

Questions 24 September 2015

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

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

Could the Leader of the Council tell the Council if he has seen the article on the BBC website published 7 September 2015 about temporary housing in the London boroughs? The article reveals some staggering facts as a result of a Freedom of Information request, significantly that over the years 2012-2015 Enfield has had the highest spend on temporary accommodation – **in excess of £81million.**

- a) In the light of this will he tell the Council what steps he is taking to ensure that only those who are genuinely homeless within the meaning of the legislation are housed in Enfield?
- b) What steps he has or is taking to spread the burden as other London Boroughs have by relocating those households genuinely accepted as homeless in other parts of London and the south east?
- c) What action he has taken to raise the matter with London Councils to ensure that this matter is brought to the attention of government to seek a review of both the Homeless Person's Legislation and the Guidance thereon?

### **Reply from Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council**

The figures quoted in the article are the gross costs to the Council of temporary accommodation and do not account for the rental income received from the households, currently housed by the Council, in accordance with its statutory duties. However, the rise in homeless households in Enfield and across the rest of London is unacceptable. There is a correlation between the rise in homelessness, an overheated housing market and the Government's welfare reforms.

If this question is intended to highlight the waste of public money that is resulting from the Government's badly designed housing policies, I agree that this money would be better invested in decent affordable housing, which gives families a settled home and children the best start in life.

- A) The Council's housing services are coping with a housing crisis, which include preventative services to maintain the current home or a swift move to an alternative home which avoids the homelessness crisis wherever possible. Most of our families are homeless as a result of the ending of a private tenancy, so there are times when the law requires a family to be housed while investigations are undertaken to ensure that they are genuinely entitled to help. If our help is not appropriate, alternative arrangements are made with Children's Services to move the family on.
- B) The Council's Housing Procurement team locates the most cost effective, suitable accommodation every day. This could be in Enfield or outside the borough. The team is mandated to achieve best value and the decision to be taken at the September 2015 Cabinet, to work collaboratively with three other

boroughs instead of competing against each other exemplifies this approach. Councillor Neville seems focused on location of accommodation, whereas my Administration is focused on achieving value in a challenging market.

- C) As the housing crisis worsens under this Government's housing policies, I can assure Councillor Neville that the relentless pressures facing all London boroughs, is a matter of constant scrutiny for me and every other Council Leader at London Councils.

My experience tells me that no matter who advises this Government on the impact of their housing policies, and the inexorable shift away of investment of public money in stable good quality affordable housing, towards the private rented sector and the costs to society - both direct and indirect - they won't listen!

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

In the budget in July 2015, the Chancellor increased insurance premium tax from 6% to 9.5% in November. Can the Leader of the Council say what will this mean for Enfield motorists?

### **Reply from Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council**

This appears to be yet another stealth tax. The AA warns, for example, that car insurance costs could increase by 10% by Christmas costing motorists an average extra £53. In addition, breakdown insurance and other associated insurance will rise. All of this dwarfs any increases in parking charges in the past few years. I assume Conservative Members, who are keen to display their pro-motorist credentials, will be condemning the Chancellor for this stealth tax attack on motorists.

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

As the Prime Minister remarked recently, no-one could fail to be moved by the images shown during recent days of the tragic loss of life of two young children seeking refuge from Syria. That said, does he agree that the new tranche of refugees accepted by the government as part of its contribution to the international community's reaction to the Syrian crisis, should be located outside of London given the enormous pressures already existing within London and in particular within Enfield?

### **Reply from Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council**

Government has to ensure that we meet our moral and international obligations properly. This means that **all** costs of resettlement and ongoing support (direct and indirect) should be met by the National Exchequer. London should play its part but, with all boroughs, that should not be done so as to destabilise the fragile housing market. Enfield will work with the Mayor of London, other London boroughs, DCLG and the Home Office to achieve this.

**Question 4 from Councillor Barry to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Education, Children's Services & Protection**

Would the Cabinet Member for Education, Children's Services & Protection share her concerns with the Council on the impact of the Government's austerity measures on Children Services and its likely impact on Enfield?

**Reply from Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Education, Children's Services & Protection**

The Government's austerity measures are already acting as an obstacle to the ability to truly thrive for some families and children in Enfield.

Levels of child and family poverty in the borough remain high at 29.6% of children aged under 16 years living in poverty, despite the tireless efforts we make to build resilience within our communities. Children and young people make up 27.7% of our total population, this is 4% above the national average, and the numbers living in the borough are increasing each year, with the complexity of those families increasing too.

**Question 5 from Councillor Rye to Councillor A Cazimoglu, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care**

At the Council Meeting on 24 June 2015 there was insufficient time to debate Report Number 12 Re-provision Project-Construction Contract to commission the design and construction of a dual registered care home and then procure the service delivery aspect of the project separately.

Would she therefore inform the Council why it has taken more than 5 years to develop this much needed facility on the Elizabeth House site given that when the Labour Party took control of the Council in 2010 this site was already vacant?

**Reply from Councillor A Cazimoglu, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care**

The rapidly changing financial and market environment over the period has had a profound impact on the procurement of the Re-provision Project and also similar services in the department (for example Honeysuckle House and Parkview House care homes). Demolition of Elizabeth House was completed in January 2012. During 2012, the Council sought to procure the service twice as a design, build, operate, maintain model without success as service providers appeared not to view local authority contracts as attractive as they may previously have found. It was felt that this was probably due to significant changes in market conditions, meaning that these contracts are less profitable and therefore higher risk. Furthermore, the construction sector has been affected disproportionately since the recession of 2008, and in early 2012 the construction contracting industry returned to recession for the third time in 5 years. In July 2013, Cabinet and full Council agreed to commission the design and construction of a dual registered care home and procure service separately. Design work was undertaken and Morgan Sindall were appointed for pre-

construction services in August 2014. The planning application for the new home was submitted in October 2014 and permission was granted subject to conditions in December 2014, following a partial redesign of the building to address conservation issues in relation to the Almshouses which are adjacent to the site. In June 2015, Morgan Sindall were appointed for the construction of the new care home and work commenced on site on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2015.

**Question 6 from Councillor Abdullahi to Councillor Brett, Cabinet Member for Community Organisation and Culture**

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has admitted using made-up stories from fictional claimants to demonstrate the positive impact of benefit sanctions. At a previous Council meeting the Labour side raised major concerns on benefit sanctions.

A DWP leaflet featured one welfare claimant, "Sarah", who said she was "really pleased" a cut to her benefits had encouraged her to improve her CV. But after a Freedom of Information request by the website Welfare Weekly, the DWP said they were not real claimants.

Given the previous concerns raised, does the Cabinet Member believe that this "confusion marketing" to support a political approach is wholly reprehensible and the Secretary of State should apologise?

**Reply from Councillor Brett, Cabinet Member for Community Organisation and Culture**

I completely agree with Councillor Abdullahi, the use of confusion marketing is wholly inappropriate when dealing with some of the most vulnerable in our community and the Minister for the Department for Work and Pensions should apologise for this unacceptable practice in his department.

Members may be aware that more than 2 million people have been sanctioned in the last two years. The DWP claims this is a last resort. In fact the experience of many does not bear this out. A resident of mine recently had her benefits terminated without any explanation at all. The sanctions section seemed to have been skipped altogether. The person is now having their claim resurrected by the CAB. The trauma and worry it has caused are unquantifiable.

People have been sanctioned for arriving a couple of minutes late, had their appointments abruptly cancelled and families have been left destitute without money for heating or food.

The so called case studies used for illustrative purposes have done nothing other than sow confusion and more fear in the minds of benefits claimants, particularly those with mental health issues and disabilities whose needs are little understood by many of the job centre staff in the first place. I have direct experience of assisting some of our residents and was concerned by the lengths they would have to go to prove eligibility.

I thank Councillor Abdullahi for raising this question because it allows me to share this information.

