

Councillor Questions & Answers

Question 1 from Councillor Ayten Guzel to Councillor Caliskan, Leader of the Council

Following the news that the Prime Minister and his staff at number 10 Downing Street hosted and attended parties, breaking Covid lockdown rules and guidance, does the Leader of the Council believe Boris Johnson should resign? What is Councillor Caliskan's views on the fact Councillor Laban nor any other member of Enfield Conservative Group has condemned the actions of the Prime Minister?

Answer: The Prime Minister should stop lying, take responsibility and resign. While most were separated from loved ones during the pandemic, Boris Johnson was partying. When people scarified so much to follow the rules, he decided he was above them. I am in no doubt that the Prime Minister broke his own Covid laws.

The fact that Enfield Conservative councillors, including the Leader of Enfield Conservative Group Cllr Laban, have refused to even comment on the disgraceful boozy parties at Number 10 Downing Street is astonishing.

Enfield Conservative councillors have professed their love for Boris Johnson hundreds of times in our council chamber, even when the government left our care homes without Covid tests and Personal Protective Equipment. Nevertheless, it is still deeply disappointing that even now, after Boris Johnson has been found out to be lying about the parties, Enfield Conservative councillors remain silent and stand by the Prime Minister.

Question 2 from Councillor Joanne Laban to Councillor Rick Jewell, Cabinet Member for Environment

Can Councillor Jewell, Cabinet Member for Environment explain why the litter on the land owned by Enfield Council by the junction of Bowes and the North Circular Roads has not been cleared for a substantial period of time and why enforcement action has not been taken against Transport for London (TfL) who have not cleaned up their part of the land?

Answer: I can confirm that officers have investigated this area of land and established that some of the land beside Bounds Green Brook and a section at the junction of Bowes Road and Telford Road is owned by Transport for London. After notification of the littering the Council Teams regardless of it being TfL land litter picked and cleared the area. When the waste enforcement team were made aware of this issue, they contacted TFL requesting that the rubbish is removed. TFL assured waste enforcement that their contractors would be asked to prioritise these works and that they are aiming for this task to be completed before the end of January 2022. The officer will visit after 31 January and if the rubbish has not been removed robust enforcement action will be taken.

Question 3 from Councillor Dinah Barry to Councillor Ian Barnes, Deputy Leader with responsibility for Highways, Traffic, Transport and sustainable travel

Every day, pedestrians in our ward risk their lives crossing a large bell mouthed junction where they are unable to see any traffic lights so have no idea when vehicles will be moving across their path.

This junction on Green Lanes is outside Sainsburys was been acknowledged by council officers to be dangerous in 2018 and my residents and I were eventually promised changes in 2020. However, they have yet to happen. In July 2021 Councillor. Barnes referred to these improvements as 'desirable' and said they remained an 'aspiration'.

What has Councillor. Barnes done as a ward councillor and cabinet member with responsibility for sustainable travel, to make this dangerous junction safe for pedestrians?

Answer: Officers have acknowledged that pedestrian improvements could be made at this junction. There is no current funding from TfL to enable this change. The involvement of TfL is critical as they own and operate all of the traffic signal infrastructure across London. Officers will continue to raise this project with TfL colleagues.

Question 4 from Councillor Kate Anolue to Councillor Nesil Caliskan, Leader

The council received a very strong mandate by residents for its proposals to regenerate the Joyce and Snells estates in Edmonton. What are the next steps and how will residents continue to work with the Council to deliver the much-needed new homes, green spaces and community facilities?

Answer: I'm very pleased residents have taken the opportunity to vote Yes for regeneration, which is a vote to bring about change for existing and new residents for generations to come. The ballot is the beginning of a long-term partnership with residents as at each stage we'll engage residents and make sure they are involved and able to participate in the regeneration schemes and all the opportunities that will come with that. Officers will shortly start consultation with residents and stakeholders on proposals for the masterplan to inform the planning application, which the Council will submit in the next few months. Later this year we'll be looking for a construction partner to work with the Council to build out the homes, subject to planning, and start on site to drawdown the GLA funding in 2023.

Question 5 from Councillor Joanne Laban to Councillor Gina Needs, Cabinet Member for Social Housing

Can Councillor Needs, Cabinet Member for Social Housing explain why the department had not engaged with the homeless people living by the river bank on North Circular Road opposite Chaucer Close as part of its normal work, as well as

the response to Coronavirus whereby homeless people were accommodated and confirm what action is now taking place?

Answer: The Street Homeless Team respond to all reports of rough sleeping and encampments made by members of the public through Streetlink. In addition to this, we have developed multiagency meetings and protocols to gather and share up to date intelligence on rough sleeping and encampments in Enfield. They respond to all reports of rough sleeping within 24 hours and I would urge members where they see or hear of an encampment or rough sleeper to report this to Streetlink as soon as possible to enable them to respond. During periods of severe weather, we step up outreach sessions to ensure that we respond to reports urgently.

The Housing Advisory Service received the first report of rough sleeping on this site on Monday 10 January 2022. The street homeless outreach team visited the site early next morning. They found several mattresses and a tarpaulin structure, which were damp and covered in leaves. The site appeared to have previously been used as an encampment but did not appear to have been active for some time. No rough sleepers were found on the site, or during subsequent visits over the next few days. We will continue to monitor this site for any signs of rough sleeping.

Enfield's Street Homeless Service have visited, housed and supported over 500 rough sleepers since the start of the pandemic. They have developed a comprehensive housing pathway to support rough sleepers off the streets, including our Somewhere Safe to Stay Hub, and our Housing First, One Housing and Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme supported housing schemes. Due to the Covid pandemic, (*optional: benefit cuts, and shortage of affordable accommodation*), we have seen an increase in the number of new rough sleepers found on the streets of Enfield. However, as a result of the initiatives we have rolled out to end rough sleeping in Enfield, we have seen a significant and consistent fall in the number of rough sleepers found bedded down any typical night, from 78 counted in November 2018 to 7 in January 2022.

Question 6 from Councillor Dinah Barry to Councillor Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council

The cost of outside contractors employed to work on the Draft Local Plan (DLP) was nearly £1 million and the internal costs are unknown. Councillors could have provided local information at no cost and avoided some of the unfortunate proposals that were included.

Why were local councillors not asked about proposals affecting their wards?

