Council Questions – Wednesday 14 June 2017

Question 1 from Councillor Maguire to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council

Could the Council Leader report on the result of the Enfield Lock by-election held on Thursday 18 May 2017?

Reply from Councillor Taylor

Candidate's Name	Description	Votes Received	
Christine BELLAS	The Conservative Party Candidate	973	
Elif ERBIL	Labour Party	2,155	ELECTED
Kate MCGEEVOR	Green Party	104	
Richard MORGAN-ASH	Liberal Democrats	54	
Gary ROBBENS	UK Independence Party (UKIP)	91	

The total number of ballot papers rejected was			
Voting for more candidates than voter entitled to	10		
Writing or mark by which the voter could be identified	0		
Being unmarked or wholly void for uncertainty	7		
Want of official mark	0		
The turnout was	32.21%		

Question 2 from Councillor Dines to Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment

The problem of lorries delivering on Lancaster Road is becoming one that needs to be tackled. Whilst of course shops should be able to receive deliveries, the Co-Op and Dominos in particular are using large lorries which are clearly unsuitable for residential roads, causing traffic problems and frequently parking on double yellow lines. Will the Cabinet Member commit to a review of deliveries along Lancaster Road and seek to find a solution which does not harm the shops but stops the severe inconvenience to local residents?

Reply from Councillor Anderson:

Officers are aware of issues with the delivery and servicing of the retail units in this location which has various constraints. Loading restrictions are already in place to prohibit loading between 7am and 8pm in the vicinity of the Co-Op and other options have been considered, but rejected as unviable. Though there was a reduction in reports of problematic loading, given that these appear to have returned, I have asked officers to step up enforcement in the vicinity and review the situation.

Question 3 from Councillor Charalambous to Councillor Fonyonga, Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Public Health

From 2010 Conservative Governments slashed funding to the police budget resulting in a loss of police officers in London. Added to this was the closure of police stations in the capital. Does the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Public Health believe that the Conservative Opposition on Enfield Council will now concede that the governments that they have supported have recklessly risked the safety of residents in Enfield and across London through these drastic cuts?

Reply from Councillor Fonyonga

Thank you for your question. I would very much hope that the Conservative Opposition will finally concede that supporting a Conservative government which has systematically slashed funding to the police and significantly reduced the number of police available in Enfield, is clearly against the best interests of residents in Enfield.

I therefore hope that they will join this administration in calling for the government to finally start funding policing in London properly.

Question 4 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Achilleas Georgiou, Deputy Leader

Would the Deputy Leader of the Council confirm whether the new telephony system has been installed across the Council or if not when is it due to go live?

Reply from Councillor Achilleas Georgiou

The new telephony system is for the Customer Service Centre only. The telephone system used by Council staff is Skype for Business, which is part of the Office 365 suite. The new telephony system goes live in June.

Question 5 from Councillor Jemal to Councillor Achilleas Georgiou, Deputy Leader

Recent atrocities designed to undermine our values and freedoms make it more important than ever that we encourage people to take part in the democratic process. How have Enfield Council encouraged people to register to vote in the run up to the General Election?

Reply from Councillor Achilleas Georgiou

Enfield Council took part in a pan-London voter registration campaign utilising predominantly digital channels and commuter media to reach audiences across London. Digital platforms where voter registration adverts appeared included websites and apps for Transport for London, the Evening Standard, Ebay, Facebook, Twitter, Gumtree and the local press. To capture commuters, advertisements were placed on a range of digital channels at relevant tube stations. Adverts also appeared in the Metro - read by 763,000 people in London.

The localised registration campaign included three press releases – generating significant coverage in the local papers.

The most recent Our Enfield, distributed to every household in the borough, featured a back-page register to vote advert with supporting articles in the news section and Leader's column.

We also delivered a sustained registration/exercise your right to vote campaign on Twitter and Facebook urging those eligible to vote in Enfield to do so, and informing people of their postal and proxy voting options.

Question 6 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Achilleas Georgiou, Deputy Leader

What has been the cost to the Council of procuring new computer hardware, new computer applications, and employing associated consultants since the start of Enfield 2017?

