

COUNCIL – 4 APRIL 2011 - QUESTIONS

ORAL QUESTIONS

ORAL QUESTION 1 - TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOODS FROM COUNCILLOR WILSON:

What has the Council done to increase the number of battery recycling points in the last 12 months?

ORAL QUESTION 2 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN’S SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR STEWART:

Can the Cabinet Member outline the Council’s position in relation to Alexandra Park School’s consultation on academy status?

ORAL QUESTION 3 - TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING AND REGENERATION FROM COUNCILLOR SOLOMON:

Why has Haringey not taken the trouble to send any information to its own residents about the proposal for the Pinkham Way waste disposal facility?

ORAL QUESTION 4 - TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR DEMIRCI:

What is the impact on Haringey tenants of the coalition government’s decision to slash the Decent Homes programme by 75 per cent?

ORAL QUESTION 5 – TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR GORRIE:

What steps will the Leader of the Council be taking to publicly correct her misrepresentation of the facts contained in her written introduction to the Council Guide recently mailed to all residents with their Council Tax Bills which refers specifically to a budget reduction over three years of more than £83 million when her own budget papers show funding, including Council Tax, last year of £307.8m and forecast funding for 2013/14 of £273.0m, a reduction of £34.8m?

ORAL QUESTION 6 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOODS FROM COUNCILLOR PEACOCK:

What measures is the council taking to protect children and young people from under age alcohol sales?

ORAL QUESTION 7 - TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN’S SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR ALLISON:

How will Children's Services be scrutinised under the proposed new governance arrangements?

ORAL QUESTION 8 - TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING AND REGENERATION FROM COUNCILLOR EJIOFOR:

What difference do you think the new Haringey credit union will make to those on low incomes in the borough?

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

WRITTEN QUESTION 1 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOODS FROM COUNCILLOR ALEXANDER:

How many enforcement cars does the Council currently own, what is their average life span and what is the cost of the new replacement fleet of vehicles?

ANSWER

The Council uses four vehicles in its parking and traffic enforcement service. The vehicles are not owned by the Council, they are used on a lease arrangement.

WRITTEN QUESTION 2 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR ALLISON:

How much will each school receive from the pupil premium?

ANSWER

The amount is determined by the number of pupils eligible for free school meals at the school on 20 January 2011. The premium does not take into account the area cost adjustment so does not reflect higher cost areas. Although the value of the premium is £430 per eligible child and school allocations vary from £860 to £332,390. The individual allocations are attached in the Appendix.

WRITTEN QUESTION 3 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING AND REGENERATION FROM COUNCILLOR BEACHAM:

What are the current plans for the re-development of the Civic Centre site?

ANSWER

The Cabinet meeting in December 2010 agreed to retain the Civic Centre in the medium term.

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

What were the changes introduced by the Value of Money Review of Planning Enforcement undertaken in 2008? Has any assessment been done of the effect of the changes introduced as a result of the Value of Money Review of Planning Enforcement undertaken in 2008?

ANSWER

A performance review of planning enforcement was commissioned by the Cabinet Member for Enforcement and Community Safety in 2007. This review generated an action plan that was agreed in 2008 and monitored through a project board chaired by the Assistant Director for Frontline Services. The action plan was signed off as completed in 2009. Performance monitoring continues to be reported on a quarterly basis to Planning Committee.

The report recommended a number of actions to achieve a stable and competent workforce, headed by a qualified planner.

- The service currently has permanent funding for a Team Leader and 3 Planning Enforcement Officers and a part time administration post. All are permanently employed. Temporary funding for fourth officer was withdrawn in 2009/10.
- The Team Leader and all 3 Planning Enforcement Officers are qualified planners.
- All officers have received enforcement training relevant to their roles.

The report identified the importance of joining up enforcement activity with building control, HMO enforcement, out-of-hours enforcement and street enforcement.

- The service currently works closely with all identified services.
- A corporate strategy for HMO enforcement is being delivered which will focus on extending licensing controls supported by planning enforcement activity as appropriate.

The report identified that historic performance in a number of areas was affected by a very high case load, which meant that cases took too long to be investigated and too long to resolve and close. The review noted that there had been significant improvements to the volume of cases, but by the time of the review at the close of 2006/7 this was still over 1,300 cases.

- Caseloads are currently at approximately 350 for 3 officers against a target set at the time of the review of 480 for 4 staff.
- Difficult cases are resolved through case conference with Development Control and Legal Services.

The report recommended that the service increase its use of actions available to tackle unauthorised development and publicises its successes.

- In the last available published (2009) CIPFA records Haringey issued more Enforcement Notices than any other London Local Authority.
- The use of stop notices remains limited due to restrictions in statutory guidance, although the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods has lobbied government for stronger powers, particularly in relation to rogue landlords.
- The use of direct action is rarely used due to high levels of compliance being obtained.
- All successful prosecutions are publicised and posted on Haringey's news page.

The report recommended that a range of new performance indicators and activity measures should be adopted and regularly reported to the Planning Committee. Monitoring of these measures should be used to improve performance. In all areas

where a performance target has been set, the service is exceeding this target. The last reported performance to Planning Committee was as follows -

- 47% of all cases are being resolved within 8 weeks
- 88% of all cases are closed within 6 months
- 97% have an onsite investigation within the published target date
- Formal enforcement action - 62 planning contravention notices, 54 enforcement notices and 20 prosecutions.

WRITTEN QUESTION 5 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN’S SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR BUTCHER:

The total of all grants rolled into the Early Intervention Grant (EIG) are reducing from £20.2million to £15.7million next year. Considering this is a 22.3% reduction why has the Council made the decision made to reduce Children’s Centre funding, which is part of the EIG, from £9.6million to £4.8million (i.e. a 50% decrease) in 2011/12?

ANSWER

There are a number of services which the Council provides which are funded by the Early Intervention Grant (EIG). The EIG was created from a number of previous grant funding streams including those relating to Children’s Centres; however the EIG itself is not ring-fenced, either to its previous components or more generally. It is not possible to identify the component grant elements from 2010-11 since the grant is expressed only as a single sum, some £4.5m less than in 2010-11.

All of the Council’s grants for 2011-12 were reduced in real terms with some being abolished altogether. As members will be aware there are a number of statutory services which CYPS is required to provide, services for disabled children, looked after children and safeguarding. Members will also be aware of the significant increase in demand for these services. As such in order to meet these statutory obligations the Council has taken the decision to use EIG funds to meet statutory obligations. This explains the reason as to why the Council has not been able to uniformly apply the 22.3% cut in funding which Cllr Butcher identifies.

WRITTEN QUESTION 6 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING AND REGENERATION FROM COUNCILLOR ENGERT:

How is the Council planning to support local residents to take advantage of Neighbourhood Planning, as outlined in the Localism Bill, to shape their communities?

ANSWER

The Council is currently considering its approach to neighbourhood planning through the Governance Review, with the intention that local communities shall be able to influence the priorities for their area in line with the Borough UDP/LDF and the London Plan. These arrangements shall be developed further once the Localism Bill is passed.

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

Withdrawn

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

What changes have been made to any of the Labour Administration's budget proposals as presented to Full Council on the 24th February as a result of any consultations that have been carried out with service users or staff. Please specify the budget item, change and constituency consulted. Please provide a list of any consultations that are ongoing.

ANSWER

The Council took a decision on 24 February 2011 to approve the budget in principle, subject to the completion of appropriate consultations. Cabinet delegated final decisions on the savings to be adopted to directorates, and where appropriate to the relevant Cabinet members. Consultations have either been held, are underway, or are proposed for all the budget lines reported to Council and Cabinet. A copy of the budget lines is available at the following link:

www.minutes.haringey.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=143&MId=4530&Ver=4

WRITTEN QUESTION 9 – TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR HARE:

What will be the reduction in the full-time equivalent numbers of union officials paid for by Haringey Council in the coming financial year?

ANSWER:

A report will be taken to General Purposes Committee in April proposing a reduction in full-time equivalent union official time-off of 4.6 officials. This represents a reduction in time-off for trade union activity of approximately 40%.

WRITTEN QUESTION 10 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOODS FROM COUNCILLOR JENKS:

The Government recently announced the expenditure of an extra £100 million for the repair of potholes in roads. How much of this money did Haringey Council get?

ANSWER

£ 214,071.

WRITTEN QUESTION 11 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY AND COHESION FROM COUNCILLOR NEWTON:

Given the closure of Youth Clubs and reductions in Youth Workers, how is the Council proposing to tackle the potential increase in youth anti-social behaviour and gang related crime?

ANSWER

Consultation is underway with staff and young people to assess and attempt to mitigate the impact of the proposed youth centre closures. The Council is focused on reducing the risk to service delivery by a) concentrating funding on service delivery, b) locating teams of youth workers in areas of need and c) ensuring that youth work is targeted at the young people who need the service most. Included in this category are, those:

- at risk of involvement in crime/gang activity (as victims or perpetrators)
- in public care
- on a child protection plan
- who live in a household where there is domestic violence
- who are already, or who are at risk of becoming NEETS (not in education, employment or training).

In relation to anti-social behaviour, the case work team (ASBAT) deals with more adults than young people as perpetrators. Their approach will continue as it currently is, to prevent where possible and to enforce along a sliding scale from warnings, referrals, acceptable behaviour contracts, dispersal orders, injunctions and, where appropriate, ASBOs.

In relation to gangs, the Police and Council officers in Haringey and Enfield continue to successfully work together to address cross border violence and gang issues. This group has expanded to include representatives from various agencies in both Boroughs, and diverse local partners ranging from the Police to Benefits and Taxation officers. Over the past few months this group (known as the Gang Action Group) has been sharing information about individuals known to be involved in serious violence and identifying a lead agency for each individual, devising bespoke action plans to divert them from gang activity.

The Youth Offending Service will continue to work with all young people receiving court sentences or police warnings to aim at preventing further offending by these young people. The Triage programme will be maintained as it has greatly assisted in reducing the number of children and young people entering the youth justice system.

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

Why has the Council decided to go against government advice in regard to reducing rubbish collections to fortnightly?

ANSWER

To date there has not been any official advice issued by Government preventing local authorities reducing rubbish collections to fortnightly. Clearly the Council would consider any such guidance. The Council will within the new waste contract continue to collect on a weekly basis 75% of the current waste stream, focussing on all recyclable materials including dry materials, green waste and composting organic materials. The frequency

of collection on all high rise properties and Flats above Shops will remain the same. Alternate collection proposals apply to residential properties and only for residual waste. There will be a rolling programme of implementation starting from January 2012.

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

Please name all bailiff firms used by the authority in the collection of Council Tax during the last five years.

ANSWER

Phoenix Commercial Collections, Newlyn PLC, Equita, AQC and CCS.

WRITTEN QUESTION 14 – TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR SCHMITZ:

Given that after school clubs are depended upon by working mothers, what was the justification for holding the consultation event on the future of the Falkland Centre on 14 March 2011 in the middle of the working day?

ANSWER

I am not aware of any such event for after school childcare being held on 14 March.

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

Are decisions to locate new car bays for the Street Car Club influenced by public consultation? Do officers visit proposed bay sites before a decision is taken?

ANSWER

The locations of new car club bays are largely determined by membership, with demand greater in areas of higher membership. Officers will use membership data collated by our car club provider, Streetcar, to consider locations for the expansion of the scheme. Site visits are carried out to confirm the suitability of the proposed locations. As part of the legal process for the bays we are required to notify of our intentions and provide a minimum 21 day period for any interested party to make representation. This is normally done by placing a Public Notice on site and in the local press as well as writing to frontages directly affected by the proposed bay. All representations, are considered prior to deciding if the bay should be introduced.

WRITTEN QUESTION 16 – TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR SOLOMON:

What is the ratio between the annual total cost to employ the highest paid Haringey Council employee and the annual total cost to employ for the lowest paid Haringey Council employee. Is this fair and what actions is the lead Member taking to improve the ratio?

ANSWER

The ratio between the cost of the Chief Executive and a significant number of workers at the bottom end of the salary scales Sc1B is 12.4 times. The pay of the Chief Executive was approved by General Purposes and Remuneration Committees in October 2009.

The pay rates of senior managers in the organisation have not increased for the last 2 years.

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

As part of his launch of Haringey's Green Strategy, the Member for Finance and Sustainability informed the council that the aim was to mitigate impact of climate change but that global warming was inevitable. What review / revision of contingency plans for extreme weather events are underway as a consequence of that conclusion?

ANSWER

Since the launch of the Greenest Borough Strategy in 2008, Haringey has made significant progress in tackling carbon. At the meeting of full Council in January the Member for Finance and Sustainability presented Haringey's first Annual Carbon Report, a crucial ingredient in delivering the environmental programme, and the first of its kind to be produced by a local authority. The report sets a framework for reporting on the borough's progress against ambitious targets to cut climate change. As acknowledged in both the Greenest Borough Strategy and Haringey's Carbon Report, adapting to the impacts of climate change will be an important element in our approach around environmental sustainability.

