

## **Council Questions**

### **1. Question from Cllr Doug Taylor to Cllr Alev Cazimoglu, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care**

Can the Cabinet Member for Public Health & Adult Social Care advise on what preparation is being made in readiness for the forthcoming winter pressures?

**Answer:**

I can tell Councillors that preparations for Winter have been underway for quite some time now. Council officers have been working with colleagues across Health and Social Care and from December 21 to March 22 we will have:

- New virtual wards in place at North Middlesex with social work, therapist, and clinical support to both help people avoid admission and to support rapid and appropriate discharge into an appropriate setting
- A new delirium pathway with support for people who are medically fit for discharge but not well enough to return home. This support will be available in a variety of settings, including our extra care flexi/rehab flats with 24/7 support available, including therapeutic support for those who need it
- Additional block nursing bed capacity within two of our local nursing homes to support discharges from hospital. This will provide both step down or temporary stays and permanent admissions
- Additional capacity within our enablement service to work with people to avoid hospital admission and to support hospital discharge
- Additional domiciliary care block capacity which will be available from 7am in the morning until 10pm at night.
- Additional community equipment capacity to enable the service to ramp up to a 7 day per week service as and when needed

We know that North Middlesex hospital has been and continues to be under intense pressure but the number of Covid positive cases in hospital continues to remain stable and Enfield's multi-disciplinary discharge arrangements continue to work really well. We are confident that the additional provision that will be in place will ensure that our vulnerable residents will get the support they need over the Winter period.

### **2. Question from Cllr Joanne Laban to Cllr Ian Barnes, Deputy Leader**

Will Cllr Barnes, Deputy Leader inform the chamber on how much it has cost for Enfield Council to send staff to COP26?

**Answer:**

The Council did not send an official delegation to the United Nations Climate Change Conference, which has been taking place in Glasgow.

I have been informed that a member of staff did attend as a learning and development opportunity, with the Council covering the cost of travel expenses (£129 for a return rail journey).

I, along with officers, have been keeping up to date with developments via the media and briefings from organisations that we work closely with, such as London Councils, who have also been representing the collective interests of Enfield and other local authorities.

To raise people's awareness of climate action before the Conference there were social media and news items, while I have produced several videos setting out Enfield Council's recent achievements to coincide with the main event. These videos have been viewed close to 14,000 times across social media in Enfield, which has encouraged constructive debate about all of the topics.

You might also have seen that there have been internal communications around the Conference, which I hope will inspire staff to do their bit at home and at work.

### **3. Question from Cllr Derek Levy to Cllr Ian Barnes, Deputy Leader**

Between 18<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> September 2021, Enfield's Big Green Climate Festival showcased 100 different events and activities right across the Borough to highlight the emergency of climate change – a wide variety of events ranging from discussion groups, relevant webinars, seminars, theatre performances in halls and local parks, vegan food stalls, poetry readings, ukulele music, bicycle repairs, and street stalls from the likes of The Wildlife Trust; and much more besides in what was the biggest festival of its kind in the whole of the UK.

Will the Deputy Leader, as Chair of the Climate Action Task Force and in the vanguard of the Administration's pro-action in and local response to the challenges of climate change, please inform this Council as to how many of these events he attended or in which he actively participated, and what were they?

#### **Answer:**

I am thrilled that so many Enfield climate groups have sprung into action as a direct result of the Council's declaration of a climate emergency in 2019. A core ambition of our Climate Action Plan has always been to stimulate debate around the kind of climate-related subjects that residents would perhaps not normally discuss and it continues to achieve that goal.

With regards to the Big Green Climate Festival, the Council's Healthy Streets team organised and promoted the Trent Park Second-Hand Bike Market/Dr Bike event, which took place on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> September. In addition, Healthy Streets sponsored Enfield Cycling Campaign's Try A Bike event, which also formed part of the overall festival and took place on 19<sup>th</sup> September at Hazelwood Sports Ground. Finally we also actively promoted Enfield Cycling Campaigns' Big Green Family Ride, which took place on 26<sup>th</sup> September, on our social media and newsletters. Many members from our community cycling groups took part.

I continue to support Enfield Council's efforts to tackle the climate emergency and our local community groups that positively contribute to the climate challenge.

**4. Question from Cllr Ergin Erbil Cllr Alev Cazimoglu, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care**

Can the Cabinet Member for Public Health & Adult Social Care advise on the current position with compulsory vaccinations for Care Home staff?

**Answer:**

Colleagues will be aware that legislation introduced by the government and now in place requires all people working in care homes to be fully vaccinated against the Covid 19 virus. I can tell you that a huge amount of work has been done by council officers, health colleagues and our care home staff to ensure our care homes remain safe for our vulnerable residents and the staff who work within them. The deadline for staff to have received the second dose of the vaccination was the 10<sup>th</sup> of November 2021 so from the 11<sup>th</sup> November no member of care staff can continue to work in a care home unless double jabbed, unless they are medically exempt. This also applies to people visiting care homes for business purposes, although it does not apply to family members or friends visiting loved ones.

My own personal thanks must go to all those people involved in managing an extremely sensitive and difficult process. We are mindful of the terrible toll suffered by our care homes back in April 2020 and in our community more generally. We are also mindful of the potential risk to the stability of our care homes in the event a significant proportion of their staff elected not to receive both doses of the vaccine. As at the 11<sup>th</sup> of November, however, we have no reported problems from any of our care homes - and we do make contact with them regularly each week to check – with regards to their staff position.

I can also tell you that of the almost 2,200 staff we have working in our care homes in Enfield, a total of 51 or just over 2%, chose not to receive the vaccination and have now left those roles. I can assure colleagues that we will continue to monitor this position closely on a regular basis and, given

the outcome of the recent government consultation on expanding mandatory vaccines into health and other social care settings by March/April next year, our health and social care market position across the board.

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

Following criticism from the Mayor will Cllr Caliskan, Leader of the Council now change to a brownfield first approach on the Local Plan?

**Answer:**

I refer Cllr Laban to read the Draft Local Plan, which sets out that Enfield Council's approach has always been firmly based on a brownfield first approach. We made every attempt to locate all our required development (housing employment and other land uses) within the urban areas. This included optimising the capacity of sites as far as we could (but without comprising character and the environment) and being ambitious about the number of brownfield small sites we could secure and windfalls we could expect. The use of brownfield sites has been rigorously prioritised throughout the development of the plan and it was only when it was apparent that we found we could not accommodate all of our growth needs in the urban area that alternatives were considered.

I am confident that based on all the evidence, the preferred strategy in the Enfield Local Plan of brownfield first with the release of a very small amount of Green Belt was the right approach to consult on over the summer period.

**6. Question from Cllr Derek Levy to Cllr Rick Jewell, Cabinet Member for Environment**

When the street lamp immediately outside of my house was converted to LED white light, the front garden and the surrounding footways were consistently and positively floodlit and the difference from what preceded it was noticeable. In very recent weeks, the same area is significantly darker, and with less radial spread to the point where it often even requires a torchlight to boost immediate vision and provide additional safety reassurances between lamps.

Could the Cabinet Member please indicate when the decision to dim street lights and subsequent implementation (either progressively or in one fell swoop) was taken, and what are the projected cost savings to the Council as a result of what almost appears to be a decision taken by stealth.

