

Council Meeting 13th July 2022: Councillors' Questions

Question 1 from Councillor Thomas Fawns to Councillor Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council

Meridian Water has recently won several industry awards. Could you provide further information about this?

Answer:

The Meridian Water housing scheme won the Award 2022 in the 'Promoting Economic Growth' Category. This award was given for the fantastic work that Meridian Water has done to support, encourage, and drive economic growth in Edmonton. This includes, the Drumsheds, hosting over 100,000 people for live musical entertainment: Bloqs, the UK's largest open-access factory, providing affordable workspace for businesses in Edmonton and the Opening of the Troubadour Meridian Water Film studios.

Enfield Council and Bloqs have also jointly won a [#RICSAward2022](#) in the regional Refurbishment and Revitalisation category for the development of the new Bloqs space.

Finally, the Meridian Water Team has been shortlisted for an "Inside Housing Development Award 2022" for the best development team.

Question 2 from Councillor Maria Alexandrou to Councillor Rick Jewell, Cabinet Member for Environment

Many trees in Winchmore Hill Ward have been felled by private developers. Would Councillor Jewell, Cabinet Member for Environment inform Council how many trees have been felled and planted in Enfield on a ward-by-ward basis over the last 3 years and report what action is being taken to ensure all those trees felled during development are replaced?

Answer:

The number of trees removed by private developers is not monitored. The majority of trees within private gardens or on private land can be felled without the consent of the Council, unless the trees are subject to a tree preservation order, or the property is within a conservation area. Planning policy expects existing mature trees on development sites to be protected and requires development proposals where the removal of trees is justified, to plant adequate replacement trees based on the existing value of the trees to be removed. In practice, officers seek to ensure more replacement trees are planted than felled as part of any new development.

Question 3 from Councillor Ayten Guzel to Councillor Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council

The new Metaswitch Building in Enfield Town recently had its official opening on 25th May 2022. Please can you provide more information about this investment in the town centre?

Answer:

The opening was a fantastic example of how proactive the Council can be in supporting existing businesses to flourish. Metaswitch, which is now owned by technology giant Microsoft, opened the new five storey office with their Azure Chief Executive over from America. I was pleased to attend as a guest speaker.

The Council played a pivotal role in both identifying the site and funding the building project at Genotin Road, supporting Metaswitch's (now Microsoft's) expansion plans which in turn will benefit the town centre.

The office building has recently achieved a BREEAM Excellent rating, certifying its green credentials.

The building is owned by Enfield Council, and it is leased to Microsoft on a 15-year term. Income generated from the lease is put back into funding and enhancing local services.

Question 4 from Councillor Maria Alexandrou to Councillor Rick Jewell, Cabinet Member for Environment

With recycling levels constantly failing to achieve the council's own targets. Would Councillor Jewell, Cabinet Member for Environment report what plans are being put in place to drastically increase recycling in the borough?

Answer:

As a result of Covid-19 there has been significant behaviour change regarding waste arisings and we have seen a significant increase in the amount of contamination that is being placed in the dry recycling. Our planned activities address both reducing contamination and increasing recycling. These will be focussed on four main areas.

Tackling contaminated recycling from wheeled bins: June 2022 sees the commencement of the first stage of this project and will tackle 20,000 households and will implement our existing contamination policy and improve recycling quality from kerbside properties

Increasing Recycling from Flats: Improve existing recycling on flats/estates and install where we currently have no provision. Over 115 new bins have been installed over the last 3 months

Increase Recycling from Wheeled Bins: Composition analysis is being undertaken to see how resident behaviours have changed waste arisings and use the results to inform resident engagement projects.

Increase Recycling from our Recycling Centre: Introduction of black bag splitting at Barrowell Green to capture increased amount of recycling material.

Question 5 from Councillor Elif Erbil to Councillor Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council

I have seen Angel Edmonton transformed by new murals and public art over the past few months. How has the Council enabled this, and will there be more creative activity in the area?

