

COUNCIL – 20 JULY 2009 - QUESTIONS

Oral Questions

Oral Question 1 - To the Leader of the Council from Councillor Santry:

Can the Leader please outline how, with the proposed changes to the cabinet portfolios, she will continue to make Enterprise and Regeneration a priority?

Oral Question 2 – To the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People from Councillor Engert:

Does the recent inspection of the Council's Safeguarding and Child Protection Services by Ofsted represent a failure by the Council to make substantial progress to ensure children in Haringey are safe?

Oral Question 3 - To the Cabinet Member for Enforcement and Safer Communities from Councillor Cooke:

Given that the recently conducted place survey highlights street cleanliness as paramount, can you let us know what is being planned to address resident's concern about littering?

Oral Question 4 - To the Cabinet Member for Resources from Councillor Gorrie:

How did a detail listing of individuals subject to debt recovery proceedings by the Council, including full names and amounts, come to be found in a Wood Green café?

Oral Question 5 –To the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Wellbeing from Councillor Peacock:

Can the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Wellbeing outline her priorities for her portfolio for the coming year?

Oral Question 6 – To the Leader of the Council from Councillor Newton:

Will the Council protect the allotments on the Fortis Green Reservoir Site from development?

Oral Question 7 - To the Cabinet Member for Housing Services from Councillor Meehan:

This Labour Government recently announced, as part of Building Britain's Future plans, new measures that aim to provide new homes and reform of council housing finance; what impact does he think policies such as these will have on a borough like Haringey?

Oral Question 8 - To the Cabinet Member for Housing Services from Councillor Davies:

What is the average cost to leaseholders for the installation of digital aerials?

Written Questions

Written Question 1 – To the Cabinet Member for Enforcement and Safer Communities from Councillor Aitken:

Why does the Council charge for the erection of Neighbourhood Watch signs, what is the charge, and how many signs have been erected in the last three years and at what cost?

ANSWER

Neighbourhood watch signs have historically been erected by the Council's Highways' Contractor at a cost of £7 per sign. The contract was run by EDF but has recently passed to a new contractor with effect from 1 July 2009. Over the past 2-3 years, 500 signs have been purchased and 300 erected at the above mentioned charge. This equates to a total cost so far of £2,100.

Written Question 2 – To the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People from Councillor Alexander:

Can the Council confirm how many children centres, nurseries and schools have not received their allocated funds due to delays within the education department and explain what action is being taken to ensure that emergency funds are being made available to prevent services being withdrawn from those affected?

ANSWER

All schools and nurseries have been issued with their delegated budgets in accordance with the statutory deadline of 31 March 2009; associated cash flow payments have also been made to date in accordance with the published timetable.

There has been a delay in respect of resources being issued to Children's Centres, which receive devolved funding and are therefore not governed by any statutory timescales. Services provided through Children's Centres are governed by annual Service Level Agreements (SLA) and the release of funding is, in accordance with audit guidelines, dependent on these being agreed and signed.

Staff in the Early Years service have been working with the Children's Centres to agree SLAs for 2009-10 which have now been issued. In the interim, services have not and should not be under threat of withdrawal. The Council has not been notified by any children's centres that their services are at any risk due to funds not yet being released. The delay in agreeing SLAs in this year has been caused by the development and implementation of a new stronger partnership SLA document which has now been issued and steps are in place to ensure that this does not reoccur in the future.

Written Question 3 – To the Cabinet Member for Environment and Conservation from Councillor Allison:

Has the Council agreed which sites will be chosen to pilot the Community Toilet scheme and, if so, where will the pilot areas be and what criteria was used to choose these areas?

ANSWER

The pilot for the Community Toilet Scheme will be based in one Town Centre location. The decision on this will be made shortly based on the degree to which Town Centres are already served by current public convenience provision; and survey information about where residents perceive public convenience provision is required most within the borough. It is envisaged that up to 20 businesses will participate in the scheme. We will also investigate opportunities for facilities in Council-owned buildings to be made available as part of the scheme.

