

COUNCIL QUESTIONS – 9th October 2006

Oral Question 1 – To the Leader of the Council from Councillor Williams

If he has confidence in the Executive Member for Housing following the recent Audit Commission assessment of the Housing Service?

ANSWER

Oral Question 2 - To the Executive Member for Environment and Conservation from Councillor Cooke:

Will the Executive Member for Environment and Conservation give a clear commitment that he will do everything within his power to ensure the CPZ consultations will be as thorough as possible?

ANSWER

Oral Question 3 – To the Executive Member for Community Involvement from Councillor Wilson:

What has been done to retrieve the £3,500 Making the Difference Grant that was incorrectly paid out in Chettle Court?

ANSWER

Oral Question 4 - To the Executive Member for Children and Young People from Councillor Kober:

Could the Executive Member for Children and Young People update the Council on the results achieved by Haringey students this summer?

ANSWER

Oral Question 5 – To the Executive Member for Housing from Councillor Harris:

What assessment the Audit Commission has made of the ability of Haringey's Housing Service to address the problems of homelessness and overcrowding in the borough?

ANSWER

Oral Question 6 - To the Executive Member for Community Involvement, from Councillor Griffith:

Can she explain what the WOW award scheme is about and how the pilot is going?

ANSWER

Oral Question 7 – To the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee from Councillor Davies:

Can he explain why the recent Homelessness and Allocations Scrutiny Review Report was submitted to both the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Executive without a clear consensus on the recommendations therein from all panel members?

ANSWER

Oral Question 8 - To the Executive Member for Environment and Conservation from Councillor Peacock:

Could the Executive Member for Environment and Conservation update Council on the progress made by the Council since the election in improving our parks and open spaces?

ANSWER

Oral Question 9 – To the Executive Member for the Environment and Conservation from Councillor Oakes:

What data from the consultation into the Stop and Shop proposals supports and justifies the Council pressing ahead with pay-and-display as the only option for short-term parking in Muswell Hill and Crouch End, and how many businesses or traders in each area have specifically said they want this option?

ANSWER

Oral Question 10 - To the Leader of the Council from Councillor Jones:

Could the Leader outline in what way Haringey will be marking Black History Month this year?

ANSWER

Written Questions

Written Question 1 – To the Leader of the Council from Councillor Baker:

What plans have been put into place to ensure that the Council will meet its requirement to give disabled people a say in preparing an action plan to promote equal opportunities? What steps have been taken to improve relations with disabled groups in the local community?

ANSWER

Written Question 2 – To the Executive Member for Housing from Councillor Beynon:

With respect to private buildings in Haringey which have remained empty for several years and have not been appropriately maintained by landlords, could the Executive Member for Housing please confirm:

- a. How many buildings in this category have been identified in Haringey in each year over the period 2001 -2006?
- b. What mechanism does the council use to monitor and tackle this problem?
- c. Has the council invoked section 215 of the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act in order to tackle this problem and if so, on how many occasions?

ANSWER

Written Question 3 – To the Executive Member for Children and Young People from Councillor Davies:

What provision for childcare was made by the Council to mitigate the late opening of Coldfall Primary School this term, how was this communicated to parents and how much unmet demand was there from parents for this service?

ANSWER

Written Question 4 – To the Executive Member for Finance from Councillor Gorrie:

How many freehold or leasehold commercial premises does the council own or manage in each ward and what proportion of these premises is currently vacant? Will she please list these by ward.

ANSWER

Written Question 5 – To the Executive Member for Community Involvement from Councillor Oakes:

Does the Council know how many households did not receive a copy of the consultation forms for the proposed CPZs and what sanctions for poor performance, financial or otherwise, with the Council be taking against the contractor responsible for the delivery of the CPZ consultation forms?

ANSWER

Written Question 6 – To the Executive Member for Environment and Conservation from Councillor Newton:

- a) What is the detailed cost breakdown for consulting, implementing and enforcing a CPZ?
- b) How many streets/houses need to be included in a scheme for it to break even?

ANSWER

Written Question 7 – To the Executive Member for Housing from Councillor Harris:

Is an options appraisal currently underway regarding the future of the sheltered housing stock?

ANSWER

Written Question 8 – To the Executive Member for Environment and Conservation from Councillor Oatway:

To tell me in detail exactly what monitoring has been done in the Dukes Avenue and Palace Gates Road areas with regard to the number of HGVs passing through the area and the effect of the road humps on through traffic, following promises made to myself and residents back in April.

ANSWER

Written Question 9 – To the Executive Member for Crime and Community Safety from Councillor Alexander:

If she will state how many road traffic accidents have occurred in Green Lanes, Haringey for each of the last twelve months, and how many of these have resulted in injury or fatality?

ANSWER

Written Question 10 – To the Executive Member for Housing from Councillor Demirci:

What is the current waiting time for repairs for Homes for Haringey tenants and what is the Governments target for repairs performance to achieve the Better Homes Standard? Will he state how many tenants are currently awaiting repairs and what categories these repairs fall into?

ANSWER

Written Question 11 – To the Executive Member for Children and Young People from Councillor Weber:

I understand that a reduction of 17% has been made in the budget for funding Statemented Pupils for 2006/07.

Please can the member explain:

- a) Why these cuts have been made?
- b) What effects these cuts are likely to have on the children themselves and the schools that support them?

