

Minutes

OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF BARNET held at Barnet House, N20 0EJ on Tuesday, 7 April 2009.

PRESENT:

- *The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor John Marshall)
- *The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Mukesh Depala)

Councillors:

Maureen Braun	*Andrew Harper	*Sachin Rajput BA (Hons)
*Fiona Bulmer	*Christopher Harris BA BSc	PgD Law
*Terry Burton	MPhil	*Robert Rams
*Anita Campbell	*Helena Hart	*Barry Rawlings
*Wayne Casey BA (Hons)	*John Hart BA MA	*Hugh Rayner
MIA	*Lynne Hillan	*Colin Rogers
Danish Chopra	*Ross Houston	*Lisa Rutter
Dean Cohen BSc (Hons)	*Anne Hutton	*Brian Salinger
*Jack Cohen	Julie Johnson	*Kate Salinger BEd (Hons)
*Melvin Cohen LLB	*Duncan Macdonald	*Gill Sargeant
*Brian Coleman, AM, FRSA	*Caroline Margo	*Joan Scannell
*Geof Cooke	Linda McFadyen	*Alan Schneiderman
*Richard Cornelius	*Kath McGuirk	*Agnes Slocombe SRN RM
*Jeremy Davies BA (Hons),	*Andrew McNeil	*Ansuya Sodha MBA (Middx)
CPFA	*Alison Moore	Cert Ed, DipM (CIM), AMBA
*Tom Davey	Jazmin Naghar	*Andreas Tambourides
*Claire Farrier	*Matthew Offord	*Joanna Tambourides
*Anthony Finn BSc (Econ)	Charlie O-Macauley	*Daniel Thomas BA (Hons)
FCA	*Monroe Palmer OBE, BA,	*Jim Tierney
*Mike Freer	FCA	*Daniel Webb
*Brian Gordon, LL.B	*Susette Palmer MA	Richard Weider
*Eva Greenspan BA LL.B	*Bridget Perry	*Marina Yannoudakis BSc
(Hons)	*Wendy Prentice	(Hons) MA
		Zakia Zubairi

*denotes Member present

183. PRAYER (Agenda Item 1.1):

The Mayor's Chaplain offered prayer.

184. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1.2):

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Maureen Braun, Julie Johnson, Dean Cohen, Danish Chopra, Charlie O-Macauley and Linda McFadyen

- 185. MINUTES OF MEETINGS HELD ON 3 MARCH 2009 (Agenda Item 1.3):**
RESOLVED –That the minutes of the meeting held on the 3 March be approved as a correct record.

186. OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS (Agenda Item 1.4):

The Worshipful the Mayor expressed his sorrow in formally announcing the death of John Tiplady OBE on 20 March. The Worshipful the Mayor advised that Mr. Tiplady was Mayor of the London Borough of Barnet in 1983-1984 and had been a Councillor from 1970 to 2002 serving as Ward Member of the former Friern Barnet Ward.

He also served as both Chairman and Vice-Chairman on the Town Planning & Research Committee and Chairman of the Northern Area Planning Sub-Committee. He was a governor on Oakleigh School and Christ's College. He retired from Oakleigh in 2008 after 38 years association with the school.

Mr Tiplady was awarded his OBE in 1984 "..... for work in the community. Over the years he served on a great number of committees, including Barnet MENCAP"

At the invitation of the Worshipful the Mayor, Councillors Mike Freer, Agnes Slocombe and Jack Cohen, as representatives of the three political groups and Councillor Brian Salinger, spoke in tribute to Mr Tiplady.

A minute's silence was held in remembrance of a departed friend and colleague.

187. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS (Agenda Item 1.5)

The following personal and prejudicial interests were declared relating to item 5.2.2, Report of the Resources, Performance and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 25 March 2009, with the Members concerned leaving the chamber and not taking part in the discussions and vote with respect to this item.

- Councillors Brian and Kate Salinger as their son-in-law is a senior member of staff involved in the drawing up of this report.

188. RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION (Agenda Item 1.6):

Move by the Deputy Mayor and duly seconded

RESOLVED –

1. "That we, the Members of the Council of the London Borough of Barnet, hereby express to The Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor John Marshall, our appreciation of the excellent service he has rendered to the London Borough of Barnet as its Mayor during the period May 2008 to May 2009, and for the friendly and conscientious way in which he has performed the duties of that office.
We offer him our sincere gratitude for the concern that he has shown at all times in promoting the welfare of the London Borough and its residents over many years, particularly for his willingness to support the organisations and individuals who called on his time and services during his Mayoralty. We congratulate him on the success of his appeals for the Barnet Carers Centre and Chai Cancer Care.
Council also offers thanks to the Mayoress Rosie Daniels for her support of the Mayor during the year."
2. That the foregoing resolution be engrossed over the common seal of the corporation and present to the Worshipful the Mayor.

The Mayor expressed his gratitude to the Council for passing the resolution.

189. BUSINESS REMAINING FROM LAST MEETING (Item 1.7)

None

190. QUESTION TIME FOR MEMBERS (Agenda Item 2.1):

Questions were put to the Leader and the relevant Members of the Cabinet. Those questions, together with the original answers provided and the text of any supplementary questions and answers are set out in an Appendix to these minutes.

191. VARIATION OF ORDER OF BUSINESS

Councillor Joan Scannell, duly seconded, moved under Council Procedure Rule, Section 1, paragraph 10.2.2, that the order of business relating to Agenda Item 3 be varied so that Motions 3.3, 3.2 and 3.1 be heard first.

Upon being put to the vote, the motion was declared carried.

RESOLVED – That the order of business be varied to allow Motions 3.3, 3.2 and 3.1 to be debated and voted upon in advance of votes being taken on the other Motions on the Agenda.

192. MOTION IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR ALAN SCHNEIDERMAN AS AMENDED BY COUNCILLOR MIKE FREER (Agenda Items 3.3)

Motion 3.3 in the name of Councillor Alan Schneiderman was moved. Amendments in the name of Councillors Mike Freer and Alison Moore were moved from the floor. Debate ensued. Upon being put to the vote, the amendment in the name of Councillor Alison Moore was declared lost. Upon being put the vote, the amendment in the name of Councillor Mike Freer was declared carried. Upon being put to the vote, the substantive motion as amended by Councillor Freer was declared carried.

RESOLVED – Council notes the progress the Council has made in its Use of Resources score under the Leadership of the Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources. The Leader of the Council will continue to consider the Cabinet portfolios in the light of the significant pool of talent available from the Majority Party.

Council believes that it is prudent to await the independent enquiry into the Treasury Management Team's processes.

Council supports the Audit Commission's assessment that the Audit Committee oversight be strengthened and asks Cabinet to investigate strengthening the Committee's role.

193. MOTION IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR HELENA HART (Agenda Item 3.2)

Motion 3.2 was moved in the name of Councillor Helena Hart. An amendment in the name of Councillor Barry Rawlings was moved. Debate ensued. Upon being put to the vote the amendment in the name of Councillor Barry Rawlings was declared lost. Upon being put to the vote, the substantive motion was declared carried.

RESOLVED - Council notes Healthcare for London's ongoing Consultation on the future of Major Trauma and Stroke Services in London.

Council is appalled that the "Preferred Option" for the Major Trauma Networks (MTNs) excludes The Royal Free Hospital as a Major Trauma Centre despite admitting that its bid was exactly equal to that of St. Mary's (their preferred Option) on both clinical standards and their ability to meet future requirements by 2012. This is also despite the very strong support The Royal Free has received both from other hospitals in the network and the support we know it enjoys from Barnet patients.

Council is equally aghast that The Royal Free was also not selected in the recommendations for the Hyper Acute Stroke Units (HASUs). Council notes this is despite Healthcare for London plainly stating that "The Royal Free would give better travel times" than their preferred choices.

Should these preferred Options on both Stroke and Trauma be implemented, Council believes the extremely large numbers of both current and future residents of Barnet who would rely on these vital services would be put at risk.

Council is also extremely concerned that the removal of these vital services from the Royal Free - and the continuance of the many and varied specialities required to support them - could lead to a gradual erosion of the long term viability of a much respected and well used Hospital which plays such a pivotal role in the provision of acute hospital services for the people of this Borough.

Council therefore calls on the Chief Executive to write to Healthcare for London urgently calling for an immediate rethink of the decision to exclude the Royal Free from the list of Preferred Options for Major Trauma Centres and from its recommendations for the location of Hyper Acute Stroke Units

194. MOTION IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR DANIEL THOMAS AS AMENDED BY COUNCILLOR JACK COHEN (Agenda Item 3.1)

Motion 3.1 was moved in the name of Councillor Daniel Thomas. An amendment was move in the name of Councillor Jack Cohen. Debate ensued. Councillor Thomas accepted Councillor Jack Cohen's amendment. Upon being put to the vote the motion in the name of Councillor Daniel Thomas as amended by Councillor Jack Cohen was declared carried.

RESOLVED - Council notes the Government's lack of support for transparency in all public sector bodies.

Council believes that it is vital that Central Government public sector spending be transparent in order that money can be directed efficiently to where it is most needed.

Council notes that the Department of Communities and Local Government is holding a consultation on the publishing of Local Spending Reports (as contained in the Sustainable Communities Act) and requests Cabinet respond with the following concerns;

- **That the consultation now issued on local spending reports proposed only to include local authorities and primary care trusts and to exclude all other public bodies**
- **That this in contravention of the expressed assurances of the Minister in the Committee stage of the Bill and calls for the publication of Local Spending Reports to include the expenditure of all public agencies.**

1. That the 2007 Local Government Act:

- **made the Council the first amongst equals in the Local Strategic Partnership;**
- **Created a duty to co-operate with the Council by all partners**

- Gave the powers to scrutinise further public sector bodies using the councillors call for action
2. The Sustainable Communities Act 2007 which gives partners the duty to report on budgets, outcomes and outputs to the local authority and local communities; and
 3. The fact that the Comprehensive Area Assessment regime which will 'monitor and judge' the performance and partnership of all agencies within our area.

It believes that a major block in implementing all three of these is the secret nature of most of the partners and the fact that they meet in private and are largely unknown to the people of this area.

