

Full Council Questions
19th March 2018

Responses to Written Questions

1. Question from Cllr Hare to the Cabinet Member for Economic Development:

I note on p.129 of the papers for 6 March Cabinet that the Council will achieve just 69 apprenticeship starts in contrast to the targeted 200. This is apparently attributed in part to a “negative perception” of apprenticeships amongst “young people, schools and parents”. What is being done to address these perceptions especially in schools?

Our newly appointed Apprenticeships Coordinator in the employment & skills team is now working with the schools team on a programme of awareness events with Haringey schools and major employers across London.

Having a new dedicated post is improving the offer available and is addressing specific concerns some schools have raised about the quality of some apprenticeships on offer. Our priority is to broker opportunities with higher level apprenticeships linked to employment opportunities. We participated fully in Apprenticeship Week 5-9 March and held events involving schools. The Council’s own apprenticeship offer includes entry-level apprenticeships to 16-24 year-olds in a range of skills and services, interest in which by local young people has been good.

2. Question from Cllr Engert for the Cabinet Member for the Environment:

How many carers are likely to see the costs of their parking permits rise as a result of the proposed changes to the price of parking permits?

At present, there are only 52 carers’ permits have been issued. We do not know the future number of carers who will see the cost of their permit rise. However, it must be noted that with the proposed move to DVLA emissions banding, many users will see their permit prices drop, if they use a lower emission vehicle.

The changes proposed will support the delivery of the Council’s agreed Transport Strategy and will encourage the use of more fuel efficient vehicles, and help manage demand for parking space, reducing short trips and encouraging walking and cycling and the use of public transport.

There are a number of options available to carers, and this includes permits charged at the same level as residential permits. Hourly and Daily permits may be used and removing the upper limit on numbers that may be purchased will help residents who chose this option. While the cost of the hourly permit is increasing, it still represents very good value, especially when compared to other London boroughs. Also those residents who are aged 65 or over are entitled to a 50% reduction in the cost of visitor permits.

3. Question from Cllr Newton for the Cabinet Member for the Environment:

I note that the consultation on changing the price of parking permits has been extended until March 13th. Why wasn’t adequate time provided for this initially?

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Under the current regulations, the Council is not required to consult on permit increases and may apply these by undertaking a Statutory Notification. We have therefore chosen to carry out a wider consultation than we are required to do so by law.

The consultation included:

- Details of the proposals published in local newspapers, the London Gazette and on the Councils website.
- Notices advising of the consultation and details of where to obtain further information placed in prominent places throughout the borough.
- In addition, where possible we contacted permit holders individually by email alerting them to changes proposed.
- Although there is no requirement to individually consult residents on permit price changes, the Council decided to go beyond current requirements, and send an e-mail to registered residents permit holders. Unfortunately, due to the sheer number of e-mails being sent, some were not sent at the start of the consultation period. To mitigate the impact of this delay, the deadline was extended to 13th March.

4. Question from Cllr Connor for the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care:

With carers' satisfaction levels falling to 25% in the latest survey, shouldn't the Council be taking a long hard look at the support given to carers in light of all the recent closure of day care centres? In particular, can the Cabinet Member guarantee that carers will now get their assessments done on time with a clear offer of support and contact details that carers can actually get hold of someone who can help when problems arise?

The Council hugely values carers and the significant contribution they make to the health and wellbeing of vulnerable people in Haringey. The carers' satisfaction level recorded in the 2016 Carers' Survey reinforced what we knew already from other engagement – that our offer for carers did not reflect the value we place on them and we have carried out a number of changes which have strengthened this offer and the support to carers in Haringey.

We recognise that any changes to services for users may have an impact for carers also and the survey was carried out as we were implementing a significant service redesign to create a day opportunities offer. A full equalities impact assessment was carried out and the Council made sure that carers continued to be supported during and following the transformation process. Indeed, whilst we as an authority have had to make significant budget savings for adult social care, due to government imposed cuts on our budgets, we have always sought to safeguard our support for carers. Anecdotal feedback from carers following the changes suggest that, with the uncertainty over, carers are happier and more satisfied with adult social care. The continuous development of the day opportunities model will allow for greater choice and flexibility for both users and carers.

With regard to the carers' offer, Council officers have been working closely with carers to improve the offer to carers in line with best practice. A new offer for carers has been developed and implemented covering: Identification, assessment, support planning and carers' outcomes. We hope for a marked improvement in this indicator when the 2018 Carers' Survey takes place later in the year.

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5. Question from Cllr Morris for the Cabinet Member for Housing:

Are there any proposals to relaunch Move 51 Degrees North or an equivalent?

No, however the Council will continue to look at ways it can improve private rented housing in the borough. The resources previously within Move 51 have been reallocated to work on procuring properties in the private rented sector, to house homeless households. We are also driving improvements in the private rented sector through the mandatory licensing of Homes in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) across the borough and the additional licensing scheme currently operating in Tottenham.

We have also recently consulted on proposals to launch a borough-wide additional licensing scheme and also a selective licensing scheme in some parts of the borough. Together, these initiatives will help to achieve the Council's aims of increasing housing options for homeless households and improving standards in the private rented sector.

6. Question from Cllr Beacham for the Cabinet Member for the Environment:

How many complaints has the council received about the new cashless parking system for each of the areas in which existing pay-and-display machines have been decommissioned?

The Council has received 77 complaints about the cashless parking system. Apart from the complaints about Muswell Hill/Summerland Gardens, representations and complaints are not location specific.

Of the 77 complaints, 56 (73%) are representations about the switch to electronic payments and difficulties with PayPoint. The latter relate to the lack of service provided by Everbest at Muswell Hill.

Topic	Frequency	Percent
PayPoint	8	10.4
PayByPhone	14	18.2
Park Road Lido parking	1	1.3
Muswell Hill / Summerland Gdns	18	23.4
Equalities: age	4	5.2
Complaint about removing P&D	30	39.0
Bury Road car park	1	1.3
Burlington Road N10	1	1.3
Total	77	100.0

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7. Question from Cllr Ross for the Cabinet Member for the Environment:

How many complaints, broken down by ward, have been received about the new charges for garden waste collections?

Six complaints have been received since the new charges were publicised in June 2017: two from St Anns ward, two from Bruce Grove, one from Noel Park and one with no address provided.

Over 5,000 residents have signed up to the new service so far.

8. Question from Cllr Carter for the Cabinet Member for Communities:

Will the Onside Youthzone project proceed on metropolitan open land in Woodside Park, and if so, at what financial cost to the Council?

The site currently under consideration is not Woodside Park, rather, a field within the curtilage of Woodside High School which is currently not in use, due to drainage issues and health and safety concerns regarding the undulating surface.

This land forms part of the Academy Trust lease, which has approximately 119 years to run and the Youth Zone proposal would require a sub-lease between Woodside High School and OnSide. As the sub-lease would be a formal arrangement for land use between the Academy and OnSide, there is no direct financial cost in respect of land transfer to the council.

The land under consideration is designated as Metropolitan Open Land (MOL) and would therefore be subject to the attendant planning processes, including application to the GLA for approval to build.