ensure that the publication of *Our Enfield* is “*in line with the Code’s provisions*”, in particular with the recommendation at paragraph 28 of the code that publication should not be more frequently than quarterly. *Our Enfield* is published every two months.

The Council responded to the Department on 9 September 2014 putting forward the reasons why we believe *Our Enfield* is currently “*in line with the Code’s Provisions*” relating both to political neutrality and to competition with the independent local press. We stand by the reasons given in that response.

Enfield Council fully supports a strong local press. Far from providing unfair commercial competition to the local press, Enfield Council is one of their biggest clients, spending approximately £120,000 a year on advertising in the local press. In contrast we limit the amount of private sector advertising space available in *Our Enfield* to approximately £6,000 a year.

Meanwhile, levels of residents feeling informed about Council services have risen from 35% in 2007 to 71% in 2012 (Enfield Residents’ Survey). The production and distribution of *Our Enfield* has been central to this improvement – residents listing this as their main source of information about the Council for the first time in the 2012 Residents’ Survey.

I am sure all members will agree this is good for local democracy. As the Explanatory Memorandum published by the DCLG alongside the new Code of practice states, “*For a community to be a healthy democracy, local understanding of the operation of the democratic process is important, and effective communication is key to developing that understanding In order to hold their local authority to account, the public need information about what their council is doing and why it is doing it.*”

We have now received a notice dated 25 September 2014 of a proposed direction which the Secretary of State is minded to give to the council under section 4A of the Local Government Act 1986. The proposed direction relates only to the requirement of publication no more frequently than quarterly. It therefore appears that the Secretary of State accepts the other points made in our response.

The Council is now considering its response to this.

Question 10 from Councillor Stewart to Councillor Simbodyal, Cabinet Member for Culture, Sport, Youth and Public Health

Can the Cabinet Member update the Council on the Craig Park Youth Club since its refurbishment by the previous Labour Council?

Reply from Councillor Simbodyal

Craig Park Youth Centre offers a range of educational activities where young people can gain nationally recognised qualifications. This includes the Duke of Edinburgh Award which has been achieved by young offenders, young people with special educational needs and looked after children. In the first year of opening over 1,300 young people used the centre.

The curriculum on offer includes- sports, dance, music, indoor climbing, leadership and social enterprise. The centre opens in the daytime offering targeted programmes aimed at young people not currently engaged in education, employment or training, young offenders and young people attending alternative education provision.

During the evenings and at weekends a range of structured accredited learning opportunities take place. Finally, I am delighted to announce that the design of the new centre has recently won the prestigious Architects Journal Retrofit Award 2014, in the Civic and Community Category.

Question 11 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council

Can he tell the Council whether he welcomes the continuing news on the national economy of rising jobs, rising numbers in employment, the highest anywhere in Europe at present, falling job seekers claimants and falling inflation? Does he acknowledge that this coupled with the very recent report from the Organisation for Economic Development (OECD) is further vindication of the Chancellor's economic policies, which are for longer term prosperity in Enfield and the country as a whole, rather than short term party gain?

Reply from Councillor Taylor

In reality

- Any economic recovery has been slow and later than in the USA
- GDP per capita won't recover for another 3 years
- Wages have grown more slowly than price
- The Health service is in a funding crisis

Most people next May will be worse off than when the Tories came to power albeit I admit, that tax breaks for millionaires is beneficial to that section of society. This is not an economic success.

Question 12 from Councillor B Charalambous to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Safety

Can the Cabinet Member give the Council an update on play streets in the Borough?

Reply from Councillor Bond

We have only received one play street application to date which is for Devonshire Road. The application was approved and the road is being closed for one Sunday each month (2pm – 5pm) through to May 2015. A further list of streets is being compiled by members and residents for 2015.

Question 13 from Councillor Milne to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Safety

Would he comment on the most recent MOPAC (Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime) data which shows that of the 32 London Boroughs, Enfield alone is the only one to show an increase in total notifiable offences, and is one of three boroughs alongside Bexley and Haringey to show an increase in MOPAC crime?

Reply from Councillor Bond

The Councillor may be aware that we have for many years suffered from a lack of police resources and that this Council has lobbied for this to change for a number of years.

I am pleased to say that in the last 3 months we have successfully argued that Enfield requires additional resources. Around 25 extra officers have been deployed to the borough and this is already starting to reap benefits. We have improved our ranking compared with other boroughs by 6 places and are starting to see improvements in terms of a reduction in offending rates for robbery and serious youth violence.

In addition to the violent crime categories listed above we have seen significant reductions in all vehicle crime and in theft from the person offences. All of these crimes are of course largely committed in the public domain, where an increased policing presence will have its greatest impact.

I would welcome any support that the opposition can provide us in lobbying the Government or Conservative Deputy Mayor for Policing in supporting our struggle to get more help for our local police officers.

Question 14 from Councillor Hamilton to Councillor Oyken, Cabinet Member for Housing and Estate Regeneration

Can the Cabinet Member give the Council an update on the return of Enfield Homes into the Council fold?

Reply from Councillor Oyken

Following the Cabinet decision in July 2014 to reintegrate Enfield Homes back into the Council, after the expiry of the Management Agreement on 31 March 2015, work is underway to prepare for reintegration by 1 April 2015.

A Reintegration Board has been established, chaired by the Director of Health, Housing and Adult Social Care and meets on a monthly basis. To support this, six work streams have been established to progress the work: Human Resources, IT, Communications, Company Administration and Governance, Operational and

Finance. A detailed project plan has been produced and resources have been assigned to progress the tasks within each of the work streams. These are being monitored on a monthly basis. A Joint Communications Plan has been produced across Enfield Homes and Enfield Council, to ensure that staff and key stakeholders remain informed of progress throughout.

