

COUNCIL QUESTIONS – 19th February 2007

Oral Question 1 – To the Executive Member for Children & Young People Housing from Councillor Adje

Could the Executive Member for Children & Young People outline the progress made by Haringey schools in view of the recent release of educational statistics by the government?

Oral Question 2 – To the Executive Member for Environment and Conservation from Cllr Newton

Can he explain why the Council decided not to conduct a full public consultation over its new parking charges proposals?

Oral Question 3 – To the Executive Member for Crime and Community Safety from Councillor Patel

Could the Executive Member for Crime and Community Safety explain the implications of the Mayor of London's budget for policing in Haringey?

Oral Question 4 – To the Executive Member for Crime and Community Safety from Councillor Alexander

How she arrived at the figure of only 1.3% of the Borough's CCTV cameras being out of action when other evidence indicates this is a much more serious problem?

Oral Question 5 – To the Executive Member for Health and Social Services and from Councillor Dogus

Could the Executive Member for Social Services and Health report on the success of the Supporting People programme?

Oral Question 6 – To the Executive Member for Enterprise and Regeneration from Councillor Hoban:

Does she believe that the council is providing adequate support to businesses based on the Rangemoor Industrial Estate in Tottenham?

Oral Question 7 – To the Executive Member for Children & Young People from Councillor Egan

The academic year 2006/7 is a Year of Action on Sustainable Development for Schools. Could the Executive Member for Children & Young People outline how Haringey Schools have met this challenge so far?

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

What is the current strength of Police Officers in Haringey and how many of these are expected to retire in the next two years?

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

Could the Executive Member for Environment and Conservation comment on the impact of the 'Streets for People' project, particularly with regard to the Tower Gardens Estate?

Oral Question 10 - To the Executive Member for Environment and Conservation from Councillor Williams

Can he provide an update on any proposals to expand CPZs in Highgate.

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Written Question 1 – To the Executive Member for Children and Young People from Councillor Engert :

Given that local authorities have had a duty from 8 January 2007 to provide positive activities for young people, how is Haringey going to deliver this programme in the West of the Borough. Given that the only youth club that the Council runs in Muswell Hill has had a history of closures including during most of the last summer holiday and is currently only offering two evening sessions a week. Further, how will the Council fulfil its duty to consult with young people in the West of the Borough to ensure what they offer is what the young people want?

Written Question 2 – To the Executive Member for Environment and Conservation from Councillor Beacham:

Will the council work with the relevant authorities regarding the change in phasing of the Spouter's Corner traffic lights which is causing gridlock on Lordship Lane and Station Road, and explain how this situation arose?

Written Question 3 – To the Executive Member for Crime and Community Safety from Councillor Gorrie:

Following this Council's press statement on 19th December 2006 that Safer Neighbourhood Teams would be able to use new 'speed guns' please could clarification be given on:

- a) When did the safer neighbourhood teams receive these new handheld speed cameras?
- b) When did they receive the training to use these new devices?
- c) How many of the handheld speed cameras have they got?
- d) When did they start using them?
- e) How much did they cost?
- f) Have they now got to be resent to the manufacturer to be recalibrated due to the time taken for the safer neighbourhood teams to actually use the devices and what new cost will this entail?

Written Question 4 – To the Executive Member for Organisational Development and Performance from Councillor Wilson:

What was the total number of internal flights taken on council business in each of the last five calendar years by: a); councillors and b); officers.

Written Question 5 – To the Executive Member for Environment and Conservation from Cllr Newton:

What measures are being taken by the Council to stop the fraudulent use of the blue badge parking scheme.

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

What are the figures for stop and search in Haringey by ethnic group and by age for the last two years; what statistics are available for stop and searches conducted by Ward Safer Neighbourhood Teams and if she could provide this information.

Written Question 7 – To the Executive Member for Organisational Development and Performance from Cllr Whyte:

1. Does the council not have a comprehensive record of all the databases it holds?
2. What protocols do individual businesses have to adhere to before accessing extracts from databases?
3. What are the individual business units?

Written Question 8 – To the Executive Member for Health and Social Services from Cllr Baker:

1. How much has the Council spent on consultants in each of the last four years?
2. What is the current (a) hourly cost to the council of delivering ordinary in-house care services (b) hourly charge to recipients of ordinary in-house care services (who pay the full charge), and (c) what would the increase in charge be if any subsidy was removed and recipients paid the full charge.

Written Question 9 – To the Executive Member for Environment and Conservation from Cllr Edge:

When does the Executive Member intend to review the last (2006) extension of the Finsbury Park Controlled Parking Zone; and will he assure residents that he will not extend the Finsbury Park Zone again, until after this last extension is reviewed.

Written Question 10 – To the Executive Member for Finance from Cllr Butcher:

If she will set out the cost in terms of staff time in Human Resources and Finance departments of administering deductions from payroll to the Labour Party from Councillors pay; and if she will set out the reasons why Haringey taxpayers are paying for this party-political task to take place.

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

- 1) How many and which projects are currently running late in Childrens' Services for delivery of buildings or provision of a children's service?
- 2) Please list all building and services projects that are running late with reasons and solutions.
- 3) Please itemise what has been learnt from failures in project management. How will this information be incorporated into real practice to ensure less repetition in terms of delayed completion and overruns?

- 4) What alternative provision for childcare is made when projects are delayed that affect our young people, parents/carers?

Written Question 12 – To the Executive Member for Children and Young People from Cllr Portess:

Following the news before Christmas that the Blanche Nevile School had received an excellent report from its last Ofsted inspection, will the Executive Member give an assurance that the Council will maintain Blanche Nevile's distinctive identity and separate existence.

