

Questions 24 June 2015

## **Section 1: Questions for Cabinet Members**

### **Question 1 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment**

The Salmons Brook Flood Alleviation is a scheme that has rightly attracted much local criticism in its implementation. The Environment Agency is certainly not seen by residents as having been effective in its handling of the project, and neither has the Council in pursuing countless allegations of planning breaches throughout the project, of varying degrees of seriousness.

Can he tell the Council:

- Does he agree that like any other public body, the Environment Agency should be leading by example in complying with the law, and in particular in following to the letter, planning conditions imposed to secure safety and reduction in noise and other nuisance likely to arise from the implementation of the planning permission for the flood relief works?

### **Reply from Councillor Anderson**

Yes

- Does he accept that the public expectation is that public bodies will be treated no differently to private individuals or companies where planning breaches occur?

### **Reply from Councillor Anderson**

Yes

- How many complaints has the Environment Department received from residents over the course of the works, divided as between alleged breaches of planning conditions and general nuisance?

### **Reply from Councillor Anderson**

Only three residents complained to the Council during the construction phase and they made approximately 150 enquiries. Given the scale of the project, complaints by 3 residents should not be considered in any way excessive.

- How many formal actions have been taken by the Council in response to the complaints referred to above or otherwise arising from the Flood alleviation works?

### **Reply from Councillor Anderson**

None of the complaints warranted formal action to be taken by the Council.

- How many prosecutions have been brought against the Environment Agency arising from these works?

#### **Reply from Councillor Anderson**

None.

- How many breach of condition notices were issued by the Council in respect of other planning permissions during the past two years?

#### **Reply from Councillor Anderson**

In the past two years, 13 breach of condition notices have been served. In addition, 12 temporary stop notices have been served in respect of failure to comply with/or discharge pre-commencement conditions in the past two years.

- How many prosecutions for planning breaches (excluding the Flood alleviation works) were commenced during the past two years?

#### **Reply from Councillor Anderson**

13

#### **Question 2 from Councillor Savva to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Education, Children's Service and Protection**

The pan London Admissions service this year revealed that 85% of Enfield pupils got their first choice of primary school this year, one of the best results in London. Furthermore, whilst many authorities were described as being in crisis because so few pupils got the secondary school of their choice, Enfield was in the top three boroughs in London with 98% of pupils getting one of their choices and nearly 90% getting one of their first two choices. An unrivalled position matched by only a handful of other London boroughs.

How does the Cabinet Member for Education, Children's Services and Protection explain this and how does she intend to maintain this position in the years to come, especially in Edmonton?

#### **Reply from Councillor Orhan**

We regularly review information about the demand for school places. The recently released Greater London Authority (GLA) school roll projections confirm the need to continue with our existing plans for provision up to 2018 and firm up plans for 2019 and 2020. We will continue to need a mix of our own delivery and Education Funding Agency delivery to maintain our position of one of the best boroughs in London at ensuring sufficient capacity is in place in our schools. For the schools that serve the Edmonton area it is important that the Education Funding Agency delivers the permanent extra capacity at Heron Hall Academy and at Ark John Keats in line with their plans between 2016 and 2018.

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

Following the election of a Conservative government at the general election and the Conservative successes in the local government elections held on the same day which have resulted in the Conservative Party re-taking control of the Local Government Association, does he accept that his local administration will now have to accept the decision of the wider electorate effectively to approve the Conservatives' Manifesto commitment to continue the policy of reducing the deficit and putting public finances on a sound footing?

Will he confirm that there will now be a more rigorous appraisal of all major expenditure by the Council to avoid the examples of poor value indicated in other questions on the agenda, so to secure the best return on investment of scarce public money, and will he specifically commit to introducing a scrutiny work stream dedicated to that end?

### **Reply from Councillor Taylor**

It will not surprise Councillor Neville that I do not accept the premise of his argument. Can I remind him that the Conservative Party received only 36.9% of the popular vote which is hardly consistent with the statement in this question. Indeed I am sure that he will join me in congratulating Joan Ryan's victory in Enfield North. The swing for Labour throughout Enfield shows a rejection of Tory philosophy, and of course, reflects Labour's increased representation in the 2014 local election.

For the record Labour increased its share of the vote to 43.7% in Enfield North, 61.4% in Edmonton and to 39% in Southgate with a 6.8% increase in the vote share in that constituency.

I can assure Councillor Neville that all major expenditure should be, and is, evaluated against good value. The Audit Committee already exists however to consider such matters if it is so minded. However I do accept the warning that we can expect unprecedented levels of cuts exceeding even my estimation in 2014.

### **Question 4 from Councillor Hasan to Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment**

Can the Cabinet Member for Environment please update the Council on the progress with the Firs Farm Wetland Scheme?

### **Reply from Councillor Anderson**

On Monday 8th June 2015, I approved a report for the creation of the wetlands in Firs Farm Playing Fields and the associated expenditure from a combination of funding allocations from Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), Greater London Authority (GLA), Environment Agency, Thames Water and the Council's own capital.

Tenders have now been received from suitable contractors to construct the wetlands

and associated civil engineering works, which are due to start this Summer. The Council will continue to liaise with the 'Friends of Firs Farm'.

#### **Question 5 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council**

Will he state clearly and succinctly his administration's policy on protecting the Green Belt?

#### **Suggested reply from Councillor Taylor**

The Council's policy on the Green Belt is set out in the Core Strategy adopted in 2010 and the Development Management Document adopted in 2014.

#### **Question 6 from Councillor Dogan to Councillor Keazor, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Sport**

The Annual Public Health Report described very clearly what needs to be done to reduce the life expectancy gap. Can the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Sport tell us what has been done to reduce high blood pressure in Enfield?

#### **Reply from Councillor Keazor**

National Audit Office identifies that controlling high blood pressure is one of the most cost effective measures to reduce health inequalities. The risk associated with increasing blood pressure is continuous, with each 2mmHg rise in systolic blood pressure associated with a 7% increased risk of mortality from ischaemic heart disease and a 10% increased risk of mortality from stroke. Increased blood pressure in mid-life raises the risk of dementia later on.

In Enfield, the Director of Public Health and his team voluntarily took a system leadership role to implement prevention, identification and effective treatment for high blood pressure. Enfield CCG takes hypertension seriously and works closely with public health. Around 3,500 more people have their blood pressure controlled than was the case in 2008/2009.

For prevention, Public Health held frequent campaigns around the effects of salt, hypertension and stroke with voluntary sector. Health Kiosks measuring height, weight and blood pressure have been put in GP Practices across Enfield by Enfield CCG. In partnership, Enfield Council, Enfield CCG and UCL partners have been working on a pilot called Hilo Project in two surgeries, Eagle House and Evergreen. 2008 patients with uncontrolled hypertension or uncontrolled cholesterol are included in the pilot. The preliminary results at 9 months are promising. Systolic blood pressure is reduced by 10.1 mmHg in those with hypertension and 9.7 mmHg in those with both hypertension and high cholesterol.

To succeed further, national and local partners need to take action together. Again I would like to highlight that prevention and knowing one has hypertension is important first step. Therefore we need to reduce salt intake, maintain healthy lifestyle, know our blood pressure by testing at health kiosks, participate in NHS Healthcheck and work with our GPs if we have hypertension.

