

Council Questions and Responses – 2 March 2021

1. Questions to Cabinet Members

Question 1 from Councillor Elif Erbil to Councillor Rick Jewell, Cabinet Member for Children's Services

Could the Cabinet Member for Children's Services explain how schools have been able to support children's learning during the latest lockdown?

Reply from Councillor Jewell

Over the period of this lockdown since January and since the start of the pandemic a year ago, headteachers, teachers and support staff have done a fantastic job supporting Enfield children in our schools. These have been exceptionally challenging times for all of us and particularly for those in education. Children's learning has been disrupted, they have faced isolation and loneliness, not being able to socialise with their friends. Young people face very uncertain futures due to public examinations being cancelled – very young children in nursery and reception classes for example are missing out so much on their early learning development and learning basic skills.

Many will have experienced the difficulty of trying to tutor or teach youngsters at home and how difficult this can be. Many young people have suffered considerably, including a negative impact on their physical and mental health. When we come out of lockdown, there will be much to do – much for children and young people to relearn and also to catch up on what some call lost learning.

Schools have been supporting children and young people as best they can during the latest lockdown. Some colleagues have said that schools have been closed – this is not the case as throughout the lockdown period the children of key workers and also vulnerable children have been able to attend school. Some special schools have had high numbers of children attending while some primary schools have had well over 100 children in school. The numbers of children have been 5 to 6 times higher than in previous lockdowns.

From the start of January, schools have been using a variety of remote learning strategies with many teaching staff working from home providing a range of online learning. There is a wide range of material for schools to use to support children and young people through the DfE (Department for Education) website, through the LGfL (London Grid for Learning) and in the commercial sector. Schools have learnt a lot over the past year about how to effectively use learning platforms and how to best support children.

The DfE have provided many laptops to schools for disadvantaged pupils although there has been a shortfall in some schools – schools in many cases have provided chrome books or laptops themselves to enable children to engage in online

learning. Dongles have also been provided for some children as access to broadband can be a problem for some children. This continues to be a challenge.

Schools are able to support young people being in contact with them on a regular basis through phone contact or through email. This means form tutors and pastoral staff in secondary schools and class teachers in primary schools doing their best to ensure children and young people are safe and engaging with learning.

Ofsted have visited four Enfield schools since September and there was also a SEND visit to the local area which included talking to schools about support provided. All the visits have gone well complimenting schools and local authority staff on their work to support children and young people.

Schools and I have been doing a huge amount to support children and young people but all headteachers and school staff I have spoken to, are really looking forward to welcoming young people back next week to hopefully to start the move back to normality and proper education – the remote learning provided has been very good for the most part as I have said, but nothing can replace children being back in school where we all want them to be.

Question 2 from Councillor Dinah Barry to Councillor Gina Needs, Cabinet Member for Social Housing

In your last answer to my question concerning council tenants in unsuitable properties, you explained that under the new allocations scheme, households with a high health and wellbeing assessment have the highest level of priority on the housing register and noted that finding homes for these residents is a matter of urgency.

Therefore, please explain why families like the one I used as an example who have the highest level of priority possible, have to wait for years to be offered a safe place to live.

Reply from Councillor Needs

The length of time that it takes for a property to become available depends on the needs of the household. Households needing a larger property, ground floor or specialist adaptations will wait longer than those who have fewer specific needs.

We have a very limited number of larger properties and large numbers of households with high needs. There are currently 87 households with high health and wellbeing points who have an urgent need to move and 57 of these need a three bedroomed property or larger on the ground floor. Only 75 properties with three bedrooms have become available over the last year and only 5 of these have had level access.

In the case of the family you have referred to, they are seeking a three bedroomed property with level access.

We have introduced a new allocations scheme that ensures that household are appropriately prioritised, but this cannot address the shortage of social housing in the borough. This can only be addressed by building more homes.

Question 3 from Councillor Joanne Laban to Councillor Mary Maguire, Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement

Would Councillor Maguire, Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement apologise to the many businesses who have had to wait long periods of time to receive the vital Local and Additional Restrictions Grants which were announced last year?

Reply from Councillor Maguire

The Government should apologise for producing such complicated grant schemes and for the extended delays in producing guidance, despite advice from Councils.

I refer to the answer I gave to Question 40 on the January 2021 Council agenda, detailing the £93m in business grants and rate relief distributed to nearly 5,000 businesses. It also detailed the 10 schemes, each with their own rules, guidance and funding that the Government expected this council to operate.

In this latest round of grants, by the 24 February, the Council had paid more than 3,200 businesses over £4m. Council officers working with Government all pointed out at an early stage the complexity of the grant schemes and the difficulties authorities would have in delivering. All councils asked for a simple scheme that was easy for businesses to understand and easy to deliver. Instead we have had multiple schemes (10 of these) each more complex than the next. There is no consistency on when the funding is received from Government and in the case of the Tier 2 scheme, no clear indication on how the funding was calculated. Announcements of schemes are made and guidance then takes weeks to appear.

It is difficult to believe that the Government is not fully aware of the issues that authorities have had to overcome to deliver these schemes. The number of payments to businesses has increased dramatically since bespoke software has been applied. However the publication of league tables will do nothing to help speed up the process, but will only hamper the speed at which payments are made. Officers are working as speedily as they can to administer these grants as quickly as possible.

To date the council has made the following grant payments to business:

Row Labels	Count of Grant Name	Sum of Amount
Additional Restrictions Grant	27	£32,800.00
Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed) Addendum	2465	£3,635,099.97
Local Restriction Support Grant (Closed)	241	£67,864.44
Local Restriction Support Grant (Open)	467	£339,212.09
Local Restriction Support Grant (Scheme)	3	£1,571.42
Grand Total	3203	£4,076,547.92

The Business Rate team, working closely with Economic Development, is automatically processing remaining lockdown grant payments for the current period. There is no need for further applications from business.

Economic Development has developed an Additional Restriction Grant scheme which aims to help businesses in need over the next 14 months. The first phase of this scheme to help market traders has gone live and will be followed by further targeted support in different phases. Details of eligibility for an Additional Restriction Grant will be available on the council website when each phase is launched.

The Government should also apologise for raising expectations of those businesses, including the huge number of self-employed, who have been excluded from receiving any support.

Question 4 from Councillor Hass Yusuf to Councillor Rick Jewell, Cabinet Member for Children's Services

Could the Cabinet Member for Children's Services please explain what has been done to reduce youth offending during the pandemic?

Reply from Councillor Jewell

The Youth Offending Service has continued to see young people during the pandemic. All young people have been regularly risk assessed and reviewed during the pandemic and home visits completed for those deemed to be at high risk of offending.

It was also agreed locally in Enfield to include high risk young people involved with the Youth Offending Service in the DfE vulnerable category of children to be encouraged to attend schools.

A new partnership initiative with the Police was launched in October 20, providing support and signposting to children and young people who are arrested and presented to Wood Green youth custody to prevent further re-offending. A Summer University programme was delivered via online and face to face approach from

youth centres, providing 1963 places for range of diversionary activities and learning courses for 604 young people to participate.

Throughout all lockdowns, the Youth Development Service has continued to deliver detached and outreach youth work, supporting the Police and Community Safety team to promote social distancing and compliance. This has enabled a softer approach to enforce the government's guidance. The detached youth work recommenced in May 2020 and targeted 8 different areas with high levels of anti-social behaviour and crime hotspot, seven days a week - Upper Edmonton, Edmonton Green, Pymmes Park, Fore Street, Enfield Highway and Southgate.

From March 2020 to January 2021, detached youth workers have contacted and positively engaged over 1,200 young people. The Youth Service has also launched the Inspiring Young Enfield programme during the pandemic.