Answer:

The transformation in Angel Edmonton is a source of great pride to the many residents who have been involved and a great demonstration of what creative placemaking projects can achieve. The murals scheme has been funded with the GLA's Good Growth programme, and the £2.2 million scheme comprises a range of regeneration initiatives built with and for the local community: the library renovation, forthcoming small business workspaces, school street and community engaged public art. I particularly like the colourful work of local primary school children along a pavement edging and the heritage sign celebrating Leeds Street Market; we've also had wonderful feedback on the piece by Hanna Benihoud that turns an alleyway into a floral living room, and the celebration of long-time market stallholder Charlie on the corner of College Gardens. I'm happy to say that this project is opening the door to much more creative activity in the area.

A Month of Sundays will take place in Snells Park on Sunday 7th August, a new poetry trail funded by our Stories of Enfield programme will open soon and the Council has recently won funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to work with residents on celebrations of local heritage, which will begin with an Edmonton Heritage Festival in September. With Council support, a new organisation called Fore Street For All have won GLA funding to deliver cultural events on the first Thursday of every month. There is a wealth of creative talent in the area, and it is fantastic to see how with Council support Angel Edmonton this is finding a platform and making such a positive impact.

Question 6 from Councillor Maria Alexandrou to Councillor Susan Erbil, Cabinet Member for Licensing, Planning and Regulatory Services

Would Councillor Jewell, Cabinet Member for Environment provide the costings for the implementation of the new Licensing Scheme for the Private Rented Sector including the specific costs for extra staff?

Answer:

The projected costs of operating the licensed schemes over the 5-year period of the schemes is estimated to be £19.8 million. The costs to date of implementation are £2.9 million.

The staffing cost is £2.3 million to date to the end of May 2022. However, there are still vacant posts in the team to recruit to. Recruitment and retention of staff is proving challenging.

Question 7 from Councillor Josh Abey to Councillor Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council

How many refugees have arrived in Enfield under the Home for Ukraine scheme?

Answer:

To date, 172 hosts in Enfield have been matched with refugee households. 91

refugee households have arrived in Enfield - 121 individuals including 28 children. For each household, the Council inspects the property, carries out background checks on the hosts (including DBS checks) and administers welfare payments. Officers have a coordinated approach across Housing, Adult Social Care, Children and Family Services and Education to ensure that refugees are supported.

Question 8 from Councillor Chris Dey to Councillor Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council

How much did the event to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee on Library Green cost to put on and why was the event invite only and not open to the public? Feedback from residents is that it was a real shame there wasn't an opportunity to celebrate Her Majesty's reign as an entire community. Would Cllr Caliskan, Leader of the Council confirm that we learn from this for future key Royal occasions and have inclusive events open to the public?

Answer:

It was fantastic that the London Borough of Enfield and Enfield Council marked the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Many different events and celebrations took place. The event on the Library Green was just one.

I would like to thank those councillors who attended, including the Cllr Dey, representing the Opposition group.

The event was also an opportunity for us to thank key stakeholders and voluntary groups for their hard work for our community. The total cost of staging the event was approximately £8,000. Given the historic nature and importance of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, Enfield Council felt it was appropriate for the event to be held.

Enfield Council also encouraged and supported residents and community groups in organising and taking part in other celebrations over the extended Bank Holiday weekend. Enfield Council waived fees for road closures and received 63 requests that were granted for street parties over the weekend. The council also awarded over 60 small grants applications to help people celebrate and honour the Queen in locations across the borough.

Question 9 from Councillor Bektas Ozer to Councillor Ergin Erbil, Deputy Leader

Can the Deputy Leader please provide an update to the Council about the beavers near Forty Hall, as I understand one of the beavers has sadly died?

Answer:

We are saddened and sorry to confirm one of the two beavers at Forty Hall Farm has died. The results of a post-mortem have confirmed that the male beaver died of natural causes.

In conjunction with experts the beaver enclosure was designed and built to the highest standards to meet Natural England's requirements in order to obtain the requisite licence. These experts are confident that the environment that has been created is good. We also have a stringent monitoring programme in place that

observes the health of the animals within the enclosure, food and water supply, topography, and other environmental factors.

The Council continues to work with these partners to ensure the health and wellbeing of any beavers contained within the enclosure remain of the uppermost importance.

