

## **COUNCIL – 17 JANUARY 2011 - QUESTIONS**

### **ORAL QUESTIONS**

#### **ORAL QUESTION 1 - TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR WILSON:**

Will the Leader please confirm that the £396,516 saved by Haringey in its London Borough Grants contribution will be committed to the support of local voluntary sector bodies and could she please identify which bodies will receive that support?

#### **ORAL QUESTION 2 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY FROM COUNCILLOR WATSON:**

Now that we finally have the settlement, what is the impact of the CLG funding allocation on the borough's finances?

#### **ORAL QUESTION 3 - TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR STRANG:**

How many Haringey children will receive funding under the Pupil Premium and what is the estimated total funding for Haringey's schools?

#### **ORAL QUESTION 4 - TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR CHRISTOPHIDES:**

As one of the most deprived authorities in London, how will Coalition cuts impact poverty levels in the borough?

#### **ORAL QUESTION 5 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR JENKS:**

Does the Cabinet Member have any information on the number of Haringey residents who have had to spend periods in detention as part of their immigration to this country?

#### **ORAL QUESTION 6 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR PEACOCK:**

At the last full Council meeting Cllr Allison alleged that there were 10 children missing from care in the borough and asked the Lead Member to address what the Council was doing to look after them. Can the Lead Member tell us if the allegation was accurate and if not would she like to set the record straight?

#### **ORAL QUESTION 7 - TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY FROM COUNCILLOR REECE:**

Why has Haringey Council been one of the last London boroughs to become compliant with the requirement to publish details of all items of expenditure over £500?

#### **ORAL QUESTION 8 - TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR GIBSON:**

Can the Lead member please update members on the outcome of the recent Care Quality Commission assessment?

### **WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

**WRITTEN QUESTION 1 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN’S SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR ALEXANDER:**

The work at Haslemere Respite Home is still not completed and is still not open for business. This was due to re-open in September 2010. What is the Council doing to claim compensation from the contractors and when does the Council expect the home to finally open?

**ANSWER**

The main reason for the delay relates to security technology – the alarm and entry systems and entry systems – along with some minor electrical installations problems. In particular, one of the suppliers of security equipment ceased trading before difficulties with the system had been resolved. Although the project overall is within budget, we will be seeking costs at final account stage in compensation for delays attributed to elements of defective works and any for additional works due to faulty equipment or its installation.

During the period of the closure families and children have had respite at both Red Gables and Moselle School (weekends) and we have made individual arrangements for children by deploying staff directly to support families in individual cases.

Respite centre users are being kept informed and involved in progress via a regular newsletter and the Parent Carer Forum has begun to use the centre for meetings. There has also been good effective liaison with neighbours who are supportive of the improvements that the Council are making to Haslemere in order to improve services to children. Once the centre is open in the early part of 2011 we look forward to offering parents, carers and children a significantly improved level and range of respite and support services.

**WRITTEN QUESTION 2 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY FROM COUNCILLOR ALLISON:**

How much has been collected for each of the last 5 years from Hillcrest Estate N6 in fees from mobile/digital service providers e.g. Vodafone, orange etc. Where are these monies held and how are they spent?

**ANSWER**

The licence fee income received over the past five years for an aerial on the roof of Alexander House, Hillcrest is £50,000.

This income forms part of the Housing Revenue Account. The income is not ‘ring-fenced’ and has therefore formed part of the overall HRA revenue used to fund the management and repair and maintenance of the Council’s housing stock.

**WRITTEN QUESTION 3 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOODS FROM COUNCILLOR BEACHAM:**

Who is responsible for lighting the pedestrian bridge at Alexandra Park Station?

**ANSWER**

The footbridge lighting is on Network Rail land and is maintained by Network Rail, not Haringey Council. The electricity supply to these columns is a private feed from the railway station.

**WRITTEN QUESTION 4 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOODS FROM COUNCILLOR BLOCH:**

How many establishments in Haringey have been rated for food hygiene; how many attained 5,4,3,2,1 and no stars and can they please list those establishments that attained 1 and no stars?

**ANSWER**

1. **Food Hygiene Risk Rating** - all registered food businesses are subject to a food hygiene risk rating. There are 1619 establishments in Haringey that currently have a risk rating for food hygiene.

**Scores on the Doors** - is a star rating scheme and was introduced to provide an additional incentive to businesses to comply with food hygiene legislation and information to the public to assist them in making more informed choices about where they buy their food. There are 1,569 businesses that are in the Scores on the Doors scheme, these businesses are listed on the Council's website.