Reply from Councillor Achilleas Georgiou

Enfield 2017 was a wide ranging and ambitious transformation programme that affected virtually all parts of the Council, its staff, systems and processes. Its aims were to save money, to improve focus on our customers by providing a more joined-up customer experience, to invest in staff and partners, and to automate where possible nearly all transactional activity. So although IT was a large part of the programme, the other elements were equally important to bring about the many changes and benefits that have been achieved to date. The programme has been recognised as such by potential customers, and external advisers and commentators, which underlines its significance both to the borough and local government more generally.

The total spend on Enfield 2017 Capital Programme is as follows.

Description	2016	2015	2014	Total
Enfield 2017	9,198,016.64	10,909,354.90	1,444,200.98	21,551,572.52

This includes expenditure which would necessarily have to have been incurred in any eventuality in order to keep IT systems up to date. The most significant of these was the then pressing replacement of the Council's website, which had become out of date, was poorly recognised by external bodies, difficult to use and increasingly technologically obsolete.

As a result of that initial investment, ongoing staffing savings are £15m per year, with further savings expected in this financial year. The payback period for this programme has therefore been quick – less than 2 years – with the potential for significant further savings in future (eg from reducing further the net cost of our office portfolio).

Question 7 from Councillor Simon to Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment

Could the Cabinet Member for Environment please provide more detail on Enfield's recent prosecutions of utility companies for not complying with street works legislation.

Reply from Councillor Anderson:

Yes I can.

On the 11th May, Enfield successfully prosecuted several utility companies at Highbury Corner Magistrates Court.

A summary of the prosecutions is set out below:

BT for one offence of not complying with the required safety standards at street works at Church Street N9;

National Grid for three offences of not reinstating their excavations properly at Crossway EN1, The Ridgeway EN1 and Wilford Close EN2;

Thames Water for four safety offences at Fir Tree Walk EN1, Chase Side EN1, Maxim Road N21 and Crestbrook Avenue N21.

The fines imposed totalled £11,250 with victim surcharges of £475. The Council recovered costs of £1,595.

On the 25th May, Enfield successfully prosecuted two utility companies at Highbury Corner Magistrates Court for failing to correctly reinstate the highway:

BT at the following sites:

- Chase Side N14 j/w Station Parade
- Chase Side o/s 43
- Hertford Road j/w Bridlington Road
- High Street
- Hillfield Park EN1 o/s 1
- Southbury Road o/s ASDA Depot

They were ordered to pay total fines of £70,000, Victim Surcharge of £170.00 and our costs of £646.12.

Virgin Media at the following sites:

- Hazelwood Road o/s 27
- Freston Gardens o/s 47
- High Street o/s 65-75

- Bilton Way EN3 o/s Anovo
- Connaught Avenue j/w Vicars Close
- Eaton Road j/w Southbury Road
- Nelson Road EN3 j/w Gardiner Close

They were ordered to pay total fines of £51,500, Victim Surcharge of £170.00 and our costs of £475.25.

Question 8 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Achilleas Georgiou, Deputy Leader

What are the savings in expenditure on staff as a result of the restructuring of the Council since the start of Enfield 2017?

Reply from Councillor Georgiou:

The Enfield 2017 restructuring commenced in April 2015. At that point in time the staffing budget was £137.8m. At March 2017 the staffing budget has been reduced to £122.7m, a saving of £15 million. The staffing budget for 2017/8 is £117.6m.

Question 9 from Councillor Keazor to Councillor Lemonides, Cabinet Member for Finance and Efficiency

Can the Cabinet Member for Finance and Efficiency update the Council on the financial outturn for 2016/17?

Reply from Councillor Lemonides

The final outturn will be reported to Cabinet on 13 July 2017. This is consistent with the approach that we have used in previous years. I can say though that early indications are that the final outturn will be consistent with what our in year monitoring has shown throughout the 2016/17 financial year. This demonstrates sound financial management and rigour in ensuring that we keep to our budget plans.

Question 10 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Achilleas Georgiou, Deputy Leader

Would the Deputy Leader inform me of how many computer systems across the whole council need to be replaced or upgraded in order to fully implement Enfield 2017? Please provide this information on a departmental basis.

Reply from Councillor Achilleas Georgiou

There are no computer systems that need replacing or upgrading to fully implement

Enfield 2017. The programme ends in the next couple of months with the completion of the Microsoft Dynamics Platform work and the roll out of the telephony system. Moving forwards there is a new capital programme for the next three years that continues the maintenance, upgrade and renewal of computer systems. The capital programme was approved by Cabinet in early 2017.