**Question 7 from Councillor Rye to Councillor A Cazimoglu, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care**

Given the length of time it has taken the Labour administration to procure a dual registered care home and procure a delivery aspect for the project at the Elizabeth House site, what reassurance can she give the Council that her department will be more successful and act in a more timely manner in re-providing the two Local Authority run Care Homes at Coppice Wood Lodge and Bridge House in a new single purpose built building. What date can she give the Council for this to be delivered?

**Reply from Councillor A Cazimoglu, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care**

Officers have commenced work to procure a service provider for the new facility and have arranged a market engagement event for the 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2015 to share the Council's vision for service provision, determine the market's appetite for the contract opportunity and to seek input in to the service design. Practical completion of the building is anticipated in November 2016 and this will be followed by a fit-out period by the service provider to install equipment and furniture. It is expected that the new home will be operational by the end of 2016. At this point residents of both Coppice Wood and Bridge House will transfer to the new facility.

**Question 8 from Councillor Lemonides to Councillor Sitkin, Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Business Development**

Would the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Business Development update the Council on the Silicon Enfield initiative?

**Reply from Councillor Sitkin, Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Business Development**

We are actively following up on an option to make use of Winchmore Hill Library as a venue for a Tech Hub that this Administration has taken the initiative of launching. This will be in partnership with our Enterprise Agency and young entrepreneurs in the borough and will provide anything from teaching budding entrepreneurs to write and prepare 'code' to develop computer programming, to helping users get the most out of their smart phone and tablets in order to maximise their business opportunities.

**Question 9 from Councillor Rye to Councillor A Cazimoglu, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care**

At the Cabinet Meeting on 22 July 2015 that you were unable to attend, a report was tabled in your name on the Future Nursing and Residential Dementia Care Provision at Honeysuckle House, which set out that this contract with Care UK was "distressed" as it had run out of time following a failed procurement by your

department. Care UK could have walked away from this contract but out of a commitment to the residents have continued to provide the service. The report agreed a further three year contract with Care UK at which point a resolution would need to be found for the future of this facility or its replacement. What action is she taking to ensure the future re-provision of Honeysuckle House either on the present site or elsewhere? How will she guarantee to the Council that the unfavourable financial penalties on a potential closure of Honeysuckle House will be avoided by new provision within the three year timeframe that the contract has set?

**Reply from Councillor A Cazimoglu, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care**

A report is being submitted to Cabinet on 21<sup>st</sup> October to approve the direction of travel for Honeysuckle House and support the wider strategic aims of future nursing and residential dementia care in the borough. In addition, the report will seek approval for officers to explore proposals for the site of a new nursing dementia care home and report back to Cabinet in November with further recommendations.

**Question 10 from Councillor N Cazimoglu to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Education, Children's Services & Protection**

Would Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Education, Children's Services and Protection join me in thanking the staff in the schools support services as well as all staff, governors and pupils of schools in Enfield for their hard work which has resulted in an increasing numbers of Enfield schools being judged to be good or outstanding.

**Reply from Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Education, Children's Services & Protection**

87% of Enfield schools are now judged by Ofsted to be good or outstanding, which is significantly above the national average of 80% and above the London average of 85%. This improvement, up from 72% in 2012, reflects the enormously hard work of the schools themselves and the invaluable support of School Improvement Service.

**Question 11 from Councillor Anne-Marie Pearce to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Education, Children's Services and Protection**

Will the Cabinet Member update the Council on the progress (or lack of it) of the planned three form entry primary school on the Chase Farm Hospital site?

**Reply from Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Education, Children's Services and Protection**

The Council has been in extended negotiations with the Royal Free Trust in relation to the purchase of the 4 acre site on the Chase Farm site. Following confirmation of the sites value discussions are entering their final phase.

Whatever that decision is in relation to the land purchase, the Council is aware of its statutory duty to provide school places and the Council therefore continues to

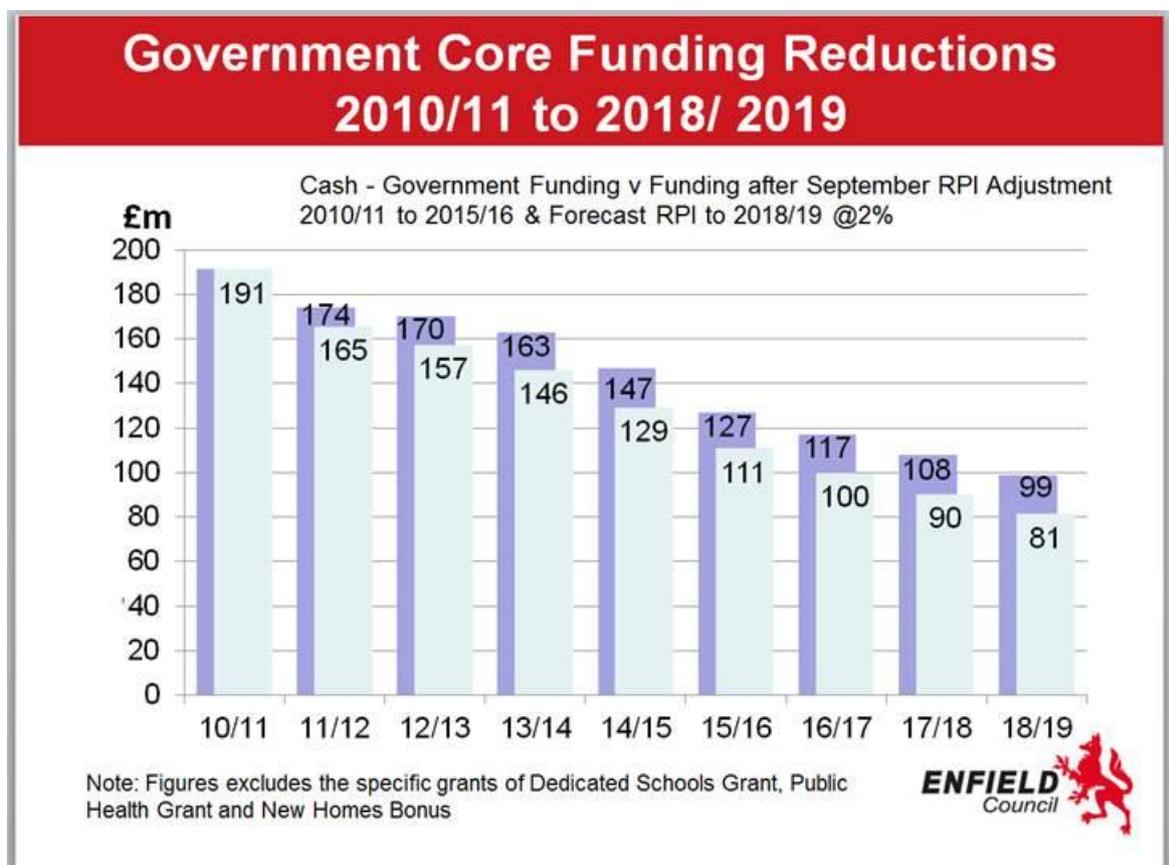
consider a range of further options to provide the necessary places.

**Question 12 from Councillor Chibah to Councillor Stafford, Cabinet Member for Finance & Efficiency**

Please could the Cabinet Member for Finance & Efficiency tell us how much in real terms the Government required the London Borough of Enfield to cut from its budget since 2010?

**Reply from Councillor Stafford, Cabinet Member for Finance & Efficiency**

Since 2010 the Government has reduced its support to the Council by £80m in real terms. This is shown on the slide below, along with current projections to 2018/19.



Dark blue = cash government funding

Lighter blue = funding after September RPI adjustment

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

On 8 August 2015 the Council permitted the FOUND organisation to hold an event at Trent Park, as a consequence of this numerous substantiated complaints were made.

