

Council Questions - Wednesday 19 November 2014

Section 1 – Questions for Cabinet Members

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

Following the decision of Overview and Scrutiny Committee to refer back the decision of the Cabinet Member for Environment to leave park gates unlocked, can he tell the Council whether he has confidence in the Cabinet Member's judgement in approving such a major and controversial decision which did not feature in Labour's manifesto, without any proper consultation?

Is he not concerned that the police, who would doubtless have views on the effects of the decision on potential burglary in properties adjoining parks and other criminal or anti-social activity, particularly given that the Cabinet member's portfolio has direct responsibility for community safety?

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

Can the Leader of the Council speculate on the impact of the Prime Minister's pledge to make £7bn of unfunded tax cuts given the failure of the Government to tackle the budget deficit. Will this inevitably require further cuts to vital services and attacks on the most vulnerable?

Question 3 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Brett, Cabinet Member for Community Organisations

Given the recent decision to permit applications for funding under the Enfield Residents Priority Fund to be approved by one ward member only, is he concerned that the Council is in danger of flouting the spirit of the proportionality regulations inasmuch as one member in a split ward is enabled to override the views of the other two, who maybe have the political majority in that ward. If he is not concerned, perhaps he can explain the rationale for the decision.

Question 4 from Councillor Simon to Councillor Oyken, Cabinet Member for Housing and Estate Regeneration

Could the Cabinet Member inform the Council whether the ideas in the 'right to move' consultation, if embraced by National Government, be disadvantageous to Enfield residents? Should our Conservative MPs oppose these proposals?

Question 5 from Councillor Neville for Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council

On receipt of this question can he please take legal advice and inform the council of that advice as to the propriety of the statement made by the Vice Chairman on the Planning Committee that "it would be a dereliction of duty for any councillor not to support this application" before a vote which it is argued could be seen as directing fellow councillors on which direction to make a decision on a planning application?

Does he not agree that this is a flagrant breach of the Planning Code and what

action does he propose to take to ensure that Enfield's prior reputation for dealing with planning applications on their merits and without party political direction, is not tarnished by the action of his members?

Question 6 from Councillor Barry to Councillor Bond, the Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Safety

At the last Council Meeting Councillor Lavender described how he and Councillor Hurer "stood alone" against the North London Waste Authority (NLWA)'s plans to develop Pinkham Way for a waste site. The purchase of Pinkham was agreed at meetings in 2009 when the Conservative Group led the Council. Can the Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Safety comment upon Councillor Lavender's statement?

Question 7 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment & Community Safety

Referring to his recent decision to implement pilot schemes allowing 20 minutes free parking at town centres, how does he propose to test the success of the pilot based as it is on such small numbers of free parking places, two in one of the pilots.? Or is he in reality paying only lip service to Labour's election manifesto pledge to "encourage residents to shop locally"?

Question 8 from Councillor Pite to Councillor Sitkin, Cabinet Member for Economic Development

Can the Cabinet Member inform the Council of the quality of the crop that was harvested when he visited Enfield Veg Co at Forty Hall Farm on 16 October?

Question 9 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Safety

Will the Cabinet Member confirm he will be consulting Friends of Parks groups on his proposals to leave parks unlocked at night? Does the Cabinet Member agree that council consultation should require the council to contact residents and other relevant stakeholders to ask their views before implementation, rather than after?

Question 10 from Councillor Chibah to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Safety

Can the Cabinet Member inform the Council whether, at the crucial North London Waste Authority meetings, there is any record of Councillor Hurer 'standing alone' (Councillor Lavender having failed to attend) against the use of Pinkham Way?

Question 11 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Bond Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Safety

Will the Cabinet Member confirm he will be consulting with the Parks Police, Safer

Neighbourhood Teams and the Borough Commander on his proposals to leave parks unlocked at night? Does the Cabinet Member agree that council consultation should require the council to contact these stakeholders to ask their views before implementation, rather than after?

Question 12 from Councillor Doyle to Councillor Simbodyal, Cabinet Member for Culture, Sport, Youth and Public Health

Can the Cabinet Member advise how many young people in Enfield will be receiving a Duke of Edinburgh award at Enfield's ceremony held this month?

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

Can the Leader confirm that good practice for this council in relation to consultation, is that the council contacts and consults with residents, community groups and other relevant stakeholders prior to implementation of proposals, rather than expecting residents to contact the council after the event?

Question 14 from Councillor During to Councillor McGowan, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care

Can the Cabinet Member advise the Council how Adult Social Care and Housing are working together innovatively to alleviate housing pressures in the borough?

Question 15 from Councillor Alessandro Georgiou for Councillor Oyken, Cabinet Member for Housing & Estate Regeneration

Both David Burrowes MP and I slept outside Enfield Library for a night to raise funds for the homeless charity All People All Places. Would Councillor Oyken agree with me that Enfield Council should look into having a winter homeless shelter to help ease the plight of homeless people in Enfield?

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

Can the Leader inform the meeting how the Council worked to achieve the extension of Cross Rail 2 to Enfield and its likely impact on the borough?

Question 17 from Councillor Rye to Councillor Stafford, Cabinet Member for Finance

Following his meeting with union officials and council officers at a public house in my ward on Wednesday 30th August 2014 could he confirm:

- That he has not breached the Code of Conduct for Councillors in his relationship with officers of the council.
- That on this occasion, previous or subsequent meetings he has not accepted hospitality above the £25 that requires an appropriate declaration.
- That he has no further plans for meetings over beer and sandwiches with the Unions?

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

Can the Cabinet Member inform the Council what steps are being taken to support Neighbourhood Watch?

Question 19 from Councillor Rye to Councillor McGowan, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care

In the light of your reply to Council Question 21 on 8 October 2014, do you believe the current contract procedure rules are fit for purpose or do you think they should be reviewed to allow the ethics of contractors to be considered as part of the process?

Question 20 from Councillor Fonyonga to Councillor Oykenner, Cabinet Member for Housing and Estate Regeneration

Can the Cabinet Member update the Council about progress with Housing Gateway Limited?

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

Can you inform the Council of the reward percentage to Ernst & Young of savings they have identified above £2 million in Adult Social Services and what the "advantageous" fixed rate is that is to be paid to these external contractors?

Would he inform the council of any other external contractors and details of those contracts that have been entered into in his portfolio?

Question 22 Councillor Hamilton to Councillor Sitkin, Cabinet Member for Economic Development

Can the Cabinet Member inform the Council if the Government are supportive of Enfield's plans for a Lee Valley Heat Network?

Question 23 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment & Community Safety

An elderly disabled female resident asked a friend if he would do her garden. The friend unfortunately put the green waste in the blue wheeled bin by mistake. When it was the day for the resident's refuse and recycling collection the refuse workers did not take the contents of the blue bin due to cross contamination. When the resident called she was told in no uncertain terms that unless she got the green waste out of the blue bin her bin would not be emptied. This worried her as she is an amputee so removing the waste from the blue bin would be extremely difficult on her own.

In such circumstances as this when cross contamination occurs by accident not by intent, can the Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Safety make a commitment that common sense will prevail and a more sympathetic approach will be used when dealing with vulnerable residents who by no fault of their own are

affected by this policy?

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

Can the Cabinet Member inform the Council what action is being taken to raise standards in food outlets and to safeguard residents?

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

At the recent Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting where we discussed the decision in relation to wheeled bin charging, you mentioned the Labour Party manifesto commitment to open a new Household Waste and Recycling Centre in the east of the borough. Please could the Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Safety inform the chamber when to expect the doors of this facility to open so that all residents can utilise this new Household Waste and Recycling Centre?

Question 26 from Councillor Hurman to Councillor Brett, Cabinet Member for Community Organisations

Can the Cabinet Member outline the arrangements to commemorate the Arctic Convoy, so important during the Second World War?

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

Please could the Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Safety explain where the funding will be found to pay for the new Household Waste and Recycling Centre planned for the east of the borough?

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

At a recent "Call In" the Opposition Group questioned the Parking Regime.

Can the Cabinet Member give us an update on what happened?

Question 29 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Bond Cabinet Member for Environment & Community Safety

In the recent Quarterly Corporate Performance Report it states that Enfield was in the bottom (i.e. heaviest residual arising) 10 boroughs for waste collected per household.

The total household arising was 28,302.8 tonnes, but the tonnage in this quarter last year was 25,574.9 tonnes. This means an additional 2728 tonnes of waste were collected this quarter in comparison to this quarter last year. Would the Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Safety explain why our levels of residual

waste are increasing rather than decreasing and what immediate measures have been put into place to expedite a turnaround in this area?

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

Can the Cabinet Member inform the Council of progress being made in the implementation of the spitting ban?

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

Please could the Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Safety make a commitment that refuse collection will remain weekly throughout the 2014-2018 council term?

Question 32 Councillor Keazor to Councillor Oykenner, Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration

Can the Cabinet Member inform the Council what progress has been made to build the first Council homes in Enfield for decades?

Question 33 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Safety

Please could the Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Safety make a commitment to the people of Enfield that green waste collection will remain free of charge throughout the 2014-2018 council term?

Question 34 from Councillor Kepez to Councillor Oykenner, Cabinet Member for Member for Housing and Estate Regeneration

Can the Cabinet Member inform the Council of progress on the Meridian Water development?

Question 35 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Bond Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Safety

Please could the Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Safety make a commitment to the people of Enfield that green waste and dry recycling will be collected weekly throughout the 2014-2018 council term?

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

Can the Cabinet Member give an update on Cycle Enfield?

Question 37 from Councillor Rye to Councillor McGowan, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care

Could he inform the council what measures have been undertaken to ensure that senior citizens and those with specific medical conditions have received their influenza jab for the winter period 2014-15?

Question 38 from Councillor Abdullahi to Councillor Stafford, Cabinet Member for Finance

Can the Cabinet Member inform the Council of the number of Council shops that are rented and the number of voids as of today?

Question 39 from Councillor Jukes to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council

At the last full Council meeting at least one member of the public was taking photographs. This he is now entitled to do under the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 which came into effect on 5th August. When will Enfield Councils constitution be updated to reflect the law of the land?

Question 40 from Councillor Cazimoglu to Councillor Sitkin, Cabinet Member for Economic Development

Could the Cabinet Member for Economic Development report on the work being done to raise the profile of Enfield's businesses?

Question 41 from Councillor Hurer to Councillor Stafford, Cabinet Member for Finance

Please can the Cabinet Member for Finance list what assets (property, land) the council has sold since 2010 and the amount received from each sale?

Question 42 from Councillor Hasan to Councillor Sitkin, Cabinet Member for Economic Development

Could the Cabinet Member for Economic Development report on the work being done to prepare for 6 December 2014 Small Business Saturday?

Question 43 from Councillor Hurer to Councillor Stafford, Cabinet Member for Finance

Southgate Town Hall has recently been sold off – can the Cabinet Member confirm that the proceeds of this sale will go towards the funding of the new Palmers Green Library?

Question 44 from Councillor Esendagli to Councillor Sitkin, Cabinet Member for Economic Development

Could the Cabinet Member for Economic Development report on how the London Borough of Enfield fared in the most recent Good Food report?

Question 45 from Councillor Delman to Councillor Mc Gowan, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care

At the last Council meeting, the Majority Group motion from Councillor Hamilton accused the current government of forcing the 'Clinical Commissioning Groups' to put services out to market. You also suggested that because private providers have won the majority of the tenders for services since April 2013, the Tory pledge that the NHS is not being privatised is not true.

Now consider the following evidence. In their book 'The Plot Against the NHS' Colin Leys and Stewart Player tell us that in July 2000 the 'Independent Healthcare Association' negotiated a concordat with Blair's government and spelled out what it wanted. The NHS would simply be a kitemark attached to the institutions and activities of a system of purely private providers. Here is how Labour began the process of turning the NHS into little more than a logo.

In 2002 the health secretary Alan Milburn announced the creation of NHS Foundation Trusts. They could borrow on the money markets, start joint ventures with private companies and most importantly go bust. This meant that they had to put financial viability first, patients' needs second.

In 2003 Milburn's successor, John Reid launched his independent sector treatment centres. These would be run by private companies using the NHS kitemark.

In 2004 the government launched a new kind of contract for general practitioners called 'Alternative Provider Medical Services'. This allowed primary care trusts to commission services from private companies.

Julian Le Grand, Blair's former health adviser, maintains that the current government's plans are 'a logical and sensible extension of those put in place by Blair.

In the light of the above, would you decide which of the following is true and explain it to the Council:

1. The last Labour government began to privatise the NHS,
2. The current government began to privatise the NHS,
3. Neither the last nor the current government began to privatise the NHS,
4. NHS is not being privatised as long as patient care is free at the point of delivery.

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

Could the Cabinet Member for Economic Development report on the work being done to ensure that all Enfield communities derive maximum benefit from the Council's procurement activities?

Question 47 from Councillor Lavender to Councillor Oykenner, Cabinet Member for Housing and Estate Regeneration

At a recent, very well-attended meeting at the Merrivale Baptist Church of

leaseholders who are being consulted in relation to the carrying out of Decent Homes works, leaseholders expressed their concerns that some of the works are unnecessary, expensive and in part caused by the council's own neglect. One example is a thousand pounds being charged for a pram shed door. They also argue that the survey works are in many instances inaccurate, for example charging for repairs to flat roofs that do not exist.

What involvement has the Labour administration had in this process to ensure that the types of issue raised by the leaseholders have been examined and the interests of both leaseholders and tenants protected? Do they take responsibility for this mess?

Question 48 from Councillor Pite to Councillor Stafford, Cabinet Member for Finance

Can the Cabinet Member tell the Council how the Conservative Coalition's failure to reduce the national budget deficit has adversely affect Enfield Council over the last 5 years?

Question 49 from Councillor Lavender to Councillor Bond, Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Safety

Will Councillor Bond confirm for each quarterly period for the last five years the percentage of those receiving parking control notices who have paid the fine within the fine discount period, the percentage of those who paid the full fine and the percentage of those who paid nothing?

Question 50 from Councillor Dogan to Councillor Simbodyal, Cabinet Member for Culture, Sport, Youth and Public Health

Can the Cabinet Member advise what she thinks the most significant findings of the Public Health Annual Report are?

Question 51 from Councillor Jemal to Councillor McGowan, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care

Would the Cabinet Member comment on the Care Quality Commission's recently published State of Care Report and any implications for social care services in Enfield?

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

Could the Cabinet Member outline plans for the publication of this year's "Local Account" ?

Section 2 - Questions to Association Cabinet Members

Question 53 from Councillor Cazimoglu to Councillor Savva, Associate Cabinet Member for South-East Enfield

Will the Cabinet Member comment on the benefits of improvements at Deephams?

Question 54 Councillor Stewart to Councillor Charalambous, Associate Cabinet Member for South-West Enfield

Can the Cabinet Member inform the Council of the likely impact of Cross Rail 2 to south-west Enfield?

Question 55 from Councillor Lemonides to Councillor Uzoanya, Associate Cabinet Member for North-East Enfield

Can the Cabinet Member give any update on Network Rail plans for rail improvements on the West Anglian route?

Section 3 - Questions to Statutory Committee Chairs

Question 56 from Councillor Chamberlain to Councillor Simon, Chair of Planning Committee

Does the Chair agree that for the Vice Chair of the Planning Committee to make a statement "it would be a dereliction of duty for any councillor not to support this application" before a vote could be seen as directing his fellow councillors on which direction to make a decision on a planning application?