

Council Questions 31 January 2018

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

The autumn budget made no provision for lifting the public sector pay cap. What are the implications for Enfield local authority staff?

Reply from Councillor Taylor

It is true that no additional funding was given to local authorities for the implications of lifting the public sector pay cap. However, the Council has a contractual duty to fulfil its obligations on staff pay which are governed by national conditions of service and has signed up to the London Living Wage. Provision has therefore been made in the draft 2018/19 and 2019/20 budgets for the anticipated costs of the pay award once this is agreed.

Question 2 from Councillor Fallart to Councillor Oyken, Cabinet Member for Housing & Housing Regeneration

When will Enfield Council start building homes at the small site in Forty Hill?

Reply from Councillor Oyken

The groundwork sub-contractor is progressing well with most of the site cleared exposing the tops of piles and preparing generally to cut down the tops to ground beam level (one large block) ready for delivery of the pre-fab beams. The timber frame is due for delivery in February 2018.

The completed 9 homes are due for handover in February 2019

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

While Children's services up and down the country are stretched and forced to overspend to maintain statutory obligations, the Chancellor continues to cut the bank levy costing £5 billion. Should Enfield disagree with this decision?

Reply from Councillor Taylor

It's all about priorities – this Government has got them all wrong.

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

Does the Leader of the Council share my opposition to the £12.50 charge residents with older vehicles will face when accessing health services at North Middlesex Hospital, if the Mayor of London implements his proposal to extend the Ultra-Low Emission Zone to the North Circular?

Reply from Councillor Taylor

The Ultra-Low Emission Zone extension is currently the subject of a live consultation so we are considering the details of what is proposed and how the proposal might impact on our residents, both in terms of possible cost and also the benefits from having improved air quality particularly along arterial roads like the North Circular.

Question 5 from Councillor Lappage to Councillor Sitkin, Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration & Business

Would the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Business Development provide the Council with an update on the Montagu Industrial estate negotiations?

Reply from Councillor Sitkin

The Montagu Project Board were advised, on Friday 26 January 2017, that full terms are agreed and subject to revision of drafting to the various legal documents it is proposed that the agreement to form the partnership with Henry Boot will be completed in early February 2018. Contracts to demolish Phase one have been awarded and demolition is due to commence within the next couple of weeks.

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

Does the Leader of the Council agree with the Cabinet Member for Environment's comments that the reduction in Local Implementation Plan (LIP) funding by Transport for London (TfL) is a kick in the teeth to our borough?

Reply from Councillor Taylor

The significant reduction in Local Implementation Plan funding from Transport for London (£1.4m next year), which was announced in December 2017, will present a significant challenge for the borough as this funding helps us deliver a range of transport improvements, including maintenance of our Principal Roads.

This is caused by a £700 million Government cut.

Despite this we will continue to deliver improvements for our residents and we remain committed to working with the Mayor and Transport for London to deliver a safe, sustainable and accessible transport network in London.

Question 7 from Councillor Simon to Councillor Lemonides, Cabinet Member for Finance & Efficiency

Would the Cabinet Member for Finance & Efficiency give his views on the Local Government finance settlement?

Reply from Councillor Lemonides

It is disappointing that the provisional settlement fails to provide new funding for local government, in the context of acute and growing pressures on key local government services.

Local government faces a disproportionate level of austerity compared to other parts of the public sector. Over the decade to 2019-20, core funding from central government to local government will have fallen by 63% in real terms. Nevertheless, this authority remains committed to providing quality services to all residents, businesses and visitors to the borough and will continue to be innovative and ambitious in finding solutions to the opportunities and challenges we face.

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

Does the Leader of the Council share my dismay given London's housing crisis that near complete Enfield Council's housing schemes have had to be demolished due to project failures with the small sites?

Reply from Councillor Taylor

The original objectives of delivering 94 homes across these sites are still being achieved. The project hit difficulties when the sub-contractor Climate Energy went into administration. This was a direct and immediate result of the government's withdrawal of the renewable energy scheme 'Green Deal'. Despite this serious private sector failure the Council has not only reworked the project so that it still delivers a positive financial return to the Council but the Council is also implementing plans to increase the percentage of affordable housing across the sites from 40% to 57%.

The Council has been open about the need to undertake works to deconstruct the partially built homes on Jasper Close and following a Cabinet decision in July 2017 the project is now back on track. Most of the sites now have works underway and all 94 homes will have been completed by February 2019.

Question 9 from Councillor Pite to Councillor Alev Cazimoglu, Cabinet Member for Health & Social Care

This winter we have seen reports of significant pressures on hospitals and specifically accident and emergency departments. Can the Cabinet for Health & Social Care explain what actions Adult Social Care has taken to ensure patients are discharged from hospital in a timely fashion over the winter period?

