

Council Questions – 22 September 2021

Question 1 from Cllr Mahym Bedekova to Cllr George Savva, Cabinet Member for Licensing and Regulatory Services

As the scheme for Landlords who own properties in Enfield came into force on 1st September 2021. Would the Cabinet member for Licensing and Regulatory purposes give us an update on the Private Landlord's Licensing applications figures.

Answer:

The Selective Licensing scheme came into force on 1 September 2021. It requires the licensing of properties in 14 wards that are privately rented and occupied by one or two persons or one family household. It is being introduced to improve poor housing conditions, deprivation and anti-social behaviour in the private rented sector in these wards.

This Selective Licensing Scheme follows on from the Additional Licensing Scheme for smaller HMOs and which covers the whole borough that was introduced in Enfield on 1 September 2020.

I am pleased to share that though early days, as of 16 September 2021, there had already been 4,519 applications for selective licences and 2,351 applications in progress. Officers have also been dealing with a high volume of enquiries from landlords and agents. Since August, they have received over 2,000 telephone calls and responded to more than 840 emails. A big thank you to all the staff who have been involved in this and for their hard work during these busy and very challenging times.

Question 2 from Cllr Joanne Laban to Cllr Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council

Would Councillor Caliskan, Leader of the Council confirm whether the Mayor of London supports her proposals contained within the Draft Local Plan to de-designate Green Belt sites for development?

Answer:

The Greater London Authority has its own housing targets for all of London and the Enfield Local Plan will support the delivery of these London-wide targets.

To meet housing targets, both the Enfield Draft Local Plan and the Mayor's London Plan recognise the need for appropriate development and intensification of existing places over time to tackle the housing crisis. The Mayor of London has also stated that we need to increase housing provision in accessible parts of outer London to help address the substantial housing need in these areas and deliver market homes in more affordable price brackets. In Enfield, this means 7% of our Green Belt (as set out in the Draft Local Plan). If the Council does not agree a Local Plan (in

whatever form), the risk of uncontrolled development all over our Green Belt is heightened.

The Regulation 18 Enfield Draft Local Plan adopted by Council for consultation is based on evidence which indicates that there is a robust exceptional circumstances case for green belt release in Enfield. The purpose of the recently closed consultation was to gather views on the options, decisions and approaches put forward in the Draft Local Plan, including the exceptional circumstances argument.

There has been ongoing engagement with the Greater London Authority and Enfield Council is now processing all feedback and comments on the Draft Local Plan. The feedback received from stakeholders and the local community will inform the next version of the Draft Local Plan.

Question 3 from Cllr Charith Gunawardena to Cllr Ian Barnes, Deputy Leader

The ongoing Fox Lane Low-Traffic-Neighbourhood trial is resulting in frequent and increased traffic congestion at the Southgate circus roundabout and queuing on all five roads radiating from it during peak hours.

Meanwhile, the council has not published a clear transport strategy with timescales, communicating its plans for a transition to a greener economy - incorporating active travel infrastructure; affordable/ frequent/ accessible public transport; cheaper clean energy transport modes - thus resulting in uncertainty for ward residents concerned about the continuing local congestion.

Can the deputy leader confirm how the increased congestion faced by local residents at the Southgate circus since the introduction of the Fox Lane LTN is going to be addressed with the urgency it needs?

Answer:

I find it so disheartening to continue to see this 'Green' Councillor relentlessly attacking our efforts to increase active travel across our borough using School Streets, cycle lanes and Quieter Neighbourhoods. May I suggest that he might find it beneficial to explain to his local Green Party members why he has chosen to take this counterproductive approach?

One resident recently wrote to Cllr Gunawardena and copied me in to the email: *"As a voter for the Green Party both in local elections and national elections I am truly disappointed with what I read in your flyer. In the face of a climate catastrophe and irrefutable evidence of the benefits of LTNs you seem to be attempting to gain support from an angry minority who are against the scheme, as opposed to standing up for what your party truly believes in. With a continued approach I will certainly not be voting for you going forward."*

With regards to Fox Lane, ward Councillors were invited to a project update and monitoring methodology meeting on Friday 10th September. At this constructive session, which Councillor Gunawardena chose not to attend, it was explained how

further traffic monitoring is planned for the end of September, to help inform the decision making on this trial. Ward Councillors were invited to put forward further suggestions for monitoring locations, based on their knowledge of the area and their own contact with local residents.

The data collected will be shared and put in the context of the baseline data that was collected in 2019, prior to the implementation of this latest trial. It is well documented how this project has emerged and follows a long history of community engagement following a previously unsuccessful trial by Councillor Anderson.

The Council has recently approved the Healthy Streets Framework (KD5246), which sets out a series of activities that the Council will be pursuing to increase the levels of active travel. This paper sets out the links to the Enfield Transport Plan and the Mayors Transport Strategy. The policy direction by the Council, the London Mayor and the Government is aligned and clear, what is now required is action and funds to implement the necessary changes. Adopting trials, such as the Fox Lane project, is a sound approach to determining how interventions work in practice – the detailed published monitoring strategy sets out the approach to measuring the impacts of the trial.

Question 4 from Cllr Chinelo Anyanwu to Cllr Mary Maguire, Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement

Would the Cabinet Member for Finance & Procurement please outline:

- (i) what is being done to maximise income post-Covid and
- (ii) what support is being offered to those individuals through the welfare advice and debt team who are struggling financially.

Answer:

What is being done to maximise income post covid?

In March 2021, Cabinet agreed a new strategy 'A Progressive Approach to Managing Debt and Income in Enfield'. This strategy takes a progressive approach to the management of debt and income in Enfield, and is available on the website.

The key areas of income loss in terms of debt recovery during the pandemic were in Council Tax and Business Rates, in which Enfield's collection reduced compare to the year prior to the pandemic, by 1.5% for Council Tax and by over 12% for Business Rates at the end of 2020/21. This is despite the £6.8m hardship funding given to residents who receive Council Tax Support and over £40m on business grants. For the MTFP, the suppressed levels of Council of Tax and Business Rates were assumed to remain in 2022/23 before recovering to pre- pandemic levels across the subsequent three years.

Performance on collection at quarter one was broadly on track with the targeted collection level for Council Tax, and somewhat lower for Business Rates (but both close to London average performance levels). It is still too early to predict year end performance, given the large number of variables such as: impact of the end of furlough, impact of devaluations of Business properties and the longer term impact of customer debt - The Money Advice Trust identifies that a third of adults in Britain (31%) report being financially worse off as a direct result of the pandemic.

A recovery plan for the collection of Council Tax and Business Rates, based on the Councils new strategy, was developed and implemented once the final/last lock down ended in June 2021. Key features of this are: All enforcement activity that was suspended during the pandemic has now restarted; application of a new more proactive form of communication and engagement with customers, more flexibility in extending payment plans over a longer period of time; additional resources brought in to manage the increase in workload as a result of the build-up of debt; the newly created Welfare Advice and Debt Team (established in 2020) is being expanded to 8 staff; the new Council Tax Review team who check eligibility of discounts and exemptions, in addition to the regular fraud checks which take place.

What support is being offered to those individuals through the welfare advice and debt team who are struggling financially?