**Answer:**

I have been informed by officers that since the installation of new LED lighting there has been no reduction in the lighting levels implemented.

Approval was given to dim the previous 'SON' type lighting via a Cabinet Report approved on 21st March 2012. The new LEDs lights have been designed to lighting classes in accordance with the current British Standard and they are at least as bright as the levels provided by the previous SON lights.

I am not quite sure why Cllr Levy feels that the area close to his house has become significantly darker in very recent weeks, however if he is able to provide the details of the location and the lamp columns to officers they will arrange for these to be checked to ensure that they are operating within the specific outputs required. As stated above there has been no additional decision to dim the new LED street lights.

#### **7. Question from Cllr Tim Leaver to Cllr Mary Maguire, Cabinet Member for Finance & Procurement**

Would the Cabinet Member for Finance & Procurement give her assessment of measures relevant to Enfield outlined by the Chancellor in his autumn statement?

**Answer:**

We had very much been looking forward to a three-year settlement from Government but in truth what we have is a single year settlement with no further government grant support in 2023/24 or 2024/25.

Government continues with its mantra of increases in Core Spending Power but the headline of 3% assumes that councils will put up core council tax by 2% and an Adult Social Care precept of 1% to help manage their pressures.

After a number of years of austerity measures, the £1.5bn for local government in 2022/23 is, of course welcome, and we look forward to receiving the details of how this will be distributed so we can conclude our budget planning. It is unlikely that we will have an certainty though until the Local Government Finance Settlement, expected in the second or third week of December.

2023/24 and 2024/25 will be tough for Enfield. Inflationary and demographic pressures, typically of £7.5m and £4.0m respectively will always outstrip our tax raising powers – 1% on the Council Tax raising just £1.4m.

The Adult Social Care cap is also welcomed – however, there is no clear detail on how the funding for this is going to be distributed (mainly in 2023/24 and 2024/25) and of course, we are in part paying for this through the 1.25% increase in national insurance impacting on the cost of our

workforce and likely to be passed through to the Council from our suppliers, especially those providing care services.

Finally, there continues to be no news on the timeframe for the reform of the formula funding for authorities.

#### **8. Question from Cllr Joanne Laban to Cllr Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council**

Is Cllr Jewell, Cabinet Member for Environment, concerned about the rising cost of the new incinerator in Edmonton considering the initial budget of £650m has almost doubled to £1.2 billion and would he confirm whether he has asked for a financial review of the project given the costs are spiralling out of control?

#### **Answer:**

The NLWA has always been clear that details of the final cost would be determined between 2017 and 2020, after the public consultation for the Development Consent Order had finished and the final designs were decided. A root and branch cost review was carried out for the Project in 2019, in line with best practice on major infrastructure projects.

Leading experts in engineering, architecture and waste modelling established a robust and comprehensive cost estimate of £1.2bn in 2019 prices, which has provided for a solid basis on which boroughs and NLWA can finance this vital project for the residents of north London.

The NLWA used an indicative cost for the ERF project through the consenting process of £650m, however, the 2019 comprehensive cost estimate now includes additional facilities such including, the Energy Recovery Facility, as well as the Resource Recovery Facility, EcoPark House education Centre, utility diversions, risk contingencies, project management and technical support.

The NLWA are committed to delivering the Project at the lowest cost for our residents. Last year the Project earned favourable borrowing rates from the Government, as a result of a competitive bid to borrow £100m at reduced interest rates. This achievement was based on a rigorous value for money exercise, following HM Treasury guidelines, which validated the project's extensive environmental and financial benefits for north London's residents. This assessment demonstrated that the project will achieve major greenhouse gas savings compared to sending north London's waste to landfill or third- party energy from waste facilities.

So, in summary, I am confident that the project costs are accurate and are being comprehensively managed with close oversight from all constituent boroughs.

**9. Question from Cllr Dinah Barry to Cllr Mary Maguire, Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement**

What was the total cost of the 13-month investigation into Councillor Margaret Greer's complaint against me which concluded that I had not breached the Councillor Code of Conduct?

**Answer:**

Councillor Greer's complaint was dealt with in accordance with the Council's Procedure for Handling Complaints against Councillors and Co-opted Members. As a Council officer was appointed to investigate the complaint no external costs were incurred. At all times the Deputy Monitoring Officer considered proportionality and the use of Council resources in determining what action should be taken.

**10. Question from Cllr Ayten Guzel to Cllr Mary Maguire, Cabinet Member for Finance & Procurement**

Could the Cabinet Member for Finance & Procurement outline what help will the council be giving to children and families in need this winter?

**Answer:**

As with last Winter, the Council is administering a scheme to support vulnerable households this winter with food, energy, and water bills. The Household Support Grant (from the Department for Work and Pensions) allocates £2,8m to Enfield (at least 50% that have children) to support these households from now and up to the 31/3/22. The exact details will be communicated on the Council's website by the end of November.

Households identified as in need will be targeted and contacted separately about receiving this funding. The funds are planned to be spent as follows:

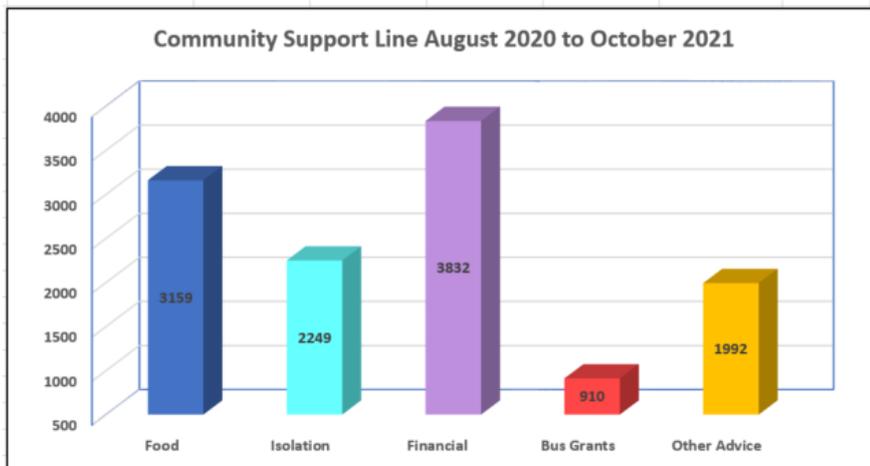
- For children at school through support with food and clothing in the holidays, £1.92m (67% of the grant)
- For households targeting from benefit data as in crisis or at risk to help with food, fuel, and other essentials, £790.2K (28% of the grant)
- For residents identifying themselves in crisis through presenting themselves in Financial Hardship to the Councils Welfare Advice and Debt Team, £137.7K (5% of the grant)

In addition to this the Council also provides practical support for households struggling, delivering practical, social, and emotional support to people who are self-isolating due to being tested positive or having a close contact that has tested positive for Covid-19. In addition to the wonderful work of our Community Line and Community Hubs that were set up during and immediately after the first lock down and that continue to support residents with food, social isolation and financial hardship concerns, we are planning to support those referral partner organisations

in the voluntary sector that have been critical to this support, to help them thrive over the winter months so that they can continue to support our residents.

In addition, we continue to support residents apply for and receive the Test and Trace Self-Isolation Support payment of £500.00. Community Support Line data below. So far, we have supported 12,142 households, with Financial Hard and Food being the highest area of need. This equates to circa 810 residents per month and 200 per week.