Reply from Councillor Alev Cazimoglu

As we know, the NHS faces significant pressures and our local hospitals are certainly not immune to this. The main hospitals for Enfield, North Middlesex University Hospital and Barnet Hospitals, have individual challenges, particularly the former with the busiest Accident and Emergency Department in North Central London.

Enfield Council's performance in discharging people in a timely fashion is often the best in the North Central London, which is a great achievement. So far this year the Council has met its 'delayed transfers of care' target, as agreed with NHS England and is confident of continuing to do so for the remainder of the year.

- Adult Social Care (ASC) has a dedicated social work team onsite at each local hospital, providing a 7 day a week service including bank holidays. Working with the Hospital's Discharge Co-ordinators, to support our residents to leave hospital when they are fit to do so. All discharges involve both a clinician or therapist assessment and a Social Worker assessment to work out how best a person, who meets the eligibility criteria for services, can be discharged to an appropriate 'discharge destination' (mostly people going home, but occasionally to a residential or nursing placement). This remains the most used 'pathway' for discharges and ASC has a very effective operation in place.
- Working with Enfield Clinical Commissioning Group, Adult Social Care is investing in new ways of working. One is known as 'discharge to assess,' with the idea that, wherever possible and when they are medically fit, people are supported to return home for an assessment rather than keeping them in hospital to work out what support they may need. Until recently many people who could have returned home were waiting for the completion of their 'assessment' before they left the hospital, despite no longer receiving medical care and despite the good understanding of the type of care they would need upon discharge. By implementing discharge to assess people leave hospital early and do not block a bed. Adult Social Care now supports both local hospitals with discharge to assess and regularly exceeds the agreed number of people discharged this way.
- However, it is not only the work of social workers or occupational therapists that ensure ASC discharges people in a timely way. Services need to be in place to support people when they get home. To this end, ASC has commissioned local home care providers to guarantee that extra hours are available for those going home so people are not delayed in hospital because there is no care worker support available. ASC has also block booked some nursing beds in a local home (Murrayfield Nursing Home) and started to take new residents into the Council's new nursing home, Bridgewood, thus reducing delays of people waiting for a suitable nursing home.

Question 10 from Councillor Chamberlain to Councillor Sitkin, Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration & Business

Does the Cabinet Member agree with the draft London Plan that states that Enfield must provide more strategic industrial land capacity putting increasing pressure on Meridian Water and our housing plans for the future in relation to Crossrail 2?

Reply from Councillor Sitkin

The London Plan is currently out to consultation and we welcome the increased flexibility the Mayor proposes on intensification and colocation of employment sites

to free up land for regeneration and housing delivery. The GLA has identified Meridian Water as a Housing Zone and is therefore supportive of delivery. The Mayor is also supportive of Crossrail 2 and regeneration in the Lea Valley in recognising the Upper Lea Valley as an Opportunity Area. We will be looking for the Mayor's continued support in regenerating the deprived areas of Enfield when we respond to the consultation in due course.

Question 11 from Councillor Eren to Councillor Anderson Cabinet Member for Environment

Can the Cabinet Member for Environment tell us how many children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) are granted travel assistance to attend school by the Council, and what the trend in numbers has been over the last three years?

Reply from Councillor Anderson

Currently the total number of children with SEND who are assisted is 781, of which 677 receive direct transport and 104 receive a transport allowance. In April 2017 the number using direct transport was 690, whilst in April 2016 the figure was 593, which demonstrates an upward trend and has significant resource implications. Transport allowances were introduced in April 2017 and offered an alternative option to direct transport.

Question 12 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Lemonides, Cabinet Member for Finance & Efficiency

Could the Cabinet Member for Finance and Efficiency state for the chamber how much money has been spent on consultants since 2010?

Reply from Councillor Lemonides

The Council has spent £29,193,057

Question 13 from Councillor Savva to Councillor Fonyonga, Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Public Health

Can the Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Public Health please update the Council about the progress of the sexual health provision in the East of the borough?

Reply from Councillor Fonyonga

Sexual health is important to us all. The responsibility for sexual health transferred into Local Authorities with the move of Public Health in April 2013 following the 2012 Health and Social Care Act. This is a responsibility that Enfield takes very seriously. We are opening Silverpoint, a world-class healthcare facility in Fore Street in February to offer residents all aspects of sexual health care. This will include booking and walk-in services as well as immediate treatment. The opening of such a facility highlights our commitment to improve services in one of the more deprived parts of the borough. The building itself is fully Disability Discrimination Act

compliant, has been designed from the outset to be energy efficient, has CCTV throughout, several treatment rooms, an ultraviolet handrail kills microbes, motion detection light systems and includes furniture procured from NHS Business Services that is easy to clean and meets infection control standards.

