

TABLED

COUNCIL – 22 FEBRUARY 2010 - QUESTIONS

Public Question 1 to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Conservation from Dan Isebor:

Does the Council have any plans to introduce much-needed speeding restrictions on Devonshire Hill Lane and Norfolk Avenue, both residential roads, to reduce rat-running and make the lives of local residents safer and quieter?

Public Question 2 to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Conservation from Sarah Cope:

In Kirklees Council in Yorkshire, Green Party Councillors fought to introduce a free mass insulation scheme, which, as well as reducing carbon emissions, is now delivering fuel-bill savings of around £150 per year for each household.

The scheme has also stimulated the local economy, with the establishment of a new national training centre and depot in the district. It has directly helped those on low incomes who experience 'fuel poverty', and contributes to improved health in terms of dealing with cold-related and respiratory illnesses.

The scheme was funded in part by an energy company, as part of their Carbon Emissions Reduction Target.

Although many of houses in Haringey don't have cavity walls, it is possible to improve the level of insulation, with increased loft insulation, cladding, underfloor insulation, draught stripping and secondary/double glazing.

As part of Haringey council's commitment to reduce the borough's emissions by 40% by 2020, would the council look into introducing a free mass insulation scheme, funded in part by an energy company?

Public Question 3 to the Cabinet Member for Resources from Anne Gray:

How much did the Council, including the Education Service, spend on gas, electricity and water during the financial year 2008-2009 and how much is budgeted for these items in 2009-10?

Public Question 4 to the Cabinet Member for Enforcement and Safer Communities from Justin Hinchcliffe:

Will the Council take this opportunity to publicly support the Shomrim patrols carried out by members of the Orthodox Jewish Community in Seven Sisters and Stamford Hill? The Shomrim patrol scheme has around a dozen volunteers who are the eyes and ears on the ground for the police and a key ally in the fight against crime. They are also active in safety and rescue operations. What practical support and encouragement will she give to any volunteer organisation that wishes to work with the Met Police to reduce street crime and allow local residents feel safer on our streets?

Public Question 5 to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Conservation from Pamela Harling:

I would like to ask if the Council are considering dropping charges for roads wanting to hold a Big Lunch this year? This year it will be on Sunday 18 July.

Last year I gather that people wanting to hold an event in their roads were charged for street closure (£60), an event licence (£21), road closure signs (£32) AND liability insurance (£50 to £100).

The whole point of the event is for people to celebrate their communities by eating together and if possible to also celebrate local food growing. I would like to think that the council would want to encourage such events in Haringey.

Oral Questions

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

Can the Leader of the Council please provide an update on the progress of the Haringey Heartlands development and its likely completion?

Oral Question 2 – To the Cabinet Member for Environment and Conservation from Councillor Wilson:

Brighter streets are safer streets. Does the Cabinet member agree?

Oral Question 3 - To the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Wellbeing from Councillor Peacock:

Can the Cabinet Member for Adult Services please inform the Council how the Haynes day centre at the Hornsey Neighbourhood Health Centre is contributing to the Council's aim of helping residents stay in their homes longer?

Oral Question 4 - To the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People from Councillor Engert:

Does the Cabinet member agree that Children’s centres provide a vital source of childcare family support for the most vulnerable children and parents?

Oral Question 5 – To the Cabinet Member for Enforcement and Safer Communities from Councillor Demirci:

Going into the economic downturn, research suggested that we would see a rise in robbery, motor vehicle crime and residential burglary. What has been done to prevent this in Haringey?

Oral Question 6 – To the Cabinet Member for Housing Services from Councillor Davies:

Would the Cabinet member agree that modern facilities in local residents’ homes are vital to provide a good standard of living for our Council tenants?

Oral Question 7 - To the Cabinet Member for Resources from Councillor Bull:

Can the Cabinet Member for Resources explain what the impact of a Local ‘Mansion Tax’ would be on the people of this borough?

Oral Question 8 - To the Leader of the Council from Councillor Gorrie:

By May this year how much will the Council have spent on Haringey People, and publicity and marketing since May 2006?