The Welfare Advice and Debt Team take referrals from other partners and self-referrals via the web and contact centre. They support those customers struggling with debt and poverty, ensuring they are given the best possible advice about how to manage their circumstances and improve their financial situation. This support is accessible on the website (with a financial hardship form that the team receive and use to contact the customer), on the Covid-19 community phone line, and casework is done via the phone and also by appointment through extended provision from the new Community Hubs in Edmonton Green and Enfield Town. The following are examples of the outputs from this team between September 2020 and August 2021, during which time 2,297 clients were supported

- o Total amount supported with emergency cash payments up to £100.00 - 89 Households
- o Total sum of benefits maximised for residents - £124k (this figure is made up of Universal Credit, Personal Independence Payment, Housing Benefit, Council Tax Support, Attendance Allowance, Carers Allowance, Legacy benefits and Pension Credit – not including sum from Pension Credit Campaign)
- o Total Amount of income maximised including pension credit campaign - £217k
- o Healthy Start take up campaign – led to a 5% increase in take up across the borough
- o New Benefit cap campaign – currently underway and working with the Housing teams to proactively target residents who are affected or will become affected by the Benefit Cap to improve their financial, housing and personal circumstances.

Question 5 from Cllr Joanne Laban to Cllr Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council

Will Councillor Caliskan, Leader of the Council explain why there were not any Local Plan consultation drop-in sessions held at Town or Oakwood Libraries leaving residents who live in central Enfield and indeed large parts of the Green Belt without a nearby drop in event?

Answer:

The locations of the drop-in events were designed to achieve a geographical spread across the borough. We have a wide range of spatial issues addressed in the plan (housing, employment, retail, green space, burial needs etc) and key areas where much of the borough's growth needs is proposed to be delivered are spread across the borough.

Drop-in locations of Palmers Green, Edmonton and Ordnance Road cover all of the issues and allow a range of people to attend and explore the matters that were of interest to them.

Question 6 from Cllr Daniel Anderson to Cllr Rick Jewell, Cabinet Member for the Environment

Can the Cabinet Member please explain why the decision to re-introduce free bulky waste collections, which seems to have been introduced on a whim, wasn't factored into the decision two years back to move towards fortnightly bin collections, charged for green bins and offering a free food waste collection, which would have made more sense as an integrated approach to service changes?

Answer:

The waste and recycling changes that have been introduced are for kerbside properties with a wheeled bin.

The bulky waste collection service is available to all council residents and was not in scope as part of the kerbside service changes.

Although only introduced from 16th September, I am pleased to report that the service is already being well utilised, which demonstrates the high value the community places on our services.

Question 7 from Cllr Kate Anolue to Cllr Mary Maguire, Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement

Would the Cabinet Member for Finance & Procurement provide a report of the donations and distribution of funds from the Small Business Hardship Fund.

Answer:

The Council set up the Small Business Hardship Fund - a crowdfunding campaign encouraging larger businesses whose circumstances allowed them to donate, to provide support to struggling micro/small businesses. The campaign was set up on Spacehive, a crowdfunding platform with a target of £25,000. Following efforts by officers, I am pleased to confirm this target was met from a series of contributions from local businesses and was match funded by the Council to create a pot of £50,000 to issue a £2000 grant to 25 businesses. These businesses also received a further top up of £6700 from the Additional Restrictions Grant funding.

Funding has been distributed to a range of small businesses types, including organisations which do the following: -

Video Production Company
Dance Company
Event Decoration Company
Swim School
Children's Entertainer
Exhibitions Organiser
Amateur Sports Club
Community Centre
Photographer
Home Fragrance retailer
Web Design
After School Club
Art Gallery

Question 8 from Cllr Lee David-Sanders to Cllr Guney Dogan, Cabinet Member for Commercial Services

Would Councillor Dogan, Cabinet for Commercial Services state why the changing rooms at Edmonton Leisure Centre have been out of action for months and what pressure has he put on Fusion Lifestyle to rectify the situation?

Answer:

When leisure centres were first able to open again in May, all changing rooms at the leisure centres remained closed. This was in line with industry guidance from UK Active. When all restrictions were lifted on July 19, (step 4 of the government roadmap), the showers in the changing rooms were opened to allow changing rooms to be used again.

At Edmonton leisure centre there are five changing areas. For people using the gym, taking part in group exercise classes and using the sports hall, there is a male changing room (one) and a female changing room (two) both of which are available for public use. For people using the swimming pools there is a female changing room (three), a male changing room (four) and the main changing area called a village changing area (five) which can be used by anyone and is the changing area that most people use.

Most changing rooms are available.

The male changing room for the swimming pool (4) is currently not being used for safety reasons because one of the banks of lockers for storing clothes etc has a sharp edge and there is a danger of people catching themselves on it. This issue will be resolved shortly officers are monitoring progress through regular contract meetings.

Anyone who normally uses the male changing room is currently using the adjacent village changing area, which means there are changing facilities available for people taking part in all activities at the centre.

Question 9 from Cllr Dinah Barry to Cllr Ian Barnes, Deputy Leader and Chair of the Climate Change Task Force

How can the Chair of the Climate Change Task Force justify allowing residents only 4 weeks from 9 August to 5 September to respond to the consultation on the Climate Action Plan Progress Report and Carbon Emissions Review when even our senior officers tell me they cannot respond then because “August is a challenging time ... due to the availability of officers, many have been on leave including myself.”?

Answer:

The 2020/21 Climate Action Plan Progress Report and supporting Climate Emissions Review were prepared to meet the Council’s commitment to regularly report on progress against its ambitious targets, to be a net zero carbon organisation by 2030 and for the borough to be net zero by 2040.

As these updates are not subject to statutory consultation requirements, the Council chose to have a proportionate engagement period in case there were comments. This was also an opportunity to get wider feedback on what climate action means for people and what action they are taking.

Even though the engagement period has now ended, the Progress Report concludes with a contact email address, so that there can be ongoing engagement with the public, stakeholders and Enfield Councillors wherever they may live in the UK.

Question 10 from Cllr Katherine Chibah to Cllr Nesil Caliskan, Leader

The 21-26 Affordable Housing Programme has recently been announced by the GLA – what were the results for Enfield and how will this support our plans to build homes for Enfield residents?

Answer:

Enfield has been allocated £167m to deliver 1,119 homes by March 2029. This is the second highest borough allocation and in the top five overall including Housing Associations – a clear indication of the GLA’s confidence in our housebuilding

programme. The funding will enable delivery of the first four phases of Joyce and Snell's estate regeneration scheme, support affordable housing delivery at Meridian Water and will expedite our direct delivery development programme through a Morden Methods of Construction (MMC) Buyers' Club with Barking, Waltham Forest, Haringey, Newham and Redbridge – the first of its kind.

Question 11 from Cllr Glynis Vince to Cllr Mahtab Uddin, Cabinet Member for Children's Services

Would Councillor Uddin, Cabinet Member for Children's Services set out his department's response to criticism made by Judge Oliver Jones in the case of a teenage girl forced into marriage?

Answer:

Once the Executive Director - People was made aware of the Judge's concerns he took the following action.

- Reviewed the Judgement, agreed with the findings and made enquiries about the victim's well-being and satisfied himself that the professional network was doing everything possible to help the victim to recover from her experience.
- A review of all 52 children that the staff responsible for the forced marriage case had worked with in the preceding three months. The evidence was reviewed with the Independent Scrutineer of Enfield's Safeguarding Partnership.
- An audit of the 120 children currently involved in court proceedings and pre-court proceedings casework. The outcome of this audit will be reviewed by the Enfield Safeguarding Partnership Executive Group during October 2021.
- Notified the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel.
- Ensured all other regulatory requirements were completed in a timely manner.
- Arranged mandatory sexual abuse training for social workers. Additionally, the Safeguarding Partnership has arranged forced marriage training for the multi-agency workforce.
- Improved links with international embassies to better understand cultural norms and how they may impact on children and young people.
- Strengthened the oversight of Heads of Service and lawyers of high-risk casework by amending the scheme of delegated decision making authority.
- In collaboration with the statutory safeguarding partners, commissioned an independent review of the case that will be shared with the national panel

and Ofsted and placed on the Safeguarding Enfield website if the Safeguarding Partnership is satisfied that the victim cannot be identified and that publication would not have an adverse effect on her emotional and physical well-being. This decision will be informed by a discussion between the independent author and the victim.

