

## **Council Questions - Wednesday 30 January 2019**

### **Question 1 from Councillor Michael Rye to Councillor Achilleas Georgiou, Cabinet Member for Children's Services**

Can the Cabinet Member explain to the Council why the cafe facility in the Enfield Town Library has been closed for more than 12 months and inform the Council what action the administration has taken during this period to find a new tenant to deliver this valued facility?

#### **Reply from Councillor Achilleas Georgiou**

The facility is being re-tendered. The closing date for bids is the 8<sup>th</sup> February 2019 and it is expected that a new operator will be trading this spring.

### **Question 2 from Councillor Hass Yusuf to Councillor Dino Lemonides, Cabinet Member for Housing**

What benefits will the new homelessness and prevention casework management IT system (HOPE) bring to the Council's Homelessness and Prevention Service?

#### **Reply from Councillor Dino Lemonides**

A new casework management system for managing Enfield's homelessness and prevention cases went live on 2 January 2019. It will help provide a more consistent customer service for new approaches and create more efficient ways of working.

The benefits include:

- Reduced manual work for our teams
- Automation of Personal Housing Plans (PHP's)
- Automation of standard letters & legal notifications for customers
- A clear workflow process for new cases
- Compliance with Data Protection and GDPR
- The ability to produce case management information at the press of a button
- The ability to report to central government on outcomes of the work we are doing to address homelessness which is linked to government funding.

### **Question 3 from Councillor Michael Rye to Councillor Achilleas Georgiou, Cabinet Member for Children's Services**

Would the Cabinet Member share with the Council Enfield's KS2 SATS results when compared with other councils in London and across the country. Whilst celebrating the excellent results achieved by some schools and pupils, would he agree with me, that Enfield should be achieving better results in future and what action has the Council taken to facilitate this improvement?

## Reply from Councillor Achilleas Georgiou

### Percentage of Pupils Reaching the Expected Standard

- The percentage of pupils reaching the expected standard in KS2 Reading Writing and Maths combined, in Enfield has increased from 61% in 2017 to 65% in 2018
- Girls in Enfield are performing better than boys by 7%. This trend is reflected in London and across England with an 8% gap between boys and girls

### Statistical Neighbours

Attainment at KS2 Reading, writing and maths combined

Statistical Neighbours	2016	2017	2018	% Improvement from 2016-2018
<b>Enfield</b>	<b>52.00</b>	<b>61.00</b>	<b>65.00</b>	13.00
<b>Statistical Neighbours average</b>	<b>54.10</b>	<b>62.10</b>	<b>64.70</b>	10.60
<b>England</b>	<b>53.00</b>	<b>61.00</b>	<b>64.00</b>	11.00

We are delighted that schools in Enfield are improving at a faster rate than our statistical neighbours. The average improvement for our statistical neighbours is 10.6 percentage points where as Enfield schools improved by 13 percentage points. Attainment is now above the average for our statistical neighbours.

Thirteen of our schools had attainment outcomes in the in the top 20% of schools nationally. We must congratulate the 55 schools who saw an improvement in results this year and support other schools to do likewise.

Data shows that Enfield children continue to make better progress than pupils nationally in reading, writing and maths. Twenty-one schools made significantly better than expected progress in reading, and in writing, twenty schools made significantly better progress in maths. Our expectations are that all children should make at least expected progress and council officers are working with schools to ensure they are setting targets that will increase the proportion of schools that are in the top 20% of schools nationally.

Our School and Early Years Improvement Services are working with schools to improve outcomes, particularly in reading. We were successful in securing additional funding from the Department for Education (DfE) to develop a targeted reading programme. This inference programme is targeting pupils in year 5 and year 6 and supports teachers to develop pupils reading skills making sure that they have the skills necessary to access the most difficult text and test questions. Last year, the schools involved with year 6, all achieved significant increases in reading outcomes. There is also clear evidence to show that improved reading skills will help pupils in writing and in maths.

Early intervention is key. Hence, the service is also working with a national literacy organisation (the power of reading) to develop early years' literacy. This will promote better engagement with text and reading for meaning not just decoding. We are working with all schools in Enfield to improve outcomes for children.

**Question 4 from Councillor Margaret Greer to Councillor Dino Lemonides, Cabinet Member for Housing**

What measures is the Council taking to address rough sleeping during the severe weather conditions?

**Reply from Councillor Dino Lemonides**

**Background:** Enfield has seen a significant increase in rough sleeping over the past year. A rough sleepers count undertaken on the night of 28<sup>th</sup> November 2018 identified 78 rough sleepers in Enfield. This compares to a count of 9 last year. This increase is reflective of a national working trend. Anecdotal evidence suggests that some of these rough sleepers have been displaced from neighbouring boroughs who have received significant funding in previous years to tackle rough sleeping.

**Measures taken to address rough sleeping include:**

1. Enfield's Rough Sleeping Working Group

This group includes representatives from Thamesreach Outreach Service and Council services including Homelessness and Prevention Services, Strategic Property Services and the Antisocial Behaviour Team. All meet regularly to assist and support rough sleepers to come off the streets and receive support to find accommodation, find employment, become eligible for benefits and address their support needs.

2. Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP)

Enfield have put in place a Severe Weather Emergency Protocol over the period of cold weather. The aim of this protocol is to prevent the deaths of rough sleepers due to severe weather conditions. Emergency accommodation will be provided to any rough sleeper who accepts it, if the temperature falls below zero on any one night. This year, Enfield have also signed up to an initiative called "in for good". We have agreed to continue to provide accommodation until a support plan has been put in place to end their rough sleeping.

So far, 4 rough sleepers have accepted SWEP accommodation and further emergency accommodation will be provided as needed. Together with our partners, we will continue to work with these rough sleepers to find longer term solutions.

