

COUNCIL – 31 MARCH 2008 - QUESTIONS

Oral Questions

Oral Question 1 - To the Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion and Involvement from Cllr Oatway:

What steps are the Council taking to ensure Haringey retains a sufficient level of Post Office service, especially for the most in need of its' service?

Oral Question 2 – To the Leader of the Council from Councillor Catherine Harris:

Can the Leader tell us what the council is doing to oppose the closure of post offices in the borough?

Oral Question 3 - To the Cabinet Member for Resources from Cllr Allison:

When will the investigation into the abandoned files in a former Council property in Crouch End be published?

Oral Question 4 - To the Cabinet Member for Environment and Conservation from Councillor Patel:

Can the cabinet member provide us with information on what he is doing to ensure that children travel to school in as sustainable a way as possible?

Oral Question 5 – To the Leader of the Council from Cllr Williams:

Would the leader of the Council please expand on his reported view that the result of the Highgate by election means that Labour is reconnecting with the Highgate electorate?

Oral Question 6 - To the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People from Councillor Adamou:

Can the cabinet member inform us of the percentage of pupils in Haringey which got one of their preferred places in schools this year?

Oral Question 7 - To the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People from Cllr Engert:

Please can you tell me how many parents appealed about the allocation of a school place for entry in September 2007, how many appeals were successful, and how much did the appeals process cost per appeal?

Oral Question 8 – To the Cabinet Member for Enforcement and Safer Communities from Councillor Cooke:

Can the cabinet member inform us of any enforcement activities undertaken as a result of the smoking ban?

Written Questions

Written Question 1 – To the Cabinet Member for Enforcement and Safer Communities for from Cllr Aitken:

How many knives or bladed objects were recovered from schools in the past 2 years?

Answer

The Local Authority does not collect information on the number of knives or bladed objects recovered from schools in Haringey. Behaviour is the responsibility of each school governing body and all schools in Haringey have robust behaviour policies in place, which are regularly monitored and reviewed. It is the headteacher and governing body's responsibility to take action where pupils are found in possession of an offensive weapon.

It is an offence to carry a knife or weapon in or around a school premises and schools can and do seek support from the police in dealing with incidents of young people having these items in school. The strong partnerships between schools, police, youth offending service and other agencies *that we in enjoy in Haringey* are critical to the effective management of these responsibilities.

Written Question 2 – To Cabinet Member for Enforcement and Safer Communities from Cllr Alexander:

With the number of illegal HMOs on the increase in the borough, what plans/strategies does the council have to support the overstretched Enforcement Department? Are there any other additional legal powers the Council could adopt to support the department in its work?

Answer

Enforcement activity in Haringey is delivered by the Urban Environment Directorate through a Planning Enforcement team operating within Frontline Services and a Private Sector Housing team operating from within Strategic and Community Housing Services. Our overall response to HMOs is therefore a coordinated one between these two service teams but working with other strategic partners.

A House in Multiple Occupation or HMO is defined differently in planning and housing legislation.

In planning law, an HMO is not illegal and does not constitute a criminal offence until an Enforcement Notice has been served, and the Notice has come into effect with the time for compliance passed. After this time, prosecution proceedings can commence. The powers available to the Council to prevent HMOs from being established are limited, as we cannot serve stop notices to either prevent the internal conversion of premises or to prevent them from being occupied by more than one person or household. The service has used injunctions in the past to prevent HMO use, however, this does not represent a viable option for all HMO developments.

Haringey has lobbied Government to change the legislation so that this type of occupation becomes a strict liability offence. This would make development and use an offence without an Enforcement Notice being required. This has been unsuccessful.

Similarly, housing law does not prevent properties from becoming HMOs, but simply ensures that the appropriate standards are achieved and that all licensable HMOs are managed by a fit and proper person.

All HMOs that have 3 or more storeys and are occupied by 5 or more persons who form 2 or more households must be licensed. If a landlord fails to make an application to license their HMO, they will be committing an offence. One of the consequences of a landlord failing to comply with the licensing conditions may be that the property can no longer operate as an HMO.