Question 12 from Cllr Dino Lemonides to Cllr Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council

The Council's draft Local Plan is the most important Council document for a generation and has already generated huge debate, given it very much appears to be a Borough-wide developer's charter that would potentially turn Enfield into a high-rise concrete jungle, and yet it is only available as either a 413-page document that will cost residents £87 for a hard copy, or alternatively as a one-page summary. Neither of which is satisfactory.

Can the Council Leader therefore please explain the rationale behind creating such an inaccessible and rather turgid document that requires detailed consideration, rather than a simplified, but sufficiently detailed document that would have made it more accessible for everyone, or was this deliberately intended to dissuade close attention to the dire consequences if this plan proceeds?

Answer:

The draft Local Plan has been prepared to meet government requirements for Local Plans. It is similar in length to that prepared by other local authorities – such as Brent's regulation 19 draft plan (400 pages). This reflects the increasing complexity of government requirements for local planning authorities, and the technical detail needed to successfully steer a local plan through to adoption.

I wrote a letter to every household in the borough regarding the Draft Local Plan, which was accompanied by a summary document, outlining key areas of the Draft Local Plan and explaining in clear terms the importance of the Plan. Council officers provided support to members of the public to help them navigate the document, including drop-in Q&A sessions in Enfield libraries and a glossary of terms on the Let's Talk website. There was double the number of visits to the Let's Talk and Enfield.gov.uk pages versus the last consultation and the Council has received circa 6,000 thousand responses which will help to shape the next stage of the plan's development.

I want to thank all residents, businesses and stakeholders for taking the time to respond.

Question 13 from Cllr Doug Taylor to Cllr Nesil Caliskan, Leader

What is Enfield doing to support the national effort to resettle Afghan refugees that have been working to support British forces in Afghanistan?

Answer:

As a Labour administration, we fully support the emergency response to the situation in Afghanistan. The Council has offered to assist in the resettlement of between 20 and 30 families into the private rented sector. Officers are working with Capital Letters to source properties and collaborating across the Council to ensure that we have a coordinated approach to supporting these households with access to healthcare, education and support with integration into the wider community.

I have been informed that an increasing number of refugees are presenting as homeless to London boroughs. Officers are working through London Council to ensure that when residents present in this way, rather than through the Home Office referral system, that the Government funding support is accessible. Because so many other boroughs use temporary accommodation in Enfield, officers are monitoring this situation closely to ensure that the funding and support service follow any families placed within Enfield by those boroughs.

Question 14 from Cllr Glynis Vince to Cllr Mahtab Uddin, Cabinet Member for Children's Services

Will Councillor Uddin, Cabinet Member for Children's Services set out the communication failings between his department and the school highlighted by Judge Oliver Jones in the recent case of a teenager being taken out of the UK and forced into marriage and what action he is taking to make sure these failings do not happen again?

Answer:

The Judgement cited delays in sharing important information between the school and children's services.

The Enfield Safeguarding Partnership has commissioned a review of the case to critically review all the issues highlighted by the Judge including the communication between the school and children services. The review will make recommendations which will be shared with the partnership to ensure the lessons of the past are learnt.

Training on Forced Marriages / Honour Based Violence / Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) has been commissioned by the Enfield Safeguarding Partnership which will be open to staff from schools and the rest of the partnership workforce in Enfield.

Cllr 15 Daniel Anderson to Cllr Rick Jewell, Cabinet Member for the Environment

When the decision was taken two years back to move towards fortnightly waste collections and fortnightly recycling collections, we were advised that these changes would lead to a substantial uptake in recycling rates from around 33% where it has hovered to 49%. However, as of now, despite the changes that have caused huge inconvenience for residents, the recycling rate has remained at or close to the 33% figure.

Can the Cabinet Member explain what has gone wrong?

Answer:

The Council was very clear what the main criteria for evaluating the changes to the kerbside waste service. At the time of writing the proposals in 2019 the financial position was that, since 2010 Enfield Council has had to save £178 million because of Government spending cuts and increasing pressure on services. The changes would make a considerable single contribution to the savings target for 2019/20 and the current budget gap of around £12 million for 2020/21. The like-for-like change in public spending with that for local government funding over the decade to 2019-20, shows that core funding from central government to the London Borough of Enfield (LBE) will have fallen by 50% in real terms.

The waste service change identified that a net saving of £2,040,034 every year could be achieved, and this has been delivered. Modelling of waste and recycling from pre-covid data suggested that the changes would deliver a step change increase in recycling rates if all of the complimentary activities were implemented in parallel. Further, the service change ensured that the Council conformed with the Mayor's Environment Strategy by providing separate weekly food waste collections, this commenced in November 2019.

The second phase of the kerbside changes (moving to alternate weekly collections) commenced in March 2020. The implementation of the service change was significantly disrupted by Covid-19 and the subsequent impact from lockdown on 23rd March. The plan was that once the physical/ operational changes are embedded (normally around 6 months) a series of behavioural engagement and communications would be deployed to support and change resident behaviour to increase recycling across the borough. Restrictions stopped face to face contact which had an impact on the planned street-based engagement.

With restrictions now being relaxed I am pleased to confirm this behavioural change and outreach programme was able to start in June and it will continue as we return to a new norm.

Despite these issues it is expected that the service change will have mitigated against these factors and provisional calculation suggest that there will be a slight improvement in Enfield's recycling rate. Whilst by comparison, many other London boroughs are expecting a fall in their recycling rate.

Question 16 from Cllr Christine Hamilton to Cllr Gina Needs, Cabinet Member for Social Housing

What is the progress of Enfield Let – how is it supporting landlords with the introduction of the council's private sector licensing scheme?

Answer:

Enfield Let was established to address the barriers some residents face when trying to rent in the private rented sector. These barriers include landlords not wanting to

rent to residents on Universal Credit, requiring credit checks and high deposit levels. The offer from Enfield Let is good for landlords and good for residents. As a result, the agency has achieved a portfolio of 150 leased properties in the first 9 months of operations.

Enfield Let has been liaising with its landlords regarding private sector licensing for 6 months. A bespoke project team has been created to support landlords in applying for licences and Enfield Let also refunds all its landlords the cost of the private sector licence as an incentive to lease their property through Enfield Let.

Officers are working with landlords and agents whose properties are currently used as nightly paid accommodation to explore the benefits of converting these into privately rented properties let through Enfield Let.

For larger agents who have multiple properties, officers have agreed a phased approach to enable them to register all of their properties within an agreed timescale.

Question 17 from Cllr Michael Rye to Cllr Ian Barnes, Deputy Leader of the Council

Would Councillor Barnes, Deputy Leader inform Council of the costs (physically moving and creating a safe suitable storage space) for relocating Enfield's Archive (presently in the Dugdale Centre) initially to Ridge Avenue Library and subsequently to the Civic Centre, including a timeline for these moves and guarantee continuity of access for the public to the archives?

Answer:

The budget for the temporary relocation of the Archive store from The Dugdale Centre to Ridge Avenue Library is £170k. The £170k cost of the temporarily relocation will not be lost when the archive store relocates to its final location at The Civic but will leave improved facilities for Library storage enabling the consolidation of library storage from a number of other sites around the borough with consequent efficiencies and savings. The £170k cost can therefore be considered a longer term investment in the library service.

The budget for a permanent archive at the Civic Centre is £265,000.

