

COUNCIL QUESTIONS – 19 MARCH 2007

Oral Question 1 – To the Executive Member for Crime and Community Safety from Councillor Hoban:

Could the Executive Member please confirm whether she is satisfied that the Haringey Parks Police Service has sufficient resources to deliver the service they are contracted to deliver?

Oral Question 2 -To the Leader of the Council from Councillor Khan:

Does the Leader agree with me that Haringey's scoring of 3 in the CPA's value for money category demonstrates once again this Labour Administration's commitment to efficiency?

Oral Question 3 – To the Executive Member for Environment and Conservation from Councillor Newton:

What progress he has made to date in consulting local residents on his revised parking charges proposals?

Oral Question 4 – To the Executive Member for Environment and Conservation from Councillor Kober:

Can the executive member outline what steps are being taken to ensure the safety of our children on journeys to and from schools?

Oral Question 5 - To ask the Executive Member for Environment and Conservation from Councillor Williams:

Why is the Council set to take a whole year to consult residents in Highgate regarding the possible extension of the Highgate Station Controlled parking zone?

Oral Question 6 - To the Executive Member for Environment and Conservation from Councillor Patel:

Will the Executive Member for Environment and Conservation join me in thanking the staff of the parks department for the hard work they have done over the last year which has allowed us to nominate 8 of our parks for a green flag award?

Oral Question 7 – To the Executive Member for the Finance from Councillor Butcher:

What proportion of Council's electricity is purchased from green energy sources?

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

Does the Executive member agree that the 18% fall in the incidence of violent crime in the borough is an outstanding achievement by the Police in Haringey, and is a vindication of our policies in this area?

Oral Question 9 – To the Executive Member for Environment and Conservation from Councillor Hare:

In a feature in a recent Haringey People, the Executive Member claimed that recycling glass saved large amounts of energy. However, the mixed collection process with the glass sorted out by MRF (materials recovery facility) with both the previous and the current contractors' results in a total waste of the energy in the glass. Far from reducing climate change, a huge amount of CO₂ (equivalent in weight to 1/3 of the weight of the glass) is released, and the materials in the glass are lost from the glass cycle. Will he undertake to correct his statement, and to encourage people who can to instead take their glass to recycling centres or on-street banks?

Oral Question 10 – To the Executive Member for Children and Young People from Councillor Egan:

Can the Executive member inform us of the outcome of the SOC meeting held on 14th March?

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

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

Can the Executive Member for Children and Young People update us on the progress that has been made so far on the new 6th Form Centre?

ANSWER

Premises

- The centre will definitely be ready for the start of term in September. The building works are all on schedule and Wilmott Dixon are reporting that they are hitting all milestones and expect to complete the teaching block ahead of schedule.
- As the Heads of Faculty are now in post, they have been able to contribute to the development of the fit out of their specialist areas. Meetings have been held with the Architect to complete fit out specifications.

Staffing

- Interviews have taken place for the Programme Area Manager posts that were advertised nationally. Eight out of 10 posts have been filled and the 2 outstanding posts will be readvertised in the near future.
- The appointed Programme Area Managers are due to take up their posts after Easter.
- Interviews have also taken place for Programme Area Administrators who will also start after Easter.
- An advertisement for teaching staff has gone out to the partner schools as part of the ring fenced process.
- An advertisement has been placed nationally for a Facilities Manager to be responsible for the building from April.

Curriculum

- Work continues on the development of the curriculum, including decisions made on the structure of the teaching day, weekly team and faculty meeting times.

Marketing, PR and Communications

- The Time Capsule burial took place on 17 January with good coverage in the local media.
- The second Open Event for the Centre took place on 6 February at West Green Learning Centre, Park View Academy, with over 130 prospective students attending, some with their parents.
- A major marketing campaign including a 4 page wrap around in the local papers, radio advertising and advertisements on the local bus routes will start in mid March and continue up to August, to ensure that prospective students and parents are aware that the Sixth Form Centre will open on schedule in September, with courses available to suit the needs of a wide range of learners.
- Another briefing is to be held by Haringey Connexions team on 28 February following the successful briefing for the Tottenham Connexions team reported at the last meeting.

- Open Events are taking place on Tuesday 13 March 5 pm – 8 pm and on Saturday 24 March 10 am – 1 pm with both events being held at The Civic Centre, Wood Green.
- Jim Knight MP, Minister for Schools, will visit the Centre on Thursday 29 March for an event.
- Interviews for students who have applied to the Centre are under way in feeder schools. To date we have had 402 applications.

Written Question 2 – To the Executive Member for Finance from Councillor Butcher:

- a) How many default court judgements have been made against the London Borough of Haringey for failure to respond for whatever reason to legal claims each year for the past 5 years?
- b) What is the total sum of initial awards made against LBH arising from default judgements each year for the 5 previous years, regardless of any subsequent funds recovered on appeal?

ANSWER

a) There are no detailed records kept of the total number of default court judgements. To provide a completely accurate figure, it would be necessary to do a manual check of all files which would be very time consuming and take staff away from dealing with immediate issues. However, an estimated annual figure is in single figures. These default judgements usually arise because the court papers have not been received. This may be because they can be served on the Council at any place where the Council carries on its activities. If the claim is sent to a different Council office, it may not be referred to Legal Services in time for a response to be made to the court within the time limit. In these circumstances, the Council applies to have the default judgement set aside and this is usually successful.

b) Again, without carrying out a manual check on all files, in the majority of cases, where a judgement debt has been obtained in default, we have successfully had the judgement set aside. We have no way of calculating or retrieving information which will indicate how much, in total, the judgements have been for.

Written Question 3 – To the Executive Member for Environment and Conservation from Councillor Hare:

What is Haringey's policy on the disposal of computer monitors?

- a) How does the Council facilitate the disposal of the potential hazardous material in computer monitors?

- i) Does the Council offer any service to the public to dispose of monitors and what advertising to the public does the Council provide to ensure people are aware of such a service?
- ii) What information in the public domain exists to provide the public of the risks of dumping computer monitors
- b) Are there any schemes to re-use or recycle computer monitors in Haringey?
- c) How are computer monitors disposed of when:
 - i) in waste stream especially of flats with paladins?
 - ii) left beside householders' wheelie bins?
 - iii) left on street?

