

Council Questions and Responses - 9 November 2016

Question 1 from Councillor Jemal to Councillor Fonyonga, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Public Health

There has been much discussion in Enfield locally about knife crime and Government action. Can the Cabinet Member tell the Council if the Government action has materialised?

Reply from Councillor Fonyonga

No it has not. In Enfield there have been a number of cases where custody has not been given for such offences. The Conservative Government broke their promise to introduce an automatic jail sentence for those caught carrying a knife. Then they pledged a mandatory “two strikes and you’re out” six-month sentence for those carrying a knife, but nearly 2,000 people who had a previous conviction for knife possession, were not sent to prison in the last year.

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

Members of the Council will have read last week of the arrest of Mr Alistair Baird, Managing Director, Barratt London, by officers of the Complex Fraud Team of the Metropolitan Police, “on suspicion of bribery over possible misconduct in awarding contracts”. Members will know that Barratt has been chosen as the Council’s development partner in respect of Meridian Water, the largest housing scheme of its kind in the UK. The Council will obviously want to be satisfied that Mr Baird’s arrest is not in any way connected with the negotiation, tendering processes and award of the contract for Meridian Water. In order that the Council can be so satisfied, will the Leader formally set up an independent inquiry, if necessary using the services of the Council’s external auditors?

Reply from Councillor Taylor

The Council has written to Barratt about the allegations and are awaiting a final response.

Question 3 from Councillor Maguire to Councillor Lemonides, Cabinet Member for Finance and Efficiency

Can the Cabinet Member for Finance and Efficiency advise what the cost both financially and in staff time of dealing with objections to this year's statement of accounts have been?

Reply from Councillor Lemonides

Objections to the Council’s statutory accounts are addressed to the external auditors, in this case BDO. There may be a financial cost in relation to external audit fees, due to the additional work involved that was not in the original contract sum. As the objection has not yet been closed off this cost is not yet known and will depend on the total time spent on investigating and replying to the objection.

An estimate of staff time spent on dealing with the objections to the accounts is 5 officer days.

Any objection raised by a councillor should have been dealt in line with the agreed recommendations in the Audit Committee Protocol on the Draft Statement of Accounts.

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

Councillor Erbil was recently convicted of an offence of provoking violence under section 4, Public Order Act 1986 for which he was sentenced to six weeks imprisonment, suspended for two years, and ordered to pay £1,080 in fines and costs. Councillor Erbil wrote to all members telling them that he was punished for "a verbal altercation". In fact the court record shows that he was given a custodial sentence because he had produced a hammer from his car and threatened the other party in the altercation.

Does the Leader of the Council agree with me that on these facts, and having regard to the two previous convictions for fraud last year, Nesimi Erbil is totally unsuitable to be an elected Councillor and that he should resign forthwith to allow the people of Lower Edmonton the chance to elect a new Councillor?

Reply from Councillor Taylor

You will be aware that the National Labour Party has removed this Council member's membership of the Labour Party and he will not be a candidate for the Labour Party in 2018. I have no influence over Councillor Erbil and he will make his own mind up about his continued role as a Councillor. As you are aware he has decided not to resign and has sent an email to members of the Council explaining his intentions.

Question 5 from Councillor Levy to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Education, Children's Services and Protection

The Government has a policy of creating more secondary modern schools. Can the Cabinet Member tell us how many secondary modern schools will the Government want to see in Enfield?

Reply from Councillor Orhan

I would like to thank Councillor Levy for this question and I would be only too pleased to be able to respond. However, the current state of play with the government's education policy can be at best described as changeable.

The much lauded Education White Paper – Education Excellence Everywhere, was launched in March this year under the former Education Minister, Nicky Morgan. It controversially set a date by when all school would be forced to convert to academy status. However, there was a rapid u-turn on this aspect of the paper, after opposition from many of the government's supporters and it was replaced by a plan to seek powers to intervene in local authorities that it considered to be non-viable or

underperforming.

Only last week this appears to have changed again!

This should mean that as our statutory responsibilities will remain the same they also must change the intention to remove the Education Services Grant funding so that we can continue with our excellent improvement trend in Enfield.

In spite of this announcement, the recent consultation on the paper 'Schools that work for everyone' is continuing and does make number of yet more new proposals, including removing the existing restrictions on establishing new selective or "grammar" schools.

This has been accompanied by press speculation that there will also be a return to the other aspect of the pre – comprehensive education structure – the secondary modern. It cannot really be described as a policy but rather another tinkering on structures and no assurances of increasing funding for schools.

We are clear that the government's 'ambition' as the Secretary of state describes it, is at best chaotic and at worst shambolic and ask them to start listening to the experts in our schools and in the Local Authorities.

We are pleased that they seem to have, at least for now, dropped the requirement to force schools to convert to academy status.

So colleagues, I would be happy to write to the Secretary of State on your behalf asking for clarity on the plethora of government U-turns and the returned of the ESG funding as all this uncertainty is making it almost impossible to plan and could impact on the excellent progress that our schools are making in Enfield.