Answer: Consultation was carried out in line with our adopted Statement of Community Involvement and as required by Government policy, involving ward councillors and members. The National Planning Policy Framework and government guidance requires Local Authorities to produce evidence to underpin Local Plans according to particular methodologies, which requires the input

of qualified professionals and specialists. To do otherwise could risk the soundness of the plan when eventually examined by the Secretary of State's appointed Inspector. Where appropriate this evidence is compiled by Council officers with local intelligence and consultation. The responses received to the public consultation process itself will form part of the evidence base for the next iteration of the Plan.

The conservative government has indicated radical and bold plans to reform the planning system although it is still not clear exactly what shape these will take. Many members and professionals have lobbied for a simpler and more standardised – and cost effective- approach to plan-making. I urge the government to listen to these arguments, and to fund our local planning authority sufficiently to serve local communities.

Question 7 from Councillor Katherine Chibah to Councillor Ian Barnes, Deputy Leader

It is absolutely wonderful to see a 20% increase in cycling since the implementation of the Bowes Quieter Neighbourhood. With increased cycling comes increased cycle ownership so could the Deputy Leader explain how are we helping the residents of Bowes with cycle storage?

Answer: The Council is delivering a programme of residential cycle hangars across the Borough, with 85 currently installed. The Bowes area currently has the highest concentration of cycle hangars with demand for more. The Council have ambitions to deliver a significant increase in the overall number of these, to respond to the significant local demand. Residents can apply for either a new cycle hangar or a place in an existing hangar by visiting: <https://letstalk.enfield.gov.uk/cycleparking>

Question 8 from Councillor Joanne Laban to Councillor Rick Jewell, Cabinet Member for Environment

Can Councillor Jewell, Cabinet Member for Environment set out how his department is working with partners to deal with the pollution in the river that flows from the Pymmes Brook which runs parallel with the North Circular Road and Chaucer Close N11?

Answer: Having done a visual inspection, officers are not aware of a specific pollution concern on the Pymmes Brook. However, if a member of the public or a councillor believes there is a pollution incident then they should report this through the Council website and we will investigate.

Question 9 from Councillor Dinah Barry to Councillor Gina Needs, Cabinet Member with responsibility for social housing

Some of my residents recently moved from their council owned accommodation to a new council address in order to provide safe accommodation for their disabled child. Their original house had been adapted but could not be made safe.

Despite an assessment having been made in the past, their new home had not been adapted to suit their child's needs when they moved in. Instead, they had to request and wait for a new assessment to be made and the for the work to be done. During all that time their child was at risk.

I thank the cabinet member for helping to ease some of the problems this family experienced but must also ask her what is being done to ensure that whenever possible, our tenants' needs are assessed before they move so that their new home is as safe as possible from the moment they move in?

Answer: Under the new Allocations Scheme, the Council has set up a Housing Options Panel to consider how best to meet the rehousing needs of existing tenants. This is intended to ensure that cases are prioritised according to identified needs. Where a case is prioritised following a recommendation from Occupational Health we ensure that their recommendations inform the nature of the property offered. Residents view the property prior to accepting an offer and are usually accompanied by Occupational Health in order to ensure that any further adaptations required are identified before the tenants move in.

Question 10 from Councillor Ergin Erbil to Councillor Ian Barnes, Deputy Leader

Now that Conservative Barnet Council is pushing forward with its first Low Traffic Neighbourhood *'to reduce congestion on residential roads which have become short cuts or 'rat runs' for through traffic'* as it says in their release, could the Deputy Leader tell us whether they have reached out yet for cross-border cooperation as Haringey Council did back in 2020?

Answer: I am pleased to see that Barnet Council has published details for its first Low Traffic Neighbourhood scheme in the Burnt Oak and Colindale area as it now begins its own journey to encourage more walking and cycling, improve air quality and to reduce emissions in its borough.

The Conservative-controlled Barnet administration is simply enacting its own Conservative government's Net Zero strategy though, which aligns with the objectives of the Mayor of London to fight climate change and improve air quality in our great city.

While the Enfield Conservatives become further isolated with their intention to oppose any measures to make our borough a less polluted place - including signing a petition to remove School Streets - we welcome the initiatives being introduced by Barnet, Wandsworth and others for the benefit of all Londoners.

We have always worked closely with Haringey Council for the good of the residents on both sides of the border and we are more than willing to take the same

collaborative approach with Barnet Council. The proximity of interventions to borough borders will determine the overall level of engagement that is necessary to take place. Barnet Officers have previously noted their intention to explore these types of interventions.

Question 11 from Councillor Terry Neville to Councillor Ian Barnes, Deputy Leader of the Council

The Fox Lane LTN closes on 11 January. Would Councillor Barnes, Deputy Leader of the Council tell the Council how many representations the Council had received at that date (at the date of answering this question if earlier), how much time he has allocated to consider all of the representations received and when he expects to announce a decision?

Answer: From the implementation of the trial to the 11th July, there were a total of 4126 responses from 2947 unique respondents to the online consultation survey, plus 30 responses received via a paper copy of the survey. In addition to this, 2755 emails were received by the Council (this includes letters sent as attachments within an email) from 1689 unique email addresses. Between the 12 July 2021 and 11th January 2022, 15 letters and 1315 emails were received from 1143 unique email addresses. These responses have all been carefully considered, on an ongoing basis throughout the period, and analysed into a series of themes and categories to enable consideration of all the themes raised. A report on the Fox Lane Quieter Neighbourhood is anticipated to be published shortly.

Question 12 from Councillor Derek Levy to Councillor Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council

Will the Leader of the Council join with me in extending her heartiest congratulations to Emma Louise Rigby-Nicholson BEM in acknowledgement and acclaim of the award in the recent New Year's Honours List for her " 'Hands-on' innovative service to the community, which has resulted in delivering a real impact within Enfield over the past ten years": recognition of a true and inspiring community champion and a genuine community leader?

Answer: Many congratulations to all those who were awarded in the recent New Year's Honours List!

Question 13 from Councillor Ergin Erbil to Councillor Ian Barnes, Deputy Leader

Any word from Grant Shapps yet following on from Councillor Christopher Dey's fabled meeting way back in October? Has the Deputy Leader received a letter?

Answer: Nothing yet. Lost in the post?

Question 14 from Councillor Mike Rye to Councillor Ian Barnes, Deputy Leader of the Council

With the Borough archive now closed to be relocated first to Bush Hill Park Library then to the Civic Centre, can Councillor Barnes, Deputy Leader of the Council inform the Chamber when will the archive be open to the public again (continuity of service had been promised) and on what date can we expect the archive facility in the Civic Centre to be open to the public?

Answer: Work is nearing completion and the programme is to open the reading room at the Civic Centre from 8th February. In the meantime, the team is continuing to provide an online service.

