

COUNCIL QUESTIONS – 19th February 2007

Oral Question 1 – To the Executive Member for Children and Young People 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:

Could the Executive Member for Crime and Community Safety explain 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 and 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?

ANSWER

We have a programme of Positive Activities for Young People which is provided in the school holidays and after school. These allow young people to access and experience a wide range of activities. Haringey has also successfully applied for additional funds through the Summer University programme which will enable an extension of both the number and range of positive activities offered. This initiative will be carried out in partnership with the Neighbourhood Team. The positive activities programme is available to young people across the Borough and provision is mapped to ensure coverage.

The Youth Centre in Muswell Hill has experienced staffing difficulties recently. The improvement of generic youth work is a key focus for the Youth Service and is included in the Service's Post Inspection Action Plan and good

progress has been made. Following the resignation of the Muswell Hill Youth Centre leader, a new member of staff will be appointed.

A full consultation exercise is due to be carried out with young people led by the Corporate Consultation Team. The intention is to find out more about what activities young people across Haringey want to access both after school and during the holidays. The survey is due to take place before Easter and the results will be used to inform planning and provision. The Youth Council also provides a helpful mechanism for consultation and has been used to gather young people's views on a wide range of topics.

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?

ANSWER

The Council continues to work closely with TfL's signal authority in the operation and monitoring of all signals in Haringey.

The junction of Lordship Lane and Station Road experienced delays during December 2006 and January 2007.

This was a result of BT lines that feed information to the computerised controller failing and thus affecting the timing of the lights.

The Council reported this to TfL, who are solely responsible for the repairs, as soon as we were aware of the problem. The fault has now been rectified but took some time because of the complexity of the damage

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?

ANSWER

- a) The cameras are owned by Haringey Council's Road Safety Team and not by the Police or Safer Neighbourhood teams. The cameras are kept by the Council officers and the Police attend and collect/use them.
- b) Police officers were trained in their use in September 2006, by the MPS's Traffic Division, and are now able to use them on road safety issues in areas where this has been flagged up during consultation with communities. The Safer Neighbourhood Teams use these hand-held speed cameras in wards where the local community have raised their concern regarding road safety.
- c) The Police do not own any of these cameras but the Road Safety Team has two.
- d) The Police officers were trained in September and the cameras have been regularly used since that time by these trained officers across Hornsey, West Green, St Ann's and White Hart Lane wards in particular. They have been primarily been used near schools and advice is then given to motorists who are exceeding the speed limit as a training/education tool about road safety. Plans are underway to consider further innovative means to utilise these cameras to assist in road safety improvements.
- e) Each hand-held camera cost around £4k. The Police are not currently planning to buy their own hand-held cameras as at present this is not necessary; no difficulties have arisen with the Police and the Council's Road Safety Team sharing the use of the current cameras.
- f) The cameras were and have continued to be used since very soon after their purchase. It is recognised that these cameras will need regular recalibration to ensure they remain accurate. This recalibration will take place once a year at a cost of approximately £150 per camera.

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.

ANSWER

The Council has not maintained a formal system for the recording of this data in the specific format requested. From a review of all available documentation in respect of attendance by members and officers at events outside of London, the figures over the last 5 years are:

- a) Councillors: Nil

b) Officers: 33

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?

ANSWER

Information on lost and stolen Blue Badges is being shared with the Police. The Police are working alongside Council parking attendants in a number of wards in an effort to identify Blue Badge misuse and locate any lost or stolen badges that are still in use. Since these operations began in June/July 2006, some 30-35 arrests have been made resulting in 20 cautions and a number of prosecutions. Those cases already heard at court have resulted in the perpetrators being fined. The success of these operations depends on joint working between the Council and the Police.

Enquiries from other boroughs in relation to misuse are investigated and information provided as appropriate.

The Parking Service is looking into ways of improving badge security. Options, such as, the addition of a hologram or barcode to the Blue Badge are currently being investigated. Also under consideration is the possibility of making information about lost and stolen badges available to parking attendants on their handheld computers.

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?

ANSWER

Attached to this answer is an Appendix containing the statistics regarding persons stopped and searched by Haringey Police since April 2004 to the end of January 2007, broken down by Home Office ethnicity categories. The age of the person involved in a stop and search is not always included in the report thereby rendering any statistics regarding this to be invalid.

With regard to statistics of stop and search for the Safer Neighbourhood Teams, this information is not readily to hand.