The Council's Emergency Plan is based on the Civil Contingencies Act requirements and longstanding arrangements between statutory agencies about roles and responsibilities in emergencies, including extreme weather events. These plans are informed by a multi-agency Community Risk Register prepared in consultation with the Environment Agency and the Met Office. Specific work has been undertaken to:

- Develop a Multi-agency Flood Plan for Haringey.
- To put in place arrangements under the NHS Heatwave Plan for England
- Learn the lessons from the heavy snow of recent winters

Responses to extreme weather events such as flooding are embedded within our council policies. For example, the emerging Core Strategy for Haringey has policies for climate change mitigation and adaptation. Cabinet approved a draft Supplementary Planning (SPD) document in October 2010 as a guide for developers.

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

Would the Cabinet Member please explain to residents how they are to dispose of disposable nappies or pet litter, in high summer, to avoid waste product stench, when she moves some residents onto the fortnightly black waste collections?

ANSWER

The Council will within the new waste contract continue to collect on a weekly basis 75% of the current waste stream, focussing on those materials which the collection will

have real environmental value by either recycling dry materials or composting organic materials. The frequency of collection on all high rise properties and Flats above Shops will remain the same.

In other places where Veolia has introduced fortnightly collections, there have not been problems associated with disposable nappies or pet litter. However, it is recognised that some residents could be concerned about these types of materials when the non-recyclable refuse collections for street level properties move to a fortnightly frequency during 2012, and the Council and Veolia will be addressing this by:

- encouraging residents who do use disposable nappies to double-bag them before putting them out in their wheelie bin
- issuing guidance to residents to help them use their refuse collection service
- promoting reusable nappies as an alternative option to cut down on waste.

Veolia will work in partnership with the Council to find solutions for problems that do arise with the introduction of fortnightly collections for residual waste, and engage with residents to discuss and resolve their individual needs and concerns.

WRITTEN QUESTION 19 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR WHYTE:

Would the Cabinet Member for Housing indicate how many new homes were built by the Council in the last year?

ANSWER

No new homes have been built by the Council in the last year due, in the main, to financial disincentives within the local government finance system. These disincentives were relaxed in 2009 with the launch of the last Labour Government's Local Authority New Build (LANB) programme which enabled councils to bid for HCA grant in return for investment through prudential borrowing.

Haringey was bringing forward proposals in line with these changes as outlined in the Borough Investment Plan, however subsequent changes in Government policy following last May's elections – and the withdrawal of the LANB programme - threw this into doubt.

The new HCA Framework 2011-15, published in February 2011, sets out proposals for local authorities to bid for funding under the new Affordable Rent programme. As with all of the other homes delivered under this programme, the Council would be required to let any new homes at 80% of market rents. The effect of the HRA self financing determination will also need to be taken into account.

If the Council is to build new homes, it would make sense to commence after the HRA debt settlement in 2012. We are currently exploring the opportunities that this will present and assessing the financial implications for the Council. Members will consider these options later this year. In the meantime, the Council has set aside £850,000 for 2011/12 with a view to assisting the development of new affordable housing with or without HCA grant. Officers in Planning, Housing and Homes for Haringey are in the

process of identifying and assessing small sites that have the potential for development during 2011/12.

We continue to work with Registered Providers and the HCA to identify new build opportunities and we are currently exploring a range of options that include joint venture working with our partners and alternative models of funding as a way of generating new investment streams. We are in the process of carrying out an asset audit of all HRA owned land and property assets in order to identify development opportunities. This process should conclude in summer 2011.

WRITTEN QUESTION 20 – TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR WILLIAMS:

Has she read the political impartiality rules contained in Section II of the local government act 1986 and the resulting code, and if not, will she do so consider whether her own contributions to Haringey People magazine amount to breaking the law and misuse public funds for party political purposes for which she may be subject to action to recover the costs of this misuse, and will she desist from using council resources in this way in future.

ANSWER

Yes.

WRITTEN QUESTION 21 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULTS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR WILSON:

To date how many responses have been received to the Adult Social Care consultation which asked local residents' views on Labour plans to close older people's day centres, drop-in centres and luncheon clubs?