Under the Council's Enforcement Strategy, HMOs have are recognised as a key issue for the borough and aims to commit the Council to reversing unauthorised development, targeting rogue landlords and using HMO licensing powers available. Under this strategy we have established specific work programmes for each strategic aim.

The service recognises that achieving manageable caseloads is important if it is to ensure that there is a successful enforcement outcome. . The service has been effective in reducing its caseload levels since 2004

HMO Licensing – we intend to seek secretary of state permission for an extension to mandatory HMO licensing. A pilot centered around Myddleton Road is being used to test the use of this discretionary as part of our strategic response. This will extend our control over new HMO developments and provide powers to prevent landlords who are not fit and proper persons from operating HMOs. It will also provide a potential revenue stream to cover the cost of administering the function.

Further to the above I have also supported a Members Working Group that is giving careful consideration to the various issues relating to problematic HMOs in the borough. The primary aim of the Working Group is to review available powers and resources as well as identifying the root causes of the problem and to establish clear strategies and working practices that will deliver the desired outcomes for the overall benefit of the Council and the local community.

Written Question 3 – To Cabinet Member for Housing from Cllr Allison:

Please list the properties currently on the Decent Homes pilot scheme and provide the criteria as to how these properties were chosen. What percentage of the total number of Haringey Council/Homes for Haringey properties will be improved under the Decent Homes scheme?

Answer

The addresses of the properties in the decent homes pilots are as follows:

- 12,16,18,20,24,28,30,32 & 34 Colsterworth Road (South Tottenham)
- 73-91 Northumberland Park (North Tottenham)
- 4,6 & 8 Ennis Road (Hornsey)
- 1-8 Robert Owen House (Wood Green).

One of the main intentions when setting up the current decent homes pilots was to include priority major works schemes that had previously been identified but had been deferred due to the lack of funding. All additional works (and the single elements in the priority schemes for those properties) were included in the 2008/09

programme in the first instance. Additional units were then added to the pilot in response to the extra surveys undertaken to verify the data extrapolated from the 2003 stock condition survey. One of the aims of the pilots was to identify sites where works could commence quickly and there was an opportunity to include all property types.

The percentage of the stock that is non decent is currently 42%. It is anticipated that approx 7,000 properties which do not meet the basic decent homes standard will benefit from the raft of improvements under Haringey's Decent Homes Programme. The exact number of properties that will benefit from the works will be determined when the constructor partners have completed all of their verification surveys over the next few months.

Written Question 4 – To Cabinet Member for Resources from Cllr Baker:
Please confirm that the lost annual rental income on empty council commercial property is currently in excess of £425,000. What proportion is this of Council rental income, not including service charges, on commercial property?

Answer

The total potential annual rent of all Council commercial properties is £7,269,000 per annum (excluding service charges). The total estimated annual rent of Council commercial properties currently vacant is £708K which as a proportion of total potential rent income is 9.7%.

It is estimated that within this figure just over 20% is currently under offer, approximately 60% is being actively marketed and the balance requires attention before it can be let. The properties not available for let include those awaiting refurbishment and those with outstanding dilapidation or insurance claims.

Written Question 5 – To Cabinet Member for Environment and Conservation from Cllr Beacham:

When will he act on his pledge given to the residents of Palace Gates Road to provide a screen for the recycling bins situated on the newly-refurbished Palace Gates Triangle public space?

Answer

There is obviously a misunderstanding about the outcomes of my visit to the Palace Gates Triangle with Councillor Wayne Hoban. I did not pledge to install a screen at this site, but rather to look into the feasibility of alternative types of recycling containers that could potentially be used at the site.

Our investigations into alternative types of recycling facilities have demonstrated that the existing facilities provide convenient access to recycling for residents in the flats above shops beside the Triangle, are well used and represent good value for money. I am not aware of any more amenable types of recycling facility than those currently in use.

I do not believe that screening is appropriate. Our recycling collection crews need to be able to access containers to empty them. Any screening that would allow good access to be maintained is unlikely to achieve the aim of local residents in terms of hiding the site from view. I am also concerned about putting the recycling containers out of sight. Such facilities serve as a visual reminder to recycle and if they are hidden from view it may not encourage residents to use them.

