

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?

ANSWER

The procurement savings stream board did have a sponsor in the Director of Social Services and she has recently left the Council. The new project sponsor is the Director of Finance.

The October procurement project board was cancelled with the agreement of the sponsor at that time because new project briefs and scoping papers were still being finalised. These were subsequently received at the November board meeting and approved.

In addition, a paper was prepared in November and also reported to the Chief Executives Management Board that addressed some of the issues that posed a risk to the project’s overall objectives and a way forward was agreed. This includes setting out further agreed savings targets against a list of current projects being progressed.

Cashable savings achieved to-date amount to £1.2m against the £2m target. Officers are very much aware of the need to continually seek to maximise efficiency and will vigorously pursue further savings to meet the agreed target.

Written Question 2 – To the Executive Member for Environment from Councillor Alexander:

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

ANSWER

Moving traffic enforcement was introduced in November 2005. The percentage of unpaid fines currently on our database stands at 24%. Recovery action is still underway on those penalty charge notices, which will result in further payments being received.

The percentage of unpaid penalty charge notices outstanding on all other parking tickets following write-offs, are as follows;

Financial year 2003/04 = 0%
Financial year 2004/05 = 28%
Financial year 2005/06 = 24%

Recovery is still ongoing for outstanding payments in 2004/05 and 2005/06.

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?

ANSWER

The Council is ultimately responsible for ensuring that Homes for Haringey (HfH) delivers services to the required standard. As the client in terms of the Management Agreement, the Council has an effective and robust monitoring system in place to ensure that:

- The services are being delivered by HfH to the standards expressed in the management agreement, the Service Level Agreements and HfH's first year delivery plan.*
- The services are economic, efficient and effective and being delivered in a way that helps the Council fulfil its duties of best value and continuous improvement.*
- The services are being delivered in a way which, support the Councils equality and diversity strategy and policy.*
- The services are being delivered in a way which, support The Councils Community Strategy.*
- Resident involvement is encouraged and promoted at all levels and stages of service delivery.*

The current arrangements for monitoring the service delivery by HfH are:

- *Monthly monitoring meetings attended by senior staff from the Council and HfH. These meetings consider information on key performance indicators*
- *Quarterly monitoring meetings attended by the Leader of the Council, the Leader Member for Housing, the Chair and Vice-chair of HfH along with senior staff from both the Council and HfH. This meeting considers reports on :*
 - *Progress towards a 2 star service*
 - *Progress on HfH's delivery plan, including contribution to corporate objectives*
 - *Updates on customer satisfaction as appropriate*
- *Annual meeting of relevant elected members, HfH Board Members and nominees from the relevant tenant representative body to discuss progress on the delivery plan and to review performance.*
- *The Council has a "ALMO Liaison and Consultation Officer" whose role is to lead in liaising with Homes for Haringey to develop a professional relationship which delivers best practice for information exchange, negotiation, conflict resolution and the management of systems; support in terms of providing performance data is provided by the Performance and Quality Assurance Manager.*

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?

ANSWER

There are Typically 2 purposes for storing name with associated address information in Databases; the first is for the purpose of storing a Customer Master record for use when recording multiple transactions. The second is for recording in an adhoc fashion which is commonly used for Case-management type scenarios. In the case of a customer master, the address would need to be updated as circumstances change, however this is not the case for adhoc use as this is historical and relates to a point in time. This is important to understand when considering how changes are propagated throughout systems and is the basis for the process in use in Haringey.

The response to Council question Written 4.i – databases.

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

It is not easy to provide exact details of all databases that may contain address information as this can be held in almost any file type whether it be a spreadsheet, database table, word document or computer system. Below is a table of all know systems that we believe hold business/Individual names together with their associated address records. Individual business units may take extracts from these and create separate lists for use in adhoc communications.

The following major systems include databases which hold information relating to residents or businesses

Framework- package purchasing	I Social care case management and care
Impulse	School admissions
Integris/Centris	School pupil data
SAP	Corporate Finance, HR and Procurement
Talis	Library system
Torex	Leisure system
Siebel centres and CSCs	Customer Relationship Management including call
Ohms	Housing Management system
Early Years	Child care
Fairer Charging services	Calculation of client contribution for social care
M3PP licences)	Management of enforcement activities (eg
Manhattan	Asset and facilities management
SPOCC	Management of "Supporting people"
iLAP	Planning and business control
IWorld	Benefits and Local taxation system
YOIS	Youth Offending case management

The response to Council question Written 4.ii – databases.

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.