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

Does the council not have a comprehensive record of all the databases it holds?

What protocols do individual businesses have to adhere to before accessing extracts from databases?

What are the individual business units?

ANSWER

The council does have a list of all of the systems in use at Haringey and their purpose; however a database can take many forms, both manual and electronic. As well as business systems, records can be stored in spreadsheets, tables and word-processing documents and therefore cannot be controlled or easily identified. In the case of address information the council has a land and property gazetteer that serves to provide up to date records of all properties in the borough. This can be used for either manual or automatic synchronisation with those systems that require addresses to be updated.

Following the implementation of IT Services protocols, standards and policies have been developed in an attempt to limit what business units can do with information. These policies and standards take into account best practice (BSI standards), legislation (Data protection and freedom of information act) and technology platforms. When using the core systems such as SAP, CIVICA, iWorld, CRM, Framework-I, it is easier to control extracts as these usually require some development and would be undertaken under change control.

All business units are likely to use a database of some kind to store records related to the particular service that they provide. In the case of address information the list below shows the main users of the associated databases.

Children's Service

Framework I	Social care case management and care package purchasing
Impulse	School admissions
Integris/Centris	School pupil data
Early Years	Child care

All business units

SAP	Corporate Finance, HR and Procurement
-----	---------------------------------------

Libraries

Talis	Library system
-------	----------------

Liesure

Torex	Leisure system
-------	----------------

Customer Services

Siebel Customer Relationship Management including call centres and CSCs

Housing Management

Ohms Housing Management system

Adults Services

Fairer Charging services Calculation of client contribution for social care

Planning Enforcement

M3PP Management of enforcement activities (eg licences)

iLAP Planning and business control

Property Services

Manhattan Asset and facilities management

Supporting People

SPOCC Management of "Supporting people"

Benefits and local taxation

IWorld Benefits and Local taxation system

Youth offending Team

YOIS Youth Offending case management

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.

ANSWER

1. How much has the Council spent on consultants in each of the last four years?

- 1 (a) Spend logged on financial system against Consultants:

	£
2006/07	233,457
2005/06	275,873
2004/05	274,390
2003/04	239,716
Total	1,023,436

- 1 (b) Details of spend via contracts let by Contracts Service since July 2005 as follows:

Social Services 10 contracts at a total cost of £266.3k
Housing 2 contracts at a total cost of £85.5k

This averages £26k per contract and includes 2 x contracts for interim cover (Assistant Directors).

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.

- (a) Hourly cost to the council of delivering ordinary in-house care services.

The unit cost for in-house home care is currently estimated at £27 per hour. The unit cost for in-house day care varies according to client group up to £69 per session. The unit cost for in-house residential care is currently estimated at £527 per week.

- (b) Hourly charge to recipients of ordinary in-house care services (who pay the full charge).

Recipients of in-house home care are currently charged a flat rate of £10 per hour. Recipients of in-house day care are currently charged

up to £30 per day. In-house residential care home residents are currently charged £388.50 per week.

- (c) What would the increase in charge be if any subsidy was removed and recipients paid the full charge.

For recipients of in-house home care the charge would increase by £17 per hour. Charges for in-house residential care would increase by £138.50 per week.

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?

ANSWER

The review of Finsbury Park CPZ extension will be considered when developing the highways works plan for 2007/8. I can confirm no further extension will take place until a review has been undertaken.

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.

ANSWER

Tax payers do not pay. The Labour Group is charged 2% of the total levy to cover administration costs. This is the case with all such at source deductions eg: Trade Union membership.

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

How many and which projects are currently running late in Children's Services for delivery of buildings or provision of a children's service?

Please list all building and services projects that are running late with reasons and solutions.

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?

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

ANSWER

Projects

The following projects would be considered late in some respect, though many have run tightly to target during the construction phase. The most common cause of delay is where the project takes longer at the design stage. This is due to the need to agree detailed designs and to ensure that designs are affordable. Delays also occur when unexpected factors come to light during the building works.

To take the well-publicised example of Tetherdown phase 1: the start of the project was delayed due to protracted discussions with the school about designs and then further re-design when tenders proved unacceptably high. This has resulted in a predicted delay in the planned date of admission of some reception pupils.

