

## 28 February 2017 – Council Questions

### Question 1 from Councillor Erbil to Councillor Anderson (Cabinet Member for Environment)

Can the Cabinet Member for the Environment tell the Council the cost of the street lighting PFI (Private Finance Initiative) including what repayments are made and at what frequency?

#### Reply from Councillor Anderson:

The budget for Enfield's Street lighting PFI for 16/17 is £3,891,700. Payments are made to the PFI Service Provider on a monthly basis, ie monthly payments at 1/12 of the annual cost.

Enfield receives a Government Grant (income) of £1,909,800 per year as part of the PFI credit arrangement, which offsets part of the Council's cost.

In addition, to the above, Enfield makes monthly payments for its electricity supply. The annual cost for 16/17 for Enfield's street lighting and illuminated street furniture is estimated to be £871,091.

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

If we compare Enfield's funding, from Central Government, to Westminster Council's funding what would the additional departmental resources look like in a fair funding world?

#### Reply from Councillor Taylor

If Enfield received the same level per head, Enfield would receive £594 as compared to the £331 that it currently receives. When this figure is multiplied by the population of Enfield it would show an additional allocation of £86m. When this is apportioned by service area it demonstrates an increase of funding as shown in column 3 of the table below:

1	2	3	4
	2017/18 Budget	Additional "Westminster" Funding	Total new 'fair funding' Budget
	£000	£000	£000
Chief Executive	4,016	1,515	5,531
Regen and Environment	23,677	8,930	32,607
FRCS	45,923	17,321	63,244
HHASC	72,133	27,206	99,339
Education and Children's Services	40,670	15,339	56,009
<b>Total departmental budgets</b>	<b>186,419</b>	<b>70,311</b>	<b>256,730</b>
Corporate items	42,005	15,843	57,848
<b>Total for distribution</b>	<b>228,424</b>	<b>86,154</b>	<b>314,578</b>

This would ultimately give Enfield 38% more in its revenue budget.

If this extra £86m were to be taken off the Council Tax, it would result in a cut of £906 in a Band D council tax bill.

### **Question 3 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Lemonides, Cabinet Member for Finance & Efficiency**

As the relevant Cabinet Member, Councillor Lemonides, will doubtless be aware of the sale by the Council of a "newly refurbished three bedroom semi-detached house" in Barrowell Green, Winchmore Hill, which at auction on 14 December 2017 (just 10 days before Christmas) which fetched £450,000. He may not be aware that the same property is currently on the market again, now advertised by two separate agents demanding offers in excess of £525,000, a mere six weeks after purchase at auction. This transaction raises serious questions about the Council's property management competence and its valuations, particularly following the revelation in the Revenue Monitoring Report that the Property Division of Finance and Resources contributed over £600,000 to that department's overspend.

Will he now tell the Council the history of this property during its ownership by the Council including how much was spent in refurbishing it prior to sale, just before Christmas when the property market is "dead"?

### **Reply from Councillor Lemonides**

The final reserve price for 85 Barrowell Green was set having fully considered strong comparable sales evidence in the locality. An example of such a comparable is number 74 Barrowell Green, which is a 3 bedroom, extended property in good order with a vehicular side access and garage/accommodation unit to the rear backing onto rear gardens (marketed in December 2016 in excess of £500K, Sold 6<sup>th</sup> January 2017 for £473,000. Agent: Winkworth).

No 85 is unextended with no rear access and is located very close to the recycling centre. The smaller rear garden faces the return two storey elevation to properties in Cosgrove close and there are a number of adjacent trees very close to the property which has the potential to adversely impact on value.

The value of £450,000.00 achieved at Auction was within the range of the current market values in the area.

The Council are not aware of the circumstances that resulted in the current owner putting the asset back on the market. However, the initial asking price for the property was £550,000. Within only a few short weeks of marketing, the asking price has been reduced to £525,000 and, as of the 21/2/2017, the property is still being marketed through four local agents and remains unsold.

The property in question was originally part of the Parks Estate Housing offer, and was refurbished as part of the current programme to improve and rationalise that portfolio. The Council spent £55,000 improving the asset.

The above transaction required a capital valuation, and will be taken as capital income to the Council.

The reason for the shortfall in the property portfolio budget has been set out in successive monitoring reports, and is not linked to the capital receipts generated by disposals.

**Question 4 from Councillor Savva to Councillor Fonyonga, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Public Health**

Could the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Public Health please update us on the work of the Council funded police teams?

**Reply from Councillor Fonyonga**

The 16 police officers funded by the Council continue to work successfully with the Community Safety Unit's Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) officers to focus efforts on preventing crime in Council Estates and in wider problematic situations for which additional attention is required. Their efforts are supported by the ASB officers in the CSU (Community Safety Unit) who for example, follow up on ASB/crime by offenders whose behaviour might be contrary to their tenancy arrangements and ensure that we continue to link with housing colleagues to intervene and deter further crime and ASB. This efficient integrated approach also sees the officers linking effectively with our award winning Enfield Public Safety Centre where our award winning CCTV operators are based, instantly increasing the officers understanding and critically their intelligence of the potential crime scene before they arrive.