- Drug use was observed from those going to the event, although it is believed that no arrests were made by the Police Officers present. Will Councillor Anderson, through his officers determine, whether this was the case and if so, why no arrests were made? Does he agree that it is acceptable as a matter of principle that drug use should be able to occur in residential areas but there should be no arrests?
- A significant number of nitrous oxide canisters were discarded in and around the park. It is acknowledged that it is a legal substance so the Council and the Police have limited powers to address it. However consideration could be given to the introduction of a Public Spaces Protection Order to control the use of legal highs such as nitrous oxide within the borough's parks. Will Councillor Anderson undertake to give this consideration and if so, within what timescale?
- Participants were urinating in public (mainly along the Cockfosters Road). What steps will Councillor Anderson take to ensure that the number of marshals be increased for both the ingress and egress from the event to get people safely from the station to the park with minimal disruption to the surrounding area and to stipulate the use of Police Officers as part of this presence?
- The FOUND organisers had bought in a police presence (6 officers and dogs) but it is understood that these officers mainly remained within the park and this was inadequate. Will Councillor Anderson undertake that going forward the number of police officers that attend these large scale events will be stipulated and the locations that they are to be positioned, defined?
- The FOUND organisers did not deliver some of the pre-agreed traffic management arrangements as a consequence of which local residents experienced significant disruption. Officers have confirmed they are now looking into working with an industry leading traffic management company for any large scale events in Trent Park which has delivered successful traffic management during other events. Will Councillor Anderson ensure that such arrangements are put into effect prior to the next event?
- The plans that the event organisers had put in place to manage the litter were not delivered sufficiently with the result that Council officers on site arranged for additional Council resources to address the issue. Officers state that the event organisers will be expected to bear the cost of the additional litter picking that was necessary. Have the event organisers been charged and was a bond put in place? Officers have also confirmed that litter management may be one of the things that the Council takes responsibility for in future to prevent a similar situation at future events and recharges the organiser. Will Councillor Anderson ensure that such arrangements are put into effect by means of a bond?

I am aware that Council officers have stated that the above matters require consideration; my question is therefore directed at the cabinet Member to request that he takes responsibility for ensuring that these actions are put into effect.

### **Reply from Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment**

Yes, I will review the recommendations from officers to ensure the matters are addressed going forward.

### **Question 14 from Councillor During to Councillor Brett, Cabinet Member for Community Organisations & Culture**

Enfield's CCTV station has been the recipient of a recent award. Could the Cabinet Member for Community Organisations & Culture please share this information and any recent successes in deterring crime as a consequence?

### **Reply from Councillor Brett, Cabinet Member for Community Organisations & Culture**

The Enfield Public Safety Centre (EPSC) has been recognised by the Metropolitan Police Service this year by receiving 7 commendations at its first ever CCTV awards ceremony at Scotland Yard, and recently audited to the highest industry standards for alarms and CCTV operations. exceeding other CCTV centres in London

We have increased the number of street and estate cameras to 332 and now monitor more incidents (7,480 in the last five months since April) and assisting the police with more arrests (748 since April) and recovery of property to the value of £174,000 this year than ever before. Our quality of service has been taken up by LB Barnet operating from our centre, and we intend to market our range of services to other boroughs, partner agencies and the private sector.

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

Could the Cabinet Member for Environment explain why our highways contractor has not been able to complete 21 projects within the permit time given and what his department is doing to contract manage better to make sure that in future the contractor delivers?

### **Reply from Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment**

The Council's Highway contractor was appointed through the Mayor of London's LOHAC framework. This is Transport for London (TFL)'s preferred route for contracting these services. Unfortunately, the service provider has failed to deliver a number of projects on time and we are therefore currently reviewing our options moving forward. The Opposition will note that we have already re-tendered our crossover services to save taxpayers hundreds of pounds.

### **Question 16 from Councillor Jiajge to Councillor A Cazimoglu, Cabinet Member for Health & Social Care**

Can the Cabinet Member for Health & Social Care set out the risks facing adult social care and associated impact on the borough in the light of the Chancellor's

recent budget announcement seeking 25% and 40% reductions from the Department of Communities & Local Government?

**Reply from Councillor A Cazimoglu, Cabinet Member for Health & Social Care**

There is absolutely no doubt that our health and social care system is under increasing pressure. With a growing population and increasing numbers of people needing our help, Adult Social Care currently has a net budget in 2015/16 of £80.8m, delivering net savings over the last four years of 16% or £15.2m. The gross saving is over 20% but the generation of increased income through such things as maximising disability benefit uptake for our service users, has meant more money has been available for the delivery of front line services. The current savings requirement will reduce by 2019 the net budget by a further £19.8m to £61m. This is equivalent to a 25% reduction or a quarter of the entire budget. Whilst priority will be given to maintaining front line service delivery, a saving of this magnitude will result in cuts to the services we deliver for some of the most vulnerable people in our borough. We will of course continue to ensure that we achieve good value for money in the services which we buy, to manage risk and to work with partners across the Council, community and other statutory partners such as health to deliver services which are more preventative in nature. However, we do need to be absolutely clear that there will very tough times ahead for both Adult Social Care and for the Council. It is for that reason that we need to continue to do all we can to press government for a fairer funding settlement for Enfield and to be absolutely clear and transparent about our priorities across this Council.

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

Could the Cabinet Member for Environment confirm that charging for green waste collection will not be introduced in order to pay for the increase in the costs of the co-mingled dry recycling, mixed organic wastes and garden waste contract?

**Reply from Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment**

Yes.

**Question 18 from Councillor Hamilton to Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment**

The Communities and Local Government Select Committee stated that the Government showed a lack of vigour if not complacency on fly-tipping. At the last Council meeting it was agreed that both groups would jointly write to the Minister. Can the Cabinet Member for Environment update the Council on the Government's response?

**Reply from Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment**

The Minister, rather than respond directly chose instead to forward the letter to Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)'s Customer Contact Unit. I attach the very disappointing response, which as you will see lacks any

understanding of the need for action and clearly demonstrates that the Government is complacent on fly tipping. Given the letter was a result of a unanimously agreed Council motion, signed by senior members from both groups, I can't express my level of dissatisfaction highly enough.

DEFRA replied to the joint letter of Councillors Anderson and Laban on the 13<sup>th</sup> August 2015 thanking the Council for its letter of the 23<sup>rd</sup> July. Charlotte Wicker, who replied on behalf of the Secretary of State, states that the Government shares the Council's concerns about fly tipping and litter and is considering the introduction of a Fixed Penalty Notice for fly tipping as well as reviewing fixed penalties for littering. An announcement will be made in due course in relation to Fixed Penalty Notices for fly tipping.

The Secretary of State declines to comment about the investment of landfill tax funds as all tax matters are a matter for HM Treasury. However, it is pointed out in the reply that £5m in 2014 and £4.2m in 2015 has been made available to the Environment Agency to tackle general waste crime, although this is not specifically targeted to fly tipping. In general, the Secretary of State supports any initiative that helps landowners clear their land of fly tipping more efficiently. However, DeFRA couldn't understand our request for a 7 day enforcement process on private land.

The full text of the reply is below for Council's information:-

Fly-tipping

Thank you for your letter of 23 July to the Secretary of State about fly-tipping and creating a National Litter Strategy. I have been asked to reply.

We welcome the Communities and Local Government Select Committee's recommendations to the inquiry into litter and fly-tipping, and we are considering them carefully. We will respond to the Inquiry report in due course.

We share your concern about fly-tipping which is a significant blight on local communities, a potential source of pollution and danger to public health and wildlife. It also undermines legitimate waste businesses where unscrupulous operators undercut those that operate within the law and is a drain on local authorities that clear it up. Tackling fly-tipping is a priority for Government and we are taking forward proposals to introduce Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) for fly-tipping as well as reviewing the existing FPNs for littering. FPNs for fly-tipping will provide local authorities with an alternative to prosecution and will help them tackle small-scale localised fly-tipping. We will be making further announcements about FPNs for fly-tipping in due course following our assessment of the responses to the recent call for evidence on waste crime.