ANSWER

Written Question 12 – To the Executive Member for Environment and Conservation from Councillor Hare:

Is he aware of the Forestry Commission estimate that between 40,000 and 50,000 horse chestnut trees in the UK may be affected with the pest known as the leaf miner moth, which eats the leaves, as well as a disease known as bleeding canker? Is he aware that trees in Alexandra Park and other areas in the Borough are affected in this way, and will he;

- a) Publish any assessments made by the Council's Tree officer?
- b) If necessary seek the best advice available from the Forestry Commission as to how to treat these two pests?

- c) State what financial provision has been made for this year or next year with a view to eradication and/or replanting?

ANSWER

Written Question 13 – To the Executive Member for Enterprise and Regeneration from Councillor Mughal:

If she will consider setting up a Business Forum for small to medium enterprises in Haringey where issues affecting them can be raised? Does she agree that in the light of proposals from the Council such as CPZ there is an urgent need for such a forum?

ANSWER

Written Question 14 – To the Executive Member for Organisational Development and Performance from Councillor Winskill:

For how long has the following message appeared on www.haringey.gov.uk:

“NOTICE: We are currently experiencing technical difficulties. The affected areas are the Weekly List and the Application Search. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.”

What steps are been taken to deal with this problem; who is to blame for these technical difficulties and will financial penalties be exacted?

ANSWER

Written Question 15 – To the Executive Member for Environment and Conservation from Councillor Bloch:

Can the Executive Member please confirm:

- a) whether 27 Muswell Hill, London N10 3PR falls within a conservation area and or Article 4 area;
- b) why the Planning Department has not responded in full to Councillor Bloch's email of 10 July 2006 as to the status of the unauthorised hardstanding and garage on these premises and whether they will now do so ?
- c) whether the Planning Department will also respond to the letters of The Chine and Cascade Residents Association of 28 March 2006 and 16 May 2006 on this matter and why have they not responded until now to these letters ?

ANSWER

Written Question 16 – To the Executive Member for Housing from Councillor Reid:

What assessments has the Council made of the value for money that the Housing department provides, and what was the outcome of that assessment, in each of the last 5 years?

ANSWER

Written Question 17 – To the Executive Member for Organisational Development and Performance from Councillor Butcher:

Is the Council any closer to being able to give a final figure for the cost to Haringey Council resulting from the Buncefield incident and what proportion of that cost will be met by insurers and by LBH itself? What changes in policy has the Council put in place to ensure that there is proper back up and contingency for its website and the service it provides?

ANSWER

Written Question 18 – To the Executive Member for Organisational Development and Performance from Councillor Beacham:

Would he please report how many sick days the average employee has taken a) across the Council as a whole and b) broken down by department.

ANSWER

Written Question 19 – To the Executive Member for Finance from Councillor Portess:

- a) How many Housing Benefit appeals are outstanding?
- b) How many people are waiting more than 4 weeks, 12 weeks, 24 weeks, 36 weeks and 52 weeks respectively for their appeal on Housing Benefit to be heard?
- c) Is the council confident that it is adhering to best practice when hearing these appeals?

ANSWER

Written Question 20 – To the Executive Member for Housing from Councillor Aitken:

- a) Is he aware that plans by Community Housing Association Ltd to redevelop Roden Court, Hornsey Lane N6 will involve the eviction of up to 20 Assured Shorthold Tenants, some of whom are vulnerable, and a move to temporary accommodation for up to 50 Assured and Secure tenants, some of whom are elderly and disabled?
- b) What support and advice is the Housing Service offering these tenants?
- c) Will he meet with Community Housing to seek assurances that they will not create strain on already overstretched local housing services?

ANSWER

Written Question 21 – To the Executive Member for Health and Social Services from Councillor Wilson:

For how many months has the Council missed its target for the number of carers receiving a carer's break, and what actions has he taken to attempt to address the difficulties that his department face in this area?

ANSWER

Written Question 22 – To the Executive Member for Housing from Councillor Williams:

In each of the departments of the Housing Service, what proportion of the staff in his department are temporary agency staff, and how does this figure compare to the proportion of Council staff as a whole?

ANSWER

Written Question 23 – To the Executive Member for Community Involvement from Councillor Edge:

Will she confirm how long the council owned premise above Stroud Green library has been vacant and whether the Council will be investigating and supporting residents calls for the space to be turned into a community facility?

ANSWER

Written Question 24 – To the Executive Member for Children and Young People from Councillor Rainer:

- a) When will the re-organisation of free long term nursery places take place?
- b) Will such a reorganisation take into account the lack of free long term nursery places at Noel Park nursery, which is situated in a ward with a high deprivation profile?

ANSWER

Written Question 25 – To the Executive Member for Environment and Conservation from Councillor Whyte:

- a) Will the council formally acknowledge that the initial consultation forms for the Hornsey Train Station CPZ Proposal were not delivered to every household in Hornsey?
- b) Why was every adult in a household not asked to participate in the initial consultation?
- c) How will the second stage consultation documents be delivered to households and will each adult in that household have an opportunity to submit their opinion?

ANSWER

Written Question 26 – To the Executive Member for Crime and Community Safety from Councillor Hoban:

Does the Council support the proposal for the introduction of a CCTV camera at the junction of The Avenue and Alexandra Park Road to combat chronic antisocial behaviour and crime in the area and also to monitor a very dangerous junction used by large numbers of schoolchildren from Alexandra Park School and Rhodes Avenue School? If so, please indicate the timetable for introduction.

ANSWER

Written Question 27 – To the Executive Member for Children and Young People from Councillor Engert:

Will she give her assurance that Coleridge School will be in a position to receive 120 reception children at the start of term in September 2007?

ANSWER