**Business Star Ratings**

05 Jan 2011	
Star Rating	Total number of businesses
□□□□□Zero	36
□□□□□One	166
□□□□□Two	174
□□□□□Three	483
□□□□□Four	468
□□□□□Five	242
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1569</b>

**WRITTEN QUESTION 5 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY FROM COUNCILLOR BUTCHER:**

The Cabinet meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2010 highlighted a £13million capital saving due to the decision to retain the Civic Centre – what has this saving been earmarked for?

**ANSWER**

Both the original office accommodation strategy developed in 2002/3 and the second phase approved in 2008 were based on a self funding premise i.e. that any investment required to deliver the strategies would be funded from disposals of surplus properties.

The £13m capital investment, highlighted in the report to Cabinet on 21 December as a saving, would largely have been funded through the disposal of the Civic Centre and Apex House. As these are now to be retained at least in the medium term, the receipts will not be realised and will not be available to earmark elsewhere.

**WRITTEN QUESTION 6 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY FROM COUNCILLOR ENGERT:**

How much has the Council spent on photography or photographers for members in the last year and this year to date?

**ANSWER**

Communications & Consultation Service (CCS) does not hold a budget to cover specifically photography of Members. It commissions photographers to cover Council events that are likely to be of interest to the commercial media and Haringey People as part of its remit to communicate with residents. The resulting pictures will often include a Lead Member or Members where they are attending an event directly linked to their portfolio.

Last year, CCS spent £8,032 on media photography and this year to date has committed £6,515.

**WRITTEN QUESTION 7 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOODS FROM COUNCILLOR ERSKINE:**

Can the member report on the Council's improved gritting strategy in comparison to last year?

**ANSWER**

The recognised Winter Service season operates from 1 November to 31 March. As there is still some way to go for this winter it is too early to make comprehensive comparisons between the gritting strategies for this winter and the last. A full review will take place in April/May 2011 as part of the preparation of the Winter Service Plan 2011/12.

A number of areas where it is possible to note which have worked well this winter include:

- We have so far performed 21 Frost Patrols that included the gritting of carriageways, high risk pedestrian infrastructure, such as footbridges and steps, as well as exposed and steep pavements that are heavily used, such as the pavements leading to the bus stops at the top of Muswell Hill and around Tottenham Hale station.
- An extra 46 grit bins were installed and these have been well received.
- There have been relatively few difficulties reported by Residential Care Homes this year compared to last.
- Very few refuse collections were missed as a result of snow and ice.
- Comprehensive information about the Winter Service Plan and advice to residents about dealing with the winter weather was made available on the Council's website.

**WRITTEN QUESTION 8 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY FROM COUNCILLOR GORRIE:**

What is the most likely value and current planning assumption for the value of savings to the Council from actions as a result of the memorandum of understanding signed with Waltham Forest?

**ANSWER**

The proposed partnership arrangement with Waltham Forest Council is not expected to deliver cashable savings in the short term. There will be some saving assumptions built into the budget arising from the agreement of the memorandum of understanding with Waltham Forest. However the development of the partnership does have the capacity to deliver a meaningful contribution to our savings target in the medium term. Both Councils are also seeking through the partnership an opportunity to share and exchange good practice across a range of service areas.

**WRITTEN QUESTION 9 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING AND REGENERATION FROM COUNCILLOR HARE:**

The removal of the gyratory at north end of Archway Road has long been wanted by TfL, and could have substantial regeneration benefits, including the release of land, improvement of living conditions for residents on the "island", improvement of safety for pedestrians and cyclists, the creation of a bus standing space, as well as releasing value. However, none of these benefits are likely to be realised without a planning brief for the area. Will the cabinet member ask her department to produce a planning brief?

**ANSWER:**

The future potential of the site is currently under consideration as part of the Council's Sites Allocation Development Plan Document. This document will be improved to provide mini briefs for key sites. The consultation on this document is likely to be re-opened to accommodate more sites. This will facilitate both community comment and planning guidelines to support the development of Haringey land in the Archway Road area.

**WRITTEN QUESTION 10 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY FROM COUNCILLOR JENKS:**

How much is Haringey Council spending on public notices titled "Central Government Cuts"? And why is it continuing to spend money on the advertising space when the "extended deadline" for the questionnaire has now come and gone?

