

## **Council Questions 21 February 2018**

### **Question 1 from Councillor Barry to Councillor Doug Taylor, Leader of the Council**

Would the Leader of the Council comment on the state of BREXIT negotiations and how it may affect Enfield?

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

It appears that there is still a considerable way to go before the Government is able to give clarity on how and with what impact BREXIT will affect us nationally and therefore in Enfield. The recently leaked Government analysis on BREXIT economic impact suggests growth in London would be up to 8% lower under a no deal scenario, around 5% lower with a free trade agreement with the EU and about 1% lower with a soft Brexit option of single market membership over a 15-year period. What appears to be clear is that in any end game scenario is that the country and therefore Enfield will lose out.

### **Question 2 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment**

It is widely believed that the Cycle Enfield works at Ponders End and the A1010 generally cannot be completed for lack of funding.

Will he confirm to the council the present funding position for the Cycle Enfield generally and specifically in relation to the A1010?

#### **Reply from Councillor Anderson**

Councillor Neville is ill-advised to listen to, let alone believe, Chinese whispers. He is also conflating two separate issues, namely the Ponders End High Street Improvement Scheme, and the A1010 South Cycle Enfield Scheme.

With regards to the Ponders End High Street Improvement Scheme, this does not form part of Cycle Enfield Programme and was funded separately. It is now substantially complete and any further improvements will be subject to further bid submissions to Transport for London as deemed appropriate.

With regards to our Cycle Enfield Programme, both the Mayor of London and Transport for London remain fully committed to providing the full funding as per the successful bid. To that end, in the 2018/19 financial year the A1010 South Scheme should be substantially completed. This will then be followed by the A1010 North Scheme in 2019/20. Other sections will follow sequentially, including the ongoing rollout of supporting measures such as Quietways and Quieter Neighbourhoods.

Councillor Neville will also be happy to hear that our partnership with Urbo is seeing the rollout of dockless bikes, initially along the A105, but gradually over time across the Borough. This will enable him, alongside residents, to hire a bike for as little as 50p per half-hour and so go a considerable way towards achieving our main aim of

increasing cycling participation in the Borough.

**Question 3 from Councillor Simon to Councillor Doug Taylor, Leader of the Council**

Can the Leader of the Council advise the Council on London's local government collective resilience arrangements?

**Reply from Councillor Taylor**

Resilience arrangements in the UK are essentially divided into three categories, National, Regional and Local and each is overseen by a multi-agency resilience forum.

These forums are made up of representatives from Category 1 responders, (as defined by the Civil Contingencies Act) and include the emergency services, local authorities, the NHS, the Environment Agency and others. The work of the resilience forums is supported by Category 2 responders, such as the Highways Agency and public utility companies, and the forums also cooperate closely with other partners in the military and voluntary sectors.

The **London Local Resilience Forum** (LRRF) is one of the 39 regional forums in England and its role is to plan and prepare for localised incidents and catastrophic emergencies. The LRRF work to identify potential risks and produce emergency plans to prevent, mitigate and respond to any incident in London.

Each borough maintains a Borough Resilience Forum to enable cooperation and information sharing at borough level. The membership of the Enfield Borough Resilience Forum is effectively a replica of the LRRF.

The London Local Authority Gold (LLAG) Arrangements have been established to ensure that London Local Authorities are able to respond to emergencies with regional implications in a coordinated manner. These arrangements consist of a strategic representative, London Local Authority Chief Executive (LLAG), authorised to develop a single strategy for response on behalf of all London boroughs, the London Local Authority Coordination Centre (LLACC) responsible for coordinating the activity of all 33 London Local Authorities, and Borough Emergency Control Centres (BECCs) linked through direct communications channels with the LLACC and responsible for delivery of the operational response at the local level. The borough is required to maintain contact with the LLACC and undertake the following roles during a regional response:

- Deliver tasks as requested by LLAG through the LLACC.
- Implement regional tactical plans.
- Produce situation reports.
- Coordinate local operations necessary within the pan-London strategy set by LLAG.
- Identify mutual aid requirements and, where necessary, forward requests for support to the LLACC.

Locally we are contributing to the development of more consistent approaches and have further developed our “Command Post” exercises and advanced training for senior officers is scheduled.

#### **Question 4 from Councillor Smith to Councillor Fonyonga, Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Public Health**

Given the heinous nature of the crime of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and the reportedly serious incidence of the problem in the London Borough of Enfield, would Councillor Fonyonga confirm the number of annual cases over the past five years that have come to the attention of the Council?

#### **Reply from Councillor Fonyonga**

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is a form of child abuse and an appalling form of violence against women and girls (VAWG). Our VAWG strategy focuses on safeguarding and states that FGM is a crime in the category ‘assault with injury’. Consistent and long-term data on the number of annual cases is unavailable as formal recording only began in 2015.

There are figures that give us an idea of the burden of FGM across North London. The North Middlesex University Hospital (Iris Clinic) reports that during 2015 there were 294 women who disclosed FGM at the time of their booking for maternity care.