It is our intention to find a suitable replacement beaver as soon as it is feasible. Enfield Council is in discussions in respect to another beaver release at the appropriate season. This will also give us time to make some adjustments to the enclosure to further enhance the conditions for the inhabitants.

In the meantime, we will continue to monitor the remaining female beaver as closely as possible without disturbing her or the habitat. We can confirm that on-the-ground observations and video footage show she is safe and well and is settling in happily.

Question 10 from Councillor Hannah Dyson to Councillor Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council

Will Cllr Caliskan, Leader of the Council, commit to terminating plans to lease out Whitewebbs Park to Tottenham Hotspur Football Club following the recent local Council elections which demonstrated a resounding rejection of this policy by local residents?

Answer:

The decision to proceed with Tottenham Hotspur Football Club proposals is being implemented by officers following scrutiny. The agreement to lease is subject to ongoing negotiations and grant of planning consent, which will involve public consultation by Tottenham Hotspur Football Club.

Question 11 from Councillor Gunes Akbulut to Councillor Ergin Erbil, Deputy Leader

I am seeing more and more electric vehicles on our streets: can the Deputy Leader provide an update on progress in decarbonising the Council's fleet of vehicles?

Answer:

Enfield Council currently has 3 electric vans in our fleet and a further 44 electric vehicles on order, of which 12 will be in service by Mid-august. There are 7 due on fleet September and 4 refuse trucks at the end of November. We are waiting on confirmed delivery dates for the remaining 21 vehicles.

I'm pleased to share the first electric street sweeper started in Enfield this month as a trial.

Question 12 from Councillor Chris Dey to Councillor Rick Jewell, Cabinet Member for Environment

During week commencing 19th June 2022 local residents took it upon themselves to clean out the boating ponds in Enfield Town Park. They were appalled, as was I, at the state of them when I went to thank them for volunteering. While it is great to see such acts of community service surely the Council should be keeping on top of

routine maintenance. Would Cllr Jewell, Cabinet Member for Environment join me in publicly thanking these volunteers for their hard work? Would he also state when the council last cleaned out these boating ponds and include how often will they be scheduled for cleaning in the future?

Answer:

I would like to thank the volunteers for their contribution to clearing the lake at Town Park. The Council appreciates the work the volunteer group is doing within the park, and the joint working with park services is working extremely well.

The Council does not de-silt or drain the lake, however we do have a responsibility to remove debris, detritus, and general litter. I have asked officers to increase the monitoring of the boating ponds.

Question 13 from Councillor Mahym Bedekova to Councillor George Savva, Cabinet Member for Social Housing

Could the Cabinet Member update Council about how the Council has engaged with tenants and leaseholders post Covid?

Answer:

I'm pleased to report that following a period of over two years of not being able to hold in person events, over two Saturdays in June staff from Council Housing held conferences for council tenants and leaseholders, which over 230 residents attended. I was pleased to be able to speak at this event and to welcome our residents into the Council and to work together to address issues of concern. The focus of both sessions was on listening to our residents – our experts by experience. Resident satisfaction is important to us as we prepare for the new regulatory regime for housing providers. Organisations with good rating will be the ones who are better able to attract new funding opportunities and to recruit and retain good staff.

During breakout sessions residents were able to engage with staff about a range of issues which included dealing with the cost-of-living crisis, lease extensions, and the council's repairs service. Also, in attendance were the police discussing the partnership work they undertake with the council to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour.

Almost 90% of tenants indicated that they would be interested in attending similar events and activities in the future which is a positive inditement on the success of the event.

Question 14 from Councillor Alessandro Georgiou to Councillor George Savva, Cabinet Member for Social Housing

Given that the 2021 Census data has now been released will Cllr Savva, Cabinet Member for Housing inform the chamber how will this impact Enfield's housing targets?

Answer:

Enfield's housing target is set by the London Plan which was adopted in 2021. The

London Plan will not change as a result of the new census data and this Council will continue to use the set target of 1,246 dwellings per annum until the London Plan is updated. When the Mayor revises the London Plan, they will be expected to use the government's methodology for calculating housing need. Given that the London Plan is unlikely to be reviewed for some time, and the methodology for calculating needs is likely to remain based on 2014 population projections, I am not expecting the recent census data to impact on Enfield's housing targets.