The 16 officers have made many arrests, predominantly for drugs and prostitution but have also arrested people who were "wanted" for serious crimes committed in the borough and elsewhere. In the first 5 months (up to the 5 February) the 16 officers carried out 610 stop checks and made 218 arrests. They have been particularly successful at disrupting and deterring criminal activity on our housing estates because they have invested time in building relationships and networks with our law abiding residents, which allows them to more quickly identify those unwanted people visiting our estates with the intention of causing trouble.

**Question 5 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment**

As Councillor Anderson is probably aware Enfield has recently been ranked among the worst areas in the country for food hygiene in a survey of 360 council areas by the company Love My Vouchers. In the light of this, what action does he propose to take, to restore the borough's previous good record for food hygiene, achieved during the Conservative Administration 2002/10?

**Reply from Councillor Anderson**

As you will be aware, the responsibility for good food hygiene rests firmly with the persons running the food business. However, as the survey showed, the compliance

of food businesses in many London boroughs in particular is poor.

The financial challenges for the Council have changed dramatically since 2010, making it difficult to make a fair comparison between then and now. As you know, we have had to make cuts of £118m since 2010 and now have to find a further £56m by 2020. In 2010/11, the food safety team's budget was £558,555 and is now £365,130. There were 9.3 FTE (full time equivalent) food inspectors in 2010/11 and now there are 7.3 FTE. In addition, we have seen a significant change in our food businesses and compliance since 2010 due to a number of factors including the recession, a growing population and a diversification of food businesses. The turnover of food businesses is fairly high – almost 300 change hands or set up new businesses every year in Enfield, so the fight to improve compliance is a constant battle.

We provide food hygiene advice and support to the least compliant premises (rated 0 to 2), but we have also significantly increased the level of enforcement in order to raise standards in our food businesses to an acceptable level. In fact, our level of enforcement action is amongst the highest both across London and the country.

Our strategy for increasing the compliance of Enfield's food businesses is ongoing and includes the following measures:-

- We run a recognised certificated food hygiene training course for food handlers
- Targeted advisory visits and enforcement to 0-2 rated premises (usually resulting in increased compliance to a 3 rating or even higher)
- A high level of enforcement against businesses with unacceptable food hygiene conditions
- We publicise all food businesses that are prosecuted for poor hygiene
- We recently launched a campaign to name and shame those premises with the worst hygiene ratings (and positive press coverage for those businesses that have high standards of hygiene compliance)
- We encourage the public to look up the food hygiene ratings to make an informed choice of where to eat; which helps drive up compliance amongst businesses
- We also intend to start charging food businesses a fee to cover our costs when they request a re-rating inspection

Food businesses in England are not required to display their food hygiene rating. We fully endorse the Food Standard Agency's proposal to make the display of food hygiene ratings mandatory (as it is for Northern Ireland and Wales). The display of the food hygiene rating in the food business' window has been shown to improve food hygiene compliance.

At present food businesses are required to register with the Council, but councils cannot refuse to register them and they are not required to meet any pre-requisites (e.g. such as trained food handlers and measures in place to prepare safe food). We understand that this is under review and we would support some form of prior approval or other mechanism that ensures that food businesses meet minimum legal requirements before they can register and trade.

### **Question 6 from Councillor Barry to Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment**

Could the Cabinet Member for Environment provide an update on the proposals to change the green bin service?

### **Reply from Councillor Anderson**

Further to the consultation that concluded in September 2016 where 87% of residents supported the option of a free fortnightly service as opposed to a charged weekly service, and the decision by Cabinet in October, the following actions have been taken:-

- Communication has been provided to all residents, both written and digital, informing them of the change of service to a fortnightly collection service;
- Targeted communication to residents who currently have a smaller (140l) bin asking them if they would like a free upgrade to a larger (240l) bin;
- Residents who currently share a bin have been contacted to see if they still want to carry on their arrangement or gain a free bin of their own;
- We have provided information and options for residents who may sometimes have additional green waste;
- Collection rounds have been routed so the Council is able to deliver the financial outcomes of the service change;
- A dedicated page on the Council's website has been provided with FAQ's (Frequently Asked Questions) to assist residents transition to the fortnightly service;
- A property specific calendar has been produced and is being distributed during February to inform all residents when their bin will be collected;
- Bin swaps are being completed by the end of February (from the 20<sup>th</sup>) for residents who requested a larger bin in time for the service commencing on March 13th. In addition, a further opportunity has been offered to those who missed the first application and have until the 1st June 2017 for a bin swap.

These actions will ensure that all residents are engaged and informed of the change, have the information required to assist them with accessing the new service and ensures that the Council can deliver the required savings to help sustain other services.

### **Question 7 from Councillor Dines to Councillor Sitkin, Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Business Development**

Would Councillor Sitkin inform Council of the number of homes that the London Plan requires Enfield to deliver every year including how many have been built in Enfield over the last 5 years?

## Reply from Councillor Sitkin

Year	London Plan Housing Target	Enfield Net Housing Completions
11/12	560	297
12/13	560	555
13/14	560	512
14/15	798	399
15/16	798	674

The London Plan currently requires 798 homes annually to be completed in Enfield. The target was increased in 2014 from a previous figure of 560. The GLA, in its annual monitoring report, refers to these targets as 'long-term benchmarks', and that recovery of the market from its collapse in 2008/09 has taken longer than previously expected. The annual net new completions since 2011 has ranged from 297 homes in 2011/12 to 674 homes in 2015/16. However, when the number of long-term empty homes brought back into use is included, Enfield has regularly exceeded its annual target. See Table 2.7 in the last GLA Annual Monitoring Report in Appendix A to the questions. This is a link to the full report:

[https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/amr12\\_july\\_update.pdf](https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/amr12_july_update.pdf)

## Question 8 from Councillor Ekechi to Councillor Sitkin, Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Business Development

Would the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Business Development comment on how Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)'s plan to close the Upper Edmonton Job Centre Plus (JCP) would affect the local population?

