

COUNCIL QUESTIONS – 14 OCTOBER 2002:

Oral Question 1 - To the Executive Member for Resources from Councillor Bloch

What impact will the Government's decision to review the revenue support grant have on Haringey's finances in the next financial year?

Oral Question 2 - To the Executive Member for Lifelong Learning from Councillor Laird

How many school days have been lost in Haringey schools due to maintenance work by Jarvis since their contract began?

Oral Question 3 - To the Executive Member for Social Services and Health from Councillor Aitken

When does he expect Lord Laming's Report into the death of Victoria Climbié to be available?

Oral Question 4 - To the Executive Member for Environment from Councillor Hare

What steps does the Council take to ensure that all new road schemes in the borough make provision for cyclists so that cycling safety is enhanced and travelling by cycle is encouraged?

Oral Question 5 - To the Executive Member for Environment from Councillor Gilbert

How many complaints have been made against the planning department since May 2002?

Written Question 1 - To the Executive Member for Social Services and Health from Councillor Aitken

What is the Council's policy for preserving the records of Social Services residential establishments that have been closed or disposed of?

Answer

The Care Homes Regulations 2001 require detailed records to be kept in respect of each service user (Regulation 17). The content of these records is laid out in Schedule 3 of the Regulations in considerable detail, and includes information such as a photograph of the service user, personal details, next of kin, record of medicines administered, nursing/personal care given, and their care plan. These records are to be kept securely in the care home for three years after the death/discharge of the resident.

Where a home has closed, the resident's files accompany the resident to their new home, if it is a Council-run home, and are continued. Where the home is not Council-run, a summary document is sent to the new care provider along with the outcome of an up to date care management review. Old files are archived for future reference.

Financial records and other documentation such as logbooks are kept for seven years.

Written Question 2 - To the Executive Member for Social Services and Health from Councillor Aitken

Regarding the SSI investigation in children's services at Haringey Council and the involvement of council staff with the completion of questionnaires issued to users of the service:

- (a) How did the Haringey Council staff involved in these activities acquire the names and addresses of the users to whom the SSI had sent questionnaires,
- (b) Why did Haringey Council instruct staff to contact people who had received the questionnaire, and
- (c) Were any additional staff employed, or extra hours contracted, by Haringey Council in order to make these contacts?

Answer

- (a) The SSI do not have any records of which members of the public use local authority services. These are local government not central government records, and therefore without Haringey providing names and addresses to the SSI they would have no means of knowing who used Haringey Services. Haringey Council was asked by the SSI to provide details of client names relating to service users in receipt of services around child protection, provision of care and accommodation or family support. The SSI then chose randomly from that client

database a list of 50 service users whose files they wished to inspect and who would be sent a questionnaire.

(b) The SSI and the Council were keen that as full a response to the parental questionnaire was ascertained as possible. Therefore, Haringey arranged for its administrators to make contact with parents in order to assist with completion of forms, which are quite detailed for a client group with mixed abilities around reading skills. In one case, the SSI specifically asked for the council to provide someone to assist the parent as the formation provided from the database suggested that the first language was not English. Care was taken to ensure that staff involved in any casework issues were not involved in this process and the assistance given was of a purely administrative nature. The SSI was fully aware of the preparations being made.

(c) No extra staff were employed but some extra hours were contracted from existing administrative staff in the department for this purpose. This was necessary as some of the parents were contactable only in evenings or at weekends. This is just one small part of additional hours preparation required from many staff members in advance of any SSI inspection.

The Council is currently considering the feasibility of bringing in external consultants to support future SS consultation processes.

Written Question 3 - To the Executive Member for Environment from Councillor Beacham

How many positions within the planning department are currently filled and how many are awaiting appointment, and what progress is being made in filling these positions?

Answer

The Planning Group comprises a total of 43 posts. 30 of these posts are currently filled with permanent staff. 13 posts are vacant but are currently covered by Agency Staff.

Recruitment is about to commence in relation to the second phase of the restructuring of the Service. However members will be aware that recruiting to the Senior Management positions has been successful. 13 posts to be advertised are at a more junior level.

Written Question 4 - To the Executive Member for Environment from Councillor Beacham

How much does the planning department cost to run each year, and what is the annual cost of running the Council's regeneration function?

Answer

The Planning Service has a budget of £2.45m. The cost of the regeneration function in the Chief Executive's Service is £1.069m this year, of which £0.519m is salaries. The remainder is running costs and match funding for regeneration programmes. In addition, the Council provides £100k per year support to Urban Futures.

Written Question 5 - To the Leader from Councillor Bloch

Are Councillors required to inform the Monitoring Officer of their membership of the Freemasons, and if so have any councillors registered themselves as being members of the Freemasons?

