

Council Questions and Responses - Wednesday 19 July 2017

Question 1 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Lemonides, Cabinet Member for Finance & Efficiency

Would the Deputy Leader of the Council inform the chamber when the Information Technology Strategy will be published and implemented?

Reply from Councillor Lemonides

The Council's IT Strategy will set out the next round of ICT developments, building on the work already done and seeking to continue Enfield's strong track record of innovation in this area. It will ensure that future investments are linked to either improving the customer experience (including through investment in tools for staff to perform their jobs more effectively), or reducing costs, or both. Work is currently being initiated, and I intend to be able to publicise and agree the strategy in early 2018, for implementation over the next 2-3 years. There will also be ongoing review of the strategy, to take account of progress and to ensure it keeps abreast with developments, and opportunities for staff and customers to inform and shape the work.

Question 2 from Councillor Doyle to Councillor Sitkin, Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Business Development

Would the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Business Development provide the Council with a sample of recent planning applications to modernise Enfield's industrial estates?

Reply from Councillor Sitkin

Ponders End Industrial Estate, Brimsdown - P14-02066PLA Redevelopment of part of existing industrial estate involving demolition of existing units and erection of replacement industrial units totalling approx. 31,552sqm of floor space for B1, B2 and B8 uses (OUTLINE with some matters reserved - Access).

This was built on a speculative basis with no end user identified at the time of the planning application

Navigation Park, Morson Road - P12-02641PLA Redevelopment of site by the erection of 9,000 sq.m. of buildings within use classes B1c/B2 and B8, together with car parking, service areas, landscaping, access roads, plant and ancillary offices.

This was built on a speculative basis but has since been occupied by Camden Brewery and Deaserstone(UK)Ltd

114 Brancroft Way- 16/00580/FUL Part demolition and rebuild of existing warehouse areas involving 31 delivery and dispatch docks, and installation of pump house and sprinkler tanks.

This was a purpose built industrial premises for Greggs Bakery

158 Brancroft Way - 15/03055/FUL - 158 Brancroft Way - Conversion of existing warehouse into a chill store for the distribution of Marks and Spencer foods, installation of new dock houses for loading of vehicles, reconfiguration of existing dock doors, extension to yard at the north west corner of site to provide additional trailer parking and erection of an energy centre building to house associated chill plant.

This was a purpose built industrial premises for Marks & Spencer's

Advent Park, Advent Way, Edmonton - P12-03055PLA - Redevelopment of site to provide 3 blocks of 15 industrial units for B1b, B1c, B2 and B8 use (7 units incorporating mezzanine office space), a 5-storey, 96-bed Hotel (C1 use) with restaurant, bar and conference room to ground floor, new access road, access and egress from Advent Way, associated car parking, 2.4m high paladin fence to boundary with sliding and swing gates to commercial units and drop barrier to Hotel and associated landscaping, lighting, plant and equipment and associated works.

Built on a speculative basis but led by Premier Inns occupation of hotel unit. Occupiers of the retail unit include Dimark Limited, Edmundsen Electrical, Faiveley Transport, Hilti, MGE Wholesale, N&C Tiles and Bathrooms & PPG

Question 3 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council

Will the Leader of the Council publish the Council's response to the Mayor of London's Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) proposal to extend the boundary to the North and South Circular?

Reply from Councillor Taylor

I would be happy to publish the response of the Council to the ULEZ consultation.

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

If the price of saving a weak Prime Minister's job and propping up her wobbly Tory Government is £1billion pounds for Northern Ireland, isn't it fair that Enfield Council also get extra funding to reverse the cuts that her Government has inflicted on Enfield residents since 2010?

Reply from Councillor Taylor

I entirely concur with your perceptive question. We need proper funding for services based on need not political opportunism.

Question 5 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council

Would the Leader of the Council confirm whether or not in his recent meeting with the Deputy Mayor for Transport he raised our opposition to the extension of the ULEZ (Ultra Low Emission Zone) to the North and South Circular?

Reply from Councillor Taylor

The Mayor's proposals for the ULEZ were indeed discussed with the Deputy Mayor for Transport.