Question 15 from Councillor Ayfer Orhan to Nesil Caliskan, the Leader of the Council

The decision paper regarding the proposal to proceed with the bid from THL for the lease of Whitewebbs Park raises many questions that unfortunately and despite several requests by residents and 'Friends of Whitewebbs Park' the leader has failed to answer.

Residents have raised the important issues that past statements made by the leader of the Council, Councillor Caliskan was either misleading or lacking in detail. One of the key issues was a failure to consult in a proper manner with the community and this remains a critical factor in the seeming failure of open, transparent, and honest discussions about the future of what is a public asset, much loved by so many and one of the jewels in Enfield's Crown.

As the shadow member for schools and children's services I am particularly keen to hear from the Leader of the Council regarding her statement as quoted on the council web site as saying, "*If these proposals are approved, we will use the rental income to reinvest an extra £100,000 a year into grassroots sport for young people across the borough.*"

This statement refers specifically to the rental income as the source of the £100,000 a year investment. As most of the (averaged out) £80,000 a year rental will cover little more than the running and maintenance costs of the park this statement makes no sense at all.

Can the leader please explain in financial detail how the planned work for the council retained area of Whitewebbs - footpaths, bridleways, general maintenance, rubbish clearance, rewilding plus the £100,000 a year for grassroots sport are covered by an income of £80,000 a year?

Answer: The rental income is not the only source of funding for investment into grassroots sport. The Council is also saving money by not operating a course that cost over £1 million to run over the last 5 years alone.

If the lease is granted THFC will be responsible for the maintenance of much of the golf course including the new parkland to be created, the café and community facilities and the car parking.

The woodlands, footpaths and bridleways are managed from the existing parks budget. The capital receipt from this bid will secure investment in improving footpaths and bridleways potentially reducing maintenance costs in the short to medium term.

The Council has had great success in securing external funding for rewilding and future maintenance including the planting of 100,000 trees across Enfield Chase this winter and last winter. We will apply a similar approach to the rewilding of part of the golf course.

Question 16 from Councillor Hass Yusuf to Councillor Ian Barnes, Deputy Leader

Could the Deputy Leader let us know when the Enfield Winter Lights Festival will be taking place this year and which talented local Enfield artists will be taking part?

Answer: I am delighted to say that this first spectacular event will launch on 3rd February and run until 9th March.

Whilst we received submissions from a range of international artists, the tender to deliver this was won by local consortium Artist Hive Studios, based in Edmonton, whose programme offered the broadest and most exciting range of activity across the borough.

As well as curation by Hive and a new light sculpture by Hive's Mark Beattie, the festival will also include major new work by Southgate's Dan Meier, and a range of visual art and displays by local groups across the borough, including the Enfield Poets.

I urge people to visit the website at www.enfieldwinterlights.com) to check the diary and make plans to enjoy this respite from winter darkness.

Question 17 from Councillor Maria Alexandrou to Councillor Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council

It is apparent that the Council in taking forward the Bowes and Fox Lane LTNs, has been greatly influenced by the campaign group 'Better Streets for Enfield' (BS4E). One of BS4E's key campaigns is to have an LTN in every ward. BS4E is identified by the Council as a stakeholder in the Fox Lane LTN. Members of BS4E include many of the incumbent Labour Administration and notably, Councillor Ian Barnes, the Labour cabinet member responsible for implementing the LTNs.

At the Council's Environment & Climate Action Scrutiny Panel held on 9th December 2021, it was stated that Councillor Barnes would not take the decision as to whether the provisions of Bowes and Fox Lane experimental traffic orders would be made permanent "*due to accusations that [Councillor Barnes] is too close to the project, so therefore the decision was given to the Leader to make*".

However, BS4E's membership also includes both officers responsible for implementing the LTNs, namely Richard Eason and Sarah Cary. Accordingly, the professional officers responsible for assessing representations made by businesses and residents and for making the final recommendation on whether to make the scheme permanent or not, have made clear their previous pre-disposition towards, and support of, the Bowes and Fox Lane LTNs.

In accordance with legal principles stated in case law (Magill v Porter 2001 and Georgiou v LB Enfield 2004), any decision to make permanent the provisions of the Bowes or Fox Lane traffic orders would be unlawful by reasons of actual/apparent bias and predetermination.

These concerns were raised with the Director of Law and Governance and the Chief Executive in advance of the Leader determining the Bowes LTN. Was the Leader of the Council made aware in advance of making her decision on Bowes traffic order that to make it permanent would be unlawful for these reasons? And if she was made aware, did she knowingly make an unlawful decision that would bring the Council's reputational risk into serious disrepute?

Answer: In bringing forward Quieter Neighbourhoods, the Council have been influenced by local, London and national policy which all align to promote the delivery of active travel projects. There are numerous community groups across Enfield, many of which have online forums such as facebook groups. It is not unusual for Officers to be 'members' of such social media platforms groups as one approach to gaining insights into local community views.

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

Many concerns have been raised by residents and EnCaf regarding our collective responsibility to object to the building of bigger and bigger incinerators especially as the science behind them are now obsolete. Furthermore, it is critical that we invest in biodiversity and protect the Borough's green spaces with a real commitment to climate action.

Therefore, it is estimated that about 100,000 cu metres of earth will have to be moved on the Whitewebbs Park site to create level pitches in area 4. Two of the pitches will be Astroturf. The remaining ones are described as grass, but I suspect that they will be of the hybrid variety with plastic reinforcement.

Furthermore, the work to the soil to construct the pitches will release huge amounts of CO2 and as the London Plan will require the council to publish the embodied carbon in the build it is important that the council should know how much will be released.

Therefore, can the leader explain how much CO2 will be released into the atmosphere and how the traffic increases, infrastructure, the construction work and the artificial and hybrid pitches contribute to biodiversity?

Answer: The Council has taken the decision to close the golf course, supporting immediate rewilding and local biodiversity, as well as greater amenity for local residents.

The Council has made it clear that the decision to proceed with THFC as the preferred bidder is clear is subject to planning consent.

Detailed designs will form part of the planning process and any statements about earth moving or environmental impact made in advance of this are merely speculation.

Question 19 from Councillor Rick Jewell to Councillor Ian Barnes, Deputy Leader

Could the Deputy Leader inform us how our preparations are shaping up to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in Enfield?

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 and most importantly for us to help facilitate our communities to create their own celebrations across the borough.

