

COUNCIL 15 July 2013

QUESTIONS

ORAL QUESTIONS

ORAL QUESTION 1 - TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND CARBON REDUCTION FROM COUNCILLOR BROWNE :

Can the Cabinet Member outline the impact of the Coalition Government's Spending Review on Council Budgets in 2015/16?

ANSWER

ORAL QUESTION 2 - TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR WILSON:

The vast majority of the decent home work due to happen this year in Hornsey and Wood Green has been removed from the programme due to the council's legal error, will you commit to putting those works on next year's schedule?

ANSWER

ORAL QUESTION 3 - TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL INCLUSION FROM COUNCILLOR GRIFFITH :

Could the Cabinet Member provide clarification on the purpose of the £500m Tottenham regeneration borrowing guarantee recently announced by government?

ANSWER

ORAL QUESTION 4 - TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR JENKS:

How much will it cost the council to implement a borough-wide 20mph zone on non-TFL controlled roads?

ANSWER

ORAL QUESTION 5 - TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES FROM COUNCILLOR CHRISTOPHIDES:

Can the Cabinet Member provide an update on the changes to the local policing model and their impact across the borough?

ANSWER

ORAL QUESTION 6 - TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND CARBON REDUCTION FROM COUNCILLOR STRANG:

What controls are in place to stop massive overspending on capital projects such as Rhodes Avenue, where the council has so far gone £6m over budget?

ANSWER

ORAL QUESTION 7 - TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL INCLUSION FROM COUNCILLOR MALLETT:

Could the Cabinet Member outline how the government's Use Class order changes will affect planning applications processed by Haringey Council?

ANSWER

ORAL QUESTION 8 - TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR WILLIAMS:

Why have 2 council flats on Truro Road in Bounds Green been left empty for 5 and 6 years?

ANSWER

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

WRITTEN QUESTION 1 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR WINSKILL:

How many council homes are currently empty?

ANSWER

The number of homes that were empty on 1 July 2013 was 180 (1.12% of the Council's stock of rented homes). This excludes Protheroe House, which is awaiting disposal for development as an Extra Care Supported Housing Scheme.

WRITTEN QUESTION 2 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR BEACHAM:

How many council properties have been occupied by squatters in the last two years?

ANSWER

Between 1 July 2011 and 30 June 2013, 23 Council homes have been occupied by squatters at some point. On 1 September 2012, the squatting of residential property became a criminal offence. None of the Council's homes are currently occupied by squatters.

WRITTEN QUESTION 3 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR HARE:

How much money has the council lost in rent on council properties due to a property being empty or occupied by squatters in the last two years?

ANSWER

It is estimated that between 1 July 2011 and 30 June 2013, the Council lost £1,390,000 in rent on properties that were empty or being occupied by squatters. Rent losses resulting from squatting account for 1.44% of the above losses.

WRITTEN QUESTION 4 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR REECE:

How much money has the council spent removing squatters from council properties in the last two years?

ANSWER

Since 1 July 2011, the Council has spent around £19,200 removing squatters from council homes. No money has been spent on removing squatters since October 2012.

WRITTEN QUESTION 5 – TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR SCHMITZ:

What has the council actually done in the last year to tackle the many issues raised in the Lipton report 'It took another riot'?

ANSWER

The recent Tottenham Delivery update report was considered by Cabinet on 9 July, which sets out some of the significant key achievements made by the Council since the publication of the Panel's Report last December.

The amount of investment we have secured in Tottenham this year is staggering. £50m for a new primary school at Brook House, £20m from TfL for a new gateway station, and a further £25m funding from the Mayor of London to deliver four trains per hour between Enfield, Northumberland Park and Tottenham Hale. Most recently, the Government has confirmed a £500 million borrowing guarantee for the entire Tottenham regeneration programme. This is a massive leap forward in reaching our vision for Tottenham.

The work being done in the community is just as significant as this much needed investment. We have been working alongside businesses and local residents on the Tottenham High Street Charter, the High Road West masterplan and the West Green Road improvement scheme. It is crucial that the plans for Tottenham involve everyone affected, and we will continue to ensure this happens.