Question 6 from Councillor Levy to Councillor Lemonides, Cabinet Member for Finance & Efficiency

Given that we have just completed financial year 2016/17 and are looking ahead to the next budget planning round, could the Cabinet Member for Finance and Efficiency comment on the overall state of the Council's finances?

Reply from Councillor Lemonides

We continue to operate in a financially challenging environment due to a significant reduction in government funding support. Between 2010/11 and 2018/19, our like-for-like funding from Central Government will have been nearly halved – a cut of £94.2m.

Despite this, the outturn position on the General Fund revenue account for 2016/17 was within budget, even in the face of the pressures in demand led service budgets, particularly adults and children's social services. As the year end position was more favourable we were also able to top up earmarked reserves, with a net transfer of £6.8m, and, in particular we were able to put more into the risk reserve which helps the Council's financial resilience. We have also maintained the General Fund Balance at £14m at the year end.

The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) reported a balanced position after an additional transfer of £0.6m into balances. However, HRA balances at the year-end were £20.7m down from £25.8m.

The first monitor for the 2017/18 financial year which reported on the position as at the end of May reported a projected overspend of £5.5m. The most significant areas of pressures continue to be in our Children's and Adult Social Care Services. Assertive management action has been taken by the Corporate Management Team to mitigate this overspend and further work will be needed to manage these ever growing pressures. We are continuing our work to ensure that we come as close to the balance position as possible for 2017/18.

The Council continues to face wider increases in the cost of living alongside acute spending pressures from a population that is both growing rapidly and ageing. This affects all parts of the Council, and most notably in Adults & Children's Services. We have made over £150m of savings since 2010/11, and have £28m to find over the next three years. So, we have brought the budget process forward this year. The

approach to balancing the budget for future years will take the form of cross cutting reviews, using an outcome based approach to assessing the impact of savings proposals. Savings will be identified in successive tranches, to build up options for the final 2018/19 budget and future years' budgets, combining savings that can be taken now in the light of past trends with savings which require more detailed groundwork to implement. The work to date on the financial challenge demonstrates the responsible approach that this Council is taking to financial management in the face of central Government's policies of austerity.

Question 7 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Oykenner, Cabinet Member for Housing & Housing Regeneration

Will the Cabinet Member for Housing and Housing Regeneration follow the example of Croydon and commit to installing sprinklers in our tower blocks going forward?

Reply from Councillor Oykenner

The Council has implemented a Fire Safety task force, which has recommended that sprinklers be installed as part of an overall review of fire safety on a block by block basis for all our high-rise blocks.

Officers are now preparing a detailed program for approval of the installation of sprinklers, beginning with their inclusion in any planned tower block works for the current financial year, and continuing with a specific program for all remaining blocks. Suppliers have already been asked to submit prices for the works so that detailed costs can be assessed.

I believe that, along with any other additional fire safety measures in high rise social housing blocks, this is something every Council would reasonably expect central government to provide for and I would welcome cross party support to secure that.

Question 8 from Councillor Keazor to Councillor Oykenner, Cabinet Member for Housing & Housing Regeneration

Can the Cabinet Member please update us on progress to deliver new council homes at Ordinance Road?

Reply from Councillor Oykenner

This project is going according to schedule and is due for completion in October 2017. The terrace of 3 bed houses at the front are watertight and second fix electrics is underway. The brick and block work to the bungalows is reaching roof level. The project is going well.

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

Will the Cabinet Member for Housing and Housing Regeneration inform Council when the remaining small sites projects will be started with the information broken down by individual sites?

Reply from Councillor Oyken

Subject to Cabinet and Council approval in July 2017 we will be concluding the revised construction contracts in August with the programme to get back on site in September 2017. Some initial essential work on site will continue in the meantime upon Council approval

The actual site by site programme has not been agreed yet as this will be concluded as part of the legal procurement process.