## Reply from Councillor Sitkin

This closure will affect a large number of residents in the wards of Upper Edmonton, Lower Edmonton, Edmonton Green, Jubilee and Haselbury, wards which this job centre currently serves.

The Job Seekers' Allowance (JSA) claimant count alone stood at 1,650 in January 2017 for the 5 wards which represents over 35% of the borough's total JSA claimant count.

In addition to JSA, DWP officers estimate that a further 4,125 residents may be claiming other out of work benefits, such as Employment Support Allowance.

The Council will continue to work to influence DWP's service delivery to our most disadvantaged and vulnerable residents in these wards through the Council's own interventions, which include outreach provision in libraries at Edmonton Fore Street and Edmonton Green Shopping Centres, at our Change and Challenge Troubled Families project running from the Clavering's Estate and our outreach gang mentoring programme.

**Question 9 from Councillor Chamberlain to Councillor Oykenner, Cabinet Member for Housing & Housing Regeneration**

Given your confirmation that the Council has no planned removal plan for asbestos, with removal only occurring where an asbestos risk is found or identified when it can be too late, and that there are higher risks in schools in particular, will the Cabinet Member reconsider instituting a planned policy of asbestos removal?

**Reply from Councillor Oykenner**

The Council's policy is based on Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and Government guidance. That is that where asbestos is in good condition and not likely to be disturbed it is best left in place and properly managed.

The council has robust protocols to ensure asbestos is managed effectively. All council buildings are surveyed so that asbestos containing materials (ACMs) are identified and the risk assessed. Those ACMs which are damaged or vulnerable and likely to become damaged are removed or made safe, e.g. enclosed and protected. All asbestos which remains in place is recorded on the Corporate Asbestos Register. The council has a robust regime of re-inspections to ensure asbestos has not deteriorated and that circumstances have not changed. Premises based staff receive Asbestos Awareness training and these staff provide day to day monitoring of asbestos. This training also includes measures to ensure the safety of staff and others in the event of an emergency.

The council recognises the increased vulnerability of children to asbestos and therefore has a dedicated asbestos officer for schools. This officer carries out annual re-inspections of asbestos in schools, ensures every school has an asbestos management plan and at least two trained staff.

Removing all asbestos would be very expensive and not always achievable. Asbestos often forms an integral part of the fabric of buildings and can only be removed as part of its final demolition. Where a building is refurbished asbestos is removed so far as is reasonably practicable and this in itself results in a reduced number of ACMs across the Council's property portfolio. Asbestos removal itself carries inherent risks even with very strict control measures in place. Managing asbestos in accordance with HSE advice and the Council's policy is the safest and most cost effective strategy at this time.

**Question 10 from Councillor Dogan to Councillor Oykenner, Cabinet Member for Housing and Housing Regeneration**

Can the Cabinet Member indicate what the effect of Section 24 of the Finance (No2) Act will be on landlords in Enfield?

**Reply from Councillor Oykenner**

Currently, landlords can offset the cost of the mortgage interest from the rental income when they calculate their profits. The Act will progressively reduce the tax

relief for this over the next four years. This means that landlords who have bought property for renting out ('buy to lets') will have their mortgage interest tax relief gradually cut back from 100% to 20% between 2017 and 2021. This affects individuals and not companies operating as landlords.

- 2017 to 2018: the deduction from property income (as is currently allowed) will be restricted to 75% of finance costs, with the remaining 25% being available as a basic rate tax reduction
- 2018 to 2019: 50% finance costs deduction and 50% given as a basic rate tax reduction
- 2019 to 2020: 25% finance costs deduction and 75% given as a basic rate tax reduction
- 2020 to 2021: all financing costs will be given as a basic rate tax reduction.

For example, currently, if a landlord collects rental income of £10,000 a year, but pays mortgage interest of £9,000, the profit is the difference between the two, which is £1,000. However, the legislative change means that by 2021, in the same example, the landlord will have to pay tax on the full amount, less a 20% credit on the mortgage interest. The tax bill for a higher rate taxpayer would therefore work out at £4,000 (40% of £10,000 profit) minus £1,800 (20% of £9,000 interest), which equals £2,200, which is up from £400 under the current tax regime.

We are not sure if we will see any major impact in 2017, but we may start to see single or small portfolio landlords withdrawing from the rental market from 2018/19, either selling property or possibly with the large managing agents picking up the properties for rental. This could result in an increase in evictions as landlords seek to repossess their rental property. However, landlords will be subject to capital gains tax on the sale of the property so they might decide not to sell. If they do sell this might allow more first time buyers to buy and release some property in the rental sector.

Landlords with large portfolios of rented properties may not be so easily dissuaded by this change in tax legislation.

These changes are likely also to impact on the availability of rental properties available to Councils for temporary accommodation – which is already under pressure.

