

## **COUNCIL – 18 November 2013 – QUESTIONS**

### **PUBLIC QUESTION FROM DR JEREMY KLEIN TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

*SEE ATTACHED MARKED a*

### **ORAL QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

#### **ORAL QUESTION 1 - TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN FROM COUNCILLOR NEWTON:**

Following the awful cases of Child T and Child B, it has been reported in the Independent on Sunday that there is another serious case review being conducted by the Local Safeguarding Children Board, how many serious case reviews are currently being conducted in Haringey and when will they be published?

#### **ANSWER**

#### **ORAL QUESTION 2 - TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE EMPLOYMENT AND CARBON REDUCTION FROM COUNCILLOR EGAN:**

Can the Cabinet Member provide more information on the recent announcement that the Council is proposing a council tax freeze for the fifth consecutive year in 2014?

#### **ANSWER**

#### **ORAL QUESTION 3 - TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR WILSON:**

How many kitchens could have been replaced by Homes for Haringey with the £3.7m wasted on dodgy bonuses for Homes for Haringey staff?

#### **ANSWER**

#### **ORAL QUESTION 4 - TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND ADULT SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR ADJE:**

Can the Cabinet Member update members on what is being done to tackle drug and alcohol abuse in the borough?

#### **ANSWER**

#### **ORAL QUESTION 5 - TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR REECE:**

Why are you keeping Haringey's residents and taxpayers in the dark about how much of their hard-earned money has been spent compensating Sharon Shoemith due to the incompetence of Haringey Council and Ed Balls?

#### **ANSWER**

**ORAL QUESTION 6 - TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR CHRISTOPHIDES:**

Can the Leader of the Council provide an update on what progress has been made with the McAslan and Partners design studio in N17?

**ANSWER**

**ORAL QUESTION 7 - TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING AND ENFORCEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR SOLOMON:**

How much did the proposal to build a waste plant on Pinkham Way cost to develop and how much is Haringey likely to save over the next five years as a result of the shelving of these plans?

**ANSWER**

**ORAL QUESTION 8 - TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND REGENERATION FROM COUNCILLOR BULL:**

With the cost of living crisis forcing even more people to take out payday loans to make ends meet and more than 1.5 million households already spending over 30 per cent of their income on unsecured credit repayments, can the Cabinet Member tell us what the Council is doing to support available alternatives?

**ANSWER**

**WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

**WRITTEN QUESTION 1 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR ALEXANDER:**

Is the council meeting its EU target for reducing pollution on the borough's roads and in particular what is it doing to reduce the amount of pollution from HGVs particularly on roads where there are vehicle weight bans?

**ANSWER**

The Council does not have an EU set target for reducing air pollution, although we have our own strategies to improve air quality.

Our Transport Strategy sets out a wide range of projects aimed at improving Haringey's air quality, involving lowering traffic volumes, easing congestion and encouraging modal shift to sustainable transport. The Council has identified hotspots at Tottenham gyratory, Seven Sisters Road, Tottenham High Road and Wood Green High Road. Projects at each of these locations are planned or underway to improve the local air quality.

The Council is also increasing the effectiveness of enforcement against those vehicles that contravene weight restrictions, through the installation of CCTV cameras at key locations in the borough.

**WRITTEN QUESTION 2 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING AND ENFORCEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR JENKS:**

Bearing in mind the ecological importance of the Pinkham Way site, can the Council confirm that its planning status will be changed to prevent any future development on this site which is not relevant to its ecological status and when this will be done?

**ANSWER**

The Council cannot at this time confirm that the planning status of the site will be changed.

The Council is currently preparing a Sites Allocations Development Plan Document (SADPD) together with an updated borough-wide Open Space and Biodiversity Study and an Employment Land Review. These processes will contribute to a review of the planning designation of a number of strategic sites in the borough in the SADPD, including the site at Pinkham Way. The first draft SADPD will be subject to public consultation, expected to be in early 2014.