The NEXUS programme to reduce school exclusions have continued to be delivered to support young people.

A needs analysis of serious youth violence has been completed by public health and will be informing Council led action plan of public health approach to reduction of serious youth violence.

Question 5 from Councillor Daniel Anderson to Councillor Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council

Can the Leader of the Council please explain to residents, a number of whom have written to her directly, as to the legitimacy of pursuing the policy and imposition of Low Traffic Neighbourhoods across the Borough, when it was not directly featured in the 2018 Labour Manifesto, upon which she stood and was elected, particularly in the face of the excoriating ruling of Mrs Justice Laing in the High Court recently against such measures, the withdrawal of similar schemes by other councils such as Redbridge and Sutton, the widespread opposition by local residents outside the select and vocal few, and damaging displacement effects of traffic congestion and air pollution upon surrounding roads?

Reply from Councillor Caliskan

Low Traffic Neighbourhoods featured under the umbrella term of Quieter Neighbourhoods in the 2018 Labour Manifesto. Councillor Anderson kick-started the programme. In Councillor Anderson's final report concerning his scheme he stated: *'alternative measures could be trialled if further reductions are considered necessary in order to create an environment where walking and cycling are facilitated and seen as the preferred form of travel'*.

As the increase in vehicles on our roads continues unabated, and as the Council has declared a climate emergency (39% of Enfield's emissions are from our roads)

then obviously further reductions are indeed considered necessary to create an environment where walking and cycling are facilitated, and in turn we do our bit to fight climate change, which in turn will help tackle air pollution.

Members will note that the Conservative Government followed our Council manifesto lead by making Low Traffic Neighbourhoods an election promise in 2019, and including them in its 'Ten-Point-Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution' released in 2020.

Question 6 from Councillor Joanne Laban to Councillor Mary Maguire, Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement

Would Councillor Maguire, Cabinet Member for Finance & Procurement with responsibility for Property Services set out where the proposed locations are for the new crematorium project mentioned in the Budget papers?

Reply from Councillor Maguire

The crematorium project is still in its early stages and locations are being considered. When further work has been undertaken, this will be shared with my fellow cabinet members for their consideration.

Question 7 from Councillor Christine Hamilton to Councillor Rick Jewell, Cabinet Member for Children's Services

In his capacity as the chair of the local youth justice board, can the Cabinet Member for Children's Services explain how he has ensured that the Council and partners have continued to discharge their statutory duties during the pandemic?

Reply from Councillor Jewell

As chair of the board I have ensured that the terms of reference for the board were reviewed and updated in line with statutory requirements and to reflect changes to the decision making required during the pandemic to ensure continuity of the governance and partnership working arrangements. In May 2020, the Youth Justice Board (YJB) National Standards strategic and operational self-assessment was undertaken and endorsed by the ETYEB. It highlighted strong and mature partnership working arrangements in place and was well received by the YJB.

The board is on the track to deliver against the key strategic priorities and board delivery plan set for this year. The Board has overseen and scrutinised practice and service delivery arrangements as well as being actively involved in improvement work in the following ways:

- Ensuring the local youth justice services are sufficiently resourced and are appropriately configured to deliver high quality service. The YOS has been redesigned with the new service design being implemented throughout Jan-March 2021, re-balancing the resources to meet the demand and strengthening the focus on practice and quality.
- Developing Youth Scrutiny panel, scrutinising the out of court disposals delivery and decision making with Police, showing high levels of congruence.
- Ensuring that the interventions and commissioned services continue to meet the needs of the local youth offending population through developing local youth offending profile.
- Developing effective arrangements for managing re-offending (the Board has endorsed a new approach to reducing re-offending).
- Reviewing support arrangements for children looked after within the criminal justice system.
- Commissioning appropriate adult services.
- Scrutinising disproportionality within youth justice, through developing local journey of the child analysis.
- Scrutinising Police use of release under investigation power.
- Developing new performance data set to enable the Board to have a robust and consistent oversight and understanding of performance, and
- Supporting prevention work between the Council, Police, schools and VCS.

As part of the continuous improvement focus, I have led an impact evaluation of the effectiveness of the Board through a survey in January 21 that highlighted that the Board is well managed with clear terms of reference and accountability in place alongside In response to the feedback, I have commissioned a workshop development day in March 21 which will be externally facilitated and will include independent feedback on the effectiveness of the board against the HMIP inspection criteria.

Question 8 from Councillor Dinah Barry to Councillor Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council

Please explain why the Chair of the Pension Policy and Investment Committee who has the guidance of numerous professional advisors in its task of monitoring investment in the Council's Pension Fund, much of which is now in the control of the London Collective investment Vehicle, deserved a 568% pay rise last summer when the Chair of the Pensions Board which ensures that the pension scheme is compliant with regulations and that its governance is efficient and effective, received no increase on their SRA of £1,000pa.

Reply from Councillor Caliskan

The SRA for the Pension Policy & Investment Committee was agreed by Council on 1 July 2020.

The Chair of the Committee receives a Special Responsibility Allowance, of £7,608.00, in line with the other committee chairs, such as the Planning, Licensing, General Purposes and the Overview & Scrutiny Committees, as well as the seven Scrutiny Panel Chairs. Councillor Barry will be familiar with SRAs as she too claimed one when she served as a Cabinet Associate Member.

The Committee acts with delegated powers from the Council as Administering Authority for the Pension Fund and accordingly takes key policy decisions in relation to the Pension Fund, reviews the performance of the Fund's investments and funding strategies and approves admissions into the Fund.

The Committee is required to: -

- i. Keep under review the fund's long-term strategic asset allocation.
- ii. Approve the appointment and removal of the actuary, investment managers and investment advisers, following appropriate procurement and selection procedures.
- iii. Set performance benchmarks and investment guidelines for the investment managers, supervise their activities and monitor their performance and risk against the benchmarks and guidelines.
- iv. Give directions to the actuary, investment managers and investment advisers with regard to any matter requiring the consent of the Authority or on which directions are sought.
- v. Agree the Statement of Investment Principles.
- vi. Ensure compliance with all relevant best practices for institutional investors and LGPS pension funds.
- vii. Commission and consider actuarial valuations and set contribution rates.
- viii. Consider any other policy or investment issue as the Committee see fit.

If Councillor Barry would like to propose that the SRA for the Chair of the Pensions Board should be increases, then she is advised to make this a formal proposal.

Question 9 from Councillor Joanne Laban to Councillor Guney Dogan, Cabinet Member for Environment

Will Councillor Dogan, Cabinet Member for Environment set out the figures for the costs incurred to the council by fly-tipping, annually from 2018- to date?

Reply from Councillor Dogan

- £749k - 2018/19
- £842k - 2019/20

- £1.18m - 2020/21 (estimated)

Question 10 from Councillor Doug Taylor to Councillor Alev Cazimoglu, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care

Now that the current Covid-19 wave is ebbing, what is Adult Social Care doing to support the NHS and how will this ensure that our residents are supported?

Reply from Councillor Cazimoglu

As we know, Covid-19 placed a great toll on our local Hospitals and, in turn, this has led to pressure on Adult Social Care staff and their partners in the NHS. However, despite signs of the usual Winter pressures taking place, the more integrated ways of working to support people being discharged from hospital remain in place. The best examples of this are the Integrated Discharge Teams (IDTs) running at each acute hospital site. North Middlesex University Hospital's IDT runs seven days a week from 8am-8pm and involves six local Enfield & Haringey NHS and Council staff groups working together to discharge people.

The collaboration means that Enfield residents continue to leave hospital in a more timely fashion, with the majority returning home. And when they do go home, they benefit from our improved collaboration with the NHS, receiving therapy and enablement support as appropriate. This keeps people at home longer, too.