#### **Question 11 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council**

Would the Leader confirm that in respect of the Enfield Town and A1010 proposals for Cycle Enfield, he will ensure that, unlike what happened with the A105 scheme when the bus companies were not directly notified by the Council of the statutory consultations, such companies will be properly notified of the consultation, rather than relying solely on consultation with the London Buses division of Transport for London (TfL) whose independence cannot be guaranteed?

#### **Reply from Councillor Taylor**

The relevant bus operators were notified as part of the A105 statutory consultation,



as required by the Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996. The same approach will be taken on all future statutory consultations.

**Question 12 from Councillor Abdullahi to Councillor A Cazimoglu, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care**

Can the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care provide an update on the NHS led Sustainability and Transformation Plan for North Central London?

**Reply from Councillor A Cazimoglu**

The next updated draft of the North Central London (NCL) Sustainability & Transformation Plan (STP) is due to be submitted by the end of March. In recent months local NHS organisations have been focusing on responding to unprecedented levels of demand over the winter months and agreeing their approach to contracts for the years 2017/18 and 2018/19.

Work is continuing across each of the 12 workstreams of the STP to start to engage with local people as more detailed plans begin to be developed. Throughout the STP process the Council has been critical of the lack of engagement and continues to encourage early and meaningful involvement of local people in plans for the future of such important services.

There have been discussions at the Health & Wellbeing Board, The NCL Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee and the Health Scrutiny workstream, all emphasising the need for engagement and encouraging a focus on developing primary and community based services to ensure local people can receive good quality care and support closer to home, wherever they live in NCL.

The financial context facing the local health and care system remains very challenging and the current draft of the STP does not provide for fully closing that gap. This local position is consistent with growing national concern about the level of funding for health and especially social care services.

**Question 13 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council**

Would the Leader comment on the assertion by many that the upgrade of the Piccadilly Line would bring benefit to a greater number of transport users than the current Cycle Enfield plans, and that money presently being spent on cycling provision could be better used to bring forward the long overdue upgrade of that Line?

**Reply from Councillor Taylor**

The upgrade of the Piccadilly Line is part of a complex and long term programme of Underground enhancements being delivered across London. Procurement of the signalling works and new trains for the Piccadilly Line, which will allow a 60% capacity increase, has already commenced. The Mayor has personally committed to

the main upgrade starting in 2020 with new trains in service by 2023.

Rather than settling for a choice of one or another, I am pleased that we have a commitment to the Piccadilly Line upgrade, which will benefit residents in the West of the borough, and a multi-million pound Cycle Enfield programme which, by delivering high quality cycling infrastructure and a range of complementary measures, will benefit the whole of Enfield.

**Question 14 from Councillor Levy to Councillor Brett, Cabinet Member for Community, Arts & Culture**

How many families caring for a disabled child have been affected in Enfield by the unfair Government bedroom tax which many have called for to be scrapped?

**Reply from Councillor Brett**

Families caring for a disabled child under the age of 16 are exempt from the Government's bedroom tax. However, there are less than 10 families immediately affected by the bedroom tax due to under occupancy when a disabled child has died or a family is receiving middle and high rate Disability Living Allowance (DLA). The Children with Disabilities Team (Children's Services) have supported families to apply for discretionary housing payments (DHP) while accommodation options are considered for the family at this difficult time. This has usually resulted in the family eventually moving, as DHP is only paid for a limited period.

**Question 15 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council**

While it is acknowledged that so far as is known Councillor Oykenner has dutifully made all appropriate declarations of interest concerning his ownership of Cyprian Care Ltd, does the Leader acknowledge that given that Councillor Oykenner has responsibility for Housing and that Cyprian Care provides care to the elderly in their homes, a significant amount of which is funded by the Council, he has a conflict of interest inasmuch as there is a correlation between the provision of suitable homes for the elderly, and their demand for the services provided by companies like Cyprian Care Ltd?

**Reply from Councillor Taylor**

I do not see a conflict of interest. Councillor Oykenner has declared and will continue, where it is required or appropriate to do so, to draw attention to any relevant interest in any proceedings of the Council or its Committees where he is involved.

**Question 16 from Councillor McGowan to Councillor A Cazimoglu Cabinet Member for Health & Social Care**

What have the Council and partners done to respond to the demand pressures at local hospitals in recent weeks?

### **Reply from Councillor A Cazimoglu**

It is true that our hospitals are under increased pressure with occupancy levels running at an all-time high and there has been a lot of talk in the media nationally and locally about the challenges facing Adult Social Care services trying to meet increasing volume and complexity of demand for the right kind of support to enable timely and appropriate discharge.

I can tell you that colleagues from across health and social care are working very closely together to ensure that where people do become medically fit for discharge from hospital, they are supported to move on into the most appropriate care setting as quickly as possible. There will be cases where specialist care arrangements are required and some delays occur, particularly where the needs are significant and complex, including life changing events like moving to permanent nursing home care.

However, we have this year, together with Enfield Clinical Commissioning Group (ECCG), made available additional capacity within community and residential care settings to ensure that acute hospital beds are freed up and for people to receive more intensive support and further assessment to enable them to return home safely.