Depending on the nature of change and the type of database, individual business units will decide when a record needs to be updated and which databases should be amended. The council has a generic current list of contacts used to notify change:

Benefits@haringey.gov.uk

- Email to benefits

dct.duty@haringey.gov.uk	- Email to Children's Service -
Children & Families	
BSD@haringey.gov.uk	- Email to Children's Service -
School admissions	
dct.duty@haringey.gov.uk	- Email to Children's Service -
Family support & Children	
customer.services@haringey.gov.uk	- Email to Customer services
Commercial.lettings@haringey.gov.uk	- Email to Commercial
property services	
s-allotments@haringey.gov.uk	- Email to allotment service
HALS@haringey.gov.uk	- Email to HALS
home.ownershipteam@haringey.gov.uk	- Email to Home Ownership
team	
Tottenham1.green@haringey.gov.uk	- Email to leisure
Library.Service@haringey.gov.uk	- Email to libraries
business.rates@haringey.gov.uk	- Email to Business rates
siebel_coa_prd_R2@haringey.gov.uk	- Email to Customer services
Framework-i.ChangeReq@haringey.gov.uk	- Email to social services
Parking@haringey.gov.uk	- Email to concessionary travel

Appendix 1 shows the detailed process that is followed to effect the address change and can be used in conjunction with the above distribution list.

iii. Why did the Planning Service send letters to residents of Fairfield Gardens N8 about a planning application in their area with incorrect addresses?

i, ii and iii. We understand that this question is referring to the consultation carried out for retrospective application, reference HGY/2006/1304, for 28 Broadway Parade. The proposal was for the retention of a door on the rear elevation (to Fairfield Gardens) and of air conditioning units to the side elevation.

Once the application was received, it went through the process of validation, which includes the identification of those addresses which must be consulted according to Haringey's Consultation Policy. This is determined with the use of the Ordnance Survey map, which shows sites in relation to each other. The addresses identified in this case were those adjoining the site on Broadway Parade (ground and first floor). The addresses were retrieved using the electronic version of the Ordnance Survey map. This uses Address Point, which is the official electronic file of postal addresses attached to Ordnance Survey. This is updated by the Post Office and the Council's Ordnance Survey Liaison Officer receives regular updates, which are then loaded onto the corporate system which in turn is used by the Planning Service.

Following complaints from residents and Cllr Weber's request that we consider further consultation, letters were subsequently sent out to addresses in Fairfield Gardens at the rear of the site. A further request was made to consult the residential units above the shops on that stretch of Broadway Parade, which had actually been sent letters addressed to Broadway Parade

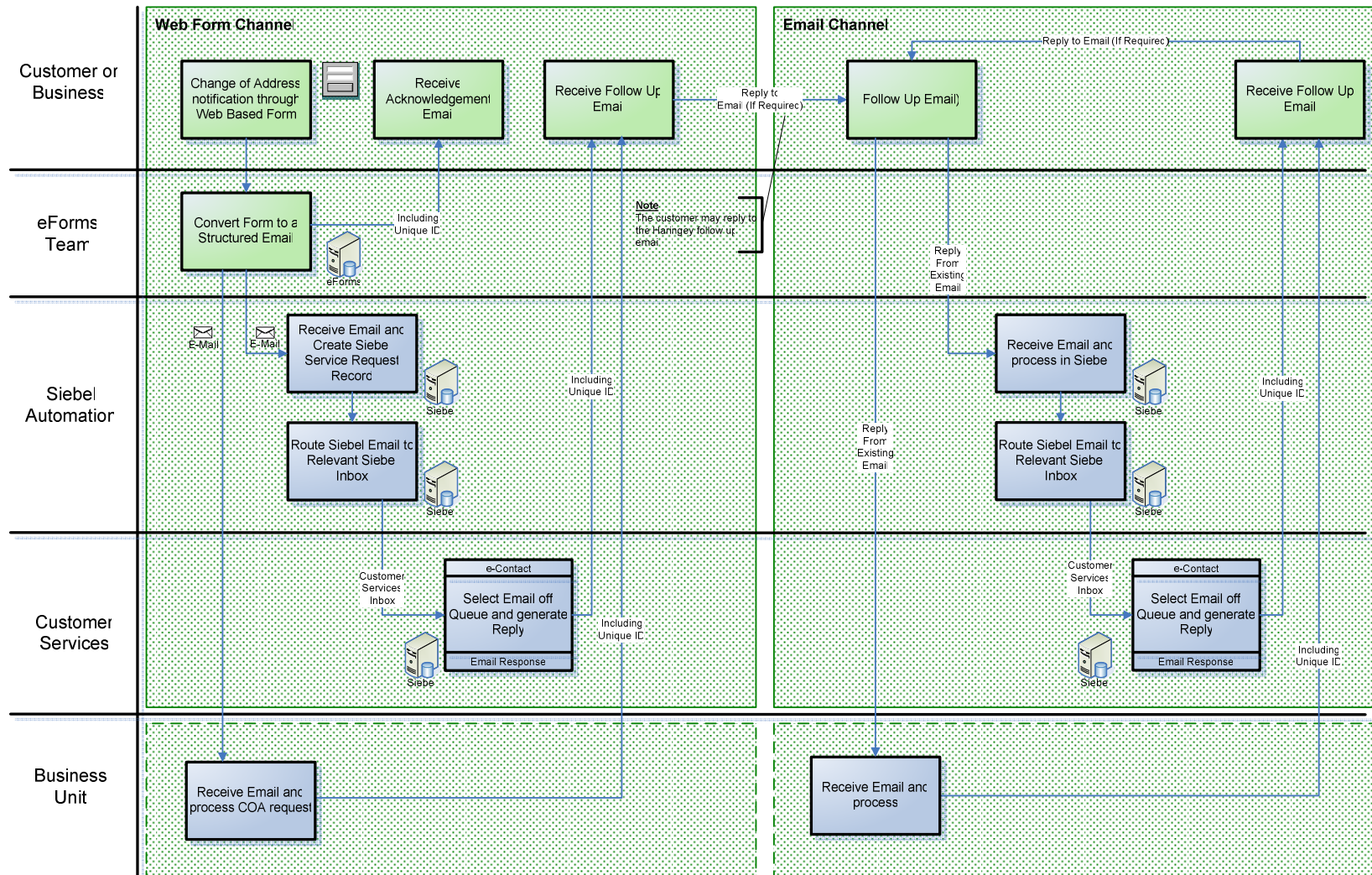
(there was no actual record on the Address Point system of these flats). The residents informed us that these units were addressed as Fairfield Gardens, not Broadway Parade. The fact that the units' addresses did not appear on the system may be because the addresses are not official postal addresses.