Screening could also create a cover for fly-tipping which would negatively affect the amenity of the area more than the presence of a well maintained, open recycling facility.

I appreciate the efforts of residents to improve the Triangle area at Palace Gates Road and if there are any feasible alternative suggestions put forward for how we might be able to make local residents happier with the facilities, then I will of course investigate these further.

Written Question 6 – To Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Enterprise from Cllr Beynon:

Haringey is currently the 18th most deprived local authority in the country according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation. What has been Haringey's position in the Index of Multiple Deprivation or equivalent deprivation indicators, over each of the last forty years?

Answer

It is true to say that the Indices of Deprivation 2007 (ID 2007) found Haringey to be the 18th most deprived local authority in the country based on the average scores measure of deprivation. However, this is only one of six district level measures of deprivation, all of which found Haringey to be amongst at least the top 50 deprived local authorities in the country. The guidance from the Government clearly states that each measure is equally important so one should not be favoured over the other.

Comparing the ID 2007 with previous deprivation indices is fraught with difficulties. This is because these indices are constructed to measure relative deprivation at one point in time and not to measure trends over time. The datasets and methodology used to construct the indices will also vary considerably. As the indices are a snapshot tool, the primary consideration is to include the most robust and up-to-date information at the time, not to ensure comparability with previous indices. In terms of geography the 2004 and 2007 indices are based on Super Output Areas while previous indices are based on wards and enumeration districts. Therefore any changes between the indices are not likely to indicate any real change in deprivation.

Nevertheless, based on the average scores measure, the Indices of Deprivation 2004 found Haringey to be the 13th most deprived local authority in the country and as far back as records go: 2000, the 20th most deprived; 1998, the 13th most deprived; 1991, the 10th most deprived; and 1981, the 6th most deprived. Unfortunately the data available does not allow an analysis of the past 40 years to be conducted.

Written Question 7– To Cabinet Member for Resources from Cllr Bloch:

How much money was spent by Haringey Council on bottled Water in the last three years? Has the Council a policy to remove all bottled water from Council properties and, if so, when will it be implemented?

Answer

The amount of money spent by Haringey Council over the last three years is approx. £42K. The Council is accessing the London Contracts and Supplies Group contract with The Divine Water Company Ltd. for water coolers. The Divine Water Company has already carried out a survey of Council Buildings to identify where stand alone bottled coolers could be changed to mains fed coolers.

Mains fed coolers can only be effective where there is a main water supply. There are areas in Council Buildings where only stand alone bottled coolers can operate.

Installation of mains fed coolers are planned to take place in the next 6 months.

Written Question 8– To Cabinet Member for Resources from Cllr Butcher:
How much grey water is harvested from Council buildings? If none, what plans does the Council have to use grey water in the future and what timescales are in place to implement a scheme?

Answer

The issue of Grey water harvesting is part of a larger initiative to improve the performance of all our buildings and connected to the 'greenest borough' programme. Timescales will be identified in the coming year as part of a feasibility and development project which has been funded. Actual implementation will be dependent upon first identifying realistic opportunities, specifying work content to support a programme of installations and importantly setting out investment implications.

Written Question 9 – To Cabinet Member for Resources from Cllr Davies:
As the Council should be an environmental leader, when looking for new Council premises what are the minimum building sustainability specifications that is required?

Answer

The minimum environmental standard for any new construction Council building is BREEAM Excellence and which is demonstrated through the new 6th Form School.

From 1st October 2008 all buildings larger than 50sq metres in size will require a mandatory Energy Performance Certificate to be provided to a potential buyer that shows the energy efficiency rating of the building. Council Policy on our minimum standard in this regard has yet to be developed but will be progressed once the new scheme comes into effect and we are able to analyse the state of buildings.

Written Question 10 – To Cabinet Member for Housing from Cllr Demirci:
What contributions are Haringey Council planning to submit to the review of the Housing Revenue Account Subsidy system, formally launched by Yvette Cooper, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, and Caroline Flint, Minister for Housing and Planning, on 10th March 2008?