Most recently, over a two week period at the beginning of February 2017 at the North Middlesex Hospital Trust there were an average of 35 Enfield residents every day considered medically fit for discharge from their acute hospital bed who needed ongoing support from health and social care (15 for social care and 20 for health). I can tell you that on each of these days the number of people whose discharge was delayed ranged from none to a maximum of three. These delays were for people with complex ongoing needs who required specialist residential nursing care. The numbers were very similar for people with health related ongoing support needs. Colleagues across health and social care are putting in place a discharge to assess model where people who are fit for discharge but with significant and complex ongoing needs are discharged to an appropriate residential setting which permits ongoing assessment, rehabilitation and most importantly, sufficient time to assess properly in order that people receive the right kind of care and support in the longer term.

I also need to say here that it is critical that we respond to the sustained increases in demand for both health and social care services together as a system and also, that we continue to lobby government as hard as we can for the additional resources so badly needed for our health and social care services.

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

Would the Cabinet Member inform the Council if the local businesses, that have seen a dramatic drop in their turnover since the start of the Cycle Enfield roadworks, will receive any compensation from the Council?

### **Reply from Councillor Anderson**

Business ratepayers are free to approach the Valuation Office Agency for a temporary reduction in business rates if they feel that their premises have been affected by severe local disruption.

### **Question 18 from Councillor Simon to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Education, Children's Services and Protection**

Given that the Government is determined to introduce many questionable changes as part of its proposals in the Children and Social Care Work Bill, is the Cabinet Member concerned about any potential impact this bill may have on the way children services work is delivered locally, in the future?

### **Reply from Councillor Orhan**

The Children and Social Work Bill introduces a set of legislation which it hopes will drive up standards in social work practice. The key changes that could potentially impact on local service delivery of key social work services are outlined below:

1. The bill allows the government to directly regulate social workers, thus having more control over professional standards. This would replace the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC), an independent organisation, as social work's regulator.

No other health and care profession is directly regulated by government and the costs of setting up a new regulatory body are unclear as are the employer and employee contributions towards the costs of the new regulatory body.

2. The bill allows for a set of criminal offences to be introduced for social work misconduct.

The move shifts the emphasis from a focus on public protection to the punishment of practitioners. This could make social work a far less attractive profession and directly impact upon our local recruitment issues.

3. The bill allows local authorities to be exempt from some legal duties. This is said to allow local authorities the freedom to test out new ways of working in a bid to achieve better outcomes more efficiently. Whilst less system complexity and bureaucracy could be helpful in some circumstances it seems that the government's main objective is to encourage organisations other than local authorities to operate key services to vulnerable children without the legislative safeguards that have been developed over many years to keep them as safe as possible. I'm not clear why the government simply don't change the legislation that they consider over-bureaucratic rather than exempting some organisations rather than others from certain rules.

**Question 19 from Councillor Rye to Councillor Cazimoglu, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care**

Given that the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care informed the Council that the Council's new dual registered care nursing home at Elizabeth House would be open by the end of January 2017, can she explain to the Council why this did not happen offering a new date when we might expect to see this excellent facility operational?

**Reply from Councillor A Cazimoglu**

I am pleased to report that the building contractor achieved practical completion on 1 February 2017 when the building was handed to the Council. They now need to complete their snagging list. Work on fit out and furnishings etc is underway.

As you will be aware it was reported to Cabinet that unfortunately the latest tender process to identify a care provider to manage the care home failed to yield any satisfactory bids, despite allowing additional time for potential providers through a direct dialogue phase. Cabinet in January were therefore asked to consider now activating the Council's contingency arrangements, which is to expand the role of the Council's Local Authority Trading Company (LATC), Independence and Wellbeing Enfield, so that it can also undertake service delivery at the Home. A further report, seeking approval of the updated Business Plan is scheduled for the next Cabinet meeting.

In the meantime, officers have started the mobilisation process, which includes the final fit out of the building and arranging Care Quality Commission (CQC) registration, preparing policies and procedures and recruitment activities in preparation for the transfer of residents from Coppice Wood Lodge and Bridge House Care homes. These activities would have previously been undertaken by a contracted care provider should one have been appointed. Subject to these activities and a further Cabinet decision, it is anticipated that the earliest the home could safely receive residents will be April 2017.

**Question 20 from Councillor Jiage to Councillor Sitkin, Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Business Development**

Would the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Business Development inform the Council on further recent inward investment interests he and his department are nurturing?

**Reply from Councillor Sitkin**

The Council is currently nurturing 20 live enquires from companies looking to expand in the borough and those that are seeking to invest in the borough for the first time. These enquires range from a significant capital investment in Lea Valley, which could deliver 500 jobs, a food and drink company and Chinese investment in a shared cycle scheme.

In addition to 20 live enquires in the last quarter, Enfield has attracted a leading

ladies designer fashion label, an international bespoke quartz kitchen top & flooring company and an expansion of an additional 50,000 square feet - all totalling over 200 new jobs in the borough.

**Question 21 from Councillor Rye to Councillor A Cazimoglu, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care**

Would Councillor A Cazimoglu inform the Council the exact amount being raised in Council Tax by way of a precept for Adult Social Services including exactly how this money will be spent in 2017-18?

**Reply from Councillor A Cazimoglu**

In keeping with government guidance this money will be used exclusively to fund growing cost pressures in adult social care. This additional funding is much needed, but comes directly from Council Tax payers and falls significantly short of what government should provide Enfield and similar Councils to fully fund the cost of care and support needed by growing numbers of older and disabled people.

