

**FULL COUNCIL: 24 NOVEMBER 2014**  
**QUESTIONS**

**ORAL QUESTIONS**

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

In November last year you confirmed that there were two serious case reviews being conducted by the Local Safeguarding Children Board, when will those case reviews be published?

**ANSWER**

**ORAL QUESTION 2 - TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND REGENERATION FROM COUNCILLOR JOGEE:**

Given the significant housing crisis in London, can the Cabinet Member tell us what steps the Council is taking to address the issue in Haringey?

**ANSWER**

**ORAL QUESTION 3 - TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR RESOURCES AND CULTURE FROM COUNCILLOR CARTER:**

Following the recent supreme court ruling against the council, what action are you taking to ensure that in future consultations are not *'misleading'* and do not imply *'that there were no possible alternatives to that choice.'*

**ANSWER**

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

Can the Leader update Members on the outcome of discussions with Birkbeck, University of London, to provide courses in the borough?

**ANSWER**

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

Do you think it is acceptable that in 2013/14 Haringey had the third highest number of fly-tipping incidents in London?

**ANSWER**

**ORAL QUESTION 6 - TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, SOCIAL INCLUSION AND SUSTAINABILITY FROM COUNCILLOR WRIGHT:**

Can the Cabinet Member tell us how many children are likely to benefit from the Council's landmark £20 Credit Union account scheme?

## **ANSWER**

### **WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

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

Can you list which schools in the borough do not have a pedestrian crossing to their front entrance?

#### **ANSWER**

In order to provide information on pedestrian crossings in front of individual school entrances we would need to carry out site inspections to establish accurate information. However, the council does hold information on which schools, children's centres and colleges do not have a pedestrian crossing within an 80m radius of their sites. These are:

#### **Secondary Schools**

- Gladesmore Community School
- Hornsey School for Girls
- The John Loughborough School SDA (VA)
- Northumberland Park Community School
- St Thomas More Catholic School
- Haringey Sixth Form Centre

#### **Primary Schools (including Juniors)**

- Campsbourne Primary School (N)
- Bruce Grove Primary School (N) Bruce Grove Language Resource (BGLR)
- Crowland Primary School (N)
- Devonshire Hill Primary School (N)
- Earlham Primary School (N)
- Ferry Lane Primary School (N)
- Harris Primary Academy Coleraine Park (formerly Coleraine Park Primary School)
- Lancasterian Primary School (N)
- Lea Valley Primary School (N)
- Mulberry Primary School (N) (Resourced provision for autism)
- Noel Park Primary School (N)
- North Haringay Primary School (N)
- St Aidan's VC Primary School (N)
- St Ignatius RC Primary School (N)
- St John Vianney Catholic Primary School (N)
- St Martin of Porres RC Primary School (N)
- St Mary's CE Primary School (Rectory Gardens & Church Lane)
- St Paul & All Hallows' Federation
- Seven Sisters Primary School (N)
- Stamford Hill Primary School (N)
- Stroud Green Primary School (N)

- Tetherdown Primary School
- Tiverton Primary School (N)
- Weston Park Primary School (N)
- The Willows on Broadwater Primary School

### **Junior School**

- Belmont Junior School
- St Gildas Catholic Junior School
- South Haringay Junior School

### **Infant Schools**

- Belmont Infant School (N)
- St Peter in Chains RC Infant School
- South Haringay Infant School (N)

### **Special Schools (inclusive campuses)**

- The Vale School (Primary Resource Base) @ Lancasterian Primary School
- The Brook
- The Vale School (Secondary Resource Base), Northumberland Park School
- The Vale School, Inclusion Scheme @ Belmont Junior & Infants

### **Plus 10 Children Centres**

### **WRITTEN QUESTION 2 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING FROM COUNCILLOR BEACHAM:**

What pieces of land would the council ring-fence for the proposed Crossrail 2 route?

### **ANSWER**

The process of safeguarding the alignment of the route for Crossrail 2 is formally undertaken by the Department for Transport (DfT) rather than the council. The council has been provided with draft maps showing the proposed area to be safeguarded which will also be shown on TfL's website.

Formal consultation on the safeguarding lasts for 8 weeks from 20 November to 16 January 2015. Following the current consultation, the DfT are planning to issue formal safeguarding directions in around March 2015. Further safeguarding consultation is planned for later in 2015 which will relate to the detailed plans for tunnels, worksites and stations.

### **WRITTEN QUESTION 3 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR RESOURCES AND CULTURE FROM COUNCILLOR NEWTON:**

Has the council conducted any 'mystery shopper' exercises of resident's experiences of the council's customer services, if so how many calls were not answered?