3. Funding Opportunity for tackling Rough Sleeping

Enfield have worked in partnership with the North London Housing Partnership to lobby government to acknowledge the challenges we face, the need for additional resources to tackle rough sleeping in Enfield and the need for cross borough

partnership working. We have submitted an initial joint funding bid to the MHCLG along with our partners in the North London Housing Partnership, Haringey and Barnet councils and North Middlesex Hospital.

We have submitted a bid for a Rough Sleeping Coordinator, two floating support officers and a North Middlesex Hospital Rough Sleeping Worker. In addition, we have bid for additional emergency accommodation and a unit of supported accommodation for rough sleepers with complex needs, such as mental health and drug/alcohol problems. These units will provide a safe space for rough sleepers while the appropriate support and assistance is offered, and a plan put in place for longer term accommodation with the appropriate support.

**Question 5 from Councillor Michael Rye to Councillor Achilleas Georgiou, Cabinet Member for Children's Services**

Can the Cabinet Member explain why, given the regeneration project in Ponders End always involved the closure and re-provision of a new library, the temporary library facility was not available immediately on the closure of the existing Ponders End Library and is still not in place some months after this library closure?

**Reply from Councillor Achilleas Georgiou**

In order to facilitate the earlier development of phase b of the Electric Quarter and bring forward much needed housing it was necessary to bring the demolition of the library forward meaning that the closure was earlier than planned.

An evaluation has taken place of possible sites in the Ponders End area that are accessible to residents and offer value for money for the Council. A decision on the chosen site will soon be taken and I am happy to inform Councillor Rye when the decision is taken.

**Question 6 from Councillor Mahtab Uddin to Councillor Dino Lemonides, Cabinet Member for Housing**

How successful has the Supported Internship Programme been in Council Housing?

**Reply from Councillor Dino Lemonides**

I am delighted to confirm that Council Housing is providing 3 supported internships for young people who are 16 – 25 years old and have disabilities. They are busy undertaking roles in the Communal Services Team, Operational Support Team at Edmonton and the Housing Development & Regeneration Team completing tasks as required.

The supported internship is a study programme (provided by West Lea School), where the student spends the majority of their time (3 or 4 days) with the Council and the other day studying at the school for a period of 6 – 12 months with a view to them securing some sort of paid employment at the end of the placement.

**Question 7 from Councillor Joanne Laban to Councillor Daniel Anderson, Deputy Leader of the Council**

Would the Deputy Leader of the Council confirm when the Departmental Action Plans containing targets and key performance indicators will be signed off?

**Reply from Councillor Nesil Caliskan**

I appreciate the question from Councillor Laban and am pleased to report that senior officers are currently finalising the content of their departmental action plans with their respective cabinet members and I have received assurances that this work should conclude in the near future.

Councillor Laban will also have seen that we are continuing with the Quarterly Corporate Performance reports that go to Cabinet and are a vital measure in evaluating Council performance in key areas on an ongoing basis. Alongside the standard reporting data there is now also a separate appendix that I have introduced that specifically focuses on a selection of priority measures where performance is in need of improvement. This is accompanied by an action plan and delivery timeframes to demonstrate what is being done to tackle underperformance.

Like Councillor Laban, this Labour Administration is committed to ensuring that this Council continues to deliver excellent services to its residents in spite of relentless cuts imposed over the last 9 years by a Conservative-led Government that has seen us lose over £171m and with still further cuts to come.

I therefore hope that Councillor Laban and the Conservative Group will support the Labour Administration in the fight against austerity and our demand for fair funding to ensure that Enfield is able to support its residents, particularly the most vulnerable.

**Question 8 from Councillor Rick Jewell to Councillor Dino Lemonides, Cabinet Member for Housing**

How has the Housing repairs service improved, and can we have an update on the Repairs Task Force and MOT project?

**Reply from Councillor Dino Lemonides**

The repairs task force has been working closely with officers to identify problems within the repairs service which cause low level of customer satisfaction. As well as tighter contract management, the Council is assessing the long-term investment required to up lift housing stock.

We are also working closely with the contractors around areas such as missed appointments, right first-time fixes, and completing jobs within their target dates and are seeing improvement in all of these areas. For example the number of overdue repairs has reduced from 11.7% to 4.3%, the number of missed appointments has reduced from 2.4% to 0% and the number of first time fixes has improved from 26.27% to 79.9%.

The MOT project will be starting soon, we have a project manager working on the project to ensure its smooth and successful implementation. The Council is in the process of recruiting staff and putting into place the final back office elements We are currently working through the list of high and low end users, including vulnerable tenants, who will most benefit from the service and finalising the checklist of items tailored to our stock to ensure that each MOT tackles as many areas of each property as possible.

Once the project is fully up and running, we will bring a report to cabinet detailing outcomes and customer satisfaction.

**Question 9 from Councillor Lee David-Sanders to Councillor Mary Maguire, Cabinet Member for Finance & Procurement**

Would the Cabinet Member for Finance inform the chamber how much has been spent on consultants since 2010?

**Reply from Councillor Mary Maguire**

The Council aims to use consultants when necessary and appropriate, examples include where specialist expert advice is needed, or an independent view is needed.

We continue to ensure that where consultants are used that they provide value for money through our procurement and contract monitoring arrangements. As reported at November 2018 cabinet, we have reviewed our co-sourced contract with Ernst Young LLP (EY) which has delivered significant savings and reduced the original term of the contract by 18 months.

The definition of a consultant is very broad, and in this instance, we have assumed that this does not include agency staff who will in the main be covering Council vacant posts.

The Council have also stated the drive to reduce agency costs and headcount and over past 12 months. Indeed, I am pleased that the agency headcount has reduced by approximately 20%.

**Question 10 from Councillor Huseyin Akpinar to Councillor Yasemin Brett, Cabinet Member for Public Health**

Can the Cabinet member inform us of what is being done this year to increase vaccination rates against winter flu?

