

Council Questions and Responses - 18 September 2019

Question 1 from Councillor Aksanoglu to Councillor Barnes, Deputy Leader of the Council

What progress has been made with regards to the Climate Change Task Force?

Reply from Councillor Barnes

The first meeting of the Climate Change Task Force will take place on Tuesday 24 September 2019 and will be chaired by the Deputy leader, Councillor Barnes, with attendees including three councillors, the Chief Executive and senior managers. I am also particularly pleased that the Young Mayor and Deputy Young Mayor have agreed to be part of the Task Force.

The Climate Change Task Force is a time limited, task focused group, established to assist the local authority in managing its response to the declared climate change emergency.

Key tasks will be reviewing progress to date and identifying further opportunities to make the Council carbon neutral as quickly as possible. The Climate Change Task Force will also oversee the development of the new Sustainable Enfield Plan over the next six months.

There will be thematic workshops offering opportunities for residents, staff and other stakeholders to engage with the Climate Change Task Force.

As an operational group which potentially looks at commercially sensitive information, it will not be a public meeting but notes of the key actions from each meeting will be made available on the council's website.

Question 2 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Barnes, Deputy Leader

Will Councillor Barnes, Deputy Leader, explain why the Enfield Highway Carnegie Library has been left with little security resulting in break ins and the site becoming little more than a fly tipping and dumping ground?

Reply from Councillor Barnes

The site has not been left with little security and a number of measures have been implemented including securing doors, windows and perimeter gates and periods of on-site security guarding when we are aware of high-risk activity in the area. Currently the site entrance is protected by large concrete barriers and there are regular visits to site.

Question 3 from Councillor Bond to Councillor Barnes, Deputy Leader of the Council

Could Councillor Barnes, Deputy Leader, inform the Council how much was spent in total on outsourced legal advice and consultants connected to the Councillor conduct complaint made by Councillor Brett which concluded on Wednesday 4th September 2019? This includes payments to the external solicitor Frances Woodhead and to the Independent Person.

Reply from Councillor Barnes

The total external cost to the Council of the complaint brought by Councillor Brett up to and including 4th September is £11,664 (inc VAT).

At a time when the Council is experiencing severe budgetary cuts which have an impact on the services we provide to residents - I regret that a Council process has, in my opinion, been misused in this way. Council resources should not be used for political matters.

A review of external legal spending is underway.

Question 4 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Needs, Cabinet Member for Social Housing

Does Councillor Needs, Cabinet Member for Social Housing believe that a tenure blind development includes the public realm of the site?

Reply from Councillor Laban

Public realm is an important aspect of any regeneration scheme and should benefit all residents regardless of tenure. Where development includes roads that are adopted by the Council, the current arrangement is that those roads get treated the same as any other road in the borough. For side roads this means using asphalt (tarmac). Having seen this put into practice at Alma we are undertaking a review of how public realm standards are applied on our new developments. With limited or reducing on-going budgets it is important that materials can be maintained cost effectively. For un-adopted elements of public realm, it is important that all aspects of a development are tenure blind but equally important that the Council manages the impact of service charges so that developments do not become unaffordable for residents on low incomes.

Question 5 from Councillor Bond to Councillor Needs, Cabinet Member for Social Housing

Can Councillor Needs give an update to the Council on the Responsive Repairs Service and how its progressed since the call-in of 9th July 2019?

Reply from Councillor Needs

Following approval from Cabinet to insource the day to day repairs service, we are making good progress with the mobilisation. We have appointed an experienced commercial DLO (Direct Labour Organisation) leader to deliver the set up along with setting up and supporting a project board of cross council stakeholders.

We have identified the best IT solution, are procuring materials suppliers, have agreed an approach to procuring the fleet and we have had positive engagement with our existing contractors to ensure continuity of service over the demobilisation period and to provide backup provision as part of the agreed soft start approach. The new team structure has been designed. As part of the incremental growth approach we have grown the MOT team to 10 members of staff, including 2 drainage operatives, and we will aim to have circa 20 operatives and appropriate back office in place by January 2020 when we will be able to take over a significant part of the service

Concurrently we have been developing the service offer, based on resident and councillor feedback and we will be taking this to the external stakeholder group led by Councillor Needs, this group includes councillors, residents and an external expert. The first meeting of this group will be on 18th September 2019 and will meet monthly during the project.

We are also developing the governance structures and operating manuals to ensure full control of the service and will engage with the internal audit service to ensure a robust controlled environment is on place.

Overall the project is progressing well, and we continue to receive very positive feedback from residents who have had our own operatives from the MOT team undertake works at their properties

Question 6 from Councillor Laban to Councillor Dogan, Cabinet Member for Environment & Sustainability

Would Councillor Dogan, Cabinet Member for Environment and Sustainability state how many people have signed up for the upcoming paid for green waste collection?

Reply from Councillor Dogan

The subscriptions for the garden waste collection service opened on 2nd September 2019. The communication promoting the service commenced on 9th September 2019; the intensity of the communication will increase as the weeks progress. After two weeks, as of 16th September we have received 3600 subscriptions.

Question 7 from Councillor Leaver to Councillor Needs, Cabinet Member for Social Housing

Can you advise how many cars have been removed from council housing estates across the borough in the last 6 months.

Reply from Councillor Needs

In the last couple of months, Council Housing Neighbourhood officers and Enviro-crime officers have targeted resources to specifically tackle the blight of abandoned, untaxed and other vehicles left or 'stored' on council housing estates. Often these nuisance vehicles are owned by persons who do not live on the estates. These nuisance vehicles; cause problems to our tenants with legitimate parking, cause obstructions and are also unsightly when these nuisance vehicles are damaged and in states of disrepair. There is a formal process that must be adhered to legally remove any vehicles.

