

COUNCIL –19 JANUARY 2009 - QUESTIONS

Oral Questions

Oral Question 1 - To the Leader of the Council from Councillor Gorrie:

Which of the major decisions, or decisions on individual cases, taken by the now discredited previous senior management of Children's Services, are going to be reviewed in the light of the JAR and Ofsted report on the poor quality of that decision making?

Oral Question 2 – To the Cabinet Member for Housing Services from Councillor Bull:

Can the cabinet member update us on the implementation of Introductory Tenancies and; what impact they feel this will have on antisocial behaviour?

Oral Question 3 - To the Cabinet Member for Resources from Councillor Williams:

With regard to the published summary of Standards Board for England case SBE21513.08, can he explain in what circumstances he feels it is appropriate to obtain independent legal advice while discharging his duties a Haringey Cabinet member?

Oral Question 4 - To the Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion and Involvement from Councillor Jones:

Will the cabinet member let us know what actions he has taken, or will be taking to improve the service provided by the council's customer service centres following his visits to them in late December?

Oral Question 5 –To the Leader of the Council from Councillor Winskill:

In response to a question I posed to the Leader at December's OSC about the press and PR arrangements during the baby P case, the names of three PR and media companies were declared exempt because one did not want to have its identity revealed for fear of the negative impact of being associated with Haringey. Are there any other suppliers, contractors, consultants or others, who do or wish to do business with Haringey, that have made the same or similar conditions about revealing their name(s)? If so, how many and what areas of the council services do they represent?

Oral Question 6 - To the Cabinet Member for Environment and Conservation from Councillor Dodds:

Will the cabinet member provide some detail about the proposed action plan to address non-compliant lines and signs?

Oral Question 7 - To the Cabinet member for Environment and Conservation from Councillor Weber:

Will the Cabinet Member for Environment please explain for public accountability purposes why residents CPZ petitions, requesting inclusion or exclusion of the slow CPZ process or the Fast Track CPZ process are not placed in the public domain for all to see?

Oral Question 8 – To the Cabinet Member for Environment and Conservation from Councillor Demirci:

Can the cabinet member outline what improvements will be made to public footpaths following the announcement of the Council's rights of way improvement plan?

Written Questions

Written Question 1 – To the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Wellbeing from Cllr Aitken:

What positions are there are at the Council currently filled by professionals with a specialism in autistic spectrum conditions, does the Council plan to create a stand-alone team with a ring-fenced budget to address any deficiencies in specialist staff numbers and how does the Council communicate with, and consult with, adults in Haringey with autistic spectrum conditions?

ANSWER

There are no specific positions in Adult services at present. However a number of staff have specific experience and expertise of working with this group and members of the Learning Disability combined team have attended specialist courses in relation to communication and assessments. Our two specialist Learning Disability psychiatrists have both recently qualified on a course in relation undertaking specialist assessments for people who have an autistic spectrum condition.

As part of the commissioning process with Haringey Primary Care Trust we are bidding for additional resources to set up a new specialist service to work with people who have aspergers / autism many of whom may be vulnerable and not have a learning disability. We have recently agreed a new care pathway with the specialist Community Adolescent Mental Health Service for young people with learning disability.

We have an agreed communication strategy which ensures all information is presented in an easy to understand format when required and have used tools such as communication profiles and booklets for individuals. We also held a one day conference in September 2008 for families, people with autism/aspergers and other key staff and stakeholders.

Written Question 2 – To the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People from Cllr Alexander:

What work has the Council done to assess the impact on the numbers of applicants for primary and secondary school places as a result of the economic downturn and its impact on schools in the borough?

ANSWER

Factors such as this are considered in the normal line of our annual school place planning cycle. References were made to the unpredictable impact of the economic downturn in the opening paragraphs of the July 2008 Annual School Place Planning report.

The planning of school places is based on projecting school rolls up to ten years ahead. We work with the GLA to commission projections which take account of: historical trends, birth data, mobility and housing developments.

In addition, we examine carefully the detailed data behind projections to identify factors that might verify or cast doubt on the projections. These include: planning applications, raw birth data, admissions applications, October and January pupils censuses and anecdotal information provided by schools, members of the public and council Members (a valuable source of early information on changes affecting local communities within the borough).