Accordingly it instructs the Chief Executive to:

1. Write to the Chairs and Chief Executives of all LSP partners with the exception of those partners such as the Police Authority who conform to local government standards of openness and suggest to them that they should:
 - Meet in public
 - Make available the contact details of all executive and non executive directors or Board members
 - Make agendas and minutes of meetings readily available to press and public subject to the same grounds for confidentiality as practised by the Council for commercial or personal reasons.
 - Have communications strategies which are clear and public which will show how they will reach out to users of their service and the wider community
 - Make arrangements for Non-Executive Directors or Board members to hold 'meet the public and users' sessions which are public and well advertised.
2. Write to the Secretaries of State for Communities and Local Government; Health; Home Office, Environment, Universities Innovation and Skills Children, Schools and Families, Culture Media and Sport informing them of this resolution and inviting them to issue guidelines to quangos, departmental bodies and agencies under their control to ensure that they have the same high standards as local government.

195. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING.

In accordance with the Agenda, the Mayor adjourned the meeting. The meeting reconvened at 9.05pm.

196. ADMINISTRATION POLICY ITEM: EDUCATION PROVISION FOR 16-19 YEAR OLDS (Agenda Item 4.1)

Councillor Fiona Bulmer proposed the item and moved that it be adopted. An amendment in the name of Councillor Anne Hutton was moved. Debate ensued on the

Policy Item. Upon being put to the vote the amendment in the name of Councillor Anne Hutton was declared lost. Upon being put to the vote the substantive motion was declared carried.

RESOLVED - The Government is due to transfer provision for 16-19 year olds from the Learning and Skills Council to the London Borough of Barnet. The provisions for this are contained in the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill currently passing through Parliament.

Given that powers and responsibilities are set to be passed to Borough level, it is necessary that such a shift is adequately funded and that Local Authorities are empowered to develop their own policies tailored to the needs of the population in their areas.

Accordingly, Council recommends that:

- 1) The Chief Executive is requested to write to the Secretary of State for Education and Skills, calling for the transfer of responsibilities to be properly funded, and requesting that Councils be permitted to develop their own policies.**
- 2) Requests Cabinet compile a blueprint for the provision of 16-19 education in the Borough in anticipation of the transfer of responsibilities.**

197. OPPOSITION POLICY ITEM: SHELTERED HOUSING AS AMENDED BY COUNCILLOR LYNNE HILLAN (Agenda Item 4.2)

Councillor Barry Rawlings proposed the item and moved that it be adopted. Amendments in the name of Councillors Lynne Hillan and Gill Sargeant were move from the floor. Debate ensued. Upon being put to the vote the amendment in the name of Councillor Lynne Hillan was declared carried. Upon being put to the vote the amendment in the name of Councillor Gill Sargeant was declared lost.

Ten Members demanded a Division on the voting on the amendment in the name of Councillor Gill Sargeant. Upon being taken the results of the Division were declared as follows.

For	Against	Absent
Councillors	Councillors	Councillors
Campbell	Bulmer	Braun
Casey	Burton	Chopra
Jack Cohen	Melvin Cohen	Dean Cohen
Cooke	Coleman	Harris
Davies	Cornelius	Johnson
Farrier	Davey	Margo
Houston	Depala	McFadyen
Hutton	Finn	O-Macauley
Macdonald	Freer	Weider
McGuirk	Gordon	Zubairi
McNeil	Greenspan	
Moore	Harper	
Monroe Palmer	Helen Hart	
Susette Palmer	John Hart	
Rawlings	Hillan	
Rogers	Marshall	

Sargeant	Offord	
Schneiderman	Perry	
Slocombe	Prentice	
Sodha	Rajput	
Tierney	Rams	
	Rayner	
	Rutter	
	Brian Salinger	
	Kate Salinger	
	Scannell	
	Andreas Tambourides	
	Joanna Tambourides	
	Thomas	
	Webb	
	Weider	
	Yannakoudakis	

For	21
Against	32
Absent	10
TOTAL	63

Upon being put to the vote the substantive motion as amended by Councillor Lynne Hillan was declared carried.

RESOLVED - Council believes that all elderly residents in Barnet deserve the support of their local authority based on need, not tenure.

Council notes that there has been a thorough consultation regarding floating support in sheltered schemes and asks Cabinet to consider its findings before making a final decision

198. REPORT OF CABINET (Agenda Item 5.1)

Councillor Lynne Hillan proposed the item and moved that it be adopted. Debate ensued on the Policy Item. Upon being put to the vote the substantive motion was declared carried.

RESOLVED -

- 1.1 **That the offer of a reduced guideline rent and appropriate compensation from the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) be accepted.**
- 1.2 **That, with effect from 4 May 2009:-**
 - (a) **The rent of all Council dwellings, with the exception of those included under Recommendation (1.3), be changed in line with the proposals outlined in this report, producing an average increase of 3.1%.**
- 1.3 **That, with effect from 4 May 2009: -**
 - (a) **The basic rents of dwellings in the Council's equity sharing scheme at Moorlands Avenue, NW7 be amended in line with rent restructuring**
 - (b) **The net rents of dwellings in the equity share scheme at Friern**

Hospital be amended in line with rent restructuring.
The maximum increase in (a) and (b) above will be 2.4% plus £2
(pro rata to the rented share).

- 1.4 That the Chief Executive be instructed to take the necessary action including the service of the appropriate Notices.
- 1.5 That should the final level of increase issued by CLG differ from 3.1% the Director of Resources be authorised to set the level.
- 1.6 That further consultation only be undertaken where it is a statutory requirement
- 1.7 To note that any additional cost and changes to the budget will be reported to Cabinet Resources Committee after the final HRA subsidy determination is made and that such costs do not fall on the General Fund but are addressed by the Housing Revenue Account.

**199. REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE (CONSTITUTION REVIEW) 17 MARCH 2009
(Agenda Item 5.2.1)**

Councillor Melvin Cohen moved reception and recommendation of the report. An amendment in the name of Councillor Alison Moore was moved. Debate ensued

Report of the Special Committee
(Constitution Review)
17 March 2009

Members:

*Councillor Melvin Cohen LLB (Chairman)
Councillor Mike Freer (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors:

*Jack Cohen	*Richard Cornelius	*Robert Rams
*Linda McFadyen	*Alison Moore	(substituting for Mike Freer)
Matthew Offord	*Joan Scannell	*Alan Schneiderman
*Daniel Webb		

CONSTITUTION REVIEW 2008/9 (Reports of the Assistant Director of Resources and Director of Corporate Governance – Agenda Items 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12)

The Committee met on 7 October 2008, 10 February 2009, 24 February 2009 and 17 March 2009 to consider aspects of the Council's Constitution, which had been raised by both officers and Members as matters requiring review. The matrix of changes considered and the action sheets relating to the Committee's 7 October 2008, 10 February 2009 and 17 March 2009 meetings are attached as Appendices 1, 2 and 3.

The action sheets and recommendations to Council for the Special Meeting held on 24 February 2009 to discuss Overview and Scrutiny: new arrangements and the subsequent extra meeting to be held on 21 April 2009 will be reported to Council on 19 May 2009. On 17 March 2009 the Committee considered reports on all the matters on which the Committee considered they should make recommendations for change to the Council in

April.

The reports of the officers concerned are being circulated separately to all members of the Council.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:

(1) That the amendments to the Constitution agreed on 7 October 2008, 10 February 2009 and 17 March 2009 as detailed in the appendices to this report and as indicated below be approved:

Matrix Ref:	Constitution Ref:	Para(s)	Appendix to this report
1	Executive Procedure Rules		A1
3	Section 4 Public Participation	5.14	A2
4	Section 1 – The Council	11.1	A3
6	Article 1	1.03	A4
6	Summary & Explanation		A5
6	Article 12	Various	A6
6	Section 2 – 1.2 – Committees and Sub-Committees	Various	A7
6	Access to Information	Various	A8
7	Procedure Rules		
7	Section 4 Public Participation	2.3.6	A2
8	Section 1 The Council	4(a)	A3
12 – 32 34 – 42 44 – 47	Financial Regulations	Various	A9
33	Part 5 - Code of Corporate Governance	New section	A10
43	Contract Procedure Rules	Various	A11
48	Article 14	14.05	A12
52	Financial Regs Part 1 Sect 3	Para 3.12 and 3.13	A9
53	Financial Regs Part 2 Sect 6	Para 6.14	A9

(2) That with effect from 19 May 2009, the changes to the Constitution listed below, and as set out in the appendices to this report as indicated, be approved and adopted:

- 1. Executive Procedure Rules (Appendix A1)**
- 2. Section 4, Public Participation (Appendix A2)**
- 3. Section 1, The Council (Appendix A3)**
- 4. Article 1 (Appendix A4)**
- 5. Summary and Explanation (Appendix A5)**
- 6. Article 12 (Appendix A6)**
- 7. Section 2, Para 1.2 - Committees and Sub-Committees (Appendix A7)**
- 8. Access to Information Procedure Rules (Appendix A8)**
- 9. Financial Regulations (Appendix A9)**
- 10. Part 5, Code of Corporate Governance (Appendix A10)**
- 11. Contract Procedure Rules (Appendix A11)**
- 12. Article 14 (Appendix A12)**

(3) That the Democratic Services Manager be instructed to make the appropriate changes to the Constitution.

Upon being put to the vote the amendment in the name of Councillor Alison Moore was declared lost. Councillor Wayne Casey moved an amendment that a separate vote be taken on the recommendation listed in Appendix 4 at Item 6, Page 51. Upon being to the vote the motion was declared lost.

Upon being put to the recommendations were agreed.

RESOLVED –

- 1. That the Report of the Special Committee (Constitution Review) dated 17 March 2009 be approved and adopted.**
- 2. That the wording set out in Appendices A1 to A12 to the report be approved for insertion in the Council's Constitution.**

200. REPORTS OF THE RESOURCES, PERFORMANCE AND PARTNERSHIPS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 25 MARCH 2009 (Agenda Item 5.2.2)

Councillor Joan Scannell moved reception and recommendation of the report. An amendment in the name of Councillor Duncan Macdonald was moved. Debate ensued Upon being put to the vote the amendment in the name of Councillor Macdonald was declared lost.

