

### Written questions

#### 1. From Cllr Barbara Blake to Cllr James

**How much is it costing to keep Osborne Grove Nursing Home open bearing in mind there are now only three residents in the home, and what has contributed to the £0.7m overspend?**

Operating Osborne Grove Nursing Home for the two remaining service users with sufficient staffing and management oversight continues to cost £1.4m.

When the Home was running at full capacity, there was additional income from other sources which offset these costs. Without this income – largely from client contributions and client funding by the Clinical Commissioning Group – there are cost pressures against the budget which currently amount to £0.7m.

#### 2. From Cllr Barnes to Cllr Ibrahim

**What is the Council doing to help people sleeping rough near Finsbury Park station (in particular those with NRPF)?**

The council's Rough Sleeping Strategy sets out our clear commitment to facilitate rapid exit from street homelessness for all who want it, and to minimise the harm that comes from rough sleeping, both to the individual and the wider community.

The Rough Sleeping Strategy and Monitoring Coordinator and Street Outreach Team work closely with Islington Council to address rough sleeping on Stroud Green Road, near Finsbury Park Station and in Finsbury Park at both strategic and operational levels. This included jointly delivering a partnership event, the aim and outcome of which was the formulation of an action plan to tackle rough sleeping on Stroud Green Road.

Haringey recently bid for and successfully delivered the Floating Hub, which prioritised offering assessment and accommodation to those sleeping in Finsbury Park and around the Station. The Floating Hub was extremely successful and resulted in accommodation for 14 individuals with a long history of rough sleeping in Haringey.

We were also successful in bidding to the Rapid Rehousing Pathway, one element of which was to deliver a Somewhere Safe to Stay Hub. Somewhere Safe to Stay will provide short term night shelter for those who are rough sleeping in Haringey including a much-needed accommodation option for those rough sleeping in the borough with no recourse to public funds.

Approximately 65 - 75% of rough sleepers in Haringey are from these Central Eastern European countries. Some have no recourse to public funds due to their immigration status and all have severely limited access to services, welfare benefits and housing options.

Haringey, in coordination with Bridge Renewal Trust, recently received £250k from the Home Office to help EU citizens across the borough register for the EU settlement scheme. As part of that programme of work we will be focusing specifically on vulnerable groups that are currently, or at risk

**Full Council Questions Written  
15 July 2019**

of becoming, no recourse to public funds. We will seek to provide assistance with immigration issues, obtain identification documents and other supporting evidence, reconnect with family, attend substance misuse, mental health, and primary healthcare support and access to employment support.

**3. From Cllr Cawley- Harrison to Cllr Mark Blake**

**Based on a recent study over 50% of Trans male teens, 42% of non-binary/non-identifying teens and 30% of Trans female teens have reported a previous suicide attempt. 70% of Trans people avoid certain places and situations for fear of being assaulted, threatened or harassed, and 54% reported that they have been told by their GP that they don't know enough about trans-related care to provide it.**

**What is the council doing to protect, help and support our Trans children, teens and adults in school, in healthcare environments, in the workplace and in our community?**

From September 2020, it will be mandatory for all schools to provide Relationships Education and Health Education in primary school, and to provide Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education in secondary school. Working in partnership with Haringey Education Partnership, Haringey Council's Public Health Team will support schools to help prepare for this new guidance which supports schools to provide inclusive RSE.

As part of our mental health support in schools Trailblazer, we are developing the Haringey Local Offer to include Social Emotional Mental Health and are planning to refer to LGBTQI+ resources, including Trans awareness, for children, young people, parents and professionals.

Within the wider community, the work we are doing to support all forms of hate crime also covers all forms of LGBTQI+ harm. We work closely with Wise Thoughts who support the LGBTQI+ community with any hate crime they may be experiencing. Wise Thoughts run regular drop-ins in Wood Green Library and also host a trans-yoga class which creates a safe space for people to come and exercise.

The council has an active LGBT+ network. The LGBT+ network is a forum to provide support to LGBT+ staff and to make our workplace more inclusive. The network is open to all employees regardless of sexual orientation and is inclusive of people who identify as Trans or non-binary. We recently had great success with our well attended Pride march through central London.

**4. From Cllr Chenot to Cllr Hearn**

**In a written answer to a question at Full Council on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2018, the Cabinet Member for the Environment said that the "Council is reviewing its use of single use plastics". 9 months later why does the Council café still give out disposable cups and cutlery without charge?**

The café operating on the podium is a privately run business. We are working with them to ensure that a move to more sustainable products can be rolled out in a way that does not adversely affect the day-to-day operation of their business.

