

Questions and Responses for 30 September 2020 Council Meeting

Questions to Cabinet Members

Question 1 from Councillor Dino Lemonides to Councillor Caliskan, Leader of the Council

Given the recent report by the Meridian Water Scrutiny Workstream, which casts considerable doubt on the capacity of the development to meet actual housing needs in the Borough, can Councillor Caliskan nonetheless please confirm how many homes will be built per annum on the Meridian Water site over the 25-year lifespan of the development, when will the first homes on the site to be occupied?

Reply from Councillor Caliskan

As explained in the letter dated 8th September, co-signed by Meridian Water Programme Director, the report prepared by the Meridian Water Scrutiny Workstream contained some inaccuracies and misunderstandings. I would refer members to the full letter in order to gain a full and accurate picture of the Meridian Water project.

In response to the specific point in this question in relation to the number of homes to be built, the Meridian Water masterplan is in the process of being renewed and seeks to achieve delivery of 10,000 homes over the next 25 years. This means that on average 400 homes will be delivered per year.

As set out in Cabinet Report KD4864 approved by Cabinet on 16th October 2019, the first homes to be delivered will be affordable homes on Meridian One with an anticipated delivery date of spring/summer 2022.

Question 2 from Councillor Mahym Bedekova to Councillor Mary Maguire, Cabinet Member for Finance & Procurement

Could the Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement give her assessment of the financial challenges facing Enfield Council as a direct result of Covid-19?

Reply from Councillor Maguire

The financial challenges faced by Enfield Council are at an unprecedented level.

Despite a pledge of standing shoulder to shoulder with local authorities, Government has come up significantly short in supporting the Council for its forecast costs of £64.282m in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Currently the shortfall is £38.526m with the Council needing to make in year savings, apply its risk reserve and address the £19.207m Collection Fund deficit over a three-year period which puts huge pressure on the 2021/22 Budget.

Council Tax Support and Homelessness are two areas of significant cost for the

Council and two areas which could be significantly impacted in the removal of two key pieces of Government support – the furloughing scheme and the policy of no evictions. Even with the furlough scheme in place the number of Council Tax Support claimants has increased by 1,500 at an additional cost of £2m to the Council. There are 52,000 working age adults furloughed out of a total working age population of 151,000 and it is inevitable the end of the scheme will see an upsurge in unemployment and the numbers of people requiring support from the Council. Despite commitments from the Government there is no scheme in place yet to cover Councils for irrecoverable tax losses.

There is considerable uncertainty which only add to the challenge. There is to be no Autumn Statement to give an early indication of future years funding. At present a single year announcement for 2021/22 is expected in early/mid December.

Question 3 from Councillor Joanne Laban to Councillor Ian Barnes, Deputy Leader of the Council:

Does Councillor Barnes, Deputy Leader of the Council, agree with the Secretary of State for Transport, that schemes that come paid for via the Green Transport Fund should be consulted on prior to implementation?

Reply from Councillor Barnes

The conditions that the Minister from the Department for Transport placed upon Enfield Council and other local authorities when releasing money from the Green Transport Funds was as follows:

“If work has not started within four weeks of receiving your allocation under this tranche of funding or has not been completed within eight weeks of starting, the Department will reserve the right to claw the funding back by adjusting downwards a future grant payment to your authority. This is also likely to have a material impact on your ability to secure any funding in tranche 2.”

Alongside formal consultation at a later stage of any scheme, early engagement with the community is a crucial aspect of successful delivery. It is how Enfield Council routinely deliver traffic schemes. We hope that the Secretary of State for Transport recognises this when setting the criteria for future funding.

Question 4 from Councillor Dino Lemonides to Councillor Gina Needs Cabinet Member for Social Housing

Enfield's Corporate Plan makes clear that 'good homes in well-connected neighbourhoods' is a critical strategic ambition for Enfield. This being so, can Councillor Gina Needs say how many people are still classed as requiring housing in Enfield, how many are in temporary accommodation paid for by Enfield Council, how many Enfield residents are housed outside the borough (can she please

identify them both by London boroughs and any other locations), and what risk assessment has been undertaken regarding sheltered accommodation in Enfield?

Reply from Councillor Needs

The Housing Needs Register has circa 3,500 applicants for housing. The following table shows where temporary accommodation is located at present with the majority of stock being in-borough. We continue to work to consolidate as much as possible in Enfield and are in discussions with neighbouring boroughs about potential stock swaps.

Enfield TA Placement Areas	Placements
LB Enfield	2536
LB Haringey	321
Harlow	129
Broxbourne	108
LB Waltham Forest	94
LB Barnet	86
LB Newham	64
LB Redbridge	57
Hertfordshire	30
Peterborough	17
LB Islington	16
LB Barking & Dagenham	14
LB Hackney	14
Hertsmere	11
LB Epping Forest	10
Luton	10
LB Harrow	9
LB Brent	8
LB Greenwich	4
Thurrock	4
LB Tower Hamlets	4
Welwyn & Hatfield	4
LB Lewisham	3
Maidstone	3
LB Southwark	3
LB Ealing	2
Slough	2
Basildon	1
LB Bexley	1
Birmingham	1
LB Bromley	1
LB Camden	1
LB Croydon	1
Dacorum	1
LB Hillingdon	1
Medway	1
Stevenage	1
Wolverhampton	1
Grand Total	3574

17/18	Expenditure (£)	Income (£)
Total	48,642,020	-43,166,990
	Net cost	5,475,030

19/20	Expenditure (£)	Income (£)
Total	51,264,498	-46,925,226
	Net cost	4,339,272

Our expenditure for TA is paid on a guaranteed rent basis with managing agents and landlords. We recover the income by charging rent to the occupiers, this is derived largely from housing benefit and tenant contributions.

All sheltered housing schemes have annual fire risk assessments and residents have a Person Centred Risk assessment including personal emergency evacuation plans.

Question 5 from Councillor Birsen Demirel to Councillor Mary Maguire, Cabinet Member for Finance & Procurement

Could the Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement outline what financial support the Government has provided to offset the huge financial impact of Covid-19 on Enfield Council?

Reply from Councillor Maguire

Government support for Enfield has been wholly inadequate and is currently £38.526m short of meeting the Council's forecast costs.

To date the Council has received only £21.276m to meet the forecast overall cost of £64.282m. The Government funding has been received in three tranches, the most recent received on 3 August 2020. There is also a compensation scheme for lost income and the first claim against that is due in on 30 September with the likelihood that the Council will be able to recover an estimated £4.054m for its income losses. There has been a commitment by Government to support local authorities for irrecoverable tax losses but there is no detail available on this. In the absence of this the Council is able to spread £19.207m of tax losses which are in the overall £64.282m cost to the Council. Finally, there has been £0.426m received from DEFRA for emergency food supplies.

The Council has also been very effective in passporting other Government support to businesses and individuals in the Borough. It has paid out £50.182m of Business Support Grant and £3.108m of Discretionary Grant to businesses across Enfield, £5.897m of Hardship Fund to Individuals in need, and £2.478m for Infection Control paid across to care providers.

Question 6 from Councillor Joanne Laban to Councillor Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council:

Would Councillor Caliskan, Leader of the Council, explain why the Council chose to spend over £200,000 on hiring the hub unit at Lincoln Road for providing the food parcel response to Covid 19 support, when community halls, libraries, leisure centres and other council owned buildings were closed throughout the lockdown period which could have been used for free?

Reply from Councillor Caliskan

To clarify the cost of the building was negotiated with 40% discount, at £82,363 for six months, and business rates of £32,600.

The Hub at Lincoln Road was chosen for its proximity to Felix Project and the Food Bank and was felt appropriate for the scale of the challenge anticipated that the Covid19 pandemic would bring.

Providing a safe environment, including enabling social distancing for volunteers and the logistics of food deliveries and deliveries. The building was able to be brought into use quickly to match the needs of the accelerating crisis.

The Community Building was used not only by the Council but also by the voluntary sector (Felix Project). This was invaluable in ensuring that no donated food was turned away with over 39,500 food parcels delivered over this period.

Enfield Council food supply centre has been referred to, by those from across the political spectrum, as one of the best examples of a local authority response to supporting residents during Covid19. I am incredibly proud that the administration took the decision to invest the necessary fund to set up such an efficient support centre to support our residents at a time of great need.

Question 7 from Councillor Daniel Anderson to Councillor Ian Barnes, Deputy Leader of the Council

On the 3rd August 2020, Councillor Barnes informed residents from Bowes and Southgate Green wards that he was unable to meet with them to accept a 1,600 plus petition against the imposition of a low traffic neighbourhood without any consultation in advance. Councillor Barnes's stated reasons were *"I won't be in the Civic this week - I'm currently working remotely and not leaving home unless absolutely necessary as I believe we are already at the beginning of a second wave."* And yet, just 4 days later on the 7th August Councillor Barnes attended the Civic Centre for a Ceremony of Remembrance for the late Councillor Chris Bond.

