

**Full Council Questions
27th November 2018**

Written questions:

1. From Cllr Barnes to Cllr Ibrahim

In the light of Lendlease using the threat of legal action to force the Council into an undisclosed settlement because the Council exercised its contractual right not to proceed with the HDV, does the administration still consider them a suitable partner for future projects?

Lendlease and Haringey have agreed final terms following the cessation of the HDV and there will be no further legal proceedings.

This does not affect the High Road West scheme in north Tottenham, where the council and Lendlease continue to work together to create much-needed new homes, jobs and community facilities.

2. From Cllr Cawley-Harrison to Cllr Ejiofor

Recent press reports indicate that Hornsey & Wood Green Labour party has voted to affiliate to Jewish Voice for Labour, a group that opposes the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of Anti-Semitism adopted by the Council in 2017 and backed by the majority of the Jewish community. In light of this, can the administration reassure the borough's Jewish residents that the Council remains committed to the IHRA definition?

I can confirm that Haringey Council remains committed to the IHRA definition of Anti-Semitism adopted in September 2017. Anti-Semitism, in any form, will not be tolerated under this administration nor will any other form of discrimination or hate.

It is the responsibility of officials from the Hornsey and Wood Green Labour Party to validate the actions of its general committee.

3. From Cllr Chenot to Cllr Weston

Has the Council considered setting up an Infant Feeding Strategy Board for Haringey?

We do not currently have a specific infant feeding strategy board.

We look at our infant feeding approach in existing partnership boards such as our Healthy Child Programme Steering Group and we work with our partners to continue to take a co-ordinated approach to the range of commissioned services and initiatives to improve breast feeding rates in Haringey.

The Council's Public Health Team commissions the Breastfeeding Network to recruit and train local mothers (who have breastfed) to become breastfeeding peer supporters. The service liaises with the early years' workforce to promote and support the delivery of breastfeeding. In Haringey, more than nine out of ten (90.9%) mothers gave their babies breast milk in the first 48 hours after delivery in 2014/15. This compared to 86.1% of mothers in London, and less than three-quarters (74.3%) of mothers across England.

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Health Visitors provide practical support and advice on the health benefits of breastfeeding at key milestones, this starts at 28 weeks at pre-birth stage, subsequent contacts include the new birth visit and at 6-8 weeks. Health visitors provide advice and support regarding weaning babies onto healthy solid food, and this is just one of the many roles they have in the community.

The healthy weight and nutrition co-ordinator is a (health visitor) specialist role, which provides support to ensure that the Healthy Child Programme is of a distinct quality. The role has a particular focus on the high impact areas of breastfeeding, infant nutrition, healthy weight and healthy nutrition. The post holder works across the locality health visiting teams to establish localised, general and specialist support, building upon the work of the breastfeeding peer supporters in the community.

The healthy weight and nutrition co-ordinator is the lead for the delivery of the UNICEF Baby Friendly training across the health and early year's workforce in Haringey.

4 From Cllr Connor to Cllr Ahmet

How have the number of workers with EU27 nationality recruited by the Council and its contractors to work in social care changed since 23rd June 2016?

There has been no discernible shift in the number of EU nationals in the social care sector since June 2016. However, we anticipate that this may change in the period between March 2019 and January 2021 when the Brexit process is completed. There will be a need to ensure residents that EU employees in social care, and across all vital private and public services, have certainty in the medium to long term.

There are 31, 000 jobs in the care sector in North Central London (NCL) – anticipated to grow by 30% by 2030 – that make a contribution of £1bn to the economy.

In NCL, 17% of social care workers are EU (non-British) and 29% non EU (non-British). This is higher than the figures for the NHS nationally, where 62,000 NHS staff in England are EU nationals - 5.6% of all staff.

5 From Cllr da Costa to Cllr Ejiofor

Will the administration condemn the disruption and anxiety caused to Haringey residents by the RMT's repeated recourse to strike action and the threat thereof?

This administration supports the rights of workers to have security at work and to earn a decent wage and to withdraw their labour, in line with their legal rights and obligations, without fear of dismissal.

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6. From Cllr Dennison to Cllr Ibrahim

How does the number of properties the Council currently uses to provide temporary accommodation compare with the number of homes it has sold as a result of the right-to-buy since the program's inception?

Since the introduction of the Right To Buy, Haringey Council has sold a total of 10,657 properties to the end of 2017/18 (31 March 2018).

