

COUNCIL – 19 NOVEMBER 2012

ORAL QUESTIONS

ORAL QUESTION 1 - TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND CARBON REDUCTION FROM COUNCILLOR WILSON:

Can the cabinet member explain why the auditor refused to sign off Haringey's accounts until 11pm on the last working day before the legal deadline?

ANSWER

ORAL QUESTION 2 - TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES FROM COUNCILLOR BASU:

Can the cabinet member outline what we know so far about proposed changes to local policing models in London and Haringey.

ANSWER

ORAL QUESTION 3 - TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR NEWTON:

Merton Council will be making all of its car parks free on weekends running up to Christmas. Will Haringey Council follow their example and introduce 30 minutes of free parking in Haringey's shopping areas and high streets in the run up to Christmas?

ANSWER

ORAL QUESTION 4 - TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR GIBSON:

Can the cabinet member update us on recent work tackling the clustering of betting shops on Haringey's high streets?

ANSWER

ORAL QUESTION 5 - TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR REECE:

Will she follow Islington Council's lead and implement a 20mph limit across all roads in Haringey to reduce accidents and make our streets safer?

ANSWER

ORAL QUESTION 6 - TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND CARBON REDUCTION FROM COUNCILLOR CHRISTOPHIDES

After the recent publication of the Carbon Commission, can the portfolio holder outline some next steps for Haringey's plans to reduce carbon emissions and create a green economy locally?

ANSWER

ORAL QUESTION 7 - TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND CARBON REDUCTION FROM COUNCILLOR WILLIAMS:

Why did he vote against a Lib Dem budget amendment in February to give a £250 bonus to low paid staff?

ANSWER

ORAL QUESTION 8 - TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR BRABAZON

Can the cabinet member update us on the council's work to tackle problems around HMOs in the borough?

ANSWER

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

WRITTEN QUESTION 1 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND CARBON REDUCTION FROM COUNCILLOR JENKS:

Appendix 8, page 55 of the online version of the Haringey Carbon Commission Report (not available in the printed report) refers. It states that Vantage Point software by Carbon Descent modelling indicates that approximately a 30 percent reduction can be achieved by 2020 (ie approximately 70% of the target 40% reduction). Can the Council confirm that it will not reach the 40% carbon target by 2020?

ANSWER

For clarification, the 30 per cent reduction figure is also referred to in pages 9 and 10 of the executive summary (included in the printed report) in addition to Appendix 8.

The Council set an ambitious carbon reduction target of 40%, and we still intend to achieve this by 2020. The Vantage Point software sets out a projection based on current national policy, which is obstructive to realising such ambitious targets as ours. The Haringey Carbon Commission was established to engage around 70 experts and activists, to consider how we can influence policy-makers to clear these barriers and hence realise our ambitions.

WRITTEN QUESTION 2 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR ALEXANDER:

Some of the roads on the Harringay Ladder take huge amounts more traffic than others. Can the council explain why they have not set about finding a solution to

distributing the traffic more equally and fairly over the ladder despite repeated requests from both residents and councillors?

ANSWER

Traffic flow distribution across the Ladder Roads is regularly discussed with the Green Lanes Strategy Group, and officers will continue to work with the group to consider this.

The Council has introduced a number of measures which have more equally distributed traffic flows throughout the Ladder Roads. This has included the introduction of one way streets, banned turns, 20 mph restrictions, HGV restrictions, and CPZ restrictions.

Traffic flow modelling has also been recently carried out to further consider how changes to the traffic system be changed to improve distribution.

Currently the Council, as part of the Green Lanes Corridor scheme, will be narrowing and raising the junctions from the Ladder Roads onto Green Lanes, and it is hoped that this will also further assist even traffic distribution.

WRITTEN QUESTION 3 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR SCOTT

Is there a schedule for maintenance of roadside garden areas in the Borough, if so does this list areas requiring trimming and pruning by Ward with dates when work is to be carried out?

ANSWER

Yes. Generally all roadside garden areas in the borough are maintained once or twice a month for grass cutting during the growing season. Shrub beds are visited once during the winter period between November and February. Flower beds are replanted twice a year in late May and October, with a number of other visits during this period. Litter is removed and bins emptied every three days or once a week dependent on the site.

The gardening teams are divided into six zones rather than on a ward basis, and work to a pre-agreed round. The dates of visits vary dependent on the time of year. There is a current piece of work in progress that will detail this according to ward.

WRITTEN QUESTION 4 - TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN FROM COUNCILLOR ALLISON:

How many LBH Social Workers have been registered with the new Health Care professions Council (HCPC), and what steps are being taken to ensure that those who haven't will have done so by the 30th November deadline?

ANSWER

At 14 November 2012, 69 social workers have registered with the new HCPC.

Numbers are being reviewed on a daily basis in the final weeks leading up to 30 November 2012 and social workers are being regularly reminded of the importance of

ensuring they are registered. The Assistant Director for Children and Families is monitoring the position regularly. Business Continuity Plans are being reviewed so that the social work service continues should any staff registration be delayed.

WRITTEN QUESTION 5 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR BUTCHER:

What are the criteria used for allocation of traffic wardens across the borough?

ANSWER

Civil Enforcement Officer (CEO) deployment is allocated across the borough where there are parking restrictions, and this is more concentrated in Controlled Parking Zones (CPZs). These areas are broken down into a series of 'beats' that usually consist of a number of roads, with each road requiring a number of visits daily. Each beat is covered by at least one CEO during operational hours. This also applies to the stop and shop schemes outside of CPZs.

WRITTEN QUESTION 6 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND CARBON REDUCTION FROM COUNCILLOR WINSKILL:

Please tell me how many days this year (from 1st May 2012) the fountain in the Hornsey Town Hall Square has been in operation. Please tell me how much the maintenance contract costs and how many times the contractor has been on site this year.

ANSWER

The fountain in Hornsey Town Hall square has been switched on for a total of 136 days over the period 1st May – 1st October 2012. Contractors have been on-site 3 times, twice for major and minor servicing at the start and finish of the season and once for repair. The annual cost for maintenance is £2208.60.

WRITTEN QUESTION 7– TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND CARBON REDUCTION FROM COUNCILLOR STRANG:

How many capital projects are overrunning? Which projects are they and how much additional money will be spent as a result of these delays on each project?

ANSWER

There are 2 projects over-running: Broadwater Farm and Rhodes Avenue. Broadwater Farm is due to complete on 30 November 2012, within the agreed budget. Rhodes Avenue is due to complete in December 2013, the final cost of this over run is not known as the council will seek to claim back costs.

**WRITTEN QUESTION 8 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
FROM COUNCILLOR SOLOMON:**

In the future will the council take into consideration the long term impacts of waste and recycling policy when preparing tenders for waste services?

ANSWER

The Council has and will continue to so.

**WRITTEN QUESTION 9 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
FROM COUNCILLOR BEACHAM:**

How many times have there been evening collections of waste or recycling since the change in collection day was introduced? On which roads have these evening collections taken place?

ANSWER

We do not have the split between roads which were collected in the afternoon and those which had to be collected in the evening.

**WRITTEN QUESTION 10 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM
COUNCILLOR WHYTE:**

Following the conclusions of the Interim report on waste and recycling services by Overview and Scrutiny, what action will be taken to address the issues raised by local residents about missed collections and overflowing bins? Will you consider weekly rubbish collections in exceptional circumstances?

ANSWER

The interim report and the recommendations made by the panel will be considered by the Cabinet in December.