Currently there are some 65 investigations ongoing into suspect vehicles. Notices have been served on these vehicles and as a result, so far:

- 10 vehicles have been taxed and insured to bring them into legal compliance
- 7 vehicles have been moved from their locations or claimed by owners
- 2 vehicles have been removed so far by the Council and destroyed
- There are 4 vehicles with values over £1,000 which will be subject to further action
- The remainder are subject to deadlines in notices, and if they have not been removed voluntarily or claimed by owners, the Council will remove and destroy these vehicles

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

Will Councillor Caliskan, Leader of the Council confirm to the chamber that she disagrees with the Meridian Four Council Homes Group's proposal for all homes on the Meridian Water site be council owned?

Reply from Councillor Caliskan

The Council believes mixed, diverse and stable communities results in strong communities. A mixed tenure proving housing opportunity for many is an appropriate approach. This view is echoed and supported by local community groups in Edmonton for whom the Meridian Water development will benefit.

Question 9 from Councillor Savva to Councillor Needs, Cabinet Member for Social Housing

Can Councillor Needs update us on the progress of the Alma estate and when the first council housing tenants will be moving to their new home?

Reply from Councillor Needs

The Alma estate regeneration is progressing well. Handover of the first block to house Council tenants was taken on 12th August 2019. This saw 43 homes for Council tenants come across and to date 22 of the 43 units are now occupied, we are supporting the remaining tenants, many of whom are vulnerable, to complete their moves over the coming weeks. Construction of the new youth centre is underway and once completed and occupied in the second quarter of next year will enable the development of the new Welcome Point Community Centre on the location of the old community centre.

Question 10 from Councillor David-Sanders to Councillor Maguire, Cabinet Member for Finance & Procurement

Will Councillor Maguire, Cabinet Member for Finance & Procurement apologise to the chamber for the late submission of the Council's accounts for the second year running and commit that next year the Council's Statement of Accounts will be submitted on time?

Reply from Councillor Maguire

The new deadlines for submission of draft accounts and completion of the audit by 31 July 2019 have had a significant impact nationally. For 2018/19, 210 of 486 opinions on local authority accounts were not delivered on time. This is 17% greater than the previous year and a major change on 2017/18 when the deadline was 30 September. The position is replicated across London, where 14 of the 33 London authorities didn't have their accounts signed off by 31 July 2019. The LGA has written to Rishi Sunak, Local Government Minister to request the 30 September deadline be restored.

Nevertheless, non-delivery to the 31 July deadline is not acceptable for this Council and a detailed Action Plan to address the position is being formulated which will be brought to Audit and Risk Management Committee on 3 October 2019. One of the key improvements is for an earlier and more thorough valuation of the Council's property assets both General Fund and Housing Revenue Account (HRA). A workshop has already taken place with all relevant parties, including the external valuers and BDO our external auditors, to put this into effect. There will also be a review of the overall approach to the closure of the accounts and systems improvements.

Question 11 from Councillor Jewell to Councillor Maguire, Cabinet Member for Finance & Procurement

Can the Cabinet Member for Finance & Procurement provide details of ICT changes that have a direct benefit for Enfield residents?

Reply from Councillor Maguire

Yes - in the last 12 months the ICT service has launched the following changes to benefit our residents:

A better customer experience:

- An upgrade to our systems for handling customer payments so that payments reach customers' accounts far quicker than before
- A new queue ticketing system for customers at our face to face access centres

Access to library resources:

- A new library system that went live in April, which has made it easier to order items online, giving easy access to over five million items, which can be returned to any of the libraries across 15 other London boroughs

More information and services on the website:

- A range of new online forms so residents who use the website can request the service 24/7 at their own convenience, without having to phone or visit us during office hours
- A new area of the website for residents requiring advice and assistance with adult social care, known as 'My Life'
- A new area of the website for residents requiring advice and assistance with children that may need council support, and forms to submit referrals for child protection or family support or find out about fostering
- Improvements to the webpages about Planning
- Improvements to the webpages about job opportunities in the council
- Upgraded webpages for participating in the council's community surveys and consultations

A more efficient rubbish collection service:

- Integration of the system used by our waste collection service with the council's website, so that when residents report missed bins online, the system will tell them if we have recorded a reason for this, and if it's our mistake the data goes immediately to the crews when they are out and about in the borough, enabling the bins to be collected much faster than before
- A new service to book and pay for the Council's garden waste collection service online or by phone

Improved service for Enfield's schools:

- A new website for school staff enabling them easily to get the latest news from the council and purchase the large range of traded services offered

Supporting people at risk of homelessness:

- A brand new system to support the council's Homelessness service to deliver a new way of working, focussed on preventing and alleviating homelessness

Question 12 from Councillor Smith to Councillor Maguire, Cabinet Member for Finance & Procurement

In order to help present an accurate statement of Enfield Council's revenue position, would Councillor Maguire, Cabinet Member for Finance & Procurement provide a statement showing the Council's total income levels over the past 5 years detailing its main sources of income, such as Revenue Support Grant, council tax, retained business rates and specific government grants, etc?

Reply from Councillor Maguire

The information requested is set out below. However, this does not explain the full picture. Enfield has had to find over £179m of savings since 2010/11 – as well as reductions in grant since 2010/11. Councils have not been fully funded for inflationary, demographic and rising need in the borough. A report on local authority funding considered by the Housing, Communities and Local Government Select Committee in August made a number of conclusions which I would encourage Councillor Smith to read. This report explains that to restore local government expenditure to the position it was, as a share of GDP in 2000–01, would require an increase of around £4 billion - that is before taking into account the increased demands for services such as adult social care and children's services over the past twenty years.

