

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?

Reply from Councillor Taylor

I understand that the decision has been paused. It strikes me that it is a sign of strength for a decision to be considered further by the Cabinet Member if he judges that to be the best approach. I also refer you to the response to Question 9.

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?

Reply from Councillor Taylor

I fear the answer must be yes. Government policy seems to be based on following a blindfolded approach to decision making. The lack of real growth per capita, a decline in living standards and a deep seated hatred of the public sector will lead to even greater cuts to vital public services.

Enfield residents will bear the burden of increased cuts and declining services.

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.

Reply from Councillor Brett

The updated Enfield Residents' Priority Fund (ERPF) guidance approved by the ERPF Cabinet Sub Committee in August 2014 clearly states that the preferred option is that all three ward Councillors agree on each application. The change is that if agreement cannot be reached, applications may still go forward for consideration by the ERPF Cabinet Sub-Committee who will, as with all applications, reach a decision based on the merits of each application, the outcomes they will deliver and the impact on the local areas. The political make-up of each ward is not a criterion that the Cabinet Sub Committee have used or will use in the future in their consideration of ERPF applications.

The amendment made to this particular part of the guidance that was approved by the ERPF Cabinet Sub Committee in October 2014, reinforces the requirement for ward Councillors to discuss and wherever possible reach agreement on applications. In addition, where agreement cannot be reached Councillors will be required to submit written reasons for their support or rejection of each application. The ERPF Cabinet Sub Committee will use this additional information in their deliberations providing further assurance that decisions are robust and impartial.

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?

Reply from Councillor Oyken

The Right To Move Scheme being proposed by government is a mobility scheme for Council and housing association tenants wishing to move to take up an offer of employment / training anywhere in the country. It is being proposed that Councils set aside 1% of Council and housing association homes that become available for lettings each year for the scheme. Allocations schemes would need to be amended to remove the local residency criteria.

The London economy creates more jobs than all other regions and an influx into all London boroughs would be anticipated. Enfield is already an area of exceptionally high housing need with evidence of more tenants want to move into Enfield than move out.

Enfield's housing need is evidenced by almost 3,000 families on the housing register (1,700 in temporary accommodation) and high demand for housing options and advice services. Less than 580 general needs homes let in 2013/2014 which is not enough to address local need in the borough. Changes to the Right to Buy scheme and the top-slicing of GLA funded homes will further limit the supply of Council and housing association homes for local people.

Removal of the residency requirement in Enfield's Allocation Schemes will increase pressure on already overstretched social housing sector in Enfield impacting on local families in housing need (including working families).

Verification of applications under this scheme will also be cumbersome – many new jobs are casual and short-term in nature and may not generate the intended outcome of long term stable working households living on estates, checking the authenticity of applications would create an additional burden upon allocations staff.

The Council has a range of initiatives in place to support local people back into work and facilitate mobility amongst social tenants and these are set out in the Council's Employment and Skills Strategy.

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?

Reply from Councillor Taylor

I take the view that it is bad corporate governance for the Leader of the Council to comment on or intervene in planning decisions. I suggest this is for others to comment upon. I refer you to the reply to Question 54.

Question 6 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?

Reply from Councillor McGowan

We welcome the recent Care Quality Commission's State of Care report for 2013/14 and the more rigorous inspection regime which they have put into place. At the heart of providing good quality services people should be treated with dignity and respect, receive the care and support they need, be cared for and protected from harm and be supported by staff and managers who feel valued, supported and fully equipped to deliver excellent care.

Nationally the CQC (Care Quality Commission) found a significant variation in the quality of adult social care services. In particular, people in nursing homes tend to receive much poorer care than those living in residential (non-nursing) care homes

with shortages of qualified nursing staff and registered managers' areas of key concern.

In terms of what the implications of the report are for Enfield, I would say that we can never be complacent about the quality of services provided within our borough. The provision of good quality care is a matter for us all, whether we have family or friends receiving these services or have a statutory responsibility for monitoring their quality.

However, we do have robust systems in place for reviewing the quality of care our vulnerable people receive. Safeguarding concerns that are brought to our attention are dealt with robustly and we have a good track record of working with failing providers to drive improvement. The Safeguarding Information Panel (SIP), attended by The Care Quality Commission, the Clinical Commissioning Group and Local Authority Partners meets every six weeks to review high risk providers. Amongst other things this meeting can invoke the provider concerns process which supports implementation of action plans with the provider to raise standards. Where necessary we work closely with the police and have and will continue to pursue to the fullest extent of the law serious failures in the duty of care.

In addition, we have our group of 50 quality checkers who are regularly checking the quality of regulated services in our borough. The quality checker program which is a volunteer programme made up of local service users and carers who undertake visits to homes and provide feedback and actions to the care home and reports to Enfield's Quality Improvement Board. Importantly, providers see this as a positive opportunity to improve the way they deliver services and the volunteer quality checker programme has been very well received. We also have regular meetings with Healthwatch, Enfield Commissioning and the quality assurance team to look at quality issues within care homes.

The CQC have commended the Council's close working with them and cited it as a model of best practice which has been shared with other Councils.

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"?

Reply from Councillor Bond

We introduced the stop and shop bays to provide a facility for shoppers who want to just buy, for example, a pint of milk or a newspaper. We intend to carry out surveys over a number of months to monitor both the occupancy and compliance levels in these bays before deciding whether to consider additional bays.

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 2014?

Reply from Councillor Sitkin

I visited Forty Hall Farm on 16 October 2014 as part of World Food Day to see for myself the excellent work that is going on to promote locally grown organic produce. The farm produces top quality, delicious organic vegetables and fruit which are then sold on to local shops and straight to residents via the weekly 'veg box' delivery scheme. I was impressed by the quality and range of fresh vegetables, which at the time of my visit included squash, tomatoes, cabbages, leeks, kale, spinach and chillies, to name a few. The ability to produce and sell locally means that vegetables travel from "field to fork" very quickly. This means that it is fresher and tastes better.

Local people work on the farm, many of them trainees, who learn vital skills in horticulture and animal management. The scheme is promoting sustainable farming methods, which is fantastic for the customer who receives affordable, delicious, locally grown food.

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?

Reply from Councillor Bond

The cabinet member will implement the decision of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Council consultation should be appropriate to the decision being made.

Question 10 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"?