A multi-departmental officer group is co-ordinated by our Head of Cultural Services and Head of Corporate Strategy is developing a plan that will involve taking part in 'The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacons' programme taking place on 2nd June 2022. This will be at the heart of our commemorative programme to recognise the great contribution our Queen has made to the country. We will also seek to do what we can to support local communities to have their own special celebrations over the extended Bank Holiday weekend in their neighbourhoods whether involving local schools, parks, sports clubs, or street parties. I look forward to sharing further details with all members in due course as we seek to ensure Enfield residents can celebrate this once in a lifetime event.

Question 20 from Councillor Maria Alexandrou to Councillor Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council

The Council has made the following commitment in respect of the Fox Lane LTN and equally applies to Bowes LTN:

*“The council is committed to addressing ‘rat-running’ and reducing pollution levels in the long-term, but any proposal must be the right solution for your area, one that works for the local community. **A future trial should ensure that traffic is not just moved from one local residential street within the area to another. Any trial will not start before Spring 2020 and would only be considered as a permanent change if it improves the situation for local people and works for local business.**”* (Source: [Fox Lane Area Quieter Neighbourhood | Let's Talk Enfield](#))

The monitoring data in respect of **Bowes LTN** clearly shows a displacement of traffic onto other local residential streets including but not limited to Kelvin Avenue, Spencer Avenue, Berkshire Gardens and Grenoble Gardens. Why has the Council reneged on its promise to not displace traffic?

With regards to **Fox Lane LTN**, the evidence so far (from the hundreds of emails opposition councillors have been copied into) is that the Fox Lane ETO has made the situation much worse for local people and local business in the following way:

- a. dangerous movement of large vehicles having to reverse the full length of closed roads into busy A roads and in one case a roundabout.
- b. emergency service delays with at least 22 reported LAS delays between September 2020 and November 2021 and a fire engine not able to get through the bollards at Derwent Road on 17/12/21 resulting in fire fighters having to run up Fox Lane with their equipment
- c. queuing/congested traffic on boundary roads (Alderman’s Hill, Bourne Hill, High Street, Canon Hill, Broomfield Lane), meaning those living on boundary and surrounding roads have hours of queuing traffic outside their homes that did not exist pre-LTN
- d. impact on businesses in particular cafes with outdoor seating on Alderman’s Hill and Canon Hill who customers are now subjected to a deterioration in air quality
- e. reasonable access to property where residents within the LTN can no longer take the most direct route to and from their homes, resulting in more circuitous journeys, causing greater congestion and more pollution.

Will Councillor Caliskan, Leader of the Council uphold the commitment made to local residents and businesses in the Fox Lane area and remove the LTN?

Answer: Quieter Neighbourhoods look to take an area wide approach. The intention is to not displace motor traffic from one unclassified road with the Quieter Neighbourhood zone to another unclassified road within the zone. The objective is to re-assign motor traffic to the primary network. Part of the monitoring process is to consider the surrounding road network outside of the Quieter Neighbourhood zone, including other unclassified roads. It may be the case that further mitigating actions are required. In the case of the Bowes QN, work that Haringey have committed to taking forward will address some of the roads. The Council will also continue to review other unclassified roads in the area. The position is that the Council will consider what more needs to be done and will not take an approach of not doing anything.

A report on the Fox Lane Quieter Neighbourhood is due to be published shortly.

Question 21 from Councillor Ayfer Orhan to Nesil Caliskan, the Leader of the Council

Can the leader of the Council confirm the rumours that the Edmonton Labour Councillors were Whipped by the Labour Group not to attend the hugely important and timely march which took place on the 16th January in Edmonton and organised by Stop the incinerator, Black Lives Matter and others; such as EnCaf, volunteers, community groups and activists who came together to oppose the planned expansion of the incinerator and if they were not whipped can she say why it was that not a single Edmonton Labour councillor attended?

Answer: There is no truth in these rumours. I would encourage opposition councillors to focus on reality, rather than wasting time on repeating rumours and gossip.

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

I have seen the photographs of the brilliant volunteers planting trees on our Enfield Chase Restoration project, in collaboration with Thames21, along with a visit from the Deputy Mayor for Environment, Shirley Rodrigues who was planting with school children from Galliard School. Could the Deputy Leader let us know how the planting is going; are we on course for 50,000 trees this winter?

Answer: The volunteers have been doing a superb job planting trees this winter. Some disruption caused by Covid has led to a slight slip in the programme, but this is being monitored to ensure the overall target of 50,000 trees planted will be achieved. Towards the end of the programme additional staff from Thames21 or other contractors will be employed, if required, to ensure the project is completed on time.

Question 23 from Councillor Maria Alexandrou to Councillor Ian Barnes,

Deputy Leader of the Council

What risk assessments have been done to analyse the impact on disability groups and what risk assessments have been done on businesses to understand the economic impact since the implementation of low traffic neighbourhood trials in Bowes and Fox Lane?

Answer: Both the Bowes and Fox Lane Quieter Neighbourhoods have Equality Impact Assessments which are published online. Both consultations also enable respondents to identify themselves as business owners and to outline the impacts they feel the projects have had on them / their business. Follow-up conversations were held with businesses owners in the vicinity of the Fox Lane Quieter Neighbourhood to further understand the issues raised.

Question 24 from Councillor Ayfer Orhan to Nesil Caliskan, the Leader of the Council

The reason given for the marketing of Whitewebbs Park - erroneously referred to as Golf course and adjacent land, was that the course was running at a loss. But it was the Council who closed the golf course at the end of March 2021 causing the loss of income! Fortunately, the park continued to generate rent from the social golf club building and the café, not to mention whatever rental is paid by the Toby Carvery.

The income from the THL bid. The total amount over a 25 year period is £2million. There is something seriously wrong with the Councils marketing exercise that produces such a derisory figure – roughly equivalent to the allowances paid to 5 or 6 councillors a year.

But more telling is that the council have chosen not to share real details of the bid including financial viability, value for money and or financial contributions, maintenance, investments by the bidder of the woodland and the park so it is difficult for the public to make any assessments!

Currently the council receives rent from the café in Beggars Hollow and with a 25-year lease offer the social club building has the potential to cover over half what you will receive from THL. Then there are the old golf course buildings with their commercial space, facilities, large storage capacity, yard and car parking. No doubt the Councils estates department has assessed the potential for development and rental of these. There is a belief that the income from Beggars Hollow facilities and the golf office facilities would far exceed the anticipated rental from THL.

Therefore, can the leader of the Council explain why THL an organisation which is wholly owned by subsidiary of a multi-billion dollar offshore company is being handed over the site for what seems like no financial benefit to the Borough and pocket change for THL?