Silverpoint will improve sexual health not only in East Enfield but our intention is that it will become a first point of contact for sexual health across north London. This will showcase Enfield as a place for the implementation of best practice but also will allow Enfield to cross-charge other local Authorities whose residents use our services.

Question 14 from Councillor Dines to Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment

Can the Cabinet Member please explain how the Commonwealth war graves in Enfield's cemeteries are maintained including details of how the maintenance is monitored?

Reply from Councillor Anderson

Commonwealth War Graves, either in dedicated areas or individual private graves, are the responsibility of the Commonwealth War Grave Commission (CWGC). They are located in Edmonton, Lavender Hill, Hertford Road and Southgate Cemetery. The Council periodically undertakes tests in all our cemeteries to assess the safety of memorials. Any memorials deemed unsafe are reported to the grave owner (which includes the CWGC) for them to arrange for safety works to be carried out as soon as possible.

Question 15 from Councillor Doyle to Councillor Oyken, Cabinet Member for Housing & Housing Regeneration

Can the Cabinet Member for Housing & Housing Regeneration comment on how our own building control team is proactively engaging with the development industry and borough residents to deliver identified benefits.

Reply from Councillor Oyken

Building control operates within a competitive commercial environment with approved inspectors existing as alternative providers. The Council's building control service continues to provide a quality service, contributing to the health and safety of those using/occupying buildings within Enfield.

The plan assessment process they are required to carry out and the early interventions this brings about, delivers savings through the early identification of possible issues to achieve compliance with the building regulations, before materials are bought and before construction begins on site, avoiding the cost of wasted time and materials in putting right faults after they've been constructed. This value is recognised by the Council as we require our own developments to use our in house building control team to deliver high quality development for the Borough's residents.

This in house expertise has also enabled the Council to respond quickly and appropriately to the concerns arising from the Grenfell Tower tragedy to ensure the continued safety of our residents.

Question 16 from Councillor Dines to Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment

The Civilian War Memorial in Lavender Hill Cemetery that has fallen into complete disrepair. It is my understanding that whilst this was not funded by the Council, responsibility for its maintenance now lies with Enfield. Does he agree with me that the current condition of the memorial is appalling and would he want to joint with me and concerned residents to look at putting a bid together for the War Memorials Trust to fund its restoration?

Reply from Councillor Anderson

I understand that this memorial was erected in 1949 to commemorate the 25 civilian war dead buried in communal graves in Lavender Hill. It was jointly funded by the Council and the then Ministry of Health.

In 2015 the London Borough of Enfield grassed the raised bed, removed ivy and some hazardous paving to improve its appearance and estimates were sought as to the costs of refurbishment. Two memorial masons were approached, but both recommended that it would be more cost effective to replace the existing monument with a new memorial agreeing the existing structure was beyond economical repair. The cost is estimated to be around £20k.

I would be more than happy to work with Councillor Dines, residents and other interested parties in developing an application to the War Memorial Trust.

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

Would the Cabinet Member for Education, Children's Services and Protection tell this Council what her department has done about any of the Enfield Public Finance Initiative (PFI) Schools affected by the shocking announcement of the collapse of Carillion?

Reply from Councillor Orhan

Carillion was the sub-contractor to the Council's Private Finance Initiative (PFI) partner JLIF (John Laing Infrastructure Fund) providing facilities management (FM) services to four Enfield Schools (Highlands, Lea Valley, Starks Field and Tottenham Infants).

The Council and the EFSA (Education and Skills Funding Agency) have together received copies of the Business Continuity Plan from JLIF to continue to provide services at our schools and are satisfied that this is robust and will allow the continuance of services for our young people and staff in the schools.

The Council has also put in place measures to address any issues (should they develop) to provide emergency, short and medium term operational difficulties with catering and cleaning services; there is however no current need for this.

Copies of all school keys are being made available to each headteacher and a copy of all keys retained by the Council to ensure there are no problems with accessing our schools.

I have already written to the headteachers / chairs of schools setting out the position as we know it and Council managers are in daily liaison with schools and JLIF to ensure there is no disruption to services with a meeting (held on Monday 22nd January 2018) with the four headteachers / chairs of governors, Executive Director of Children's Services, the Council's Schools PFI Contracts Manager and JLIF directors to discuss progress in securing a replacement sub-contractor to ensure on site Carillion colleagues and sub-contractors continue with their work at our schools in delivering FM services. All four headteachers and their governors reported that since the collapse of Carillion it had been "business as usual" at their schools.

JLIF had also invited the Pinnacle Group to the meeting; with whom they are arranging contracts to step-in to manage FM going forward. The Group Director of Business and his staff met with Carillion staff immediately after the meeting.

