

## **TABLED**

### **COUNCIL – 24 MARCH 2014 – QUESTIONS**

**Item 12**

#### **ORAL QUESTIONS**

##### **ORAL QUESTION 1 - TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, EMPLOYMENT AND CARBON REDUCTION FROM COUNCILLOR CHRISTOPHIDES:**

The Department of Energy and Climate Change has just announced that Haringey will lead one of the first Green Deal Community Fund schemes; can the Cabinet Member update members on what this means for the borough?

#### **ANSWER**

##### **ORAL QUESTION 2 - TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR REECE:**

The cabinet decision on implementing a borough wide 20mph limit was first due to be taken in November 2013, but has now been postponed several times and no longer even appears on the Council's forward plan. Has the Labour cabinet u-turned on 20mph limits?

#### **ANSWER**

##### **ORAL QUESTION 3 - TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING AND ENFORCEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR DEMIRCI:**

Can the Cabinet Member update members on the Council's work to tackle problems around HMOs in the borough?

#### **ANSWER**

##### **ORAL QUESTION 4 - TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR WILLIAMS:**

Can she confirm that two sitting Labour councillors received court summons for non-payment of council tax between April 2011 and March 2012, and say what action she has taken to ensure Labour councillors pay council tax?

#### **ANSWER**

##### **ORAL QUESTION 5 - TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES FROM COUNCILLOR KHAN:**

In the face of ongoing police cuts, can the Cabinet Member tell us what the Council is doing to ensure that our community safety provision in the borough is not affected?

**ANSWER**

**ORAL QUESTION 6 - THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR JENKS:**

How many pot holes have been reported since the February Full Council meeting?

**ANSWER**

**ORAL QUESTION 7 - TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR BASU:**

Given that the Government has not committed to fund the Decent Homes Programme post 2014/15, can the Cabinet Member outline what the Council's plans are for continued investment?

**ANSWER**

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

In the last 5 years how much decent homes money has been spent on council homes which the council now wish to demolish in the High Road West area?

**ANSWER**

**WRITTEN QUESTIONS-**

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

How does the council monitor and enforce 20mph speed limits in residential roads covered by traffic calming schemes, where 20mph speed limit is a major "calming measure" and may routinely be disregarded by drivers?

**ANSWER**

Speeding offences, including those within 20mph zones remains a criminal offence. Therefore, enforcement of this can only be undertaken by the Police.

A 20mph zone, by its nature is designed to be self-enforcing. When the council receives reports of excessive speeding from residents it passes these onto the Police. It also requests that the Police conduct speed surveys at locations that may be perceived as dangerous. The surveys will determine if the Police consider speeds to be excessive and therefore require additional enforcement to improve safety.

**WRITTEN QUESTION 2 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR SCHMITZ:**

What is the budget for mobile speed cameras and how are they deployed?

**ANSWER**

The enforcement of speeding offences is the responsibility of the Police as it remains a criminal offence. The Council does not have a budget for mobile speed cameras as it is not within our powers to enforce the speed limit through camera technology.

We have however provided the Police's Safer Neighbourhood Team with four speed guns for use in speed enforcement operations. This is part of our partnership working approach with the SNT to improve road safety. We calibrate the guns periodically, as required, so they can be used to prosecute offenders.

**WRITTEN QUESTION 3 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR BLOCH:**

How many residential roads in the borough are identified as having a problem with speeding and what measures are taken to address it?

**ANSWER**

The council does not have speed surveys for all roads in the borough.

We have been successful in reducing serious accidents over the last five years through our Local Safety Schemes programme.

The council's award winning Smarter Travel Team also works closely with communities to promote road safety through education, publicity and training.

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

How are HGV (heavy goods vehicles) bans monitored and enforced in residential roads?

**ANSWER**

We currently enforce weight control bans principally through the deployment of our mobile CCTV enforcement vehicles and the issue of PCNs to vehicles contravening the restrictions. A camera is being installed in Wightman Road later this month to provide continuous enforcement in response to concerns raised with us about current infringement.

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

Does the council have a plan to monitor levels of pollution around primary schools in Haringey and is there a plan to address the pollution where levels are found to be excessively high?

## **ANSWER**

The Council does not have the ability to monitor pollution levels around all schools in Haringey. However, there are plans to address pollution levels locally by using funding for an Air Quality Apprentice. The post holder will work alongside the Smarter Travel Team, and the apprentice will deliver a specific air quality project to schools in Haringey; raising awareness about air pollution and promoting sustainable forms of transport such as cycling, walking, public transport to school.