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

The Opposition did not stay to hear the debate on fire safety in schools at the September 2016 Full Council. Nevertheless, the debate was held and Council denounced the Government's decision to revise the guidance in BB100 "Designs in Fire Safety in Schools" requiring new schools to be fitted with fire sprinklers. Council therefore asked the lead member for schools to write to the government to request the reinstatement of the 2007 guidance in BB100 "Designs in Fire Safety in Schools" that established the "expectation that all new schools will have fire sprinklers fitted".

Can Councillor Orhan tell us what the Government's response was?"

Reply from Councillor Orhan

The Education Funding Agency (EFA) replied on 26 November 2016. They stated that the department was currently consulting on updating BB100 and was reviewing responses. However this was solely to update the guidance. The letter stated that the Government had not changed their policy on sprinklers in schools. The policy remains that schools are assessed on a case-by case basis and where sprinklers are recommended they will be fitted. This has been the Government position since 2007.

The letter goes onto state:

'The Building Regulations fall under the authority of the department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and have never required the installation of sprinklers for fire safety. They have not been relaxed or changed as part of the process to review BB100'.

Question 11 from Councillor Smith to Councillor Lemonides, Cabinet Member for Finance and Efficiency

Would the Cabinet Member confirm if the residents of Brickfield House have been decanted before the cladding on the block is removed and inform Council of the start date for these works?

Reply from Councillor Lemonides

There is no requirement to have the tests carried out as the government instruction applied only to buildings over 18m in height. Brickfield House is 15m high. However, Housing Gateway is a reputable landlord, and asked for the tests in order to confirm the nature of the cladding. Tests carried out on the cladding at Brickfield House confirm that it is Aluminium Composite Material (ACM) and that it failed the fire-retardant tests carried out by the Building Research Establishment (BRE). This has been reported to DCLG (Department for Communities and Local Government).

Brickfield House is 5 storeys high, it has a very sophisticated fire alarm system, three internal and two external staircases for escape purposes and a smoke extraction system to remove any potentially toxic fumes and aid escape visibility. We have worked closely with the London Fire Brigade (LFB) who have attended and inspected the building and its fire precautions. The LFB agree that there is no danger sufficient to warrant the evacuation of the building.

Further surveys are being undertaken to assess the position with regard to the cladding given the good fire safety measures already in place. Once the results of these surveys have been received an informed view will be taken to agree the next steps.

Question 12 from Councillor Stewart to Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment

Please can the Cabinet Member for Environment update us on any investment which will improve access to the transport network in Enfield?

Reply from Councillor Anderson

Following discussions with Transport for London, in which we made the case for improved access to the Underground network to support long-term growth, we recently received confirmation that Cockfosters Station will be amongst the next six London Underground stations to benefit from the Mayor of London's £200m investment in improving step-free access over the next five years.

The Mayor of London's £200m investment, the biggest in the Tube's 153-year old history, will make more than 40 per cent of the overall network accessible with half of Enfield's stations being step-free.

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

Would the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Business Development give the estimated date of completion for the remediation works to Phase 1 of Meridian Water and the estimated start on site of the residential development?

Reply from Councillor Sitkin

The Phase 1 remediation works are due for completion by the end of December 2017 and the start of residential development is scheduled for June 2018.

Question 14 from Councillor Ekechi to Councillor Fonyonga, Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Public Health

Could the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Public Health please advise the Council about whether Enfield applied for recent Home Office funding to tackle Domestic Violence?

Reply from Councillor Fonyonga

Yes, and I am pleased to confirm the successful application by the Community Safety Team (in partnership with Southwark) to the Violence Against Women and Girls service Transformation Fund administered by the Home Office. We were awarded £377,000. We continue to see a rise in reported incidents of domestic abuse and this is one of the measures of success of the work we are doing to raise awareness including our “He doesn’t love you if...” campaign. However, a percentage of survivors are subject to repeat victimisation and some have historically not engaged with support through existing mainstream services.

The new funding will allow us to set up the ‘Mia Project’ which is a new model for high risk domestic abuse victims and survivors (often with complex needs) who have children on child protection plans and/or who have been re-referred to the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference, and who do not engage with existing support services. The model will provide bespoke dedicated support and tailored engagement, as well as providing therapeutic support for children witnessing domestic abuse.