**ANSWER**

These public notices cost nothing because of an agreement negotiated with the contractor whereby the Council can have one free public information campaign per year. Given the great importance to residents of the impact of government cuts it was decided that this would be a good use of that opportunity. Outdoor media contractors install and remove posters on fixed cycles and it is therefore quite normal for there to be some "overstay" of posters once a campaign has ended. In the event the posters were up for only a short time after the budget consultation deadline, and they made clear when that deadline was.

**WRITTEN QUESTION 11 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY FROM COUNCILLOR NEWTON:**

How many Council officers currently have two or more computers (i.e. laptop and desktop computer)?

**ANSWER**

Council Officers don't necessarily have dedicated desktop computers, as the Council's IT infrastructure supports "hot desking" which means that Officers can logon to the Council's IT systems from any desktop computer. As a result of this, laptop users when they are in the office may choose for convenience to use a desktop computer that is available or they may connect their laptop directly to the network.

In terms of the number of laptops, there are 292 laptops allocated to Officers across the Council of which 47 are used by home workers - the remaining 245 laptops provide secure remote access to the Council's IT systems (emails, applications etc) for Council Officers who are out of the office on an ad-hoc basis.

**WRITTEN QUESTION 12 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOODS FROM COUNCILLOR REECE:**

I understand that from Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> December only resilience roads were gritted by the Council. Of the roads on the resilience network, which roads did the Council fail to keep open during the weekend and which roads were there reports of buses or cars struggling to use?

**ANSWER**

There were no roads in Haringey that we failed to keep open during the weekend of Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 December.

On Saturday 18 December there was traffic congestion on almost all of the Resilience Network carriageways. This was caused by the combined effects of the snow fall that day and the time it occurred when roads were very busy with pre-Christmas shopping and other traffic. Although the gritting of the Carriageway Resilience Network had been mobilised when this snow fall occurred, the depth and rate of snow fall meant that the build up of snow on carriageways could not have been avoided, even on gritted surfaces. The Contractor worked throughout the afternoon to apply grit and get traffic moving again and this was achieved by early evening that day.

The London Local Authority Control Centre (LLACC) is operational at times of need in London, such as when there is severe weather. The LLACC provided daily London-wide reports during the adverse weather and within these they reported that they had processed 91 priority gritting requests on 18 December and 79 priority gritting requests on 19 December. Therefore, the number of requests channelled through to Haringey were about normal. Within their daily reports the LLACC also made reference to a general problem in London with traffic congestion on 18 December caused by the snow that day, but that in spite of this bus routes were operating remarkably well and on 19 December a very good bus service was being provided.

**WRITTEN QUESTION 13 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY FROM COUNCILLOR REID:**

What is the current vacancy rate at the Technopark, how many units are occupied by the Council or Homes for Haringey and what is the current annual loss of rental revenue?

**ANSWER**

The current vacancy rate at Technopark is 28%. There are 7 units occupied by the Council. Were all units occupied this would generate an additional £355,000 per annum.

**WRITTEN QUESTION 14 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR SCHMITZ:**

How many council tenants are currently sub-letting their council properties and what action is the Council they taking for breach of tenancy?

**ANSWER**

We have identified 22 cases of unauthorised occupancy [sub-let properties] so far this financial year:

There are currently 7 cases in the North Tottenham area, of which 6 are now with legal services to pursue possession proceedings;

The West Team have 8 cases, of which 7 are with legal services;

The South Team have 7 cases (5 in South Tottenham and 2 in Broadwater Farm). All of these are with legal services.

We do an occupancy check against 20% of the stock each year, so that over a 5 year period the occupancy of every property has been checked. In addition, in the last few months, we have run a publicity campaign advising people to report fraud through our telephone hotline. Other

fraud preventative measures include: participating in the National Fraud Initiative, which is an annual exercise to identify discrepancies in information held on various government and local authority databases.

**WRITTEN QUESTION 15 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOODS FROM COUNCILLOR SCOTT:**

Has there been a pedestrian safety assessment following strengthening work carried out on the Buckingham Road Bridge?

**ANSWER**

This bridge is owned by Network Rail and the newly installed barriers (known as H4A parapets) were essential to protect the existing sub-standard parapets from possible collision with traffic and thereby falling into the rail track below. The design and specifications for the parapets was the responsibility of Network Rail and is in accordance with their national standards which require the parapets to be 1.5m (in height) above the finished roadway level. Network Rail would have arranged for a Safety Audit as part of the design process which would have considered the safety of pedestrians in regard to possible conflict with traffic.

