

**Council Questions to Cabinet Members
8 September 2009
Questions and Responses**

Question 1

Councillor Brian Coleman

Will the Cabinet Member fall into line with the sensible decision of the Mayor of London to allow motorcycles in bus lanes for an experimental and end the confusion which motorcyclists are suffering?

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

Transport for London are conducting an experiment to assess the safety and benefits of allowing motorcyclists to use bus lanes on Red Routes in London. The experiment is a long term one and is due to run for 18 months from January 2009. The purpose of the experiment is to monitor usage of the bus lanes, accident rates and bus lane contraventions.

The impact of allowing motorcycles to use bus lanes is likely to vary from site to site, and some of the impacts may be difficult to detect. For this reason TfL have asked boroughs to try to avoid changing the usage of bus lanes on borough roads during the experimental period in order to avoid changes elsewhere masking the impact of the experiment.

With the exception of the A5, the only other bus lane in the borough was located on North End Road in Golders Green. This bus lane has recently been removed with TfL's agreement as it was apparent that it was increasing traffic congestion and not benefiting a significant proportion of buses and coaches.

As the boundary between Barnet and adjoining boroughs is generally down the centre of the A5, it is mostly only the southbound bus lanes for which the council is responsible. We considered whether allowing motorcycles to use our bus lanes was a good idea, but informal discussions with neighbouring boroughs suggested that agreeing consistent changes along the A5 would be difficult to achieve. For example, allowing motorcycles to use the southbound bus lanes, but not the northbound, could lead to confusion and motorcyclists accidentally entering bus lanes where they were not permitted. This would be a particular issue on West Hendon Broadway where the northbound bus lanes are also in Barnet.

Completion of the TfL experiment will provide evidence of the benefits and problems associated with motorcyclists using bus lanes, and would help develop a consistent approach across London.

Therefore we would not recommend changing the A5 bus lanes until the end of the TfL experiment, or until agreement can be reached with the neighbouring boroughs.

Question 2

Councillor Wayne Casey

What influence does the Council have over the residential roads used by DVLC to test learner drivers for their driving licences?

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

Driving tests are now managed by the Driving Standards Agency (DSA) who operate from several test centres in and near the borough including Barnet, Hendon and Mill Hill. Each centre has a set of standard routes, details of which are published on the internet. In addition to driving tests, many learner drivers are taught on the same routes in order to give them experience of the routes they are likely to be tested on.

The DSA does not consult the borough when planning these routes, nor does the borough have any statutory powers to control the use of public highway by learner drivers. It is important that learner drivers are tested on a variety of roads, including residential streets, and some parts of the practical test need to be carried out in quieter locations for safety reasons and to avoid adversely affecting traffic.

The streets closer to the test centres are more likely to experience higher numbers of learner drivers, but other locations can also experience problems. If Members have specific concerns about individual streets we would be happy to make contact with the relevant test centre to see whether anything can be done to minimise the impact on residents.

Question 3

Councillor Geof Cooke

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee occurs in February 2012, in only two and a half years from now. What arrangements are in hand to mark the occasion, e.g. to consult residents on public works to provide permanent improvements in the borough?

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

None at present so far as Environment & Transport are concerned, but consideration will be given in due course.

Question 4

Councillor Brian Gordon

How has the Council been inconvenienced by the decision of the Government to reduce support funds it had previously earmarked towards our housing regeneration projects?

Answer by Councillor Mike Freer, Leader of the Council

Barnet is one of the few growth areas outside of the Olympic zone and this growth, delivered primarily through our regeneration schemes has been put in jeopardy by Government cuts in the Growth Area Fund. Barnet was due to receive in excess of £12million and this has been cut by £2.5million. The Growth Area Fund is intended to assist Councils in providing the necessary infrastructure to allow housing growth. The Government cut means growth in the Colindale/West Hendon area may now be jeopardised as the infrastructure may not now be affordable. Ridiculously the Government has made this cut supposedly to create a fund to boost house building! It is likely to have the reverse effect here in Barnet.

Question 5

Councillor Wayne Casey

When will the speed activated signs in Bittacy Rise be reviewed for their effectiveness?

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

To clarify, two Vehicle Activated Signs are to go up in Bittacy Rise in the next few weeks. The delay in erecting these signs was to allow the finishing of the PFI street lighting works in the vicinity.

The review of their effectiveness will involve comparing before and after speed surveys. The after scheme survey will happen in late September/early October once the schools are back.

Question 6

Councillor Anne Hutton

What were the attendance figures at both council buildings and other participating buildings for the last 2 years the council bought into the Open House scheme?

Answer by Councillor Melvin Cohen

The organisers of Open House have estimated that about 3500 visits were made over the last 2 years the borough were part of the event.

It is very difficult however to obtain any precise numbers as attendance figures haven't been recorded for many of the participating buildings listed below. The number given is based very much on the size of the borough.

It is known that approximately 2000 copies of the Event Programme were distributed in Barnet in 2007.