Written Questions

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

Please provide the annual number of violent crimes that have occurred in Haringey every year of the past 4 years?

Answer

The table below shows the number of violence against the person offences (murder, Grievous Bodily Harm (GBH), Actual Bodily Harm (ABH), common assault, offensive weapon and other violence) recorded in Haringey every year from 2005/6 – 2008/9:

Year	Violence Against the Person total
2005/6	6,921
2006/7	5,651

2007/8	5,377
2008/9	5,311

Over the past four years violence against the person offences have reduced by 23%. Data for 2009/10 is not yet available.

It should be noted that in April 2008 the Home Office introduced the new category of Most Serious Violence (murder and child destruction, attempted murder, wounding and GBH, causing death by dangerous driving and causing death by aggravated vehicle taking). This is a sub-category of violence against the person. As this is a new category we are unable to provide four years of data and it is not comparable with the previous category of violence against the person.

Written Question 2 – To the Leader of the Council from Councillor Alexander:

Please provide data showing the indices of deprivation for each ward comparing 2006 and 2010 showing the progress made in each ward (If data does not exist for the dates shown please provide comparative data for the period in question).

Answer

The Council and Haringey Strategic Partners (HSP) have a long history of working together to reduce deprivation in the borough. The Indices of Deprivation 2007 shows that while Haringey remains one of the most deprived local authority areas - 18th most deprived Borough in the country - there have been some improvements in relative deprivation. The Indices of Deprivation 2004 shows that Haringey was 13th most deprived area.

The Indices of Deprivation 2010 will be released in the autumn of 2010.

Written Question 3 – To the Leader of the Council from Councillor Allison:

What was the total planned income from Section 106 monies forecast for the period 2006-10, what has been the total monies received to date and how much of this money has been spent and how much is outstanding (i.e. to be received)?

Answer

It is not possible to plan or forecast accurately for S106 contributions because permissions could be triggered over 3 or 5 years, or they might be permissions gained to establish the principle of development or a particular land value simply to be sold on, and in a time of recession, the triggering of development becomes even less certain.

However, the total income from S106 contributions from planning permission that could be received if all developments were triggered for the period 2006-10 is £17,4m.

Over this period, from the potential £17.4m - £3.5m was received and £2.5m spent. Most often the Local Authority receives contributions to improvement programmes (education, environment, transport/highways, housing), rather than funds for particular costed schemes. Services then need to develop detailed improvement programmes for these contributions which have to be put into the capital programme and often matched with other revenue or grant regimes. It is normal for S106 funding to come in over 1-3 years and take a similar time to be spent. This is the reason for the difference between monies received and spent.

The outstanding S106 contributions is £13,8m. This is the total from all unimplemented agreements, where planning permission has been granted and S106 Agreement has been signed, but development has not yet commenced. It is still possible for a significant proportion of this sum to be triggered and come forward, but it will depend on the strength of the property market as we move slowly out of recession.

Written Question 4 – To the Cabinet Member for Enforcement and Safer Communities from Councillor Baker:

How much money has been seized from criminals and used to fund crime reduction initiatives in Haringey since 2006?

Answer

The money that has been seized under the Proceeds of Crime Act is the responsibility of the central Metropolitan Police Service's (MPS) Finance Department. We are aware that there has been some investment back in Haringey but we do not have access to this information. Therefore, the request for the information should be directed to the MPS.

Written Question 5 – To the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People from Councillor Beacham:

Please provide a comparison of Haringey's GCSE results compared to the national average every year over the past four years.

Answer

Percentage of pupils attaining 5+ A*-C GCSE (including English and maths) grades at the end of Key Stage 4 since 2006

	2006	2007	2008	2009
Haringey	34.2%	37.4%	42.0%	45.7%
National	45.6%	46.3%	47.6%	49.8%

Percentage of pupils attaining 5+ A*-C GCSE grades at the end of Key Stage 4 since 2006

	2006	2007	2008	2009
Haringey	51.4%	56.2%	59.7%	67.7%
National	59.0%	61.4%	65.3%	70.0%

The 2008 DCSF Contextual value added (CVA) measure which measures the progress that pupils have made from Key Stage 2 to GCSE showed Haringey to have exceeded national expectations significantly. Haringey's CVA score was 1018.8 (national 1001.2). This placed Haringey in 5th place out of 149 local authorities. Information on the 2009 CVA score has not yet been released by the DCSF.

