

COUNCIL QUESTIONS – 8th January 2007

Oral Question 1 – To the Executive Member for Housing from Councillor Demirci .

Can the Executive Member for Housing please outline the plans for Homes for Haringey to implement programmes to combat social exclusion and enhance community cohesion on the housing estates run by Homes for Haringey on behalf of Haringey Council?

Oral Question 2 - To the Executive Member for Crime and Community Safety from Councillor Vanier.

Can the Executive Member for Crime and Community Safety comment on the current performance year-to-date in Haringey for crime reduction and how this compares to that of similar and neighbouring boroughs?

Oral Question 3 - To the Executive Member for Environment and Conservation from Councillor Whyte.

What was the cost to local taxpayers of the consultation process on the proposed Hornsey CPZ and what criteria was used to decide on a second round of consultation despite the tiny response received from the first round?

Oral Question 4 - To the Executive Member for Community Involvement from Councillor Bull.

What have been the results of the recent consultation with readers of *Haringey People*?

Oral Question 5 - To the Executive Member for Health and Social Services from Councillor Alexander.

What were the reasons for proposing to close all the Borough's Older Peoples Drop in Centres; what cuts will result from other services as a result of the decision to reprove the day centres?

Oral Question 6 - To the Executive Member for Children and Young People from Councillor Griffith.

Can the Executive Member for Children and Young People comment on the performance of Haringey children and Haringey primary schools in the recently published Key Stage 2 tests?

Oral Question 7 - To the Executive Member for Health and Social Services from Councillor Rainer.

What is the latest position regarding future health services on the Hornsey Central Hospital site?

Oral Question 8 - To the Executive Member for Crime and Community Safety from Councillor Patel.

Following the Youth Offending Service and Joint Area Review inspections, can the Executive Member for Crime and Community Safety report back on the performance of the Youth Offending Service?

Oral Question 9 - To the Executive Member for Environment and Conservation from Councillor Butcher.

Will the Executive Member for the Environment and Conservation apologise to Members of the Council and public for misleading them at the last full Council meeting as to whether Haringey Council sends plastic bottles to China for recycling?

Written Questions

Written Question 1 – To the Executive Member for Finance from Councillor Bloch:

With regard to procurement the October Programme Highlight Report states “there are concerns about achieving the £2m savings target”. Five of seven project metrics are red which is defined as “progress is well off track...there are major issues which pose immediate threat to the project”. Given this situation why has the project no sponsor and why were officers allowed to cancel the October PPB?

Written Question 2 – To the Executive Member for Crime and Community Safety from Councillor Alexander:

What percentage of moving traffic offences and parking tickets issued in Haringey have not been paid over the last three years?

Written Question 3 – To the Executive Member for Housing from Councillor Baker:

How are Haringey Council monitoring the management contract with the ALMO, including performance? What resources are put into operating the negotiations with the ALMO as a provider of services, and with relation to Service Level Agreements between the Council and ALMO?

Written Question 4 – To the Executive Member for Enterprise and Regeneration from Councillor Beacham:

- i. How many different databases hold information about residents and businesses? Please specify them all and their purpose.

- ii. How many databases need to be updated with a new address or a change of details when someone notifies the council? Please explain the procedure that is in place for all databases held by Haringey to be updated.
- iii. Why did the Planning Service send letters to residents of Fairfield Gardens N8 about a planning application in their area with incorrect addresses?

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

What requirements have arisen that have resulted in the budget proposal for a Community Buildings Manager? Will the Executive Member provide me with a job-description for this post and explain financing and management arrangements?

