

## Minutes

OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF BARNET  
held at The Town Hall, Hendon, NW4, on Tuesday, 13 September 2011.

### PRESENT:

- \*The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Lisa Rutter)
- \*The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Barry Evangelini)

### Councillors:

*Maureen Braun	*Anne Hutton	Kate Salinger BEd (Hons)
*Alex Brodtkin	*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
*Claire Farrier	*Susette Palmer MA	*Joanna Tambourides
*Anthony Finn BSc (Econ), FCA	*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	*Barry Rawlings	*Darrel Yawitch
*John Hart BA MA	*Colin Rogers	*Zakia Zubairi
Lynne Hillan	*Hugh Rayner	
*Ross Houston	*Brian Salinger	

\*denotes Member present

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

The Mayor's Chaplain offered a prayer.

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Lynne Hillan, Sury Khatri, Kate Salinger and Reuben Thompstone.

#### 3. MINUTES (Agenda Item 1.3):

Council noted that a revised version of the minutes of the meeting which took place on 12 July 2011 had been circulated which recorded Councillor Ross Houston's attendance and that the Leader of the Council, Councillor Richard Cornelius, had spoken in tribute of the late Mr Victor Lyon.

**RESOLVED – That the amended minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 12 July 2011 be approved.**

**4. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS (Agenda Item 1.4)**

<b>Member:</b>	<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Interest Declared:</b>
Councillor Lord Palmer	<b>Agenda Item 3.1 (Localism)</b>	Personal but non-prejudicial interest as a Member of the House of Lords who had debated and moved amendments on parts of the Localism Bill
Councillor Brian Coleman	<b>Agenda Item 3.3 (Civil Disorder)</b>	Personal but non-prejudicial interest as the Chairman of the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority

**5. OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS (Agenda Item 1.5):**

The Worshipful Mayor regretted to announce the death of Rabbi Aba Dunner. In 1998, Rabbi Dunner was elected Councillor for the Golders Green Ward which he represented until 2006. Rabbi Dunner served on the Standards Committee, Planning and Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee and also on the Appeals Committee.

Rabbi Dunner was a highly regarded and influential voice in the Jewish community. He worked tirelessly serving all the residents in the Golders Green area and was the winner of the London Borough of Barnet's Civic Awards in 2011 in recognition of his outstanding contribution to Barnet.

At the invitation of the Worshipful Mayor, the Leader of the Council, Councillor Richard Cornelius, Councillor Dean Cohen, Councillor Alison Moore and Councillor Jack Cohen spoke in tribute to Rabbi Aba Dunner.

The Worshipful Mayor also announced the death of Mr Leslie Sussman MBE. In 1968, Mr Sussman was elected as Councillor for the Finchley Ward and remained as a Councillor until his retirement 38 years later.

He served as Mayor in 1984 to 1985. In 1996 he was awarded the MBE by the Queen for his Services to Barnet. In 2006 he was awarded the honour of being made a Freeman of the Borough.

Mr Sussman started in local government in 1961 when he was elected to Hornsey Borough Council and then to the London Borough of Haringey in 1964. He served in the Royal Air Force and was highly regarded and an astute businessman. Mr Sussman also served as District President and Vice-Chairman of the Finchley, Friern Barnet and Golders Green District Scout Council.

At the invitation of the Worshipful Mayor, the Leader of the Council, Councillor Richard Cornelius, Councillor Eva Greenspan, Councillor Alison Moore and Councillor Jack Cohen spoke in tribute to Mr Sussman.

The Worshipful Mayor announced that she had, on behalf of Council, passed on her condolences to Rabbi Mervis at Finchley Synagogue on the loss of his daughter.

The Worshipful Mayor announced that she would be writing on behalf of Council to the family of Alan Young, a Barnet Homes engineer, who lost his life on duty at Graham Park.

The Worshipful Mayor informed Council that she had attended the funeral of Molly Harris, whose dedicated work with the Friends of Barnet Hospital and Barnet libraries will be sadly missed.

The Worshipful Mayor also asked Council to remember the terrorist attacks in the United States 10 years ago. She asked that Council remembered all those who lost their lives, especially those from the Borough of Barnet.

A minute silence was held in remembrance of departed friends and colleagues.

The Worshipful Mayor congratulated Councillor Mark Shooter on the birth of his baby daughter.

The Worshipful Mayor also sent her regards to all those celebrating the religious festivals of Eid, Rosh Hashanah, Sukkot, Diwali and Holy Cross Day.