JLIF have also written to all sub-contractors who previously carried out work on behalf of Carillion to underwrite all purchase orders going forward and the Council has experienced no disruption to the provision of services as a result.

I assure this Council that we continue to monitor progress on a daily basis with JLIF, EFSA and schools.

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

At the September 2017 Council Meeting, the Leader of the Council in response to Opposition Priority Business gave an undertaking that the Enfield Highway Library building would remain in Council ownership and that the public would be consulted on future usage of this iconic building. Can she now inform the Council when the Council will consult on the options, including the option for the Community Library to be located in this building?

Reply from Councillor Orhan

The consultation exercise on options for the Former Enfield Highway Library commenced on Monday 8 January 2018. The consultation has included an e-consultation on the Council's web site; paper copy in local libraries and ward forum meeting held on Wednesday 17 January 2018. The responses will be collated and analysed after the consultation ends Friday 9 February 2018. The community library has been successfully located opposite the former library within the Enfield Business Centre.

Question 19 from Councillor Hasan to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Education, Children’s Services & Protection

It was with deep concern that many members of this Council heard the news of the collapse of a Carillion and more so, when we became aware that many libraries in other boroughs may now be facing some difficulties as a result. Could the Cabinet Member for Education, Children’s Services & Protection tell this Council of the position of Enfield libraries?

Reply from Councillor Orhan

Enfield Council has not used the services of Carillion for work on any of its Library buildings. The collapse of this company has had no impact on this service.

Question 20 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Sitkin, Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration & Business

As we approach the end of this Council’s term residents are becoming increasingly concerned about the appalling condition of Enfield Town’s Church Street and main shopping areas over which Councillor Sitkin has presided as Cabinet Member for the last 5 years.

Can he tell Council precisely what initiatives he has taken over that period both himself and through his officers, to encourage the return of vacant shops to use, including confirmation that the Council has used all its statutory powers to require owners of vacant shops to maintain them in a proper and tidy condition as befits Enfield’s ‘Primary Shopping Centre’.

Reply from Councillor Sitkin

Town centres and supporting local businesses are two priority areas for the council.

Enfield Town Framework Masterplan – Progress Update

Public Consultation of the Draft Enfield Town Framework Masterplan ran over the summer months of 2017, from the 10th July through to 25th September and progressed with great passion with many consultees expressing a strong desire to see a vibrant future for Enfield Town. A vision to celebrate Enfield Town’s heritage and identity was firmly endorsed with some acceptance for a need to adapt and change in order to respond to the challenges facing the town centre, in particular the high street offer.

The Enfield Town Framework Master Plan is now in the process of a number of revisions post public consultation and we anticipate taking an adoption version forward in Spring 2018.

Vacant Properties Update

The Council has carried out a review of all properties which are empty, derelict or have fallen in to disrepair impacting on the viability and trading of the high street and

negatively affecting the character and appearance of the conservation area. Officers have engaged the owners formally by writing to all of the empty units within the town centre advising of regeneration opportunities and inviting businesses owners to contact the council to discuss their property, the challenges they are facing, current and potential planning uses and exploring temporary window dressing options and shopfront improvement works.

There is a particular focus on the situation towards the west of Church St but in terms of the impact and the poor condition of many vacant premises we are looking at all vacant units across the centre with a view of taking formal enforcement action under Section 215 (untidy land Notice) of the Town & Country Planning Act.

Retail Health Check

Working in parallel, and to be aligned with the wider master planning process work has been progress on a retail health check for Enfield Town. This includes looking at the current 'health' of the town centre offer, but also the degree to which the retail offer is in line with the needs of the various customer groups. This will help inform the 'gaps' in the offer, including deficiencies by retail category / fascia, as well as the missing retail, food & beverage and leisure components that are fundamentally holding the town centre back from growing into better performing retail destination. The outcome of this work will provide a series of short, medium and long term recommendations to consider.

Question 21 from Councillor Barry to Councillor Lemonides, Cabinet Member for Finance & Efficiency

Would the Cabinet Member for Finance & Efficiency update the Council on how this borough will respond to the Government's consultation on Fair Funding?

Reply from Councillor Lemonides

We will be responding that funding needs to be much more responsive to demographic pressures and changing levels of demand. The new funding formula must be clearer, and more transparent.

London's population has grown at twice the rate of the rest of the country since the last reset of the funding formula: it is forecast to continue to do so over the next 20 years. It is vital that the new formula reflects the characteristics of urban areas such as London which have, in general, higher funding per head than other areas because of the significantly higher costs associated with delivering services.