Can Councillor Ian Barnes please explain why he was unwilling to leave his home on the 3rd August to collect a petition from residents when he could, at the very

least, easily have set up a Zoom/Teams meetings with them to debate issues and listen to alternative views, but nonetheless felt able on the 7th August to physically attend a remembrance ceremony?

Reply from Councillor Ian Barnes

What a distasteful question but to be expected from this particular member of the opposition.

The 7th August was indeed the funeral of Councillor Chris Bond, a dedicated public servant who always treated hard-working officers in a respectful and dignified manner.

The event was strictly monitored with regards to social distancing and all attendees were required to wear masks. This satisfied me (and my family) that I could safely say a final goodbye to Councillor Bond in a rigorously-enforced manner.

Many others across our borough have had to bid farewell to members of their family and friends in similarly difficult circumstances and I am pleased that I, along with many other Councillors, had the opportunity to say a final goodbye to Councillor Bond. It is right and proper that the council organised such an event.

Question 8 from Councillor Katherine Chibah to Councillor Ian Barnes, Deputy Leader of the Council

Could the Deputy Leader provide further details on the current implementation of the School Streets scheme?

Reply from Councillor Barnes

12 school streets have been implemented at locations across the borough, helping to create a safer environment for our young people at the school gates. Early feedback from a number of Headteachers has been very positive.

A consultation will now be launched enabling residents and other stakeholders the opportunity to provide feedback in light of their experiences at the various sites. A number of ward councillors have already provided useful feedback which will be considered alongside other consultation responses.

Question 9 from Councillor James Hockney to Councillor Mary Maguire, Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement

Would Councillor Mary Maguire, Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement provide an update on what risk assessments have taken place on doubling the Council's debt in the next five years and what additional financial pressure will this place on the front-line revenue budget each year?

Reply from Councillor Maguire

The Council has put in place a Ten Year Capital Programme and complementary Ten Year Treasury Strategy to give full visibility on its spending commitments and capital financing requirements. The revenue impact of these commitments is fully recognised in the Council's Five Year Medium Term Financial Plan. These revenue commitments are under continuous review and will be updated in the MTFP update to Cabinet in October.

Further, the Council holds two earmarked reserves to mitigate risk in this area. There is a smoothing reserve to enable the commitments and spend to be matched over the five year period and also an Interest Rate Reserve to manage any sudden variation in rates.

Question 10 from Councillor Daniel Anderson to Councillor Ian Barnes, Deputy Leader of the Council

On the 3rd August 2020, Councillor Barnes informed residents from Bowes and Southgate Green wards that he was unable to meet with them to accept a 1,600+ petition against the imposition of a low traffic neighbourhood without any consultation in advance. Councillor Barnes's stated reasons were *"I won't be in the Civic this week - I'm currently working remotely and not leaving home unless absolutely necessary as I believe we are already at the beginning of a second wave."*

Enfield's Public Health Team when asked whether Enfield was indeed facing the beginning of a second wave categorically denied this on 4 August, stating the following: *'We are not yet anywhere the levels experienced by Blackburn [both now and prior to the re-imposition of restrictions] and Greater Manchester prior to restrictions being re-imposed. The "2nd Wave" when and if it comes will not be handled like the first and any measures to do so will be like Blackburn's and Manchester's to address behaviours, which lead to transmission - not a blanket lockdown. At present we have no hint from central government or PHE as to any London-wide measures and in Enfield the Director of Public Health's current advice is that it is safe for care homes to receive visits from relatives – which is a good measure as to how low [despite our recent increase] community transmission is within both LBE and NCL at present.'*

Can Councillor Barnes explain why he misled residents in this way and, in the process, also helped generate unnecessary and irresponsible fear during these heightened times of sensitivity?

Reply from Councillor Ian Barnes

The UK is "now seeing a second wave" of Covid-19 and "It's been inevitable we'd see it in this country." The Prime Minister, 18 September 2020.

The warning signs of this second wave could be seen months ago emanating from a Government with no strategy, constantly firefighting, displaying its incompetence across testing, tracking, tracing and any kind of clear communication to the British people.

The Academy of Medical Sciences told the Prime Minister in July that testing needed to be fixed and expanded by the Autumn to cope with the increased demands over the winter. But the Government ignored this warning, pretending this was not a problem. It did not act quickly enough and now the testing system is not working at a time when it is essential. We even have Enfield residents using a Glasgow postcode in order to get a local test. I will not apologise for heeding the warning signs early and seeing this shambles on the horizon.

Denying the threat of the virus puts lives at risk. I would encourage all Councillors to continue to remind residents that the virus still moves within our communities and we should do everything to stop its spread in order to minimise the impact in coming months.

Question 11 from Councillor Claire Stewart to Councillor Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council

Can the Leader explain what emergency oversight processes and structures will be in place for Enfield Council during the coming months during a potential Covid-19 second wave?

Reply from Councillor Caliskan

The Council has robust governance arrangements in place to deal with any second wave of Covid-19.

The Council has implemented its emergency planning structure. This includes a strategic group (Gold), a tactical group (Silver) and departmental operational groups (Bronze). The Strategic Group is chaired by the Chief Executive and is attended by members of the Executive Management Team and other senior officers of the Council. The Group sets the Council's strategic response to the issues raised by Covid-19 and gives direction to the Tactical Group, which develops the required solutions. The Tactical Group is attended by directors and some heads of service. The frequency of the different meetings varies depending on the issues under consideration. When needed the groups meet several times a week. At the start of the outbreak I held daily Covid-19 conversations with the Chief Executive, Monitoring Officer and Director of Public Health and remain in constant communication with senior officers.

The Council has many other resources available and works closely with partner agencies to collaboratively tackle the challenges of Covid-19, including the following: -

- North Central London Sub Regional Emergency Planning meetings
- North Central London (NCL) Enforcement Leads Meeting
- Health Protection Board
- Enfield Covid-19 Resilience Board
- Public Health Strategic Management Group
- Covid-19 Recovery Group
- Infectious Pandemic Committee

Councillors are regularly updated by me and senior officers in virtual 'all councillor briefings'. I am confident that the Council is as prepared as it can be to meet the challenges of a second Covid-19 wave.

Question 12 from Councillor Elaine Hayward to Councillor Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council

Does Councillor Caliskan, Leader of the Council agree that when a communication is sent directly to residents across the borough informing them about public health concerns, such as the recent letter to households regarding the increase in Covid cases locally causing concern and anxiety, it should be shared with all councillors?

Worried residents were contacting their local councillors for reassurance after seeing widespread media coverage referring to the council's "press statement" that Enfield was on the verge of local lockdown.

Reply from Councillor Caliskan

It is important that all communications relating to COVID-19 health guidance are shared as widely as possible. That is why as part of the significant 'Keep Enfield Safe' campaign delivered in response to the spike in infections in Enfield, my letter to all residents was published on the front page of the Enfield Council website, pushed out through our social media feeds and sent out to 57,000 local people who have signed up to our e-newsletters on 11 September – three days before it started hitting people's doorsteps and a related press release was issued.

To ensure that Councillors have timely access to all Council press releases they are published on the website within 24 hours of issue – in line with the Council protocol.

I would urge all Councillors to follow the Council Twitter and Facebook accounts and sign up to the Council's e-newsletters so that they can keep their constituents and social media networks up-to-date with the latest advice and guidance from Government, the NHS, Public Health England and Enfield Council.

Public health messages in Enfield Council communication is a reflection of the national Public Health messages that should be familiar to every elected councillor.

Question 13 from Councillor Daniel Anderson to Councillor Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council

In an interview with Architects Journal (dated 6th September 2020) Peter George, Meridian Water's Programme Director, rightly blasted architects for 'poor' performance on equality and diversity while announcing a major new design commission with ambitious requirements for bidders. He said that it was up to the public sector to send a 'clear message' on the 'lack of diversity in the architectural community' and to stop rewarding 'hypocrites not doing enough to nurture talent in some of these more hard-to-reach communities.'

Commendably, Peter George added that 'Only firms who team up with a 50 per cent BAME-led practice, a 50 per cent women-led practice, and a local outfit from Edmonton will be eligible to bid for Meridian Water's latest commission to deliver 800 rented council homes at the heart of the masterplan.'

Can Councillor Caliskan state the number of staff employed in the Council's own Meridian Water Project Team and demonstrate that they practice what they preach and are indeed 50 per cent BAME-led, and 50 per cent women-led and include a significant proportion of Edmonton residents.

Reply from Councillor Caliskan

As at the 18th of September 2020 there are 29 members of staff in the LBE Meridian Water team. 16 are male (55%) and 13 are female (45%) and 13 are BAME (45%); 7 (24%) are Edmonton residents.

Question 14 from Councillor Hass Yusuf to Councillor Ian Barnes, Deputy Leader of the Council

Is there an update with regards to the move towards 'greener' sources of power within the Council? Will the Housing Electricity Contract be part of this initiative and could the Deputy Leader confirm that it will be REGO certified?