Question 15 from Councillor Rye to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Cabinet Member for Education, Children's Services and Protection

Given the large expansion in primary school places to meet the growth in school age children in recent years which will inevitably lead to the need of increased spaces in secondary schools would the Cabinet Member inform the Council what action she has taken in the Council years 2013-2014, 2014-2015, and 2016-2017 to ensure there are a sufficient number of secondary school places in Enfield and can she guarantee a place for every secondary school child from 2018 onwards?

Reply from Councillor Orhan

The additional capacity created by Primary School Expansion Programme to accommodate the growing primary school population will inevitably put pressure on secondary school sector, as successive larger cohorts transfer. The pressure on secondary school places becomes critical in 2018 when there is a requirement for and additional six forms of entry with a further six forms of entry in 2020.

The North West area, including Enfield Town, demand already outstrips capacity but surpluses in the rest of the borough, particularly the South East, alleviates an issue in placing secondary children. The planned capacity depends on an additional six forms of entry through the Wren Academy for 2018.

The planned capacity is also dependent on the introduction of six forms of entry through Ark North Enfield, for 2020.

Officers are in constant contact with both the Department of Education (DfE) and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) and will monitor the situation. Officers will implement alternative plans should the Government fail to deliver the additional secondary places by the required timeframe.

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

Could Councillor Fonyonga update members on work to reduce smoking prevalence in the borough?

Reply from Councillor Fonyonga

Smoking is still the greatest cause of preventable death and ill-health in Enfield and indeed the country. In Enfield we are working extremely hard both to stop children from starting to smoke and to help those who do smoke to stop. Work includes our 'no smoking outside school gates' campaign to which 10 schools have now signed up for which members may have noticed banners outside schools. This has been extremely successful with approximately 200 pupils per school taking part.

We have recently appointed a new stop smoking service provider (Quit 51) who have been charged adopting a new model of stop smoking support so that the most addicted smokers are given the most support. This is a departure from the old NHS model where a quitter who previously smoked 40 a day counted as much someone who smoked once a week. Our excellent Public Health Team are also taking part in the London Transformation Project which is developing a telephone service for all participating boroughs, which was part of the package of measures that helped to reduce smoking prevalence so effectively in New York.

Question 17 from Councillor Dines to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Education, Children's Services and Protection

Would the Cabinet Member confirm the date that the new Secondary School for North Enfield needs to be open by in order to meet the demand as identified by the Council?

Reply from Councillor Orhan

Enfield needs the additional six forms of entry through the Wren Academy for September 2018. This is dependent on the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) and the Department for Education (DfE). Although my officers are in regular contact with both to ascertain the progress with this timescale, Councillor Dines is well aware how important it is that the Government does not fail the residents of North Enfield.

Question 18 from Councillor Jemal to Councillor Sitkin, Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Business Development

Would the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Business Development update the Council on the advancement of ground remediation works taking place at Meridian Water?

Reply from Councillor Sitkin

Groundwater remediation commenced in October 2016 and is targeted to be completed & signed off by March 2018. Ground remediation commenced in April 2017 and is split into two phases; Phase 1 remediation works will be completed by December 2017 and Phase 2 will commence after the key gas infrastructure relocation (March to September 2018) and end in November 2018. Phase 2 works will work alongside the developer with key areas targeted for early completion to enable programmed delivery to be achieved.

Question 19 from Councillor Dines to Councillor Sitkin, Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Business Development

Enfield Council's Strategic Planning Guidance states that affordable housing should be offered on site unless there are exceptional circumstances. Would the Cabinet Member please inform the Council what he considers those 'exceptional circumstances' to be?

Reply from Councillor Sitkin

The policy does not state what the exceptional circumstances are, but gives the example "where on site affordable housing would not support the aims of creating sustainable communities". In practice these occasions should be rare but to elaborate on the example if a locality was dominated by a particular form of tenure there may be justification for seeking off site if this helped diversify tenure mix – and therefore support creating a more sustainable (balanced) community. Each case would have to be judged on its particular merits.