Reply from Councillor McGowan

The latest version of Enfield's Local Account has been produced in collaboration with Healthwatch this year. The final draft has now been signed off and will be published by Friday, 14 November 2014. It will be available on the Council's website as well as in hard copy format through a variety of venues such as Council buildings, including libraries, GP surgeries and local voluntary sector organisations.

I commend this open, straight forward, public facing report setting out our performance in key areas to all Members of the Council.

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?

Reply from Councillor Bond

The Cabinet Member will implement the decision of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Council consultation should be appropriate to the decision being made

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?

Reply from Councillor Simbodyal

This year over 750 young people have participated in Duke of Edinburgh Award (D of E) at bronze, silver and gold, with over 600 full awards being presented at the 2014 annual awards presentation and over 100 sectional certificates being issued borough wide at bronze and silver.

In order for a young person to complete a full award at bronze or silver they have to complete 4 sections: Volunteering, Skills, Physical and the Expedition section and it takes between 6 and 12 months of their personal time to complete.

In addition there are 8 young people who have completed the full gold award and have been invited to the presentation, with a further 6 nearly complete. It takes between 12-18 months for a young person to complete gold as well as an additional 5th section, which is the residential section.

The Duke of Edinburgh's award is a very important award to gain that shows their commitment and determination. Young people learn so many skills on the Duke of Edinburgh's Award such as teamwork, communication, leadership, problem solving and overcoming challenges.

I am particularly proud that over 75 children with special educational needs/vulnerable young people have succeeded and achieved either sectional certificates or the full award this year and that 24 looked after children have achieved 3 sections of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award ready for expeditions in 2015, This is a massive increase on previous years.

We began trading D of E with schools in September 2014 and the take up was very good. We work in 18 schools and 1 college, 4 of which are 'Special' schools.

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?

Reply from Councillor Taylor

I think you are duplicating Question 1 unless I am mistaken.

The decision to inform or undertake consultation (including appropriate methods) rests with the head of service and is discretionary. This discretion is based on relevance, proportionality and the subject under consideration.

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?

Reply from Councillor McGowan

I can confirm that officers within Housing and Adult Social Care are working together in a variety of ways to alleviate housing pressures in the borough.

Our innovative "Keeping House Scheme" enables people moving into residential/nursing care who own a property in Enfield to lease their property to the Council. These houses can then become homes for people in housing need saving the Council up to £6,500 per year (versus Nightly Paid Accommodation costs). The rental income from the property can then be used to contribute towards funding the costs of care. The service is fully managed by the Council, rental income is guaranteed, people get help to bring their homes up to a decent standard if needed and owners or their representatives have the option to retain possession at the end of the lease period (5 years) or extend for a further period. The scheme started in February 2014 and to date we have had 18 families sign up. We are currently communicating with a further 80 families who would be eligible to participate in the scheme.

Officers also work together in a variety of other ways, including with the voluntary sector, to ensure that our most vulnerable adults and older people have the accommodation they need to live safely and independently. This may mean extra care or sheltered accommodation, housing with support, adaptations or work on an existing home to make it accessible and safe. Enabling more vulnerable people to live safely and independently in their own homes means fewer admissions to residential care, a reduction in the number of emergency admissions to hospital and more timely, safe discharge after a stay in hospital.

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?

Reply from Councillor Oyken

The issues facing people who are sleeping out are serious and challenging for both the people concerned, and those who try to help them.

After a long history of having very low levels of people sleeping rough, the Council – along with the other boroughs in the North London Housing Partnership – is seeing a slight rise in those who are not able to access accommodation.

The services who support rough sleepers in Enfield are funded by the GLA and provided by London Street Rescue (Thamesreach). Anyone who knows of people sleeping rough should make a referral to this service using their website.

As well as providing a service to the rough sleeper, this also enables Thamesreach to monitor the local situation regarding the numbers and location of people affected.

Given the current trend in those sleeping rough, the Housing Service is currently considering the winter shelter provision and other local arrangements, particularly if the temperature drops significantly.

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?

Reply from Councillor Taylor

The Department for Transport is shortly to consult on proposals to safeguard the core route of Crossrail 2, which now includes an extension to New Southgate. The Council lobbied hard for this extension and in support of the wider regional option, which would see Crossrail 2 serve the Lee Valley Line in the east of the borough.

Crossrail 2 will transform both New Southgate and the eastern corridor, providing a high frequency connection to central London and significantly reducing journey times. This quality of service will transform the connectivity of these areas and support a significant number of new homes and jobs.

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?

Reply from Councillor Stafford

- When witnessed by Councillor Rye I was not in a public house with officers of the Council – I was with Unison officials and I am a member of Unison. I realise the Conservative party dislikes the unions but having a pint with my area representative I doubt breaches the code of conduct.
- I have not accepted as much as a packet of crisp from the unions. I do however pay my monthly subs promptly to the union.
- Where I choose to socialise with my left wing colleagues, I know fascinates Councillor Rye but it is none of his business, where or when I do this
- I have official and regular meetings with the unions in the Civic Centre and these are diarised in the normal manner

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?

Reply from Councillor Bond

The Council has invested in property marking (Smart water) to encourage the reinvigoration of Neighbourhood Watch scheme in support of our local police: (£15,500k + for 1400 kits including some for vehicles). The police have wholeheartedly welcomed this approach which includes signage and publicity about how the scheme works to deter offenders and provide those engaging with their local schemes with practical help to protect their belongings. We also work with many of the coordinators in other capacities such as through their CAPEs and involvement with other partnership groups and greatly appreciate their contribution.

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?

Reply from Councillor McGowan

The Council's contract procedure rules are reviewed annually and are currently going through this year's review. This is an opportunity to ensure that the rules enable the Council to obtain value for money from its contracts whilst complying with its legal obligations to ensure transparency, fairness, proportionality and non-discrimination in the procurement processes. The current rules are fit for purpose and reflect the extent to which we are permitted by law to exclude contractors from tendering for Council contracts. The most recent updates in the past few years have been to take into account the Bribery Act and that contractors must not use 'blacklists' in their employment practices.

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?

Reply from Councillor Oykenner

Following Cabinet approval in February 2014, Housing Gateway has been fully established as a wholly owned local authority company. Housing Gateway has successfully recruited two independent directors with expertise in the housing and finance fields, who have brought a wealth of experience and knowledge to the Board of Directors.