**Reply from Councillor Yasemin Brett**

Winter flu is a viral infection caused by various strains of influenza viruses. It can be caught at any time of the year but is more common during the northern winter (which is why it's called winter or seasonal flu), partly because we spend more time indoors in the winter thus spreading our viruses around more readily.

Each year the London Borough of Enfield (LBE) offers free flu vaccine to all staff – 60% of which are also Enfield residents. This was promoted this year by the Cabinet member for Public Health and the Executive Management Team (EMT) having their own flu vaccinations publicised across the Council. In addition, there have been regular notices on Council TVs and staff emails offering the vaccine to staff. In October the issue was raised at the Health and Wellbeing Board where members were asked to encourage staff in their respective organisations to ‘get the jab’.

We will receive our flu uptake rates at the end of January (flu season finishes at the end of January). This will not include all staff who have been vaccinated as many will receive their vaccine from their GP.

**Question 11 from Councillor Joanne Laban to Councillor Ahmet Oyken, Cabinet Member for Property and Assets**

Would the Cabinet Member for Property and Assets inform the chamber how much has been spent on the security of Enfield Council’s vacant property assets since 2014?

**Reply from Councillor Ahmet Oyken**

The Council has spent £4m pounds on vacant assets in the last 4 years to ensure they are not at risk from trespass or disrepair and to ensure compliance with statutory legislation whilst unoccupied. I have asked officers to prioritise bringing these assets into use or for them to be redeveloped to deliver housing or economic development. One example is the former Enfield Highway Library where Cabinet has just agreed refurbishment to accommodate the Integrated Learning Disability Service and provide related community health services. We have also initiated a Corporate Property Review and Strategic Asset Management Plan which will aim to ensure that assets no longer sit empty for extended periods.

**Question 12 from Councillor Christine Hamilton to Councillor Yasemin Brett, Cabinet Member for Public Health**

Can the Cabinet Member outline what is being done to reduce sugar consumption in the borough?

**Reply from Councillor Yasemin Brett**

The aim of the Local Government Declaration on Sugar Reduction and Healthier Food is to achieve a public commitment to improve the availability of healthier food and to reduce the availability and promotion of unhealthier alternatives. In a survey of residents 89% thought that action should be taken to help residents reduce sugar consumption.

In December 2017, the Enfield Health and Wellbeing Board committed to the Local Government Declaration on Sugar Reduction and Healthier Food (The Declaration), as an action to help promote healthy weight. Members agreed to ask their respective organisations to sign up to actions described in the Declaration as a

means of promoting healthy weight; and demonstrating leadership across the health and social care system on this important health issue.

Sugar Smart Enfield launched in January 2018 at the Queen Elizabeth II stadium, home of Enfield Town FC. A celebration event was held at the grounds in January 2019 to celebrate its first year tackling excess sugar consumption. To date, 57 organisations across Enfield have pledged to become Sugar Smart. This was featured in the Enfield and Haringey Independent on p.1 and p.2 on 17th January 2019.

Enfield was commended at the Good Food for London awards in 2018 for the work undertaken to reduce sugar consumption via the Sugar Smart campaign and the Declaration on Sugar Reduction and Healthier Food.

In July 2018, Enfield shared best practice at the SUGAR SMART UK celebration event at City Hall.

The Enfield School Catering team serves an average of 17,000 meals per day. They've reduced the sugar content of desserts by 25% from 12.84g/d to 9.26g/d. This equates to 11.4 tonnes less sugar in Enfield in Enfield pupils deserts per year. Thirty-four early years settings have joined Sugar Smart Enfield and are taking action to reduce the availability of sugar in their settings.

Enfield Town Football Club has become Sugar Smart by training its coaches to disseminate key messages to youth players and parents; ensuring the burger van on site conforms with the Healthier Catering Commitment and many more actions.

Through this work, Enfield Town Football Club seconded a motion to the Football Supporters Federation AGM to take a stance on junk food company partnerships in football, and to campaign to get major football bodies such as the Football Association (FA) to seek more appropriate partners that don't further damage the great work happening locally to address diet-related ill health. If adopted, this will have a national effect.

**Question 13 from Councillor James Hockney to Councillor Nneka Keazor, Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Cohesion**

Would the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Cohesion set out what actions the Council is taking, in conjunction with other agencies, to tackle the long-standing issue of street racing on the A10 that causes noise and air pollution for those residents living along and the near to the road?

**Reply from Councillor Nneka Keazor**

The Council has lobbied for speed cameras along the A10 which is a Transport for London (TfL) road. Recent tragic events have demonstrated that these are desperately needed, and local residents have raised concerns repeatedly over time.

We have worked with local police to deter gatherings at retail parks along the A10. It is after these meetings that much of the racing takes place.

The local police have liaised with site managers to increase their private security and consider ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition Systems) a number of reduced access points.

Some barriers have been installed on site.

The Council have introduced a Public Space Protection Order, which gives the police new powers to enforce against gatherings.

We are continuing to press for cameras following the results of a TfL feasibility study, Meanwhile the road policing unit have conducted some ad hoc speeding operations and ward officers have written to registered keepers of cars seen at these events.

**Question 14 from Councillor Ian Barnes to Councillor Achilleas Georgiou, Cabinet Member for Children's Services**

Will the Cabinet Member for Children's Services provide information on work being done on the recruitment of foster parents?

**Reply from Councillor Achilleas Georgiou**

Recruitment is being delivered through a more targeted approach. This includes events recommended by our foster carers where they feel people will be interested (e.g. their church/mosque). Current foster carers are taking a more prominent role in co-delivering recruitment events and Skills to Foster courses and their input is particularly welcomed by interested applicants. The recruitment team have a database of approximately 140 prospective carers who they keep in touch with at a frequency agreed with each individual.

There is a stronger presence on social media and a new website has led to an increased number of initial enquiries coming in to the fully staffed recruitment team. The refreshed version is far more user friendly and welcoming.