Enfield Council - Funding breakdown between 2015/16 and 2019/20					
	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Revenue Support Grant (RSG)*	-59,325	-46,554	-34,050	0	0
Business Rates - Top ups	-35,278	-35,571	-36,879	-25,885	-35,649
Business Rates - Retained	-32,573	-34,502	-36,260	-72,515	-61,911
Council Tax Income	-100,917	-107,915	-114,169	-121,079	-127,311
Other Core Grants	-7,255	-11,930	-7,364	-4,178	-3,803
Collection Fund (Surplus)/Deficit	-2,825	-1,319	297	-4,204	-1,314
Use of Reserves	0	0	0	0	-1,000
Net Revenue Budget (Core	-238,173	-237,791	-228,425	-227,861	-230,988

Funding)					
Housing Benefit Subsidy from DWP	-300,000	-300,000	-293,110	-293,110	-293,110
Dedicated Schools Grant	-307,837	-310,207	-330,746	-329,423	-332,241
Public Health Grant	-16,704	-17,708	-17,272	-16,823	-16,384
Housing Revenue Account Income	-64,863	-64,759	-63,957	-64,139	-64,351
Ring Fenced Grants / Housing Revenue Account	-689,404	-692,674	-705,085	-703,495	-706,086
Other Grant Income / Fees & Charges**	-35,863	-40,454	-38,150	-52,568	-55,344
Increase in Controllable Recharges due to E2017 support hub creation		-14,436	-14,436	-14,436	-14,436
Various grants and recharges set up in ASC (BCF (£8.7m) and recharges to health partners			-13,176	-13,176	-13176
Pupil Premium Grant was built into budget from 17/18 (along with expenditure side, so net nil increase)			-17,600	-17,600	-17600
Increase in Schools budget built into 18/19 budget (along with expenditure side, so net nil increase)				-12,863	-12863
	-35,863	-54,890	-83,362	-110,643	-113,419
Controllable Income	-963,440	-985,355	-1,016,872	-1,041,999	-1,050,493

* Revenue Support Grant was discontinued in 2018/19 and the funding was rolled into Retained Business Rates.

** This category includes all fees and charges for the Council plus various grants. £10.2m of the £52.568m in 2018/19 related to increase in TA rent budgets, interest receivable, parking & bus lane enforcement, property.

Question 13 from Councillor Chibah to Councillor Maguire, Cabinet Member for Finance & Procurement

Would the Cabinet Member for Finance & Procurement comment on the Government's recent financial statement?

Reply from Councillor Maguire

Following a 63% cut to core funding by the Government over the past decade, the increased funding announced, in particular for social care, is welcome (estimated to be £5.4m) but inadequate. It falls significantly short of reversing the funding reductions we have experienced from this Government since 2010/11, a cut of more than £120m in base grant funding during this period. London boroughs have to make savings of £400 million this year to balance the books, as part of the £1.5 billion funding gap that must be closed over the next three years. In Enfield, despite this recent announcement, we will still need to make significant savings for 2020/21 in order to set a balanced, sustainable budget.

Further, we are in a period of significant economic uncertainty and yet, local authorities have no certainty about funding beyond the next year.

Question 14 from Councillor Rye to Councillor Barnes, Deputy Leader

Given the Council has relocated the Southgate Library back into the original library building which is much more accessible to the public than inside Southgate College, would the Council now relocate the Enfield Highway Library to the more accessible original Carnegie Library from the Enterprise Agency premises where it is tucked away and relatively inaccessible?

Reply from Councillor Barnes

The Southgate library was relocated as Barnet & Southgate College were concerned about unforeseen safeguarding issues resulting from public access to the college.

Cabinet has after a detailed consideration of options approved the use of the former Enfield Highway Library to house the Integrated Learning Disabilities Service (ILDS) currently delivered from St. Andrew's Court, a building which is not owned by the Council and costs the council rent. Detailed design work for this has been undertaken and the works have been offered for tender. A change in plan at this stage would result in significant abortive and ongoing costs to the Council.

It should be noted that the library is currently in a building owned by the Council not by Enterprise Enfield, a review of the future use of that building will be undertaken shortly

Question 15 from Councillor Susan Erbil to Councillor Cazimoglu, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care

Can the Cabinet Member for Health & Adult Social Care advise what new initiatives and ways of working Adult Social Care are looking at to manage future demand?

Reply from Councillor Cazimoglu

Effectively, older residents first come into contact with the Service through a hospital stay or through contact with its Access service. Demand for both of these remains high and is unlikely to reduce due to our aging demographic.

To manage demand, the Service has introduced ways of working that help manage discharging people from our local hospitals (Discharge to Assess) and that supports people who make with the council through the Access Service (Linking Together). Both were introduced separately and at different times, but both prove the benefit of working more closely with people to understand what they want to happen and how they want things to happen.

Discharge to Assess

This service supports people to leave hospital to return to their home. It is about assessing a person's needs and wishes in the best environment to do so, their home, as opposed to an unfamiliar hospital environment. People also feel more confident at home so do not automatically agree a care package just to get out of hospital!

At home, the older person is more in command and they and the Occupational Therapist can discuss what care they feel they need, and the therapist can see whether there are any aids or adaptations the person needs or already has at home. A great advantage of this way of working is that we see the strengths of the person and how they already manage. Everyone involved has a more accurate overview and this ensures that any care provided is closely tailored to the needs of the person. It also improves individual outcomes.

In the last 2 years, over 2,000 people were supported home with this service. 25% received no service, 50% received no long-term service after a period of enablement and 25% received a long-term care package at home. Previously 35-40% would have received a long-term package.

Linking Together

This service works with people who make contact with us in a different way. It is based on what is often call a 'strength based' or 'asset based' way of working; staff work hard to understand what is important for the caller rather than going through a long list of structured questions. It allows a better understanding of the person, supporting people to make connections and build relationships in order to help them get on with their life independently.

The Linking Together team consists of Social Workers, Occupational Therapists and support officers. It has been running for 11 weeks, working with people in the EN1, N9 & N18 areas of Enfield. They are based in the community (Salisbury House). As a small area, the team has a greater knowledge of local

resources; they 'know' their community better so better support residents. This is proved by the data. Over 170 people and/or carers have been supported and thus far none of these have required a long term, paid for service from the Council. Staff work closely with people, including escorting individuals to activities and thus enabling the first connection, often the hardest step.