Question 11 from Councillor Abdullahi to Councillor Yasemin Brett, Cabinet Member for Community, Arts and Culture

How many families have been trapped by the lower benefits cap in Enfield and how many children will be impacted as a result?

Reply from Councillor Brett

As at 31 May 2017, there are 1,074 households affected by the benefit cap and there are 2,376 children within these households.

Question 12 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council

Would the Leader of the Council confirm whether or not his administration is supportive of the Mayor of London's proposals to extend the ultra-low emission zone to the North Circular Road in 2021?

Reply from Councillor Taylor

The Council is supportive of the concept of an Ultra-Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) because poor air quality is killing people across the whole of London, with research for the GLA estimating that there are over 200 deaths a year in Enfield from air pollution. We have suggested that the Mayor looks at an option for a London Wide ULEZ covering all vehicles and not just HGV's.

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

Would the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Business Development update the Council on Meridian Works?

Reply from Councillor Sitkin

A planning application for the project was approved at Planning Committee in May 2017. A procurement process for a building contractor has now been completed and a Preferred Bidder is due to be appointed by the end of July 2017. In order to increase jobs, footfall and to improve financial viability, the Council has arranged for a third tenant to move into Phase 1 of the Council's Meridian Works meanwhile programme. Once contracts are in place the Council will be able to confirm the identity of the third tenant.

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

Would the Cabinet Member for Economic and Business Development inform the chamber when he was first made aware that the GLA were undertaking a strategic industrial land review?

Reply from Councillor Sitkin

We were not formally notified that the GLA were undertaking a strategic industrial land review.

Question 15 from Councillor Dogan to Councillor Fonyonga, Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Public Health

Can the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Public Health inform the Council of the Government's plans for policing in London and how this will affect policing in Enfield?

Reply from Councillor Fonyonga

Unfortunately the plans of the last government (to 8 July 2017) for policing in London are wholly unclear. Their un-costed manifesto simply stated that they would help the police fight crime, yet it lacked any information or detail about their plan for policing.

Given the savage cuts to the police budget made by the Conservative government, this administration has lobbied tirelessly for extra resources. We continue to support the Mayor of London in ensuring that London gets its full allocation from the Capital Cities Fund. It is noted that the Conservative Government also started to review the Policing Allocation Formula but were forced to defer this when they realised that their figures were statistically flawed. We therefore expect that when the formula is finally agreed by the Home Office that London, and by extension our borough, receive the police service we require.

Question 16 from Councillor Chamberlain to Councillor Sitkin, Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Business Development

When did the Cabinet Member for Economic and Business Development's department first start discussions with representatives of the owners of the Stonehill and Hastingwood sites about purchasing both sites?

Reply from Councillor Sitkin

Initial discussions with all landowners, including the owners of Stonehill and Hastingwood, began in late 2014. Formal negotiations on purchasing the site started in autumn 2016 and resultantly the proposal to acquire was presented to Cabinet in May 2017.

Question 17 from Councillor Chibah to Councillor Oykener, Cabinet Member for Housing and Housing Regeneration

Have we received any recognition for the superb quality of the newly completed Dujardan Mews development? (RIBA awards)

Reply from Councillor Oykener:

The Council has achieved recognition of its scheme at Dujardin Mews with two recent awards.

The Royal Institute of Architects (RIBA) has recognised Enfield Council as being 'Client of the Year' beating competition including the Tate, NHS and private sector developers. The design which the judges described as "Delivers quality exemplar housing for the local community" also won a building of the year award.

The scheme has also been nominated for a Housing Design Award, a New London Architecture Award and for a Local Authority Building Control award in the category of 'Best Social or Affordable Housing New Development'.

Question 18 from Councillor Robert Hayward to Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment

When will the Cabinet Member for Environment meet with business owners on the A105 to discuss their concerns regarding the Cycle Enfield works?

Reply from Councillor Anderson:

There has been and continues to be ongoing engagement with the business owners by officers from the Environment and Regeneration directorate and our delivery partner to help mitigate the disruption caused during construction works. Our officers are also working with them on our efforts to improve the look and feel of the area post completion as part of Cycle Enfield's stated aim of transforming our high streets and town centres.

Question 19 from Councillor Stewart to Councillor A Cazimoglu, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care

Could the Cabinet Member update us on the move of residents into Bridgewood House?