Skills to Foster courses are held every 2 months. Increasing the allowance for second and subsequent children has resulted in 14 foster families accepting additional placements this year with the increased fee as an incentive.

**Question 15 from Councillor Joanne Laban Councillor Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council**

Would the Leader of the Council commit to consulting with councillors regardless of party on submissions for funding which affect the wards they represent?

**Reply from Councillor Nesil Caliskan**

Yes, where appropriate and possible, I can confirm that I am happy to consult with ward members regarding funding that impacts on their wards.

**Question 16 from Councillor Ergun Eren to Councillor Achilleas Georgiou, Cabinet Member for Children’s Services**

Will the Cabinet Member for Children’s Services inform the Council of the success schools are having with the Council’s Schools’ meals service to promote healthy eating for children?

**Reply from Councillor Achilleas Georgiou**

The school meals service provides lunches to 65 of Enfield's schools, serving around 18,000 meals per day which are freshly prepared on site. Our menus meet the Government's school food standards, and we have been awarded the Soil Association's silver "Food for Life Served Here" award for our commitment to healthy eating and sustainable procurement.

In addition to this, we have devised a healthy eating action plan that has been commended and used as an example of good practice by the Soil Association nationally. The action plan includes monthly healthy eating events, fruit only dessert days and parent and pupil taster sessions. Furthermore, we have reduced the sugar across our menus by over 25% in the last two years as part of the Sugar Smart campaign.

To ensure that our food is popular with our customers, we run regular surveys and from the feedback we can identify which of the healthiest dishes are most popular and consider whether less healthy dishes which are popular could be made healthier. Since the launch of universal infant free school meals, we have had a consistently high uptake, around 88% which exceeds the national average. Our aim is for pupils to try new healthy foods and enhance their learning about the benefits of a healthy well-balanced diet.

**Question 17 from Councillor Joanne Laban to Councillor Dino Lemonides, Cabinet Member for Housing**

Would the Cabinet Member for Property and Assets inform the chamber how much income has been achieved from the halls in the years 2014/2015 2015/16 2016/17 2017/18 and April 2018 to date?

**Reply from Councillor Dino Lemonides**

Please see income received from halls below.

Row Labels	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	Grand Total
HRA Halls	183,494	311,132	307,088	300,983	234,143	1,336,842.87

### **Question 18 Councillor Gina Needs to Councillor Nneka Keazor, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Cohesion**

How is the Council working with the police and other agencies to tackle the increase in youth crime in the borough?

#### **Reply from Councillor Nneka Keazor**

The council is working with the police to develop a violence reduction plan but in addition we have already in place the following-

Community Safety have commissioned youth support officers who are located at Accident and Emergency North Middlesex Hospital. This project provides support for young people who have come in following violent incidents. Since the project has been running, we've had over 500 young people referred to us, around 15% of which have engaged in long-term mentoring support.

St Giles Trust mentoring SOS Project - We commissioned the St Giles Trust to provide mentoring to young people at high risk of involvement in gangs. They continue to work with the individual and families to prevent, support, educate life choices they may be involved in. Young people are referred to this mentoring service largely via the Gangs Partnership Group

Oasis Youth Service - Oasis, which includes employment training for young people to provide practical alternatives for those susceptible to joining a gang. These are running in Ponders End Park and Albany Park.

This service has been focussed in the North East of the borough to complement the youth service provision elsewhere.

The Gangs Partnership Group run by Community Safety meets fortnightly with partners to discuss and agree action plans on nominals involved in gang activity within Enfield. It is within this forum that risk management plans are put in place to divert, enforcement activity, protect and safeguard those young people involved in gang activity.

It is through the Gangs Partnership Group (GPG) that the St Giles mentor is allocated to the young people.

The Safer and Stronger Communities Board have agreed to review the allocations of the funding that we receive from the London Mayor, to increase the professional mentoring service, but it is my ambition to develop the appetite of our community to help us to guide young people away from criminal exploitation in order to achieve their best.

Parent Engagement, Youth Parliament and a large number of Faith groups are keen to take part and have attended and stated their support at the public meetings I have organised.

**Question 19 from Councillor Glynis Vince to Councillor Achilleas Georgiou, Cabinet Member for Children’s Services**

Would Councillor Achilleas Georgiou inform council exactly how many children from other local authorities are placed in Enfield and what action is he taking to recoup the extra costs from those authorities responsible for the children they are placing.

**Reply from Councillor Achilleas Georgiou**

There are 374 Looked after Children placed in Enfield by other local authorities, who are directly supported by their placing authority’s Looked After Children Team. The placing authority remain the responsible corporate parent and must provide for their looked after children where ever they are placed. However, should a child protection issue arise, Enfield is expected to respond and coordinate an initial child protection response. This ensures that children who are at risk of harm are protected and safe and there is no delay responding to what could be a very serious matter. Similarly, other local authorities would respond in the same way if an Enfield “looked after child” placed out of borough came to harm. We do not recoup costs as these reciprocal arrangements work ensuring any child at risk of harm is seen in a timely manner.

**Question 20 from Councillor Anne Brown to Councillor Nneka Keazor, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Cohesion**

Can the Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Cohesion confirm how the police and council engage with our young people and parents?

**Reply from Councillor Nneka Keazor**

The Police and Local Authority engage with young people and parents in many ways. Firstly, we have a communication strategy, part of which is public meetings, to engage and reassure the wider community and to ensure their views are heard and responded to. The community is a great resource and community groups like the Parent Engagement Panel, the Community Parenting Champions, Our Voice and volunteers for the Youth Offending Unit and Youth Support and Development Unit that all ensure a constant conversation with parents regarding the issues they face.

Local Authority services particularly do a great deal of work to engage and support parents whether it be by our Children’s Centres, Change and Challenge, Youth Offending Unit, Parenting Support and Social Care support etc. Regarding young people they are supported and engaged with by our Social Care Services, schools, Behaviour Support Service, Youth Support and Development Unit and our Youth Offending Unit.