In addition to the specific actions we take every Winter to support and sustain the care market, we continue to provide high levels of PPE, support providers with infection control measures and, more recently, ensure that the vaccine roll out to care homes is well-managed. I am proud of the work Adult Social Care (ASC) officers have contributed. With a large local care home market, ASC knowledge of this area has been vital to the success of the roll out. However, there is still work to be done. We know take up is not the same in all groups so ASC and Public Health officers will continue to support the NHS to ensure all of Enfield's adult population are offered the vaccine.

In the medium term, the recent White Paper, setting out the Government's legislative proposals for a Health and Care Bill, is dominated by the view that collaboration and integration are the future. We know the NHS requires a well-funded and supportive adult social care system and local recent experiences show that Enfield is well placed to provide this.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-improve-health-and-social-care-for-all/integration-and-innovation-working-together-to-improve-health-and-social-care-for-all-html-version>

Question 11 from Councillor Dino Lemonides to Councillor Ian Barnes, Deputy Leader of the Council

Research has shown that increased noise pollution and traffic intensity levels in an area result in a decrease in (house) prices

<https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/81586657.pdf>

When will Councillor Barnes therefore, be drawing the attention of residents living on peripheral roads around LTNs to the Part 1 compensation they may be able to claim as detailed in their booklet: How to claim for the effects on your property of new or altered roads:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/425148/M150005_Compensation_booklet_v3.pdf

Reply from Councillor Barnes

As interesting as the referenced report might be, Councillor Lemonides unfortunately appears to have misunderstood the title '*The effects of highway development on housing prices*' which refers to two newly constructed motorways (A30 and A50) in the Netherlands.

Unless Councillor Lemonides knows something that we do not concerning the Department for Transport's plans for new motorways in the borough, his question appears to have little relevance to Enfield.

Question 12 from Councillor Joanne Laban to Councillor Mary Maguire, Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement

Would Councillor Maguire, Cabinet Member for Finance & Procurement with responsibility for Property Services explain why its rural estates management contract with Knight Frank was left to roll on from 2013-2019 without any further procurement process?

Reply from Councillor Maguire

The current Director of Property & Economy joined the organisation in late 2018 and I took over portfolio responsibility for Property Services in May 2019. Action has been taken to regularise the position and Knight Frank are now on a new contract procured through a framework tender.

Question 13 from Councillor Margaret Greer to Councillor Alev Cazimoglu, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care

We are all well aware of the terrible toll which this pandemic has had on people living and working in Enfield in terms of hospital admissions and deaths but can the Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care inform members of what has been done to address the wider impacts of this pandemic and associated restrictions, particularly on the more vulnerable members of our community?

Reply from Councillor Cazimoglu

It's a really good question and you are quite right that the wider impact of this awful pandemic has not attracted nearly as much attention as some of the headline figures related to hospitalisations and death rates as a result of Covid. I will say though, that by its nature, the mental health and wellbeing impact of this pandemic is and will be much more difficult to quantify or even, given that any response has to be determined by government guidance, address. When I think of the hundreds of vulnerable care home residents unable to receive physical in-person visits from their loved ones, our socially isolated vulnerable residents living in their own homes and our dedicated care staff going to work day in day out under the most trying of circumstances, I can only imagine the toll which that has taken on people living and working in our community.

With regards to the very practical things we have been able to do, I am proud of the partnerships that we have created which include health, care providers, our voluntary organisations and all of our wonderful volunteers and staff. People have received the PPE they need, regular testing, practical support with shopping and food deliveries and prescriptions not to mention the work of our caring professionals making sure that our most vulnerable people receive the support they need to stay safe. Perhaps most significantly our partnership to deliver vaccines quickly and efficiently is finally beginning to offer the light at the end of the tunnel that we all so desperately need.

However, whilst there might be that hope of things to come, there will remain an awful lot of work to do. So many people have lost loved ones under the most awful of circumstances. Counselling and bereavement services will always be there helping individuals and families to rebuild their lives. Addressing the anxieties which will have accumulated over the last year for many in our community is and will continue to be an absolute priority. We have rallied together in the most amazing way as a community but many of our people and community residents are tired and sorely in need of both rest and opportunities to rebuild and re-energise themselves.

We will continue to support families to connect safely, to provide support to those of our residents who are on their own through befriending services and practical support for those day to day tasks so many of us take for granted, to support people suffering loss, to grieve and to learn from these last twelve months. A key part of that learning will be a new conversation with local people and partners to look at what we did well and where things could have been better. I know this is something in which we all really believe. I also believe that while the devastation which this pandemic will leave in its wake will never be forgotten, we do have an absolute duty to work towards a recovery which builds on our good work so far, develops new and innovative ways of working with our most vulnerable residents and delivers local services which have the voice of local people at their very heart.

Question 14 from Councillor Dinah Barry to Councillor Ian Barnes, Deputy Leader of the Council

Homes close to main roads are cheaper to buy or rent than similar homes in other areas and there is a strong evidence of a positive correlation between the value of the property in which someone lives and their vulnerability, e.g.

<https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/links-between-housing-and-poverty>.

At the last council Meeting, Councillor Barnes recognised that LTNs increase pollution and noise on peripheral roads.

Please provide the impact assessment which justifies increasing the air and noise pollution experienced by our more vulnerable residents.

Reply from Councillor Barnes

At the last Council meeting I did not recognise that 'LTNs increase pollution and noise on peripheral roads' in Enfield because I have yet to see any scientific data that supports that assertion.

King's College research concerning air quality in Waltham Forest suggests that there has not been a decrease in air quality on main roads following introduction of LTNs. That research also investigated the 'school run' which accounts for ~25% of morning and afternoon traffic. On major roads, half of the estimated school run car vehicle km was removed from the 8-9am period, with one quarter removed from 3-4 pm, and the other quarter from 4-5 pm.

These are the results we hope to see in Enfield but until traffic patterns return to 'normal' it is not appropriate to use monitoring data to draw firm conclusions.

We should also acknowledge that over recent years traffic has been steadily increasing on residential streets, which are not designed or intended to carry large volumes of traffic in the way primary roads are designed for this purpose. However, these issues will be carefully considered in the future formal report that is produced and upon which any future decision is made.

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

Would Councillor Caliskan, Leader of the Council, set out how she will ensure that all council communications follow the Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity in line with recommendations in the letter sent to her by Luke Hall MP, Minister of State for Regional Growth and Local Government?

Reply from Councillor Caliskan

Enfield Council has consistently been aware of the Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity in all Council Communications. I have written back to the Minister (a copy is attached to council papers) which confirms that all statements published by Enfield Council are clearly dated and accurate.

Question 16 from Councillor Sinan Boztas to Councillor George Savva, Cabinet Member for Licensing and Regulatory Services

Would the Cabinet Member for Licensing and Regulatory Services give us an update on the Private Landlords application submitted 10 months ago to the Secretary of State for Communities Housing and Local Authorities?

Reply from Councillor Savva

We submitted our application for the approval of a selective licensing scheme to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government on 22 February 2020. The usual deadline to make a decision is 8-12 weeks. It has now one year and still no decision has been made.

I understand that civil servants passed the application to the Secretary of State in August 2020 for approval. Officers, the Leader and local MPs have written to the Secretary of State numerous times to press for a decision. The need for this scheme to address poor housing conditions and deprivation in the private rented sector has not diminished at all during the covid19 pandemic. Approval of the scheme is long overdue and needs to be made urgently so that the scheme can help us address inequality, living conditions and poverty which will assist with the recovery from the covid pandemic.