Trent Park: In the case of Trent Park the difficulty of securing genuinely affordable units may suggest a more effective solution for meeting the sustainable communities' objective could be secured off site.

Question 20 from Councillor Bond to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council

Could the Leader outline what the emergency planning arrangements in Enfield are?

Reply from Councillor Taylor

Recent tragic events have brought into sharp focus the need to both have plans and to test them. We review our plans regularly and report quarterly on their resilience to the Corporate Management Board.

The requirements under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 are that except for the over-arching plan, that we test each of the remaining 5 main plans at least every three years. Enfield is compliant with this requirement; however, we will be stepping up the frequency and tailoring the test scenarios to best reflect current concerns. There are two scheduled training events for later this year which will test responses under pressure.

The 6 main plans including the overarching emergency plan are supplemented by a number of other detailed protocols but recent events have shown more than ever the value of officers familiarising themselves with these plans and having the confidence to carry them out and provide the very best response for local communities.

As new officers are inducted onto the Emergency Planning rota, they individually receive training from the Emergency Planning Officers about the specific requirements of this voluntary role - for example - "Silver" visited the scene of an incident or "Welfare" helping people who have been displaced. There are currently seven Emergency Management Teams comprising six officers per team and there is cover every day of the year, 24 hours a day.

I am pleased to say that Enfield officers have been also able to offer assistance to Kensington and Chelsea following the Grenfell Tower fire.

In total 14 officers have attended the scene to assist, following Kensington and Chelsea's request for help.

Question 21 from Councillor Robert Hayward to Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment

Would the Cabinet Member for Environment set out what steps he will take in order to rectify the Broadway section of the A105 scheme as currently it is extremely difficult for those in wheelchairs or with double buggies to use the pavement without encroaching on to the cycle path putting both cyclists and these pavement users at risk of collision?

Reply from Councillor Anderson

This section, although progressing well, is still under construction. We acknowledge that during this period there is inevitable inconvenience for people using the area. However, once the works are complete a further stage of the safety audit will be conducted to determine whether there are any issues that need to be addressed as regards accessibility.

Question 22 from Councillor Barry to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Education, Children's Services & Protection

The risks of the Government's funding policy on schools in Enfield has been well highlighted by local teaching professionals and through the excellent 'Let's Talk Education' conferences, would Councillor Orhan tell this Council what it will mean to Enfield schools if the Government does not listen?

Reply from Councillor Orhan

If the Government does not listen to schools, professionals and parents, there is a strong probability that our schools will continue to face an unprecedented funding crisis with more of them going into deficit. We are aware that Governors and Head Teachers have had to make unpalatable choices to try and balance an already precarious budgetary situation. I am very concerned enough to say to you that, If there is no change to the Governments funding policy then budgetary cuts will continue for the foreseeable future. The choices forced on schools invariably mean that to protect classroom teaching will require a reduction in the areas of additional support. As you know additional support is provided for both inside and outside of the classroom to children who most need extra help; examples of this would be learning support assistants, learning mentors and school counsellors. The devastating impact of the Governments education cuts will now mean that these cuts will impact on those pupils who receive additional support and who are often our most vulnerable.

Question 23 from Councillor Robert Hayward to Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment

Would the Cabinet Member for Environment explain to the Council why he will not meet with the businesses located on the A105 to talk about the problems they are experiencing during the Cycle Enfield works?

Reply from Councillor Anderson

Throughout the ongoing implementation of the project, both Council officers and representatives from our contractors have met with individual businesses to hear their concerns and to explore mitigation measures to address specific issues. These conversations are ongoing and we are focussed on addressing specific issues, rather than utilising resources on general discussions about the principles of the scheme, addressing specific issues, rather than utilising resources on general

discussions about the principles of the scheme.

Question 24 from Councillor Maguire to Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment

Could the Cabinet Member for Environment provide an update on the savings delivered from the renegotiation of the Parking contract?

Reply from Councillor Anderson

We have extended our current Parking Contract with NSL until July 2020. Officers have negotiated an annual contract price reduction of over 10% per annum. This price reduction will not affect our ability to enforce against inconsiderate and illegally parked vehicles in the Borough.