When an address is discovered as a result of consultation, in such an instance as this, it is possible to contact the Council's Land & Property Gazeteer team and ask them to investigate whether these are correct addresses, and if so, notify Ordnance Survey and the Post Office. The Post Office will then update Address Point in the next round of updates. A request has been sent for this case to be investigated according to this process

Conclusion.

Haringey council Customer Services have a process in place to notify business units of a generic change of address details. This covers most of the major business units and appears to be operating satisfactorily. In this instance the issue identified is as a result of incomplete information being provide by the Post office. This is now being addressed through the normal process for updating the council's central address Gazeteer.

Appendix 1 – Process flow for change of address notification.



Written Question 5 – To the Executive Member for Finance 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?

ANSWER

The requirements to actively manage the Community Buildings portfolio have been evident over the past two years. Following previous reviews the issue of a dedicated role has been considered but due to resources not being available the approach was to contain this within existing capacity. There is a report due to go to the Executive on the 23rd January 2007 concerning the recent review of the Community Buildings. This report highlights the fact that this approach is not addressing the gaps identified.

There is indeed a need to improve the performance of the portfolio, address increased requirements for compliance on building management relating to health, safety and other risks as well as undertake a programme of developments for individual buildings in accordance with the framework now being agreed.

This demonstrates the need for the Council to resource a much more proactive approach to management of these buildings to ensure and help the occupying Community groups manage their buildings in a better way. This will include help and assistance with, and enforcement of, their obligations under the terms of their occupation to repair and maintain the buildings. Especially where there are any health and safety requirements that, if not undertaken and complied with, could be a particular risk to the Council and/or Council officers/Members and users.

The review also indicated the need to look at individual community buildings, and their uses, on a rolling programme basis and in conjunction with the Council's Voluntary Sector Team, the additional resources that this post will cover will be the resources needed to undertake this work as well.

The person will need to be professionally/technically qualified and will work within the Commercial Team which is responsible for managing the commercial and community buildings portfolios. The request is for additional finance to fund this post and a job description is being formulated but not completed yet.

Written Question 6 – To the Executive Member for Environment 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?

ANSWER

- (i) *The Licensing referred to only applies to individuals. All Wing Security Directors have licences and all their on-site staff have frontline licenses.*
- (ii) *Wing Security are not members of the Approved Contractor Scheme but are currently working towards being in a position to apply for ACS (see item 3 below).*
- (iii) *The ACS was implemented on the 20th March 2006 and for this reason we believe that there are currently only 3 fully approved vehicle immobilization contractors in the whole country. The ACS did not exist at the time that Haringey let the contract.*
- (iv) *It is understood that Wing Security did consider applying the voluntary BPA Code of Practice but decided against it. The Code of Practice will be a stated requirement in the next tendering exercise, which commences in January 2007. In addition, accreditation to ACS (by an agreed date) will be a condition of award of contract.*
- (v) *Haringey Council has only received one formal complaint in the last 2 years and which is the subject of a review by the Ombudsman. The outcome of this review is awaited.*
- (vi) *We are not aware of any representations from the Metropolitan Police Service to Haringey Council in regard to 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?