Housing Gateway has developed a website to enable people interested in selling their property to make contact directly and has also established strong relationships with local estate agents. To date, offers have been accepted and are proceeding on over 65 properties. In addition, 18 transactions have completed and two tenants are in place, following the renovation work. A six month review is currently underway to test the assumptions used in the financial model; review operational practices and to appraise the assumptions made regarding the local property market conditions, to inform the future development of the company.

The Council's innovative response to the borough's housing pressures through Housing Gateway has received a substantial amount of interest from other local authorities and both local and national press, including positive coverage by the Guardian, BBC London and Radio 4.

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?

Reply from Councillor McGowan

Whilst I'm happy to respond, the details will contain commercial sensitive information so I will do this outside of the Council meeting.

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?

Reply from Councillor Sitkin

In October 2014 we received a positive funding decision from central government, endorsing the Lee Valley Heat Network (LVHN) by agreeing to fund £183,000 of its final stage development costs. In this funding round, the Government's Heat Network Delivery Unit awarded a total of £2.4m to 32 Councils to help develop new and expand existing heat networks. Enfield's award is at the top end of this funding allocation and will ultimately reduce the amount of capital funding required, subject to matching provision from Enfield.

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?

Reply from Councillor Bond

Common sense always prevails. The wheeled bin system rolled out by this administration does make it very easy to recycle. As a result we've seen massive improvements in recycling, high levels of satisfaction and savings in disposal. Because we've made it so easy we are tough on contamination issues; it costs our residents thousands of pounds every year.

Where a resident lives alone and is disabled or vulnerable and not able to manage their own waste exceptions can and are made. Of course, it would be nice if her friend corrected his own mistake.

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?

Reply from Councillor Bond

Food Businesses are routinely inspected according to risk. This risk is based on the Food Standards Agency Code of Practice, for which officers make an assessment against a score of food hygiene; structure and confidence in management. The higher the risk, the greater the frequency of inspection. The risk rating is based on the following inspection frequency, Cat A= 6 months, Cat B = 12 month and Cat C = 18 months. The team will inspect 100% of the premises rated category A to C. Since April 2014 the team have undertaken 994 interventions, this includes inspections; revisits to check work has been done and sampling visits. All of which aim to improve the standards of food hygiene across the borough.

For those businesses who repeatedly contravene the law or provide food which is unsafe then enforcement action will be taken. Since April 2014 the team have taken the following formal action against food businesses in the borough, Voluntary closure = 10 premises, Improvement Notices Served = 54 and Prosecution = 9 premises subject to ongoing criminal investigation. A recent prosecution of a trader, who pleaded guilty to nine breaches of Hygiene Regulations and three breaches of the Food Labelling Regulations, followed a serious rodent infestation and out of date food being found on the premises. The Court ordered the trader to pay fines and costs of £2,680.

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?

Reply from Councillor Bond

I think we should be clear that this is the facility to replace the one you closed. We believe that a new facility will help us in our fight against fly tipping.

I can confirm that officers are working with the North London Waste Authority (NLWA), on future options around a new civic amenity site to replace the one you closed, and I will update you as necessary.

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?

Reply from Councillor Brett

There will be a commemoration of thanksgiving and remembrance for those who fought for this country in the Arctic Convoys during World War II at the memorial outside the Civic Centre on Saturday 15th November 2014.

The Service will take place around the memorial which was given to the people of Enfield from surviving Arctic veterans.

Invitations have been issued and accepted by representatives from the Russian Embassy, the Royal Navy, the merchant navy, local Royal British Legions and cadet forces as well as the Borough Commander, MPs, past mayors, freemen of the borough and the Reverend Dr. Steve Griffiths, from St. Andrew's Church, Enfield.

A small number of veterans have accepted and I am delighted to say that one veteran is due to be presented his Ushakov Medal from the Russian Naval Attaché. The service will commence at 3pm around the memorial and will be led by the Deputy Lieutenant of Enfield, Ann Cable. There will be a number of short speeches, awarding of the Ushako Medal, inspection of the cadets, prayers, the sounding of the last post, 2 minutes silence, broken by the reveille, laying of wreaths and the playing of both the Russian and British national anthems.

Guests will then be invited to committee rooms 1 and 2 for light refreshments and further speeches. The Eastern European Centre have kindly volunteered to present the traditional offering of Karavais (Russian bread cakes) to guests, sweets to the veterans and provide background music.

Contingency plans are in place in case of foul weather and, in particular for the veterans comfort, the service will be relayed via a public address system to committee rooms 1 and 2 should the veterans and other guests wish to remain inside.

All members have been invited and I hope as many of you as possible can attend.

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?

Reply from Councillor Bond

Officers are currently looking at options and the costs and this will be identified in due course.

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?

Reply from Councillor Bond

I believe Councillor Jemal is referring to the “call in” by the Conservative Group on the Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) band change. The report confirmed that the borough will be asking London Council’s to change our charging band from tariff B to A. This will mean that those receiving penalty charge notices will receive a higher penalty for each parking contravention. We are taking this action due to current enforcement measures having a limited effect on stopping motorists parking in contravention. During 2013/14, the Council saw an increase of 10% on the number of PCNs issued compared to 2012/13.

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?

Reply from Councillor Bond

Outer London boroughs typically have higher waste arisings than inner London boroughs due to their housing make-up. In particular outer London boroughs have much higher green waste arisings. Therefore it is not surprising that Enfield sits where it does in a league table on London boroughs.

What I would note is Enfield’s excellent record on recycling since we got into power in May 2010 and rolled out the very popular and cost effective wheeled bin scheme. We have seen a slight increase in waste arisings after several years of declining levels.

We are looking at ways to reverse this recent rise and we expect it was partly due to the close of Barrowell Green in October 2012 for essential refurbishment which is probably a reflection of your attitude towards lack of investment in household waste recycling centres generally. This has inflated the apparent increase in arisings between the two years by approximately 700 tonnes.

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?

Reply from Councillor Bond

Eight people have been successfully convicted under our spitting bye law. At present we can only deal with spitting offences by prosecution. However, we have made application to London Councils for a fixed penalty option. This will enable us to tackle spitting offending in a more cost effective way and will be delivered by our litter warden contractors. A six week London wide consultation began in September the results of which will be reported to the Transport Environment Committee (TEC) meeting in December on and at this meeting the committee could give views on the appropriate level of fines for our spitting bye law. We also publish our spitting convictions in local newspapers.

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?

Reply from Councillor Bond

Given the level of central Government funding cuts it would be incorrect at this stage to rule out any options. Residents can use our budget simulator to tell us which services they think should be protected.

