

## Responses: Full Council questions

14 March 2022

Written questions		
Cllr	Question	Response
1. Cllr Dixon to Cllr Brabazon	The government is, at time of writing, failing Ukrainians fleeing war. However, should policies change, does the council have any plans already in place to accommodate possible Ukrainian refugees?	<p>Haringey is a borough with a strong tradition of welcoming. We have an established infrastructure in place to consider and respond to the needs of migrants, refugees and people seeking asylum. Our Welcome Advisory Board meets on a six-weekly basis, and last autumn we set up an Afghan Resettlement Working Group, initially meeting two-weekly and now monthly, to coordinate our response to the crisis in Afghanistan.</p> <p>The Leader brought together a meeting of Eastern European community organisations, residents, and stakeholders on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at Wood Green Library to hear what the concerns and needs are of Ukrainians in Ukraine, in neighbouring countries, and in our borough. The meeting was introduced by The Leader alongside Monika Janusauskiene from HoPEC (House of Polish and European Community), and attended by a number of Eastern European organisations, churches, and colleagues from a range of sectors including schools and the CGG. A number of actions were agreed to coordinate our response across Haringey:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Establish a network</li><li>• Signpost people to support and ways to help</li><li>• Andy Donald, Haringey Council's Chief Executive, committed to addressing London and national communications about the most effective ways to give</li><li>• Begin preparation for the arrival of refugees through the existing Welcome Advisory Board and the Resettlement Group</li></ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All partners would use their influence to make the case for resources and safe passage for Ukrainians</li><li>• Address wider community cohesion by starting to think about welcoming messages / communications, and support for key sectors such as education</li><li>• Explore mental health provision for people in Ukraine, displaced people in neighbouring countries, and adults and young people affected in the borough</li></ul> <p>An Eastern European Network meeting will be diarised in the coming weeks to bring all interested stakeholders and community members together to start allocating leads for areas of work including donations, communications, and practical support. This will be led by Monika Janusauskiene from HoPEC and Rabbi David Mason from Muswell Hill Synagogue.</p> <p>We have updated our webpages with initial information and advice on the visa application process, and ways to donate safely (<a href="#">link here</a>). The government hasn't yet provided detailed information on the Community Sponsorship route announced last week, once more information is available it will help to inform the planning we'll be undertaking on housing and accommodation needs. We will be updating our webpages as our response develops alongside partners and community members. Schools have been contacted to ask what support they need – many have responded swiftly with information packs for parents on how to talk about the war, as well as holding assemblies for children and young people. We are monitoring any tensions that may arise, including hate crime directed towards our Russian residents and businesses.</p> <p>The Welcome Advisory Board met on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March and discussed our collective response to the crisis – we will continue to work with our communities and partners to ensure Ukrainians receive practical support and a warm welcome from our borough.</p>
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<p><b>2. Cllr Dennison to Cllr Chandwani</b></p>	<p>A consultation on removing footway parking on selected roads announced last September has been postponed to seek the approval of cabinet in the second quarter of 2022/23. Why is the council delaying this overdue change?</p>	<p>Two key changes have taken place since the autumn: the Department for Transport amended its Inclusive Mobility guidance in January 2022 and the council passed its Walking and Cycling Action Plan (WCAP) in March 2022. The WCAP places pavement users at the top of the road user hierarchy.</p> <p>It was considered that the original parameters for the review needed updating, reconsideration and co-production, as displacing footway parking to the road or reinforcing footways to prevent recurring damage to paving are significant in scale and value.</p>
<p><b>3. Cllr Chenot to Cllr Chandwani</b></p>	<p>How much extra cost in the last year has been charged to the Council for gullies that are so clogged (due to failure to regularly clean them in years gone by) that the grating has to be smashed and then replaced by the contractor?</p>	<p>Flooding is likely to become a more frequent event because of climate change and the scale of flood events may also increase in the future.</p> <p>This will result in heavier rainfall throughout the year contributing to surface water flooding that can overload the existing drainage systems. In response to this increased risk, the Council has expanded its investment in its highway gully cleansing programmes to allow additional work to be undertaken.</p> <p>The gully cleansing operation identifies where there are covers and frames that are stuck or need replacing – these issues are regularly encountered as part of any maintenance regime.</p> <p>This is a common and ongoing maintenance process that increased because of the expansion of the gully cleansing programme. This was factored into the estimated additional cost of the enhanced cleansing regime. The current gully cleansing programme is due to be complete in June 2022.</p>
<p><b>4. Cllr Ross to Cllr Chandwani</b></p>	<p>Why has the usual process of cleaning gullies on one side of a road one day, and then cleaning the other side of the road</p>	<p>Traditionally gullies were cleansed one side of the road and then the other at a later date, to facilitate parking for residents. However, this arrangement created problems and attracted complaints.</p>

	<p>the next day (to facilitate parking for residents), been abandoned?</p>	<p>Recently, in the interest of efficiency and expedience, the Council’s contractor has been carrying out gully cleansing works on both sides of the road, particularly where there is easy access to gullies.</p> <p>The area subject to parking suspensions has also been reduced to the minimum space required to allow access to gullies. Where suspension boards are necessary to allow access for the gully emptier, they are removed immediately after the gully has been cleansed.</p>
<p><b>5. Cllr Cawley-Harrison to Cllr Chandwani</b></p>	<p>Given the seemingly unending problems with the new parking permit system, will the council change their stance on paper visitor permits, and allow residents to have the option of purchasing them as they could before?</p>	<p>Most residents can buy their parking permits without difficulty. To date residents have successfully purchased in excess of 177,000 visitor and 20,000 residential parking permits.</p> <p>We are making the system even easier to use in the future. We apologise to residents for all the teething problems that they have had to endure with the system.</p> <p>Paper permits are available but are limited to those individuals who are unable to secure virtual permits – for example, because they have no internet access, or the nature of their disability means that they cannot access online services.</p>
<p><b>6. Cllr Hare to Cllr Davies</b></p>	<p>With extreme weather events becoming more common, what contingency plans are in place to deal with unpredictable weather, including droughts, flooding and storms?</p>	<p>The Council has a number of contingency plans and operational arrangements than can be used in different types of severe weather, and which were most recently used to deal with Storm Eunice.</p> <p><u>Warning, Informing and Alerting</u> Warning and Informing forms a key element in preparing residents, businesses and the Council for the potential impacts of severe weather. A Warning, Informing and Alerting plan that sets out how the Council will support in the dissemination of messaging from the Met Office and Environment Agency to colleagues, partners,</p>

members of the public and Members using a variety of channels. This is in addition to messaging issued by national, regional and local news outlets.

Severe Weather and Flooding

Upon receipt of warnings and alerts, the Council monitors the situation and takes preparatory action as appropriate to mitigate and ensure readiness for any likely impacts. This includes placing staff on standby to respond, joint information sharing and risk assessment with partners, activating plans and any operational tasks that may limit or reduce the impact.

Haringey maintains plans and contingency arrangements for hot and cold weather and a multi-agency flood plan owned by the Haringey Resilience Forum. These documents set out the Council and wider partnership's planning considerations and response to severe weather events. The Council's Emergency Management Plan and Emergency Welfare Plan that may be activated upon notification of severe weather to coordinate the emergency response and ensure the welfare of residents is held at the forefront of any response efforts.

In addition to this:

- The Mayor of London may request the activation of the Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP). This protocol explains the procedure to be followed to ensure that all people rough sleeping can access emergency accommodation during severe weather.
- The Council has a stock of flood defence equipment that can be readily deployed. This is largely a proactive measure and is more suited to flood risk from rivers and streams rather than rapid-onset surface water flooding.
- Gully cleansing, drainage clearing, and watercourse maintenance are conducted year-round to mitigate the risk of flooding.
- The increasing provision of sustainable drainage system schemes and natural flood management schemes across the Borough is incrementally improving the resilience to flooding incidents.

**Drought**

		<p>Drought is a 'rising-tide' emergency and would not impact one singular borough. Multi-agency planning for drought takes place on a national, regional and local level with national and regional planning led by the Environment Agency and local planning led by Thames Water and the wider Local Resilience Forum. London has a Drought Response Framework that sets out the measures that would be implemented e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Public awareness campaign to reduce water consumption</li> <li>- Temporary hosepipe ban</li> <li>- Permits and Orders granted to water companies, Defra and the EA to allow for changes in the way in which water is abstracted, treated and supplied and allows for the prohibition or limit of water use.</li> </ul> <p>In the event of drought, all agencies would refer to their respective business continuity plans to ensure that they are able to maintain their core business activities.</p>
<p><b>7. Cllr da Costa to Cllr Das Neves</b></p>	<p>Haringey has the lowest rate of flu vaccine take-up rate for children aged 3+ who have been identified by the NHS as being clinically at risk, and an extremely low rate of MMR coverage. What is the council, as the local public health authority, doing to tackle this?</p>	<p>Directors of Public Health, supported by their teams, have a mandated function to assure themselves that, in their area, the arrangements for immunisation are fit for purpose, are delivering high quality services, are responsive to local needs, and that there is equitable access to immunisation services. The Council does not provide vaccinations.</p> <p>To fulfill this assurance role, we work in partnership with NHS vaccination commissioners and providers to understand how immunisations are being delivered, patterns of uptake (including which groups/places have lower uptake) and to identify opportunities to increase equity of uptake. Building on learning from Covid vaccination, we have also increased our communications and engagement role in working with communities to create greater demand for vaccinations.</p> <p>To tackle the low rate of flu vaccine uptake for clinically vulnerable children aged 3+, the actions to increase future uptake led by the CCG will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raising awareness among GP practices of Haringey's flu vaccine uptake in this group compared to other areas</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Using a range of approaches to encourage parents to book flu vaccine appointments (e.g. text messages, display boards in GP practices, messages on GP practice websites)</li> <li>• Running regular audits to identify unvaccinated children in this cohort and invite their parents/guardians to make an appointment</li> <li>• Adding alerts on children’s GP record so opportunistic flu vaccine can be administered or appointment made, if parent telephones or parent/child attends GP practice for another reason</li> </ul> <p>To increase the coverage of MMR vaccination, the actions Public Health are leading are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued analysis of which groups of residents have lower uptake and use of the data to inform actions</li> <li>• Display advertising on Haringey Council website key webpages (school admissions, nursery places etc)</li> <li>• Posters &amp; postcard distribution to key venues (e.g. children’s centres)</li> <li>• Childhood vaccination information leaflets for download or printing in English, Bulgarian, Polish, Spanish, Romanian and Turkish</li> <li>• Video development promoting MMR vaccination, including faith and community leaders as well as healthcare professionals</li> <li>• Targeted online advertising focused on the east of the borough and the lower uptake groups (e.g. adverts in Polish, adverts featuring children of Black ethnicity)</li> <li>• Q&amp;A sessions for parents by healthcare professionals at Children’s Centres</li> <li>• Training of professionals working with children on understanding and promotion of vaccination (e.g. school nurses, health visitors)</li> </ul>
<p><b>8. Cllr Emery to Cllr Hakata</b></p>	<p>At the present annual rate of installation, how long will it take the council to meet the current waiting list for bike hangars?</p>	<p>The Council’s Walking &amp; Cycling Action Plan (WCAP) was adopted by Cabinet on 8 March and sets out that the Council has already delivered 93 bike hangars in the borough, providing 558 residents with a safe, secure and convenient place to store their bike.</p>

		<p>We currently have over 1,000 outstanding requests for bike hangar spaces. Under the WCAP, we will be investing at least £200k in bike hangars every year – funding 40 new hangars (240 new bike spaces) each year. We will bid for more funding for bike hangars from TfL on top of this.</p> <p>As well as on-street bike hangars, our aim is also to create lots of new secure cycle storage on our council estates.</p> <p>As we improve cycling infrastructure we can expect demand for bike parking to grow, so we must continue to think creatively about finding additional funding.</p>
<b>9. Cllr Ogiehor to Cllr Gordon</b>	<p>Developers can currently circumvent their environmental obligations by paying a carbon levy when a development isn't green enough. What is the council doing to stamp out the reliance on this unethical practice and ensure developers bring forward green developments?</p>	<p>Carbon offsetting contributions are established as part of planning policy in the London Plan and Local Plan to ensure carbon impacts are mitigated where this cannot be done on site.</p> <p>In 2020 the Council raised the price per tonne of carbon that it requires developers to pay. The Council also recognises that this needs to be raised further to cover the true costs of offsetting and consulted on raising this as part of the New Local Plan First Steps engagement. Raising the price further will disincentive offsetting and incentivise carbon reduction on site.</p> <p>The Council is using the carbon offset funds it has received through its Affordable Energy Strategy and Community Carbon Fund for community-led projects, for which the first round of successful bids will be announced shortly.</p>
<b>10. Cllr Morris to Cllr Hakata</b>	<p>Will you begin implementing road markings on school streets and entrances to LTNs, to make the restrictions even clearer and ensure people don't mistakenly use these roads, thus maintaining public buy-in?</p>	<p>All signs and road markings used within the public highway must comply with the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016 – it is not possible to use non-standard signs or markings to clarify the presence of School Streets or that roads that were previously open to through-access are no longer accessible to all road users.</p>

		<p>The Council will be displaying more than the minimum number of signs at the entry points to School Streets and the Low Traffic Neighbourhoods to highlight their existence. Both arrangements have been the subject of extensive engagement and consultation in their development and will be promoted through as many forms of media as practically possible before they are formally introduced.</p> <p>Where they can be safely provided, the provision of planters (with reflective edge strips and signs on the flanks facing oncoming traffic) provides visual reinforcement of the presence of a changed highway environment.</p>
<b>11. Cllr Hinchcliffe to Cllr Ahmet</b>	Would you explore the possibility of creating a Covid memorial to remember all those who died during the pandemic in the borough?	<p>In the last two years 596 people have died in Haringey as a result of the pandemic. We would like to talk to communities most affected to understand whether they would like a memorial and what they would consider a fitting way of remembering the dead.</p>
<b>12. Cllr Barnes to Cllr Diakides</b>	Will you commission an independent report specifically into the acquisition of Alexandra House, an action supported by the Chair of the Corporate Committee?	<p>My response has to be considered within the proper procedural framework and the recent audit history.</p> <p><u>Procedurally:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Council's Corporate Committee has a role in the commissioning of internal and external audits, acting on the advice of the Head of Audit; I believe the rationale for this is to minimize the risk or the appearance of political interference or influence on such matters. In exceptional and/or urgent cases the Leader has the power to commission independent investigations, via the Chief Executive.</li> </ul> <p><u>Recent Audit history:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On the specific issue of Alexandra House and within this procedural context, the Corporate Committee (which I was chairing up to May 2021) had commissioned an audit (by the council's auditors, Mazars), which was completed and received by the committee in 2021; the audit advised the</li> </ul>

		<p>council on a range of issues and findings, which were discussed by the committee and fed into the relevant parts of the council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That audit looked specifically at the earlier decision not to acquire the freehold of this property and the committee felt that a follow up audit into the subsequent decision and practice of the eventual acquisition would be also required. The committee on the advice of the then Chair requested the Head of Audit to examine the inclusion of such follow up audit into the council’s Audit Plan and advise the committee at a subsequent meeting accordingly.</li> <li>• The Corporate committee, under its current Chair, has revisited the issue during recent months, and has considered both the cabinet report on the acquisition and the internal audit Mazar’s report in public and exempt sessions. I believe that the Chair had expressed his view that an independent report would be appropriate, something that he has been pursuing.</li> </ul> <p><u>The current situation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In parallel and in the last few weeks the Leader of the Council has asked the new Interim Chief Executive to review arrangements for how property decisions are taken and acquisitions made to ensure that the decision-making process is robust, transparent, and accountable;</li> <li>• Full Council also resolved that the Leader of the Council invites the Interim Chief Executive and Leader of the Opposition to meet to discuss the scope of the external investigation, which has taken place</li> </ul>
<p><b>13. Cllr Connor to Cllr Diakides</b></p>	<p>Given the fact that you accept the need for an investigation in Haringey’s historic property dealings, are you at all concerned about the fact the council is entering into a record level of capital spending?</p>	<p>The Council is instigating an external investigation into a number of its historic property dealings. The capital programme of the authority describes the future investment required to meet the Council’s responsibilities and to deliver on its policies, and is wider reaching than purchase or sale of properties.</p> <p>The Council is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of over 15,000 properties within the borough, including the Council’s social housing stock, and a large number</p>

		<p>of operational buildings utilised for the delivery of public services (e.g. schools, libraries and leisure centres).</p> <p>The main driver of increased capital spend is the Council’s housing delivery plan which will deliver 3,000 new Council homes over the next 10 years. The capital spend on these assets will be contained within the HRA and funded by increased levels of rent from new tenants.</p> <p>The General Fund programme comprises of capital schemes proposed and agreed over recent years. Many have external funding or will be self-funding due to cost savings generated. Those schemes which have a net impact on revenue budgets are mainly either necessary compliance/maintenance works or are required to ensure that the Council can continue to be a fit for purpose organisation.</p> <p>The Council is augmenting the resourcing of its property management capacity.</p> <p>It should be noted that the general fund capital programme approved in this year’s budget is broadly in line with the previous year (2021-26 £818m, 2022-27 £811m).</p>
<p><b>14. Cllr Rosetti to Cllr Hakata</b></p>	<p>These past years every time we have raised the issue of traffic chaos and rat runs in Crescent Road, Albert Road and top of The Avenue we have been told to wait for the WCAP and Alexandra North LTN. Yet the WCAP allocates no funding for the Alexandra North LTN, or indeed any new LTN. Meanwhile, Haringey has been able to allocate £54 million to the Civic Centre and £86 million to the Selby Centre. How do you explain these priorities to residents?</p>	<p>The Council’s Walking &amp; Cycling Action Plan (WCAP) was adopted by Cabinet on 8 March and sets out an ambitious 10-year blueprint that will help Haringey become a green walking and cycling borough.</p> <p>Under the WCAP, £250k has been allocated to fund an Alexandra North low-traffic neighbourhood.</p>

<p><b>15. Cllr Palmer to Cllr Diakides</b></p>	<p>Does the council have any investments with Russian companies, and, if so, what steps are being taken to divest?</p>	<p>Following the invasion of Ukraine by Russia in February 2022, several countries announced sanctions against major Russian banks and financial institutions. In response, Russia has banned all foreign entities from liquidating their assets held in the country.</p> <p>Although, the full implications of these actions are likely to play out over the longer term, officers are actively engaging with the Pension Fund’s investment managers and advisors to assess the immediate impact of the ongoing crisis.</p> <p>As at 28 February 2022, the Pension Fund had a very small exposure (0.09% of total fund assets) to Russian companies through its investment in the Low Carbon Emerging Markets index tracker fund, managed by Legal and General Investment Management (LGIM).</p> <p>On the 4 March 2022, major index providers including MSCI, STOXX and FTSE all confirmed they would be deleting Russian equity securities from their indices at an effective price of zero by 9 March 2022. Subsequently, LGIM have confirmed that all Russian securities under their management will also be marked to zero. This means that the Pension Fund’s exposure to Russian companies will effectively be zero once the changes have been implemented.</p> <p>Officers, in consultation with the Pension Funds advisors, are continuing to assess the wider impact of the ongoing geopolitical crisis on the fund’s investments and will provide further updates as the situation develops.</p>
<p><b>16. Cllr Bull to Cllr Chandwani</b></p>	<p>There are instances of vehicles, most notably tipper-trucks and camper vans, being parked both on the public highway, for example Rivulet Road and Daubeney Road, as well as on HfH estates, for</p>	<p>As vehicles are legally required to display a registration plate (front and rear), action can be taken under the 1980 Highways Act by means of a 28-day notice.</p> <p>The Council is unable to undertake parking enforcement action against vehicles that do not display a vehicle registration number.</p>

	<p>example Thetford Close, that have no VRM which makes it impossible to issue a PCN or check tax and MOT. Can I ask what steps are being taken by HfH, LBH and the local police to tackle this blight on our local community?</p>	<p>Those vehicles can be assessed as abandoned, but, if they are moved by the vehicle owner, they cannot subsequently be removed or disposed of.</p>
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