

## **WRITTEN Questions Response**

### **1. Cllr Cawley-Harrison to Cllr Kuper**

Haringey currently has a contract with for-profit litter enforcers Kingdom, who are notorious for their egregious fines, for example fining individuals accused of offences such as spitting on the floor. Will you commit to ditching the Kingdom contract and moving away from a model where contractors are incentivised to give out fines?

### **Response**

I appreciate the concerns behind this question; the scale of fines has also been raised with me directly as a ward councillor. Our residents want and deserve clean streets, but how we get there matters too.

Any enforcement model should be reviewed against questions of fairness and proportionality, including how the contractor is paid and what incentives that creates.

Kingdom operates as a supplementary service, allowing the council's in-house team to focus on fly-tipping investigations and prosecutions. Residents who receive a notice can also challenge it through the council's representations process. At the same time, litter, cigarette butts and spitting remain issues on our streets. So alongside concerns about the scale of fines, it is reasonable to look at what impact the contract is having.

As a Green administration, our approach rests on community-led action that educates and encourages people to care for our shared environment. We firmly believe that enforcement must work within these principles.

We inherited this arrangement, which was extended earlier this year to end in February 2027. As we make decisions about what follows, I will be as open with members and residents as I can.

### **2. Cllr Powell to Cllr Blake**

At the recent election, our Group was pleased to see in the Green manifesto a commitment to 'put power back into people's hands'. Unfortunately, changes to national legislation have made it impossible to move away from the top-down 'leader and cabinet' model; but the council does still have the opportunity to create new area / neighbourhood committees, which would devolve decision-making on local matters to councillors in a specific locale. Will the cabinet member commit to exploring the creation of new area / neighbourhood committees?

## **Response**

The new administration is committed to a full review of the Council's overall approach to engagement to seek genuine empowerment of residents by putting power back in people's hands.

Our Popular Assets Commission is one example of our commitment to explore innovative ways of empowering residents to take action for their own communities and we have begun to work with officers on how to take forward this commitment.

We will also be creating town-hall style forums across the borough where residents can quiz their representatives.

We are more interested in creating opportunities for direct empowerment of residents than new Council-led decision-making structures such as area committees of councillors. Such structures can be costly and bureaucratic to implement and maintain, which is not something we can readily commit to in our challenging financial position without there being clear purpose and benefits for our residents. Councillor-led area committees are also not always the best way to engage previously disengaged residents and to ensure marginalised and disadvantaged voices are heard.

Our review of the Council's approach to engagement will consider best practice and look at all options that offer ways to increase transparency, equity, accountability and genuine empowerment of residents.

All three party leaders will be meeting regularly with the chief executive with the primary focus of ensuring that we achieve as much cross-party consensus moving forward in relation to the council's challenging financial position. Obviously reviewing governance arrangements will feature prominently through these meetings.

### **3. Cllr da Costa to Cllr Kuper**

There have recently been missed bin collections on Parkland Walk due to all the council's collection buggies being out of action. We are told that one of the three buggies has been 'out of action' for the past two years. What is being done to ensure that the council has a fully operational fleet?

#### **Response**

I am sorry to hear about the missed bin collections on the Parkland Walk, a beautiful space used by residents from across the borough and beyond. Every neighbourhood deserves green spaces that are properly cared for, and too often, ours are not.

It is not acceptable that one of our three buggies has been 'out of action' for two years. This appears to be yet another problem we have inherited. Years of underfunding have left this council surviving on what are effectively payday loans from government, and it shows, in equipment left broken and bins left overflowing. It's another example of our residents, and our biodiversity, paying the price.

I have asked officers what is needed to restore a fully operational fleet, and I will keep members updated on this.

We also know how much residents want to be part of the solution. That is why we will continue organising clean-ups, working with residents, and community groups to care for our public spaces.

### **4. Cllr Emery to Cllr Kuper**

The Liberal Democrat Group have previously called for a 'pause and review' of the incinerator project in Edmonton. Incinerators are now the dirtiest way the UK produces power, emitting as much carbon as burning coal. Given the changed makeup of the NLWA board, with the Green Party now holding a majority (50% of seats plus the Chair), what action can we expect to now see from the new board regarding the incinerator project?

#### **Response**

The make-up of the Authority has changed, and with it, what residents can expect. Under new Green leadership we are bringing all seven boroughs together to understand the full picture, starting with a series of briefings over the coming weeks.

The inheritance is well known: a decision to commit north London to decades of large-scale incineration, taken despite strong and sustained opposition; a project years past its deadline; spiralling costs; and public confidence eroded.

We are committed to ending the culture of obfuscation and governing with radical transparency: with the honesty, rigour, and scrutiny this project demands.

This project impacts every household in north London, and our approach will reflect that: we will engage with interested groups, drawing on the expertise of long-term campaigners, officers and engineers alike. From the Haringey side, Cllr Johann Beckford and I commit to reporting back on decisions and process as fully as we can.

As Greens, our position on waste is clear: reduce first, then repair, reuse, recycle. We want to enable residents to do the right thing. These are the principles we will be working to in Haringey, and that we now bring to the leadership of the Authority itself.

## **5. Cllr Ahmed to Cllr Wolson**

Despite repeated requests Park Road Lido remains beset by issues: outstanding repairs, poor upkeep, short hours and a lack of 'family swim' sessions. Residents who were pleased to see the back of Fusion are now left with no faith in the council either. When will the council finally get a grip of these issues - where solutions would also raise revenue - and take urgent action to maintain the centre and introduce family swim sessions without huge gaps in the timetable, with the pool open for the duration of daylight hours?

## **Response**

Thank you for raising this issue. As a long-term member of Tottenham Green Leisure Centre, and now as the Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure, I know firsthand how Fusion's years of mismanagement still haunts our leisure centres. However, I am now excited to work with the team to make these facilities thriving spaces for residents across the borough and restore faith in the Council's ability to manage them.

I know the lack of family swim sessions has been extremely frustrating for residents. After urgently raising this issue with officers, I am happy to confirm that:

- Family swim sessions now take place every weekend and on Wednesdays after school.
- Extra evening swims have been added on Fridays.

The team has successfully recruited dozens more lifeguards and, as they are onboarded, we will be able to expand the number of family swim sessions, general lido swims and evening swims available over the summer. And we also working to improve transparency. As one immediate example a webpage has been created so residents can stay up to date with progress and improvements at the lido.

We are focused on delivering a long-term solution to the issues which have plagued Park Road Lido. Alongside operational improvements, we are developing a long-term commercial approach that will support the financial sustainability of our leisure centres, generate additional income, and develop a collaborative approach between the council and resident to ensure everyone can continue to benefit from high-quality facilities in the years ahead.

This administration is focused on getting the basics right, and that means ensuring our leisure facilities are well maintained, well programmed and accessible to the communities they serve.

## **6. Cllr Orford-Williams to Cllr Wolson**

Once again, during a period of hot weather, the Priory Park paddling pools are closed. Given funding has been secured from national government to replace the fibreglass liner, why was this work not carried out ahead of the Summer?

## **Response**

Thank you for raising this point. Paddling pools are crucial to the borough in summer, providing a free space for families to cool down, play and enjoy the outdoors. This administration is committed to prioritising the upkeep of these spaces and, despite the financial pressures we face, we are focused on getting the basics right and making our public spaces great.

Unfortunately, due to over a decade of underfunding of local government, the resources were not available for the necessary repairs to the paddling pools until the Pride in Place funding allocation was announced by Council earlier this year. This meant that the pools had not received the level of investment needed to address long-standing issues and this year's spring inspections identified that the Priory Park paddling pool did not meet current health and safety and accessibility requirements.

However, the team has moved quickly to progress the repairs and work is now underway at Priory Park so that the paddling pool can reopen as soon as possible. The Pride in Place funding will not only enable these repairs, but also help future-proof the paddling pool for years to come.

Alongside this work, we are continuing to invest in Priory Park more broadly. Residents will already have seen the refurbished tennis courts, delivered through investment from the Council, the LTA and government funding, helping to improve access to sport and recreation in the park.

While the pool remains closed, residents can continue to access the borough's other paddling pools and water play facilities, and I would encourage families looking to cool off during the current hot weather to make use of those sites.

I know this situation is not ideal and I apologise for the disappointment it has caused. We are committed to doing better, getting the basics right, and ensuring our parks and leisure facilities are places that residents can be proud of.

## **7. Cllr Braun to Cllr Kuper**

In the past month there have been several large fly-tips in Queen's Wood. This has been a persistent problem over many years. Will you consider deploying the council's moveable CCTV to the area, or put in place other mitigation measures?

## **Response**

Fly-tipping is a blight on communities across our borough. Queen's Wood is a precious ancient woodland, and it is disturbing to hear that there has been an escalation of fly-tips in the past month, compounding issues which have persisted for years. Tackling fly-tipping is a Green administration priority that I am determined to see through.

We will work with residents and community groups to prevent it, not just clear it, and I would welcome Cllr Braun's knowledge of the site as part of that. I will ask officers to assess whether the council's moveable CCTV can be deployed to Queen's Wood, and what restrictions there may be. I will also ask them to consider other mitigation options appropriate to a woodland setting, including signage, access restrictions at known hotspots, and targeted enforcement.

The council will also review the pattern of recent incidents so that whatever we deploy is matched to how and where the tipping is happening. In the meantime, I would encourage residents to continue to report incidents via the council's website or the Love Clean Streets app, as every report helps build the picture.

#### **8. Cllr Barnes to Cllr Twigg**

Reporting this year has shown that councils across the UK have placed hundreds of looked-after children into illegal, unlicensed care homes, due to a lack of provision in licensed care homes - the Public Accounts Committee has stated that around 10% of all children in residential care are placed into unlicensed settings. Could you assure us that Haringey is not and has not been using unlicensed care providers, and if not could you provide figures for the number of children placed into these settings in the past two years?

#### **Response**

There are no children placed with unregistered providers.

The local authority is very clear that the issue of having sufficient placements for all children in care is a national challenge. Locally however, we have committed to ensuring children have high quality placements and that when placing young people in care, where residential placements are required, we undertake stringent checks in relation to quality and that includes ensuring such placements are appropriately registered.

In 24/25, we had a small number of older young people living in semi – independent provision with providers progressing their registrations with Ofsted as Supported Accommodation. This was a requirement following a legislation change which came into force in October 2023.

In this year, we have had no children placed with unregistered providers. However, whilst we have two who have been placed in alternatively registered provision, regulated by the CQC. Ofsted are aware of these two placements.

In the event of exceptional circumstances arising in which there is a need to place a child in an unregistered setting, this would only occur with Senior Social Care leaders having oversight and for the shortest possible time.