Question 17 from Councillor Daniel Anderson to Councillor Ian Barnes, Deputy Leader of the Council

At the last Full Council meeting during Opposition Priority Business, Councillor Barnes stated that 90% of residents live within our residential streets and just 10% live on our main roads. This was used by him to justify his decision to proceed with the so-called 'Low Traffic Neighbourhoods '(LTNs), which he stated is deliberately aimed at redirecting traffic onto main roads, but 'hoping 'that this will see traffic evaporation.

However, evidence from the Office for National Statistics demonstrates that he is wrong demonstrating that the true figures are 62% and 38% respectively, whilst research by King's College London has shown that living near a main road could raise the risk of lung cancer by 10%, the risk of a stroke by 10% and heart disease by 6%, whilst even the most optimistic proponents of LTNs believe, at best, that only 11% of traffic evaporates. This being the case, the argument used by Councillor Barnes to justify his strategy is based on erroneous assumptions.

Therefore, unless he has a plan to relocate those 38% of residents from the main roads to residential streets, can the Deputy Leader explain to them how he justifies worsening their quality of life and reducing their life expectancy?

Reply from Councillor Barnes

The fact that 90% of residents live on our residential streets and 10% live on main roads is not used as a justification for LTNs. Road safety, tackling obesity and the fight against pollution and climate change are all factors that feature in our decision to conduct the trials.

LTNs do not *'redirect traffic'* to main roads, they send the rat-running traffic that has been displaced from main roads onto residential roads (usually by sat-navs) back to its rightful place.

As Councillor Anderson would realise should he have read the report *'High Streets in Great Britain'* from the Office for National Statistics: *'The data for population deliberately looked beyond just the high street itself and have been designed to include people living within approximately 200 metres from each high street.'*

As Councillor Anderson understands this includes large swathes of the population in London so we rely on the more accurate Transport for London surveys showing the approximate 90/10 percent split.

The King's College report that Councillor Anderson references emphasises the fact that we cannot accept the status quo on the main roads we do not control and we must continue to push for wider pavements, lane reductions, bus lanes, cycle lanes, speed restrictions, more crossings and more trees to act as green barriers to reduce congestion and air pollution.

In the last Full Council meeting I also mentioned that the Chancellor is considering *'road user charging'* which will have a profound reduction on traffic levels across all main roads but both opposition groups neglected to say whether they supported this or whether they would yet again oppose another one of their own Conservative government policies.

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

Would Councillor Caliskan, Leader of the Council provide an update on the negotiations with Cadent over the proposed move of the Pressure Reduction Station on the site of Meridian Water Phase 1 and inform the chamber when she expects the negotiations to be concluded?

Reply from Councillor Caliskan

Negotiations concluded in early January and the Council has now entered into an agreement with Cadent to construct and commission the new Pressure Reduction Station and decommission the existing Pressure Reduction Station and Intermediate Pressure Gas Main.

Question 19 from Councillor Tim Leaver to Councillor Gina Needs, Cabinet Member for Social Housing

What role can bringing empty homes back into use have in tackling the need for housing for Enfield residents?

Reply from Councillor Needs

There are approximately 107,000 homes in the private sector in Enfield, both owned and rented. There are currently 1,300 homes in Enfield that have been empty for more than 6 months and a further 903 properties that are classed as second homes. Of these second homes 816 have not been occupied in the last six months. Council Tax records show that there are over 300 homes in the borough that have been empty for two years or more.

This means that 2,200 homes (2% of our private housing stock) are sitting empty at a time when we have 3,557 households in temporary accommodation.

Bringing these homes back into use would have a large impact in increasing the supply of homes for residents. In the last year the Council has brought 60 properties back into use. We have a grant programme which enables us to assist homeowners to carry out repairs in exchange for leasing the property to us for five years. These properties are then let through our ethical lettings agency Enfield Let.

The Council is in the process of developing an Empty Homes Strategy and have already identified £350k of funding for 2021-22. Officers are re-examining the different tools available to us and I aim to present proposals to Cabinet for approval in June.

Question 20 from Councillor Derek Levy to Councillor Rick Jewell, Cabinet Member for Children's Services

During the recent Full Council debate on Low Traffic Neighbourhoods, Councillor Jewell took an unnecessary detour to sing the praises of the very different Transport for London funded School Streets Programme - a project which, incidentally, I very much welcome and to which I give my unequivocal support. So, as part of the mission to do whatever it takes to consider and to protect local children's long term health and address the issues of air pollution in the area, will he now inform Council as to when, in conjunction with his partners at TfL, he will

implement under this most laudable programme, additional one hour twice daily term-time closures of Bowes Road, aka the North Circular Road (A406) along which large and incessant volumes of traffic pass and all too often idle within five metres of the playground of Bowes Primary School.

Reply from Councillor Jewell

The Council has taken practical steps to support Bowes Primary School to monitor and reduce emissions. These have included the installation of green walls, which next to the A406 led to a 22% reduction in emissions from roadside to playground side, involvement in the Mayor's School Air Quality Audit Programme and anti-idling activities.

Going forward, the introduction of the Ultra-Low Emission Zone Extension in October 2021 will see Bowes Primary School inside the boundary, which is the A406. TfL research has indicated that there will be significant improvements to air quality, with areas of Enfield inside the Ultra-Low Emission Zone seeing a 30 to 40 per cent reduction in NOx, while areas outside will still see between 20 and 30 per cent reductions.

To support this and the decarbonisation of transport, the Council is investing in electric vehicle charging points, including a number in Bowes ward: <https://new.enfield.gov.uk/services/roads-and-transport/lamp-column-chargers-faq-roads-and-transport.pdf>

However, electric vehicles are only a stop gap because their production and use have environmental consequences. They are also involved in collisions, including with vulnerable road users, and private vehicles are the least efficient use of streetspace, which is a scarce public resource.

Therefore, as set out in the Climate Action Plan, the Council is committed to achieving targets in respect of encouraging more people to use active travel and public transport. Ultimately, it is only by shifting people away from an overdependence on private vehicles that we can be a healthy and sustainable borough, including in the area around Bowes Primary School.

Question 21 from Councillor Edward Smith to Councillor George Savva, Cabinet Member for Licensing and Regulatory Services

Would Councillor Savva, Cabinet Member for Licensing and Regulatory Services inform the council what steps he intends to take to ensure the Planning Department encourage developers to submit residential planning applications that include a significantly larger number of family homes (3 bed and above) in line with the borough's housing needs?

Reply from Councillor Savva

All planning applications must be determined having regard to current adopted planning policy at a national, regional and local level and balanced against site circumstances, viability and other material considerations.

Our adopted Policy seeks a range of housing sizes but seeks on family housing 45% 3 bed + (private) and 60% 3 bed (social rented). In appropriate circumstances, two bed 4 person units can assist in meeting this target. Planning policy places many demands on development which have to be weighed up to optimise development on the site.

The Planning Department are actively working with developers at the pre-application and application stages to ensure that their proposals meet local aspirations for good growth and placemaking. The importance of providing for a range of housing sizes and types of units (including homes for older people, families, disabled, self /custom build and Travellers) is recognised and promoted in these discussions.

The Council's new local plan is being brought forward later this year and will build on emerging evidence about housing needs to propose an updated policy response.

Question 22 from Councillor Katherine Chibah to Councillor Gina Needs, Cabinet Member for Social Housing

How is the new allocations policy designed to meet the wider priorities of the council?

Reply from Councillor Needs

The new Allocations Policy was approved by Council in September implemented in December last year. The new policy is intended to move towards a longer-term view of housing need – giving greater priority to households who have an ongoing need for social housing.