Answer

The Model Code of Conduct which the Council has adopted with minor amendment, does not require councillors to register their membership of private societies. They are therefore not required to inform the Monitoring Officer of their membership of a particular masonic lodge. However, almost all members of the Freemasons will also be individual members of the central Grand Charity of the Freemasons which is a registered charity. Any Councillors who are members of the Grand Charity would be obliged by the Code of Conduct to declare this membership in the register of interests. To date no councillor has registered such membership.

The Labour Group also keeps a Register of Member's Interests which includes the question about membership of the Freemasons. The Register shows that no Labour Member is a Registered Freemason.

Written Question 6 - To the Executive Member for Environment from Councillor Bloch

On what date was the bid submitted for £50,000 for Parkland Walk referred to in the answer to written question 12 from full council, 9 September?

Answer

The Borough Spending Plan, which included the bid for £50,000 for Parkland Walk, was submitted to Transport for London on 28th June 2002.

Written Question 7 - To the Executive Member for the Environment from Councillor Davies

To confirm that Burlington Road is still the intended access route for the construction of the Sports Hall and all weather pitches on the Fortismere redgra site, and to state how this will be achieved in the light of the planning conditions which are to be enforced re both hours of permitted access and weight restrictions on vehicles?

Answer

The report of the Assistant Director to the Planning applications Sub-Committee held on 25th July 2000 concerning the application to erect the Sports Hall at Fortismere School makes it clear that it was understood that Burlington Road was to be used for access for construction vehicles to the sports hall site.

Condition 24 attached to the planning permission dated 9/8/2000 ref no HGY/2000/0670 states that access by construction vehicles shall be limited to school hours and limited by weight to 7.5 tonnes. Any breach of condition 14 will be investigated in the normal manner and a breach of condition notice served if there is evidence to justify the service of such a notice in the circumstances.

Written Question 8 - To the Executive Member for Environment from Councillor Davies

To state clearly how the end of Burlington Road (next to the gates onto the Fortismere / Blanche Neville campus) will be completed and when?

Answer

No details have been submitted in relation to condition 14 attached to the planning permission dated 28/4/02 Ref No (HGY/1999/1634) for the erection of the Blanche Neville Building with regards to the details of the fence and access gates abutting the end of Burlington Road.

In discussion with colleagues from Education I understand the completion date is 8 November 2002.

Written Question 9 - To the Executive Member for Environment from Councillor Fabian

To state explicitly what classes and numbers of persons and vehicles will, on completion of Blanche Neville and Fortismere projects, be permitted access to the campus via Burlington Road, and how will arrangements be enforced?

Answer

Condition 14 attached to the Planning Permission dated 28/4/02 (ref no HGY 1999/1634) states that access to the Blanche Neville building via Burlington Road should be by the limited authorised personnel described in the planning report to Planning Application Sub Committee dated 28th April 2000. The report makes it clear that the access would be used by 7 peripatetic staff, 5 mini buses and 2 taxis and refuse vehicles.

The Condition would be enforced in the normal manner. Evidence of any breach would need to be obtained and a breach of condition notice served to ensure the cessation of the breach.

Written Question 10 - To the Executive Member for Environment from Councillor Fabian

What planning applications, including applications to vary conditions, have been made since May 2000 with respect to the redevelopment of the Fortismere School site and in each case what was the outcome (please include applications decided under delegated powers)?

Answer

One application for variation of a condition has been made since May 2000 with respect to the development of Fortismere School. The application sought to vary condition 24 attached to the planning permission dated 9/8/2000 (ref no HGY/2000/0670) by seeking to alter the weight limit of construction vehicles. The variation was refused on 8/8/2002 (ref no HGY/2002/0873).

Written Question 11 - To the Executive Member for Environment from Councillor Featherstone

Given the problems with contact mechanisms for the Community Warden scheme,

- a) To state what is the new free-phone number
- b) And whether the council will establish a generic email address contact address and advise members?

Answer

- a) The free-phone telephone No. for the Community Wardens is:
0800 0724585
- b) Yes, the Council is working (with Accord) to implement a working website. In the meantime Members can email Accord directly :
evelyn.obrien@haringeyaccord.com

Written Question 12 - To the Leader of the Council from Councillor Featherstone

Haringey Council's usual practice when the answer to a question is not available in time is for this to be noted in the answer, with information about how and when the answer will be available. The answer to written question 11 (full council, 9 September) says that the full answer was not available at the time to the funding bid part of oral question 15 (full council, 22 July). However, the written answer given to oral question 15 did not include any reference to information not being available at the time, being available shortly, still being researched or similar. What was the explanation for this inconsistency between the two answers?