ANSWER

Corporate IT disposal arrangements

I.T. equipment used by Haringey Council, irrespective of its nature, is sent to the local specialist company Maxitech.biz at The Chocolate Factory, Wood Green who were engaged under contract to correctly dispose of unwanted items. Maxitech also have a contract to recondition/recycle Haringey Council's redundant computer equipment.

This service was originally created to assist with the disposal of unwanted IT items identified through the Technical Refresh Project but has been further extended for another year. There is no cost to the Council for this service.

Equipment sent to Maxitech.biz is recycled whenever possible and 10% of the equipment handed over to them is returned for charitable donations to voluntary and charitable organisations undertaken by I.T. Services in liaison with the Council Voluntary Organisations Manager Susan Humphries. The balance of the equipment handed over is either recycled by Maxitech.biz to offer to other charitable and voluntary outlets or broken down and correctly recycled through formally accredited material handlers extracting re-usable material and correctly disposing of non re-usables.

Household PC disposal arrangements

For residents, the Council collects computer monitors as part of the Free White Goods Collection Service, and through the borough's two Reuse & Recycling Centres. Both these services are publicised through bespoke leaflets, cross-service recycling leaflets, advertisements in the Haringey People magazine and at meetings and events. There is also detailed information regarding these services on the waste management pages of the Council's website. The leaflet promoting the Free White Goods Service is being updated and reprinted. We are considering the inclusion of information about the risks of dumping items different types of hazardous waste, including PC monitors.

Where computer monitors are disposed of by residents in a paladin or wheeled bin, they are not identifiable in the collection process and by default

are removed within household waste stream. If monitors are left next to waste containers they are not removed by the normal household waste collection service and would be separately collected either by the White Goods Collection Service or as part of a Community Clear Up. Where monitors are dumped on the street they are collected separately. Under these separated collection arrangements PC monitors are collected along with other hazardous waste items and disposed of through specialist arrangements.

All of the above arrangements are compliant with the WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) Directive.

Written Question 4 – To the Executive Member for Finance from Councillor Beacham:

With reference to the Special Overview & Scrutiny call-in meeting held on 18th July 2006, could the executive member confirm whether the recommendations arising from this meeting have been implemented and if so, please provide a full account of actions taken?

ANSWER

The recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee were referred to the original decision maker – the Procurement Committee – on 25 July. On consideration of those recommendations it was agreed that a further report be submitted to the Procurement Committee authorising the process to be followed in order to satisfy members that further and adequate measures have been taken to ensure that Diamond Build is competent to carry out the said work.

The initial assessment of the company did not fully cover the questions which the Council wanted addressed. So a further assessment was commissioned. This was completed on the 1st and 2nd March 2007 using questions provided by the Council and at present we are still waiting for the report. The findings of this report will necessarily form the next steps to be taken, and recommendations are likely to be made to the June Procurement Committee.

Written Question 5 – To the Executive Member for Children and Young People from Councillor Hoban:

Given Ofwat's guidance that it is the duty of the owner of any building to consider the statutory requirements for the provision of fire fighting appliances, what provision did the Council make to ensure that appropriate fire safety arrangements were in place at Crowlands school prior to the fire? In relation to these statutory requirements, please provide details of fire safety provision the Council had made at all the properties it owns.

ANSWER

The Council places a high priority on ensuring that all its buildings are safe to use and we comply with all statutory requirements through appropriate risk

assessment and management arrangements to ensure the health and safety of occupants, visitors and the general public. All building projects need to conform to building regulations and are designed in conjunction with appropriate agencies including the Fire Brigade.

In respect of fire safety new legislation came into effect on the 1st October 2006 that replaces most previous safety legislation. In particular any fire safety certificate issued under the "Fire Precautions Act 1971" will cease to have any effect. However if there has been little physical changes to the building since its issue it is unlikely that significant improvements will be required.

Schools

All new school building projects are designed in conjunction with the Fire Brigade and need to conform to building regulations. Prior to the fire at Crowland the Council had entered into a joint project with the fire brigade to inspect all schools from which a programme of physical building improvement work, compliant fire risk assessments and robust evacuation plans have been put in place.

All schools in Haringey have taken part in the Fire Brigade Health and Safety course and guidance provided to head teachers and governors clearly sets out their and the council's regulations for school site safety.

Other Council Buildings

One of the key drivers for the move towards Corporate Management of Property was to improve the Council's approach to statutory compliance and a proactive and consistent approach to health and safety.

During 2005/06 Corporate Property Services commissioned condition surveys to include the review of the fire policies and procedures within the operational building portfolio. This showed a wide variation in standards and a programme of work has been in progress during 2006 and will continue through 2007 to bring them up to a common standard.

A new corporate Property Compliance Board made up of property, health & safety and insurance officers has been established to further develop corporate management systems. Training sessions have been completed for 24 Building & Facilities Managers on fire safety awareness. An external advisor has been procured and a robust Corporate "Fire Safety Management System" (FSMS) has been developed. In consultation with the Haringey Asset Management Group, Property Compliance Board and the Health and Safety Officer the FSMS has defined:-

- a) Roles and responsibilities for fire safety.
- b) Staff training requirements.
- c) Management of contractors requirements.

The Policies and Procedures are due to be finalised within the next month, and they will then be submitted to the Chief Executive for formal approval.

In addition, the Corporate Property Services, Facilities Managers have been trained to undertake "Fire Risk Assessments (FRA)" and are currently carrying out the FRA of the Council's 27 Administrative buildings which will be stored electronically on a central database.

Training has also been scheduled for some 290 emergency staff in fire safety awareness, their roles and responsibilities, and the use of fire extinguishers. This is due to finish by the second week in April.

Written Question 6 – To the Executive Member for Community Involvement from Councillor Reid:

What is Haringey's strategy for the introduction of a smart card for residents to access Council services such as leisure, benefits, libraries, parking? And could you confirm the following:

- a) If such a strategy exists please provide a timetable for implementation and consultation
- b) What services will be included in the smart card service
- c) What will be the cost of the smartcard to i) the Council ii) the resident for using the service
- d) Which external bodies will be involved with the introduction of the smartcard?