**6. BUSINESS REMAINING FROM LAST MEETING (Item 1.6)**

None.

**7. 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 in Appendix 1 to these minutes.

**8. EMERGENCY NON-EXECUTIVE BUSINESS ITEM – BARNET’S PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEES**

Councillor Jim Tierney, duly seconded, moved under Council Procedure Rule 14.1 the suspension of Standing Order asking Council to agree to the suspension of Council Procedure Rule 31.1 and accept his Emergency Non-Executive Business Item as a matter of urgency. Upon being put to the vote the motion requesting the suspension of Standing Orders was declared lost.

**RESOLVED – That Council does not agree the suspension of Standing Order to permit consideration of the Emergency Non-Executive Business Item in the name of Councillor Jim Tierney as a matter of urgency.**

**9. ADMINISTRATION BUSINESS ITEM – LOCALISM (Agenda Item 3.1)**

Councillor Daniel Thomas moved the Administration Business Item in his name. Amendments in the name of Councillor Lord Palmer and Councillor Kath McGuirk were moved. Debate ensued. Councillor Thomas proposed an amendment to Councillor Lord Palmer’s amendment to delete the word ‘support’ and replace it with ‘investigate’ and to delete the word ‘change’ and replace with ‘review’. Upon being put to the vote, the amendment in the name of Councillor Lord Palmer, as further amended by Councillor Thomas was declared carried. Upon being put to the vote, the amendment in the name of Councillor Kath McGuirk was declared lost. Upon being put to the vote the substantive Administration Business Item as amended by Councillor Lord Palmer and Councillor Thomas, was declared carried.

**RESOLVED – Council welcomes the Government’s localism agenda and the scrapping of the top-down regime of targets for local government.**

**Council notes that its Corporate Plan has, in the past, been restricted by the previous government's grip on local authorities but we now have an opportunity to make it more relevant to Barnet residents.**

**Council calls upon Cabinet to work with members and residents to review the Corporate Plan and replace it with a plan that better reflects the priorities, aspirations and needs of Barnet.**

**Council further calls upon Cabinet to investigate the proposal in Chapter 3 of the Localism Bill to review its form of governance, at the first opportunity, reverting to the Committee system.**

**10. OPPOSITION BUSINESS ITEM – THE ONE BARNET 'EASY COUNCIL' Programme (Agenda Item 3.2)**

Councillor Barry Rawlings moved the Opposition Business Item in his name. Amendments in the name of Councillor Robert Rams, Councillor Jack Cohen and Councillor Alison Moore were moved. Debate ensued. Upon being put to the vote, the amendment in the name of Councillor Robert Rams was carried. Upon being put to the vote, the amendments in the name of Councillor Jack Cohen was declared lost. 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 substantive Opposition Business Item as amended by Councillor Robert Rams was declared carried.

**RESOLVED – Council notes the progress of the One Barnet Programme and is pleased to note the savings already realised. Council believes that co-operation with other agencies in the Borough is vital.**

**Council calls on Cabinet to ensure that every aspect of operations is reviewed and that the future shape of these services should be shaped by quality of service and efficient use of the council taxpayer's funds.**

**Council notes that in the current financial situation where large savings are required from budgets, because of gross mismanagement of the economy by the previous Labour Government, outsourcing may offer a better solution than drastic cuts in services and staffing levels.**

**Council has no ideological problem with out-sourcing where it can be shown to offer a better alternative.**

*Council noted that the amendment to the Opposition Business Item contained within the Supplemental Report of the Head of Governance should have referred to Councillor Robert Rams, not Councillor Daniel Thomas.*

**10. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING.**

In accordance with the Agenda, the Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8.50pm. The meeting reconvened at 9.05pm.

**11. NON-EXECUTIVE MEMBER BUSINESS ITEM – CIVIL DISORDER (Agenda Item 3.3)**

Councillor Hugh Rayner moved the Non-Executive Business Item in his name. Amendments were moved in the name of Councillor Susette Palmer and Councillor Jack Cohen. The amendment in the name of Councillor Pauline Coakley Webb did not have to be moved as it was submitted in time. Debate ensued. Councillor Rayner proposed an amendment to Councillor Jack Cohen's amendment to replace the word 'delete' with the word 'add'. Upon being put to the vote, the amendment in the name of Councillor Susette Palmer was declared lost. Upon being put to the vote, the amended amendment in the name of Councillor Jack Cohen, as further amended by Councillor Hugh Rayner was declared carried. Upon being put to the vote, the amendment in the name of Councillor Pauline Coakley Webb was declared lost. Upon being put to the vote, the substantive Non-Executive Business Item, as amended by Councillor Jack Cohen and Councillor Hugh Rayner, was declared carried.