Written Question 4 – To the Cabinet Member for Environment and Conservation from Councillor Baker:

Has the Council contacted First Capital Connect, Transport for London or the Mayor of London about the delay in plans for Oyster Pay As You Go to be installed on lines north of Finsbury Park?

ANSWER

There are ongoing discussions between TfL and First Capital Connect on the implementation of Oyster at their stations which are primarily concerned with reaching a commercial agreement. The Leader has written to the Mayor asking him to clarify the situation and when Oyster Pay As You Go will be in operation as this is clearly frustrating for people who live and work in the area and use the train services. This follows previous lobbying by the Council for the introduction with Cllr Haley writing to the Secretary of State for Transport seeking clarification on when Oyster Pay As You Go (PAYG) will be rolled out at all national rail stations in the Borough. And the Council raising the issue of Oyster PAYG with First Capital Connect.

Written Question 5 – To the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture and Lifelong Learning from Councillor Beacham:

Please can the Council give an update on the aspirations of Haringey Tennis to refurbish the Albert Road Recreation Ground tennis courts and provide flood lights, as indicated in the Council's Albert Road Recreation Ground Management Plan 2006-2010 (reviewed Jan 2008) and tell me when residents can expect to see these improvements completed before the end of the Plan's term?

ANSWER

The Council, in partnership with Haringey Tennis, have secured in principle agreement with the Tennis Foundation, to fund facility improvements across the Borough. The first priority is Albert Road Recreation Ground and a detailed application has been prepared for submission. This element of the Site Management Plan is being led by Haringey Tennis, who lease and manage the tennis courts and café, and have already submitted and secured planning permission for the upgrade and floodlighting. It is anticipated that works will be completed before the end of 2009/10.

Written Question 6 – To the Cabinet Member for Resources from Councillor Beynon:

What is the current total number of people unemployment in Haringey and how many were unemployed this time last year?

ANSWER

The most up-to-date labour market data relates to people claiming Job Seekers Allowance (JSA). The latest figures, at June 2009, show that there are currently 9,364 JSA claimants in the borough. This is up from a figure of 6,326 at June 2008. The increase in the number of JSA claimants over this period is the 6th lowest in London.

Written Question 7– To the Cabinet Member for Resources from Councillor Bloch:

How many councillors use the Council email to receive emails and how many use it to send emails; for how long are emails retained on the server; under what circumstances do council officials have access to these emails; and has RIPA ever been used to access the server and/or the emails and if so under what circumstances?

ANSWER

Fifty six councillors have active email accounts on the Council's email system. Emails that have not been deleted are kept, in line with current Council practice for staff, for 3 months and then archived for a minimum 5 year period. E mail access by council officials is in line with that for all email users and is set out when logging onto the network. That is that IT systems access is subject to monitoring for security management reasons. There has been no use of RIPA to access the server and/or the emails, as it would not apply.

Written Question 8 – To Cabinet Member for Cabinet member Environment and Conservation from Councillor Butcher:

Why has he not prioritised a review of the Finsbury Park CPZ for 2009/10 given the numerous commitments the Council has made over many years to do so; and under his current plans when is the earliest that a review will be completed and how many residents have contacted the Council to ask for a review of the CPZ?

ANSWER

The Finsbury Park CPZ was introduced in 2004 and reviewed in 2006. A further Finsbury Park (A) CPZ, located on the periphery of the Finsbury Park zone, was introduced in 2007. There are a number of CPZs in the borough each with competing demands for extensions and reviews. I must therefore allocate resources to areas I feel would benefit the most. This year I have prioritised the Fortis Green, Bounds Green and Highgate Station CPZs under the fast track process and also committed resources to address compliance issues related to parking restrictions. I am aware of the support from residents for a further review of the Finsbury Park CPZ and have placed it on the provisional Parking Programme for 2010/11.

Written Question 9 – To the Children and Young People from Councillor Davies:

What would be the cost to the Council of meeting its commitment on extended services if after-school clubs like the Fortis Green Kids Club were to close due

to lack of funding and schools could no longer simply signpost to such a service without directly providing it?