ANSWER

- a) If such a strategy exists please provide a timetable for implementation and consultation

The implementation timetable for a London wide scheme depends on the scope and outcomes of the London Smartcard project.

The project has identified a programme of work starting in 2007-2008 which includes a small number of early adopter councils piloting the use of smartcards; agreement of a federated approach from a minimum of 10 local authorities and development of an implementation plan following on from the vision.

The current position is to assess the published results of the pilots before progressing with this initiative.

Therefore the timetable for implementation will become clearer once the nature of the proposed solution is known. The timetable will also depend on input from its stakeholders, potentially including public consultation with residents, and a business/service based justification to implement any solution.

b) What services will be included in the smart card service

The exact nature of services that would be included is still being discussed by the smartcard project. In practice (subject to the requirements of the business and stakeholder consultation) this might be a combination of local services within Haringey as well as services available on a multi-borough or London wide basis. The types of potential service under discussion include:

- Membership of libraries and access to facilities
- Membership of leisure centres and access to facilities
- Use by schools, e.g. validation for school meals
- Transport (e.g. Oyster facility)
- Acting as a monetary store for payments for services (typically lower value transactions)
- Discounts, rewards and other incentives (e.g. discounted theatre tickets)

c) What will be the cost of the smartcard to i) the Council ii) the resident for using the service

At this stage, it is too early to state what the costs will be either to the Council or to local residents. There will be a clearer idea of costs as the London Smartcard programme outcomes become known and the exact nature of the solution is defined.

d) Which external bodies will be involved with the introduction of the smartcard?

London Connects has defined the Smartcard programme for London and Haringey has a technical representative who sits on the London Connects Steering Board.

The London Smartcard Executive Group represents the views of London's authorities via representatives from each of London's six sub-regions and the GLA.

Other organisations that are involved in discussions include TfL and the National Smartcard Group.

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

Please provide a breakdown of the works and related activities to improve the crossing of Bounds Green Road at Avenue Gardens showing:

- a) the number of recorded accidents prior to works for the past five years.
- b) the date of the original plans, costs of Council officer time involved, dates and cost of works.
- c) the number of collisions with railings to date, the dates of incidents, and the

costs of repairs.

d) the date of revised plans, costs of officer time involved, dates and costs of works

e) the source of funding and the total cost.

ANSWER

The works related to the introduction of the toucan crossing on Bounds Green Road, between Braemar Road and Park Avenue, is shown below:

- a) There have been 25 recorded accidents along Bounds Green Road between Park Avenue and Durnsford Road between 1 May 2001 and 30 April 2006.
- b) The original scheme was designed and implemented in 2004/5 as part of the London Cycle Network (LCN) programme. The costs of the scheme including construction works, street lighting, land survey and safety audit was £90k. These costs were externally funded by TfL via the LCN programme. Haringey claimed 15% fees (£13.5k) to cover the cost of officer time in design and implementation.
- c) There have been two collisions with railings. The first collision was in 2005. The damaged panels were replaced and upgraded as part of the 2005/6 modification. The second collision was in early 2007. The damaged panels are expected to be replaced within the next week as part of the street furniture replacement programme. The cost of these repairs is estimated to be £1k.
- d) The modified design and implementation of the Toucan crossing was carried out in 2005/6. These costs consisting of construction works and traffic signals totalled £36k. These costs were also externally funded by TfL and Haringey claimed 15% fees (£5.4k) for officer time.
- e) The scheme was funded by TfL as detailed above.

* A Toucan crossing is a cycle and pedestrian facility (that is, two can cross)

Written Question 8 – To the Executive Member for Children and Young People from Councillor Baker:

Please provide a list of the individuals and their affiliations/organisations, who have carried out child protection investigations in Haringey over the last 5 years, what were the subjects investigated, the dates of investigation, and how much was paid for each investigation?

Do any of these individuals or organisations currently have any connections with Haringey, or have they had in the past?

ANSWER

Child protection investigations are carried out by Haringey employed social workers as part of their statutory duties.

Written Question 9 – To the Executive Member for Environment and Conservation from Councillor Newton:

With regard to the proposed resident permit charges in current and proposed CPZ areas, an Executive member at a recent Area Assembly gave a figure that the Council estimates that something over 40% of cars will fit within the £30 charging bracket. Can he provide detailed evidence of how that figure was determined.

ANSWER

To assist in developing a charging and banding system appropriate to the composition of Haringey’s fleet, data was collected on vehicles associated with current residential parking permit applications throughout the borough. The information was based on logbook information; including date of registration, engine size and emission bands.

The data analysis undertaken suggested that a significant percentage of those vehicles were registered before March 2001, where CO₂ banding will not apply.

Those vehicles will be banded by engine size.

DVLA [pre 2001] Engine size	1549 cc or less	1550 to 3000cc	3001 and above
Haringey %	30.3	66.7	3

Of those where CO₂ banding did apply, the percentage breakdown is as follows;

DVLA bandings	%							Total
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	
CO ₂ emission (g/km)	Up to 100	101-120	121-150	151-165	166-185	Over 185	Over 225	
Haringey analysis	0	7.4	33.3	11.1	11.1	26	11.1	100.0
Haringey banding	1	2		3		4		
% permit holders	0	41%		22%		37%		100%

Written Question 10 – To the Executive Member for Environment and Conservation from Councillor Winskill:

Would the Executive Member outline the conditions of the road repair contract with respect to how long the contractor has to effect repairs once they have been reported to them by Haringey.

How many jobs are outstanding as of 5th March? – Please provide details of where the job is being carried out and the estimated time of completion.

Please provide detailed figures showing the number of jobs currently running over the contractual completion time and the date in which these should have been completed?

How many jobs have not met the estimated time for completion in the period 1st January 2006 to date?

How many gangs does the contractor have that are currently operational in the Borough on road repairs and does he feel that this is adequate to undertake repairs in a technically adequate and timely way?

What powers does the Lead Member have to replace the current contractor if he feels that they are under performing?