### **Question 7 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council**

Did he really think it could possibly be appropriate for head teachers of secondary schools to send the politically charged letter to parents and carers that they proposed to send one week before the General Election, in obvious and flagrant breach both of the Local Government Act and its publicity code, and the special rules relating to Purdah. With the benefit of hindsight does he not consider it to have been a waste of public money to seek Leading Counsel's opinion on a matter which most right thinking people would recognize to be wrong both as matters of common sense and public sector ethics?

### **Reply from Councillor Taylor**

The Council gave advice to our head teachers on publicity during the election period and I see no problem with that having the input and imprint of legal counsel. Providing greater clarification must be a good thing and save the cost for each school and academy to take its own legal advice.

### **Question 8 from Councillor Fonyonga to Councillor A Cazimoglu, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care**

Following the government's decision to abolish the Independent Living Fund (ILF) by June 2015 and the movement of the responsibility to the Council, can the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care tell us what is the Council doing to ensure that the very vulnerable people supported by the ILF experience a smooth transition?

### **Reply from Councillor Cazimoglu**

The Council has put into place a plan to ensure the smooth transition of current Independent Living Fund (ILF) recipients. Key things within the transition plan are:

- All people have been reviewed by Council and ILF reviewing officers to ensure their support plans are up to date, meet their eligible needs and have a named contact officer within each service area should they have any queries or concerns they need to raise with the Council.
- Communication has taken place with ILF users in partnership with the ILF itself and Enfield Disability Action, the voluntary sector organisation providing independent advocacy services. ILF users and their representatives have been communicated with by letter, phone and through an event held at Park Avenue Resource Centre in early May 2015, which was very well attended. There is also a web page with all the information which people need about the transition process.
- The Council has agreed as part of the transition process that for 2015/16, ILF budgets and support plans will continue to be maintained separately from Council budgets and support to ensure continuity of arrangements.
- All ILF users will receive a review before Christmas 2015 with a view to joining budgets and support plans up in the New Year, 2016/17.

The response from ILF users has been positive and they feel engaged and reassured. There is obvious concern that given cuts to Council funding, this will impact on ILF users. However, the Council has been clear that it will continue to discharge its statutory duty to meet eligible needs.

### **Question 9 from Councillor Vince to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Education, Children's Services and Protection**

I first wrote to you in February regarding an oversized door at Carterhatch Juniors which was approved by Asset Management. You agreed to look into the concerns raised by governors, but to date I have not received a reply. The Governing Board are now extremely concerned as this is a fire door and the health and safety of both the children and staff are at risk. Would you please update the Council on what actions are being taken?

### **Reply from Councillor Orhan**

The door in question was designed as a fire escape door for the prefabricated classroom, which was originally provided for the Infant school in December 2009 at short notice to cope with a bulge class. The door was sized to be wheelchair accessible, and the ironmongery was specified for an escape door (e.g. push bar). The classroom was supplied by an external contractor, the contract managed by Architectural Services (now the Corporate Maintenance & Construction Team (CMCT)). Handover was accepted on behalf of the authority and the classroom used by the Infants School for three years. After two years the door required adjustment. This was undertaken by the original contractor, albeit that it was out of their warranty period.

The Junior School occupied this classroom three years later as the bulge class moved through the school. The external steps to the door were turned round and fencing adjusted accordingly, giving direct access into the Junior site. It appears that at that time the door, which was designed as a fire escape door became regularly used for access by children. The ironmongery was not changed to reflect this different use.

In late 2014, the door required further adjustment. CMCT referred this to the original contractor who declined to make the repair given that the classroom was now almost 5 years old and well out of the warranty period. They did make a without prejudice goodwill gesture to the school of £250, towards adjusting the door which the school declined.

CMCT consider that the door was correctly specified for the original use by the Infants School. The ironmongery could have been changed when the classroom reverted to Junior use, along with the other adjustments made.

Schools and Children's Services (CCS) Asset Management have advised that the school receives additional maintenance funding for the building, and that SCS cannot fund this from the maintenance fund, so the school should therefore take responsibility for what is a relatively minor repair.

### **Question 10 from Councillor During to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council**

It is reported that Lord Kerslake (ex Permanent Secretary at the Department for Communities and Local Government) has 'serious concerns' over extending right to buy and sees it as 'wrong in principle and practice'. Does the Leader think that such a significant and well respected figure has a point and will an extension have an effect in Enfield?

### **Suggested reply from Councillor Taylor**

The current Right To Buy Scheme for council housing is already having a significant impact on the Council's ability to house local people in need. Since the discount was raised in 2012 (currently a maximum of £103k) we have sold 356 council homes at a cost to the Housing Revenue Account of over £25m, which could have been spent on the management and maintenance of the stock.

The extension of the Right To Buy is likely to affect 40 housing associations operating in Enfield who, between them, manage nearly 10,000 properties. We do not yet know whether wide uptake of the offer will affect the financial viability of these housing associations.

The Government's proposal for Councils to sell their more valuable council homes to compensate housing associations for the loss of the discount will only exacerbate the problems in Enfield of increasing use of temporary accommodation and overcrowding which we will be less able to assist.

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

Can he tell the Council how much was spent by North London Waste Authority (NLWA) in 2014/15 on implementing its Food Waste Prevention Plan?

### **Reply from Councillor Anderson**

The NLWA food waste prevention programme costs for 2014-15 were £150,526 in total for the 7 boroughs.

### **Question 12 from Councillor Pite to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Education, Children's Services and Protection**

The pan London Admissions service this year revealed that 85% of Enfield pupils got their first choice of primary school this year, one of the best results in London. Furthermore, whilst many authorities were described as being in crisis because so few pupils got the secondary school of their choice, Enfield was in the top three boroughs in London with 8% of pupils getting one of their choices and nearly 90% getting one of their first two choices. An unrivalled position matched by only a handful of other London boroughs.

How does the Cabinet member for Education, Children's Services and Protection explain this and how does she intend to maintain this position in the years to come,

especially in Enfield North?

**Reply from Councillor Orhan**

We regularly review information about the demand for school places. The recently released GLA school roll projections confirm the need to continue with our existing plans for provision up to 2018 and firm up plans for 2019 and 2020.

We will continue to need a mix of our own delivery and Education Funding Agency delivery to maintain our position of one of the best boroughs in London at ensuring sufficient capacity is in place in our schools.

For the schools that serve the Enfield North area we have plans for permanent primary provision at the preferred location at Chase Farm.

**Question 13 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment**

Would the Cabinet Member for Environment consent to allow the Enfield Town Residents Association to sit on the Enfield North, Cycle Enfield Partnership Board as their members live in the Cecil Road area so will be impacted if certain proposals go through?

**Reply from Councillor Anderson**

They have already accepted our invitation.

**Question 14 from Councillor Jemal to Councillor Keazor, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Sport**

Can the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Sport update the Council on progress with the latest round of investment in our leisure centres?

**Reply from Councillor Keazor**

The new £1.2 million injection from the previous year's operating profit funded by both the Council and Fusion has been used in our leisure centres. The refurbishment programme includes an enlargement of the gym areas at Southbury and Edmonton Leisure Centre to incorporate new warm up and free weights areas and upgraded gym equipment which is now complete and open for residents to use.

Southgate Leisure Centre will have an extended Studio space by the end of the Summer (works due to start at the end of June). We are also creating a new basement gym area as part of this project. This will extend the gym and studio space with the view to increasing participation and helping to make our residents healthier.

**Question 15 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment**

Would the Cabinet Member for Environment confirm that David Burrowes MP will be invited to both the Enfield North and Enfield West Cycle Enfield Partnership Boards meetings so he is able to represent all his constituents?