Written Question 6 – To the Cabinet Member for Enforcement and Safer Communities from Councillor Beynon:

How many times has the Council used legalisation to restrict the use of fireworks to only organised events since 2006?

Answer

None. We have had no complaints in respect of illegal fireworks.

Written Question 7 – To the Cabinet Member for Enforcement and Safer Communities from Councillor Bloch:

How many CCTV cameras have been installed each year for the past four years?

Answer

There have been thirteen new CCTV camera installed in 2007/08 and these were the only cameras installed during this 4 year period.

Written Question 8 – To Cabinet Member for Enforcement and Safer Communities from Councillor Butcher:

How many prosecutions has the Council successfully carried out on fly-tippers since 2006?

Answer

Fly tipping prosecutions reported to DEFRA's Fly Capture going back to 2007/08 is 65.

Written Question 9 – To the Cabinet Member for Enforcement and Safer Communities from Councillor Davies:

Public use of the one remaining tennis court was a key condition when permission was given to build new houses known as Woodland Terrace over the former tennis club on Twyford Avenue (land between 72-74 Twyford Avenue); please can the Cabinet Member detail what monitoring and/or enforcement activity has been taken in respect to this condition and how she intends to ensure that the public can use this tennis court now and in the future?

Answer

The tennis facility relating to this application site was a small private club. The planning process was not able to retain a tennis facility on the site. Analysis shows that Fortis Green Ward has one of the highest concentrations of tennis courts (sq mts) per 1000 ward population. Tennis courts are also available just over the Borough boundary at Cherry Tree Wood.

This matter has been the subject of an investigation by the Local Government Ombudsman on behalf of a local resident. The findings of the Local Government Ombudsman'S investigator makes clear that he considered the Section 106 Legal Agreement attached to the second planning permission granted for the erection of 9 houses on the site did not secure public access to the tennis court built with the houses.

The investigator also made it clear that the permission was not on the basis of open public access but on the more limited basis of being through a Members Club set up expressly for the use of the Tennis Court. The Ombudsman found that the resident had suffered injustice and suggested that the Council pay compensation of £200 in recognition of the injustice caused.

The investigator stated that the suggestion that the Council provide an alternative Tennis Court was not considered to be an appropriate remedy.

The Council has sought Counsels advice on the legal position in relation to the Section106 agreement attached to the second planning permission. After having received this advice it was decided that it was not expedient to take any further enforcement action.

Local Access to Tennis Facilities

Table B.6 – Tennis Courts (sqm) per 1,000 Population by Ward

Ward	Population	Tennis Courts sqm	POS/1000
Alexandra	10,687	7709	721
Bounds Green	11,158	0	0
Bruce Grove	12,241	0	0
Crouch End	11,067	6523	589
Fortis Green	11,513	5930	515
Haringey	10,831	4744	438
Highgate	10,591	0	0
Hornsey	10,309	3558	345
Muswell Hill	10,186	48626	4774
Noel Park	11,702	0	0
Northumberland Park	12,839	0	0
Seven Sisters	13,438	0	0
St Ann's	12,884	1779	138
Stroud Green	10,626	1186	112
Tottenham Green	12,215	0	0
Tottenham Hale	12,952	0	0
West Green	12,113	7116	587
White Hart Lane	12,161	6523	536
Woodside	11,739	1186	101
	221,251	94880	428.83

Written Question 10 – To the Cabinet Member for Housing Services from Councillor Edge:

How many council housing units have been sold off in the last four years?

Answer

The Council's housing stock may be sold in two ways: through 'right to buy' sales and, where properties are not fit for purpose or are uneconomic to maintain or repair, they may be sold as part of the Council's planned disposals programme.

The number of properties sold through 'right to buy' sales in the last four years is 198

Since April 2005, the Council has sold 39 of its housing units, including properties that were previously being used as hostels because the properties were not fit for purpose or uneconomic to maintain or repair.

