

COUNCIL – 18 JULY 2011 - QUESTIONS

ORAL QUESTIONS

ORAL QUESTION 1 - TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR BRABAZON:

With the continued proliferation of betting shops on our local streets, does the cabinet member welcome the recent Select Committee inquiry into the 2005 gambling act, particularly around it looking into how children and vulnerable people are protected from the adverse affects of gambling?

ORAL QUESTION 2 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND ADULT SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR WINSKILL:

In light of the planned savings and possible closure of drop-in centres planned by the administration, what discussions has the Council had with the voluntary and independent third sector to create capacity to ensure a seamless transition on drop-in centres to best ensure continuity of provision?

ORAL QUESTION 3 - TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND ADULT SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR GIBSON:

Can the cabinet member update us on the work being done by the council to provide more support for carers based in the borough?

ORAL QUESTION 4 - TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES FROM COUNCILLOR NEWTON:

What role will local residents and the Council have in the decision on which areas of the borough will be affected by the planned reductions of five sergeants for Haringey's Safer Neighbourhood Teams?

ORAL QUESTION 5 – TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN FROM COUNCILLOR RICE:

Would the Deputy Leader join me in congratulating Living Under One Sun on their recent win in the Jubilee People's millions big lottery awards?

ORAL QUESTION 6 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES FROM COUNCILLOR SCHMITZ:

How will the Council continue to support the Youth Council now that funding has been withdrawn?

ORAL QUESTION 7 - TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND ADULT SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR BULL:

Does the Cabinet member agree with me that, with the confusion and anxiety the Secretary of State for Health has brought to our local health service with his dithering on

the BEH Clinical Strategy and the NHS White paper, he is not fit to be Health Secretary and the Tories still can not be trusted with our NHS?

ORAL QUESTION 8 - TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND CARBON REDUCTION FROM COUNCILLOR ENGERT:

What is the carbon footprint of the printing, ink, paper, delivery and plastic packaging of the six issues per year of Haringey People?

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

WRITTEN QUESTION 1 – TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR ALEXANDER:

How many ex-council employees are currently working for the Council as external consultants and at what annual cost?

ANSWER

No ex-council employees are currently working for the council as external consultants.

WRITTEN QUESTION 2 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND ADULT SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR BEACHAM:

Please provide details and the cost of each preventative service provided to local residents by the Council's Adult Social Services department

ANSWER

Prevention means enabling people of whatever age to remain independent, active and healthy, so they get the most out of life and do not have to use formal social care services, or, should they have to, that they use such services at the lowest level possible.

Haringey Council has a range of preventative services, many of which are provided through the voluntary/independent sector on behalf of the Council. For 2011/12, the total cost of preventative services provided by Adult Social Services is £27.4m consisting of the following services:

Supporting People	£12.7m
Aids and Adaptations	£2.1m
Voluntary Sector	£3.2m
Homecare/Reablement Services	£2.8m
Day Care for Older People	£1.3m
Mental Health Prevention Services	£0.8m
Learning Disability Day Opportunities	£3.8m
Carers	£0.6m
Community Meals	£0.1m

WRITTEN QUESTION 3 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR BLOCH:

Has the Council any plans to scrap the school crossing patrol service?

ANSWER

No

WRITTEN QUESTION 4 – TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN FROM COUNCILLOR BUTCHER:

What is the total annual budget of all statutory services provided by Children's Services in the current year and what is the total Children's Service budget for 2011/12?

ANSWER

The Children's Services budget for 2011-12 is £82.8m. This includes £7.9m Capital Charges and £8m corporate overheads relating to core funded services.

Excluding Corporate overheads and capital charges the CYPS budget is £66.9m of which £52.3m is for Statutory Services.

WRITTEN QUESTION 5 – TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN FROM COUNCILLOR ENGERT:

In the interests of good practice and, in light of the governance review, does the cabinet member agree that the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee should be chaired by an independent member?

ANSWER

No, I do not agree.

All local authorities (LAs) are required under The Children Act (2004) to appoint a Lead Member for Children's Services.

Briefly, the role of the Lead Member as set out in statutory guidance and (DfES, 2005) is to have political accountability for Children's Services, to communicate with, and engage partners, communities and end-users in meeting children's needs, and to have particular responsibility for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

The Lead Member has primary responsibility for corporate parenting, and ensuring the welfare and educational achievement of children and young people in public care.

In 2008 the LGA commissioned a report into the role of the Lead Member for Children's Services. The report found that most authorities identified panels, boards, committees and forums as the means by which information regarding corporate parenting was provided. Due to the statutory responsibilities for corporate parenting, many Lead Members chaired the relevant committee/boards. A recent sample of boroughs, under

different political administrations, indicates that this picture is still accurate e.g. Slough (Labour), Southwark (Labour) Croydon (Conservative) and Sutton (Lib Dem).

WRITTEN QUESTION 6 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND CARBON REDUCTION FROM COUNCILLOR ERSKINE:

What is projected cut to the Council’s £17million IT budget for each of the next two years?