### **Reply from Councillor Anderson**

Yes. In addition, Joan Ryan MP will be invited to the Enfield West Cycle Enfield Partnership Board, and Kate Osamor MP will be invited to the Enfield North Cycle Enfield Partnership Board.

### **Question 16 from Councillor Hamilton to Councillor Oyken, Cabinet Member for Housing and Housing Regeneration**

Councils cannot consider their own financial pressures when deciding whether to accept an applicant on a vulnerable homeless person the Supreme Court has ruled. As a result has the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) issued guidance and made more money available to reflect legal change?

### **Reply from Councillor Oyken**

The private sector housing market conditions remain challenging, with evictions from the private rented sector remaining high and the demand for temporary accommodation keeping prices at an inflated level.

In the recent Supreme Court case referred to and in other cases in this area of law, the Courts have been clear that local authorities are not entitled to take into account their resources when deciding whether a duty is owed to house the homeless. Once the authority owes a duty the authority has to carry it out and cannot rely upon lack of resources.

Steps will be taken to ensure that all relevant factors are considered and recorded when making difficult placement decisions.

However, you are quite right to point out that the Council's financial position when making placements was not a matter considered by this judgement. The DCLG has issued no further guidance and the subsidy arrangement to reimburse the Council for the costs associated with temporary accommodation remain pegged to 2011 rental prices.

The Council's financial exposure remains acute and with further welfare reforms planned, my concerns about the pressures facing Enfield remain grave.

### **Question 17 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment**

Would the Cabinet Member for Environment inform the chamber of the following:

- How many incidents of fly tipping have occurred in the past 12 months?
- How many convictions for fly tipping his department has achieved in the past 12 months

## Reply from Councillor Anderson

	Jun-14	Jul-14	Aug-14	Sep-14	Oct-14	Nov-14	Dec-14	Jan-15	Feb-15	Mar-15	Apr-15	May-15
Reactive	576	686	441	613	513	488	575	515	509	571	618	495
Proactive	3555	3562	3397	3600	3931	3412	3659	3331	3825	4958	4270	4601

9 prosecutions commenced.

### **Question 18 from Councillor N Cazimoglu to Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment**

Gating of rear alleyways is an initiative that reduces the risk of burglary and fly tipping. Can the Cabinet Member for Environment please update the Council on the progress of alley gating of private alleyways?

### **Reply from Councillor Anderson**

As you say, the alley gating project provides for the gating of private alleyways to increase security for residents whose properties are adjacent to them. The scheme has been running since 2005 and up to 31 March 2015 we have gated in excess of 436 alleys borough wide. They have proven successful in reducing incidents of burglary, fly tipping, drug misuse and other types of anti-social behaviour.

The schemes are resident led. Applications are received from residents who act as coordinators gathering the necessary consents from neighbours to gate the alley. Any missing consents, landowner consents and objections are dealt with by the project officer. The gates are installed and maintained free of charge to residents and the schemes are fully funded by the Council.

### **Question 19 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment**

The Communications Team has publicly advertised that 84% of fly tipping incidents are picked up before being reported. What are you doing about the other 16%?

### **Reply from Councillor Anderson**

We aim to clear all reported fly tips on the public highway within 4 hours.

### **Question 20 from Councillor Hamilton to Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment**

Can the Cabinet Member for Environment please set out the number of Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) that have been issued to people caught littering in Enfield, and how this stacks up in relation to other London boroughs?

### **Reply from Councillor Anderson**

Robust enforcement of littering contributes towards keeping the borough's streets clear of litter and rubbish. We issued the following numbers of fixed penalty notices

to individuals caught littering in the last 3 years:

2012/13 – 4406

2013/14 – 5579

2014/15 - 6252

Our issuing of FPNs for litter is amongst the highest of all Councils.

**Question 21 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment**

When visiting College Gardens, Edmonton, I saw four fly-tipped areas and an overflowing bin. Does he agree with me that it is not acceptable to have this amount of litter and fly tips in one road? And what is his department doing to combat situations like this which in my opinion are totally unacceptable?

**Reply from Councillor Anderson**

Firstly, I hope that Councillor Laban was given a warm welcome on her recent visit to the eastern side of the borough.

Fly-tipping is unacceptable anywhere, however fly tippers are notoriously difficult to track down and in an attempt to increase the number of successful prosecutions in the borough, Enfield Council is continuing to offer a £200 reward to anyone who provides information leading to the successful prosecution of a fly tipper.

Regarding College Gardens this is on the early morning street cleansing fly-tip patrol (daily Monday to Friday). The road is also litter picked every Monday with a full cleanse every Friday. The local tidy team also clean the road headers as part of the main Fore Street cleanse 7 days a week. In comparison, when the Tories left power in May 2010 this street was scheduled for cleansing just once in a week with ad hoc fly tip clearance. We have a collective responsibility as a community to keep our borough clean and we all need to play our part in making sure it stays tidy.

**Question 22 from Councillor Lemonides to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Education, Children's Services and Protection**

Is the Cabinet Member for Education, Children's Services and Protection aware of any other Council in London who has received the 'Good' Ofsted judgement so far? And will she update us on Enfield's position nationally?

**Reply from Councillor Orhan**

Ofsted started inspecting Councils under its revised framework in November 2013 and have completed over 60 inspections to date. This framework is considered by all to be a much harder test than any of the previous inspection frameworks. I welcome the increased expectations on councils to improve support to children, young people and families - this is the only way that we can ensure that our most vulnerable citizens improve their life chances. However, many councils have yet to meet these high standards with only 20% of the councils inspected so far achieving an overall

effectiveness judgement of “Good”.

To date, Enfield is the only London borough to have achieved this high standard and everyone involved in delivering and managing services to vulnerable children, young people and families in Enfield should be proud of this extraordinary achievement given the challenges many of our residents face. I am certain that the Council’s commitment to supporting the retention of high calibre staff was the critical factor in demonstrating to Ofsted how thousands of children and families benefit from improved outcomes with the support of a highly skilled, motivated and well supported Children’s Services workforce.

**Question 23 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment**

Would the Cabinet Member for Environment please confirm that he will end the rather dictatorial approach his department has taken with the friends of the parks groups in recent years and adopt a relationship of improved engagement and respect for the work these volunteers do?

**Reply from Councillor Anderson**

I do not accept the basis of this question. We very much value the commitment and resolve of all volunteers, particularly the friends of parks and we are committed to consulting all stakeholders in the continuing improvement of our parks. Indeed, I would hope that Councillor Laban publicly acknowledges the additional investment that has been poured into parks since Labour came to power in 2010.

**Question 24 from Councillor Stewart to Councillor Keazor, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Sport**

Can the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Sport update the Council on the forthcoming London Youth Games?

**Response from Councillor Keazor**

Over 500 young people have trialled, trained and competed in the qualifying rounds of the London Youth Games so far this year. The finals weekend is on Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th July 2015. However from the qualifying activities that have been taking place since February we are on target for a top 10 result. Qualifiers in basketball, volleyball, fencing, table tennis, tennis and badminton have already taken place. Our schools, clubs and volunteers all work with the Council to ensure participation in the Games annually. I would like to wish the team good luck at the finals.

**Question 25 from Councillor Vince to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Education, Children’s Services and Protection**

A number of schools are experiencing difficulty in obtaining Speech and Language Therapists as there are insufficient therapists for more children on the SEN register. Would Councillor Orhan inform the Council what arrangements are being made to

increase the number of Speech and Language Therapists as it is evident more are needed?