Month	Food	Isolation	Financial	Bus Grants	Other Advice	Total
Aug-20	83	59	131		200	473
Sep-20	139	118	170		178	605
Oct-20	163	125	267		302	857
Nov-20	346	135	364		383	1228
Dec-20	256	126	435		202	1019
Jan-21	562	240	784		174	1760
Feb-21	401	197	492		87	1177
Mar-21	416	295	361	188	140	1400
Apr-21	184	135	159	170	68	716
May-21	127	140	120	109	80	576
Jun-21	130	80	130	102	53	495
Jul-21	81	158	167	237	37	680
Aug-21	71	142	103	104	30	450
Sep-21	91	175	69		23	358
Oct-21	109	124	80		35	348
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>3159</b>	<b>2249</b>	<b>3832</b>	<b>910</b>	<b>1992</b>	<b>12142</b>



**11. Question from Cllr Joanne Laban to Cllr Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council**

Will Cllr Caliskan, Leader of the Council, provide details of any plans have been made by the Council to celebrate HM The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee next year?

**Answer:**

I am pleased to tell the Councillor that plans are underway for the Council take part in and celebrate the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee in our borough. An

officer group co-ordinated by our Head of Cultural Services and Head of Corporate Strategy is developing a plan that will centre on our taking part in 'The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacons' programme with an event for all the community taking place on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2022. This will be at the heart of our commemorative programme to recognise the great contribution our Queen has made to the country and I look forward to sharing further details with all members in due course.

**12. Question from Cllr Dinah Barry to Cllr Rick Jewell, Cabinet Member for the Environment**

In September 2019, the then Cabinet Member for the Environment said: "Our waste changes will help increase recycling from 35% to 50%. Encouraging recycling will create space in existing refuse bins." Can you please provide the quarterly recycling figures from January 2018 to September 2021?

**Answer:**

Please find figures as requested:

Q4 2017/18, 31.2%  
Q1 2018/19, 36.9%  
Q2 2018/19, 35.1%  
Q3 2018/19, 31.5%  
Q4 2018/19, 29.3%  
Q1 2019/20, 35.1%  
Q2 2019/20, 35.1%  
Q3 2019/20, 30.8%  
Q4 2019/20, 31% - Covid Pandemic Lockdown Began March '20  
Q1 2020/21, 32.6%  
Q2 2020/21, 34.8%  
Q3 2020/21, 33.5%  
Q4 2020/21, 31.9%  
Q1 2021/22, 32.5%

**13. Question from Cllr Mahmut Aksanoglu to Cllr Gina Needs, Cabinet Member for Social Housing**

What steps have been taken to improve the maintenance and appearance of council housing estates?

**Answer:**

Since I became Cabinet Member, the maintenance and appearance of housing estates has been a passion of mine. It is also a priority as part of our Better Council Homes programme. We are investing in the housing stock, recycling facilities and services to improve the standard and quality of our homes as well as the surrounding areas and environment. This

is being undertaken with and alongside residents to encourage community pride.

The new structure for Council housing has seen the introduction of an enhanced focus on place management and working with residents to improve amenities and external areas. Additional investment has been made in enhancing standards and frequency of waste collection and grounds maintenance. Two housing enforcement officers have already started work to tackle the illegal fly tipping that has occurred on estates by non-residents. In October, 40 fixed penalty notices were issued to offenders.

**14. Question from Cllr Joanne Laban to Cllr Rick Jewell, Cabinet Member for Environment**

A campaign was launched in May this year to plant trees as part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. The Queen's Green Canopy will see new trees planted, as well as ancient woodlands and forests protected. The scheme is hosted by Climate Charity Cool Earth and supported by the Woodland Trust and Trees for Cities. Local schools and community groups can apply for free saplings to plant.

A pilot training programme for unemployed young people aged between 16 and 24 to plant and manage trees was planned to be created and run through our own Capel Manor College, London's only specialist environmental college, of which the Queen Mother was patron.

As well as being a fitting tribute to our monarch this initiative is giving people opportunities to do something positive for the environment and helping to safeguard it for our children in the face of a combined climate and nature crisis. Would the Cllr Jewell, Cabinet Member for Environment inform us what Enfield Council have done to promote the scheme within the borough to schools, community groups and residents and include any information of what specific schemes the council are doing to be part of the Queen's Green Canopy for Jubilee bearing in mind the tree planting season is October until March?

**Answer:**

Enfield Council has the Woodland Creation scheme which involves volunteer groups and schools. We will ensure that we link this to the projects of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. Enfield Council also has plans to engage with our local schools and community groups to promote the tree planting as part of marking the very important occasion of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

**15. Question from Cllr Dinah Barry to Cllr Kate Anolue, Member of the NLWA board representing Enfield**

Policy SI 2 of the London Plan requires development proposals referable to the Mayor to calculate and reduce whole life-cycle carbon (WLC) emissions (i.e. both operational and embodied emissions and so includes those from imported construction materials). There is already WLC Assessment Guidance in place to support this London Plan policy which explains how to calculate, reduce and report WLC emissions.

What are the calculated operational and embodied carbon emissions of the proposed new incinerator in your ward?

**Answer:**

The North London Heat and Power Project was given consent in 2017 by the Secretary of State for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy. During the Development Consent Order planning documents were reviewed by the National Infrastructure Planning Inspectorate who agreed the proposals. This development this does not come under the jurisdiction of the Mayor of London.

North London Waste Authority is actively working with the other borough councils and NLWA's contractors to ensure steps are being made to reduce carbon emissions wherever possible in the waste stream. This year the NLWA published the North London Heat and Power Project Carbon Strategy which provides detail on how carbon is being reduced through the whole life cycle of bringing forward the project, including embodied carbon.

The strategy can be found publicly at North London Waste Authority's Programme Committee Papers from the meeting in May 2021 on their website: [https://www.nlwa.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2021-05/03%20NLHPP%20Carbon%20Management%20Strategy\\_0.pdf](https://www.nlwa.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2021-05/03%20NLHPP%20Carbon%20Management%20Strategy_0.pdf)

**16. Question from Cllr Guney Dogan to Cllr Ian Barnes, Deputy Leader**

The government's Net Zero Strategy was published on 19<sup>th</sup> October and it was positive to see the following key transport commitment:

*To invest £2 billion in cycling and walking, building first hundreds, then thousands of miles of segregated cycle lane and more low-traffic neighbourhoods with the aim that half of all journeys in towns and cities will be cycled or walked by 2030. As announced in the Transport Decarbonisation Plan, we will create at least one zero emission transport city.*

Now that the Conservatives finally have a formal climate change strategy, could the Deputy Leader let us know how the Conservative Leader of the Opposition, Cllr Joanne Laban, has offered her support to the Council's Climate Change Task Force in order to ensure that her Conservative government strategy becomes a reality at this crucial time for our planet?

**Answer:**

When we launched our Enfield Council Climate Action Plan I informed Cllr Laban that we are obviously open to cross-Party work on something as

important as climate change. Unfortunately Cllr Laban has never taken up the offer.

It is good to finally see the Government's Net Zero Strategy but puzzling that the Enfield Conservatives still continue to oppose measures which are now their own Conservative Party's official policy such as school streets, cycle lanes and low traffic neighbourhoods.