Answer: The golf course has been costing the Council money to operate for

several years as clearly set out on the Council's website during the marketing process and in the decision to close the course.

The marketing was widely advertised with 38 expressions of interest and 6 bids received. The detailed bid submitted by THFC achieved the highest evaluation score against criteria that were published in advance.

If planning consent is granted the bid will deliver investment in converting part of the course to parkland, a permanent café and community facility with THFC and maintaining these for 25 years, an initial capital sum for improvements to public footpaths and bridleways elsewhere in Whitewebbs Park and an annual rental income for the Authority from year 5 onwards which represents the best consideration reasonably obtainable.

Question 25 from Councillor Doug Taylor to Councillor Alev Cazimoglu, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care

Can the Cabinet Member for Public Health & Adult Social Care advise what is being done to prepare for the Regulation of Adult Social Care.

Answer: Colleagues, the reintroduction of the regulation of Councils with Adult Social Care responsibilities by the Care Quality Commission will see the return of a level of external scrutiny that we have not seen in over 10 years. In the intervening years we have had the impact of austerity and a pandemic and throughout that time our Adult Social Care services have continued to do everything they can to maintain front line services for our most vulnerable residents.

I can tell you that the proposed regulations contained within the Health and Care Bill have not yet completed their passage through parliament and there has been some delay. However, Council officers have been anticipating and preparing for what we expect the new regulations to contain. A self-assessment process has been undertaken to identify priority areas where further development is needed and to support that this Council will be investing in additional senior practice leadership capacity to drive these developments forward. There is obviously a huge amount of work to be done but we are working on good, solid foundations which include our partnership work across the health and social care system, a well-equipped and supported workforce, clear understanding of our local challenges, strong engagement with people and families who use our services and a clear vision about what we want to work together with local people and partners to achieve. We know we can do more and drive further improvements and we want to share as much of our journey as possible, with transparency and accountability being the cornerstones of the work we are doing. Over the next twelve months you should expect to see some of the tangible outcomes of this work with an increase in the community engagement work we are planning, the production of joined up strategies and priorities across health and social care focused on independent living, the production of more accessible information to tell our story to local people

about how we are doing and really importantly, working in new strength-based ways which harness new and innovative ways of working with those people in our community who need our help.

Given the delays in legislation passing through parliament, we anticipate that the new inspection and assurance regulations will be likely to come into force in 2023 at which point the Care Quality Commission are likely to be seeking volunteer Councils to test their new and developing methodology for inspections. We believe the preparations we are making now and over the next twelve months will place us in a good position to become involved at an early stage in the Care Quality Commission's work and, of course, I am more than happy to provide members with regular updates on what progress we are making over the coming year.

Question 26 from Councillor Edward Smith to Councillor Gina Needs, Cabinet Member for Social Housing

Would Councillor Needs, Cabinet Member for Social Housing provide an update on the current position regarding the ongoing disagreement between the Alma Residents Association and the Council over the future management of the new Alma Community Centre?"

Answer: I thank the Cllr for his question. There is no disagreement, the Alma Residents Association provide an important role as the legacy Tenants Residents' Association in addition to the other Tenant Residents Associations which have been established since the regeneration commenced and new homes and communities have been created.

The Council will own the community centre just as it did the Welcome Point community centre and will ensure space is made available for use by the various local groups. Any management arrangements will need to satisfy the Council's property regulatory framework. As part of the masterplan development we engaged the local community representatives to ensure we have adequate space to meet the needs of the groups and as we move into construction we'll develop our management proposals to ensure that this is a facility for all parts of the community.

Question 27 from Councillor Charith Gunawardena to Nesil Caliskan, the Leader of the Council

In 2021 almost 500 flats were approved in office to residential conversions in LBE using permitted development rights (PDR). These types of conversion can deliver very poor-quality accommodation because they do not need to follow normal planning guidelines, they do not deliver any affordable housing and can displace and disrupt local employment. There is still concern about the quality of some of these flats despite the government making changes PDR.

Most other London Councils have already enacted an Article 4 Direction which gives them control over these types PDR conversions and research commissioned

by LBE in 2017 and 2020 confirmed the need for an Article 4 direction. However, this was not acted on quickly enough and changes to Use Classes (i.e. the introduction of Use Class E) meant that Enfield had left it too late to act.

The new Use Class E puts even more types of employment space at risk from uncontrolled permitted development, not just offices, and consequently some councils have already responded to this to protect their employment areas and town centres and are proposing Class E Article 4 directions (e.g. Wandsworth, Tower Hamlets, Richmond, Bromley and Camden).

What are Enfield Council's plans regarding an Article 4 direction to respond to the new Use Class E and will this be acted on quickly to avoid what happened previously?

Answer: In the 2021 calendar year, the council received the following applications for Class J, A1, G and MA Permitted Development:

32 applications in total

13 of which approved

19 of which refused

The above resulted in 547 homes being approved and 66 refused. 435 of these homes are from two applications for the same site (Blackhorse Tower).

I am aware and concerned about the issues associated with these type of conversions that are now possible due to the government's expansion of Permitted Development rights over recent years. You will be aware that officers refused an application for the conversion of Blackhorse Tower but this was appealed and approved by a Planning Inspector.

The Council was about to progress with an office-to-residential Article 4 in 2020 however this could not proceed because the government unfortunately changed the Use Class Order which would have rendered the proposed Article 4 ineffective.

Officers have been engaging with other London Boroughs and the GLA to understand and monitor the impacts and share evidence of the harm that permitted development can cause.

Question 28 from Councillor Birsan Demirel to Councillor Rick Jewell, Cabinet Member for Environment

Please can Councillor Jewell give us an update on the success of the campaign to crack down on rubbish being dumped such as the free bulky waste collections, FPNs and prosecutions against fly-tippers, and also an update on the introduction of new CCTV to catch fly-tippers.

Answer: The crack-down on rubbish dumping and flytipping is proving very

successful. The communications campaign is helping to both educate and inform residents of flytip removals, enforcement taken and the use of the free bulky waste collections.

Between April and December 2021, we have issued 1,827 fixed penalty notices for dumped rubbish and waste offences. Since our new court process has started there have been 28 prosecutions in November and December 2021, and we await the results of the 58 cases submitted for prosecution in January and 88 cases are being prepared for prosecution in February.

The new deployable CCTV cameras are due to be re-delivered by mid-February as the cameras that were delivered in November were faulty.