Buildings previously opened in 2007-08 include:

- Artsdepot, North Finchley
- Church House Farm Museum, Hendon
- Friends Meeting House, North Sq., HGS
- Golders Green Unitarians, Hoop Lane
- HGS Free Church
- Institute Arts Centre TBA
- Ivy House, North End Road
- Manor house, Sternberg Centre
- Milestones of Flights RAF Hendon
- Phoenix Cinema, E. Finchley
- St John the Evangelist, Friern Barnet Rd.
- St Jude on the Hill HGS
- St Mary's Church Hendon
- Tudor Hall, Barnet College
- University of London Observatory'

Question 7

Councillor Brian Gordon

I have received a number of complaints about dogs being allowed by their owners to roam freely in parks, thus frightening park users, and also dogs fouling park footways and green areas without any prevention or clearing up by their owners. Can more action be taken to promote and enforce dog control in parks and what is the role of park keepers regarding this?

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

The Council is empowered to fine individuals under the Dogs (fouling of land act 1996) in the form of fixed penalty notices to individuals who fail to clear up dog faeces under their control. Greenspaces Section can arrange for enforcement officers to monitor the situation. Should you be aware of any particular times that these offences are taking place then we would welcome the feedback.

When incidents are witnessed, park keepers advise dog owners to clean up after their dogs and they have a stock of 'poop' bags which are issued to encourage owners to clean up after their dogs.

Various events around the borough are organised to coincide with National Poop Scoop week (usually in June each year) to encourage responsible dog ownership.

In relation to the public being frightened by the behaviour of dogs, should anyone feel threatened, they are advised to contact the Police.

There are control orders in relation to dogs, but implementation needs to be proportionate to the problems caused by the dogs and those in charge of them. The Council has to balance the interests of those in charge of dogs against those affected by the activities of dogs. At this time the Council applies the following legislation in the management of the open spaces to achieve this.

Dangerous Dogs Act 1991

Under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 it is an offence to have a dog dangerously out of control in a public place. Dangerously out of control means there is reasonable cause to believe that, whether or not it actually does so, the dog might injure somebody. If this were the case then the police should be called immediately as they have the powers to implement the law and enforcement and fines can be imposed.

Park byelaws 1978

The byelaws for our parks and open spaces state "A person shall not cause or suffer any dog belonging to him or in his charge to enter or remain in the pleasure ground, unless such a dog be and continue to be under proper control, and be effectually restrained from causing annoyance to any person, and from worrying or disturbing any animal, or waterfowl, and from entering any ornamental water". Some of the parks have designated areas where dogs must be kept on the lead. These are clearly marked with signs or slabs on the footway,

At present the evidence does not suggest that there are widespread problems with the control of dogs within our parks. However, the Council will continue to review the number of dog related issues and determine any further actions required. If there are particular times/periods that you believe there to be evidence of dog control and fouling issues within the parks it would be very helpful if you can advise of these so that we can arrange for monitoring to be undertaken. It would also be beneficial for incidents to be reported to the CCU department on tel no 020 8359 4600 or firstcontact@barnet.gov.uk detailing the date, time and nature of the incident – this would then enable us to gather evidence of any problems.

Question 8

Councillor Andrew McNeil

Why is the budget for community advice provision stated as £500k in the Cabinet report?

Answer by Councillor Lynne Hillan

The amount in the Cabinet Report refers to the advice service currently funded via the small grants budget and does not, at this stage, include the grants from Adult Social Services.

Question 9**Councillor Brian Gordon**

What progress is being made regarding the review of the CPZ around the old Edgware cinema area and also the improvement of CPZ signage around Edwarebury Gardens? Both of these issues seem to have been outstanding for an inordinate length of time.

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

At the time of writing, the situation is as follows:

The Edgware Controlled Parking Zones (CPZs) Review took place in October 2008 and entailed questionnaires being delivered to all properties within the CPZs' boundary in order to establish the community's views. Analysis has taken place, and the Highways Manager for Traffic and Development has drafted his intentions based on the information the Council received back from the community and from additional information already on file.

Changes are proposed in Edgwarebury Gardens and as part of the process, officers are discussing the intended actions and issues relating to the Edgware CPZ with Ward Councillors, before agreeing the final intentions with the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport and the Chairman of the Hendon Area Environment Sub-Committee. The 'cinema zone' ('K' CPZ) is an issue where Officers and the relevant Ward Councillors are discussing the best way forward.

Question 10**Councillor Julie Johnson**

How many positions have been cut from the Barnet Police Service since May 2008 (broken down into police officers, PCSOs and administrative staff)? What is the current establishment of the Barnet Police Service?

Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord

The current situation for Barnet Police is that they are over their target strength for both police officers (target = 563, actual = 615) and PCSO's (target = 126, actual = 137). So since the election of Boris Johnson as London's Mayor no positions have been cut in respect of these categories - in fact it's the opposite.

With regard to "administrative" staff, Barnet Police are slightly under strength as of August 21st (target = 116, actual = 111).

Question 11**Councillor Kate Salinger**

How is the recycling service working now, where are the collected materials going and can the Cabinet Member assure Members that none of the collected waste goes into landfill?

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

Material destinations - correct as of August 2009

MATERIAL	COMPANY	ADDRESS
Asbestos	Aherns (Waste Disposal) Ltd.	228 Crow Lane, Romford, Essex, RM7 0HA (via Carterhatch Lane C.A Site,
Asbestos	Hales Waste Control Ltd.	Delamare Rd, Cheshunt, Waltham Cross, Herts, EN8 9SL
Batteries	G & P Batteries Ltd.	Crescent Works, Industrial Park, Willenhall Rd, Darlaston, Wednesbury, WS
Bicycles	Waltham Forest Bicycle Recyc. Scheme	Manor Rd Business Centre, Low Hall Depot, Argau Ave, London E10 7AS
Books	Oxfam	Head Office, Oxfam House, 274 Banbury Road, Oxford, OX2 7DZ 02380 770
Cans and Foil	AMG Resources Ltd	Nevill's Dock Llanelli Carmarthenshire SA15 2HD 01214559191
Cardboard	Chas Storer Ltd.	Coopers Lane, Northaw, Potters Bar, Herts, EN6 4NE 01707 656 261
Computers & Printers	PJD Computing	Flat 4 Bridgehouse Court 109-115 Blackfriars Road London SE1 8HW
Cooking Oil	Greenmiles	Unit A8 Hastingwood Trading Estate HARBET Road Enfield London N18 3H
Cooking Oil	Living Fuels	Freedon Farm Cowles Dove Hockwold.Nr Thetford Norfolk IP26 4JQ 08708
Electrics	Sanak Ventures	69 Clitterhouse Rd, Cricklewood, London NW2 1DL
Fluorescent Tubes	WISER Recycling	DHL 0845 602 0019
Fridges/Freezers	EMR	106 Scrubs Lane Wilseden NW10 6QY 020 8969 1116
Furniture	Restore	Ashley Road, Tottenham Hale, London, N17 9LJJ 020 8493 0900
Gas Bottles	Flo-Gas	Unit 1D, North Crescent, Cody Road, Canning Town, London, E16 4SR 020
Gas Bottles	Brooksight	Unit 3L, Cooper House, 2 Michael Road, London, SW6 2AD 020 7731 1221
Gas Bottles	Edmonton Calor Centre	29 Stacey Ave, Montague Rd Trading Estate, Edmonton, London, N18 3PE
Glass	British Glass Recycling	c/o United Glass, Edinburgh way, Harlow, Essex, CM20 2UG 01923 291 38
Green waste	London Waste Ltd.	Advent Way, Edmonton, London, N18 3AG 020 8884 5563/5522
Green waste	Reviva Composting	Woodcock Hill Farm, Barnet Lane, Elstree, Hertfordshire, EN5 4RA 0800 73
Hard Plastics & CDs	Express Recycling & Plastics LTD	Marsh Way Fairview Industrial Estate Rainham Essex RM13 8UH 01708 524
MDF-Chipboard	Wood Recycling Services LTD	Appospond Lane Potters Crouch Herts AL3 3NL
Mobile Phones	Tree House Charity	Woodside Ave London N10 3JA 020 7631 1677
Oil and Oil Filters	Malory Environmental Services	Unit 1, Brookfields Industrial Estate, Twenty Pence Rd, Cottenham, Cambs,
Paint	Summers Lane CA Site	collected by local community groups
Paper	Aylesford Newsprint	Newsprint House, Bellingham Way, Aylesford, Kent, ME20 7DL 01622 796
Plastic Bottles	JFC Plastics Ltd	Hardwick Road, Astmoor Industrial Estate, Runcorn, Cheshire, WA7 1PH 01
Plasterboard	Gypsum recycling Ltd	The Press House Cemex Rochester Works Kent ME2 1AW 01634240261
Records & Tapes	Nature Sounds	Matrix House Lincoln Road High Wycombe HP12 3RB 07721 654 271
Rubble	Camden Plant Ltd	Lower Hall Lane, Chingford, London, E4 8JD 020 8559 3000
Scrap Metal	GD Metals	Albert Works, Kenninghall Road, Edmonton, London, N12 2PD 020 8807 42
Shoes & Textiles	D Robinson & Company	Woodside, Stoke Albany Road Desborough, Northants, NN14 2SP 01536 76
Spectales	Various charities	
Sports Equipment	(via) Sport England	3rd Floor Victoria House, Bloomsbury Square, London, WC1B 4SE
Tetra Pak	Bywaters	Gateway Road Leyton London E10 5BY
Toner Cartridges	Cartridge World	861 High Road, North Finchley, London, N12 8PT
Toner Cartridges	TDS Safeguard	Summers Row, Summers Lane, N12 OED
Tools	Workaid	Unit 2B, St. Georges Industrial estate, White Lion Road, Amersham, Bucks,
Tyres	McGrath	54-58 River Road Barking Essex IG11 0DQ
WEEE	DHL	Various Location
Wool & Knitting Needles		Various Location
Wood	London Waste Ltd.	Advent Way, Edmonton, London, N18 3AG
Wood	Wood Recycling Services LTD	Appospond Lane Potters Crouch Herts AL3 3NL
Wood	Woodwaste	Staples Corner Brent X 01727 893444
Yellow Pages	Holmans Paper	Chatham Docks
Updated 19/08/09	James Bradshaw	

The new recycling service has been in operation since November 2008. Our improved kerbside recycling box collection has successfully expanded the range of materials collected to include plastic bottles and cardboard and the collection of these new materials using an additional recycling box (the blue box) is working well. In a snapshot survey in January 2009, 34% of respondents said that their satisfaction with the recycling service improved after the new service was launched, 51% said their satisfaction stayed the same (though 83% of those rated the service as good or excellent in any case). The number of missed collections continues to be very low for the industry, at less than 25 collections missed per 100,000 (the industry standard is 50 per 100,000). The flats and schools recycling services are also being expanded, with a programme to roll out additional bins for the collection of plastic bottles and cardboard underway. The Civic Amenity & Recycling Centre now collects plasterboard, chipboard and MDF in addition to the materials previously collected, as part of the new Recycling Services Contract.

Above is the list of material destinations for all the materials collected for recycling or reuse. This list covers all the services provided by our contractor, May Gurney including kerbside, flats and schools services and the Civic Amenity & Recycling Centre.

The only waste that goes to landfill from recycling collections is the small amount of plastic bag waste where we ask residents to put textiles, mobile phones, batteries and shredded paper in bags to protect them, and wet textiles and shoes. Because the council uses the "kerbside sort" method of collecting recyclables there is a negligible amount of waste collected that is not actually recyclable.

Question 12

Councillor Ross Houston

How many Safer Neighbourhood Teams in Barnet do not currently have the full compliment of 9 officers?

Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord

The Safer Neighbourhood Teams are currently down by 1 Police Constable in East Finchley, 1 Police Constable in Mill Hill and 1 Sergeant in Totteridge. However, postings to the Safer Neighbourhood Teams are always a priority and there are currently officers identified for all the roles and it is anticipated posting them within the next month. In relation to PCSO's the overall target strength is 126 and currently there are 137, so over establishment.

Question 13

Councillor John Marshall

How many applications for mobile phone masts in the Garden Suburb ward have been refused since May 2006? And how many (if any) have been approved?

Answer by Councillor Melvin Cohen

In respect of applications for mobile phone masts in Garden Suburb ward since May 2006, there have been:

- 7 applications refused.
- 1 decision was dismissed on appeal

The local planning authority maintains a robust approach to managing applications for mobile phone installations and provides an effective pre-application advice service for the telecommunications industry.

Question 14

Councillor Julie Johnson

What progress has been made on cutting bureaucracy and red-tape from the Police in Barnet?

Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord

This question has been put to the police in Barnet and they have responded as follows:

Most of the paperwork requirements are linked to the criminal justice system and this is a national issue, not one linked solely to Barnet. The Home Secretary appointed Jan Berry, as Independent Bureaucracy Advocate, to report on police bureaucracy building upon Sir Ronnie Flanagan's earlier review and recommendations and to take forward proposals in the Policing Green Paper 2008.

Updates in relation to that can be found on the Home Office website.

<http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/police-reform/reducing-bureaucracy-report?view=Binary>

Some of the recommendations around crime recording are still at a pilot stage with some forces involved but they do not include the Metropolitan Police Service.

Locally, the Police take every opportunity to reduce the administrative burden on officers in order to free up their time to be visible on the streets. An example of this is in the use of volunteers who are utilised in basic data inputting roles which otherwise would need to be undertaken by officers.

Question 15

Councillor Tom Davey

Can the Cabinet Member update the Council on the outcome of the kitchen caddy pilot scheme, for collecting food waste that was initiated last autumn?

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

The kitchen caddy pilot has now been concluded. The pilot was carried out to see if providing residents with kitchen caddies and a sample roll of biodegradable "Biobag" liners would increase their use of the green garden waste bins to compost their food waste. The pilot started in October 2008 and 8,500 households from a range of areas across the borough were included in the scheme.

To summarise the outcomes of the pilot:

- A questionnaire delivered to 2,639 households in July 2009 showed that:
 - 86% of respondents used their caddy at least once
 - 74% of respondents continue to use the caddy
 - 72% of respondents believe that the caddy has encouraged them to recycle more of their food waste
 - 86% of respondents have used the sample BioBag liners (the vast majority with our caddy)
 - Of the respondents who used the sample Biobag liners, over 50% purchased more BioBag liners
 - 54% of respondents continue to use liners.
- Organic waste tonnages collected on the pilot scheme increased by approximately 10%, and this amounted to approximately 100 tonnes during the six months of the pilot.
- Monitoring work has shown that not all of the kitchen waste available on the pilot scheme was captured. It may be the case that with greater publicity of a wider scheme the amount of kitchen waste collected on the green bin scheme could increase.
- A borough wide kitchen caddy scheme, with the same results as the pilot scheme, could potentially make a positive contribution by improving on the 2008/09 recycling, composting and reuse figures by 0.98%, from 31.18% to 32.16%.

A report will be presented to a future council meeting on the full outcomes of the pilot scheme, requesting a decision on the expansion of the scheme.

Question 16

Councillor Ross Houston

Has the Cabinet Member managed to agree Barnet's affordable housing target with the Mayor of London yet? And if so what is it?

Answer by Councillor Richard Cornelius

We have not agreed the figure formally because of the changing government funding regime

Question 17

Councillor Tom Davey

How many residents will benefit from Mayor Boris Johnson's half-price travel scheme for those claiming jobseekers allowance?

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

We're talking in thousands – and across London as a whole it'll be more than 150,000 people being helped by this timely measure to help beat the recession.

Question 18

Councillor Alan Schneiderman

What is the most up-to-date position on Barnet's deposits frozen in Icelandic banks, and what is the latest prognosis on when we will get the money back?

Answer by Councillor Lynne Hillan

Bevan Brittan, the Solicitors acting on behalf of Local Authorities, are now in the process of lodging official creditor claims. Legal advice received to date indicates that Local Authorities will be classified as preferential creditors although this could be subject to a legal challenge.

The latest information available in relation to Glitnir indicates LB Barnet will receive 100% of principal invested and interest payable up to the 22nd of April 2009. It is expected that the monies will be repaid in full by the 31st of March 2010.

The latest information available in relation to Landsbanki indicates LB Barnet will receive 83% (previously thought to be 95%) of principal and interest payable up to 22 April 2009. Official guidance is expected to be issued by the end of August 2009. The impairment for Landsbanki will be reviewed in light of this guidance. Previous guidance indicated that Landsbanki monies will be received by 31 March 2012.

Question 19

Councillor Andreas Tambourides

What positive steps is the Administration taking to provide real work experience for recent graduates living in the Borough?

Answer by Councillor Mike Freer, Leader of the Council

The collapse of the economy is causing real difficulty for new graduates, employment prospects have plummeted. To help local graduates the Council is offering internships for Barnet residents who are recent graduates and seeking work. The interns will be able to gain practical experience in one or more departments of the Council, this is expected to boost their CVs and give first hand work experience, this may give them an edge when applying for permanent roles.

Question 20

Councillor Kath McGuirk

Why is the parking service in such disarray - with residents having to wait up to 5 months to receive a renewed parking permit, and motorists being short-changed by parking meters?

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

We introduced a new back office IT system which had some configuration and performance issues – this in turn led to a backlog in the processing of permits. The backlog has since been cleared and apart from a few isolated incidents, we are now operating a normal service.

We are aware that our pay and display machines are not as efficient as they should be and some older machines are more vulnerable to vandalism and interference. We are in the process of reviewing the entire stock and looking at the cost / benefits of a complete overhaul and a new supply and install arrangement. Any contacts regarding a defective machine are responded to on an individual basis and corrective action is taken where necessary.

Question 21

Councillor Andreas Tambourides

Has the Government cut the Growth Area Funding grant Barnet was to receive? If so, what will the impact be?

Answer by Councillor Richard Cornelius

The government is proposing to cut the allocation of Growth Area Funding to Barnet by £2,592,244 in 2010/11. This is an overall cut of nearly 20% of the original allocation.

Rt Hon John Healey, Minister for Housing, is being lobbied by all affected London Boroughs to review the government's decision but if this reduction in funding is not reconsidered then the allocations agreed by Cabinet Resources Committee in April 2009 will need to be reviewed and reprofiled.

The substantial reduction in Barnet's Growth Area Funding (GAF) will result in one or more key projects being dropped or scaled back, adversely impacting on unlocking the delivery of new housing and enhancement of local economies. Barnet had provisionally allocated £4m of GAF funding to West Hendon but, combined with delays in HCA funding, the reduction in GAF funding could potentially stall this key project delivering circa 2,000 new homes. Also affected will be Barnet's largest housing regeneration project in Colindale where major transport interchange improvements are required to help unlock a further 6,000 new homes. In addition, progression of opportunities for up to 500 new homes in key town centres may also have to be reviewed in the context of the reduced allocation of GAF.

Question 22**Councillor Alison Moore**

How many managers have left the Council in each year since 2006 (broken down into junior, senior and Council Directors Group)?

Answer by Councillor Mike Freer, Leader of the Council

1) Managers who have left the council

	Council Directors group	Senior Managers	Junior Managers
2005/6	1 (6%)	6 (5%)	14 (5%)
2006/7	2 (12%)	25 (13%)	33 (11%)
2007/8	1 (7%)	15 (13%)	34 (12%)
2008/9	3 (27%)	9 (7%)	23 (9%)

Please note that 2005/6 only cover the period 1 October 2005 to 31 March 2006.

2) Reasons for leaving

2005/6	Council Directors group	Senior Managers	Junior Managers
Resignation	0	4	6
Retirement	0	0	3
Redundancy	1	1	3
Termination	0	1	2

2006/7	Council Directors group	Senior Managers	Junior Managers
Resignation	0	7	16
Retirement	0	2	5
Redundancy	2	16	10
Termination	0	0	2

2007/8	Council Directors group	Senior Managers	Junior Managers
Resignation	0	10	23
Retirement	0	1	5
Redundancy	1	4	5
Termination	0	0	1

2008/9	Council Directors group	Senior Managers	Junior Managers
Resignation	2	7	9
Retirement	0	1	2
Redundancy	1	1	9
Termination	0	0	3

Question 23**Councillor Andreas Tambourides**

Has the Government cut the Growth Area Funding grant due to North London Strategic Alliance?

Answer by Councillor Richard Cornelius

I would also suggest that the answer is simply “No” and that the North London Strategic Alliance was a bidding force in the initial rounds last year. The Government cut Growth Area Funding across all growth areas around the country to shift the money into other housing pots. It was nothing whatsoever to do with the NLSA which is attempting to represent the six North London Boroughs who are Growth Areas or Opportunity Boroughs to assert a coordinated voice for this part of North London to the Government to re-think the cuts in Growth Area Funding.

Question 24

Councillor Barry Rawlings

After 3 years of the Administration rejecting my suggestion that the Council should fund restoring the war memorial at Peter Le Poer Church - why the change of heart?

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

Some members of the church believed the memorial to be in the Council’s ownership or care. Research through Council’s archives however revealed that ownership remains vested in the church at their specific request. This was agreed by Council at the time of a previous request for financial support for the repair of the memorial. Nevertheless a contribution toward addressing the current condition of the church’s war memorial was considered to be an appropriate gesture.

Question 25

Councillor Andreas Tambourides

What proactive steps has the Administration taken to ensure the regeneration of the Granville Road Estate in Childs Hill proceeds?

Answer by Councillor Richard Cornelius

The council has been successful in bidding to the London Development Agency for funding to improve the three tower blocks on the Granville Rd Estate.(7 million pounds). This will then form part of a comprehensive re-development of the estate. Innovative plans for the financing of the rest of the work are being examined.

Question 26

Councillor Alison Moore

Is the Council going to carry out any public consultation on the developing Future Shape proposals?

Answer by Councillor Daniel Thomas

Following the Future Shape report in July, specifications for newly configured services such as streetscene or new processes such as integrated assessment will be developed and we will want to test out some of these new models with members of the public. We will use recognised large group consultation techniques to do this. Specific plans will be put in place for this engagement as we enter the next phase of the programme.

Question 27

Councillor Tom Davey

Could the Cabinet Member provide an update on the £400k Dollis Valley Green Walk project funded by Mayor Johnson?

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

The grant awarded by Mayor Johnson to Dollis Valley Green Walk, as part of his priority parks scheme, is to be implemented over three years.

An initial scoping of works has been worked up following feedback from residents living close to the Walk, meetings with Friends groups, a walk that I took along the route, when I met interested parties, and analysis by Greenspaces officers.

The volume of work identified to date is in excess of the £400,000 available. This 'wish' list is to be developed into firmer proposals, taking into account partner organisations and other funding streams including the Environment Agency and Walk London as well as volunteer's assistance in undertaking vegetation clearance works. A series of workshops are to be organised to inform these proposals with residents and key stakeholders throughout September and October with a paper being presented to a future Cabinet Resources meeting. Additional staffing resources are being brought in to assist in the delivery of the project which should now begin to gather pace. It is likely that the majority of works will be carried out in years two and three.

The current wish list comprises a variety of improvements including:

- Selective removal of vegetation along the river bank to improve the river's health and provide a more pleasant experience for users
- Resurfacing and replacement of footpaths
- Improvements to the play areas in Windsor O/S and Riverside Walk
- Stations of outdoor gym equipment
- Re-landscaping of entrances
- New seating and bins

Question 28

Councillor Charlie O-Macauley

What proportion of council funded BME voluntary & community groups currently provide community advice services? Can we have a list of them?

Answer by Councillor Lynne Hillan

Four out of ten BME organisations in receipt of an annual revenue grant from the voluntary and community sector grants programme offer advice, information and, in some cases, advocacy services as the primary element(s) of their service provision. The four groups are:

African Catholic Refugee Community
African Cultural Association
Horn of Africa Women's & Children's Association
Iranian Community Centre.

Other annually funded BME groups, such as Barnet Asian Women's Association and Barnet Elderly Asians' Group, offer advice and information, mainly restricted to their membership, as part of a range of activities.

Two other organisations involved in the provision of advice, Barnet Refugee Service and the Jain Network, received one-off grants in 2008/09.

Question 29

Councillor Tom Davey

Could the Cabinet Member provide an update on the project funded by Mayor Johnson to plant trees in the west of the Borough?

Answer by Andrew Harper

The Mayor has committed to funding 10,000 new street trees as part of his goal to make London a greener city. Now in its second year, Barnet's priority area has been identified as the A5, Edgware Road from Cricklewood Broadway, right up to Canons Corner in Edgware, over 9km long.

Barnet have been invited to apply for a grant to deliver approx 100 street trees within this area.

Working with Highways and the neighbouring boroughs, locations where trees could actually be planted given the nature of the Edgware Road have been identified and the properties adjacent to the tree pits have been consulted

We are now waiting to hear whether the application was successful. Should the grant application be successful, further works will be required including wider consultation detailing the entire scheme and testing trial pits due to the nature and location of the project.

Question 30

Councillor Julie Johnson

Burglary has increased in Barnet in the last 12 months - what good has the Council's burglary strategy done?

Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord

Unfortunately the operational management of the police is not my direct responsibility, but the Council's Burglary Strategy has allowed me and other members of the Safer Communities Partnership Board to raise issues and seek answers from the police about what actions they are taking to reduce the increase.

Question 31

Councillor Dean Cohen

What impact has the collapse of the housing market had on the Council's finances?

Answer by Councillor Lynne Hillan

The effect of the collapse of the housing market has hit particular income streams within the Planning, Housing and Regeneration Directorate. The details are as follows:

Income for the Building Control Service

Comparing the first four months of this financial year with the same period last year, Building Regulations applications are 13% down, however income is only 7% down. This is because of increased charges this year (a 5% increase) but also because the service has won some major projects, including outside Barnet. However, the service is finding the climate difficult, particularly as it is in competition with a private sector which is also working hard to secure work.

Income for the Planning Service and from Land Charges

Between 2007/08 and 2008/09 planning income (excluding a reduction in grant income) has dropped by 13% while income from land charges dropped by 55%. Projections for this year show a possible further reduction in planning income by 43% and for land charges by 16%.

Planning & Land Charges Income

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	Projection 2009-10
Planning	1,351,864	1,635,759	2,231,064	1,935,828	1,105,000
Planning Grant	937,560	866,018	685,754	336,563	310,000
Total	2,289,424	2,501,777	2,916,818	2,272,391	1,415,000
Land Charges	1,976,511	2,192,424	1,879,465	844,172	712,000
Total	1,976,511	2,192,424	1,879,465	844,172	712,000
Total	4,265,934	4,694,201	4,796,283	3,116,563	2,127,000

Question 32

Councillor Kath McGuirk

Will the Cabinet Member join us in opposing all cuts to local bus services?

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

It would be folly to commit to a complete *stasis* on bus routes and not allow for changing needs over time. A pan-London review of buses and the bus network is being undertaken by TfL and it would be recommended that we wait to see these results. There may well be some efficiencies obtained from less used routes that would benefit overloaded routes.

Question 33

Councillor Andreas Tambourides

What part is your department playing in the Council's work to negate the effects of the recession?

Answer by Councillor Melvin Cohen

The planning department has a key role in mitigating the impacts of the recession locally by maintaining development activity and targeting opportunities for new investment across the borough.

In particular the department has lead on the preparation of new interim planning guidance - 'Responding to the Recession', the first of its kind in London to tackle the downturn in the property Market. This outlines ways of enabling development to be brought forward during the recession by providing flexibility in the section 106 planning obligations process, whilst continuing to ensure that schemes remain high quality and sustainable through the delivery of supporting infrastructure.

The guidance also seeks to encourage the procurement of local services by the development industry to promote local employment opportunities. To this end the department will be appointing 'Business Links Officer', funded by section 106 employment and skills contributions, to support small and medium-sized enterprises in the borough and enable them to be more aware of, and bid for, contracts from local developers.

In preparing a robust planning policy position through the LDF, the department is also establishing the conditions necessary to attract investment and stimulate recovery. The work for example currently underway in relation to 5 town centre strategies (North Finchley, Finchley Church End, New Barnet, Edgware and High Barnet) will identify a range of opportunities to improve economic performance in these key locations. Attracting the right balance of uses and development mix are key to ensuring Barnet's main town centres maintain their competitive edge.

The department is also instrumental in delivering the council's regeneration agenda. The rapid progress made in relation to the Colindale Area Action Plan for instance has created the certainty and benign planning environment essential to encourage market investment. The development of the former Colindale Hospital and surrounding sites is testament to this approach.

The support given in attracting external monies is critical and has proved very successful with the recent allocations from the Growth Area Fund and Housing and Communities Agency.

The increasingly rapid turnaround of planning applications; our performance is now amongst the highest authorities in the country, is helping developers of all scales from the householder to the national housebuilders secure funding and building contracts.

More generally the planning department continues to deliver an efficient and customer based service with a constant focus on value for money. It is well positioned to cope with the current economic challenges and fully prepared for any upturn.

Question 34

Councillor Geof Cooke

What is the Council's legal advice on the co-mingling of General Fund and Pension Fund cash?

Answer by Councillor Lynne Hillan

The two cash areas are accounted for separately so that there is no confusion as to the cash balance on either account. We have had no legal challenge to the Council's Pension Fund cash arrangements. Both the Pension Fund and Council statement of accounts are subject to external audit and again, no issues have been raised regarding these arrangements. The Pension Fund is maintained as separate statutory accounts from the rest of the council in accordance with legal and accounting requirements.

Question 35

Councillor Alison Moore

When did the Council consult residents about the removal/reinstatement of the speed humps in Station Road N3?

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

The residents of Station Road were consulted in April 2008 regarding the resurfacing of their road and sent letters in May 2008 requesting their views on the removal of the traffic calming measures.

Question 36

Councillor Alison Moore

Will the Cabinet Member look at speed controls in Dollis Park N3 in response to concerns of local parents?

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

In order to ensure that resources are directed to those areas where there are known issues, evidenced by for example recorded personal injury accidents and significant speeding, the Council consider the introduction of traffic management measures based on an agreed criteria, heavily influenced by the above situations.

Speeding concerns on Dollis Park N3 are being assessed against the above criteria and serious consideration is being given to the introduction of measures where appropriate.

Question 37

Councillor Barry Rawlings

The Treasury Management Outturn report says that there has been no actual loss from deposits made in Icelandic Banks. This must mean that either the cash was deposited in an interest-free account or the Cabinet Member is expecting to receive the lost interest on the deposits. Which is it?

Answer by Councillor Lynne Hillan

The report is correct. We have not suffered any interest loss so far.

Question 38

Councillor Barry Rawlings

Can the Cabinet Member advise what the firm opening date is for South Friern Library?

Answer by Councillor Robert Rams

South Friern Library will open to the public on Tuesday 15th September. The new and improved library will be open five days a week, Tuesday to Saturday, including a late-night opening on Wednesday evenings.

There will be RFID self-service kiosks, pc's for the public to use, wireless internet access, a coffee area, community space & and meeting room. The library will also offer IT taster sessions, story time & rhyme time, along as working with local schools, community groups and businesses to meet local needs.

The library will be stocked with Adults, Children's & Teenage fiction & non-fiction, spoken word, large print, dvd's, cd's, newspapers & magazines.

Question 39

Councillor Barry Rawlings

Can the Cabinet Member confirm that Friern Barnet library will be staying open at its present site?

Answer by Councillor Robert Rams

There are currently no plans to close or relocate Friern Barnet library. The library has recently been repainted, with repairs to the roof undertaken to improve the appearance of the library, and to create a better environment for customers.

Question 40**Councillor Alison Moore**

Does the Cabinet Member welcome the £80m funding to refurbish and rebuild secondary schools in the Borough that the Council has received from the government from Building Schools for the Future?

Answer by Councillor Robert Rams

I do welcome the recognition from the Government, in bringing forward our BSF money, that Barnet has an excellent record in rebuilding its schools. Also, given Barnet has for many years asked for government money for our secondary schools this funding is welcome. The funding will enable us to begin to develop a transformation programme for our secondary estate that mirrors our local primary school investment programme which is delivering a new Whittings Hill school for children this September.

Barnet will initially get about £80m BSF funding from the next tranche of the national BSF programme. The schools included in Barnet's first project are Bishop Douglass Catholic School in East Finchley, St Mary's C of E High in Hendon, Copthall Girls in Mill Hill and The Ravenscroft in Barnet Lane, as well as the Pavilion Pupil Referral Unit, and Oak Lodge Special School. Subject to receiving further funding, Barnet's remaining secondary schools will receive similar investment once the initial project has been completed.

My only concern is that we will have to jump through many very difficult hoops to get the money and even if we do jump through these hoops, the way the treasury has been spending money over recent months, there is no guarantee that this money is still there for us.

Question 41**Councillor Anita Campbell**

The Council has just awarded a new 5 year lease for the rental of Barnet Hill School. Does this mean that the Dollis Valley regeneration is still at least 5 years away from commencement?

Answer by Councillor Richard Cornelius

To date, no lease has been signed and negotiations with the school are at a very early stage. The Dollis Valley Regeneration is dependant on funding arrangements which in turn are dependant upon the property market recovery, the banking crisis and Government priorities.

Question 42**Councillor Anne Hutton**

Did the Council meet the security standards for the ContactPoint data-base by 31st March 09, and if not has it done so now?

Answer by Councillor Fiona Bulmer

All security standards for the ContactPoint system required to date have been met by the council. The deadlines so far have required the council to demonstrate that its ContactPoint team satisfies a number of criteria including security arrangements. Satisfaction of these criteria results in the team achieving 'organisation accreditation'. We are now working towards achieving organisation accreditation for the wider Children's Service and the rest of the council. We are also working with partners (PCT and the Acute Trust initially) to enable them to achieve accreditation and thereby satisfy the required security requirements.

Question 43**Councillor Gill Sargeant**

Would the Council provide an update on the permanent changes being made to the road network round the open space in Grahame Park?

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

Phase 1A of the Grahame Park Regeneration Scheme is due to commence shortly. As part of these works, Lanacre Avenue (Between North Acre and Heywood Avenue) will be widened to incorporate an additional right turn lane for the development. The existing bus lay-by will be relocated towards Heywood Avenue and additional parking bays will be provided in front of the new development. A new access road will be constructed to serve the Phase 1A development off Lanacre Avenue and this will connect existing roads (i.e. Acklington Drive and Clayton Fields). The existing public footpaths within the Open Space have been stopped up and new footpaths will be provided in accordance with planning consent granted.

Prior to the start of the works, public notices will be provided on Lanacre Avenue which is due to commence in October/ November 2009. Existing notices have been erected by the developers indicating alternative routes to footpath closures within phase 1A.

Further phases (currently 7) of Grahame Park regeneration will follow this process for any works on the public highway.

Question 44

Councillor Gill Sargeant

What is the Council doing to ensure that in future when changes are being planned during regeneration that there will be adequate public notices of planned works?

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

Planning issues will be subject to the planning approval process, however prior to the start of any works on the public highway, public notices will be located on street in the regeneration areas, to convey information on commencement dates and other associated information.

Question 45

Councillor Agnes Slocombe

How many apprenticeship places have been taken up with this authority by adults and by young people to combine studying with practical training?

Answer by Councillor Fiona Bulmer

Seven young care leavers have taken up apprenticeships with the authority and we are currently recruiting the next six apprentices. As the leader has outlined, to help local graduates the Council is offering internships for Barnet residents who are recent graduates. The interns will have the opportunity to gain practical experience in one or more departments of the Council.

Question 46

Councillor Agnes Slocombe

What time do parking wardens officially finish in the evening?

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

10.15 pm. Where there are particular issues, we are able to target enforcement at other times if necessary.

Question 47

Councillor Agnes Slocombe

When and by whom was the decision taken to charge residents' associations and the regeneration committee for the use of the West Hendon Community Centre? (It was agreed in 1996 that they would not be charged for the hire of the Centre)

Answer by Councillor Lynne Hillan

The Resident's Regeneration Group are charged but MHT cover the cost of this as part of their commitment to the regeneration scheme. The Residents Association receives a 70% discount on the full charge in accordance with Council policy on fees and charges for the use of community centres, unless the Barnet Homes have asked to meet with them, in which case Barnet Homes cover the cost.

Question 48

Councillor Anne Hutton

How many children in Barnet are educated at home? And how do their exam results compare with those educated in school?

Answer by Councillor Fiona Bulmer

There are currently 61 pupils registered with Barnet Council as educated at home. There is currently no legal duty on parents to advise the local authority of children educated at home unless the child has attended a registered school and been withdrawn.

Information on the performance of pupils educated at home in public examinations cannot be collected by the Council so valid comparisons cannot be made.