- **Tetherdown Primary Expansion Phase 1** - We expect that this project will complete too late to enable full occupation in September 2007. We are aiming to mitigate this delay by agreeing to early occupation of certain completed areas of the Phase 1 development ahead of contract completion date. We are progressing this with the contractor and the school who are identifying their preferred accommodation requirements that could be occupied ahead of schedule. Contract completion date 2 October 2007
- **Bounds Green Children's Centre** – Delayed by the process of federation of Bounds Green Infant and Junior and the delayed appointment of new Head teacher. The revised projected construction completion and opening date is June 2008.
- **Rokesley Infant & Nursery Expansion** – The completion of construction works have been delayed by 2 months and is presently projected to complete March 07. The school agreed to re-phase construction works to minimise any disruption to delivery of the school curriculum.
- **North Harringay New Kitchen** – The construction works have been delayed by 2 months due to unforeseen additional works to drainage and substructure. The projected completion date is end of February 2007.
- **South Harringay Children's Centre** – The project is at outline design stage. There has been a delay of 1 month in completion of the feasibility study due to further reconciliation of the initial cost estimates for the various options. We are still projecting completion of the project within the overall programme milestone of March 2008.
- **Stroud Green Children's Centre** – The main construction works were completed in January 2007, a delay of 2 months to the programmed construction period. This was due to a combination of loss of key personnel and subsequent inadequate replacement resources by the lead designer. Also, the poor performance by the main construction contractor at the latter stages of construction period on site contributed to

the overall delay. We do not anticipate incurring any additional project costs for the delay and are taking action in relation to designer and contractor performance, in conjunction with the corporate procurement unit.

List all building and services projects that are running late with reasons and solutions

As above

What has been learnt from failures in project management

As the above details show, most delays cannot be attributed to any fault in project management practice. However we are not complacent and continue to strive for the highest standards in this challenging discipline. Projects are managed, monitored and delivered in accordance with Haringey Council's Project Management Framework and procedure guidance. Also, performance by the project resources (design consultants and construction contractors) is monitored, measured and reviewed by project managers and Corporate Procurement. Though risks are identified, monitored and reviewed at inception and during project delivery, not all mitigating actions taken can prevent delays to projects. Though lessons learnt during project delivery and at reviews can mitigate risks for the remaining project delivery and future projects.

Alternative provision for childcare

In most cases this has not proved an issue. At Coldfall, where there was a late unexpected delay, childcare provision was laid on at very short notice due to excellent teamwork between the school, Children and Young People's Service staff and the Council's customer services, who kept parents informed. If the 30 children start late at Tetherdown, provision will be set up in consultation with the school and the families concerned.

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.

ANSWER

Blanche Nevile School was inspected by OfSTED in December 2006 and was found to be a good school with outstanding features. The staff and governors of the school have worked in partnership to ensure that the pupils receive a high quality education and have access to high quality learning experiences throughout the full age range of the school. Opportunities for inclusion with the

co-located schools of Highgate Primary and Fortismere Secondary Schools are sought and maintained with good effect.

Nevertheless over the last few years the school has experienced falling rolls, for example in 2002/03 the school roll was 85 and in the current year this has dropped to 63 '.Increasing numbers of children and young people with hearing impairment are now educated in mainstream schools. Many have benefited from new medical treatment to improve hearing, for example cochlea transplants. We shall need to continue to monitor the school rolls.

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?

ANSWER

Current status of development plans

The consultation in relation to the redevelopment of Muswell Hill Library has been completed. Responses to the proposals were largely positive, with 93 questionnaires returned to the library. The 93 expressed the following opinions:

- | | | |
|--|----|----|
| • Very positive | 39 | |
| • Positive, with reservations | 31 | |
| • Not very keen | | 14 |
| • Very negative | | 7 |
| • No boxes ticked, request for more info | 2 | |

The overall consensus was very positive. Members of the public are excited about the proposed developments of Muswell Hill Library. The public's concerns are related primarily to plans to include a restaurant and the need for Muswell Hill Library to retain its historic charm. A Project Manager has now been assigned to the development from the Property Services Department.

What levels of funds have been committed to maintain the current fabric of the building until any redevelopment work begins?

It would not be cost effective to undertake major remedial work on the Library at this stage, but any Health and Safety issues are addressed using funds from the Libraries, Archives and Museum Service's repair and maintenance budget.

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?