As at 31 October 2018, there were 2,993 homeless households in Temporary Accommodation.

5. From Cllr Dixon to Cllr Brabazon

How many Fixed Odds Betting Terminals are there in the borough? How has this number changed over the past five years?

There are currently 252 Fixed Odds Betting Terminals (FOBT's) in Haringey. This number has remained the same over the last five years.

6. From Cllr Emery to Cllr Hearn

Why is the Council still allowing single-use plastic items like glasses and forks to be distributed on its premises?

The Council is reviewing its use of single use plastics. It is my intention to:

- Eliminate single-use plastics across our offices.
- Support our schools and communities in their efforts to make their buildings plastic-free zones.
- Work with our event organisers to eliminate single-use plastics across all events held on council land.
- Require our suppliers to minimise the use of single-use plastics in their service provision and find sustainable alternatives (where appropriate).

Where the use of plastics is unavoidable, the council will encourage the use of recycled plastics, where practicable, and support manufacturers that make products from locally sourced waste plastics.

These are not steps that can be taken overnight, particularly where we have contractual relationships. In some areas there are no suitable alternatives available for single use plastics but we would aim to minimise these.

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9. From Cllr Hare to Cllr Hearn

Does the Cabinet member share my disappointment that two of the Council's parks have lost their Green Flag status? What timescale will the Council commit to for restoring the status to both parks?

Recent mystery shopping by the Green Flags scheme has resulted in the temporary withdrawal of the flags from Finsbury Park and Downhills Park whilst rectification works take place. These works are nearing completion and we expect the flags to be restored by the end of November.

10. From Cllr Hinchcliffe to Cllr Hearn

How long has the Council been aware of the elevated levels of sewage discharge in the River Moselle? What information does the Council have about why this happened? What steps have the Council and its partners taken to rectify the situation and what impact have these had?

The Housing Improvement Team has been working on the drainage misconnections emanating from Alexandra School and residential properties in the vicinity polluting the River Moselle for 12 months.

To date we have identified 77 residential properties that are polluting the River Moselle of which we have taken action and rectified 52. This is an ongoing project that we will continue to work on with our partners to ensure the condition of our watercourses are significantly improved. These misconnections happen because homeowners carry out building works without correct applications and inspections being in place.

Alexandra Primary School has been a complex project where our Drainage Technician has had to determine the most cost effective and sustainable solution. We have carried out four separate surveys to ascertain gradient falls and services in the vicinity and a CCTV survey on the highway. Following receipt of the surveys, it was deemed the most appropriate course of action would be to:

- Divert the existing drainage within the school grounds to a new manhole chamber.
- Then, run new waste to the foul sewer in the highway from that point. This new system will be gravity fed and will avoid the use of pumps that would be expensive to fit and maintain.

A schedule of works was drafted that went out to nine companies for tender with a target to have the works completed in October. Unfortunately, no tenders were received due to the complexity of the works and tight timescales for the works to be completed. A successful tender was eventually received and the contract has been awarded to Lanes Group PLC.

The school has agreed to works commencing at the earliest opportunity and we are awaiting a start date from Lanes Group PLC. Works should be completed in December and will take two to three weeks.

Following completion of the drainage works there will be a substantial environmental improvement to the River Moselle. In order to monitor the improvements to the water quality, the Council will be approaching the local friends groups who have access to water sampling equipment.

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11. From Cllr Morris to Cllr Ejofofor

With regards to the resolutions from Full Council on October 11th 2018, has the leader written to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government making a request under the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 for all governmental departmental information and analysis pertaining to the impacts upon Haringey's communities and businesses of the UK's withdrawal from the EU? If so, what was their reply?

I have written to the Secretary of State, James Brokenshire, at MHCLG regarding the submission of all governmental departmental information and analysis pertaining to the impacts upon Haringey's communities and businesses of the UK's withdrawal from the EU.

I am awaiting a response and will be happy to share it with all councillors if and when it is received.

12. From Cllr Ogiehor to Cllr Mark Blake

Data from the GLA shows that in Haringey the target for responding to 999 calls classed as "significant", such as road collisions and Hate Crimes, was missed every month between Jan 18 to June 18. For example, the average response time in June 2018 was 98 minutes 17 seconds against a target of 60 minutes. The 15 minutes target for responding to "immediate" emergency assistance, when there is an immediate threat to life, was also missed in two months. Have representatives of the Council raised this with the Metropolitan Police. If so, what was the response? What is the likely impact of the pending merger of Haringey and Enfield Command units on response times?