We are extremely happy with the results, both for individuals and for ourselves, so Linking Together will be rolled out to other areas so we cover all of Enfield. This will be done gradually so staff can develop their skills, develop an understanding of the local area and thus support people in that area.

Question 16 from Councillor Rye to Councillor Caliskan, Leader of the Council

Given the Council is funding new office accommodation in Enfield Town for Metaswitch to retain jobs in Enfield, will Councillor Caliskan, Leader of the Council instruct officers to implement an immediate article 4 direction to protect jobs elsewhere in Enfield Town such as Refuge House, where a potential conversion to residential is driving more than 100 jobs out of the Borough?

Reply from Councillor Caliskan

I support the implementation of an Article A4 Directive to withdraw permitted development rights that enable offices to be converted into residential use without the need to make a planning application. I have asked officers to commence work to evidence the option of introducing an Article 4 Directive.

The Council applied to Government for an exemption to these changes to permitted development in 2013. This application was rejected by Government. This policy had not been actively pursued since then, until early this year when I asked officers to finalise the evidence necessary.

The Government introduced permitted development rights to drive the delivery of housing across the country and a particularly strong justification and evidence base is required. Officers are now undertaking work to assess whether an article 4 direction, to withdraw these permitted development rights, can be made across part or all of the borough.

This work will now run to the end of the year with a decision on how to proceed or not to be taken thereafter.

An Article 4 Notice however, will not prevent the implementation of office to residential conversions that already benefit from prior approval confirming that permitted development rights apply.

Question 17 from Councillor Hamilton to Councillor Cazimoglu, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care

We continue to hear about the crisis in funding for Adult Social Care including the lack of certainty around future funding arrangements and a continually delayed Adult Social Care green paper. Can the Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care advise on Enfield's position currently?

Reply from Councillor Cazimoglu

As colleagues will know I have continued to speak about this at some length for a very long time now and of course I'm not the only one. London Councils has recently produced a State of Adult Social Care in London report in which it says:

"Since 2010 adult social care has faced unprecedented funding pressures that have impacted the sector in a variety of ways. The past few years have seen an increasingly united voice from not only local government but health partners, private social care providers and the voluntary sector, all calling for the funding pressures in the sector to be addressed.

Steps must be taken to address the challenges that the sector is facing and ensure that people continue to receive the services that they need. London Councils is calling for eight actions on adult social care:

1. Government must provide sustainable funding to the sector - short, medium and long-term funding pressures in London should be fully met by government – in London this equates to £540 million by 2025.
2. Increased investment in the health and care workforce to create an equal workforce for the sector – reducing the pressures experienced by many of those working in the sector making recruitment and retention in the sector easier.
3. Development and empowerment of the voluntary and informal sector made up of the voluntary sector, family and friends, so they can play an increased role in the delivery of care services in the home.
4. Increase investment of health and care resources into community services and prevention services improving the overall wellbeing of communities helping people to stay in their homes for longer. This will help to shift demand from the acute sector.
5. Through national education and empowerment programmes, increase the role of self-care and self-management in the sector.
6. There must be further devolution of health and care - for example, commissioning of local services.
7. Integration between health and care must deliver better outcomes for people while ensuring the benefits are felt by both the health and care sector.
8. The Department of Health must publish its long-term plans for transforming the sector, particularly the long-term funding of adult social care."

I can tell you that in Enfield we continue to be challenged by increased demand for services, increasing costs of services and year on year requirements to deliver savings due to government cuts. Council officers continue to do all that they can to prioritise the delivery of front line services but we are already delivering good value for money and are in the top 10 most efficient Adult Social Care departments in the country as reported by iMPOWER so we cannot continue to simply cut, risk losing our early intervention and VCS services and become a Council which responds only to crisis. This is not only short-termism, it is also dangerous. I would therefore ask that we continue to lobby government hard with our colleagues and partners across the sector for a fair settlement for local government and engage with our partners in health to consider how, as a system, we continue to prioritise and develop services which put the safety and wellbeing of our most vulnerable residents at the heart of all of our decision making processes. We need to do this in a spirit of constructive partnership because, at the end of the day, we all want the best for local people, and it is only through the continued development of these partnerships that we have a chance of achieving that.

Question 18 from Councillor Smith to Councillor Caliskan, Leader of the Council

The Council claims that there is a serious lack of affordable housing in the Borough and that therefore much higher levels of private led development than hitherto is justified to provide it. Much speedier development of Meridian Water would have provided substantial levels of affordable housing and prevented the need to build in suburban centres. Would Councillor Caliskan, Leader of the Council set out her aspirations and projected timescales for providing affordable housing at Meridian Water, including the date she expects the development agreement with Galiford Try to be signed off?

Reply from Councillor Caliskan

The deal with Galliford Try is planned to be signed later in the autumn and will include 35-50% housing affordable at Meridian One.

Delivering of the first affordable units will be towards the end of 2021 with remaining units completing on – site between 2021-2027.

Work at Meridian Two is expected to start on site in 2020 with circa 250 affordable units being delivered over the course of the following 2-3 years. These units will be 50% affordable rent and 50%intermediate tenures.

Phase 2 at Meridian Water, delivering circa 1,550 units at 40% affordable housing/ 28% affordable rented units plus 12% intermediate tenures. Outline planning consent is expected in December 2019 and work is underway to bring the first phase of this scheme forward in 2021-2022. The rest of Meridian Water will be delivered over the course of the next 25 years with the intention of providing 40-50% affordable units.

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

Given the uncertainty around Brexit, can the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care inform the Group what planning preparations have been made to prepare the Council in order that we can continue to meet the needs of our most vulnerable residents without disruption?