We have discussed the impact of recessions on birth rates with the GLA demographic unit.

Despite all this information, the final impact of the downturn on Haringey school demand and rolls cannot yet be reliably predicted. For example, house building will reduce, but more children born in the borough may stay here as opportunities to move out reduce.

We will continue to report in full annually and to share the data we are working on. We always welcome information and contributions from interested parties.

Written Question 3 – To the Cabinet Member for Housing Services from Cllr Allison:

Can the Cabinet Member specify how many Homes for Haringey residents have only an outside toilet? What is the average age of tenants living in these properties?

Can the Cabinet Member specify the number of Homes for Haringey properties that do not have a bathroom and still have a bath in the kitchen? What is the average age of the tenants living in these properties?

ANSWER

Homes for Haringey are undertaking a comprehensive survey of all of the Council's housing stock to inform Haringey's decent homes programme.

To date, Homes for Haringey has surveyed over 4,000 properties, none of which have an outside toilet or lack a bathroom.

I am aware that there are a small number of council properties that only have an outside toilet or lack adequate bathroom facilities. It is important to note that in such instances, the property is in such a condition because the occupants have refused improvements when they have been offered.

Homes for Haringey have two approaches to dealing with these properties. Firstly, I have asked staff in Homes for Haringey to identify addresses where they are aware that residents have these facilities. Where these properties are identified, Homes for Haringey will, with the resident, make an assessment as to whether the property remains suitable for the resident's use.

Secondly, Haringey's decent homes programme will identify these properties when surveyed. The programme will provide modern bathroom and kitchen facilities although it is worth noting that tenants may still refuse the improvement works. In these instances, Homes for Haringey would again work with the resident to make an assessment as to whether the property remains suitable for the resident's use.

Properties with these facilities will also be modernised when they become empty, before they are re-let.

As these properties become known to Homes for Haringey through the processes outlined above I would be happy to update the member on the resident demographics.

Written Question 4 – To the Cabinet Member for Environment and Conservation from Cllr Baker:

Could he give us a full update on the current status of Wightman Road and explain what the current plans are for improvement of the pedestrian areas and traffic calming area?

ANSWER

Transport for London approved funding to investigate traffic calming measures and pedestrian safety along Wightman Road, as part of our 2009/10 Local Safety Schemes Programme. Any proposals will encourage motorists to reduce their speed as well as improve safety and convenience for pedestrians at crossings. The exact details of measures are yet to be confirmed and will be subject to consultation with ward councillors and residents.

Proposals will be developed at the beginning of April 2009 and initial pre-consultation meetings are due to be arranged with ward councillors in April/May 2009.

Written Question 5 – To the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Enterprise from Cllr Beacham:

How many people have Haringey Council helped directly to find employment each year for the past five years?

ANSWER

Haringey Council did not directly support people into employment until the launch of the Haringey Guarantee and NRF/ESF Employability programmes in 2006.

Previous to that the council acted as a strategic partner and enabler of local partners in accessing funding and supporting delivery of employment and skills initiatives. Single Regeneration Budget programmes which ran in Haringey over 7 years up to 2006 created in total just over 2200 jobs and the main partnership programme in the Upper Lee Valley - Employ - (externally managed and delivered) created 1092 jobs across the 3 boroughs of Haringey, Enfield and Waltham Forest over the 3 year period 2003/04-2006/07.

Since the launch in September 2006 of the Haringey Guarantee and NRF/ESF programmes Haringey has directly supported 146 people into work in 2006/07 and 399 in 2007/08. This year the Haringey Guarantee is forecasting 330 job starts this year. The NRF/ESF programme ended in March 2008 and the funding has been redirected to establish and deliver the families into Work project.

Written Question 6 – To the Cabinet Member for Environment and Conservation from Cllr Beynon:

How many applications did the borough receive for blue badge (disabled) parking bays in each of the five years and what was the average time between an application being submitted and the parking bay being provided?

ANSWER

On average we receive between 130 and 150 applicants per year for the consideration of a disabled bay. It takes approximately 3 to 6 months from receiving the application to implementation, subject to approval of the application. Not all applications will be approved as they will not all meet the criteria or provide relevant supporting evidence.

We are reviewing our criteria for the approval of disabled bays to ensure that priority is given to those in greatest need.