RESOLVED –

- 1. That the Report of the Resources, Performance and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee dated 25 March be approved and adopted.**

201. REPORTS EXEMPTED FROM THE CALL-IN PROCESS BECAUSE THEY ARE URGENT (Report of The Democratic Services Manger – Agenda Item 5.3.1)

These matters are reported to the Council to meet Constitutional requirements. No action is required by the Council and the decision has been implemented.

In the cases listed below, the Chairman of the Cabinet Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed that the decisions proposed were reasonable in all the circumstances, were

urgent and therefore had consented to the proposed decisions being exempted from call-in:

- (i) The Leader of the Council on the 27 February 2009 approved Treasury Management Strategy 2008/09, to increase the deposit counterparty limits. The next meeting of the Cabinet Overview and Scrutiny Committee is not until 29 April, and, if called-in, the action proposed could not be implemented until then. The delay would seriously prejudice the Council's and the public's interests because failure to increase the counterparty limits for the Debt Management Office (DMO) account now would result in a breach in the revised 2008/09 Treasury Management Strategy approved by Cabinet on 23 October 2008 and subsequently amended by Delegated Powers Report 712.
- (ii) The Cabinet Resources Committee on the 5 March approved the urgent commencement of a procurement project to replace the Council's PERICLES system used for Council Tax, Business Rates and Benefits. This urgency is further exacerbated by the fact that for the procurement to go live, the process of such a system/conversion/migration will take at least a year and it is crucial that an appropriate software system to deal with Benefits, Council Tax and Business Rates is in place.
- (iii) The Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Members for Environment and Transport approved on 5 March 2009 the amending of the formatting and tariff charge errors contained with the report Fees and Charges for Environment Transport agreed by the Cabinet Resources Committee on 19 January 2009. The corrections need to be made urgently in order to be able to make the traffic orders and implement the changes in a timely manner. The interests and of the Council and the public would be harmed if the decision was called in to the next meeting of Cabinet and Overview Scrutiny Committee on 29 April 2009.

202. JOINT HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE TO REVIEW "SHAPING HEALTH SERVICES TOGETHER - CONSULTATION ON DEVELOPING NEW, HIGH-QUALITY MAJOR TRAUMA AND STROKE SERVICES IN LONDON (Further Supplemental Report of The Democratic Services Manger – Agenda Item 5.3.1)

RESOLVED – That Councillor Maureen Braun be as the substitute on the Pan London Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

203. CHANGES TO COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP (Further Supplemental Report of The Democratic Services Manger – Agenda Item 5.3.1)

RESOLVED – That the following changes to Committee Membership be approved

Chipping Barnet Area Environment Sub-Committee

- **Councillor Brian Coleman to replace Councillor Caroline Margo as a member of the committee.**
- **Councillor Richard Cornelius to replace Councillor Brian Coleman as a substitute member of the committee.**

Chipping Barnet Residents Forum

- Councillor Kate Salinger to replace Councillor Caroline Margo Vice-Chairman of the Forum.

Planning and Environment Committee

- Councillor Joanna Tambourides to replace Councillor Caroline Margo as a member of the committee.

Resources, Performance and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- Councillor Tom Davey to replace Councillor Caroline Margo as a member of the committee.

Supporting the Vulnerable in our Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- Councillor Kate Salinger to replace Councillor Caroline Margo as member of the committee

Cleaner, Green, Transport and Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- Councillor Joanna Tambourides to replace Councillor Marina Yannakoudakis as Chairman of the committee.
- Councillor Andreas Tambourides to replace Councillor Joanna Tambourides as Vice-Chairman
- Councillor Bridget Perry to replace Councillor Richard Weider as member of the committee

Hendon Area Planning Sub-Committee

- Councillor Helena Hart to replace Councillor Richard Weider as a member of the Committee.
- Councillor Joan Scannell to replace Councillor Helena Hart as a substitute member of the committee.

Hendon Area Environment Sub-Committee

- Councillor Tom Davey to replace Councillor Richard Weider as Chairman of the Committee.
- Councillor Joan Scannell to replace Councillor Tom Davey as Vice-Chairman of the committee.
- Councillor Helen Hart to replace Councillor Joan Scannell as a substitute member of the committee.

First Class Education and Children Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- Councillor Hugh Rayner to replace Councillor Richard Weider Vice-Chairman of the committee.

204. REPORTS FROM THE MONITORING OFFICER (Agenda Item 5.3.3)

None.

205. COMMENTS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE CABINET (Agenda Item 6.1)

Comment: Councillor Kath McGuirk

(not recording) supporting another initiative set down by Ken Livingstone. What I would like to know from the Cabinet Member is that the consultation that starts is how, who and when this consultation will take place and when does he think that work will actually start on site?

Response: Councillor Andrew Harper

Two comments, firstly it's, from what we have seen, contrary to what Councillor McGuirk has just said. In fact, in Spring of last year, a sort of scheme was rather hastily put on the table to help the subsequently failed attempt of the Labour Party to get Nicky Gavron elected as the GLA member for Barnet and Camden. In fact, that scheme was never fully formed, fully costed, nor fully funded. A very good scheme is now, all of those three things, and that is a result of the very close attention paid by this administration, by TfL, and the encouragement of Mayor Johnson and that is why we have got to where we have now. The second thing, on the consultation, really the precise nature of that is a matter for TfL. It's their scheme, nevertheless, Barnet Council will be inputting to that and advising on locations for it. People should be consulted and indeed the public exhibition that we want to stage on that.

Comment: Councillor Gill Sargeant

In August 2008, the Hendon Times reported that the major new transport link in Colindale, Aerodrome Road, had dramatically overrun the original £12.4m budget and in August it was said that Barnet Council was urgently trying to address the overspend but said the final cost of replacing the bridge in Aerodrome Road wasn't available. This work was due for completion in spring 2009 and we heard tonight that this will now be due for completion in August, hopefully earlier, 2009. We still do not know what the overspend is and it is still causing great difficulties for residents throughout the Borough. I want to know, when we will hear an announcement of what the overspend will be and what the final budget is? In the meantime, since there is no road there yet, we still would like to also have a list of the proposed closure dates, because you arrive at Aerodrome Road and it's always a great surprise as to whether you can go through it or not, and originally there were proposed closure dates. At the very least we could have, you know, a schedule of when the closure dates since we are going to have at least another three months, thank you.

Response: Councillor Andrew Harper

Mr Mayor all of these matters will be dealt with in a report to the 23 April meeting of the Cabinet Resources Committee.

206. MOTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED – That under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of

Schedule 12A of the Act (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006):

Agenda Item	Subject
2.1	Questions to the Leader and Cabinet – Question 21

The meeting finished at 10.48pm

Council Questions to Cabinet Members
7 April 2009
Supplementary Questions and Responses

Question 1**Councillor Daniel Thomas**

To ask what the Leader what he is doing to help those local businesses the Council receives services / goods from?

Answer by Councillor Mike Freer, Leader of the Council

The Council has cut its payment terms for local businesses from thirty days to ten days. There was a temporary reduction of on and off-street pay and display charges to as little as 10 pence per hour over the Christmas period which proved highly popular with businesses by generating an increased footfall of shoppers in town centres. The Council has also sent targeted advice and information to those businesses in the Borough who are entitled to Small Business Rate Relief. Section 106 monies have also been used to create a new Skills Development Programme Officer post to support small and medium sized local enterprises.

We are also finalising the business seminar to improve access to public sector contracts and access to general advice. It is expected that the London Development Agency; Middlesex University, Barnet College, Job Centre Plus will be in attendance.

Supplementary Question 1**Councillor Daniel Thomas**

I'd like to thank the Leader for his answer. Council Members that at a previous meeting this Administration put a motion forward calling for the reversal of the 5% increase in business rates. The Government has conceded some of that, that part of the increase will be deferred and I'd like the Leader, if possible, to comment on that?

Answer by Councillor Mike Freer, Leader of the Council

Of course we're delighted that the Government has actually done a U-turn and listened to Barnet and other Councils. However, we are still encountering some difficulty in the regulations because apparently it isn't the increase that actually has been cut it has only been deferred, so instead of a 5% increase businesses will pay 2%. The remaining 3% can be deferred over the next 2 years to a multiplier of 60%, and that also then has difficulties if a business is on transitional relief because there is a different set of calculations on top of that. Of course, as well as having already set the business rates on behalf of the Government, we now have to go through the formal process of re-setting them which could well cost this Council tens of thousands of pounds of re-billing and re-consulting on something the Government could have done in September. So whilst we welcome the relief, it is not actually a cut in the increase, simply a deferral, but it will actually cost this Borough and our taxpayers.

Question 2**Councillor Wayne Casey**

Which company operates the facility at Copthall known as "Metro Golf" and by whom is this company owned?

Answer by Councillor Richard Cornelius

The operator is Metro Golf School Ltd (Metro Golf) which is a current company registered at Companies House. Its company number is 05980190. Metro Golf operate the facility under a management agreement with the Council's tenant of the property, which is Golf Learning Centres Limited.

Question 3**Councillor Alison Moore**

Does the Leader support guaranteed speaking rights for the trade unions at meetings of the General Functions Committee?

Answer by Councillor Mike Freer, Leader of the Council

On matters pertaining to staff, yes.

Supplementary Question 3**Councillor Alison Moore**

Thank you for your response Councillor Freer. Will you support my amendments later this evening to ensure that it is agreed as part of the Special Committee Constitution Review Report?

Answer by Councillor Mike Freer, Leader of the Council

The Committee has made a vote and it would be inappropriate for me to try and overturn that vote. But, I will be supporting the view of the Constitutional Review Committee as laid before Council.

Question 4**Councillor Daniel Thomas**

To ask the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport what measures did the Council take before and after February's heavy snowfall to ensure our roads and pavements were as accessible as reasonably possible?

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

Preparation

As the Met Office predicted severe conditions (which turned out to be the worst snow fall in two decades), Barnet Council's gritting teams were well prepared for the event. The Borough had stockpiled 2,000 tons of salt and had tasked a 26-strong team to keep Barnet's 677km of roads and footways clear of snow and ice, with a further 10 on standby. Additionally 70 workers could be diverted from other services in severe snowy conditions.

The Council has nine large gritting vehicles, as well as four manually-operated footway spreading machines. A total of 339 grit bins located across the Borough, including 38 in town centres, were cleared and filled with salt at the end of October.