**WRITTEN QUESTION 3 – TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR SCOTT:**

Are you still conducting a Community Centre review and if so when will findings be reported? The report was due to go to Cabinet this summer.

**ANSWER**

The review's principles and programme were approved by Cabinet in December 2012. As per the approved programme, the review commenced in Summer 2013 and is underway to implement these principles.

A report was not due back to Cabinet unless the original programme for the review changed. The review is due to conclude in early 2014 and a report with recommendations will be referred to Cabinet in Summer 2014.

**WRITTEN QUESTION 4 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR BEACHAM:**

Do you agree that there should be new and safer crossings on Colney Hatch Lane given the recent accidents there?

**ANSWER**

Officers are currently working with TfL on improvements warranted at the junction of Alexandra Park Road and Colney Hatch Lane.

**WRITTEN QUESTION 5 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND ADULT SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR WINSKILL:**

Why has no risk assessment been undertaken to ensure that the proposal to allow dementia sufferers at our day-centres to help cook their own meals is, at the very least, a safe way of saving money?

**ANSWER**

The removal of catering posts at day centres for older people is no longer part of the proposals for service efficiencies.

If the proposal had progressed, a full risk assessment would have been undertaken at that time.

**WRITTEN QUESTION 6 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR SCHMITZ:**

How many businesses in Tottenham will be displaced by the new Tottenham Hotspurs development and the associated regeneration schemes?

**ANSWER**

There were 85 businesses occupying premises that were required for the entire Northumberland Development Project, including the new stadium. Of these, 72 businesses have been successfully relocated either within the borough. The remaining businesses chose not to relocate.

**WRITTEN QUESTION 7 – TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR BLOCH:**

How many times in the last five years has Haringey council's whistleblowing policy been invoked and what was the outcome in each case?

**ANSWER**

As reported quarterly to the Council's Corporate Committee:

Year	Number of referrals	Outcome
2013/14	0	N/A
2012/13	2	Audit investigation found evidence of financial irregularity in both cases, disciplinary action recommended.
2011/12	4	Audit investigation found evidence of financial irregularity in 2 cases, disciplinary action recommended.

2010/11	4	Audit investigation found evidence of financial irregularity in 2 cases, disciplinary action recommended.
2009/10	2	Audit investigation found no evidence of financial irregularity.

**WRITTEN QUESTION 8 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIORNMENT FROM COUNCILLOR ALLISON:**

Please could the Cabinet Member explain why having a stationary traffic monitoring vehicle (reg KY60 HXX) parked in a bus stop on a narrow stretch of the High Street in the centre of Highgate village for at least 30 minutes during Thursday afternoon rush hour helps to keep traffic moving and sets a good example to other road users?

**ANSWER**

The mobile CCTV enforcement vehicle was parked at this location to carry out enforcement of a banned right turn restriction further down the road at South Grove, contravention of which is a road safety concern. This vehicle is deployed for up to 25 minutes a time, 2 -3 times a day due to the high level of contraventions at this location.

The vehicle was instructed to park beyond the bus stop, so that buses are not obstructed. The crew have clear instructions on where they can and cannot park when carrying out enforcement at this location, and they have followed those instructions.

**WRITTEN QUESTION 9 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR ERSKINE**

Are there any plans to return to source separated recycling collection and if so what would this cost the council?

**ANSWER**

There are no plans for this.

**WRITTEN QUESTION 10 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR STRANG**

When will the Hornsey Town Hall development be completed?

**ANSWER**

Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts continue to plan occupying the building by September 2016.

**WRITTEN QUESTION 11 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN FROM COUNCILLOR WILLIAMS**

Do you welcome a new school being built on the Ashmount site?

**ANSWER**

Ashmount Primary School is an Islington school with two form entry. The school moved to its current Islington site at 83 Crouch Hill in January 2013.

The Council works cross-borough to ensure sufficiency of school places, and we welcome the creation of any additional school places to meet identified demand. We cannot rely on a school on the former Ashmount site to meet any future unmet demand for school places in the wider Haringey area however, as there can be no guarantee that Haringey pupils would qualify for a place at the school.