ANSWER

The Council's commitment for Extended Services is to work in partnership with all schools to ensure they are delivering the full core offer by September 2010. Officers meet regularly with schools individually and through the Network Learning Communities to ensure there are no barriers to achievement of this target. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss sustainability and continuity of provision with any voluntary or private provider.

Written Question 10 – To the Cabinet Member for Environment and Conservation from Councillor Edge:

How many residents have requested a second green recycling box since October 2007?

ANSWER

When residents contact the Haringey Enterprise Call Centre to order recycling containers, it is not recorded whether the boxes are to provide additional capacity or to replace lost, stolen or broken containers. It is not possible to provide a figure for the number of requests for second green boxes.

However, since 1 October 2007 there have been a total of 10,508 individual requests for green recycling boxes taken by the Call Centre.

Written Question 11 – To the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People from Councillor Engert:

How many children have applied to start sixth form this year and how many places are available?

ANSWER

2302 young people have applied to school sixth forms or the Haringey Sixth Form Centre (including 690 out-borough applications at the Sixth Form Centre). There are 1400 places available in Y12. These figures do not include data for Fortismere School. Individual young people are likely to have made applications to more than one institution.

Written Question 12 – To the Cabinet Member for Resources from Councillor Gorrie:

Please confirm the current timetable assumptions the Council is making for the disposal and development of the Hornsey Depot site, the Civic Centre site, Woodside House & the Welbourne Centre site. Could you please confirm that the Council believes the tenancy arrangements of both I Can Care, at Woodside House, and the Caribbean Senior Citizens Association at the Welbourne Centre are protected by the security of tenure provisions of the Landlord and Tenant Act?

ANSWER

Hornsey Depot – in accordance with the project plan the next gateway is agreeing the scheme to be developed and the heads of terms with Sainsbury. Thereafter Sainsbury will submit the planning application and the next gateway will be receipt of planning consent. At that point the Council will enter into a development agreement to enable Sainsbury to commence the build out in phases. The first phase is planned to be the store and some residential followed by the remainder of the residential development. On the basis of an acceptable scheme, a report will be presented at Cabinet seeking approval of the Development Agreement and a planning application will be submitted by Sainsbury's by the end of this year.

Civic Centre and Woodside House – the redevelopment of Woodside is currently on hold and consequently the disposal of the Civic Centre is being deferred.

Welbourne Centre - A report is to be presented to the 21 July Cabinet meeting recommending the deferral of the decision to dispose of the site.

The tenancies are:

- **I Can Care Limited, Woodside House** – occupies the property under a lease for a term of 20 years from 1 September 2001 with a security of tenure under the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954.
- **Caribbean Senior Citizens Association at Welbourne Centre** – occupies the property under a Tenancy at Will since 4 February 2004 and therefore do not have security of tenure under the provisions of the Landlord and Tenant 1954.

Written Question 13 – To the Cabinet Member for Environment and Conservation from Councillor Hare:

How many cycle parking spaces are there currently outside main tube stations across the borough and how many are there in total in Haringey (please provide a list detailing how many are in each ward)?

ANSWER

Cycle Parking at all Stations in the Borough

Stations	Number of Cycle Parking stands
Bounds Green [LU]	10
Wood Green [LU]	10
Turnpike Lane [LU]	12
Tottenham Hale [NR/LU]	Cycle stands removed for security reasons, LUL property
Seven Sisters [NR/LU]	10 (5 east side of High Road and 6 west side of High Road) + 9 close to West Green Road.
Highgate [LU]	Main entrance on TLRN (3 on Wood Lane) to be improved in 2009/10

Harringay [NR]	4
Hornsey [NR]	3
Alexandra Park [NR]	3
White Hart Lane [NR]	5
Northumberland Park [NR]	3 (Shelbourne Road)

LU – London underground station

NR – National Rail station

There were 302 cycle parking stands installed in the borough between 2003/4 and 2008/9 financial years in the wards:

WARD	Total including Stations
Alexandra	3
Bounds Green	20
Bruce Grove	9
Crouch End	37
Harringay	28
Highgate	3
Hornsey	15
Muswell Hill	25
Noel Park	28
Northumberland Park	14
St Anns	12
Stroud Green	5
Tottenham Green	23
Tottenham Hale	39
West Green	13
White Hart Lane	11
Woodside	17
Grand Total	302

Written Question 14 – To the Cabinet Member for Enforcement and Safer Communities from Councillor Mughal:

How many requests has Haringey Council received from households in the Noel Park conservation area to install new UPVC windows; how many of these has the Council granted permission for and how many have been declined; in the last year how many times has the Council taken enforcement action against developments in Noel Park that were considered against conservation area guidelines?

ANSWER

There have been eight planning applications for replacement or enlargement of windows in the Noel Park Conservation Area since January 2004. Of these, six were refused, as they involved uPVC windows and two approved, both involving timber replacement windows.

Over the last year up to 40 enforcement cases and actions have been activated in the area. The area is covered by a conservation area and Article 4 direction. A new balance between remaining design integrity elements; planning control and levels of planning enforcement needs to be developed and agreed for the area, through public consultation and this will take place during 09-2011.

Written Question 15 – To the Cabinet Member for Environment and Conservation from Councillor Newton:

How much has the Council spent on street cleaning in all wards in the past two years (please provide a breakdown for each ward)?

ANSWER

The cost of street cleansing in 07/08 was £5.652m and in 08/09 was £5.936m. The current payment mechanism and contractual arrangements for sweeping do not provide a breakdown of street cleansing costs on a ward by ward basis.

Written Question 16 – To the Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion and Involvement from Councillor Oakes:

Latest information from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) shows a sharp increase in the number of Polish speaking residents accessing DWP services and help lines. In view of this increasing need of public sector support and Haringey's significant Polish population has the Council recruited any Polish-speaking officers to help with queries and how many current Council leaflets contain a section in Polish?

ANSWER

Haringey Translation and interpreting Services have five Polish freelance interpreters and translators available to book as and when requested. Polish is one of Haringey's top 6 languages. As such it is always included in the language panel on the back of Haringey leaflets. Haringey leaflets do not have language sections within them. We offer a free translated copy to borough residents via the language panel. Customer services as a main access route to the Council is set up to access these resources on both an ad-hoc and appointment basis. We are currently building up information on users of service, via our Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system. This will allow us to monitor if demand for language translation increases beyond our current provision. The Council also at the end of 2008 organised an access to services day for Polish people. This provided information relating to Council and Partnership Services.

Written Question 17 – To the Cabinet Member for Enforcement and Safer Communities from Councillor Oatway:

How many fixed penalty notices has the Council issued in the last three years for a) Spitting in the street b) Cycling on the pavement c) Dog fouling d) Fly-tipping e) Urinating in the street

ANSWER

Fixed penalty notices are not issued for a, b and e. Between 2006/7 – 2008/9 the Council has issued 4 penalty notices for dog fouling and 3,205 fixed penalty notices for offences relating to the control of waste.

Written Question 18 – To the Cabinet Member for Resources from Councillor Rainger:

How many council buildings currently have disabled access and how many do not; further, when will remaining council buildings receive adaptations to provide access?

ANSWER

All planned adaptations have been completed to public areas of Council buildings (70 buildings) as required under the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA). In buildings where adaptations are not feasible alternative arrangements for service provision are available, for example, for the upper areas of Muswell Hill, Alexandra Park and Hornsey Libraries in line with DDA. Adaptations to areas only used by council staff are carried out as and when required.

Written Question 19 – To the Cabinet Member for Resources from Councillor Reid:

How much has the relocation of the Coroner from the Hornsey Depot site to Barnet cost the Council in (i) capital and (ii) revenue costs?

ANSWER

Capital: £3,647 (up to the end of June 2009) – includes surveys and design fees, tendering, and health and safety. Revenue per annum: approximately £8,366 that includes lease of new building, business rates and insurance.