### **ANSWER**

The council has been conducting "mystery shopping" exercise for the past four months as part of the Customer Services Transformation Programme. The data will allow us to gain valuable insight about

our shortfall in performance, gaps around skills and competences, greater understanding of processes and pain points in the Customer experience. During the period July – October this year, we made 355 mystery shopper calls of which 93 resulted in no answer. This equates to a “not answered” rate of 26.2%.

**WRITTEN QUESTION 4 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR RESOURCES AND CULTURE FROM COUNCILLOR CONNOR:**

How much is the council spending on the refurbishment of the Podium Level of River Park House?

**ANSWER**

A contract has been awarded to Thomas Sinden Ltd to deliver predominately refurbishment work to both River Park House, and Alexandra House Buildings, in the sum of £469,932.

The total estimated capital costs of the proposed refurbishment works on the Podium floor of River Park House and the walkway between River Park House and Alexandra House are currently estimated to be £1,054,202 including the construction works detailed above, and all other project costs including fees, furniture and other disbursements.

This project is part of the wider Smart Working programme which seeks to rationalise and consolidate our office accommodation into fewer buildings that are more fit for purpose, and support revenue savings of approximately £300k per year by vacating other council properties.

**WRITTEN QUESTION 5 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING FROM COUNCILLOR CARTER:**

How many and which third sector/voluntary groups have not had their contracts renewed, and or had their funding reduced in the last year?

**ANSWER**

Over the last three years, the way the council allocates funding to the voluntary and community sector has increasingly been through contract awards following a competitive tender process. The council remains dedicated to working in partnership with the voluntary and community sector, building local capacity to strengthen residents, families and communities.

We will use our resources alongside those of the sector, building strong alliances to tackle inequality and poor outcomes and maximising alternative income sources focused on identified need. These will include alternative funding from sources such as charitable trusts, social finance, philanthropy and private sector corporate social responsibility activity. Some organisations locally are very effective at raising funds from other sources, often based on a small amount of seed funding from the council. These organisations are thriving and sustainable and offer a model to the wider sector. We need to understand how all organisations in the borough can learn from their peer organisations and support each other to benefit from wider opportunities available.

We are re-commissioning a number of services in line with the requirements of the Care Act, notably advocacy and provision for carers. The organisations currently funded to deliver these services have therefore not received further extensions on contracts which were originally due to expire in March 2014 and had been extended until the end of December 2014. These organisations are:

**Non-statutory Advocacy:**

A new advocacy service, which meets the changed requirements of the Care Act, is being procured from the voluntary sector through CompeteFor and appropriate voluntary sector providers will be contracted following this procurement exercise. In light of this, Mind in Haringey, Mencap and Haringey Disability First Consortium have all been notified that their contracts for non-statutory advocacy will not be further extended from the end of December 2014.

### **Statutory Advocacy**

Local authorities provide advocates under the Mental Capacity Act and since April 2013 under the Mental Health Act 1983 and are required to appoint Independent Mental Capacity Advocates (IMCA) to represent individuals who may lack capacity to make decisions regarding their health or social care as a result of their disability, illness such as dementia or brain injury or mental ill-health. The Mental Capacity Act 2005 (MCA) further requires that anything done to, or on behalf of, someone who lacks the capacity to make their own decisions must be in their best interest and that every person deprived of their liberty under the terms of the MCA must have a Relevant Person's Representative to protect their interests throughout the process. Where no friend or family member is willing or eligible, a paid representative will be appointed. Independent Mental Health Advocate Services (IMHA) are specialist mental health advocates, who help qualifying patients understand the legal provisions to which they are subject under the Mental Health Act 1983 Act and the rights and safeguards to which they are entitled.

When the council jointly tendered with Enfield and Barnet for the provision of a single, statutory advocacy service to commence in April 2013, the mental health statutory advocacy service (previously provided by Rethink Mental Illness) was terminated and the specification subsumed in the new specification currently delivered by the voluntary sector organisation Voiceability.

### **Carers:**

A new service for carers, which meets the changed requirements of the Care Act and wider aspirations to support carers more effectively, is being commissioned. This service will be procured from the voluntary sector and will involve bringing funding together to support a hub based approach. Appropriate providers will be contracted following this procurement exercise.

The Asian Carers' Support Centre, the BME Carers' Support Service and the Mental Health Support Association have all been notified that their contracts for the provision of services to carers as currently specified will not be further extended from the end of December 2014. The BME Carers' Support Service contract for the provision of a carers sitting service was withdrawn at the end of March 2014 and was not renewed due to low demand for the service.