### **Reply from Councillor Orhan**

There has been no additional funding from the government for additional needs or therapies for schools, either within the schools high needs funding block, or any other part of the education budgets. The programme of government cuts to council budgets also means that no additional funding is available. In order to ensure that all schools have an appropriate allocation of therapeutic access and input, we are working in close partnership with our colleagues in both the Clinical Commissioning Group and the health providers, and with our headteacher colleagues, to review the current provision and re-allocate resources targeted to need. We also continue to work on an early intervention models with schools and settings delivering language rich programmes and offering early identification and support through the delivery of an enhanced curriculum.

### **Question 26 from Councillor Uzoanya to Councillor A Cazimoglu, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care**

Given the continued government cuts to Adult Social Care Budgets and pressure on our hospitals to reduce emergency admissions and discharge people home safely, can the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care tell the Council how health and social care are working together to manage these pressures?

### **Reply from Councillor Cazimoglu**

The resilience of our partnership arrangements continue to be tested by reductions in government funding and the increasing number of people with complex needs in the borough. However, the partnership work across health and social care in Enfield continues to deliver support and services seven days a week which help people to avoid hospital and which support safe and timely discharge where hospital care is needed. Having said that, attendances at Accident and Emergency (A&E) and emergency admissions have increased both nationally and locally and although there are services in place to deal with people appropriately outside of a A&E setting (like our assessment units), there is work to do to ensure that these are better publicised both with the public and with professionals and of course, better used.

The Council is also working with health partners to ensure that, when people are well enough for discharge from hospital, there is appropriate and safe support in place which promotes independence and choice for people. The number of people whose discharge from hospital is delayed continues to be too high, however. For the most part these delays relate to people where there are significant choices to make around moving into residential or nursing accommodation or complex equipment and adaptations needed to help people stay at home. We are working with health colleagues to provide more step-down accommodation in cases such as these where people can be rehabilitated and properly assessed for the next stage in their care and support.

Nevertheless, it needs to be said here that continued government reductions in budget funding pose a significant risk to the effective working of the partnership.

**Question 27 from Councillor R Hayward to Councillor Oykenner, Cabinet Member for Housing and Housing Regeneration**

It is vital that you crack on with the remediation work at the former National Grid site at Meridian Water in preparation for the master developer to take over and start to build our much needed homes. As a check on your progress, how many loads of contaminated waste so far have been removed and where have they been disposed of?

**Reply from Councillor Okyener**

I am glad that Councillor Hayward supports this administration's effective approach to Meridian Water. A remediation strategy has been completed for the National Grid site, a planning application is being prepared and an Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) Contract Notice will be issued shortly to appoint a small framework of remediation contractors. It is anticipated that remediation work will start on site in early 2016.

**Question 28 from Councillor Kepez to Councillor Keazor, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Sport**

Breastfeeding is an important measure to help reduce infant mortality. What has the Council done to promote breastfeeding?

**Reply from Councillor Keazor**

Breastfeeding is the healthiest way for mothers to feed their baby and exclusive breastfeeding (giving baby only breast milk) is recommended for around the first six months of a baby's life.

Enfield Council has a number of initiatives to help parents to start and continue breastfeeding their baby. These include the "Breastfeeding Welcome" Scheme which has participation from over 200 businesses. Businesses that sign up to the scheme display a sticker to let customers know that they are welcome to breastfeed whilst on the premises and the businesses are entered onto a database. To complement this scheme, the development of a mobile phone application (App) has been commissioned. This will supply useful information for breastfeeding mothers and will allow them to locate the nearest premises that are 'breastfeeding welcome'.

There is good evidence that breastfeeding peer support helps women to initiate and continue breastfeeding. Public Health commissioned the National Childbirth Trust (NCT) to train a cohort of 12 breastfeeding peer supporters. These graduated earlier this year and have been given one year volunteer placements supporting new mothers in children's centres across Enfield. In addition, 12 members of the Parent Engagement Panel have been trained and have volunteered to work as Community Health workers to engage parents and families at a number of different sites,

including a local maternity unit. They will provide targeted support for mothers who are least likely to breastfeed and who are at risk of poor health outcomes.

**Question 29 from Councillor R Hayward to Councillor Oykenner, Cabinet Member for Housing and Housing Regeneration**

Your colleague Councillor Sitkin stated that the building of the Boulevard at Meridian Water would start this spring. What works have been undertaken so far?

**Reply from Councillor Oykenner**

The Boulevard will have been progressed to a detailed design stage by the end of June 2015 so that it could be implemented by a contractor, subject to property matters being completed. Discussions are progressing with local businesses concerning the land take and boundary treatment, although this is sensitive and part of the land acquisitions and transportation changes associated with the store operations.

**Question 30 from Councillor Chibah to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Education, Children's Services and Protection**

Can the Cabinet Member for Education, Children's Services and Protection update us on the status of the plans for the new school on the Chase Farm site?

**Reply from Councillor Orhan**

At this time the Council has not yet completed the negotiations on the purchase of the site, however, in preparation for the completion, we have an agreed procurement strategy for the build and a programme for the delivery of the school has been completed.

**Question 31 from Councillor R Hayward to Councillor Sitkin, Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Business Development**

When can we expect the long awaited reports regarding inward investment and apprenticeship training?

**Reply from Councillor Sitkin**

The document regarding Inward Investment has been drafted and is undergoing a final review and will become available in the near future. Of course, I trust that Councillor Hayward has learnt the difference between preparing reports and going out and contacting people. Even as he waits passively for paper reports, we have been proactively marketing Enfield to investors nationwide and beyond.

There is no specific document for the apprenticeships and never has been, however the Employment and Skills Strategy has been adopted for some time and is readily available and this covers issues surrounding apprenticeships.

**Question 32 from Councillor Abdullahi to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the**

## **Council**

Ogden Nash, the US humourist and poet wrote, 'Discretion is the better part of virtue; Commitments the voters don't know about can't hurt you'. However the Government has been clear it will cut public services and defences of the UK – one of its known commitments. What will this mean for Enfield residents?

### **Reply from Councillor Taylor**

The impact of cuts is likely to mean the UK is less well protected and public provision of services and the environment will decline:

- police numbers will decline
- anti-terrorist work may be compromised
- education will suffer and immediately in the Further Education Sector
- welfare reform will exacerbate vulnerabilities
- culture and the arts will suffer
- funding for the street scene will be potentially compromised.

These are just some of the impacts of the Government policies. Members of the Conservative Group support their Government policies so must, by implication, support the consequences of these policies. I anticipate they will voice no objection to the difficult decisions that will need to be made in the coming years perhaps avoiding the whiff of hypocrisy which may be levelled against them if they voice opposition to the consequences of policies they campaigned to get implemented.

### **Question 33 from Councillor R Hayward to Councillor Sitkin, Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Business Development**

I have been converted to the importance of producing local food for local people. Now that we have the possibility of building an anaerobic digestion plant running on kitchen waste from North London producing electricity and large quantities of hot water to be used in heating greenhouses the possibilities are even more exciting. What timescale do you envisage for its implementation?

### **Reply from Councillor Sitkin**

I am glad that at long last Councillor Hayward has been “converted” to a policy that this administration has been pursuing for quite some time. Better late than never. Otherwise, anaerobic digestion is one of many energy sources being investigated at the moment. It is felt that a mixed economy of alternative and renewable energy sources is best rather than the reliance on any one technology. Once evaluated, the best model(s) will be put forward for full consideration.

### **Question 34 from Councillor B Charalambous to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Education, Children's Services and Protection**

The pan London Admissions service this year revealed that 85% of Enfield pupils got their first choice of primary school this year, one of the best results in London. Furthermore, whilst many authorities were described as being in crisis because so

few pupils got the secondary school of their choice, Enfield was in the top three boroughs in London with 98% of pupils getting one of their choices and nearly 90% getting one of their first two choices. An unrivalled position matched by only a handful of other London boroughs.

How does the Cabinet member for Education, Children's Services and Protection explain this and how does she intend to maintain this position in the years to come, especially in Enfield Southgate?

### **Reply from Councillor Orhan**

We regularly review information about the demand for school places. The recently released GLA school roll projections confirm the need to continue with our existing plans for provision up to 2018 and firm up plans for 2019 and 2020.

We will continue to need a mix of our own delivery and Education Funding Agency (EFA) delivery to maintain our position of one of the best boroughs in London at ensuring sufficient capacity is in place in our schools.

For the schools that serve the South West area we need to focus on the current proposals for Grovelands and, as demand is expected to increase in the future, start feasibility work and discussions with the school about permanent primary provision at Broomfield Secondary.

Additionally we expect there to be a proposal for a new secondary academy in the west of the borough but will have to see if there is a formal application to the EFA for a new school.

### **Question 35 from Councillor R Hayward to Councillor Oyken, Cabinet Member for Housing and Housing Regeneration**

I am told you have an exciting new team heading the Meridian Water development. What are their names and their individual responsibilities?

### **Reply from Councillor Oyken**

The Council has assembled a strong team of leading consultants to advise on delivery of the Meridian Water development. The core consultant delivery team consists of:

Jones Lang LaSalle - Property Consultants

PWC Tax and Finance - Advisors

Trowers & Hamlins - Legal Advisors

ARUP - Planning consultants

Karakusevic Carson - Architects

OKRA - Landscape Architects

### **Question 36 from Councillor Barry to Councillor A Cazimoglu, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care**

Can the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care give an update on the Council's response to the new and wider powers and duties within the Care Act and what the impact on the Council has been so far?

### **Reply from Councillor Cazimoglu**

The Council has implemented the key requirements of the April 2015 reforms. The following lists a number of the key areas and how the council has responded:

We have new processes and arrangements in place to respond to new duties for prevention and wellbeing, which comprise a range of information and advice including universal services, signposting to financial advice and an on-line support tool AskSara. Additional capacity has been built into the Adult Social Care front line services to manage the new assessments requirements including new duties to assess and provide support to carers. The new national eligibility criteria based on 'significant impact' on wellbeing and outcomes is being applied.

Although it is early days, since 1st April 2015, the council has seen an increase in activity as a result of the new duties including assessments and support planning, provision of information and advice, support to carers.

We have a new deferred payment arrangement in place, processes for undertaking serious case reviews have been reviewed and a number of serious case reviews are taking place.

As with all local authority areas, the 2015 reforms require embedding in practice. We are preparing for the 2016 funding reforms (final guidance due in October) and responded to the government consultation.

### **Question 37 from Councillor R Hayward to Councillor Stafford, Cabinet Member for Finance and Efficiency**

How does he justify the decision to borrow several million pounds to buy a small farm when there are so many other pressing demands on the Council's limited capital resource?

### **Reply from Councillor Stafford**

This farm has been bought as a long term investment. We have discussions going on with a number of agricultural and associated users. The property has been financed through normal capital sources for the Council and the expected income covers the interest on borrowing costs. We are already the biggest owners of green belt land in the Borough and this is a natural addition to the portfolio. We would expect the land to remain in similar use for the foreseeable future. We can offer to the public, as a result, greater control of this land use than if it was in the hands of a developer.

### **Question 38 from Councillor Dines to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Education, Children's Services and Protection**

At the recent Chase Ward Forum you said that you would be able to update those present in 'the summer' about which schools will bulge to meet the shortfall in secondary school places, an issue that particularly impacts upon central Enfield/Chase Ward. However in your written answer to me at the last full Council you say that you will not be confirming the schools that will be bulging until 2017.

What has caused you to change your mind and now say that you will be making a decision a year and a half after you said that you would at the public meeting?

### **Reply from Councillor Orhan**

At the Chase Ward Forum I said that I will update those present in the summer on the Council's plans for school expansions. That update is part of a report due to go to the July 2015 Cabinet meeting then Full Council in September 2015. Permanent expansion is different to temporary "bulge" arrangements where short term provision is required whilst permanent provision is delivered. We can only assess the need for temporary, or "bulge" arrangements once the timescales and funding for delivery of permanent provision is assessed.

### **Question 39 from Councillor Dines to Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment**

Given we are in a new financial year, will the Council now consider releasing funds for the extension of the double yellow lines at the corner of Rosewood Drive and Wroxham Gardens?

### **Reply from Councillor Anderson**

Numerous requests for yellow lines are received each year and the Council has therefore developed a standard method of assessing requests to ensure that the most serious cases are treated first. At this stage I cannot, therefore, confirm whether the junction will be taken forward this year.

### **Question 40 from Councillor Dines to Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment**

In conversation with officers it has previously been said that a review of loading and unloading on Lancaster Road will be undertaken by the Council. Can he confirm that this is either being undertaken or is soon to begin? Whilst I appreciate it is a difficult balance, between keeping traffic flowing and shops stocked, delivery vans and the articulated lorries supplying local shops in the rush hour are causing problems that hopefully a review can begin to resolve.

### **Reply from Councillor Anderson**

We are in the process of reviewing the current loading and unloading activities along Lancaster Road with the aim of identifying options for reducing delays during peak periods. However, the Council is equally mindful of supporting local businesses and any decision will have to balance the needs of all road users.

**Question 41 from Councillor Dines to Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment**

Could I please be informed how many speed bumps there are in each Ward in Enfield?

**Reply from Councillor Anderson**

No, because we do not keep a tally of speed bumps. However, if Councillor Dines wishes to conduct his own survey I would be very interested to hear the results.

**Question 42 from Councillor Dines to Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment**

Can Councillor Anderson please confirm (or not) that CCTV can be used to enforce against drivers who park on the zig-zag lines around schools? I understand that on double yellow lines it is not possible but it appears to me from reading the legislation that it can be used around schools?

**Reply from Councillor Anderson**

Enforcement by CCTV can still take place on school keep clear (zig zag) markings, bus lanes and bus stops. All other parking contraventions have been banned by the Government under the Deregulation Act 2015. This is extremely unhelpful for residents living in close proximity to schools. However, given that Councillor Dines is rightly concerned about this, can I suggest that he writes to the Government and ask that they change the ill thought out law to help us tackle this problem.

**Question 43 from Councillor Dines to Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment**

Has anyone from the Council had a conversation within the last two months with Macdonalds and Krispy Kreme, on the A10 retail park, about trying to stop young boys and girl racers using the restaurant car parks to meet up?

**Reply from Councillor Anderson**

No. I refer the councillor to the response provided to question 15 at the previous Council meeting on the same issue.

**Question 44 from Councillor R Hayward to Councillor Sitkin, Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Business Development**

The Market Garden initiative has cost £600,000 and created three jobs. Does he think that this is a good return on investment? Would not a better use of that £600,000 have been working with young entrepreneurs in Enfield and seed funding the start of an 'Enfield Tech City' equivalent?

**Reply from Councillor Sitkin**

The GLA grant funding has been running for just under two years, with this financial year still remaining. It is correct that 3 jobs have been created directly through the project but I would hope that Councillor Hayward understands all the other strands to this initiative. Certainly he has been informed of the following many times but we are happy to repeat if that enhances his understanding.

As importantly to future job creation and employability for residents are the facts that over 100 volunteers engaged in local growing projects and market gardening, and 12 new growing schemes have been created by local residents.

More than 23 primary schools have received equipment and horticultural training, reaching over 600 children and 23 students have had work experience placements, all supported by the project.

Plans in the current year will increase the number of community growing projects and enable more schools to grow food. In addition, secondary school children will have the opportunity to train with professional growers and see the potential for growing as a career.

All of these actions are aimed at instilling an appreciation of good, fresh food directly grown by children, young adults and residents of all ages. Garden Enfield is creating a pathway into work leading to work as larger scale growing requires a skilled local workforce, as well as encouraging new growers to see business opportunities and a livelihood through food.

#### **Question 45 from Councillor Dines to Councillor Sitkin, Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Business Development**

The recently published book "The Flat White Economy" has some interesting observations about the importance of the tech industry to job creation in London. For instance, in the EC1V postcode, more businesses have been created over the last three years than in Manchester and Newcastle put together. Whilst the Central/East London job market is clearly not comparable to Enfield, one thing the book identifies in my opinion is: creativity caused by the mixing of different young people with different backgrounds. Can he honestly say that the Council and the career service in Enfield's schools is doing all that it can to harness the creativity, passion and tech skills of our school leavers (or the 16-24 age range) and is encouraging them to set up businesses that can exploit the opportunities that there so clearly are in our city?

#### **Reply from Councillor Sitkin**

Councillor Dines raised almost the same question previously on this matter (Tech Hub and Tech City) and is clearly not advancing as quickly in his understanding of the situation as this Administration has been in getting down to business. So I refer him to the answers provided to the last Council meeting when he asked the same question.

In addition to that, we are currently in discussion with a Young Entrepreneur of the Year about using one of the Council's buildings for a Tech Hub in Enfield. This project is one of many new strands we are pursuing.

As far as the Careers Service is concerned we are about to re-structure this element of the Council to place this area of service delivery into the Economic Development division to ensure a more immediate and direct link from the Employment and Skills for Work areas and into the Business functions which will then promote an improved transition from school to employment.

Lastly, I am proud of Councillor Dines for realising that the job market in Central / East London is not the same as in Enfield. It means he has finally digested the answer we gave him to this question a month ago, which is a positive development.

**Question 46 from Councillor Dines to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council**

Does Councillor Taylor agree with me that it is correct that Enfield Council employees, if they choose to join a Union, opt-in to pay an annual amount to the Labour Party rather than opt-out as has previously been the case?

**Reply from Councillor Taylor**

I do not believe that this is an appropriate question for Councillors Questions. It is not for me to pontificate on the views of Enfield's employees.

**Question 47 from Councillor Dines to Councillor Sitkin, Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Business Development**

The owners of the retail park on the A10 have done a superb job in attracting tenants. With Next/Next at Home and Aldi joining Nike, Sports Direct, Nando's and Carphone Warehouse we have a very attractive retail destination in the Borough.

However, there can be no doubt that these stores, coupled with free parking, will inevitably have an impact on Enfield Town but also more broadly on areas such as Lancaster Road and the Hertford Road given the wide retail choice there and also with McDonald's/Krispy Kreme and Kentucky Fried Chicken next door. Has a retail impact assessment been drawn up within the Council and what is the Council doing to ensure our town centres and major retail roads thrive alongside the retail park?

**Reply from Councillor Sitkin**

We are in the process of gathering data to gauge the impact of such sites in relation to town centres such as Enfield. We are also setting up Town Teams with town centre businesses which places them at the heart of the town centre and any improvement process. It is also a way to improve the relationship between the Council and the retail business community and to determine a longer term future plan. Initial findings are that town centres may have to position themselves differently in the future and attract a different kind of consumer not least of which driven by the massive change in habits to internet shopping.

**Question 48 from Councillor Chamberlain to Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment**

What was the income for the last three financial years, broken down by ward of each Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) in the London Borough of Enfield and the cost of running the CPZ, including the cost of enforcement and income in enforcement fines?

**Reply from Councillor Anderson**

Please see appendix – CPZ Enforcement Costs 2015.

**Question 49 from Councillor Chamberlain to Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment**

How many items for disposal have been collected by waste services in direct collections from resident's homes over each of the past five years?

**Reply from Councillor Anderson**

This question is nigh on impossible to answer and one that even Albert Einstein would have difficulty trying to determine.

**Question 50 from Councillor Dines to Councillor Sitkin, Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Business Development**

Croydon Council has proclaimed that it is London's fastest growing tech cluster, achieving 23% growth in new tech and media businesses since 2011, higher than London as a whole (17.1%) and the UK (11.3%). Croydon has over 1,000 digital, creative and software businesses. Why, given Croydon is as far away (if not further away) from the Old Street area has Enfield nowhere near as good a track record in attracting tech start-ups to the Borough?

**Reply from Councillor Sitkin**

The main reason for this is one of connectivity to Central London. Although further in distance terms Croydon is 15 minutes away on the mainline rail from London Bridge. One of the main attractions for this type of business is being close to Central London. As you are aware we are actively lobbying for improved rail links to Central London with more tracks and higher frequencies and faster services.

Another element of this answer is of course all the harm done to Enfield's good name by the old Conservative Administration. We are of course doing all we can to repair the damage done over the years.

**Question 51 from Councillor Dines to Councillor Sitkin, Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Business Development**

What is the Council's vision for making Enfield an attractive place for the private sector to grow?

**Reply from Councillor Sitkin**

The overarching vision is one of a balanced economy that is set well for the future in terms of trends on social demographic growth and the employment situation facing the UK. As London runs out of space and the prices become debilitating Enfield will be well placed to receive investors and sustained growth in the private sector. It is worth pointing out that the trading estates in the borough all operate at over 90% occupancy ratios so our issue is now one of available land and space.

**Question 52 from Councillor Dines to Councillor Sitkin, Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Business Development**

Does he agree with me that Uber has been a great addition to the taxi/hire car scene in Enfield, offering residents who need to use a taxi/hire car additional choice?

**Reply from Councillor Sitkin**

While we have no specific data on the impact of schemes such as Uber this council is fully supportive of fair competition in an open market that will, in turn, provide and improved consumer offer and greater competitive choice.

**Question 53 from Councillor Dines to Councillor Oyken, Cabinet Member for Housing and Housing Regeneration**

Why did Enfield fail to meet its housing delivery targets in 2010-2013?

**Reply from Councillor Oyken**

Housing delivery in the borough over this period reflects the cyclical trends experienced in London as a whole and are the result of the wider economic factors, this also includes Change in Government policy in delivering affordable Housing. The London Plan Annual Monitoring Report (March 2015) shows that across London there was a dip in delivery in the years to 2010/11 followed by a fluctuating recovery.

Enfield's recovery has been stronger due to the proactive work underway at Meridian Water and other Council housing schemes being brought forward, this was also helped by our innovative approach to increase supply, which is now being adopted by other Local authorities. These will contribute to making up the shortfall from earlier years and the Council is now on course to exceed the borough's new housing targets published by the London Mayor earlier this year.

**Question 54 from Councillor Alessandro Georgiou to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Education, Children's Services and Protection**

Given that the Education secretary has announced the further rolling out of 500 free schools, will the Cabinet Member for Education support any applications for free schools in Enfield?

**Reply from Councillor Orhan**

I am sure Councillor Georgiou will be pleased to hear that the provision of sufficient high quality places for all children and young people Enfield remains a priority for this

administration. Our schools expansion programme has been extremely successful so far and has included expanding existing schools and working with a number of free school and academy sponsors. We have no intentions of changing our strategy but I can assure you that our focus remains on providing schools that all can be proud of.

**Question 55 from Councillor Alessandro Georgiou to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Education, Children’s Services and Protection**

Does Councillor Orhan agree that a renewed impetus has to be found in building more schools in the borough?

**Reply from Councillor Orhan**

As I have already stated to Councillor Georgiou our schools expansion programme continues and will continue to ensure that we have sufficient high quality places in primary, secondary and special schools. We are just about to publish our next school expansion report and Councillor Georgiou can be reassured to see that the impetus has always been there and will be maintained.

**Question 56 from Councillor Alessandro Georgiou to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Education, Children’s Services and Protection**

Will Councillor Orhan accept that not enough schools in demanding catchment areas in the borough have expanded to meet the additional demand?

**Reply from Councillor Orhan**

There will always be challenges in urban areas where there are popular schools. We expanded schools that were suitable in terms of space and willing to work with us to increase capacity. The areas of pressure remain the central and south western areas of the borough and our existing proposals to provide additional primary places at Grovelands and Chase Farm will enable us to continue to meet demand.

In the longer term we will be investigating permanent primary provision at Broomfield. For secondary places, the simple fact is that the government has not given us the funding to deliver any additional places. We are pleased that there is likely to be a proposal for a new secondary school in the west of the borough but will have to see if there is a formal application to the Education Funding Agency for a new school.

**Question 57 from Councillor Alessandro Georgiou to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Education, Children’s Services and Protection**

Will Councillor Orhan stand with the Conservative Party in making sure that if there are an failing schools in our borough they should seriously consider turning into academies?

**Reply from Councillor Orhan:**

Councillors will, I am sure, join me to congratulate our schools on their drive to ensure that outcomes are improved for all our children and on the improvement in their results over time. They should also be aware that no school in Enfield is currently judged to be failing and that the percentage of good and outstanding schools continues to rise. My officers in Schools & Children's Services have a clear and comprehensive School Intervention and Support Strategy and their support and challenge to schools which are underperforming is regularly praised by Ofsted. As part of that strategy we work with all headteachers and governing bodies to develop agreed action plans to bring about the improvement needed. Actions discussed with every school in that position include organisational change and changes to leadership and management. I am happy to ensure that copies of the strategy are available to councillors and they will see that no solution is ruled out and that the one that is most appropriate to the school is chosen to drive the required improvement. We have one free school and one academy that are identified as Requires Improvement to be Good (RIG). Just becoming an academy does not mean that they will become better.

**Question 58 from Councillor Alessandro Georgiou to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Education, Children's Services and Protection**

Can Councillor Orhan give specific details to full Council on a ward by ward basis of the number of primary and secondary school place shortages? Furthermore, will she work with the councillors in each ward to alleviate this problem?

**Reply from Councillor Orhan**

We regularly review information about the demand for school places. Whilst elected members will inevitably be interested in their wards, the Greater London Authority (GLA) do not provide their school roll projections by ward geography. They are provided by larger pupil place planning areas. As part of delivering our expansion schemes we always keep ward councillors updated on plans once officers are sure they are feasible and can move to delivery.

**Question 59 from Councillor Alessandro Georgiou to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Education, Children's Services and Protection**

Will Councillor Orhan express shared delight with the Conservative group about the government's new policy of 30 hours of free childcare, saving £5,000 for each of our boroughs hardworking families with young children?

**Reply from Councillor Orhan**

I am of course pleased that the government has recognised the need to invest in early years provision but would be interested to see how that £5,000 saving mentioned in the question will be achieved. I am concerned that it will be at local authorities expense and will mean that other funds will have to be diverted from other much needed developments to provide the large number of additional places. I would have much preferred a more strategic and measured approach to early intervention and prevention so that it can be implemented as part of a planned response to the local needs of our children and sustained as they move into full time

schooling. I am very concerned that we avoid knee jerk responses and are able to increase provision that is of the highest quality and brings about the most impact to our increasingly needy population.

**Question 60 from Councillor Alessandro Georgiou to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Education, Children's Services and Protection**

Now we have a majority Conservative government that has expressed its desire to extend the number of free schools and academies, will Councillor Orhan change her mind and support the measures taken by this government in education as they relate to provision within the borough?

**Reply from Councillor Orhan**

I want all Enfield Education provision, whatever its organisational structure, whether it is a children's centre, a private nursery or a school to be good and outstanding. I already work with and encourage all the providers in Enfield to do that. I would of course support any measure that is proven to provide the number of high quality, cost effective places where they are needed and that demonstrate that they deliver the best outcomes for our children and young people. I am not at all convinced that the new government's measures are supported by any evidence that they will meet the needs of Enfield children and young people.

**Question 61 from Councillor Rye to Councillor A Cazimoglu, Cabinet Member Health and Social Care**

May I congratulate Councillor Cazimoglu on her appointment to the Cabinet and can she inform the Council of her objectives for her portfolio over the next 12 months?

**Reply from Councillor Cazimoglu**

The Council is undergoing a significant period of transformation as we all know and Adult Social Care has more than its fair share of challenges, including the most significant changes in legislation for 60 years and large budget reductions as a result of government funding cuts. Therefore, it is more important than ever that we continue to make sure that:

- We work to help keep people safe from harm and abuse. Our new multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH) is now in place which brings together professionals across a range of organisations, including health and the police, and we continue to monitor how well we continue to respond to this critical area of activity.
- Where we can work more efficiently to deliver savings or do things differently to meet people's needs we will do this but we will also be clear and up front about the risks involved. Ensuring that we are able to meet growing demand within the reduced resources available will remain a key priority in this and future years.

- Our duty to improve the health and wellbeing of vulnerable people in the borough will place a particular focus on how well we provide information and advice as well as other key services which help to reduce or prevent the need for access to health and social care services. We want to ensure that people have true equality when it comes to health and wellbeing, irrespective of background, socio-economic circumstances or where they live in our borough.
- With all the change that is taking place we must not forget the staff and wider social care workforce who are being asked to deliver this change. It is an absolute priority that we support and develop our people to face the changes and challenges, and that we prioritise the delivery of front line services to our most vulnerable people. We want to develop and retain well trained people to provide the services we really need to ensure that Enfield is a borough which not only attracts but retains the brightest and best.
- The personalisation of adult social care services, providing more choice and control for people over their lives and making sure that the services which people need and want are of a high quality, the kind of quality we would want for ourselves or our own nearest and dearest is really important. We also need to make sure that, when we plan for and develop these services we do so, in partnership with the people involved, to make sure we get it right.
- The successful implementation of our new duties under the Care Act, in particular ensuring Carers receive the advice and support they need to continue their invaluable contribution, will also remain a priority.

**Question 62 from Councillor Rye to Councillor A Cazimoglu, Cabinet Member Health and Social Care**

What future does she expect for Care Homes directly owned by the London Borough of Enfield?

**Reply from Councillor Cazimoglu**

The Councillor will be aware that the Council intends to close two of its current three residential care homes, Coppice Wood Lodge and Bridge House and to build a new dual registered nursing/residential care home on the site previously occupied by Elizabeth House on the Hertford Road. The Council will continue to review its portfolio of provided services to make sure they provide the highest possible quality at a sustainable price which represents best value for money and, where it is appropriate, to develop new provision.