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?

Reply from Councillor Oykenner

Enfield Council are in the process of replacing 109 Council owned sheltered bedsits, no longer fit for purpose, and a disused garage site with 94 new homes that will help to address the need for quality housing for local people.

To date six of the seven sites have been cleared ready for redevelopment. The remaining site at Forty Hill is in a conservation area so cannot be cleared until the pre planning conditions have been discharged.

Council officers including planners are currently working with the developer, their planning consultants and the demolition contractor to discharge planning conditions

to accommodate a start on site at Parsonage Lane and Jasper Close and the demolition of the block at Forty Hill in January 2015.

Factory production of the pre-fabricated system panels, that then only have to be erected with little on site finishing, has begun. Offsite construction reduces build times by up to 50% compared to a traditional build and minimises local disruption and air pollution for residents. Projected completion of the 94 homes is November 2015, though St Georges Rd will be completed July 2015. The Council are looking at the option of fast tracking the development of four other small sites by adding them to this project.

Dujardin Mews

Dujardin Mews will provide 38 new residential homes for local residents. Cabinet approval was granted on 22 January 2014, for the appointment of Durkan Ltd to build the new homes

Council issued Durkan with a 'letter of intent' in April 2014 to allow them to progress certain elements of the work such as site surveys, design, consultation and enabling works.

Contract documents were signed on 23 September 2014, projected completion is April 2016.

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?

Reply from Councillor Bond

Given the level of central Government funding cuts it would be incorrect at this stage to rule out any options. Residents can use our Budget Simulator to tell us which services they think should be protected.

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?

Reply from Councillor Oykenner

A real momentum is beginning to develop in the transformation of Meridian Water. Those of you who have been to the area recently would have noticed that the gas holders on Willoughby Lane have been demolished dramatically changing the landscape. More importantly this is a key step in preparing the land for development.

Last Cabinet considered a report concerning Meridian Boulevard and resolved to commence the first phase of development, which will be on site in the spring of 2015. This is a key move in building further investor confidence as it demonstrates not only the Council's commitment, sets the quality benchmark for Meridian Water and prepares the way for Phase 2 of boulevard construction which will open up land for housing development.

The Council's bid for Housing Zone status has been well received by the GLA and on 4 November 2014, was subject to a Challenge Panel chaired by the Deputy Mayor of London. The Challenge Panel is all part of the evaluation process and whilst there is no set timetable for declaring the Housing Zones, we are anticipating an announcement early in the New Year, if not before.

Strategic land purchases are progressing well and further offers have been made and are being considered, to accelerate housing delivery which is much needed in Enfield to address the needs of our community and the unprecedented levels of population growth.

Finally, Cabinet on 21 January 2015 will receive two further reports concerning Meridian Water, one detailing the development delivery approach and the other concerning improvements to Meridian Water (Angel Road) Station.

All in all, considerable progress has been made since the masterplan was adopted in July 2013, and 2015 is all set to further accelerate the delivery of this exciting and challenging regeneration project, that will create a vibrant new neighbourhood, not only for Enfield, but for London.

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?

Reply from Councillor Bond

Given the level of central Government funding cuts it would be incorrect at this stage to rule out any options. Residents can use our Budget Simulator to tell us which services they think should be protected.

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?

Reply from Councillor Bond

Since being notified at the end of March 2014 that the Council's Mini Holland Bid was successful, officers have been busy preparing to deliver the Cycle Enfield project as follows:

- Appointed a Programme Manager to manage this prestigious project 18/08/14
- Established the governance arrangements for the Cycle Enfield project (approved by Cabinet 17/09/14)
- Produced a baseline programme
- Launched the Cycle Enfield brand at the Town Show 13/09/14
- Set up the Cycle Enfield Website (cycleenfield.co.uk) as part of a programme of supportive measures to help publicise the new cycling infrastructure and encourage more people to cycle
- Entered into a LoHAC (London Highway's Alliance Contract) call-off contract with Ringway Jacobs Ltd for the delivery of professional services and works 19/09/14
- Updated the three associate cabinet Members about cycling schemes within their areas
- Submitted a business case to Transport for London (TfL) to unlock the funding for detailed design and implementation 03/10/14
- Issued a draft consultation strategy to the Cycle Enfield Project Delivery Team for comments 15/10/14
- Completed topographical surveys, traffic surveys and C2 stats surveys for the A105, Green Lanes and Enfield Town 31/07/14
- Prepared a survey specification for the A110 Southbury Road and the A1010 Hertford Road
- Commenced preliminary design and modelling for the A105, Green Lanes and Enfield Town 03/11/14
- Proposed representation for the three Partnership Board meetings

Arrangements will shortly be made for a round of public meetings to update local residents about timescales and the various options being investigated. These meetings will also provide an opportunity for local residents to ask questions, air their views and contribute to the design process.

Given the scale and nature of the Cycle Enfield project, there will be a full consultation before any proposals are taken forward for implementation. As a result of this and further development, the cycle routes that are implemented are likely to be different to the artists impressions/concept designs shown in the bid.

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?

Reply from Councillor McGowan

Immunisations, including those against influenza (the 'flu jab) are commissioned by NHS England and delivered via health professionals. Immunisation against influenza is recommended for senior citizens, pregnant women, young children and individuals with certain medical conditions such as asthma. The vast majority of these immunisations are delivered by practice nurses in GP practices and the public health messages and health promotion messages around immunisation are produced by Public Health England.

The Council has arranged for social care staff, including front line care workers to receive immunisation against influenza.

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?

Reply from Councillor Stafford

The Council owns 211 shops across the borough and currently there are only 3 vacant units (1 of these is under offer and expected to complete soon). This reflects an occupancy rate of 98.5% across the portfolio.

There are a 4 other shop voids within the borough, but these are being held void for strategic reasons.

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?

Reply from Councillor Taylor

"The Council has already agreed a policy in respect of filming at meetings of the Council, which is set out in the Constitution and applies to full Council (page 4-25), Cabinet (page 4-52) , Scrutiny (page 4-29) and Committee meetings (page 4-59). Under the policy the filming and recording of public sessions of meetings is allowed using audio, video or written methods provided this does not disturb the conduct of the meeting. Anyone wishing to record or film at a meeting is asked to give advance notice, so that members of the committee and any members of the public attending can be informed and necessary arrangements made.