You asked about reinvestment of landfill tax receipts. Tax is a matter for HM Treasury. You will be interested to know that the Government provided £5m in the Budget 2014, and an additional £4.2m in the March Budget 2015, from the Landfill Communities Fund (which is funded through landfill tax) to help the Environment

Agency tackle waste crime and poor performance in a part of the waste industry. This funding is not targeted at fly-tipping though a significant proportion of this is being used to support speedier and tougher enforcement. As a result of this a number of cases are being taken forward for enforcement action.

We are unclear about your reference to a 7 day enforcement process for dealing with waste on private land. We are aware that in some cases landowners are the victims of fly-tipping and have to bear the cost of clearance. In other cases landowners take little or no action to remove fly-tipped waste. We support any mechanism to make it easier for landowners to do the right thing with waste fly-tipped on their land.

While it does not speed up the process for clearing waste on private land, the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 (Fines on Summary Conviction) Regulations 2015 came into force on 12 March. These Regulations removed the £50,000 limit for fines meaning the fine for a breach of a notice issued under Section 59 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 is now unlimited. This increase should act as an incentive and encourage landowners to remove my waste that is illegally deposited on their land.

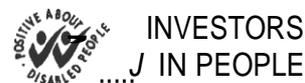
Additionally we have worked with the Sentencing Council on its new guideline to the courts on sentencing for environmental offences. The guideline, which came into force last year, should result in larger fines and community orders for serious offenders, thereby helping deter illegal dumping.

Thank you for raising your concerns on this important issue.

Yours sincerely,



Charlotte Wicker  
Defra - Customer Contact Unit



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

Does the Cabinet Member for Environment not agree that the North London Waste Authority's (NLWA) failure to rearrange its September meeting in order to allow those Councillors who serve on the authority to observe religious holidays shows an organisation that fails to understand the diversity of its 7 Member local authorities?

### **Reply from Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment**

The Authority meeting in September is set towards the end of the month, with the timing being set to allow for submission of the previous year's accounts by 30 September (a statutory deadline), with the accounts being finalised during September after (a) the external audit (which takes place in August) and (b) Member Finance Working Group (in early September). Over the last few years the meeting has taken place on dates between 22 and 29 September (the 29<sup>th</sup>, in particular, is extremely late, leaving little time to make amendments if necessary after any Member decision). Constraints on the date include political party conferences as well as Jewish holidays.

This year, the date was fixed to meet those requirements, and also the Chair's availability. Note was taken of Jewish holidays at that time. Yom Kippur is the evening of the 22<sup>nd</sup> and the day of 23 September. There is a further Jewish holiday (Sukkot) that begins on the evening of the 27 September culminating on the 4 October.

The proposed date did not therefore fall on a holiday date. At the June meeting, Members asked if the date could be reviewed, as there would be difficulty in attending for anyone who wanted to go to Israel for the period of the holidays. An alternative of 22 September was proposed and canvassed. Based on the responses received during the canvass of alternative dates, moving to the 22<sup>nd</sup> would have meant that Members from at least two other authorities would not have been able to attend – representation from the seven boroughs at the alternative date would have therefore been less than the 25<sup>th</sup> if the meeting was moved. The 25<sup>th</sup> was therefore confirmed, being the most appropriate date. I will be attending the meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

### **Question 20 from Councillor Jemal to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council**

The change in pension tax relief will bring in about £4bn of extra tax between 2016 and 2021. Enfield residents who are high earners will obviously lose out through this new change. Can the Leader of the Council comment on the impact on Enfield residents.

### **Reply from Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council**

The impact of this change in tax relief is as you say. Whatever the merits of the proposal I agree with the last Pensions Minister who said, "The Government will

create ludicrous complexity”.

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

At the 2014 local elections, the Labour Party in Enfield made a manifesto commitment to provide an additional Household Waste and Recycling Centre but yet to date no information has been published on the timescale for delivery. Would the Cabinet Member for Environment inform the chamber what the estimated opening date is for this new facility?

**Reply from Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment**

Yes, we did make a commitment because the previous Conservative administration closure of the Carterhatch site was a disastrous decision and a snub to the East of the Borough.

Clearly Councillor Laban has forgotten that the provision of a Resource Recovery Facility (HWRC) was directly referenced within the recent NLWA phase II public consultation proposals for its heat and power project. For members of the opposition who haven't read this document, which is clearly important to the structure of Edmonton, details can be found at <http://www.northlondonheatandpower.london/consultation>

**Question 22 from Councillor Pite to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council**

Is the Leader concerned about the apparent lane closures on the M25 which impact on Enfield's road system?

**Reply from Councillor Taylor, the Leader of the Council**

I too am concerned about the frequency of the lane closures on the M25 and have asked officers to make enquiries with Connect Plus, who manage the M25 on behalf of Highways England.

All planned closures are undertaken between 2200 and 0530 hours to minimise disruption. There is no doubt however, that those incidents which occur on the section of the M25 near Enfield and which result in traffic delays on the motorway do have a knock on effect and increased disruption on Enfield's local road network. This is very difficult to manage however, and generally can only be alleviated through temporary traffic signal timing changes in response to the live traffic circumstances.

**Question 23 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Oyken, Cabinet Member for Housing and Housing Regeneration**

Does the Cabinet Member for Housing and Housing Regeneration not agree that the proposed introduction of parking permits in selected estates only adds bureaucracy and increases costs to the Council housing department and fails to deal with the fundamental issue of kerb crawling and prostitution which is the rationale for this policy?

### **Reply from Councillor Oyken, Cabinet Member for Housing and Housing Regeneration**

Following an increase in the number of complaints from residents and concerns made apparent in the most recent tenant survey, the Council is conducting a review of parking on its housing estates. No final decision has been reached as to whether parking control will be implemented and any decision to go ahead will be based on solutions that are low cost and effective for residents and self-financing for Council housing. It is not envisaged that parking control will be required borough-wide and it is more likely that specific hotspots with particular issues will be identified.

It is incorrect to say that the Council sees parking control as a solution to drug dealing and prostitution on a few of its estates as powers exist to tackle such crimes under the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act. Rather its concern is the blocking of emergency access routes on its estates caused by inconsiderate parking and the inconvenience that residents suffer as a result of visitors from outside their area parking on their estate.

### **Question 24 from Councillor Stewart to Councillor Taylor, the Leader of the Council**

Opponents of landlord licensing often cited the cost for landlords - £500 for 5 years – and suggested this would be passed on to tenants. In the July 2015 budget the Chancellor changed the policy for buy to let. Can the Leader of the Council say how much will this cost landlords across the borough?

### **Reply from Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council**

A landlord with a property worth £300,000 and rental income of £15,000 a year will be as much as £2,500 worse off. (Sunday Times 12/7/15 quoting Knight Frank). That amounts to £12,500 over 5 years. In comparison with the proposed cost of landlord licensing this is a phenomenal loss of profit for a landlord. Presumably Conservative Members opposite have condemned the Chancellor for this new stealth tax – or perhaps they have ignored it.

### **Question 25 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Brett, Cabinet Community Organisations and Culture**

Does the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Community Safety not agree that the Council Housing Department's proposed policy of introducing parking permits in selected estates to stop kerb crawlers only deals with parking problems and completely ignores the fundamental problem of prostitution occurring on our estates?

### **Reply from Councillor Brett, Cabinet Community Organisations and Culture**

Following an increase in the number of complaints from residents and concerns made apparent in the most recent tenant survey, the Council is conducting a review of parking on its housing estates. This is linked with a wider piece of work targeting identified areas where there are high levels of reported or identified anti-social behaviour. (No final decision has been reached as to whether parking control will be

implemented and any decision to go ahead will be based on solutions that are low cost and effective for residents and self-financing for Council housing. It is not envisaged that parking control will be required borough-wide and it is more likely that specific hotspots with particular issues will be identified.)