As part of this approach, the new scheme enables both Adult Social Care and Children and Family Services to prioritise residents for rehousing. Housing Allocations Panels have now been set up covering:

- Children and Family Services
- Adult Social Care
- Council Housing (for internal Transfers)
- Rough Sleepers
- Exceptions (for the cases that don't fit within the scheme)

Officers have also established a Strategic Housing Allocations Board to oversee the

work of the allocations panels and this includes representation from across the Council. As part of the scheme officers have also established local lettings criteria for new build properties, and this has been used to address under-occupation.

Question 23 from Councillor Derek Levy to Councillor Ergin Erbil, Associate Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

What methodological base did you apply, and what empirical evidence are you able to demonstrate, to support the highly questionable and even extraordinary assertion made so confidently at the February Full Council that the current trial of Low Traffic Neighbourhoods in faraway Fox Lane and Bowes Road has already yielded beneficial effects on the life expectancy of people in Edmonton and the east of the Borough within less than five months of those schemes being in operation, given that robust and serious analysis of this category would normally require several years of cumulative data to reliably determine such noticeable improvements of the kind and to the extent you chose to put out in such a public forum a little over one month ago.

Reply from Councillor Ergin Erbil

Low Traffic Neighbourhoods can be viewed as a public health intervention. As published in the Department for Transport Gear Change document, physical inactivity is responsible for one in six UK deaths (equal to smoking) and is estimated to cost the UK £7.4 billion annually (including £0.9 billion to the NHS alone).

We are clear that as well contributing to the global climate crisis, our focus on enabling more active travel will have positive impacts on the health and wellbeing of our community. Our Health and Wellbeing Strategy reflect the priority of increasing the level of physical activity and our Quieter Neighbourhood projects support this aim.

Question 24 from Councillor Edward Smith to Councillor Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council

Given the Council's lamentable record over the past few years in meeting the Mayor's targets for new homes in Enfield, will Councillor Caliskan, Leader of the Council inform the chamber whether she is prepared to undertake a root and branch review of the Meridian Water project to accelerate the delivery of new homes on this key housing site?

Reply from Councillor Caliskan

This administration has already taken a root and branch approach to the Meridian Water project. At the beginning of my administration the Council took the bold

decision to become the Master Developer of Meridian Water. Since that review progress has accelerated: Vistry have been appointed to deliver the first 950 homes - construction commences in the next few weeks and first completions will be delivered in Spring 2022; a partner has been selected to deliver 270 affordable homes and workspace; development opportunities for over 1000 homes will be marketed during 2021; and a new masterplan will be consulted upon this summer.

In addressing wider housing supply, our housing delivery plan, which will be published shortly, recognises that housing delivery is heavily influenced by the policy environment established by Government – one that is clearly not working when a good proportion of growth led Boroughs are in a similar position to Enfield.

I would call for cross party support for the following changes that would enable the acceleration of new homes in the Borough:

(1) To ensure that Enfield is properly funded to provide the stable foundations to deliver good growth by:

- Backing the Fair Funding regime addressing long standing funding shortfalls
- Ensuring that any changes to infrastructure funding through the new planning regime reflect the need for councils to invest upfront to support growth rather than as is proposed, seeking to mitigate developer risk through lag funding following sales
- Recognise that changes to planning policy and the introduction of additional approvals, e.g. permitted development, are an additional burden on local government and fund local government accordingly.
- Establishing a reformed New Homes Bonus that rewards Councils for the number of homes approved through the planning process
- Creating a high street planning fund, providing a grant to cover any new Local Development Order for a high street which increases housing supply. This would be similar to the grants local councils receive to support neighbourhood plans and would encourage more redevelopment of high streets for more, and better quality, homes.

(2) reform aspects of the current and proposed housing system that impact on securing good growth:

- Recognising the market failure in London (high prices, low wages in relation to house prices and high demand) and the case for additional funding for affordable housing enabling Enfield and its housing association partners to deliver new supply at the scale and pace required
- Enable increased local discretion on the right affordable products recognising the affordability barriers of First Homes and the increased viability pressures arising from the reformed shared ownership product.
- Support ambitious councils to bring more land into the system, through infrastructure funding and cross-boundary technical support

- Halting proposals for expanded permitted development rights which based on evidence to date in Enfield indicates that it creates low value and undesirable homes which are far away from the aspirations in the Planning White Paper and act as a short term incentive for developers to profit from the housing crisis
- Require developers to build out approved schemes to secure the anticipated pipeline.

(3) To invest in the skills and supply chains to deliver the requirements of the Future Homes Standard so that the pace of delivery is not affected by the complexity of new requirements or the higher costs of early adoption.

Question 25 from Councillor Birsen Demirel to Councillor Gina Needs, Cabinet Member for Social Housing

The Housing Gateway was a key part of the Council's new approach to homelessness – how is it progressing?

Reply from Councillor Needs

Housing Gateway continues to develop its services to respond to the Council's key priorities and delivering services that the Council couldn't deliver itself. Despite Covid-19, Housing Gateway has purchased 19 properties in 20/21 with a further 37 in its purchasing pipeline (offer accepted and solicitors instructed) and is on track to hit its 20/21 target, subject to Covid-19 restrictions continuing to allow property purchases and the expected progression within the various sale chains.

On 1st October, Housing Gateway successfully launched Enfield Let, an ethical social lettings agency reducing the barriers that some residents experience when seeking to rent a home. It has secured a total of 60 leases on properties to date with a further 60 expected to be acquired by year end. Enfield Let provides stable and affordable tenancies which allow the Council to discharge its housing duty and reduce spending on temporary accommodation.

Housing Gateway has also supported the Council's successful bid to the GLA's Rough Sleepers Accommodation Programme (RSAP) which has delivered £6.8m in capital funding and will see Housing Gateway provide 52 properties to house rough sleepers into permanent homes.

Question 26 from Councillor Dinah Barry to Councillor Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council

I have read the job description for the role of Cabinet Support officer. To what extent will you be prepared to listen to and willing to act upon, the independent expert advice of the holder of this newly created post?

Reply from Councillor Caliskan

All council officers have a role in helping this administration make good on our commitments to deliver first class services to local people and to deliver our political objective in line with Labour values.

Question 27 from Councillor James Hockney to Councillor Guney Dogan, Cabinet Member for Environment.

Many streets in Bush Hill Park have less trees than at the start of the Labour administration in 2011. Furthermore only 50 extra trees are or have been planted through 2019, 2020 and 2021 to date - this is despite the Council declaring a Climate Emergency in 2019. How much has the Council spent/spending on planting pavement street trees across the borough for each of the last five financial years and next financial year on ward by ward basis?

Reply from Councillor Dogan

The table below sets out the capital budget for Enfield's street tree removal and replacement programme for each financial year requested. This covers the cost of tree removals and their replacements in accordance with Enfield's tree strategy, and then further highways planting should there be any resource left. The allocation for 2021/22 is proposed to be double the current allocation allowing for an enhanced programme.

- 2016/2017 - £125,000
- 2017/2018 - £93,500
- 2018/2019 - £111,046.
- 2019/2020 - £125,207
- 2020/2021 - £146,692
- 2021/2022 - £300,000

This budget is not allocated on a ward by ward basis as roads are prioritised based on the number of 'failed' trees each year. The primary goal of tree planting is to replace all trees lost within the previous financial year. Should we have the available resources following this we move onto councillor and resident requests for tree planting. Our management system records road names rather than wards, and records the details of trees removed and planted in each road.

Question 28 from Councillor Christine Hamilton Councillor Mary Maguire, Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement

Can the Cabinet Member for Finance please outline the council's response to support residents in the current lockdown?