Question 25 from Councillor Robert Hayward to Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment

Would the Cabinet Member apologise to the businesses on the A105 for the inconvenience and financial losses they have suffered due to the Cycle Enfield works?

Reply from Councillor Anderson

The Council, of course, acknowledges that major highway improvement works such as these cause inevitable disruption during construction. We have, therefore, written to all business owners along the route to explain that, where appropriate, applications for business rate relief should be submitted to the Valuation Office Agency.

Longer-term, we are confident that the programme will deliver a range of benefits, including improvements to our high streets and town centres, that will help create an improved environment for businesses to thrive.

Question 26 from Councillor Elif Erbil to Councillor Fonyonga, Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Public Health

Could Councillor Fonyonga update members on work taking place to address childhood obesity in Enfield?

Reply from Councillor Fonyonga

Obesity may be thought of as a proxy for an unhealthy life which is what our children may be heading for as obesity is associated with some 37 diseases. It is also recognised that childhood obesity is closely linked to adult obesity. To address this we are working at a number of levels, this includes our Cycle Enfield programme which will raise levels of physical activity, particularly in those who are least likely to

partake in sport or structured exercise. Ten schools have now signed up to 'The Daily Mile' which members may have heard of from national discourse which has been so effective in Scotland. We are running the 'Healthy Catering Commitment' which encourages local cafes and restaurants to offer healthy choices. Our Health Trainers worked with approximately 500 clients last year providing personal advice and support and our Public Health nutritionist works closely with schools to improve maintain standards for school meals.

Question 27 from Councillor Robert Hayward to Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment

Would the Cabinet Member explain to Council and the businesses along the route why the Cycle Enfield A105 works have overrun by 3 months and are anticipated to overrun by a further 3 months therefore doubling the original 6 month assessment for the works?

Reply from Councillor Anderson

Implementing any project on a live transport network, such as the A105 scheme, is a complex operation. Delays can occur where action is required by third parties that are not completed on time. This has a subsequent impact on the rest of the programme. Other factors, such as unexpected utilities, the necessity for reinforced concrete or unexpected voids in the road can all impact the programme.

Our original proposals were based on a number of concurrent closures, which is a workable approach and condenses the programme. However, during implementation the Council has also been mindful of the impact of such works on the local community and has therefore taken decisions to adjust the programme, giving careful consideration to the sequence of road closures and, where appropriate, requiring one junction to be fully opened before another one is closed.

Question 28 from Councillor Hurman 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 plans to form an income-generating Strategic Design Panel?

Reply from Councillor Sitkin

Officers have put together a proposal setting out the structure, costs and potential income generation this panel would have. The proposals were presented to a recent briefing of the Planning Committee. Useful feedback was received from those members present in relation to managing the risks and implications this enterprise. The presentation was subsequently forwarded to all Planning Committee members inviting further comment. A further report will be given to Planning Committee in advance of any final decision to proceed.

Question 29 from Councillor Robert Hayward to Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment

What lessons has the Cabinet Member for Environment learnt from the implementation to date of the A105 Cycle Enfield scheme?

Reply from Councillor Anderson

Any major infrastructure project such as this will inevitably generate lessons that can be applied to future projects. We will continue to reflect on project implementation and will ensure that approaches, such as reduced concurrent road closures, are rolled forward into the planning and timescales of future projects.

Question 30 from Councillor Ekechi to Councillor Oykenner, Cabinet Member for Housing & Housing Regeneration

Can the Cabinet Member please update us on when consultation with the residents of Snell's and Joyce Housing Estates will begin?

Reply from Councillor Oykenner

The first public consultation event is on the 15th July 2017.

Question 31 from Councillor Hurer to Councillor Lemonides, Cabinet Member for Finance & Efficiency

Would the Cabinet Member tell the Council how often Fire Safety Inspections are undertaken on Civic Centre including the date of the most recent one?