It should be noted that the Government's own target for delivering housing supply of 300,000 new homes per annum is not being met with 216,000 homes being delivered in 2020/21. The Government's standard methodology for housing need in Enfield suggests we should be delivering 4,397 homes per year.

Question 15 from Councillor Kate Anolue to Councillor George Savva, Cabinet Member for Social Housing

Could the Cabinet Member update Council with the Rough Sleeper Accommodation scheme?

Answer:

In 2020, Enfield Council successfully bid for over £9m to buy 77 homes through Housing Gateway Ltd to support rough sleepers into longer term accommodation. Once in their new home, rough sleepers are supported by our in-house specialist staff to access the help they need, such as support for mental health and substance abuse problems, moving towards training and work. The following year, we successfully bid for an additional £2.7m for a further 14 properties.

As of 6 July 2022, we have moved 66 individual rough sleepers and couples out of emergency accommodation and our Somewhere Safe to Stay Hub, into our Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme properties. We aim to acquire and let the remaining properties by Autumn 22.

Our team of in-house specialist support staff work in partnership with our partner agencies such as "Enable" substance misuse service, social services, and mental health services to help rough sleepers to access relevant support and enable them to maintain their home.

Question 16 from Councillor Alessandro Georgiou to Councillor Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council

Does Cllr Caliskan support extension of the ULEZ to the rest of London?

Answer:

The Council has previously argued that the ULEZ should cover the whole of the borough so that everyone can benefit from improved air quality. This remains our starting point, although we do need to ensure that measures are in place to encourage residents and businesses to switch to compliant vehicles.

The consultation on the Mayor's proposals is open until 29th July and TfL are keen to capture as many views as possible.

Question 17 from Councillor Hivran Dalkaya to Councillor Abdul Abdullahi, Cabinet Member for Children’s Services

Could the new Cabinet Member for Children’s Services set out the key ambitions for the Schools White Paper, Opportunity for all, and details of how these reforms will be funded?

Answer:

The White Paper “Opportunity for All” sets out the ambition that every child should attend an excellent school with excellent teachers, excellent curriculum to ensure improved outcomes for all children. This is clearly something that we all want for our children, and it is really pleasing to see that schools in Enfield, particularly Council run schools, continue to improve with more and more schools getting strong judgements in their Ofsted inspections putting schools in Enfield above both the national and Outer London averages. Attendance is also important in order to secure better outcomes.

However, the ambition for excellence for our schools needs to be backed up with sufficient funding. More and more schools are in deficit meaning that they do not have enough money to run their schools and one of the key impacts of this is to reduce staffing. Efforts to raise standards in schools are being undermined because schools are consistently under financial pressure, resulting in cuts to teaching staff and curriculum opportunities for young people. The cost-of-living crisis is also impacting school finances - rising fuel costs and salary costs.

Question 18 from Councillor Reece Fox to Councillor Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council

Will Cllr Caliskan, Leader of the Council commit to axing plans to build on Enfield’s Green Belt?

Answer:

Enfield is a growing borough, and our residents face a housing affordability crisis. To support our economy and provide more homes we need to make difficult choices about where growth can be placed.

We have to build somewhere – if it is not out, it is up. We have heard over the last couple of years from residents and councillors that we do not want skyscrapers all over the borough.

Question 19 from Councillor Josh Abey to Councillor Gina Needs, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Cohesion

What is Community Safety doing to prevent serious youth violence in response to the number of victims of Serious Youth Violence beginning to increase post pandemic?

Answer:

The list below is not an exhaustive list of activity however it does provide a flavour of the range of services provided.