As part of this work a great deal of consultation and participation work happens whether it be via our youth parliament or our highly acclaimed children in care council, Kratos or through focus groups between senior officers and young offenders and senior officers engaging with young people at youth centres. Additionally, IT solutions e.g. SNAP and MOMO are currently operating and these will soon be augmented by the new Children’s Portal which will allow parents and children to

engage better with services.

Since taking over as cabinet member I have worked with community safety and other teams to run a number of public events - three on serious youth violence (one in the summer, one on 8th December 2018 and the Women Against Crime Event in the Council Chamber in December 2018); and one on tackling kerb crawling and prostitution in November 2018.

We are planning a further update to let parents and young people know about activities and this is likely to take place on Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2019.

**Question 21 from Councillor Lee David-Sanders to Councillor Nneka Keazor, Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Cohesion**

Will the Cabinet Member for Community Safety commit to maintaining the current total number of police officers the council funds if the Mayor stops the buy one, get one free police officer programme?

**Reply from Councillor Nneka Keazor**

While local authorities nationally are struggling with funding reductions, and police numbers are reduced in real terms, we are committed to providing extra resource to bolster policing numbers. (The current arrangement expires at the end of August).

**Question 22 from Councillor Dinah Barry to Councillor Nneka Keazor, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Cohesion**

Can the Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Cohesion describe the Council's commitment to Holocaust Memorial Day 2019?

**Reply from Councillor Nneka Keazor**

I thank the member for the timeliness of their enquiry. Enfield Council is fully committed to commemorating the horrors of the Holocaust and subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. The Council has organised Holocaust Memorial Day events every year since 2001 and they are highly regarded by those who attend. These solemn occasions are appreciated by our residents and partners in the voluntary and community sector, and not least by faith leaders from the Jewish community. This year's theme was 'Torn from Home', where we reflected upon what home was like for individuals before, during and after persecution.

This year's main event was a huge success with a programme that included speeches from 3 local rabbi's, songs evoking thoughts of home, poetry and two life stories from those who survived the Holocaust and the genocide in Rwanda; these will be read by children from a local school. It was expertly overseen by our own Councillor Levy and I have to say the feedback on the night and subsequently has been really humbling to hear.

Working with the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust, Enfield has a strong track record of providing reflective space on the evil that humanity has inflicted on his fellow human

beings. We aim to both commemorate and remember those who have suffered, as well as educate the younger generations on the lessons from history, in order to create a more peaceful World and a cohesive community here in Enfield. To continue to build on Enfield's good and respectful relations among those communities that come from many different backgrounds and who have made their home here.

Finally, I would like to thank the Council staff, particularly those in the Consultation and Resident Engagement Team who once again helped make the 2019 Holocaust Memorial Day event such a moving and memorable occasion.

**Question 23 from Councillor Joanne Laban to Councillor Mary Maguire, Cabinet Member for Finance & Procurement**

Will the Cabinet Member for Finance state how much money the Council's IT company has made since its creation?

**Reply from Councillor Mary Maguire**

The Council's IT company (Enfotec Ltd) is currently dormant.

**Question 24 has been withdrawn**

**Question 25 from Councillor Clare de Silva to Councillor Alev Cazimoglu, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care**

Would the Cabinet Member for Adult Health and Social Care agree that a third of recipients and two thirds of carers do not feel in control of their lives?

**Reply from Councillor Alev Cazimoglu**

Councillor De Silva is referring to the statutory surveys which the Department of Health and Social Care require all local authorities to complete for people who are unpaid carers and for people who directly receive Adult Social Care support. The survey for people receiving services is done annually and the survey for carers is completed every two years.

When we look at service users in Enfield and how they compare in London and nationally, just over 27% of people in Enfield surveyed felt they had not enough or no control over their everyday lives with 73% feeling they had enough control. In London overall, the average figure is the same. There is some regional variation across the country with the North East of England scoring highest at 80% of people feeling they have enough control over their everyday lives. We also ask people who use services whether those services help you to have control over your daily life. In Enfield 88% of people answered yes to this compared to just under 86% in London as a whole.

With regards to carers, just under 28% of carers said they had as much control over their daily lives as they wanted compared to just over 24% in London and nationally. 11.5% of carers living in Enfield felt they had no control over their daily lives

compared to just over 15% in London and 14% nationally. Just under 61% of carers in Enfield felt they had some control but not enough compared to just under 61% in London and just over 61% nationally.

I can confirm that both surveys are in the process of being completed for this year.

**Question 26 from Councillor Birsen Demirel to Councillor Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council**

Can the Leader provide a statement on the Labour administration's position in relation to forced academisation of schools?

**Reply from Councillor Nesil Caliskan**

We are completely opposed to forced academisation. Furthermore, my deep belief is to avoid further fragmentation of the education system in Enfield by resisting academies.

Unlike local authority schools, academy chains are not directly accountable to local people and many are distant from the communities they serve.

There is clear evidence that academies have proved inadequate in their supposed primary purpose - school improvement. They have failed children and they have failed the taxpayer. The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) report into converting schools to academies ([LA - Maintained Schools and Academies](#)) shows the policy is flawed, eroding accountability and exacerbating inequality between schools. The litany of academy problems continues to grow – trust failures, high costs, lack of transparency for parents, and loss of local oversight and it is often the most deprived and most vulnerable children who have paid the heaviest price. Also attached as an appendix.

On transfer to an academy, teachers and non-teaching staff can be taken out of national and local agreements. In other areas this has led to division with the potential for worsening conditions and different conditions in different schools as well as staff working conditions and children's learning conditions.

Education unions have policy that is totally opposed to academisation. The academies programme places huge power in the hands of the Education Secretary, while severing schools' links with democratically elected local authorities. During the passage of the Academies Bill through parliament in 2010, David Wolfe, an education barrister described the reforms as "undemocratic" because "nobody, apart from the Education Secretary and the governors, will be able to stop the process" of local authority schools becoming academies. There is no requirement to consult parents, or staff, or anyone else.