In Haringey the main source of air pollution is from vehicles and it is recognised that National legislation is required to address this issue, as pollution levels are highest when adjacent to main roads, which is also consistent London wide.

## **WRITTEN QUESTION 6 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR WHYTE:**

How many successful prosecutions have there been for fly tipping and littering in the borough in the past year?

## **ANSWER**

The legislation used to take enforcement action against fly-tipping and littering varies depending on the nature of the offence committed. The type of enforcement action taken ranges from full prosecution to cautions and Fixed Penalty Notice fines. The use of varied legislation and different enforcement tools contributes to the overall outcome of minimising fly-tipping and littering in Haringey. The details of enforcement action taken against fly-tipping and littering in the year March 2013 – February 2014 is set out below.

### **Prosecutions**

- Environmental Protection Act 1990, Section 33 (fly-tipping of waste) – 5 prosecutions
- Environmental Protection Act 1990, Section 34 (failure of a business to control waste as required under their Duty of Care) – 12 prosecutions
- Environmental Protection Act 1990, Section 33/34 (fly-tipping and breach of Duty of Care) – 1 prosecution
- Environmental Protection Act 1990, Section 88 (littering) – 5 prosecutions
- Control of Pollution (Amendment) Act 1989, Section 1 (carrying waste without Waste Carrier Licence) – 5 prosecutions
- Environmental Protection Act 1990, Section 33 & 34 + Section 88 (fly-tipping and littering) – 3 prosecutions

### **Cautions**

- Environmental Protection Act 1990, Section 33 (fly-tipping of waste) – 2 cautions
- Environmental Protection Act 1990, Section 33/34 (fly-tipping and breach of Duty of Care) – 1 caution

### **Fixed Penalty Notices**

- Environmental Protection Act 1990, Section 34 (failure to comply with Duty of Care) – 97 FPNs

**WRITTEN QUESTION 7 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR GORRIE:**

How many leaseholders in the borough have received bills for charges for works from Homes for Haringey that are in excess of £30,000 and what was the highest amount charged to a leaseholder?

**ANSWER**

Since the start of the Decent Homes Programme in 2008, a total of 26 out of 2,415 leaseholders have received invoices that are in excess of £30,000. To date, the highest amount charged to a leaseholder is £50,492.

Throughout the Decent Homes Programme, the Council has offered leaseholders living in their leasehold properties (resident leaseholders) extended interest-free periods to pay their major works bills in monthly instalments.

Until last year, resident leaseholders have had up to 6 years interest free to pay all bills over £15,000. In November 2013, Cabinet agreed that the interest free periods available to resident leaseholders should be increased where they can demonstrate that they have difficulty in obtaining a bank loan.

Resident leaseholders receiving invoices of between £20,000 and £29,999 are now able to apply for 7 years (interest free) to pay for the works or for up to 9 years if they are willing to pay interest during the last 2 years. For invoices above £29,999, resident leaseholders are now able to apply for 8 years (interest free) or up to 10 years if they are willing to pay interest during the last 2 years

**WRITTEN QUESTION 8 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR ENGERT:**

How many street lights are there in Haringey, and what proportion of those lights have been upgraded since May 2010 and how many have LED lights fitted?

**ANSWER**

There are around 18,000 street lighting columns in the borough. Since May 2010 we have upgraded 1,302 columns of which 1,024 are Evolo Lanterns with Cosmopolis (white light) and 278 are LED lanterns. Since 2013/14 the Council has adopted a policy of providing LED lanterns when replacing columns and upgrading lanterns.

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

How much revenue does the council expect to raise from the two large concerts so far scheduled in Finsbury Park and what proportion of that revenue will be spent in Finsbury Park?

**ANSWER**

The Council is expecting to receive an additional £400k from the two large events scheduled in Finsbury Park this summer. It is envisaged that some of this income will be spent in Finsbury Park, with the remaining supporting wider Haringey Parks Improvements.

## **WRITTEN QUESTION 10 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN FROM COUNCILLOR REECE**

Why did it take so long for Haringey to act decisively over the Octagon Pupil Referral Unit with little change between it being placed in special measures in June 2013 and its OFSTED inspection in October 2013 and only now moving to an academy status?