I would now urge the combined Enfield Conservative Party to rise above their tribal Party politics when it comes to a subject as serious and profound as climate change, and to support their own Government's climate initiatives going forward. Trust me when I say that future generations of Enfield residents will thank them for it.

**17. Question from Cllr Joanne Laban to Cllr Mary Maguire, Cabinet Member for Finance & Procurement**

The council has previously provided the facility for local community and residents groups to use rooms in the Civic Centre for their meetings, usually sponsored by a local councillor who will make the arrangement. This has been an important facility that enables these meetings to take place in a central location at no cost to the groups and a fundamental contribution by the council to community engagement. However, the number of the normally available rooms have been reduced from 7 to just 2, meaning recent requests such as that from ETUG (Enfield Transport Users Group) for their AGM have had to be declined. Would Cllr Maguire, Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement, reintroduce this facility for local resident and community groups giving details of action to be taken and timescales?

**Answer:**

Officers have informed me that rooms 4 & 6 have been closed to bookings whilst room 4 was refurbished to create accommodation for the Community First party and they were temporarily housed in Room 6. Room 6 is now available for booking again.

New, more accessible, meeting rooms will be created on the ground floor as part of the next phase of the Council's Build the Change Programme.

In the meantime, the Council has a wide range of bookable spaces across the borough in libraries, community centres and youth centres. Details of how to book these are on the Council website.

**18. Question from Cllr Daniel Anderson to Cllr Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council**

Can Cllr Caliskan please explain why it is that between 2015 and 2017 the

Council managed to deliver 91% of its housing targets, but that between 2018 and 2020, under her leadership, the Council has met just 56% of its housing target, achieving one of the worst performances of any council in London?

**Answer:**

This administration has a clear mission for good homes in well-connected neighbourhoods and our Housing and Good Growth Strategy recognises that both the public and the private sector need to play a part in building more quality homes. The councillor refers to the completion of net new homes across the borough.

Over the past three years the Council has been successful in progressing large estate regeneration schemes. While these replace existing poor quality housing, they do not provide substantial numbers of net new homes as we provide replacement good quality homes for residents.

Officers have also informed me that the council benefitted from a bumper year of development in FY2016/17, along with a large number of permitted development schemes which meant that we were able to deliver 91% of the housing target that year. These regrettably often provide poor quality, smaller homes.

Cllr Anderson will also be aware it takes more than three years to take developments from inception to completions. Under my leadership the borough has seen an increase in planning applications and this administration has invested in a programme of thousands of new, high quality council homes.

Cllr Anderson could help overcome the legacy we are dealing with now of historic administrations and make a substantial difference to local housing targets by voting in support of housing applications referred to planning committee.

**19. Question from Cllr Christine Hamilton to Cllr Ian Barnes, Deputy Leader**

Enfield Council's '*Culture Palace*' pop-up cultural venue in Palace Gardens appears to be going from strength to strength. Could the Deputy Leader outline some of the latest successful activities and do we have any visitor numbers and feedback?

**Answer:**

I recently visited the Culture Palace and its new sister venue, FIELD, run by Hive Studios, and was delighted to see how much vibrancy they are adding to Palace Gardens and the feel of the town centre.

Culture Palace has had over 7,500 visitors in its first two months of operation and visitor feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, with many saying “this is just what we needed” and how amazed they are to have such a lovely space on their doorstep.

The programming has a strong focus on showcasing Enfield’s creative sector and includes monthly shows from Resistance Comedy, Sissy Lea and Singer and Entertainer Dave Short. The Friday night cabaret slot is really gaining traction with last Friday’s performance by six local female singers sold out and sell out shows across the board from kids story times and sing-along screenings of ‘Frozen’ to the terrifying escape room, which was a collaboration between the Museum and the Dugdale. There is a lot of free activity including ‘Beer and Beethoven’ with world class classical musicians and jazz piano.

The Culture Palace is already emerging as a real centre for community celebration, with programming for Black History Month and Divali, lots of shows from Young Talent Academy and bookings for meetings and events.

If you’ve not visited yet, I highly recommend it as an example of how culture really supports our communities and town centres, and as a lovely place to have a coffee, buy a book or see a show. And if you’ve not yet booked a pantomime for this year they have just announced tickets for a three-person Aladdin written, directed and performed by national level talents who live in Enfield so do treat yourself to tickets!

**20. Question from Cllr Lindsay Rawlings to Cllr Rick Jewell, Cabinet Member for Environment**

The recycling rates in Enfield are on a downward trend. Even during lockdown when many residents were working from home or on furlough, rates did not increase. We, along with the other boroughs are ploughing ahead with plans for the new enlarged incinerator in Edmonton. Although there will eventually be a new recycling area at the site no sorting will be undertaken and everything that is delivered from the black bins will go for burning. Surely this completely disincentives residents from even trying to use their blue bins with no hope of recycling rates getting anywhere near the projected targets when two weekly collections were introduced. What action does Cllr Jewell, Cabinet Member for Environment, plan to mitigate this?

**Answer:**

I am working very closely with officers to get an understanding of our residents’ behaviour when it comes to recycling and waste. It is clear that during lockdown more waste was produced, this was experienced by many local authorities, because residents were staying at home and at

the start of lockdown residents were buying more food and clearing out their homes.

Additionally, we also relaxed some of our stricter policies such as collecting side waste to help residents through the difficult pandemic lockdown period. During this period many local authorities have seen their recycling rates reduce substantially as a result of resident behaviour.

The best process to maximise recycling is to separate recyclables at the point of collection. For properties on wheeled bin collection the infrastructure and processes are in place and there is adequate capacity in the blue bins to take more recyclates out of the general waste stream. If more people did this at the point of collection recycling rates would increase thereafter.

The plan, as set out pre-pandemic, was that once the physical infrastructure and operational changes were embedded (normally 3-6 months e.g. June to Sept 2020) a series of behavioural face to face engagement and communications would then be deployed to support and change resident behaviour to increase recycling from kerbside properties. However, as colleague members will be aware, implementation of the service change was disrupted by Covid-19 and face to face, roadshow events and behavioural engagement and communications were not allowed due to restrictions and therefore delayed. This work is now underway, along with other initiatives to support household recycling from housing estates and other household waste.

It must be noted that areas of the borough are performing well and are managing to recycle at rates of 50-60% of their waste. Further, the food waste service is performing exceptionally well with higher tonnages being placed out for recycling than had been anticipated. The service that we have implemented makes it easy as possible for residents to recycle most of their waste. The best way for residents to ensure that as little of their waste is processed through the ERF is to place all their recycling in the blue bin and food waste caddy.

Finally, the as part of the new development of the EcoPark our residents will benefit from a new recycling centre. this currently being built and is planned to open around Dec 22/Jan 23.

**21. Question from Cllr Daniel Anderson to Cllr Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council**

Can Cllr Caliskan please explain why it is that between 2015 and 2017 the Council delivered 1,972 new homes, but that between 2018 and 2020, under her leadership, the Council has delivered just 1,309 new homes – a

decline of 33%?

**Answer:**

This administration has a clear mission for good homes in well-connected neighbourhoods and our Housing and Good Growth Strategy recognises that both the public and the private sector need to play a part in building more quality homes. The councillor refers to the completion of net new homes across the borough.