Proposals for academisation of a school creates instability for students, parents and teachers. You only have to consider the current situation at Galliard School in my own ward (Jubilee) which has prompted hardworking teachers to strike and the local community starting up a petition against the proposed academisation of the school.

**Question 27 from Councillor Edward Smith to Councillor Nesil Caliskan,  
Leader of the Council**

Will the Leader of the Council confirm when the public realm works surrounding the new railway station at Meridian Water are expected to start and complete?

**Reply from Councillor Nesil Caliskan**

The public realm works will commence on site on 4 February 2019.

All critical works are currently planned to be completed in advance of the station opening on 19 May 2019.

The Council has appointed an external consultancy to support the monitoring of these works.

**Question 28 from Councillor Mahtab Uddin to Councillor Nesil Caliskan,  
Leader of the Council**

Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime for London, Sophie Linden, recently visited Enfield. Can the Leader provide Council with an update on what was discussed during this visit?

**Reply from Councillor Nesil Caliskan**

The Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Cohesion and I were pleased to meet with the Deputy Mayor, Sophie Linden to discuss the challenges faced in the Borough, particularly in Edmonton.

Sophie Linden's visit came after a series of serious incidents which often came with tragic consequences. We walked through busy areas in Edmonton, starting at Silver Street Station, visiting Angel Community Centre so that the Deputy Mayor could see some of these challenges first hand.

We were joined by the Borough Commander and Council officers, who were able to showcase some good Enfield Council funded projects. Officers were honest about the challenges brought by Conservative government cuts to budget.

The Deputy Mayor heard that we are using small amounts Enfield Council funding innovatively to support volunteers to work with young people and support parents to help tackle youth violence.

As Leader, I have raised the need for adequate funding for more police and a long-term approach to support young people in the borough.

**Question 29 from Councillor Edward Smith to Councillor Nesil Caliskan,  
Leader of the Council**

Will the Leader of the Council confirm the proposed timetable for the procurement of a developer/contractor to carry out the residential works at Phase 1 of the Meridian Water project?

### **Reply from Councillor Nesil Caliskan**

The Council started the process to appoint a developer for the Phase 1 of Meridian Water in September 2018 using the GLA's developer partner panel.

The four shortlisted developers are required to submit their tenders on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

The Council has set aside a month to evaluate these and make a recommendation. A further three months will then be required to gain Cabinet approval. We aim to be in a position in June/July 2019 for signing the development agreement.

### **Question 30 from Councillor Mahmut Aksanoglu to Councillor Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council**

In light of the fact the Conservative government are unable to deliver a deal on Brexit, can the Leader tell members how the instability is affecting local government and how the Council has been preparing for Brexit and a no deal?

### **Reply from Councillor Nesil Caliskan**

Local government is facing significant and continuing uncertainty as a result of the present Government's complete inability to secure a Brexit deal of worth despite having had over two years to do so. We sincerely hope that a 'No Deal Brexit' does not become a reality but we are making contingency plans with that eventuality in mind.

Local authorities of all political complexions are facing the same damaging effects of this failure to deliver. There is a growing anxiety amongst us that supply chains may be compromised, delays and shortages become commonplace and that costs will rise significantly should a 'No Deal Brexit' be the ultimate consequence of this most unfortunate chain events. A series of events driven by the obsolete ideology of the Conservative Party and its desire to placate its most extreme elements rather than an action driven by the national Interest.

We are working closely with our peer boroughs in London and with the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government to try and prepare as best we can in what is still a far from clear picture to operate in.

At a local level our Deputy Leader chairs an officer supported Enfield Brexit Panel. The primary function of the panel is to assess areas of potential risk for the local authority to ensure business continuity and enable any emergency planning that may be required. We have identified workstreams with senior responsible officers assigned to cover off areas we believe may contain the highest degree of risk and future challenge.

The Panel is also ensuring we provide the right information to local people who may be affected by the decision to leave the European Union and give reassurance to the community that we are proud to have so many EU nationals in our borough and that

we want them to stay. A dedicated resource now features on the council website where local people and businesses can access the right information and be directed to Government guidance.

Enfield Council will do everything we can to ensure the authority and borough is protected from any negative impacts arising from Brexit, standing up for the interests of local people.

The situation continues to evolve, and time grows short for the Government to do something or step aside.

**Question 31 from Councillor Chris Dey to Councillor Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council**

What is the Council's plan to address the current number of empty shops in Enfield Town?

**Reply from Councillor Nesil Caliskan**

Changing shopping habits and consequent shop closures are an issue facing town centres across the UK national, Enfield Council is working proactively to address this, and the following are some of the actions we are taking.

We have in the last year worked successfully with the owners of 15 empty buildings in Enfield which has resulted in these buildings either coming back into use or being refitted for occupation in due course. We will continue that approach.

We have submitted a Liveable Neighbourhoods bid which if successful will provide funding for major improvements to the public realm in Enfield Town, improving the shopping experience, enhancing spaces for markets and events and helping to raise footfall.

Officers are working closely with the owner of the two shopping centres who are looking at significant investment in additions to the centres which will add greater diversity of uses to the town centre, again improving footfall. We will also be working closely with the Trust to increase the attractiveness of the market as a draw.

In addition, consultation with local people and businesses around the development of a Town Centre Action Plan has commenced, recommendations from the Scrutiny workstream on Improving Enfield Shopping Areas/Empty Shops will also feed into those plans.

We have proposed new policies in our local plan which will support development of our town centres and facilitate a wider range of uses.

Officers are in the process of appointing a Town Centre Development Manager to take this work forward in Enfield as well as our other key centres.

I also look forward to working with traders and traders' associations over the coming months, as well as the scrutiny workstream in shaping future plans for our town centres.