Written Question 6 – To the Executive Member for Crime and Community Safety from Councillor Aitken:

In relation to the Council's parking enforcement contract with Wing Security Ltd, could the Executive Member for Crime and Community Safety please confirm:

- (i) Whether they are licensed by the SIA? If not, why not?
- (ii) Whether they are Members of the Approved Contractor Scheme?
- (iii) Whether contractors who were members of the Approved Contractor Scheme at the time the contract was put out to tender were short listed; if not, why not?
- (iv) Why does the parking scheme at Park Road Swimming Pool, administered by Wing Security on behalf of the Council, not comply with the British Parking Association's Code of Practice?
- (v) How many complaints have been received from vehicle owners in the last two years concerning Wing Security?
- (vi) What representations have been received from the Metropolitan Police regarding Wing Security?

Written Question 7 – To the Executive Member for Environment and Conservation from Councillor Butcher:

How much energy is consumed by Haringey Council's traffic lights and how often are they replaced to ensure malfunction? Will the Council consider replacing all new lights with more energy efficient LED lights?

Written Question 8 – To the Leader of the Council from Councillor Davies:

To ask the Leader of the Council to detail all verbal and written representations to central government in the last six months over the cost of looking after asylum seekers in Haringey. Have elected Members or Officers from the Council met with Ministers or Civil Servants in the last six months and on what dates did these meetings take place?

Written Question 9 – To the Executive Member for Housing from Councillor Demirci:

- i. Can the Executive Member for Housing explain how he is going to reorganise resources in the Housing Service to cover the 2.6 million shortfall in Housing Benefit subsidy, which will occur in April 2007?
- ii. Can the Executive Member for Housing explain for how long the misuse of the Housing Benefit subsidy has taken place, and what this expenditure was used for?
- iii. Does he agree with the Liberal Democrat Group's view that an independent audit by a reputable outside organisation such as Shelter should take place of the Housing Service's expenditure and policies?

Written Question 10 – To the Executive Member for Crime and Community Safety from Councillor Edge:

What action will the Council take to prevent lorries using the Western loop of Cranford Way? What are the powers available to the Council?

Written Question 11 – To the Executive Member for Environment and Conservation from Councillor Engert:

The Report by Jan Gehl "Towards a Fine City for People, Public Spaces and Public Life" 2004 contains a presumption against guard railings which is supported by TfL and echoed in Haringey's "Streetscape Manual" of 2005; how many metres of pedestrian guard railings has Haringey installed in each month for the years 2004,2005, and 2006 and at what cost?

Written Question 12 – To the Executive Member for Crime and Community Safety from Councillor Gorrie:

If he expects users of the Eastfield Rd N8 Community Centre and Homes for Haringey tenants to endure rat and cockroach infestation over the festive period? When was the last occasion that Eastfield Rd Centre was visited by Pest Control staff and what steps is he taking to clear the backlog of pest control appointments in the Housing Service caused by long-term sickness and outdated approved contractor practices; only one member of staff will be available in parts of December.

Written Question 13 – To the Executive Member for Environment and Conservation from Councillor Hare:

With reference to Haringey Parks which achieved Green Flag status this year, could the Executive Member for Environment and Conservation:

- i. Confirm the budget allocated to each park for this financial year?
- ii. Please provide a detailed breakdown of expenditure to date for each of the above parks in connection with achieving Green Flag status in this financial year.

Written Question 14 – To the Executive Member for Housing from Councillor C. Harris :

Why did he say at the last meeting of the Full Council that the Home Connections system was to go live on the 27th November; what prevented the system from being launched on that date, and will he now stand down.

Written Question 15 – To the Executive Member for Enterprise and Regeneration from Councillor Hoban:

In relation to The Bridge NDC Project, could the Executive Member for Regeneration please confirm:

- i. On what basis did the Council decide to set up the NDC as an unincorporated association rather than a legal entity?
- ii. How many other NDC projects in England have been established as unincorporated associations rather than a legal entity?
- iii. Why has The Bridge NDC not produced a set of audited accounts to date, as would be required had it been established as a legal entity?

Written Question 16 – To the Executive Member for Enterprise and Regeneration from Councillor Mughal:

Can the Executive Member for Enterprise and Regeneration please provide an update on the status of the lease for Black and Minority Ethnic run business on Lymington Avenue?