Answer

The review launched on the 10th March 2008 is a follow on from the pilots which looked at the costs and benefits of councils operating outside the Housing Revenue Account subsidy system. It is expected that the review will not be completed until spring 2009. As the terms of reference for the review become clear, we will consider the implications for the Council. Haringey Council will take every opportunity to present its case through any formal and informal consultation processes.

Written Question 11 – To Cabinet Member for Environment and Conservation from Cllr Edge:

Will the cabinet member publish a table showing the allocation of funding for street lighting renewal per ward in each of the past ten years?

Answer

The Council has been investing in new lighting since 2002/3. Prior to this investment was on limited small improvement schemes.

On a year by year basis the investment has been as follows;

- 2002/3 Safer Seven Sisters £900k
- 2003/4 First year of Better Haringey £1.0 m
- 2004/5 Second Year £1.2 m
- 2005/6 Third year £1.5 m
- 2006/7 Fourth year £1.0 m
- 2007/8 Fifth year £1.19 m

Unfortunately information on this investment is not readily available by ward. However a map showing investment by street will be sent to Councillor Edge and a copy made available in the Members Room.

Written Question 12 – To Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Wellbeing from Cllr Engert:

What plans does he have to work with the PCT and voluntary organisations to ensure the Borough has a proper foot care strategy for older people, given the widespread criticism by older people of the current lack of access and provision, particularly for those who do not attend luncheon clubs?

Answer

Adult Services are aware of the concerns expressed regarding Haringey Teaching Primary Care Trust (HTPCT) current Foothealth service provision, as this has also been raised through the on-going Scrutiny Review of Older People's Services. Adult Services are aware of the improved access to the service and reductions in waiting times that have been implemented over the past year. HTPCT have reported to the Scrutiny Review that they are committed to further improvements to the Foothealth service over 2008/2009, in terms of the service offered and ensuring that more people who require to access the service, are able to do so. HTPCT is currently reviewing the evidence base and current best practice in the provision of podiatry services, in order to commission an appropriate service model to meet identified needs. Adult Services will continue to work with HTPCT on this issue.

As part of the overall Falls Prevention agenda, the four Council Drop-In Centres provide a basic foot care and toenail cutting service to some 200 older people, in partnership with the podiatry service in the PCT who carry out the training and quality audit processes. This is provided on a walk-in basis, at no charge, as part of the wider support and advice arrangements for service users. purchase their own nail cutting sets at cost price (£5.75), through the Council who buy them in bulk. There is currently a little capacity to take on further users

In addition, toenail cutting is provided as part of the service provided in three Day Centre settings (Haven, Woodside and Cypriot) to a further 45 assessed clients who have been referred to the centres via a social work assessment. These latter three centres do not operate a walk-in service.

Written Question 13 – To Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Enterprise from Cllr Gorrie:

How many school age children are living in the New River Village Development? What proportion of the total population of NRV do they make up? What is the forecast population of the Hornsey Depot site development,

how many school age children is this expected to include and where are they expected to attend school?

Answer

Currently there are 74 school aged children from the New River Village Development within Haringey schools. Eleven attend secondary schools and 63 attend primary schools or their nurseries.

For the Hornsey Depot site, the child yield for the development will depend on the affordability/private mix and the number of 1, 2, 3 and 4 bedroom units. Based on the London Housing Plan that 50% of new housing developments will be affordable and given the drive for more family sized housing the following calculations have been done based on 404 units.

Size of dwelling	Mix	% mix	Number of units	Estimated child yield
1 bed	Affordable	22	44	5
	Private	37	75	8
2 bed	Affordable	20	40	20
	Private	30	61	30
3 bed	Affordable	26	53	58
	Private	22	44	49
4 bed	Affordable	32	65	12
	Private	11	22	42
Total			404	224

The figures used to drive the child yield calculation come from the Department of Environment who commissioned work in 1992 that would establish a calculation giving the expected number of children (ages 0 to 15) arising from any new housing development. The figures, derived from the Labour Force Survey, have been used extensively to estimate child yield from new housing developments in London. However there is little doubt that the number of children yielded by new dwellings will always be subject to influences that are difficult to determine.