Gritting Activity

The snow that fell on the Sunday / Monday (1 and 2 February) had been fairly accurately forecast and in anticipation of its arrival we salted all Priority 1 routes the night before (Saturday) at a spread rate of 40g/m². We repeated this treatment at 4 pm, 9pm and throughout the night on Sunday to keep the main roads clear of ice and snow.

We started to grit the Priority 2 routes in the north of the Borough on the morning of Sunday 1 February morning and gritted until such time as the resources were required for re-gritting the Priority 1 networks at 4pm. Thereafter we returned to Priority 2 routes at times when Priority 1 routes were not being gritted. Gritting of all Priority 2 routes was completed on Tuesday 3 February.

On the morning of Monday 2 February, we spread a further 40g/m² on all Priority 1 routes and continued to grit Priority 2 routes and side roads throughout the day. Town centre and other Priority 2 footways were also treated.

On Tuesday 3 February morning the compacted snow, partly melted by the sun, had re-frozen and made all side roads treacherous. Once Priority 1 routes were treated we continued throughout the day to treat Priority 2 routes that we knew from experience would be dangerous. We also responded to the hundreds of requests received by the customer care department. While our grit trucks were out trying to make the roads and pavements safe both traffic wardens and refuse crews were out helping to grit the many smaller roads in Barnet.

Between Wednesday 4 and Tuesday 10 February Priority 1 routes were treated on 15 more occasions. Refuse workers and many other employees in Barnet continued to support snow clearance at locations where particular problems were anticipated e.g. community facilities, sheltered housing etc.

A total of 2,186 tonnes of salt has been used so far in this season to grit our roads and footways.

Question 5

Councillor Wayne Casey

What procedure has been put in place to ensure Metro Golf are charged by the Council for regular services supplied by the authority (for example grass cutting)?

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

The Council does not provide grass cutting services to Metro Golf. We are not aware that the Council provides any regular services to Metro Golf.

Question 6

Councillor Anne Hutton

What measures has the Council taken to ensure that all girls who are eligible have been invited to receive the HPV (cervical cancer) inoculations?

Answer by Councillor Helena Hart

Whilst the Council supports the availability of this immunisation to all those who wish to take advantage of it, as Cllr Hutton will know, it is actually the responsibility of Barnet Primary Care Trust. I understand that all girls who live or attend school in Barnet have been contacted by the PCT. Only 2 schools have refused to offer immunisation and both have sent letters to girls in their schools advising them about the immunisation.

The PCT states that if a child is not immunised at school, another letter is sent directly to their home asking them to attend a local clinic. The PCT is developing an enhanced scheme for GPs and this will be used for girls who prefer to go to their GP, or whose only option this is.

We will continue to monitor the position with the PCT.

Question 7

Councillor Brian Gordon

Can you please comment, from the Council's point of view, on the very disturbing reports about 63 pregnant women being turned away from Barnet hospital last year and sent to other, far less convenient, places to have their babies?

Answer by Councillor Helena Hart

Barnet Primary Care Trust has provided the following response following the extremely concerning report that 63 mothers-to-be were turned away from Barnet Hospital during 2008 and sent on to Chase Farm Hospital in Enfield to deliver their babies.

"Whilst it is not always possible for the NHS to provide exactly the service that people want, including a choice of place of service provision, Barnet PCT is concerned that in 2008 a number of women needed to be diverted from one maternity unit to another because of capacity (and thus clinical safety) issues. It is appropriate to transfer people if it is not possible to provide a safe, high quality service at a particular time, but, in terms of service user choice and satisfaction, it is not desirable for this to occur other than in exceptional circumstances.

The Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Clinical Strategy recognises that the population in the three Boroughs (particularly Barnet) will increase significantly over the next few years, especially in terms of the number of women of child-bearing age.

The Strategy thus includes provision for the establishment of greater capacity for inpatient maternity services to be created at Barnet and North Middlesex Hospitals to deal with the potential extra demand. This should reduce the need for transfers."

However, whilst accepting that the PCT obviously shares our concern that 63 women at the most vulnerable and emotionally fragile times of their lives have had to undergo the incredible trauma of being turned away from the Maternity Unit at Barnet where they were due to give birth and then forced to travel some six miles or so to Chase Farm and the PCT's good intentions regarding the Clinical Strategy, I continue to have the very deepest concerns regarding Barnet Hospital's ability to cope with all the extra calls on its In-Patient Maternity Department following the proposed closure of the one at Chase Farm.

The plans to develop a Midwife-led Unit at Chase Farm and the possibility of a number of mothers being diverted from there to Barnet – together with our proposed growth in population – make it even more imperative for us to continue to fight for increased in-patient maternity provision and to oppose any reduction whatsoever in maternity services locally.

The situation will continue to be kept under review both at Cabinet level and by the Supporting the Vulnerable Overview and Scrutiny Committee under the Chairmanship of Councillor Rajput.

Supplementary Question 7

Councillor Brian Gordon

Councillor Hart, as one who in the past has made a not inconsiderable use of maternity facilities, indirectly shall we say, I do feel as you do, that the position of the Barnet PCT is highly unsatisfactory in this respect. How much would you say that the Government is to blame for its insufficient financing of those parts of the National Health Service which really do need support?

Answer by Councillor Helena Hart

Thank you Councillor Gordon. Of course your involvement was by proxy as we all know. Unfortunately, this Government does have a history of trying to close in-patient maternity departments, as we are all too well aware when they tried to close the one at the Royal Free, which we managed to save as part of the cross-Borough Scrutiny Committee and those proposals were kicked into the long grass. Of course, it is still closing the in-patient maternity department at Chase Farm and my own view is although you will note what the PCT said in response to what we raised with them, about the number of mothers turned away both from Barnet and, I have to say, the 23 who were turned away from Chase Farm and sent to Barnet. It's a very difficult time for mothers and it should not occur. I have to say that the same period in question, the Royal Free just turned away one, on one occasion. We will be continuing to press the PCT as the Commissioners of the service to ensure that there is adequate in-patient maternity provision in the future, bearing in mind the ramifications of the clinical strategy and our growing population. And, as the Mayor said, Councillor Gordon of course it is completely up to you and I hope that the rest of your family will continue to increase our population.

Question 8

Councillor Wayne Casey

What procedure has been put in place to ensure Metro Golf reimburse the Council for emergency works (for example the cleaning out of the gullies and ditches after the recent flooding)?

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

The lease of the golf course and driving range is the contract between the Council and the tenant. The tenant has covenanted to keep the built and un-built parts of the property in good condition and they are responsible for works on an emergency basis or otherwise in compliance with their lease covenants.

Question 9

Councillor Anne Hutton

What is the timescale for implementing the recommendations of the joint scrutiny working party on Young Carers?

Answer by Councillor Fiona Bulmer

A Young Carers Strategy is being developed as part of the overall Carers' Strategy, being led by Adult Services. Recommendations from the working party will be considered as part of the overall Carer's Strategy Action Plan and the timescales for implementation will vary.

Supplementary Question 9

Councillor Anne Hutton

Thank you Councillor Bulmer for your answer. Do you have yet any idea of when the Carer's Strategy Action Plan may be implemented? I mean, are we talking weeks or months or what.

Answer by Councillor Fiona Bulmer

The action plan will be developed over the course of this year, certain elements will be developed towards the autumn and a couple of points raised by the Scrutiny Committee are already in place such as the work with Barnet Young Carers in schools. So it will be over the next few months.

Question 10

Councillor Brian Gordon

Would you please accept my congratulations, and those of numerous Borough residents, on the very high standard of this year's Civic Awards ceremony on 11 February?

Answer by Councillor Brian Coleman

Yes. I am sure all Councillors relish the opportunity to celebrate the service and dedication of so many residents of the Borough and for once give the local papers a positive story to report rather than the usual inaccurate doom and gloom that fills their pages.

Supplementary Question 10

Councillor Brian Gordon

Councillor Coleman, I very much echo your words about the importance of celebrating the dedication and hard work of people in the Borough through the Civic Awards Ceremony. Is it possible to devise some kind of logo or badge that people who are awarded honours in our Civic Awards Ceremony could wear or publish on their notepaper so that there could be a continuing memento of their award? It is a serious question, because people are actually asking me this, and then that would help them to further their activities and also it would be a testimony to Barnet's support for people who give of their time in a voluntary capacity or otherwise in such a dedicated way.

Answer by Councillor Brian Coleman

I realise Mr Mayor that Councillor Gordon was asking the world expert on badges. Mr Mayor, I think it's an idea that we might look at, perhaps people might want to wear Borough of Barnet cufflinks, as I'm wearing tonight. But, I'm delighted that the Civic Awards are held in such high esteem right across our community in Barnet.

Question 11

Councillor Wayne Casey

Does Metro Golf have a programme for the regular cleaning of its ditches, streams and gullies on a regular basis and how does the Council ensure that this programme is carried out?

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

It is not known whether Metro Golf has such a programme. However, the Council's tenant has covenanted not to permit anything on the land which may become a danger or nuisance to the Council and it has covenanted to indemnify the Council against claims, demands and payments instituted against the Council.

Supplementary Question 11**Councillor Wayne Casey**

What enforcement action does the Council take to ensure Metro Golf meets the terms of the covenant?

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

Well thank you for that Councillor Casey, this is something of which I don't have the detail but I will be very happy to write to you.

Question 12**Councillor Alison Moore**

Who has ultimate responsibility for signing off the Council's Treasury Management Strategy?

Answer by Councillor Mike Freer, Leader of the Council

The approval for the Council's Treasury Management Strategy is delegated to Cabinet Resources Committee and Cabinet Overview & Scrutiny Committee within the Council's constitution.

Supplementary Question 12**Councillor Alison Moore**

Councillor Freer, will you acknowledge that, as a Cabinet Member for Resources, it is reports in your name that go to Cabinet Resources Committee and are challenged at Cabinet Overview and Scrutiny Committee?

Answer by Councillor Mike Freer, Leader of the Council

I accept that the Council's constitution that reports are in my name, approved by Cabinet Resources, and subsequently cleared through Cabinet Overview and Scrutiny.

Question 13**Councillor Brian Gordon**

From time to time I receive complaints about off-street Council-controlled public footways that are not adequately cleared of litter. One example within my Ward is the pathway between Farm Road and Brook Avenue. Could these areas be given a little more attention?