ANSWER

The new DfES Code of Practice for the administration of the Nursery Education Grant (NEG) has raised many concerns for a number of private providers. These concerns have been passed on by Haringey, and many other local authorities, to senior officials and regional advisers for the DfES. Haringey is seeking to put in place a new contract for providers, which addresses many of their concerns. However there is a danger that a small number of providers may opt out of the NEG thus reducing the number of free nursery education places available in the borough. We will continue to lobby the DfES through our Regional Adviser for the Foundation Stage and the link person for the Pathfinder programme. At the same time we are advising providers to continue to work with us and to tell parents where they can access NEG places if they cannot provide them.

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?

ANSWER

When the council was consulting with the residents about stock options it had explained that the setting up of an ALMO was the only realistic option at the time for securing the necessary resources for bringing all its rented stock up to the government's Decent Homes Standard, within the target set at the time by the government (ie by the 2010/11 municipal year).

Following the residents' endorsement of this approach, the council has proceeded setting up the Homes for Haringey (now coming up to its first anniversary), submitting a bid for the necessary resources to the government and preparing the ground for achieving the DHS target and the required 2 stars rating.

The government has not yet announced its decisions on the bids for DHS resources by new ALMOs. Assuming that the announcement is on its way, we need to ensure that arrangements are in place to deliver the significant capital works involved and also to secure a min. 2 stars performance (to release the extra resources). These are facts that have been extensively advertised to all tenants and leaseholders, consistently throughout the last 3 years.

We and H4H have been working hard on both these issues and progress to date is in accordance with our plans.

Stock condition surveys have been progressed, detailed costings and plans are being developed, framework contracts with contractors, designers and other consultants have been decided already and in-house expertise beefed up in anticipation of the go ahead being given within the next year or so. All these are taking place in full consultation with tenants and leaseholders representatives, who play a significant role in all the aspects and are fully aware of all the issues involved.

In parallel significant work has been done in preparing for the Best Value inspections (who will determine the star rating of H4H), including mock inspections (by the Housing Quality Network), indicative inspections (by the Audit Commission) and detailed plans across the board, in a determined effort to achieve the required 2 stars rating as early as possible (we are determined to avoid the situation faced by some ALMOs in the past, which required a number of attempts before securing 2 stars).

All in all the council has done everything in its power to ensure that it can deliver the DHS plan within the planned timescales and until now it is progressing on all fronts in accordance with these plans.

However it is important to remember that there are also some factors involved which are beyond the council's control and which may impact on the timescales involved.

The government in the last few months has announced that it is considering extending the 2010/11 deadline for authorities to achieve the DHS and is consulting on proposals to spread the government grants to LAs for this work accordingly, over an extra one or two years. No decisions have been confirmed as yet. If that is the final decision of the government, then councils like Haringey, who depend on these grants to achieve 100% DHS across their stock, would have to adjust their plans accordingly. Again the tenants and leaseholders representatives involved in the work are fully aware and these issues are being discussed regularly in the well attended Residents Fora of H4H.

Finally a small clarification, to avoid any misunderstandings. As we have widely and repeatedly explained to everyone involved, the replacement of old and inadequate bathrooms and kitchens under this initiative applies only to the tenanted properties (leaseholders are by law responsible for internal improvements to their properties). Although we are considering requests by some leaseholders to make provisions for willing leaseholders to buy in into the relevant programmes (and thus benefit from the economies of scale involved), no final decisions have been made yet.

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.

ANSWER

1. The timetable for the proposed Highgate CPZ (Zone B) is as follows:

- Statutory Consultation is due to commence in April 2007.
- Report to the Executive outlining representations made from interested parties is in the forward plan for June 2007.
- Implementation will be subject to the decision taken by the Executive. If the decision is to proceed the scheme will be operational in July/August 2007.

2. The process has taken this length of time due to the extensive consultation process, which started with an informal consultation exercise in October 2006 and will end with statutory consultation in April 2007.

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?

ANSWER

A street sweeping schedule is in place which residents can look up via the Haringey Council website. This tells councillors and residents which day(s) their roads are swept.

Street sweeping takes place on all public streets in the borough and frequency is based on need. Currently, the schedule is set up on an area assembly basis, however, I will arrange for officers to manually group the street sweeping schedule into wards and provide you with the information in the coming weeks.

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

How many road traffic schemes (pedestrian and traffic signals) in Haringey are running behind schedule?

What action has Haringey taken with TfL (and when) to get this backlog of work carried out?

