

## Minutes

OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF BARNET held at The Town Hall, Hendon, NW4, on Tuesday, 12 April 2011.

### PRESENT:

- \*The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Anthony Finn BSc (Econ), FCA)
- \*The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Lisa Rutter)

### Councillors:

*Maureen Braun	*Anne Hutton	*Kate Salinger BEd (Hons)
*Alex Brodkin	*Geoffrey Johnson	*Gill Sargeant
*Anita Campbell	*Julie Johnson	*Joan Scannell
*Pauline Coakley Webb	*Sury Khatri BSc (Hons), MSc	*Brian Schama
*Dean Cohen BSc (Hons)	*David Longstaff	*Alan Schneiderman
*Jack Cohen	*John Marshall MA	*Daniel Seal
*Melvin Cohen	*Kath McGuirk	Mark Shooter
*Brian Coleman AM FRSA	*Andrew McNeil	*Agnes Slocombe SRN, RM
Geof Cooke	*Alison Moore	*Ansuya Sodha MBA(Middx), Cert Ed, DipM (CIM), AMBA
*Alison Cornelius	*Graham Old	*Stephen Sowerby
*Richard Cornelius	*Charlie O-Macauley	*Andrew Strongolou
*Tom Davey	*Lord Palmer OBE, BA, FCA	*Andreas Tambourides
*Barry Evangeli	*Susette Palmer MA	*Joanna Tambourides
*Claire Farrier	*Bridget Perry	*Daniel Thomas BA (Hons)
*Brian Gordon LLB	*Wendy Prentice	*Reuben Thompstone
*Eva Greenspan	*Sachin Rajput BA (Hons) PgD Law	*Jim Tierney
*Andrew Harper	*Robert Rams	Rowan Turner
*Helena Hart	*Hugh Rayner	Darrel Yawitch
*John Hart BA MA	*Barry Rawlings	*Zakia Zubairi
Lynne Hillan	*Colin Rogers	
*Ross Houston	*Brian Salinger	

\*denotes Member present

### 1. PRAYERS (Agenda Item 1.1):

The Mayor's Chaplain offered prayer.

### 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1.2):

Apologies for absence were received from the Leader of the Council, Councillor Lynne Hillan, Councillor Darrel Yawitch, Councillor Rowan Turner, Councillor Geof Cooke and Councillor Mark Shooter.

3. **MINUTES (Agenda Item 1.3):**  
**RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 1 March 2011 be approved.**

4. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Agenda Item 1.4):**  
There were none:

5. **OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS (Agenda Item 5):**  
The Worshipful Mayor regretted to announce the death of Sir Simon Milton. Sir Simon, who died on 11 April 2011 aged 49, was the Deputy Mayor of London for Policy and Planning and Chief of Staff to the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson. Sir Simon was knighted for services to local government in 2006, and in 2007 he became chairman of the Local Government Association. The Worshipful Mayor on behalf of the Council passed on his condolences to the family of Sir Simon Milton.

6. **RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION (Agenda Item 1.6):**  
Moved 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 Anthony Finn, our appreciation of the excellent service he has rendered to the London Borough of Barnet as its Mayor during the period May 2010 to May 2011, 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 many organisations and individuals who called on his time and services during his Mayoralty. We congratulate him on the success of his appeals for Noah's Ark Children's Hospice and Camp Simcha.**

**We compliment him on the manner in which he has represented the Borough and upheld the dignity of his office when carrying out his Mayoral duties.**

**The Council also offers thanks to the Mayoress, Anita Finn, for the support she has given to the Mayor during his year of office.**

2. **That the foregoing resolution be engrossed over the common seal of the corporation and presented to The Worshipful the Mayor.**

7. **BUSINESS REMAINING FROM LAST MEETING (Item 1.7)**  
There was none.

8. **QUESTION TIME FOR MEMBERS (Agenda Item 2.1)**  
Questions were put to the Leader and Members of the Cabinet. These questions, together with the answers provided and the text of any supplementary questions and answers are set out the Appendix to these minutes.

**9. EMERGENCY MOTION – BARNET’S SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS**

Councillor Alison Moore, duly seconded, moved under Council Procedure Rule 14.1 the suspension of Standing Orders asking Council to agree to a Emergency Motion to suspend Council Procedure Rule 31.1 to agree the Emergency Motion as a matter of urgency. Councillor Andrew Harper, duly seconded, moved that Council not agree to the suspension of Standing Orders. Upon being put to the vote, the Motion in name of Councillor Alison Moore was declared lost.

**RESOLVED – That Council do not agree the suspension of Standing Orders to permit consideration of the Emergency Motion in the name of Councillor Alison Moore as a matter of urgency.**

**10. VARIATION OF ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Councillor Barry Rawlings, duly seconded, moved under Council Procedure Rule 10.2.2 that the order of business be varied so that Agenda Item 5.1. Report of Cabinet be heard first. Upon being put to the vote, the Motion was declared lost.

**RESOLVED – That the order of business not be varied to allow Agenda Item 5.1 to be heard first.**

Councillor Joan Scannell, duly seconded, moved under Council Procedure Rule 0.2.2, that the order of business relating to Agenda Item 3 be varied so that Motions 3.1, 3.2 and 3.4 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 3.1, 3.2 and 3.4 to be debated and voted upon in advance of votes being taken on the other Motions on the Agenda.**

**11. MOTION IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR ANDREW HARPER (Agenda Item 3.1)**

Motion 3.1 in the name of Councillor Andrew Harper was moved. An amendment in the name of Councillor Ross Houston was moved. Debate ensued. Upon being put to the vote, the amendment in the name of Councillor Houston was declared lost. Upon being put to the vote, the Motion in the name of Councillor Harper was declared carried.

**RESOLVED – Council believes that squatting causes untold misery to homeowners and the neighbours of the property being occupied.**

**While Council deplores the actions of Colonel Gaddafi in Libya, Council notes the problems the current squat in Winnington Close is causing to nearby residents.**

**Therefore, Council is dismayed that squatting is not illegal in the UK, and that homeowners and the authorities have limited civil recourse against such people.**

**In fact, Council learns, Squatters themselves actually have some Legal Protection from homeowners, under the Criminal Law Act 1977.**

**Accordingly, Council welcomes moves by local Conservative MP Mike Freer to make Squatting a Criminal Offence in England and Wales.**

**Council is heartened to see the Coalition Government appears to be in agreement with such a move.**

**Council calls on the Chief Executive to write to the Justice Secretary, Rt Hon Kenneth Clarke MP, backing moves to make Squatting a Criminal Offence.**

- 12. MOTION IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR DANIEL THOMAS (Agenda Item 3.2)**  
Motion 3.2 in the name of Councillor Daniel Thomas was moved. An amendment in the name of Councillor Alan Schneiderman was moved. Debate ensued. Upon being put to the vote, the amendment in the name of Councillor Schneiderman was declared lost. Upon being put to the vote, the Motion in the name of Councillor Daniel Thomas was declared carried.

**RESOLVED – Council is appalled at the financial mess the last Labour Government left this country in, bequeathing debt interest costing taxpayers £120 million per day.**

**Council believes that a resurgent Private Sector, encouraged by the Coalition Government, is necessary to lead the Country back into strong growth, as the Public Sector has to make savings to pay off Labour's Credit Card. Increased tax revenue from a growing Private Sector will also help reduce the budget deficit.**

**Therefore, Council applauds the Budget for Growth, announced by the Chancellor on 23 March.**

**In particular, Council welcomes the move to stabilise Petrol Prices, the cuts in Fuel Duty and the increase in Personal Tax Allowances to help many people nationally and in Barnet struggling with household budgets.**

**In addition, cuts in Corporation Tax and the extension of the Business Rate Holiday for small firms will help re-invigorate enterprise, essential for the future of UK PLC and Barnet, which has one of the highest concentrations of small businesses in London.**

**Council accordingly commends the Coalition's Budget for Growth.**

- 13. MOTION IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR CLAIRE FARRIER AS AMENDED BY COUNCILLOR LYNNE HILLAN (Agenda Item 3.4)**  
Motion 3.4 in the name of Councillor Claire Farrier was moved. Amendments in the name of Councillors Lynne Hillan (moved by Councillor Harper) and Gil Sargeant were moved. Debate ensued. Upon being put to the vote, the amendment in the name of Councillor Hillan was declared carried. Upon being put to the vote the amendment in the name of Councillor Sargeant was declared lost. Upon being put to the vote, **the** substantive Motion as amended by Councillor Lynne Hillan was declared carried.

**RESOLVED – Council notes the recently announced government review of statutory duties that councils are being consulted on (closing date 25 April 2011).**

**Council welcomes this initiative by the Conservative Secretary State, underlining the Coalition's commitment to Localism in contrast to the Centralising Bureaucracy of the old Labour Government.**

**Council asks Cabinet to carefully assess each of the statutory duties listed in the consultation and respond to the consultation by the deadline**

**14. MOTION IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR RICHARD CORNELIUS (Agenda Item 3.3)**

Motion 3.3 in the name of Councillor Richard Cornelius was moved. Upon being put to the vote, the Motion was declared carried.

**RESOLVED - Council is proud of Barnet’s Japanese Community which is estimated to be one of the biggest in the UK.**

**Council is appalled at the recent earthquake and resultant tsunami that has devastated parts of Japan, destroying towns and infrastructure and killing and injuring many people.**

**However, Council commends the rescue and rebuilding efforts undertaken by both Japan and the International Agencies. Council also applauds the brave and painstaking work undertaken by engineers and the emergency services, in partnership with international experts, in making the Fukushima Nuclear Plant safe.**

**Council accordingly calls on the Chief Executive to convey this Council’s sympathy to the Japanese Ambassador in London, plus our praise for the excellent work Japan is undertaking to rebuild communities and lives shattered by this tragedy.**

**15. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING.**

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

**16. ADMINISTRATION POLICY ITEM – STRATEGIC LIBRARY REVIEW (Agenda Item 4.1)**

Councillor Robert Rams proposed the item and moved that it be adopted. An amendment in the name of Councillor Pauline Coakley-Webb was moved. Debate ensued. Upon being put to the vote, the amendment in the name of Councillor Pauline Coakley-Webb was declared lost.

At least ten Members rose in their places and demanded a formal division on the voting on the amendment in the name of Councillor Pauline Coakley Webb. Upon being taken, the results of the Division were declared as follows:

<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Not Voting</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Councillors</b>	<b>Councillors</b>	<b>Councillors</b>	<b>Councillors</b>
Brodkin	Braun	Finn	Cooke
Campbell	Dean Cohen	Jack Cohen	Hillan
Coakley Webb	Melvin Cohen	Lord Palmer	Shooter
Farrier	Coleman	Susette Palmer	Turner
Houston	Alison Cornelius		Yawitch
Hutton	Richard Cornelius		Prentice
Geoffrey Johnson	Davey		
Julie Johnson	Evangeli		
McGuirk	Gordon		
McNeil	Greenspan		
Moore	Harper		
O-Macauley	Helena Hart		

Rawlings	John Hart		
Rogers	Khatri		
Schneiderman	Longstaff		
Slocombe	Marshall		
Sodha	Old		
Tierney	Perry		
Sargeant	Rajput		
Zubairi	Rams		
	Rayner		
	Rutter		
	Brian Salinger		
	Kate Salinger		
	Scannell		
	Schama		
	Seal		
	Sowerby		
	Strongolou		
	Andreas Tambourides		
	Joanna Tambourides		
	Thomas		
	Thompstone		

For	20
Against	33
Not Voting	4
Absent	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>63</b>

Upon being put to the vote, the Policy Item in the name of Councillor Rams was declared carried.

**RESOLVED – Council is proud of its Libraries which are the centres of local life in the Borough and an invaluable community resource.**

**However, we believe that investment and renewal is urgently needed in the facilities, to bring them up to the standard that residents expect in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and which was identified by LBB’s consultation.**

**Therefore, Council commends the Strategic Library Review, which proposes the following, subject to further consultation and EIA:**

- **Buying more books**
- **Longer opening hours**
- **Better customer access to Council services**
- **Better access for children (all primary school children will be members of a library)**
- **Better services for the vulnerable**
- **More self-issue**
- **More WIFI and online services (including e-books)**
- **Plans to share Libraries’ back-office**
- **Expanding Libraries**
- **New events and extra community use**

- Exploring a paid-for book delivery scheme

Council notes that the plans involve a degree of re-provision, but is pleased that the Strategy does not involve the wholesale closure of libraries unlike many Councils in London.

Cabinet is therefore requested to forge ahead with these proposals, taking into account the second round of consultation and the EIA.

**17. OPPOSITION POLICY ITEM AS AMENDED BY COUNCILLOR HELENA HART– PROTECTING FRONT LINE NHS SERVICES (Agenda Item 4.2)**

Councillor Barry Rawlings proposed the item and moved that it be adopted. Amendments in the name of Councillors Helena Hart and Alison Moore were moved. Debate ensued. Upon being put to the vote, the amendment in the name of Councillor Helena Hart was declared carried. Upon being put to the vote, the amendment in the name of Councillor Alison Moore was declared lost. Upon being put to the vote, the Policy Item as amended by Councillor Helena Hart was declared carried.

**RESOLVED – Council notes and welcomes the Coalition Government’s decision to pause in the passage of the Health & Social Care bill currently going through Parliament in order to further consult and engage with healthcare professionals and locally elected representatives.**

Council re-affirms its support for the ethos of the Health White Papers which promised a National Health Service dedicated to the welfare of patients and carers and to quality and outcomes that are among the best in the world.

Council continues to support the transfer of the Public Health function to Local Authorities such as the London Borough of Barnet and looks forward to being able to make a real difference in terms of both health improvement and disease avoidance for local residents.

In addition, Council welcomes assurances that potential providers of NHS services will not be allowed to “cherry pick”. Council requests the Cabinet Member for Public Health seek confirmation on this matter from the Secretary of State for Health, and further requests that prospective providers should be able to demonstrate a long term and proven commitment to the NHS and to the delivery of high quality, safe and sustainable health services for the people of Barnet.

Council would also welcome any involvement by the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee Scrutiny in seeking to ensure that the best possible outcome for Barnet patients can be sought from the planned reforms

**17. REPORT OF CABINET – LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK (Agenda Item 5.1.1 and Agenda Item 5.3.6 Supplemental Report of the Head of Governance)**

Councillor Richard Cornelius, moved adoption and reception of the report.

**RESOLVED –**

1. That the Local Development Framework be approved.
2. That Council approve the additions to the Responsibility for Functions in the Constitution, as set out in the report of the Supplemental Report of the Head of Governance – Agenda Item 5.3.6

3. That the Head of Governance be instructed to make the appropriate changes to the Council's Constitution.

18. **REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE (CONSTITUTION REVIEW) – 6 APRIL 2011 (Agenda Item 5.2.1)**  
**RESOLVED – Council note that Agenda Item 5.2.1, Report of Special Committee (Constitution Review) – 6 April 2011, is to be reported to the next meeting of the Council on 17 May 2011**

19. **COMMENTS FROM BUSINESS MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE – 11 APRIL 2011 (Supplemental Report of the Head of Governance - Agenda Item 5.3.7)**  
**RESOLVED - That Council note the comments from Business Management Overview and Scrutiny sub-Committee.**

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

**In a separate document.**

**Comment: Councillor Susette Palmer**

There has been a lot in the local papers about Avenue House and its financial problems at the moment. I would like to know what discussions have been going on with the Council and I would like to make sure that the Council as the overall landlord of the property will not let The Bothy of which Finchley Art Centre Trust worked so hard on, fall back in to state of disrepair it was when they first started.

**Response: Councillor Brian Coleman**

Councillor Susette Palmer raises some important issues. The Leader and I met with the Trustees of Avenue House earlier in the year and made it plain there was no further Council money available to the Trustees, they having had several substantial grants in the past. I sympathise with her on the future of The Bothy and I think it is a disgrace that that situation has been allowed to develop and the Council is keeping a close eye. But at the moment the property is the responsibility of the Trustees of Avenue House, which is a private Trust. Should they surrender their lease for any reason at all, I am sure the Council will take the appropriate action to bring The Bothy into community use. It seems to me a clear project for Big Society, which it was before it disintegrated.

**Comment: Councillor Barry Evangeli**

I am delighted to see that East Barnet School in my Ward has been granted Academy status. Could the Cabinet Member please comment on what support the Council has given to other Barnet Schools seeking to become Academies

**Response: Councillor Andrew Harper**

I am happy to join with Councillor Evangeli in congratulating East Barnet School on achieving Academy status and also in running a successful official opening evening event a few weeks ago. I can assure Councillor Evangeli that under very clear direction from me, Officers are giving every possible support to those schools in this borough that wish to attain Academy status. A number of other schools are currently in the process of converting for September of this year; Henrietta Barnet, Ravenscroft, Whitefield, QE Girls and the Independent Jewish Day School, our first



Primary School to seek Academy status and I am certain this momentum will be maintained

**Comment: Councillor Barry Rawlings**

The Council seems so interested in transparency that it does not want cameras or anything else. It worries me that a whole series of Freedom of Information request seem to have lapsed recently - I think there were 14 FOIs about the actual Council meeting. Could the Cabinet Member make us feel that he is taking FOI seriously because it does seem that all over a sudden they are not being answered, even though there is a legal requirement, which includes a legal time limit. I wonder if you could put our minds at rest about that.

**Response: Councillor Melvin Cohen**

I am happy to put the Member's mind at rest. Total FOIs requests received this year so far, 285. The average response time was 13.7 working days. The proportion dealt with within 20 days, which is the legal requirement, is 80%, which I think is pretty good.

**Comment: Councillor Alison Moore**

Questions have been raised about the conduct of the contract security staff on duty at the Town Hall and in the lobby on the night of the Council Budget setting meeting. There are real and serious questions about, how, when and under what terms of service this security company was procured? What was their remit? How was it defined? How were they monitored? I would have preferred that there was an Ad Hoc Scrutiny Committee, but please it is going to the Audit Committee. As democratically elected Councillors, it is our duty that public money is properly spent, that services are delivered in the best interest of local people. This is not a party political issue, but I ask the Cabinet Member to cooperate fully with the Audit Committee and that the Councillors of that Committee ensure there is a robust enquiry and that proper lessons are learnt.

**Response: Councillor Daniel Thomas**

I will cooperate with the Audit Committee.

The meeting finished at 10:17pm



**Council Questions to Cabinet Members  
12 April 2011  
Questions and Responses**

**Question 1**

**Councillor Lord Palmer**

Can the Cabinet Member explain why in Barnet our parking enforcement officers allow motorists to drive off without being issued a PCN after they have been observed committing a parking offence? Why has the legislation allowing our officers to issue the PCN by post, after they have started writing it but after the motorist has driven off not been put into effect? I have been informed that "whilst the law has been revised it remains an option that has not been endorsed or adopted by this Authority and as such our procedures or systems do not cater for this aspect of enforcement."

**Answer by Councillor Brian Coleman**

Councillor Lord Palmer raises a valid issue and I have asked officers to implement with effect from 15<sup>th</sup> April following appropriate training for Civil Enforcement Officers.

**Question 2**

**Councillor Brian Gordon**

The Government is bringing in legislation to prohibit companies carrying out vehicle-clamping on private land. Would you join with me in praising the Government for this legislation and will our Council do all in its power to assist in apprehending those firms who may continue to carrying out such activity after it has become unlawful?

**Answer by Councillor Brian Coleman**

I oppose clamping whether carried out by the public or private sector and I welcome the Conservative led Government's decision to outlaw private clamping.

**Supplementary Question 2**

**Councillor Brian Gordon**

Councillor Coleman, would you agree that the activities of private clampers that lurk round corners waiting to pounce on motorists vehicles literally seconds sometimes after they park their vehicles, then extort hundreds of pounds from them to remove the clamp, such activities are absolutely monstrous and akin to day light or perhaps sometimes moonlight robbery and we should condemn them

**Answer by Councillor Brian Coleman**

Mr Mayor that is why I am delighted that the Coalition Government is bringing in legislation to outlaw private clampers.

**Question 3**

**Councillor Alison Moore**

Will the Cabinet Member assure me that any outsourced service will remain subject to audit by the Council's auditors?

**Answer by Councillor Robert Rams**

The remit of audit covers the whole of the organisation, not just the in-house elements of the Council's service provision. For example, at the moment, 80% of the Adults Social Care service is provided by external providers, and this does not stop audit (internal and external) from reviewing the entirety of these services in terms of finances, controls and outcomes for service users. Any services that may be outsourced in future will remain subject to audit, and it is standard for contracts to be set up to enable this to happen.

**Question 4**

**Councillor Jack Cohen**

At the February Council meeting, I asked you a question and a supplementary about residents parking permits and visitor vouchers. I asked you to explain the discrepancy between the figures in the current schedule of charges i.e. £12 per book of ten vouchers and £42 for a 1st permit and what residents are actually charged i.e. £10.00 per book and £40.00 for the permit. When I asked you if this meant that the

Council had lost out on revenue you responded "I never knowingly undercharge."

Can you now explain why despite the decision of the Cabinet Resources Committee on the 23 April 2009 **PARKING FEES AND CHARGES (Report of the Leader/Cabinet Member for Resources and the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport – Agenda Item 8)**:

For the reasons set out in the Cabinet Member's report

**RESOLVED –**

(1) That the fees and charges for the parking section, as detailed in the associated appendices of the report be approved to take effect as soon as practically possible.

(2) That the relevant Traffic Management Orders and Variation Notices are made to reflect the fees and charges as set out in the relevant appendices to the report.

and whilst in the associated appendices the permits are increased to £42.00 and the vouchers increased to £12 .00 this appears not to have been implemented"

**Answer by Councillor Brian Coleman**

Sheer incompetence and inefficiency by Council Officers.

**Supplementary Question 4**

**Councillor Jack Cohen**

Thank you Councillor Coleman for your reply. I reckon as a result of this fiasco the Council has lost at least £100,000 in parking revenues since 2009. You blame all of this on, and I quote, "the share incompetence and inefficiency by Council officers". Clearly Councillor Coleman you have not got a grip on your Department, clearly you have no respect for your staff, and clearly you will never take any responsibility for anything that goes wrong. So when will you do the right thing and resign?

**Answer by Councillor Brian Coleman**

Mr Mayor, I am entirely relaxed about taking responsibility for those things that were my responsibility. I was not the Cabinet Member at the time, as I took over as of last May. Councillor Cohen will know that we have taken urgent action to deal with issues in the parking department

**Question 5**

**Councillor Brian Gordon**

Is it not a fact that a good number of the so-called "free parking bays" within the Borough were not originally intended as such and are bays where parking signs have fallen down or been uprooted by vandals?

**Answer by Councillor Brian Coleman**

If the Member has evidence of this perhaps he could report the bays concerned to the relevant officers.

**Supplementary Question 5**

**Councillor Brian Gordon**

Councillor Coleman, whether or not the free parking bays were originally intended as such is really not the issue. Could the Council member now do his best to see that the signage within CPZs is made as clear as possible and that the timing of parking zones is as streamlined as it could be to avoid innocent motorists simply being caught out. There are a number of shall we say, a little bit confusing parking zones in my area and the realm that I would love to see ameliorated. Do you think you could look into this?

**Answer by Councillor Brian Coleman**

Mr Mayor, as part of the agreed scheme for the removal of free bays, signage will be looked at. As for changing times of parking zones, I think Mr Mayor and Councillor Gordon, that it should be recognised that particular times were put in after long and extensive consultation with the residents, and that any changes to the times of CPZs would require further long and expensive consultation period as you would expect with the residents. I am not proposing to conduct any reviews, except in one or two specific areas which have been brought to the attention of officers by Ward Councillors.

**Question 6 Councillor Alex Brodtkin**

What are the costs and on-going costs of the proposed closure of Church Farmhouse Museum?

**Answer by Councillor Robert Rams**

Church Farmhouse Museum closed on 31 March 2011. The closure of the Museum achieves the target saving set out for 2011 – 2012. I have set a three month window to consider the proposal by a third sector organisation to take on future operation of the museum. Revenue funding is available to maintain the site during this three month window, and maintenance and running costs (building, grounds maintenance, business rates) for this period of time are estimated to be below £5,000. I am clear that any future operation the museum or the building is intended to be at zero cost to the council.

**Question 7****Councillor Reuben Thompstone**

Could the Cabinet Member outline progress on the Children and Young People's Plan?

**Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper**

Although there is no longer a statutory requirement to publish a Children and Young People Plan, we have chosen to continue publishing a plan in order to support partnership working in Barnet. The strategic priorities within the Children and Young People Plan were developed with input from a wide range of stakeholders including local health services, the police, the voluntary sector, schools, young people, as well as the Council, and were agreed by Cabinet for the three year period 2010/11 to 2012/13. The actions under these strategic objectives are being refreshed for 2011/12 with input from partner agencies. The updated actions of the Plan have been to the Children's Trust Board and to the multi-agency Executive Management Group that sits under the Board. The updated Children and Young People Plan will be published later this month and made available online.

**Supplementary Question 7****Councillor Ruben Thompstone**

Thank your Mr Mayor and I'd like to thank the Cabinet Member for his very full answer. Would he also please confirm that this includes measures to tackle child poverty?

**Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper**

Mr Mayor, yes indeed. As I promised when Council debated this subject last year, an updated version of the Children and Young Peoples Plan will indeed be referenced to the issue of child poverty and measures that we shall be taking to deal with it in this borough.

**Question 8****Councillor Kath McGuirk**

Would the Cabinet Member confirm if there are any areas which benefit from a free initial period on pay and display in Barnet?

**Answer by Councillor Brian Coleman**

There are two areas that benefit from a free initial period of 30 minutes. The first is Mowbray Parade in Edgware HA 8 and the second is Hampden Square N14. No other such schemes are envisaged and I am reviewing why we have these two.

**Question 9****Councillor Kate Salinger**

Would the Cabinet Member outline LBB's work to ensure effective support and help for children with Special Educational Needs?

**Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper**

The authority provides early support and intervention services for young children with significant needs and their parents and teachers; speech and language therapy and parenting advisors form part of children's centres and schools provision. Most children with special educational needs do not require statements and are supported by our services in schools. Of those with statements of Special Educational Need, the majority are in our mainstream schools. Barnet also maintains four special schools, which as Cllr Salinger may recall are all rated as outstanding by Ofsted, and has a number of

resourced provisions in mainstream primary and secondary schools.

We provide access to educational psychologists for consultation, problem solving and assessment, and specialist advisory teachers around additional needs including hearing and visual impairment and physical needs. We also commission therapies including speech and language therapy, occupational therapy and physiotherapy from the health service and other providers. Barnet has 'Leading Edge' groups that bring together parents, the voluntary sector and professionals to establish good practice. Short breaks are provided to children with complex needs and their families, and some families chose to hold an individual budget. Children with Special Educational Needs in Barnet continue to do extremely well against national comparisons, although closing the gap in attainment between them and their peers remains a priority for the service.

#### **Supplementary Question 9**

**Councillor Kate Salinger**

I thank the Cabinet Member for his answer and ask him if he believes that the Coalition Government are on the right track with their new Green Paper

#### **Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper**

Mr Mayor I'm happy to say that I do indeed agree with Councillor Kate Salinger. In fact the proposals in the governments green paper aim to support better life outcomes for children and young people, give parents more confidence and transfer power to front line professionals and local communities. So this Administration will warmly welcome reforms that help to improve outcomes for our children and young people who experience special educational needs and other disabilities

#### **Question 10 Councillor Barry Rawlings**

Would the Cabinet Member advise if the NCL NHS draft QIPP has been agreed and what are the implications for Barnet residents?

#### **Answer by Councillor Helena Hart**

The draft QIPP is still currently in the process of being agreed.

The North Central London (NCL) Sector is leading the development of the NCL Quality, Innovation, Prevention and Productivity Plan (QIPP) on behalf of its five constituent PCTs. The QIPP process is designed to deliver improved quality and outcomes for patients and to lead to financial sustainability for the local health economy.

Therefore implications for patients are generally expected to be positive. The general themes of the QIPP are:  To improve quality in individual services and integration between services in order to improve outcomes and reduce duplication  To increase the number of areas where the Local Authority and Health Services plan and deliver / procure services together  To continue progress with the Care Closer to Home agenda.

#### **Supplementary Question 10**

**Councillor Barry Rawlings**

I thank the Cabinet Member. Bit surprised that the job QIPP still hasn't been agreed because it's belated, but the general themes of the QIPP are at least £730million worth of cuts in local health services and so on, and that is the bottom line figure. Above the assumed closure of trades farm A&E and the move in maternity that I gather you are supporting because its part of the QIPP, do you think that all the results of the QIPP will be positive for Barnet residents, and if not, which parts will be negative?

#### **Answer by Councillor Helena Hart**

Thank you Mr Mayor and thank you Councillor Rawlings for his supplementary. I have to say that he seems to be confusing the whole concept of care closer to home with the provision of acute hospital services. Care closer to home, and particularly those for renal and COPD patients are much better provided for in local settings and for those people in their own homes rather than for those in acute hospitals. The fact that is actually more cost effective to provide these services in this way is simply an added bonus. Our collective role, Scrutiny and Cabinet, is to ensure that wherever NHS services are provided they are for the very best quality and accessibility and for the benefit of Barnet patients.

**Question 11      Councillor Alison Cornelius**

Will LBB be maintaining its Children's Trust Board?

**Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper**

Although there is no longer a statutory requirement to have a Children's Trust Board, we have chosen to retain this in order to support partnership working in Barnet. In the challenging financial climate it is more important than ever that partner agencies work closely together and plan jointly to reduce any duplication, maximise resources, and ensure that services are appropriately targeted to meet the needs of the borough's children and young people.

**Supplementary Question 11**

**Councillor Alison Cornelius**

Could I ask the Cabinet member if he has any view on the Coalition Government's policy regarding this matter?

**Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper**

Yes Mr Mayor I'd like to thank Councillor Cornelius for putting this to me. I think that what we are seeing here is the spirit of localism at work because the government is not trying to prescribe an approach to Local Authorities, but allowing us to decide for ourselves whether such arrangements will suit our Borough and whether this kind of partnership working that I am pleased to say we have developed through our Children's Trust Board is effective and is likely to deliver results. I and the partners believe it will and therefore we will be continuing this arrangement here in Barnet, but it is very sensible that we should be able to make our own decisions.

**Question 12      Councillor Pauline Coakley Webb**

Does the Cabinet Member support the building of a waste transfer station on Pinkham Way?

**Answer by Councillor Brian Coleman**

This is a matter for Haringey Council's Planning Committee.

**Supplementary Question 12**

**Councillor Pauline Coakley Webb**

Thank you Mr Mayor. From this answer all I can find is that once again, Councillor Coleman is not answering the question as put. The question being do you support the building of a waste transfer station on Pinkham Way I didn't ask who the planning authority that would be agreeing this. So we'll try another question, will you therefore consult across a wider area with residents before approving the plan this evening for North London Waste Authority and before submitting it to the Secretary of State. Thank you.

**Answer by Councillor Brian Coleman**

Mr Mayor I am always glad for a question from Councillor Coakley-Webb because some of us with long memories will recall when she supported the building of the ten thousand seat stadium on green belt land at Under Hill. I do not remember her consulting her residents on that one, and indeed when they were consulted, they decided to vote her out of office. So Mr Mayor, the issues raised around the Pinkham Way site will be decided by the appropriate authority which is Haringey Borough Council's Planning Committee.

**Question 13**

**Councillor Brian Gordon**

A Junior School of which I am a Governor has issued a ruling prohibiting pupils from being in possession of mobile telephones at school and requiring any mobiles brought to school to be handed in at the beginning of the day, for collection at the end of the day. Although the operation of such a rule is within the remit of the school itself, would the Cabinet Member like to give his endorsement to this very commendable policy?

**Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper**

As Cllr Gordon rightly points out, it is up to each school to decide its own policies around issues such as mobiles phones. I support the autonomy of schools in matters such as these.

**Question 14            Councillor Julie Johnson**

Now that Barnet Council has reached a settlement with Catalyst will the Cabinet Member ensure that the West Hendon Estate Catalyst site is cleared of rubbish and fly tipping? Residents should not have had to tolerate this eyesore on a daily basis. I note that the hoarding around the site has been repaired and recently reinforced with wire mesh, but more needs to be done by the Council and Catalyst.

**Answer by Councillor Brian Coleman**

The site is owned by Catalyst and as such it is their responsibility to keep it tidy. I have asked Officers to contact them and remind them of their Community duty . Any help the Ward Councillors can give in adding pressure would be welcome.

**Question 15**

**Councillor Brian Gordon**

Will the Cabinet Member outline the implications of the Libraries Strategy on Mill Hill Library near my ward?

**Answer by Councillor Robert Rams**

The strategy sets out a range of improvements to the library service over coming years. I believe we will provide an even better library service in Mill Hill. There will be changes and improvements to different branches. For Mill Hill, this will include opening the library at 9.30am, buying more books and developing larger collections of books – as with all libraries. In addition, we will to provide self-service book issuing technology in all libraries, and ensure all libraries have WiFi. We will also recruit skilled volunteers to offer additional learning events and activities in libraries; and we will encourage community groups in the area to use the library for meetings, events, and activities.

**Supplementary Question 15**

**Councillor Brian Gordon**

You will probably note because I have sent you copies of the various letters that a number of residents from my Ward in Hale wrote rather alarmed that their fear that there would be a closure of the Mill Hill Library. Of course I was very pleased to be able to write to them afterwards and tell them that not only are we not closing the library, we are in fact improving it. Do you think that there are a lot of irresponsible people, no doubt members of the Labour Party, trade unions, the kind of rabble that we hear coming from outside, who are responsible for this very unnecessary scare mongering that frightened people and that we never had any intention of closing Mill Hill Library and other libraries in the first place.

**Answer by Councillor Robert Rams**

Thank you Mr Mayor. I agree with Councillor Gordon's comments about the library campaign. They were campaigning against things that were happening in other London boroughs, not that is was ever going to happen in Barnet. We see in tonight's Evening Standard that Brent are proposing to close six libraries to save £1m. We are saving £1.4m by building new libraries, opening new facilities and extending hours and buying new books. That is the way forward for our new library service in Barnet.

**Question 16**

**Councillor Anne Hutton**

Will Barnet be taking part in the 'Buy one get one free' scheme to fund more police officers?

**Answer by Councillor Joanna Tambourides**

We do not have council funding available to purchase police officers.

**Question 17**

**Councillor David Longstaff**

In relation to North London Waste Authority's procurement process, will the Cabinet Member join me in condemning the anti-Israel campaign being run against Veolia?

**Answer by Councillor Brian Coleman**



There has been a nasty, unpleasant, organised campaign against Veolia and their possible participation in the NLWA procurement process.

*NB: The Mayor has agreed to exercise his powers under CPR 30.9 to allow the Cabinet Member to give an oral elaboration to his answer.*

Thank you Mr Mayor. In addition to my original answer, there has been a nasty, unpleasant, organised campaign against Veolia and their possible participation in the NLWA procurement process. I believe this has been motivated anti Zionist sentiments by some residents of the borough, which in my book equates to anti Semitism and those undertones run thorough the campaign.

**Question 18**

**Councillor Alex Brodkin**

Over the past twelve months, how many families, who were seeking three-bedroom accommodation in Barnet from the Council, were successfully moved (by the Council) into three-bedroom properties?

**Answer by Councillor Richard Cornelius**

194

**Supplementary Question 18**

**Councillor Alex Brodkin**

Thank you to the Cabinet member for his answer. For the sake of a bit of clarity on a very important issue could he say whether of not all 194 families will be housed in Barnet, rather than just being moved by Barnet, and also how many of the 194 families were put into Council Housing Association accommodation. So that I could be in a useful position so that I can usefully advise people that come into my surgery on this issue.

**Answer by Councillor Richard Cornelius**

I am happy to write to the Member with that information. However, there is always a breakdown and it is a complicated breakdown so it will be a long letter.

**Question 19 Councillor Ansuya Sodha**

How many staff in Children's Services who were made redundant in February have returned to work with the Council as consultants in March.

**Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper**

To our knowledge there has been one instance of this, in the context of 64 redundancies in the Children's Service between January and March 2011. It is not general policy to re-employ members of staff who've been made redundant on a consultancy basis. However, this was an exceptional circumstance. A part-time position was created when another member of staff reduced their working hours, and this position was offered to members of staff at risk of redundancy. However, the specialist skills and knowledge required were not readily available from existing or agency staff. In the circumstances, appointing someone with the appropriate skills on a consultancy basis was the most cost-effective short-term solution, ensuring that the Council did not commit itself to a permanent solution at a time of restructuring. A permanent solution will be sought in this new financial year.

**Supplementary Question 19**

**Councillor Ansuya Sodha**

Thank you very much Councillor Harper. I just want a little bit of clarification – don't get me wrong, I do not doubt for a minute the Council's Equality Policy because I think the Officers work very hard. However, I do feel that out of 64 redundancies, I think in one department there were 35 or 36 redundancies in the department that advises schools. One man was plucked and I told him you can have a redundancy in February while everyone else has to wait until March, the end of the term, April or July. You can have a redundancy in February and have a golden handshake and then come back to work for us. Were the other 35 staff informed that you had planned to employ someone here on a part time basis, were they all told they could apply for it if they wanted it, were their skills noted. So I am asking him, were all the processes followed or was this man just plucked?

**Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper**

Mr Mayor I think it is not customary in this chamber to discuss matters to do with staff that come so very close to identifying individuals. Therefore I propose not to comment any further.

**Question 20****Councillor Alex Brodkin**

Could the Leader advise if she will support the webcasting of council meetings, as well as a firm policy to enable the public to blog, tweet or otherwise record council meetings in future, and if not, why not?

**Answer by Councillor Lynne Hillan, Leader of the Council**

The decision not to allow filming in the Council Chamber was taken, not by this Administration, but by this Council. However, we are currently looking at the options and suggestions will be brought back to this Council for full debate.

**Supplementary Question 20****Councillor Alex Brodkin**

I note the leader is not here this evening but given I've asked this question it has emerged that Member's on both sides have shown support for the filming of Council meetings after the appalling irony of last Council's meeting where there was no filming of the Council meeting but actual residents were filmed by dodgy firms employed by the Council. Can the relevant Cabinet Member please confirm that rather than this vague answer that we are currently looking at options and suggestions to be brought back to the Council for debate, that this issue of filming Council meetings will be debated at the next Council meeting. So that Barnet does not suffer from this unnecessary democratic deficit any longer.

**Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper**

I am aware of the great interest in this subject that Council Brodkin has just outlined. I think that we will, as the written answer from the Leader says, be bringing the matter to Council in due course. I suspect it won't be at the next meeting, which is the Annual Meeting, but quite possibly the meeting after that after there has been the appropriate time to fully investigate the matter and bring forward a robust set of proposals which the Council as a whole can debate and form a view upon.

**Question 21****Councillor Julie Johnson**

Would the Cabinet Member please update me on the latest situation regarding Neeld Tennis Club's proposals to build in the above park as their former club buildings are in the process of being demolished.

**Answer by Councillor Daniel Thomas**

The latest position is that funding to the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) from Sport England has been reduced and this has had a knock on effect for the Neeld Tennis Club's proposals to build courts and a club house in Sturgess Park. The club are in discussion with the LTA, and are pursuing other sources of funding to enable their move to Sturgess Park. Meanwhile, the club are hiring tennis courts in Hendon Park.

**Question 22****Councillor Alan Schneiderman**

Will the Leader confirm: a) what the latest position is regarding Barnet being granted priority status on frozen Icelandic deposits; b) what the financial risk is of not being granted priority status; and c) if the relevant risk reserve fully covers the Council in the event priority status is not granted?

**Answer by Councillor Daniel Thomas**

On 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011, the Icelandic courts upheld the priority status of UK Local Authority deposits. This decision is subject to appeal. The budget report suggested that the cost of non-priority status would be approximately £14m and this is the sum that we are building up in the risk reserve for 2011/12.

**Supplementary Question 22****Councillor Alan Schneiderman**

I thank the Cabinet member for his answer. Priority status obviously subject appeal is welcome, but does he still recognise the ongoing concern amongst the public about these reckless Icelandic investments, notably that there was a phone-in on LBC on Sunday morning in which Barnet was

mentioned several times. Despite a call for Barnet Councillors to ring in, I failed to hear him ring in to defend these investments. The question is – does he recognise the ongoing concern and despite priority status that is still going to be appealed, Barnet Council is still going to lose millions of pounds as a result of these investments.

**Answer by Councillor Daniel Thomas**

Mr Mayor, the Iceland crisis happened before the last election, there been an election afterwards and the people of Barnet voted us back in. So quite obviously the people of Barnet realised that the Council was not our fault and even the Audit Commission had money invested in Iceland. So actually I think the people of Barnet are behind this Council.

**Question 23**

**Councillor Julie Johnson**

Could the Cabinet Member advise if there are any 20mph speed limits within the London Borough of Barnet. Several residents have requested this traffic calming measure be implemented on rat runs and near some schools in West Hendon. Ward councillors have been advised that this is not current Barnet Council policy.

**Answer by Councillor Brian Coleman**

There are 9 distinct areas in the borough where a 20mph speed limit is in place. There are no plans to introduce additional areas and I am reviewing the operation of the current zones which the Police are not interested in enforcing and are widely ignored.

**Question 24 Councillor Alison Moore**

Would the Cabinet Member confirm what the status is of the implementation of the new revenues and benefits system?

**Answer by Councillor Daniel Thomas**

The new system went live on 18.2.11, it then had to close down for another week in order to recast benefits and set up the 2011/12 billings etc. The system came back on line 14.3.11. We are working with the various partner organisations to clear the issues that inevitably occur with a complete change of systems.

**Supplementary Question 24**

**Councillor Alison Moore**

Thank you Mr Mayor. Councillor Thomas, could you tell me what the delay cost the Council, what backlogs are left if any and when will those be cleared

**Answer by Councillor Daniel Thomas**

Mr Mayor there is a backlog of certain benefit assessments and billing. The backlog is likely to be in the region of around 13 weeks. In terms of cost, I don't have those figures with me at the moment, but of course that will part of the negotiation with Civica when we come to pay Civica. We will keep Councillor Moore updated.

**Question 25 Councillor Geoff Johnson**

At the Hendon Area Forum on 15th March 2011 in answer a question on footway parking in Hillfield Avenue, Woodfield Avenue and Silkfield Road, the resident was advised that all parking enforcement for this area has been deferred pending further investigation. Can the Cabinet Member please advise when this decision was made and implemented?

**Answer by Councillor Brian Coleman**

As I understand some residents have continued to complain about wheels of vehicles parked on the pavements, the policy followed in this Borough of enforcing the Highways Act where there are complaints will continue, in this and other areas. Consultation with the Ward Councillors will also continue.

**Question 26      Councillor Geoff Johnson**

As the Cabinet Member will be aware, a fatal car accident took place recently in Colindeep Lane NW9. Can I ask what Barnet Council proposes to do to stop this type of accident happening. Over years there have been several serious accidents in this stretch of road and some traffic calming measures need to be implemented to prevent this happening again.

**Answer by Councillor Brian Coleman**

I understand individuals have been arrested on suspected dangerous driving as a result of this incident. As so often no amount of so called "traffic calming" will prevent some people behaving like idiots when behind the wheel.

**Question 27**

**Councillor Claire Farrier**

Would the Cabinet Member please explain why parking tickets have been issued in roads in Burnt Oak, including Blundell Road, and Edwin Road, for parking with wheels on the pavement? Tickets have never been issued in these roads before, and in both Blundell Road and Edwin Road there is a concreted area that was created specifically for cars to park. Would the Cabinet Member please issue instructions that any outstanding tickets for these areas are cancelled?

**Answer by Councillor Brian Coleman**

It is clearly in breach of the Highways Act to park with wheels on the pavement. It is also clearly NOT within the remit of individual councillors, even the Cabinet member, to issue instructions to cancel parking tickets. If individuals feel tickets have been issued incorrectly there is a statutory appeals process.

**Supplementary Question 27**

**Councillor Claire Farrier**

Councillor Coleman has not explained why parking tickets have been issued where there are agreements for residents to park and are therefore parking legally. Would he also explain why people in Wolsey Grove have been given notice of enforcements of pavement parking pay for parking and Ward Councillors have been consulted on enforcement there, but people in Blundell Road, Edwinn Road and Goldbeaters Grove have not, and Counsellors have not been consulted on the enforcement in those roads.

**Answer by Councillor Brian Coleman**

I would remind all Councillors that it is an offence under the Highways Act park on the pavement. This Council has always adopted a common sense approach to that and only takes action where there have been complaints and in consultation with the Ward Councillors. In all these areas, if Councillor cares to contact the relevant officers, they will detail the nature of the complaints made about these particular roads to the Ward Members. There have often been complaints; these are often neighbour disputes, where one neighbour complains. However I'd also like to remind Members if you have a pushchair or an elderly relative in a wheelchair or something, there is nothing worse than finding a car with two wheels on the pavement and you can't get past it.

**Question 28**

**Councillor Claire Farrier**

Would the Cabinet Member please confirm that there is an agreement with out of borough allotment holders, that they pay the same charge for allotments in Barnet as Barnet residents. Would he please confirm the date of this agreement, and that it has not been rescinded.

**Answer by Councillor Brian Coleman**

The new charges for allotments which will be in effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012 include an increased charge for non-Barnet residents. This in line with charges for other services in the borough where residents are charged less than non-residents. I think it is right and proper that Barnet Council tax payers should receive a better deal on allotments than those residents of other Boroughs whose authorities have often sold their allotments for development.

**Supplementary Question 28****Councillor Claire Farrier**

Once again Counsellor Coleman has not answered my question, he has ignored it completely so I will ask it again. Would the Cabinet Member please confirm that there is an agreement with out of borough allotment holders, that they pay the same charge for allotments in Barnet as Barnet residents. Would he please confirm the date of the agreement and that it has not been rescinded?

**Answer by Councillor Brian Coleman**

I am looking at a situation of a policy agreed by this Council that allotment sites become self managing and then it would be up to the management committees to fix the level of charges for residents of this borough and residents out of the borough. I still maintain the position I see no reason why this Council should subsidise allotment holders who are not residents of the London Borough of Barnet and don't pay Council tax to this Council.

**Question 29****Councillor Barry Rawlings**

Could the Cabinet Member comment on Michael Gove's broken promise of more money for school repairs whereas research by the House of Commons library reveals the average for secondary schools has fallen from £105,400 to £19,500 and primary schools from £32,900 to £6,600?

**Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper**

Michael Gove's statement about the school funding announcement for 2011-12 included the following two paragraphs:

*"10. Even where funding is tight, it is essential that buildings and equipment are properly maintained, to ensure that health and safety standards are met, and to prevent a backlog of decay building up which is very expensive to address. Therefore, in 2011-12, £1337m will be available for capital maintenance for schools, with over £1bn being allocated for local areas to prioritise according to maintenance need. The voluntary-aided sector will receive its fair share of this as I have decided to retain the Locally Coordinated VA Programme for a further year.*

*11. In addition, £195m will be allocated directly to schools for their own use. This is a much lower rate than previously. The Audit Commission criticised the allocation of large amounts of funding to schools that was not targeted to building need. Therefore, in view of the need to prioritise, I have balanced the bulk of maintenance funding to local authorities, to support local prioritisation and larger projects, with coordinated and efficient procurement".*

In line with the Secretary of State's announcement, the Devolved Formula Capital for schools in 2011-12 has reduced substantially from the allocations in 2010-11. Capital maintenance has slightly increased.

School repairs can also be funded from revenue, and for 2011/12 revenue funding per pupil at local authority level is the same as for 2010/11. Barnet Council welcomes the emphasis on local prioritisation, as do our schools.

**Question 30****Councillor Alison Moore**

What's happened to Leader Listens? The budget is still there, but what is it being spent on?

**Answer by Councillor Lynne Hillan, Leader of the Council**

Proposals for the replacement of Leader Listens are set out in a paper submitted to the Special Committee (Constitution review) by the Conservative Group. This will be considered at their meeting on 14 April 2011. When the budget for Leader Listens was created it was incorporated into the overall budget for Democratic Services. The budget reductions in the Democratic Services budget for 2010/11 and 2011/12 exceed the allocation for Leader Listens. Further reductions in the Democratic Services budget for 2012/13 and 2013/14 were set out in the Financial and Business Planning report approved by the Cabinet on 20 October 2010.

**Supplementary Question 27****Councillor Alison Moore**

Would the Leader listen by confirming or the Deputy Leader the he or she will be supporting the right for backbench Councillors to speak at Council meetings before I get to question 39.

**Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper**

I am slightly mystified by the context of the question but I can assure Councillor Moore that the Leader has been listening and in her absence this evening I am listening on her behalf

**Question 31****Councillor Alison Moore**

Would the Cabinet Member confirm exactly how much money has been lost to the Council as a result of the failure to advertise the correct charges in statutory notices about parking charge increases?

**Answer by Councillor Brian Coleman**

It is estimated that £93,000 of income will not be achieved due to the delay. The service will need to recover this sum through other efficiencies during the coming year.

**Supplementary Question 31****Councillor Alison Moore**

How will this been done if it hasn't been budgeted for?

**Answer by Councillor Brian Coleman**

Watch this space Mr Mayor.

**Question 32****Councillor Kath McGuirk**

Following the government announcement that Barnet will receive around £420,000 towards the pothole fund, will the Cabinet Member confirm that he will reduce the proposed parking charge increases in proportion?

**Answer by Councillor Brian Coleman**

No, because the Government's grant on potholes ( four times greater than that given to us by the last Labour Government) is an entirely separate matter to the need to return the Special Parking Account to the budgeted surplus.

**Supplementary Question 32****Councillor Kath McGuirk**

It's a bit disingenuous don't you think Councillor Coleman when you are not prepared to reduce the proposed parking charges when you made it very clear when you increased the parking charges it was actually to maintain the Borough's roads. Quite rightly many residents in the CPZ were very concerned that they were paying for road resurfacing across the Borough and they were subsidising other Council tax payers, hence why I am presenting a petition tonight from residents of Woodhouse and West Finchley. I would like to know what the extra surplus is - bearing in mind that this account already has a surplus, going to be spent on and who is going to decide where that surplus is paid? Maybe we could actually look at legalised footway parking as we have in Finchley Road and also a road in my Ward.

**Answer by Councillor Brian Coleman**

I would remind Councillor McGuirk that there are any number of things on which any surplus in the parking fund can be spent on; these include highway maintenance, transport for young people with Special Educational Needs and indeed the costs of the Freedom Pass which run through several tens of millions of pounds for the residents of the borough.

**Question 33****Councillor Gill Sargeant**

What facilities will be co-located at Grahame Park library when it is redeveloped?

**Answer by Councillor Robert Rams**

A new library is to be designed and built within the Grahame Park regeneration programme. There is clear demand for a library service which better meets the needs of local communities in Grahame Park. The library strategy consultation (2010) indicated: there is a significant demand for additional public

services or information to be provided through Grahame Park library (96.4% of respondents indicated a desire for these services – well above the borough average); there is a need to improve services for children and young people; and the current site was recognised not able to meet the needs of the community.

We have a long track record in providing additional services through Grahame Park library – from Barnet College ICT sessions, to a new homework club programme. The next stage of consultation asks residents which services they would like provided from Grahame Park library, so that we can investigate options to meet this need.

Over coming months, we will engage with local partners and community groups to assess opportunities to co-locate services in a new, accessible, and well designed Grahame Park library.

**Supplementary Question 33**

**Councillor Gill Sargeant**

I was very pleased to see that the survey showed 96.4% of residents indicated a desire for additional services when there is re-provision for the Grahame Park Library, when there is the regeneration scheme. My question is that I want to ensure given that there will be ten thousand new residents that there will still be provision for use of the level of books in the library as some residents have expressed quite a lot of concern about that.

**Answer by Councillor Robert Rams**

There is a great problem with Grahame Park Library as it is at the moment as many people use it, but not many people actually borrow books from it. The figures quite clearly show that. Part of our strategy to encourage more people to get in there and use books, use the services it provides, is to provide new services within the library as a whole. I have described it in Cabinet as a mini Burnt Oak Library and that is what I hope to achieve in Grahame Park going forward.

**Question 34**

**Councillor Gill Sargeant**

What will be happening to the site allocated to Barnet College on the Colindale hospital site?

**Answer by Councillor Richard Cornelius**

The Council understands that the college still intends to re-locate there.

**Supplementary Question 34**

**Councillor Gill Sargeant**

I just wanted to know because I have had some concerns as we gave approval for the Colindale Hospital site on the undertaking that Barnet College would be building on there. I wanted to know when the last discussions with Fairview and Barnet College about the site as I've had quite a number of disconcerting discussions about the future of Barnet College on this site and I'm not reassured that there will still be provision on this site. When would you be able to report any changes to what has been provided for so far in the development plan.

**Answer by Councillor Richard Cornelius**

I would of course be pleased to speak and indeed consult with the Councillor should I hear of any suggested change of plan.

**Question 35**

**Councillor Gill Sargeant**

What measures will be put in place to improve road safety on Colindeep Lane?

**Answer by Councillor Brian Coleman**

If Ward Councillors feel measures are required it is open to them to propose them within the Council's agreed policy guidelines

**Supplementary Question 35**

**Councillor Gill Sargeant**

Colindeep Lane is as you know, of great concern to Councillors in Colindale and I wanted to know when the Council last undertook a survey of Colindeep Lane and what the results were of that survey.

**Answer by Councillor Brian Coleman**

I will write to the Councillor with that information.

**Question 36****Councillor Ansuya Sodha**

Would the Leader consider setting long service staff awards from 25 years rather than 30 years?

**Answer by Councillor Lynne Hillan, Leader of the Council**

The long service award is a blunt way of recognising employee contribution concerned solely with length of service. We are currently drawing up a scheme that recognises contribution and performance which I feel is much more appropriate in the present climate.

**Question 37****Councillor Geof Cooke**

Following the Council's failure to renew the bond for the pensions of Connaught workers - can the Cabinet Member tell me assure me that bonds covering all other admitted bodies were paid on time?

**Answer by Councillor Daniel Thomas**

A report was submitted to the Pensions Committee on the 21<sup>st</sup> March 2011 which set out the position on bonds for all admitted bodies. It confirmed that bonds were in place for all admitted bodies, with the exceptions of Housing 21, for which the contract is being renegotiated, and Greenwich Leisure, for which bond discussions were ongoing. A bond has now been put in place for Greenwich Leisure, and the Housing 21 contract negotiations are continuing. A report into these issues will be submitted to the Pension Fund committee every quarter to ensure that proper controls remain in place.

**Question 38****Councillor Kath McGuirk**

Will the Cabinet Member be pressing ahead with plans to make pay and display payment totally cashless?

**Answer by Councillor Brian Coleman**

Yes

**Supplementary Question 38****Councillor Kath McGuirk**

It's a very confident yes from Councillor Coleman, but bearing in mind some of his responses to questions tonight about highways and parking in this borough, particularly his response to Councillor Jack Cohen in Question 4, can you really think this can be achieved, is there a timetable and how is this timetable going to proceed?

**Answer by Councillor Brian Coleman**

In the order that Councillor McGuirk asked, yes, yes and I hope by the end of the summer.

**Question 39****Councillor Alison Moore**

Will the Leader confirm that speaking rights for all councillors at Council will be maintained?

**Answer by Councillor Lynne Hillan, Leader of the Council**

No. The Special Committee (Constitution Review) is currently considering council procedure rules on the rights of speakers and we await their recommendations.

**Supplementary Question 39****Councillor Alison Moore**

Can the Deputy Leader tell me whether or not he, or possibly the Leader of the Council, fully support backbencher to speak in this chamber?

**Answer by Mr Deputy Leader**

I am sure there are many opportunities for all Councillors to speak in this chamber if they so wish. In relation to the specifics of the question on the order paper, as Councillor Moore knows, it is really not for either me or the Leader or anybody else to determine these matters, its for the Council and there is a report going to the Special Committee (Constitution Review) on Thursday and I'm sure as a diligent member of that Committee she has already read that report.



**Question 40 Councillor Alison Moore**

Does the Cabinet Member's publicly stated prejudice towards the private sector compromise the integrity of the options appraisal process in the One Barnet programme?

**Answer by Councillor Robert Rams**

No

**Supplementary Question 39**

**Councillor Alison Moore**

Councillor Rams, if you as Cabinet Member and the Leader have a prejudice towards the private sector how on earth can the One Barnet options appraisals that recommend privatisation be considered in any way objective.

**Answer by Councillor Robert Rams**

The business case is objective and I don't believe that your prejudice Councillor Moore against outsourcing affects your ability to scrutinise this project.