While much has been achieved over the last 6 months, I am clear there remains much more to be done. Recent key achievements serve as a strong platform to move forward the regeneration of Tottenham for all our communities.

WRITTEN QUESTION 6 – TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR BUTCHER:

Why has it taken to council so long to produce the Tottenham delivery plan?

ANSWER

We have always been clear that the regeneration of Tottenham requires coordinated and sustained effort across both the Council and our partners, as we cannot achieve this alone. The production of the delivery plan has therefore required significant forethought and extensive consultation with local communities, businesses and partners to identify what improvements are needed. The result is a plan that has the potential to make fundamental and lasting physical, social and economic improvements to the area.

WRITTEN QUESTION 7 – THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR WHYTE:

How many council tenants and leaseholders will have their scheduled decent home work delayed due to the legal error during the procurement of the contract for the decent home works for this year?

ANSWER

The procurement process for the 2013/14 programme was delayed due to an issue relating to the legal interpretation of a complex set of regulations, rather than due to a legal error.

As already explained in the briefing that was sent to all Councillors on 18 June 2013, 269 tenants and 138 leaseholders will have their Decent Homes work slightly delayed as a result of the variations to the 2013/14 programme. We have already agreed that those schemes will be carried out at the front of the 2014/15 programme.

We have however varied the 2013/14 programme so that an additional 273 tenants across the borough will benefit this year from new kitchens and bathrooms.

WRITTEN QUESTION 8 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND CARBON REDUCTION FROM COUNCILLOR ALEXANDER:

How much is the council paying fund managers to administer the pension fund for council staff?

ANSWER

At the end of 2012/13 the sum paid to fund managers was £1,462,376 (just under 0.02% of the £863m fund). This cost was met from the pension fund itself.

WRITTEN QUESTION 9 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL INCLUSION FROM COUNCILLOR REID:

Will the Hornsey Depot site planning proposals from Sainsbury's and St James' include a 10-storey tower block as has been suggested?

ANSWER

The Council has not yet received a planning application from St James and Sainsbury's so it is not possible to confirm what the final proposal will be.

Sainsbury's and St James are in the process of developing a scheme for the redevelopment of the Hornsey depot site for a mixture of residential and retail uses.

Their initial proposals show a scheme for the provision of a 39,000 ft² (gross) supermarket with about 400 residential units of various sizes and tenures. The residential units are arranged in blocks varying in height from two storeys on the high street frontage up to a single ten storey feature block towards the centre of the site.

St James has undertaken pre-application consultation with local residents, including sending invitations to more than 5,000 local addresses. They are now in the process of analysing the responses to their consultations and revising their development scheme accordingly.

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

Of the decent home work originally agreed at Cabinet for the 2011/12 financial year, how much work was actually carried out as a percentage?

ANSWER

100%

WRITTEN QUESTION 11 – THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR ALLISON:

How many times and in which years, has the schedule of Decent Homes works been varied under delegated powers by the Cabinet Member and/or Director?

ANSWER

The schemes in the Decent Homes Programme have been varied under delegated powers on three occasions - in 2011/12, 2012/13 and 2013/14.

WRITTEN QUESTION 12 – THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR ENGERT:

How much money will the council save by changing the pothole intervention levels as announced in May?

ANSWER

A reduction in intervention levels will result in an increased number of potholes being treated and therefore an increase in expenditure by the council this financial year. We have committed to investing £310,000 in 2013/14, which will importantly improve the physical environment of the borough and reduce the potential further deterioration of our highway infrastructure.

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

How many enforcement notices has the council served to home owners to cut back hedges?

ANSWER

Since 1 April 2012 there have been 18 cases where notices had to be served under section 154 of the Highways Act, where the issue could not be resolved by verbal or written advice.

WRITTEN QUESTION 14 – THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR SOLOMON:

How many hedges have been identified by the council as needing to be cut back as a result of regular inspections by officers?

ANSWER

The Council has dealt with almost 100 overgrowing foliage issues since 1 April 2012.