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

The footpath in question is swept every 4 weeks as part of the neighbourhood street cleaning service and in addition is visited twice weekly by the area hot spot litter crew who empty any litter bins and remove any windblown litter. Any other similar locations should be referred to the street cleaning manager who will investigate and advise on cleaning regimes accordingly.

Supplementary Question 13**Councillor Brian Gordon**

Councillor Harper, thank you for your assurance with regard to public footpaths such as the one which we have in my Ward between Farm Road and Brook Avenue. Would you like to take note, Councillor Harper, the fact that after I had a meeting at that particular pathway with a number of residents and the Greenspaces Officer, Rob Wiltshire, work was immediately done there and I've received a letter of thanks from the residents for the very efficient and conscientious way in which the Council is now attending to that footpath and I hope that will be very much a model for other similar areas where Councillors get involved.

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

I am very grateful to Councillor Gordon for that. I'm very pleased to take the compliment, the Acting Director of Environment and Transport is sitting over there on my left, and I would ask her also to convey what Councillor Gordon has just said to the staff in the service.

Question 14**Councillor Wayne Casey**

Is there programme for the regular cleaning of the ditches, streams and gullies of the Copthall complex as a whole?

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

Quotes have been obtained to start a ditch clearance programme. Vegetation along the ditch will be pruned back to allow access.

Supplementary Question 14**Councillor Wayne Casey**

When will the ditch clearance programme start?

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

Very shortly I understand.

Question 15**Councillor Alan Schneiderman**

Why was the minimum 'Fitch individual' rating downgraded from 'A/B' to 'C' in the Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources' March 2008 Treasury Management Strategy?

Answer by Councillor Mike Freer, Leader of the Council

The individual rating of 'A/B' is very high, the second highest in fact, and was inconsistent with the other three ratings the Council was using at the time. This is demonstrated by there not being a counterparty at that time that held the exact combination of the four minimum ratings in the Treasury Management Strategy and has been reinforced by the Council's treasury management advisors Butlers at the Scrutiny Working Group meetings. Bringing it down to 'C' brought it more in line with the short-term, long-term and support ratings that had been in place since 2005/06.

Supplementary Question 15**Councillor Alan Schneiderman**

I'm happy to send Councillor Freer a copy of the sector counter-party list which show various institutions that do meet the minimum criteria that were in the Treasury Management Strategy at the time, including the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, the National Australia Bank and, to please Councillor Rogers, the Royal Bank of Canada, and there are several others.

Answer by Councillor Mike Freer, Leader of the Council

I look forward to receiving the statement in the post bag.

Question 16**Councillor Brian Gordon**

How are things progressing regarding the controlled parking zone review in the Edgware area, in particular around Edgwarebury Lane, where there has been confusion regarding the meaning of parking signs?

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

Analysis of the responses to the Edgware CPZ review are almost complete and any recommendations that arise will be detailed in a report for consideration by me and the Chairman of the Hendon Area Environment Sub-Committee.

The report is expected to recommend that the Council progress measures considering longer hours of operation in the one hour CPZ, shorter hours of operation in the 'Cinema Zone' CPZ and the inclusion of Fairfield Way within the existing one hour CPZ.

Miscellaneous minor changes would also be promoted such as bay changes and provision of loading bays. It will also be proposed that the existing zone boundaries at the junction of Edgwarebury Lane and Edgwarebury Gardens are altered to provide more clarity to motorists in the area, a measure that would complete the rationalisation of waiting restriction signage that has already taken place at this location.

Assuming the recommendations are approved, implementation is anticipated to commence in late April.

Supplementary Question 16

Councillor Brian Gordon

Councillor Harper, I hasten to say that Edgwarebury Lane is not actually in my Ward but it is close to it and many of the disgruntled motorists who contact me about their parking problems are from my ward in Hale. Can you please do your best to see that the upgrading, or the updating of the Edgware CPZ, which is long awaited, and the simplification of the confusing signs around the Edgwarebury Gardens area really will be implemented as speedily as possible?

You indicate in your answer that it's late April, which suggests to me in a few weeks' time, so please do your best to ensure that it will be improved as soon as possible.

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

I'm well aware that with CPZs one is always on a hiding to nothing. But, nevertheless we will be doing our best to implement the changes here as quickly as we possibly can.

Question 17

Councillor Wayne Casey

Three masts were erected at the far end of the Metro Golf Driving Range in December 2005 (overlooking the Roman Road) without planning permission. When will this situation be regularised?

Answer by Councillor Melvin Cohen

For clarification the masts referred to are support structures for the additional netting put up around the driving range.

Consent was originally given for the facility in 1995 with 10m high netting. This was raised to 18m by the operator 3 years ago following a number of complaints received in relation to golf balls straying onto the adjoining public footpath, sports field and Hendon Golf Club. No formal enforcement action was taken since the land is within Council ownership and the matter raised a number of health and safety issues which have required detailed investigation by planning and property services.

A planning application was invited however and submitted for the retention of the netting and this remains under consideration pending a full assessment of the relevant planning and safety aspects. The Local Planning Authority has also required the applicant to consider the erection of slimmer supports given that these represent the most intrusive elements and to submit a management plan seeking other ways of minimising straying golf balls. This may include for instance ensuring the netting is reinforced and properly maintained, restricting the use of the upper driving bays whilst neighbouring track and field sports are taking place and only permitting the use of certain golf clubs.

Subject to the operator, Playgolf reporting back within the next month a decision on the planning application will be taken shortly after with the intention of regularising the situation.

Question 18

Councillor Alan Schneiderman

Why did the Leader say in his press statement on 10 March 2009 that he only found out the previous day that the correct treasury management controls were not being applied to Icelandic deposits when evidence of this fact was in his own 23 October 2008 supplementary report to Cabinet on the Council's deposits in Icelandic Banks?

Answer by Councillor Mike Freer, Leader of the Council

The position was only made explicitly aware to me on 9 March 2009. The information and implications of the report had not been picked up by Officers or Members (including Cabinet Overview & Scrutiny Committee) or others supplied with the report including the external auditor Grant Thornton and Deloitte working on behalf of the Audit Commission.

Supplementary Question 18

Councillor Alan Schneiderman

The 23 October Cabinet report was Councillor Freer's paper in his name. Is he saying that he doesn't write his reports, he doesn't read them and he doesn't ask any questions? Why is he taking home £55,000 a year?

Answer by Councillor Mike Freer, Leader of the Council

Of course the reports are in my name but, as Councillor Schneiderman knows, they are actually officer reports. If he cares to read the reports it does list the authors in the paperwork.

Question 19

Councillor Brian Gordon

Would you welcome the undertaking (as published in The Press January 29) of the then Acting Borough Commander David Tucker that Barnet Police will "deal robustly with anyone identified as having committed racist, anti-Semitic or other crimes, whatever their alleged justification". Is not the Council's close working relationship with the Police most important on this issue?

Answer by Councillor Brian Coleman

Yes. I am glad to say there is real partnership working between this Administration, The Metropolitan Police Authority under the excellent leadership of Boris Johnson and the Voluntary sector not least the Community Security Trust.

Supplementary Question 19

Councillor Brian Gordon

Councillor Coleman would you agree that the Hate Crime Review published a year or so ago by the working group of the Tackling Crime and Housing Scrutiny Committee very much helped to focus our attention on the areas of hate crime where improvements are needed and indeed where improvements have been made?

Answer by Councillor Brian Coleman

That was an excellent piece of scrutiny work undertaken under the Chairmanship, if I recall, of Councillor Rajput, and with many other Members having involvement. It has informed the work not just of the Council in this area but of the Borough Police and other partner agencies in our never ending, it seems, quest to combat racist and particularly anti-Semitic crime in this Borough.

Question 20

Councillor Wayne Casey

Has a full health and safety risk assessment been carried out on the Copthall site and has it reviewed the danger of injury to the athletes performing in the vicinity of Metro Golf Driving Range?

Answer by Councillor Mike Freer, Leader of the Council

It is the duty of each operator on the site to carry out such assessments. Because with the exception of Metro Golf, Officers are not aware of raised levels of risk, operators have not been asked to supply copies of risk assessments. In the case of Metro Golf, the problem of golf balls being hit over the fence between the golf driving range and the athletics track, Officers have inspected the area and met a representative of Metro Golf and the manager of the athletics track.

In the light of this inspection, the tenant will be reminded of their lease covenant to comply with statute law, (in this case, Health and Safety statute law) and a formal Health and Safety risk assessment will be asked for, with the view to it being implemented by the tenant.

The site inspection concluded that the existing netting at the rear of the driving range should be retained and for the netting on the boundary with the athletics track to be raised to the same height as the rear netting for approximately two thirds of the length of the boundary, to run from the rear boundary towards the driving range. Less conspicuous ways of holding the high level netting up will be sought.

The tenant of the golf premises should be asked to repair the holes in the netting and consider replacement of the higher sections with more durable netting. The tenant will be told that planning consent for the high level netting on the rear boundary and for other alterations to the netting will be required. The conclusion of the site inspection will be weighed against the recommendations of the Health and Safety report, the recommendations of which will take precedence.

Question 22

Councillor Brian Salinger

Could the Cabinet member advise how effective the Street Trading Regulations have been in ensuring attractive and accessible shopping areas for our residents and can the Cabinet Member advise the Council of the number of businesses in each ward have been charged for the use of pavements and what is the estimated gross and net income to the Council after deduction the costs of administering the charge?

Answer by Councillor Brian Coleman

The Policy has been very effective in de-cluttering our pavements and ensuring attractive and accessible shopping areas for our residents.

By Ward the number of Licences issues is as follows:

Brunswick Park	4
Burnt Oak	4
Childs Hill	15
Colindale	3
Coppetts Ward	1
East Barnet	3
East Finchley	12
Edgware	10
Finchley Church End	3
Garden Suburb	8
Golders Green	2
Hale	2
Hendon	3
Mill Hill	5
Oakleigh	3
Totteridge	4
West Finchley	13
West Hendon	6
Woodhouse	10

Fees:

We have received a total of £22,557 in application fees so far. And £4,933 in renewals.