Reply from Councillor Barnes

The Council's recently launched Climate Action Plan includes a vision for our corporate energy to be supplied exclusively from, green, renewable sources. This includes generating more renewable energy from our own buildings and land, as well as buying only renewable energy.

In terms of the energy we buy, there is an action for us to switch to 100% REGO certified renewable electricity supply. The target is for Council offices to switch in

October this year, with Council Housing (communal) supplies and maintained schools using our contract, following in 2022.

This was a key element of recent procurement for electricity supply contracts. The good news is that we have secured 100% renewable for corporate buildings and communal housing supplies from October this year, all within our available budget. This means we are **two years ahead of target** for Council housing supplies.

We will be engaging with schools that use our contract to help them go green and, alongside this, we will support the take up of low carbon energy across the borough through increased connections to the Energetik decentralised energy network.

Notes:

REGO – The Renewable Energy Guarantees of Origin (REGO) scheme provides transparency to consumers about the proportion of electricity that suppliers source from renewable generation.

Question 15 from Councillor Lindsay Rawlings to Councillor Guney Dogan, Cabinet Member for Environment

How many ‘no shows’ at Barrowell Green Recycling Centre has there been since the introduction of the appointment system?

Reply from Councillor Dogan

The management of the site is operated by our contractor Suez. When the site first re-opened with limited appointment availability there was a 20-25% no show, this was consistent with the level of no shows across all North London recycling centre operated by NLWA. From 13th July we improved the online appointments system to allow residents to choose and self-select a time slot appointment. This has resulted in a significant reduction in ‘no shows’. Additionally with safe systems of work in place to protect both visitors and staff the operator has taken a ‘common sense but safe’ approach and been able to accommodate some visitors that have turned up without an appointment which has maximised the capacity of the site as can be seen in the figures below.

Site Visitors	:	19,920
No Shows	:	2,788 (14%)
Visitors with No Appointments	:	2,447

So, whilst we have 2,788 appointments that were not filled, the staff have been able to accommodate almost the same number of residents that have appeared without any appointment through the use of a holding lane at the site entrance.

Question 16 from Councillor Derek Levy to Councillor Nesil Caliskan, Leader of The Council / Lead Member for Regeneration

A recent item on the Publication of Key Decisions (POD 7: 4th Aug / KD 4832) referenced the fact that the much welcomed but still conditional award of the £156m grant from Heritage Infrastructure Fund to support the Meridian Water programme was not just subject to a number of conditions being met and is time limited, but that there are now uncertainties associated with it - not least because all government departments now need to review their own budgets and financial commitments borne of the recent unprecedented call upon the Treasury that could not have been foreseen during the process of the HIF grant application.

Does Cllr Caliskan have any concerns whatsoever over the potential scaling back of the grant - or its likelihood; and if the grant were to be scaled back or have more rigorous conditions placed upon it what additional financial risk would this place upon the Council, how severely dented might the entire Meridian Water programme become in terms of delivering phases one and two of the scheme within the currently identified timescales, what additional mitigation measures have already been placed on to the risk register given the now higher risks to the full amount of the HIF grant and is it possible that a serious erosion of the HIF grant could not just place the Strategic Infrastructure Works in jeopardy, but also render the entire programme unviable?

Reply from Councillor Caliskan

The HIF grant agreement is at advanced draft stage, with all substantial points agreed, and there have been no concerns raised on funding availability by government. On the contrary, MHCLG have increased the grant to allow for Enfield to deliver an enhanced rail scheme. Both parties expect to enter into the agreement within the next month.

Once LBE and MHCLG enter the agreement it is binding on government to provide the funding subject to LBE meeting the conditions. If the government reneged on a legal agreement with the Council, Meridian One and Two can proceed independent of the grant. Following that, the project would have to demobilise the infrastructure work and assess what could proceed with available funding. Some plots may be able to progress with developer contributions.

Question 17 from Councillor Elif Erbil to Councillor Alev Cazimoglu, Cabinet Member for Health & Social Care

Can the Cabinet Member please set out the financial cost on Adult Social Care of the Covid-19 pandemic and what pressures are anticipated going forward as a consequence?

Reply from Councillor Cazimoglu

The current forecast pressure on ASC directly as a result of Covid19 equates to £7.8m; in addition, a further £8m is expected to be refunded from the CCG for hospital avoidance and discharge costs in relation to Covid19.

It is difficult to anticipate the impact of Covid19 on the ASC budgets in 2021/22. There are a number of potential financial risks including: the need for financial support to prevent provider failure and sustain the local market, increased cost of enhanced infection control, additional care packages and equipment as a result of delays in routine operations and finally the risk that the council may need to step in should the residential care market destabilise.

Currently there are no promises for future government funding for ASC and these would present additional pressures on the existing £25m budget gap forecast for 2021/22. The current years 2020/21 government funding has fallen woefully short of fully recompensing the Council for its costs.

Adult Social Care is a statutory demand led service and we cannot simply turn vulnerable people away so we will continue to do what is needed, together with our health and voluntary sector partners, to work to keep people safe. We will also continue to lobby government hard, as we have been doing for quite some time now, for full reimbursement to the Council of the full additional costs of Covid 19.

Question 18 from Councillor Maria Alexandrou to Councillor Ian Barnes, Deputy Leader of the Council.

Would Councillor Barnes, Deputy Leader of the Council confirm whether any ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) viability studies and air pollution studies have been done before and will be done after the implementation of the Low Traffic Neighbourhood schemes in Fox Lane and Bowes including roads within and surrounding the zones?

Reply from Councillor Barnes

Designs for Low Traffic Neighbourhoods do not include proposals for residents to be able to buy permits to pass through camera enforced ANPR closure points.

Where these types of closures have been implemented it has been through discussion with the emergency services to enable the continuation of key access routes. Air quality considerations will form part of the assessment of Low Traffic Neighbourhoods and will include considerations of both roads within the LTNs and surrounding roads.

Question 19 from Councillor Daniel Anderson to Councillor Ian Barnes, Deputy Leader of the Council

As part of the Department for Transport's Emergency Active Travel Fund as announced on the 28th May 2020, Enfield Council, like all local authorities in

London, was awarded £100,000 to be spent on swift and meaningful plans to reallocate road space to cyclists and pedestrians. Councillor Barnes instead chose to allocate the entire amount to an ill-conceived, non-consulted low traffic neighbourhood scheme in Bowes costing £118,000, which over 1,600 residents objected to even before implementation. However, in a Council video explaining the reasons for proceeding with the scheme, Councillor Barnes suggested that the Government had forced him to proceed, otherwise the money would be clawed back.

That being so, can Cllr Barnes please explain why it was agreed to allocate the entire £100,000 to an ill-conceived, complex and non-consulted low traffic neighbourhood scheme in Bowes unwanted by the vast majority of residents, where the extra £18,000 to make up the shortfall in funding will come from, why the rest of the Borough, not least the East, has been entirely neglected, when the money could have been used for swifter and more straightforward measures, not hard landscaping and why he has misled residents implying that the money from the Emergency Active Travel Fund had to be spent on this scheme?

Reply from Councillor Barnes

Residents in the Bowes area have called for action for many years on the excessive amount of through traffic cutting off a corner of the A406. Ward Councillors have also championed action on this for some time and Bambos Charalambous, the Enfield Southgate MP presented a petition to Parliament in 2018 calling for bold action from Enfield Council. Measures such as Low Traffic Neighbourhoods were also included in our 2018 Labour manifesto pledge to roll out Quieter Neighbourhoods across the borough.

In response to the calls from residents and local stakeholders, Enfield Council prioritised this area when bidding for funding from the Department for Transport Emergency Active Travel Fund. The DfT imposed strict timelines for the initiation and completion of the scheme.

The council will always seek to secure the maximum amount of external funding as possible.

The Bowes LTN is subject to consultation during the trial period so that residents and other stakeholders can provide relevant feedback in light of their experiences. Measures such as Low Traffic Neighbourhoods were also included in our 2018 Labour manifesto pledge to roll out Quieter Neighbourhoods across the borough.

Question 20 from Councillor Kate Anolue to Councillor Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council

How is the Council preparing the borough for a potential second wave of Covid-19?