ANSWER

Traffic signals are owned and maintained by Transport for London (TfL) we therefore do not hold the details of the energy consumption. On the matter of maintenance this is also carried by TfL under contract with lamps being replaced ahead of the design life. LED traffic signals are being used on new installations as and when they are constructed.

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?

ANSWER

On 30 August 2006 I wrote to Haringey's two MPs seeking their support for the pursuit of additional monies from central government to address these costs.

On 14 November 2006 I wrote to Beverley Hughes MP, the Minister for Children, Young People and Families, and to Parmjit Dhanda MP, Under-Secretary of State for Children, Young People and Families.

On 24 November 2006 I wrote to Liam Byrne MP, Minister for Citizenship, Immigration, and Nationality.

On 11 December 2006 I wrote to both of Haringey's local MPs and to Lord Harris of Haringey on this issue asking for further representation to be made to Government Ministers.

As Leader I have also been working with Council leaders of all political parties, in London and nationwide, through London Councils and the Local Government Association, to press this issue and push for greater funding for Haringey to meet these costs.

I have made verbal representations on this subject on occasions when this has been possible, including to Ministers at the Labour Party's annual conference, in September 2006. The Executive Member for Crime and Community Safety also met with Hazel Blears during October last year and raised the issue.

I will also be attending a meeting with the Chief Executive on January 26th at Kent County Council for authorities that have large numbers of asylum seekers to discuss a joint approach to central Government.

In my opinion the Government should be responsible for the entire cost of asylum.

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?

ANSWER

- i. There are two related changes in government policy which will impact on homelessness budgets. Firstly, the government has set a target for a 50% reduction in the use of temporary accommodation by 2010 which will require greater use of private sector tenancies to house homeless families. Secondly, the government is seeking to reduce the overall level of expenditure on housing benefit subsidy for temporary accommodation, and is considering reductions in rent caps for 2007/8 with the potential for more radical change in 2008. Both of these factors have been included within the Council's financial plans, with significant net increases in expenditure allowed for. We are expecting the final decision on rent cap levels for 2007/8 later this month.*
- ii. There has been no misuse of housing benefit subsidy. Rent levels have been set in accordance with government limits.*
- iii. I recognise and welcome the contribution of Shelter, an organisation campaigning on behalf of the homeless, to the debate of Housing issues generally. The council has often supported its campaigns, has contributed to its research and publications and has followed its advice and guidelines on various aspects of homelessness policy and practice.*

The council has got in place a range of mechanisms for auditing and monitoring its services, including the housing service, in accordance with standard good practice and successive BV inspections by the Audit Commission have praised the council's Financial Management mechanisms.

An independent audit of the Service is carried out regularly by the District Auditor as well as the Council's Internal Audit Service.

Furthermore the policies pursued by the Housing Service are those debated and ratified by the Council. These are subject to member debate and agreement, eg, the significant contribution of Scrutiny Members and others to the recently approved Lettings policy.

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?

ANSWER

In the appeal decision for the development of the London Concrete Plant it was recorded that the gyratory system that provides access to Cranford Way is designated as a 'London Distribution Route' in the proposed UDP. On this basis the road is intended to accommodate the type of local service trips that would be generated by the development.

The permission however does place a number of enforceable conditions on vehicle movements

- No development without an approved traffic management system*
- A restriction of 50 operational mixer truck movements per day (ie 25 in and 25 out) on a five day average.*
- No more than an average of six private concrete vehicle movements (ie 3 in and 3 out) on a six day average, with a maximum of 10 (5 in and 5 out) on any day (Monday to Saturday)*
- No more than an average of 3 deliveries by road per day on a six day average, with a maximum of 4 per day.*
- Records of HGV movements will be kept.*
- No development without a scheme, including physical and administrative measures, to prevent HGVs using the 'western loop' part of Cranford Way by HGVs travelling to and from the site.*

Enforcement will be by

- Responding to complaints received and investigating the evidence available.*
- Planned observations – base on complaint and other intelligence sources available*
- Investigation of records required to be kept at the site.*
- Enforcement of conditions that require schemes and physical measures to be approved before development.*

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?

