

FULL COUNCIL: 21 JULY 2014 – QUESTIONS

ORAL QUESTIONS

ORAL QUESTION 1 - TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES FROM COUNCILLOR CHRISTOPHIDES:

Can the Cabinet member tell us what actions Children's Services are going to put in place following the recent Ofsted report?

ANSWER

ORAL QUESTION 2 - TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR ELLIOTT :

Has the Council received any complaints from residents about the Wireless Festival at Finsbury Park, if so how many and what issues were raised?

ANSWER

ORAL QUESTION 3 - TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, SOCIAL INCLUSION AND SUSTAINABILITY FROM COUNCILLOR JOGEE:

Will the Cabinet member provide us with some more information on the proposed Fashion Technology Academy in Tottenham?

ANSWER

ORAL QUESTION 4 - TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND REGENERATION FROM COUNCILLOR ROSS:

On 18th December 2012 the Council stated in a Cabinet report that 31 community buildings owned by the Council were being leased to community and voluntary organisations. How many community buildings does the Council currently lease to community and voluntary organisations?

ANSWER

ORAL QUESTION 5 - TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR MEEHAN:

Will the Cabinet Member tell us what the Council's position is regarding a 20mph speed limit in the borough?

ANSWER

ORAL QUESTION 6 - TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND REGENERATION FROM COUNCILLOR ENGERT:

How many families with children and/or young people have the Council/Homes for Haringey housed in temporary accommodation in the last year?

ANSWER

ORAL QUESTION 7 - TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR RESOURCES AND CULTURE FROM COUNCILLOR BASU:

Following the recent libraries review, can the Cabinet member share with us what lessons have been learnt and actions will be taken to ensure that our library service continues to grow and improve?

ANSWER

ORAL QUESTION 8 - TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR CARTER:

How much did the new cycling racks on Green Lanes cost to buy and install?

ANSWER

WRITTEN QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

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

Please list the bus stops in the borough which are not fully accessible to people with mobility problems (non DDA compliant)?

ANSWER

At present over 83% of bus stops in Haringey are accessible to people with mobility problems. This places the borough in the upper quartile performance for London.

64 bus stops require additional measures to meet required accessibility standards. The Highways Works Plan provides for 11 of these to be made accessible in 2014/15.

A full list of bus stops not currently meeting accessibility standards is appended.

WRITTEN QUESTION 2 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND REGENERATION FROM COUNCILLOR BEACHAM:

How many prosecutions have there been for sub-letting of Council homes in each of the last 3 years?

ANSWER

Until the introduction of the Prevention of Social Housing Fraud Act in 2013, which made sub-letting a criminal offence, prosecution for tenancy fraud was much harder because tenants had to be prosecuted under the Fraud Act – a piece of legislation that requires a significant amount of proof.

As a result, there were no prosecutions for tenancy fraud in 2011/12 or 2012/13. There were two prosecutions (under the Prevention of Social Housing Fraud Act 2013) in 2013/14.

However, over the last three years the council have been working hard to recover possession of any social rented housing that is being sub-let. Working closely with Homes for Haringey and local housing

associations, the Council's Anti Fraud Team has been able to recover possession of 107 Council homes and 30 housing association homes that were being sub-let.

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

How many cases of Japanese Knotweed have been reported to the Council and what action has the Council taken?

ANSWER

The Council typically deals with around 40 reports of Japanese Knotweed each year.

Where this relates to Council owned sites, we use our own specialist contractors to treat the plants and arrange for their secure disposal. This involves an application of herbicide (a weed killer) to the stems; this has to be done on a number of occasions over 3 years in order to effectively control the infestation.

Where the sites are privately owned, those reporting the problem are advised to seek their own specialist advice and/or to refer to the advice available on the Council's own website and on the Government's Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs website. For residents who have cut it down we provide a free collection service to avoid them spreading the problem.

WRITTEN QUESTION 4 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND REGENERATION FROM COUNCILLOR CONNOR:

How many Council homes has the Council built since 2010?

ANSWER

In November 2013, the Cabinet approved a Housing Investment and Estate Renewal Strategy that supports the development of new Council homes. Homes are currently being designed and need to go through the planning process, so no homes have yet been built, but applications will start going to planning committee from September.

During 2015, construction will commence on the first of 95 new homes (62 for rent, 32 for low cost home ownership and 1 for open market sale) and, of these, 41 are expected to be completed in 2016 and the other 54 are expected to be completed in 2017.

Funding and suitable sites are being identified in order to ensure that the Council is able to deliver a bigger and more ambitious new build programme in future years.

WRITTEN QUESTION 5 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND REGENERATION FROM COUNCILLOR ROSS:

How many affordable homes have been built in Haringey since 2010 and what category of affordable home do they fall into?

ANSWER

Between 1 April 2010 and 31 March 2014, 1241 affordable homes were built. Of these, 641 were let at a social affordable rent and 600 were offered as a mix of shared ownership, intermediate rent and Rent-to-Homebuy.

WRITTEN QUESTION 6 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR ELLIOTT:

How many times since 2010 has the pond in White Hart Lane Recreation Ground been cleaned?

ANSWER

The park is visited on a daily basis by the Parks Hygiene team and when access can be gained the boating lake is cleaned. We are unable to confirm exactly how many times the lake has been cleaned since 2010. However, I can confirm that the boating lake was recently deep-cleaned on 1st July 2014.

WRITTEN QUESTION 7 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR MORRIS:

How many claims have there been in the last two years against the Council and Homes For Haringey for injuries caused by broken, uneven pavements etc and how much did this cost taxpayers?

ANSWER

	Year	Number of claims received	Number of claims defended and closed with no payment	Number of claims still in progress	Number of claims paid	Amount Paid to date
Haringey Council	2012/13	95	66	24	5	£72,148
	2013/14	93	19	71	3	£15,769
	2014/15	8	0	8	0	0
Homes for Haringey	2012/13	0	0	0	0	0
	2013/14	0	0	0	0	0
	2014/15	3	0	3	0	0

WRITTEN QUESTION 8 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND REGENERATION FROM COUNCILLOR CARTER:

Following the recent Cabinet report about asbestos in Hornsey School for Girls, what is the Council doing to tackle the issue of asbestos in Council buildings?

ANSWER

All Council buildings have an asbestos register that recommends appropriate action to be taken for known asbestos, either by monitoring, encapsulating or removal. Some of our buildings do contain asbestos and are managed in line with current regulations. They are all surveyed annually.

WRITTEN QUESTION 9 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR HARE:

What are the locations of electric car charge points in the borough and how many are working?

ANSWER

Across Haringey there are currently 17 charging points providing 21 spaces for vehicles to charge. These locations are listed on the table below.

Location	No. of charging points	No. of charging bays
Tottenham Green Leisure Centre,N17	1	2
Parkland Road, N22	1	2
Waldeck Road, N15	1	2
Princes Avenue,N10	1	2
Bury Road Multi-Storey Car Park, N22	2	2
Crouch Hall Road Car Park, N8	1	1
Shopping City East(Private Car Park), N22	3	3
Shopping City West(Private Car Park), N22	3	3
Stoneleigh Car Park, N17	2	2
Summerland Gardens Car Park, N10	2	2
Total	17	21

All these charging points are part of the Source London Network. Visit www.sourcelondon.net for further details. A French company, IER, has won the tender to take over the Source London contract from September 2014 and this will result in a further expansion of the charging point network in Haringey and across London over the next few years.

There are currently two charging points out of action due to damage. These are the charging unit in Princes Avenue, N10 and one of the charging units in Summerland Gardens car park, N10. Both units are scheduled to be fixed and operational by the end of July.