The number of children aged 0-15 coming from the site could be anything between 100-300. Modified estimates can be provided once the housing tenure and dwelling mix is known by planners. The number of children coming from the housing development will be closely monitored once it is built.

There is physical capacity to create more places if needed. For example, Campsbourne Infant and Junior schools' Planned Admission Number (PAN) is 60. There are vacancies in all year groups and if demand for primary school places increases, it will be possible to increase the PAN of Campsbourne Infant and Junior schools. However, this will only be done if demand dictates.

Secondary aged pupils will have the choice of all local secondary schools and the new secondary school in the Heartlands development planned to open in 2010.

Written Question 14 – To Cabinet Member for Resources from Cllr Hare:
Following the Council's thermal mapping of Haringey in Spring 2007 what steps has the Council taken to reduce the amount of heat and energy lost from Council buildings and how much energy and money has this saved?

Answer

We have commissioned two energy surveys to assess the energy usage at River Park House and Alexandra House and are awaiting feedback regarding the recommendations.

We have bid for and successfully won energy efficiency grant money (Salix Scheme) to match our own Sustainable Improvement Fund. We are currently looking at two major energy efficiency projects to reduce energy consumption.

The first is the installation of voltage optimisation units with a payback period of 2-3 years will save the council £46.5k pa. This will save approximately 670,000 kWh of electricity and is equivalent to CO2 savings of some 188 tonnes pa. The equipment will be installed at

River Park House
Alexandra House
48 Station Road
Central Library

The second is the installation of variable speed drives within Leisure centres that will reduce electricity consumption by in the region of 738,000 kWh equivalent to CO2 savings of some 317.28 tonnes pa. This equipment regulates the speed of motors and fans in line with demand. The cost savings will be £59k with a payback of less than a year. These will be installed early in the financial year 2008/9

Consideration is also being given to insulation/ draught-proofing measures and building/ boiler management control systems in offices and automatically controlled pool covers in leisure centres.

Written Question 15 – To Cabinet Member for Environment and Conservation from Cllr Hoban:

Could the cabinet member please provide full details of action taken by the Council's Parking Enforcement Team over recent months relating to enforcement of parking restrictions in Palace Gates Road, Alexandra ward?

Answer

Parking enforcement over the past six months in Palace Gates Road has resulted in the issue of 158 tickets for footway parking, 2 for blocking a driveway and 4 tickets for parking on yellow lines.

Written Question 16 – To Cabinet Member for Resources from Cllr Mughal:

In light of the recent motion against the closure of post offices that all councillors voted in favour of, can the relevant portfolio provide an explanation as to why the Salisbury Road post office has received notice that its rent has been increased by this local authority by about 100%?

Answer

The suggested rent increase is based on comparable rents for other similar premises in the parade and reflects the market rental value of 21 Salisbury Road post office as at December 2004 when the rent review was due. There has been significant growth in rental values both for commercial and residential properties between 1999 and 2004 and the rent quoted reflects this increase. The tenant has a right to obtain their own independent advice and refer the matter for independent determination under the Landlord and tenant act and the terms of the lease agreement.

Written Question 17 – To Cabinet Member for Environment and Conservation from Cllr Newton:

Will the Council consider increasing the scope of the car club scheme plans for introduction for July 2008, the current scheme only proposes 10 parking bays, a figure much lower than in other boroughs?

Answer

The Council is in the process of selecting a car club operator to operate a borough wide scheme. The tender documents required the tenderer to provide a minimum of 10 on-street car club bays at the start of the contract period on 1 July 2008. The tenderer is requested to provide a wide geographic spread for the location of the bays. The tenderer is not being restricted to a maximum of 10 bays. It would be a commercial decision for the operator to provide more than 10 on-street bays.

Written Question 18 – To Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion and Involvement from Cllr Oakes:

With so much Council information now available online will she reduce the number of editions of Haringey People in order to save money and environmental resources?