ANSWER

Whilst there may be a presumption against guard railings within this report, there is clear evidence within this Borough that railings contribute to road safety by protecting pedestrians from vehicles, thus reducing the numbers of people killed or seriously injured. Railings also channel pedestrians to safe protected crossing facilities and protect pedestrians against ‘rushing’ to cross some of our most dangerous major roads. Although Haringey’s Streetscape Manual encourages to limit the amount of street furniture, it must however not be to the detriment of road safety.

It is difficult to quantify the amount of railing on a month by month basis since 2004. However the Council has invested £200,000 for 2006/2007 to deal with standardising our infrastructure furniture which included railings.

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.

ANSWER

The Community Centre has been the subject of two complaints regarding rat infestation, the first in August 2006, following a complaint from a local resident and subsequently in December 2006, following a complaint from Homes for Haringey.

The Community Centre was checked on 21st December 2006, and does not appear to be a source of rats. However, test baits have been laid to ensure that this is the case.

Other local private and Homes for Haringey addresses have also been treated following requests.

In relation to current workloads, at 21st December 2006, the breakdown was as follows:-

- Homes for Haringey have made 140 requests for individual treatment
- Of these 69% (96) have received a 1st treatment
- In 15% (21) of cases, contact with the tenant has not been able to be made, despite further telephone and letter contact
- 13% (18) have stated that they no longer require a treatment as the infestation no longer exists
- In total, 96% (135) of clients have been contacted
- 36% (50) have received a 2nd visit based upon treatment intervals.

There are no difficulties predicted for the Service and normal service responses are continuing. Historically, the demand over the Christmas and New Year holiday period is low and staffing levels are expected to be able to deal with both programmed work and emergency requests.

Also to advise, Homes for Haringey is going to make sure any holes in the Eastfield Road Centre will be proofed so that no rats can get in to the property.

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:

- Confirm the budget allocated to each park for this financial year?
- 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.

ANSWER

The following table identifies the Revenue/Capital budgets and spend for the 7 Green Flag Parks and other parks and open spaces managed by Recreation Services. However, it should be noted that the investment in relation to our 2006 Green Flag successes, was largely made in 2005/6, and that the spend in the current year will underpin our applications in 2007.

Parks Sites	06/07 Revenue	06/07 Capital	YTD Capital
Bruce Castle	£ 88,270.00	£ 31,500.00	£ 3,500.00
Albert Recreation Ground	£ 72,000.00	£ 7,000.00	£ -
Priory Park	£ 132,802.00	£ 12,500.00	£ -
Railway Fields	£ 33,000.00	£ 3,100.00	£ -
Downhills Park	£ 100,000.00	£ 65,000.00	£ 6,000.00

Stationers Park	£ 63,000.00	£ 29,400.00	£ -
Chapmans Green	£ 24,000.00	£ 3,000.00	£ 2,500.00
Other Parks Sites	£ 2,317,928.00	£2,543,000.00	£1,765,215.00
Total	£ 2,831,000.00	£2,694,500.00	£1,777,215.00

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.

ANSWER

Members will recall that I have always sought to keep Members informed of progress on the implementation of the Home Connections system. In line with this, she will recall that, at the last Council meeting, I advised that a potential implementation date was 27 November 2006, subject to any last minute IT related complications.

Those who have been closely involved will know that Home Connections is the final part of a series of three, linked, major projects of varying complexity and with significant, high-dependency interfaces. The three elements are the new lettings policy, approved by the Executive on 12 September 2006, the Re-registration process, and Home Connections itself. In parallel the housing service successfully delivered a range of other related initiatives including the launch of the new Prevention & Options Service in August, a new nominations agreement with our RSLs, the launch of the new Accredited Lettings programme etc as well as developing the new partnership arrangements with select RSLs, to be launched later this municipal year and securing the largest Housing Corporation funding programme for the next two years, amongst others.

The size of the Re-registration exercise, involving contact with more than 24,000 people on the old Housing Register, required the extensive use of large-scale scanning technology and significant software development in order to produce an accurate, current Housing Register, and involved 3 external providers as well as the Council. Despite all the pre-testing of systems which was undertaken, some delay did occur in the final production of the Register.

Since its inception, the overall project has been prudently monitored by the Housing Improvement Partnership Board in accordance with the Council's robust programme management arrangements, and to what were recognised as being very challenging timescales. The system was ready for launching on the 27th of November, but the advice received from the IT specialists indicated a small element of risk on certain aspects which could be reduced by a few more tests before launch.