However, reintegration is occurring at a time of significant organisational change at the Council and therefore will form part of the Enfield 2017 programme, to ensure that we are equipped to respond to the changing needs and expectations of our residents and provide a holistic service to all customers. In the meantime, services that have already integrated with the Council include leadership through the Joint Chief Operating Officer, Finance, Human Resources, Learning and Development and Service Development & Performance.

Question 15 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Stafford, Cabinet Member for Finance

In connection with the purchase of the Nokia Lumia 520 phone, can he tell the Council?

- a. When that model was purchased?
- b. How many phones were bought?
- c. How many remain undistributed?
- d. What was the total cost of the purchase?

Can he also tell the Council the same information for the model of iPhone that has been distributed to some members and to some officers?

Reply from Councillor Stafford

- a. 12/05/2014
- b. 65
- c. 12 (these were distributed to other staff as part of the overall mobile phone migration)
- d. The unit cost was £99, and the total spend was £6,435

Can he also tell the Council the same information for the model of iPhone that has been distributed to some members and to some officers?

- a. Approximately 3-4 years ago
- b. 9
- c. 0
- d. The unit cost was £400, and total spend was £3,600

Question 16 from Councillor Jemal to Councillor Sitkin, Cabinet Member for Economic Development

In August the Greater London Assembly (GLA) published the "Out of the ashes" report critiquing the Mayor's Regeneration Fund following the 2011 disturbances. Can the Cabinet Member tell the Council what the executive summary to this report says?

Reply from Councillor Sitkin

“Out of the Ashes” was published by the GLA in August 2014 and can be accessed via the attached weblink:

<http://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Out%20of%20the%20ashes.%20MRF%20report.pdf>

Enfield was one of the eight London boroughs that received funding in response to the disturbances of 2011; building on longer term regeneration objectives. The executive summary suggests that the programme is triggering new conditions for regeneration; accelerating local regeneration schemes and displaying a dual focus on both economic and social growth. The executive summary makes recommendations to the Mayor to clarify the aims and potential of the Fund, speed up delivery of the programme and develop creative ways to support regeneration teams in managing projects.

The funding has enabled people, community groups and businesses to come together in a continued positive way which has played a key role in diffusing community tensions. Through the implementation of our Garden Enfield project, we are reaching a wide cross-section of the population, from all ages, all communities; business and voluntary sector partners; training providers and other statutory agencies. It will allow us to create jobs and prosperity, contribute to better awareness about healthy eating and living; foster a spirit of collaboration and entrepreneurship and build bridges between communities.

Question 17 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment & Community Safety

In connection with the report to Cabinet recommending the adoption of Band A fines for Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs), can he tell the Council

- a. How many PCNs were issued for on and off street contraventions respectively in 2007-8, 2008-9 and 2009-10?
- b. How many related to parking on double yellow lines for each of those years and years, 2010/11, 2011/12, 2012/13 and 2013/14?
- c. How many were for overstaying at Pay and Display bays having paid an original fee?

Reply from Councillor Bond

a.

2007-8	2008-9	2009-10
104,970	111,427	95,147

b.

2007-8	2008-9	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
34,868	44,579	32,332	22,778	23,948	20,560	20,827

c.

2007-8	2008-9	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
8,096	8,422	7,389	7,010	9,683	7,435	7,742

Question 18 from Councillor Pite to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Safety

Can the Cabinet Member give the Council an update on the works around Lancaster Road?

Reply from Councillor Bond

This is a proposed footway parking scheme which is currently programmed with our contractor to start on site on the week beginning 29 September 2014, for a duration of 6 weeks.

Question 19 from Councillor Rye to Councillor Stafford Cabinet Member for Finance

On Wednesday 30 August 2014, I was pleased to see you in the Jolly Butchers Public House, in my ward, supporting a local business. You also appeared to be conducting a meeting with Mr Paul Bishop, union representative, and other officers. Can you inform the Council what was discussed and whether this is your usual venue for conducting Council business?

Reply from Councillor Stafford

Councillor Rye is quite correct in that I was socialising with my area representative and fellow members of Unison. Perhaps if Councillor Rye was part of the union he would care to join our discussion which if I recall correctly were about how mitigate the effects of the savage, brutal and unnecessary cuts imposed by the Conservative coalition government especially with regards to job losses. I can also assure Councillor Rye that whilst I openly discuss politics in a public house I have never held such discussions in a Masonic Lodge or the like.

Question 20 from Councillor Kepez to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Safety

Can the Cabinet Member give the Council an update on the work undertaken in Pymmes Park?

Reply from Councillor Bond

Pymmes Park Lake has been suffering from pollution linked to pipe misconnections in this area, that have allowed pollutants and waste, into the lake. This pollution is impacting on the lake environment and the use of this area by local residents.

Work has been ongoing with agencies such as Thames Water and the Environment Agency to resolve these complex issues and reduce the pollution levels in the lake.

We have also been engaging with key groups such as the local friends of the park group and are grateful for their ongoing commitment to Pymmes Park and this project.

We are waiting for final agreement from Thames Water and the Environment Agency for the re-connection of a temporary diversion of a Thames Water pipe, which will increase the flow of water into the lake significantly, supporting other planned improvements.

These include installing a reed bed as a natural filtration system adjacent to the lake itself. In order to complete this, the Council has agreed provision of £200,000 of capital funds to complete this work. Subject to final approval from all agencies and planning consent, work is planned for early 2015.

We have also submitted an application for over £100,000 to the Thames Water Community Investment Fund to enable us to involve local schools in ongoing work around community provision and use of the lake for educational projects.

We have also looked at best practice examples of urban wetlands, such as those installed at the Olympic Park in East London to ensure that we deliver the best possible project for Pymmes Park and that the residents of Edmonton can enjoy the natural beauty and benefits of a superb facility for many years to come.