I have been informed by officers that since the free bulky waste service commenced on 16th September, we have received 6934 bookings (as of 19th January). The service is extremely popular with residents and all the items that have been collected free of charge could have been fly tipped but have been collected by our teams.

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

Following the recent approval by the residents of the Joyce and Snells Estate to the Council's redevelopment proposals, would Councillor Needs, Cabinet Member for Social Housing provide a breakdown of the vote (for and against) by tenure and the percentage turnout figure?

Answer: I'm pleased to confirm residents voted overwhelmingly in favour of redevelopment with a very strong turnout. The results are 78.5% voted yes with a strong turnout across all tenures. The ballot is run by CIVICA, independently of the Council and they have advised they can only provide the participation data and not information by tenure which may identify individual voters.

Question 31 from Councillor Sinan Boztas to Councillor Mary Maguire, Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement

Would the Cabinet Member for Finance & Procurement please provide details of what help is available to Enfield residents through the Household Support, Practical Support and Omicron Business grants.

Answer:

Household Support Grant

Enfield is providing emergency financial support worth more than £2.8m from the Household Support Grant to ensure some of the Borough's poorest residents can feed their families and heat their homes.

The £2.85 million Housing Support Grant funded by the Department for Work and Pension's is being spent on ensuring poorer families have access to food and warm

clothing over the winter months and provide financial assistance to residents who are struggling to afford to heat their homes in the months to come. Enfield Council has decided to focus on ensuring the boroughs most vulnerable residents – many of whom are children - do not go hungry now and over the coming months. Specifically, £1.92m of the funding has been spent on children at school to provide free school meals in the holidays and warm winter clothes. The Council has worked closely with schools to distribute this. Over 43,000 food vouchers have been distributed to the 15,200 children eligible for Free School Meals and the further 3,000 that are close to eligibility and in need. October Half Term c.3,000 children were identified in need in need but not eligible for Free School Meals have received a £15 voucher. The remainder has been used to target payments to over 7,000 benefit recipients who are in crisis or at risk of being in crisis. The recipients of this part of the grant are identified by their eligibility for benefits to ensure the support goes to those most in need. We are all only too aware that the day to day cost of living is increasing and many of our residents are struggling to make ends meet. This funding will go towards helping our poorest residents who find themselves in crisis.

Practical Support Grant

Enfield is also providing £998k worth of “Practical Support” to deliver practical, social and emotional support to people who are self-isolating or caring for those self isolating due to the Covid-19 pandemic. This support has helped rough sleepers, carers and provided a hotline and face to face services for all residents struggling and needing this kind of practical support. £270k of this has also been set aside to support 48 local voluntary sector organisations that have been part of the Councils important referral network throughout the pandemic, and who continue to support our residents every day. These organisations are doing great work and supporting the thousands of people across our borough who are following the public health advice to slow the spread of the virus and I am pleased we are supporting them. The activities on offer cover a range of provision including providing access to food, financial advice and social befriending.

Omicron Business Grants

Central Government announced a support package for businesses shortly before Christmas. Enfield will be administering financial support totalling £8.8m to businesses through 3 separate schemes.

- Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant
- COVID-19 Additional Relief Fund (CARF)
- Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG)

The Council is conscious of the need to allocate the funding as soon as possible to businesses. Currently work is underway to interpret the government guidance, write the policy and getting ready to receive applications from next week albeit some of the exact details of these schemes are still to be worked through. The Omicron grant provides support to hospitality, leisure and accommodation businesses and will be an application process that will run from next week through to the 18th March with payments to be made by the end of March. Businesses will

receive support dependent on the rateable value of their business with payments ranging from £2,667 to £6,000.

The CARF scheme is for those businesses who have a rateable value, and that have not had support already through other relief schemes. No application form will be needed as this is a relief that will be applied directly to Business rate accounts. And finally, the Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) will be available to key sectors that have been impacted through the recent Omicron variant. We are defining which sectors will receive support through ARG and are looking at those sectors that have not been supported so far. This will be via an application process with payments made by the end of March. All information will be updated on the Council's website.

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

Would Councillor Caliskan, Leader of the Council provide information on the number of new posts the council is intending to recruit (and their grades) to manage the Meridian Water project and how the recruitment process is progressing?

Answer: The Meridian Water Team are currently recruiting to 10 roles that are vacant in the existing structure. The roles are graded: 1xHOS3, 1xHOS2, 3xMM2, 1x MM1, 2x PO2, 2xSO2

Question 33 from Councillor Daniel Anderson to Councillor Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council

Having submitted a Members Enquiry request asking for minutes of meetings between the Deputy Leader of the Council and senior officers from Traffic & Transportation and Healthy Streets, I was astonished to be told that they would not be released as they contained political advice from officers to members.

Can the Leader of the Council please explain if officers are not only responsible for the operational functioning of this authority, but also its political direction as well, what exactly is the point of her Administration?

Answer: Traffic & Transportation and Healthy Streets officers have not shared any 'minutes' or notes they may have taken at meetings with the Cabinet Member.

Officers never provide political advice. The council's political direction is set by councillors from the majority Party and executive decisions are made by Cabinet Members.

Action points, which reflect operational tasks, may have been shared with the Cabinet Member during meetings. I understand that these have been shared with Cllr Anderson.

Question 34 from Councillor Margaret Greer to Councillor Mary Maguire, Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement

Can the Cabinet Member for Finance & Procurement give an assessment of the impact of inflation on the MTFP and what steps are being taken to mitigate any adverse consequences?

Answer: The Council is facing considerable pressures amounting to £21.9m in 2022/23, of which a significant proportion, £8.0m is in respect of inflation. Provision has been made to cover pay awards, the impact of the 1.2% increase in NI in respect of direct staff costs and additional pressures coming through from suppliers, a 6% increase in the minimum wage and provision for all known contractual commitments, predominantly in Adult Social Care. Additionally, £0.5m is available for any additional commitments not quantifiable at this time.

The inflationary pressures are also impacting on the Capital Programme. There is contingency built in at an individual scheme level and this is under review. Officers are also assessing schemes to be able to absorb the potential additional costs.

Question 35 from Councillor Lindsay Rawlings to Councillor Rick Jewell, Cabinet Member for Environment

Would Councillor Jewell, Cabinet Member for Environment provide figures on an annual basis for the estimated CO2 emissions from the proposed new Edmonton Incinerator once the new facility is up and running, the estimated savings in CO2 from the reduction in taking waste to landfill and the estimated savings in CO2 emissions resulting from connecting properties to the Energetik district heating system (say 5,000 homes)?"