Reply from Councillor A Cazimoglu:

Following a positive visit from the Care Quality Commission, all residents from the Councils two existing care homes, Bridge House and Coppice Wood Lodge, moved in to Bridgewood House on the 17th and 18th May 2017. Independence and Well Being Enfield are now moving towards registering to deliver nursing care at Bridgewood House which will enable the care home to commence delivery of Continuing Health Care and Nursing services. I would like to take this opportunity to

thank staff for their hard work and commitment to enable a viable transition as well as acknowledge the support provided by resident's families and friends.

Question 20 from Councillor Robert Hayward to Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment

Would Councillor Anderson take this opportunity to apologise to all those businesses and households affected by Cycle Enfield and offer compensation in proven cases of hardship or loss of property value?

Reply from Councillor Anderson:

Construction works are an inevitable part of delivering Cycle Enfield. However, the Council, together with our delivery partner, continues to work closely with local businesses to ensure that, wherever possible, access is maintained at all times for both delivery and customers. In addition, our officers have provided guidance to businesses on applying to the Valuation Office Agency for business rate relief.

However, walking and cycling are an integral part of the Mayor of London's Strategy for Healthy Streets and this investment in our highway infrastructure has three key strands, namely to transform our high streets and town centres to make them nicer places to visit, promote more active forms of travel and create safe and secure cycle lanes. All of which will help facilitate a change in behaviour to encourage significant modal shift from the private car to walking, cycling and public transport whilst seeking to reduce traffic growth.

Question 21 from Councillor Doyle to Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment

Could the Cabinet Member for Environment please tell us what the Council is doing to improve the public realm around Bush Hill Park Station?

Reply from Councillor Anderson:

Using funding secured from Transport for London's Major Schemes Programme the Council has recently implemented improvements to the frontage of Bush Hill Park Station. The work was focused on the plaza area in front of Sainsbury's. Here a transformational reconfiguration of the space has taken place, which reduced the area given over to vehicles in favour of wider footways, formalised parking bays, trees and cycle parking.

Construction commenced in March 2017 using attractive block paving materials and was substantially completed in May 2017. Remaining works include the installation of sign posts and cycle parking, and these alterations, planned for June 2017, should address issues with vehicles mounting the footway. The overall public response to the improvements has been positive.

Question 22 from Councillor Chamberlain to Councillor Sitkin, Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Business Development

Given the significant economic damage being done by the introduction of Cycle Enfield, with businesses losing considerable income which is not being replaced, what steps is the Cabinet Member now taking, or willing to undertake, to offset or ameliorate the impact on businesses? In view of the deteriorating state of some of our high streets this is increasingly urgent, especially in the light of the general shift in retail to online purchases.

Reply from Councillor Sitkin

The Neighbourhood Regeneration team, of which economic development is a part, is working closely with the Cycle Enfield Team on a weekly basis to engage directly with the businesses, listen to their concerns and provide support. Work has also commenced with a local community group to apply for funding to improve a local town centre benefiting from Cycle Enfield.

Question 23 from Councillor Pite to Councillor Lemonides, Cabinet Member for Finance and Efficiency

Can the Cabinet Member for Finance and Efficiency update us on the work being done on Fair Funding for Enfield?

Reply from Councillor Lemonides

Central Government is reviewing the funding formula as part of its changes to local authority finance. The London Borough of Enfield has consistently lobbied the Government in meetings and correspondence with ministers, to review its formula, which unfairly benefits already well off inner London Boroughs. We have worked with partner organisations, such as the over 50s Forum, to promote our case and gain public support.

LB Enfield is currently leading on a piece of analytical work, supported by the consultancy firm LG Futures, to provide evidence and analysis to support a review of funding, and to identify areas of commonality and of difference among the outer London Boroughs. All outer London Boroughs have been invited to take part in this exercise, and the response has been very positive. This work will be critical to responding to further Government consultations on funding.

In addition, officers and leading members will continue to make the case for redistribution of funding within London as part of the discussions on a possible London Pool for business rates with London Boroughs, London Councils and the Greater London Authority.

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

When will the Cabinet Member for Housing and Housing Regeneration apologise to the residents of the block of flats in Parsonage Lane about the appalling delay in delivering the external works programme?