We are aware, of course, that fighting climate change is everyone's responsibility and that the council as a large organisation and employer should be accountable for our own actions. We are in

**Full Council Questions Written  
15 July 2019**

the process of developing our approach to working with our suppliers, and we will deliver some internal communications with staff to encourage behaviour change within our own workforce.

For example, if staff bring their own reusable mugs and cutlery to the office, and to the Podium, then this will significantly reduce the use of single use items. It will also help to raise awareness of the issue and help to encourage this behaviour to extend beyond the office.

**5. From Cllr Connor to Cllr Ibrahim**

**If there is a site that contains multiple blocks of flats but all the social housing is contained in one block does this amount to an integrated community?**

I was shocked to see recent media coverage of the segregation of play areas for children in affordable housing and market housing across London. I immediately asked officers for confirmation that this was not happening in Haringey and I am pleased to confirm that it is not and will not be in future.

Our approach is to consider community integration across a site, and not on a block by block basis. Haringey's planning policy framework includes provisions to ensure that the affordable housing (including social rented housing) in a mixed tenure development is fully integrated within the scheme. All mixed tenure developments are required to be 'tenure blind', meaning that social housing should not be able to be distinguished from other types of housing.

Social and private housing may be located in different blocks for two main reasons. Firstly, for management reasons; that is social homes and market homes are likely to be managed by different organisations, which is more easily done if the homes of similar tenures are together. Secondly, for affordability reasons; that is market homes often have services which lead to high charges, many of which are ineligible for housing benefit, which would make these homes unaffordable to many council tenants.

There are no planning policies prohibiting the concentration of social housing in a specific part of a site.

**6. From da Costa to Cllr Ejiofor**

**What additional emergency contingency planning for Brexit is the Council doing in light of the likelihood that a supporter of no-deal will be elected as Prime Minister?**

The council's Brexit contingency planning has always taken account of the possibility of No Deal as the worst possible outcome for our residents.

Since the extension to Article 50 in April, we have continued to work on some of the highest priority areas, including support residents to gain Settled Status, and to mitigate the effects of EU nationals falling into the No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) status. We have now appointed a dedicated Brexit Coordination Officer to work with Bridge Renewal Trust, the VCS community and others on these issues.

We will review all of our contingency plans over the coming months and look carefully at the potential impacts of No Deal scenario specifically. We continue to stay in close contact with our

**Full Council Questions Written  
15 July 2019**

partners, particularly the police, schools and NHS to gain mutual assurance and ensure joined-up planning.

**7. From Cllr Dennison to Cllr Adje**

**How much unspent money from the apprenticeship levy has the Council returned to the government in each year (including this year to date) since the levy was introduced?**

The apprenticeship Levy was introduced in 2017 and unspent funds expire 24 months after the first payment. For Haringey, our first month of expired monies was June 2019 and £53k has been deducted from our digital account by HRMC to date. A similar sum will be taken each month.

According to the 2019 LGA apprenticeships survey, councils have spent approximately 14% of their total Levy funds to date and only six organisations believe they will spend their full levy allocation in the year 2019/20.

We also know the poor take-up of the apprenticeship levy is reflected on a national scale and not just limited to Local Authorities. Some of the reasons for poor take-up is due to the limited apprenticeship frameworks available, those that are still in development or where no provider is in place to deliver.

We are working with the GLA and London Councils to move forward a collaboration initiative between boroughs on the delivery of apprenticeships. A local government apprenticeship scheme would be much more successful than individual authorities creating their own programmes and competing for training support from colleges. Additional lobbying at a national level is also required to get funding into recruitment and salary costs so that more opportunities can be created given that the levy is only available for training costs currently.

**8. From Cllr Dixon to Cllr Ejiofor**

**What lessons will the Labour administration be learning from its party's historic defeat in the European elections?**

Labour Party political strategy is an internal matter for the Labour Party.

**9. From Cllr Emery to Cllr Hearn**

**Will the Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Sustainability write a joint letter with me to the Environment Minister urging the Government to support [the Vehicle Emissions \(Idling Penalties\) Bill 2017-19](#) put forward by the Hon Wera Hobhouse (Lib Dem MP for Bath)?**

Yes, I would be happy to write a joint letter to Wera Hobhouse MP in recognition of the damage that idling vehicles can have to the environment and air quality – particularly around schools.

The Council Leader and I recently wrote a letter to Uber and bus and taxi companies operating in Haringey to request that they encourage drivers to refrain from idling when parked or stationary.