### **ANSWER**

We are of the view that timely management action was undertaken by the Local Authority (LA) directly after the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) was placed into special measures with the provision's Headteacher being removed and replaced within a period of 10 working days with a new leadership and management team. The LA approached the Department for Education (DfE) proactively (ahead of the confirmation of the Special Measures judgement by Ofsted, as opposed to waiting for the final judgement and for the DfE to make contact, which would have delayed the required change process further) and met with the DfE's designated PRU academy lead shortly after the inspection process.

It was recognised that progress between the section 5 inspection and the subsequent section 8 visit was judged as not making reasonable progress by Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI), but there were a number of key systems / processes being put in place to ensure an improved offer to pupils. This was reflected by a very positive section 8 visit in the spring term 2014, where it was recognised that the PRU was making reasonable progress and the role of the LA was recognised.

In line with formal due process, the DfE lead was invited to the subsequent meeting of the PRU Management Committee in September, when options were presented by the DfE for potential academy sponsors for Haringey's PRU academy. It was therefore incumbent upon the LA to undertake a due diligence exercise on all three providers to ensure seek to secure the appropriate provider that would be best positioned to drive the changes required for Haringey's PRU learners. The subsequent meeting of the management committee led to the nominated provider (TBAP) being invited to present to the PRU Management Committee a proposed plan and vision for the future for improving the performance of the provision if approved by the Management Committee.

It is important to note that since 1 April 2013, under statutory legislation, PRU Management Committees and not LAs are accountable and responsible for the work of PRUs and LAs have no decision making powers, as this lies solely with the Management Committee, to which the LA role is one of guest and advisor at the meetings of this forum. All decisions with regard to milestones, timescales and decision-making were advised and concluded by the Management Committee as laid out in statute and not the LA.

A range of alternative options was subsequently discussed / consulted with local stakeholders / key groups /forums such as local head teachers, to allow for optimal stakeholder input in informing a key local decision regarding the future of PRUs. This consultation informed an emergency meeting of the PRU Management Committee at which the Committee were finally able to conclude with confidence, supported by local needs assessment and stakeholder data, that arrangements should be made to apply for the TBAP PRU academy order.

Internal application processes for the order were concluded by mid- November 2013 in preparation for the next round of PRU Academy application assessments by Lord Nash in early December 2013. Lord Nash approved the application, recommending formal ratification

to the Secretary of State (SoS). The SoS formally ratified the application in late December 2013 and the Academy Order was approved with a proposed June academy conversion date. The DfE recommends a six month timescale for process management from the granting of the Academy Order to the actual conversion date.

Finally, local ambition to ensure the best possible outcomes for our learners saw the LA maintain an ambition to achieve a 1 April 2014 conversion date, which would have cut in half the DfE's recommended timescale and go on record as the quickest PRU academy conversion to date. The LA and PRU Management Committee have proactively followed required due process with the DfE and partner stakeholders for consultation purposes and progressed the academy change agenda once the Order was issued – two to three months quicker than average.

**WRITTEN QUESTION 11 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, EMPLOYMENT AND CARBON REDUCTION FROM COUNCILLOR STRANG**

Can the cabinet member explain why spending on consultants has almost doubled in the last 2 years?

**ANSWER**

Given the significant funding reductions the Council is continuing to face, the numbers of permanent Council staff have consequently reduced. There is an obvious need, therefore, for a flexible and agile workforce to meet peaks in work demands that it would have been possible to accommodate within existing staffing resources before austerity.

Local authorities now need a more flexible workforce which includes consultants, secondments and fixed term contracts in order to meet peak work demands across all functions and service areas.

**WRITTEN QUESTION 12 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING AND ENFORCEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR HARE**

What progress has he made in developing a private landlord licensing scheme for Haringey similar to in Newham, since he expressed his support for the idea at the last Full Council meeting?

**ANSWER**

The London Borough of Newham has developed two borough-wide licensing schemes – an additional licensing scheme to cover all private rented accommodation except shared HMOs, and an Additional HMO Licensing scheme to cover all HMOs that are not subject to mandatory licensing.

In Haringey, we have an Additional HMO Licensing Scheme which has been operating in the Harringay Ward and surrounding roads since October 2011, and the council has recently approved an Additional HMO Licensing Scheme for Tottenham which will come into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2014. We will continue to carefully monitor and evaluate these schemes over the coming months.

Newham's Additional Licensing Scheme for the private rented sector is less than a year old, so at this stage it is difficult to fully understand the impact the scheme has made. We would need to be sure that introducing such a scheme here would benefit the residents of

Haringey, so we will be engaging with and watching with interest the evaluation Newham will be undertaking as their scheme reaches a full year.