Written Question 20 – To the Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion and Involvement from Councillor Scott:

Please can the Council provide details of grants given to Jan Trust for the year 2009/10; detail any decision that has been made on the level of future grants and confirm that it is keen to offer adequate and in support to this vital charity, given its efficiency, cost effectiveness and proven ability to train, support and encourage some of the most vulnerable people in Haringey?

ANSWER

The Jan Trust currently receives £18,000 from the Council's Corporate Voluntary Sector Team (CVST) which is provided as a contribution towards their core costs.

The Trust is receiving £46,000 during 2009/10 from the Safer Communities Partnership for their pathway to employment project under the Preventing Violent Extremism programme. They will receive a further £10,465 for an event entitled 'Deen Fest', due to be held in September, from this same source.

The CVST will be undertaking a review of the Jan Trust this year. The findings will be considered by the Voluntary Sector Committee and an agreement reached on future funding requirements.

Written Question 21 – To the Cabinet Member for Environment and Conservation from Councillor Weber:

How many people with disability applications for bays or badges were put onto a list whilst the review was being undertaken? What is the usual time frame from application to implementation of a disabled bay and how long is it currently taking? How long will it take for the Council to clear the backlog of disabled parking bay applications and what extra resources are available to reduce this backlog?

ANSWER

We have received 113 requests for applications from residents for disabled bays whilst the review on the disabled bay criteria was taking place. Blue Badges are processed within the Concessionary Travel Section and were not part of the review. Exceptional cases were still processed during the review to ensure a level of service was maintained for those applicants most in need.

The usual timeframe for processing applications through to implementation is 3-6 months. This is dependent on the number of applications received in any given month and addressing any representations received during the legal process. It is envisaged that following approval of the new criteria it will take 4 months to clear the backlog. This will be resourced through existing staff.

Written Question 22 – To the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People from Councillor Whyte:

Given the long established position of the YMCA in Hornsey, the continued challenge of providing youth facilities and the success of the YMCA joint venture with the police and Council in Barnet to set up a Youth Club could you please describe what steps are being taken to pursue with the YMCA similar opportunities in Haringey, when any meetings have taken place between the Council and the YMCA and if any funding is available to establish a Youth Club in Hornsey?

ANSWER

In September 2008, the Hornsey YMCA Supported Housing Project was decommissioned by the Adult, Culture and Community Services Directorate, as a result of a range of concerns, most notably around safeguarding of vulnerable young adults.

The YMCA recently approached and met with the Youth Service about establishing a youth facility in the west of the Borough. Before this could be considered, the YMCA were asked to affiliate to the Youth Service and asked to supply a range of documentation. This documentation was not deemed to be fit for purpose to meet due diligence requirements. To date, the Youth Service has not received documentation relating to Health and Safety, Equal Opportunities or insurance for Haringay club or the gym.

Senior Officers asked to meet with the YMCA on 22 April 2009, the YMCA were again advised that we would not be able to work in partnership with them until our concerns were fully addressed. As a result, the YMCA requested that we detail all the concerns in writing – historical and current. A response was received in June 2009, together with a range of documentation. An officer response was sent on 3 July 2009, as some concerns remain. The response outlined these remaining concerns and offered support, advice and training to the YMCA. Documentation has been copied to relevant officers, and they will be in touch with the YMCA in due course, to address our concerns, in order that we may be enabled to work in partnership in the future.

Written Question 23 – To the Cabinet Member for Environment and Conservation from Councillor Williams:

Has the Council made any representations to Transport for London to request new bus services to help residents get to the new Hornsey Hospital? If so, when did the Council contact TfL?

ANSWER

The Council is in discussion with Haringey Primary Care Trust to identify possible additional bus services to serve the new Neighbourhood Health Centre on Park Road. HPCT has undertaken an access review for the new Health Centres and will set up a meeting between the Council, TfL and HPCT to discuss possible bus service improvements. We are also looking into the possibility of a community transport service to supplement the existing bus route W7 into the Muswell Hill area which has been identified as a key catchment area for people to access the Park Road health centre.