It is incorrect to say that the Council sees parking control as a single solution to drug dealing and prostitution on a few of its estates as other powers exist to tackle such crimes under the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act. A more direct concern is the blocking of emergency access routes on its estates caused by inconsiderate parking and the inconvenience that residents suffer as a result of visitors from outside their area parking on their estate. It is however true that we have received reports of certain vehicles being used by prostitutes. These reports have come to light as a result of the targeted piece of work to tackle various types of crime and anti-social behaviour on certain estates, delivered in partnership with the police. In addition to prostitution we are aware that on occasion unregistered vehicles are used to store drugs and weapons, allowing easy access by criminals.

**Question 26 from Councillor Hasan to Councillor Keazor, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Sport**

Can the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Sport update Council colleagues on the popularity of Enfield's leisure centres, run by our partners, Fusion?

**Reply from Councillor Keazor, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Sport**

The Council and Fusion are working well together with numbers of participants rising. Over the three years from 2012/13 to 2014/15, attendances increased by 6%. In numbers, this is a rise from 1,756,640 in 2012/13 to 1,860,493 in 2014/15. As a comparison, in Quarter 1 of 2014/15 we had 466,008 participants and in Quarter 1 of 2015/16 we had 479,983. In other words, the first quarter attendances this year have increased by 3% in comparison with last year.

**Question 27 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Brett, Cabinet Member for Community Organisations and Culture**

Does the Cabinet Member with responsibility for community safety agree that working with the Metropolitan Police to combat prostitution on those estates affected is a better use of resource than the Council Housing Department's proposed parking permit scheme which would fail to deal with the bigger issue of prostitution and incur extra costs for the administration and enforcement of the scheme?

**Reply from Councillor Brett, Cabinet Member for Community Organisations and Culture**

Please refer to my previous response to Question 25.

**Question 28 from Councillor Maguire to Councillor Sitkin, Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Business Development**

Would the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration update the Council on

recent improvements in our methods of consulting with town centre retailers?

**Reply from Councillor Sitkin, Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Business Development**

We are about to launch the new Town Teams scheme in which the Council is putting together a new way of managing our town centres based on direct dialogue with businesses and retailers instead of working via a third party. This seems to be well received from the business world who are happy with our more direct approach leading to concrete outcomes.

At the same time we are also about to go live with our new web portal for the business world which will demonstrate a clearer line of engagement between businesses and the Council while providing a single clear route of entry for business communication.

**Question 29 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment**

Would he give the Council a breakdown of the £1.98million spent so far on the preparation for the Cycle Enfield proposals and the consultation process?

**Reply from Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment**

The breakdown is as follows:

Description	Expenditure to July 2015 £000s
Main road cycle routes	966
Quietway and Greenways	804
Quieter Neighbourhoods	205
Hubs	0
Severance sites	0
Supportive measures	5
Total	£1,980

The bulk of these costs has been for survey and design work.

**Question 30 from Councillor Simon to Councillor A Cazimoglu, Cabinet Member for Health & Social Care**

Can the Cabinet Member for Health & Social Care update Council on our important work to safeguarding adults?

**Reply from Councillor A Cazimoglu, Cabinet Member for Health & Social Care**

- The London Borough of Enfield achieved Gold Standard in Making Safeguarding Personal. The overarching intention of MSP is to facilitate person-centred, outcome-focused responses to adult safeguarding situations.
- We are one of the first London Boroughs to have set up an adult Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). The MASH is a range of professionals who receive alerts or concerns and through sharing information appropriately and including this wishes of the person being harmed, can make judgements on the most appropriate route to process the referral.
- Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2014-2015 has been published. Presented to Health and Wellbeing Board in July 2015 and going to Cabinet Oct 2015
- Launch on 30th September 2015 at Forty Hall of the Safeguarding Adults Board Strategy 2015-2018, new London wide Safeguarding Adults Policy and Procedures and the MASH
- Strengthened links with the Enfield Police and Safeguarding through fortnightly meetings to enable case progression; this has helped to facilitate two cases awaiting trial
- The Quality Checkers, who are service users and carers, continue to drive up quality in the services they visit. The quality checker program is working with Bournemouth University to develop a dignity focused social care app.
- Response to domestic abuse strengthened through training set up integrating safeguarding adults in cases of domestic abuse.
- Awareness raising with the Safeguarding Children's Board during Keep Safe Week Sept 28th to October 2nd 2015
- Supporting the completion of statutory 'Safeguarding Adults Reviews' as defined by the Care Act, when a person dies or is seriously injured and neglect or abuse may have been a contributory factor.
- The Safeguarding Adults Strategy 2015-2018 and its action plan sets out the activities planned.

**Question 31 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment**

Could he tell the Council how many responses there have been to the several consultation exercises in respect of the proposed Cycle Enfield arrangements?

**Reply from Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment**

The first round of public exhibitions held at Palmers Green, Enfield Town, Edmonton Green and Freezywater were attended by approximately 620 residents and the second exhibition at Palmers Green was attended by 440 residents.

The current consultation on A105 closes on the 9<sup>th</sup> October 2015.

**Question 32 from Councillor Dogan to Councillor Sitkin, Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Business Development**

Would the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration update the Council on how his Department's management of our relationship with stakeholders like Palace

Exchange, the Charitable Trust and local commercial agents is generating new dynamism in Enfield Town?

**Reply from Councillor Sitkin, Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Business Development**

Because we are talking directly to our businesses, we are earning a very high level of trust. This engagement is translating concretely into new investment to Enfield. Restaurants and hotels are opening in our town centres; major business partners are either expanding or setting up in Enfield, making us the prime choice in their business plans rather than a default location. Local agents now have regular dialogue with us and we work to resolve any and all issues including planning consent while identifying opportunities to improve the full range of business opportunities. A recent example is the decision taken at our behest by our friends at the Charitable Trust to launch a new Enfield market featuring more stalls selling more products while staying open later. This follows on the success of the French and Italian markets we have engineered. With this dynamic Labour Administration, Enfield is truly open for business.

**Question 33 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment**

Councillor Anderson will know that I have forwarded to him a number of critiques from residents with expertise in these matters, of the consultation on the A105 cycling proposals. In the light of the cost to the Council thus far on the consultation process, is he satisfied that the consultations as set out, represents good value for money?

**Reply from Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment**

Yes, the consultation is longer and more extensive than usual to capture a wide range of views and produce the best possible design.

**Question 34 from Councillor Bond to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Education, Children's Services & Protection**

Would the Cabinet Member for Education, Children's Services & Protection update the Council on the potential impact on this Council of the Governments focus on bringing forward legislation to transform all 'failing' schools into academies?

**Reply from Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Education, Children's Services & Protection**

The government defines any school which falls into the Ofsted categories of Special Measures or Notice to Improve as 'failing' schools, which will be immediately referred to the Schools Commissioner for conversion into a sponsored academy. Enfield currently has no school so designated.

As you are aware there is no such legislation which seeks to transfer 'failing' academies back to the Local Authority!

The previous Coalition Government introduced the School Funding Reforms with the aim of implementing a national formula to fund schools. The current Government have continued with this policy.

The effect of the School Funding Reforms has been to provide funding on a flat cash basis, so no increases for schools for:

- pay awards,
- increased employers contribution for National Insurance and Pensions;

Local authorities are still responsible for developing the arrangements for allocating the schools, with the Council managing, in consultation with the Schools Forum, funding from the Dedicated Schools Grant to be provided to schools, academies and free schools in their areas. However, there is very little local flexibility on how funding is allocated to individual schools because the reforms have limited the factors used to inform the funding formula and how they are used locally.