Reply from Councillor Maguire

The Council have provided much needed support to local residents during the current lockdown in a number of ways. The support offered has mainly been centred around the contact centre offering a responsive triage service for all residents, providing assistance with all covid related concerns, depending on the need. Residents have been helped with food, prescription advice, befriending calls and referrals for those in financial hardship (to the welfare advice and debt team who support maximisation of benefit uptake, generalised welfare advice and debt support). The contact centre has seen 7,011 calls of this nature during the current lockdown.

The Council has also offered targeted proactive assistance to those on the shielding list by making proactive contact to check that they are okay and understand if any support is required. Enfield has roughly 22,700 residents who are CEV (Clinically Extremely Vulnerable) and advised by Government to shield during lockdown. 10,000 of these have been on the shielding list for some time, but there was an announcement in February that a further 12,700 more residents would be added to the list. The initial 10,000 have all been contacted again during this lockdown and offered a variety of interventions ranging from food provision, financial support, social befriending, supermarket registration and other support.

The most recent additions to the list are now also being contacted and being offered the same levels of support. Shielding residents are now also being offered a postal vote option for the May election.

The Covid Winter Grant that the Council has received has been used to provide those entitled to free school meals with payments for food during the Christmas holiday, February half term and looking forward, for the Easter holidays. In addition to this, hardship payments have been made and assistance given in the purchase of essential household items like fridges and ovens to families and individuals in need. The remainder of the grant will be used to help people in the borough who are suffering homelessness.

Social isolation payments of £500 have also been paid to those testing covid positive, on benefits and not being able to work; funded through a government grant for this purpose.

Question 29 from Councillor Dino Lemonides to Councillor Mary Maguire, Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement

Notwithstanding and setting aside the market volatility in equity, bonds, and alternative investment markets occasioned by the ongoing pandemic, there are several other factors closer to home in terms of human resource volatility that

are creating new and additional pressures, some unforeseen on the balance between the assets and liabilities of the LGPS Pension Fund. With this in mind, how much focus is the Chair, along with the rest of Pensions Policy and Investment Committee, placing on the liabilities side of the equation, and therefore what risk analysis and mitigation measures are being put in place to ensure the stability of the fund whose value has hitherto been on a constantly upward trajectory of at least the previous ten years, and probably longer still.

Reply from Councillor Maguire

In light of the ongoing pandemic and to discharge their responsibilities effectively the Chair and the PPIC members started meeting every month to monitor the performance of our Asset Managers to ensure alignment of purpose and responsibility.

We are currently reviewing the Fund investment strategy and the cashflow strategy but we monitor the Fund cash flow on a quarterly basis to ensure we are in line with the budget. We do monitor employers' contributions on a monthly basis to ensure all the employers in the Fund are fulfilling their obligations and to ensure we are in the position to pick any defaulting employer early in order to address any issue satisfactorily. We can therefore advise that the Fund do not rely on investment income as the Fund's benefit outgoings do not exceed the contributions income.

I can confirm the Fund March 2019 formal valuation surplus position and funding level has been maintained to date. The Fund assets and liabilities are being monitor on a quarterly basis. There have been lows and peaks for example the trend of the Fund funding level movements between March 2020 and September 2020 are as follows; Fund was in £50m deficit and funding level of 96% in March 2020, by June 2020 the Fund was in surplus by £62m with 105% funding level and the latest outcome of this quarterly update was as at 30 September 2020 which indicated that the Fund is in surplus by £35m, with a funding level of 103%.

We do expect the Fund to continue in an upward trajectory based on the work and decisions being made by the PPIC, with the assistance of the Fund advisors and officers and as permitted by the market conditions.

Question 30 from Councillor Lindsay Rawlings to Councillor Guney Dogan, Cabinet Member for Environment

Residents have been reporting considerable problems with renewing the permits for their green bins. Some have had to try for several hours and have resorted to phoning customer services. This has been reported and councillors have been told repeatedly that any problems have been fixed which is clearly not the case.

Would Councillor Dogan, Cabinet Member for Environment please explain what caused the problems, why has it taken so long to fix them, why were residents not

emailed to explain about the problems with the system and when the online system will be working again?

Reply from Councillor Dogan

There was a technical issue with the Council's website in mid-Jan which prevented customers from accessing a number of webpages including the garden waste page. The same issue affected the 'doorbell' function. The issue has since been fixed and testing shows that the issue has now been resolved, which means both the garden waste form and the 'doorbell' function are working.

Customers who had not subscribed to the green waste service were contacted as part of a suite of reminder emails and informed that if they had attempted to renew but were unable to complete the resubscription process, to try again to successfully submit their subscriptions. In addition, if customers have reported an issue with subscribing, the Contact Centre or back office have been in contact with them to help them through the process.

Since 23 January 2020 the Council has been receiving around 240 online subscriptions per day, with around 12,500 subscriptions in total.

Question 31 from Councillor Claire Stewart to Councillor Caliskan, Leader of the Council

The government has recently announced that those on the NHS shielded list will be asked to continue to shield. Can the Leader provide how many Enfield resident this will impact and how the council plans to support these residents?

Reply from Councillor Caliskan

Enfield has roughly 22,700 residents who are affected by the shielding advice from central government – 10,000 of these have been on the shielding list for some time, but there was an announcement in February that a further 12,700 more residents would be added to the CEV list. We have already contacted the initial 10,000 directly and have offered a variety of interventions ranging from food provision, financial support, social befriending, supermarket registration and other support.

Now we have a vastly expended list of CEV residents, we are making contact with them all, via refreshed communications, which will include advice on Covid vaccination and signposting to vital sources of information and help. We will also be offering them the opportunity to opt for postal voting in May, so they are spared the need to go outdoors and mingle with crowds.

We have set up a dedicated line via our contact centre which triages the needs of our vulnerable residents and either offers direct solutions or warm referrals to our accredited partners in the community sector. Similarly, we have opened up 2

centres now called Community Hubs which are located at our flagship libraries in Enfield Town and Edmonton Green as an option for business as usual support, for vulnerable members of the community including our CEV, if and when they are able to socialise.

Question 32 from Councillor Dino Lemonides to Councillor Mary Maguire, Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement

How concerned is the Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Resources by the numbers of people, not just from within the Council but also in schools, other admissible bodies and employer organisations, who are leaving the LGPS for a variety of reasons, so no longer paying into it, and obviously making a collective draw on the declining asset value of the fund, which not so very long ago was beyond fully funded; and do any such concerns extend to the likelihood that employer contributions will need to be increased within the next two financial years, thus creating additional burdens on the budgets of the Council and others which are already under immense strain and contain huge funding gaps which are becoming increasingly difficult to bridge.

Reply from Councillor Maguire

This position is being continually monitored. LBE has over 90% share of the scheme, which means over 90% of the Fund liabilities and the assets. We all try to discharge our responsibilities effectively. I therefore believe that it will be difficult for us to stop individual or employers from making a decision they foresee as a benefit.

If an individual or an employer do exit a scheme, an actuarial assessment is undertaken which results in adjustments to both assets and liabilities in the Scheme. Employers contributions are based on each employer's profile which constitutes the employer's policy, employee profile, demographics, contributions and benefits.

The Fund is still overfunded with funding level of 103% according to the last valuation update received by the Fund actuary as of 30 September 2020. The Fund assets stood at £1,364m as of 31 December 2020.

An assessment of employer contributions requirement is undertaken following an actuarial review of the pension fund investments and liabilities which happens once every three years, and each employer contribution rate will be determined based on their employer profile and their share of the Fund assets. There is no expectation of increased contributions in the next two years, as stated above the Fund is currently in surplus.

Question 33 from Councillor Lee David-Sanders to Councillor George Savva, Cabinet Member for Licensing and Regulatory Services?

Would Councillor Savva, Cabinet Member for Licensing and Regulatory Services inform the chamber why it took more than 3 months since the government's policy announcement, for the COVID-19 Marshalls to actually start patrolling our town centres?