The Arena Shopping Mall area of Green Lanes and Endymion Road in Haringey ward is one scheme in particular where pedestrian's lives are being put at risk through a lack of appropriate crossing. Are there any plans to increase pedestrian safety in this area?

ANSWER

During the tail end of 2005/06, TfL's signal authority fell behind its London programme which impacted on Haringey as well as other London authorities.

The signal schemes that have experienced delay in Haringey are:

- (a) Traffic signal upgrade at the junction of Muswell Hill and Priory Road. (The scheme was originally programmed for 2005/06).

Action:

The works commenced on 11 January 2007 and are due for completion by the end of March. During this period, temporary signals will be operating at the junction.

- (b) Traffic signal upgrade at the junction of Endymion Road and Green Lanes.

Action:

The upgrade will optimise the timing and phasing of the signals and also include the provision of a pedestrian phase. The works are programmed to commence at the beginning of March 2007.

The action taken to date has been the realignment of all signal works programmes together with new target dates. Delivery in line with these new target dates will be closely monitored by the Council and TfL.

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?

ANSWER

This is a matter for Thames Water, as it is Thames Water who are responsible for water pressure throughout London and they have provided the following response:

The Victorian Mains Replacement upgraded water supply network is designed so that the pressure will be as good as or better than the current pressure under year 2030 water supply demands. One of the key outputs of the design and construction of the upgraded water supply network is to factor

into the design the requirements of fire flows for both statutory fire hydrants and private fire mains.

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?

ANSWER

The water mains burst at the New River Development (St James) happened on private property. I can confirm however that Thames Water has appointed a specialist consultant to carry out an investigation to the cause of the burst.

When the findings of the investigations are known I will update you.

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?

ANSWER

1. The Highways Group use the street index provided by Electoral Services to provide the addresses within a specified area for consultation purposes. I find it difficult to believe that this list does not contain one third of the housing units in the Bounds Green Ward. However, if you can provide me with any specific examples I will investigate the matter further.
2. Eleanor Road and Richard Road were omitted from phase two of the consultation process following feedback received from residents during phase one. Although there was a petition received from some residents

of Richmond Road, which supported inclusion, the Council gives greater weighting to responses received via the consultation document. Therefore, in this case the documented responses received showed a majority against inclusion. No further representation has been received from Eleanor Road requesting inclusion. However, as part of the statutory consultation process the Council will duly consider any further representations to the proposed scheme.

I assume that the two roads you refer to as being forcibly included in the CPZ are Manor Road and Thorold Road. Due to concerns that these roads would suffer from displacement parking the Council has given residents a further opportunity to consider whether or not to be included within the scheme. Additional leaflets were distributed to these roads explaining the Council's position. Once again, all representations will be duly considered by the Executive before making a decision on this CPZ scheme.

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.

ANSWER

- a) The Council's insurance cover does not extend to funding the cost of replacing trees which are severely damaged through inclement weather. Funding for tree planting comes from various sources such as Neighbourhood Renewal Fund and Better Haringey's 'Making the Difference' scheme. The Council is committed to replacing trees that have been removed due to their poor condition, or those damaged during storms and to increase the overall tree population, particularly in the East of the Borough. The Executive has recently proposed a capital provision of £80,000 per annum for the next three years for this purpose.
- b) The Palace Gates Triangle site is the focus of a Making the Difference project. Consultation is currently being undertaken with local residents to determine the final design which will include new tree planting and the scheme should then be implemented by the end of March 2007.

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:

1. How many letters of complaint have been received by Haringey about these banners?
2. How many sites there are in the Borough and give their exact location?
3. What are the criteria for selecting suitable sites and ruling out unsuitable sites?
4. Have there been any structural problems with lamp columns as a result of the display of these banners?
5. How many have been removed at the instigation of Haringey officers and the reasons why?
6. How long is the borough's contract with the agency and are there any default clauses?
7. What is the annual income to the Borough from this contract?
8. How much officer and staff time is taken up in monitoring the contract and what is the value of that time?
9. What are the planning regulations concerning this form of advertising, and is permission required within conservation areas?

ANSWER

1. How many letters of complaint have been received by Haringey about these banners?

The Communications & Consultation Unit (CCU) has received five letters and one FOI request. CCU is not aware of any other letters.

2. How many sites there are in the Borough and give their exact location?

There are 130 sites across the borough which replaced 140 of the old lamp post boards which were old and had become unsightly.