Over the past three years the Council has been successful in progressing large estate regeneration schemes. While these replace existing poor quality housing, they do not provide substantial numbers of net new homes as we provide replacement good quality homes for residents.

Officers have also informed me that the council benefitted from a bumper year of development in FY2016/17, along with a large number of permitted development schemes which meant that we were able to deliver 91% of the housing target that year. These regrettably often provide poor quality, smaller homes.

Cllr Anderson will also be aware it takes more than three years to take developments from inception to completions. Under my leadership the borough has seen an increase in planning applications and this administration has invested in a programme of thousands of new, high quality council homes.

Cllr Anderson could help overcome the legacy we are dealing with now of historic administrations and make a substantial difference to local housing targets by voting in support of housing applications referred to planning committee.

**22. Question from Cllr Claire Stewart to Cllr Ian Barnes, Deputy Leader**

On 5<sup>th</sup> October, Cllr Christopher Dey claimed that he had spoken to the Secretary of State, Grant Shapps, who was reportedly unhappy about Grant Shapps' Bowes LTN, which Grant Shapps paid for and was installed under Grant Shapps' guidance. Could the Deputy Leader let us know what communication the Council has received from Grant Shapps following this alleged conversation?

**Answer:**

In the six weeks since Cllr Christopher Dey's announcement we have heard nothing from the Secretary of State, Grant Shapps, unless of course you count his Government's Net Zero Strategy which promises to:

*"Invest £2 billion in cycling and walking, building first hundreds, then thousands of miles of segregated cycle lane and **more low-traffic neighbourhoods** with the aim that half of all journeys in towns and cities*

*will be cycled or walked by 2030.”*

**23. Question from Cllr James Hockney to Cllr Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council**

Local residents are very concerned about the Draft Plan allocation to build on part of the designated Firs Farms Wetlands site area.

Such a step would mean loss of, but not limited to;

1. Key habitats (Bird life, Water voles, Bats, Stag beetles)
2. Bug and solitary Bee hotels
3. An orchard (Wildflower meadow)
4. Three Football pitches
5. Walking/Cycling/Jogging path
6. Access for all
7. Wildflower habitat

With this in mind will the Council confirm that the Draft Allocation of Firs Farms Wetlands site area will be removed from the Local Plan.

**Answer:**

The Firs Farm Wetlands are important both for nature and to provide local people with access to quality blue/green space in the borough. This council administration is strongly committed to enhancing our blue/green spaces and supporting nature recovery and I can confirm that there will be no building in the ‘wetlands’ whether or not the crematorium proceeds. In this way we will maintain biodiversity and also access for local people to important spaces that benefit their health and wellbeing.

The draft Enfield Local Plan site allocation identifies part of the recreation ground for a new potential crematorium. This does not include the wetland area.

I am also pleased that the project to provide a multi-faith burial ground at Sloeman’s Farm is proceeding, as progressing this option considerably lessens the need for the other potential sites in the borough to be pursued.

**24. Question from Cllr Daniel Anderson to Cllr Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council**

Enfield Council’s Core Strategy (2010-2025) and the Local Housing Needs Assessment (November 2020) both state that we require new developments capable of accommodating ten or more dwellings to have approximately 60% 3+ bedrooms. Can Cllr Caliskan therefore please explain why it is then that, under her leadership, planning officers are

instead regularly recommending for approval developments, which are substantially skewed towards delivering 1-2 bedrooms of which we have a surplus of nearly 1,500, rather than those with 3+ bedrooms of which we have a shortfall of over 3,300?

**Answer:**

The 2010 Core Strategy policies referred to are a borough-wide requirement over the plan period rather than a policy to be applied 'mechanistically' on a site-by-site basis without consideration of site-specific constraints.

I am surprised that Cllr Anderson, as a member of Planning Committee, would be unfamiliar with this aspect of planning policy.

National planning policy has a presumption in favour of development, that is developments should be supported unless the harm outweighs the benefit. Whilst officers do seek to optimise the amount of family accommodation delivered by each scheme, each scheme that comes forward is assessed on its merits against a wider range of policy requirements that must be balanced up in the final analysis. In Enfield currently, given our housing delivery, officers and the planning committee must apply the 'tilted balance' which requires a more flexible approach to supporting housing of all sizes given our housing need.

Frustratingly, government policies do not allow local governments to require the private sector to meet every aspect of housing need.

I have been informed that whilst some applications that do not deliver higher levels of family homes have been recommended to planning committee; there have also been schemes that meet or exceed policy requirements for family units that officers have brought to committee.

I welcome members recognising the role we all play in creating an environment where more homes can be built for our residents.

**25. Question from Cllr Mahym Bedekova to Cllr Ian Barnes, Deputy Leader**

Could the Deputy Leader give us an update on the incredibly popular School Streets schemes?

**Answer:**

I am delighted to have recently announced that the 12 School Streets delivered last year will be made permanent. We are now working with those schools to make any necessary adjustments and install ANPR cameras to assist with the enforcement of these Healthy Streets and create a safe environment for our young people.

Some schools will continue to also use barriers and marshals, but the use of cameras will support in particular those schools that have not been able to generate sufficient volunteers to marshal a scheme, and in some cases as a result of aggressive behaviour by a small number of motorists.

On a personal note, I was saddened to recently note that several Enfield Conservatives have signed a petition for the removal of the St Paul's School Street scheme on Ringwood Way in Winchmore Hill. This is easily the most popular School Street in the entire borough with 258 parents saying they like the initiative, so I am more than happy to send Cllr Laban details outlining the huge benefits of School Streets to disseminate amongst her sceptical local Conservative Party.

**26. Question from Cllr Maria Alexandrou to Cllr Rick Jewell, Cabinet Member for Environment**

Will the Council invest in street lighting fixtures that have a wider light dispersal rather than a narrow beam that delivers peak light to a very small area? Was an equality impact risk assessment done when installing the current streetlights?

**Answer:**

Officers have advised me that the new LED street lighting has been designed to a specific British Standard lighting class, which ensures that the specified average and minimum levels of light are achieved across the whole road.

The older light sources often dispersed a lot of sideways, backwards and upward light which are all major contributors to light spill and sky glow, however the new LED lighting is focused onto the publicly adopted highway.

I can also confirm that an EQIA was carried out prior to the LED project being approved and implemented.

**27. Question from Cllr Daniel Anderson to Cllr Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council**

Can Cllr Caliskan please explain why it is that since 2018, under her leadership, the proportion of 'affordable' new homes built in Enfield at just 10% of new builds is not only far below the London average of 18%, but has fallen to its lowest level in this Borough for over a decade?

**Answer:**

It takes several years to develop new homes, and I am proud of my administrations track record in increasing the supply of new affordable homes from the record low levels that the borough has seen.

Despite the challenges in the market and as a result of uncertainty caused by Brexit (including a number of construction workers leaving the UK to return to the EU), this administration we are sustaining delivery of pipeline schemes. In 2018 the council delivered 40 affordable homes compared to 184 affordable homes over 2019-2020. Additionally, there are over 200 affordable homes under construction across a number of sites in the borough.

Sites had stalled and under my administration I have created an environment that is fiscally sound to enable the Council to do more delivery and directly in the Housing Revenue Account. This has contributed to the Borough securing £166m in GLA affordable housing grant – the highest level of investment in new homes in the Council's history and the second highest amount awarded to a Council in the 2021-26 programme.