Question 6 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council

In the event that Councillor Erbil does not resign following his convictions, will Councillor Taylor join with me in formally reporting Councillor Erbil to the Councillor Conduct Committee?

Reply from Councillor Taylor

There is little point in reporting Councillor Erbil to the Councillor Conduct Committee. Given the facts that you lay out in question 4 and the determination already made by the court.

I recognise the point that you are making but the Councillor Conduct Committee are not empowered on this matter to do anything meaningful.

The Court case has already received local media attention and the remedy of publicity has already taken place. In my opinion the Councillor Conduct Committee has no other effective sanctions.

Question 7 from Councillor Doyle to Councillor Oyken, Cabinet Member for Housing and Housing Regeneration

Could the Cabinet Member for Housing and Housing Regeneration tell us what the likely impact of a forced sale of high value Council housing would be explaining to us how it would work in Enfield?

Reply from Councillor Oyken

1. Council Housing has a comprehensive project team in place to deliver the requirements of the new 'High Value Voids' legislation identifying options to meet the levy.
2. We do not yet know what the Government levy will be, as the determination has not been announced, however we will continue to plan in spite of no clear guidance.
3. What we do know is that local authorities have a duty to make a payment to the Government based on the estimated value of their high value vacant housing, to fund the proposed extension of the Right to Buy to Housing Association tenants. In December 2015 we were requested by Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) to submit void figures for the period of 2012-15 in order to calculate the levy which in Year 1 could be up to £30m. To raise this levy the Council must consider selling its interest in any higher value housing.

A process for decision making is being developed and will be brought to Cabinet for decision in February. This process looks at the impact of any sales decision as well as the income that could be derived from sale of the asset, and will attempt to maximise income while minimising impact on those in need of housing.

Once the regulations are published and we have certainty about the requirements, the impact on the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and any future programmes of refurbishment or new build will be quantified.

Question 8 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council

Kent County Council has just launched a six week consultation on its budget, much earlier than usual because of the financial challenges facing the County Council.

Does the Leader propose to give Enfield residents and businesses a similar opportunity rather than waiting until the New Year, particularly having regard to the projected £7.9million revenue overspend?

Reply from Councillor Taylor

The extent of the financial challenges faced by Enfield Council as a result of Government funding cuts means that we cannot conduct just one annual consultation involving the impact of budget reductions – but are having to undertake a great many conversations and consultations throughout the year in relation to the

many service changes which are being forced upon us in order to bridge the funding gap.

As regards consulting on ways Enfield Council can make further savings and efficiencies towards the £56 million additional savings required by 2019/20 as a result of more Government cuts, we are ahead of the game because we contacted every household in the borough for their input as part of last year's budget consultation. This activity generated a record number of responses for a budget consultation which is helping inform Council priorities and our long term strategic approach to our financial situation.

Residents and businesses will have another opportunity to make further efficiency and savings suggestions in the run-up to the setting of this year's budget.

In the meantime I would encourage every resident in the borough to get behind the campaign to give Enfield a fairer share of funding from the Government in the first place – which has cross party support and includes a petition led by the Over 50s Forum at www.change.org/p/enfield-borough-over-50s-forum-fairer-funding-for-enfield

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

Can the Cabinet Member update the Council on the Government resettlement plan for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker Children (UASC) in Enfield?

Reply from Councillor Orhan

I am very proud that Enfield Council is committed to protecting the most vulnerable members of society and stands ready to support unaccompanied migrant children from the Calais camp, if required to do so by the government. The current National Transfer Scheme currently seeks to disperse unaccompanied children across the United Kingdom to a number of different local authorities, in a controlled and equitable manner, and have applied an allocated figure to each authority of 0.07% of the child population.

Enfield plays a significant role in the placement of asylum seeking children. As Enfield is one of only a small number of authorities that have historically exceeded the Government threshold the Government is not looking to place any more children from Calais in Enfield at this time. Cases will not be referred through to us until such time as our numbers of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker Children fall below the threshold figure.

Enfield is one of only a handful of London Boroughs that have exceeded their target numbers. A report in the National press this week says that about a quarter of England's local authorities are actually refusing to participate in the National Transfer Scheme which maybe in part at least because of the unwillingness of Government to fund the scheme.

A recent survey found costs to local authorities for every 100 unaccompanied

children are estimated at £6.75 million a year with the Home Office providing £3.35 million, leaving a shortfall of £3.4 million. Councillor David Simmonds, Conservative, Chairman of the Local Government Association's Asylum, Migration and Refugee Task Group, said the findings "highlight the significant financial commitment that councils make towards the care of these vulnerable children, with Home Office funding often covering only a small part of the overall cost". He added: "It is now imperative that councils get a long-term funding arrangement from Government so that the commitment to support those children starting a new life in the UK is properly funded for the whole time that these children are with us.