In 2016/17 there were 140 newly recorded cases of women and girls with FGM in Enfield. Furthermore, the annual 2016/17 assessment of *Children in Need* report by the Department for Education (DfE) found that, of the 4,321 children assessed in Enfield, 10 girls raised concerns regarding FGM; but that this figure indicates only those girls who may have been **at risk** rather than the confirmed number of cases.

Although the actual prevalence of FGM in Enfield, in both women who have had it performed and in girls at risk, is uncertain local actions have been put in place. In planning services to meet the needs of women with FGM, and assessing whether there is a need for child protection for their daughters, it is important to recognise the diversity of this group of migrant women and to assess their needs at an individual level. Prevention and education are important and training is key to empowering professionals and communities to speak up about what may be happening locally. Schools and community groups are essential parts of the response to protect vulnerable girls from FGM. In recognition of the mental and physical impact FGM has on health, the Enfield Health & Wellbeing Board now oversees work in this area. Updates on the implementation of local actions will be taken to the Board during 2018/19.

The number of cases is reflected from a health perspective. There are no reports coming to attention of the Council via the police crime reporting.

**Question 5 from Councillor Doyle to Councillor Ayfer Orhan, Cabinet Member for Education, Children’s Services and Protection**

Councillor Orhan has repeatedly expressed her commitment to Enfield Children’s Services and her concerns of the impact of the Government’s cuts to the delivery of this service. Would the Cabinet Member for Education, Children’s Services and Protection provide an update of the financial pressures her department continues to experience?

**Reply from Councillor Orhan**

We want all our children to be safe, confident and happy, with opportunities to achieve through learning and reach their full potential, as they become adults, and as such, services provided to vulnerable children and young people continue to be a Council priority.

There are a number of areas within the department’s services that are statutory and demand led, meaning that the service must be provided if the client meets the relevant criteria. The number of referrals of children possibly at risk remains high which could lead to increases in the number of placements needed.

These demand-led areas are currently experiencing financial pressure due to factors such as changes to welfare benefits, demographic changes and population increases, legislative changes requiring us to provide services for longer and an increase in the level and complexity of need and these are all likely to continue in 2018/19. The following are areas of particular attention:

As reported in the annual MJ/LGIU annual report on the state of local government finance, “Children’s Services is now the top immediate pressure for councils ... for the first time in at least three years”. This nationally recognised cost pressure is also reflected in Enfield and in this context it was disappointing that the final settlement for 2018/19 resulted in no further resources for services supporting vulnerable children. However, at Enfield we are proposing £1m of additional resources for children’s social care for 2018/19 to reflect these additional service pressures

**Question 6 from Councillor Smith to Councillor Fonyonga, Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Public Health**

Would Councillor Fonyonga confirm the annual number of prosecutions for Female Genital Mutilation of people living in the London Borough of Enfield that have occurred over the past five years?

**Reply from Councillor Fonyonga**

As reflected in Question 4, FGM information available to the Council is reported via health routes. You will note the council groups that monitor incidents of FGM are via health and safeguarding especially. No reports have come to the attention of the Council via the police, crime reporting and the police have confirmed that there have been no local prosecutions.

**Question 7 from Councillor During to Councillor Krystle Fonyonga, Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Public Health**

Would the Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Public Health please inform the council about what facilities and amenities are available for older residents in Enfield to experience more years of healthy living?

**Reply from Councillor Fonyonga**

Enfield is full of facilities and amenities that are available for older residents so that they might experience more years of healthy living. However, we continue to work hard to make our wonderful borough even better through initiatives like Cycle Enfield, noting that in the Netherlands for example, 25% of journeys by people aged 65+ are by bicycle and in Enfield 13% of journeys are under 1km. It's also important to note that up to 40% of Type 2 diabetes can be prevented by physical activity, a condition that costs the NHS £25,000 per minute.

Furthermore, we operate a discount scheme for our sports facilities through the Over 50's Forum, and offer activities specifically for the Over 50's through the Active Enfield programme and have run Falls Prevention programmes. This does not include activities where the Over 50's are the main participants such as Badminton, Yoga and Pilates. The Council has just recommissioned its Voluntary and Community Section to focus on Outcomes in relation to Prevention and Early Intervention. Outcomes are based early intervention, promoting independence and social inclusion principles for people with health and social care needs in Enfield who have non- statutory required needs. This support is intended for people at risk, to halt or slow down any deterioration and actively seek to improve their situation

Enfield Council is also a firm supporter of organisations that have a remit to improve the health of our older residents. This includes representation from the Over 50's Forum on the Health and Wellbeing Board as well as a separate Older People's Partnership Board chaired by an associate Cabinet Member. These are particularly useful in linking the work of the Local Authority to those of our Health colleagues. We should also not forget our work to support the Community and Voluntary sector that not only undertakes much needed work in Enfield but provides all our residents with opportunities to meet and socialise.

**Question 8 from Councillor Smith to Councillor Lemonides, Cabinet Member for Finance & Efficiency**

Following the conclusion of Enfield 2017, could Councillor Lemonides confirm the number of outstanding computer applications/systems that the council needs to acquire to update or replace its existing systems?

**Reply from Councillor Lemonides**

IT systems continually need to be updated and replaced. Sometimes these changes are relatively minor, whilst on other occasions they are much more significant. Therefore, it would be wrong to suggest that systems needed updating at the end of Enfield 2017, because it was never intended to update or replace all IT systems at that point. The most useful answer I can give is, therefore, that our latest IT plan

shows we plan to update 35 systems, plus hardware and materials over the next 3 years.

**Question 9 from Councillor Maguire to Councillor Oyken, Cabinet Member for Housing and Housing Regeneration**

What has the Council done, apart from new build, to increase its supply of affordable homes, to reduce the desperate homelessness problem?

**Reply from Councillor Oyken**

The Council has pioneered the extension of our existing blocks. At Lychet Way we are close to completing 25 homes (21 x 2 bed and 4 x 1 bed) which have been added to the top of existing blocks by the addition of an extra floor. This was done as part of a routine enveloping scheme and has resulted in high quality homes, which have excellent space standards, and which enhance the blocks' appearance.

Housing Gateway Ltd (the Council's wholly owned company) continues to expand its portfolio by purchasing properties. Housing Gateway has purchased 420 properties since June 2014, hitting the year four target one year early. LBE has sole nomination rights to all of Housing Gateway's properties and places tenants who would otherwise be housed in expensive nightly paid accommodation. To date, it is estimated that Housing Gateway has provided cost avoidance of £2.5m to LBE through its use of properties. Housing Gateway's properties are let at a rent level in line with local housing allowance levels.

**Question 10 from Councillor Smith to Councillor Lemonides, Cabinet Member for Finance & Efficiency**

Will Councillor Lemonides confirm the estimated cost of procuring these computer applications/systems including an estimated date of when he expects these new applications to be installed?

**Reply from Councillor Lemonides**

The cost of our latest IT plan is £32m and the systems in it will be replaced at various times over the next 3 years.

**Question 11 from Councillor Bond to Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment**

Can the Cabinet Member for Environment describe the Council's programme of constructing sustainable drainage schemes (SuDS) and explain their benefits?

**Reply from Councillor Anderson**

Enfield has constructed a number of sustainable drainage schemes in recent years, specifically:

- Glenbrook SuDS (2014)

- Grovelands Park SuDS (2014)
- Pymmes Park Wetlands (2015)
- Firs Farm Wetlands (2015)
- Bury Lodge Wetlands (2016)

We've also completed SuDS rain garden projects at Houndsden Road, Alma Road, Bramley Road and on Green Lanes (as part of the Cycle Enfield works).

We have a number of on-going projects, including:

- Prince of Wales Wetlands (due for completion in 2018/19)
- SuDS rain garden projects at Bulwer Road, Waterfall Road and Betstyle Circus Roundabout. These are all aimed at reducing specific flood problems and are due for completion by the end of 2017/18

The construction of wetlands, rain gardens (i.e. mini-wetlands that capture rainfall runoff from hard surfaces) and other types of sustainable drainage features (SuDS) is identified as one of the key aims in Enfield's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy in order to slow the flow of water during storms and therefore reduce the risk of flooding to residents and business in Enfield. In addition to this crucial aspect of reducing flooding, they also contribute to the following wider benefits:

- Water quality – wetlands help to remove and breakdown pollutants such as oil, nitrates and phosphates thereby making urban rivers cleaner;
- Biodiversity – wetlands and rain gardens provide habitat for a wide range of birds, amphibians and other;
- Amenity – improved access, social spaces, etc;
- Health – increased opportunities for walking, jogging and cycling; green infrastructure also helps to reduce urban heat stress;
- Social – increased opportunities for public engagement and community activities;
- Education – opportunities to learn about the natural environment (for residents and local schools), outdoor classrooms have been created at Pymmes Park and Firs Farm Wetlands with funding from Thames Water; and
- Air quality – increased greenery in urban areas can help to reduce the quantity of particulates that contribute to poor air quality.

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

In a previous answer, Councillor Lemonides said that the Council had spent £29,193,000 on consultant's fees, over the past eight years. Would he break this down by year between housing development consultants' fees and other consultants' fees?

**Reply from Councillor Lemonides**

The amount attributed to consultancy spend in the areas of Capital Spend, Schools & Children's Services, Regen & Environment, Enfield Homes, Project Management, and Repairs & Maintenance was as follows:

FY10-11	£2,262,941
FY11-12	£3,265,573
FY12-13	£1,682,438
FY13-14	£2,933,649
FY14-15	£576,537
FY15-16	£1,411,673
FY16-17	£1,706,037

It should be noted that these are the areas where building development is undertaken within the Council. The spend may include non-building development work but to identify this would require a manual exercise examining each individual invoice.

**Question 13 from Councillor Levy to Councillor Lemonides Cabinet Member for Finance & Efficiency**

Would the Cabinet Member for Finance & Efficiency give his views on the final Local Government Finance Settlement?

**Reply from Councillor Lemonides**

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. The final settlement was disappointing, in that it contained no additional funding for children's services, which are a significant budget pressure. Instead, it included additional funding for 2018/19 of £16m for rural services and £150m for Adult Social Care.

Enfield will get nothing for rural services, and an additional £0.8m for Adult Social Care. This additional funding would appear to favour county authorities, and it is disappointing that the announcement came so late in the local authority budget setting process.

**Question 14 from Councillor Jukes to Councillor Lemonides, Cabinet Member for Finance & Efficiency**

When will the Staff Restaurant in the Civic Centre move into the 21st century and accept debit/credit/contactless payment instead of demanding "cash only"? As well as being inconvenient for staff it frequently embarrasses visitors attending courses or other events at the Civic Centre.

**Reply from Councillor Lemonides**

It has taken longer than originally intended to progress the installation of an Electronic Payment System (EPOS) system in the Civic Centre staff restaurant. However, this will be resolved once the restaurant moves as part of the Civic Centre refurbishment have been finalised and agreed.

### **Question 15 from Councillor Chibah to Councillor Sitkin, Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration & Business**

Can the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Business report on the situation for Enfield's manufacturing sector after the work done over the past four years.

#### **Reply from Councillor Sitkin**

A number of the new businesses which have been attracted and subsequently located to Enfield are in the manufacturing sector and in particular the food and drink industry. Recent arrivals include Camden Town Brewery and Cook's Delight. There is also interest from a number of other small micro-breweries seeking grow-on space and is likely to provide a manufacturing cluster.

The Meridian Water development is already encouraging a re-alignment of manufacturing for example Building Bloqs offering maker space on a pay-as-you-go basis with professional tools on hand, offers local makers a range of manufacturing facilities for furniture, metal work and other media.

Looking to the future Enfield has been instrumental in developing a fashion and design cluster and as businesses in neighbouring boroughs outgrow their space, Enfield has been accessible in offering its space as well as a skills-base in traditional clothing manufacturing to in-coming businesses. UKFT, the umbrella network for the UK fashion and textile sector including designers, manufacturers, agents and retailers, is currently based in Central London and is looking to Enfield for expansion opportunities for its members.

With the current expansion of UK manufacturing output at its fastest rate since early 2008 after recording a seventh consecutive month of growth in November 2017, Enfield is well placed and will continue to market its opportunity sites to the manufacturing sector.

Enfield Council is completing a partnership agreement with leading industrial developers Henry Boot to jointly redevelop Montague Industrial Estate.

The Estate will be redeveloped in phases to provide new modern industrial units to accommodate both expanding local industrial companies and attract new businesses with a view to creating new jobs for local residents.

The partnership will allow the Council to invest in job creation as well as retain income to support the Council's regeneration policies.

### **Question 16 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Oykener, Cabinet Member for Housing & Housing Regeneration**

Could the Cabinet Member inform the chamber the cost to the Council of the delay in implementing the new ICT Housing Systems Programme (including Civica Housing Cx) that requires an additional funding to make it fit purpose?

### **Reply from Councillor Oyken**

The replacement Housing System was initially expected to go live in 2017/18 and the old Northgate system was to be de-commissioned at the end of that year. With the extended Housing programme, the “go live” date has now moved back into 2018/19. To describe this as an extra cost is inaccurate therefore.

### **Question 17 from Councillor Hasan to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Education, Children’s Services and Protection:**

This administration has been concerned for some time of the lack of Government investment into Children’s Services across London and indeed we have heard of the difficulties that councils are facing in delivering statutory services. What does Councillor Orhan think is the solution to this financial crisis?

### **Reply from Councillor Orhan**

As reported in the Local Government Chronicle - “The government has been warned repeatedly that ongoing funding cuts, including the £2 billion gap that councils face by 2020, have left them struggling to provide the support that vulnerable children and families need.” A recent survey by London Councils of Children’s Social Care spend, showed that across London 25 boroughs reported a financial overspend in Children’s Social Care last financial year. Whilst these national demand pressures are not being recognised through additional grant funding, this remains an area of budget concern for Enfield as we want to ensure that all our children and young people are safe and achieve their full potential.

### **Question 18 from Councillor Hurer to Councillor Lemonides, Cabinet Member for Finance & Efficiency**

The London Borough of Enfield is part of the pilot pool in 2018/2019 with respect to Business Rates Retention. What is this administration doing to encourage businesses to come to Enfield and help those currently struggling (particularly as a result of the cycle lanes) in order to ensure that the borough benefits from the pilot and thereafter if the scheme becomes permanent?

### **Reply from Councillor Lemonides**

Through an open dialogue with our partners in the business community, we have initiated a conversation to listen and respond to business needs. This will continue. With valuable feedback from businesses relocating to the borough we are looking at how to improve our offer.

We have also been working across the borough to drill down into the economic challenges facing businesses located in town and local centres. Many of these are related to changes in consumer behaviour with increased online shopping and cautious consumer spending.

New businesses include Caesarstone, an Israeli up-market quartz flooring and

kitchen top company creating around 100 jobs mostly in warehousing and customer service but with some financial & marketing roles; Ladies designer fashion wear Chi Chi London with 60 design and commercial roles, warehouse and shipping as well as some graduate recruitment; and Cook's Delight, an award-winning catering supplier of fresh produce, creating around 150 jobs.

Camden Town Brewery has also made Enfield its new home with over 150 jobs, alongside DFS and UK Mail.

We already work collaboratively with businesses and their representative organisations across the borough and are bringing a Cabinet paper in June to outline Enfield's plans for a renaissance of town, district and local centres looking at encouraging and matching local business investment.

With regard to businesses affected by the programme of works to install the Cycle Enfield scheme, officers have listened to concerns and have taken steps where possible to alleviate any disruption. For example in the west of the borough, a section of works at the junction with Green Lanes was postponed until after the Christmas break. Some businesses may have received discretionary relief from the Council to help with business rates.

Enfield's discretionary rate relief policy has already helped small businesses, pubs and those businesses facing the steepest increases in their business rates bills as a result of the 2017 revaluation. This relief is worth over £1m in 2017/18 and will be over £500,000 for 2018/19.

**Question 19 from Councillor Abdullahi to Councillor Brett, Cabinet Member for Community, Arts and Culture:**

We have heard that support for mortgage interest payments; a benefit claimed by 124,000 people, is being axed and replaced by a loan in April 2018. Will the Cabinet Member for Community, Arts and Culture tell us how many Enfield people will be affected by this?

**Reply from Councillor Brett**

The financial support known as 'Support for Mortgage Interest' (SMI) is a working-age benefit that offers help to homeowners with their mortgage payments. To qualify you must be in receipt of pension credit; universal credit; job seekers allowance; employment support allowance or income support. It is administered by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).

From April 2018, SMI will no longer be paid as a free benefit, as an alternative the Government is offering to lend people the money, which must be repaid later with interest.

Without this help, some people are at risk of being repossessed.

While the DWP is currently writing to recipients of this benefit to inform them of the change, overall awareness is low.

Almost half of the 124,000 recipients nationally are of pension age and many have interest-only mortgages.

Institutions such as Royal London – the UK’s largest mutual life and pension provider – have expressed concern that the Government has not made sufficient help and advice available. They have warned that tailored financial advice is required.

As this benefit assistance is administered by the DWP, Enfield Council has no records about the number of local households affected by this change.

**Question 20 from Councillor Hurer to Councillor Lemonides, Cabinet Member for Finance & Efficiency**

This administration has managed to achieve a “balanced budget” in 2016/2017 (as it is legally required to do so). What are the current projections for 2018/2019 and 2019/2020?

**Reply from Councillor Lemonides**

As detailed in the Budget 2018/19 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2018/19 to 2021/22 (General Fund) report which is on the Council agenda we have achieved a balanced budget for 2018/19. For 2019/20 the current budget gap is £13.5m, as noted in the report. This is a significant challenge and to address it work will continue throughout the year on measures to close this gap. New workstreams are being convened to commence work with immediate effect and they will be working corporately to develop and implement new savings proposals as soon as possible.

**Question 21 from Councillor Caliskan to Councillor Fonyonga, Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Public Health**

Could the Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Public Health please update the Council about efforts to combat smoking in Enfield?

**Reply from Councillor Fonyonga**

Smoking remains the greatest avoidable cause of death, disease and disability in the borough. Enfield has therefore made great efforts to combat smoking in the borough. This has included supporting national events such as Stoptober, New Year Quitters and National No-smoking Day as well as continuous local work such as in Palace Gardens, Edmonton Shopping Centre and in Mortimer Road and other pieces of work targeting high smoking prevalence communities.

I’m pleased to report that these efforts have been successful; the latest data available shows that smoking prevalence fell between from 16.8 to 13.1%, the equivalent of a fall of approximately 8,000 smokers. Members will also be pleased to note that uptake of smoking by 15 year olds is amongst the lowest in London and the country.

**Question 22 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Lemonides, Cabinet Member for Finance & Efficiency**

Would the Cabinet Member for Finance explain how the Council will deliver its policy of containing spending within the budgets set for each department when it has not been able to manage it for the last 2 years?

### **Reply from Councillor Lemonides**

Over the last 8 years, £161m savings have been successfully delivered by services in the context of the cumulative impact of reduced resources and growing demand pressures.

Management action continues to address the council's cost pressures within children's services and temporary accommodation. Recognising the enduring pressures, for 2018-19, the Council has committed an additional £1.5m for Children's Services within this proposed budget and prudently provided for £1.0m contingency to mitigate for any further cost pressures that arise/unable to be contained within the existing resources. As we move to 2018-19, close scrutiny of the budget will continue.

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

I am aware of Councillor Orhan's personal interest in the creative arts and as someone who shares her passion for music, would the Cabinet Member for Education, Children's Services and Protection update this Council on the work, activities and program of events of the Enfield Music Services, in delivering music to children and young people of Enfield?

### **Reply from Councillor Orhan**

The Enfield Music Service is moving into an extremely busy period and I am pleased to share with you some examples of the on-going work.

Key work areas include:

- Work in ongoing to secure grant funding from Arts Council England. Confirmation of two-year funding, covering the period April 2018 – March 2020
- A comprehensive school visit programme, talking directly to all Enfield Schools, has recently started and will continue until the end of the academic year.
- A broadening of cultural and stylistic interests. A two-day songwriting course was held last October; a 'Creative Music Day' with Brazilian percussionist/composer Adriano Adewale was held on 13th February at the Dugdale Theatre. Planning for events in October has started with the band Don Kipper (which explores a wide range of traditional musical forms reflecting the cultural diversity of North East London).

Performance events this year:

- Enfield Schools' Music Festival at the Millfield Theatre. The festival will feature 18 Enfield secondary schools
- Southgate, Edmonton and Enfield Training Bands, Steel Pans and Concert Band at Enfield County Upper School
- Beginner / Intermediate Strings, Wednesday Strings, Edmonton Strings and Concert Orchestra at Enfield County Upper School
- String Quartet, Lower Strings Ensemble and Wind Quintet at Raglan School
- Saturday Music Centre Concert including Music Club, Saturday Singers, Keyboard Groups, Ukulele Club & Steel Pans at Houndsfield School
- Enfield Youth Symphony Orchestra & Enfield Youth Wind Band at Palmers Green United Reformed Church
- Final of the Mayor's Choral Award competition at Lea Valley High School
- Wind Band Day
- Upper Strings Day

**Strategic initiatives include:**

- Sing to Your Baby, encouraging parents and carers to sing more to their babies
- Playing the Curriculum, with Max Reinhardt and Oxford Contemporary Music.

**Question 24 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Lemonides, Cabinet Member for Finance & Efficiency**

Will the Cabinet Member for Finance confirm if the majority of the tranche 3 savings listed as part of the Budget 2018/19 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2018/19 to 2021/22 (General Fund) Cabinet report are actually deliverable, because the savings lists agreed in previous years have been deemed unachievable, only a few months after the Budget Council Meeting where they were agreed?

**Reply from Councillor Lemonides**

It is considered that the savings proposals included in the Budget 2018/19 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2018/19 to 2021/22 (General Fund) report are achievable. Officers will be working hard to deliver these savings during the year and the progress with achieving the savings will be monitored through regular reports to Cabinet, as in the current financial year. Where difficulties are encountered in delivering savings executive directors are required to produce a plan of how they will contain any subsequent shortfall, for example by the substitution of alternative savings or other efficiency measures.

**Question 25 from Councillor Eren to Councillor Cazimoglu, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care**

Can the Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care please explain what is meant by Accountable Care Organisations?

**Reply from Councillor Cazimoglu**

The development of Accountable Care Systems (ACSs) or Accountable Care Organisations (ACOs) are being considered as one option for NHS Commissioners to work with provider organisations. The aim being to commission services to a population and make providers accountable for patient services and experience better by removing some of the barriers between care provided in Hospital settings, Primary Care and Community Services.

**Question 26 from Councillor Hurer to Councillor Lemonides, Cabinet Member for Finance & Efficiency**

The borough is in more debt than at any time in its history, reserves are being depleted and we are heading for a significant budget deficit in 2019/2020. Does the Cabinet member genuinely believe this is a good position to be in?

**Reply from Councillor Lemonides**

The levels of debt at Enfield prudently remain below the authority's authorised borrowing limit of £1.1 billion as set out within the Treasury Management Strategy 2017/18.

As demonstrated in this budget, the council is increasingly reliant on local taxation to fund services – either through council tax or business rate income in an environment of reduced government grant funding.

Investment in capital projects supporting regeneration of the borough are essential to ensure that budget is sustainable in the long term and can continue to provide essential services for all of Enfield residents.

As set out in the report, Budget 2018/19 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2018/19 to 2021/22 (General Fund) which was reported to Cabinet on 14<sup>th</sup> February, 18, the level of general reserves are maintained at £14m which is considered the appropriate level after fully considering the overall council position and risks; reserves that are held for specific purposes and spent in a planned way as set out in the body of this report.

**Question 27 from Councillor Barry to Councillor Brett, Cabinet Member for Community, Arts and Culture:**

Can the Cabinet Member for Community, Arts and Culture tell us what plans are in place to commemorate International Women's day this year given the importance of this centenary year?

**Reply from Councillor Brett**

I would like to thank the member for raising this hugely significant event with fellow members. The Council has been working hard to create a suitably inclusive and varied programme for the 2018 International Women's Day celebration that reflects upon and celebrates the sacrifice many women in Enfield and across this country made to secure a key stage in the ongoing journey to achieve true equality – the gaining of voting rights for women over 30. We will be marking this auspicious

anniversary with a dedication and unveiling of a new permanent memorial to women's suffrage that will be erected at the historically significant site in our borough at The Triangle in Palmers Green where a protest against the status quo was met with repressive force. The day's events will also consist of a re-enactment of the events that took place on that very site in 1914 as part of the campaign to get the vote and include speeches by some of our leading local women politicians.

I do hope that all women members who are able to attend can do so. In addition we will be holding a reception at Jeff Rodin House, Palmers Green Library, following the unveiling.

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

Does the Cabinet Member for Finance believe that Council's level of borrowing as of December 2017 at £597m is concerning given the delays in capital programme schemes that we have borrowed heavily to finance is sustainable for the long term future of the Council?

**Reply from Councillor Lemonides**

As per the response to question 26 from Councillor Hurer, the Council's level of debt prudently remains below the authorised limit as set out in the Treasury Policy.

This Council is committed to continuing investment in the future of our borough making Enfield a desirable, thriving place to live and work.

**Question 29 from Councillor Dogan to Councillor Orhan, Cabinet Member for Education, Children's Services and Protection**

Would the Cabinet Member for Education, Children's Services and Protection provide an update to this Council of what has happened to the Government's investigation to deliver a school on the Groveland's Park site?

**Reply from Councillor Orhan**

Officers met with Department for Education/Education and Schools Funding Agency (DfE/ESFA) representatives on the 8 February 2018 to discuss Grovelands Park and other school projects. It was agreed Enfield officers are to provide further contextual information to DfE/ESFA on the need for a 2 form entry primary school in the South West of Enfield from September 2019. It is for the Government and the ESFA to continue to investigate the practicalities of delivering a school at Grovelands Park.

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

Under the Labour Mayor for London the GLA precept is increasing by 5.07% in 2018/2019. What additional and improved services will Enfield directly benefit from as a result of this increase?

### **Reply from Councillor Lemonides**

When the Mayor proposed his budget, he said that “nothing was more important to me than keeping Londoners safe”. The Government refused to back the Metropolitan Police or the London Fire Brigade with the grant funding they need and so he was left with no choice but to propose increasing council tax to protect London from the threats that we face.

### **Question 31 from Councillor Erbil to Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Environment**

Can the Cabinet Member for Environment tell us what improvements have been made over the last year to improve the People Transport service?

### **Reply from Councillor Anderson**

Certainly I can. We have undertaken 230 training sessions for staff; introduced a new IT system for enhanced route planning, passenger details, finance/invoicing and reporting details; we have consolidated and thereby reduced invoices by 50%; renewed our vehicles; re-tendered contracts with or external suppliers to create efficiencies; brought in a new contractor vehicle checking routine; and undertaken an audit of all our contractors.

### **Question 32 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Oykenner, Cabinet Member for Housing & Housing Regeneration**

Can the Cabinet Member for Housing state how many homes the Council has developed excluding private housing applications since 2010?

### **Reply from Councillor Oykenner**

Since 2010 the Council has developed housing through its estate renewal and housing development schemes, regeneration team, and with its housing company Enfield Innovations Limited.

There are 2,388 homes (excluding Housing Gateway) that have been completed or in the process of completion.

In addition a number of others sites have recently received planning consent, are about to be submitted for planning or undergoing feasibility studies. In this category are 206 homes. In addition larger scale estate renewal schemes are under consideration, which will be subject to a residents’ ballot. These if approved could deliver a further 2000 homes.

### **Question 33 from Councillor Stewart to Councillor Fonyonga, Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Public Health**

Could the Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Public Health please update this Council about the work being done to address substance misuse and promote a reduction in alcohol consumption in Enfield?

## **Reply from Councillor Fonyonga**

Enfield commissions a good range of services to reduce substance misuse and alcohol consumption in the borough. These include Compass Sort IT which works on substance issues (including alcohol) in those aged under 18 and Enable; the Enfield alcohol and drug service which operates from both the Claverings Estate and Vincent House in Ponders End.

Services offered include community alcohol detoxification, substitute prescribing for opiate users, testing and vaccination for blood borne viruses as well as a nursing team offering a range of therapies and workshops to support individuals, friends and families in moving those using substances to becoming addiction free.

The Adult service is commissioned through Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health Trust and co-located on the Claverings Estate with the Integrated Offender Management team to provide synergies between health and crime colleagues. Residents may self-refer but the service has invested substantial time in promoting themselves to others such as GPs and pharmacists.

Furthermore, recent campaigns such as 'Dry January' and the use of the web-based app 'Don't Bottle It Up' by the Adult Service have provided further support to residents in reducing their alcohol consumption and providing insights into their drinking behaviours.

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

Will the Cabinet Member for Environment set out how the drop in LIP (Local Implementation Plan) funding from the Mayor of London will affect planned highway programmes including details of specific programmes?

## **Reply from Councillor Anderson**

Well, I am glad to inform Councillor Laban that, following strong lobbying by me and officers, alongside those from other boroughs, the Mayor of London has reversed all of the planned reductions in Local Implementation Plan funding.

This is good news for Enfield as it means that the Corridors, Neighbourhoods and Supporting Measures funding, as previously indicated, will be met in full. In addition, we will also receive the £100k Local Transport Fund, meaning that there is a slight increase in overall funding available compared to the allocation previously announced.

However, given that the Mayor has seen the removal of his entire £700m grant from Central Government it looks likely that we will not receive the £1m plus funding for principal road maintenance. Indeed, it should also be borne in mind that though the Chancellor of the Exchequer provides over £1.2bn to councils across the country for principal road maintenance, London is inexplicably excluded, which I'm sure Councillor Laban will agree, is an unacceptable anomaly. I therefore very much

support the Mayor in pressing Philip Hammond, Chancellor of the Exchequer, for this anomaly to be addressed and for London councils to get their share from this sizeable fund.

**Question 35 from Councillor Kepez to Councillor Cazimoglu, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care**

The Safeguarding Adults Board Keep Safe Week is being held from 20<sup>th</sup> February 2017 to 24<sup>th</sup> February 2017. Can the Cabinet Member for Health and Adult provide the Council with her thoughts about the key issues affecting our community?

**Reply from Councillor Cazimoglu**

The Enfield Safeguarding Adults Board brings together statutory and non-statutory organisations to work on a shared strategy to safeguard adults who may be at risk of abuse or harm in our community.

There a number of issues that affect our community, but two key areas are domestic abuse and isolation amongst adults who have care and support needs.

With Domestic Abuse, though we are seeing a rise in reporting locally, we know, is it still under estimated both nationally and locally. There is work underway to ensure we have an effective approach with our partners to address domestic abuse, and this is presented in the Violence against Women and Girls strategy. This strategy is being led by the Safer and Stronger Communities Board, and the Enfield Action plan is being updated to include work that is being overseen by the Safeguarding Adults Board.

Isolation is also a key area. Both social and physical isolation are identified in the Care Act as issues that can make adults vulnerable to abuse. In Enfield, we know that older women living in their own homes represent one of the larger groups of adults at risks that we receive concerns about. The Safeguarding Adults Board will be looking at ways to reduce isolation in 2018/9; it is also likely to be a key priority for the new strategy which is being refreshed in mid-2018.

**Question 36 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Fonyonga, Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Public Health**

Would the Cabinet Member for Community Safety explain fully how the reapportionment of the policing contract affects the number of police funded officers working on our housing estates?

**Reply from Councillor Fonyonga**

The impact of Basic Command Units on the arrangements the Metropolitan Police Service have in place with Enfield has been explored at length by the Community Safety team. The Metropolitan Police Service team that manage the contract confirm that as the police officers working on our housing estates are funded by Enfield Council, they should as such be employed within the boundaries of Enfield. Therefore, there should be no change to the number of police officers Enfield

Council fund to work on our housing estates as a result of the introduction of a Basic Command Unit for policing.

The Met Patrol Plus Scheme which has operated between MOPAC (Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime) and the Local Authorities (Pan London) since 2014 has been widely regarded as hugely successful and beneficial to all parties in providing additional policing to address local priorities.

**Question 37 from Councillor Ekechi to Councillor Sitkin, Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration & Business**

Would the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration and Business provide the Council with an update on the Meridian Water negotiations?

**Reply from Councillor Sitkin**

PCPD have made a number of further offers which are currently being evaluated and detailed financial modelling is being undertaken. A report will be going to Cabinet on 14th March 2018 with all the relevant detail.

**Question 38 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Okyener, Cabinet Member for Housing and Housing Regeneration**

Could the Cabinet Member explain when both groups will be briefed on current discussions with the Meridian Water reserved bidder PCP?

**Reply from Councillor Oyken**

A report will be going to Cabinet on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2018 dealing with the PCPD negotiations and meetings will be held with both groups in advance of that Cabinet meeting.

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

Would the Cabinet Member for Finance & Efficiency update the Council on his work on Fair Funding?

**Reply from Councillor Lemonides**

As you know, we have had a long running cross-party campaign on fairer funding for Enfield. As part of this, we are hosting a Fair Funding Conference here in the Civic Centre on the 9<sup>th</sup> March 2018, which will involve community groups, senior officials and elected members, focusing on the funding issues faced by the Outer London boroughs.

**Question 40 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Taylor, Leader of the Council**

Can you confirm that both political parties in Enfield have been supportive of Enfield getting Fairer Funding?

**Reply from Councillor Taylor**

Yes, both political parties have recognised the short changing of Enfield created by the damping mechanism.