- Attracting additional funding (£68K) from the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) to recruit youth workers to positively engage young people in SYV hot spots

- Ring fencing capital funding for procuring mobile youth vehicle to deploy to the hot spot areas which will be launched in the latter part of the 2022
- Monthly meetings to task resources to all crime and ASB- including SYV/ robbery
 - East of the A10 (plus transport hubs)
 - Open spaces
 - Reflects the local analysis/ problems/ plan
 - POP areas- Edmonton Green, Fore Street, Southgate, Enfield Town
 - CCTV
 - Schools, community, and communications
- Additional £150k on public spaces cameras
- Support for Operation Sharda- (VRU funded feelings of safety project with young people).
- Supported Young People's Substance Misuse Services
- Referred young people at risk from County Lines to the Rescue and Response project provided across London.
- "Because of you" communications campaign working with and supporting the Youth Parliament
- Commissioned a film for young people using VRU funding, which will be widely available for schools and other settings.
- Used partnership funding to develop a Youth Integrated Offender Management Programme for young people in the YOT requiring additional support to deter reoffending.
- Commissioned Mentors for young people working with St Giles Trust
- Commissioned schools' projects to drive positive aspirations, improve engagement and reduce the likelihood of exclusion or offending.
- Commissioned the London Fire Brigade to deliver a Fires Cadets scheme extended to those at risk of offending or reoffending. Pupils attending sessions will improve attendance and engagement levels. Cadets aged 14-17 years old work alongside operational firefighters and volunteers from the community to achieve a BTEC Level 2 Award in Fire and Rescue Services in the Community. Cadets develop transferable life skills including leadership, communication skills, teamwork, as well as learning first aid and practical firefighting techniques.
- Contributed to the development of the Domestic Abuse Hub with wrap around family support- DA is a strong contributory risk factor for young people who are at risk from Serious Youth Violence
- Dedicated ASB team within Community Safety, dealing with high priority anti-social behaviour
- Established extra cameras in areas that young people flagged as feeling unsafe – as part of a discrete project, (adding to over 360 community safety cameras and more than 1,000 in total).

Question 20 from Councillor James Hockney to Councillor Rick Jewell, Cabinet Member for Environment

There are many roads in Bush Hill Park Ward whose residents want to see action on road safety. Would Cllr Jewell, Cabinet Member for Environment state how

much money is budgeted for road safety in the borough for this financial year and will any of this be allocated to Bush Hill Park Ward?

Answer:

The government have still not agreed a long-term funding settlement for TfL. This is important as TfL are currently unable to confirm how much funding, if any, will be available for boroughs to implement road safety and other schemes. The budget for road safety schemes in 2022/23 has therefore yet to be set.

Within our funding constraints, the Council takes an evidence-led approach to road safety and has developed a prioritisation strategy to help ensure that investment is targeted in the most effective way. This takes into account a basket of indicators, with particular weight given to collisions where vulnerable road users are being injured.

Enfield Council spends over £2m per year repairing highway defects (potholes and paving trips etc) thereby ensuring that our roads and pavements are safe for everyday use by our residents and other users.

Question 21 from Councillor Nicki Adeleke to Councillor Alev Cazimoglu, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care

Councils are receiving supplemental funding to support improvements in the quality and capacity of drug and alcohol treatment, as detailed in the national drug plan 'From Harm to Hope'. How does the Council plan to utilise this funding to achieve the aims of the plan?

Answer:

The supplemental funding for drug and alcohol treatment is welcomed; however, as has been the national picture, the Council has seen a significant reduction in funding and resourcing for substance misuse in recent years. There is a requirement to increase treatment numbers by 19%, which the Council recognises will be a challenge. In order to meet this requirement and the broader aim of improving outcomes for residents, the Council plans to invest this additional funding in treatment services, early intervention and prevention projects, and additional resourcing to ensure a strategic approach to its wider spending on drug and alcohol services.

Question 22 from Councillor James Hockney to Councillor Tim Leaver, Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement

Would Cllr Leaver, Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement update the chamber on how many Enfield Borough households have benefitted from the £150 Government Council Tax Energy Rebate?

Answer:

£12.8m was funded by Government for the mandatory element of the Council Tax energy rebate scheme to support households with rising energy costs. The mandatory element will pay £150 to every household in Council Tax bands A-D. There are 84,500 households that are eligible for the mandatory element. As of 4 July 2022, we have paid £8.189m to 54,594 Enfield households who pay their Council Tax by Direct Debit and who have applied online to receive payment

directly into their nominated bank account. The online application window closed on 8 July; the next stage is for those that did not apply online is to issue households a Post office cash voucher. If households do not cash their Post office voucher, they will still benefit from this scheme as a £150 credit will be applied to their 2022/2023 Council Tax account to reduce their monthly instalments. All payments must be made by 30 September 2022.