ANSWER

The councils IT budget is not £17m. It is £13.5m 2011/12 (when overheads, depreciation and infrastructure are removed it comes to a net £11.8m). The budget has reduced significantly over the last 3 years, with a headcount reduction of 29 FTEs.

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	Reduction
Budget (net excluding overheads etc)	£18.9m (£14.3m)	£16.6m (£12.7m)	£13.5m (11.8m)	£5.4m (£2.5m)
Headcount	106 FTE	103 FTE	77 FTE	29 FTE

£3m of cashable savings have been made from the IT budget since 2008/09.

- 2008/09 - £570k
- 2009/10 - £780k
- 2010/11 - £650k
- 2011/12 - £1m

Nearly 60% of the IT budget is spent on supplies and services:

- Contracts with external suppliers to provide business systems £ 4m
- Telephony – for the entire council - £715k
- Network management - £1.225m
- Infrastructure management - £725k

£150k of savings have been agreed from the 2013/14 budget. The full 2012/13 and 2013/14 IT budget proposals will be considered during the autumn. As part of this, it is planned that savings from the supplies and services budget will be presented for consideration.

WRITTEN QUESTION 7 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND CARBON REDUCTION FROM COUNCILLOR GORRIE:

Please provide a schedule of any line items with a forecast variance of more than 20% on the line item saving budgeted for 2011/12 to show whether the Council's plan for delivering the efficiencies and savings identified in the budget for 2011/12 are on time and delivering the savings as estimated in the budget documents that were approved by Full Council.

ANSWER

Please see attached spreadsheet .

WRITTEN QUESTION 8 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR HARE:

To improve safety for cyclists on Haringey's roads, will the Council commit to registering with the Freight Operators Recognition Scheme (FORS) a quality standard that means the Council and its service providers are using properly equipped and maintained vehicles, and that its drivers receive general training?

ANSWER:

The safety of cyclists is considered to be an important road safety issue and it is acknowledged that cyclists are vulnerable road users with a higher percentage involved in serious road accidents than car occupants. The Council is therefore keen to address this issue, particularly as it gives high priority to road safety and to promoting cycling as a Biking Borough.

The largest freight vehicles involved in the delivery of Council services are operated by Veolia Environmental Services for the Council's waste and recycling services. Veolia is already a member of the scheme and this applies across all of their contracts, including the one with Haringey. Both Veolia and our highways contractors, Volkerhighways, have already agreed to participate in HGV training for their drivers on cycle awareness that is being run by Transport for London.

Providing cycle awareness training for non-HGV drivers (light van drivers for example) is also part of our Biking Borough programme over the next three years.

A wide range of Council services either use light goods vehicles or may employ contractors who use freight vehicles. The option of the Council joining the scheme will be given serious consideration.

WRITTEN QUESTION 9 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR JENKS:

Is the Council committed to the provision by the Council of two recycling centres?

ANSWER

Yes

WRITTEN QUESTION 10 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES FROM COUNCILLOR NEWTON:

How many hours of Community Payback/punishment have taken place in the borough in the last year and does the cabinet member see this increasing and for what sort of tasks?

ANSWER

The Community Payback Scheme is led and monitored by the Probation Service and we have worked closely with them in recent years. Beginning in July 2005 and, until recently, the Waste Management Service supported one day per week of Community Payback for approximately 6 hours a day where the nature of the work was to clear up dumping and litter eyesore locations and the cutting back of overgrowing vegetation to clear alleyways and pathways.

Haringey had the benefit last year of Home Office funding for a Neighbourhood Crime and Justice Co-ordinator but this post ceased in March this year and we now need to find ways of continuing such projects within existing resources.

A persistent challenge with the delivery of payback schemes has been the management resources for the mandatory supervision. Haringey Council and Probation have been creative in thinking about this barrier and are in discussion about training FLS staff to supervise projects in the borough. There is real enthusiasm for a pilot project of this type to start with Parks and Open Spaces which will set a precedent for a new and more sustainable way of planning and delivering Community Payback in the future. Engagement with residents will form part of this pilot.

Relevant management and Cabinet Leads are supportive of this development.

WRITTEN QUESTION 11 – TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN FROM COUNCILLOR REECE:

Please provide the total number of students from schools in the borough who have gone on to study at university in each of the past three years?

ANSWER

07-08 =	421	including students from CoNEL ¹ and Haringey Sixth Form
08-09 =	580	including students from CoNEL and Haringey Sixth Form
09-10		data unavailable

WRITTEN QUESTION 12 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND CARBON REDUCTION FROM COUNCILLOR REID:

How much is the forecast capital receipt for the Council from the Hornsey Depot development and from the Council's land ownership in the Heartlands development site?

¹ CoNEL – College of North East London

ANSWER

The Council's forecast capital receipt for Hornsey Depot is currently classified as exempt due to the commercial confidentiality of the pending completion of negotiations between the landowners and the preferred developer.

At this stage of development, it is not possible to assess the potential capital receipt from the Council's freehold interest in the Heartlands development site.

WRITTEN QUESTION 13 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR SCOTT:

What arrangements is Haringey making to monitor the effectiveness of the Palace Gates lorry ban? The Metropolitan Police advise that enforcement is a matter for the Council and residents with information about breaches should contact the Council. What steps are being taken to publicise contact numbers and email addresses so that this can be done efficiently?