The policy was subject to cross party consultation with the Members and Democratic Services Group before being approved by full Council in October 2013. Although the guidance on Open and Accountable Local Government produced by the Department for Communities and Local Government in June 2014 does encourage the provision

of advance notice by people wishing to film or record meetings, the regulations do not make this a specific requirement so I will be asking the Members & Democratic Services Group to review that aspect of the current policy.

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?

Reply from Councillor Sitkin

The borough's businesses are an extremely important part of the local economy and the Council provides support wherever it is needed. Much of the support is via business support agencies in the borough but the Council also has some direct business-facing activity.

Last month, a successful event was held at the Dugdale Centre entitled "Enabling our Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SME)s to be more active in the public sector marketplace": aimed at small and micro-businesses, designed to guide them through the Council's procurement process to win contracts to deliver goods and services for the Council. The event was extremely well-received and cited as a welcome opportunity to engage directly with Council officers. The Economic Development department will continue to lead on ensuring that Enfield's SMEs derive maximum benefit from Council procurement across a wide range of sectors, starting with adult social care and construction.

The Council works closely with the North London Chamber of Commerce (NLCoC) and the Enfield Business & Retailers Association (EBRA) to promote growth and to listen to the views of local business people.

NLCoC and EBRA produce detailed reports on business activities both delivered and planned, skills and jobs intelligence including:

- New business to the borough
- Jobs created
- Business at risk
- Business closures
- Empty / void properties
- Safer Enfield - Business subscribing to the radio alert system

NLCoC also runs the Business Ambassadors' Forum, representing Enfield's larger business base of companies with 50+ staff to provide a strong business voice to lobby for strategic projects, including investment in transport and infrastructure.

Other activities include:

- Sector Boards: Construction, Green & Low Carbon (linked to Retrofit London); Logistics & Distribution – engaging businesses from key sectors in dialogue regarding sector development needs, promoting sustainability and enable the growth of Enfield's business base.

- Connect Direct – managing the online business directory to promote local business and encourage such initiatives as Shop Local

Enfield's local enterprise agency, Enterprise Enfield (EE), has been helping local businesses for over 20 years by providing advice, training and support programmes for start-ups and established businesses. EE manages the 'Let's Go' business hub, at the recently refurbished Enfield Business Centre (EBC) on the Hertford Road. The EBC hub offers networking opportunities and provides businesses with hot-desking facilities, printing services and free Wi-Fi.

The Enterprising Libraries Project has provided 6-week business courses for potential business owners in Edmonton Green, Enfield Town libraries and in the EBC.

The Council wants more local businesses to be able to bid for government and Council contracts. Current projects like Retrofit London aim to help local companies to secure work from government environmental schemes such as the Green Deal. The Council has also secured access to a £400,000 grant from the GLA for the connection voucher scheme, which will help local companies upgrade to high speed broadband.

The Council is preparing a bid to the Mayor of London's High Street fund which is designed to make London's high streets even better places for businesses and residents; bids up to £2M are considered and will include a portfolio of small discrete community-led projects as well as larger partnership projects.

Finally, Enfield Town will be hosting a French market on 21 November 2014^t to gauge the local appetite for all things French.

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?

Reply from Councillor Stafford

Please find a list of property disposals for both General Fund and Housing Revenue Account assets sold for the period 2010/11 to date as requested.

This information excludes sales made under the "Right to Buy" legislation which can be provided separately if required:

2010/11

193 Brimsdown Avenue	£22,000
65a & 65b Old Park Road	£6,000
37 37a Sweet Briar Grove	£2,500
Land at 67-79 Cecil Road	£1
Land adj. 12a Bowles Green	£7,800

Land adj 16 Grant Close	£12,000
Land fronting 2 Hedge Hill	£7,900
284 Green Lanes	£55,000
Total	£113,201

2011/12

12 Queen Anne's Place	£340,000
Slopers Pond Cottages, EN4 0PX	£1,000,000
5 Swansea Road EN3 4JG	£200,000
17 Kingston Road, N9 7AJ	£177,000
BP Filling Station, Brimsdown	£1,500,000
The Bourne Car Park	£420,000
19 Bath Road	£145,000
Trent Park Equestrian Centre	£950,000
West Lodge Park Hotel	£1,250,000
Woodcroft	£710,000
Oakthorpe Court	£2,750,000
196-198 Green Lanes	£1,100,000
23 Church Street	£484,000
Cornerways, 41 Latymer Road	£1,405,000
96 Natal Road, N11 2HY	£345,000
Land fronting 8 Roundhill Drive, EN7 7RJ	£7,600
	£1,283,600

2012/13

Land adjoining 89 Severn Drive	£7,800
Land at Highfield Road	£400,000
North Lodge, Whitewebbs	£372,000
Eagle House Car Park - High Street	£100,000
North Lodge Ferny Hill	£482,500
Grange Gardens Estate	£395,960
Land adjoining 64 Hedgehill	£4,500
The Granges, The Bourne	£392,000
Barrowell Green Car Park	£570,000
Land adjacent 255c Lonsdale Drive	£5,550
Land at Green Street	£890,000
Land at Pitfield Way	£750,000
Cecil Road Temporary Car Park	£2,150,000
Business Innovation Centre	£2,450,000
Arnos resource centre	£700,000
Total	£9,670,310

2012/13

25 St Malo Avenue, N9 0RY	£101,000
321A Bowes Road,N11 1BA	£700,000
Carterhatch Lane Depot, EN1 4BS	£3,991,904
Total	£4,792,904

2014/15

Former Southgate Town Hall	£2,050,000
Chase Farmstead	£775,000
Turin Road Garages	£207,300
Croyland Road Garages	£171,500
Land @ Hoppers Road	£617,000
Residential lease extensions	£113,000
Total as @ 4/11/14	£3,933,800
Grand Total (2010 - 2014)	£31,293,815

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?

Reply from Councillor Sitkin

Small Business Saturday 2014 is a national event designed to support, inspire and promote small businesses on Saturday 6 December and beyond. Enfield ran a successful event last year and is again participating with the full cooperation of EBRA.

Activities in the run-up include an active marketing campaign featuring the following:

- Enfield Independent –advertising feature - will be 4 or 5 pages
- Enfield Business Centre promotional event
- Photo call – with performers from Dugdale Centre
- Launch of Eastern Enfield Guide and promotion of Enfield Town Guide
- Posters – distributed to shops
- Leaflets – distributed to shops and through LBE buildings and libraries
- Supporting businesses putting on SBS events
- Web section
- Media relations
- E-flyer to community organisations

There are also plans for a German food stall which will be on-site on this day as part of a month-long trial presence as well as the participation of many local traders.