Written Question 7– To the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Enterprise from Cllr Bloch:

1. What measures is the Council taking to safeguard the Borough's high streets from massive closures of shops?
2. Is the Council monitoring the number of shop closures and if so what are the results, and if not will they start to monitor the situation

ANSWER

1. The council is undertaking a number of measures to safeguard Haringey's high streets:
 - Free and reduced Christmas shopping car park parking charges
 - Local centre promotion support including phased improvements to street lights and pavements; traders meetings and business network and advice meetings; Festive/Christmas lights and some direct funding for local centre marketing for example Crouch End
 - Review of Haringey Town Centre Management system, with the aim of improving delivery over the next 2 years but with less Council resources
 - Supporting and advertising small business rate relief opportunities, (equivalent to £1m per annum)
 - Monitoring and paying Council bills on time
 - New year meeting with local banks to look at ways to support local businesses
 - Streamlined business information pack on Council services and regulations
 - Advice on how small businesses can get Olympic 2012 contracts
2. The Council through the Planning Annual Monitoring Report does look at shop vacancies in our main town centres. We report on this each year in December. Vacancy rates in our metropolitan (Wood Green) and district centres are around 5-8%, well below the normal England average of 10-11%. Our local centres are at 10-11%.

Written Question 8 – To Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Enterprise from Cllr Butcher:

What specific measures will Haringey Council be taking to ensure the proposed Concrete Factory on Cranford Way strictly conforms to the restrictions imposed by the planning inspector, particularly in relation to vehicle movements and dust levels?

ANSWER

In the permission granted on Appeal in June 2006, for the London Concrete Batching Plant, the inspector imposed 43 conditions covering issues such as noise, dust control, vehicle movements, hours of operation and detailed design.

A report on 14 pre-conditions to be dealt with before Construction starts is going to Planning Committee on 13 January 2009.

On vehicle movements, there are detailed limits (for example an average of 25 operational mixer truck movements inbound in one day, 25 outbound); and the Company is required to keep detailed records of all HGV movements and make them available for inspection by the Council. Once the use is operating, Planning and Enforcement Officers will arrange for periodic inspection of the records; and for occasional spot checks at the exit from the site.

On dust level controls, London Concrete's dust consultants have submitted detailed measures which include: enclosure of all conveyors and unloading areas, maintenance of filters and pressure relief valves, wheel washing, "wet sweeping" of the yard and access roads at least twice a week; monitoring of airborne dust in the vicinity, and emergency and complaints procedures. The Council's independent dust consultants have assessed the proposals. There will be periodic checks by Planning and Enforcement Officers to ensure these dust control measures are being implemented.

The same is true for noise control measures as for dust. Further details are in the Reports submitted to accompany the planning application HGY/2008/1574.

Written Question 9 – To the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Wellbeing from Cllr Davies:

How many people with autistic spectrum conditions does the Council have on its books, what services does the Council provide to them and what assessment has the Council made (or is planning to make) of unmet needs within this group of Haringey residents and additionally what forward planning is being carried out with regard to specific housing provision for adults with autistic spectrum conditions?

ANSWER

Our Adult Social Care database system- Framework I is being upgraded to enable us to provide and capture this information. We have good information and data from Children's Services which does allow us to plan for people in transition and has helped secure additional resources for young people in transition.

The housing needs of people with autism is part of the Council's homeless strategy. It is planned to have a local meeting to discuss this further with members of the housing service, supporting people, the Learning Disability Partnership, members of the Learning Disability Executive Partnership Board and Haringey Autism by the end of January 2009.

Written Question 10 – To the Cabinet Member for Resources from Cllr Edge:

What are the Council's published targets for the proportion of staff employed by the Council to be Haringey residents? What is the current proportion? What targets are published for the proportion of the labour force involved in the Decent Homes and Building Schools for the Future programmes that are Haringey residents? What are those targets and what is the current performance against those targets?

ANSWER

The Council is required to appoint staff based on merit. This is a legal requirement contained in the Local Government & Housing Act 1989.

This is to avoid setting targets that might have the effect of dissuading any person from applying for employment. The Council has adopted a recruitment policy that encourages applications from all persons regardless of their location. The Council does not therefore maintain targets for the employment of people by postcode.