It's important, however, to recognise the role of planning committee in the delivery of affordable homes and how local government decision making influences where developers and private landowners want to build and invest their time and money in. I'm pleased the sector is talking to me and there's a shared understanding of how to deliver good growth. I welcome members recognising the role we all play in creating an environment where more homes can be built for our residents.

**28. Question from Cllr Birsen Demirel to Cllr Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council**

How is the council supporting town centres and high streets post covid and into the Christmas period?

**Answer:**

I have enjoyed getting out and about in Enfield after the pandemic and seeing our high streets come back to life. The council has played a part in this, with events to attract footfall back to our high streets such as the borough wide festival 'A Month of Sundays' which attracted large numbers and excellent feedback from businesses and public art installations are also being delivered across all centres.

In addition, council officers are developing Action Plans for each of the priority town centres in the borough to support the safe and successful reopening of our high streets post COVID and to build longer term resilience.

These action plans consist of immediate projects to improve the 'public welcome' of our centres which include repairs and improvements to public

realm and support for businesses to trade outside such as Fountain Island in Enfield Town. For example, The Living Room Library and Angel Yard in Angel Edmonton will support growing creative businesses and Culture Palace in Enfield Town is already attracting new footfall to Palace Gardens.

This Christmas we are supporting our town centres with “We Wish You A Merry Enfield”, five days of cultural activity across four town centres starting on 4<sup>th</sup> December to encourage people back to their high streets together with Christmas light turn ons later this month.

Events include carol singers and a pop-up cinema screen on Library Green, the return of Enfield Parade of Lights, and programmes of activity in Palmers Green, Angel Edmonton, and Southgate with visits from Father Christmas, live music, and street performances. This will be promoted extensively through our media channels.

**29. Question from Cllr Maria Alexandrou to Cllr Ian Barnes, Deputy Leader**

Would Cllr Barnes, Deputy Leader, inform the chamber what the initial impact assessments have shown on the proposed travel scheme for North Middlesex Hospital including details of people’s ability to access the hospital and specifically how many people cycle to the hospital.

**Answer:**

The continued development of the cycling network is to enable more people of all ages to have the option to cycle safely if they’re able, and we know through working in partnership with the hospital that a number of staff cycle to work and they are encouraging more to do so. Naturally we want to make sure that our amazing NHS workers are as safe as possible when travelling by bicycle.

The hospital is, and will continue to be, accessible by car and the project includes improvements for pedestrians too. The project page has more detail on the project and potential impacts: <https://letstalk.enfield.gov.uk/nmh-ati>

**30. Question from Cllr Daniel Anderson to Cllr Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council**

Can Cllr Caliskan please explain why it is that since 2018, under her leadership, the Council has for the first time seen a net loss in social rented housing?

**Answer:**

The Government has failed to create an approach to renewing existing housing stock that has come to the end of its life and enabling regeneration

schemes to unlock additional housing supply. Prior to the administration I lead, the Council had no option but to work with private developers on regeneration schemes where cross subsidy from private sales was the only way to deliver new homes. Whilst this has secured better quality housing for existing residents, created new homes for sale for residents, jobs for local people and improved areas it has contributed to – alongside Right to Buy sales – a net reduction in social rented housing.

Under my administration I have set out the progress we are making to deliver our 3,500 homes programme and this, alongside enabling RPs and developers to work with us – including through an RP framework to be launched next year, will contribute to the future pipeline of new social housing in the Borough. Members will be aware that building new social housing can take several years, which is why I made it a priority from the outset on this administration.

I continue to call on Government to create the environment for the Council to play a bigger role through for example – increasing flexibilities over the use of Right to Buy receipts, increasing grant rates and to providing funding for regeneration schemes that address housing standards as well as unlocking new housing supply.

### **31. Question from Cllr Mustafa Cetinkaya to Cllr Nesil Caliskan, Leader**

Can the leader provide an update on the progress with building 250 new affordable homes at meridian phase 2?

#### **Answer:**

I am pleased to provide an update on the good progress that has been made on Meridian 2, which is just one plot at Meridian Water but an important one.

Enfield Council and Vistry Partnerships have struck a deal which will bring forward 250 affordable homes and 3,000 square meters of work space that will be available for creatives and those looking for light industrial work space (subject to planning) as part of the next phase of the borough's transformational Meridian Water scheme.

The Development Agreement which was signed this month will mean all the homes on the site of the development – known as Meridian Two, will be classed as affordable with half offered at London Affordable Rent and the other half offering shared ownership and homes at London Living Rent levels.

The scheme will provide 3,000 square metres of new commercial space which the Council hopes will become a hub for creative industries. The Council will retain ownership of the workspace and intends to prioritise lettings for local businesses.

Construction will get underway next year, and residents will move to the first homes in 2024.

**32. Question from Cllr Maria Alexandrou to Cllr Ian Barnes, Deputy Leader**

Now it's firmly established and confirmed by the council that ambulances have experienced delays after the implementation of the LTNs, will Cllr Barnes release the details of these delays?

**Answer:**

Any reported delays by the emergency services will be set out in the final reports for the respective Quieter Neighbourhood projects.

As part of the implementation of the project, the Council have invested in technological solutions to ensure that updates are effectively made to commercially available navigation solutions such as Google, TomTom and Bing. This enables the emergency services to update their own navigational systems as they deem necessary.

The Council continues to work with the emergency services to gain more insight into the navigational approach that crews are taking when any delays occur, to help determine whether there are any further steps that can be taken to minimise any issues.

**33. Question from Cllr Ayfer Orhan to Cllr Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council**

We believe that it is essential that all council staff should receive the very best support necessary when working from home. Therefore, can the Council Leader provide the numbers of staff working from home and update the Council with clear details of the support provided to officers and all staff working from home?

**Answer:**

Since the start of the pandemic, the Council has had on average 1,900 staff working from home per day. During the peak of the pandemic this sat at 2,400 staff per day.

The Council recognises its staff are our greatest asset and in recent years we have transformed our approach to supporting and developing our workforce. This approach has helped us to create the right support and culture for staff working remotely.

The challenges the Council has faced during the Covid-19 pandemic has been unprecedented, and it responded swiftly to ensure staff were fully supported and communicated with on an on-going basis. Steps were taken

to quickly ensure staff had the right work equipment and tools for them to work efficiently and efficiently in ensuring internal and external service deliveries were not adversely impacted.

The resilience displayed by the workforce over the past 20 months, only reinforces the vitally important role of having a sustainable organisational culture that invests in its workforce to ensure the smooth running of services and the Borough. Measures were put in place by Digital Services to roll out suitable electronic devices to enable staff to access council's system in a safe manner, whilst protecting the council from potential security risk.

The Council has introduced a variety of keeping in touch days, virtual lunch and learn activities and bite size learning events.

In the spring of 2021, a session on 'creating a safe environment and positive culture for mental health and wellbeing at work' was delivered to the senior leadership and middle manager's network. In addition to this, the Council partnered with Mind, Enfield, who ran a number of workshops through the Council's learning and development team. Over 500 staff and managers have attended mental health resilience training.

Examples of other initiative provided include - Managing stress in remote teams, Relaxation, Taking care of yourself, Resilience perspective, Emotional intelligence, Resilience drivers, Networking remotely and Resilience self-care. Additionally, the Council is rolling out mental health first aid training in its commitment to raising awareness of mental health and signposting staff to where they can obtain additional assistance.