ANSWER

There have been 72 responses to the consultation survey so far. Moreover, a further 145 letters or emails have been received from people expressing their views and/or asking for information. We have also received 4 petitions.

We have carried out extensive consultation with users, their families and carers. We have written to them and organised regular meetings including interpreters, advocates, translated material into Braille and are making available in audio. We stand ready to do so in other formats and languages if asked. The result is that over 300 users, relatives and carers have taken part in one of our monthly meetings in the homes and centres. More meetings are planned for April, totalling some 60 meetings by the time the consultation ends. We have also briefed a number of other groups, including a pensioners' action group in Muswell Hill and facilitated or met with individuals/ organisations to discuss their alternative plans for residential homes and drop-in centres. All of the views have been noted. The outcome of the consultation will be reported to Councillors when they make their final decision about the proposed closures of homes and centres in June and July 2011.

WRITTEN QUESTION 22 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOODS FROM COUNCILLOR WINSKILL:

How many times have Council vehicles been caught parking illegally on double yellow lines including the Council's CCTV smart cars?

ANSWER

Mobile CCTV enforcement vehicles are operated and managed by our contractor Ontime parking solutions, they have not been issued with any PCNs for being parked on Double Yellow lines as they have been issued with a dispensation to park on single yellow or double lines when carrying out enforcement duties.

Appendix – Written Question 2

	Pupil Premium	£
Alexandra Primary	48,160	
Belmont Infant	18,060	
Belmont Junior	24,940	
Bounds Green Infant	24,510	
Bounds Green Junior	37,410	
Broadwater Farm Primary	74,820	
Bruce Grove Primary	71,810	
Campsbourne Infant	21,930	
Campsbourne Junior	39,130	
Chestnuts	48,590	
Coldfall Primary	20,640	
Coleraine Park Primary	70,950	
Coleridge Primary	33,110	
Crowland Primary	39,990	
Devonshire Hill Primary	79,980	
Downhills Primary	81,700	
Earlham Primary	68,370	
Earlsmead Primary	74,820	
Ferry Lane Primary	26,660	
The Green CE Primary	22,790	
Highgate Primary	35,260	
Lancasterian Primary	82,130	
Lea Valley Primary	97,180	
Lordship Lane Primary	135,020	
Mulberry Primary	117,820	
Muswell Hill Primary	18,490	
Nightingale Primary	56,330	
Noel Park Primary	108,790	
North Harringay Primary	65,790	
Our Lady of Muswell RC Primary	11,180	
Rhodes Avenue Primary	7,310	
Risley Avenue Primary	126,850	
Rokesly Infant	27,950	
Rokesly Junior	38,700	
St.Aidan's Primary	12,040	
St.Ann's CE Primary	29,240	
St.Francis de Sales RC Infant	39,560	
St.Francis de Sales RC Junior	48,160	
St Gildas' RC Junior	12,900	
St.Ignatius RC Primary	55,470	
St.James' CE Primary	860	

St.John Vianney RC Primary	20,210
St.Martin of Porres RC Primary	2,580
St.Mary's CE Infant	24,510
St.Mary's CE Junior	29,240
St.Mary's RC Infant	22,790
St.Mary's RC Junior	27,950
St.Michael's CE Primary N6	10,320
St.Michael's CE Primary N22	17,200
St.Paul's & All Hallows CE Infant	22,790
St.Paul's & All Hallows CE Junior	34,830
St Paul's RC Primary	27,520
St.Peter in Chains RC Infant	9,460
Seven Sisters Primary	47,300
South Harringay Infant	26,660
South Harringay Junior	38,700
Stamford Hill Primary	39,990
Stroud Green Primary	58,910
Tetherdown Primary	3,010
Tiverton Primary	67,940
Welbourne Primary	70,090
West Green Primary	40,420
Weston Park Primary	10,320
PRIMARY SCHOOL TOTALS	2,708,140

Alexandra Park	92,020
Fortismere	52,460
Gladesmore	332,390
Highgate Wood	121,260
Hornsey	188,770
John Loughborough	24,940
Northumberland Park	228,330
Park View	189,200
St Thomas More	99,330
Woodside High	188,770
Total Secondary Schools	1,517,470

Blanche Nevile	15,050
Moselle	12,542
Vale	17,200
William C Harvey	3,225
Total Specials	48,017

Heartlands	29,240
Riverside	12,542

The Brook	9,532
Grand total	4,324,940