The amount raised in 2017/18 will be £5.4m. A detailed breakdown is shown in the table below.

		2016/17	2017/18	Both Years
Council Tax Percentage Increase for Adult Social Care	%	2%	3%	5%
Total Amount Raised	£m	2.1	3.3	5.4
Council Tax Amount	£	22.01	34.33	56.34

**Question 22 from Councillor Chibah to Councillor Lemonides, Cabinet Member for Finance and Efficiency**

Can the Cabinet Member for Finance and Efficiency confirm that the Council has adopted the procedure advocated by the 'ban the box' campaign, that applicants for employment, other than jobs requiring enhanced disclosure, are not required to declare criminal convictions until a late stage in the recruitment process, to enhance their chances of being able to secure employment?

**Reply from Councillor Lemonides**

The Council has supported the approach advocated by the 'ban the box' campaign for some years. Candidates are not required to declare criminal convictions prior to being interviewed. If the candidate is offered a job they receive a conditional offer that is subject to satisfactory clearances. At this stage we ask the candidate to declare 'spent' and 'unspent convictions' or, depending on the nature of the role only 'unspent convictions' (non- safeguarding roles). Therefore this removes the potential risk of bias.

### **Question 23 from Councillor Rye to Councillor Oykenor, Cabinet Member for Housing & Housing Regeneration**

It is now seven years since Councillor Oykenor has been responsible for Housing in Enfield. Would he explain why the Small Sites Programme at Forty Hill has yet to see a brick on the ground, including when does he anticipate this site being built on providing homes that the people of Enfield so desperately need?

### **Reply from Councillor Oykenor**

This site has been affected by the main sub-contractor going into administration. Discussions with the main contractor have been taking place to re-schedule work. Works are expected to re-start within a few months with a completion date in 2018.

### **Question 24 from Councillor Jemal to Councillor Fonyonga, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Public Health**

Will the Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Public Health update the Council on the work that the Community Safety Team is doing to tackle the abhorrent issue of violence against women and girls?

### **Reply from Councillor Fonyonga**

Enfield Council is leading a campaign to encourage awareness and reporting of Domestic Abuse. By Valentine's Day we had successfully reached over 168,000 young women in the Enfield area online, with our *"He doesn't love you if..."* campaign. The campaign reflects our focus on young people within the developing Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) strategy. We will continue to work to change social attitudes to Domestic Abuse so that young people particularly recognise what an abusive relationship looks like, and know what to do about it which involves having the confidence to report any crimes to the police. Many women will still need support to do this and we fund the IRIS project which trains GPs to ask questions routinely and help patients to access support.

The Domestic Violence advocates look after survivors throughout the process and because the service is so heavily relied on, we have provided additional funding for two further posts to make sure that survivors get the help they need. We also provide a free locks and bolts service to help people stay safe in their own homes but when this is not enough to manage risks there are refuge spaces available for Enfield women to access.

We wish to see an increase in core Government funding to help local authorities tackle VAWG, and in the meantime we are pleased to say that we have recently successfully secured £639,000 from the DCLG (Department for Communities and Local Government) for women's refuge provision and outreach and with 3 other boroughs some additional funding to help women who are suffering from domestic abuse who also have a range of complex needs.

**Question 25 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment**

Will the Cabinet Member for Environment commit to maintaining a weekly refuse collection in the 17/18 financial year?

**Reply from Councillor Anderson**

Yes.

**Question 26 from Councillor During to Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment**

Could the Cabinet Member for Environment provide an update on the Mayor of London's emerging Transport Strategy?

**Reply from Councillor Anderson**

A draft of the Mayor's Transport Strategy, which sets out his long term vision for transport in London, is due to be consulted on in the Spring with the final version due in the Autumn 2017. I am sure you will be pleased to know that emerging priorities include cycling and walking as well as healthy and safe streets, following a similar approach to our Quieter Neighbourhoods.

There is also a continued focus on improving the rail network with the delivery of improved services including new trains on overground services from 2018, which is something we have long pushed for. Other key areas include accessibility and air quality, both of which have been highlighted as issues in Enfield.

**Question 27 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment**

Will the Cabinet Member for Environment commit to not closing off roads to all traffic as part of the Quietways Programme?

**Reply from Councillor Anderson**

The only Quietway currently underway in the borough, between Enfield Town and Edmonton Green, does not involve any road closures.

**Question 28 from Councillor Stewart to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council**

The Tory Government proposal to reduce the cost of politics, resulting in the destruction of the Enfield Southgate Parliamentary Constituency, is deeply unpopular. Is it sensible?



### **Reply from Councillor Taylor**

David Cameron, when Prime minister, increased the size of the House of Lords by 260, which significantly exceeds the 'saved' 50 MPs.

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

Would the Cabinet Member for Environment give a deadline as to when the problems at Broomfield Park netball courts will cease?

### **Reply from Councillor Anderson**

The problems have been addressed and the netball courts reopened on 18 February 2017.

### **Question 30 from Councillor Kepez to Councillor Fonyonga, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Public Health**

In light of National No-Smoking Day on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017, could Councillor Fonyonga update members on what the Council is doing to reduce tobacco usage in the borough?