ANSWER

In answering your questions I have assumed your queries solely relate to reactive maintenance rather than planned maintenance.

In determining the time the contractor has to repair the Highway the Council has to assess the severity, nature and location of the defects to determine the urgency in which the repairs must be carried out. Defects will be repaired if they are regarded as hazardous or serious. The levels of priority are set out below with their respective response times:

Priority Severity of Defect	Severity
Emergency Works Order (must be repaired within 24 hours)	Hazardous defects
Small Works Order (must be repaired within 7 days)	Serious defects
28-Day Order following routine safety inspections must be repaired within 28 days)	Within intervention Levels

There are no outstanding jobs as of 5 March 2007. However during the period from 1 January 2007 to 5 March 2007 535 jobs were checked, of which 405 were completed on time and 130 were completed late. The details of the work completed late will be emailed to you separately. For the period 01 January 2006 to March 2007, 6207 jobs were checked and 1,193 did not meet the estimated time for completion.

The contractor currently has 5 gangs currently operational in the borough on road repairs. The contractor advises that these resources are adequate to undertake repairs in a technically adequate and timely way. If the contractor does not meet the contract standards there are default mechanisms set out in the contract conditions where the Council can pursue liquidated damages

Written Question 11 – To the Executive Member for Organisational Development and Performance from Councillor Demirci:

Please could the executive member state the Council policy regarding essential car user status for officers and provide the following:

- a) When was the policy last reviewed?
- b) When is the next date for renewal?
- c) What is the current scale of allowances?
- d) Currently how many officers are designated as essential car users?
- e) What did the scheme cost the council in 2004/05, 05/06 and what is the current year likely to total?
- f) In total, how many miles in the last financial year were travelled by essential car users?
- g) Please provide, using the banding structure proposed by the Council for the new parking charge scheme, a breakdown of the numbers of cars used for the essential car user scheme for each banding.

ANSWER

a) The General Purposes Committee agreed amendments on 2 March 2006

b) There is a review of staff travel plans underway and this will include a review of the application of the car allowance scheme.

c) The Council applies the National Local Government terms, and users from 13th July 1993 – Rates from 1st April 2005 are as follows:

Essential	451-999cc	1000cc & above
Lump Sum	£690	£771
Per mile first 8,500 miles	30.6p	32.9p
Per mile after 8,500 miles	11.7p	11.8p

Protected Users (Car User prior to 13th July 1993) – Rates from 1st April 2005

Essential	451-999cc	1000-1199cc	1200cc & above
Lump Sum	£690	£771	£990
Per mile first 8,500 miles	30.6p	32.9p	41.1p
Per mile after 8,500 miles	11.7p	11.8p	13.9p

d) 848 employees have been identified as needing a car for the performance of their jobs.

e) The following costs are associated with the application of the National Local Government terms of employment in relation to car allowances:

2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
£853,482	£960,315	£904,098

f) Approx 655,000 miles

g) The number of essential car users broken down by car allowance engine size is:

Engine Size	No. of Essential Users
Less than 1000cc	20
More than 1000cc after July 1993	632
More than 1200cc before July 1993	196

Written Question 12 – To the Executive Member Children and Young People from Councillor Engert:

To ask the Executive Member, that given letters went out to parents on 1 March 2007 giving the secondary school place offer for children transferring from primary to secondary school in September 2007, please can she:

- a) List for each secondary school in the Borough the number of children applying for each preference category from one to six, as of 1st March.
- b) List the number and percentage of Haringey children receiving an offer in each of the six preference categories, as of 1st March.
- c) List the number and percentage of Haringey children not receiving an offer of any of their preferences and which ward they come from, as of 1st March.

ANSWER

- a) The list for each secondary school in the Borough with numbers of children applying for each preference category from one to six, as of 1st March.

	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth	Sixth	Late	Total
Alexandra Park School	304	319	286	145	79	47	25	1205
Fortismere Secondary School	355	353	222	105	71	41	17	1164
Gladesmore Community School	283	168	119	78	46	46	25	765
Greig City Academy	102	78	82	47	51	33	11	404
Highgate Wood Secondary School	258	200	178	121	80	38	17	892
Hornsey Secondary School For Girls	187	139	108	64	41	19	12	570
Northumberland Park Community School	158	74	66	39	28	26	25	416
Park View Academy	188	161	92	62	46	36	29	614
St Thomas More RC School	83	69	60	37	32	27	18	326
The John Loughborough School	34	37	26	21	18	13	12	161
Woodside High School	88	77	54	42	34	35	21	351
Total	2040	1675	1293	761	526	361	212	6868

- b) The number and percentage of Haringey children receiving an offer in each of the six preference categories, as of 1st March.

Preference	Number of Children	Percentage of children
First	1772	70%
Second	261	10%
Third	143	6%
Fourth	58	2%
Fifth	35	1%
Sixth	15	1%
Late	60	2%
Allocation to pupils who expressed preferences	191	8%
Total	2535	100%

- c) The number and percentage of Haringey children not receiving an offer of any of their preferences and a list of which ward they come from, as of 1st March.

Information by ward is not available as the analysis has not been completed.

Written Question 13 – To the Executive Member for Children and Young People from Councillor Weber:

To ask the Executive Member for Children and Young People, that given letters went out to parents on 16 March 2007 giving the reception place offer for children starting school in September 2007, please can she:

- a) List for each primary/infant school in the Borough the number of children applying for each preference category from one to four, as of 16 March.
- b) List the number and percentage of Haringey children receiving an offer in each of the four preference categories, as of 16 March.
- c) List the number and percentage of Haringey children not receiving an offer of any of their preferences and which ward they come from, as of 16 March.

ANSWER

Sorry not available at this time as offers only sent to parents on Friday 16 March.

Written Question 14 – To the Executive Member for Crime and Community Safety from Councillor Alexander:

With the introduction of the new smoking ban in public places in July 2007, what preparations is the council taking to enforce this ban within the boroughs pubs, restaurants and other areas covered by this new legislation?

How much does the Council believe that it will cost to enforce the ban?

What revenue does the Council expect to receive?

Will the Council employ council staff to enforce the ban?