It should be noted that the current requirements, which are set out in the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges, for pedestrian walkways on bridges over railways require fully closed in-sides and some will also have cages overhead as well. The parapets keep the railway safe from traffic as well as providing segregation between pedestrians and vehicles using the bridge.

**WRITTEN QUESTION 16 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY FROM COUNCILLOR SOLOMON:**

Has the Cabinet Member considered funding libraries from more than one directorate in the Council to reflect the important function they provide as a social hub of the community?

**ANSWER**

We are currently undertaking work to review the potential of using our libraries as Community Hubs and this will be considered as part of this review.

**WRITTEN QUESTION 17 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY FROM COUNCILLOR STRANG:**

What volume of electricity is purchased each month and what percentage of it is from a renewable source?

**ANSWER**

Electricity volumes are purchased for periods covering October to the following September each year and involves typical volumes of approximately 49,000MWh or just over 4,000MWh per month.

16% of this volume comes from Green (renewable) Electricity and covers all Street Lighting consumption.

45% of volume comes from Good Quality CHP (Combined Heat and Power systems) and covers all consumption of the larger sites e.g. Council main buildings and large schools.

The remaining 39% of volume is consumed on smaller sites and of this only 10% comes from Green (renewable) sources, including wind turbines and solar panels.

**WRITTEN QUESTION 18 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOODS FROM COUNCILLOR WEBER:**

Please itemise the amount invested in snow clearing equipment and additional resources over the last three years?

**ANSWER**

Over the last three years

Equipment	£9,020
Salt	£121,711
Contractual winter service costs	£311,216 *

\* It is too early to determine additional contractual costs for this winter as there are three months of the winter season yet to come. These costs are for the previous three winters.

**WRITTEN QUESTION 19 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY FROM COUNCILLOR WHYTE:**

How much does the Council spend annually on services considered as frontline and how much is spent on back office functions? Please provide a definition of frontline services.

**ANSWER**

The Council's net spend is £245m or £900m gross. Of this, 88% is front line and 12% back office. In broad terms back office has been considered to be Corporate Resources, Policy, Performance and Communications, People and Organisational Development with the exception of Benefits, Local Taxation, Customer Services, Birth, Marriages, Deaths and Electoral services.

**WRITTEN QUESTION 20 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOODS FROM COUNCILLOR WILLIAMS:**

What has been the total spend, and spend per kilometre, on repairs and maintenance on Haringey roads that are classified A, B or used as bus routes (excluding TfL roads) in each of the last five years?

**ANSWER**

Unfortunately, it is not possible to provide the information broken down in the way requested. However it is possible to provide the information for the last two years for A and B roads.

On A roads, between 1/04/08 and 31/3/10, £1,051,978.05 was spent including all reactive maintenance and planned works on footways and carriageways. The length of A roads in Haringey is 27.4km.

On B roads, £482,058.57 was spent between 1/04/08 and 31/3/10, including all reactive maintenance and planned works on footways and carriageways. The length of B roads in Haringey is 19km.

**WRITTEN QUESTION 21 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY FROM COUNCILLOR WILSON:**

How much has been spent to date on the Council's SMART Working programme and how much has been saved as a result of efficiencies in office accommodation and flexible working?

**ANSWER**

Since 2008 £885,000 capital expenditure is attributable to the SMART working initiative within the accommodation strategy. This strategy has resulted in a number of buildings being disposed of, giving a revenue saving in excess of £1m a year. Of this the implementation of the SMART working initiative has contributed an estimated £425,000 a year.



**WRITTEN QUESTION 22 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING AND REGENERATION FROM COUNCILLOR WINSKILL:**

Following the decision by Libraries to no longer provide a service offering access to British Standards to residents, will the lead member for Planning and Regeneration please ensure that any bona fide resident who needs sight of a standard to support a response to a planning application or related matter, will be given access to the appropriate documents held at the planning Department either by a photo copy or personal visit?

**ANSWER**

To clarify, the Libraries Service has cancelled its subscription to British Standards Online because Library Managers felt that the increased prices no longer offer value for money. Libraries in the Borough will, of course, continue to provide copies of Standards, both British and International, as and when these are requested. It is important to note that the Council must adhere to copyright legislation in relation to the copying of documents, including Standards.