Reply from Councillor Cazimoglu

It's a good question and timely, given the very real uncertainty that is playing out across the country. The Council does have a steering group attended by senior leaders from all of our departments. Information, particularly with regards to the residency status of EU citizens living and working in Enfield, has been shared with our providers of services. Nationally it is estimated that 3.7 million EU nationals live in the UK so the latest figure of just over 1 million granted settled or pre-settled status means around 27% of people have been through the process.

We don't have local figures, but we do know that our local services are heavily dependent on staff from EU countries. However, we are engaging with our providers regularly in order to understand any issues they may have with regards to their EU staff and all indications are that the situation is being managed appropriately. However, that is not to say that we are being complacent, and the uncertainty does give me cause for concern, particularly because the government is not being particularly transparent about the progress either planned or made so far with transition arrangements.

You will all be aware of the significant amount of speculation following the leak of the Yellowhammer report in the national press which has generated I am sure a lot of anxiety, particularly around medicines, fuel and food supplies potentially at risk due to transport delays. However, we must continue to press government and in particular DEXEU, the department for exiting the EU, for more information with regards to progress with planning and contingency arrangements for the exit arrangements. We will also continue to talk with our partners across the health and social care system to ensure that we share our information and prepare contingency arrangements as a partnership.

Question 20 from Councillor Smith to Councillor Caliskan, Leader of the Council

Would Councillor Caliskan, Leader of the Council confirm when the procurement process to find a contractor to carry out the infrastructure works at Meridian Water is likely to commence?

Reply from Councillor Caliskan

The procurement process has already commenced through soft market testing and the prior information notice which was issued in April 2019. The questionnaire process is targeted to commence late September, followed by the invitation to tender stage in November. A competitive dialogue process will commence early 2020. The target being to seek Council's Cabinet approval to contractor appointment in July/September 2020.

Question 21 from Councillor Bedekova to Councillor Uddin, Cabinet Member for Public Health

Could Councillor Uddin inform the Council of the Mayor of London's response to fluoridation of water supply in Enfield and London?

Reply from Councillor Uddin

In July I wrote to Sadiq Khan, Mayor of London, expressing my concern over oral health both in London where 25% of five-year old children have one or more decayed, missing or filled teeth and in Enfield where over 500 children are admitted to hospital each year for oral health related issues. I outlined that water fluoridisation has been shown to be an effective, cost-effective community-wide intervention that has been shown to improve oral health by 28% in five-year olds, 21% in 12-year olds and reduce hospital admissions in those aged 1-4 by 45%.

The Mayor has responded to say that although there is good evidence that the fluoridation of water can improve oral health and reduce oral health inequalities there are a number of significant barriers to implementation. These include the complexity of the London water supply, the requirement for every London borough to approve the scheme, the extensive and complex consultation process for both London boroughs and areas outside London that could potentially be affected, set up costs and likely opposition from the public.

Question 22 from Councillor Rye to Councillor Caliskan, Leader of the Council

In Private eye edition number 1504 Rotten Boroughs' column there is an allegation about Councillor Bernadette Lappage's Mayor's Charity "Enfield Sounds Great (ESG)", suggesting a Trust was set up to disperse this money, that this was not registered with the Charity Commission and a sum of £13,543 has yet to be allocated. Is there any truth in this allegation, and can she confirm that all the previous Labour Mayor's charity monies since 2010 have been duly dispersed and their accounts closed?

Reply from Councillor Caliskan

The Mayor's Charity is a separate entity from the Council and its trustees meet

annually to approve the dispersal of the monies raised in each mayoral year.

The Trustees at the time, after considerable deliberation as indicated by the minutes of the meeting, approved the dispersal of the monies raised during Councillor Lappage's Mayoral Year, including the dispersal of the sum of £12,543 to a trust called "Enfield Sounds Great", subject to due diligence by the Director of Law and Governance.

The documents shared with the Director of Law and Governance at the time by 'Enfield Sounds Great' show that the Trustees of 'Enfield Sounds Great' included two Enfield Councillors: Councillor Bernadette Lappage and Councillor Doug Taylor.

To my knowledge, the organisation Enfield Sound Great is not registered with the Charity Commission, nor have any accounts or the organisation ever been published.

Following media enquiries, the current Mayoral Trustees met in September 2019 to discuss the matter and instructed the Director of Law and Governance to write to the Trustees of 'Enfield Sounds Great' to request a copy of their accounts.

When the current Mayoral Trustees met in September 2019, they also took the decision to publish minutes of the Mayoral Charity meetings in order to facilitate transparency and accountability. In addition, Trustees have asked the Director of Law and Governance to develop further guidance and a framework for any future decisions the Mayoral Charity might make in relation to the distribution of future funds. The guidance which may include not permitting any funds to be granted to any organisation that has an Enfield Council Cabinet Member or Mayor / Deputy serving as a Trustee.

Question 23 from Councillor Stewart to Councillor Uddin, Cabinet Member for Public Health

Could Councillor Uddin inform the Council on immunisation to prepare for the flu season?

Reply from Councillor Uddin

Flu is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses that infect the nose, throat, and sometimes the lungs. It can cause mild to severe illness, and at times can lead to death.

Flu vaccine is the best protection we have against an unpredictable virus that can cause unpleasant illness in children and severe illness and death among at-risk groups, including older people, pregnant women and those with an underlying medical health condition.

New flu vaccines are released every year to keep up with rapidly adapting flu viruses. When someone is vaccinated their immune system produces antibodies to protect them from the viruses included in the vaccine. The flu shot is made from dead viruses and cannot "give" anyone the flu. However, the vaccine can trigger an immune response from your body, so people may have a few mild symptoms, like achy muscles or a low-grade fever. People are offered the vaccine offered free of charge. These include people who are:

- are 65 years old or over
- are pregnant
- have certain medical conditions
- are living in a long-stay residential care home or other long-stay care facility
- receive a carer's allowance, or you are the main carer for an elderly or disabled person whose welfare may be at risk if you fall ill

As part of its work to improve and maintain health of all staff the Council offers free flu jabs to all staff. The procurement process is currently underway, but each year Council staff have been able to have a free flu jab by visiting Pharmacists who have signed up to the Enfield scheme. To date the scheme has worked by attendance and showing a Council ID card.