Reply from Councillor Oykener:

Councillor Laban is correct in that there have been extensive delays on this project. These have been in part due to problems with the performance of the supplier of the new windows, financial penalties have consequently been imposed on the main contractor for this element of the delay. But the contractor has also discovered structural problems with the building construction – these couldn't have been foreseen and have required investigation by a structural engineer and a solution being designed that will ensure that the building is structurally sound when the works are completed. Both the contractor and council officers are in touch with residents regularly and are keeping them updated on progress. Arrangements are being made for a joint senior officer visit to one resident to deal with a specific complaint regarding damage.

There is a marked improvement in the appearance of those blocks that are nearing completion. It is always regrettable when a project overruns, but the structural issues on these blocks could not be left without being addressed.

Question 25 from Councillor During to Councillor Lemonides, Cabinet Member for Finance and Efficiency

Can the Cabinet Member for Finance and Efficiency update the Council on progress with the next medium financial strategy?

Reply from Councillor Lemonides

Council officers have been working on our budget plans for 2018/19 and beyond. These will form the basis of our financial strategy for the next four years. The financial remit and associated strategy were reported to Council on 28 February 2017 when Enfield set the annual Council Tax. We are eager to deliver on that financial remit early in the year and are aiming to provide an initial report on savings to Cabinet on 13 July. The continued austerity policies of central government mean we will have difficult decisions to make. But we guarantee that these decisions will be made with a measured and responsible approach that puts the Enfield community first and protects essential services.

Question 26 from Councillor Robert Hayward to Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment

Would the Cabinet Member for Environment confirm how long the former Albany Park Community Cafe building was left empty?

Reply from Councillor Anderson:

The deed of surrender was signed on the 7th April 2016. Efforts to secure a new tenant are ongoing.

Question 27 from Councillor McGowan to Councillor Sitkin, Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Business Development

Would the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Business Development update the Council on Camden Town Brewery?

Reply from Councillor Sitkin

Camden Brewery is completing the internal fit out of the Brewery in Navigation Park. The Camden Brewery Human Resources Manager has already liaised with Enfield's Economic Development team to ensure that local residents are given information about the job roles available so that vacancies can be filled by local people if they have the right skills.

Question 28 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Lemonides, Cabinet Member for Finance & Efficiency

Would the Cabinet Member inform the Council how much the Mayor's office cost in allowances, expenses and staffing during the years 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17?

Mayor's office cost in allowances, expenses and staffing during the years 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17			
	<u>2014/5</u>	<u>2015/6</u>	<u>2016/7</u>
Staffing costs	73,964	86,738	80,522
Mayor's Allowances	14,788	14,788	14,788
Deputy Mayor's allowances	5,876	5,876	5,876
Other costs	5,749	14,515	10,369
Total	100,377	121,917	111,555

Reply from Councillor Lemonides

The other costs cover a range of expenditure including the Mayoral car and driver, staff mobile phones, insurance, events costs, printing and photocopying.

Question 29 from Councillor Savva to Councillor Alev Cazimoglu, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care

Could the Cabinet Member update us on events that are happening to promote awareness and recognise the importance of family and informal carers during Carers Week in Enfield?

Reply from Councillor A Cazimoglu:

As I hope we will all know, next week is Carers Week (12-18 June 2017) and this year the focus is building carer friendly communities. Our excellent Carer Centre has pledged to support this aim and will be contributing to this annual campaign to raise awareness of caring, highlight the challenges which carers face and recognise the selfless and invaluable contribution that our carers make to families and communities in Enfield.

The care provided by informal carers is absolutely essential, to the community, and both social care and NHS services would be unable to manage without families fulfilling this role; carers' efforts should always be recognised and supported as we build carers friendly communities.

There will be a whole range of awareness raising events throughout the borough next week to raise awareness of carers rights to those carers we have yet to identify and the professionals involved in providing support.

Staff and volunteers will be at various venues throughout the borough during the week, hosting information stalls and talking to communities at GP surgeries and supermarkets. At the end of Carers Week Enfield Carers Centre will be hosting their Annual Family Fun Day outside Enfield Town Library. This really will be a wonderful opportunity to raise awareness and I hope we will all do our part to spread the word and lend our support.

I think it's also worth saying here that raising awareness of carers and the work that all of our services, both statutory and non-statutory, provide day in and day out to support carers never stops. Carers week provides us with an opportunity to both acknowledge all of this hard work and to reach out to all of those many thousands of people living in our community who are caring for loved ones, sometimes under the most trying of circumstances in order to say thank you and importantly, to raise awareness of the practical help and support that is available to help them to continue caring.