Under the London Local Authorities Act the fees charged for licensing of street trading must only cover the reasonable costs of the administration of the scheme. These include the cost of:

- Removal and disposal of waste
- Additional street cleansing costs
- Administration cost
- Enforcement cost

Prior to the adoption of this regime the money received from licensing (for permanent pitches and temporary markets) did not cover these costs. The fees that we have received this year are within what we expected we would receive, and they will cover the above costs only.

However as the licensing regime will soon have been in operation for 12 months there will be a review of the amount received by the department in relation to the costs, and the fees amended as appropriate.

Supplementary Question 22

Councillor Brian Salinger

Mr Mayor, the Cabinet Member will forgive me if I don't agree with him that there's been a significant decrease in clutter and A boards around the Borough. Mr Mayor I asked for the income, after deduction of costs, can the Cabinet Member tell me whether the figures quoted in income are indeed gross or net, and if they are gross what were the costs of administering this policy.

Answer by Councillor Brian Coleman

As Councillor Salinger knows very well, the costs are being absorbed in the costs of other offices. There is no profit to the scheme, we're not allowed to make a profit under the legislation, it's purely to cover the amount of officer time and the amount of Council overheads that go towards implementing, what I think, has been a very successful scheme to remove A boards and other obstructions from pavements across the Borough.

Indeed, I am inundated with e-mails from colleagues asking Officers to go and take enforcement action which then happens and then I seem to get e-mails from residents and colleagues thanking the Council for their enforcement action. If we're to improve our town centres we need to smarten them up and this policy has been a significant contribution to that smartening of many of our hard pressed high streets.

Question 23

Councillor Wayne Casey

What length of lease has been granted to Cophall Management Services?

Answer by Councillor Richard Cornelius

No lease has been granted. A lease will be granted subsequent to the award of the management contract which will take place later this year.

Question 24

Councillor Alan Schneiderman

What percentage of deposits during 2005/06 breached any of the criteria set out in the Treasury Management Strategy in force at the time?

Answer by Councillor Mike Freer, Leader of the Council

The data required to undertake this analysis is not readily available to the Council. Whilst a request could be made to the treasury management advisors to obtain it, there is a risk of incurring cost in addition to taking up officer time and I'm unclear as to the value that would be obtained from doing so.

Supplementary Question 24

Councillor Alan Schneiderman

The fact that data is not available says something in itself about the standards of record keeping at the Council. Will he actually undertake to make sure that record keeping is improved?

Answer by Councillor Mike Freer, Leader of the Council

The Audit Commission report and the report of the Working Party have made a variety of recommendations which this Council should be adopting. So that question is redundant, as the suggestions that are being made will be adopted later on tonight I hope.

Question 25

Councillor Brian Salinger

Noting the reply given to Q17 by Councillor Harper on 27 January can the Cabinet Member tell Council what happens to the content of 'green bins'?

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

The green garden and kitchen waste which is collected from the green bins is taken to the LondonWaste Ltd. composting facility in Edmonton. This facility has a capacity of 30,000 tonnes per annum, and is also used by other North London Boroughs. When the facility at Edmonton is full, which happens a couple of times a year, the organic waste is taken to other composting facilities in Kent and Cambridgeshire.

The Edmonton facility uses an indoor composting process to compost the organic waste quickly. The finished compost is accredited with the PAS 100 standard. The compost is available free to the North London Boroughs for use on their flower beds and gardens, and is also available to allotments in the Boroughs for free. The final compost is also sold to the horticultural and agricultural sector.

Supplementary Question 25

Councillor Brian Salinger

Councillor Harper's predecessor had in fact implied some time ago to me that the compost would be made available for sale to Members of the public. Can the Cabinet Member tell me whether there are any plans to make the compost available to the public which, I believe, will do a great deal to encourage them to make use of the service?

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

Well that would ultimately be a decision of the North London Waste Authority of which we are one of the 7 Members, but I'm very happy to take that up with them. But, I think we wouldn't be able to do something specifically for residents of this Borough, it would have to be a policy for the NLWA as a whole.

Question 26

Councillor Wayne Casey

Where in the Council does responsibility rest for the promotion of Copthall, for example what efforts have been made to publicise the reinstatement of circuit training?

Answer by Councillor Richard Cornelius

At present promotion is the responsibility of individual lessees and operators of the Copthall facilities.

Question 27

Councillor Alan Schneiderman

In the light of the ineffectiveness of the internal auditing of financial procedures within Treasury Management which failed to pick up breaches of the Treasury Management Strategy, will the Cabinet Member reconsider the £100,000 cut from internal audit in this year's budget?

Answer by Councillor Mike Freer, Leader of the Council

As highlighted in the Scrutiny working group report, Internal Audit has reviewed the treasury management functions every year since 2002/03 and did not highlight any compliance issues to the relevant senior managers. A full investigation is to be initiated of both the internal and external auditing practices regarding treasury management and, as a result, I do not feel able to comment further at this time.

Supplementary Question 27

Councillor Alan Schneiderman

It is true that breaches of the Treasury Management Strategy weren't picked up by Auditors but is that not a case for actually putting more resource into auditing rather than cutting them?

Answer by Councillor Mike Freer, Leader of the Council

Councillor Schneiderman talked earlier on about asking the right questions. Well, perhaps, in one of his rare meetings with the Officers, he might like to ask the proper question of how this reduction was arrived at, because actually it is not reducing the internal audit headcount.

The £100,000 reduction is broadly based in two parts; one is a reduction in fees paid to Deloitte for external work and the one is the deletion of a post of an information co-ordinator, neither of which are to do with internal audit and the internal audit headcount remains unchanged. If he had asked the right questions perhaps he would have had the answer to this before tonight.

Question 28

Councillor Brian Salinger

Actuarial pension revaluation done in 2007 has led to increased contributions to the fund of £850K in 2009/10 and a further £855K planned for 2010/11. What was the value of the fund at the time of that actuarial revaluation and what was the value of the fund at the time of the last meeting of the Pension Fund Committee?

Answer by Councillor Mike Freer, Leader of the Council

As at the 31 March 2007, the Council's appointed actuary valued the liabilities of the Barnet Pension Fund at £757.7m with assets of £539.5m and therefore a net deficit of £218.2m. This translates to a funding level of 71%.

No formal interim valuations are undertaken and therefore no formal valuation was reported to the last meeting of the Pension Fund Committee. The Council receives illustrative funding updates from actuaries based on a typical local Government pension scheme fund.

At the 31 March 2007, this typical fund had a funding level of 85.0% and this had dropped to 63.7% as at 1 February 2009. Applied simplistically, this implies the funding level of the Barnet Pension Fund will have dropped to close to 50% though there are other variables, such as the composition of the fund Membership and fund manager performance, that need to be considered in making this assessment.

Supplementary Question 28

Councillor Brian Salinger

Given the collapse of the stock market and the reduction in the value of the fund would the Leader care to advise Members what he thinks of the implications for the future cost to charge-payers and the viability in the long term of the pension?

Answer by Councillor Mike Freer, Leader of the Council

This has been discussed at the Pension Fund Committee and those minutes, of course, are available to Members. The tri-annual review was taken out about 18 months ago and we're due one in about another 18 months. Of course, we'll have to see what the forecasts are from the actuaries in terms of not only the performance of the fund but also the longevity of our pensioners. One thing that we can look at is changing the impact of any shortfall from being made up of over three years to over six years and that is something that the Officers are currently doing. Clearly, if the stock market continues to be in freefall due to the economic crisis caused by the Government then obviously the taxpayers will have to bail out the mess that this Government has got us into.

Question 29

Councillor Wayne Casey

Is there programme for the repair of the large and dangerous pot holes on the Copthall site?

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

Potholes are repaired when necessary. We will be repairing the existing holes on the areas of Council responsibility.

Supplementary Question 29

Councillor Wayne Casey

Just a one word question, when?

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

I think very similar to the answer I gave a few questions ago actually, very shortly. I do know that the contract has been placed for the repairs and indeed I'd like to say I'm very grateful to Councillor John Hart for his persistence on this issue in drawing it to the Officers' attention.

Question 30

Councillor Alan Schneiderman

Is pension fund cash at risk as a result of the Council's deposits in Icelandic banks?

Answer by Councillor Mike Freer, Leader of the Council

The Council pools funds, including those of the Pension Fund, to maximise the returns on its cash deposits. Therefore, the at risk deposits placed with Icelandic banks will include pooled pension fund cash.

Question 31

Councillor Brian Salinger

Has the Cabinet Member yet ascertained if the Stanley Road Association are fulfilling their obligations as a registered charity, and if so what was the result of his enquiries and what actions have been taken since 27 January to bring this land back in to beneficial use?

Answer by Councillor Mike Freer, Leader of the Council

A meeting was held with Mrs Chrysostomou of the Stanley Road Playing Field Association on 19 February. Officers raised concerns about the condition of the premises and advised the tenant that the current arrangement could no longer continue. The tenant was advised that repairing obligations under the lease were not being fulfilled, and the Council would need to consider their position fully if a solution was not found.

The tenant advised that they were in discussions with another party to try and seek a remedy. Officers agreed to give the Association until September to work up their proposals, which would confirm their future intentions for the site. Confirmation from the tenant on their charitable status was also sought; no details have been received to date.

Supplementary Question 31

Councillor Brian Salinger

Can I ask the Leader if he will appreciate that as every day, every week, every month goes by or, indeed, every year that goes by that Stanley Road playing fields, if it can justifiably be called that, remains in its current state, the people of this Borough are deprived of either the use of it as a playing field or indeed the opportunities to provide decent housing for people in this Borough?

Answer by Councillor Mike Freer, Leader of the Council

Yes, I am aware of that.

Question 32

Councillor Wayne Casey

What action is the Council proposing to take to improve the safety of the mini-roundabout at the Cophall site?

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

We were not aware of an issue with the roundabout. New markings will be applied this year.

Question 33

Councillor Geof Cooke

How much (both % figure and cash figure) of the Council's total cash deposits come from the pension fund and for each deposit currently in an Icelandic bank how much of the original deposit came from cash belonging to the pension fund?

Answer by Councillor Mike Freer, Leader of the Council

The Council pools funds, including those of the Pension Fund, to maximise the returns on its cash deposits to maximise returns. As the funds are pooled it is not that case that a specific deposit or specific percentage of a deposit relates to monies from the Pension Fund or other funds. **IF** a loss occurs in the future, the Council will have to estimate the proportion of that loss to the different funds that are pooled in the daily cash flow.