**RESOLVED – Council would like to thank several groups for their effort, attitude and commitment in working to protect Barnet during the recent civil disorder:**

**The Metropolitan Police for their courage and resilience in maintaining calm across the Borough. The swift action taken by Barnet Police in tackling flash points in Brent Cross, Chipping Barnet, Edgware, outside Colindale Police Station and Friern Retail Park was decisive in maintaining order.**

**The Barnet Voluntary Youth Group and Faith Group Leaders who attended an emergency meeting at the beginning of the disorder and to all the groups who spread the message to the youth of Barnet, that staying out of trouble and off the streets was the right thing to do. Council is pleased to note the vast majority of its young residents were appalled by these terrible events and stayed off the streets. The feedback meeting at North London Business Park, a week later, was attended by a greater number of Voluntary Sector Leaders and proved extremely productive in ideas and networking.**

**The Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor Lisa Rutter, who was out and about in our town centres, with Councillors, Members of Parliament and Neighbourhood Watch members, reassuring residents and traders in the days after the initial riots and looting that had occurred in other London boroughs. Council would also like to express thanks to our officers who went out on the streets and retail parks to reassure residents and traders.**

**The London Fire Brigade in tackling several car fires in potentially explosive trouble spots. The London Fire Brigade handled fifteen times the normal number of calls during this period.**

**Council thanks Brent Cross Shopping Centre management for hosting two informative feedback sessions between public bodies and Barnet businesses in the week following the disturbances.**

**Council notes that across the borough our partnership working has proved enormously effective.**

**It is the Council's fervent wish that court sentences passed are a punishment to the perpetrators and seen as a deterrent to potential perpetrators of mob violence, arson and looting. Barnet's law abiding**

communities will not tolerate the mindless criminality and violence that threatened to destroy our way of life.

Council notes the swift and decisive action taken by the courts. Council also believes that there should be a proportional tough approach to all kinds of law breaking. Council however believes that there is no single, simple quick fix solution to the recent disorder. Council recognises the vital role it can play by working together with all our residents, in particular our young people, other statutory agencies and the voluntary sector in creating an environment where all of our residents feel valued, where those who are disadvantaged are helped and encouraged to fulfil their potential and where all our citizens feel safe.

Council resolves to continue the constructive work between agencies which took place during the disorders and extends this to include the sections of our community that are often left out in the cold.

**14. NON-EXECUTIVE BUSINESS ITEM – NO CUTS TO POLICE NUMBERS (Agenda Item 3.4)**

The Non-Executive Business Item in the name of Councillor Pauline Coakley Webb was not dealt with by the end of the meeting. An amendment was moved in the name of Councillor David Longstaff. In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 31.5, the item was voted on without discussion. Upon being put to the vote, the amendment in the name of Councillor David Longstaff was declared carried. Upon being put to the vote, the substantive Non-Executive Business Item as amended by Councillor David Longstaff, was declared carried.

**RESOLVED – Following the recent civil unrest that took place over the summer, Council believes that this is the time to be fully supporting police officers.**

**Council Supports and congratulates Boris Johnson on fulfilling his election pledge to increase the number of police officers during his term in office and noting:**

- **Police officer numbers rising to 32,380 in the 2011/12 financial year;**
- **Sensible redeployment of 300 sergeants from London's 630 Safer Neighbourhood Teams, including five in Barnet, for maximum benefit in areas where most needed;**
- **The civilianisation of back office roles through Operation Herald to get police officers out of police stations and patrolling the streets;**
- **That 600 London police sergeants have been involved in a major re-organisation to utilise their skills; and**
- **Increasing the number of special constables from 2,510 in May 2008 to 4,696 in March 2011.**

**15. NON-EXECUTIVE BUSINESS ITEM – IMPACT OF WELFARE REFORMS ON DISABLED CHILDREN (Agenda Item 3.5)**

The Non-Executive Business Item in the name of Councillor Anne Hutton was not dealt with by the end of the meeting. An amendment was moved in the name of Councillor Andrew Harper. In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 31.5, the item was voted on without discussion. Upon being put to the vote, the amendment in the name of Councillor Andrew Harper was declared carried. Upon

being put to the vote, the substantive Non-Executive Business Item, as amended by Councillor Andrew Harper, was declared carried.