The conversion of 'failing' schools to academies will mean the responsibility for some services currently provided by the Council will be transferred to be managed by the Academy Trust for the converting school. This will lead to a reduction in the Education Support Grant of £87 per pupil and the academy will then be responsible for the following services:

- school improvement such as continuous professional development for staff
- monitoring national curriculum assessment
- determination of terms and conditions of service for staff
- early retirement and redundancy costs
- asset management
- producing financial accounts & internal auditing
- education welfare services
- pupil support (e.g. school uniform grants)
- Educational Psychology Service & CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services)
- music services (e.g. instrumental tutors)
- outdoor education including environmental and field studies (not sports)
- therapies and health-related services that aren't funded by the health service
- visual and performing arts

The Council, in discussion with the Schools Forum, will be responsible for any surplus or deficit budgets remaining after the school has converted. If the cost of any deficit cannot be charged to the DSG (Dedicated Schools Grant) then the Council will need to fund this.

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

In connection with Cycle Enfield, why was no economic impact assessment, nor an environmental assessment, conducted prior to the consultation so that the consultation process would be better informed?

### **Reply from Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment**

It isn't possible to do a specific detailed economic assessment until we have completed the consultation exercise and know exactly what it is that we are proposing. To do otherwise would be to put the proverbial cart before the horse. We have a choice - either we have a full consultation exercise to determine what the final scheme will look like to which we then undertake an economic assessment; or we undertake an economic assessment on what we expect the final scheme to look like, which would mean predetermining the outcome of the consultation exercise. It is a similar issue with an environmental impact assessment. Plans are in place for both in the appropriate timeframe.

### **Question 36 from Councillor Uzoanya to Councillor Brett, Cabinet Member for Community Organisations & Culture**

We understand the Cabinet Member for Community Organisations & Culture organised a Poetry and Art Competition to mark Magna Carta and that the profile of poetry is being raised generally throughout the borough. Could the Cabinet Member for Community Organisations & Culture please tell us how many residents put in entries?

### **Reply from Councillor Brett, Cabinet Member for Community Organisations & Culture**

The Magna Carta Poetry competition was a joint initiative between Enfield Council and The Enfield Poets. 35 entries were received from young people aged between 10 – 18 years old which were displayed at The Dugdale Centre and Forty Hall over the first two weeks of September. The first prize was awarded to Loryce Dosunmu-Irawo, a student at St Anne's School. The Enfield Poets adult competition closes on December 1st and will be awarded at The Dugdale Centre on February 6th 2016. The guest judge is the award winning poet Anne-Marie Fyfe.

### **Question 37 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment**

Can Councillor Anderson please tell the Council, in addition to the on line consultation on Cycle Enfield, how is he addressing those residents who do not have access to on line facilities, in order to facilitate their participation in the consultations?

### **Reply from Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment**

For those people who do not have access to a computer we have produced hard copies of the questionnaire and scheme drawings. These are available for collection from the Civic Centre and for sending out to individual addresses. To request hard copies, residents should phone 020 8379 3573/3634. Copies of the consultation documents are provided in accessible formats such as large print, Braille and audio for anyone who needs them. Completed questionnaires should be returned to Enfield Council, Civic Centre, Silver Street, Enfield, EN1 3XA using the postage paid envelopes provided. In addition, hard copies of the questionnaire and plans can be

found at local libraries.

Officers are also attending various events to promote the consultation and this includes making hard copies available. So far officers have attended the Palmers Green Festival and the Enfield Town Show and various meetings with interested bodies and organisations such as Ruth Winston House. We will also be writing again to residents and businesses along the A105 corridor to remind them of the consultation and this will include hard copy questionnaires. Adverts will also be placed in the local press and notices will be erected all along the route to again provide details of the consultation. Large scale plans of the proposals are also available for viewing at the Civic Centre.

### **Question 38 from Councillor Jemal to Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment**

Can the Cabinet Member for Environment give an update on the Cycle Enfield programme?

### **Reply from Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment**

#### **A105**

On 16 July 2015, the Council held a business event at the Fox Public House, Palmers Green to enable owners and managers of local businesses to come and find out about the Cycle Enfield proposals for the A105. This was followed by a two day public exhibition. Both events were well attended. This exhibition marked the start of a 12-week consultation which closes on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2015.

Cycle Enfield had a presence at the Palmers Green Festival, where local residents could find out about the proposals for the A105 and supportive measures e.g. cycle training, £10 bike loan scheme etc. This attracted large numbers of residents, including some who were initially sceptical, but after seeing some mock-up designs of how the scheme could look like and discussing their concerns directly on a one-to-one with officers, left feeling quite positive as to what was being proposed. A number subsequently made positive comments about the scheme on social media.

On Monday 30 November 2015 we will be holding a Partnership Board meeting for Enfield West. The board will consider the feedback from the public consultation and make a recommendation on the way forward.

On 14 December 2015, the Project Board is due to meet to meet for the first time to consider a recommendation from the Partnership Board for Enfield West. This date is provisional at the moment and will be confirmed after discussion with the Leader's office.

#### **A1010, Hertford Road, South**

On the 7 October 2015, we will be holding a Partnership Board meeting for Enfield South East. This will enable members of the board to discuss the consultation drawings for the A1010, Hertford Road South.

### **A1010, Hertford Road North**

Surveys for the A1010, Hertford Road North were undertaken before the school summer holidays. Preliminary design and modelling for this scheme is currently underway.

### **Enfield Town and Southbury Road**

The Enfield Town and Southbury Road schemes have recently been subject to a Transport for London (TfL) Sponsor Review.

We will be holding a business event at the Dugdale Centre, London Road, Enfield on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September 15 to enable business owners and managers to find out about the Cycle Enfield proposals for Enfield Town and Southbury Road. This exhibition will be open to the public on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September 15, between 3pm and 8pm, and Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September 15 between 10am and 4pm. A 12-week public consultation will then follow.

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

Given that the Council is actively consulting on three Cycle Enfield schemes and has a collective budget of £42million available for these schemes, can he give the Council a breakdown of how it is proposed to spend this money?

### **Reply from Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment**

Below is a breakdown of the Cycle Enfield budget. This can also be found in the original bid document that was agreed by your Group.

Activity	Estimated Cost £M
Greenways and Quietways	8.764
A105, Green Lanes	6.380
Enfield Town	4.402
A110, Southbury Road	3.171
A1010, Hertford Road (South)	4.083
A1010, Hertford Road (North)	4.521
Severance sites	0.976
Quieter neighbourhoods	2.501
Cycle Hubs	5.042
Supporting measures	2.527
Total	42.367

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

Can the Cabinet Member for Environment please make enquiries as to how frequently our local rail operators check the sound system in rolling stock to ensure passengers get information drivers intend to impart?

**Reply from Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment**

We have referred your question to Transport for London.

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

In connection with Cycle Enfield

- a) Can Councillor Anderson please list all of the dedicated cycling facilities that are available in the borough?
- b) What attempts were made and when to survey these facilities so as to ascertain their use and with what results?
- c) How many additional cyclists is he expecting to use the proposed facilities if they are implemented?

Please give a breakdown for each of the routes.

**Reply from Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment**

The spreadsheet, attached as Appendix 1, is a register of all the cycling facilities within the borough. Some are off-road paths, some cycle lanes within the carriageway. Some are recently constructed facilities, some are historical or are paths that have recently been upgraded or re-designated for cycling. Some are borough-managed facilities. Others fall within Transport for London's road network, or are tow paths managed by the Canal and Rivers Trust. Together, they amount to over 57km of cycle route. Greenways and other off-road paths constructed since the inception of the greenways programme in 2010 account for 10.7km of this total. The local cycle network also incorporates many quieter roads along which cyclists are directed by signs but where no overt facilities for cyclists are deemed necessary. Such roads are not included within the register.