Answer: Please find below a response from the NLWA to Cllr Rawling's question:

"Calculations for carbon emissions are developed using the scientific standards set by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) (Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories – 2006) and the UK's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Energy Recovery for Residual Waste – A carbon-based modelling approach – February 2014). This guidance states that biogenic waste (like food, paper and wood) should not be included in national emission inventories for greenhouse gasses. This is because plants sequester carbon when they grow and follows the logic that carbon will be emitted but was also taken out of the atmosphere when the plants grew so there is no net carbon impact.

In line with this guidance, reports for energy from waste plants divide household waste into fossil content (e.g. plastics) and biogenic content. It is expected that around 55% of the waste treated in north London will be biogenic and 45% fossil. Following IPCC standards, only the fossil content is included when calculating greenhouse gas emissions from our facilities. A report prepared for the Authority to assess the net carbon impact of the new facility shows that the fossil content from north London's residual waste is expected to have an impact equivalent to 308,560 tonnes of carbon dioxide each year.

The new ERF will save the equivalent of 215,000 tonnes of CO₂ every year compared to landfill. Sending the same amount of waste to landfill as the new facility would generate 243,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents every year. Landfill produces significantly more greenhouse gasses than energy recovery because methane is an extremely potent greenhouse gas, and thousands of additional lorry movements would be required to transport the waste outside of north London.

The estimated carbon savings from the heat supplied from the new facility was assessed in the Authority's report in 2019 as 94 kg CO₂e/tonne of waste.

The BEIS document "valuation of greenhouse gas and energy use" sets out the Government's latest guidance on analysing and valuing energy use and greenhouse gas emissions to support options appraisal for policies, programmes and projects. Table 1 associated with the guidance identifies – and the Authority recognises – that over time the average and marginal carbon intensity of power generation will reduce. This reflects the decarbonisation of the UK's power supply. BEIS recognises that primary energy demand from solid fuel (mostly coal) has declined since 2013 due to switching electricity generation to renewables, waste and natural gas and will continue to decarbonise as the dependence on virgin fossil-fuelled generation diminishes with an increased reliance on lower carbon technology, including nuclear. As there is not a route for residual waste disposal which involves lower greenhouse gas emissions than a modern, efficient energy recovery facility, it remains the case that the Authority's project remains beneficial in greenhouse gas terms compared to alternative residual waste disposal options. Moreover, the introduction of CCS in due course would reduce the carbon footprint of the facility further or completely.

We note that the Authority report which referenced the net carbon impact of the facility as 28,000 tonnes per year was not intended to be a lifetime appraisal. It remains realistic and accurate [based on guidance from Defra](#) which has not been withdrawn or superseded. Whilst there remains virgin fossil-fuelled electricity generation in the UK energy mix, in particular gas-fired plant which currently provides approximately 40% of the nation's electricity, it is rational to assume that this should be displaced by less carbon-intensive baseload generation such as from the ERF. National Grid have reported that gas-fired generation could continue to meet anywhere between 7%–40% of annual electricity demand in 2035. With regard to the comments made concerning IPCC guidance, the guidance states "only fossil CO₂ should be included in national emissions under the Energy Sector while biogenic CO₂ should be reported as an information item in the Energy Sector" – therefore, the Authority has correctly modelled and reported the ERF's net carbon emissions.

The basis of calculation clearly demonstrates that the ERF is the most climate effective solution for dealing with the waste arising in the north London area compared to landfill disposal as the alternative".

Question 36 from Councillor Daniel Anderson to Councillor Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council

Since August 2020, I have been attempting to procure from the Healthy Streets Team itemised spending on the £100k Bowes Low Traffic Neighbourhood Scheme, and from October 2020 itemised spending on the £160k Fox Lane Low Traffic Neighbourhood Scheme, both to include the funds spent on consultancies and/or outside agencies and the names of any such organisations. The former request was initially partially responded to with the promise of more details to follow, but despite repeated requests has not been provided, whilst the latter, despite similar repeated requests, has not been provided at all.

Can the Leader of the Council please explain what has she got to hide?

Answer: Officers have previously explained to Cllr Anderson that costs will be published at the end of the project, rather than publishing (potentially multiple) interim costs for projects that are still ongoing. This can lead to several conflicting cost positions to be in the public domain which can lead to confusion and misunderstandings.

Cost for the Bowes project to date of the report publication were published in the report and showed an expenditure of £215,263 in 2020/21 and £121,268 in FY 2021/22. Now that the decision has been made to make the scheme permanent final costings for this phase will be produced and published.

Question 37 from Councillor Mahym Bedekova to Councillor Nneka Keazor, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Cohesion

Can the Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Cohesion confirm how council managed CCTV has improved safety for residents including any additional coverage in the last year?

Answer: The Council has allocated additional capital funding (£150,000) to enhance the coverage of CCTV provision and improve feelings of safety.

Cameras have been installed or are in the process of completion at Durant's Park , near to Oasis Hadley school, Henry Barras Stadium (Jubilee park) and at the A406 Underpass.

This underpass provides access to and from North Middlesex Hospital and we have received very positive feedback from staff at the hospital about how this has improved confidence in using the subway. Additionally, monitors are being set up at either end and a help point is being installed.

Redeployable Cameras have been installed at Dyson's Road and Gibbs Road. Further 4G cameras have been ordered. The new Ponders End Youth Centre benefits from camera installations monitored 24/7 at the Claverings control centre.

Further work is underway to improve coverage at Meridian Water (Towpath area), working with Regeneration, Exeter Road and Bullsmoor Estate, working with Housing. We are also working with young people to understand areas where they would like cameras - (Violence Reduction Unit funded feelings of safety project with young people at 4 sites)

Question 38 from Councillor James Hockney to Councillor Rick Jewell, Cabinet Member for Environment

The Bury Lodge pergolas repairs were delayed from December to February. Would Councillor Jewell, Cabinet Member for Environment confirm when the works are scheduled to start and be completed?

Answer: Works are well underway and commenced with the cutting back of the wisteria and other foliage which is complete. The next phase is the replacement of almost all the Pergola timbers and to replace or re-level the unsafe paving. Works are programmed to be complete by the end of February.

Question 39 from Councillor Dinah Barry to Councillor Gina Needs, Cabinet Member with responsibility for social housing

Some of my residents recently moved from their council owned accommodation to a new council address to provide safe accommodation for their disabled child. Their original house had been adapted but could not be made safe. Despite an assessment having been made in the past, their new home had not been adapted to suit their child's needs when they moved in. My residents had to move to a Travelodge for over a week while the work to make their flat safe was carried out.