Answer

Councils have a duty to keep their residents informed of their services, policies and actions and we know from independent research that Haringey People is the main and preferred source of news about Haringey Council. We also know that whilst our website is an increasingly important information provider, not all residents have direct access to the internet. Independent research shows that 74 per cent of residents feel the council keeps them informed. As a council committed to equality we would find it unacceptable to reduce access to information – everyone, not just internet users, has a right to information about the council. For that reason, we will continue to ensure our residents are provided with different ways of accessing information about services, including producing the current ten editions a year of Haringey People, whilst examining ways of increasing income from advertising and job adverts in the magazine.

Written Question 19 – To Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Enterprise from Cllr Oatway:

Please could the cabinet member provide a table showing the total funding for regeneration and enterprise schemes for each ward for the past ten years?

Answer

Regeneration and enterprise covers a very broad area of activity and could include funding for social housing and educational achievement. For the purpose of this answer it has assumed to be those funding streams that delivered economic development as either all or part of their project.

Information on regeneration funding in the borough over the last 10 years is not held on a ward basis but on a programme basis. It should be borne in mind that funding for many programmes was allocated to projects which were not ward specific but where beneficiaries could come from anywhere in the target area e.g. employment or training projects as well as business support projects. Also some programmes covered only parts of wards.

The programmes were available to resident in areas identified as “significantly deprived”, or in the case of objective 2 of the European region development fund, had experienced particular economic decline within a defined period.

Set out below are the main programmes which have run in Haringey in the last 10 years and the wards those programmes covered.

Programme	98-99 £	99-00 £	00-01 £	01-02 £	02-03 £	03-04 £	04-05 £	05-06 £	06-07 £	07-08 £	Wards covered
Single Regeneration Budget (SRB) 3: Haringey Heartlands	2.26m	2.13m	1.90m	2.30m	2.32m	1.99m	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Part of Noel Park, Bounds Green (Bowes Park), Woodside, Alexandra, Hornsey (Hornsey Central), West Green
SRB 4: Tottenham Futures	235,000	1.20m	1.35m	1.68m	1.78m	903,831	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Haringay, White Hart Lane, West Green, Bruce Grove, Northumberland Park, Tottenham Hale, Tottenham Green, Tottenham Hale, Seven Sisters, St. Ann's
SRB 5: West Green	Did not run in these years	201,948	1.19m	3.91m	2.42m	1.90m	1.29m	1.07m	n/a	n/a	West Green; part of Bruce Grove, St. Ann's; Haringay, Tottenham Green
SRB 6: Northumberland Park	Did not run in these years	Did not run in these years	26,642	1.51m	2.58m	1.39m	869,798	597,504	n/a	n/a	Northumberland Park (formerly parts of Park and Coleraine)

Programme	98-99 £	99-00 £	00-01 £	01-02 £	02-03 £	03-04 £	04-05 £	05-06 £	06-07 £	07-08 £	Wards covered
The Bridge New Deal for Communities (NDC)	Did run in these years	Did run in these years	Did run in these years	_____ 37.96m _____ —						12.51m (est. 2007-11)	Part Seven Sisters, Tottenham Green (Tottenham Central), St. Ann's
Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF)	Did not run in these years	Did not run in these years	Did not run in these years	2.67m	4.00m	5.33m	6.85m	9.13m	8.21m	7.86m	Bruce Grove; Northumberland Park; Seven Sisters; St. Ann's; Tottenham Green; Tottenham Hale; White Hart Lane
European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Objective 2								241,684	854,365	622,871	Northumberland Park; Noel Park; West Green; Bruce Grove; Tottenham Hale; Tottenham Green; Seven Sisters; part St. Ann's, White Hart Lane
London Development Agency Upper Lee Valley Single Programme	Did not run in these years	Did not run in these years	Did not run in these years	Did not run in these years	Did not run in these years	Did not run in these years		130,040	539,815	260,145	Bounds Green, Woodside, White Hart Lane, Northumberland Park, Noel Park, West Green, Bruce Grove, Tottenham Hale, Tottenham Green, St. Ann's, Harringay, Seven Sisters

Written Question 20 – To the Cabinet Member for Resources from Cllr Rainger:
In the last twelve months how many individuals have been taken to court for failure to pay council tax after they have paid? What value of court costs were wasted in the last twelve months as a result of this issue?