Reply from Councillor Caliskan

Through the course of the pandemic LBE has undertaken a range of actions to keep residents safe and reduce the risks associated with the Covid19 infection. The learning from the first six months is being used to prepare for the ongoing risks, particularly for the expected second wave this winter. These preparations include:

- The local outbreak control (LOCP) plan has been developed and published, which identifies how local outbreaks will be responded to.
- Close monitoring of local, regional and National infection rates.
- A series of emergency planning exercises have been undertaken, which have considered how outbreaks in different settings or at different scales will be managed. Specific scenario planning exercises have been held with schools.
- Information and lessons learnt have been shared across London boroughs amongst partners and Public Health England.
- A Covid Resilience Board has been established to improve the communication of messages to our most vulnerable communities. This has been informed by detailed analysis undertaken on deaths experienced in the borough during the first wave.
- A good stockpile of PPE has been established and is being maintained in anticipation of increased demand, particularly in care home settings.
- Four testing sites have been established across the borough and residents with Covid19 symptoms are being signposted to them.
- Joint planning is underway with NCL CCG and NHS England to prepare for and increase the uptake of the winter flu immunisation. This includes providing flu immunisations to Council staff, especially those that come into contact with our most vulnerable residents and promoting staff immunisations with our hospital partners through the Health & Wellbeing Board.
- A schedule of Gold, Silver and Bronze meetings have been established to plan for and respond to any increase in cases of Covid19 across the borough.
- The Health Protection Forum also brings partners together from the local system, including the CCG, local hospitals and Public Health England.
- Specific action on tackling long term health inequalities is underway in partnership with the CCG and the VCS to work to improve the resilience of our most vulnerable communities. This involves actions aimed at reducing rates of smoking, obesity and long-term conditions.
- Sites for a Covid19 vaccination have been identified for when this becomes available.
- Local contact tracing capacity has been developed to supplement the national NHS Test, Track and Trace system to help follow up all cases and contacts in the borough.
- As Wave 2 of the pandemic progresses it is likely that LBE will also be involved in the implementation of any further lock down measures.

Question 21 from Councillor Lee David-Sanders to Councillor Mary Maguire, Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement

Would Councillor Maguire, Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement inform council when will a decision be made on the location for the storage of the local archives?

Reply from Councillor Mary Maguire

The relocation has been subject to a full cost and suitability review, which included looking at various locations across Enfield, moving into the civic centre, and retention. A final decision on the location will be made before Christmas, once detailed costing has been completed.

Question 22 from Councillor Daniel Anderson to Councillor Ian Barnes, Deputy Leader of the Council

On the 3rd August, Councillor Barnes informed residents from Bowes and Southgate Green wards that he was unable to meet with them to accept a 1,600+ petition against the imposition of a low traffic neighbourhood without any consultation in advance. Councillor Barnes's stated reasons were *"I won't be in the Civic this week - I'm currently working remotely and not leaving home unless absolutely necessary as I believe we are already at the beginning of a second wave."*

This when Enfield's Public Health Team had denied we were on the verge of a second wave. That same day Councillor Barnes refused to go on the Eddie Nestor programme on BBC Radio London to discuss the fallout from the forced implementation of the Bowes Low Traffic Neighbourhood.

Two weeks later, on the 17th August, Councillor Barnes again refused to go on the Vanessa Feltz programme again on BBC Radio London to discuss the fallout from forced implementation of the Bowes Low Traffic Neighbourhood.

However, on the 11th September not only was Councillor Barnes happy to speak to Tom Edwards on BBC London about school streets and active travel but was even prepared to do so in front of a camera outside Lavender School. This when the Government had just stated that cases of coronavirus were rising, and new restrictions were being introduced.

It would appear that Councillor Barnes was avoiding taking responsibility for the mess that's been created in Bowes rather than his actions having anything to do with any spike in cases of coronavirus. Can Councillor Barnes therefore please explain his inconsistent actions?

Reply from Councillor Barnes

If I am invited to do a media interview and I am available then I will appear, providing all strict Covid precautions are guaranteed to be in place, but I prioritise Council business and I would expect that the residents I serve would actually insist on that approach.

Whilst the media is helpful in assisting both the Council and individual Councillors to communicate key messages, direct communication and updates from Enfield Council to the residents of our borough will continue to be essential.

Question 23 from Councillor Christine Hamilton to Councillor Gina Needs, Cabinet Member for Social Housing

With a forthcoming Government spending review, can you tell us how we are lobbying to maximise investment into housing?

Reply from Councillor Needs

We have been lobbying extensively on a number of fronts. On homelessness, the Director of Housing and Regeneration submitted evidence to an MHCLG round table on the necessary long term, ring fenced funding for homelessness based on need and relating to poverty and deprivation. The Council received one of the largest allocations for interim accommodation costs for Rough Sleepers and awaits news on the capital funding bid for long term supported housing to support move on. As part of the North London Housing Partnership we have also submitted evidence to identify the benefits of upstream prevention work on which the new Housing Advisory Service addresses.

As agreed by Cabinet, on Council Housing I have written to the Housing Minister calling on the Government to fund the additional requirements from forthcoming legislation relating to Building Safety and for the Zero Carbon agenda.

The Director of Housing and Regeneration has worked with the GLA to inform the next Affordable Housing Programme for Development and Regeneration funding. Calling for a higher grant rate including to support the additional costs of Passivhaus Standards.

Question 24 from Councillor Maria Alexandrou to Councillor Guney Dogan, Cabinet Member for Environment

With Enfield Council having low rates of recycling, around 35%, what action plan does Councillor Dogan, Cabinet Member for Environment propose to ensure recycling rates improve dramatically in Enfield to help with tackling climate change?

Reply for Councillor Dogan

Recycling rates have generally been declining since 2016/17; this pattern is similar to many other London boroughs where rates are either declining or have plateaued.

The Mayor of London has recognised this and placed a requirement on all London boroughs to produce Reduction and Recycling Plans (RRP) to set out how each borough is going to improve rates and work towards the targets set out in the London environment Strategy. Enfield were one of the first to produce an RRP which is a public document and available. This sets out our plans for improvement

Question 25 from Councillor Daniel Anderson to Councillor Ian Barnes, Deputy Leader of the Council

In September 2016 the Head of Traffic & Transportation, wrote to Bowes residents informing them that a possible banned-right turn out of Warwick Road would not be proceeding because the vast majority of residents in the area opposed the measures, but also because Haringey Council would object to any proposal likely to increase the level of traffic on their network.

In addition, the Council's own assessment indicated that the introduction of a right-turn ban would lead to additional traffic on Brownlow Road, which is congested at peak times. Transport for London also made clear that there was no scope to change the signal times to assist traffic on Brownlow Road. The letter goes on to state *that 'the proposal would therefore inevitably increase queues and delays on Brownlow Road, adding to the journey times of the 102, 184 and 299 bus routes, as well as general traffic.'*

Given that even a relatively minor measure such as a banned-right turn out of Warwick Road would create substantial traffic implications in the area, be opposed by Haringey Council, and receive no support from Transport for London (TfL), can Councillor Barnes therefore explain why he has proceeded with a series of significant road closures in Bowes, which will undoubtedly worsen traffic conditions in the area and surrounding roads, increase queues and delays on Brownlow Road, adding to the journey times of the 102, 184 and 299 bus routes, as well as general traffic?

Reply from Councillor Barnes

The Bowes Low Traffic Neighbourhood is a significantly more effective scheme than anything proposed in 2016 for improving road safety, air quality, tackling obesity and fighting climate change.

The previously proposed banned right turn from Warwick Road onto the A406 impacted on Brownlow Road as traffic was able to divert onto it via either Maidstone Road or York Road. It was therefore only a partial solution that transferred a problem from one street to another.

In contrast, the current Bowes LTN is more comprehensive and prevents displacement onto Brownlow Road by closing both York Road and Maidstone Road, as well as closing Warwick Road at its southern end. This prevents through traffic cutting through narrow residential streets and forces it to use the North

Circular, where it belongs.

We continue to monitor the impact of the LTN and are working closely with colleagues at both TfL and Haringey. The LTN has also been discussed with TfL buses and that dialogue continues.

Question 26 from Councillor Margaret Greer to Councillor Gina Needs, Cabinet Member for Social Housing

Following the Cabinet decision to implement a new approach to homelessness prevention, can you tell us what progress has been made?

Reply from Councillor Needs

Despite the pressures of the pandemic we are making strong progress with the implementation of our ambitious homelessness prevention agenda.

Service Transformation

The leadership team for the new service has now been recruited

Four teams are in the process of being established:

- Outreach - focused on prevention of homelessness
- Sustainable Housing – focused on residents living in temporary accommodation
- Service Development – focused on quality, data, training and safeguarding
- Market Shaping – focused on increasing the supply of suitable privately rented sector properties and creating a better private rented sector

Staff are in the process of transferring into the new teams.

Increasing Supply of Private Rented Accommodation

We joined Capital Letters (the pan London procurement agency) in April and this is now providing additional properties for residents. We are about to launch Enfield Let, our ethical lettings agency. This will enable us to increase the supply of privately rented properties but improving our offer to landlords whilst also offering residents greater security. We launched the Single Homelessness Prevention Service in August. The service offers prevention and accommodation services to single homeless people who would not otherwise be eligible for assistance.

Social Housing Allocations

The new Allocations Scheme is being presented to Council today. This introduces changes that reward residents who choose to move out of temporary accommodation into the private rented sector. The new scheme also gives greater priority to those who have an enduring need for social housing because of their health or disability.

Question 27 from Councillor Terry Neville to Councillor Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council

While we know that it became necessary for significant numbers of council staff to work from home during the Covid 19 crisis, can Councillor Caliskan, Leader of the Council confirm that in order to secure the local economy in Enfield's Town centres where the council is still a significant employer, the council will work towards making the Civic Centre safe for staff to return to their offices, at least for a significant part of the week?"