The worrying aspect of all this is the political dimensions and the naïve statements from David Burrowes MP who simply doesn't appear to understand all of the issues. He should be challenging Government to fully fund the scheme to assist all authorities, but particularly those not reaching the 0.07% Government target which Enfield does reach.

Question 10 from Councillor Vince to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council

Can Councillor Taylor tell the Council what the Administration's and London Council's position is on accepting Syrian children from Calais, bearing in mind his previous comment "that he will act on this when called upon"?

Reply from Councillor Taylor:

Please see the response to Question 9 from Councillor Orhan.

Question 11 from Councillor Stafford to Councillor Brett Cabinet Member for Community, Arts & Culture

Damien Green, the new Government Minister for the Department for Work and Pensions, signalled that austerity was over in a recent statement. But the reality is that spending reviews carried out in 2015 have done most of the damage already, particularly to the income of those in poverty and who are disabled. Can the Cabinet Member for Communities, Arts and Culture advise us how this has impacted upon Enfield?

Reply from Councillor Brett

The damage has already been done, but it is clear that the full effects of that damage are still to be felt.

In Enfield, we know already that:

- The current Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support case load is 41,298.
- The Council Tax Support scheme has had to be changed from 19.5% to 25%.
- The latest welfare reforms will reduce further the benefit cap by approximately £58/wk and affect 1,572 households.
- There are 3,172 households currently in Temporary Accommodation. On average 350 homeless applications are received per month.

- On personal debt, the total number of clients Citizens Advice Bureaus (CAB) saw in 2015/16 owed £6.8m between them. 23% of all enquiries to the CAB were about debt (1,943 clients)

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

Would the Cabinet Member please update the Council on how many conversations she has had in the last month with the Wren Academy about their proposed school in Enfield?

Reply from Councillor Orhan

I am happy to inform Councillor Dines that I have not had any conversations with the Wren Academy in the last month.

Question 13 from Councillor Chibah to Councillor Sitkin, Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Business Development

Can the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Business Development assure the Council that if the Council participates in the 2017 MIPIM event (the World's Leading Property Market) that it will be at no cost to the Council taxpayer?

Reply from Councillor Sitkin

If the Council attends MIPIM, 100% of the cost will be met by the private sector, at zero expense to the taxpayer. I will not countenance any payments by the Council to attend, despite the benefits that it offers.

Question 14 from Councillor Dines to Councillor Sitkin, Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Business Development

Can the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Business Development tell me how many different landowners there are in the Meridian Water masterplan area including how much money has been paid out to each landowner since 2010?

Reply from Councillor Sitkin

To date the Council has acquired five sites within the Meridian Water red-line, for a total cost of £62m. There are 28 freehold landowners remaining, but the majority of these own only small parcels of land.

Question 15 from Councillor Abdullahi to Councillor A Cazimoglu, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care

Given the problems in the local Enfield health economy does the record of the Government in relation to the NHS and Social Care give the Cabinet Member comfort?

Reply from Councillor A Cazimoglu

No because –

Failure in our A&E departments: When the Conservatives came to office just over 350,000 people were waiting longer than four hours in A&E departments in England. Just six years later that number has soared by over 500 per cent, to over 1.8 million people.

Failure on waiting times: There are now almost 3.9 million people waiting to start treatment in England and more than 17,000 people are waiting longer than 62 days for vital cancer treatment than in 2009/10 – a target which the Tories have failed to meet once this year.

Failure on social care: The Conservatives promised to cap residential social care charges in their 2015 manifesto but have since scrapped that key pledge. Older people are being failed, by this Government, with cuts to social care of £4.6 billion over the last Parliament, and more elderly people are being trapped on wards with nowhere safe to go.

Question 16 from Councillor Dines to Councillor Fonyonga, Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Public Health

I and many concerned residents of Enfield would like to know how the issue of speeding on the A10 is being tackled by the authorities involved. Can Councillor Fonyonga please tell me how many meetings, providing dates and minutes, have been held by either her or her council officers since she was appointed, with the following organisations, where this was a specific item on the agenda:

- The Enfield Borough Police
- London Transport Police (units responsible for policing TfL Roads)
- Barnet Council
- Haringey Council
- Broxbourne Council
- Hertfordshire County Council

Reply from Councillor Fonyonga

The Community Safety Unit has monitored this issue through JTAG (Joint Tasking Action Group) but the issue has only been raised on one occasion in the last six months. Further to this the Community Safety Manager raised the matter of speed cameras with representatives of Transport for London (TfL) in May 2016 and was told that average speed cameras would only be installed where there was evidence of KSI (Killed or Seriously Injured). The A10, beyond the M25 does now have these cameras, however a letter dated August 2016 from Leon Daniels to Joanne McCartney (Deputy Mayor of London & Assembly Member for Enfield and Haringey) confirms that the Enfield stretch of the A10 in question does not meet the criteria. (The criteria is that a minimum of 4 KSI in the preceding 3 years, with at least 2 as a result of speeding). The meeting was in relation to another enquiry and was not minuted.