Question 22 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Sitkin, Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration & Business

The Cabinet Member will be aware (as he is regularly copied into email correspondence on the subject) that many businesses along the route A105 have and continue to be adversely affected by the highways works to implement Cycle Enfield along this route. Some of these businesses have seen significant reduction in their turnover which they are able to evidence, and although a number of these have

applied to the Valuation Office Agency for a reduction in their business rates, the maximum they have been awarded is 10%. This reduction in cash terms bears little or no relation to the actual losses incurred by businesses in a number of cases. Indeed, some have gone out of business altogether! The problem has been exacerbated by the fact that the implementation of the scheme in a number of instances has involved the same stretch of frontage being worked on 2 or 3 times to remedy defective or poorly designed work.

The Council has the powers to compensate these businesses for their losses. (Localism Act) Will the Cabinet Member as 'Labours Business Champion' inform the chamber what action he has or will take to compensate those affected?

Reply from Councillor Sitkin

I am very sympathetic to the plight of these businesses and staff here have been actively working with them to get those reductions in business rates. A 10 % temporary reduction in business rates was agreed by the Valuation Office Agency following information provided by Enfield Council staff to assist affected businesses. The businesses have the statutory right to appeal and we will again work with them to present additional evidence of losses in trade to the Valuation Tribunal. Although the Localism Act allows the council to create local business rate discounts it would be difficult for a local scheme to provide a fair and equitable discount in this instance when a national statutory scheme already exists and could lead to incorrect awards /double counting etc.

In terms of returning to site for multiple works, there are just 2 occasions of this that I am aware of. In both instances, this was to increase beyond the original scope the drainage provision - a response to concerns from local businesses and also in one location to increase the width of the footway. This responsiveness demonstrates that the Council both listens to the community and conducts its own reviews, and is willing to make changes to the original design where appropriate.

We are a forward-looking Council and with the works now substantially complete along the A105, we have delivered on the significant improvements to the public realm that we have consistently said form part of this project. These public realm improvements create a platform for the continued development of our town centres. It's heartening to already see new businesses opening along the route.

The Neighbourhood Regeneration team is totally aware of the "changing nature of local and town centres" and associated national economic trends in retail where high streets have faced challenging markets and competition. However, the Council is looking at a number of tools we have to affect the vitality of town centres including:

- Greater planning flexibility on how retail units can be used (i.e. if empty shop units are not being used for retail then they can have other uses such as cafes, restaurants, venues, offices etc).
- Greater licensing flexibility perhaps facilitating alternative uses as above and use new and improved public spaces created by Cycle Enfield for e.g. café tables, cultural and creative events etc.,

- In tandem with private sector investors and developers, investing directly in town centres for both socioeconomic and capital developments.

Question 23 from Councillor Dogan to Councillor Lemonides, Cabinet Member for Finance & Efficiency

The Government has raised a number of issues about the funding of local government. Would the Cabinet member for Finance & Efficiency helpfully update members on all the issues in play at present, and how we will be responding to them?

Reply from Councillor Lemonides

There are a range of issues affecting local government that, when combined, puts the sector in a position of significant underfunding and uncertainty. The ongoing effects of the ageing population increase pressures in social care, and the solution – a local social care levy – further taxes local people to pay for these services. More recently, underfunding in children’s services and education combined with pressures created by increased numbers of children with special educational needs puts pressure in that area too. This will need to be addressed in our budget, and in future budgets, to ensure the services remain robust.

These pressures have been known for some time, but in addition, new issues are emerging:

- Cracks are literally starting to appear in the underfunding of the country’s roads network, and this will require investment to ensure the safe and swift movement of people and goods, and retain our position as a good location for inward investment.
- The Government’s Fair Funding review is welcome, but the current consultation says very little. Until we know the impact of the transitional arrangements from the current to the new system, we will not know whether Enfield will benefit or lose. Traditionally, under successive governments, Enfield has lost significant amounts, whilst more affluent authorities have gained even further. We will be responding to the current consultation, and are putting in place arrangements for a Fair Funding conference in the Spring this year to further raise local awareness.
- Business Rates Retention is welcome, and it is pleasing to see that the London Pilot for 18/19 is allowing 100% rates retention. This promises a lot for Enfield, and provides further incentive to grow and develop our economy. It is disappointing though, in the light of concerns nationally about a two tier economy, that other parts of the country are now limited to 75% retention.
- Pressures in the NHS continue and, although local hospitals performed well over the Christmas period – and our thanks and gratitude to them for that – Enfield’s health economy, like the Council itself, continues to be underfunded when compared with neighbours. If we are to fundamentally help local people to live healthier and more fulfilling lives, at all stages of their life, more funding will quicken our actions.

Enfield will continue to lobby, raise awareness and campaign for a better deal for Enfield's residents, businesses, students and visitors. At the same time, we will grow the economy, focus on the skills base, regenerate our borough and make it clear – Enfield is open for business.

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

Would Councillor Anderson update the Council on payments made to the case contractors and consultants on the A105 Cycle works?