For similar reasons the Council does not require that other parties maintain such targets, although we are committed to providing opportunities for local employment in all major programmes. For example both Decent Homes and BSF programmes are actively pursuing with contractors apprenticeship and local labour initiatives. The Council is working actively with local communities to encourage applications for employment. The Haringey Guarantee provides training and support for residents to improve their chances of securing employment.

Written Question 11 – To the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People from Cllr Engert:

Given that the Department for Children, Schools and Families are providing additional resources to Haringey Council in the wake of the Joint Area Review ordered by the minister, following the Baby P case, please can you answer the following:

1. How much more money is the Department providing and what is it for?
2. Is this additional funding going to continue in the long-term or is it only temporary?
3. Is the DCSF funding the difference between the new Director of Children's Services salary of £200,000 a year and that paid to the previous Director, given that they employed the new Director?

ANSWER

- The Council submitted an outline bid for additional support to the Secretary of State – that includes support for the Director's salary.
- The DCSF will not determine how much it might provide until the JAR Action Plan has been analysed – at the end of February.
- It has already committed £400,000 for front-line staffing which is being put to immediate use.

- The timing and duration of any additional funding – for any purpose – will again depend on the JAR Action Plan.

Written Question 12 – To the Cabinet Member for Resources from Cllr Gorrie:

What proportion of the Council's annual revenue and capital budgets are spent with Haringey based businesses? How has this proportion changed over the last five years? What targets does the Council have for the proportion of its expenditure that should be going to local businesses? What steps has the Council taken to increase the proportion of spend going to local businesses?

ANSWER

In 2003/4, Haringey Council spent £75.9m (24%) of its capital and revenue budget with Haringey based businesses. In 2007/8, this figure had increased to £130.5m (33%).

There are no formal targets with regards the proportion of Council expenditure to place with local businesses. The Council awards contracts based principally on best value as an outcome of a transparent and competitive procurement process, irrespective of a bidders location. Such a process has the effect of ensuring compliance with the Public Contract Regulations 2006 and ensures value for money for local tax payers and service users.

What steps has the Council taken to increase the proportion of spend going to local businesses?

The Council's emphasis over the last 5 years has been to develop the ability of local businesses to compete on equal terms and where possible to reduce any barriers to them accessing Council contracting opportunities. The majority of Haringey's businesses are SMEs (small and medium sized enterprises) and many of these are BAMEs (black and minority ethnic enterprises).

Examples of current initiatives include:

- known contracting opportunities and a guide to how the Council procures are published on our website.
- The Corporate Procurement helpline and mailbox are accessible to local suppliers and receive regular enquiries
- 'meet the buyer' events are organised to give potential suppliers (many of whom are local) and procuring officers the chance to exchange views and information
- representatives from Corporate Procurement attend externally organised events aimed at local businesses.
- Corporate Procurement and the Economic Regeneration Team are jointly planning support events in 2009/10 for local businesses that may be interested in bidding for Olympic Games contract opportunities and a bid

for matched funds to support this initiative will be submitted to Government later this month.

From 2005-7 Haringey was one of the lead authorities on the London Centre of Excellence “Buying a Better London” project which had the objective of embedding and developing good procurement practice around SMEs and BAMEs in public sector supply chains and encouraging London boroughs to adopt the procurement toolkit produced by the Haringey SME Procurement Pilot. Haringey has also run Trade Local projects which have developed the capacity of local suppliers.

Written Question 13 – To the Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion and Involvement from Cllr Hare:

The PDF files that are placed by the Council's on its website are produced by scanning a paper print-out, when they could be converted directly from the original word-processed document. This is both wasteful and inefficient for the Council, moreover, means that the PDF documents are much less useful to the public.

1. On what basis did the Council choose an inefficient method so lacking in utility for end-users of the documents?
2. Will the Council review its process of PDF document production?

ANSWER

The vast majority of PDFs are created by automatically converts the Word document into a PDF – in general the documents are not physically scanned in from a paper print-out.

There have been a few occasions when the electronic version of a Word document has needed to be physically scanned in as it contained a signature that was not available electronically, or the electronic version of the Word document itself was no longer available. But the need to use this approach is very rare.