Answer

It has become clear that the original question was misinterpreted. Upon clarifying our understanding of the original question, it became clear that the reference was to the bid contained in the Borough Spending Plan submission.

I can assure you that the responses to previous Council Questions were certainly not designed to mislead colleagues.

Copy of letter to Cllr Featherstone on the subject is attached.

Written Question 13 - To the Executive Member for Environment from Councillor Floyd

If he will take steps to monitor air pollution in Crouch End?

Answer

The Council has a fully automatic Air Quality Monitoring Station sited in the Crouch End area at Prior Park. This facility monitors Particulates, (Pm10), oxides of Nitrogen, (Nox) and oxides of Sulfur, (Sox).

Written Question 14 - To the Executive Member for Environment from Councillor Floyd

If he will outline his plans for repairs and improvements to the Archway Bridge for the coming year, including bids for funding planned or in hand, structural and safety improvements, maintenance and painting, and suicide prevention, and what action it is taking to ensure that these vital works are progressed as quickly as possible?

Answer

We are carrying out design work for the bridge strengthening work. We have submitted a bid to Transport for London for funds to undertake the strengthening work. This is for £610,000 over the years of 2003/4 and 2004/5. The City of Westminster, as the lead borough for bridge work London-wide, will make decisions on allocating funds according to priorities. The Council is pressing for support for the bridge strengthening work as design work is almost complete. However, no decisions have been made yet. The anti-suicide measures could be implemented as part of the strengthening works once a design has been developed, consulted and agreed upon.

Written Question 15 - To the Executive Member for Environment from Councillor Gilbert

Whether he would describe as "secure", or in keeping with the planning conditions, the proposal to erect a 60cm high fence between Blanche Neville and Fortismere premises on the campus?

Answer

No details have as yet been submitted in relation to Condition 14 attached to the planning permission dated 28/4/02 (Ref no HGY/1999/1634) for the erection of the Blanche Neville building. With regard to the details of the secure fence to be erected between the Blanche Neville site and the remainder of the Fortismere Campus.

The exact details of the fence will be agreed once the details are finally submitted to the Planning service.

Written Question 16 - To the Leader of the Council from Councillor Gilbert

If he has in the last two months distributed, or caused to be distributed on his behalf, any memorandum, circular or similar by paper or email to council staff regarding briefings for Liberal Democrat councillors, and if so what were its contents?

Answer

A notice was circulated to Chief Executive's Management Board on Wednesday 04 September 2002 on behalf of the Leader in order to obtain the necessary information to answer Written Question 15 addressed to the Leader at the Full Council on Monday 09 September 2002.

Written Question 17 - To the Executive Member for Environment from Councillor Hare

Whether he will act to resolve the log-jam that appears to have developed between the planning department's enforcement service, legal services, and the arboricultural team so that the types and locations of the replacement trees are defined and the tree replacement orders that were notified to interested community parties earlier this year are enacted?

Answer

This matter is understood to concern the tree replacement order at 235/7 Archway Road, N6. I have instructed the Councils arboriculturalist to specify the location and species of replacement tree to be planted immediately. The legal Service will then take the necessary steps to serve the Tree Replacement Order

Written Question 18 - To the Executive Member for Resources from Councillor Hare

What is the total income, borough-wide, from telecoms and other related installations in place on Haringey Council land and buildings, and to provide a list of the installations, their owners, and their rental incomes to the council?

Answer

The current total income from telecommunication sites located on Council land and buildings is approximately £214,000 per annum.

The schedule of sites and operators is set out below:

Location	Operator
New River Sports Centre, White Hart Lane N22	o2
Dowding House, Hillcrest, Highgate N6	National Transcommunications
Cordell House, Newton Road, Tottenham N15	Orange
Alexander House, Hillcrest, Highgate N6	o2
Elizabeth Blackwell Ho, Progress Way, Wood Green N22	Orange
Warren Court, High Cross Road, Tottenham N15	T-Mobile
Eckington House, Fladbury Road, Tottenham N15	T-Mobile
Chettle Court, Ridge Road, Crouch End N8	Orange
Millicent Fawcett Court, Pembury Road, Tottenham N17	Orange
Thomas Hardy House, Commerce Road, Wood Green N22	T-Mobile
Kenley, Broadwater Farm, Tottenham N17	T-Mobile
Kenneth Robbins House, Northumberland Park N17	T-Mobile
Warren Court, High Cross Road, Tottenham N15	o2
Chettle Court, Ridge Road, Crouch End N8	o2
Bounds Green Court, Bounds Green N11	T-Mobile
Charles House, Moselle Street, Tottenham N17	T-Mobile
Edgecot Grove, Tottenham N15	o2
Fortismere School, Muswell Hill N10	o2
Fortismere School, Muswell Hill N10	Orange
Wavel House, Hillcrest, Highgate N6	Vodaphone
Satellite dish, 137 High Cross Road, Tottenham N15	William Hill Organisation