Reply from Councillor Savva

You will recall that Enfield Council took the decision to increase patrols during the first wave, long before the Government made any announcement. Officers patrolling in our parks would offer advice to the public about social distancing. The patrols were stepped down once the infection rates had reduced, and the Government were easing restrictions.

When infection rates rapidly increased and Enfield (and London) were placed in tier 4, the council re-introduced additional Covid Marshalls across the borough, particularly our town centres. Indeed, the good work actually gained national media coverage.

Covid Marshalls are only one of the strands of the Council's response to Covid. Our Environmental Health Officers and Trading Standards officers have been engaging with and inspecting businesses throughout the whole pandemic and enforcing as needed, working with the Police also.

Question 34 from Councillor Katherine Chibah to Councillor Mahtab Uddin, Cabinet Member for Public Health

Can Councillor Uddin update the Council on how the vaccination programme is unfolding?

Reply from Councillor Uddin

I am pleased to say that to date the vaccine programme is rolling out very well; this is a very fast-moving context but as of 22 February 2021 there had been 63,179 first doses of the vaccine delivered in the borough and 3,000 second doses. We have a significant capacity to deliver vaccines including 3 GP sites, 4 pharmacy sites and we have opened the Dugdale Centre as a mass vaccination site with a capacity of 1,000 vaccines a day.

The vaccine programme has now been extended to those aged 65+ and those who have received a letter saying that they are at high risk from the coronavirus e.g. those defined as Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) aged 16-64.

In order to further support the above Public Health and our Communications Team have put together an extremely comprehensive programme of online seminars, briefings, videos etc targeting those communities who are perhaps more wary and

likely to be more vaccine hesitant. To date over 130 separate events / actions have been put in place. I myself have posted videos in Bengali and Sylheti and appeared on Bangladeshi TV encouraging uptake of the vaccine. From this I am pleased to report that to date vaccine refusal has been approximately 1%.

Our NHS colleagues are also contacting those who have refused the vaccine to have a 'clinical conversation' in order to assuage any unfounded fears residents may have. However, I would point out to all Councillors that those groups who seem to be vaccine hesitant are sadly also those who have suffered most from this virus and I would therefore urge all Councillors, and particularly those with reach into our BAME communities to do all they can to increase vaccine uptake.

Question 35 from Councillor Daniel Anderson to Councillor Ian Barnes, Deputy Leader of the Council

At the Environment & Climate Action Scrutiny Panel meeting last month when I presented Councillor Barnes with evidence from resident perception surveys in Waltham Forest as to the impact of the imposed Low Traffic Neighbourhoods, which showed that 49% believed that the road closures are of least benefit to the area, 36% believed that regular journeys had worsened, whilst 33% believed that traffic on their street had increased, he stated that he wasn't interested in residents views, but instead followed 'the science'. That being the case, and putting aside whether 'the science' as he puts it supports his position, can the Deputy Leader therefore please explain what's the point of consulting residents when he clearly has no interest in what they have to say?

Reply from Councillor Barnes

Councillor Anderson is misrepresenting the content of meetings. At no point during the Scrutiny Panel did I state that '*I wasn't interested in residents' views*'.

I expressed the view that the meeting of the Environment & Climate Action Scrutiny Panel and discussions should be guided by the science when analysing any subject in the climate change field. I referred to a paper from one of the UK's foremost research institutions, King's College, concerning air quality in Waltham Forest. The findings suggest that there has not been a decrease in air quality on main roads following the introduction of LTNs. Regrettably, Councillor Anderson dismissed this scientific report as 'selective science', despite the 'Environmental Research Group in the Analytical, Environmental and Forensics Sciences Department' being world renowned and respected.

Residents' views are of course important. Any resident can enter their thoughts into the live consultations and indeed we have already made changes to the Fox Lane LTN in response to residents' concerns, replacing a bollard with a camera to allow a further unhindered route for the Emergency Services.

Question 36 from Councillor Maria Alexandrou to Councillor Mary Maguire, Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement?

Will Councillor Maguire, Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement inform the chamber how much the council has spent on external consultants in relation to the Quieter Neighbourhood and Low Traffic Neighbourhood Schemes (LTNs)? Please include the company names of the consultants used.

Reply from Councillor Maguire

A number of specialists have been employed to assist with the continuing progression of the Low Traffic Neighbourhoods, particularly around monitoring of the projects. Air Quality consultants, for example, are assisting with assessing air quality impacts of the schemes. This work is ongoing and can be reported on upon completion of the projects.

Question 37 from Councillor Susan Erbil to Councillor Nneka Keazor, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Cohesion

Can Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Cohesion confirm how the council will celebrate the International Women's Day?

Reply from Councillor Keazor

Despite the challenges of Covid-19, the Local Authority will be celebrating International Women's Day on 8 March 2021. This will centre on the screening of a newly commissioned film featuring a broad cross section of women from our diverse and dynamic community sharing their inspirational stories and providing an Enfield contribution to this year's theme for the event which is 'Choose to Challenge'. The film will be first broadcast on the Council's YouTube channel on 8 March 2021 from 7pm to 8pm, and we will be engaging all our media channels to alert people to the event to get as many local people viewing as possible. It will remain on the Council's YouTube channel throughout March and beyond for those who wish to view it at their own convenience.

I believe that this is a really democratic and inclusive method of communicating with our communities and will build on our recent innovations for Black History Month and Holocaust Memorial Day to create new and positive engagement opportunities to inspire and support our residents. I hope all members will take the chance to find out a little more about the communities they serve and will watch the film on 8 March 2021, encouraging people in their own personal networks to do the same.

Question 38 from Daniel Councillor Anderson to Councillor Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council

Councillor Caliskan accused Councillor Chris Dey of 'hate speech', 'dog-whistle politics' and undermining 'decent political debate' for daring to say in what she termed was a 'disturbing video' that the Administration was behaving more like a dictatorship with regards to their imposition of Low Traffic Neighbourhoods and arguing that both her and Councillor Barnes should be removed from office. However, the Metropolitan Police, whom she reported him to, disagreed with her accusation determining that no criminal offence had occurred. Would the Leader of the Council therefore like to apologise both to Councillor Dey for falsely impugning his character, but also to the Metropolitan Police for wasting valuable police time?

Reply from Councillor Caliskan

"Councillor Anderson, it would be much better if you stopped wasting Council resources trying to impress the Tories and just asked them directly if they would let you into their party.

Councillor Dey and other opposition councillors have shown a history of engaging in dog whistle politics.

Councillor Dey's remarks follow a pattern of discriminatory discourse from Conservative Councillors towards elected members from ethnic backgrounds. Indeed, you will recall that two Conservative councillors in Enfield have already been suspended for explicit racism.

As a way of background - since being elected as Council Leader, one of the few of Muslim background in the country, I have had to challenge when language like 'regime' or 'dictator' is used to describe the administration I lead.

The connotation of the phrase is of course that the Council is now run like an Islamic Middle East dictatorship. And when the Sunday Times ran a racist article about Labour Council, instead of condemning it, the Leader of the Enfield Conservative Group promoted this article on social media. I subsequently took the decision to take legal action against the Sunday Times and won.

In his video Councillor Dey calls for my immediate removal as Council Leader, without referring to democratic elections. He also refers to the administration as 'undemocratic'. We have seen throughout history that divisive and dangerous language can lead to violent chaos. Cllr Dey should therefore apologise for causing distress by failing to accurately acknowledge that in our democracy, elections are the legitimate means to replacing politicians.

As I have explained, British politicians of an ethnic minority background are often portrayed as dictators and not democratically elected, this is a racist trope. The most obvious comparison that can be made is to anti-Semitism, a racism which continues through the repetition of tropes. Both you and I, have so passionately spoken out against this in the past and I hope you will join me in speaking up

against anti-Muslim racism.