Reply from Councillor Lemonides

The Facilities Management and Corporate Health and Safety teams undertake regular joint inspections, the last being 20 March 2017 and the next on 18 July 2017. In addition, the annual Fire Risk Assessment is completed each March, again a joint exercise.

In addition weekly testing of the fire alarm system and periodic fire drills are undertaken.

Question 32 from Councillor McGowan to Councillor Oykenner, Cabinet Member for Housing & Housing Regeneration

Can the Cabinet Member please update us on when the demolition of Kestrel House will get underway?

Reply from Councillor Oykenner

The physical demolition is due to start in October 2017. We are seeing progress on

the soft strip already due to the erection of scaffolding which has commenced and further progress during August will be achieved.

Question 33 from Councillor Hurer to Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment

Would the Cabinet Member inform the Winchmore Hill Ward residents when will the trees that have been removed along the New River walk in N21 be replaced?

Reply from Councillor Anderson

Works should start on site next month with trees likely to be planted by end of September at the latest. However, those dates are dependent upon the lease agreement being finalised with Thames Water in the very near future.

Question 34 from Councillor Chibah to Councillor Sitkin, Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Business

Can the Cabinet Member please update us on the Council's plans for the next phase of Meridian Works?

Reply from Councillor Sitkin

The Council is actively pursuing a number of future phases of Meridian Works. At the top of this list is the potential for a high-end fashion manufacturing cluster at Meridian Water. We are working with the GLA, the UK Fashion and Textiles Association (UKFT), and a number of potential businesses to explore the suitability and viability of this idea.

Question 35 from Councillor David-Sanders to Councillor Fonyonga, Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Public Health

Will the Cabinet Member state how many meetings since the last full council meeting she has had with the:

- Mayor of London,
- Deputy Mayor for Police and Crime,
- Chief Executive Office of the Mayor of London's Office for Policing
- Assistant Commissioner for Territorial Policing, Martin Hewitt

in order to discuss the very important issue of knife crime in our borough?

Reply from Councillor Fonyonga

In relation to the first three which are essentially meetings with the Mayor of London's office, Sophie London as the lead for Policing and Crime in London, is the

key individual and I have therefore met with her on various occasions recently. During these meetings, she continues to voice her dismay on behalf of the Mayor of London's Office, at the ill-advised funding cuts by the Conservative government and its failure to provide the Metropolitan Police with sufficient resources. She highlights the fact that in the last four years alone, the Metropolitan Police has had to lose more than 100 police stations and 2,800 police staff and Police Community Support Officers (PCSO's) in order to protect officer numbers. Critically she also highlights the key risk to the Mayor of London's office by the government's plans to force through a further £400m in ill-advised cuts to the police budget, which obviously threatens the ability of the police to tackle crime.

In respect of the final query which is about meeting with a senior police officer within the Metropolitan Police, I have been meeting regularly with the Borough Commander in Enfield who is the most appropriate senior police officer to most effectively address the Enfield specific issues of knife crime in Enfield. This is in addition to frequent meetings with other very senior police officers best placed to address the issue of knife crime in Enfield, which includes the Detective Superintendent for Crime and the Superintendent of Operations & Partnership in Enfield.

On the topic of meetings about the very important issue of knife crime in our borough, and I am therefore grateful for the question, it is of course critical that any meetings held with key decision makers are productive and assist the residents of Enfield. I therefore continue to await any news of any outcome from the Home Secretary's much publicised meeting about knife crime at the Enfield Conservative Club, just before the General Election. I remain hopeful that a positive outcome for the residents of Enfield from that meeting will eventually materialise.

Curiously, it has been reported that the Education Secretary also made a visit to the Enfield Conservative Club for a meeting to discuss knife crime, just before the General Election, which I'm sure was just a coincidence. Given the crisis in her department caused by the failure of the government to provide schools with sufficient resources forcing them into an unprecedented funding crisis, I trust she would not have been able to find time for pointless meetings with no positive outcomes for residents. I therefore, again, remain hopeful that a positive outcome for the residents of Enfield from that meeting will also eventually materialise.