What financial resources have the Council received or expect to receive from central government to 'police' the smoking ban?

ANSWER

Officers have developed a strategy for the implementation of the new smoking prohibitions contained in the Health Act 2006 and the Smoke Free (Premises & Enforcement) Regulations 2006.

The principle aim of this is to inform the public and businesses of the provisions and their responsibilities under the new legislation through a local awareness programme using press and other media as part of a 100 day lead up to 1st July 2007.

A press briefing took place on 15 March to publicise the strategy.

This included a commitment to joint working with colleagues in Haringey Teaching Primary Care Trust to promote smoking cessation services.

In the lead up to 1st July, we intend to operate a program of field visits to businesses where the public have access, to support them in efforts to implement the new legislation.

To assist with smoking implementation, the Government has provided £30,000 for 2006/7 and £148,000 for 2007/8. No other funding is being provided from Haringey budgets and it is not expected that there will be any significant revenue arising from fixed penalty notices that may be issued under the new legislation.

We are seeking to appoint a temporary coordinator and a small team of temporary advisors.

Written Question 15 – To the Executive Member for Housing from Councillor Gorrie:

Could the Council confirm the forecast total amount over the life of the Decent Home Programme that will be paid to the four external consultant firms appointed as "Compliance Team Partners" to monitor and manage the Constructor Partners? The recommendation to appoint given to the Procurement Committee on 13th Feb included the statement in section 13.2 "The award....is based on... confirmation that the consultants will be able to deliver the Decent Homes Programme within the current forecasted budget". Exactly how was the confirmation provided and on the basis of what evidence was the confirmation accepted?

ANSWER

We will use the fee scales tendered by the successful compliance team partners. This is the standard approach for construction contracts. Therefore the exact amount depends on how much we will spend overall and that depends on what the Government will give us over the period.

For example, the breakdown could be as follows:

Total tender values from constructors	£219M
Contingency	£ 22M
Inflation	£ 4M
Consultants Fees	£ 9M
Total	£254M

Written Question 16 – To the Executive Member for Children and Young People from Councillor Beynon:

Does the Council employ an Access Officer or officers to ensure that all schools built in the Building Schools for the Future project are providing equality of opportunity for disabled children as shown under the Disability Discrimination Act 2005?

ANSWER

The Building Schools for the Future (BSF) team does not have a specific officer for access, but at all stages we have ensured that access is fundamental to the design process. Designers and project managers have been assessed on their understanding of access, inclusion and equalities issues. All new works developed as part of the BSF programme will conform to access requirements contained in the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA). The BSF programme will follow best practice guidelines for access for persons with disabilities and fully comply with disability legislation, such as the DDA and relevant codes of practice. We have been fully committed in each stage of the BSF programme to ensure inclusion is reflected not only in design requirements but in the processes that support further inclusion.

Examples include:

- a fully inclusive sixth form centre opening in September 2007;
- inclusive learning campuses at Northumberland Park, Woodside High and Fortismere for the co-location of special schools on secondary school sites;
- provision for young people with autistic spectrum disorder at Alexandra Park school and the new school in Haringey Heartlands;
- provision for young people with visual impairments at Gladesmore and Highgate Wood schools;
- specialist provision in schools and at the pupil support centre for young people with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties.

Written Question 17 – To the Executive Member for Crime and Community Safety from Councillor Mughal:

What provisions will be provided for warden cover in the park in Noel Park, to stop the park being used at all hours by drug users and street drinkers, preventing local parents from being able to take their children to play safely there, and why has the security of Noel Park Nursery still, after months of our bringing this to the attention of the Council, NOT been prioritised and dealt with so local parents in Noel Park can feel safe sending their babies and young children there?

ANSWER

The Park in question is known as Russell Park. This park is locked during hours of darkness and is therefore visited by the Parks Constabulary on a daily basis to unlock/lock the gates. The Parks Constabulary have only

received three reported incidents relating to Russell Park in the past two months:

1. A dog in the play area (the service found no trace of the dog)
2. A stray dog in the park (the dog's owners were in the park)
3. An abandoned moped (the moped was not found by the Service)

Currently there is a team of four Street Wardens who patrol the wards of Noel Park and Bounds Green. The Street Wardens, in partnership with the Parks Constabulary and the local Safer Neighbourhoods Police Team, patrol the area which includes Russell Park. Where it is appropriate, the Wardens challenge anti-social behaviour and this has included effectively challenging street drinkers, cyclists and mini motorbike users who are causing concern or distress to other Park users. Street Wardens have also patrolled the Park after it is closed to check that there are no undesirable activities taking place there.

The concerns about security of the children using Noel Park Day Care and Play Centre, which were highlighted by a number of people in 2005/6, and have been subsequently addressed by the following actions:

1. Children's play areas are now protected against members of the public being able to approach children who are attending the Day Care or Play Centre. This has been achieved by raising the level of the fencing around the Day Care Centre's play area and by installing willow wattling around the fencing for both play areas.
2. "Crimeshield" mesh window covering has been installed over the two large windows of the Play Centre that were being maliciously broken on a regular basis and on the four toilet windows on that side of the building, as this is the side which is most exposed within the park.
3. A secondary fence has been installed the length of the building at the back, to deter members of the public from being able to approach the windows of the Day Care Centre. This has been effective, and therefore the offer of paying half the cost of installing Crimeshield covering on all the windows in the building (made by Sgt Underwood, of the Noel Park Safer Neighbourhood Team) was declined. Crimeshield cuts out a significant percentage of light, and is therefore only the desired solution if others are not possible.
4. The Electricity Substation fencing has been extended upward and reinforced so that children no longer can enter that space.
5. Children are no longer at risk of running out into the road when leaving the building, as a secondary low fence has been installed at the front. This also has deterred local youths from hanging about at the front of the nursery.
6. The risk to children from any broken bottles and syringes that may be left in the park overnight is controlled by daily patrols of the area around the Day Care / Play Centre building.

7. Action in place to upgrade the CCTV system and install a video-phone control system to monitor those entering the building.
8. Bi-monthly meetings of stakeholders in the building are now held, to keep on top of security and other building related issues as they arise.