PDF documents are a standard format across the Web and are popular with web users. This is because the Adobe Acrobat reader software is free to download and use - unlike Microsoft Office software. Please note that we provide the link to the Adobe download page on every webpage that contains a PDF.

PDFs provide a better level of security than MS Word – it is more difficult to copy content from a PDF, than it is from a Word document. This subsequently provides the council with better protection against users who might want to access our documents for malicious purposes. This is why we recommend it for all documents on our site.

The Council will not be changing its approach to its use of PDFs on the website.

Written Question 14 – To the Cabinet Member for Resources from Cllr Mughal:

Will he give his consent for publication of the full report into the Standards Board for England case SBE21513.08 in which he was found to have breached the members code of conduct?

ANSWER

No. I am sure he will agree with me that it would not be prudent to publish the SBE21513.08 report which has as part of its contents confidential information which some of his colleagues are trying to use to claim (the morale high ground).

I have inserted below for ease of reference and for the benefit of readers the paragraph which I believe his colleagues are referring to from the full summary of SBE21513.08.

“.....the ethical standards officer did consider that Councillor Adje breached the Code of Conduct by disclosing confidential information without getting his solicitor to agree formally that it would remain confidential and not be further disclosed.”

The operative sentence being, “.....without getting his solicitor to agree formally that it would remain confidential and”. I would refer him to the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA), “Rule 4 sets out provisions for dealing with the protection of clients' confidential information and the duty of disclosure owed to clients.

Rule

4.01 Duty of confidentiality

You and your firm must keep the affairs of clients and former clients confidential except where disclosure is required or permitted by law or by your client (or former client).” <http://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/code-of-conduct.page>

Finally, I insert a further paragraph from SBE21513.08 full summary which reads:

“The ethical standards officer considered that it was reasonable for Councillor Adje to have disclosed the information in order to obtain confidential legal advice.....”

I hope this clarifies matters not only for him but for his colleagues and others who are bent on a witch hunt on a matter which has already been determined by the Standards Board for England.

Written Question 15 – To the Cabinet Member for Environment and Conservation from Cllr Newton:

1. How much gross income has been received by the Council from parking charges at Summerland Gardens Car Park in Muswell Hill N10, for each of the following financial years: 2005/6; 2006/7; 2007/8; 2008/9 (to date)?
2. What were the costs to the Council of maintaining the car park in each of these financial years?
3. Please break-down into individual services the costs asked for above (i.e. cleaning, fee collection etc).
4. What contribution, if any, does M&S make towards these services both financially and in manpower?

ANSWER

1. The gross income for each of the financial years from 2005/06 to date is as follows.

Income

2005/06	173,399
2006/07	198,170
2007/08	152,853
2008/09(to Dec 08)	146,718

2. The costs to the Council of maintaining the car park (running costs) in each of the financial years are as follows:

Running costs

2005/06	20,436
2006/07	21,474
2007/08	23,438
2008/09(to Dec 08)	20,334

3. The breakdown of the annual running costs are shown below:

Year	Direct O/H	Transport	Cleaning	Tree Maintenance	Repair / Maintenance	Collection cost	Total Costs
2005/06	5,850	70	11,424	673	1,330	1,089	20,436
2006/07	5,490	81	12,421	891	1,394	1,197	21,474
2007/08	5,589	73	14,353	804	1,327	1,292	23,438
2008/09	3,967	171	14,149	618	420	999	20,324

4. Marks and Spencer does not make any contribution towards the running cost of Summerland Gardens' car park.

Written Question 16 – To the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People from Cllr Oakes:

In view of the fact that, this time last year, the Council was persuaded to amend its total removal of £67,000 funding to the Lemuel Findlay Supplementary School, and reinstate £17,000, can she say in detail what further help or finance the council has managed to give this 200-pupil Tottenham school?

ANSWER

The council has encouraged and supported Lemuel Findlay School Supplementary School to apply through the Supplementary & Community Languages Grant for funding. For the academic year 2008-2009 the school will receive the sum of £5,360. We know that there are 72 students who live in Haringey attending the school. For the academic year 2008-2009 the total funds available to supplementary and community languages schools (SCLS) is £67,749.50 which will be divided between the 17 SCLS (910 students) who have qualified for funding. Funding is allocated to schools on a per head basis, £67,479.50 divided by 910 Haringey students attending SCLS, resulting in each school receiving £74.45 per student.