New River Sports Centre, White Hart Lane N22	Vodafone
Dowding House, Hillcrest, Highgate N6	LWT
Thomas Hardy House, Commerce Road, Wood Green N22	Hutchison 3G

Written Question 19 - To the Executive Member for Social Services and Health from Councillor Hoban

Whether it is council policy to pay more to local authority care homes providing care for the elderly than it does to privately owned care homes?

Answer

No.

Written Question 20 - To the Leader of the Council from Councillor Hoban

If, since 1997, any Council officials have joined any companies with which Haringey Council has a commercial relationship in a senior managerial position/directorship post and if so, could the Council please provide details?

Answer

The Council is not in a position to know the future career details of employees once they have left the employment of the borough, but I am aware that a former Director of Corporate Services who left the Council's employment in 1996 is employed by Jarvis.

Written Question 21 - To the Executive Member for Lifelong Learning from Councillor Laird

If she will state which schools in the Borough have had to close down completely or partially as a result of:

- 1) Industrial action, and
- 2) Maintenance work or rebuild over the past two years?

Answer

There were no strikes last year but this year there have been six which have affected schools. The NUT have undertaken 2 and Unison and GMB a total of 4. All strikes have related to London Allowances and the rate of national pay. The effect on schools differs depending on who has taken the industrial action. Action by support staff unions has a big impact on Foundation and KS1 stages due to the large

number support staff in these areas. As Haringey has the largest proportion of NUT members in relation to NASUWT of any LEA in the country, any action by them has a greater impact on our schools than those of other LEAs. In reality it is simpler to state the number of schools that have remained open.

For the NUT strikes:

Number of schools	= 87
Number of schools closed	= 45
Number of schools partially open	= 36
Number of schools fully open	= 6

For the Unison/GMB strikes:

Number of schools	= 87
Number of schools closed	= 52
Number of schools partially open	= 2 (Primary)
Number of schools open	= 33 (VA schools, who were not balloted, Secondary Schools and 2 Primary)

Please find attached spreadsheet of information on last Unison strike. The NUT information was not kept in this format but also enclosed is a comparative spreadsheet of all London LEAs.

The PFI school position is as follows.

Unplanned closures summer 2001

Gladesmore	5 days
N Park	2 days
Park View	1 day
W H Lane	2 days
Total	10 days

Unplanned closures summer 2002

Fortismere	3 days
Gladesmore	5 days
H Wood	1 day
Hornsey	2 days
N Park	2 days
Total	13 days

Planned closures summer 2002

Gladesmore	10 days
H Wood	10 days
Hornsey	4 days
N Park	10 days

Park View	5 days
W H Lane	12 days
Total	51 days

The total of planned and unplanned closures from maintenance or rebuilding in the last 2 years is 74 days. This represents 2% of the total school days available to the PFI schools over this period. Schools have been asked to ensure that as far as possible students do not suffer a loss of curriculum time as a result of these closures.

Additional closures due to maintenance work in primary schools:

Bounds Green	5 days planned	
BVWF summer 2002	KS2 2 days unplanned	
Noel Park 2001/2	10 days unplanned	
Tiverton 2002/2	12 days unplanned following flood caused by	TWU

Written Question 22 - To the Executive Member for Lifelong Learning from Councillor Laird

What effect will there be on the figures for payments made and received given in answer at last full council for the education PFI scheme if there are variations in the rate of inflation?

Answer

Inflation will only impact on payments made to Jarvis, and only on part of the payment made. The element of the payment which relates to capital investment is not subject to inflation whilst the element which relates to facilities management will increase with inflation. The figures provided previously assume inflation at 2.5%. It should also be noted that some services provided within the contract are subject to benchmarking every 5 years.

Written Question 23 - To the Executive Member for Environment from Councillor Simpson

If he is aware of the poor road signage at the approaches to the roundabout on North Road at the junction with Castle Yard, and if he has any plans to improve the signage to reduce the possibility of accidents occurring at this busy intersection?

Answer

Site investigations have revealed that there are 50m advance roundabout signs on all approaches to the roundabout. There are also roundabout warning signs at all junctions of the roundabout. The signs are in accordance with the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 1994 for signing of roundabouts. The overhanging branches will be cut back to improve visibility of the signs.

Written Question 24 - To the Executive Member for Environment from Councillor Simpson

Whose responsibility it is to enforce the weight restrictions in and around North Hill / Bakers Lane, which appear to be being breached frequently by companies with heavy vehicles, and if it is the council's responsibility, what measures will be taken to enforce, or encourage compliance with, these weight restrictions?

Answer

It is the responsibility of the Police to enforce weight limit restrictions. The Council has recently held a meeting with English Heritage (as the above area is a conservation area) regarding improving the weight limit signage to encourage compliance. This work is due to be undertaken in the near future.

Written Question 25 - To the Executive Member for Environment from Councillor Williams

If, in view of the council's failure to ensure that the lighting on the historic Archway Bridge is working, if it has ever sought help or advice from the London Borough of Westminster over the poor state of the globe lighting, which is of near identical design to that in place along the Embankment on both sides of the river Thames, north of the Palace of Westminster, and appears to work perfectly, and if it has not done so will it take action to do so immediately?

Answer

We are aware that two out of the six fittings on the bridge are currently not operational. An investigation has taken place and it has been established that all of the fittings and allocated cabling require a complete overhaul. We are continuing to secure funding for this project as the lighting maintenance budget will not be able to withstand the outlay; estimated at £20k.

Written Question 26 - To the Executive Member for Environment from Councillor Williams

If the council would make a £500 donation to the funds of Southwood Graffiti Action, given their magnificent efforts in raising funds for a clean-up of graffiti in parts of the Highgate area?

Answer

The Council congratulates Southwood Graffiti Action on their effort to cleanup Graffiti in the Highgate area. Unfortunately funds are currently limited for this form of donation and it is policy to focus the use of the Councils budget on removing offensive and racist graffiti. However, we are currently developing more pro-active ways working with the community on graffiti and hope to built on the experiences of community groups such as this as part of this work. This work includes joint work with Education.

Written Question 27 - To the Leader of the Council from Councillor Winskill

What information has the Majority Group Leader and the other Executive Members been provided with under Section 10 [g] of Part 3 of the Council's constitution since the last Council meeting?

Answer

There is not a paragraph 10[g] in the relevant section of the constitution to which the question refers. However if Councillor Winskill is referring to Section 10 [d] of Part 3 of the Council's constitution, the answer is none.

Written Question 28 - To the Executive Member for Regeneration and Partnerships from Councillor Winskill

Which local authorities did he approach when drawing up the Council's draft Cultural Strategy, and whether he examined and evaluated their cultural strategies?

Answer

The GLA organised London wide meetings to discuss the pilot strategies by Hounslow and Newham, and exchange examples of best practice. Further meetings were held with officers from Barnet, Enfield, Camden, Hackney and Islington. Strategies were studied and evaluated from Newham, Hounslow, Enfield, Barnet, Hackney, Camden, Islington, Hammersmith and Fulham, Lambeth, and Lewisham.

Written Question 29 - To the Leader of the Council from Councillor Oatway

Are there any restrictions or rules relating to council employees joining companies that have a commercial relationship with the Council?

Answer

The Council does not operate restrictive covenants in its employment contracts. The Council has adopted standing orders for the procurement of works.

Written Question 30 - To the Executive Member for Environment from Councillor Oatway

Please confirm whether the waste management contract established with Haringey Accord allows for work to be sub-contracted? If sub-contracting is allowed, could he confirm how this is monitored to ensure that sub-contracted work is performed to the same standard required of Haringey Accord employees?

Answer

At this stage there is no planned work to be sub-contracted by ACCORD. It is anticipated that all operational work will be undertaken directly by ACCORD, but

any sub-contracted work will be required to be performed fully in line with the contract.

Councillor Lynne Featherstone
Leader of the Opposition/ Member Muswell Hill Ward
Liberal Democrat Group
Haringey Council
Civic Centre
High Road
Wood Green
London N22 4LE

30 September 2002

Dear Lynne

Answers to Council Questions – Parkland Walk

Thank you for your letter of 16th September regarding responses to recent Council Questions concerning Parkland Walk.

I can confirm that the bid was included in the Borough Spending Plan (page 38), which was submitted on 28th June 2002.

The answer to written question 11 (9th September) indicated that the response to oral question 15 (22nd July) was the best information available at the time, and upon reflection should have made reference to further investigation. However, I can assure you that the responses to written questions 11 and 12 (9th September) were certainly not designed in any way to mislead colleagues, either by omission or commission.

Thank you for bringing the matter to my attention.

Yours sincerely

Cllr Ray Dodds
Executive Member Environment