Supplementary Question 33

Councillor Geof Cooke

Councillor Freer, you are responsible for the management of hundreds of millions of pounds that do not belong to you. You're saying that you cannot or will not tell the Council how much at the time of deposit belonged to residents as part of the Council's general fund and how much belonged to employees and pensioners through the pension fund. That information would be readily available in any competent authority. I take your point about Councillors relying on information provided by Officers and I have not been among those calling for your resignation. But really, in the light of this answer, isn't it time you considered your position at least as far as the resources portfolio is concerned?

Answer by Councillor Mike Freer, Leader of the Council

This question was asked by Councillor Cooke at the Pension Fund Committee and he got a full answer then. Just asking the question time and time again will not elicit a different response. I am not responsible for fund management, that is a matter for the fund managers and our professional advisers. I, like Councillor Cooke, am responsible for the application of the policies through the Pension Fund Committee and he well knows that. In terms of how the money is managed through pooling, I understand this is exactly the same process that has been in place for many, many years, including under the previous Labour and Liberal Administration. Now, if he wants to take issue with the policy that's fine, but then he can suggest a change of policy at the Pension Fund Committee. But, I suggest he might want to look to his own Administration's record before he starts criticising mine.

Question 34

Councillor Brian Salinger

What steps is the Cabinet Member taking to resolve the long running issue of the re-grading of NNEBs working in nursery schools and nursery schools, nursery classes and reception classes?

Answer by Councillor Fiona Bulmer

The Acting Director of Children's Services is continuing to discuss this issue with the Trade Unions.

Supplementary Question 34

Councillor Brian Salinger

Can I ask the Cabinet Member if she will instruct the Acting Director of Children's Services to come to a speedy resolution of this dispute which has been going on now for several years? Can she understand that particularly in the nursery schools the nursery nurses make up a sizeable proportion of the staff and the impact or the possible impact on the nursery schools budget is quite appreciable and the growing anger amongst those staff cannot be ignored?

Answer by Councillor Fiona Bulmer

I appreciate what Councillor Salinger says, but, nonetheless we do need to come to the right resolution and not just a speedy resolution.

Question 35

Councillor Wayne Casey

What action is the Council proposing to take to address the problem of fly-tipping on the Copthall site?

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

New width restriction barriers were installed along the entrance from the A1 to help prevent large vehicles from fly-tipping in this area.

Supplementary Question 35

Councillor Wayne Casey

The width restrictions haven't stopped fly-tipping. Is this all the Council is proposing to do to address this problem at Copthall?

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

No, that isn't all. We are taking steps to try to identify exactly who is responsible for these fly-tipping problems. I don't like them any more than you do or, indeed the local residents there. But, I would say to Councillor Casey if he and ward colleagues have any further information about who's responsible for this we'd be very glad to have it.

Question 36

Councillor Kath McGuirk

Is the Cabinet Member happy that the Mayor of London has not agreed to fund the extension of the Freedom Pass to 24 hour operation, and has instead left it to the London Boroughs to fund?

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

The funding of the 24 Hour freedom pass for elderly people is only one component of a 5 year freedom pass deal agreed between London Boroughs and the Mayor. The Boroughs will contribute to the cost of the extension and in so doing are supporting a very positive improvement to the current scheme. However, in return the Boroughs have negotiated concessions with the Mayor that will mean TfL meet the cost of increases in demand and inflation above tight thresholds in future years. The overall scheme protects Boroughs against excessive cost increases and may well prove less costly than an agreement that required the Mayor to meet the full cost of the 24 hour extension. The Mayor has also agreed to support change to current legislation whereby disputes as to how the scheme is run are referred to independent arbitration rather than TfL which of course has an interest in the outcome.

I am happy to support a scheme providing improved access to transport for the elderly, a potentially cheaper freedom pass scheme with guarantees limiting cost increases and to know that the Mayor is supporting long overdue change in legislation.

Question 37

Councillor Brian Salinger

The Cabinet Member will be aware that amongst the questions asked of job applicants are questions about the applicant's ethnic background and their sexuality. What use is made of the information supplied in answer to these questions?

Answer by Councillor Mike Freer, Leader of the Council

The diversity monitoring sheet attached to all application forms contains a range of questions including questions relating to ethnicity, gender, age and sexuality.

This information is separated from the application form before it is sent to the recruiting manager and is retained by HR. Applicants are encouraged to complete the diversity monitoring form but should it not be completed this would not affect any decision to shortlist.

The information can be analysed manually, should we be challenged by an applicant but this is both time consuming and labour intensive. Once an e-recruitment solution is in place this information will be captured automatically and we will be able to analyse trends to ensure that our workforce is representative and that all staff and applicants are treated fairly.

Question 38

Councillor Zakia Zubairi

What will the Council be doing to ensure that take-up of the Freedom Pass is actively promoted by the Council to those eligible for the concession?

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

The renewal of a Freedom Pass takes place every two years and the publicity is arranged by London Councils. However, we do arrange our own publicity in the local press group, specialist newspapers, local flyers/posters.

Posters are provided by London Councils, which we distribute to libraries, public reception areas, sheltered housing, day centres, mental health teams, voluntary groups, GP surgeries, day centres, public receptions etc. There is also information on the Barnet website and the Freedom Pass website.

Question 39

Councillor Brian Salinger

Can the Leader tell Members who is carrying out a review of the impact on the vulnerable of the closure of post offices and when and where will the results be published?

Answer by Councillor Mike Freer, Leader of the Council

This is the minute from Supporting the Vulnerable in our Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 18 July 2007.

Councillor Cornelius chaired at the time.

5. FUTURE OF THE POST OFFICE NETWORK: ISSUES FOR THE COMMUNITY

The Committee received a report from the Democratic Services Manager outlining plans submitted by the Post Office to reduce the number of post offices by 2,500 by Spring 2009.

The Committee were unanimous in their appreciation of the importance of post offices to community life, but considered that the impact of closures of individual post offices could best be assessed by Ward Members who could make representations to the Post Office in a personal capacity and as a representative of the community. The Democratic Services Manager's report had also highlighted that representations on behalf of the whole Council, was an Executive function.

The Committee noted that an item relating to the impact of Post Office closures had been included in their work programme for 2006/07 but having regard to the emerging issues it was felt more appropriate that the Executive consider the desirability of further action, including research into the impact of closures on vulnerable people and, if considered appropriate the effectiveness of the operations "saved" by the Council.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That no further action be taken on the item contained in the Committee's Work programme for 2006/07 relating to the Closure of Post Offices.
- (2) That the Democratic Services Manager be instructed to inform the Executive of the Committee's views on Post Offices generally, as understood by Members.
- (3) That the Executive be asked to consider making representations and undertaking further analysis or action, as appropriate, in respect of the forthcoming programme.

Supplementary Question 39
(Nothing recorded at this point).

Councillor Brian Salinger

Answer by Councillor Mike Freer, Leader of the Council

Yes it was Mr Mayor, as Councillor Salinger knows Council Officers spent many fruitless hours trying to negotiate with the post office for the disclosure of financial information to check whether any of the post offices being closed by this Government were financially viable. Of course, it is up to the post office to have decided what was viable and what was not, irrespective of what their profit and loss accounts did, and in fact when we came to look at a number of the viable sub-post offices to see if we could move them into Council premises two things were key barriers; one it was the post office that decided whether the alternative premises were suitable so, for instance, the moving of, say, West Finchley post office to, say, Finchley Church End Library, which is probably one of the nearest Council properties, was deemed to be unsuitable because it was too close to a sub-post office in Gravel Hill and it was the post office who had the final right of veto. Also, even if the Council felt a post office was viable, the post office could say it was not viable. Even if a post office was viable, by the time the post office had then said a new premises had to have staff training, central costs for the post office to monitor, new safe etc etc, it very quickly became not viable. That work has been done by Officers.

Question 40

Councillor Barry Rawlings

In the consultation document on the proposal for change in sheltered housing it is stated 'The rest of the savings of £950,000 each year would be used by the Council to enable services for older people in Barnet to be maintained.' [page 12] Is this statement true?

Answer by Councillor Lynne Hillan

The wording used in the quote was supplied by the Resources Directorate. It is intended to concisely indicate that if the reduction in sheltered housing expenditure were not implemented it would be necessary for the Council to identify alternative savings elsewhere. This would naturally need to include further scrutiny of the very substantial level of expenditure on other kinds of services provided for older people. The Adult Social Services budget represents the largest area of service expenditure (£91M – one-third of the Council's service budget), and expenditure on services for older adults represents the largest single item within the Adult Social Services budget (£48M – 18%).

Supplementary Question 40

Councillor Barry Rawlings

From the answer, it appears that we're back to the recycling compost. I would ask Councillor Hillan to consider what she wrote here, it's saying that she did not read the consultation on sheltered accommodation, but the whole point surely is that its down as an efficiency saving or a cut, it has come off the base budget, so that money cannot be used for anything else. Therefore, when the consultation says that it's being used to enable services for older people in Barnet to be maintained, it is simply not true. Will you concede that?

Answer by Councillor Lynne Hillan

As Councillor Rawlings is very well aware, this money has not been taken out of the budget at this stage, it is simply being held until the results of the consultation come in. However, this Council does receive one of the lowest amounts of supporting people in the whole country, some £7m, and we are spending a lot more than that on services at the moment. We will be looking at the consultation and we may be able to save some of it, but we don't know yet. Until we have the results and it goes to Cabinet in June no decision's been made.

Question 41

Councillor Hugh Rayner

The Conservative Administration of this Council recently confirmed it opposition to charging for rubbish collection in the Borough. Can you further confirm that you will continue to oppose both bin taxes and fortnightly waste collections?

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

Yes.

Question 42

Councillor Barry Rawlings

Have the Council bid for MyPlace money yet, and if so for what site and what criteria were used to choose it?

Answer by Councillor Fiona Bulmer

The Council submitted a bid for MyPlace funding to develop youth facilities associated with Church Farm Leisure Centre in partnership with GLL. An audit of existing youth provision was carried out in order to identify a suitable location that would both meet local needs and the national criteria set out for the MyPlace scheme.

