

FULL COUNCIL: 23 MARCH 2015

QUESTIONS

ORAL QUESTIONS

ORAL QUESTION 1 - TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND REGENERATION FROM COUNCILLOR GALLAGHER:

After many months of hard work, it is brilliant that the GLA has now publicly confirmed that Tottenham has been awarded Housing Zone status. Will the Cabinet Member tell us exactly what this means for Tottenham and what the next stages of this regeneration project will be?

ANSWER

ORAL QUESTION 2 - TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR RESOURCES AND CULTURE FROM COUNCILLOR NEWTON:

Has the council or Homes for Haringey returned any EU funding in the last 3 years, if so much how much funding was returned?

ANSWER

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

This year marks the 50th anniversary of our borough; can the Cabinet Member tell us what plans have been put in place to celebrate this great occasion?

ANSWER

ORAL QUESTION 4 - TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR CARTER:

Why has Haringey Council refused to ban cigarette marketing units in Finsbury Park during large-scale 'family' concerts?

ANSWER

ORAL QUESTION 5 - TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR BEVAN:

Can the Leader of the Council update us on the heritage restoration project at Alexandra Palace?

ANSWER

ORAL QUESTION 6 - TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR RESOURCES AND CULTURE FROM COUNCILLOR HARE:

How many times in the last 3 years have the council and Homes for Haringey breached employment law?

ANSWER

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

WRITTEN QUESTION 1 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES FROM COUNCILLOR MORRIS:

How many children in the borough with special needs have waited for more than a month for an occupational therapy referral?

ANSWER

Under the terms of the commissioning agreement that Haringey has with Whittington Health, children with a learning need should be seen within 12 weeks. In the most recent period for which performance is available, 80% of children were seen within that time.

In February 2015 there was a significant increase in the referral rate from a typical number of two-three per month to 12. This directly relates to referrals being made as part of Education Health and Care needs assessments. There are currently 30 children waiting for their first occupational therapy appointment; 25 are in early years and five are in mainstream schools.

WRITTEN QUESTION 2 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES FROM COUNCILLOR NEWTON:

What percentage of babies in the borough are having their first health visit within 14 days?

ANSWER

All women receive postnatal visits from a midwife on the first day home after the birth, on day 5 and a discharge visit on day 10 when the family is then transferred to the health visiting service. Some families may receive additional visits from the midwife depending on need. Families can also access postnatal support from midwives at children's centres.

Coverage of new birth visits within 10-14 days improved from 21% in September 2011 to 85% by September 2012. Currently, coverage remains at 85% of families receiving a new birth assessment by a health visitor within 10-14 days after birth.

WRITTEN QUESTION 3 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING FROM COUNCILLOR CARTER:

How many square meters of Metropolitan Open Land have been included in the draft site allocation document as being suitable for development and please list the sites?

ANSWER

There is only one site within the draft Site Allocations document that proposes development entirely on land designated as Metropolitan Open Land (MOL). This is the Hornsey Water Treatment Works (which is previously developed land), at 0.7Ha (7,000m²). The filter beds were put forward by Thames Water as surplus to their strategic infrastructure needs, and therefore it is appropriate to test, through consultation on the draft allocations, the acceptability of using this land for residential development.

There are a further four sites within the site allocation DPD that incorporate MOL:

- The Broadwater Farm site (SA63) includes 66,000sq.m of MOL (part of Lordship Recreation Ground), but only on the basis of there being no net loss of MOL, and development of the MOL taking place only in the exceptional circumstances that use of the Recreation Ground is necessary to provide for decant required to enable further improvements on the estate itself.
- Alexandra Palace and Park (site area = 77.5 Ha) – The site allocation (SA55) is not intended to promote development of the MOL, but to improve the existing palace buildings and use of the grounds.
- Highgate School campus (of which 81,000sq.m is MOL) is captured by the site allocation (SA44). That allocation proposes exploration of how school facilities can be enhanced, while simultaneously benefiting local communities including potentially increasing accessibility through the site.
- Rowan's Bowling Alley – includes circa 5600 sq.m of MOL provision for the potential to restructure the MOL to enable the improvement of public access and use of the Park, in line with the aspiration to that effect in the adopted Joint Finsbury Park Town Centre SPD.