The temporary archive and the new reading room at the Civic Centre are programmed for completion this calendar year.

There may be a short period where access is unavailable to some of the archive material as staff manage the relocation of the service, but this will be kept to the minimum possible. It is intended that the new reading room will open simultaneously with the closure of the current one.

Question 18 from Cllr Ayfer Orhan to Cllr Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council

On the very important issue of safeguarding Councillor Barry and I have written to Councillor Nesil Caliskan the Leader of the Council three times. Each time we have explained our very serious concerns about the lack of political accountability around the safeguarding of Enfield's children.

Would Councillor Nesil Caliskan, please explain to the Council, her reasons for not ensuring the attendance of the previous cabinet member for children's services Councillor Rick Jewell at the Children's Safeguarding Executive Board meetings therefore leaving the safeguarding partnership without a political oversight at its highest level and assure council that the new cabinet member will fulfil his statutory duty and responsibilities for safeguarding children and young people by regularly attending the Children's Safeguarding Executive Board meetings?

Answer:

I would like to refer Cllr Orhan back to my responses to her correspondence during August and September 2021.

The Cabinet Member for Children Services has a wide range of statutory safeguarding responsibilities, but this does not include having to attend all of the partnership meetings. The Safeguarding Partnership arrangements changed in 2019 while Cllr Rick Jewell was the Cabinet Member. He took part in the discussions about the new arrangements and remained fully involved with the partnership pre and post the new arrangements.

Cllr Jewell scrutinised the work of the Safeguarding Children Partnership as part of his review of the annual report and was actively involved in the governance of the partnership through:

- Chairing the Enfield Safeguarding Children's Partnership Days.
- Attending partnership learning events about neglect, parental mental health and reducing parental conflict.
- Attending the children's multi-agency risk management panel where frontline staff escalate cases of concern to senior managers from across the children's safeguarding partnership.
- Meeting with the young Safeguarding Ambassadors.
- Chairing the Local Youth Justice Board that oversees the effectiveness of the partnership's work with young offenders, victims and their families.
- Chairing the Corporate Parenting Board and ensuring that the needs of children in care and care leavers are given the highest priority.
- Cllr Jewell also carried out a number of personal visits to Council services, schools, the police and hospitals to hear first hand feedback from frontline staff about the issues impacting on their ability to keep children safe.

Prior to becoming a Councillor, Cllr Jewell, was a lay person on the former Local Safeguarding Children Board from 2013.

Cllr Jewell has demonstrated strong political oversight of the safeguarding partnership throughout his tenure as the Cabinet Member for Children's Services.

There has been significant investment into child protection services in recent years to increase the number of social workers, reduce caseloads and improve management oversight.

Since 2018, Enfield Council has delivered a year on year increase in the Children's Services budget. The net budget is now over £7.8m higher than previously. The recent investment is set against a decade of reductions in local government funding and historical underfunding of Enfield with an annual financial settlement that is almost £12m below the Government's own assessment of Enfield's financial need.

Question 19 from Cllr Ergin Erbil to Cllr Ian Barnes, Deputy Leader

Could the Deputy Leader update us on our hugely successful School Streets schemes and in particular the results from the consultation that recently took place?

Answer:

A report has recently been published which sets out the results from the school street trials. Whilst this report is still subject to final approval, I am pleased to announce that the intention is to make all 12 trial schemes permanent. This will include the addition of enforcement cameras at a number of locations, to enable schools to reduce their voluntary marshalling contribution, should they decide to do so.

It is essential to include a focus on our young people when implementing active travel schemes and while the Conservative opposition, Community First and the solitary 'Green' Councillor oppose School Streets alongside other active travel methods, this administration is committed to expanding them right across our borough until every school street we can logistically secure has protection.

In line with the recommendations in the poverty commission report, we are currently working with a number of schools in the east of the Borough to identify future locations. An announcement will follow, but our ambition is to continue to significantly exceed the previous target of two new schools every year.

Question 20 from Cllr Maria Alexandrou to Cllr Rick Jewell, Cabinet Member for Environment

What are the expected recycling figures for 2021 and will the Council meet its expected set target? Please provide detailed figures.

Answer:

The Council has not received a verified figure from DEFRA on the borough's recycling rate but the expectation is that there will be a slight increase.

Question 21 from Cllr Dinah Barry to Cllr. Rick Jewell, Cabinet Member for

Environment

Since work on the wetlands began in 2014, Firs Farm park has been transformed into a beautiful place where nature and people thrive; it makes a huge contribution to the mental and physical health of people in Enfield and the education of many of our children.

Please explain why a proposal to site a crematorium or burial ground on this Metropolitan Open Land close to a hospice and in conflict with the council's own aspiration to provide a "world-class sports village" at Firs Farm has been included in the Draft Local Plan.

Answer:

Based on evidence, Enfield Council will need to provide an additional 15,152 burial plots i.e. 7.7 hectares of land in Enfield by 2041 to meet needs of our local residents. Identifying possible suitable sites for this purpose has been part of the Local Plan process, as required by national policy. To date the process has identified three 'potential' sites in the Draft Local Plan – the area to the south of Firs Farm Wetlands – but not on the wetlands themselves; or Church Street Recreation Ground; or Sloemans Farm for a burial ground.

For a crematorium, this work has not progressed past looking into options and identifying potential areas. Any plans would require planning permission and consultation. Following the recent consultation on the Draft Local Plan officers will review the evidence and the comments received.

I can categorically state that irrespective of whether or not any of these plans are taken forward Enfield Council will not be building on Firs Farm Wetlands – a cherished and much appreciated asset. Enfield Council has invested significant time and funds in partnership with the Friends of Firs Farm in order to produce a beautiful community facility for residents across the borough.

Additionally, I can confirm that the plans the Friends of Firs Farm and Enfield Council have put together for a café and other facilities at Firs Farm will not be affected.

Question 22 from Cllr Mahmut Aksanoglu to Cllr Ian Barnes, Deputy Leader

I understand that we are looking to try to reintroduce beavers back into the wilds of Enfield.

Could the Deputy Leader let us know how this project, which I know is dear to his heart, is progressing?

Answer:

This is a project both myself and the Leader have been pursuing for the past couple of years and I am really pleased that it is edging closer to fruition. The Council is aiming to reintroduce beavers this autumn at a location within the Forty Hall Estate – a suitable site has been identified and most of the measures required to

enable this exciting proposal to go ahead are in place.

Subject to approval from Natural England, the trial will see the semi-aquatic mammals introduced at a site within Forty Hall Farm, as part of a wider Natural Flood Management initiative. The Eurasian Beaver was hunted to extinction in Great Britain but recent studies have shown that their return could help to restore river habitats. Described as a 'keystone' species, the presence of these mammals benefits areas in several ways. Beavers' dams can act as natural flood barriers that protect homes downstream. Their dams can also create wetland habitats where other forms of wildlife can flourish.

Enfield Council is keen to explore natural flood management techniques to reduce the risk of harm from flooding. These techniques restore natural features such as woodlands and wetlands that help to slow the flow of water during periods of extreme rainfall and therefore reduce the risk of flooding downstream, in areas such as Edmonton.

This year there was significant rainfall in England as well as in Europe, which is largely thought to be a result of devastating climate change caused by human activity.

Enfield Council has been clear in its Blue and Green Strategy and Climate Action Strategy that rewilding and landscape restoration form a key component of natural flood management. By introducing Eurasian Beavers in an enclosed release trial, we will have the opportunity to increase our understanding of a UK native species while helping the surrounding environment. This is also a great chance to work closely with Capel Manor College and the wider local community, to learn about biodiversity, sustainable water and the ecosystem. It is hoped that this project will also provide an opportunity to engage with, educate and inspire school children."