### **Reply from Councillor Fonyonga**

Smoking remains the greatest cause of premature death and morbidity in the borough. As National No-Smoking day approaches we are strengthening our efforts to increase the scope of our popular No-Smoking Outside School Gates campaign.

We are very pleased to report our success in collaboration with the Mental Health Trust and the Forensic Unit on the Chase Farm site to go smoke-free which they did in January 2017, we worked on their policy and guided them in training their staff in one-to-one support for people going smoke free. We have now begun working with local businesses to support them and local workers to also become smoke-free. We have also produced a range of self-help guides to support people to stop smoking by themselves and distributed these guides to some 20,000 households where smoking prevalence is greatest, and we have recommissioned the Stop Smoking Service to target those populations most at risk in the borough. Furthermore, Enfield is also taking a lead across London by chairing the London Tobacco Control Leads meeting.

### **Question 31 from Councillor Smith to Councillor Oyken, Cabinet Member for Housing & Housing Regeneration**

Would the Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Oyken, inform the Council of the number of housing units in the regeneration programme (excluding Meridian Water) in January 2012, broken down by scheme and tenure, compared with the

number of housing units completed by January 2017, broken down on the same basis?

### **Reply from Councillor Oyken**

There was no regeneration programme in 2012. But starting with Highmead there have been the following completions from July 2015: 118 units at Highmead (This includes 22 social rent, 25 shared ownership units and 71 private units) – this was a redeveloped council estate. New units are Newlon Housing's.

November 2016	3 St George's Road – Private Rent
December 2016/January 2017	19 Parsonage Lane of which 15 are private rent, 2 social rent and 2 shared ownership/equity
January 2017	38 at Dujardin Mews of which 19 are social rent and 19 shared equity

### **Question 32 from Councillor Hasan to Councillor A Cazimoglu, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care**

Could Councillor A Cazimoglu advise us about the Christmas visits she carried out with the Mayor of Enfield to Adult Social Care residential homes and day centres?

### **Reply from Councillor A Cazimoglu**

I was absolutely delighted that I had the opportunity to carry out these visits with the Mayor of Enfield and meet clients in the run up to Christmas.

We visited the Formont Centre, which caters for adults with profound and multiple learning disabilities, the Rose Taylor Centre, which provides activities to help improve the health of older people, the New Options Centre, which caters for adults with learning disabilities and Bridge House, a centre for older people with dementia.

The Mayor and I had the opportunity to speak with residents and wish them a Merry Christmas and find out more about their experiences of the centres and also had the opportunity to chat to the hard working staff who make life a little bit easier for people with specific needs.

Our day centres provide a wide range of services designed to support and care for people with specific needs and it is important to listen to what the local people who use them think of the services they receive.

**Question 33 from Councillor Smith to Councillor Lemonides, Cabinet Member for Finance and Efficiency**

Would the Cabinet Member for Finance, Councillor Lemonides, inform the Council what was the headcount (broken down between permanent and temporary staff) in each major departmental area at the outset of the Enfield 2017 programme compared with the headcount on the same basis in January 2017?

**Reply from Councillor Lemonides**

The figures are detailed below. It should be noted that in some areas there have been increases. This has been the result of the transfer of functions eg; the centralisation of the back office functions.

	PERM	PERM	TEMP	TEMP	Total Sum of Jan 2017	Total Sum of Mar 2015
	Jan 2017	Mar 2015	Jan 2017	Mar 2015		
<b>Chief Executive's Service</b>	100	87	19	24	119	111
<b>Finance, Resources &amp; Customer Services</b>	898	776	65	83	963	859
<b>Health Housing &amp; Adult Social Care Dept</b>	253	687	9	58	262	745
<b>Independence and Wellbeing Enfield (IWE)</b>	173	N/A	5	N/A	178	N/A
<b>Regeneration and Environment Department</b>	869	1056	37	46	906	1102
<b>Schools and Children's</b>	845	1112	76	123	921	1235
<b>Enfield</b>					3349	4052
<b>Enfield + IWE</b>					3527	4052

**Question 34 from Councillor Stafford to Councillor Sitkin, Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Business Development**

Could the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration & Business Development please update us on when the first jobs on Meridian Water will be delivered?

**Reply from Councillor Sitkin**

The delivery of 6,700 permanent jobs at Meridian Water will be the responsibility of

the Council's development partner, Barratt London. Once in contract (Spring 2017) further details of timing of these jobs will be made available. However, the Council has taken on the responsibility meanwhile for use of the land prior to it being passed to Barratt London for development. As part of this, the Council's Meridian Works project will in the first phase be bringing forward 300 jobs through its delivery partners Building BloQs and ACAVA to support the growing demand for creative maker space in Enfield. We anticipate this project opening in January 2018.

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

Would the Cabinet Member for Environment set out the borough's recycling rates from 2010 to date?

**Reply from Councillor Anderson**

Year	NI 192 results
2016-17 (Q1&Q2 only)	39.3%
2015-16	35.9%
2014-15	38.5%
2013-14	39.1%
2012-13	38.8%
2011-12	35.3%
2010-11	32.4%

**Question 36 from Councillor Ulus to Councillor Brett, Cabinet Member for Community, Arts & Culture**

We are aware you have been working with Councillor Oykenor to alleviate the worsening conditions of homeless people in the borough. Could the Cabinet Member for Community, Arts & Culture share what steps have been taken?