Question 30 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Lemonides, Cabinet Member for Finance & Efficiency

Would the Cabinet Member inform the Council how much the security at Sloeman's Farm has cost the Council since its purchase?

Reply from Councillor Lemonides

The Council has spent £22,953 on security for Sloeman's Farm.

Question 31 from Councillor Bond to Councillor Fonyonga, Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Public Health

Would the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Public Health inform the Council about the next phase of the campaign to fight domestic violence?

Reply from Councillor Fonyonga

Our new strategy to tackle domestic abuse is centred on four main pillars:

- 1. Prevent violence from happening
- 2. Provide support and protection where it does occur
- 3. Provide a coordinated community response
- 4. Hold perpetrators accountable

We will also continue our successful hard-hitting communications campaign to promote positive relationships, and will continue to target our efforts especially at young people to change future views, help build self-esteem and publicise the consequences of this abhorrent crime.

In addition to providing funding for an additional two Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy support workers, Enfield has been successful in securing funding from the Department of Communities and Local Government to support our wide range of work in this area. The total amount of funding for the projects was £639,500.

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

Would Councillor Anderson tell the Council, respectively for the periods 1 September 2015 to 31 August 2016, and 1 September 2016 to the current date how many accidents involving vehicles, cycles and pedestrians have occurred along the route A105 between The Triangle, Palmers Green and London Road, Enfield?

Reply from Councillor Anderson:

Being a former Cabinet Member for Environment Councillor Neville should be aware that accident data is collected over a 3-year period to show if a statistically significant pattern can be demonstrated. Current records of data collected are up to 31st August 2016.

Question 33 from Councillor Hasan to Councillor Fonyonga, Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Public Health

Could the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Public Health inform the Council on actions to improve performance of drug and alcohol services in Enfield?

Reply from Councillor Fonyonga

Following the successful retender of Adult Drug & Alcohol Services in 2016, Cabinet agreed to award the contract to Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health NHS Trust (BEH) who commenced operation on the 1st April 2017. The new service is known as EnABLE

In the new contract, the model of service delivery has been reconfigured to ensure that there is a seamless treatment journey for patients accessing drug and alcohol services with a consultant led Clinical Addiction Psychiatry Service at Claverings, Edmonton N9 and a therapy led service at Vincent House, Ponders End EN3.

The new model is designed to deliver better outcomes for service users. The service is working to not only increase the numbers of people receiving treatment for their drug dependence but also to improve overall health and wellbeing. There are more services to address alcohol misuse and a new therapy service at Vincent House for people aiming to stop using alcohol and/or drugs altogether.

BEH have ambitious but realistic plans aiming for a higher rate of treatment success than both the London and National average.

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

Would Councillor Anderson tell the Council whether he is satisfied that all labour engaged in the construction works along the A105 are paid at least the London Living Wage?

Reply from Councillor Anderson:

Yes I am. As part of the contract with our delivery partner and TfL are committed to the 'London Living Wage'.

Question 35 from Councillor Levy to Councillor Sitkin, Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Business Development

Further to the success of recent themed markets in Enfield Town have we got any plans for further pop-up markets this summer? (Ponders End Pop-up Market)

Reply from Councillor Sitkin

This Spring/Summer, the Council launches a 7 week period of Pop-Up styled street markets in Ponders End to encourage greater positive usage of the high street. The entrance way to Ponders End Park will be opened allowing trade to local residents.

The idea for the market was derived from a consultation with local people. The market will comprise of a range of stalls including fresh produce, hot food and other goods and, where possible, will also have an element of entertainment for the community. These street markets will be promoted as events to ensure maximum attendance.

The inaugural launch was held on the 3rd and 4th of June 2017 and will be held every weekend on the following dates 10th/11 June, 17th/18th June, 1st/2nd July, 8th/9th July, 15th/16th July, 22nd/23rd July 2017. The pilot will help us to determine the viability of a permanent market in the area.

Question 36 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment

Councillor Anderson will be aware that an elderly man and a woman in separate incidents fell after tripping over one of the orcas (cycle lane separators) outside the Esso petrol filling station on Green Lanes and sustained injuries. Following these incidents it appears that four of the orcas including the ones involved, have been removed. Will he now commit to removing all of these along this route, taking his lead from the City of London, Southwark, Norwich and Camden to name but a few?

Reply from Councillor Anderson:

It would be inappropriate to comment on or prejudge any individual incident at this time as they may be subject to our claims procedure.