This has been a hugely complex scheme to administer given the volume of households that are eligible and the need to procure, implement and test new software to facilitate payments. It has taken a huge effort across multiple services and teams to have paid 65% of eligible households so far. To date we have received £129k of grant to administer this Scheme, which is significantly less than the estimate resources to administer it.

Question 23 from Councillor Nawshad Ali to Councillor Alev Cazimoglu, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care

Can the Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care explain the Shared Lives Scheme and how it can support vulnerable adults to remain independent?

Answer:

I recently had the opportunity to attend an Open Day to promote the Scheme in Enfield. It was a great event where I met Carers, Service Users and Staff.

Shared Lives schemes operate within most Local Authorities. The Shared Lives model aims to promote people's independence, self-esteem, and confidence within safe and supportive carers' homes. The scheme supports vulnerable people in the community who have a Care Act 2014 assessed need. Its roots are in fostering. The Shared Lives Carer is self-employed.

Adult Social Care manages Enfield's scheme. It supports adults with learning disabilities, mental health problems, physical disabilities, and dementia. It offers both short and long-term care and support in a family environment. Essentially, the adult becomes part of the carer's family.

The Scheme's carers are assessed and trained by a Shared Lives Placement Officer and approved by an Independent Panel. Potential service users are then matched to a carer and a referral is made. Placements are monitored on a regular basis to ensure standards are met and that the service user and the carer are both happy with the placement. This enables individuals who may be at risk due to their vulnerability to share in the life of the Shared Lives Carer.

Shared Lives Plus is the UK charity that promotes and develops the Shared Lives models across the country. It provides support to member schemes and carers, including Enfield's.

Over the last 12 months Adult Social Care has promoted the scheme internally and externally, as part of a Programme to expand the service to support a growing demand for placements. We currently have 17 Shared Lives Carers in Enfield who support 12 adults. By expanding the Service, ASC hopes to enhance employment and career opportunities for local people, provide service users in need of a warm, welcoming home, and to ensure the service offers value for money.

An example of how the Shared Lives Scheme has supported a service user to maintain independence and improve quality of life is A. He is a 53-year-old man who lived with his older sibling in the family home. Following the death of his parents, the home was sold at very short notice. Shared Lives was chosen as it mirrored A's previous family situation so he could maintain his previous independence and quality of life. A was involved in choosing his Shared Lives carer, providing him with choice and control over his care and support.

Moving to shared lives as opposed to a residential care home also meant that A was assessed under the community care charging policy. This has resulted in A having more choice and control over how his money is spent. For example, he has autonomy to choose how much he spends on food and what he would like to buy as opposed to a residential home doing the shopping and overseeing the menu planning. The caring is more consistent, and A has built a trusting relationship, providing emotional safety and stability for him. A says he is very happy with his Shared Lives family and hopes to stay long term.

Question 24 from Councillor James Hockney to Councillor Tim Leaver, Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement

Would Cllr Leaver, Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement provide a breakdown on what has been spent on refurbishments (including Build to Change) at the Civic Centre so far, this financial year also include what is planned for the rest of the financial year.

Answer:

For the 22/23 financial year, the Build the Change spend on the Civic to date is £461k, within total budget of £1,520k.

The following Build the Change works are planned for 22/23:

- Leader's area: furniture, carpets, and blinds
- D Block, Chief Executive Business Area: 2 meeting rooms & CCTV recovery room
- Conservative Party Group Office
- B Block South: video conferencing solution to be installed into 3 meeting room and associated works

Outside Build the Change, there is a budget of £1,501k for maintenance and other works to the Civic Centre in 22/23, including c800k for works arising from the fire, and a new evacuation lift, new electric car charging points, air conditioning repairs, and cladding repairs.

Question 25 from Councillor Mahmut Aksanoglu to Councillor Susan Erbil, Cabinet Member for Licensing, Planning and Regulatory Services

Can the Cabinet Member update the chamber on the progress in implementing Private Sector Licensing schemes and the impact it is having on improving tenants' lives?

Answer:

The additional HMO licensing scheme and selective licensing scheme have both been implemented.