Written Question 18 – To the Executive Member for Housing from Councillor C. Harris:

- a) How many homeless 16 - 17 year old residents are placed alone in temporary accommodation hostels?
- b) Do all Housing staff who have access to these homeless young 16 - 17 year olds have Full Enhanced Police Checks?
- c) What measures are being taken to ensure that vulnerable homeless 16-17 year olds that are placed in temporary accommodation hostels are not open to the harmful effects of drugs and violence and are helped to gain a home, job and stability?
- d) How has the Lead Member for Housing ensured that the Housing Department has made provision to risk assess the un-staffed hostels where Homeless 16 - 17 year olds are placed, as regards;
- e) How many adult residents live in temporary accommodation where 16 – 17 year olds are also reside?
- f) To date how many 16 -17 year old homeless young people are under the Housing Department's care and in un-staffed temporary accommodation?
- g) How many hostels housing 16 – 17 year old homeless young people are operating in the Borough?

ANSWER

- a) How many homeless 16 - 17 year old residents are placed alone in temporary accommodation hostels?

As of the 28th February 2007 there were 12 seventeen year olds residing in hostel accommodation. There were no 16 sixteen year olds. In addition there are 11 under 18 year olds residing in self contained licensed accommodation whilst awaiting approval for permanent housing. Part of the assessment involves parent/young person mediation with a view to young people returning to their family/carer's home.

- b) Do all Housing staff who have access to these homeless young 16 - 17 year olds have Full Enhanced Police Checks?

Yes, all Haringey Council permanent Housing officers are subject to checks. For staff employed via our 'Supporting People' providers such as Key Support and Connexions, have a full enhanced check done as part of their contract.

All contracted agency Housing Officers appointed by the Council's recruitment partners Hays have a full enhanced check when they are offered a position with the Council.

c) What measures are being taken to ensure that vulnerable homeless 16-17 year olds that are placed in temporary accommodation hostels are not open to the harmful effects of drugs and violence and are helped to gain a home, job and stability?

A support co-ordinator assists vulnerable young people in maintaining their tenancy and their independent life skills, as well as additional support being made available from the Housing Services support services.

Within the Vulnerable Adults Team based at Apex House there are also two additional project workers from Social Services who have the responsibility to assess vulnerable single people. All these services are provided to support young people living in hostels.

The council has a Connexions officer who works with the Housing Service supporting young people that have been referred by the Prevention and Options Team. Social Services Project Workers are also based at Apex House. The Connexions Service assess the young person's needs and provide support with access to education, employment, training, benefits and health services. They also make referrals to teenage supported accommodation providers. In addition they give support and advocate for young people going through this difficult time, including mediation with parents in order to prevent homelessness.

All 16/17 year old referrals for hostel accommodation undergo a risk assessment carried out by social services staff based at Apex House with Housing colleagues. All young people are thence allocated a support worker.

d) How has the Lead Member for Housing ensured that the Housing Department has made provision to risk assess the un-staffed hostels where Homeless 16 - 17 year olds are placed, as regards;

All hostel blocks have a dedicated housing manager and cleaning team who visit the block once a week, each has responsibility for tenancy management issues and the maintenance of hostel cleaning standards respectively. In our attempt to ensure new hostel residents settle into their accommodation they are given a welcome pack at the time of signing the tenancy for their hostel accommodation. The welcome pack contains the name and contact details for the housing manager and useful information relating to support services and tenants' responsibilities.

All hostels have a fire alarm and fire fighting equipment supplied. The equipment is checked by the housing manager on a weekly basis. The hostels are also visited and cleaned weekly by the hostel cleaning team. During these visits a further check on the fire equipment is made by the attending staff and any discrepancies are reported back to the temporary accommodation team for action. The fire equipment is supplied and installed and replaced if needed by FDSA with which the council has a contract.

e) How many adult residents live in temporary accommodation where 16 – 17 year olds are also reside?

Most of our larger hostel blocks have mixed occupancy groups ranging from single, families, male and females of varying ages. The smaller hostels (with 5 units or less people) are usually for a specific client group i.e., male, female single or small households. A young person's allocation to a hostel unit is done sensitively by Allocation staff taking into account the layout of the hostel, i.e. kitchens and bathrooms and the 'make up' of other hostel occupants.

f) To date how many 16 -17 year old homeless young people are under the Housing Department's care and in un-staffed temporary accommodation?

See answer (a) above

g) How many hostels housing 16 – 17 year old homeless young people are operating in the Borough?

Presently the Council does not have any hostel blocks that are specifically for young people.

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

Please provide the schools in Haringey that collect biometric data from pupils, what this information is used for (i.e. libraries) and whether this information is passed onto any external body (private or public)?

ANSWER

A number of schools have adopted a system for managing library book loans provided by the company Microlibrarian. An optional part of the package is called Identikit and is based on a bar code and fingerprinting system. Some schools use Microlibrarian without the Identikit package. The Children and Young People's Service is aware of two secondary schools and four primary schools that have the Identikit package. At least one of these schools no longer uses the Identikit part of the system.

Schools have been advised to seek parental permission if they are planning to install these systems.

Guidance from the DfES is that this is a matter for individual schools and governing bodies and Government good practice guidance on this issue is due to be published in March 2007 through the Office of the Information Commissioner and British Education Communications and Technology Agency (BECTA). Our understanding is that this will address issues such as data collection, access and storage and issues related to child and parent/carer consent. This will then provide the basis of guidance from the Children and Young People's Service to all Haringey schools.

Written Question 20 – To the Executive Member for Organisational Development and Performance from Councillor Williams:

Will regard to the implementation of the Equal Pay Agreement how many female employees of the Council are entitled to backdated pay and is Council Tax likely to increase as a result?

ANSWER

In line with all Local Authorities in the Country, Haringey is working to implement the national agreement on single status. The number of female staff entitled to back pay is dependant on the evaluation of jobs to determine grades. Under the terms of the national pay agreement for Local Government Services staff we are obliged to review the grades of all these staff - currently 6849 employees including 5487 women. Therefore it is difficult to predict the number of females that may be entitled to a backdated pay increase. However, we know that from grade benchmarking all staff currently working on manual worker pay grades will increase their pay. The number of females that occupy manual worker positions are approx 1700.