Finally, the police have been very clear with me and other Labour Councillors that any incident that has caused offence because of racists undertones should be reported to the police. Whilst stand alone incidents might not result in any police action at that moment in time, the police actively encourage reporting because often with hate crime it is the cumulative reporting that is critical to being able to take action in the future.”

Question 39 from Councillor Maria Alexandrou to Councillor Ian Barnes, Deputy Leader of the Council

Will Councillor Barnes, Deputy Leader of the Council inform the chamber how many injuries and deaths from motor vehicles have been recorded within the Fox Lane LTN area over the last 5 and 10 years and how does this compare to other wards in the borough?

Reply from Councillor Barnes

Over the last 10 years there have been 40 recorded collisions resulting in injuries in the Fox Lane LTN area, with one collision resulting in serious injuries and all the others in slight injuries. Of these collisions, 21 occurred during the past 5 years, including the collision resulting in serious injuries.

Collision data is not analysed on a ward basis as this is not particularly relevant when assessing road danger, which is influenced by traffic volumes, speeds, number of vulnerable road users, complexity of junctions etc. rather than by ward boundaries.

Question 40 from Councillor Guner Aydin to Councillor Nneka Keazor, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Cohesion

Can the Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Cohesion describe how the Council will ensure that the objectives of the Fairer Enfield Policy will be met by all departments of the council?

Reply from Councillor Keazor

All departments across the Council will play their part in delivering on our new Fairer Enfield Policy. The policy clearly sets out the roles and responsibilities of different individuals and boards and makes clear that all members of the workforce are responsible for delivering services and working with our communities in such a way as to tackle inequality and promote equality of opportunity. The Policy also makes clear the role of lead directors for the different equalities objectives, of the Executive Management Team to provide visible leadership on equality and

inclusion, and the role of Councillors and Boards, such as the recently set up Equalities Board, in overseeing processes to eliminate discrimination and promote equality, diversity and inclusion.

To ensure that progress is monitored and tracked, officers are developing an annual action plan setting out what will be achieved in the first year following the approval of the new policy. This will include specific actions, named leads and outcome measures for each of the eight objectives; as well as actions to embed the principles of the policy across the organisation, in relation to our role as a community leader; service provider; commissioner and employer. This action plan will be published on the Council website by April 2021 and we will report on our progress to achieve these objectives in our Annual Equalities Report, with the next annual report due in early 2021.

Officers in the Council will oversee and monitor progress against the action plan through the officer-led Corporate Equalities Board. This will include ensuring that robust equality impact assessments are completed to inform all key decisions; that a new and refreshed training programme is rolled out; and that we continue to support and facilitate the staff networks which are playing a pivotal role in embedding equality and inclusion for staff across the organisation.

Question 41 from Councillor Derek Levy to Councillor Nneka Keazor, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Cohesion

In Questions to Full Council on 28 January 2021, you were invited to comment on how "the Council would be "celebrating" Holocaust Memorial Day on 27 Jan 2021".

Leaving aside the fact that Holocaust Memorial Day was actually on the previous day and not in the future, how might you justify the appropriateness of the word "celebrating" in preference to acknowledging or better still commemorating; the use of either, I suggest, would in context have been significantly less clumsy and less offensive.

Reply from Councillor Keazor

Leaving the semantics of words aside and focusing on the traumatic experiences faced by victims of the holocaust and genocide, I recognise and whilst paying tribute and honouring the victims, I celebrate the survival of many families and their achievements, sharing their stories. Their stories are the light in the darkness.

This year as we looked at the theme 'Be the light', it was a great privilege to recognise and keep alive memories as we commemorate HMD, to focus on Enfield as a place that should celebrate its history of diversity and home for many survivors' families.

The questions for council on the 28 January 2021 must be taken in context that

questions are asked in advance and should be answered as statement of truth. Of course, the plans for Holocaust Memorial Day were until the evening of event still plans and as such I would have been more than happy to provide an addendum at Full Council the following day to share the success of the evening in past tense.

We must not lose sight of the Council's unique and inspiring piece of broadcast on the evening which also provided Councillor Levy the opportunity to participate in the film. It is really encouraging to note that our Enfield HMD2021 event was a massive success with over 700 local people having viewed our film as of 22 February 2021. This is around seven times the levels of direct engagement on the event with our residents than we have evidenced in previous years. We should be hugely proud of creating this step change in how Holocaust Memorial Day forms a part of our calendar of civic engagement.

Notwithstanding the question, I am sure Councillor Levy appreciates the diversity and community cohesion in our borough.

Question 42 from Councillor Maria Alexandrou to Councillor Ian Barnes, Deputy Leader of the Council

In the questions and responses for full council on Wednesday 18 November 2020, Councillor Barnes, Deputy Leader stated that the current LTN consultation period scheduled to last until the Spring 2021 may be increased. Can we have further clarification?

Reply from Councillor Barnes

The two Quieter Neighbourhood projects that have implemented LTNs have both been implemented on an experimental basis and have different timelines.

Consultation on both schemes is currently ongoing as the schemes remain under review as we wait for traffic patterns to stabilise as the recovery continues. Updates will be added to the respective project pages.

Question 43 from Councillor Kate Anolue to Councillor Nneka Keazor, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Cohesion

The Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Cohesion should provide an update on youth crime in the borough and how the council continues to tackle youth crime in the borough

Reply from Councillor Keazor

Levels of youth violence continue to be a challenge to the Council and its partners, but there have been significant reductions during the 12 months to January 2021.

Although the lockdown has undoubtedly played a part, these reductions are not entirely linked with the Covid restrictions. The reduction of over 39% in Enfield is far greater than the London average (25.8%) and reflects the impact of partnership work including, but not limited to:

- Mentoring sessions targeted 1-1 and in groups through schools to help young people who may be vulnerable to crime;
- Targeted work to reduce the risk of exclusions;
- Installation of CCTV schemes in parks and ongoing work near schools to improve contextual safeguarding;
- Substance Misuse services for young people;
- Valentine's Day anti- Domestic Abuse communications campaign;
- Targeted youth outreach and continued on-line support through award winning projects funded through the Mayors' Young Londoners Fund.
- Work to support local Business Crime Reduction Partnerships, weapon sweeps, knife safes and developing opportunities for local residents, including parents and young people to speak with the police and partners to increase trust and confidence.

Through the North Area Violence Reduction Partnership and taking recommendations from the recent Public Health Assessment further activity is set out to build on the progress made this year, with focus on the return to schools for all children.

As lockdown is lifted, we will also see the full benefit of face to face youth work and sporting activities funded and delivered in Enfield.

There have been 198 fewer victims, but we have much more to do, and keeping young people safe continues to be the number one priority for the Safer and Stronger Communities Board.

Question 44 from Councillor Maria Alexandrou to Councillor Ian Barnes, Deputy Leader of the Council

Which community groups, please specify the names, has Councillor Barnes, Deputy Leader of the Council and council officers been engaging with regarding the LTNs over the last 6 months and how often?

Reply from Councillor Barnes

- Bounds and Bowes Voice (2/12/2020)
- Bounds and Bowes Together (7/12/2020)
- Warwick Road Action Group (15/12/2020)
- Friends of Brownlow Road (21/12/2020)
- Healthy Streets Bounds Green (6/1/2021)

- Fox Lane and District Residents' Association (21/1/2021)
- Fox Lane LTN group (TBC)

The meetings have been very constructive and it has been good to hear a diverse range of opinions from these groups. We will continue to meet with representatives of any groups who conduct themselves in a civil and respectful manner.