**Question 32 from Councillor Guner Aydin to Councillor Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council**

Can the Leader explain how the administration and Council officers have ensured that the budget setting process has been thoroughly considered and interrogated to allow confidence in income generation targets, in all departments?

**Reply from Councillor Nesil Caliskan**

There has been continuous scrutiny of all proposals in the budgets – for both savings and income generation. There has been an initial review and challenge in service areas and with financial business partners. This has been supplemented with further challenge and review at the Executive Management Team which gave a clear directive at the outset for only realistic and deliverable proposals to come forward.

There has been no imposition of targets which can lead to unrealistic proposals coming forward.

**Question 33 from Councillor Terry Neville to Councillor Guney Dogan, Cabinet Member for Environment**

Capital schemes in our parks and elsewhere are of course welcome in improving facilities but they invariably require ongoing maintenance. Sadly, too often the Council fails to make that provision. New River Loop is an example.

Now that the flood alleviation scheme in Town Park is nearing completion would Councillor Dogan, Cabinet Member for Environment confirm how much of the parks revenue budget is allocated to the maintenance of the New River Loop in Town Park and give an assurance to Council that he will continue to provide some revenue funding to secure its ongoing maintenance?

**Reply from Councillor Guney Dogan**

The revenue budget allocated to parks maintenance costs for the New River Loop are approximately £10k for the financial year. As this type of maintenance is integrated across parks work programmes, I can assure Councillor Neville that revenue maintenance budgets will continue to be provided for maintenance along the New River Loop.

**Question 34 from Councillor Rick Jewell to Councillor Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council**

Can the Leader provide an update on whether the Conservative government has provided any detail on possible changes to the Local Government Funding formula?

### **Reply from Councillor Nesil Caliskan**

In short, no. The government is currently consulting on the review of local authorities' relative needs and resources to develop a more robust and up-to-date approach to distributing funding across all councils (ending 21 February 2019).

However, the exact detail of how this will impact on Enfield is currently not known. Although this new funding regime is expected to be implemented from April 2020, and the budget needs to be set in February 2020, it is possible that officers will not know our levels of funding until late autumn 2019.

There are several key areas of concern about the proposals contained in the consultation for Enfield, London and across all local authorities. For example, deprivation is not proposed to be included in the foundation formula and in addition, homelessness is not considered important enough to be included as a specific factor when distributing funding on need. We will lobby on behalf of our residents to ensure that the funding formula reflects fairly the needs of our borough. Further, this is a spending review year and therefore the overall quantum of funding likely to be allocated to local authorities creates additional uncertainty.

This is one of the reasons why I am pleased to be presenting to you, at the next council meeting a robust, resilient budget that has addressed many of our historic cost pressures so that we are best placed to face this uncertainty.

### **Question 35 from Councillor Maria Alexandrou to Councillor Daniel Anderson, Deputy Leader of the Council**

The City of London and Camden have both removed orcas from their cycle lanes for safety reasons.

Due to the alleged huge increase in personal injuries to pedestrians caused by the orcas on the cycle lanes, the most recent incident reported in the Enfield Independent, will Council review the use of orca's in Enfield with a view to replacing them with a safer option for pedestrians such as reflector lights?

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

Any particular feature needs to be considered in context. In the boroughs mentioned some orcas (or armadillos) have previously been removed from certain limited areas of high footfall. Nonetheless the features continue to be used in Camden and in schemes across other boroughs. Indeed, cognisant of those examples sited and keen to learn from experience elsewhere, when designing the Enfield scheme, we have ensured that orcas have not been placed in high footfall areas, nor are they present at scheduled crossing areas. Where appropriate, for example close to Palmers Green Triangle, we have used an alternative product which also includes poles. In other areas we have also used a product which includes a reflective glass ball.

Officers will continue to monitor the placement of orcas and continue to consider and trial different types of products. However, from the inception of the scheme we have

been clear, and it was a crucial part of the original bid, that the cycle lanes would have light segregation as this is a fundamental part of securing cyclists' safety. Ensuring cycle lanes are protected from motor vehicles straying into the cycle lanes will help us to continue increasing the number of people, young and old, who feel cycling is a safe choice for some of their short local journeys.

**Question 36 from Councillor Claire Stewart to Councillor Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council**

How is the Council supporting residents who are experiencing high levels of personal debt?

**Reply from Councillor Nesil Caliskan**

A recent Citizens Advice report entitled 'Hidden Debts' highlights the growing problem of an increase in 'household bill' debt rather than problems with consumer credit debt. Citizens Advice reported dealing with nearly twice as much household bill debt than consumer credit enquiries. Similar trends were also reported by StepChange and the Money Advice Trust. In Enfield council tax, rent and housing benefit overpayment arrears are increasing due to the impact of welfare reform and are the main cause of debt problems.

To mitigate the impact of welfare reform the Council uses Discretionary Housing Payments to help tenants meet their housing costs. Government funding for this scheme is currently being reduced each year. The Council has also created a Council Tax Support Hardship Fund to specifically to help council tax payers in receipt of council tax support.

Each debt service offers a direct help line to experienced collection officers and other services to encourage customers with debt problems to come forward. In particular, the council tax helpline has received over 80,000 calls to date this financial year with an average answer rate of 98.9%.

A breakdown of the reason for each call is produced monthly to improve customer insight. Reminders and final notices have been 'nudged' to encourage contact at an early stage to avoid late payment fees. Deductions from benefit is used as the default method to recover arrears instead of enforcement agent action.

For council tenants there is a specialist rent collection advice helpline and a proactive out bound call service for new Universal Credit tenants to offer support. Budgetary advice is available and will be provided independently by the Citizens Advice Bureau from April 2019. A bespoke IT enhancement is being procured to provide early alerts for tenants falling behind with their rent payments to enable the council to make contact at the earliest possible stage and to avoid a build-up of rent arrears. All services offer affordable repayments based on the customers circumstances.