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

What is Haringey's current average Pupil to Teacher ratio in primary schools and what was it in 1979?

Answer

Haringey's current pupil to teacher ratio (PTR) in primary schools is 21.9 (2009). This compares with a national mean of 21.4; the difference between these averages would not be discernable at classroom level. In 1979 the Haringey PTR was 20.9, significantly below the national figure of 23.1. It would have been extremely surprising if Haringey had maintained or reduced from that unusually low PTR.

The other point to consider is that PTR can vary year on year: for example in 2008 Haringey's PTR was 21.5.

It is worth noting that Haringey's secondary PTR is below the national average at 15.4 (national 15.9). Haringey has long promoted lower class sizes in its secondary schools. In 1979 the Haringey secondary PTR was 16.0.

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

How much funding has the Council received through external and government funding for regeneration projects in Haringey since 2000, what projects were earmarked for investment, what project was money spent on and how much?

Answer

There have been a number of externally funded regeneration initiatives in Haringey since the late 1990 to now including SRB programmes, physical regeneration initiatives, employment & skills programmes, business support and enterprise projects and the Bridge NDC programme in Seven Sisters. Over this 13 year period is approximately £140m – of which £50m has come with the Seven Sisters New deal for Communities. This sum does not include S106/278 funding.

1. Haringey benefited from 4 SRB programmes

SRB3 Haringey Heartlands ran from 1997/98 to 2003/04 was £13.41 million SRB funding

SRB4 Tottenham Futures ran from 1998/99 to 2003/04 and £7.16 million was spent.

SRB5 West Green Learning Neighbourhood ran from 1999/00 to 2005/06 and £11.99 million was spent

SRB6 Joining Up Northumberland Park ran from 2000/01 and finished in 2005/06 and £6.98 million was spent

2. Physical regeneration projects

A number of physical regeneration projects separate to SRB have received funding between 2003/2010: Tottenham Hale Urban Centre Masterplan, Clyde Road Access Road to Bernie Grant Centre, Tottenham Green, Access to Seven Sisters Tube Station, Bernie Grant Centre, GLS Site Demolition, Decontamination and Infrastructure, Haringey Heartlands School Site Purchase, Mortuary, Markfield, Heartlands Spine road, Marsh Lane Site

Purchase, Gyrotory, Marsh Lane Demolition, Down Lane Park, Garden of Remembrance at the Mortuary

3. Employment & Skills programmes

The Haringey Guarantee and North London Pledge.

Haringey Guarantee

2006/07	£412,800
2007/08	£516,000
2008/09	£630,968
2009/10	£930,000

North London Pledge 1 – a LDA funded sub-regional programme. Haringey's share of this was:

2008/09	£239,166
2009/10	£342,500

4. Business Support and Enterprise:

Money from NRF and WNF was spent on:

2004/05	£99,000.00	ERDF and Arts Council
2007/08	£261,000	NRF Business Support, LDA
2008/09	£250,000	WNF Business Support
2009/10	£350,000	ABG Business Support

5. New Deal for Communities:

The Bridge NDC programme was a 10 year regeneration programme focussed on Seven Sisters. The total value was £50,121,000 running from 2000/01 until 2009/10. £10,457,800 was spent on revenue projects. £39,663,200 was spent on capital projects

Written Question 13 – To the Cabinet Member for Enforcement and Safer Communities

How many elderly residents have used the borough's service for tidying and clearing gardens?

Answer

The Council does not have a specific service targeted at the older people for the clearing and tidying of their gardens. However, older residents are able to utilise the community clear up scheme which is offered to all residents across the borough more information can be found on the council website.

Written Question 14 – To the Cabinet Member for Environment and Conservation from Councillor Hare:

How many residents on Haringey's estates have access to recycling services and how many do not?

Answer

All residents on Haringey's housing estates have access to recycling services. Some smaller blocks of flats are included on the council's green box collection service, whilst communal near-entry mixed-material recycling facilities have been introduced to many larger purpose-built blocks of flats. In locations where there is insufficient space for these types of facilities, residents are provided with recyclable clear sacks (similar to those used on the new flats above shops service), which are put out at an agreed location for a weekly collection.