Question 36 from Councillor Hasan to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Education, Children's Services & Protection

If the Government had carried out its ill-considered plans to scrap the universal free school meals to infants, could Councillor Orhan tell this Council how it would have jeopardised this councils' excellent school meals services?

Reply from Councillor Orhan

The potential removal of the universal infant free school meals (UIFSM) would have had the following negative consequences to the service.

1. Significant drop in take up

The launch of UIFSM saw a 25% increase in meal numbers, and we would expect a similar decrease on removal. On top of the negative impact of government changes to benefits poorer families would be placed under more financial pressure. Furthermore, it would have been a real concern to see these children not benefitting from the high quality, nutritious lunches that the service provides.

2. Potential redundancies

Additional staff were employed, and hours increased to existing staff as a result of UIFSM to help provide meals to the increased number of pupils so we would expect to have had to review kitchen team structures with the result being possible redundancies and decreased staff hours (around 50 staff were recruited / extra 900 hours per week).

3. Increased meal price to schools and parents

The school catering service is a large operation that benefits from economies of scale. Decreases in meal numbers negatively affects those efficiencies and could have led to a higher cost per meal. With constraints on Council funding, this would have to have been charged to schools who are also facing their own government imposed funding constraints, so it is likely the extra cost would have been passed on to parents. This again would have negatively affected meal uptake.

I am pleased that the Government decided to shelve this awful idea, we will be watching to make sure that they do not sneak it through at some stage later on.

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

Noting that for me the repeated cancellation of Local Plan Cabinet Sub-Committee meetings is indicative that the administration is not taking the need to drive things forward seriously, does the Cabinet Member think the Administration is doing enough to help the local business, particularly those hit hard by the Council's implementation of Cycle Enfield?

Reply from Councillor Sitkin

I am disappointed to discover that Councillor Chamberlain, with his assumption that the number of internal meetings correlates directly with concrete economic outcomes, falls prey to the failed old bureaucratic mind-set that this entrepreneurial administration has done so well to overcome.

Local Plan Cabinet meetings are for decisions on planning policy matters. It is only necessary to proceed with a meeting if there are matters that require approval. July's meeting was not necessary as the May meeting had cleared the consultation for Enfield Town Masterplan and work on the Annual Monitoring Report and there was

nothing further to report. The Local Plan requires a significant amount of work and it is likely that this will be presented to future meetings in stages as evidence base is produced. It is also expected that Edmonton Leaside Area Action Plan and Enfield Town Masterplan will come back to this meeting for final approval in due course.

Question 38 from Councillor N Cazimoglu to Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment

As part of the Parking Contract extension renewal, could the Cabinet Member for Environment please state whether there was an opportunity for him to raise the issue of NSL staff not currently being paid the London Living Wage?

Reply from Councillor Anderson

The current parking contract was awarded before the existence of the London Living Wage. NSL, our parking contract provider has agreed to pay all staff the minimum of the London Living Wage from July 2017 until the end of the current parking contract in July 2020. This will be in addition to the negotiated annual contract price reduction of 10%. Therefore, this is not only a good deal for the Council, but also a good deal for the contractor's workers.

Question 39 from Councillor Ulus to Councillor Lemonides, Cabinet Member for Finance & Efficiency

Given recent announcements by the Government, that further work on business rates retention has effectively been dropped by the Government, can the Cabinet Member for Finance and Efficiency comment on the implications for Enfield?

Reply from Councillor Lemonides

The impact on Enfield is as yet uncertain. However, it is particularly unwelcome that this crucial part of local government finance reform has been dropped because it is through this mechanism that the sector stood the best chance of reaping the rewards for its hard work in growing local economies. Without that mechanism being in place, local government is left with arguing over what is an ever-decreasing pot of central government funding. As members of both parties know, we have fought long and hard for fair funding for Enfield, and we will continue to do so, with, I know, cross-party support. But it is now a significantly lesser prize than would have been the case had business rates retention work continued to progress. It is also unclear at this stage whether the proposed trial of business rates retention here in London will continue – we, the Greater London Authority and London Councils await a decision from Department of Communities and Local Government.