Reply from Councillor Anderson

Since the last update, we have made a further two payments in November and December to the construction contractor. These payments were £150,705.05 in November and £59,334.01 in December.

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

As Universal Credit is becoming established in Enfield can the Cabinet Member for Community Arts & Culture provide figures on numbers who have been placed on this benefit?

Reply from Councillor Brett

The Department for Works and Pensions (DWP) administers Universal Credit, so the Council holds only limited information about uptake of this benefit.

The DWP has advised that 610 Universal Credit full service claims have been made since the borough wide rollout started with the Enfield Job Centre Plus (JCP) in November 2017.

As at 31/12/17 the Council is aware of the following numbers on Universal Credit:

- 130 Housing Benefit claims cancelled due to Universal Credit since 1/11/17
- 233 households living in Council housing
- 36 households living in temporary accommodation
- 413 households on Universal Credit getting Council Tax Support

This will be an underestimate of the total number of households on Universal Credit in Enfield, with the full data being held by the DWP.

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

Will Councillor Anderson tell the Council the latest estimated finishing time for the A105 contract which commenced in early September 2016?

Reply from Councillor Anderson

Works are now substantially complete along the entire route with only the Hedge Lane/Bourne Hill junction works outstanding, and these will be completed in March.

Question 27 from Councillor Erbil to Councillor Brett, Cabinet Member for Community Arts & Culture

Can the Cabinet Member for Community Arts & Culture provide figures for the numbers of benefit claimants sanctioned by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) in the light of reports that food bank usage has doubled in the Borough?

Reply from Councillor Brett

Benefit claimants are sanctioned by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), and so the information relating to sanctions is not readily available to Enfield Council.

The DWP has advised the Council that since the rollout of the 'Universal Credit Full Service' from the Enfield Job Centre Plus, no claimants have been sanctioned.

This statement does not include sanctions that relate to legacy benefits or claims made under the 'Universal Credit Live Service'.

Question 28 from Councillor Smith to Councillor Oyken, Cabinet Member for Housing & Housing Regeneration

The Mayor's draft London Plan proposes an Enfield target for residential completions on small sites of 983 units per annum. Would Councillor Oyken inform the Council of the number of residential units, broken down between open market price and affordable, that have been completed in the borough in each of the past five years?

Reply from Councillor Oyken

Year	Total additional homes (gross)	Market housing completions (gross)	Affordable housing completions (gross)	Affordable homes (%)
2015/16	793	671	122	15%
2014/15	454	369	85	19%
2013/14	712	405	307	43%
2012/13	592	349	243	41%
2011/12	365	286	79	22%

Question 29 from Councillor Jemal to Councillor Anderson Cabinet Member for Environment

Can the Cabinet Member for Environment tell us how many miles of highway the Council maintains and at what annual cost?

Reply from Councillor Anderson

The Council maintains 585km (approximately 366 miles) of roads in Enfield. It is not responsible for the maintenance of the A10, A406 or the M25.

Enfield's road maintenance budget is split into different categories. In the current 2017/18 year, we allocated this as follows:

On the reactive maintenance of roads and pavements, we are spending £2,242,000. This includes repairing defects such as potholes, paving stones, damaged kerbs, posts, bollards, non-illuminated signs etc.

On routine maintenance activities, we are spending £149,500 on gully cleaning and £92,000 on re-painting worn out road markings.

From our Capital funding, this year we have allocated £2,450,000 on resurfacing roads and £1,300,000 on renewing pavements as part of our programme of Planned Maintenance schemes. In addition, we have allocated a budget of £261,500 for gritting our roads as part of our winter maintenance activities. This totals £6,495,000.

In addition to the above, again for the current 2017/18 year, we have received an allocation of £1,085,000 from Transport for London (TfL) for resurfacing principal roads. However, TfL have now advised us that this will no longer be available as from 2018/19 due to their own budget constraints.

Of course, in addition to the above, it should also be borne in mind that we also maintain the following additional highway assets, namely

- Grass verges and shrub beds
- Highway trees
- Bridges culverts and other highway structures
- Street lighting and other illuminated signs

Question 30 from Councillor Smith to Councillor Oyken, Cabinet Member for Housing & Housing Regeneration

The Mayor's draft London Plan proposes an Enfield target for total residential completions of 1,876 units per annum. Would Councillor Oyken inform the Council of the total number of residential units, broken down between open market price and affordable, completed in the borough in each of the past five years?

Reply from Councillor Oyken

See response to Question 28.

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

Would the Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Public Health please inform the Council about “Sugar Smart Enfield”?

Reply from Councillor Fonyonga

“Sugar Smart Enfield” is a campaign that aims to tackle excessive sugar consumption in Enfield, and is part of Sugar Smart UK, a campaign of the Jamie Oliver Food Foundation and Sustain. The campaign was launched with [The Great Sugar Debate](#) on Saturday 13th January and featured in the local press.

We are undertaking Sugar Smart as part of our overall work to reduce prevalence of obesity and overweight in the borough. In April 2017 the Enfield Health & Wellbeing Board identified healthy weight as a top priority for Board action. In 2015/16, more than two in five Year 6 pupils were either obese or overweight in Enfield (41.0%). This was statistically significantly higher than both London (38.1%) and England (34.2%) averages. Obesity and overweight lead to serious health complications later in life, such as diabetes, heart disease and cancers.

Enfield has one of the highest prevalence of Type 2 diabetes in London. Alongside the burden of ill-health, it is worth remembering that nationwide, diabetes costs the NHS £25,000 per minute, and 26,000 children are admitted to hospital every year for multiple tooth extraction under general anaesthetic caused by excessive sugar consumption. There is also growing evidence that sugar is itself an independent risk factor for diabetes, above and beyond delivering only empty calories.

Whilst how much sugar we consume is ultimately down to individual choices, the role of the environment we live in is hugely influential. A vital part of the “Sugar Smart Enfield” campaign is encouraging a multi sector approach with local businesses, organisations and residents involved. There is no one solution to obesity and poor diet and a multi-pronged approach involving everyone is the best chance we have of long term change.

As part of this campaign we have already had pledges from the organisations such as football clubs, leisure providers and schools. We are therefore already making good progress on Sugar Smart towards our goal of 50 local organisations making sugar smart changes to reduce sugar consumption in Enfield.

Question 32 from Councillor Smith to Councillor Oyken, Cabinet Member for Housing & Housing Regeneration

The Mayor's draft London Plan proposes a strategic target of 50% of affordable housing units on new residential developments. Would Councillor Oyken inform the Council of the current estimate in percentage terms of affordable housing he envisages on the Meridian Water site?

Reply from Councillor Oyken

Edmonton Leaside Area Action Plan

All residential development proposals at Meridian Water will be expected to achieve a minimum of 35% affordable housing, during initial phases of development at Meridian Water. As the development of Meridian Water proceeds rising property values are expected to improve viability, enabling a higher proportion of affordable housing to be achieved, meeting the Council's 40% requirement across Meridian Water as a whole. The Council will seek to maximise affordable housing at Meridian Water over the lifetime of the project and work towards the Mayor of London's requirement that 50% of development proposals are affordable housing.

Question 33 from Councillor Maguire to Councillor Sitkin, Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration & Business

Would the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Business Development provide the Council with an update on the Build Enfield programme?

Reply from Councillor Sitkin

Build Enfield is an ambitious training and careers campaign led by Enfield Council in partnership with CONEL and the construction sector. The campaign aims to ensure that Enfield's young people and workforce are able to take advantage of the many training, skills and job opportunities available locally in the construction industry as a result of our ambitious regeneration and estates renewal programmes. In turn developers working in our borough are able to access local talent to help deliver their schemes.

Enfield Council has worked closely with CONEL and Enfield-based developers to make this happen, delivering a programme of events supported by a fully integrated communications campaign using a mixture of channels including digital, social media, outdoor advertising, media relations and press advertising. This has resulted in high levels of engagement and coverage including lots of website hits, social media traction and press coverage. Expressions of interest from local people have in turn led to training and work placements with developers working in the borough.

Question 34 from Councillor Smith to Councillor Sitkin, Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration & Business

According to Councillor Sitkin in a previous answer (Question 23, Council Meeting 22 November 2017), approximately 33% (18 hectares) of the developable land at Meridian Water are designated as Strategic Industrial Land. Would Councillor Sitkin inform the Council of the number and size of the industrial sites in the rest of the Borough that the Council has been able to identify as being acceptable substitutes to the GLA for the Strategic Industrial Land (SIL) at Meridian Water?

Reply from Councillor Sitkin

The Proposed Submission Edmonton Leaside Area Action Plan (ELAAP) sets out

the removal of 18 hectares of SIL at Harbet Road on the basis that transformative regeneration at Meridian Water requires flexibility to combine mixed land uses and achieve a large uplift in the number and type of jobs. ELAAP does designate 34 hectares of new SIL in the areas covering and surrounding Deephams Sewage Treatment works, so providing a net uplift of 16 hectares of SIL across the AAP area, albeit recognising that the characteristics of the new SIL do not replace those at Harbet Road in terms of location or flexibility of uses.

Any potential for new SIL designations beyond the ELAAP boundary will be looked at though the development of the new Local Plan

Question 35 from Councillor Chibah to Councillor Sitkin, Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration & Business

Would the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Business Development provide the Council with an update on departmental customer relationship management systems?

Reply from Councillor Sitkin

The LAGAN system is currently contracted into 2018/19 and is used for capturing customer details when they call the council's direct line and is also used for fulfilling their service requests. The system has been used for around 10 years and doesn't integrate with the website and Enfield Connected.

The Dynamics CRM system is provided as part of the council's Enterprise Agreement with Microsoft, that is about to be renewed for 3 years to April 2021. Currently this is used to support the customer using Enfield Connected and website and integrates with a number of the back office systems. This product has the capability to be developed to provide the functionality within LAGAN and integrate to more back office systems and retire the LAGAN system.

Question 36 from Councillor Smith to Councillor Oyken, Cabinet Member for Housing & Housing Regeneration

Would Councillor Oyken inform the Council when the vacant housing site in Blossom Lane owned by the Council (not Tudor Close) was cleared and the proposed on site start date?

Reply from Councillor Oyken

Lavender Hill – 12 units

The site is on the corner of Blossom Lane and Lavender Hill and is known in our programme as Lavender Hill within the Small Sites Phase 1 project. The contract to build the 12 homes (8 for sale and 4 for shared ownership) was signed with our new contractors AMCM last November 2017 following Cabinet approval. The foundation piling and ground beams have been installed and the site has been hoarded around the parameter with works due to be underway soon The site is on construction programme to complete in February 2019

Question 37 from Councillor Kepez to Councillor Alev Cazimoglu, Cabinet Member for Health & Social Care

With Ray James' secondment to NHS England as the National Director for Learning Disabilities, there is a renewed emphasis on reducing in patient assessment and treatment for people with learning disabilities. Can the Cabinet Member for Health & Social Care tell us how Enfield performs in this area?

Response from Councillor Alev Cazimoglu

Firstly congratulations to Ray James on the award of his CBE. This is a fantastic achievement and reflective of his work for Enfield Council and the Association of Directors of Adult Social Care. May I also wish him the best for secondment with NHS England as the first National Director of Learning Disability.

Locally our work is being co-ordinated through local Transforming Care Partnerships (TCP), which are having mixed results nationally. In Enfield, we are part of the North Central London Transforming Care Partnership (Camden, Islington, Haringey, Barnet & Enfield) and are one of the top performers. We have no long stay in patients (5+ years) and only currently have one person as an inpatient on an assessment & treatment unit.

Our Integrated Learning Disabilities Service consists of health and social care staff who work to divert people from in patient assessment & treatment services, through skilled interventions in the community. In addition, NHS figures recently released for the numbers of annual health checks for adults with learning disabilities in 16/17, places Enfield at the top of the performance table (63%) for the North Central London sector.

Question 38 from Councillor Chamberlain to Councillor Oyken, Cabinet Member for Housing & Housing Regeneration

As the Cabinet Member has singularly failed to develop the Bury Street West site, like many others in the borough, will he recognise the significance of this site's location next to Bury Lodge Park and commit to redeveloping it as an extension of Bury Lodge Park?

Reply from Councillor Oyken

Planning consent has been granted subject to ratification of approved matters and GLA formal consent. Reserved matters are expected to be completed by end of March 2018. The Council's Property Department are in negotiations with a 'special' purchaser which remains commercially confidential until a report to Cabinet is submitted and approved. If negotiations are not concluded successfully, the property will be marketed, subject to the planning consent.

Question 39 from Councillor Keazor to Councillor Daniel Anderson Cabinet Member for Environment

Can the Cabinet Member for Environment tell us how many adults are transported, on a regular basis, to day centres, by the Council's People's Transport Service?

Reply from Councillor Anderson

260 vulnerable adults are transported by People Transport on a daily or weekly regular basis – some travel every day, some only once or twice a week.

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

Could the Cabinet Member inform chamber why his department failed to carry out the correct level of scoping works when buying a £1.15 million ICT housing systems programme resulting in the need for an extra £1.8 million additional funding to make the system fit for purpose?

Reply from Councillor Oykenner

Since the inception of the programme with the Civica Cx Migration Project in April 2016, there have been a number of relevant and significant changes to LBE's operating environment which have increased the scope of ICT changes required in the Housing Services. This includes GDPR compliance which requires not only changes to the way we process data but also data cleansing. It has also meant that we need to replace our document and records management systems in Housing to ensure we have the functionality available to remain GDPR compliant.

In addition, the Council has undergone a number of structural changes in many of the services within the scope of this IT change, mainly in response to budgetary pressures. These have meant that key decision makers have changed which has meant that the scope of this project and the way it is governed has been reviewed by the business. This has necessitated enhancements to the original scope – both in terms of business requirements and the business involvement. These enhancements will ensure the new systems deliver the benefits required for this new business environment and are explained in the report.