Question 21 from Councillor Rye to Councillor McGowan, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care

Are you comfortable with the Labour Council's contract with the Star Bus Company to provide transport for vulnerable clients in Adult Social Care given two directors of this company have previously owned a "sex chat" TV channel Hoppr Entertainment Ltd that in 2010 was found in breach of the Ofcom broadcasting code following a complaint over a broadcast during which Live 960 presenters carried out a number of sexual acts on each other?

Do you support awarding contracts to businesses with directors who have a history of demeaning and exploiting women? Do you believe the Council's procurement procedures to be sufficiently robust?

Reply from Councillor McGowan

The procurement process was conducted in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and the Public Contracts Regulations 2006 (as amended). The procurement was conducted through the London Tenders Portal www.londontenders.org and all bids were evaluated against the published criteria and the Council is satisfied that this company can meet its requirements.

Financial viability was also assessed by the Council's finance team and will be subject to regular checks throughout the contract lifecycle, along with other key indicators such as vehicle condition and safeguarding practices for both adults and children as an integral part of our standard contract award and ongoing contract management regime.

We will also ensure that as a part of ongoing contract monitoring appropriate compliance checks on employees will be carried out. All front line staff who work

with vulnerable children and adults have advanced DBS (Disclosure & Barring Service) checks conducted as part of their employment checks. Star Bus staff will be no exception.

In addition, and as a part of the tender process and assessment on who should be invited to tender checks were conducted for any convictions relating to corruption, bribery, fraud etc as these would be grounds for mandatory exclusion, and also whether there are discretionary grounds for exclusion including convictions/gross misconduct in the course of their business. Simply setting aside this process would expose the Council to significant risk of private action.

Star Bus submitted a compliant bid and there are no reasons for disqualification or not to award a contract for supply of transport services.

Another part of the tender process, was for companies bidding, to provide equalities statements and to demonstrate how they manage equalities within the work place, from company policy, recruitment, training and customer care. Again, Star Bus provided a compliant bid.

Question 22 from Councillor Jiagge to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Safety

Can the Cabinet Member give the Council an update on the Christmas festive lighting this year?

Reply from Councillor Bond

The Council has agreed proposals for installing festive lights this year and we are already placing orders with our Streetlighting Private Finance Initiative Service Provider for the installations, which will be in town centres and shopping areas as last year. We will use the Christmas lights purchased in the last couple of years comprising of LED garlands on lamp columns, illuminated motifs, lighting feature trees, cross-street displays, decorated Christmas trees and 'tree of light' displays. Further sponsorship is being sought.

Question 23 from Councillor Rye to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Education Children's Services and Protection

Are you comfortable with the Labour Council's contract with the Star Bus Company to provide transport for vulnerable clients in Adult Social Care given two directors of this company have previously owned a "sex chat" TV channel Hoppr Entertainment Ltd that in 2010 was found in breach of the Ofcom broadcasting code following a complaint over a broadcast during which Live 960 presenters carried out a number of sexual acts on each other?

Do you support awarding contracts to businesses with directors who have a history of demeaning and exploiting women? Do you believe the Council's procurement procedures to be sufficiently robust?

Reply from Councillor Orhan

Can I refer you to the response to question 23.

Question 24 from Councillor Levy to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Safety

Can the Cabinet Member give the Council an update on the work undertaken by Trading Standards so far this year?

Reply from Councillor Bond

Rogue Traders:

- On 4 September 2014, trading standards intercepted a live incident to stop a resident handing over £1,000 in cash to a rogue builder.
- In the cases that we are aware of residents have lost £43,000 so far this year before reporting to us – which will only be the tip to the iceberg.

Illegal money lending:

- In September, the England Illegal Money Lending Team, working in partnership with Enfield Trading Standards, Essex Trading Standards, Essex Police and the Metropolitan Police, executed warrants at five addresses of suspected loan sharks, seizing documents, a large amount of cash and a substance believed to be drugs.
- We reported illegal money lending suspected at a pub in Enfield.
- Will be presenting £1,000 cheque to the North London Credit Union following the award in 2013 to Enfield Trading Standards for winning the Illegal Money Lending National Stop Loan Sharks Union.

Unsafe and Illegal products:

- Working with Her Majesties Revenue and Customs (HMRC), Immigration, police and tobacco detection dogs we seized 11,000 of cigarettes, 350g of rolled tobacco, 56.4 litres of duty diverted alcohol and a quantity of illegal Viagra and medicines and 80 mainly pornographic videos/DVDs were surrendered.
- In a day of action targeting mobile phone accessory shops, 85 electrical items suspected as being unsafe and 138 suspected counterfeit goods were seized.
- We conducted a test purchasing project on sunbeds using underage volunteers, and no premises allowed the sunbeds to be used, which is reassuring.
- There was a successful prosecution for sale of skin lightening products followed by a seizure of skin lightening products at another premises.
- We recently removed 3 pallets of unsafe cosmetic products from a premises.

Question 25 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Safety

Can you inform the Council of the options to be consulted on in the Enfield Town area in relation to the Cycle Enfield scheme previously known as Mini-Holland and will this include a shared space option? What is the timeline for any consultation?

Reply from Councillor Bond

A brief was issued to Ringway Jacobs Ltd to investigate options for Enfield Town.

Emerging designs will take account of recommendations made by the relevant partnership board. At the end of preliminary design phase, there will be consultation with local resident and traders.

Question 26 from Councillor Uzoanya to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council

Can the Leader inform the Council of the newly revamped business centre on Hertford Road and how it fits into the Council's core vision and strategy?

Reply from Councillor Taylor

The refurbishment of the Enfield Business Centre (EBC) in Hertford Road is key to supporting business growth in the borough, particularly in the more deprived parts of Enfield. It is a visible symbol of the Council supporting growth and demonstrates to residents, partners and businesses that Enfield is open for business. It will support the developing inward investment strategy to showcase the benefits of moving to Enfield and that the business-supporting organisations are working collaboratively to encourage business growth and confidence so they can expand and create new jobs, as well as upskill and support employees.