So far, we have received over 13,000 licence applications and are also undertaking inspections and have commenced enforcement of privately rented property that are unlicensed and/or in poor condition. To date this has resulted in the 59 cases being progressed to issue a financial (civil) penalty and some of these fines have been up to £30,000 due to the seriousness of the conditions found. A further 6 landlords/agents are also being progressed to prosecuted due to the very serious conditions found.

Officers have found conditions such as inadequate fire safety in HMOs, damp and mould conditions, electrical safety hazards, such as exposed wiring and faulty or dangerous gas or electrical installations. The inspections and enforcement undertaken by the officers is improving the safety and living conditions for private rented tenants in our borough by addressing these issues.

Question 26 from Councillor Edward Smith to Councillor Chinelo Anyanwu, Cabinet Member for Public Spaces, Culture & Local Economy

It is understood that the ugly concrete planters have been installed in the fountain plaza in Enfield Town recently for security reasons. Would the Cllr Anyanwu, Cabinet Member for Culture confirm the date for the removal of these planters and their replacement with something more appropriate?

Answer:

The concrete planters around Fountain Island were installed on advice from the Metropolitan Police that we ensure the safety of pedestrians from vehicular attack and were recommended as an essential security measure. The decision was taken for these to be planters, rather than plain concrete blocks as seen elsewhere, in order to have a positive impact on the town centre aesthetically as well as in safety terms. The planters have been regularly refreshed, and now frame the mini stage for Enfield Live, the busking platform that is providing free entertainment for shoppers on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday lunchtimes. This is receiving very positive feedback from residents and businesses. Whilst it is envisaged that the planters will at some point be replaced with more suitable physical barriers, these works are part of the wider improvements consulted on for Enfield Town and there is no concrete timetable at present.

Question 27 from Councillor Doug Taylor to Councillor Susan Erbil, Cabinet Member for Licensing, Planning and Regulatory Services

Can the Cabinet Member give us an update on some recent cases investigated by the Trading Standards Team?

Answer:

The Trading Standards team undertakes investigation and enforcement of a wide range of offence to protect residents and consumers involving the safety of products, illegal tobacco and alcohol and fraudulent and unfair trading practices and misleading consumers such as unnecessary and overpriced home repairs. Recent cases they have investigated and enforced include:

- Rogue traders - 7 prosecution files pending with potential Fraud Act offences. In one case a resident lost £20,000.
- 2 successful prosecutions and proceeds of crime confiscation awards of more than £116K for selling counterfeit jewellery
- Prosecution of a retailer (over £7K in fines and costs) for selling illegal tobacco which failed to comply with the labelling and or health warnings on the packaging were not in English.
- Successful prosecution of a business (fines over £10K) under the Cosmetic Product Enforcement Regulations 2013.
- Operation CeCe - we continue to support this London wide project focussing on the removal from the market of vapes and illegal tobacco and since March 2022 we have seized 753 vapes as they are not suitable for the UK market.

Question 28 from Councillor Chris Dey to Councillor Gina Needs, Cabinet Member for Safety and Cohesion

Since its inception the community volunteer patrols in Enfield Town have helped our young people feel safe and deterred the violent muggings that were rife before this initiative. Would Cllr Needs, Cabinet Member for Safety and Cohesion consider how the Council will support the 'Love your doorstep team' in encouraging volunteers to come forward for the School Patrol in Enfield Town and update the chamber on her ideas?

Answer:

Serious youth violence remains a real concern in Enfield. Whilst the Police and this Council are committed to reducing these figures, it is unsurprising that crime is so high when the Conservative government cut our local police. In 2009 there were 143,769 officers compared to only 135,301 in 2021. Our residents are crying out for additional policing!

We thank parents, teachers, and our community groups for their noble efforts in trying to tackle this issue. Like them, Enfield Council believes community safety is a top priority.

The Conservative government should be ashamed of its record on policing, which has resulted in parents and community group feeling so desperate that they need to patrol our streets. Only a few weeks ago there was a massive demonstration following yet another fatal stabbing of a 17-year-old boy.

Enfield Council continues to call on the government to adequately fund our police so we can all feel safer in our communities.