The Board had to balance the requirement to implement the system and the need to deliver the best possible customer experience in the early stages of the Home Connections. Following information, advice and risk analysis by the Project team, (who, in the final stages, met on a daily basis), the Board came to the conclusion that to move the implementation date by two weeks, to the week commencing Monday 11th December 2006, was in the best interests of the people on the Housing Register able to bid for property, and of the Council itself.

I believe that the implementation of this most important chain of projects has been an outstanding success, will bring significant benefits to the people of Haringey, and reflects positively on both Housing Services and the Council itself.

Bearing in mind the magnitude and complexity of what was involved in this chain of projects, the lengthy process (almost a year of hard work) and the undoubted success of the end product, I believe that the decision to reduce any residual IT related risks (of disappointing the first users of the new service) by shifting the launch date of the final element by a few days, was fully justified, it indicates prudence and respect for the service users, and it hardly amounts to a resignation issue.

Finally we are still within the festive season and we all want to show good will. Perhaps it isn't too much to ask Cllr Harris and her colleagues, now that their alleged fears of a disaster, months of delay into the new year etc etc have been proved unfounded, to find the courage to admit that she was wrong and to congratulate the housing staff who worked so hard to deliver what by all accounts is a success story.

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?

ANSWER

1. *The Bridge NDC is an unincorporated association with a Management Board and the decision to adopt this governance arrangement was taken by the NDC Shadow Board (on which the Council is represented) prior to the Bridge NDC Board being*

formally constituted. The elected Partnership Board formally considered incorporation in a process which was facilitated by Eversheds and resolved at that time to retain the status. Any decisions on incorporation remain a matter for the Partnership Board.

- 2. The majority of the NDCs in the Country are unincorporated, that is 23 out of 39.*
- 3. The Bridge NDC has its accounts audited annually and it does not produce a set of separate audited accounts because the operational functions are run using the Council's processes.*

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?

ANSWER

The Council adopts standard commercial leases for shops, offices and industrial premises. Commercial leases are protected under landlord and Tenant Act 1954 whereby it gives commercial tenants (providing they are a business tenant) security of tenure rights, and the rights to renew there lease upon expiry of term. They are also entitled to compensation where Landlord requires vacant possession of there premises at the end of the lease term i.e. for redevelopment.

The Council will grant leases which are excluded from the LL and T Act 1954 Act and there will be several reasons as to why exclusion applies, for example redevelopment is proposed, the tenant does not appear to be of good financial balance, the need to grant short fixed term leases etc.

Tenancies at Will (TAW) are short term agreements, generally fixed for a certain period which can be easily terminated after the expiry of the term. TAW's do not have the benefit of the security provisions under the LL & T Act 1954. However, If a tenant under a TAW agreement has been "holding over" (continuous occupation after expiry of term) it can be construed that the tenant has protection and the benefit of the 1954 Act.

The following are current Commercial Tenants of Lymington Avenue:

11, 13, 14, 15, 19 and 21 Lymington are Vacant – Not available to re-let pending future redevelopment.

16 Lymington – Tenant in occupation under a Taw agreement.

17 Lymington – Tenant is holding over expired terms of a lease within the 1954 Act

18 Lymington - Tenant in occupation under a Taw agreement.

23/25 Lymington – Tenant in occupation under a Taw agreement.

10 Lymington – New Lease outside the 1954 Act – Not completed.

12 Lymington Avenue – Lease within 1954 Act.

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?

ANSWER

This option was considered and discussed during consultation on the introduction on both of these schemes. It was looked at in context of schemes already in operation across the Borough and costs of implementing and enforcing such a scheme.

The outcome of considerations was that a reduced charge for the first period of parking with incremental charges for longer periods was a more sustainable solution for Muswell Hill and Crouch End where demand for parking is intense.

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?

ANSWER

- i Yes, the building project is on schedule to complete in July 2007.*
- ii The business plan is being revised by the Board which is independent of the Council and is advised by the newly appointed management team. The Council has already agreed to provide a deficit subsidy of £200k per annum and this assumption remains in place.*
- iii The opening is scheduled for September 2007. All members will be advised of the date nearer the time.*

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?

ANSWER

The total number of pupils requesting a secondary school place at 4 September 2006 was 95. It should be remembered that this figure includes the applications received during the summer break which is a peak time. There are currently 44 pupils who are waiting to be offered places, but none of these dates back to September 2006. This compares with 106 pupils waiting for places at this time last year, so there has been a very significant improvement.

Haringey receives a large number of new arrivals each year, and at any point in time there will always be a number of pupils waiting for a place to become vacant. The position is monitored very closely to ensure that waiting times are kept to a minimum.