The amount of back pay these staff are entitled to depends on the outcome of negotiations with the unions. There are a number of variables to factor into the negotiations including the number of people that would be entitled to a pay increase, the number of years back pay agreed with the unions, the number and strength of potential equal pay claims. However, we have developed some scenarios to estimate the likely financial impact on the council. As a result of these estimates we have made financial provision and predict that it will not result in a Council Tax increase.

Written Question 21 – To the Executive Member for Finance from Councillor Davies:

Please could the Executive Member provide the latest quarterly and yearly Best Value Performance Indicators for the Housing Benefit section as set out below:

- a) BVPI 78a – Number of days taken to assess a new claim
- b) BVPI 78b – Number of days taken to assess a change of circumstances
- c) BVPI 76b – Percentage correct claims
- d) BVPI 76a – Number of visits per 1000 caseload

- e) BVPI 76b – Number of investigators per 1000 caseload
- f) BVPI 76c – Number of sanctions per 1000 caseload
- g) BVPI 79b(i) – Percentage of overpayments recovered
- h) BVPI 79b (iii) – Percentage of recoverable overpayments written off

ANSWER

- a) Number of days taken to assess a new claim – The performance for February 2007 is 28 days which is well above the Government standard. The year to date is 41 days which reflects a poor start to the year.
- b) Number of days taken to assess a change of circumstances – The performance for February 2007 is 16 days and 19 days for the year to date. This is within the agreed target.
- c) Percentage correct claims – This is calculated on a quarterly basis and quarter 3 is 96% which is consistent with the year to date.
- d) Number of visits per 1000 caseload – The performance for February 2007 is 164 and 194 for the year to date. This is just below the annual target of 210.
- e) Number of investigators per 1000 caseload - The performance for February 2007 is 0.19 which is consistent with the year to date and on target.
- f) Number of investigations per 1000 caseload - The performance for February 2007 is 14 and 8 for the year to date. This is consistent with the target of 8.
- g) Percentage of overpayments recovered – The year to date performance is 56% against a target of 60% for the year and we are still on course to achieve this.
- h) Percentage of recoverable overpayments written off - This is a year to date performance statistic and currently runs at 5%. This is within target.
- h) Percentage of recoverable overpayments written off - This is a year to date performance statistic and currently runs at 5%. This is within target.

Written Question 22 – To the Executive Member for Environment and Conservation from Councillor Oatway:

How does the Council try to reduce the environmental impacts of printing? For example

- a) Are the printer's used ISO 14001 accredited?

- b) Is the paper used at least 50% recycled throughout the Council? What percentage of paper used is non-recycled?
- c) Are all inks used vegetable based?
- d) Are any gloss or matt finishes used biodegradable?
- e) Is the paper usage, including production waste, measured and a payment made to offset the Carbon Dioxide release when the paper was made?

ANSWER

- a) Companies can only be ISO 14001 certified and not individual models of printers.

In respect of Printer supplied by IT Services the Council currently uses two main suppliers HP and Xerox. HP is one of the first global businesses to achieve company wide certification of its worldwide manufacturing operations to ISO 14001. Xerox is ISO 14001 and achieved certification in May 2003 and was renewed in May 2006. As regards print organisations used by the Council the larger suppliers use equipment that meets the standard but we are unable to confirm the status of the smaller suppliers (10 employees or less) for which the time and expense of achieving and monitoring such certification is impractical.

- b) All paper used is recycled where possible, in most cases 100% post consumer waste, otherwise at least 80% recycled content. The exception to this would be NCR (carbonless) paper which is not recycled. It is estimated that the use of non recycled material by Haringey Council and contracted print suppliers accounts for less than 10%.
- c) It is unlikely, from initial investigation, that HP and Xerox printers use vegetable ink. In respect of the Communications and Consultation Units the vast majority of cases rubber based inks are used with oil based inks only used when rubber based ink is unsuitable for the paper stock being printed on.
- d) Yes.
- e) We are unable to answer this question at present. We are seeking this information from our paper suppliers and will send this directly to Councillor Oatway when available.

Written Question 23 – To the Executive Member for Crime and Community Safety from Councillor Aitken:

Please provide a breakdown of how many Police Officers in Haringey have been on long-term sick leave in each of the last two years (with the numbers categorised by time on sick leave and also the number of Police Officers in Haringey who have been on light duties in the last two years and for how long they were on light duties.

ANSWER

I am informed by the Metropolitan Police Service that this information is not readily available and Councillor Aitken might consider approaching them directly for the requested information.

Written Question 24 – To the Executive Member for Crime and Community Safety from Councillor Portess:

How many occasions have Armed Response Vehicles (ARVs) been called out in Haringey in the last 3 years and on how many occasions have they had cause to draw their weapons?

ANSWER

Armed Response Vehicles are called out in Haringey on an operational basis as the need arises. There are categories of incident that requires, according to Police Standard Operational Procedures, that an Armed Response Vehicles should attend, the main one being: 'Any pre-planned operation where intelligence suggests a firearm may be involved'.

A search on the Metropolitan Police data systems returns a nil count for Haringey and a nil count for the whole Metropolitan Police Area. This information is not readily available, and the anomaly is being investigated by the Metropolitan Police Central Public Information Bureau.

Written Question 25 – To the Executive Member for Organisational Development and Performance from Councillor Rainger:

Will the Council will meet its deadline for implementation of the Equal Pay Agreement and what will be the cost of implementation over the next three years.

ANSWER

In line with all Local Authorities in the Country, Haringey is working to implement the national agreement on single status. The national pay 'Single Status' agreement 2004 for Local Government Service workers (former manual and officer staff) laid down that authorities should complete implementation of Local Pay Reviews by 1 April 2007.

Officers have been negotiating with the unions on a package of conditions over the last year. A final package offer will be shared with the unions by end March 2007.

Approx. two thirds of councils across the country have yet to implement an agreement. Across London 22 out of 31 have yet to implement.