Housing benefit, social care financial assessment and co-located Job Centre staff work alongside collection staff to ensure benefits are maximised and debts minimised.

To further help residents with high levels of personal debt, the Council is in the process of developing a strategy that will encompass a debt prevention workstream and reviewing the council's current customer journeys, working with partners.

The debt strategy will aim to embed benefit advice within all debt collection teams and tenancy sign ups to maximise benefit take up and create an internal co-ordinated benefit and debt team to help sustain tenancies, tackle multiple council debt cases and maximise income. This service will build on existing links to Council, Voluntary Sector and Government advice agencies to ensure consistent and timely advice is available to residents where possible.

**Question 37 from Councillor Terry Neville to Councillor Guney Dogan, Cabinet Member for Environment**

Following the completion of Cycle Enfield on the A105 the increased volume of traffic that diverted from A105 during the lengthy (almost never ending) works for that scheme (c 22 months!), continues to use residential roads in Grange Ward increasing the risk of accidents and perpetuating the annoyance to residents.

What action does Councillor Dogan, Cabinet Member for Environment propose to secure the return of this traffic to the A105?

**Reply from Councillor Guney Dogan**

I agree that the problem of rat running traffic through our residential areas is not acceptable. That is why, through our Quieter Neighbourhood Initiative, funded by Transport for London, we are delivering a series of measures to reduce the speed and volume of traffic through residential areas. This approach has always formed part of the comprehensive strategy and plans will continue to be implemented on a rolling basis.

**Question 38 from Councillor Tolga Aramaz to Councillor Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council**

Can the Leader provide details on proposals for plans for future estate renewal and housing repairs?

**Reply from Councillor Nesil Caliskan**

The repairs task force has been working closely with officers and the Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Lemonides to identify problems within the repairs service which cause low level of customer satisfaction. It is clear that a significant part of the issues come from underinvestment in our properties over a long period and we will be addressing this by undertaking a significant stock surveying programme and building a robust asset investment plan to address these long-term issues in a planned way.

We are also working closely with the contractors around areas such as missed appointments, right first-time fixes, and completing jobs within their target dates and

are seeing improvement in all of these areas. The repairs task force is also looking at the future options for the repairs service and whether a different model in the future will deliver an improved service for our customers.

The Project Manager on the MOT Project to ensure its smooth and successful implementation. We are in the process of recruiting staff and have most of the back office elements ready, there are a few procurement pieces around tools and materials which need to be completed.

The plans for future estate renewal include the Council working with developer partners to accelerate future phases on existing projects (Alma, New Avenue, Ladderswood) and to increase affordable housing quantum's through acquiring additional units using GLA grant and Right to Buy receipts.

Additionally, plans are progressing to bring forward the Joyce Estate and Snells Estate (Edmonton), subject to ballot, with the Council as master developer. This scheme will see the Council working closely with local residents and businesses to create a new sustainable community embedding in addition to physical regeneration and affordable housing provision, the cross-cutting themes of health and wellbeing, community resilience, employment, training and business development opportunities, environment and energy.

The Council is also actively carrying out asset reviews and stock condition surveys of its existing portfolio and will be bringing forward new regeneration schemes as a result of this (subject to resident consultation) in the near future.

**Question 39 from Councillor Glynis Vince to Councillor Achilleas Georgiou, Cabinet Member for Children's Services**

Would Councillor Achilleas Georgiou, Cabinet Member for Children's Services update the Council on the Local Offer for Care Leavers 2019?

**Reply from Councillor Achilleas Georgiou**

I chair the Corporate Parenting Board, where there is cross party representation and support. On 18 December 2018, the core offer for care leavers was approved for publication. The Enfield offer was the result of a close collaboration between young people, social work staff, foster carers, key workers, other partners, and stakeholders. The content of the offer was endorsed by members of the current Overview and Scrutiny Panel workstream on transitions prior to been presented for final approval. The Core Offer has now been published and is available on the Council's website. Copies are being sent out to care leavers and those involved in supporting them.

**Question 40 from Councillor Tim Leaver to Councillor Alev Cazimoglu, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care**

The Government have recently published their NHS Long Term Plan. Can the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care explain the implications for Adult Social Care?

## **Reply from Councillor Alev Cazimolgu**

I would like to thank Councillor Tim Leaver for this important question.

An NHS Long Term Plan that sets out an ambition to build a new service model for the 21st century with health bodies working in partnership with local government is much needed. We all know of the challenges facing the NHS and the experience of local people.

The green paper and the NHS long term plan should have been developed and published simultaneously. However, the Government have missed the opportunity to also launch its long-awaited adult social care green paper and proposals for sustainable funding of these services, which have been delayed again.

The plan has a much-needed focus on prevention, early support and reducing health inequalities as well as promising investment in primary, community and mental health services. The focus on giving children the best start and on caring for older people in their own homes is right and should complement social care and wider services provided through councils.

However, the ambition set out can only be fully realised if adult social care and public health services in councils are also properly funded.

If the NHS is to make its extra funding go further and reduce the pressures on the health service, it is essential that the Government plugs the £3.6 billion funding gap facing adult social care by 2025 and reverses the £600 million in reductions to councils' public health grants.

The current system of social care is unsustainable and will buckle under the weight of demand unless the Government urgently invests in these essential services, which protect health, prevent sickness and are the clearest way to reduce hospital admissions.

Many hospital patients are in need of social care support when they are discharged. The NHS England document sets out a plan to expanded community health teams to provide fast support to people in their own homes as an alternative to hospitalisation, and to ramp up NHS support to people living in care homes. However, continued cuts to public health and local authority budgets will hold back the NHS's ambitions to keep people healthy and tackle inequalities in health.

The NHS and social care are two sides of the same coin. Cuts to local government funding and public health underline the need for a more consistent approach across government to the population's health and social care needs.