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Totals
<i>Awaiting offers as at 18.12.06</i>	0	0	0	44	0	44
<i>Awaiting offers as at 04.09.06</i>	0	0	16	46	33	95
<i>Awaiting offers as at 18.11.05</i>	0	14	25	46	21	106

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?

ANSWER

I attach a crystal report of applications received in the last 2 years for Myddleton Road, detailing the outcome and decision level (Appendix A).

The Council's current Planning Guidance pertaining to Myddleton Road is provided in the Council's adopted Unitary Development Plan and Supplementary Planning Guidance, and the Myddleton Road Neighbourhood Plan. The Council's Design and Conservation Team group has also drafted shop front design guidance for Myddleton Road, which was posted to traders in Myddleton Road in June 2006.

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

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

ANSWER

The winter maintenance service is provided under the Integrated Waste Management and Transport Contract by Haringey Accord Ltd. The season runs from 1st November each year to 31st March the following year.

The contractor is required to demonstrate readiness for the winter maintenance season prior to 1st November each year by;

- carrying out a demonstration to prove that the four gritting vehicles are fully operational and ready; and*
- checking and topping up all grit bins located around the borough.*

The winter maintenance service can be divided into two main activities. These are as follows.

1. Carriageway gritting.

Carriageway gritting is carried out almost entirely by mechanical means using road-going gritting vehicles. The area of highest activity each winter is carriageway gritting in relation to overnight frost, this is known in the contract as the Frost Patrol. A number of roads in the borough have been identified and prioritised for gritting upon forecast or formation of ice overnight. The roads prioritised to be treated during frost patrols are those where the highest risk to vehicular traffic exists, usually due to the gradient of roads. In a normal winter we would expect to carry out between 10 and 20 frost patrols.

In the event of snowfall that is lying, or a high confidence forecast of snowfall that will lie, a system of priority gritting is implemented, this is known in the contract as Post Salting. The borough's roads are divided into 3 three priority lists. Priority 1 roads are those roads with the heaviest traffic and would include all main roads and all roads carrying bus routes, these would be treated first. Once priority 1 roads have been completed and traffic can flow satisfactorily, priority 2 and then priority 3 roads are treated. In a normal winter we would expect to carry out up to five priority 1 treatments. Because severe weather does not often linger for long, we

would expect to carry out few priority 2 treatments and even fewer priority 3 treatments.

2. Footway gritting

Footway gritting is carried out almost entirely by manual means by hand-spreading grit. This activity is only carried out in the event of snowfall that is lying, or a high confidence forecast of snowfall that will lie. When this activity is required, normal street cleansing operations are suspended and the operational resource is redeployed to this task.

A system of town centre-based footway gritting is in place aimed at treating locations which experience high pedestrian levels. There are a total of 15 town centres identified for this activity. Consideration would also be given to carrying out footway gritting around schools, hospitals, GP practices, bus stops and other perceived high risk locations away from town centre gritting locations. Decisions on gritting these locations would be dependent upon factors such as the day of the week, whether schools were on holidays and how long severe weather was being forecast to continue.

The contract also allows for a snow clearance service. This would be implemented only under very severe weather conditions of some duration where treatment by gritting would not be sufficient to keep carriageways and footways free of snow. In such conditions it is likely that normal services such as refuse collection could not be carried out and the resource usually assigned to this task would be redeployed to clear snow. Implementation of this service is only usually expected to happen rarely, perhaps once in 20 years.

Gritting routes and priorities are kept under review and altered where necessary to ensure continued relevance. Red routes formally part of Haringey's gritting schedules have now been removed as they are now the responsibility of TfL. Roads on new bus routes have been added to schedules in recent years as these new routes have been rolled out.

It should be recognised that there is a finite resource to deal with winter maintenance and in the event of sudden and/or severe snowfall the Council will not be able to guarantee to maintain roads in a completely safe condition at all times.

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?

ANSWER

The provision of adequate accessible primary care support is essential to the wellbeing of the whole community. We have liaised with Haringey TPCT help ensure this is addressed. HTPCT have reassured officers that they are committed to ensuring that there are GP services that meet local need across Haringey, and to this end, are looking at a number of sites where GP and other community health services can be developed that will meet the needs of Haringey into the future. I acknowledge that specific provision was eagerly awaited and confirm that it is still a priority.

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?

ANSWER

I would be happy to apologise should there have been any untimely delay on the part of the Benefits and Local Taxation Service in amending records. However, without the specific details relating to this case, I am unable to comment further. The Acting Director of Finance is seeking this information separately from you and will ensure a response is sent to you once he has received those details.

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?