Officers have discussed with police colleagues and, as is consistent across London due to the number of calls received, response times remain a challenge. The Metropolitan Police remain committed to improving response times, in particular emergency calls graded as requiring an immediate response.

The MPS has invested in projects to divert unnecessary calls away from the 999 system and the recently launched 'Incident or Crime, Report it Online' campaign will raise awareness of this with the public. This enables most incidents to be reported at the convenience of the public in minutes rather than have to wait in a queue to speak to an operator.

With the creation of the North Area BCU in January 2019 we will see a larger number of officers tasked with response policing. Although covering a larger area, the benefit is that resources can be flexed across both Haringey and Enfield as needed rather than be contained within traditional borough boundaries. The impact of the merger will be closely monitored and Supt. Farooq Sheikh will oversee response times both before and after the merge to ensure continued delivery of effective response policing.

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13. From Cllr Palmer to Cllr Ibrahim

Please explain the decision to use polluting diesel generators to carry out renovation works on Broadwater Farm? What alternatives were considered and how much warning was given to residents?

As members will be aware we have been working to switch 728 flats on the estate onto new temporary heating plant to allow for the disconnection of piped gas supplies. A project of this scale would usually be planned well in advance but due to the urgent nature of the works, some planning and delivery was undertaken in parallel to meet the October deadline.

To allow for each block to come off the gas network, heating and hot water is provided by temporary oil boilers. The original design anticipated them being powered through the mains electric of each block. Unfortunately, once load tests were carried out we identified that upgrades were required to the electrical infrastructure of each block. In order to stay on track for the October deadline and ensure that residents continued to have heating and hot water, we took the decision to use temporary generators to power the boilers while the upgrade works were undertaken in parallel. The only alternative was to use gas powered boilers which was discounted due to concerns around the use of gas on the estate.

The temporary plant was positioned to reduce noise and fumes where possible and of the generators installed, only two remain which are due to be disconnected w/c 26th November.

Unfortunately due to urgent nature of the works we did not notify residents in advance of installing the generators. Our Residents Liaison Officers have been working with residents across the estate and where necessary have been explaining the use of the generators and disconnection plans. Drop in events scheduled for w/c 19th November will also reinforce this message to all residents on the estate.

14. From Cllr Ross to Cllr Ejiofor

Over the past 5 years, what has been the gap between the amount of £106 million negotiated and spent?

Since 2013/14 we have received £11.512m in financial planning obligations and spent £8.641m. The 'gap' is therefore £2.871m. Of this, £1.472m is committed to projects for delivery with current service delivery plans.

The amount therefore unspent and uncommitted is £1.399m, which includes the £1.059m collected to date in the current financial year

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15. From Cllr Rossetti to Cllr Ejiofor

In the past two financial years, in what ways has the Council benefited from EU funding either directly or indirectly from GLA/Defra/TfL or Central Government?

Start-up in London Libraries (SiLL)

SiLL is a three year project funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) through the Greater London Authority (GLA) and the British Library (BL). The BL will partner with ten London Borough Library Authorities to act as delivery partners for the project and they will support start-up businesses and entrepreneurs across London to develop the insight, skills and confidence they need to start and grow successful businesses through workshops, networking events and access to the BL's invaluable business resources. Haringey will receive funding of £40k pa for a new full time member of staff for three years and will provide 'in-kind' match funding of £40k of staff time. The project had an original start date of July 18 but is running behind schedule but BL do still hope to commence some delivery during this quarter.

Work Routes Haringey

Work Routes Haringey is a two year London Councils-European Social Fund (ESF) programme to support unemployed and economically inactive residents. The total cost of the project is £500k, £250k from the ESF and £250k match funding coming from the Council's Labour Market Growth & Resilience Reserve. The programme commenced Jan 2018 and is being delivered by Reed.

Haringey Higher Level Skills

Haringey Higher Skills project is a two year GLA-ESF programme to project higher level skills project that will focus on the following sectors: childcare, construction, engineering and health. The total cost of the project is £900k, £450k from the ESF and £450k match funding coming from the Council's Labour Market Growth & Resilience Reserve. The programme is expected to commence by Jan 2019.