**RESOLVED – That Council notes the appalling financial legacy inherited by the Coalition Government when it took office and the consequent need to focus on deficit reduction and lower public expenditure, not least through reforms to social welfare that will bring greater logic whilst protecting those in need.**

**Council therefore welcomes the Government’s intention, as part of its welfare reform programme, to introduce a new benefit, the Personal Independence Payment (PIP), aimed at helping disabled adults and children with the additional cost of disability and daily living, in place of the Disability Living Allowance.**

**Council asks the Cabinet Member to ensure that Barnet’s voice is heard in these deliberations.**

#### **16. NON-EXECUTIVE BUSINESS ITEM – IS (Agenda Item 3.6)**

The non-Executive Business Item in the name of Councillor Alan Schneiderman was not dealt with by the end of the meeting. An amendment was moved in the name of Councillor Daniel Thomas. In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 31.5, the item was voted on without discussion. Upon being put to the vote, the amendment in the name of Councillor Daniel Thomas was declared carried. Upon being put to the vote, the substantive Non-Executive Business Item, as amended by Councillor Daniel Thomas, was declared carried.

**RESOLVED –Council notes the internal management action plan for IS finalised in April, detailing that:**

- **IT infrastructure has reached "end of life", and all risks have been passed back to the council by the private contractor who no longer feel responsible for it;**
- **Front and back office telephony infrastructure has reached "end of life" and is unsupported by the private contractor;**
- **Tablet laptops are reaching "end of life" and are becoming inefficient and slow and without maintenance;**
- **There are continued weaknesses in information, data management and IT security;**
- **There is a lack of understanding of what contracts exist in IT, and IT procurement is ineffective; and**
- **That the IT structure is not fit for purpose.**

**Council is reassured of the existence of an action plan to address these sorts of issues and risks and asks the Cabinet Member to provide Cabinet with an update on how they are being addressed, and to write to all councillors with a copy of this update.**

#### **17. REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE (CONSTITUTION REVIEW) (Agenda Item 4.3.1)**

Councillor Melvin Cohen moved adoption and reception of the report.

**RESOLVED –**

1. That the changes as set out in the matrix and appendices attached to the Report of the Special Committee (Constitution Review) be agreed.
2. That the changes to the Part 3 (Responsibility for Functions) in the Constitution as set out in Enclosure 1 to Appendix B be agreed.
3. That Council delegates authority to the Head of Governance to make minor and non-contentious ‘housekeeping’ changes to the Constitution without the authority of Council.
4. That the Scheme of Members Allowances be removed from the Council’s Constitution, ensuring that the information is publicly available elsewhere, including on the internet.
5. That the Council amends its decision of 17 May 2011 in respect of the Report of Special Committee (Constitution Review), ‘Review of Residents’ Forums and Area Environment Sub-Committees’ to agree that in practice, Area Environment Sub-Committee meetings shall commence at 7.00pm, or on the conclusion of the Residents’ Forum, whichever is later.
6. That the Head of Governance be instructed to make the necessary changes to the Council’s Constitution.

**18. CHANGES TO COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP (Report and Further Supplemental Report of the Head of Governance – Items 4.4.1 and 4.4.9)**

**RESOLVED – that the following changes were approved:**

**Corporate Parenting Advisory Panel**

- Councillor Brian Schama replaces Councillor Tom Davey as a substitute Member of the Panel.

**19. PROPOSED NEW MEETING DATE (Further Supplemental Report of the Head of Governance – Item 4.4.8)**

**RESOLVED – that**

1. Council noted that the Budget Headlines would now be considered at the Cabinet meeting on 3 November 2011.
2. Council approved the proposed new meeting date contained in the table below.

Committee	Date of Meeting	Proposed new date of Meeting	Reason
General Functions Committee	n/a	3/11/11	To allow the General Functions Committee to consider any human resources implications as a result of Cabinet’s intended earlier consideration of the Budget Headlines on 3 November 2011.