Question 24 from Councillor Rye to Councillor Barnes, Deputy Leader

Can Councillor Barnes, Deputy Leader, inform the Council when the café in the Enfield Town Library was closed, explain why it has remained closed for many months and inform the Council what action he has taken to ensure this is reopened forthwith?

Reply from Councillor Barnes

The café in Enfield Town Library was closed in late 2018. The Council has been marketing the café with the aim of finding a new tenant for some time. An operator has now been selected and legal documents issued to their solicitors in July. We are hoping to confirm an opening date shortly.

Question 25 from Councillor Bond to Councillor Dogan, Cabinet Member for Environment and Sustainability

Can Councillor Dogan give an update to the Council on the LED Conversion Project 2019 for Highway Street Lighting. In particular can he give the Council the expected savings in monetary and environmental terms for this project and how does this compare with other London Boroughs who have gone down this well-trodden road of modernising street lighting?

Reply from Councillor Dogan

Subsequent to Full Council approval of the funding for this project in July, Officers within Enfield's Street Lighting Client Team have been working with the Street Lighting PFI Service Provider to finalise the contractual changes that are required to allow this project to proceed. These are currently being reviewed for their technical and legal content. The PFI sub contractor, Bouygues, have programmed for designs of the new LED lighting units to start in November 2019, manufacturing to start in December and installation to start on site in February 2020. These dates are compatible with the original programme to have the installation complete by the end of 2020.

The expected monetary savings were explained in the report that was agreed at Cabinet in June and Council in July. The gross financial saving for a full year after the completion on the whole scheme is estimated to be £760k and the net saving after allowing for the financing costs of the project will be £382k per year.

The expected reduction in energy consumption is estimated to be nearly £4m kWh per year. This equates to a reduction of approximately 1,400 tonnes of carbon each year (a similar level of carbon would be produced by 1,000 cars of average emissions rating and average mileage in a year)

Enfield is progressing its LED project in parallel with Barnet Council. LBE officers have liaised with officers across London as part of the benchmarking of savings and can assure members that they are comparable with that of other authorities that have implemented similar conversions.

Question 26 from Councillor Rawlings to Councillor Dogan, Cabinet Member for Environment & Sustainability

It is now 8 weeks since the Climate Change Emergency was signed by Cabinet. Would Councillor Dogan, Cabinet Member for Environment & Sustainability inform Council if the Climate Change Emergency Board has been formed and, if so, who are the members, when are meetings planned and whether the public will be allowed to attend these meetings?

Reply from Councillor Dogan

The first meeting of the Climate Change Task Force will take place on Tuesday 24th September 2019 and will be chaired by the Deputy leader, Councillor Barnes, with attendees including three Councillors, the Chief Executive and senior managers. I am also particularly pleased that the Young Mayor and Deputy Young Mayor have agreed to be part of the Task Force.

The Climate Change Task Force is a time limited, task focused group, established to assist the local authority in managing its response to the declared climate change emergency.

Key tasks will be reviewing progress to date and identifying further opportunities to make the Council carbon neutral as quickly as possible. The Climate Change Task Force will also oversee the development of the new Sustainable Enfield Plan over the next six months.

There will be thematic workshops offering opportunities for residents, staff and other stakeholders to engage with the Climate Change Task Force.

As an operational group which potentially looks at commercially sensitive information, it will not be a public meeting but notes of the key actions from each meeting will be made available on the council's website.

Question 27 from Councillor Ergin Erbil to Councillor Caliskan, Leader of the Council

Can Councillor Caliskan give the thanks of the Council to those officers involved in the successful London Borough of Enfield (LBE) bid which resulted in LBE receiving a further grant of £156m for Meridian Water and can she also outline in broad terms what this money means to this exciting project?

Reply from Councillor Caliskan

The successful Meridian Water HIF bid is a result of the hard work of a number of officers across multiple departments – they should all be thanked and congratulated for their excellent work. The HIF bid provides vital funding to deliver new infrastructure at Meridian Water including improved rail services, the boulevard, bridges, cycle lanes, park land, the naturalisation of the brooks and flood alleviation. Put simply, this infrastructure unlocks the full potential of Meridian Water to deliver 10,000 homes. The HIF award has elevated the profile of the Council and demonstrates on a national stage what this Council is capable of.

Question 28 from Councillor Rawlings to Councillor Dogan, Cabinet Member for Environment & Sustainability

Barrowell Green Amenity Site is currently only accessible by vehicles. In answer to a resident's question I was informed that the layout would be changed to allow pedestrians access. Would Councillor Dogan, Cabinet Member for Environment & Sustainability inform Council when plans will be brought forward for this and how long this will take to implement? This has become pressing as on Sunday 1 September 2019 there was a queue to access the site and residents, keen to not add to pollution tried to walk in with small items and were turned back by staff.

Reply from Councillor Dogan

Options for the design for pedestrian access is being explored with the contractors at SUEZ and will be in place prior to the new paid for garden waste

service and the new weekly separate food waste service being introduced in November.

Question 29 from Councillor Brett to Councillor Dogan, Cabinet Member for Environment & Sustainability

Has Enfield Council taken advantage of the Transport for London (TfL) Cycling Grants programme that has now been extended to walking projects too and TfL is inviting (up to 16th September) applications for grants of up to £10,000 for 3-year projects that encourage London's diverse communities to walk and cycle more often and more safely?