Written Question 13 – To the Executive Member for Community Involvement from Cllr Beynon:

Can she outline the current status of development plans for Muswell Hill Library. In the meantime, the library is in a poor state of repair. What levels of funds have been committed to maintain the current fabric of the building until any redevelopment work begins?

Written Question 14 – To the Executive Member for Children and Young People from Cllr Bloch:

A recent meeting of nursery providers expressed their serious misgivings to Haringey officials about changes to the administration of the Nursery Education Grant, with several providers saying they could be forced to leave the scheme, which would be a detriment to early years' provision in the borough. How will Haringey address the concerns of these providers to help ensure that subsidised nursery education is as widely available as possible?

Written Question 15 – To the Executive Member for Housing from Cllr Harris:

Did he not give a promise to all Haringey's council tenants and leaseholders in 2005, during the ALMO consultation, that their homes would be improved by 2010, and can he outline how he is going to explain to Haringey's tenants and leaseholders why they are going to now have to wait a further three years in some cases for 30 year old kitchens and bathrooms to be replaced?

Written Question 16 – To the Executive Member for Environment and Conservation from Cllr Williams:

Regarding the consultations on CPZs in Highgate, if he would:

1. Set out in writing the timetable for the remaining stages of the consultation, covering statutory consultation, executive decision and implementation for any extensions to both schemes.

2. Set out the reason why the process is taking so long.

Written Question 17 – To the Executive Member for Environment and Conservation from Cllr Davies:

Can he provide a complete breakdown of street cleaning per ward in Haringey including the frequency of cleaning for each street?

Written Question 18 – To the Executive Member for Environment and Conservation from Cllr Alexander:

1. How many road traffic schemes (pedestrian and traffic signals) in Haringey are running behind schedule,
2. What action has Haringey taken with TFL (and when) to get this backlog of work carried out.
3. The Arena Shopping Mall area of Green Lanes and Endymion Road in Harringay ward is one scheme in particular where pedestrian's lives are being put at risk thorough a lack of appropriate crossing. Are there any plans to increase pedestrian safety in this area?

Written Question 19 – To the Executive Member for Environment and Conservation from Cllr Hoban:

Can he please confirm whether Thames Water is currently maintaining the mains water pressure in the borough of Haringey at the level recommended by Ofwat to ensure sufficient pressure is available for the delivery of essential services, e.g. the fire service?

Written Question 20 – To the Executive Member for Environment and Conservation from Cllr Reid:

Given the scale of the impact on residents and the considerable amount of continued construction in the area that both Thames Water and St James are engaged in (such as the Treatment Plant & potentially Hornsey Depot site) can the Executive Member please confirm how the background and causes of the flooding incident at the New River Development on 10th January have been and are being investigated. Can the Executive Member confirm that the details of the investigation and its findings will be made public together with clear lessons learnt and actions taken to avoid any repeat.

Written Question 21– To the Executive Member for Environment and Conservation from Cllr Oakes:

With regard to CPZ consultation:

1. Why Haringey is apparently still using an address list which does not contain one third of the housing units in Bounds Green Ward
2. Why at least one road in Bounds Green and Richmond Road has been omitted from the scheme when residents have informed the Council that 27/40 houses there actually want a CPZ whilst the next road has a CPZ. While 100 yards away two roads have been forcibly included in a CPZ area they have totally rejected in spite of repeated (unanswered) letters to the Council?

Written Question 22 - To the Executive Member for Environment and Conservation from Cllr Oatway:

- (a) Please confirm whether the council's insurance cover extends to funding the cost of replacing trees which are severely damaged through inclement weather?
- (b) With regard to damage sustained by two trees based on the Triangle public open space sited at the junction of Palace Gates Road and Crescent Road in Alexandra ward, which were blown down in the recent storm, could he please confirm the proposed timetable for replacement and the funding source.

Written Question 23 - To ask Executive Member for Environment and Conservation from Cllr Winskill:

Cllr Haley will recall that the introduction of advertising banners on the Borough's lampposts was greeted by many complaints from residents and conservation groups protesting at the impact that these items would have on the look of our Borough and possible implications for safety on our roads.

Will he tell us:

- How many letters of complaint have been received by Haringey about these banners?
- How many sites there are in the Borough and give their exact location?
- What are the criteria for selecting suitable sites and ruling out unsuitable sites?
- Have there been any structural problems with lamp columns as a result of the display of these banners?
- How many have been removed at the instigation of Haringey officers and the reasons why?
- How long is the borough's contract with the agency and are there any default clauses?
- What is the annual income to the Borough from this contract?
- How much officer and staff time is taken up in monitoring the contract and what is the value of that time?

- What are the planning regulations concerning this form of advertising, and is permission required within conservation areas?

Written Question 24 – To the Executive Member for Housing from Cllr Demirci:

How many complaints and members enquiries to Homes for Haringey are dealt with within the 10 working day time limit? How many are dealt with in 4 weeks, how many in 6 and many have had to wait more than 6 weeks for a response to a complaint or query?

Written Question 25 – To the Executive Member for Children and Young People from Cllr Hare:

Following the introduction of the new Admissions Code of Practice, would the Council, as Admissions Authority, consider proposing new admissions criteria for oversubscribed schools, for example, random allocation or banding. Would the Executive Member provide details of any changes to admissions criteria that they have considered.

Written Question 26 – To the Executive Member for Housing from Cllr Rainger:

How many family sized houses (3-4 bedrooms) belonging to the council are lying empty and in a state of disrepair and what is the council doing to remedy this bearing in mind the acute pressure on this type of housing in the borough.

Written Question 27 - To the Executive Member for Environment and Conservation from Cllr Mughal:

Can the Executive Member explain why there will be no warden service available to ensure the health and safety of park users and the nursery, at the park in Noel Park, during the football sessions planned for the half term holidays in February?