ANSWER

We have just completed the Palace Gates Area Traffic Management and Calming Scheme and will be undertaking traffic surveys in the area in six months time during a neutral month which is likely to be February. The survey results will be compared to surveys conducted prior to the construction of the scheme and will permit an assessment of before and after HGV traffic flows.

We are currently working with the parking enforcement team to establish whether a trial enforcement exercise can be undertaken using mobile enforcement vehicles. A cost benefit analysis can then be undertaken regarding the level of continued enforcement that is also balanced against other demands to enforce road safety issues elsewhere within the borough.

In the meantime, if residents note HGV registration details together with noting the company name and contact details on the vehicle, they can pass these to our parking enforcement team who will write an advisory letter to the owner of the vehicle.

WRITTEN QUESTION 14 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND CARBON REDUCTION FROM COUNCILLOR STRANG:

The Medium Term Financial Plan shows a saving in customer contact and reduction of management posts through de-layering and spans of control – please provide the total saving the Council is seeking to achieve from these two policies, whether these plans are on target and details on the Council's plan on how these saving will be achieved?

ANSWER

The savings in the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) on customer contact (£1m) and spans of control and de-layering (£2.1m) were originally programmed for 2012/13 onwards as cross cutting and when the MTFP was set required detailed plans. The

cabinet in revising its budget assumptions at its meeting on 19/7/11 and is considering a report that is recommending these items are removed and replaced in due course with specific savings proposals covering these topics to reflect the budgets in which the actual savings will need to be made.

WRITTEN QUESTION 15 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR WEBER:

Can the Cabinet Member please give her views on the current Controlled Parking Zone Policy with regard to cost of consultations and officer time, and when the policy will be reviewed?

ANSWER

I have no plans at this present time to review the current policy.

The Council's current policy for the consideration of CPZ controls is reactive to resident demand. We will consider the introduction of parking controls for an area if residents provide evidence of a high level of support, usually through a petition or public meeting. This process enables us to move straight to statutory notification and negates the need for a formal consultation stage and so reduces consultation costs.

To ensure the wider community is aware of our intentions we provide information and invite representation from both the proposed area, but also neighbouring roads not included in the proposals. You will appreciate that parking is a very emotive issue and requires extensive officer resource to ensure consultation with the community is both thorough and transparent. This ensures that any controls have the broad support of the community.

WRITTEN QUESTION 16 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL INCLUSION FROM COUNCILLOR WHYTE:

Has the Council any plans to reduce services provided by the Council to tackle unemployment?

ANSWER

Council services to tackle worklessness were reduced at the end of 2010-11 because 1.2 million of central government funding was withdrawn from the Area Based Grant. The Coalition brought to an end the Future Jobs Fund (£1.4million) which provided Haringey with an opportunity to provide employment to 200 young people.

Despite this in 2011-12:

- The Council has maintained its own fund of £500,000 for the core Haringey Guarantee service. This is being further developed in 2011-12 to focus on young people, parents and those furthest away from the job market.
- Work is underway to develop a new approach and programme tackling worklessness linked to carbon management, green skills and jobs from 2012.
- A new relationship with Job Centre Plus is being developed.

- A successful funding bid has been made to the European Integration Fund for £973,507.91 over 3 years to engage and support 480 residents born in developing countries who have entered the country in the past 10 years and are now living in Tottenham, Wood Green or Hornsey.
- A shared economic development service between Haringey and Waltham Forest is being developed to deliver better value for with reduced resources.
- The new national Work Programme will not support the majority of worklessness residents in the borough with 24,000 not eligible for the programme.

WRITTEN QUESTION 17 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR WILLIAMS:

Please set out the cost per hectare of running Haringey's parks, showing capital investment and operational cost, in each of the past five years.

ANSWER

Total Parks Hectares - 222

	2006/7	2007/8	2008/9	2009/10	2010/11
Revenue Spend (net)	£2.61m	£2.70m	£2.97m	£2.68m	£2.57m
Revenue Spend per hectare	£11.75k	£12.16k	£13.38k	£12.07k	£11.58k
Capital Spend	£2.65m	£1.48m	£2.54m	£4.48m	£1.57m
Capital Spend per hectare	£11.93k	£6.66k	£11.44k	£20.18k	£ 7.07k

WRITTEN QUESTION 18 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND CARBON REDUCTION FROM COUNCILLOR WILSON:

How many schools are currently buying energy (i.e. electricity and/or gas) through the Council?

ANSWER

Primary Schools = 47 gas and 53 electricity

Secondary Schools = 10 gas and 11 electricity

Greig Academy = gas and electricity.

WRITTEN QUESTION 19 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND ADULT SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR WINSKILL:

What is the total annual budget of the statutory services provided by Adult Social Services in the current year and what is the total Adult Social Services budget for 2011/12?

ANSWER

The annual budget of Adult Social Services in 2011/12 is £83.2 million. The total annual budget of Adult Statutory Social Care in 2011/12 is £66.5million.