Answer

The total number of council tax payers summonsed for non-payment of council tax since 1st April 2007 is 28,288. Whilst some of those summonsed may have made payments and in some cases brought payment arrangements up to date they will - by virtue of a summons being issued - have lost their right to pay by instalments. Council tax payers are required to pay by monthly instalment on the first of the month, unless paying by direct debit which offers the option of paying on 15th of the month. Non-payment will result in a reminder or final notice being issued and a maximum of two reminder notices will be issued in one year. Continued non-payment results in the full amount for the year becoming due and a summons will be issued for this amount plus costs if the debt remains unpaid. There are legislated timescales for this process and I can confirm these are strictly followed.

The Council does not proceed with court action where the council tax payer has already paid the full sum due. If this does occur, then the Benefits and Local Taxation Team would investigate to ascertain the circumstances. Records are not kept of the number of such instances but I can assure you they and the costs associated with such cases are minimal.

Written Question 21 – To the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Enterprise from Cllr Reid:

Could the Council please confirm whether the Council Press Release dated Tuesday 4th March 2008 announcing a consultation for Campsbourne residents on the £140,000 is the same funds as were announced as £150,000 in the Council Press Release on Thursday 23rd November 2006?

Answer

The consultation on Campsbourne announced in the Council's press release dated 4th March 2008 relates to the same budget as that referred to within the earlier press release dated 23rd November 2006. The budget is for implementation of improvements to Campsbourne, negotiated as part of a Section 106 planning agreement with the developers of the adjoining New River Estate. A total of £250,000 was made available for Campsbourne Estate from the Section 106 agreement.

The press release in November 2006 gave an estimate of £150,000 for the funding still available at that time for allocation.

The £140,000 reported in the press release of March 2008 reflects the updated estimate of monies available for physical improvements on the estate.

These figures are clarified in the table below.

Project	2006/2007	2007 / 2008	2008 / 2009
Community Development	£15,000		
Red Square Community Garden		£65,629	
Harvey House Mosaic		£2,565	
Reinvigoration of Residents Association		£942	

Public Consultation		£1,864	
Implementation of Physical Improvements on the Estate – (make up of this programmed to be determined in May 2008)			£140,000
Project Management Costs			£24,000
TOTAL Section of 106 budgets awarded to Campsbourne = £250,000	£15,000	£71,000	£164,000

Decisions will be taken in May, taking account of consultation, on the physical improvements to be implemented on Campsbourne with the remaining funding. A project manager will be employed over the coming financial year to oversee implementation of the physical improvements programme, working through service level agreements with 'Homes for Haringey' and other relevant property owners on the estate.

Dedicated community development activity was employed on Campsbourne at an early stage to build strong resident engagement within decision making, to ensure that residents' local knowledge and priorities would be reflected in the choice of improvement projects to be implemented. The firm aspiration of both relevant cabinet members and ward councillors was to engage all sections of the local community within this process - including children at the local primary school, teenagers who congregate on the estate, Turkish families and the elderly living in sheltered accommodation – both to achieve greater social cohesion and articulation on the estate and to deliver a valued and lasting programme of physical improvements.

I can confirm the ward councillors will be kept fully briefed as developments take place.

Written Question 22 – To Cabinet Member for Environment and Conservation from Cllr Weber:

Would he confirm when the draft consultation documents for the proposed Crouch End CPZ will be available and that he stands by his pledge to implement a parking solution for the area as soon as the consultation has established the views of residents' i.e. during the summer months. Further that he honour his promise to open up the Library Car Park on weekdays for use by traders and residents along with his promises of improved car parking signage.

Answer

A) I confirm that the draft consultation document for the proposed Crouch End CPZ will be sent out to the members of the steering group and all ward councillors for their comments on the 31 March 2008. I also confirm that I am committed to providing a parking scheme for the area that is supported by residents. As you will appreciate, there are formal and legal processes that must be followed to ensure that residents have as much opportunity as possible to provide their views and, to ensure that any scheme implemented is legally enforceable. It will however be delivered during the 2008/09 financial year.