At present we have only released funding for 2008-2009 to one of our SCLS. This is because a condition of funding is that all staff working in these schools have current CRB checks for all staff members that work directly with children and young people. We have informed schools of this condition and SCLS are in the process of ensuring that the CYPS is supplied with this information. Funding will not be released until these are all confirmed. We are in regular dialogue with schools and are confident that all our SCLS will be able to comply with this requirement.

The £17,000 awarded last year was a one off payment to assist the school during its transition stage.

As well as receiving funding all supplementary schools are to be offered a programme of training in Child Protection and Health and Safety. All schools will receive a series of monitoring visits to support school in improving the quality of their programmes

Written Question 17 – To the Cabinet Member for Resources from Cllr Oatway:

How many businesses in Haringey have claimed small business rate relief since its introduction in April 2005 and what has been the total cost claimed?

ANSWER

Amounts claimed are:

2005/06 £1,050,700 Number of businesses in receipt = 1,857

2006/07	£1,274,000	Number of businesses in receipt = 1,959
2007/08	£1,305,000	Number of businesses in receipt = 2,094
2008/09 (up to 7/1/09):	£1,345,250	Number of businesses in receipt = 2,182

Written Question 18 – To the Cabinet Member for Resources from Cllr Rainer:

What specific actions have been taken in response to the findings of the PWC review into the Council's frozen Icelandic bank investments?

ANSWER

The PWC report is not complete. However, as the council's Annual Treasury Management Strategy is due to be finalised and reported to councillors, a draft version of the strategy has been sent to PWC to ensure recommended actions they make are included in the strategy.

Written Question 19 – To the Cabinet Member for Enforcement and Safer Communities from Cllr Reid:

In February 2008 the Council announced that young residents on the Campsbourne Estate can now use MSM, texts, emails or phone to secretly report any trouble they witness or fear on the estate.

How many calls, texts, MSN messages and emails has the Council received to these contact points (MSN buddy list: asbat@hotmail.co.uk (available to chat Monday to Friday 12.30pm to 1.30pm and 3.30pm to 5pm.) Email: asbat@haringey.gov.uk Tel: ASBAT reporting line: 0845 671 1177 ASBAT mobile: (to text) 07948 056 739) since they were launched in February last year and how many of these contacts have been from the Campsbourne?

ANSWER

This was a pilot project, where an innovative initiative was employed to offer young people a more 'youth-friendly' method to report anti-social behaviour in a manner more suitable to them.

The ASBAT had been working with residents on the Campsbourne Estate for some time and were therefore aware that residents were not reporting the anti-social behaviour they were suffering from. In an attempt to encourage reporting of anti-social behaviour by residents (especially by young people) ASBAT officers carried out a door knocking exercise to every property on Campsbourne estate to speak directly to residents.

They explained to residents that reports of anti-social behaviour would be treated in confidence and investigate accordingly. ASBAT officers spoke to younger members of the household and provide leaflets explaining the new

MSN messenger and texting service for young people to contact the ASBAT report anti-social behaviour or any concerns they have.

One young person has added the ASBAT as a 'buddy' on the MSN messaging service but there have been no text reports received. Should there be further serious youth related incidents on the estate the ASBAT will consider carrying out a further consultation and publicity exercise with younger people. The cost to the ASBAT for setting up this service was around £50 and the system remains in place for use when appropriate in the future.

Written Question 20 – To the Cabinet Member for Resources from Cllr Scott:

1. How much has been paid in compensation to people who have taken action against Haringey after tripping on pavements and injuring themselves each year for the last five years?
2. Is compensation paid directly by the council or by an insurance company?
3. If compensation is paid by an insurance company, what has been the annual premium for this cover in each of the last five years?

ANSWER

1. The figures which include legal costs related to claims settled are as follows:

2003/04 - £235,442
2004/05 - £148,159
2005/06 - £42,903
2006/07 - £41,591
2007/08 - £410
2. Compensation is paid directly by the Council within the policy excess figure of £150,000.
3. Since the policy excess figure referred to above has not been reached within the last five years, no compensation has been paid by insurers in that period.

Written Question 21 – To the Cabinet Member for Resources from Cllr Weber:

1. How many Haringey owned buildings are not DDA compliant and can those buildings be listed?
2. How many buildings leased by Haringey are not DDA compliant, and can these be listed?