The Community Safety involvement in this is restricted by the fact that TFL have decided against speed cameras for this area and that the local police must request traffic assistance from central resources.

In proactively seeking to tackle this issue, Enfield Council are consulting on the inclusion of measures to tackle this within the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) with the purpose of stopping individuals or groups from committing anti-social behaviour in public spaces. We are currently therefore seeking views from residents about the impact of behaviours in order to decide what the council should implement to improve their quality of life, and one of the behaviours that the Community Safety Unit requested be specifically highlighted in the consultation is:

“Gathering of people on specified land and on specified roads in motor vehicles undertaking racing, wheel spins, driving without due care, etc. (for example, around the retail park on the A10/Great Cambridge Road during the evening)”.

The consultation closes on 28 November 2016 and I hope Councillor Dines will join me in encouraging as many residents as possible to participate.

Question 17 from Councillor Hurman to Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment

A recent BBC survey suggested that rejected recyclable material has increased by 84% since 2011. Could the Cabinet Member please update Councillors on the position in Enfield?

Reply from Councillor Anderson

The BBC story highlighted a number of authorities with high rates of rejected recyclable material. The national average rate of rejected material quoted in the article was 3%. The comparable rate for Enfield is 2.4% for the period Apr-Jun 2016.

We are implementing a comprehensive range of communication and educational work to ensure residents are able to get the most out of their recycling services, to reduce rejected materials and to help us to recover as much value as possible from the waste stream. This work includes borough-wide leaflets, social media, J.C.Dcaux adverts, 'Our Enfield' articles and the web site.

Question 18 from Councillor Dines to Councillor Fonyonga, Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Public Health

Can you inform me as to what actions officers are now taking, following the work that Councillor Brett and myself had undertaken together to try and get a resolution to the problem of speeding on the A10, and provide copies of the briefing note that was prepared for you by officers on your appointment as Cabinet Member concerning this matter?

Reply from Councillor Fonyonga

Please see my response to Question 16

Question 19 from Councillor N Cazimoglu to Councillor Fonyonga, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Public Health

I note that on the front page of the Enfield Gazette and Advertiser (19 October 2016) the Deputy Leader of the opposition poses in front of an empty tennis court to oppose the changes to the tennis courts on Great Cambridge Road. Given the proposals of the Council have the support of the Lawn Tennis Association how much significance should be given to Councillor Laban's comments?

Reply from Councillor Fonyonga

The tennis courts located adjacent to the A10 are not seen as a priority by the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) in supporting the development of tennis within the borough. The LTA have highlighted other sites within the borough that if investment was made is more likely to lead to increased participation in the sport. The decision to extend Edmonton Cemetery has enabled this important investment to be provided, with a minimum of £250,000, into these sites and also has the support of Sport England.

Only a maximum of 4 courts at the A10 site were used for tennis so it is clearly a sensible decision, again backed by Sport England and the LTA, to remove the 10 courts that are not used, maximise the income we can gain from the cemetery extension and provide significantly improved facilities and development opportunities for a wider variety of residents to play tennis at numerous other locations.

Without the extension of the cemetery, this opportunity would not be possible and we would be left with 10 unused courts that do not warrant further investment.

Question 20 from Councillor Dines to Councillor Oykenner, Cabinet Member for Housing & Housing Regeneration

Can I please be told how many properties Housing Gateway has purchased since January 2016 on a ward by ward basis?

Reply from Councillor Oykenner

Since January 2016 Housing Gateway has purchased 110 properties.

The breakdown of their location is as follows:

Ward	Number of Properties
Chase	8
Edmonton Green	8
Enfield Highway	16
Enfield Lock	21
Haslebury	6
Jubilee	2
Lower Edmonton	5
Palmers Green	1
Ponders End	10
Southbury	5
Town	3
Turkey Street	18
Upper Edmonton	7
Total	110

Question 21 from Councillor Ekechi to Councillor Fonyonga, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Public Health

Can the Cabinet Member tell us what the recently recruited Council funded police officers in Enfield are currently working on?

Reply from Councillor Fonyonga

In the just 5 weeks of the teams being in post, they have already carried out 105 separate patrols and made 48 arrests. They have focused on areas where there is the greatest evidence or intelligence about crime and anti-social behaviour, and 15 arrests have been for drugs offences including cases where the suspects have had large amounts of cash and drugs with them. Furthermore, a dozen prostitutes have been stopped and given various penalties from cautions to arrests, and the officers have worked very closely with ward teams to tackle prostitution in Edmonton. In addition to this, the teams have recovered a high value motor vehicle which was being used to carry out further crimes and have also made arrests for possession of offensive weapons and assaults on police officers.

Question 22 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council

I understand that shortly before or during the summer recess you met with Valerie Shawcross (Deputy Mayor of London for Transport) at City Hall to discuss Cycle Enfield, in particular as it applies to Enfield Town, where of course there was an overwhelming objection to your Administration's proposals for the Enfield Town Centre. Can you tell the Council the purpose and more particularly the outcome of that meeting?