Feedback from last year's Small Business Saturday event indicated that footfall increased significantly and this year's event seeks to bring even more shoppers to the borough's town centres.

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?

Reply from Councillor Stafford

Yes, I'm pleased to confirm that we have always intended to use the receipt from the sale of the Town Hall for the refurbishment of the library.

Capital receipts are used on a corporate basis to contribute to the funding of the overall capital programme rather than being earmarked for specific projects. This approach is taken in the interests of prudent financial management. In this case the cost of the capital works are estimated at £4.46M against a capital receipt from the sale of the asset of £2.050M so there will, in any event, be a need for the project to carry some unsupported borrowing financed through the Public Works Loan Board.

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?

Reply from Councillor Sitkin

The Good Food for London results for 2014 have been released, showing the progress Enfield is making on key healthy and sustainable food initiatives.

The nine food issues covered by the report are UNICEF UK Baby Friendly Initiative, Community Food Growing; London Living Wage, Fairtrade food, Food for Life in schools, Sustainable Fish, Animal Welfare, Healthier Catering and Local Food Partnerships. The report shows that Enfield is leading the way on five key food issues, including; Food Growing, Living Wage, Fairtrade, Animal Welfare and the Healthier Catering Commitment. Enfield is making good progress on Food for Life in schools, Sustainable Fish and developing a Food Partnership.

Enfield Catering Services have now been awarded the Silver Catering Mark, and sustainable fish is also used in schools. The Enfield Food Partnership was established recently, with an aim to apply for Sustainable Food Cities membership within six months.

There is a lot of work going on around breastfeeding and early year's nutrition, including the *Breastfeeding Welcome* scheme and *Eat Better, Start Better*.

Additionally, North Middlesex University Hospital has achieved level 1 Baby Friendly accreditation, while Barnet and Chase Farm hospitals have level 2 status.”

Question 45 from Councillor Delman to Councillor McGowan, 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.

Reply from Councillor McGowan

I thank the Member for his question and the opportunity it gives me to remind him of some basic facts concerning the present and previous Conservative Government's attempt to privatize the NHS.

The enactment of the NHS and Community Care Act 1990 split the role of local and health authorities by altering their internal structures, so that local authority departments were required to ascertain the needs of individuals and thereafter purchase required services from providers (The Development of the London Hospital System 1823-2013). Health organisations, in order to become providers of such services, became NHS trusts that competed with each other. The act reformed both management and patient care by introducing an 'internal market'. The act also introduced fundholding GP's. The aim of the Major Government was that GP fundholders and Health Authorities would use their purchasing powers to choose between competing providers and so obtain the best deal for patients. Contracts could be signed with hospitals and other health service organisations in either the public or private sector.

As well as the internal market, contracting-out was introduced. This forced the NHS to put in-house services out to tender and award contracts to the lowest bidder.

Fundholding GP's were abolished by the Labour government in 1998. Instead of engaging in facile word traps the member should read the extract below and reconsiders his opposition to the Labour motion supporting Clive Efford MP private members bill opposing the Governments Section 75 regulations inserted in the Health and Social Care Act 2012. Mr. Efford's amendment is of course, Council supporting policy.

From Today the Coalition Has Put the NHS up For Grab (Max Pemberton Daily Telegraph 1st April 2013)

(The NHS reform Bill, as first published, was like a jigsaw puzzle with crucial pieces missing, the pieces that would reveal exactly what was being planned. It wasn't until a few weeks before the law came into effect that those missing pieces became available, when the Health Secretary, Jeremy Hunt, quietly announced the new regulations and attempts were made to push them through parliament. What was now clear was that the regulations effectively forced CCGs to put all services out to tender to the private sector and forbade them to favour the NHS as the provider.

After a public outcry and criticism from the House of Lords at the way the Government had slipped in the Section 75 regulations at the eleventh hour, Hunt had them hastily rewritten. But most experts agree that there was no meaningful change. GPs are allowed to keep some services within the NHS, but only in particular circumstances, such as when no private sector provider comes forward to bid. Everything else is up for grabs. It will take time for this change to slowly spread throughout our healthcare system, but it will.

And we should all be worried. Competition on a small scale already exists in the NHS for certain services, such as breast-cancer screening, physiotherapy and rehabilitation, where these contracts have been put out to tender. I have seen first-hand what it can result in: the bureaucracy, the waste of time and resources, as bids are entered, assessed and contracts issued. I have seen, too, the way that services are, invariably, awarded to the lowest bidder regardless of quality, and I have seen how organisations that win these contracts will maximise profits by employing under-trained, cheaper staff, and replacing doctors with nurses, and nurses with auxiliaries.

In the new NHS, everything will be about payment by results, because this is all the private contractors are interested in. All "clinical encounters" have to have an easily definable, objectively measurable end point. But what about chronic conditions? Or treatments where the chances of success are low and complications high?

This is what saddens me: what were once the NHS's strengths – resources, expertise and the united focus on the patient – are being replaced by a fragmented and atomised service, bound not by a duty of care but by a contract and driven, not by what is best for the patient, but by the cost of the encounter. It will be a slow, insidious creep but it's coming. Be prepared. This is the way the NHS ends: not with a bang but a whimper.)

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?

Reply from Councillor Sitkin

The Council is committed to creating a positive impact on the wellbeing of the local area through its procurement activities. Council's Sustainable Procurement Policy explains this in greater detail. In addition, to comply with the Public Services (Social Value) Act we consider the impact on the local area for all service contracts over the EU threshold by scrutiny at the Strategic Procurement Board.

Staff have been trained in how to incorporate community benefits into tenders and contracts so that initiatives such as apprenticeships, local employment and local supply chains are incorporated where relevant and proportionate to do so in accordance with procurement legislation.

We are always seeking to identify new ways of improving outcomes for the community into our procurements as we recognise that money spent with local companies creates jobs and improves the standard of living for residents. We are currently revising our sustainable procurement policy and will be seeking to ensure that specific deliverables around spend with local businesses and increasing the number of apprentices are key measures. For information in 2013 the Council spent £95m (29% of total third-party spend) with local businesses through its contracts across approximately 2300 suppliers. This is an increase of 2% on 2012/13.

Question 47 from Councillor Lavender to Councillor Oyken, 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?

