

Full Council Questions & Responses
18th March 2019

Written questions

1. From Cllr da Costa to Cllr Ejiofor:

Please provide us a full list of engagements that the EU Citizens' Ambassador has undertaken since they were appointed?

The EU Citizens' Ambassador role was created primarily to support residents with applications to the settlement scheme and to provide wider reassurance throughout the transition period. Neither the settlement scheme nor the transition period have commenced.

Unfortunately the EU Citizens' Ambassador was unable to attend the Brexit public meeting due to a previously confirmed personal engagement.

2. From Cllr Dixon to Cllr Adje:

What arrangements will the Cabinet make to ensure that the public and councillors will be able to scrutinise the business case for the redevelopment of Fortismere School sixth-form?

The intention will be to present a report to cabinet setting out the business case for the proposed development on completion of a feasibility study.

3. From Cllr Rossetti to Cllr Ibrahim

Does the Cabinet intend to retain Homes for Haringey's status as an ALMO?

No decision has been made on this.

The current intention is to bring a report to Cabinet on 2 April 2019 recommending the initiation of a review of the Council's housing management and housing demand services, which are currently provided by Homes for Haringey.

It is intended that the proposed review will be carried out by an independent organisation with support from a Member working group.

4. From Cllr Barnes to Cllr Ejiofor

How many EU citizens attended the council's Brexit meeting and why were letters advertising the meeting not sent out directly to EU residents? Very few EU residents we spoke to were aware of the meeting.

A total of 56 residents attended the council's Brexit public meeting.

We were unable to write to EU residents directly as the council is prevented from using the electoral register in this way.

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My public letter and invitation to the public meeting was published on the council's website and our social media platforms. It was published in the Ham and High and Enfield Independent prior to the meeting.

The meeting was useful to hear directly from EU residents and informed the Brexit leaflet that was sent to all households in Haringey on 14th March.

5. From Cllr Cawley-Harrison to Cllr Ejiofor

What is the Council doing to support the development of Crossrail 2?

The Leader and officers are actively engaged in lobbying to support the development of CR2. The Leader has recently written to the Mayor of London and met with the Deputy Mayor for Transport, and the Chief Executive has met with the Head of Crossrail. Officers are meeting regularly with TFL, GLA and others (including LSCC) to progress this issue.

Our lobbying has continued to make the case that the implementation of Crossrail 2 will support the delivery of housing and employment space in the Borough over and above that that can be expected to be delivered without this infrastructure development.

6. From Cllr Palmer to Cllr Adje:

Can the Cabinet Member for Strategic Regeneration explain the role of the newly formed Wards Corner Policy Group and will there be Terms of Reference for this group? How will the Council handle potentially conflicting recommendations from this policy group and recommendations from the Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny on Wards Corner?

The Wards Corner Policy Advisory Group has been set up to act as a policy advisory group to Cabinet. Its remit is different and separate to the role of scrutiny.

Every effort will be made to avoid issues being considered elsewhere (including the Wards Corner CPO decision, as well as the Scrutiny Panel Review), but while the purposes are distinct some overlap is inevitable.

There will be Terms of Reference for the Advisory Group, which will be reviewed and agreed by the Group when they meet in March. The intention is that the Group's report would be considered at Cabinet at the same time as it considers the Scrutiny Panel recommendations.

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7. From Cllr Chenot to Cllr Tucker:

Please provide a breakdown of how many temporary and agency staff are employed by each service within the Council, and how much they cost?

Directorate	Number of agency staff	Cost (K)
Adults & Health	56	£195,541
Finance	2	£11,059
Children's Services	93	£414,453
Commercial & Operations	1	£2,309
Corporate Governance	11	£44,259
Customers, Transformation & Resources	69	£333,536
Environment & Neighbourhoods	41	£135,408
Housing, Regen & Planning	41	£202,195
Regen, Planning & Development	5	£24,341
Strategy & Communications	2	£4,058
TOTALS	321	£1,367,159

8. From Cllr Ross to Cllr Amin:

How many Haringey residents have transferred to Universal Credit? Has the Cabinet member assessed the impact of this migration on a ward by ward basis and what steps is the Council taking to support people with advice and practical help?

The latest figures indicate that 4,008 Haringey residents are being nationally reported as being on Universal Credit. National data does not appear to break down into identifiable ward codes, so the impact on wards cannot be analysed.

Residents who require assistance with matters relating to Universal Credit, may approach our Customer Services Team, or any other council officer to receive advice and assistance. Council staff have a point of escalation within local Job Centres should a customer require more complex

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intervention.

9. From Cllr Dennison to Cllr Amin:

Would allowing patrons of Haringey's libraries to pay charges and fines by card as well as cash, improve or reduce collection rates?

Although collection rates for libraries fines and charges are good, it is reasonable to assume that offering a card payment option would likely improve collection rates and would also meet our customers' expectations.