Lamp post banners are located in:

Alexandra Park Road
Bounds Green Road
Crouch End Broadway
Fortis Green Road
Green Lanes
Lordship Lane
Muswell Hill Broadway

Philip Lane
Priory Road
Tottenham Lane
West Green Road
White Hart Lane
Wood Green High Road

3. What are the criteria for selecting suitable sites and ruling out unsuitable sites?

The positions of the banners were chosen for good visibility and spread throughout the borough, bearing in mind their functions of: informing residents about council services; publicising community events; and helping to promote local commerce.

The contract allows for some sites to be relocated where this is considered to be necessary to avoid an undue concentration in a given location.

Similar sites exist in a wide range of locations up and down the country.

4. Have there been any structural problems with lamp columns as a result of the display of these banners?

There have not been any structural problems reported to date. Precautionary concerns were raised by Street Lighting during the high winds earlier in the year with a few swaying lamp posts in one area in Muswell Hill, and one area in Wood Green known to be a wind tunnel.

Bay Media, the company that maintains the sites for Haringey Council has banners in a wide range of other boroughs and its safety record is excellent.

5. How many have been removed at the instigation of Haringey officers and the reasons why?

Nine banners were removed purely as a precautionary measure as a result of the recent high winds. Two were re-located to different lamp posts on Wood Green High Road as the original locations were obscuring CCTV cameras.

6. How long is the borough's contract with the agency and are there any default clauses?

The contract is for 15 years, as is quite usual for this sort of outdoor media. There is a clause allowing for cancellation in the event of the contractor breaching terms such as safety of installations – please see below.

REVIEW & TERMINATION

If one of the Parties commits a fundamental breach of its obligations under this Licence which for the sake of clarity shall mean where the Banner or Banner Arm causes substantial damage to property or death or personal injury (except where breach was due to the action of a third party) then the

other Party may, without prejudice to any accrued rights or remedies, terminate this Agreement by notice in writing having immediate effect

In the event that either party breaches this Licence, both parties shall meet to jointly review the operation of this Agreement and shall co-operate with each other in this. The parties shall co-operate to implement any mutually agreed recommendations resulting from that review. If either party, following 12 (twelve) months from completion of the review is concerned that such joint recommendations have not been implemented, they may give the other party written notice to implement the same within 3 (three) months of such notice. If at the end of this period, such recommendations have not been implemented, that party shall have the right to terminate this Agreement hereto.

In such event that either party terminates pursuant to the above the Agreement shall determine at the expiry of the later of 6 (six) months from the giving of notice and any additional period required to provide for the display of any pre-booked advertising campaigns.

BREAK CLAUSE

Notwithstanding any other term in this Agreement each party may after 7 years terminate this Agreement on giving the other 9 months written notice, the Agreement shall then terminate nine months from the date of service of the notice or on completion of any advertising campaign booked prior to service of the aforesaid notice whichever date is later.

7. What is the annual income to the Borough from this contract?

The contract has been running for one year with an income of £17,613.

8. How much officer and staff time is taken up in monitoring the contract and what is the value of that time?

The contract is managed by Bay Media on behalf of Haringey Council. Officers approve banner artwork and consolidate the Council revenue every six months. The officer time taken to do this is nominal.

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

As the system was an update of the previous boards and uses council lamp posts, permission was not necessary. Planning permission for commercial advertising sites is not necessary where the advertiser is renting an existing site from the council, as applies to these banners.

In February 2006 the Conservation Team was contacted in relation to banners in conservation areas and it was confirmed that permission was not required.

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?

ANSWER

As a member of the Homes for Haringey board, Cllr Demirci should be aware of these performance issues and also of the measures taken by the Board to improve performance.

For the record, year to date Homes for Haringey has responded to 67% of Stage 1 complaints and Members Enquiries within 10 working days (a full breakdown of the figures is included below). Although the year to date figures are below the target, performance has risen sharply in recent weeks, e.g. in January the outturn figures of responses within 10 working days were 92% for Stage 1 Complaints and 90% for Members Enquiries, which are above target and in line with performance in the years before the establishment of H4H.

Homes for Haringey has experienced some performance issues with Complaints and Members Enquiries in the first months of its operation. It is not unusual for new ALMOs to experience a performance dip in their first year of operation, mainly due to the disruption caused by the transition into the new situation and the associated reorganisations. The recent Audit Commission inspection of Newham Homes highlighted this issue.