Reply from Councillor Dogan

At the end of July, TfL announced a fund of more than £500,000 to help local groups encourage Londoners to walk and cycle. The opportunity is only open to 'community groups', 'charitable or third sector organisations', and 'not for profit organisations', 'Community Interest Company (CIC)' or 'Social Enterprise'. The opportunity has been widely promoted by the Cycle Enfield team at events and via the Cycle Enfield newsletter, which is now sent to around 5,000 people. Ward councillors were also notified of the opportunity via the 16th August Members' Newsletter. As a result, we are expecting at least three diverse bids to be submitted to TfL that promote active travel by the local community; one from the British Alevi Association, one from the Palmers Green Mosque, and one from the Enfield Children and Young Persons' Service. TfL expect to notify applicants the outcome of their bid by 1st November.

Question 30 from Councillor de Silva to Councillor Barnes, Deputy Leader

Would Councillor Barnes, Deputy Leader please give an update on progress in moving Integrated Learning Disabilities Services (ILDS) from St Andrews Court to the Carnegie Library site as the building appears to still be in disrepair?"

Reply from Councillor Barnes

The use of this building by ILDS was approved by Cabinet in January 2019 but action on the next steps was delayed by 4 weeks due to the decision being called in. The cabinet report set out the need to carry out detailed design, seek any necessary planning approvals and then procure a contractor to carry out the work. The detailed design has now progressed, and the works are now out to tender. The project is on programme with works planned to start early in the new year.

Question 31 from Councillor Yusuf to Councillor Dogan, Cabinet Member for Environment & Sustainability

Please can the Cabinet Member provide an update on the work the Council is doing in relation to the wetlands?

Reply from Councillor Dogan

In the last few months two separate wetland projects have been completed – one in Broomfield Park and one in Town Park. Both projects received external funding (£70k for Broomfield, £157k for Town Park) as well as match-funding from Enfield Council. Both schemes were delivered successfully and have received very positive feedback from the public.

An opening event was held at Broomfield on Wednesday 14th August. An event to celebrate the creation of the Town Park Wetlands was held on Friday 30th August.

Both projects help to deliver Enfield's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy which identifies that one of the most effective ways to reduce flood risk in an urban area is to store water in parks and open spaces during flood events. Wetlands are a great way of achieving this as they can store large volumes of water as well as filtering out pollutants, making Enfield's rivers cleaner, and creating great places for people and wildlife. Wetlands also help to mitigate the potential impacts of climate change.

These two projects bring the number of wetlands created in Enfield in recent years up to 8 in total. The next planned wetland project is at Albany Park where it is proposed to create some wetland features as part of the river restoration works (due in 2020). In addition to this we have installed about 100 rain gardens on Enfield's roads and footways in the last 5 years – these rain gardens are effectively mini-wetlands.

Question 32 from Councillor Smith to Councillor Caliskan, Leader of the Council

Does the Council's Administration support high rise, high density residential development such as that proposed for Cockfosters and Arnos Grove Underground Station car parks and Southgate Village that are currently contrary to the current London Plan and Local Plan?

Reply from Councillor Caliskan

The administration is committed to building strong and inclusive communities by providing a diversity of type, size and tenure of housing to meet local needs.

There is a pressing need for new homes to be delivered across Enfield and the Council supports schemes that will help meet this need but only where they accord with adopted and emerging planning policies and relevant Council strategies and priorities.

New homes delivered through private development should take a variety of forms and typologies, ranging from higher to lower density schemes, depending

on the location, and the specific opportunities/constraints presented by sites. Within the borough there will need to be a range of development types, there are likely to be opportunities for schemes that include well designed taller elements in appropriate locations as defined by existing and emerging planning policies and guidance.

The Cockfosters and Arnos Grove schemes are both at an early pre-application stage and subject to ongoing negotiation with the Local Planning Authority. The Southgate Office Village scheme is the subject of a live planning application which is still in the process of being assessed and has not yet been determined.

Question 33 from Councillor Taylor to Councillor Dogan, Cabinet Member for Environment & Sustainability

What action has the Council recently taken in relation to trading standards enforcement?

Reply from Councillor Dogan

The Trading Standards Team continues to take swift and robust enforcement action to protect Enfield's residents from dangerous products, scams and rogue traders. Some of their recent enforcement actions include:

- Intervened and prevented a couple from losing a further £175,000 after they were scammed for £100,000 by a rogue trader for completely unnecessary roofing and building works in their home which had started out with a £400 quote and then escalated. This is subject to an ongoing investigation
- Recently undertook an operation to see if knives would be sold to underage volunteers by retailers. 1 of the 6 shops sold a large knife and this is subject to an ongoing investigation
- A Fireworks shop in Cattlegate Road was fined £4,329 after he failed to display warning notices stating it was illegal for people under the age of 18 to possess fireworks and failing to warn that smoking was not allowed in a smoke-free area
- A Rogue builder was tracked down and ordered to pay more than £3,000 after abandoning a paving job. He was prosecuted by Trading Standards for not providing a written contract, taking a £700 deposit and then refusing to do the garden for the agreed £2,600 price and also failing to provide a notice of cancellation rights.
- The owner of an Edmonton furniture store was prosecuted by Trading Standards and fined for selling potentially lethal sofas after he repeatedly refused to produce vital safety and flammability documentation
- Trading Standards required a business to suspend the sale of rice cookers and to undertake a product recall of those already sold after

they were found to be pose an electrical safety risk

Enfield Trading Standards were recently awarded and presented with an Excellence Award by the Anti- Counterfeiting Group (ACG) in recognition of their excellent track record in tackling and enforcing traders selling fake goods.

Question 34 from Councillor Smith to Councillor Needs, Cabinet Member for Social Housing

Would Councillor Needs, Cabinet Member for Social housing provide Council with a statement addressing the issues regarding lack of consultation claimed by tenant representatives at the Alma Estate over the past few months?

Reply from Councillor Needs

A full programme of engagement is in place on the Alma estate. This includes weekly coffee mornings where residents who will soon be moving into their new home can come and meet other residents and get information from staff about their forthcoming move. As well as the project staff, senior staff and Councillor Needs have met with the Alma Resident Association to address concerns they have raised. As handover on the first block of homes for council tenants has now taken place the Council has commissioned some work to look at what has been delivered and how this compares to what residents would be entitled to expect. Once the results of this study are known the Council will act on any issues it highlights as appropriate.