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

How much has the council and Homes for Haringey spent on consultants in each of the last 3 years?

ANSWER

- Year 2012/13 £155,798
- Year 2013/15 £423,131
- Year 2014/15 (costs up to the end of January 2015): £723,109

The increase in interim consultancy costs over 2014/15 has been carefully planned, and is due to the circumstances relating to the Housing Transformation Programme.

The future model for housing delivery in Haringey is currently being considered. It is not cost effective to permanently appoint to senior positions when the future of housing services and Homes for Haringey is under review, and when the management agreement between the council and Homes for Haringey is due to expire in March 2016. These costs are closely monitored and are part of an overall reduction in senior management costs over this period.

WRITTEN QUESTION 5 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR RESOURCES AND CULTURE FROM COUNCILLOR ELLIOTT:

In the last 5 years have any council or Homes for Haringey IT projects overspent their original budget and if so by how much?

ANSWER

The IT Capital Programme (covering council IT projects) has been delivered within its original budget in each of the last five years.

During this period, only one individual IT project has overspent its original budget (by £15K = 6% of original budget) and this was offset by underspends on other IT projects delivered that year.

WRITTEN QUESTION 6 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER PLANNING FROM COUNCILLOR HARE:

Last year, what percentage of homes given planning permission in the borough were affordable homes?

ANSWER

In the period April 2013 to March 2014, the council granted permission for 457 new units across 173 development sites within the borough. The vast majority, 164 of the 173 sites (or 94.8%), were from development schemes of fewer than ten units, for which affordable housing is not required. These 164 schemes accounted for 274 new residential units. Of these, one scheme secured an on-site provision of affordable housing (one unit), which amounts to 1% of the total. In addition, financial contributions in the order of £600k were secured towards off-site affordable housing provision from these small sites.

The remaining nine out of the total 173 sites were major applications (i.e. schemes permitted for 10 or more units). 183 new residential units were granted permission from these nine developments. Two of the developments (providing 31 net units) were for “prior approvals” for change of use from offices to residential use, for which affordable housing is not required. Of the remaining 152 units, 29 units were affordable (19%). For two schemes, a financial contribution in lieu of on-site affordable housing was secured (amounting to £375k).

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

How much have Homes for Haringey/council leaseholders been charged for works in each of the last 3 years?

ANSWER

2012/13

Capital Works = £630,045.16

Decent Homes works = £111,886.38

Total = £741,931.54

2013/14

Capital Works = £882,178.40

Decent Homes works = £4,435,241.08

Total = £5,317,419.48

2014/15

Capital Works = £ 795,916.49

Decent Homes works = £4,997,296.42

Total = £5,793,212.91

WRITTEN QUESTION 8 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR RESOURCES AND CULT FROM COUNCILLOR BEACHAM:

How many times in each of the last 3 years have the council and Homes for Haringey missed the legal deadline for responding to a Freedom of Information request?

ANSWER

2012-2013

Homes for Haringey, total = 45, out of time = 5

Haringey Council, total = 1151, out of time = 263

Overall percentage out of time = 22%

2013-2014

Homes for Haringey, total = 57, out of time = 9

Haringey Council, total = 1347, out of time = 213

Overall percentage out of time = 16%

2014-2015 (YTD)

Homes for Haringey, total = 75, out of time = 19

Haringey Council, total = 1410, out of time = 187

Overall percentage out of time = 14%

WRITTEN QUESTION 9 – TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH & WELL BEING FROM COUNCILLOR CONNOR:

Who will chose the advocacy service for the re-provision of services from the Roundway Centre to Ermine Road Centre and will the service be independent of the council?

ANSWER

There will be a tender process for selection of the advocacy service which will support all service users to contribute to the transformational service redesign needed across adult social care. It will be available therefore to those service users attending the Roundway Centre as well as other service users likely to be affected by service redesign and change. The service will not be delivered by the council but by an independent organisation in the community.

We are proposing to engage service users in the tender process which will be used to select the advocacy provision. The final decision on the service provider will be made by the council as the party initiating the tender evaluation process to ensure a balance of cost and quality.