A total of 19,680 households in purpose-built blocks of flats have a green box, clear sack or communal near-entry recycling collection. All of these services enable residents to recycle:

- Paper, cardboard and drinks cartons
- Plastic bottles, tubs, trays and pots
- Tins and cans
- Glass bottles and jars

A further 4,000 households in purpose-built blocks will gain access to near-entry recycling facilities or clear sack collections this year. The introduction of these services is dependent upon approval from the relevant managing agents, and a dedicated team within the Recycling Service is responsible for setting up the contacts, carrying out the necessary site visits, and arranging the delivery of the recycling bins or sacks. In the meantime, residents in these blocks have access to the network of 75 on-street recycling bank sites and the two Reuse & Recycling Centres.

Written Question 15 – To the Cabinet Member for Housing Services from Councillor Mughal:

How many Council estates are there in Haringey and how many of them have been fitted with new communal security doors, new door-entry control systems, extra communal lighting or CCTV cameras in the last four years?

Answer

There is no strict definition of an estate but for the purpose of environmental improvements, we have a list of 91 core estates which are our larger estates. These include estates such as Broadwater Farm, Ferry Lane, Campsbourne, White Hart lane and the Sandlings. It is estimated that approximately 39 of the 91 have benefited, in the last four years, from any of the following:

- installation and upgrading of communal security doors
- door-entry systems
- communal lighting
- CCTV

Since 2006, the Council has invested more than £2.4m in the installation and upgrading of controlled door entry systems, communal lighting and CCTV. This investment work covers more properties than those outlined in the 91 estates above. By the end of 2009/10, these improvements will have benefited approximately 2,450 homes:

Year	Amount of investment	Homes benefiting
2006/07	£320,916	322
2007/08	£404,000	406
2008/09	£1,051,885	1,057
2009/10	£661,873	665
TOTAL	£2,438,674	2450

It is important to note that some of these homes will benefit from more than one type of improvement.

5% of the Decent Homes funding (£11m) is allocated for environmental works. These works are now starting and will see further investment in communal lighting and door entry systems.

In deciding which areas to prioritise, Homes for Haringey takes into account the age of existing systems, any history of breakdowns and concerns raised by Area Offices including, for example, persistent anti social behaviour.

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

What is the total amount of grant funding given to the voluntary sector by Haringey Council in each of the last four years?

Answer

The total amount of core grant funding given to the Community and Voluntary Sector over the last 4 years via the Corporate Voluntary Sector Team is listed below.

2006/07 - £2,972,500
 2007/08 - £2,520,700
 2008/09 - £2,598,500
 2009/10 - £2,682,600

The grant funding provided via the Corporate Voluntary Sector Team is agreed and approved at the Voluntary Sector Committee and is usually for a three year period with contracts signed by the specific organisation and the council.

In addition to this the Council commissions over £12 million to the voluntary sector every year, supporting a range of activities from ethnic minority

community groups to inclusive theatre initiatives. In 2006/07 there was a review of funding and it was adjudged that some of the core grant funding was in fact for funding service delivery rather than a contribution towards the organisations running costs. Therefore the money was transferred out of the core grant funding and given to the relevant service for them to monitor.

Written Question 17 – To the Cabinet Member for Environment and Conservation from Councillor Oatway:

On average how long does it take from a local resident reporting graffiti to it been cleaned?

Answer

Haringey has a target to remove non-offensive graffiti within three working days, and offensive graffiti within one day of the graffiti being reported. During the last year, over 97% of non-offensive graffiti was removed within the three day time scale and over 91% of offensive graffiti was removed within 24 hours.

Written Question 18 – To the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People from Councillor Rainger:

How many more breakfast clubs, run by the Council, have been started in the past four years?

Answer

Breakfast Clubs are delivered by our schools or private/voluntary sector providers, rather than directly by the Council. We have worked with our schools to increase the number of Breakfast Clubs operating from their premises from 26 in 2006 to 47 in 2009

Written Question 19 – To the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People from Councillor Reid:

How much (i.e. what facilities, number of pupils intake, classrooms) of the school in Wood Green did the Council plan to have open when the pledge was made for a new secondary school in 2006 and how much of the Heartlands High will be open in Sept 2010 when it opens.