As a service we have a high volume of low value, varied cash transactions. Any card payment process we adopt needs to be simple and quick for customers to use and for staff to administer, as well as cost-effective to operate for the council.

Thus far, it has been challenging to identify a process that meets all these requirements, but we are continuing to explore this as the libraries IT improvements programme is developed and implemented.

10. From Cllr Hare to Cllr Hearn:

Could the Cabinet Member let us know what the council is doing to move towards plastic-free status and what work it has been doing within the council, with its partners and in communities to ensure this is a shared endeavour within the borough? Will Haringey council commit to a Plastic Free Pledge similar to Camden Council?

Haringey is moving towards plastic free status. Councillors and Council officers have met with various community groups and interest groups to discuss what we can collectively do to achieve this objective. There are five areas we are developing:

- An internal communications plan to make staff aware of single use plastic and encourage behaviour change.
- An internal audit to establish how much SUP is used within the council.
- Reviewing procurement policy to require suppliers to minimise the use of SUP in their service provision wherever possible.
- Reviewing events letting policies to ensure that contractors make minimal use of SUPs as part of condition of hire.
- How we work with our communities and other partners to educate, advise and encourage others to minimise their use of single use plastics.

I am happy at this point to formally note our commitment to minimising the use of single use plastics.

11. From Cllr Morris to Cllr Weston:

The Children's Commissioner has identified in a recent report that many more children are involved in gangs than have been identified by councils' youth offending and social workers. How many children at risk are there in Haringey, how confident is the council that this is an accurate figure and what is the council doing to ensure that they are identifying all the children at risk in Haringey?

We welcome the findings in the report completed by the Office of the Children's Commissioner which correlate with the evidence base gathered to underpin our own Young People at Risk Strategy. This strategy is embedded within the Haringey Borough Plan and it aims to reduce Serious Youth violence, as a key priority for the council and its partners.

We are not able to provide an exact number of young people who may be at risk, as the report evidences the actual numbers reported as being at risk in the borough are likely to be small. The concern is that there are a number of young people with a range of characteristics meaning they are more likely to be at increased risk of gang involvement, sexual or criminal exploitation and or involvement in criminality.

Preventing and reducing child sexual and criminal exploitation is a priority for Haringey's Safeguarding Children Board and the wider Children and Young People department. The range of approaches include collaborative arrangements between key stakeholder partners engaged in working with young adolescents at risk of Missing/CSE and Gangs at the Exploitation Panel from January 2018. The impact of this work has evidenced the importance of a partnership approach to sharing to effectively safeguard the borough's most vulnerable children and young people

12. From Cllr Connor to Cllr Weston:

What is the average waiting time for callers to Haringey First Response Team for the last three months, broken down by service, and how does this compare to the same time last year?

Our First Response Service applies the same service targets for response as the rest of Council e.g. answering the phone within a maximum of 60 seconds (ideally within 30 seconds).

However, first contact with Children's Services are usually made by professionals by email to the MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub) and the breakdown of MASH responses to telephone contact is not captured in a way which would provide data. There are approximately 600 email and telephone contacts a month.

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The interim Assistant Director has undertaken to meet with the managers in the shared services contact centre and the MASH to look at whether a measure could be put in place to look at timeliness in response to telephone contacts with the MASH going forward.

13. From Cllr Emery to Cllr Hearn:

Will the Cabinet Member for the Environment join me in congratulating the students at Haringey schools who participated in the Climate Strike?

Yes.

Climate change is one of the biggest issues of the 21st century and I support students taking action to highlight this.

The full-council meeting on March 18th also debated a motion declaring a climate emergency, underlining how seriously we take the issue of climate change.

14. From Cllr Ogiehor to Cllr Blake:

In light of the objectives in the Borough Plan to “*reduce the number of victims and perpetrators of crime and reduce the serious harm experienced by victims*” and to “*reduce the fear of crime using our relationships with partners*”, does the Cabinet Member for Community Safety share my concern that the Mayor of London has decided to appoint a Labour politician to head the Violence Reduction Unit rather than a professional with experience in the field?

Sadiq Khan has shown real leadership in tackling youth violence across London in the face of ongoing cuts to Police budgets perpetuated by the Lib Dem-Tory Coalition and successive Tory Governments.

The Violence reduction unit is an important step in this initiative, encouraging local councils, the health service, community groups and others to work on a shared, public health approach to preventing people from turning to violent crime. I look forward to working with Lib Peck, who has experience on leading cross party police and crime work on a pan-London basis in her capacity as the previous executive member for Crime and Public protection on London Councils.

It’s crucial that the VRU provides leadership and challenge on this agenda. That is exactly what we are trying to do in Haringey by placing the voice of affected young people and community engagement at the heart of the response.