Reply from Councillor Caliskan

The decision as to how many officers should be in the Civic Centre is one determined by our commitment to ensure all employees are safe.

Guidance issued to Enfield Council staff regarding coming into their place of work has closely followed the government advice throughout the pandemic. On the 22nd September the government told the nation to work from home.

Over the past six months, whilst thousands of officers have been able to work from home, many of our offices have remained open throughout.

Lead by a Return to Work Group comprising officers from FM, Property, Health & Safety, Public Health, HR and IT risk assessments have been carried out for all our staff sites. Based on these assessments social distancing measures including one-way systems, socially distanced desk spacing, additional cleaning and signage and guidance for staff have been implemented. Occupancy has been monitored and arrangements adjusted as the situation changed. The offices are safe for staff to return based on reduced numbers and adherence to these measures. Typically, up to 150 staff have been attending the Civic Centre each day. Our guidance remains that only essential staff should come in and this aligns with current government guidance.

Whilst the canteen at the Civic Centre remains closed, staff have supported the local Enfield Town economy when they purchase lunch from local businesses.

The administration has also put in place a range of other measures to support our town centres including supporting retailers with signage and other promotional messages. The Enjoy Enfield Summer events were well supported by residents and businesses alike and businesses in Enfield Town have told us that footfall increased as a result. Officers and councillors are working closely with Town Centre businesses to develop and implement action plans for all of our town centres.

Please note also that the council's Build the Change Programme will also bring more staff to work in Enfield Town and Edmonton Green.

Question 28 from Councillor Daniel Anderson to Councillor Ian Barnes, Deputy Leader of the Council

The Council appears to be embarking on a Borough-wide project to replace existing Pelican crossings with radically designed new crossings. Southgate and Enfield Town appear to be the first two locations. Others may well be planned, though ward councillors do not appear to have been informed. Furthermore, local artists have seemingly been commissioned to design these crossings.

Can Councillor Barnes confirm that these crossings afford pedestrians the same protection as the crossings they replace and explain the commissioning process involved: that this was an open and transparent procurement, how the artists were selected and whether they were paid and if so, how much also how many more of these designs are planned?

Reply from Councillor Barnes

The crossings are part of 'Enjoy Enfield Summer', the festival of free, socially distanced outdoor arts put on by the council and creative community this summer. Five local artists have created new designs for Enfield Town, Southgate, Palmers Green, Angel Edmonton and Edmonton Green. Installation has been phased with completion within the month.

All creative and cultural producers in the borough were invited via Council newsletters to participate in the festival and contribute to the Enfield community. The five local artists have not been paid for their work.

The artwork does not affect the legal operation of the crossing.

Question 29 from Councillor Tim Leaver to Councillor Mary Maguire, Cabinet Member for Finance & Procurement

How is the Council preparing to support the anticipated increase in the number of residents unemployed in the coming months?

Reply from Councillor Maguire

With over 52,000 residents in the borough on furlough, increasing unemployment particularly for young people aged 16-25*, this is a priority area for the Council to work across the Borough and with partners and local business to support job creation and develop skills for employment.

The council is setting up a "Skills and Employment Board" to bring together local business organisations and the college and education sectors to work with Enfield Council to work together to create opportunities to address the rise in unemployment. This will help to provide the right pathways for young people to access apprenticeships and ensure appropriate courses are provided whilst

ensuring we are able to take advantage of schemes to support employment such as Kickstart. The Council has submitted an expression of interest to the Department of Work & Pensions to be an approved intermediary for the KickStart Scheme; this will support local small businesses to offer placements. In addition, the Council's careers service works with schools to support young people make the best choices for themselves identifying career opportunities to lead to future employment.

With partners, the Council is also establishing Skill Academies to train and retrain local people in sectors that are growing in the Borough. The first of these is the Construction Skills Academy being delivered in partnership with Vistry at Meridian Water expected to open during autumn 2021. We are also working with the London Stansted Cambridge Consortium to persuade government to support an Institute of Technology in the Upper Lea Valley.

Businesses such as Waitrose, Arrow Distribution, Beavertown Brewery and OMA Film & TV Studios have announced new jobs in the borough, and we will be working with them to ensure that as many of these go to local people as possible.

The Council will play a key role in providing work placement opportunities for young people aged 16-19 and also to ensure that the range of skills and employment initiatives being delivered by our partners are coordinated in a manner that maximises benefit to local people.

In terms of supporting those residents impacted by unemployment and loss of income as a result of Covid19, the Council is increasing the capacity of the Welfare Advice and Debt Service. This will enable people who are struggling to manage on reduced income to receive personalised advice and support to maximising their benefits and to manage and reprofile any debt that may have built up. The Welfare Advice and benefits casework will also connect the individuals in need to local skills and work opportunities and if they require it.

The two Community Hubs in Enfield Town and Edmonton Green libraries provide face to face support for residents in financial need, while linking into the support provided by the CAB and also to employment and skills support provided by Job Centre Plus. In addition, plans are underway to co-locate professionals in the two Community Hubs to provide holistic advice and guidance to those seeking entry/re entry to employment.

The number of working-age adults (aged 16+) claiming unemployment benefits increased dramatically between January and August this year, owing to the economic effects of the pandemic.

The overall number rose **from 7,285 to 19,255** – an increase of **164%**, or nearly **12,000** extra claimants.

All age groups have been badly affected, with the greatest rise being among people in the 25-49 group – the claimant count in this cohort increased nearly threefold

(181%) from 4,090 to 11,475.

The percentage of working-age adults in Enfield who are officially unemployed rose from 3.4% in January to **nearly a tenth of all 16-64 year-olds (9.0%)** in August.

* ie Jobseekers' Allowance + unemployed claimants of Universal Credit in 'work-seeking' groups

Question 30 from Councillor Terry Neville to Councillor Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council

Would Councillor Caliskan, Leader of the Council please provide a breakdown by department of the numbers of council staff furloughed as a result of the pandemic?

Reply from Councillor Caliskan

In line with other local authorities across the country, our council staff were not furloughed. Many officers were able to continue with their roles working from home. For those who were unable to continue in their normal roles, they were redeployed into roles to assist response to the crisis.

Question 31 from Councillor Dinah Barry to Councillor Mary Maguire, Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement

Councillor Maguire repeatedly and confidently asserts that the state of the Council's budget and its overall financial position is "robust and resilient".

But whilst being portrayed as an investment in the borough, the huge increase in the Capital Financing Requirement to £2 billion is still borrowing however it is clothed; it comes at a cost and is not without huge risk.

Alongside this are the unprecedented uncertainties surrounding central government funding, the additional and unforeseen pressures caused by Covid-19, pre-existing pressures on the budget and Medium Term Financial Plan, the dangerously low level of, and recent dependence on, reserves, and the limited scope for further savings when services have already been pared back to beyond the bone.

In what way can Councillor Maguire convince Council that her assurance is something that should be accepted without question, and that our financial position is genuinely sustainable?

Reply from Councillor Maguire

The evidence is clear, the budget has become more robust and resilient: Enfield's quarter one financial forecast position is £0.6m overspend* (excluding the impact of Covid19), in preceding years, service overspends forecast of £10m at the same

period. It is impact of Covid19 and the lack of full recompense from the government that is putting additional risk on the Council's financial position, following over a decade of government cuts and lack of funding for demographic growth.

The development of a ten year capital programme and Treasury Strategy is key part of ensuring financial sustainability. The capital investment costs of delivering 3,500 council homes and £500m regeneration of Meridian Water to create jobs and homes, and maintenance of our borough highways are already accounted for in our medium term financial plan and the Housing Revenue Account business plan.

Council's reserves have been stable for a number of years and these include reserves for capital and interest which continue to be preserved, despite the likelihood of having to use our risk reserves to support Covid19.

I am sure all councillors would join me in lobbying government to honour their commitment to stand shoulder to shoulder and provide not only funding to reimburse the impact of Covid19 but also to invest in the economic recovery of our borough, when investment in homes and employment is even more critical.

*Excluding the £3m contingency.

Question 32 from Councillor Kate Anolue to Councillor Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council

What other additional measures has the Council undertaken to keep Enfield residents safe and healthy and to reduce the number of Covid-19 infections?

Reply from Councillor Caliskan

Throughout the course of the pandemic LBE has undertaken a range of actions to keep residents safe and healthy and reduce the likelihood of spread of the disease across our borough and in our most vulnerable residents and communities. Responses in the initial phases of the pandemic involved the setting up of the community hub to distribute food and medicines to those required to shield, addressing the inadequate supply of PPE locally, particularly in our care homes, and advising our staff who interact with residents how to limit the spread of the disease.