The Council has worked with its six staff network groups – (women into leadership, disability working group, ethnic minority network, young professional network, LGBTQ+ and Mental Health and Wellbeing network) to ensure activities and support are inclusive. An example of a successful event was the introduction of Coffee Roulette, managed by the young professional network. Coffee Roulette is a creative way for staff to build networks with other people across the Council by taking time to meet through MS Teams for a coffee. Staff were paired with another person and have a month to get in touch and arrange a coffee session at a time that suits both parties. Through these events, staff have the opportunity to create a lasting network. As Coffee Roulette was very popular amongst staff, officers plan to run a similar event in December.

In the autumn, following the success of three blocks of MS Teams online physical activity sessions, the staff Mental Health and Wellbeing group are collaborating again with the fantastic Active Enfield Team to put on weekly exercise classes running all the way through to December. Sessions include Yoga, Dance Fitness, Chair Fitness, Ab attacks, calming stretch, Pilates for back care mindful, meditation and relaxation; and much more.

To support staff further, the Council introduced and implemented a domestic abuse policy, and a Smart Working Policy, including a short video. Human Resources have ran regular briefing sessions with staff to ensure they have all the information they need whilst working remotely. Staff were made aware of what they should do if their home environment is not suitable for working or they are feeling isolated. Managers have equally been supported to ensure they are effectively managing their teams who work remotely.

All staff are guided by a key set of principles which include - keeping in regular contact with their manager and colleagues, following the usual arrangements for having one-to-one supervision meetings, having clear work objectives and targets through the performance and development reviews, ensuring they are up to date with their DSE computer based training, completing a health & safety self-assessment of their home working environment, reminders to ensure that data is managed securely, reminders of the Occupational Health Service provisions and the availability of the employee assisted programmes. To measure how staff our feeling, the Council has undertaken regular staff pulse surveys, which are accompanied by action plans, and 'you said, we did' initiatives.

In September 2021, the council held its first online Staff Excellence Awards, which recognised and celebrated the outstanding contributions and achievements of individuals and teams across the council during the pandemic.

**34. Question from Cllr Sinan Boztas to Cllr George Savva, Cabinet Member for Licensing and Regulatory Services**

How has planning enforcement tackled illegal or unlawful development this year?

**Answer:**

I am advised that for Q1 and Q2, we received 521 requests to investigate potential breaches of planning control. Most are resolved through negotiation, but 5 cases have resulted in a formal notice being issued to address the unlawful work or the untidy land.

I have also been informed by officers that we secured a successful prosecution against the unlawful removal of 278 protected trees at Kingswood, Clay Hill. This was a substantial case and I thank officers for their efforts to pursue legal action against the felling of so many trees. A decision on the fine is now awaited.

**35. Question from Cllr James Hockney to Cllr Rick Jewell, Cabinet Member for Environment**

Bury Lodge Gardens is an award-winning park that the Friends volunteer a significant amount of time. Without this support the Council would have to dedicate a considerable level of additional resource. It is therefore quite unacceptable that the Council is failing in its duty to adequately support this park. Two of the Pergolas have been shut for over a year and despite constant chasing still have not been repaired. Now the other two pergolas have been shuttered off – which shuts off path access to the ponds. In addition, the pavements around the park have been in a worsening state for many years without any visible action.

When will the pergolas and pavements be repaired?

**Answer:**

These repairs have been prioritised and will be undertaken this financial year. A programme will be shared with Councillor Hockney shortly by the Construction Management and Facilities Maintenance Team.

**36. Question from Cllr Charith Gunawardena to Cllr Ian Barnes, Deputy Leader**

According to TfL, 35% of car journeys in London are short trips, below 2km. Their numbers also indicate that non-essential short car trips contribute to less than 10% of total “TRAFFIC MINUTES” on London roads - including buses, lorries, vans etc.

Encouraging people to eliminate non-essential short car journeys and use active travel or public transport modes can therefore contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. This means it is also important to minimise the total “traffic minutes” on London roads of all remaining traffic. However, reducing the amount of available road space to all remaining traffic via road closures, results in longer journeys and congestion, and increases “traffic minutes” on London roads.

An increase of less than a minute to the journey times of traffic negates all benefits gained from eliminating non-essential short car trips.

Can the Deputy Leader please describe what modelling has been done of the overall total of traffic minutes before and after the Fox Lane LTN trial road closure and whether there is evidence of any overall reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, particularly at Southgate Circus?

**Answer:**

The Fox Lane Quieter Neighbourhood report will include the outcomes of the air quality monitoring for this project. Our Healthy Streets framework sets out a range of activities to help create the crucial change that is necessary as part of our long-term plans to respond to the climate emergency. We need to take a fundamental look at how we travel all our journeys.

**37. Question from Cllr Margaret Greer to Cllr Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council**

Can the Leader tell us what the Council is doing to ensure house building continues despite labour shortages and materials cost pressures?

**Answer:**

I'm pleased that, despite Covid-19 and consequences of the pandemic on materials and supply chains, schemes which were planned to be on site, maintained momentum and are under construction. This is a result of officers managing early engagement with our suppliers to assess risk and ensure there is an understanding of pressures in the market. At the beginning of the first lockdown last year, there was a period of uncertainty created by Government guidance on social distancing and which industries that applied to. Officers worked with the contractors and developers, providing clearer information and support to help them return to site.

Construction has progressed at pace with homes completing this financial year at Electric Quarter, Newstead and Maldon Road and Gatward Green. Through our 3,500 home programme, the Council is also helping to stimulate recovery as we are creating a pipeline for construction and housing delivery using our own assets.

All of these interventions will help to relieve market pressures and create a supply chain in the borough.

**38. Question from Cllr Edward Smith to Cllr Gina Needs, Cabinet Member for Housing**

Would Cllr Needs, Cabinet Member for Social Housing, state when the ballot of the residents of the Joyce and Snells Estate will take place including details of when the outcome will be announced.

**Answer:**

I'm pleased to confirm that the Council has published its Landlord Offer which sets out our regeneration principles and puts residents at the heart of our proposals. The ballot will commence on 17 Nov and run for a period of three weeks. The outcome will be issued by the independent electoral services agency to residents and the Council on 16 Dec.

**39. Question from Cllr Charith Gunawardena to Cllr Ian Barnes, Deputy Leader of the Council**

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. A previous direct and important Councillor question submitted on behalf of Southgate residents on this topic remained unanswered.

Can the Deputy Leader confirm precisely how the increased congestion faced by residents at Southgate Circus since the introduction of the Fox Lane LTN trial is going to be addressed with the urgency it needs?

**Answer:**

As Cabinet Member I am sent photographs of empty roads and I am sent photographs of congested roads depending upon which side of the debate the resident happens to be on, so I am sure that Cllr Gunawardena fully understands that as a Local Authority we must rely on gathered evidence rather than the sort of anecdotal data he offers in his question.

Following the collection of further traffic data towards the end of September, analysis is taking place to inform a formal report on the Fox Lane Quieter Neighbourhood. This report will set out the impacts of the trial and make recommendations on whether the trial is made permanent or removed.

This report will include publication of the data that has been collected. Once a decision is reached on this project, any future projects can be considered further. Any changes to Southgate Circus will clearly require significant investment and close working with our colleagues at Transport for London.