Markfield Project has been notified that their contract for the provision of services to people with disabilities is being re-tendered. This service will continue to be delivered in the future by the voluntary sector and there will be no break in provision.

The council is commissioning additional services to meet the requirements of the Care Act and the Children and Families Act from the voluntary sector, some jointly with the Clinical Commissioning Group. These services include Neighbourhood Connects to reduce social isolation and intervene early to improve health and wellbeing, a refreshed offer for Information, Advice and Guidance for all residents and strengthened responses to our Early Help offer for children, young people and families.

### **WRITTEN QUESTION 6 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER HOUSING AND REGENERATION FROM COUNCILLOR ELLIOTT:**

How much has the council and Homes for Haringey spent on communications, including staff wages in the last 4 years?

**ANSWER**

Homes for Haringey spend on Communications	10-11	11-12	12-13	13-14
Salaries	£162,808	£137,710	£114,508	£92,838
Marketing Activity including design, print and related services	£242,864	£133,958	£103,881	£76,372

Budgets have been reduced in accordance with savings schedules.

Haringey Council spend on Communications	10-11	11-12	12-13	13-14
Salaries	£1,524,688	£1,185,832	£1,008,233	£999,852
Marketing Activity including design, print and related services	£1,070,133	£823,331	£807,043	£659,033

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

How much has the council/Homes for Haringey spent on scaffolding in each of the last 4 years?

**ANSWER**

The Homes for Haringey Repairs Service has in the last four years (2010-2014) spent £1.152m on scaffold. A breakdown of these costs is as follows:

- 2010/11 £219k
- 2011/12 £318k
- 2012/13 £328k
- 2013/14 £287k YTD

Please note that scaffold is also erected to undertake capital works which are calculated as part of wider contracts within the Council and Homes for Haringey (e.g. Decent Homes). We are therefore not able to give accurate figures for the cost of scaffolds in all of our contracts without undertaking a significant amount of further work.

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

What can the council do to limit the continual road works caused by Thames Water dealing with sewage and water mains issues in the Muswell Hill area?

**ANSWER**

Following the recent disruption to the road network due to water and sewer systems in the Muswell Hill area, council officers have arranged to meet with Thames Water. Officers want to understand the

reasons for the recent failures and to seek clarification from Thames Water on their future investment proposals, to prevent further failures and disruption.

In the event of a significant burst water main or collapsed sewer, the council's Network Management Team will attend site and assess situation with particular consideration for:

- Impact on traffic in immediate vicinity and wider network
- Impact on public transport services
- Access impacts on residents and businesses
- Level of damage, if any, to highway surfaces and street furniture.
- Liaison with utility company to define traffic management and any necessary warning signage and publicity arrangements.
- Place information on LBH website road works bulletin page and utilise corporate Twitter feed.
- Agree timescales for works completion, extended working hours, use of rapid hardening materials or alternative works methodology.
- Agree extent of damage caused to adjacent highway surfaces and timescales
- Monitor progress on site (either by physical site visit or CCTV if available) to ensure compliance with working hours requirements etc.
- In the event of a road closure, assess if this will facilitate the execution of other works within the closure area such as pothole repairs or similar.

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

What is the council doing about air pollution levels outside schools, particularly in hotspot areas such as Muswell Hill and Wood Green?

**ANSWER**

Air quality is at the top of both our environmental and public health agenda. This is echoed through the funding we were awarded by the Mayor's Air Quality fund, which has allowed us to employ an Air Quality Apprentice. The main role of the Air Quality Apprentice is to communicate the importance of reducing air pollution to primary schools in Haringey.

The Council's Smarter Travel programme includes specific measures to encourage the use of more sustainable modes of transport, reducing transport related pollution. A significant part of that programme target schools. The specific projects undertaken include:

- Supporting schools develop School Travel Plans, encouraging children to walk or cycle to school.
- Providing a comprehensive road safety education programme, including cycle training
- Implementing physical interventions through the LiP.
- Commissioning the erection of a Green Screen on the grounds of Bounds Green primary school (to be delivered in 2015). This school being located on Bounds Green Road is exposed to high levels of pollution and was selected as a school where pupils and teachers would greatly benefit from this intervention. .

The current Air Quality Action Plan 2011 – 2018 outlines how Haringey intends to fulfil obligations for air quality management and how we will monitor the effectiveness of the measures introduced. The measures proposed in this plan, in particular centre around both transport and non transportation measures. Transportation measures include: the council's fleet emissions; car clubs; electric vehicles; travel plans; and cycling. Non transport measures such include: new and car free developments;

biomass and industrial emissions; and awareness raising measures such as providing pollution information through monitoring, awareness in schools and promoting reduced car use.