**10. From Cllr Hare to Cllr Hearn**

**Full Council Questions Written  
15 July 2019**

**The Council is consulting residents on improvements to Finsbury Park. If the consultation indicates that residents believe holding fewer large public events would improve the Park, will the Council heed that result?**

The focus of this consultation exercise is on park safety, cycling, traffic management and areas for improvement within the park. Residents are able to provide other feedback through the free text box on the consultation. However, the council has an agreed policy position on outdoor events which is contained within its Outdoor Events policy that was agreed in 2014.

**11. From Cllr Hinchcliffe to Cllr Chandwani**

**A report in the Daily Telegraph dated 26<sup>th</sup> June indicated that “up to half of “recyclable” material is not being recycled in some areas”. What is the relevant figure for Haringey and what steps does the Council take to ensure that the materials it sends for recycling are in fact recycled?**

The article referred to an undercover investigation at the Western Riverside Waste Authority Material Recovery Facility (MRF), operated by Cory, which covers the boroughs of Hammersmith and Fulham, Kensington and Chelsea, Lambeth and Wandsworth,

Dry mixed recycling collected in Haringey is taken to the North London Waste Authority MRF operated by Biffa. When a Haringey load is tipped it is inspected by Biffa staff for any contaminated waste which would then be sent for incineration. Biffa utilise the latest technology to ensure they maximise the quantity of recyclable items captured during the MRF process, whilst producing a quality product to sell to recycling facilities.

Of all the recycling collected in Haringey, 12% of this is removed as contamination by pre-sorting at Biffa as contamination. Once within the MRF, a further 15% is removed as contamination. This leaves us with an overall recycling rate of 30.4% currently.

**12. From Cllr Morris to Cllr Rice**

**Cllr Tucker left the room when he was due to vote on the motion on ‘the APPG definition of Islamophobia’ at Full Council on the 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019, so he was unable to show if he supported the motion or not. Do the Council’s procedures allow him to subsequently add his name to the list of supporters of the motion? If this is possible, has he been invited to do so?**

The council’s procedures do not allow retrospective changes to voting on specific motions.

**13. From Cllr Ogiehor to Cllr Ibrahim**

**How many children and people experiencing mental ill-health are currently housed in temporary accommodation and how are they prioritised for a move to a permanent home and supported while in temporary accommodation?**

We don’t have a way of providing comprehensive figures for the number of people in temporary accommodation who have a mental health problem as until recently the information was only kept within individual case files rather than as a checklist item on the system.

Under the government’s new homelessness reporting system, H-Clic, there is now a check list item on mental health so we will start to be able to report the number of people who have a mental

**Full Council Questions Written  
15 July 2019**

health problem when they seek assistance from us and of those how many enter temporary accommodation.

From a combination of the H-Clic information we have so far and by looking at medical priority awarded to households in temporary accommodation we can currently identify 60 households where at least one member of the household is experiencing mental ill-health, but we know this will be a significant under representation across the range of mental health conditions.

**14. From Cllr Palmer to Cllr Ejiofor**

**If Deputy Cabinet roles were sufficiently important that it was considered paying them an SRA, why do they now appear to have been left vacant?**

I have full confidence in the Cabinet that I have assembled to work effectively to deliver the strategic priorities and objectives set out in the Borough Plan.

**15. From Cllr Ross to Cllr Amin**

**What plans does Haringey have to apply to be the London Borough of Culture in the near future?**

The GLA has recently opened the second round of the London Borough of Culture process. Haringey Council and relevant partners will be submitting a bid for both 2021 and 2023.

We submitted an expression of interest on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2019 to formally register for the bidding process. This submission also unlocked a number of support options including a small bid development grant, stakeholder events, GLA facilitated advice surgeries and sector support.

The above support programme will enable us to explore what winning London Borough of Culture would look and feel like in Haringey, working with a broad range of stakeholders to develop Haringey's bid content and development milestones.

We are excited by the opportunity to create a collaborative and authentic approach to the borough's bid.

**16. From Cllr Rossetti to Cllr Amin**

**Why has the Council not produced a library plan to ensure capital expenditures are planned and aligned with a strategy and overarching vision for the current and future management of the service?**

We are currently undertaking preparatory work to develop a Library Strategy that will set out the five year vision for the service. A stakeholder group has been formed to inform and co-design the strategy. The initial focus of their work will be on levels of use, demographics, added value for communities and partnership working.

In order to develop our overarching vision for the current and future management of the service, we recently hosted a LGA Library Service Peer Challenge in April 2019. The peer team praised the council's 'strong political commitment to libraries' and commended the Council for both its continued investment in the library service and our plan to invest capital funding to modernise and improve the customer experience.

**Full Council Questions Written  
15 July 2019**

The report and our subsequent action plan will be discussed at Overview and Scrutiny Committee later this month.