Attempting to quantify cycle usage at a detailed local level across the entire 57km network would clearly be a hugely difficult and expensive task. Data produced by TfL's most recent surveys that make up the London Travel Demand Survey suggest that cycling in Enfield accounts for 0.7% of trips. For context, the average across London as a whole is approximately 2%, although in more central areas where congestion is higher and car-ownership lower this figure rises considerably. The Mayor's aspiration under programmes such as Mini Holland in outer London and the Cycle Superhighways etc. nearer the centre is to increase this usage to 5%. TfL has calculated that achieving this modal shift would equate to a capital wide saving of £621m every year in time savings due to: reduced congestion; cheaper travel costs of cycles compared to other means; and public health benefits due to more physical activity. The public health cost saving relating to improved air quality was not included in those calculations, being particularly hard to quantify, but is thought to be significant.

Locally, spot counts were undertaken in summer 2014 at 46 sites across the borough where significant numbers of cyclists were expected either currently or in future years upon the extension of the cycle network. These measured the number of cyclists found during the peak three-hour morning period between 7am and 10am during a weekday in early summer when the weather was dry. They do not provide sufficient information to attempt to estimate the percentage of all trips undertaken by cycle, but are intended to be repeated year-by-year to serve, when taken as a whole, as a rough indicator of cycling levels and to show how usage is changing at particular sites over time. Similar counts for summer 2015 have been undertaken, but the results not yet analysed. It should be borne in mind that some of the locations where counts were taken are popular leisure facilities at weekends for cyclists, but do not attract many commuter journeys. The survey exercise also revealed that high numbers of cyclists can be found at certain junctions even where there are currently no cycling facilities. Examples include the junction of Parsonage Lane and Baker Street where 294 cyclists were counted in the 3-hour period highlighted above, and Green Lanes at Aldermans Hill where there were 172.

Key sections along the three main corridors to be tackled under Cycle Enfield - the A105 Green Lanes, A110 Southbury Road and the A1010 Hertford Road - do not currently have any cycle facilities and are therefore not present within the register provided. Officers are coordinating with their counterparts at TfL to arrange more extensive counts using automated technology at key sites along these roads to produce robust before and after data with a view to measuring the effect of the new facilities. The Council's aspiration remains the one stated within the Mini Holland bid, which is to increase local cycling levels significantly across the borough in the coming years, aiming towards 5% of all trips.

#### **Question 42 from Councillor McGowan to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council**

In the July 2015 budget the Chancellor announced the annual 10% 'wear and tear' allowance for landlords will be scrapped where landlords will be able to offset against tax what they actually spend on maintenance. Can the Leader of the Council confirm whether he feels this will improve the conditions of some very poorly maintained properties and how this is likely to impact upon the borough?

#### **Reply from Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council**

The existing 'wear and tear allowance', which is a tax benefit enjoyed by landlords, whether or not they replace furnishings in their property, will be replaced.

In its place will be a new system that only allows them to get tax relief when they actually do replace furnishings.

With the rapid growth of the private rented sector in Enfield over the past 10 years, and the issues regarding condition and management of these properties which regularly present at Members surgeries, the tax changes may result in a number of actions taken by local landlords, as they attempt to maintain their investment yield.

These risks include rent rises, a drop in the maintenance and repair of the actual fabric of these properties, and a drop in the condition of furniture and white goods often supplied by landlords.

We already know that there is a cohort of landlords who do not maintain or manage their properties effectively, so I have a concern that there may be an increase in this type of behaviour. Additionally as landlords make decisions to de-risk the finances regarding their rental portfolios, they may evict more private tenants so that they can take advantage of guaranteed rent schemes.

There is a real risk that combined with welfare reforms, homelessness pressures will increase and property conditions deteriorate. I will ask officers to continue to monitor the situation.

### **Question 43 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council**

Is the Leader satisfied that the present arrangements for ensuring that **ALL** Members of the Council have proper access to Part 2 papers for Cabinet, Scrutiny and portfolio decisions and will he list for the record any restrictions on such access?

### **Reply from Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council**

The detailed arrangements relating to Members access to Council, Cabinet and Scrutiny reports are set out within the Chapter 4.6 (Access to Information Rules of Procedure) & Chapter 5.5 (Protocol for Member/Officer Relations) of the Council's Constitution.

The Member/Officer protocol recognises that Members in law have a legal right to inspect any Council document that contains information relating to the business to be transacted at a formal Council body, which applies irrespective of whether the Councillor is a Member of that body. It is, however, important to note that this right does not automatically apply to Part 2 papers as according to the law the Member asking for the information is expected to justify the request in specific terms and demonstrate a "need to know" in order to perform their duties as a Councillor, which is not outweighed by any public interest requiring non-disclosure. Members do not have a right to a "roving commission" to examine documents, which applies whether Part 1 or Part 2.

In Enfield we operate a clear procedure in that the general practice is to make Part 2 reports available to all Members.

In relation to Cabinet or Portfolio decisions there is a requirement for reports containing exempt or confidential information to be made available after the meeting or decision has been taken. In practice all Members have access to Part 2 reports published for Council and Cabinet in advance of the meeting (unless classified as Super Part 2) and copies of Part 2 Portfolio decision reports are provided for access via each Group Office on the day the decision is published.

Scrutiny Members also have a right to access documents relating to business carried out a private meeting of the Council. Cabinet or in relation to any Portfolio or

Executive officer decision, however where this contains a Part 2 element they will need to demonstrate that the document is relevant to any action or decision that the Member is scrutinising or a review contained in their scrutiny work programme. If it is decided that a scrutiny Member is not entitled to the information requested than a written statement confirming the reasons must be provided to Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

The main exception to these rules relate to Super Part 2 reports. The definition of a Super Part 2 report and restrictions on their access are set out in section 10 of the Protocol for Member/Officer Relations. These are reports containing exempt or confidential information where further restrictions are applied on their circulation on the basis that the Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer feel such disclosure of the information may be seriously detrimental to the Council's interest, its employees or former employees or that of a third party. This classification is only be used in exceptional circumstances and where agreed circulation of these reports will be restricted (at the meeting in question) to Cabinet Members, statutory officers, relevant Directors plus any other Members in attendance. Once that item has been dealt with the reports will be collected back.

The procedure for dealing with Super Part 2 reports requires that all Members of Cabinet as well as the Leader of the Opposition Group (or nominated representative) are be briefed on the issue prior to its consideration along, where the issue has a specific impact on their area, with fellow ward Councillors. The procedure also recognises the rights given to Members of Scrutiny with Members being able to request access, but only where clear reasons are provided and the issue is relevant to a subject under review or include on their work programme. In these cases the Member would be expected to respect the exempt and confidential element of the report and if necessary sign a confidentiality agreement. Where the decision on a Super Part 2 report is subject to call-in, the procedure requires that the Chair of Overview & Scrutiny Committee is briefed on the content of the Super Part 2 report in advance of the call-in meeting and a copy of the report is tabled for all Members present at the call-in meeting, which will again be collected back once that item has been dealt with.

Once a Part 2 paper has been issued councillors are expected to respect the confidentiality of the information and in some circumstances Members may be required to sign a confidentiality agreement before that information is provided or arrangements made for them to be able to inspect rather than receive copies of documents. The Protocol also states that Councillors should not seek to obtain information where they have a disclosable pecuniary, personal or other pecuniary interest in the matter

On the basis of the procedures set out above and practice already operated within Enfield I can confirm that I am satisfied with the present arrangements.

#### **Question 44 from Councillor During to the Councillor Sitkin, Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Business Development**

The Enfield Advertiser recently wrote that our Council has been outperforming other authorities in London and nationwide in terms of jobs performance. This comes after

years of a local Tory administration, when Enfield underperformed. To what does the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration attribute this turnaround?