Reply from Councillor Taylor

Since May I have met with four of the Deputy Mayors including Ms Shawcross to ensure that Enfield is known about and our strategic interests are recognised.

I met with the Deputy Mayor for Transport for two purposes.

- Firstly to raise the importance of the West Anglia Mainline service through Meridian Water.
- Secondly, to provide an update on our Cycle Enfield proposals in the light of her new position as Deputy Mayor for Transport. In addition, we were keen to understand whether there had been a shift from the previous Mayor's view on the scheme.

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

Across London there has been a recent rapid rise in care cases. Can the Cabinet Member advise us of the position in Enfield setting out the impact it is having on her department?

Reply from Councillor Orhan

For a number of reasons some children cannot be safely cared for within their own families or family networks and these children will have to come into care for their own protection and well-being.

There has been a recent rapid rise in care proceedings across the majority of London local authorities this includes Enfield. In the last 8 years we have seen locally a rise of over 100% with a figure of 3.2 per 10,000 child population in 2008/9 to the current figure of 6.7 per 10,000 child population. In the last year alone we have experienced a 20% increase in our social workers having to go into court in order to protect children. Although these numbers are relatively small this demonstrates a significant rise in demand and we are predicting a continuous upward trend due to a number of factors including increasing child poverty and the impact of welfare reform.

It is often the most complex abuse cases that lead the local authority to bring children into care and these cases require many hours of professional input from social workers, family centre workers and independent reviewing officers to name

but a few. Social workers have seen an increase in their caseloads and each court case requires a lot of highly skilled investigative and assessment work prior to and during care proceedings.

The local authority is expected to fund parenting capacity assessments and arrange for other specialist assessments as required by the court. Placements must be found, some of which need to be more specialised than others and can be very expensive. Of course wherever possible contact must be arranged and often has to be supervised between the children and their birth family. All of which has to be coordinated and funded by the department.

All of this presents enormous logistical and financial pressures. We are experiencing more children coming into care than ever before, against a backdrop of budget reductions which has left us with less and less high value preventative services available to support families. Nonetheless compared to other local authorities we are well below the national average of 11 per 10,000 child population, which suggests we are working hard to get things right for the children of Enfield, keeping them at home with their families wherever possible.

Question 24 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Oyken, Cabinet Member for Housing & Housing Regeneration

Can the Cabinet Member for Housing and Housing Regeneration inform the Council what the plans are for the Mottingham Hall community facility in Edmonton, including details of the usage rate this year?

Reply from Councillor Oyken

The hall was taken out of use in November 2015 and was followed by lengthy refurbishment works, which took 5 months and included Fire Safety and Health and Safety works.

The long term plan for the hall, which has been back in use since May 2016, is to continue to rent out in the same way as other community halls.

Question 25 from Councillor McGowan to Councillor Brett Cabinet Member for Community, Arts & Culture

Can the Cabinet Member for Community, Arts and Culture inform the Council how many Enfield residents have been affected by benefit sanctions?

Reply from Councillor Brett

Sanctions statistics

New sanctions rules came into force in October 2012 for Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) claimants and in December 2012 for Employment and Support Allowance (ESA). A claimant is sanctioned where they fall foul of the requirement on them to take part in work-related activity or a work-focused interview. The period of sanction depended on whether it's ESA or JSA and if it's a first, second or third failure:

For ESA

- For the first failure – 1 week
- For the second failure – 2 weeks
- For the third failure – 4 weeks

For JSA

- For the first failure – 1 to 13 weeks
- For the second failure – 2 to 26 weeks
- For the third failure – 4 to 156 weeks

According to DWP statistics

- 10,328 residents of Enfield, who received Job Seekers Allowance, were sanctioned between October 2012 and March 2016. On average this equates to 250 people per month who have been sanctioned.
- 2154 residents in North London, who received Employment Support Allowance, were sanctioned between December 2012 and March 2016. On average this equates to 55 people per month who have been sanctioned.

Question 26 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment

Does the Cabinet Member for Environment agree with Labour Councillors in Barnet who are calling for residents to be given a choice between tarmac and paving slabs for pavement resurfacing?

Reply from Councillor Anderson

Without understanding the full context of the situation in Barnet, I am unable to comment.

Question 27 from Councillor Savva to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council

At the Conservative Party Conference, the Conservative Welsh Leader, when addressing the conference from the platform said, 'we will make breakfast – Brexit – a success'. For Enfield residents does Brexit appear to have certainty of outcome or is the Government's approach a "Dog's Breakfast"?

Reply from Councillor Taylor

I recognise the decision of the British people to vote to leave the European Union. The lack of any coherent Government plan and the seeming lack of commitment at the highest level to one outcome or another is clearly a major handicap.