**Question 63 from Councillor Fallart to Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment**

There is an ongoing problem of fly tipping on the section of Turkey Street between the New River Bridge and the junction with Bulls Cross. Could Councillor Anderson please commit to keeping this area clean and clear of dumped rubbish and would he consider installing CCTV and attempt to catch the culprits?

### **Reply from Councillor Anderson**

If our records indicate that this area is a flytipping hotspot, then we will investigate the issue.

### **Question 64 from Councillor J Charalambous to Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment**

In the autumn of 2014 I began discussions with the Highways and Transportation team about the introduction of cycle racks close to the Hadley Wood shopping parade and train station. I feel that their introduction would increase the number of rail and shop users arriving by bike rather than car, and I have been contacted by a large number of local residents expressing their support for this initiative. Whilst the highways team seems supportive of the idea, I am disappointed by the delays for this relatively simple addition to the street scene which would have considerable public benefits. Will the Cabinet Member therefore support their introduction as soon as practically possible and do everything possible to ensure this?

### **Reply from Councillor Anderson**

Yes.

### **Question 65 from Councillor J Charalambous to Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment**

I welcome the decision by the former Cabinet Member for the Environment on 28 April to introduce yellow lines waiting restrictions on Duchy Road. This came after nearly two years of considerable public demands to introduce restrictions to prevent dangerously parked vehicles from blocking the very well-used junction with Lancaster Avenue. Of 106 respondents to a consultation in October 2014, 96.2% responded in favour of restrictions, however it took 6 months for the decision to be made following a 20 page report. Furthermore I note that £2,000 has been budgeted for this entire exercise – according to the Highways Team - this consists of a couple hundred pounds for the actual painting of less than 100 meters of yellow lines with the remainder spent on the writing of the report and council bureaucracy. At the time of writing the restrictions have still not been introduced.

Does the new Cabinet Member for the Environment think it is right that:

- 1) Such a long delay to introduce a low cost measure of considerable and widespread public support in the interest of public safety is justified?
- 2) That it is right that so much money is spent on council bureaucracy rather than the actual painting of the lines?

### **Reply from Councillor Anderson**

The restrictions in Duchy Road have now been implemented. Whilst there was strong support from residents for some form of parking restriction, Councillor Charalambous omits to mention that there were significantly different views about the extent of the restrictions required. All of these views had to be carefully

considered before a final design could be taken forward.

The cost of this and similar schemes is largely determined by the consultation and traffic order making process, which is a statutory requirement.

## **Section 2: Questions to Associate Cabinet Members**

### **Question 66 from Councillor Chamberlain to Councillor Savva, Associate Cabinet Member for Enfield South East**

Could the Associate Cabinet Member please tell the Council what meetings he has attended and with whom since last Council meeting?

#### **Reply from Councillor Savva**

Thank you to Councillor Chamberlain for his question.

As Councillor Chamberlain knows my attendance record at council meetings is second to none and as an Associate Cabinet Member (ACM) I have again attended all the relevant meetings an ACM is to attend.

My commitment to the affairs of and loyalty to, the community is again 100%, be it as a councillor or ACM or even just a normal resident or family person.

I am proud of my record as a committed councillor having served for 29 years, and am looking forward to many more years serving as councillor the lovely people of this wonderful borough of ours that is called Enfield.

Of the many important meetings I have had I will mention one: that of the meeting with the Cabinet member Alan Sitkin and the Millfield Theatre Manager Paul Everitt in trying to build once again the community life and spirit that was lost by your Tory side, for example with the closure of the library that turned people away from an area that needs help.

### **Question 67 from Councillor Neville to Councillor B Charalambous, Associate Cabinet Member for Enfield West**

Could the Associate Cabinet Member please tell the Council what meetings he has attended and with whom since last Council meeting?

#### **Reply from Councillor B Charalambous**

Since the last Council meeting I have attended the following meetings:

27 May 2015 – Trent Park Working Group Meeting

2 June 2015 – Conservation Advisory Group

15 June 2015 – Cycle Enfield (West Enfield Partnership Board)\*

17 June 2015 – Cabinet \*

I have also had a number of informal briefings on a range of matters concerning issues relevant to Enfield West from senior officers of the Council.

\* meetings anticipated to attend at time answer was submitted

**Question 68 from Councillor Dines to Councillor Pite, Associate Cabinet Member for Enfield North**

Does the Associate Cabinet Member for Enfield North agree with me that if an excellent performing Free School or Academy School provider expresses an interest in solving the shortfall of secondary school place provision in central Enfield then the Cabinet Member for Education should do all that she can to ensure they come to the Borough?

**Reply from Councillor Pite**

I hope that it goes without saying that I would do everything I can to support the provision of good and outstanding schools in Enfield. Our administration has worked hard to ensure that all our existing providers in Enfield do exactly that. I am not sure that this government is doing all it can to ensure that these providers are then held to account for the education they deliver and I have concerns that Enfield children and young people who attend these schools get the same deal as children who attend maintained schools in Enfield. I am also a little surprised at Councillor Dines question as I am sure he is aware that the Council has little involvement or influence with the selection process for academies and free schools. He will also be aware that they have been agreed in some cases where there is no need for increased places causing real problems for local authorities to plan effectively for schools places in a measured and cost effective way.

**Question 69 from Councillor Dines to Councillor Pite, Associate Cabinet Member for Enfield North**

Does Councillor Pite agree with me that people's own ideological views on school provision should not stand in the way of ensuring that children in Enfield receive a great education?

**Reply from Councillor Pite**

I can say without hesitation that nothing should stand in the way of children receiving the education that they need, that gives them the best chance of developing into healthy, happy and successful members of society.

This is why I have serious reservations about the ideological positions of the former and current secretaries of state for education, as well as the member opposite, in supporting the expenditure of millions of pounds on the educational experiment that is the Free Schools Programme. Nothing is proven about free schools, the project is wholly ideologically based. Indeed free schools are now discredited in Sweden, the source of the previous Secretary of State's inspiration. There is no evidence that they are "great". If the member opposite is keen to know how great schools come about I suggest he refers to the research into the London Challenge and its success

in turning round London schools, now amongst the best performing in the country. Alternatively I suggest he visits some of Enfield's great maintained schools to see how it's done.

**Question 70 from Councillor J Charalambous to Councillor B Charalambous, Associate Cabinet Member for Enfield West**

I welcome the establishment of the Trent Park Working Group which first met on 27 May 2015 following the decision taken at full Council on 25 March 2015. I am pleased to be sitting on this committee with Councillors Neville, Laban, B Charalambous, Anderson and Sitkin.

With Jones Lang LaSalle, the receivers, actively marketing the site for sale, the commercial reality is that a new owner will likely emerge soon. As the Chair of the working group, will he ensure that we meet regularly and continue to be provided with up-to-date information and resources from Council officers to ensure the group is well equipped to exert influence of the future of the site in fulfilment of the group's terms of reference? Also for the benefit of Council colleagues and the public will he outline the group's terms of reference?

**Reply from Councillor Charalambous**

At the 27 May 2015 meeting of the working group at which the councillor was present it was unanimously agreed that the group would meet as and when required. I fully expect the working group will abide by its terms of reference which will be made available online for all to see. I have every confidence that the working group is properly funded and will exert the appropriate level of influence subject to all members of the working group agreeing to work together and speak with one voice and act in unison.