The cost is subject to a number of variables including the number of people that would be entitled to a pay increase, the number of years back pay agreed with the unions, the number and strength of potential equal pay claims. We have done some basic modelling to estimate the likely financial impact on the council but this is subject to variation and too difficult to identify a definitive cost over the next three years.

Written Question 26 – To the Executive Member for Environment and Conservation from Councillor Whyte:

Please provide figures for the number of road traffic accidents involving cyclists in the Borough in the last two years and what were the locations of these accidents how many cyclists were a) killed b) injured.

ANSWER

Accident data is 4 months in arrears as the London Accident Analysis Unit needs to confirm all information prior to releasing it. During the previous two years, from 1 December 2004 to 30 November 2006, there have been 135 accidents involving cyclists of which:

- Fatal – 0
- Serious – 16
- Slight – 119

Date	Location	Description (V = vehicle)
31/3/05	Seven Sisters Rd J/W Moreton Road	Vehicle1 Turned right into path of V2
26/4/06	Perth Road J/W Berwick Road	V2 swerved in front of V1, V1 was trying to overtake V2
25/5/05	Lordship Lane J/W The Roundway	V2 failed to give way on roundabout & hit V1
15/12/05	Stanhope D J/W Hurst Ave	V2 hit V1
31/1/06	Craven Park Rd J/W Leadale Rd	V1 pulled out into the path of V2
21/2/06	Turnpike La J/W Alexandra Rd	V2 travelling in the opp direction overtook & lost control collided into V1
24/2/06	White Hart Lane J/W Perth Rd	V1 turned right across the path of oncoming V2
15/3/06	Wightman Rd J/W Burgoyne Rd	V2 opened door without

		seeing V1
2/5/06	NFL High Rd 23 M NW J/W Alexandra Rd	V1 hit rear of V2
14/6/06	St Ann's Rd J/W Howard Rd	V2 pulled out into the path of V1
15/6/06	Bounds Green Rd J/W Nightingale Rd	V1 pulled out into the path of V2
7/7/06	Seven Sisters Rd J/W Netherton Rd	V2 pulled out on V1
21/7/06	Mayes Rd J/W Park Ridings	V2 collided with side of V1
30/7/06	High Rd/Norfolk Avenue	V2 failed to give way to V1
10/9/06	High Rd J/W Courcy Rd	V2 hit rear of V1
16/10/06	Archway Rd 30m SE J/W Cholmeley Park	V2 opened door into the path of V1

There is a separate attachment available detailing all killed and seriously injured accidents.

Written Question 27 – To the Executive Member for Finance from Councillor Bloch:

Please provide figures as to the number of Council Tax Demands and Housing and Council Tax and Benefit Notifications sent to people who are deceased for the period January 2006 to date?

ANSWER

Unfortunately, we are unable to supply the information requested as our IT software application does not record or have the facility to extract the information that you require.

In Council Tax, we have a procedure in place for dealing with deceased accounts. Upon receipt of information advising of the death of a charge payer, the charge payer's name is changed on the computer system to 'Exors of xxx Deceased'. This ensures that the relevant charge payer is placed on a separate profile and that all future notices sent out will be addressed accordingly. If the charge payer resided alone, a Class F - Deceased person (probate not granted) exemption is immediately granted to the account.

In respect of Housing Benefits, we have a team in place who are responsible for actioning changes in circumstances as soon as they are received into the service. All Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit letters are suppressed pending information from the executors of the claimant's estate.

Written Question 28 – To the Executive Member for Environment and Conservation from Councillor Wilson:

What progress is the Council making in providing safer cycle routes in the Borough?

ANSWER

Information on cycle routes: The Council produced and disseminated a map titled "Cycling, Walking and Public Transport in Haringey". These maps have colour-coded cycle routes highlighting routes on quieter roads and traffic-free areas and show where there are cycle crossing facilities and with-flow bus lanes. The maps are on display in customer areas of some council buildings and available on request, The Council's website also contains detailed information about safe cycling in Haringey. We are also currently working with Homes for Haringey to improve cycling on housing estates. This include providing secure cycle parking and Dr Bike session on housing estates.

Training for Safer Cycling : We organise cycle training for anybody over 12 years old in the borough with safer cycling in mind. The training is aimed at providing individuals and students with the skill necessary to cycle safely with confidence in their day to day activity, improving their fitness and wellbeing schools borough wide. Our target for 2007/8 is for 300 students to receive cycle training to level 2 to national standard, and some 200 individuals including families and children to receive one to one training by the end of the 2006/7 financial year. The scheme has been running for 3 years and has proved successful and popular.

Cycle Route Implementation and Stakeholder Plan (CRISP): We carry out studies into new safer cycle routes within the borough and seek funding from Transport for London to implement these routes through the Local Implementation Plan. One of the key projects in the LIP is the Cycle Route Implementation and Stakeholder Plan (CRISP) on all local routes in the borough. The CRISP study is a holistic detailed process which develop measures to improve and enhance each LCN+ route. This is to ensure all links are safe, comfortable and for cyclist to ride. The process helps includes and engage with a range of stakeholder such as school, local cycling groups as such as Haringey Cycling Campaign, residents and councillors.

Green Ways Project: We have been allocated TfL funding outside the LIP settlement for the development and implementation of two "Green Ways Routes" in the Borough. One of the routes runs from Highgate to Alexandra Palace and the other from Finsbury Park to the Lee Valley. These routes are designed to provide safe links between the boroughs' green spaces. The Green Ways allocation for 2007/8 is £320k. This may increase following public consultation on the proposal for Parkland Walk.

Improvements to cycle routes via the planning process: The Council's Transportation Planning Service uses the planning procedure for cycle/walking routes improvements, and seek S.106 Town & Country Planning Act 1990 agreement where appropriate. Where appropriate, a dedication of applicants' land as a public highway, extending the width of a cycle route or converting an existing walking route to a shared pedestrian/cycle route may also be sought by way of a S.72 Highways Act 1980 agreement. The Council implement other highway safety measures for cyclists like Toucan Crossing (shared pedestrian/cyclist signalled crossing)

and Advanced Cycle Stop Lines, through the planning application process, in the form of S.278 Highways Act 1980 agreement.