Officers are just finalising the requirements with Natural England before final approval is confirmed and hope to do a formal announcement very soon.

Question 23 from Cllr Maria Alexandrou to Cllr Ian Barnes, Deputy Leader of the Council

Will Councillor Barnes provide the total percentage of residents that have given their views on consultations for Low Traffic Neighbourhood schemes (LTNs) including the percentage breakdown of those that do and do not support the LTNs and also include the total number of residents that registered a view.

Answer:

In June the Council published a full and transparent consultation report for the Bowes Quieter Neighbourhood project, which has been funded by Councillor Alexandrou's Conservative Government and implemented under its strict guidance.

The report can be found here <https://letstalk.enfield.gov.uk/bowesQN>.

This report was produced with an external organisation and sets out the information that was provided through the consultation. There were 1,756 responses to the online consultation, from 1,301 respondents, and a paper survey, which received 24 responses. In addition to this, further responses were provided by email.

A similar report will be produced for the Fox Lane Quieter Neighbourhood. Future decision reports will refer to this consultation feedback and outline how these views contribute to the Council's final decision making for these trial projects.

Question 24 from Cllr Dino Lemonides to Cllr Mary Maguire, Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement

By the end of September 2021, how much would have been paid in Special Responsibility Allowances since May 2018 - expressed as a gross amount - to what were originally three, and more recently are now four, Associate Cabinet Members.

Answer:

There are four Associate Cabinet Members (ACM) who cover Enfield North, Enfield South East, Enfield West and one non-geographical ACM who covers children and young people.

The ACM's role is to provide an overview and insight into issues affecting their remits. From May 2018 until September 2021, the SRAs paid were as follows:

Enfield North £25,360
Enfield South East £25,360
Enfield West £25,360
Children and Young People £8,876

The overall Special Responsibility Allowances paid to the four Associate Cabinet Members during this period is £84,956.

Question 25 from Cllr Ayten Guzel to Cllr Ian Barnes, Deputy Leader

Can the Deputy Leader give us an update on the retrofitting project that is being undertaken in conjunction with Waltham Forest? What kind of figures will be needed to make this work achievable?

Answer:

Given that around a third of London's emissions come from housing and poor-quality housing has an impact on resident's health and wealth, housing retrofit is a priority for London with early action supported by politicians at all levels of government.

The Retrofit London programme, which the Council is jointly leading with colleagues in Waltham Forest and is initially focused on housing, aims to support delivery of more retrofit including fabric improvements (for example better windows and more insulation), heat decarbonisation (heat pumps and networks) and renewable energy

generation (solar panels).

Development of the programme is progressing well:

- Expert consultants were appointed to undertake housing stock analysis and draft an action plan, supported by a cross sector task and finish group.
- Data analysis of London's housing stock has been completed. This provides a baseline and identifies requirements for delivering both an average of EPC B and net zero across London by 2030.
- There has been extensive engagement with boroughs, GLA, housing associations, retrofitting experts and green finance experts.
- The London Housing Retrofit Action Plan has been completed and endorsed by London Housing Directors, Chief Executives and Housing Cabinet Leads. It will be formally launched at an event in October.

The Action Plan is a significant first step, setting out a considered and comprehensive approach, backed by robust analysis.

The next stage is to move forward with implementation, including setting up a Steering Group with senior representatives from across government and the private sector.

The estimated cost across London for bringing homes up to an average of EPC B is £49bn, while for net zero it is around £98bn. It will also require the retrofit sector to grow significantly and for many more people to be skilled up; around 110,000 to deliver an average of EPC B and 196,000 for net zero. The costs and skills present challenges but also offer significant opportunities for investment and employment.

London's local authorities have a key role to play in supporting delivery of housing retrofit but it is clear that success will depend on partnership working across sectors. In addition, there need to be significant ongoing funding from Government to give the private sector the confidence to invest and support households on lower incomes.

By leading this programme, Enfield Council is working with other councils to call on Government to provide adequate funding to enable us to retrofit our council housing as well as bringing in resources to support the private housing sector in the Borough.

Question 26 from Cllr Lindsay Rawlings to Cllr Ian Barnes, Deputy Leader of the Council

Would Councillor Barnes, Deputy Leader of the Council inform Council on what action is he taking to increase the amount of Parking Enforcement across the

borough following a drastic increase in parking infringements causing problems with road safety and anti-social behaviour to residents.

Answer:

It is apparent that traffic levels have steadily increased as lockdown measures have eased during this year. The Council's parking contractor robustly enforces against contravening vehicles making use of its foot patrol and mobile enforcement (bikes and vehicles) capabilities.

Officers will continue to call on our contractor to deploy extra resource to problem areas as deemed necessary.

Cabinet recently approved a Healthy Streets Framework which provides a strategy for how over time, Enfield will have greener, healthier and more equitable streets for residents, workers and visitors.

Councillor Rawlings could offer significant assistance by lobbying her government to change the law so that photographs and footage taken by residents could be utilised particularly with regards to drivers parking in the cycle lanes which I know causes much distress to many residents.

Question 27 from Cllr Derek Levy to Cllr Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council

Tower Hamlets is one of two more London Boroughs which have very recently halted the controversial Low Traffic Neighbourhood schemes introduced after the borough's elected mayor admitted they are "not popular" with a significant number of the local population. Indeed, Mayor John Biggs even went as far as to remove the councillor in charge of the schemes from his job last month.

When can the long-suffering residents of the much put-upon wards of Southgate Green, Palmers Green, Winchmore Hill, Southgate, and Bowes expect the Leader of Enfield Council to follow suit and do the same?

Answer:

Whilst Cllr Levy may advocate basing decision making on what is 'popular' others may argue, particularly when responding to a climate emergency, that a more strategic approach would be beneficial. What residents think of Quieter Neighbourhood trials is an important consideration and needs careful analysis, along with the other considerations published in the monitoring approach for these projects.

Question 28 from Cllr Hass Yusuf to Cllr Ian Barnes, Deputy Leader

Could the Deputy Leader let us know how the Doctor Bike events and secondhand bike markets have gone over the summer months? What sort of figures have been seen in the markets in particular?

Answer:

I am pleased to confirm that Dr Bike events restarted in April 2021. Dr Bike events have expanded from 3 locations in the borough in 2019 (Enfield Town Library, Edmonton Green Cycle Hub and Palmers Green Library) to 8 locations in 2021. From April to September officers have run Dr Bike sessions at North Middlesex and Chase Farm Hospitals, Albany Leisure Centre, Bowes Quieter Neighbourhood Area and, starting in October, Oakwood Underground Station.

Dr Bike sessions have also been offered at each of the 8 Second-hand Bike Markets and the 3 Cycle-In Cinema events. So far, a staggering 663 bikes have been serviced/repaired over 37 separate events. Attendance at all of the markets has been high and the Council has received positive feedback from the community.

Question 29 from Cllr Edward Smith to Cllr Gina Needs, Cabinet Member for Social Housing

Would Councillor Needs, Cabinet Member for Social Housing set out her department's response to the fire at Curlew House EN3 and what improvements will be made as a result?

Answer:

Enfield Council takes safety of our residents in their homes and buildings very seriously and have an expert building safety team in place and a £60m investment programme in safety measures. A fire occurred in the compound area outside Curlew House on the Alma estate. The fire did not spread to the building fabric and there were no injuries as a result of this incident.

The fire was caused by the careless disposal of smoking material from an upper floor balcony which ignited an accumulation of litter/ debris that had collected inside a compound area.