All of our responses have sought to put the resident at the centre and been aimed at reducing the overall impact of Covid19 through effective two-way communications and providing additional support where needed most. Additional measures implemented over this time include leading on resident engagement through the Community Resilience Board, which aims to communicate and advise on reducing risks of transmission with our Faith, Voluntary and Community partners. Examples of the communications employed include:

- Providing regular information through the Council website and social media
- Advising local businesses and employers on how to adhere to Government guidelines
- Communicating with Council tenants on how to reduce the risks of transmission
- A Keep Enfield Safe video campaign (focusing on engagement with BAME organisations and groups)
- Working with the Enfield Faith Forum and other partners to provide:
 - advice and guidance in different languages
 - a special meeting on Winter Flu & Covid-19
 - new communication channels, such as social media and WhatsApp groups
 - advice on the use of places of worship
- Using the EVA AGM to promote key messages with local leaders to enable them to share messages
- Assisting with public health messages during Black History Month events
- Supporting the EVA Health Champions to spread safety advice in our most at-risk communities
- Commissioning a local women’s group to make and distribute face coverings in our higher prevalence communities

It is however acknowledged that the pandemic is likely to continue for quite some time yet and so the Council will continue to lead on behalf of all our residents to keep them as safe and well as possible over the coming months. I would therefore like us all, as representatives of our communities, to spread the ‘Hands, Face, Space’ message and promote simple things we can all do to protect our health this winter, such as getting a flu jab and giving up smoking.

Question 33 from Councillor from Edward Smith to Councillor Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council

Would Councillor Caliskan, Leader of the Council inform the chamber what is the planned housing density (habitable rooms per hectare) and the height of the blocks in storeys in the case of Meridian Water 1 and Meridian Water 2?

Reply from Councillor Caliskan

The housing density and storey heights approved in the respective planning applications are as follows:

Meridian One

1,989 hab rooms / 7.2 ha = 276 hab rooms/ha

Blocks heights (illustrative)

Block E: 4-6 storeys

Block A: 6-12 storeys
Block B: 6-8 storeys
Block C: 6-12 storeys
Block D: 6-8 storeys

Meridian Two:

731 hab rooms / 0.66 ha = 1,107 hab rooms/ha
Block height (illustrative): 16 storeys

The variation in habitable rooms per ha arises from the site boundaries; Meridian One includes streets and public spaces.

Vistry Partnerships, our development partners, are reviewing these parameters through detailed design development.

Question 34 from Councillor Ergun Eren to Councillor Rick Jewell, Cabinet Member for Children's Services

Can the Cabinet Member provide an update as to how the Council is supporting schools in the borough to deal with Covid-19 outbreaks?

Reply from Councillor Jewell

Considerable support has been provided to schools since March when schools were closed to most pupils.

July/August – Risk assessment templates were provided to all schools and then updated as guidance changed.

- All local authority community schools were required to send in their risk assessments to the Health & Safety Team for quality assurance. Some Academy and Foundation schools were also provided with this service at their request.
- The Outbreak Control Plan for schools was sent to headteachers including a one-page guide advising on the steps to take if there was a positive or suspected case.
- Regular Headteacher briefings with public health consultants.
- Regular advice and guidance came to schools through twice weekly correspondence from the Director of Education and DfE updates provided through the Enfield Hub. This has included advice on employment related issues for Education HR.
- The Educational Psychology Service agreed to continue their support for emotional and mental health to school staff and parents/carers until Autumn half-term in the first instance.
- Fortnightly meetings have been taking place with trade unions to address issues of concern and to provide information update.

- Five scenario training sessions have been provided by emergency planning with public health for school leaders – these have been well attended.
- Weekly meetings and more frequent email contact is being made with the DfE to raise school concerns and to provide the DfE with local information.
- PPE has been provided to special schools in emergencies when school stocks have run short.
- School Improvement advisers have started visiting schools and monitoring how schools are coping in the first weeks of term.
- Two professional learning courses are being provided for schools covering “Resilience & Recovery” offered in 10 twilight sessions: the second is focusing on digital transformation to help schools to provide quality online learning for children.
- The Enfield music service is now providing online music lessons to pupils which has been very well received with a strong take-up.
- The school admissions team have been supporting schools with attendance providing support to encourage reluctant children/families to return to school.
- The Pupil Referral Unit has been offering short-term respite for pupils finding it challenging to return to schools whilst the secondary behaviour support is carrying out similar bespoke work within schools.
- A small group of education and public health staff have always been available including weekends to support headteachers as necessary.

Question 35 from Councillor Edward Smith to Councillor Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council

Would Councillor Caliskan, Leader of the Council inform the chamber what is the anticipated percentage of homes for owner occupation in each of Meridian Water 1,2,3 and 4?

Reply from Councillor Caliskan

The four phases referred to above provide the following tenure splits as detailed in the Cabinet reports shown:

Meridian One (KD4864, approved by Cabinet 16th October 2019)

- 25% open market sale, 25% shared ownership, 25% build to rent, 25% London Affordable Rent (Council owned)

Meridian Two (KD4952, approved by Cabinet 11th March 2020)

- 50% London Affordable Rent, 50% shared ownership

Meridian Three (KD5174, approved by Cabinet 16th September 2020)

- student, co-living or meanwhile use

Meridian Four (KD5174, approved by Cabinet 16th September 2020)

- 65% build to rent, 35% London Living Rent

Both open market sale and shared ownership are forms of owner occupation

Question 36 from Councillor Tolga Aramaz to Councillor Mahtab Uddin, Cabinet Member for Public Health

Can the Cabinet Member provide an update on how the local NHS will be promoting the winter flu vaccine this year to encourage an increase in uptake?

Reply from Councillor Uddin

Flu immunisations are commissioned by NHS England and provided by Primary Care and Barnet, Enfield and Haringey NHS Trust for primary school aged children and Year 7 children. The North Central London Clinical Commissioning Group (NCL CCG) is leading the provision of flu immunisation for residents. The Local Authority is working in collaboration with partners with the aim of maximising uptake among residents.

Nationally there has been an expansion of the eligibility criteria for flu immunisation (https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Letter_AnnualFlu_2020-21_20200805.pdf).

Locally, the following activity is taking place;

- Additional capacity in local Primary Care for provision of vaccination including extended capacity within General Practices and use of two LBE car parks.
- Development and implementation of an NCL CCG communications and engagement plan using community and local media/ social media. This is being supported by LBE communications team and includes engagement with local community via Enfield Health Watch, Age UK, Enfield Faith Forum, Enfield Parent Engagement Network. Information will also be available on CCG and LBE websites, residents' newsletters and other community and voluntary sector newsletters.
- Awareness raising and engagement with schools, parents and families regarding increasing uptake
- Provision of virtual events
- The CCG are investing an automated telephone approach targeting 425,000 residents to determine who is intending to have their vaccination and who may be reticent in order to target our activity more precisely
- Engagement with Carers groups and other forums across Enfield.
- Emails/briefings to MPs and councillors – to share with constituents
- Provider trusts – Utilising their internal and external comms channels
- Use of main public facing national campaign materials

- Working with the patient networks to share messages through their channels
- Focus this year on creative engagement in order to reach at risk target audiences who may not have engaged with us before
- Producing two animations, one for adults and one aimed at children, that show how people will receive their vaccination or nasal spray safely
- Working with the Faith Forum to reach the followers of a broad range of faiths to encourage take up
- Have approached Tottenham Foundation to see if we can work with the club to promote uptake
- Exploring local radio channels for messaging
- VCS colleagues have offered to help if needed at large scale sites
- Working with EVA Health Champions to encourage uptake

Question 37 from Councillor Lindsay Rawlings to Councillor Ian Barnes, Deputy Leader of the Council

Taking into account the result of recent consultations can we have assurances that all the resident's responses to the Bowes and Fox Lane Low Traffic Neighbourhoods will be properly recorded and, if the majority do not approve of the schemes they will be removed.

Reply from Councillor Barnes

Residents' responses will all be properly recorded and considered. There will be a range of assessments made when judging the overall success of the LTN trials. Assessments will include:

- Residents' views on how the benefits of the scheme compare against the disadvantages
- Data on the volume of motor vehicle movements in the area
- Data on the speed of motor vehicles in the area
- Impacts on the primary roads surrounding the area
- Air quality considerations
- Bus journey time considerations through discussion with Transport for London
- Outcomes of ongoing dialogue with the Emergency Services

Reporting on the trial will also consider whether the scheme supports the delivery of the Enfield Council Plan, with particular focus on the health of our local communities and climate action.

Question 38 from Councillor Bernie Lappage to Councillor Mahtab Uddin, Cabinet Member for Public Health

In recent weeks it has been widely reported problems with individuals not being able to secure a Covid test. Can the Cabinet Member tell us the latest situation with Covid testing in Enfield?

Action: Stuart Lines (Director of Public Health)

There have been significant issues with the testing capacity nationally. Most recently, Public Health England has confirmed that in recent weeks 20% of the testing capacity has been lost in London. Both nationally and locally there have been reports of residents either being unable to book tests or, when they have been able to book a test, the testing site has been at some distance from Enfield.

The failure of the government to roll out an adequate testing system has inevitably created problems at a time when we need to stop the spread of the infection.

Enfield Council has consistently called for an adequate testing programme for our communities, including for care homes and key workers. Six months into the Covid crisis and it is clear that the government has spectacularly failed on testing.

Despite the fact there continues to be significant challenges with the availability of test, Enfield Council want to support and encourage as many residents as possible try and secure a test if they have symptoms. If a resident has symptoms they should go for a test and isolate until they get the result. We currently have 4 testing sites in Enfield and residents may also order home kits through the online portal (further information available from <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/>).

The current sites are:

- Mobile testing sites:
 - Lodge Drive – Palmers Green
 - Edmonton Green shopping Centre North Car Park – Edmonton
- Regional Testing Site:
 - Lea Valley Athletics Centre – Edmonton
- Walk in sites:
 - Raynham Road – Edmonton
 - We are also in the process of organising another indoor site ready for winter to the north of the borough to help with geographical spread and accessibility.

Question 39 from Councillor Chris Dey to Councillor Alev Cazimoglu, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care

With the increase of reported cases of the Coronavirus in recent days would Councillor Cazimoglu, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care inform Council what steps have the Administration put in place to learn lessons from what happened earlier in the year to ensure the residents of our Care Homes are protected?

Reply from Councillor Cazimoglu

I am sure that all colleagues here this evening will share my and this administration's view that the absolutely devastating impact of Covid 19 on our care homes, particularly in April, cannot be allowed to happen again. We must support providers to take all possible measures to reduce the risk of Covid re-entering our care homes. We have provided an awful lot of practical support to our providers over the last six months which includes:

- Supporting the financial sustainability of our providers through temporary increases to fees from April to June and continuing to pay our providers on 100% of commissioned services
- Providing as much free PPE as our providers need
- Opening up access to the Council's employee assistance programme for our provider staff and their families
- Addressing fundamental inequalities in government policy on testing by securing additional access to testing to support our care homes and community providers for people with mental ill health and learning disabilities

We have and will continue to raise the issue of PPE and access to proper mass testing for our providers and most vulnerable residents at a national level.

In terms of the approach some key things that our homes absolutely must continue to do include:

- No person admitted to a care home without a negative antigen test;
- Regular mass testing of staff and residents;
- Appropriate isolation measures for residents or staff who do develop symptoms;
- Full and appropriate use of PPE as well as appropriate hygiene measures;
- No staff moving between care settings to reduce the risk of cross-infection;
- Limiting access to premises for all non-essential visitors, supporting contact through other means but making the health of staff and residents an absolute priority;

The measures and support put in place have made a huge difference both in the rate of infection and in the number of deaths, so we know that these measures are effective. However, you will also know that, while this Council continues to advocate in the strongest possible terms for better access to mass testing, in line with guidance issued by the government itself, we are yet to see any evidence that all of

our care homes are getting the testing support that they need. I can reassure colleagues here this evening that we will continue to not only press government on getting their act together on testing but to make sure our homes get all the support they need from this council.

Question 40 from Councillor Mahmut Aksanoglu to Councillor Alev Cazimoglu, Cabinet Member for Health & Social Care

Can the Cabinet Member provide us with an update on Covid-19 outbreaks in care homes within the borough and whether they are able to secure regular mass testing?

Reply from Councillor Cazimoglu

We continue to maintain regular contact with all of our care homes in the borough and as of Monday evening, the 21st September, I can tell you that of the 79 care homes in Enfield, 8 had either staff or residents with suspected or confirmed symptoms. Specifically, the number of staff with either suspected or confirmed symptoms is 5 and residents 6. Now, although these numbers may seem small, everything possible is being done to make sure people affected are appropriately isolated and cared for in order to prevent the virus from spreading further. It is and should be a matter of extreme concern to us all that of our 79 care homes only around a quarter of them are being offered mass testing on a regular basis as per the government's own guidance. We do check this regularly. This is simply not acceptable, and we will continue to challenge the government to do more.

Question 41 from Councillor Clare de Silva to Councillor Ian Barnes, Deputy Leader of the Council

Would Councillor Barnes, Deputy Leader of the Council please explain what he is going to do to address the unacceptable increased pollution levels that residents living on main roads in the Palmers Green, Southgate and Bowes areas are experiencing as a result of Low Traffic Neighbourhood Scheme road closures he instigated which are designed to benefit the more affluent Bowes Ward streets and the Lakes Estate in his own ward?

Reply from Councillor Barnes

As Cllr De Silva lives in one of our Low Traffic Neighbourhoods, she will be only too aware of why these measures are essential not just in the Lakes and Bowes, but across the entire borough. Indeed, a rat-running vehicle was clocked at over 55mph on the Councillor's 30mph road so we hope this LTN will provide increased safety and improved air quality for her family and neighbours whilst encouraging drivers in her LTN to prioritise active travel, which will ultimately benefit the entire area.

LTNs aim to reduce the overall volume and speed of motor traffic on residential

streets and encourage motor traffic passing through to remain on those roads designed and intended to carry higher volumes of traffic. In the short-term, this approach will improve both safety and air quality in these residential areas. However, in the longer-term, through a comprehensive strategy of interventions and behavioural change, the aim is to reduce the overall volume of motor vehicle journeys, which in turn will improve pollution levels on all roads.

Transport generates a significant amount of greenhouse gas emissions (39% of Enfield's borough-wide carbon emissions in 2018), which is why making changes to our streets to enable and 'encourage' more active travel is so essential.

Covid-19 and changes to funding will result in a review of the areas that are considered next for these types of measures. The programme will focus on those areas where there are known concerns and Ward Councillors are supportive of taking bold action to address the challenges faced by the Borough of a high volume of private car journeys.

Questions to representatives on Outside Bodies

Question 42 from Councillor Dinah Barry to Councillor Hass Yusuf

North London Waste Authority (NLWA) monitoring report 2018 - 19 lists Objective 14 as being: "*To ensure new buildings and associated infrastructure are designed and constructed in a sustainable way.*"

In July 2019, Enfield declared a climate emergency.

NLWA plans to build a new incinerator in Edmonton and say that It will be fitted with a higher level of emission controls than most other energy from-waste plants in the UK. Just being better than other incinerators does not mean that emissions are negligible and the local MP has said that "*... it will produce more than 700,000 tonnes of CO₂ every year, and emit particulate matter that can damage the lungs of children.*"

What will you, as Enfield Council's representatives on the NLWA board be doing to ensure that if this proposal goes ahead, our residents who live in the area will be safe and the embodied carbon (the greenhouse gas emissions associated with the extraction, manufacturing, transporting, installing, maintaining and disposing of construction materials and products of the construction) is kept to a minimum?

Reply from Councillor Yusuf

Air Quality and Public Health

The new NLWA Energy Recovery Facility (ERF) will use world-class, proven technology to capture and control pollutants, including particulates. As a result, the ERF will be one of the safest and cleanest in the UK.

The UK's Air Quality Expert Group is clear that modern municipal waste incinerators like the existing and future facilities at Edmonton EcoPark are highly effective at filtering ultrafine particles. It says: "*there have been numerous studies of municipal waste incinerators which show highly effective removal of UFP [ultrafine particles] by their pollution control systems*".

Baghouse filters are only one of the controls fitted to the plant which together represent the Best Available Techniques for pollution control as defined by the European Commission. This includes Selective Catalytic Reduction, which is the best technology in the world for controlling emissions of nitrogen oxides. The ERF will be the only facility of its type in the UK to benefit from this advanced technology.

There is a common misconception that emissions from energy from waste plants contain significant levels of pollutants and that they are associated with health risks. However, there is no evidence to support this. The Government's independent health advisors are clear that modern, well run and regulated municipal waste incinerators are not a significant risk to public health. Last year, this guidance was reviewed on the basis of a major study by Imperial College London and the guidance and the guidance, based on a clear scientific consensus, remains unchanged.

Air quality in Enfield is significantly impacted due to the proximity to the North Circular. The main sources of air pollutants in Enfield are vehicles, followed by domestic burning and then industry – not the new ERF, which will have a negligible risk of harm to public health.

For the large majority of the year, the ERF's contribution of particulates is effectively zero and the predicted concentrations are well below the limits of detection. It would only be for a few hours a year that the contribution of the ERF would be measurable, and this would be at levels of less than 2% of the relevant air quality standard. In comparison, transport emissions typically are responsible for up to 29.6% of the particles in the atmosphere in Enfield, industry and commercial practices cause 11.2%, and biomass burning (including wood burning) causes 7.6% of particulate emissions in Enfield. The figures are from the London Emissions Inventory run by the Greater London Authority (GLA).

Embodied Carbon in Construction

NLWA is bringing forward a comprehensive plan to minimise the carbon impact of construction.

It has now launched the procurement process for the new Energy Recovery Facility (ERF). The documentation includes specific requirements to reduce embodied carbon. Many construction projects in London do not monitor carbon and do not

have reduction requirements in place. However, NLWA has taken action to make sure that its contractors do both.

NLWA's approach to carbon management is guided by a consistent whole life carbon assessment plan which will be embedded across the project. A whole life carbon assessment is the most comprehensive approach to achieving carbon reductions because it examines total building emissions over the entire life cycle, from construction through to decommissioning.

