

Key Issues Briefing

Cabinet Member for Environment and Conservation

Frontline Services

Key achievements in 2008/09

Public Realm Commissioning Strategy

The Public Realm Commissioning Strategy was agreed by Cabinet in July 2008 to improve the value for money and quality of our contracts. This followed a detailed appraisal of various options for the packaging of our services, procurement process and contractual vehicle.

A project team is in place to procure the new Highways and Street Lighting contract to be in place by July 2009.

A Project Manager has been appointed to procure the new Integrated Waste Management Contract which will commence in April 2011. The council will use the new competitive dialogue procurement process to engage with bidders to come up with the most suitable, detailed solutions for Haringey, and is proposed to form a Joint Venture Company with the chosen supplier in order to work closely with them to achieve best value and continuously improving services.

The nuisance vehicle contract is currently out to tender for new arrangements to be in place in April 2009. The new contract will revise the existing specification to take account of legislative changes and incorporate the enforcement and removal of abandoned and untaxed vehicles.

Greenest Borough Strategy

The Greenest Borough Strategy was agreed by Cabinet in July 2008 and there have already been notable successes in delivering the priorities of managing environmental resources efficiently and promoting sustainable travel.

Having been the first borough in London to achieve 100% of schools with school travel plans, we are continuing to put infrastructure in place to change the travel behaviour of all of our residents and encourage them to choose sustainable modes of travel. We are working with partners on the development of workplace travel plans, and are also implementing the Council's Staff Travel plan. Notable achievements so far include implementation of the cycle to work scheme, purchase of pool bikes and electric cars, completion of revisions to essential service permit scheme, and a travel allowance scheme for essential car users.

The new Environmental Resources team is in place and delivering and beginning to deliver on a number of projects relating to waste reduction, energy efficiency and water conservation. They are currently developing partnerships with organisations to deliver energy and water saving devices for households, and also to develop a programme of energy audits for local businesses. A new Participation Team will start work in the

autumn to encourage residents to play their part in delivering the Greenest Borough agenda.

Street cleanliness

Independent monitoring by ENCAMS indicates that the cleanliness of Haringey's streets has improved considerably since 2006/07. Resident satisfaction with cleanliness also increased significantly in 2007, with 56% of residents satisfied with street cleaning, a 9% increase over the previous year, placing Haringey above the London average for the first time.

A key factor in this success has been implementation of the council's NI 195 (previously BV199) cleanliness action plan to improve levels of cleanliness and resident perception. A new litter picking service was rolled out to all wards in the borough earlier this year following a successful pilot scheme in 2007/08 in five wards that suffered most from litter. Residents will be consulted during the autumn for their feed back and views of the new service.

Pothole Hotline

A pothole hotline was set up in May 2008 as part of the council's Pothole Blitz, implemented in response to feedback from residents received as part of last summer's highly successful Road to Improvement consultation. By the end of August, over 1000 potholes had been fixed in response to proactive inspections by a dedicated highways inspector and over 200 calls from members of the public.

CPZ consultation

A new consultation protocol was agreed by Cabinet in July to reduce the amount of time that is required to make small scale changes to the boundaries of Controlled Parking Zones. The protocol will allow the council to resolve parking problems experienced by residents in roads bordering CPZs more quickly, effectively, and with better value for money, as long as there is clear local support.

In response to local concerns about parking in Crouch End, a detailed consultation was held earlier this year to find the views of residents in N6 and N8 about the introduction of a Controlled Parking Zone. Over 1200 residents responded to the consultation, which is one of the largest responses to a consultation of this kind. As a result of analysis of this feedback, it was approved by Cabinet in September to proceed to a period of statutory consultation about the implementation of this scheme.

Work in progress for 2008/09

In response to issues with parking income, a review of the parking service is currently underway to develop a realistic business model for the service.

A programme of works is being drawn up to ensure the compliance of our on-street lines and lines with legislation for the enforcement of parking and moving traffic contraventions.

New arrangements for using Occupational Therapists for the assessment of Blue Badge and Disabled Freedom Pass applications are being implemented in partnership with the Primary Care Trust from November 2008. The new system will ensure that all passes are issued fairly and consistently according to the needs of applicants based on the agreed eligibility criteria.

We are awaiting advice from the Secretary of State about a change in the implementation date of the street works permit scheme due to problems with software development. The introduction of the scheme will give the council much greater control of works by utilities companies and contractors on the borough's roads.

The Highways Asset Management Plan was approved by Cabinet in March 2008 and provides the basis for fully understanding what assets we have and how best to manage and invest in them to maximise their value and life cycle. It will be used to identify key issues for the Council, such as how to direct investment to improve the condition of our roads and footways, and to address localised flooding issues by renewing gully pots and de-silting watercourses. By the end of this financial year we will have spent additional capital spend of £3.4m on lighting, roads, pavements and gully pot renewal.

Improvements are planned to the Confirm system to provide quicker service responses, and also automated updates and responses to enquiries sent to us by members of the public and councillors by email or the online report a problem form.

We are continuing to improve and expand our recycling services in line with the council's Recycling Strategy. The number of mixed recycling rounds was successfully expanded from 7 to 9 rounds earlier this year. A number of projects are planned for the remainder of this financial year including the expansion and improvement of council office recycling, and the conversion of bring banks to commingled collection. The estates recycling service will also be expanded from 5000 to 15000 properties this autumn following the delivery of new collection vehicles.

Key facts

- 125** subsidised recycling bins bought by Haringey residents so far in 2008.
- 700** street light columns to be replaced as part of the investment programme in 2008/09.
- 1050** potholes fixed in the Potholes Blitz between May and August 2008.
- 2265** metres of roads resurfaced since April 2008.
- 8755** tonnes of recycling collected in the five month period between April and August 2008.
- 75%** reduction in abandoned vehicles removed in Haringey between 2004 and 2008.