Officers are undertaking a post incident review and will be implementing recommendations for improvement as necessary. I will also be updating residents in the block and continuing to promote their part in ensuring safety on their estate. Working together with residents helps promote a vigilant approach to reducing safety risks.

Question 30 from Cllr Susan Erbil to Cllr Alev Cazimoglu, Health and Social Care

What is the Council doing to prevent smoking in Enfield?

Answer:

A combined approach of education, regulation and policies to denormalise smoking is required to stop people from starting smoking. Enfield is a signatory to the Local Government Declaration on Tobacco Control, which commits the Council to take comprehensive action to address the harms of smoke and protect tobacco control work from the commercial and vested interests of the tobacco industry. Enfield Council aims to reduce the number of people starting smoking by denormalising smoking (through creating smoke-free space and education), providing advice and support for smokers, and ensuring regulation of tobacco sales and illicit tobacco.

Denormalising tobacco is vital to stop young people from starting smoking. Creating 'Smokefree' spaces, which are areas where smoking is unacceptable, work in several ways; they prevent children and adults from being exposed to second-hand smoke, ensure children are not influenced by seeing adult smokers, and prompt smokers to quit. We are drafting a smoke free Enfield proposal in line with the Health and Wellbeing strategy priority to increase smoke-free community spaces and support young people to not start smoking. Educating young people about the harms of smoking is also key. Public health behaviour advisors visit schools and colleges to present information about why not smoking is so important. For example, a team is visiting freshers fairs this month to speak to new students.

Research shows that 82% of young people that smoke reported having a family member with the habit. Therefore, prevention includes helping smokers stop, particularly parents who smoke. Because young people are so influenced by family members who smoke and smoking is so harmful to unborn children, Enfield Council provides one-to-one support for pregnant women and their partners. Furthermore, the public health team has recently successfully secured funding for smoking cessation services focused in the wards with the highest rates of deprivation and smoking. One element of this is training community advisors to give advice and support to smokers and spread the message about the harms of tobacco.

Despite significant gains in reducing the prevalence of smoking in recent years, smoking remains the greatest cause of preventable illness and avoidable death. Furthermore, we continue to see stark inequalities in smoking prevalence, with smoking rates three times higher in the lowest earners compared to the highest. Preventing people from starting smoking is essential if we are to achieve the Government's aims for London to be the first Smokefree city by 2030.

Question 31 from Cllr Edward Smith to Cllr Rick Jewell, Cabinet Member for Environment

Would the Cabinet Member for the Environment inform the Council whether he is prepared to terminate the contract with Mad Husky following the serious damage to Trent Park the 51st State/Metrofest music festival on 7th/8th August this year?

Answer:

The Contract for 51st State and Metrofest events is an annual contractual agreement. I have been informed that no discussions have been had regarding next year's events schedule with the organisers of these events. The focus at Trent Park

currently is to repair the damaged showground, and I am pleased to confirm that this will commence on 20th October.

A bond is secured by the Council as part of the terms of the contract, this covers any damage to the Park or Open space, should repairs to damage exceed the value of the bond, then the organiser is invoiced for the additional value, both pre and post inspection of the grounds is performed by the council and organiser to ensure a clear understanding of condition and expectation.

Question 32 from Cllr Dinah Barry to Cllr Rick Jewell, Cabinet Member for Environment

In 2016 the council decided that it was necessary to mitigate for the loss of about 14% of the on-street parking in Winchmore Hill Broadway because this would have an unacceptable impact on local businesses. Since then the introduction of the 456 bus has made on-street parking in Farm Road so difficult for residents that some are forced to park in Fords Grove.

Why do you now suggest in the draft local plan that the council might remove all parking from Fords Grove?

Answer:

Buses play a critical role in helping residents make sustainable travel choices and I welcome the introduction of the 456 bus route, the first new route in Enfield for around 20 years. Many of the properties in Farm Road benefit from off-street parking and we have retained as much on-street parking as possible. Whilst there has been some reduction in on-street parking in Farm Road this needs to be seen in the context of the wider benefits associated with the new bus route. Both national, regional and local policy makes it clear that we must reduce car dependency and helping to improve public transport forms a key part of this strategy.

The draft Local Plan identifies a number of sites that could help the Council meet its challenging housing target, including Fords Grove car park. Should a scheme come forward in the future, its impact on the wider area would need to be fully assessed as part of the normal planning process.

Question 33 from Cllr Elif Erbil to Cllr Alev Cazimoglu, Health and Social Care

How are Enfield Council and NHS partners promoting COVID vaccination among young people in Enfield?

Answer:

Enfield Council has worked collaboratively with the NHS over recent months to promote and improve vaccination rates in the under 40s cohort.

The Public Health team and communications team have worked closely to promote a breadth of assets to all audiences under 40s including targeted social media

campaigns, information in digital newsletters to residents, internal staff channels, young people “V for Vaccinated” campaign, targeted comms to Bulgarian, Polish and Romanian communities included translated assets displayed in shops, cafes, GP surgeries and pharmacies. The vast campaign of work will continue to be guided by the data which allows us to specifically target different demographics week on week as we monitor progress in vaccination uptake. The Council ran a digital campaign that directed users to the NCL FAQ page. Since the campaign launched over 40% of visitors to that page accessed it via the Enfield Council campaign.

In addition, the vaccine bus has been operating over the past month and has been strategically located in areas where a large proportion of people under 40 remain unvaccinated. The vaccine bus has been successful in attracting under 40s for their first dose, the average age of those receiving a vaccine is 33 years. A total of 636 vaccines have been administered, of which 41.5% were aged 40 or under. In targeting eligible school aged children, the vaccine bus will visit 6 schools and 3 colleges. The public health team have also led an online Q&A COVID-19 vaccine session aimed at students.

Additionally, Enfield Council are working closely with our School Aged Immunisation Service (Barnet, Enfield & Haringey NHS Trust) to roll out vaccination of 12-15 year olds in schools starting 22nd Sept.

Finally, Enfield Council and the CCG are continuing to working closely with Edmonton Community Partnership (ECP) and the Caribbean and African Health Network (CAHN) to deliver distinct and targeted pieces of work to improve the vaccination rate amongst the under 40s in Eastern European and Black African and Caribbean communities respectively.

Question 34 from Cllr Edward Smith to Cllr Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council

Would Councillor Caliskan, Leader of the Council confirm whether or not sites at Meridian Water not subject to development agreements remain viable given the increase in development costs?

Answer:

The Country has seen a significant increase in construction costs arising from the combination of Brexit and the pandemic. This is not unique to Enfield and September's Capital Programme monitor (KD 5335) noted the increase is likely to have some effect on a variety of the Council's construction projects.

Meridian Water is updating its financial model to understand the full implications of increases in development and construction costs following Brexit and in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Analysis of the new financial model will include updated construction costs and adequate contingencies to ensure future market events do not disrupt the scheme's overall financial viability. The forthcoming financial model and any subsequent material changes to the masterplan approach will be brought to Cabinet in due course.

We are making good progress to update the financial model and despite the challenges posed by construction cost inflation Meridian Water is a long-term project and we remain confident about the deliverability and viability of Meridian Water.

Question 35 from Cllr Derek Levy to Cllr Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council

Alice Roberts - a long time trustee with the Campaign for the Protection of England (CPRE), and who shared her recent highly critical letter to the Leader with all Councillors - believes that that protection of green spaces is vital for the well-being of people in both rural and urban areas. She is far from alone in rejecting the unevidenced views so poorly articulated and argued within the current version of the Draft Local Plan that building on the Green Belt will provide genuinely affordable housing for those people living in Enfield who are in most dire need of it. I too contend that building on the Green Belt will not solve the deep housing crisis in Enfield, and if anything will make it even worse.

In terms of formulating a holistic view of rural policy development, what does the Leader of Enfield Council, know that Alice Roberts and many other esteemed individuals and specialist organisations do not, and what are her expert credentials for determining otherwise.

Answer:

In my introduction to the local plan, I wrote about the borough's housing crisis, and reinforced that the Council is committed to creating a lifetime of opportunities for all residents, ensuring more quality homes in well-connected neighbourhoods, to investing in safe, healthy and confident communities, and to creating an economy that works for everyone in Enfield.

I also said that the pandemic has reminded all of us how important our open green spaces are for health and wellbeing. The Local Plan is an opportunity to provide to move accessible green spaces for residents across our borough, including in our more urban areas; this will address existing poverty and inequality.

The Draft Local Plan and its evidence base, including the Growth Topic Paper, set out the rationale for the Spatial Strategy proposed. This includes justification for using a small percentage of the Green Belt to meet our housing needs, policies to improve access to green space (including in the Green Belt), and ensuring that 50% of the housing proposed on the green belt is affordable – much higher than elsewhere in Enfield or London.

I am pleased that CPRE have responded to the consultation, and I am confident officers will be taking their views on board alongside all the stakeholder and resident responses.

Question 36 from Cllr Mahym Bedekova to Cllr Alev Cazimoglu, Health and

Social Care

Can the Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care provide an update on the mandatory vaccinations of care home staff?

Answer:

As many know it will be mandatory for any person working in care, whether as an employee of that home or as a contractor or visiting professional, to be double vaccinated from 11th November 2021. This follows the legislation that passed through Parliament on 22 July. Employers, therefore, had 8 weeks in which to get their workforce to have at least the first vaccination to allow the second vaccine to be taken in time for the November date.

While the debate about the singling out the Care home workforce, as opposed to the wider NHS and care workforce is for another day, I take this opportunity to sing the praises of all those involved in vaccinating care home staff. Council officers, local care home providers, NHS and GP's and their staff have done sterling work in ensuring that over 95% of the workforce met this deadline. We have over 2,500 care home staff in Enfield and less than 150 staff have told us they have not had the first vaccine. This represents less than 5% of the workforce. This is a marvellous effort by all concerned.

In particular, Council officers in Adult Social Care and Public Health have made great efforts to inform and educate care home managers and their staff about the law and the positive effect of the vaccine areas such as Covid numbers and hospitalisations. Efforts have ranged from individual conversations, to whole home meetings, to webinars on the subject of the law and vaccinations in general have taken place to achieve this outcome.

It has been far from plain sailing, particularly so when Government guidance on exemptions, promised in July, was not forthcoming until 14th September. Working under the vague instruction that people had to have the vaccine unless they were exempt has made the achievements all the more to celebrate. I express my thanks to all involved.

We await to see whether workforce numbers will be impacted by this guidance, which adds to the already significant workforce shortages experienced by the sector. The social care reform promised by the Prime Minister did not address the many challenges facing social care and has been a huge disappointment to all those working in and needing social care.

Please note that following the issue of additional Government guidance, with effect from 15 September 2021 on a temporary basis staff working in care homes who have a medical reason why they cannot have the COVID 19 vaccine can self-certify that they meet the medical exemption criteria by completing and returning a specific form. This temporary self-certification process has been introduced for a short period prior to the launch of the new NHS COVID 19 Pass system which will go live imminently. Once the NHS COVID Pass system is launched staff will need to apply for medical exemption through that process. The temporary self-certification will

expire 12 weeks after the NHS COVID pass system is launched.

Question 37 from Cllr Chris Dey to Cllr Rick Jewell, Cabinet Member for the Environment

Will Councillor Jewell, Cabinet Member for Environment inform Council when the actions agreed on the walk of the New River Loop on 20th August be completed?

Answer:

As a new cabinet member for environment, I have enjoyed getting out and about across the borough to meet with residents and councillors. The walkabout of the new river loop last month was one such event and I want to thank officers for their time that morning.

Officers have developed a draft management plan which identifies and prioritises short and long-term actions to improve the condition of the New River Loop. The plan takes account of the actions discussed during the walk on 20th August. The next step, in September, will be to issue the draft management plan to Ward Councillors for comment to make sure we get input from a wide range of people with local knowledge. The plan will then be made available and implemented. In addition, Senior Managers from the Council have contacted senior managers at Thames Water and will be meeting during mid-September to discuss the supply of water.

Question 38 from Cllr Ayfer Orhan to Cllr Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council

Enfield's Borough Profile reveals the challenges to health facing Enfield residents in more depth than 2.1.8 in the Spatial Portrait (Chap 2). Indeed, more specifically the borough profile (p9-13) estimates that;

- 35% of Enfield residents are White British.
- 26% Other White ethnic groups.
- Black ethnic groups are estimated at 18%,
- Asian 11%.

It goes without saying that it is important that all communities are considered and deserving of a mention especially where inequalities have a detrimental impact on so many communities across the Borough. We can see that the Greek and Turkish speaking groups are singled out for a special mention. But the figures clearly show that Black ethnic groups are more numerous than any other groups and yet are not mentioned. Can the Councillor Nesil Caliskan, explain why that is?

Answer:

The quote from the Local Plan is misrepresented in this question, the full text of 2.1.8 sets out the *languages* spoken in Enfield's relative to the national picture.

Background info: The wider context of the quote from the Spatial Portrait was *languages* not ethnicity. The reason why this is mentioned is because **nationally** we have the largest population of Greek and Turkish speaking. Full text is:

2.1.8 Enfield's residents are younger than the London average and like other London Boroughs, are proudly diverse. Enfield has the largest proportion of Greek and Turkish speaking people in the country and 195 languages and dialects are spoken by school pupils who live in Enfield. Life expectancy is increasing, though there are higher rates of diabetes and obesity than the national average. Enfield as a whole is the ninth most deprived London borough, though this overall assessment masks significant disparities within the Borough. Ten areas rank within the 10% most deprived neighbourhoods in England, all of which lie within the east of the borough. Median incomes in the most affluent neighbourhoods are more than four times those of the least affluent.

Question 39 from Cllr Claire Stewart to Cllr Rick Jewell, Cabinet Member for Environment

What impact is the lack of HGV drivers currently having on the local authority either in terms of supply of goods or in carrying out Council services?

Answer:

I am aware that there is a national shortage of HGV drivers across the country and that neighbouring London boroughs have had to reduce their services as a consequence. However, through careful management and working closely with our agency partners, officers have been able to maintain a full waste service during this period.

Question 40 from Cllr Terry Neville to Cllr Ian Barnes, Deputy Leader of the Council

Would the Deputy Leader comment on the following statement issued by the Labour leader of Ealing Council, telling the council whether she agrees with his democratic approach to the vexed question of LTNs

“Councillor Peter Mason, leader of Ealing Council:

“We promised to listen to local people’s views on active travel initiatives like LTNs, and we have done just that. The council is now acting upon the results and moving forward with those LTNs that were supported by the majority living within them.

“We pledged to be an open, transparent and inclusive council, and I want to be straight with local people. We cannot yet make any decisions on LTNs that did not enjoy the support of a majority of residents living in them, as the government’s guidance on LTNs like Ealing’s suddenly changed on 31 July.

“I am sure local people will understand that our decisions on the trial schemes need to be legally robust, so we need to hold off on making final decisions for now, but

we are hopeful that we will be able to make a decision in September. The heavy-handed, top-down approach being pursued by the government is not the right way to ensure we can work together to deliver active travel schemes that can secure popular support.

“We will continue to explore future LTN schemes, but we will only be implementing where we are satisfied that the data and public support them. Some of the fears around increasing traffic times and poorer air quality that some people have expressed concerns about have not come true, but we cannot definitively say they have got better because of our LTNs either.

“As these LTN trials were introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic, we also unfortunately do not have data on how they have impacted on walking and cycling, and how much they have encouraged active travel. In future, we want a key part of finding out how well our schemes are working to be about how many more people are walking or popping to the shops on their bikes, and how many more children are scooting to school.

“Our commitment to tackling the climate crisis and enabling active travel and cycling remains unchanged and we know we must take people with us. LTNs are one of many tools available to us in tackling the climate crisis and I am proud of our ambitious expansion of the borough’s cycling provision, our school streets and the fact that we are now a 20mph borough.

"Thank you to everyone who took part in this consultation and I hope to update residents on the remaining LTN trials in September when we have had time process exactly how the new government guidance affects active travel schemes in Ealing."

Answer:

It is bizarre to say the least that Enfield Conservatives remain continually obsessed by what is happening in other boroughs instead of focusing on serving Enfield residents. Ealing Council is simply following the guidance issued by Cllr Neville’s government, and more specifically, the Conservative Minister of State for Transport, Chris Heaton-Harris, who in his recent letter states:

“Over the last year, cycling has risen by 46%. In 2020, we saw the highest level of cycling on the public highway since the 1960s, and the greatest year-on-year increase in post-war history. Many people have started cycling for shorter journeys, saving appreciable amounts of pollution, noise, CO2 and traffic danger. In some cities the delivery bike has become as normal a sight as the delivery van. Even after these remarkable rises, according to one leading retailer, a further 37 per cent of the population now wants to buy a bike.

These things have been made possible, in part, by hundreds of school streets, pop-up cycle lanes, and Low Traffic Neighbourhoods implemented under the Government’s Emergency Active Travel Fund (EATF) and under statutory Network Management Duty guidance. For all the controversy these schemes can sometimes cause, there is strong and growing evidence that they command public support.

I do know that a few councils have removed, or are proposing to remove, cycle schemes installed under the fund, or to water them down. Of course I understand not every scheme is perfect and a minority will not stand the test of time, but if these schemes are not given that time to make a difference, then taxpayers' monies have been wasted. Schemes need time to be allowed to bed in; must be tested against more normal traffic conditions; and must be in place long enough for their benefits and disbenefits to be properly evaluated and understood. We have no interest in requiring councils to keep schemes which are proven not to work, but that proof must be presented. Schemes must not be removed prematurely, or without proper evidence and too soon to collect proper evidence about their effects".

Enfield Council published a report in July making recommendations to continue the Bowes Quieter Neighbourhood for exactly this reason - to collect further data to help inform a balanced decision on this project. This logical approach was contested by the Enfield Conservative opposition who have now set out their intention to remove interventions that help promote active travel such as QNs, cycle lanes and School Streets. This is in direct opposition to the policies of their own Conservative Government leaving the Enfield Conservative Group adrift in the wilderness with absolutely no alternative strategy.

Residents who understand the potential devastation from the impending climate crisis find this meandering and nonsensical approach to reducing emissions in Enfield to be extremely alarming because it is their children and grandchildren who will suffer.

Cllr Neville may also want to note the following remarks made by Boris Johnson earlier this summer:

"In the decade to 2020, road traffic in urban areas grew by a quarter, and on side streets by a third. It is forecast to rise even more in the next decade. There are only a few ways to deal with this. The best way is to make better use of the roads we've already got, by encouraging vehicles such as cycles and buses that take up less space per passenger.

I know many people think that cycling and walking schemes simply increase car traffic on other roads. But there is now increasing evidence that they do not. We sometimes think of traffic as like water: if you block a stream in one place, it will find the next easiest way. Of course some journeys by car are essential, but traffic is not a force of nature. It is a product of people's choices. If you make it easier and safer to walk and cycle, more people choose to walk and cycle instead of driving, and the traffic falls overall.

I support councils, of all parties, which are trying to promote cycling and bus use. And if you are going to oppose these schemes, you must tell us what your alternative is, because trying to squeeze more cars and delivery vans on the same roads and hoping for the best is not going to work".

Question 41 from Cllr Dinah Barry to Cllr Gina Needs, Cabinet Member for Social Housing

I note from answers to previous questions that there are 60 households on the housing register whose health and well-being assessment gives them the highest level of priority, that some of those households have been there since 2013 when the category was introduced and that you recognise that these families have “a need for urgent rehousing”.

When can a family in my ward who have lived in unsuitable council accommodation for seven years and have the highest level of priority, expect to be rehoused to somewhere where their son's life will not be in danger every day?

Answer:

The Council has a severe shortage of larger level access or adapted homes. Officers are working to improve supply through our development programme and in the meantime looking at alternative tailored housing options for households like the one you reference.

Question 42 from Cllr Sinan Boztas to Cllr Ian Barnes, Deputy Leader

The Month of Sundays festivals put on across Enfield have been hugely popular this summer. Does the Deputy Leader have any idea how many residents attended the events and whether they will be repeated?

Answer:

I am pleased to share that approximately 47,000 people attended the Month of Sunday events held at 5 main town centres across August and we have received very positive feedback from residents, businesses and performers. I attended a few of the events and I have to say that the residents of Enfield certainly know how to let their hair down after what has been a torrid eighteen months.

The events were funded by Additional Restrictions Grant and sponsorship from Enfield businesses Cakebox and Edmonton Green Shopping Centre.

We would like to make this an annual festival and are currently looking at how we can fund this going forward. Meanwhile we are preparing to build on this success with a series of town centre cultural events this Christmas/Festive Season with funding from the Welcome Back Fund.

Question 43 from Cllr Glynis Vince to Cllr Mahtab Uddin, Cabinet Member for Children's Services

Following the article published on the BBC News website, what action has been taken by the Children's Services department to ensure that children in the borough are safeguarded from forced marriage and mistakes are not repeated?

Answer:

Following the article published on the BBC News website, what action has been taken by the Children's Services department to ensure that children in the borough are safeguarded from forced marriage and mistakes are not repeated?

In Children's Social Care there are approximately 2,000 children receiving help and support at any one given time. There are robust quality assurance mechanisms in place which include regular inspections by an external regulator. There is an internal audit and moderation process which enables senior managers examine the quality of practice of open cases. However it is not possible to monitor the quality of social work relating to every child at all times .

Once the Executive Director - People was made aware of the Judge's concerns action was taken to:

- Assure there were no systemic practice issues
- Improve local learning
- Reduce the probability of future mistakes being repeated.

The specific actions taken include:

- A review of all 52 children that the staff responsible for the forced marriage case had worked with in the preceding three months to assure there were no systemic practice issues. The evidence was reviewed with the Independent Scrutineer of Enfield's Safeguarding Partnership.
- An audit of the 120 children currently involved in court proceedings and pre-court proceedings casework. The outcome of this audit will be reviewed by the Enfield Safeguarding Partnership Executive Group during October 2021.
- Mandatory sexual abuse training for social workers.
- Forced marriage training for the multi-agency workforce which includes social workers and partners.
- Improved links with the Forced Marriage Protection Unit, stimulating early conversations about cases where forced marriage is possible but not confirmed
- Improved links with international embassies to better understand cultural norms and how they may impact on children and young people.
- Increased senior management oversight and sign off of decisions made at initial strategy meetings were joint child protection investigations with the police and children's social care are determined
- Strengthened the oversight of Heads of Service and lawyers of high-risk casework by amending the scheme of delegated authority.
- Commissioned an independent review of the case coordinated by the Safeguarding Children's Partnership