We now have the Supreme Court involvement and no one knows who can decide what, an utter shambles. The disgraceful failure of Government to support the judges in the Court of Appeal displays a truly dangerous disregard for the separation of powers between the Executive, the Legislative and the Judiciary. It is symptomatic of a Government unclear how to carry out the result of the referendum, because it never knew what BREXIT would mean.

I think it will be many months, with twists and turns, political gymnastics by the Government, and more spin that a gyroscope can generate, before we know what Brexit means. But by then we might have a new Prime Minister.

Question 28 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council

What steps are the Leader of the Council taking to ensure the £7.9 million overspend is substantially reduced before the end of this financial year?

Reply from Councillor Taylor:

My colleague, Councillor Lemonides, leads on Finance but I can reassure you that officers are tasked with reducing this overspend. I think we would however recognise that this would be a significantly easier task if we received fair funding in Enfield.

The steps being taken to reduce the forecast overspend in 2016/17 were reported to Overview and Scrutiny Committee (4 October 2016) following call in of the July Quarterly monitoring report to Cabinet. Please refer to that report for details. The detailed mitigating actions will also be reported as part of future monitoring reports to Cabinet.

Question 29 from Councillor During to Councillor Oyken, Cabinet Member for Housing and Housing Regeneration

Could the Cabinet Member for Housing and Housing Regeneration tell us what the likely impact on the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) on "Pay to Stay" in Enfield will be, including how many tenants are likely to be affected?

Reply from Councillor Oyken

Firstly, I would like to make three points clear on this issue:

1. Enfield Council has a comprehensive project in place to ensure that the requirements of the new "pay to stay" legislation can be met.
2. We do not yet know exactly what the Government wants us to do and when, so at the moment we continue planning, in spite of the lack of clear guidance.
3. Our understanding is that Councils will not keep any additional rental income generated through this policy – the Government will bill us for it and pass it on to Housing Associations to recompense them for the loss of stock through Right to Buy – we are expecting to get an administration allowance but as yet do not know how this will be calculated or how much it might be.

At the moment, we are expecting to contact some 3,000 households, who are not in receipt of Housing Benefit to ascertain from them their annual income levels and collect their information. Of these, based on national statistics, we believe that between 700 and 1,000 may be earning more than £40,000.

An early estimate of the extra annual rental income that “pay to stay” will raise in Enfield is between £750K and £1m. One-off costs of collection could be in the region of £380k-400k. These may have to be absorbed in this year, or may partly fall into next financial year. Either way, we would expect to get this money back from Central Government. Ongoing costs are predicted to be some £300k per annum, which again we are expecting to get back from Central Government, so the impact on the HRA Business Plan should be nil.

However, there is a potential for the number of “Right to Buy” applications to increase as households realise that they would be better off pursuing this route rather than paying the additional rent – sensitivity analysis around changes in the numbers of “Right to Buy” sales to the Business Plan in future years is currently in progress.

Question 30 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment

There have been mixed messages from officers regarding the provision of Christmas Trees this year, therefore, would the Cabinet Member for Environment commit to providing a real Christmas tree in Enfield Town this festive season?

Reply from Councillor Anderson

Yes, a natural Christmas tree will be provided on Fountain Island in Enfield Town for this festive season and has already been ordered.

Question 31 from Councillor Jiaage to Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment

Can the Cabinet Member please provide an update on the work of the Council's Trading Standards Service?

Reply from Councillor Anderson

The Trading Standards Service continues to target its resources on issues causing high levels of detriment to the public and businesses.

Since April 2016 the total loss to Enfield residents is £670,697 plus hundreds of thousands more across London, Essex and Herts in linked cases. The loss figure incorporates criminal damage estimated at £7k. Intervention by Trading Standards with the Police has saved an estimated further £234,680 being lost by residents.

In a recent rogue trader case, we prosecuted two co-defendants for fraud and money laundering for their parts in ripping off consumers for vastly overpriced and unnecessary home repairs. They received prison sentences of 4 years and 10 months respectively.

We were delighted when one of our Trading Standards Officers (Filippina Marziano), was recently awarded this year's Anti-Counterfeiting Award (ACG) for individual excellence. This was for a complex investigation, which resulted in two co-

defendants receiving 4 year custodial sentences each for the selling of counterfeit goods.

We continue to tackle the sale of unsafe and counterfeit goods and tobacco, and in the last few months alone Enfield Trading Standards has prosecuted 4 businesses for counterfeit and unsafe cosmetics and electrical goods resulting in £27,000 of court fines. We also recently prosecuted an Enfield trader for selling unclassified pornography. The trader admitted 12 breaches of the Video Recordings Act.

Our successful prosecutions continue to receive national media attention. BBC1's 'Fake Britain' TV programme recently featured our prosecution for the sale of counterfeit 'dreams' mattresses, whilst another of our prosecution cases for counterfeit goods featured on the BBC news.

Question 32 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment

Will the Cabinet Member commit to not closing off any more roads during this Council term?