Written Question 17 – To the Executive Member for Environment and Conservation from Councillor Newton:

Has the Council carried out research into parking schemes that provide a ticketed free parking period, of for example 30 minutes, with any additional longer parking period subject to charge payable at the time of parking? These enforceable schemes are successfully operating in other local authorities. Why was this option not considered for Muswell Hill and Crouch End given that 98% of responses and traders wanted more free parking bays?

Written Question 18 – To the Executive Member for Enterprise and Regeneration from Councillor Portess:

Could the Executive Member please confirm the current status of the Bernie Grant Arts Centre with specific reference to the following:

- i. Is the building project on schedule? If not, please give full details of reasons for slippage of the project.
- ii. Are there any problems with the business plan? If so, please provide full details.
- iii. What is the anticipated opening date for the Centre?

Written Question 19 – To the Executive Member for Children and Young People from Councillor Oatway:

Will she provide me with a breakdown by year group of all children in Haringey (year 7-11 inclusive) who were without a school place at the beginning of September 2006 and a breakdown in the same categories of all those who are currently (December 2006) without a place. Will she also provide this information broken down by school?

Written Question 20 – To the Executive Member for Enterprise and Regeneration from Councillor Oakes:

If he will list all planning applications received in the last two years in Myddleton Rd N22, the outcome of the application and whether agreed through delegated powers or following decision at PASC; what is the Council's current Planning Guidance pertaining to Myddleton Rd?

Written Question 21 – To the Executive Member for Environment and Conservation from Councillor Rainger:

What is the Council's gritting policy and schedule for the winter months?

Written Question 22 – To the Executive Member for Health and Social Services from Councillor Reid:

Will he acknowledge that the provision of a new GP Surgery was eagerly awaited by the community in Hornsey as part of the proposals for the New River Development; will he confirm that this is still a priority and what steps has he taken to make this a reality?

Written Question 23 – To the Executive Member for Finance from Councillor Weber:

Why was a disabled elderly man allowed to go into debt due to overpayment of council taxes because despite many attempts to amend his address details the Council failed to get his rebate cheque to him for some time? Why did the gentlemen not receive an apology when the fault lay with Haringey in not being able to update their own records in a timely and accurate manner?

Written Question 24 – To the Leader of the Council from Councillor Whyte:

Given his stated wish to promote local employment opportunities in Haringey will he provide Members with authentic audited records to prove that St James Homes fulfilled the requirement of the Section 106 Agreement with regard to the New River Development regarding employment; namely that 20% of the onsite workforce would be residents of Haringey. Given that such a condition was legal for the New River Development can he please confirm that a similar local employment condition will be included in the Decent Homes Contracts currently out to tender?

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

To summarise the results of the first stage of the consultation on the Highgate station CPZ review, and to give an assurance that he will subdivide the zone rather than extend it in such a way as to encourage car journeys to the vicinity of the station from those living elsewhere in the zone, as well as use any alterations as an opportunity to address chronic bottlenecks in Southwood Lane caused by badly designed parking bays, as raised many times with the Council by me before.

Written Question 26 – To the Executive Member for Enterprise and Regeneration from Councillor Winskill:

Local residents have had a seven year battle against development of the Gladwell Road/Cecil Park “Backlands” site. Following the welcome news that the Planning Inspectorate has rejected a developer’s appeal against the PASC decisions to refuse Planning Permission what measures can the Council deploy to prevent any further applications being considered for the development of the site, thus allowing residents lives to return to normal? The Inspector’s decision contained many points of planning principle; how will these be assimilated into Haringey planning policy to give more fundamental protection to the remaining sites in the West and the many sites in the East that contribute so much to the character of the Borough?

Written Question 27 – To the Leader of the Council from Councillor Wilson:

What verbal and written representations has he made to the Secretary of State for Health, the local PCT or any other NHS bodies about the current funding crisis affecting Haringey?