This approach encompasses target setting, baseline analysis, monitoring and reporting, and continual improvement. NLWA is requesting carbon accounting for the ERF contract. This will be in line with the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors ICS 2019 Guidance, which is the industry standard for carbon accounting.

For the Resource Recovery Facility (RRF), EcoPark House (EPH) and the ERF, NLWA has set contractors a target to reduce embodied carbon by 10% throughout the construction process. NLWA is therefore showing leadership in this area by embedding the requirements into the tender process.

To reduce the Project's carbon footprint, photovoltaic cells (solar panels) will be installed across the roof of the RRF and parts of the ERF. NLWA has also established specific BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) sustainability targets for EPH, the RRF and the ERF contract which reflect its ambition to reduce carbon and improve energy efficiency. These include measures to encourage the use of sustainable materials and the development of designs that minimise operational energy demands.

My role on the NLWA is to represent is to ensure that this is delivered as set out above.

Question 43 from Councillor Dinah Barry to Councillor Kate Anolue

If the proposed incinerator in Edmonton is built, it is essential that it benefits local people and does not impact negatively on their lives: increases opportunities for good employment and training and does not disturb or cause a nuisance to residents living nearby.

In 2015 NLWA estimated that when operational, the plant would support a total of approximately 229 Full-Time Equivalent workers (FTEs).

NLWA's Development Consent Order say that the site will operate 24 hours a day and that NLWA will use larger vehicles and having deliveries over a longer period.

As Enfield Council's representatives on the NLWA board can you tell us how the 2015 estimate of 229 FTEs matches up to current numbers employed, is it more,

fewer or the same, what you will do to ensure that Enfield residents are able to gain employment and that their skills and training opportunities will be in line with LBE policies and what measures you will be urging NLWA to use, to ensure that nuisances caused by vehicles accessing the site 24 hours a day do not have a negative impact on Enfield residents?

Reply from Councillor Anolue

It is difficult to predict at this early stage in the Project the exact number of jobs we expect to be providing during the operational phase and there is no indication of changes to the estimates in the Environmental Assessment for the Development Consent Order. However, it is clear that these operational jobs will be highly skilled long-term positions working in the most modern facility of its kind in the UK. The positions will be working with LondonEnergy Ltd (the expected contractor) who are the first British energy and waste management company to achieve the Mayor of London's Good Work Standard. This development is a major part of the green recovery in Enfield, and part of Enfield Council's plans to promote high-tech industries in Edmonton.

NLWA is already working with representatives from Enfield Council to ensure that the correct skills and training opportunities are in place, to maximise local opportunities during construction and operation of the NLHPP. As part of the assessment criteria for all NLHPP contracts, NLWA is seeking contractors who provide a clear and deliverable commitment to improving skills and training opportunities for local people.

NLWA is providing life-changing opportunities for the area's young people, whose prospects have been particularly hit by the pandemic. Right now 10 apprentices are kickstarting their careers on the Project. NLWA accelerated the apprenticeship recruitment process so the first major intake could join the project this September, in line with the education calendar. NLWA will continue to maximise these vital opportunities as the NLHPP progresses.

NLWA is committed to delivering at least 100 apprenticeships for local people during the construction of the project. The roles range from business administration through to construction and civil engineering. The NLWA is creating 225 on-site skills training opportunities for school leavers or unemployed people who want to start a career in the construction industry.

With regard to construction and vehicle management, NLWA understands that transport management is a very important priority for the local community. It was a key piece of feedback received during the public consultation for the NLHPP. As a public authority, NLWA's duty is to contribute positively to the local area and operate in a way that responds considerately to local residents and businesses. That is why two new vehicle access points are being introduced to the site, one to the north (off Ardra Road) and one to the East (from Lea Park Way), which will

create three access points in total (including the existing access from Advent Way). The new access points will help us to manage vehicle flows to and from the site.

The northern access, which is one of the first phases of the Project (work started in 2019), will help to ensure that operations at the EcoPark can continue smoothly while the construction of the NLHPP progresses. Construction techniques on site have already saved over 1,000 lorry journeys. At the northern access site, the contractor, Enfield-based Galldris, is reusing existing soil through a technique called 'deep soil stabilisation' – which means the soil does not need to be taken away from the site.

Before the main construction works start, a Construction Traffic Management Plan will be put in place with Enfield Council. The Plan will be informed by NLWA's engagement with the local community and its dialogue with other developers in the area. All contractors are members of the Considerate Constructors Scheme (CCS), which is a nationally recognised scheme that promotes best practice in the construction industry beyond statutory requirements. Future contractors will also be members of the CCS.

To ensure regular dialogue is maintained with community and business stakeholders, NLWA runs a regular Community Liaison Group to provide a forum for discussion. In addition, regular newsletters, web updates and video updates are shared with the local community. These activities mean that important engagement can continue during the covid-19 pandemic and, if concerns are raised, NLWA can act efficiently and effectively to resolve them.

Questions to Associate Cabinet Members

Question 44 from Councillor Derek Levy to Councillor Katherine Chibah, the Associate Cabinet Member for Enfield West

According to the Council's website, the role of the ACM is to provide an overview into spatial issues affecting local communities.

Can Councillor Chibah demonstrate in what way she has applied any such insight and forward thinking in undertaking this role so far, evidencing how and when has she been proactive in taking the lead over the range of specific planning related and other issues currently transcending the seven wards of her responsibility.

Reply from Councillor Chibah

Since becoming ACM in July this year, I have identified several issues which I consider to be of major significance to West Enfield. Below is a summary of what I consider to be the main issues at this current time. These are of course likely to increase or decrease in salience according to other eventualities such as the impact of a second wave of coronavirus in the Borough.

1) Proposed changes to planning legislation

As ACM I am extremely concerned about the Government's White Paper. The proposed changes to planning legislation could remove important safeguards in the planning system and allow large developers to ignore quality, affordability and sustainability. There is a real risk that a move to lighter regulation could lead to the development of the next generation of slum housing.

While many Councillors would agree that the planning system needs to be reformed, I am very concerned that the Government's White Paper will remove the power of local communities. I also note that the White Paper also does not address the green belt in any way.

The proposals exempt developers from paying fees as a condition for receiving planning permission, known as Section 106 Payments. Very little regard is given to the fact that this could lead to our Council would be being denied vital funding for community infrastructure such as building schools and clinics.

To date I have conveyed the views of residents and local stakeholders in the area to Senior Enfield Council Officers who are currently assessing the impact of the proposals, I have also taken the decision to include this agenda item at the next meeting of the Environment Forum (which I chair).

An online consultation on the white paper is accepting responses until 29 October 2020. I will continue to be speaking to colleagues on a cross party basis, residents and local stake holders and feeding back to Cabinet and Officers to ensure that Enfield West's view is reflected in the Council submission.

2) Unsustainable levels of traffic and pollution / the role of public transport

I recognise that unsustainable levels of traffic and pollution affecting many areas of West Enfield. It is therefore more vital than ever that people have the confidence and ability to access good public transport.

I am extremely concerned about the Government's proposed suspension of free transport for the under 18s and the potential impact this could have on the safety and education of children, particularly from disadvantaged backgrounds across West Enfield. Suspending free travel for young people – at a time when household finances are stretched more than ever, and employment is precarious – would undoubtedly hit those on low incomes hardest. As ACM for the area I believe that parents in the Enfield West area should not be pushed further into poverty to pay for their children to get to school.

At the first Environment Forum held on 18th August 2020 I asked the Young Mayor of Enfield, Kayhan Ali, to speak on this issue. He gave what was unanimously described as an excellent and hard-hitting presentation outlining why this is such a salient issue for young people across West Enfield. The meeting agreed to support his campaign to resist the removal of free travel for the under 18s. Along with Cabinet, I will be doing all I can to raise the salience of this issue, to support campaigns against the removal of free travel and to use all channels open to me as ACM to do this.

I have also asked representatives from TFL to address the next meeting of the Environment Forum to be held on 1st October 2020 to address the issue of how they are responding to the issue of transport during the ongoing pandemic. I am particularly concerned for residents' representatives to be able to gain answers and insights into the current cleaning regime on public transport.

As an administration we are also committed to tackling the blight of pollution and rat running through the implementation of Low Traffic Neighbourhoods. Enfield West has seen the recent implementation of the Fox Lane LTN and the beginning of a Trial LTN in Bowes. With the latter scheme, the eight-week stipulation made by the Department of Transport for implementation (pre the Trial and six-month consultation) has been problematic and I have made representations about this to our Member of Parliament. I recognise that there are differing views on these schemes and I have been facilitating the communication of all views to Cabinet and Officers.

3) Town Centres and the Pandemic

Town centres in Enfield West are a key priority for me as ACM and the administration as a whole. I recognise that in addition to previous pressures, our town centres are struggling due to Covid 19.

Through cabinet members, I intend to support all ongoing engagement and shaping of future plans to support the local economy either throughout increased lock down measures, or as the economy begins to recover.