B) I at no time promised to open up the Library Car Park for the simple reason that I do not have jurisdiction over the Library car park. What I undertook to do was discuss

the matter with my cabinet colleagues responsible and these discussions are ongoing.

Written Question 23 – To Cabinet Member for Environment and Conservation from Cllr Whyte:

What steps has he taken to work with local shops and residents to reduce the use of throwaway plastic bags especially in light of the government's encouragement in the Budget?

Answer

Haringey Council fully supports the London Local Authorities (Shopping Bags) Bill that London Councils has presented to Parliament. This calls for a ban on single-use shopping bags (whether made of plastic or paper) across the whole of London, and would ensure that these wasteful products are reduced in our refuse. A London-wide action such as the ban proposed by the Bill will also be more enforceable and have a greater effect on consumer habits and waste than localised projects

At the local level we are encouraging behavioural change among residents and businesses. We have recently launched a high-profile and eye-catching waste reduction campaign with the strapline "reduce your waste before it catches up with you", and members of the public are encouraged to "start today" by taking up the simple ideas that each poster presents. One of these is "Use a Bag for Life", and it is intended that this will communicate the simplicity of making small changes to reduce waste. Obviously this particular call-to-action will be directly tackling plastic carrier bags.

Written Question 24 – To the Cabinet Member for Resources from Cllr Williams:
With regard to the sale by Haringey Council of Morven House, North Hill, could he summarise what sale process the Council is using, highlighting in what ways this differs from usual procedures given the prestigious and unique nature of the property being sold, why the sale is not featured on the Council website, and what assurances can he give to residents that the procedures in use represent the best possible value for money for Haringey residents.

Answer

The Council will be offering Morven House for sale on the open market via a competitive tendering procedure requiring sealed bids from prospective purchasers by a specified closing date.

Due to the historic nature of the subject property, close working is taking place with the Council's Planning Service and Conservation Team to prepare a planning statement which will form part of the marketing particulars available to the public offering prospective purchaser's guidance on the extent of redevelopment/refurbishment that will be permitted.

Sale via competitive tender is the preferred method of sale over auction or private treaty since it can facilitate information to be sought of bidder's proposal for the building as well as the offer price allowing room for negotiations with the short listed potential purchasers whilst ensuring transparency and fairness as all submitted bids will be logged and considered.

The property will be advertised widely to ensure maximum exposure for enquiry-generation purposes including on the Council's website.

The success of past sales in this way of Council owned properties using this process have optimised capital receipts from disposals eliminating the need to pay commission to agents.

Whilst the Council is under a statutory duty to obtain best consideration when disposing of an interest in land, the maximisation of receipts is not the overriding aim in cases involving disposal of historic buildings. The aim being to obtain the best return for the taxpayer that is consistent with policies for the disposal of historic buildings. All Council departments will work together to ensure this aim is achieved.

Written Question 25 – To Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture and Lifelong Learning from Cllr Wilson:

How many submissions were made to the consultation he believes was held on leisure centre charges, and how many of these argued for differential peak and off-peak charging for OAPs?

Answer

The Service organised and invited users to two public meetings, at Tottenham Green Leisure Centre on 5th February 2008, and Park Road Leisure Centre on 6th February 2008, to consult on the implementation of the new leisure subsidy and pricing policy.

The two meetings were attended by 230 predominantly 65+ users/ residents who clearly expressed their concerns regarding the planned withdrawal of 'Free Use'. The Service has also subsequently responded to a further 34 submissions regarding the same issue.

Having considered the representations made, Cabinet has agreed an amendment to the fees and charges for 65+ users, which maintains free use Monday –Friday 9am – 5pm and introduces discounted rates at other times.

Written Question 26 - To the Cabinet Member for Enforcement and Safer Communities from Cllr Winskill:

Please tell me how many cameras operating in Haringey are equipped with automatic number plate recognition? Where are they located? And how is the information they record held and to what use is the information put?

Answer

At present none of the CCTV cameras monitored through the Council's control room, or used in any other capacity by the Council, are equipped with automatic number plate recognition.