Though we are aware that there are some specific locations where traffic separators (such as armadillos and orcas) have been trialled and subsequently taken out as not being appropriate, it is inaccurate to state, as Councillor Neville suggests, that all the councils that he mentions have removed traffic separators, as this is not the case. Furthermore, the Mayor's Office, TfL and the Council believe orcas are an appropriate feature on the Cycle Enfield programme in order to achieve light segregation.

However, as part of a rigorous and ongoing post-implementation monitoring approach, amendments will be made as and when deemed appropriate and necessary. We are also in contact with colleagues at TfL and other authorities to learn from experiences elsewhere in London and the rest of the UK.

Question 37 from Councillor Barry to Councillor Sitkin, Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Business Development

Would the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Business Development update the Council on aspirations for Green Lanes' regeneration carrying on from Cycle Enfield?

Reply from Councillor Sitkin

The plan is to consult local people, as part of the Local Plan consultation, on what improvements they would like to see delivered in their local town centres to capitalise on the improvements bestowed by the Cycle Enfield works.

Question 38 from Councillor Smith to Councillor Oykener, Cabinet Member for Housing & Housing Regeneration

Would the Cabinet Member for Housing and Housing Regeneration confirm the number of households accepted as homeless by the Council in the two months prior to the introduction of the new digitised homeless application system and the number of homeless applicants accepted in the two months following the introduction of the new system?

Reply from Councillor Oykener:

The new Homeless Enquiry Tool went live on 3 November 2016. It enhances the existing screening tool developed in December 2014 by adding an evidence upload feature and registration for an Enfield Connected Account.

Information about the number of online applications received and verified by Housing Officers is set out below. Classifications are based on information provided by the customer.

	Sep- 16	Oct-16	Nov-16	Dec-16	Jan-17
No. completed online applications					
verified by Housing Officers	366	325	305	277	390
of which classified as:					
Applicant requires Housing Advice					
to prevent homelessness	147	143	103	91	141
Applicant is homeless or at risk of					
homelessness within 28 days.	171	137	132	131	171
Applicant has asked to join the					
Council's Housing Register	45	43	57	55	73
Other – to be determined	3	2	13	0	5

Homeless applications are only taken by officers when homelessness cannot be prevented. The table below provides information about the number of formal homeless applications taken.

Month	Sep-16	Oct-16	Nov-16	Dec-16	Jan-17
No. Homeless					
applications taken	119	136	152	95	112

Between April 2016 – March 2017, loss of private rented accommodation was the highest cause of homelessness counting for 70% of homeless acceptances. The second highest cause of homelessness was family / friends ejections counting for 19% of all homeless acceptances.

Question 39 from Councillor Kepez to Councillor Brett, Cabinet Member for Community, Arts and Culture

Could the Cabinet Member for Community, Arts and Culture please update the Council on any plans for support of merchant seafarers in Enfield?

Reply from Councillor Brett

Enfield Council has a continuing and strong tradition of recognising the contribution made by those who have given service to our country as part of the Merchant Navy. This is demonstrated by our flying the 'Red Ensign' (Merchant Navy Flag) on Merchant Navy day on 3 September each year. This year, our commemoration will include flying the flag from Friday 1 September through to Monday 4 September 2017 outside the Enfield Civic Centre. We also register our support on the Merchant Navy website Roll of honour, which we have done for a number of years now.

We are proud to do so, and recognise the important role the Merchant Navy has played in supporting our allies during the second world war through the part they played in the Arctic Convoys, which did so much to support the war effort on mainland Europe. As my colleague will know, in Enfield we also show our appreciation of the Merchant Navy's efforts through our commemoration events marking the Arctic Convoy outside the Civic Centre.

Question 40 from Councillor Smith to Councillor Oykener, Cabinet Member for Housing & Housing Regeneration

Would the Cabinet Member for Housing and Housing Regeneration confirm when the consultation on the proposed new allocations system for council housing will start as it is several months overdue already?

Reply from Councillor Oykener:

The work officers have engaged in to prepare the documentation to consult on the new housing allocation policy has been complex and has taken into account emerging legal advice into account as it has progressed. This has added to the time taken to have a document ready. I am sure you would agree that it is right and proper that we do all we can to ensure we consult with residents on the best possible basis. I am pleased to say that we are now ready to commence the formal consultation process and expect to do so later this month.