**Reply from Councillor Sitkin, Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Business Development**

Enfield's GVA (Gross Value Added) had deteriorated over the decades before 2010 to become one of the lowest in London. This Labour Administration is visibly and quantifiably turning things around. There is no magic wand other than our willingness to have a dialogue with the business community where they are able to work with us directly to improve Enfield's business environment. Grant Thornton have recently provided a report to the Council showing that Enfield has now become one of London's most dynamic employment zones, with the statistical improvements here outpacing all our Outer London comparator boroughs. But we will never be complacent and will continue fighting to make things better for the people of Enfield.

**Question 45 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council**

With a view to maximising efficiency savings will he undertake to instruct officers to review the preparation and content of all formal decision papers so that, as a general rule, no paper should take more than 5 sides of A4, and should avoid jargon, acronyms and especially duplication?

**Reply from Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council**

A comprehensive guidance note (produced by Democratic Services) is already available for officers preparing formal decision papers and this is subject to regular review and update, as requirements change.

The guidance note summarises the main principles, standards and procedures to be followed when producing formal reports and also provides a standard report format. Guidance includes the need for reports to be written in plain English and to avoid the use of unnecessary jargon and abbreviations (unless they are spelt out in full at the start of the report). Officers are already asked to ensure that reports are as focused and concise as possible.

As Councillor Neville knows, there is already within Council reports an Executive Summary, which sets out the key points of the report. This part of the report is designed to meet the point behind Councillor Neville's question – ie that readers can see all the key points in a concise and focused form. Subsequent detail is then included in reports, with supporting appendices where decisions are particularly complex (eg major investment decisions). I am content with structuring Council reports in this way, and, where reports on occasion do not meet the high requirements set by the Council, I have asked officers to ensure draft reports are reviewed and redrafted so that these standards are met.

**Question 46 from Councillor Hurman to Councillor Sitkin, Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Business Development**

Could the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Business Development

please comment on the Federation of Small Businesses recent warning that the Government's new policy facilitating the conversion of commercial to residential property will have a detrimental effect on our economy both generally and in relation to the borough as a whole?

**Reply from Councillor Sitkin, Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Business Development**

It is a concern that there is considerable pressure on commercial property to be converted to residential as a result of higher demand and valuations. We will continue to work on this matter and do what we can to optimise the balance between working and living spaces.

**Question 47 from Councillor Hamilton to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Education, Children's Services & Protection**

Would the Cabinet Member for Education, Children's Services & Protection join me in wishing the success of the Enfield Youth Parliament in its forthcoming elections?

**Reply from Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Education, Children's Services & Protection**

I would indeed and I thank the Councillor for highlighting the work the Council engages in with our local schools to help educate our younger residents in the benefits of active participation in the democratic process by supporting these elections.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank those outgoing Youth Parliament representatives who have contributed with such distinction to supporting many aspects of Council and wider Enfield life over the past two years. I am sure I speak for all Members when wishing them the very best for the future and hoping they will continue to contribute positively to life in the borough for many years to come. We have an excellent tradition of youth parliaments in Enfield that also have a voice nationally ensuring the experiences of our young people are heard, through their Membership on UK Youth Parliament. The Enfield Youth Parliament provides huge learning opportunities for all involved, from the thousands of young people who engage in democracy by voting in the elections, through to the elected youth parliamentarians who become role models in their schools and communities.

In 2013, the Enfield Youth Parliament election saw over 9,000 votes cast and we hope to increase turnout in the elections to be held this year. I look forward to updating you in due course on how the 2015 elections have taken place and the outcomes delivered.

**Question 48 from Councillor Jiaage to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Education, Children's Services & Protection**

Would the Cabinet Member for Education, Children's Services & Protection update this Council on the hard work and progress made by the Enfield Safeguarding Children Board and in joint me in thanking the Board and its partners in the

commitment to strengthening safeguarding and child protection and to promoting early intervention to bring about better outcomes for children living in the Borough.

**Reply from Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Education, Children's Services & Protection**

2014-2015 has been a successful year for the work of the Enfield Safeguarding Children Board (ESCB). Ofsted carried out an inspection in Enfield from 20 January 2015 to 11 February 2015 they judged the work of the Board as good. The Ofsted judgement illustrates and validates that the Enfield Safeguarding Children Board partnership is a strong one.

The Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report which can be found on the ESCB website outlines in detail activity and progress during 2014/15. The Board has followed through on all of the priority areas in the Business Plan 2014-2016 which still has another year to run.

As well as working to an agreed plan the Board has to be flexible in order to respond to pressing local and national safeguarding issues. This year partners have specifically focussed upon Child Sexual Exploitation and other related vulnerabilities such as children missing from school, home and or education, as well as coordinating a local action plan to identify, prevent and eradicate future harm by Female Genital Mutilation.

There is a strong commitment to early intervention and the Board plays a key role, focusing on improving outcomes with the clear aim of reducing harm. This year a fantastic network of young people's Safeguarding Champions have been trained and are directly working with the Board to continue to protect children and young people from harm. The safeguarding champions are the voice of our children and young people informing strategy, priorities and interventions that are designed to safeguard them.

The safeguarding agenda is a tough one with the Board and its partners facing a relentless challenge to protect the children and young people of Enfield from harm. I would like the Council to join me in thanking the Board, partners and front line staff for their commitment and continuous hard work in this field.

**Question 49 from Councillor B Charalambous to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Education, Children's Services & Protection**

Could the Cabinet Member for Education, Children's Services & Protection update this Council on the progress of the refurbishment of Palmers Green Library?

**Reply from Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Education, Children's Services & Protection**

The refurbishment of Palmers Green Library is progressing very well. It is on track to open on 21 September, and will offer a range of services to our customers, in a modern environment. I am delighted that we have been able to preserve for the future this purpose-built library, as well as providing much needed housing both in

the former Southgate Town Hall and in the new accommodation on the site and I hope that all Members join me in complimenting the developer on the very high quality and sympathetic renovation work they have undertaken.

**Question 50 from Councillor Fonyonga to Councillor Stafford, Cabinet Member for Finance & Efficiency**

In 2010 when elected I believe Chancellor Osborne advised that the country would have a balanced budget by 2016 and that our borrowing would have all but been eliminated. With 2016 fast approaching can the Cabinet Member for Finance & Efficiency confirm that the Chancellor has met his targets and that therefore the savage financial assault on the public sector should be coming to an end, especially given its wider impact on the borough?

**Reply from Councillor Stafford, Cabinet Member for Finance & Efficiency**

In June 2010, the coalition expected borrowing to fall much more quickly after 2011/12 and the deficit is more than twice as high as was forecast in June 2010. In addition, borrowing in the previous parliament was far greater than expected due to weak economic growth with much of this additional weakness thought to be permanent rather than temporary. The economic problem was also exacerbated by the fact that this weakness led to less than expected tax revenues.

In response to this grim news, the government has now lengthened the period of spending cuts by planning for extra cuts in the last years of the forecast horizons. Clearly the Chancellor has not met his 2010 targets and is continuing his austerity programme for longer than originally planned.

All the Conservative government has to offer is empty rhetoric, broken promises and a future of yet more austerity with savage cuts to the public sector.

**Question 51 from Councillor Bakir to Councillor Keazor, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Sport**

Can the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Sport update Council colleagues on the latest capital investment programme for the Council's leisure centres?

**Reply from Councillor Keazor, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Sport**

As Council Members will know, investments were made in the leisure centres during 2011 and 2012 and a further £1.2 million is currently being invested in the leisure centres. The current investment has come from the operating surplus which has been achieved from the partnership between Fusion Lifestyle and the Council who are investing both their share of this surplus back into the facilities to benefit residents and customers. The improvements taking place are at Edmonton Gym and Southbury Gym which are complete and at Southgate Leisure Centres Extension where the studio is being expanded and a new basement training area call "Intencity" is being developed. We anticipate this finishing on 14<sup>th</sup> September on time and on budget. The aim is to improve quality and increase users at the facilities.