Reply from Councillor Oyken

Historic neglect is often raised by leaseholders when we send out estimates for Major Works. The Leaseholders Valuation Tribunal (LVT), which adjudicates on this sort of dispute, has ruled in our favour where this has been challenged previously. The Council has an obligation to maintain its housing stock and does so through cyclical maintenance and repairs as required. However each building element within a building is given an anticipated lifespan, after which expiry replacement or renewal would be required or recommended. The lifespans are based on experience and Industry standards. The asset database is used to prioritize blocks and estates across the borough each year for works based on the condition information. This information is then validated by Consultants and included in a programme of works. With the aim of reducing future maintenance, the Council consolidates works to blocks such as window renewals, external repairs and re-decoration, lighting, environmental works, door security etc. under one contract. To undertake the Works in this way makes best use of access arrangements, reduces future access costs and minimizes disruption to residents.

Furthermore, by including works to several blocks on an estate requiring works, in one larger contract, provides economies of scale and savings on site facilities, supervision, contract management and administration. If the Works were split into sub-elements and then spread over a number of years the overall costs would increase because of new sets of preliminaries, fees, access costs etc. each time. Regards the two specific issues raised on errors or high charges our comments are as follows:

- **Pram Sheds:** The Council has in recent years replaced timber shed doors with composite doors. The composite doors offer better security, will not rot like existing timber shed doors and will not require ongoing maintenance. The Consultants are aware of the discrepancy on one block, resulting from a contractor assumption on the number of shed doors on that particular block. Leaseholders have been advised that they will not be charged for shed doors.
- **Flat Roof:** There was an error on one of the blocks at the Poplars where the stairwell roof, unlike on the other blocks, was covered by the main pitched roof over sailing the block. This is the only error we are aware of in terms of incorrectly specified/apportioned works.

Please be assured that the works will be monitored during the contract through our Consultant and rechecked prior to leaseholder notification of final accounts.

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?

Reply from Councillor Stafford

When the Conservative coalition conned their way into power in 2010 the residents of the UK were assured that they had an economic solution to lift the UK out of the global recession.

Some 4 1/2 years on there is no evidence of this –

- Productivity levels are at pre-2008 levels
- Per capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP) pre-2008 levels
- Real wages – lower then 2010

Meanwhile tax receipts (income tax, VAT, Corporation) are well below predicted levels and therefore borrowing money upon month continues to rise. They therefore have wrongly assumed that the only way to balance the budget is to cut, cut and cut again.

The entire public sector is under assault and funding has been slashed. In the last 4 years as a result –

- Police stations in Enfield have closed
- Fire stations all over London have closed
- The NHS is in crisis and disarray
- Councils have had approx. 40% of their budget cuts. We were required to make 72 million pound savings between 2010-2014 and the likelihood is a further cut is required of 80 million in the next four years.

As the national finances are clearly out of control even the government admit it has no idea when the austerity measures will end.

It was going to be 2016 then 2018 now 2020?

We are in a greater recession than even those brought on in the early 80's and 90's by previous Tory administration. In the current climate the future for the public sector is no longer grim it is apocalyptic.

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?

Reply from Councillor Bond

Issued. Aug-Oct 2009	Paid in full after 14 days	9.7
	Paid in full within 14 days	70.5
	No Payment	19.8
Issued. Nov 2009 -Jan 2010	Paid in full after 14 days	10
	Paid in full within 14 days	69
	No Payment	21
Issued. Feb - Apr 2010	Paid in full after 14 days	8.1
	Paid in full within 14 days	73.9
	No Payment	18
Issued. May - Jul 2010	Paid in full after 14 days	10.5
	Paid in full within 14 days	63.5
	No Payment	26
Issued. Aug - Oct 2010	Paid in full after 14 days	8.6
	Paid in full within 14 days	67.5
	No Payment	23.9
Issued. Nov 2010 - Jan 2011	Paid in full after 14 days	9.6
	Paid in full within 14 days	64.7
	No Payment	25.7
Issued. Feb - Apr 2011	Paid in full after 14 days	9
	Paid in full within 14 days	67
	No Payment	24
Issued. May - July 2011	Paid in full after 14 days	8.4
	Paid in full within 14 days	64.9
	No Payment	26.7
Issued. Aug -Oct 2011	Paid in full after 14 days	10.1
	Paid in full within 14 days	62.5
	No Payment	27.4
Issued. Nov 2011 - Jan 2012	Paid in full after 14 days	10.6
	Paid in full within 14 days	62.7
	No Payment	26.7
Issued. Feb - Apr 2012	Paid in full after 14 days	9.2
	Paid in full within 14 days	64.2
	No Payment	26.6
Issued. May - Jul 2012	Paid in full after 14 days	8.8
	Paid in full within 14 days	64.9

	No Payment	26.3
Issued. Aug - Oct 2012	Paid in full after 14 days	8.4
	Paid in full within 14 days	64.5
	No Payment	27.1
Issued. Nov 2012 - Jan 2013	Paid in full after 14 days	7.9
	Paid in full within 14 days	64.3
	No Payment	27.8
Issued. Feb - Apr 2013	Paid in full after 14 days	8.3
	Paid in full within 14 days	60.1
	No Payment	31.6
Issued. May - July 2013	Paid in full after 14 days	8.7
	Paid in full within 14 days	62.8
	No Payment	28.5
Issued. Aug - Oct 2013	Paid in full after 14 days	7.2
	Paid in full within 14 days	66.2
	No Payment	26.6

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?

Reply from Councillor Simbodyal

One of the statutory duties of the Director of Public Health is to produce an Annual Public Health Report (APHR). This year's report is called "Mind the Gap" and focuses on reducing the gap in life expectancy in Enfield, and support people to live longer, healthier lives.

The Annual Public Health Report highlights the importance of evidence led interventions that can have an impact on improving health outcomes and life expectancy. Much of the focus of this year's report is on what works in the short term. In future, the focus of the APHR will be on the long term and the broader determinants of health.

The report includes examples of work across the borough which is contributing to a reduction in the gap in life expectancy. This ranges from innovative initiatives in healthcare settings and healthy schools initiatives, to community engagement events and activities.