**40. Question from Cllr Susan Erbil to Cllr Rick Jewell, Cabinet Member for Environment**

Can the Cabinet Member for Environment update Council on how many people have used the bulky waste collection service since he announced that the service would be free of charge?

**Answer:**

I have been informed by officers that since 16<sup>th</sup> September we have had 3316 bookings, of these 2818 collections have been collected and the remaining are scheduled for collection - data as of 10<sup>th</sup> November.

**41. Question from Cllr Edward Smith to Cllr Gina Needs, Cabinet Member for Housing.**

Would Cllr Needs provide an update on the progress being made on of the Council's Charter/Framework for registered housing providers?

**Answer:**

I thank Cllr Smith for his interest in the framework, which is an important step towards delivering better housing outcomes across all social housing landlords in the borough. The Affordable Housing Framework is currently out to tender and is set to be launched formally next year.

**42. Question from Cllr Charith Gunawardena to Cllr Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council**

The planned expansion of the Edmonton Incinerator will enable the continued burning of recyclable waste materials, thus releasing vast amounts of greenhouse gases and several toxic chemicals in the most deprived wards in Enfield. Despite the latest technologies being considered for the plant, it is the borough's poorest and ethnic minority residents that will have to breathe in the smallest dangerous particulates that will remain unfiltered.

Can the Leader confirm whether the administration supports the decision of its representatives on the board of the North London Waste Authority, who vote in favour of adding capacity to the Edmonton incinerator without calling for a 'pause & review' of the £1bn scheme?

**Answer:**

It is factually incorrect to claim that the smallest particles cannot be filtered. DEFRA's Air Quality Expert Group is very clear that baghouse filters – the technology that will be employed in the new ERF – will be extremely effective in capturing even the smallest particles. The NLWA has clarified this point repeatedly. They state that protecting public health is at the forefront of everything the NLWA does, and carefully is considered in all decisions made by NLWA Members. That is why the ERF will be fitted with the best emissions control system of any UK facility. This was recognised by scientific and industry experts at a meeting of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Air Quality in September 2021.

The NLHPP is a vital infrastructure project which supports our aim to increase recycling and stop waste from rotting in landfill. To delay the project would undermine our efforts to tackle the Climate Emergency and reach Net Zero, both of which are at the forefront of discussions for COP26 this year. No other option works at the scale we require, and none offer the

same compelling financial, social, and environmental benefits. For these reasons it would be completely irresponsible to pause the Project.

NLWA has carried out detailed forecasts, which take into account higher recycling rates in the future. The Energy Recovery Facility is sized on this basis, in line with north London's needs. The analysis was accepted by the independent Planning Inspectorate. If society moves more quickly to reduce waste, the facility can still operate with lower volumes. It doesn't need to run at full capacity.

The Project has already been thoroughly reviewed and the considerations raised have been carefully considered over many years. The decision to proceed with the Project followed several years of comprehensive environmental analysis, as well as an extensive two-stage public consultation, and careful consideration of the alternative options. As part of the Development Consent Order process with the Planning Inspectorate, NLWA undertook a full Environmental Statement for the project, which entailed 2,000 pages of careful analysis of a range of environmental, social, and technological factors. This Statement was subject to an Examination in Public and recommended for approval by the Planning Inspectorate.

On this basis Enfield Council support the plans to deliver a safe, clean, and environmental sound solution for our residual waste needs.

**43. Question from Cllr Katherine Chibah to Cllr Rick Jewell, Cabinet Member for Environment**

Has the Council got plans to do more wetlands projects similar to the successful wetlands project?

**Answer:**

I am pleased to update the council with plans for further wetland creation projects across the borough. There are several proposals in the pipeline some of which are well advanced – including Durants Park Wetlands and Oakwood Park Wetlands. Both these sites have received planning consent and are expected to commence construction this financial year.

A planning application has also been submitted for a proposed wetland and river restoration project at Wilbury Way Open Space.

Public consultations have demonstrated a high level of support for these projects - over 80% in each case. This reflects the wide range of benefits such projects deliver, making spaces that are richer, more diverse environments for people and wildlife as well as reducing flood risk and improving water quality. Future opportunities have also been identified at locations including Monken Hadley Common, Oakthorpe School and Boundary Park – feasibility work is underway to investigate the potential for wetlands at these sites.

**44. Question from Cllr Edward Smith to Cllr Gina Needs, Cabinet Member for Housing.**

Would Cllr Needs, Cabinet Member for Housing, comment on the urgent need to improve re-cycling rates on the Council's housing estates and the steps she is putting in place to provide proper re-cycling facilities?

**Answer:**

Officers have informed me that works have commenced on the programme to improve recycling waste 'holding facilities' with an initial programme of 20 housing sites.

As part of the same project, education will be provided to residents through means of new signage, leaflets and through door knocking exercises. Officers have commissioned a review of a further 30 estates across the borough to assist with the council's recycling project. This review is due to conclude in December, looking at improved recycling and food waste bin enclosures.

**45. Question from Cllr Anne Brown to Cllr Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council**

Given the overwhelming evidence against incinerators generally as a method of waste disposal and the scientific evidence that the impossibility of filtering out the smallest particulate pollutants makes them especially unsuitable for a densely populated area, plus the need to focus heavily on recycling and reuse rather than burning of waste, the plan by the North London Waste Authority (NLWA) to replace the current Edmonton incinerator with a much larger one is extremely concerning.

Will the Leader confirm that Enfield's representatives on NLWA are and will be actively pressing for a pause and review of the project, or its immediate abandonment, in order to protect the health and safety of the residents of Enfield?

**Answer:**

There is not 'overwhelming evidence' against incinerators. The UK's Climate Change Committee is clear that they are the preferred solution for managing non-recyclable rubbish on the route to Net Zero.

Modern facilities like the one being developed are a proven solution for managing this rubbish in the best way for the environment. A case in point is the sister facility in Copenhagen, which was recently praised in a David Attenborough film as a beacon for sustainable waste practices and an innovative solution to protect the planet. We are proud to bring this same advanced technology to north London.

Public Health England is clear that modern, well run and regulated municipal waste incinerators are not a significant risk to public health. In 2019, PHE reviewed their statement on the basis of a major study by Imperial College London and their guidance, based on a clear scientific consensus, remains unchanged.

The new Energy Recovery Facility will use best-in-class, proven technology for controlling particulates. Thousands of baghouse filters will be employed to capture particulates, including PM10, PM2.5 and fine particles. This proven technology has been identified by the UK's Air Quality Expert Group as being particularly effective for controlling particulates and ultrafine particles (UFPs). An independent study from the University of Birmingham in 2016 concluded that, after dispersion and dilution, concentrations of UFPs are typically indistinguishable from levels that would occur in the absence of an EfW.

The impacts of not building the NLHPP would be detrimental to north London residents and also in our efforts to tackle the Climate Emergency. It would deny north London's residents state of the art recycling facilities. It would deny residents a safe, clean, and low-carbon solution for managing their waste in the Climate Emergency. It would deny hundreds of life changing apprenticeship and training opportunities for local people and much welcomed employment to the local economy.

Enfield Council is supporting greater emission controls to protect its residents, a solution that will help tackle the climate emergency and which provides our residents with the chance to benefit from low-carbon heating and hot water. The proposed echo project achieves this.