Written Question 24 – To the Cabinet Member for Environment and Conservation from Councillor Wilson:

What budget is there for replacing street lights in this financial year; how many street lights will be replaced; what decision has been taken regarding preserving the old Victorian street lights; and what is English Heritage's position on this?

ANSWER

The approved Council budget for investment in new street lighting for 2009/10 is £2.0 million. This will replace approximately 1400 columns. The old cast iron columns are considered life expired as far as road lighting is concerned, we hope to salvage as many as possible for use in parks and other amenity areas. English Heritage are working with us on two trial sites where we are investigating a refurbishment of columns with door compartments. Although this will result in lighting levels that do not meet current standards there is significant resident support for the refurbishment of the existing columns.

Written Question 25 – To the Cabinet Member for Environment and Conservation from Councillor Winskill:

It is now over one year and five months since Tessa Jowell MP met with the then Leader of Haringey council and other council officials on 6 February 2008 to discuss Haringey's plans to engage with and benefit from the 2012

Olympic and Paralympic Games. The Chairman of the Olympic Delivery Authority met local councillors and business representatives on 8 January 2009 in Haringey to talk about both the employment and training opportunities. Can the lead member list all the projects that will allow Haringey residents to benefit from these opportunities?

ANSWER

The following projects allow Haringey residents to benefit from Olympic related opportunities:

Employment, Enterprise and Volunteering

- **Personal Best** - a pre-volunteering programme, funded by the LDA and LSC, delivered by Southgate College in partnership with KIS Training. This programme is linked to the Haringey Guarantee.
- **Relay London Jobs** – a job brokerage service focused on Olympic related employment opportunities.
- **Keep on Building**, delivered by Urban Futures. An element of this project will support Haringey based small businesses and sole traders in the building trade to form consortia to bid for procurement opportunities, including those generated by 2012.
- **Haringey Tendering Readiness Initiative Programme**, delivered by the London Business Development Corporation. This is a 2 year programme that will capacity build BAME led SMEs to register and tender for 2012 contracts.
- **Sports Hub** project is supporting development of sports clubs at White Hart Lane Community Sports Centre and Finsbury Park Track & Gym to help them increase participation. White Hart Lane Community Sports Centre has been allocated as a possible training site for the 2012 Olympics, if chosen LOCOG may allocate funds to help develop the facilities. Which will provide a lasting legacy for local residents post 2012.
- **The Borough's annual Sports Awards** recognise, celebrate and promote the role and contribution of the voluntary sector sports community.

Sports and Physical Activity Participation

- Development and launch (Spring 2009) of our 'Make a Change' partnership programme, drawing together existing projects and promoting new initiatives within a branded, marketed and targeted campaign.
- Youth Sports Programme targeting both participation and development, and encompasses schools/ clubs sports links, holiday programmes, sports excellence and scholarships, geared to sports specific development plan objectives and the Borough's London Youth Games participation.
- Free Swimming Programme to be extended from April 2009 to include over 60s (currently over 65s) and under 16s, including targeted development and promotional activities.
- Development of community use of school sports facilities through new 'dual use' management arrangements, currently being piloted at the Borough's new Sixth Form Centre.

Children and Young People

- Our Extended Schools Programme will provide a wide range of Olympic themed events and activities to help meet the needs of children, their families and the wider community.
- Showcase event celebrating all things to do with the Olympics. 'The Haringey Heartbeat festival'. This will run during June and July 2009. The three week long celebration of community events will show case the work in schools, the music service and other agencies within CYPS.
- there will be an ongoing menu of opportunities for our schools, centres and partners to work effectively and coherently in promoting the Olympic values.

Cultural Events

- The Cultural Olympiad will provide the impetus for events will stimulate local interest in the Games and raise awareness of the opportunities that are available to our residents and young people.
- Events and activities will provide access and involvement to residents and young people who are unable to attend the Games or events in Central London.
- Arts and Education programmes will draw on Olympic themes to raise cultural awareness and provide opportunities for communities to share cultural experience.