ANSWER

DDA adaptations or management arrangements to buildings (owned and leased) identified as delivering public services have all been completed to a level of reasonableness as allowed under the act.

Other improvements for disabled access not specifically required under the act (accessible public toilets in libraries) are currently underway to Stroud Green Library, Alexandra Park Library and Highgate Library.

Written Question 22 – To the Cabinet Member for Regeneration & Enterprise from Cllr Whyte:

When was the Section 106 Agreement for New River Village, which provided for funds to be made available for improvements to the Campsbourne Estate, signed with St James? How much was committed? When did the Council receive the money? How much has been spent to date? When will the rest of the proposed improvements be completed?

ANSWER

When was the section 106 agreement signed with St James?

There are two section 106 agreements with St James for New River Village, these are HGY/2002/0245 signed on 19 November 2002 and HGY/2004/0862 signed on 19 August 2004.

How much was committed?

The 2002 agreement provided a contribution of £50,000 for improvements to the Campsbourne Estate. This contribution was on the condition that the Council undertake a 'Campsbourne Estate Improvement Strategy' identifying improvements to areas of public realm and children's play within the Campsbourne Estate. The strategy identified an area of public realm referred to as 'Red Square' within the Estate for environmental improvements.

On 10 June 2005, the Council wrote to the developers (St James) and requested their permission to amend the s106 Agreement so that an additional £200,000 could potentially be used for environmental improvements at the Campsbourne Estate. Permission was sought because Campsbourne Estate is situated outside the prescribed area identified for the expenditure of the £1 million 'Social and Physical Infrastructure Contribution'.

Therefore, the Agreement committed £50,000 for expenditure within the Campsbourne Estate, with the potential scope for a further £200,000 to be spent within the Estate subject to project proposals.

When did the Council receive the money?

The Council received the £50,000 'Red square' payment on 5 February 2007. The potential £200,000 contribution (deriving from the £1 million social and physical infrastructure contribution) was received on 1 March 2006.

How much has been spent to date?

To date, a total of £87,000 has been spent on providing the improved public realm referred to as 'Red Square', along with project management fees and public consultation.

When will the rest of the proposed Improvements be completed?

Currently, Homes for Haringey are leading on a project to provide improved security measures (fencing, landscaping, boundary treatments etc) within the Campsbourne Estate. All of these works are scheduled to be completed by mid April 2009

Written Question 23 – To the Cabinet Member for Resources from Cllr Williams:

With regard to the published summary of Standards Board for England case SBE21513.08, can he explain how his disclosure of confidential information to a solicitor apparently resulted in a situation whereby this information may have advantaged the site occupant?

ANSWER

This is a matter of opinion - I certainly do not share that view and there is nothing to explain. The SBE21513.08 full summary is self explanatory. I would advise the member, for what it's worth, to now concentrate his efforts on addressing the very real and pressing issues facing the residents of the Borough in these difficult economic times, rather than chewing over a matter that has already been decisively dealt with by the appropriate authority.

Written Question 24 – To the Cabinet Member for Environment and Conservation from Cllr Wilson:

What plans are there to review the rules and operation of the existing Finsbury Park CPZ to ensure that it is actually meeting the needs of local residents, businesses and schools?

ANSWER

There are no plans at this present time to review the Finsbury Park CPZ. We are (or will be) making some changes to the signs and as part of this process we will consider small scale amendments to the existing bays to provide additional pay and display and business bays where identified through representations.

Written Question 25 – To the Leader of the Council from Cllr Winskill:

Please tell us how much Haringey spent on media monitoring services in 2006/07, 2007/08 and what is projected for the current year. Please distinguish between expenditure on printed and digital/electronic media.

ANSWER

The agency which supplies the clippings is Durrants, their fee incorporates a cost per clipping and so as coverage increases, so does the cost.

2006/07	Actual Spend at end of year
Durrants	£ 5,996

2007/08	Actual Spend at end of year
Durrants	£ 5,061

2008/09	
Durrants	£14,157 (estimate to end of year) The increase in cost is due to significant volumes of child protection coverage.

We do not spend money on online monitoring, but use search facilities on the internet to monitor coverage.