**Reply from Councillor Brett**

The Government's housing and welfare benefit policies, combined with a lack of affordable housing have resulted in enormous housing pressures facing local people. Sadly this has seen the number of households facing homelessness rise. Alongside this, the number of people sleeping rough across the country in 2016 has risen by 16%, when compared with 2015.

The Council has taken a number of steps to tackle this problem ranging from Housing Gateway investing in new homes and renting them as an alternative to temporary accommodation, through to ambitious plans for new and affordable homes at Meridian Water.

Enfield's Councillors backed the decision by the Mayor for London to tackle the problems faced by rough sleepers and supported his recent decision to invest in a package of financial support for services to help those facing this terrible problem. Locally, over the Christmas period, a publicity campaign was launched which made

sure that residents know how to refer rough sleepers to London Street Rescue. This is a specialist organisation that reaches out to rough sleepers, tracks their movement around London and offers appropriate support to secure accommodation. Reporting a rough sleeper to this service is easy. An online referral can be made on [www.streetlink.org.uk](http://www.streetlink.org.uk) or contact them by phone on 0300 500 0914

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

Would the Cabinet Member inform Council of the estimated number of events in parks needed to meet its events income target?

**Reply from Councillor Anderson:**

The events income target for 2016/17 is £105,000, which has been achieved through the delivery of a total of 93 income generating events.

**Question 38 from Councillor Bakir to Councillor Oykenner, Cabinet Member for Housing and Housing Regeneration**

Could the Cabinet Member for Housing and Housing Regeneration please update on progress the Council is making to build new homes?

**Reply from Councillor Oykenner:**

In addition to the answer given at Q31 the Council is continuing to deliver homes through its estate renewal and regeneration programmes. In the pipeline there are:

<b>2017/18 = 166</b>	
The breakdown	
Parsonage Lane Block D	9 Private Rented Sector (PRS) and 1 Shared Ownership
Tudor Crescent	9PRS and 6 Affordable Rent (AR)
Ladderswood PH1	23 AR and 17 Sale
Electric Quarter	40 Private and 21 AR
Ordnance Road	15 AR
Rooftops (Lychet Way)	25 AR
<b>2018/19 and beyond</b>	
Small Sites (Perry Mead, Padstow and Hedge Hill)	13 units
Newstead House	22 units
The rest of Ladderswood	477 units
Alma Road	993 units
New Avenue	Minimum of 408
Meridian Water Phase 1	725 units with planning application due soon. Total scheme 10,000 units
Raynham and Upton Roads	140 units
Plus various other small sites and custom build sites	100 units
Next phase of estate renewal schemes	2000 plus new homes

**Housing Association Completions/Projected Completions as follows:**

2015/16	79 Affordable Rent	114 Shared Ownership
2016/17	69 Affordable Rent	65 Shared Ownership
2017/18	68 Affordable Rent	109 Shared Ownership
2018/19	54 Affordable Rent	22 Shared Ownership

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

Would the Cabinet Member inform Council what mitigating measures will be implemented for the Cycle Enfield A105 scheme to help local businesses during the traffic works?

**Reply from Councillor Anderson:**

Our contractors, Ringway Jacobs are already implementing a whole host of mitigation measures and have an on-site liaison officer. This includes:

- Visiting businesses on an ongoing basis to talk about their requirements during the construction period, seeking to accommodate their needs regarding customer parking and deliveries, providing 'business-as-usual' signs etc
- Working in phases to minimise the disruption as best as possible
- Creating temporary pedestrian crossings so people can still get around safely
- Upgrading Fords Grove and Lodge Drive car parks to accommodate extra short-term parking and offering a number of free 45 minute bays
- Installing directional signs and way-marking to ensure that people can easily navigate around the construction works.

The list is not exhaustive and officers in conjunction with our contractors are actively working to support local business as much as is possible during the temporary, but necessary construction period.

**Question 40 from Councillor Bond to Councillor Lemonides, Cabinet Member for Finance and Efficiency**

Could the Cabinet Member for Finance and Efficiency set out his views on the Government's recent consultation on Business Rates Retention and what the local impact of Business Rate Revaluation will be?

**Reply from Councillor Lemonides:**

I am pleased that local authorities will ultimately retain 100% of the rates collected. However, we are conscious of the potential for revaluation to impact negatively on Enfield businesses. My understanding at present is that the net effect for Enfield of the Government proposals for revaluation will be cost neutral. Our top priority for Enfield is to both stimulate business growth within the borough to increase our rate

base but also to ensure that our business ratepayers get a fair deal and do not experience excessive increases in rates.

**Question 41 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Lemonides, Cabinet Member for Finance and Efficiency**

Would the Cabinet Member for Finance and Efficiency inform Council what assets the Council plans to sell in order to meet the proposed 17/18 budget £2 million Capital Receipts Target?

**Reply from Councillor Lemonides:**

The £2m will come from the properties agreed as part of the tranche 8 disposal programme which was approved by Cabinet in January 2017. The following properties were agreed:

- William Preye Centre, Houndsfield Road, N9
- Coppice Wood Lodge, New Southgate, N11
- Honeysuckle House, Palmers Green, N13
- Bridge House, Forty Hill, EN1
- 55 Church Lane, Cheshunt, EN8