How much did this unnecessary and very disruptive stay in a hotel cost the council?

Answer: The family (the same case referred to in the earlier question from Cllr Barry) requested temporary accommodation as respite for the works and were placed in a local hotel. The cost of this was £1132.32

Question 40 from Councillor Susan Erbil to Councillor Nneka Keazor, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Cohesion

Can the Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Cohesion confirm how the new Ponders End Youth Centre is supporting tackling youth crime in the borough?

Answer: The new Ponders End Youth centre deliver high quality youth work, the centre is a hub for the community where young people discover new interests, become more confident, make positive choices about their lives and have fun at the same time.

The centre provides young people with opportunities to engage in stimulating activities such as boxing, fitness, music, dance, motor mechanics and multi sports. A place where young people feel safe and meet friends, a place where young people can access support from trusted adults.

We want to create a lifetime of opportunity for everyone in Enfield, and an essential part of this work is to support and empower children and young people in the borough.

Youth Workers / Specialist Tutors / YOS Case managers/ Teachers use the facilities in the building to engage young people and divert them away from risky behaviours. For example, our Mentors use the Centre to provide support to young people by working on issues that are important to them. They support young people to make informed choices in their lives and enable them to meet their potential, our Targeted positive Activities offer a tailored intervention for young people who are at risk of exclusion, at risk of criminal exploitation, involved in gangs, known to Social care or a young person known to Youth Offending Service. It acts as an exit strategy, step down or just add value to the intervention and engage young person in positive activities.

The youth offer makes a significant contribution to the safeguarding of vulnerable young people through the provision of early help and intervention, preventing safeguarding concerns emerging in the first instance and preventing their escalation into statutory services. Our Outreach Youth Workers are in the crime hotspot areas of the borough signposting young people to the youth centres and actively encouraging them to engage in the amazing facilities we have in the new building. The new youth centre is open 7 days a week offering range of services, attracting an average of 60 young people per session.

Universal Youth Offer

- Monday to Thursday – 3:30 to 6:00 pm - after school youth offer
- Monday, Tuesday and Thursday – 6pm to 8pm evening offer
- Fridays – Junior Youth Club (8 to 12-year olds)
- Saturdays – community boxing (8am – 6pm)
- Sundays – ACE Community group 1pm to 4pm

Question 41 from Councillor James Hockney to Councillor Rick Jewell, Cabinet Member for Environment

The Friends of Fir Farm Wetlands have requested for the site to be secured with a fencing perimeter; due to criminal and anti-social behaviour at night time. Will Councillor Jewell, Cabinet Member for Environment report when this will be implemented?

Answer: We are working closely with the Friends of Firs Farm to find a solution to improve the perimeter fencing at Firs Farm. The Council does not have the budget

for this works. However, officers are working with the Friends Group to identify any potential funds that could be secured through Community Grant Funding Portal. Further, we have advised the Friends Group that there will be a second round of the Enfield Neighbourhood Fund that looks to utilise Community Infrastructure Levy resources as a potential source of funding.

Question 42 from Councillor Mahmut Aksanoglu to Councillor Alev Cazimoglu, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care

How well has the transition gone from BEH to NMH regarding health visiting and the school nursing service?

Answer: When the 0-19 Health Visiting Service transferred to North Middlesex Hospital Trust in October 2020, we had no idea that only a matter of months later the Country would be plunged into a worldwide public health crisis as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic. For reasons which I think are very clear, it has been a challenging transition but one through which the Council's partnership with North Middlesex has remained strong. As difficult a journey as this has been, though, both partners have worked well together to maintain services as flexibly as possible during the pandemic and to continue to plan for further developments of this service which respond to local residents' needs. There is a significant amount of work to do, providing new and more flexible locations for drop ins and appointments, developing a skills mix model which maximises the number of front line staff interacting with families, reducing bureaucracy and supporting the development of new and improved information and advice available on-line. Clearly the last two years have been about maintaining continuity and delivering support safely but I am happy to provide colleagues with further and more detailed updates as we emerge from the pandemic and are able to plan for the future.

Question 43 from Councillor Lindsay Rawlings to Councillor Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council

Enfield Council first achieved Fairtrade status in 2008 under the then Conservative Administration. To date it has been lost more than once under Labour Administrations.

At the 20 November 2022 Council Meeting, Councillor Chibah submitted a motion for Enfield Council to:

- Renew its commitment/commit to achieve 'Fairtrade Community' status.
- Actively promote Fairtrade locally, through support for local groups, in the media including social media, and events, including during Fairtrade Fortnight.
- Support local Fairtrade Schools and Universities, and actively promote Fairtrade teaching materials in local schools and educational institutions.
- Celebrate businesses championing Fairtrade products in the local community.

The motion was agreed unanimously. It is more than a year since this motion was agreed and food and drink sold on council premises still does not meet with the Fairtrade Mark, which shows an embarrassing lack of commitment and does not set much of an example within the borough.

Would Councillor Caliskan inform the chamber what action has been taken by the council so far to regain its Fairtrade Status and include timescales for future action to ensure we do not lose it again?

Answer: "I am pleased to communicate that cabinet is scheduled to consider a new Sustainable and Ethical Procurement Policy for the Council shortly. This includes a renewed commitment to support the Fairtrade mission.

I can also share with the Council the following:

Enfield Catering strive to use ethically sourced ingredients at every opportunity. They are holders of the SOIL association award, MSC Tuna Award along with The Egg award and their of our eggs are locally sourced and free ranged. All meat is sourced from farm assurance schemes such as red tractor, which means it is traceable safe and farmed with care. The Catering Service exceed the government fair trade requirements for school meals, we purchase for example Fairtrade Bananas and Sugar. They also use London based SMEs which deliver social value back into the borough but are also held to strengthen standards to ensure compliant ethical value out of council expenditure.

EN_FOOD is Enfield Council's food sustainability project which runs the Library Café and Dugdale cafe and has been recognised nationally for its work, winning the Sustainable Restaurant Association's Food Made Good Award in November 2019. EN_FOOD was also awarded a top rating of three stars by the Sustainable Restaurants Association due to its commitment to food sustainability. Most of the food served at the café is sourced from 15 local suppliers including Wright's the flour mill in Ponders End, Holtwhites Bakery in Enfield Chase, Forty Hall Farm, Peatchey Butchers in Grange Park, Kupros Dairy in Cheshunt and the Enfield & North London Dairy. Where items such as tea, coffee and chocolate cannot be sourced locally, EN_FOOD ensures they are Fair Trade, or Direct Trade".