Reply from Councillor Anderson

Our 'Quieter Neighbourhoods' initiative forms a key part of the Cycle Enfield programme and provides the opportunity to improve the local environment for residents by reducing the impact of traffic.

The approach to Quieter Neighbourhoods is currently being developed, but I am clear that whatever solutions come forward, they must not shift a problem from one street to another, as can sometimes happen with road closures.

Question 33 from Councillor Kepez to Councillor A Cazimoglu, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care

Can the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care tell us what partnership work the local authority is doing with the Enfield Clinical Commissioning Group (ECCG) to work with providers of residential and nursing care to ensure they are Mental Capacity Act / Deprivation of Liberty Compliant?

Reply from Councillor A Cazimoglu

On 25 October the Local Authority hosted an event with the CCG to launch a Mental Capacity and Deprivation of Liberty (DoL) Policy Template for Care Homes. The policy was developed jointly with Haringey and Barnet Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG)s and will ensure that every residential and nursing provider in Enfield has an up to date MCA (Mental Capacity Act 2005) / DoLS Policy in place, by adapting this tool. 70 providers were in attendance, Ray James (Health, Housing and Adult Social Care) Director welcomed them all, and the Care Quality Commission delivered a presentation on their DoLS Monitoring and the Key lines of Enquiries they inspect, to ensure registered services meet compliance with the MCA 2005.

There were also presentations by Enfield DoLS Office. Enfield has no waiting list for DoLS applications, despite insufficient government funding for the new burden since the Supreme Court Ruling on DoLS in 2014 which caused a ten-fold increase in the need for these assessments. ADASS estimated earlier in the year that there was an 80,000 application back-log, nationally.

A copy of the Template Policy will soon be available on Enfield's webpage. LBE and Enfield CCG have a section 75 funding agreement in place which supports the working relationship between the two organisations. Every year new priorities are set for work with providers of care.

Question 34 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment

Do you agree that it was unacceptable that applications for a permit to allow large vehicles into Barrowell Green could, up until recently, following a complaint by a colleague, only be made online?

Reply from Councillor Anderson

No I don't. This is in line with the objectives to empower customers to self-serve when accessing council services. The actual problem referred to in the question was not as a result of online applications, but that the application process required the input of an e-mail address – which the applicant did not provide. The process has since been revised to remove the requirement to provide this information, although it is still requested.

Question 35 from Councillor Keazor to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council

Can the Leader provide an update on the NHS led Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) for North Central London?

Reply from Councillor Taylor:

The NHS STP was published on 21 October 2016 and I took the decision to place it on the Council website. The Leaders of the 5 boroughs in the North Central area all felt that the public had the right to see it.

The plan sets out how health and care services in the area are intended to change over the coming years.

The Sustainability and Transformation Plan for North Central London has far reaching implications for health and social care services for everyone in Enfield.

It is important that further recognition is given to the importance of adult social care services on health and wellbeing.

Enfield Council believes that the best way to move the process forward is through an honest and open conversation with local people about what the proposals will mean

for them. I urge everyone to make their views known.

[North Central London Sustainability and Transformation Plan \(PDF, 3MB\)](#)

Further information - and details of how you can get your views heard - is available on the [NHS England website](#).

Question 36 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Achilleas Georgiou, Deputy Leader of the Council

Could the Deputy Leader of the Council state how many generic email addresses, for example development.control@enfield.gov.uk, have more than 50 emails unread?

Reply from Councillor Achilleas Georgiou

This information could only be gathered with the development of a specific IT tool. However, I am pleased to assure the Deputy Leader of the Opposition that generic email addresses, other than those providing pdf forms for completion by users, are being closed down as new website functionality is brought on line. This is due to be completed by no later than Quarter 1, 2017.

Question 37 from Councillor Hasan to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Education, Children's Services and Protection

Would the Cabinet Member update the Council of the extensive work of KRATOS, the Children in Care Council, and in doing so, join me in congratulating them on their commitment and hard work?

Reply from Councillor Orhan

KRATOS, our Children in Care Council, engages with our looked after children and care leavers as well as children with a child protection plan. They act as positive role models for the younger, looked after children and help support the older ones into adulthood and independence. Recognised as an example of outstanding practice, they are now extending their knowledge and leadership skills to the wider social care setting, delivering training to foster carers and social workers and assisting other local authorities with their own children in care councils. Kratos is working with the national Frontline programme, a government initiative to recruit more graduates into the social work profession and to date, have positively influenced the training and development of nearly 600 new social workers across London. For the third Summer running, they delivered training and workshops, sharing their personal stories and highlighting best practice.

KRATOS members ran a summer residential programme for our looked after children and care leavers focussing on independent living skills and healthy relationships. This was very well attended and the feedback was wholly positive. A number of members are trained as Young Inspectors and have already carried out a number of inspections, including one of the Barnet Family Court where many of our

care cases are heard. Their recommendations were accepted by the Barnet judges who were highly impressed with the professionalism of the group.