Answer

The school will open in September 2010 for 162 pupils. This is exactly as expected when the original proposal was put forward and matches the need as identified through our pupil place planning processes.

Written Question 20 – To the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People from Councillor Scott:

How many children in Haringey are considered in poverty currently and how many were considered in poverty in 2006?

Answer

The reporting organisation for this National Indicator is the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). The proportion of children in poverty in Haringey was 38.7% in 2006/07 and was 36.4% in 2007/08. Data for 2008/09 is not currently available and is expected some time in April 2010.

Written Question 21 – To the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Wellbeing from Councillor Weber:

How many pensioners in Haringey are considered in poverty currently and how many were considered in poverty in 2006?

Answer

There is no accurate measure of this at a borough level other than through the use of proxy measures such as the House of Commons Work and Pensions Committee report Tackling Pensioner Poverty of 15 July 2009. This indicated the level of pensioner poverty has declined markedly since 1997. A range of reforms have been implemented in response to the Pensions Commission to make state pension provision more generous and more universal and to increase levels of private saving for pensions. Pension Credit has also lifted large numbers of pensioners out of poverty and take-up of Pension Credit improved rapidly after its introduction, but has since reached a plateau with many eligible pensioners still not claiming. Despite the best efforts of the Pension Disability and Carers Service (PDCS) it is seeing diminishing returns for its efforts.

The percentage of pensioners in relative poverty (defined as 60% of contemporary median income) is not recorded borough by borough in this report. However, the figures for London as a whole and inner and outer London indicate that pensioner poverty has reduced. These figures remain high compared to the national average.

Percentage of Pensioners in relative poverty*		
	1998/99-2000/01	2005/06-2007/08
London	30	22
Inner	41	29
Outer	24	19

* House of Commons Work and Pensions Committee report Tackling Pensioner Poverty of 15 July 2009

The Council has introduced a number of initiatives to support this agenda, through joint working between Adult, Culture and Community Services, Benefits & Local taxation and The Pension Service.

This includes the flagship 'Claim it' campaign and joint advice giving at events such as the Personalisation Event for Older People at Alexandra palace in November 2009. ACCS continues to offer comprehensive benefits advice to all applicants for social care support. ACCS in conjunction with NHS Haringey and local GP's are targeting residents over 75 with a range of service offers including income maximisation and referral to the Warm Front initiative.

Written Question 22 – To the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture and Lifelong Learning from Councillor Whyte:

How many parks are there in Haringey and how many have green flags?

Answer

There are 36 sites, with 33 being Council managed and 3 owned/ managed by other agencies. 14 sites currently have Green Flag status, with nineteen submissions made for 2010/11

Written Question 23 – To the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People from Councillor Williams:

How many 16-25 year olds are currently out of work and how many were out of work in January 2006?

Answer

At December 2009 (data for January 2010 to make a comparison with January 2006 are not yet available), 2,310 people aged 16-24 (data for the 16-25 age group are not available) were claimant count unemployed (i.e. claiming Job Seekers Allowance or National Insurance credits) up 11% (230) since December 2006. This increase can be attributed to the current economic climate. It should be noted that the increase in youth unemployment in Haringey using this measure was the 6th lowest in London and England between December 2006 to December 2009. Over this period every London borough and English local authority district (excluding the Isles of Scilly) experienced a rise in youth unemployment.

It should be noted that the Council's Economic Regeneration team has bid for and will receive up to £1.4m to co-ordinate the creation of 221 new jobs over 2010-11 of which at least 111 will be jobs for 18-24 year olds, 155 of the total number of jobs will be created directly in the local authority.

Written Question 24 – To the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture and Lifelong Learning from Councillor Wilson:

How many of Haringey's Leisure Centres have been refurbished since 2006?

Answer

The Council has invested £2.2m since 2006/7 in refurbishing facilities at Tottenham Green Leisure Centre, Park Road Leisure Centre and White Hart Lane Community Sports Centre.