**WRITTEN QUESTION 12 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR HARE**

How many trees in the borough were damaged by the St Jude storm and had to be removed?

**ANSWER**

Site surveys have identified 330 trees that were damaged during the storm, 155 of which had to be removed.

**WRITTEN QUESTION 13 – TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR GORRIE**

How much profit has the Alexandra Palace fireworks made this year?

**ANSWER**

The Alexandra Palace fireworks on 2 November 2013 made a net profit of approximately £8,500 for the Alexandra Park and Palace Trust.

**WRITTEN QUESTION 14 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING AND ENFORCEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR REID**

How many residents has the council contacted as part of the consultation on the planning application submitted for Hornsey Depot?

**ANSWER**

The Planning Service consulted 3931 households on the planning application for Hornsey Depot.

**WRITTEN QUESTION 15 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT  
FROM COUNCILLOR ENGERT**

Will you listen to Haringey Lib Dems calls and give local shoppers 4 days of free parking in the run up to Christmas on local high streets, shopping centres and in council car parks?

**ANSWER**

The Council has introduced concessions in car parks leading up to the Christmas period for the past number of years.

This year we want to ensure that all town centres benefit from concessions, not just those with car parks. We have therefore agreed that a 50% reduction in parking charges will be on offer in all town centres and in car parks on all weekends leading up to Christmas.

In addition we are building on the successful parking loyalty scheme run in Green Lanes over the last Christmas period, and are offering this to all town centres this year. Appropriate steps to publicise these plans and notify Traders' Associations are underway.

**WRITTEN QUESTION 16 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT  
FROM COUNCILLOR BUTCHER**

Will you listen to residents and focus on making concerts at Finsbury Park more profitable rather than increasing the number of concerts days as has been proposed?

**ANSWER**

The Council is currently consulting on revisions to the present policy with a report scheduled to go to Cabinet in December. As part of the report, amendments to the current fees and charges will be proposed to assist the Council maximise the income available from each event.

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**PUBLIC QUESTION SUBMITTED FROM DR JEREMY KLEIN**

**FULL COUNCIL – 18 NOVEMBER 2013**

To the Leader of the Council.

You will be aware that I discovered that the Council had made multiple mistakes in the sale of land in Cranley Gardens that resulted in a loss of over £300,000 to the Council. You will also be aware that I remain concerned at the way the case was handled and that the senior staff involved have not been disciplined.

Having discovered the error immediately wrote to the Council on 11 July 2009 stating “There would appear to be a prima facie case of maladministration here so I submit this letter as a formal complaint. It trust it will be addressed as a matter of urgency”.

Following the failure of the Council to properly investigate my complaint I received the following response dated 25 March 2010:

“It is my view that [ ] did not regard his email as the Council’s response to a formal complaint about this matter. It did not purport to be a report on the findings of an extensive investigation. I understand that there had been considerable contact between you and officers in my team as well as you and others within the Council and that [ ] was replying in an informal way to the latest email from you”.

Quite why a letter flagged as a formal complaint on the loss of £300,000 should have been regarded by Council staff as an informal matter is unclear. No evidence of prior contact between myself and the Council department has ever been found.

The previous Chief Executive of the Council stated in correspondence that “[the author of this email] has been prepared to acknowledge that he would have answered your e mail differently if he had been in possession of the findings of the audit report”.

Yet the email was dated 25<sup>th</sup> March 2010 whereas the Internal Audit Report the author claimed not to have seen at this point was dated September 2009. The Internal Audit report had the author of the email as a named addressee. The assertions of this member of staff simply do not accord with the facts.

The current Chief Executive has refused to address the errors and inconsistencies in the statements of this senior member of staff, which in my view amount to a cover-up of failures in his department.

Will the Leader of the Council agree to personally review the case with me and properly address the questions I have raised as her staff have evidently been



unwilling to do so, and to take all appropriate actions if my allegations of inconsistencies are upheld?