As care experienced young people themselves, KRATOS members are uniquely placed to help influence and shape service delivery and are heavily involved in the co-production of a number of initiatives. Members sit on interview panels for social work staff, advise on the development of policies and ensure that the experiences of service users inform and improve the work of the Department. The Chair and Deputy Chair are formal members of the Council's Corporate Parenting Board which not only allows them to share the work they are doing but also to be fully involved in the discussions and decision making affecting the lives of all our children in care and care leavers.

I am very proud of them and I know that the whole Council will join me in congratulating them on their commitment and hard work.

Question 38 from Councillor Smith to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council

Would the Leader of the Council provide details of the number of Enfield Council owned companies, currently operating, including providing the following information for each individual company:

- The company name
- The names of their directors
- Their annual expenditure for 2015/16
- Their outstanding debt as of September 2016
- Their outstanding loans as of September 2016

Reply from Councillor Taylor

I can confirm that the following companies owned by Enfield Council are currently in operation:

Company Name	Lee Valley Heat Network Limited (07588879)
Names of Directors	Councillor Doug Taylor, Councillor Ahmet Oykenen, Councillor Alan Sitkin, Rob Leak (Chief Executive), James Rolfe (Director of Finance, Resources and Customer Services), Ian Davis (Director – Regeneration & Environment), Jayne Clare, Tim Rotheray (Non-Executive), Michael King (Non-Executive)
Annual expenditure 2015/16	n/a – no expenditure during 2015/16
Outstanding debt as at Sept 16	n/a
Outstanding loans as at Sept 16	n/a – EIB/LEEF loan is to the council and on-lent to LVHN when required. There was a drawdown to satisfy loan requirements but this was immediately loaned back to the council at matching rate. As there has been no investment decision in the company to date

Company Name	Lee Valley Heat Network Operating Company Limited (09763702)
Names of Directors	Jayne Clare, Ian Guest, Jeff Laidler (company secretary – castlegate secretaries ltd, subsidiary of Browne Jacobson)
Annual expenditure 2015/16	N/A – set up costs are all in LBE
Outstanding debt as at Sept 16	£0
Outstanding loans as at Sept 16	£0

Company Name	Enfield Innovations Ltd
Names of Directors	Councillor Achilleas Georgiou, Councillor Dino Lemonides, Councillor Ahmet Oykenner, James Rolfe (Director of Finance, Resources & Customer Services), Asmat Hussain (Assistant Director – Legal & Governance), Sally McTernan (Assistant Director – Community Housing), Kerry Kyriacou (Non-Executive) and Peter Nwosu (Non-Executive)
Annual expenditure 2015/16	£437,000
Outstanding debt as at Sept 16	N/A
Outstanding loans as at Sept 16	£12.6m

Company Name	Housing Gateway Ltd
Names of Directors	Councillor Achilleas Georgiou, Councillor Dino Lemonides, Councillor Ahmet Oykenner, James Rolfe (Director Finance, Resources & Customer Services), Sally McTernan (Assistant Director Community Housing), Asmat Hussain (Assistant Director – Legal and Governance), Kerry Kyriacou (Non-Executive) and Peter Nwosu (Non-Executive)
Annual expenditure 2015/16	£1.7m (draft accounts)
Outstanding debt as at Sept 16	£40,000
Outstanding	£65m

loans as at Sept 16	
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Company Name	Independence & Well-Being Enfield
Names of Directors	Lorraine Davies, Councillor Alev Cazimoglu, Robert Greene (Non-Executive), Julia Glenn (Non-Executive) and Cedi Fredricks (Non-Executive)
Annual expenditure 2015/16	n/a – company launched 1 st Sep 16
Outstanding debt as at Sept 16	£0
Outstanding loans as at Sept 16	£0

Enfield Council also owns less than 3% of Enfield Norse, a joint venture with the Norse Group. Key information for Enfield Norse is:

Company Name	Enfield Norse
Names of Directors	Councillor Dino Lemonides, James Rolfe, Ruth Metcalf and Peter Hawes.
Annual expenditure 2015/16	£3,149,505.00
Outstanding debt as at Sept 16	£0
Outstanding loans as at Sept 16	£0

Question 39 from Councillor Dogan to Councillor Sitkin, Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Business Development

Would the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Business Development update the Council on the outcome of Energetik’s heat supply agreement discussions with the North London Waste Authority (NLWA)?

Reply from Councillor Sitkin

The NLWA Board agreed the principle drafting for the Heat Supply Agreement with Energetik at its Board meeting on 29 September 2016. This is now subject to final detailed legal drafting, which is nearing completion.

Question 40 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Oyken, Cabinet Member for Housing & Housing Regeneration

Please could the Cabinet Member for Housing and Housing Regeneration inform the chamber of the costs so far, for the legal case against FECA in terms of their lease on the shop unit in Mottingham Road?

Reply from Councillor Oyken

Total costs of the lease case amount to £4,966.00. Separate costs have been incurred on the debt case which the Council is pursuing against FECA.