However, H4H has worked with the council and put into place appropriate measures, as a result of which (and as the figures for December and January demonstrate), the situation has improved, with recent performance levels running well above target.

Stage 1 Complaints

Total responded to between April 2006 – January 2007	534
• Responded to within 10 working days	358 (67%)
• Responded to within 20 working days	130 (24%)
• Responded to within 30 working days	22 (4%)
• Responded to in over 30 working days	24 (5%)

Members Enquiries

Total responded to between April 2006 – January 2007	625
• Responded to within 10 working days	416 (67%)
• Responded to within 20 working days	134 (21%)
• Responded to within 30 working days	33 (5%)
• Responded to in over 30 working days	20 (7%)

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.

ANSWER

The annual admissions arrangement consultation is currently taking place, so Cllr Hare may wish to put forward proposals. The deadline is 28 February.

I am not proposing significant changes to criteria this year. The existing arrangements comply fully with the new admissions code of practice and favour the development of schools at the heart of local communities, with a high proportion of places allocated on the basis of straight line distance. Combined with well-run coordinated admissions arrangements they have helped 70% of parents to achieve their first preference and 92% to achieve one of their preferred schools. They also have the support of the Haringey School Admissions Forum.

As new models for admission arrangements are tested elsewhere, we will of course watch closely. However we do not at this stage propose to experiment with new arrangements for the pupils and parents of Haringey.

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.

ANSWER

At any one moment, a proportion of homes (whether public or private) are empty in between tenants/occupiers, whilst being prepared for re-occupation. Some are moving fast whilst others (eg those requiring extensive improvement works before being ready for occupation) stay empty for longer periods of time.

Currently there are:

- 35 x 3 bed voids of which 25 are undergoing extensive repairs, 7 general repairs and 3 are being considered for or being disposed of
- 9 x 4 bed voids of which 8 are undergoing extensive repairs and 1 general repairs
- 1 x 5 bed which will require extensive works

Homes belonging to the Council are managed by Homes for Haringey. Homes for Haringey has the responsibility for the repair of any vacant properties in order to bring them up to standard for re-letting.

In certain cases the cost of the necessary repairs is such that councils and RSLs cannot afford to do them up and therefore are forced to dispose them (usually through auction) to others who can afford to repair them

Properties in disrepair currently have the extent of the repairs needed to bring them up to lettable standard measured against a financial limit of £40,000. If it costs less than this sum then the properties are repaired within the HRA repairs programme. If it is more than this sum Homes for Haringey seek the approval of the Council for disposal of the property.

The Council is now reconsidering this policy in light of the shortage of family sized units. Disposal itself need not mean that the property is lost for the use of a family in housing need if it is disposed of to a housing association. Consideration is being given to how the units can be repaired and maintained within the Council's ownership. However in doing this resources are required either from the HRA capital programme and thereby mean that other HRA capital schemes are not completed or from corporate resources.

Discussions are taking place between Council and Homes for Haringey officers on how best to ensure these properties can be brought back into. This means trying to identify funding, establish how long it will take to bring the property back into use, consider whether a disposal to a housing association is viable and to consider whether the property can be used for any other housing purpose e.g. site development.

In recognition of the need for larger family sized units the Council is pressing its RSL partners, the Housing Corporation and developers to produce more of these. This has seen a planned programme of 170 x 3 beds and 32 x 4 beds in the Housing Corporation's 2006-8 programme in Haringey. Officers will be seeking an increase on this number for future years' programmes.

The need for larger family sized houses is being reflected in the newly agreed planning supplementary guidance on affordable housing. This is used to inform all developers of the Council's planning requirements for residential developments.

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?

ANSWER

The half term youth football sessions in Noel Park are part of our youth diversionary programme, and are free and aimed at local youngsters. Officers in Recreation, Neighbourhood Management and Enforcement Services have and will be working closely to encourage and manage responsible participation.

The sessions, which will run 1.00pm - 4.00pm from 19th – 23rd February, are being delivered by the Asian Action Group, with 4-6 coaching staff on site each day. Their remit includes general supervision and control of youngsters on site, in addition to organising and delivering coaching activity. They will be liaising closely with other stakeholders on or adjacent to the site, including Neighbourhood Wardens and the Children's Centre, and, if necessary, will be able to call on the services of our Parks Constabulary.