Supplementary Question 42

Councillor Barry Rawlings

Could Councillor Bulmer just confirm whether that audit came up with the answer that the Church Farm Leisure Centre was where the bid should go? And, also, I believe from the MyPlace when I read the original stuff when it came out, was for new facilities, so to put in the refurbishment of an existing facility makes it very difficult to see how the bid could be successful.

Answer by Councillor Fiona Bulmer

The fundamental problem with all these ridiculous Government schemes is that the criteria are so limited and so restricted that we would have ended up, had we followed the national criteria slavishly in the way he's suggesting, we'd have ended up with a complete white elephant that was costing the Council millions and wasn't attractive to young people. What we have tried to do is develop bids which will meet local needs and that has always been my priority. If he could put pressure on his Government, so that they actually provided funding for things that local people needed, rather than these rather nonsensical white elephants, we might do a lot better.

Question 43

Councillor Robert Rams

Will the Leader of the Council update the Council on the response he has had to his Leader Listens programme?

Answer by Councillor Mike Freer, Leader of the Council

I am delighted that this Administration's innovation in resident engagement – the Leader Listens and social networking sites has been successful evidenced by the recent accolade from the Rt Hon Hazel Blears MP.

In addition in the 6 months of operation the Leader Listens site has received an average of 150 unique visitors per month (912 in total), with in excess of 1000 page views per month. Residents also seem to appreciate the effort the Council is making.

Question 44

Councillor Barry Rawlings

Why did Barnet's Domestic Violence Forum not meet between October 2008 and March 2009?

Answer by Councillor Brian Coleman

Councillor Rawlings is mistaken. It is a quarterly meeting, it met on 9 September, 9 December and 10 March.

Supplementary Question 44

Councillor Barry Rawlings

Can I just say if my information is wrong I apologise to Councillor Coleman and, in order to back up what he says, I wonder if I could be sent the minutes of those meetings please?

Answer by Councillor Brian Coleman

I believe as a Member of the Council, Councillor Rawlings is simply entitled to them, but I'm sure Democratic Services will send them to the Councillor.

Question 45

Councillor Maureen Braun

Barnet's success in winning £400,000 from Mayor Johnson's Priority Parks Scheme, to support the Dollis Valley Green Walk, is hugely welcome. Could the Cabinet Member provide more detail on how the money will be spent?

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

The outline submitted to the Mayor's office when we applied for the grant comprised of improvements to the walk between Brent Park and Brook Farm, as follows:

- New and improved play facilities at Brent Park, Windsor Open Space and Riverside Walk;
- Footpath improvements;
- Landscaping works to open up sightlines;
- Improvements to park entrances including fencing;
- New signage and information boards;
- Improvements to current wildlife areas and development of new habitats.

An initial schedule of specific improvements is currently being drawn up for consultation with residents and key stakeholders. We're expecting correspondence from the Mayor's office later this month, with details of the grant conditions.

Question 46

Councillor Gill Sargeant

What is the estimated date for the completion of the works on Aerodrome Road?

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

The completion date in the contractors' programme is currently second week in August. However, during project close negotiations the contractor has indicated the potential for this date to be brought forward. This option is currently being evaluated by the project team.

Supplementary Question 46

Councillor Gill Sargeant

I just wanted to know, given that you are in negotiations with the contractor what the additional cost will be in achieving this?

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

What we're trying to do is ensure that if the completion of the works is brought forward from the possible date that I've mentioned in my written answer, it can be achieved without any additional costs. But, on the broader point, a report is being prepared for the Cabinet Resources Committee and I suggest the Councillor awaits that.

Question 47

Councillor Gill Sargeant

What plans are there for health provision within the Beaufort Park site?

Answer by Councillor Melvin Cohen

The outline planning consent granted in April 2005 for the development of Beaufort Park made provision for potential healthcare facilities on site following consultation with the Primary Care Trust (PCT).

The PCT have since however reviewed their strategy in Colindale in light of more detailed analysis and the emerging Area Action Plan (AAP) and consider that a specific provision on Beaufort Park is now not necessary.

Their preferred approach, as set out in the Draft Preferred Options AAP published recently for consultation purposes is to establish new health facilities in more accessible locations close to Colindale Tube Station. Provision is therefore being made on the former hospital site as part of the current Fairview planning application and on other sites coming forward nearby and this will compliment the redevelopment of an expanded centre in Grahame Park in due course.

The AAP will ensure that the necessary community facilities are secured to meet the growing demand arising in the area whilst maintaining service provision for existing residents and Officers will continue to work closely with the PCT to monitor delivery.

Supplementary Question 47

Councillor Gill Sargeant

Were the Council aware that Fairview were not aware that there wasn't this additional health provision within the Beaufort Park site?

Answer by Councillor Melvin Cohen

There is no planned health provision within the Beaufort Park site.

Question 48

Councillor Gill Sargeant

Leaseholders on Barnet homes are obliged to pay for the removal of household rubbish and yet free skips are provided for other residents. When will this policy be altered?

Answer by Councillor Lynne Hillan

This is a long-standing policy. To provide free skips would mean passing the cost on to the General Fund.

Supplementary Question 48

Councillor Gill Sargeant

I just wanted to know if the Council felt this was fair that leaseholders were obliged to pay for the removal of household rubbish and yet free skips are provided for other residents?

Answer by Councillor Lynne Hillan

As I said in my answer, this is a longstanding policy it's going back for some time. Maybe you can remind me, I didn't see any money in your budgets, in your alternative budgets, in order to cover the cost of this.

Question 49

Councillor Gill Sargeant

How many residents of the Borough are in Temporary Housing?

Answer by Councillor Lynne Hillan

There were 2,223 households living in temporary accommodation at the end of February 2009.

Supplementary Question 49

Councillor Gill Sargeant

We have the numbers of residents in temporary housing, what were the numbers in temporary housing at the end of February 2008?

Answer by Councillor Lynne Hillan

I haven't got those figures on me, although I'm sure they've been reported several times and I'm sure that Councillor Sargeant can get those figures.

Question 50**Councillor Ross Houston**

Can the Cabinet Member give me the latest update on Barnet's affordable housing target negotiations with the Mayor of London?

Answer by Councillor Lynne Hillan

There has not yet been any formal agreement with the Mayor on a revised affordable housing target for Barnet. We continue to be consistent in our view that the target is overly ambitious, particularly in the economic downturn.

Question 51**Councillor Alison Moore**

Could the Cabinet Member provide details of the pay structure for Barnet's "traffic wardens" and confirm whether or not they operate a bonus scheme?

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

Civil Enforcement Officers do not get any bonuses for carrying out their duties; they receive an annual salary only. The salary that has been evaluated for these posts is spinal point 20 – 23 # 26 (# means that there is a bar at this point and a member of staff cannot progress pass this point without have a career review), which is £19,947 – £21,671 # £26,663 respectively as at 2008-9 pay grades.

Question 52**Councillor Alison Moore**

Will the Cabinet Member tell us when the "experimental" 10 am – 6.30 pm CPZ zone in East Finchley will finally be reviewed?

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

In August 2004, the Council increased the operational periods of some roads within the East Finchley CPZ due to the relocation of Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute from Central Square, Hampstead Garden Suburb to the Park House site at 16 High Road, East Finchley.

It was felt that an increase in the parking restrictions was necessary to ensure that local residents and those working and operating in the area could continue to park near to their properties while the Institute was operational.

The changes, which increased the operational hours of roads in the south of the CPZ from Monday to Friday 2pm to 3pm, to Monday to Saturday 10am to 6.30pm, were originally implemented on an experimental basis, which meant any comments received for at least the first 6 months of its operation would have to be considered before a decision was made on whether to retain the new restrictions, amend the restrictions, or revert back to the original restrictions.

The Council considered all objections and comments received to the scheme in early 2006, and came to the conclusion that the restrictions should remain, and therefore the decision was made to make the restrictions permanent, which the Council duly did in February 2006.

Councillor Moore will be aware that an informal consultation was carried out in July 2008 within the whole of the East Finchley CPZ, as part of the Council's rolling CPZ Review programme. This entailed questionnaires being delivered to all properties within the CPZ's boundary, in order to establish the community's views on how they feel the CPZ is operating.

Approval is currently being sought on subsequent actions which Officers consider appropriate, based on the community's views, and if agreed, consultation on any proposed measures will take place early in this new Council year.

Supplementary Question 52

Councillor Alison Moore

Councillor Harper, will you accept that the residents were promised – asked for at the outset, and were promised – a six month review, and that five years later they're still waiting for resolution and it is causing problems locally?

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

Yes I am aware of the problems that are being experienced by residents, particularly in areas that are close to the High Road and close to, and the town centre in East Finchley and to the tube station. In fact, I can tell Councillor Moore that only this morning I approved recommendations from the Officers for some proposals that will be very shortly going out to statutory consultation that will be aimed at increasing the protection for residents living in those particular, difficult areas.

Question 53

Councillor Agnes Slocombe

Can the Cabinet Member advise whether the Council is putting cycle paths in Parkfield Road and Dallas Road, and referring to my Council question in July last year on the same issue, can he confirm when TfL recommended that these roads be used as cycle routes? Many schools are trying to encourage children to cycle to school, but if the necessary infrastructure is not there how is this possible and safe?

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

The question from July 2008 (Q33) related to the provision for cyclists using the A5 West Hendon Broadway. The response referred to the London cycle maps which are published by TfL.

The maps show Park Road and Dallas Road as routes "recommended by cyclists" and the Council would consider the quieter conditions on these roads make them more suitable for cycling than the A5.

It is important to note that the recommended status of these and similar roads on the maps is only on the basis they are quieter or more convenient than alternatives. They are not specifically identified as cycle routes. We do not know exactly when they were identified, but understand it pre-dates TfL (the routes were originally identified by cycling groups).

The Council does not propose to provide cycle paths on these roads, not least because the roads are identified for being quieter with less traffic making it unnecessary to provide dedicated facilities.

Supplementary Question 53

Councillor Agnes Slocombe

As corporate parents, Councillors should pay more interest in the safety of children. One of the school councils put forward a request for safe cycle paths to schools. Can the Council provide safe cycle paths near schools so children can ride safely to school? The Council should be keen to show that children are keen, watching their weight and healthy.

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper