Full Set of questions for Council on 23rd of November 2026

Written questions

1. **Cllr Amin to Cllr Hymas**

- Residents at Stellar House and Kenneth Robbins house have been left with scaffolding around their homes for several years. The blocks have frequent leaks into their homes, but no works do not appear on site. Can the Cabinet Member confirm when the works will be started?

  Response:

- Thank you for raising this issue on behalf of the residents of Stellar and Kenneth Robbins House. It is not right that they have had to wait years for repairs to their homes and I am pleased to confirm that the contract for the works on Stellar House has been awarded to Equans who are now preparing the application to the Building Safety Regulator to undertake works. The submission is due in February 2027 and the works are expected to commence in Autumn 2027. The appointment of a contractor for Kenneth Robbins house has been delayed but a timeline for the completion of works will be issued shortly to residents. We take the recent C4 rating from the RSH seriously and have a made a commitment to making sure every home meets the Decent Homes Standard by 2028.

2. **Cllr Arkell to Cllr Iozzi**

- Residents have long been waiting for safety improvement at Bounds Green junction. Will the Cabinet Member publish a clear timetable and public progress report to improve safety?

  Response:

- Interim safety improvements were made to this junction in 2025; this junction is included within the Better Bus Partnership Programme with some funding available to undertake feasibility work. Feasibility will be undertaken in 2027/28 and the outcome of this will determine the timeline for delivery subject to full funding being available.

3. **Cllr Berrick to Cllr Aksit**

- In August, Tower Gardens Community Corner took on the empty pavilion site and have been working hard to repair the building open it up to the community. Residents were surprised when only one month later the pavilion was listed for full market rent at £45,000 per year, a rent unaffordable for most small charities or community groups. The Administration has committed to protecting community spaces and not “treating them as commercial properties”. Can the

Cabinet confirm next steps for working with the community on the future of the Pavillion and the old estate office at 100 Tower Gardens Road?

Response:

- The Tower Gardens Park Pavilion has been advertised at full market rent due to an inherited policy from the previous administration which we are in the process of reviewing. Our revised version of the Social Value Leasing Policy will include rent offsets of up to 100% to ensure that community organisations that do valuable work aren't burdened with expensive rent. We are also introducing more clarity and transparency into how rent offsets work, so organisations will have a clear understanding of how much rent they will have to pay, if any, to house their organisation. Both myself as Cabinet Member for Communities and Cllr Erin Wolson as Cabinet Member for Parks, Leisure, and Culture, have been in direct contact with the organisers from Tower. Gardens Community Corner to address their concerns and have proceeded immediately to take the park pavilion off the market, until the revised version of the Social Value Leasing Policy is ready to be implemented. We continue to work together with the TGCC organisers to ensure that they can continue to deliver activities on the park pavilion until a long-term future can be secured for the site in the best interest of local community.

4. Cllr Bevan to Cllr Aksit

- What council owned sites are currently within scope of the Popular Asset Commission?

Response:

- The work has only just been commissioned on the Popular Assets Commission, therefore no council owned sites are currently within the scope. It is envisaged the PAC will inform wider council policies and processes, outside of just physical assets, but specifically related to property, disposals and Acquisitions and Social Value leasing.

5. Cllr Brookes to Cllr Wolson

- In March 2026, the previous administration allocated £1.7m of Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (NCIL) funding. This included investment in Haringey's parks, sports facilities and tree planting. Residents were consulted and are now waiting the investment they were promised. Can the Cabinet Member confirm what proportion of this funding has been spent per Neighbourhood Area?

Response:

Following the allocation of funding in March 2026, Council services are scheduling delivery of the funded projects as part of wider programmes of work. Initial data on spend will be available at the end of the financial year when the

annual capital financing process is undertaken. Delivery timescales for projects will vary dependent upon feasibility, design, engagement and statutory requirements and the spend profile for each project will reflect this. A full list of projects funded through NCIL Round 2 can be found here: NCIL spending round 2 | Haringey Council

6. Cllr Chandwani to Cllr Hymas

- In the last six months, how much has council spent as a result of gaps in letting void properties?

Response:

- Over the last six months, the Council has incurred approximately £1.4m in Council Tax costs for empty General Needs and Sheltered Housing properties. In addition, the Council has incurred security costs at one scheme, where homes remained vacant during major works, accounting for £224k of capitalised costs.

  Reducing voids is a key priority for the Council. We have established a Voids Improvement Programme focused on reducing the number of voids and turnaround times, improving Housing Repairs Service (HRS) performance, modernising our voids management system and strengthening performance oversight. We are also recruiting a dedicated Strategic Voids Co-ordinator to lead the operational delivery of the end-to-end voids process, drive performance improvement, coordinate activity across services and ensure properties progress efficiently through the void lifecycle. In parallel, the

  Asset Management Project 400 is targeting long-term empty homes to accelerate the return of properties to occupation.

  From the 08/05/26 to 20/11/26 we have re-let **258** voids (excluding 238 new build lets). However, bringing these 258 properties back into use has not reduced overall voids numbers, which stood at 869 in May and has increased to 876 in November 2026.
  This is because the inflow of voids has increased since previous years, with approximately 700 projected new voids anticipated in 2026/27 compared to 550 in 2025/26, as a result of increased new supply such as the influx of new Broadwater Farm properties creating voids as a result of Neighbourhood Moves Scheme and Right to Return.

  The voids improvement programme will significantly increase capacity to respond to new volumes of voids coming in. This programme covers:

- Establishing project 400 that will use partnering contractors to deliver 463 voids, many requiring extensive works, by Dec 27. The project has started but the impact of this is anticipated to be realised from Feb 2027 onwards.
- HRS are working to improve service performance to hit a target of 43 per month between now and March 27 and increase capacity so their monthly target can increase to 58 a month from April 27 onwards.

- This work to increase capacity also includes a major new voids contract being procured, with the long-term contract procurement expected December 2026 and full mobilisation anticipated from April 2027.

7. Cllr das Neves to Cllr Iozzi

- Given that Woodside Ward currently has an 11.7% tree canopy, and given this is significantly lower than the previous administration's borough wide target of 30%, Woodside ward had the second highest spend on trees in the borough in the last four years (189 trees in total). How many trees does the Cabinet Member expect to plant in Woodside ward in the next four years, including street trees?

Response:

- The Tree planting programme is agreed and developed on an annual basis, taking account of available funding, suitable planting opportunities, site constraints, and wider borough priorities. Therefore, plans for the next four years for Woodside Ward, and all other wards are not yet known. Currently, Woodside remains a priority ward and has benefited from significant investment in tree planting over recent years. One project that has been confirmed for 2026-27 in the ward is a new community orchard to be planted in New Road Park, N22.

8. Cllr Egemonye to Cllr Khan/Cllr Ward

- Research by Marie Curie shows that more than one in four people in Haringey (26%) experience poverty in the last year of their life. The charity also estimates that up to 221 terminally ill residents in Haringey could potentially benefit from a council tax exemption during their final year of life.
- In Alexandra Park alone, more than 1,300 residents are aged 65 and over, and many local families will face the additional financial pressures that can accompany terminal illness, including higher energy costs and the costs of care and medical equipment.
- Will the Cabinet Member commit to reviewing the Council's financial support arrangements for residents living with a terminal illness?

Response:

- I am proud that the Council already has significant measures in place to support those living with a terminal illness financially.

  Residents who are terminally ill are automatically eligible to receive Personal Independent Payments (PIP). Under Haringey's Council Tax Reduction Scheme, those receiving PIP can receive up to 100% relief with their Council Tax bill, ensuring anyone with a terminal illness is eligible for full support.

  Our Financial Support Team is available for anyone in the borough to speak to

for one-to-one help and will also be holding sessions in the community; we are currently expanding this team to enable them to help more residents. Residents can also apply to the Haringey Support Fund, which offers support with essential items and bills for those with disabilities and terminal illnesses.

We are committed to engaging with charities and community organisations who support residents in this position and will continue to advocate for more support from the national government to be able to help us meet the needs of Haringey residents.

9. Cllr Gingell to Cllr Hymas

- In Alexandra Park ward, council leaseholders have suffered from endlessly delayed repairs, incorrect service charge bills and poor communication from officers. What is the Cabinet Member doing to improve leaseholder services in Haringey?

Response:

As recognised in the recent Regulator for Social Housing judgement, our repairs performance requires significant improvement. We have heard that loud and clear form the regulator and from residents. We accept that judgement and work is underway to improve our repairs service to all residents, leaseholders included.

In regards to leaseholders, the Homeownership Team are developing an improvement plan to improve all communications and to specifically improve our response times to service charge enquiries. We were not able to do so previously due to resourcing, to rectify this we are expanding resources in this area and an extra Service Charge Officer post was approved in this years budget and the new post holder started on 1 October 2026.

We have a journey to go on with housing in Haringey and we want to take residents on this journey with us, listening to their voices, experience and concerns as well as working closely with the Regulator of Social Housing. We will continue to engage residents through the Resident Voice Board and the Home Ownership Continuous Improvement Group to improve services.

10. Cllr Grosskopf to Cllr Iozzi

- The proposed Crowland Primary School and Gladesmore Community School Street was strongly opposed by the local community. The consultation closed in May 2025 but more than 18 months on, ward councillors still haven't received any detail on the results of the consultation. Will the Cabinet Member confirm when the consultation responses will be published?

Response:

- The consultation report, together with officers' recommendations on how to proceed was published on 11 November 2026.and considered by the Cabinet Member for Climate Action and Transport on 18 November 2026.

  Having considered the consultation responses, the Cabinet Member agreed that the proposed Crowland Primary and Gladesmore Community School Street should not proceed to statutory consultation at this stage. Instead, further work and engagement will be undertaken before a future decision is made on whether the scheme should progress.

  The outcome of that additional work and engagement will be reported for decision at a later date.

11. Cllr Hodgson to Cllr Aksit

- Can the Cabinet Member confirm what council resources, including officer hours, have been diverted to developing the Popular Asset Commission?

  Response:

  Currently the client leads for the PAC work is the Director of Capital Projects & Property and the Director of Placemaking and Community Development. Resource from other Council departments are supporting this workstream as required including officers from legal and finance. As with all commitments in the new Corporate Delivery Plan, the PAC will be delivered within the Council's agreed resources.

12. Cllr Jameson to Cllr Wolson

- The restoration of Bruce Castle Museum is entering a crucial phase. Ward councillors and the Friends of Bruce Castle have been trying to meet with the project team but have yet to receive a helpful response. Will the Cabinet Member commit to establishing a stakeholder group to ensure local stakeholders are fully engaged with on the Museum's future?

  Response:

  The project team for Bruce Castle Museum and Archive are happy to support setting up a Bruce Castle Advisory Group, to support the organisation's future development. We would like to explore the name of this group potentially calling it a Resident Advisory Group. This group would allow external representatives, including Ward Cllrs, to meet with representatives from the Corporate Landlord, Major capital works, Culture and Bruce Castle Museum & Archive teams, supported by the Lead Member for Culture and Leisure, the Director of Culture & Communities, and Head of Capital Projects and Property, as appropriate.

  The intention would be to arrange a meeting of the Stakeholder Group before Christmas, to have a 'lessons learnt' discussion, regarding previous major works, with a view to holding further forward planning and consultation meetings in the New Year.

13. Cllr Parry to Cllr Aksit

Despite verbal and written assurances of a plan shared with councillor, Muswell Hill Playing Fields was once again the subject of forced entry by traveller groups on 15th October 2026. The measures which councillors were assured would be put in place were not delivered. Residents were alarmed by the nightly fires that were lit across a very dry park and woodland area and frustrated by damage to the park before the camp was moved on. What action is planned to keep park facilities secure?

Response:

The Council remains committed to delivering the security improvements at the Coppetts Road entrance to Muswell Hill Playing Field. Following the assurances given, the Parks Service has been out to tender four times to procure the security works with no success. Following a review with Strategic Procurement a fifth attempt to procure the works is being commenced shortly with a view to completing the works in Feb/March 2027.

14. Cllr Small to Cllr Hymas

The council's published documents show that approximately 1,100 fire safety risks are identified each month. Of the current backlogs, can the Cabinet Member confirm what proportion is more than six months overdue, broken down by risk level.

Response:

At the end of October 2026 there were 4,285 overdue actions, with 2,135 (49.8%) more than 6-months (180 days) overdue. Of those actions more than 6-months overdue, 914 (56.6%) were ‘high-risk’, 1,088 (42.6%) were ‘medium-risk’, and 133 (76.9%) were ‘low-risk’.

In total 3,681 (85.9%) of those overdue are incorporated within planned or major-works programmes.

15. Cllr Williams to Cllr Iozzi

- What are the estimated costs to the council of trees in the borough currently subject to insurance claims?

Response:

As at 12 November 2026, the total estimated value of open and outstanding insurance claims relating to trees within the borough is **£5,465,175.82**. This figure represents the current reserve value of all active claims where liability has not yet been fully determined and/or the claim remains unresolved and

does not represent a confirmed cost to the Council. Under the Council's claims management process, all tree-related claims are subject to detailed investigation by the Council's insurers and claims handlers.

The value stated includes claims at various stages of the process, ranging from newly reported incidents through to claims where liability investigations, legal proceedings, or settlement negotiations are ongoing. Final settlement amounts are often significantly lower than the aggregate value of open reserves, as claims may be successfully defended, withdrawn by claimants, settled for lesser amounts, or found not to give rise to liability on the part of the Council.

Written questions

1. **Cllr Barnes to Cllr Wolson**

- After the 'Review of Libraries Opening Hours' carried out by the previous administration the opening hours for the Alexandra Park Library were cut from 57 hours a week to 32.5 hours a week - one of the biggest cuts in hours of any library. In the period October 2025 to March 2026 (when no library was closed for refurbishment), Alexandra Park Library raised £13,000 in income, the second highest of any library, despite having shorter opening hours than other libraries in the borough. Given this, will you commit to reviewing whether the current balance of opening hours is correct between different libraries in the borough?

  Response:

  The decision to reduce Library hours, was made in response to the significant financial pressures facing the council. Those circumstances have not changed. Successful income generation helps us to meet existing targets, but do not change the overall financial envelope for the Library Service.

  It is also worth noting that the cabinet approval on the new model of library hours, was based on an equitable principle. Rather than give equal reduction in hours to all nine libraries, the equitable model gave greater priority to libraries in parts of the borough where there was greater demonstrable need. We believe that principle still holds. As such, we can only protect the opening hours in areas of most need, by maintaining the current allocation.

  Sitting alongside Haringey's 5-year Library Strategy, individual development plans have been developed for each of the borough's nine libraries. The development plans identify specific short to medium term priorities for each library, that align with the main strategy, whilst also recognising the unique character, location, opportunities, and needs of the community that use it.

  Created collaboratively, between library staff and the Friends of each library, these living documents are emblematic of greater shared ownership between library staff and residents.

The Library Service is committed to supporting Friends groups to further enhance provision and opening hours, through programming additional events, activities in our libraries and looking into other accessibility options to allow the open space to be used for community events.

2. Cllr da Costa to Cllr Iozzi

In the wake of the tragic death of a 16 year old girl following a traffic collision on North Road on 24th September, will you commit to backing all of the asks in the E-Petition on the council's website entitled "Make North Road (N6) Safe for Children: Urgent Road Safety Measures Outside Our Schools"?(namely: 1) Immediately fund and deploy a School Crossing Patrol ("lollipop person") at school drop-off and pick-up times. 2) Carry out an urgent and independent road safety review of North Road (N6). 3) Assess and implement permanent safety improvements, including signal-controlled traffic lights. 4) Introduce additional traffic-calming measures, speed reduction interventions and enhanced enforcement (speed cameras) where appropriate. 5) Work directly with local schools, parents and residents to develop a long-term road safety plan for North Road?)

Response:

Following the tragic death of Melissa, officers and politicians met with the schools, parents, MPs and TfL/GLA and agreed a set of actions that the Council and TfL would take. These have been developed further and it was agreed that a webpage would be created which would help inform progress made. Please see here Road Safety Review: North Road/North Hill area N6 | Haringey Council for link to the webpage which outlines the actions the Council and TfL are pursuing.

3. Cllr Emery to Cllr Hymas

At the elections, the now-administration committed to freeze service charges for two years. Do you still stand by this promise to residents?

Response:

Work is underway to review the Housing Revenue Account and this will be presented to Cabinet in December. This year's financial position is particularly challenging due to inheriting uunrealistic assumptions about the level of empty homes. Whilst we have already made progress in reducing the number of empty council homes, we were never going to achieve the outcomes predicted in last year's HRA budget. On top of this, new Government regulation, inflation costs and the recent C4 grading has placed further pressure on our housing service. Ultimately, the Council is legally required to set a balanced budget for the housing revenue account. The 2011 HRA self-financing settlement from central Government has left the Council with significantly less money despite

exponential growth in housing needs. We will bring forward full proposals in due course, but this is the difficult context in which we make these decisions.

4. Cllr Orford-Williams to Cllr Aksit

The former caretaker's property for Coleridge School at 2 Crescent Road, a council-owned building, has sat empty for the last eighteen months. Since the vacancy occurred the school has been attempting to liaise with the council about the future of the building, primarily in the hope of converting the building into 2+ Early Years provision. However, despite repeated attempts, the council has not engaged proactively with the school, and grant funding which would have helped with setting up Early Years provision has now expired. With the building now falling into disrepair, will you commit to ensuring a lead officer is appointed to the work of bringing the building back into use as soon as possible?

Response:

This building should not have stood empty for eighteen months. The Council is communicating with the school and will reconvene on the school's latest proposals for its use. This process will consider the viability and sustainability of all proposals, both practically and financially, prior to a final decision being made on the future use of the property. Michael Coleman, Children's Capital Programme Manager, will be the lead officer.

5. Cllr Braun to Cllr Iozzi

How has the Parkland Walk Design Guide, co-produced in 2025, been used in the process for deciding how to spend NCIL money?

Response:

The Parkland Walk design guide was coproduced with a wide range of individuals and groups who had an interest in the design and material choices to be used for paths, fencing and nature conservation interventions. Its aim is to ensure future work on Parkland walk is undertaken to a consistent standard and contributes to the improvement of the Parkland Walk for all user groups. The Parkland Walk Design Guide did not inform how the NCIL money was allocated. However, the design guide is being used to ensure the works being funded by NCIL on Parkland Walk are compliant with what was agreed with community stakeholders.

6. Cllr Powell to Cllr Joseph

This year the council has taken the decision not only to not fund Christmas trees in our district centres but also requiring the community to take on making the purchase, informing the highways team for a site inspection, getting public liability insurance, signing a grant agreement with the council, and arranging delivery and removal. This decision was seemingly taken in Quarter 1 but was

not communicated to ward - councillors and community groups in a timely fashion - at least in the case of Muswell Hill. Why was this not communicated quickly to allow local people to fundraise?

Response:

We want our residents to be able to celebrate all festivities in our borough and bring communities together in celebration. However, due to the financial constraints we are currently dealing with we are unable to fund Christmas Trees and have been working with communities since September to find sponsorship and enable the community to deliver Christmas Trees.

From next year, community and business groups will be asked to fund and deliver Christmas Trees in their community. We will be reaching out to communities and businesses in February 2027 to give adequate time for communities to prepare for the festive period.

7. Cllr Cawley-Harrison to Cllr Iozzi

Lime and Forest bike parking bays are frequently created with no consultation under the guise that they are part of a 'trial' and using an overreach of TTMO legislation. Going forward, will you commit to undertaking proper consultations before implementing any Lime / Forest bike parking bays, even if they are part of a trial period?

Response:

The Council recognises the importance of engaging with residents and local stakeholders when introducing new cycling infrastructure, including dedicated parking bays for shared micromobility operators such as Lime and Forest.
Whilst Temporary Traffic Management Orders (TTMOs) can be used to introduce measures on a trial basis where appropriate, they are intended to enable the Council to assess the effectiveness and impacts of a scheme before deciding whether it should be made permanent. Trial schemes also provide an opportunity for residents and stakeholders to experience and comment on proposals in practice.

The Council will continue to undertake engagement and consultation that is proportionate to the nature and scale of the proposal and will carefully consider feedback received. However, the Council cannot commit to undertaking a separate formal consultation before every trial scheme is introduced, as doing so could limit its ability to respond quickly to operational, safety, accessibility, parking management, or transport network needs.

Any decision to retain, amend, or remove a trial bike parking bay will be informed by evidence gathered during the trial period, including resident feedback, usage data, network impacts, and wider transport objectives.

8. Cllr Ahmed to Cllr Beckford

Late last year, it was revealed by an Ombudsman investigation that Haringey had hundreds of unread welfare reports sitting in its social care inbox. The recent report from the Social Housing Regulator made clear that the council had been misleading the Regulator. Cabinet in October involved both a decision on acceptance of LAHF grant funding having to be retaken after being previously wrongly taken through delegated approval, and an extra contractor being appointed to collect PCN debt due to a failure to include a tiebreaking criterion in the tendering process. Can you assure us that there are sufficient compliance procedures in place to prevent such failings going forwards?

Response:

Under the previous Labour administration there were a litany of compliance errors across the council. Structural failings have been uncovered in several areas with the most serious culminating in the information sharing with the Social Housing Regulator.

We are aware that these issues are ingrained and work is needed ensure appropriate compliance. We are in the process of unpicking the council's commissioning, procurement and contract management arrangements to ensure better central oversight and management. We have instructed officers to look at the tender and evaluation process for procurements to make sure that incidents like the extra contractor being appointed to collect PCN debt due to the lack of a tiebreaking criterion don't happen under our watch again.

The Commissioning Modernisation Programme, the recently started Procurement Effectiveness Review and a new source to contract procurement are all focused on strengthening our processes and practices and improving compliance. These issues were discussed at length at Overview and Scrutiny Committee last month following a report from officers which was transparent about the progress made and improvements still required. I will maintain oversight over developments and ensure the Programme and Review enact tangible change.