Question 29 from Councillor Chris James to Councillor Chinelo Anyanwu, Cabinet Member for Public Spaces, Culture, and Local Economy

Can the Cabinet Member please update the Chamber on how Enfield will mark Pride this year?

Answer:

I am really proud to say that this year, Enfield's Pride celebrations spanned the

borough and were the biggest and boldest yet. I hope you will have seen the poster designed by local artist Victoria Thompson that featured in 17 poster sites across the borough. It's a stunning artwork and will continue to be on display in the Civic Centre. I hope some of you also joined the estimated 8,000 people who celebrated Pride on Library Green on 18th and 19th June. This free, family friendly event is believed to be the first Pride festival in the borough and was organised by the Dugdale Arts Centre as part of its ongoing mission to celebrate all aspects of cultural life in Enfield. I attended the event and can personally testify to the incredible atmosphere on the occasion, but we have also received some wonderful feedback on social media, with thanks to the Dugdale and comments including "A massive thank you from the bottom of my heart for such an amazing event; it made me really emotional seeing the Enfield LGBTQIA+ community come together", "such a wonderful event, I hope this goes from strength to strength" and "I feel so proud to be in Enfield and hopeful for our future". The event was a wonderful testament to our cultural strategy's aim to connect people through culture. We look forward now to the borough-wide celebration that is A Month of Sundays and a Black History Month in October.

Question 30 from Councillor Chris Dey to Councillor Gina Needs, Cabinet Member for Safety and Cohesion

Would Cllr Needs, Cabinet Member for Safety and Cohesion inform the chamber how the council intends to support the Metropolitan Police in tackling the causes of Serious Youth Violence in the Borough?

Answer:

The EPIC report and subsequent Public Health needs assessment identified a range of underlying causes/risk factors that are strongly linked to serious youth violence (SYV) such as: domestic violence, criminal damage, possession of knife, public order offences, poverty and debt, household overcrowding, worklessness, school exclusions and children known to social care.

The Council's Public Health team with support from the community safety partnership and other partners have developed and commissioned a range of preventative initiatives that help to reduce risk factors linked to SYV such as:

- Nexus programme, providing support to children at risk of exclusions.
- Diverse range of positive activities from the Council's five youth centres providing information, advice, and guidance for young people. This also include Summer University programme in the areas of serious youth violence hot spots and a dedicated detached youth work team positively engaging young people on streets, estates, and local communities, including outreach work in schools that are impacted by serious youth violence.
- Holidays and Food programme of activities, targeting children and young people eligible for the free school meals to reduce the impact of poverty on children during school holidays
- The Council's Youth Justice Service in partnership with the Police delivers a range of out of court disposals for young people committing low level of offences, providing early intervention and diversion from further offending. New Youth IOM project was launched last year to reduce re-offending. The project is supported by Community safety and Police with focus on provision

of additional support and supervision and surveillance of those young people identified at risk of re-offending.

- Housing and Early Help services launched a new pilot housing project, providing support to families with high-risk children living in a temporary accommodation with focus on re-housing these families and engaging them with early help support
- Project Dove – delivering social prescribing support to young people identified at risk of serious youth violence within health and education settings
- Early Help service, supporting families with children and young people with additional needs that may impact on children achieving best outcomes
- Contextual safeguarding youth work, providing additional support to young people that are at risk of extra familial abuse, targeting young people known to social care and youth justice services
- Two community hubs, providing early help and support to vulnerable residents, including those with children, around poverty, worklessness, housing issues
- Council commissions CAB to provide support to families with children to reduce poverty
- Council attracted funding from the Violence Reduction Unit for the project Engage in the Wood Green Custody, to provide early intervention and follow through support into the community to the arrested young people presented at the Wood Green custody suite.
- Meridian Water programme places a clear commitment to the social value and creation of jobs and apprenticeships for local people, this includes opportunities for young people involved in offending
- a dedicated mentoring programme, delivered by the Youth Service, for children known to social care, providing additional support and positive influence for vulnerable young people
- The Council was successful in a joined funding bid with the NHS for the project Vanguard to provide additional therapeutical support to young people at risk of violence and exploitation. The project is currently being mobilised.