The refit of the Enfield Business Centre on Hertford Road includes a new business support hub on the ground floor, which aims to increase the number of enterprises in the borough, improve their survival rate and support local job creation.

The EBC Hub will be a new resource to support local residents setting up an enterprise and entrepreneurs growing their business in Enfield, improving their potential to succeed and create new jobs.

The EBC Hub resources will include:

- Four hot desks for hire by pre-start and start-up entrepreneurs.
- A meeting room for hire by EBC tenants and local businesses.
- 50 secure mail boxes providing a professional secure address.
- A café serving hub service users, EBC tenants and visitors.

The refit of the Enfield Business Centre supports the Council's aims to deliver fairness for all by enabling the business sector to create more employment opportunities for local residents, encouraging business growth and sustainability and building strong communities through the improvement of the local economy.

Question 27 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Safety

How and where will any decisions in relation to the Cycle Enfield scheme be made?

Reply from Councillor Bond

In accordance with the governance arrangements that were agreed by Cabinet, the Cycle Enfield Project Board will make recommendations for each scheme. Approval will be subject to a portfolio report of the Cabinet Member for Environment & Community Safety, prior to submission to Transport for London for approval.

Question 28 from Councillor Abdullahi to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Safety

Will the Cabinet Member advise the Council of the effect of the removal of the tax disc on vehicles?

Reply from Councillor Bond

Parking Services use tax disc details as secondary evidence to confirm the correct vehicle is parked in contravention. In future, secondary evidence will take the form of further comprehensive photographs taken when a Penalty Charge Notice is issued.

From 1 October 2014 there will no longer be a requirement to display a tax disc. It will still be a requirement to pay for road tax, but the registered keeper will not get a tax disc as visible proof of payment. Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority (DVLA) hold the records of all vehicles taxed and untaxed.

Drivers may be tempted not to pay for vehicle tax thinking that no-one will find out because they no longer have to display a tax disc. There is a possibility of an increase in untaxed vehicles. However the roads are patrolled using vehicles equipped with automatic number plate readers, so non payers will be caught (as is the case now).

We are also updating the Councils' web page about untaxed vehicles with some additional links to the DVLA web site which gives the most up to date information.

Question 29 from Councillor E Hayward to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Education Children`s Services and Protection

Given the commitments made at last Council, has the Administration written to the Department for Education (DfE) lending their support for Ashmole Academy's recent application for a primary free school on their site?

If not, why not and if so was the letter in conjunction with the London Borough of Barnet, given the benefits to residents of both boroughs should the DfE reconsider their recent decision?

Reply from Councillor Orhan

I can confirm that following the last Council meeting a joint letter has been sent to the Department for Education (DfE) expressing the support of both Enfield and Barnet to the proposed expansion of Ashmole Academy to provide primary school places. The letter was signed by myself, and Councillor Bambos Charalambous, as Associate Cabinet Member (Enfield West), together with Councillor Richard Cornelius (Leader of Barnet Council) and Councillor Reuben Thompstone (Chairman of the Children, Education, Libraries & Safeguarding Committee of Barnet Council).

Question 30 from Councillor Dogan to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Safety

Can the Cabinet Member advise the Council how often the London Borough of Enfield has been successful in prosecuting utility companies for highway contraventions?

Reply from Councillor Bond

Enfield Council has brought 30 successful prosecutions against utility companies since April 2012, and has been unsuccessful in just a couple of cases. In addition, Enfield has issued 3,770 Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) relating to breaching permitting requirements and has settled other prosecutions out of court.

The Council has prosecuted for the following offences:

- Working without a permit issued after their failure to pay a fixed penalty notice.
- Breach of a permit condition. Again after failure to pay a fixed penalty notice.
- Non-cooperation with the Highway Authority.
- Core test failure.
- Unsafe working practice on site.

Question 31 from Councillor R Hayward to Councillor Sitkin, Cabinet Member for Economic Development

Since becoming Cabinet Member for Economic Development how many jobs have you created?

Reply from Councillor Sitkin

The period June-September is generally quieter in terms of economic activity. However, despite this, a conservative estimate is that over 230 new employment opportunities have been created, many through projects that the Council is directly supporting.

Unemployment figures have also continued to reduce significantly with month on month decrease in benefit claimants, including figures for young people aged 18-24 and over 50s. Over 800 people signed off benefits between May and August.

As we all know, the Council, working with its partners, has a key role in creating the conditions within which the private sector can flourish. This includes the provision of positive planning, working with key partners such as North London Chamber of Commerce, Enfield Business and Retailers Association and Enterprise Enfield and dealing promptly with inward investment enquiries and opportunities. Enfield is therefore not only open for business, it is also very positive about business. Of course, any jobs that Councillor Hayward starts creating on his farm will be welcome and add to the total. He should let us know if and when he starts contributing to our job creation work.

Question 32 from Councillor Anderson to Councillor Brett, Cabinet Member for Community Organisations

Can the Cabinet Member tell the Council how many groups have benefitted from the Capacity Building Fund and do you intend to run it in the future?

Reply from Councillor Brett

I am pleased to inform the Member that the Enfield Community Capacity Building Fund, in its three years of operation, has been able to offer support to our local communities by agreeing projects with 44 local community groups. This has allowed us to support the local community sector and the residents they serve at a time when other local authorities have chosen to reduce their levels of involvement with the sector.

We were also able to jointly work with London Councils over past 2 years to secure match funding from the European Social Fund and deliver two rounds of community grants in conjunction with them that was successfully taken up by 22 local community groups.

We are currently evaluating both the Enfield Community Capacity Building Fund and our joint funding operations with London Councils. If it is prudent to do so and if funds are available we would certainly consider making further assistance of this nature available in future operational years.

Question 33 from Councillor R Hayward to Councillor Sitkin Cabinet Member for Economic Development

Organic vegetable boxes from the community growing vegetable scheme are priced at £54. Can you arrange for a cheaper non-organic version for the poorer people of the borough?

Reply from Councillor Sitkin

The Enfield Veg Company (EVC) is one of a number of locally grown vegetable box schemes across London. It is part of 'Garden Enfield', the programme launched by the Council in March 2014 to support the development of market gardening across the borough. It includes a number of community-led projects, the first of which is the market garden at Forty Hall Farm. The EVC is a not for profit company, promoting sustainable farming practices and selling locally produced organic food.

The cost of the vegetable bags actually range from £28 - £54 for 4 bags per month, which will contain quality, in-season vegetables suitable for different household sizes. The costs reflect the actual cost of producing vegetables locally, and are no more expensive than organic supermarket prices.

Other community growing schemes are in development, and these schemes will not be run organically in the first instance. There will be opportunities for these locally grown vegetables to be sold locally as well, offering healthy options for residents across the borough. I note however that Councillor Hayward is finally starting to pay attention to the cost of living crisis. It is something that this administration has been

working on ceaselessly since 2010. If Councillor Hayward wants to accompany me on my local consumer research initiatives, or indeed to the food banks that we run to deal with all the many citizens impoverished by this government's policies, he is very welcome. Or indeed he could openly criticise this government's economic policies.

Question 34 from Councillor Fonyonga to Councillor Brett, Cabinet Member for Community Organisations

Can the Cabinet Member tell the Council how many voluntary groups are currently known to Enfield Council and how many of these are currently seeking funding?

Reply from Councillor Brett

In our recent refresh of the Council's database of Enfield based voluntary and community sector organisations we have found there to be in excess of 700 local groups that we believe are active in the borough covering a whole range of community interests.

Whilst we have no specific figure on how many are currently seeking funding, we do know that many are facing significant financial challenges as they seek to continue to serve local communities.

Enfield Council is doing all it can to help those who approach us to adapt to the new funding environment they find themselves in and take a fresh look at how they can address their sustainability issues. This is an area of work that will become more important as available finances become ever more constrained and we are fully committed to helping organisations who add value to community life access available funding wherever that may be found.

We also provide a web portal that we direct local community groups towards to access external funding opportunities. To support this we deliver grant bid writing workshops with our Community Voluntary Services partner Enfield Voluntary Action.

Question 35 from Councillor R Hayward to Councillor Sitkin, Cabinet Member for Economic Development

With hindsight, do you regret not using Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) powers to purchase the required land at Meridian Water?

Reply from Councillor Sitkin

The use of the Council's compulsory purchase powers, to acquire land and property interests at Meridian Water, was subject to debate at Overview and Scrutiny on 24 July 2014.

As was stated then, and has been clearly included in all cabinet reports regarding land acquisition in Meridian Water, the use of compulsory purchase powers has not been ruled out. But the Council's approach to date has been to acquire land necessary for new housing and other purposes via a process of voluntary negotiation.

This collaborative approach has enabled, for example, an examination of the condition of land through invasive means, providing information that has directly informed the valuation of land and viability calculations. This in turn has helped to generate confidence that house-building is possible and financially viable on the scale and density envisaged, and as the Council intends to recover its expenditure on land acquisition over time, this is of some importance.

So in answer to your question, I am comfortable with the Council's land acquisition strategy to date, but if it proves necessary, I will not hesitate in recommending the use of CPO powers.

Question 36 from Councillor Barry to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Safety

Can the Cabinet Member tell the Council if nectar producing plants being used in Council flower displays to maximise bee and butterfly pollination opportunities?

Reply from Councillor Bond

Yes nectar producing plants are being used on Council land to maximise bee and butterfly pollinating opportunities.

Here are some of the ways which as a Council we are trying to make sure that pollinators are being supported in line with our Biodiversity Action Plan (as adopted September 2011).

Parks & Open Spaces

- Bee-friendly planting is a priority under the Parkland & Open Spaces as part of the delivery of Enfield's Biodiversity Action Plan.
- Parks staff do not use any fertilisers/pesticides/insecticides known to have an adverse impact on bees.
- Bee-friendly (wildlife-friendly) planting is recommended for all landscape-architect projects in house.
- Landscape architects attend our quarterly Biodiversity Action Plan Working Group to ensure they are up to date with latest issues/enhancement opportunities for biodiversity (including bee-friendly planting).
- Two of our parks have apiaries (Woodcroft Wildspace & Broomfield Park orchard).
- We have 6 sites under Higher Level Stewardship Agreement, each of these require management of the meadows with the aim of returning them to a rich, wildflower habitat to support the local bee (and general invertebrate) population, enhancing the biodiversity of the area.

Highways

- Highways contractors (as of this year's newly amended management agreement) leave half of the countryside grass verges un-cut to allow wildflowers to bloom and thrive, providing much needed bee corridors throughout the green belt (whilst also maintaining a tidy image to deter fly tipping).

Allotments

- Bee-keeping is encouraged throughout our allotments (those which are site appropriate - with woodland/open space adjacent to allotments as opposed to housing).
- Allotment holders must be a member of Enfield Beekeepers' Association to apply for a hive on allotments (to ensure they have appropriate knowledge & insurance).
- Seven of our allotments have bee hives, totalling approximately thirty hives in total across allotment land.

Education

- Schools in our Council allotment programme are encouraged to plant 'companion' species alongside vegetables in the 'Grow Your Own' organic planting scheme to deter pest species and encourage pollinators (whilst also encouraging education of the links between food growing and biodiversity).
- Higher Level Stewardship Educational Access visits are carried out at Forty Hall which provides the opportunity to further educate children and students about biodiversity, the need to provide pollinator habitat and appropriate land management.

Development Control/Planning

- In each planning application where open space and/or private gardens are being impacted as a result of a proposed development, we grant approval only under the condition that landscaping plans must be submitted prior to development works which detail the native and wildlife-friendly planting which will be planted on the site to encourage pollinators and other wildlife.
- In addition we ask for biodiversity enhancements as part of conditioned approval which often can include bee or insect hotels on site in close proximity to nectar rich planting areas.

London-wide there is currently a partnership project called 'Making a Bee-Line for London' coming into action which will see the potential creation of more wildflower meadow land being planted/encouraged across Enfield's parks and open spaces in coordination with our neighbouring boroughs.

Question 37 from Councillor R Hayward to Councillor Sitkin, Cabinet Member for Economic Development

How much have land values increased at Meridian Water in the past four years?

Reply from Councillor Sitkin

Commenting on the change in land values over the last four years is particularly challenging, due to the scarcity of transactions, the lack of publically available information on transactions, and the variety of potential end uses for which the land may have been acquired.

Land clearly has a different value depending on its end use, with open storage being the lowest value and residential/commercial being the highest, depending on location.

Value for development land is determined as a residual amount, taking into account expected sale values after development and deducting all costs of development. Land value is therefore volatile and will increase in a good residential sales market and reduce when residential values drop. As sales values have increased recently then land values will have also increased to some degree. If Councillor Hayward is condemning the unwelcome property price bubble that is the result of the Coalition Government's policies in this domain, I share his disappointment.

Question 38 from Councillor Hasan to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Safety

Is the Cabinet Member aware of the restrictions being introduced to the use of CCTV Monitoring equipment around schools and what measures will be taken to deter unofficial parking around school gates?

Reply from Councillor Bond

I am aware of the restrictions being considered by government. However, CCTV enforcement outside schools is not affected by the proposed changes and we will continue to enforce against motorists who park in contravention. You may also be aware of our current high profile work on school safety in conjunction with the police which has gained positive media attention including BBC television news.

Question 39 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment

Please could you inform the chamber how many Enfield residents have taken up the £10 bike loan scheme?

Reply from Councillor Bond

As of 20 August 2014, 110 people have received their loan bicycle for a month, with more being registered on the scheme ready to pick up their bike at the next session.

Question 40 from Councillor Chibah to Councillor Stafford, Cabinet Member for Finance

Can the Cabinet Member advise if Enfield will be taking part in the Municipal Bonds Agency (MBA), now signed up to by 38 councils and reputed to reduce borrowing costs?

Reply from Councillor Stafford

The Council has had discussions with the MBA to look at the possibility of borrowing from them. All borrowing options are benchmarked against the Public Works Loan Board rates. The Council's aim is to ensure that it borrows at the lowest rate of interest, and the MBA will be one of the options considered.

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

Please could you inform the chamber how many residents have taken up the opportunity to learn how to ride a bike as part of our Cycle Enfield scheme?

Reply from Councillor Bond

Enfield operates the national cycle training scheme Bikeability, of which Level 1 covers learning how to ride a bike: basic skills such as stopping, starting, and skills controlling the bike in a traffic-free environment. So far this financial year 668 children and 265 adults have completed Level 1, totalling 933 residents. Enfield also offers Levels 2 and 3 of Bikeability, which build on these skills to give residents the confidence to ride on quieter streets and busier roads respectively.

Question 42 from Councillor Doyle to Councillor McGowan, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care

Can the Cabinet Member update the Council on the Better Care Fund submission that was made on 19 September 2014?

Reply from Councillor McGowan

The challenge of the Better Care Fund (BCF) is that it takes resources previously held by both the Council and Enfield Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and creates a pooled budget of £20.59m in 2015/16 – £2.07m of capital and £18.52m of revenue. This is not new money. It includes money paid to the Council through the NHS/Social Care grant, the Disabled Facilities Grant, together with other grants paid to the CCG for carers and respite services. It also includes funding paid by the CCG to hospitals for acute services. This money is to be used to create integrated services within the community which will prevent emergency admissions to hospital.

The Health and Wellbeing Board has been implementing a program to integrate Health and Social Care for quite some time now and a lot of work has been done. However, the purpose of the Better Care Fund, as described by government, is to accelerate the scale and pace of this change. By April 2016 all areas, including Enfield, will be required to reduce the number of people admitted to hospital as an emergency by 3.5%. With the scale of population growth which Enfield is experiencing, we will need to achieve a reduction of going onto 7% to deliver the government's target of 3.5%

At a time of significant financial challenge, both within the Council and within Enfield CCG, the need to make changes which create a more sustainable health and social care services is clear. However, financial damping has meant that both the Council and the CCG are under-financed for the level of population and need that we have, and this will exacerbate our level of risk.

Nevertheless, the Council has worked hard with all partners involved to mitigate the risks involved by phasing in dis-investment and re-investment plans. This will give an opportunity to evaluate the new services we will put into place and the impact that they have on the hospitals. Our aim, fewer people admitted into hospitals as

emergencies and more joined up services, which help to keep people healthy for longer within their own homes.

£1.5m of the Better Care Fund will be linked to delivery of this reduction in emergency admissions. With this in mind we have created a contingency fund in the event that the 3.5% target is not met.

There are key things that the Better Care Fund plans must achieve in order to be considered successful and these are called the national conditions.

The national conditions set out the things that each resubmitted plan must consider:

- 7- day services to avoid delayed hospital discharges at weekends.
- Improved data sharing across health and social care, based on the NHS number.
- Protection for Social Care Service.
- Ensure a joint approach to assessment and care planning along with a lead accountable professional.
- Agreement on the consequential impact of changes in the acute sector.

As a result of further guidance from NHS England/Department for Health and Local Government Association (LGA) each area was asked to re-submit their plans taking into account new requirements. Enfield's Plan was submitted on 19 September 2014, and is now subject to validation by NHS England over the remaining weeks of September. This is the third submission that all Councils and CCGs have had to make.

Key Highlights of the BCF Plan Submission 19 September 2014:

- It draws together existing budgets and resources, including the NHS to social care transfer monies. There is no new government money.
- LBE and ECCG confirmed shared priorities, joint service reconfiguration plans against 4 programmes: Integrated Care for Older People, Mental Health, Children and Long Term Conditions.
- The plan made a clear statement about the impact on the acute sector and outcomes for Enfield's residents.
- There is only one metric in the payment for performance element of the BCF - 3.5% reduction in emergency admissions.

Initial feedback from the review process so far indicates that Enfield's plan is considered to be a well-balanced and evidence-based piece of work, demonstrating strong links to our Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and our Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

Question 43 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Sitkin, Cabinet Member for Economic Development

Please could the Cabinet Member for Economic Development inform the chamber how much, including officer time, it cost to hold the Meridian Water Festival?

Reply from Councillor Sitkin

Meridian Water is the Council's largest regeneration project, and is located in one of the borough's most deprived areas. A festival was held on 6 September 2014, to create an opportunity to engage with local communities, promote the benefits of Meridian Water and improve awareness of the Council's regeneration proposals. The event provided a wide range of family friendly activities. Local businesses in the Meridian Water area contributed space to hold the event, equipment, logistical support and prizes for some of our competition winners, who were local school children.

This event forms part of our plans to ensure that Meridian Water is an inclusive development, offering benefits to its surrounding local communities as well as some people from further afield. The event cost approximately £12,000. There were no additional costs relating to officer time as the event management was contained within existing resources.

Question 44 from Councillor Levy to Councillor Stafford, Cabinet Member for Finance

Can the Cabinet Member please inform this Council how much the Conservative Coalition Government required Enfield Council to cut from its revenue budget, in the last 4 years, and how much they require to be cut in the next 4 years, and what percentage of the revenue budget this represents?

Reply from Councillor Stafford

Since 2011/12 Enfield's Government funding has reduced by over £44m. This excludes ring-fenced schools funding and public health and also the New Homes Bonus which has been awarded to the Council for new houses built in the borough. We only have firm indications of government funding for 2015/16 which shows further cuts of nearly £21m. The government has not provided details of funding in the subsequent three years although based on Treasury announcements further annual reductions of £10m per annum would not be unrealistic. A total cut of £95m by 2018/19 would represent a 39% cut in Enfield's 2010/11 net budget requirement (£242.576m).

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

There have been plans for a separate Cycle Enfield website for residents to access information on our cycling provision. Please could the Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Safety inform the chamber of when the website will be launched?

Reply from Councillor Bond

We launched the new Cycle Enfield branding and website at the Enfield Town Show on 13 and 14 of September 2014, and we are in the process of signposting towards www.cycleenfield.co.uk from the existing Cycle Enfield web pages. A full page advert

was placed in the current Our Enfield magazine on the inside front page which highlighted the £10 cycle loan scheme and showed our new branding and website.

Question 46 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Alan Sitkin, Cabinet Member for Economic Development

The current proposals for the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) are that there will be a nil CIL charge for development at Meridian Water therefore development elsewhere in the borough including in some of our most deprived wards will have to help pay for infrastructure and other associated costs with Meridian Water. Could the Cabinet Member for Economic Development inform us how much development is required so at least some of the money can be recouped for infrastructure and other associated costs for Meridian Water?

Reply from Councillor Sitkin

CIL will contribute to the cost of infrastructure needed to support the planned growth set out in the Council's adopted Core Strategy. The amount of CIL receipts the Council is likely to receive is directly related to the type and timely delivery of new development coming forward. We are using a range of powers to actively encourage appropriate development to ensure a regular pipeline of CIL contributions.

The proposed charging rates were considered by Cabinet at its last meeting in September and appear on the agenda for this Council meeting too. The proposed rates are based on independent viability work and include a nil rate, at this time, for new housing development in Meridian Water. This reflects the abnormal costs of dealing with contaminated land in the area, together with current relatively low land and property values.

The report clearly states at paragraph 4.3 that there is no prescribed life for a charging schedule but it is expected to run for approximately 2-3 years before new circumstances require a review and rates may change as a result.

Similarly paragraph 5.2 states that the types of infrastructure projects which may be funded by CIL can also change over time as projects are completed and priorities change. The zero CIL rates for Meridian Water were required by the Greater London Assembly (GLA), with whom Councillor Laban herself is aligned; and that she clearly misunderstands the pricing of development parcels when she asserts, incorrectly, that amounts levied elsewhere in the borough will have to be applied to redeem Meridian Water infrastructure costs.

Question 47 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment

Residents have welcomed the action taken to clean the New River at River Front. Please could we have an indication of when the same action will be applied at the Enfield Grammar School/Parsonage Gardens section of the New River?

Reply from Councillor Bond

The natural growth patterns of pond and duck weed means that the river water is expected to clear during the autumn and winter season. In spring or as duck weed

appear parks staff will act quickly to remove this in the early stages using simple nets. The weed growth in the Enfield Grammar School/Parsonage Gardens section of the New River is more difficult to access but equal attention will be given to ensure that the river is able to support nesting birds and fish. This stretch will be done in spring as the algae will be dying back naturally through the autumn and winter period.

Question 48 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment

Please could the Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Safety inform us how many people if any have been contacted formally because of wheeled bin cross contamination and what wards they live in?

Reply from Councillor Bond

The contamination pilot ran from the end of September 2013 to April 2014. Properties in the pilot area went through a 4 stage process which involved face to face engagement, letters, providing pictorial education material and finally the removal of the recycling and/or garden and food waste bin if the residents persistently contaminated.

For properties outside of the pilot area during this time period, letters were still sent for contamination. This was usually if a resident had reported a missed collection, and the bin was not collected due to contamination. Below is an approximate breakdown of letters sent since 23 September 2013 to 23 September 2014.

Reason for letter	Number of letters sent
Recycling bin reported as missed but contaminated	665
Garden and food waste reported as missed but contaminated	297
Contaminated blue bin – pilot	1,012
Contaminated green bin – pilot	800
TOTAL	2,774

Please note that the above figures do not include cases where multiple issues may have been dealt with under one reference number.

For example, an officer visiting following a report of wheeled bins left on the pavement, may have noted contamination at the same time. This would be logged under the original report.

As part of the pilot, only three garden and food waste bins were removed due to persistent contamination.

Information on the number of letters sent per ward is currently not available.

Question 49 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment

Please could the Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Safety inform us how many people who live in flats have opted to continue recycling since the decision on this was taken?

Reply from Councillor Bond

Since the decision to offer blue recycling sacks as “opt in” was taken, 188 out of 1677, have requested them. The decision was taken due to the high levels of these bags being used as refuse.

Question 50 from Councillor Rye to Councillor McGowan, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care

Can he confirm that, as part of the savings drive in Adult Social Services, that consultants, Ernst & Young, have been employed to identify additional savings?

What is the cost to the Council of employing all or any external consultants in his brief and are any being paid on a results based basis?

Reply from Councillor McGowan

I thank Councillor Rye for highlighting the financial challenges faced by Adult Social Care over the coming years. Enfield’s 2014/15 Adult Social Care net budget totals £81.9 million and over the past 3 years we succeeded in delivering £15 million worth of savings whilst continuing to maintain the delivery of quality frontline service for local people.

As you will be aware, the Council is facing significant financial challenges over the next 3 years and as part of this challenging fiscal landscape, Adult Social Care will need to build on work already completed to deliver an additional £11million worth of savings over a 3 year period. However it is worth noting that as per recent benchmarking data (2013/14), Enfield represents below average expenditure per social service client.

Due to the unprecedented scale of financial challenges faced, Ernst and Young have been engaged to assist with the identification of additional efficiencies in the short to medium term but also look at ways in which we may ensure the sustainable delivery of quality Adult Social Care services in the long term.

Ernst and Young were appointed after a competitive tender process and I can confirm that they have been engaged on a risk reward basis incentivising and driving the delivery of results. As part of the risk reward deal, Ernst and Young will receive no payment for the first £2 million worth of savings delivered. After this point, Ernst and Young will be paid a one-off amount which will represent a percentage of savings achieved in the first year. In addition, we have negotiated an option to a pay a fixed rate for aspects of Ernst and Young’s work where the Council has deemed this to be a more advantageous option and better value for money.

Question 51 from Councillor E Hayward to Councillor Orhan

Can you inform the Council of proposals to deliver a three form entry primary school on the Chase Farm hospital site? In particular can you guarantee this school will open in September 2018?

How will this school be funded and has consideration been given to the status of the school, academy or free school?

When do you plan to consult residents in the area?

Reply from Councillor Orhan

The Council is investigating options to deliver extra permanent primary places in the area to meet current projected population growth and the impact of any new housing developments in the area. The Council has looked at opportunities to expand Chase Side Primary School and Chace Community Secondary School. If the NHS Trust dispose of any unused land on the Chase Farm Hospital site then it may be suitable for an education facility.

It is not prudent to guarantee a delivery date without a full set of surveys, designs, planning consent or a contractor procured. However, previous experience is that an operational education facility could be delivered by September 2018.

The Council has a combination of Basic Need and Targeted Basic Need to provide extra primary school places in this area.

The facility is likely to be local authority maintained and managed due to the funding provided by the Education Funding Agency (EFA). The EFA are aware that this is one of our options to provide extra permanent primary school places.

As with all school expansion proposals, when the Council believes it is feasible then we will consult relevant stakeholders, including local residents, as part of developing the design for the planning application.

NHS senior executives have confirmed that in the event of a land purchase any monies paid by the Council will be re-invested into the proposed new hospital facilities at Chase Farm.

Question 52 from Councillor Neville to Councillor McGowan, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care

With reference to the Ordnance Road Service Centre, could he please confirm to the Council the precise shortage of funding for this project and the amounts involved from each of the funders?

Reply from Councillor McGowan

Ordnance Unity Centre, on the corner of Ordnance Road and Hertford Road is nearing completion. In this brand new, fully accessible building there will be a library,

community hall, community dentist and GP surgery. A capital budget of £6.4m was agreed by Council for this development and the project is currently within this budget envelope. The latest forecast out-turn position is also expected to be within the budget envelope.

The Council has provided the capital funding for this development, in order to provide improved premises for vital local services, particularly primary care. The capital cost for the NHS demise, including an appropriate proportion of the cost of the shared areas, will be fully recovered via an annual rent over 25 years from NHS Property Limited. The capital cost of the community hall will be funded from the Housing Revenue Account and maintenance costs will be funded through the income generated from the hall hire.

Question 53 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Bond Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Safety

In connection with the poor flow of water in the New River within Town Park, which regularly causes stagnation and the production of algae, has he considered using the Local Implementation Plan (LIP) programme to have the bridge over Windmill Hill reconstructed to provide a larger channel below the bridge through which the water can flow?

Can he also say how often the river is cleaned by our parks staff and how much was spent earlier this year on dredging the river?

Reply from Councillor Bond

There is one intensive clearance of algae along the New River Loop each season when blanket weed is removed.

Routine litter removal is undertaken weekly. The cost of weed removal is estimated at £4,000 and is contained within existing budgets.

The cost of de-silting is £68,000. It is considered that enlarging the pipe would make no difference to flows on the New River Loop as the 4 foot diameter pipe is more than adequate (at least a 100 times more) to deal with typical flows of 5 litres/sec.

I do not believe we need to use LIP funding for this.