People from Enfield are living for longer than ever before and the gaps in life expectancy between wards in the borough are shrinking new data shows. The average life expectancy in Enfield is 80.5 years for men and 84 years for women, an

increase from 79 years for men and 83 years for women. Life expectancies in Enfield are also higher than for England and London as a whole. However, there are large health inequalities, which ultimately lead to people in more deprived areas living shorter lives and being more affected by illness than those in the affluent parts of the borough. A woman living in Upper Edmonton has a life expectancy of 78.5 years, around 8 and a half years less than a woman in Grange ward. Similar differences can be seen in male life expectancy. It is pleasing to see that life expectancy figures have been improving, particularly improved in the more deprived wards such as Edmonton Green. However our focus now needs to other wards with emerging health inequalities.

People are also enjoying a similar number of years in good health as London and England, with a man living in Enfield expected to be in good health for 62.8 years and a woman expected to enjoy 63.2 years of good health. Healthy life expectancy refers to the average number of years a person would live in very good or good health.

The report shows that 12.6% of children in reception year were obese in 2012/13. This is a drop from 13.1% in 2011/12. This fall has been driven by significant work carried out by the Council to encourage healthy eating in schools, work to promote healthy life styles through the Change 4 Life programme and major investment in the borough's leisure centres, sporting facilities and parks to encourage people to adopt a healthier and more active lifestyle.

Another area in which Enfield Council, who took over responsibility for public health in 2013, is focusing its efforts is in tackling infant mortality rates, which is dropping but is still higher than the London average at 5.6 per 1000 live births, a range of projects have been launched by the Council to address the issue including initiatives to encourage breastfeeding and help pregnant women stop smoking.

The report highlighted circulatory diseases such as stroke, heart failure and coronary heart disease, cancer and respiratory disease as the borough's biggest killers and the biggest contributors to the gap in life expectancy in Enfield. However, there have been considerable improvements in some of the causes of ill health and mortality, including deaths from cardiovascular disease, increased numbers with controlled blood pressure and in the number of people who have given up smoking. Smoking is the root cause of one in five deaths in the borough and Enfield Council has also run a host of projects to persuade people to kick the habit and improve their overall health.

To tackle the number of deaths caused by these conditions, the Council and its partners in the NHS have been working to encourage residents to live healthier lifestyles – becoming more active, stopping smoking, drinking less alcohol and improving nutrition and diet, identifying cancer early and diagnosing underlying health conditions such as high blood pressure and diabetes so they can be treated promptly.

It is estimated the number of people with undiagnosed health conditions in Enfield is around 51,000 with the breakdown being people having, but not knowing they have, high blood pressure (hypertension) 26,331, diabetes approximately 2,500, Coronary

Heart Disease 4,081, Chronic Kidney Disease 10,246, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease 6,497, Stroke or Transient Ischaemic Attack (TIA or “mini-stroke”) 1,406.

Efforts to deliver high quality primary care and improve diagnosis include the GPs making more doctors’ appointments available across the borough with 50,000 additional appointments provided in 2013/14. Free health kiosks for patients aged and over have also been installed in most GP surgeries which enable users to measure their height and weight, blood pressure, Body Mass Index and pulse to give an idea of their general health. The Council and NHS have also laid on a number of drop in health checks around the borough so residents can access health professionals at a time and place that is convenient to them.

All the evidence shows that the main reason for poor health in Enfield is poverty and inequality. Poverty costs lives, and it also has a huge impact on the quality of a person’s life as well as its length. That is why we are focusing our efforts on lifting people out of poverty as a way to tackling the root causes of poor health in Enfield.

Section 2 - Questions to Association Cabinet Members

Question 51 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?

Reply from Councillor Savva

The Deephams Sewage Treatment Works upgrade, although driven by the need to meet new water quality standards by 2017 and improve the quality of water flowing from the works, will deliver significant reductions in the levels of odour experienced by local residents and the wider area including local businesses. This will be supported by improvement in landscaping, biodiversity and the overall appearance of the facility. There will also be enhanced storm water capacity during periods of heavy rainfall.

In implementing the scheme, Thames Water have also agreed to maximising the employment and training of local labour whilst also providing an education facility which will be available for local schools and the community promoting efficient sustainable water management. The upgrade is also important as it will provide a modern facility and infrastructure capable of supporting the Council’s regeneration objectives and necessary housing growth

Question 52 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?

Reply from Councillor Charalambous

The extension of Crossrail 2 to New Southgate will transform the area, provided a 20 train per hour service that makes, for example, Victoria accessible within just 21 minutes (compared to around 30 minutes at present). In the long term, this radically improved accessibility will provide the opportunity to reshape the area, with the potential for significantly more growth than is currently planned under the adopted Local Plan.

Question 53 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?

Reply from Councillor Uzoanya

Network Rail are currently progressing with a £80m scheme to enable a four train per hour service to operate between Stratford and Angel Road. The necessary infrastructure is due to be complete by 2018 and is critical to the delivery of the new homes and jobs planned for Meridian Water. The Council continues to work with the rail industry and partners in the wider London, Stansted, Cambridge Consortium to make the case for four-tracking of the Lee Valley line, which is the only way to secure regular, frequent and reliable services for both local and longer distance trains. The proposal for Crossrail 2 to extend up the Lee Valley by 2030 requires the four tracking of the line and this scheme is likely to be the main driver for the necessary infrastructure. Although Crossrail 2 is good news for the borough in terms of the additional jobs and homes that it will generate, we also need to ensure that adequate access for local people is maintained once the level crossings at Brimsdown and Enfield Lock are closed.

Section 3 - Questions to Statutory Committee Chairs

Question 54 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?

Reply from Councillor Simon

Councillors are aware of their duties when considering planning applications and have received training. Having considered any deputations and the papers, the Vice Chair is entitled to express at Planning Committee, a personal opinion as to the manner in which he will vote, in the same way as any Member of the Planning Committee.

It is the approach of national planning policy that there is a strong presumption in favour of development unless there are material considerations that would weigh against this presumption. It is for members to review the application and to determine the weight that they give to these material considerations in light of the policy. Where there is strong policy backing, as evidenced in the officers' report, it is not inappropriate for a member to suggest that other members would be wilfully negligent to determine the matter other than in accordance with the policy. [To determine other than in accordance with policy in the absence of material considerations could leave the Planning Authority vulnerable to an appeal and costs]. Ultimately however members are aware that they are to make up their own minds on the basis of the information before them.

The specific comment, is not recorded in the minutes [nor do various officers present recall this comment] and as such I do not accept that the alleged comment was made either in this manner if at all. In any event, I do not agree that such a comment would constitute a breach of the Planning Code nor do I accept that the comment could be taken as directing other members of the committee.