Question 35 from Councillor Leaver to Councillor Caliskan, Leader of Enfield Council

Please can the Leader provide an update on the work the Council is doing in relation to supporting the borough's town centres?

Reply from Councillor Caliskan

The Council must support out Town Centres to have economic vibrancy and great places for our residents to live, shop and work in. Action Plans for our five key town centres will form a key component of the Economic Development and Growth Strategy we will publish later this year.

We have recently established the Town Centres Development Team and will be recruiting further staff to support this initiative. We have already held a number of meetings with residents and community groups across the borough and in Palmers Green local initiatives, public meetings and my Leader's tours of local businesses have already led to a range of 'bread and butter' improvements we will be delivering and locally led initiatives that we will be supporting.

In Enfield Town we have secured £6 million of Liveable Neighbourhoods fund to improve the public realm and last Sunday residents and businesses joined us at the Dugdale Centre to help us to decide how and where we are going to spend that to improve the Enfield Town.

We are working closely as both landowners and the local planning authority with Deutsche Bank in Enfield Town and Crosstree in Edmonton Green to deliver major investment into both of these centres. In Edmonton Green a range of improvements have already been delivered with more to follow and in Enfield Town plans are emerging for some very exciting new additions to the

My next Leader's tour will be in Angel Edmonton when I will meet with local businesses to discuss what we can do to support them. This sits alongside our emerging proposals for the regeneration of the Joyce and Snells estates and planned bids to the Good Growth Fund to support a local hub.

Question 36 from Councillor Hayward to Councillor Cazimoglu, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care

As the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the terms of reference of the Health and Wellbeing Board are presently being reviewed, would Councillor Cazimoglu, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care now recommend that the Conservative Group be represented on the Board?

Reply from Councillor Cazimoglu

I am happy to further discuss and consider the merits of Conservative Group representation on the board.

Question 37 from Councillor Lever to Councillor Caliskan, Leader of Enfield Council

In light of the fact a general election is likely within the next few weeks, can you provide an update and assurance that the Council is prepared and has in place what is necessary to run elections?

Reply from Councillor Caliskan

Senior officers of the council have assured me that the local authority is prepared and are project planning in the event that any General Election is called within the next few weeks. The Electoral Services Team and key officers have already been in regular discussions with internal and external stakeholders to ensure that the infrastructure is in place to run and deliver a successful election.

Question 38 from Councillor Neville to Councillor Caliskan, Leader of the Council

You will be aware of the press report in the Enfield Independent 14 August 2019 about the non-attendance of the ward councillors, Councillors Dogan, Boztas and Greer at any of the meetings of the Lower Edmonton Community Action Partnership in Enfield (CAPE) since their election last year.

CAPE meets once a month to report criminal offences logged by residents and Neighbourhood Watch teams to the Metropolitan Police and the council, the paper reported that councillors did not attend because they feared for their safety.

Given that there were 1,344 recorded crimes in Lower Edmonton in the year to June would Councillor Caliskan agree that as elected representatives these councillors are neglecting their duty to residents by not attending important community meetings with the aim of tackling crime?

Reply from Councillor Caliskan

Councillor Neville, you are right to point out the recorded crimes in Lower Edmonton being significant - a direct impact of the Conservative government's austere agenda and cuts to the number of police in Enfield.

In terms of councillors carrying out their duty - might I suggest you concentrate on your own group and Conservative Members.

Question 39 from Councillor Aydin to Councillor Caliskan, Leader of Enfield Council

In what way will be council's new 'Property and Asset Strategy' support the economic development of the borough?

Reply from Councillor Caliskan

The Strategic Asset Management Plan has been designed to manage council owned assets more effectively and support our emerging Housing and Economic Development Strategies. Just some of many examples of current and evolving work in this area include: -

- The redevelopment of dated industrial buildings at the Montagu Industrial Estate and in due course Claverings Industrial Estate to provide additional and improved accommodation for existing and growing businesses, offering more and better jobs whilst growing the Council's income stream to support local services
- The Genotin Road project to retain one of our larger employers, Metaswitch in the borough, provide them with space to grow and create new jobs and support retailers and other businesses in Enfield

Town Centre

- Using our freehold ownership of the shopping centres in Enfield Town and Edmonton Green to support investment into those centres to bring in new retailers, new leisure uses and new co-working space for new and expanding businesses.
- Consolidating the Council's own operational property into fewer, better located buildings that are better suited to the current and future needs of staff and customers, freeing up sites for development of new homes and employment space and increasing income to support the continuing delivery of services.

Question 40 from Councillor Terry Neville to Councillor Mary Maguire, Cabinet Member for Finance & Procurement

Councillor Maguire, Cabinet Member for Finance & Procurement will have seen the press coverage about the failure of the Council to prepare its accounts on time to meet the statutory deadline.

As a former chairman of the Audit and Risk Management Committee does she subscribe to the view expressed on behalf of the Council in the Enfield Independent, in relation to the late filing of accounts - that "the filing of accounts is largely an administrative process and has no effect on residents or the services provided to them" in other words saying it doesn't matter?

Reply from Councillor Maguire

The late filing of the Statement of Accounts does matter. It is vital that the Council ensures proper administration of its financial affairs and I take a direct interest in this.

The Council's Finance Team and the organisation as a whole, too, regard financial probity of the utmost importance.

I receive regular updates on progress with the Statement of Accounts. Firstly, in order to make sure that I am fully aware and understand how issues have arisen during the audit that have delayed the filing of accounts. Second, to be kept informed of progress of how officers are responding to requests from our external auditors for information, and when and why the information is being sought. Finally, to be kept informed of progress on the action plan for the 2019/20 accounts, which has already started to be implemented.