ANSWER

The Council currently monitors the requirements of all s106 planning obligations and employs a dedicated officer to carry out this work. Planning obligations are logged, monitored and accounted for in order to provide information for interested parties. The monitoring systems and processes in place are transparent and are explained in more detail in the Council's adopted supplementary planning guidance note 10A "The negotiation, Management and Monitoring of Planning Obligations". Also, the Council have recently adopted a planning Code of Practice on "Employment and Training" which sets out the requirements for construction training for local residents when considering planning applications and the Code of Practice encourages

developers to use all reasonable endeavours to give local businesses a free and fair opportunity to compete for contracts, which involves giving opportunities for local suppliers and businesses to tender for any works.

Contrary to the premise of the question, the Council did not require that St James ensure that 20% of the workforce for the New River Village development be residents of Haringey, as such a requirement would be illegal and contrary to the equalities policies vigorously pursued by this Council. Instead we required, in the legal agreement in respect of New River Village, that St James “use reasonable endeavours to procure not less than 20% of the onsite workforce from local residents”.

The Council, with the co-operation of St James, does monitor this and I can confirm local residents have been employed. It is the Council’s view that St James has used reasonable endeavours to procure not less than 20% of the onsite workforce from local residents and therefore has complied with their obligation.

As you are aware the decent homes programme is being procured by Homes for Haringey on behalf of the Council. The selection process is now in its advanced stages and we are down to the last 8 contractors with a view to appointing between 2 and 4. As part of the selection process the final 8 contractors were interviewed earlier this week. They were all asked specifically about local labour targets & initiatives and the legacies they would aspire to leave behind after the programme. Even though the selection process is still ongoing all the answers we received to these questions were very encouraging and all indicated similar aspirations to employ in the region of 20% of their workforce locally.

The successful contractors, when appointed, will work closely with other local employment initiatives such as construction web and jobcentre plus in order to achieve the targets set. This target will not be legally enforceable under the terms of the contracts but best practice within the industry and the track record of the contractors being considered suggests that this is a realistic target and can be achieved. Progress against the target will be monitored regularly through the key performance indicators set for the contracts. “

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.

ANSWER

The consultation feedback from the Highgate Station CPZ review is presently being analysed. It is too early to assume that there will be an extension to the existing zone and that a separate zone is to be considered. I will however note your comments and consider them at the appropriate time.

Any suggested changes to existing parking bays in Southwood Lane will be considered as part of the review.

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?

ANSWER

The recent appeal decision which dismissed two schemes for four houses on this backland site can only be seen as a decision relating to this site. It is well established planning practice that each site must be dealt with on its merits. Nonetheless , this decision can be seen as a material consideration for future applications on other backlands site in particular within conservation areas. However there have been other appeals on backlands which have been allowed such as Haringey Park and Linzee Road. It would not be appropriate to alter planning policy based on one appeal decision as the Inspector refused the appeal scheme based the current UDP, therefore the current policies would be sufficient to refuse other similar schemes.

In relation to this site (Cecil Park), whether or not the council entertain any future application would depend on how similar there are in relation to the appeals dismissed. There are powers available to the local planning authorities to refuse to deal with planning applications which are similar to those dismissed on appeal. However it maybe difficult not to deal with a smaller scheme of two houses. However, the Inspector has placed some important hurdles over the future redevelopment such as the access, loss of garages, impact on amenity and the conservation area. All these factors would need to be addressed by any future application and in any decision to deal with future cases.

No doubt the appeal decision can also incorporated into the Crouch End Conservation Area Appraisal which would also assist in protecting the

backland site in the long term. This is important as the power not to determine to deal with similar cases lasts for only two years.

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?

ANSWER

On 1 November 2006, Councillor Bull, Chair of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee, wrote to the Secretary of State for Health, the Rt Hon Patricia Hewitt MP, to make representations about the current funding difficulties for the health service in Haringey .

I have also written to the Secretary of State for Health raising the same concerns subsequent to the reply received by Councillor Bull. I am still awaiting a reply to this correspondence.

I have spoken to representatives of the PCT on a number of occasions, for example, on 27 October the Chief Executive and myself met with Richard Sumray and Tracey Baldwin to discuss budgetary pressures.

I also prepared key questions for discussion with health ministers at the Labour Party Conference in September 2006. I also raised the health funding issues affecting Haringey at the Leaders' Committee of London Councils on 12 December 2006.

The financial situation of the PCT was also discussed at the Well-being Partnership on 14 December and will be discussed further in February 2007.

In addition, senior officers from the PCT and Social Services met to discuss priorities and finances in mid-December 2006. Senior Social Services officers do not anticipate that the funding issues related to the PCT will have a substantial impact on social care in 07/08.