**20. CHANGES TO REPRESENTATION OF THE COUNCIL ON OUTSIDE BODIES (Supplemental Report of the Head of Governance – Item 4.4.2)**

**RESOLVED – that Pam Wharfe replaces Stewart Murray as the Council representative on the Mill Hill East Limited Liability Partnership.**

**21. QUESTIONS TO REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES (Agenda Item 4.6)**

**Question from Councillor Barry Rawlings to Councillor Brian Coleman, Representative on the North London Waste Authority**

Despite Councillor Coleman's refusal to answer this question at the last Council meeting – even though the Mayor requested that he did – I would like to give him another opportunity to answer the same legitimate question, which is as follows: The alleged need for a waste treatment plant at Pinkham Way is partly a consequence of Barnet's failure to meet and increase recycling and waste reduction targets. What commitment has the Cabinet Member for Environment, Councillor Brian Coleman, made to the North London Waste Authority to increase recycling and reduce waste in Barnet?

**Response: Councillor Brian Coleman**

Even if our recycling rate doubled, NLWA would still require a waste facility and Barnet would still require a depot.

**Question from Councillor Jim Tierney to Councillor Melvin Cohen, Representative on the Heritage of London Trust**

Would the representative advise if he has had any discussions with Heritage of London Trust about the preservation of Church Farmhouse Museum, and if so what were the outcomes of those discussions?

**Response: Councillor Melvin Cohen**

There have been no discussions.

The meeting finished at 9.40pm

**Council Questions to Cabinet Members  
13 September 2011  
Questions and Responses**

**Question 1**

**Councillor Susette Palmer**

Will the Cabinet Member please tell us which Wards include a residential, non shopping street, CPZ and, in addition, which Wards also include a shopping centre/high street CPZ?

**Answer by Councillor Brian Coleman**

The CPZs which are currently in operation (Chipping Barnet, Brent Cross Station, Cricklewood, Mill Hill, Brent Cross, East Finchley, Golders Green, West Hendon, Hendon, North Finchley, Church End, Temple Fortune, Colindale, Mill Hill East and Edgware) are associated either with a London Underground or National Rail Station, a busy retail area or an area where there are significant parking demands due to local amenities or attractions. All these CPZ include residential and shopping areas.

**Supplementary Question 1**

**Councillor Susette Palmer**

Perhaps you could now explain how short term visitors to residents in CPZs can currently pay by phone? You have told us, Councillor Colman, that they can do that and that for a short stay residents don't have to give visitors the outrageously priced £4 vouchers. Since there are no location numbers in residential CPZs, I would like to know how we can do this?

**Answer by Councillor Brian Coleman**

Signage will go up in the next few weeks.

**Question 2**

**Councillor Brian Gordon**

Could the Cabinet Member please update the Council regarding measures being taken to clarify the position on pavement parking throughout the Borough?

**Answer by Councillor Brian Coleman**

The position regarding footway parking has not changed in that where footway parking contravention takes place, enforcement will be carried out. Although in roads where no Civil Enforcement Officer visits have taken place within the three months prior to a request for enforcement being received, Ward Member views will be sought before enforcement action is carried out.

Footway parking is an offence under Highway legislation.

**Supplementary Question 2**

**Councillor Brian Gordon**

I do appreciate the easing up of enforcement action on pavement parking which many people think is grossly unfair in certain roads, particularly when it's done without warning after long periods of time and suddenly, along come the Civil Enforcement Officers and swoop on people. Would you accept the gratitude of my Ward residents in Selvage Lane, whose recent petition discussed at last night's Residents Forum which I was chairing, that the petition against enforcement action, which I very much supported, has been listened to and their road has now been placed on what they call an exemption list? To the extent of which you are responsible for that Councillor Coleman, thank you very much.

**Answer by Councillor Brian Coleman**

Madam Mayor, this is an issue that lies very much in the remit of individual Ward Councillors to take judgement calls on what level of enforcement they want in their Wards and I congratulate Councillor Brian Gordon for listening to the views of his residents.

**Question 3**

**Councillor Alison Moore**

The external auditors have reported errors in the draft Pension Fund Accounts for 2010/11, and noted that investment transaction data had not been processed within the SAP accounting software

for a period of time – what is being done to ensure that such errors do not arise again, and that all transactions are correctly entered in SAP at all times regardless of staffing issues?

**Answer by Councillor Daniel Thomas**

Since November 2010, all cash balances in the pension fund have been managed directly by the fund managers, when previously a very inefficient process involving daily cash transfers between the Council and the fund managers took place. Since that point, detailed recording of transactions on a line by line basis has not been recorded in SAP, these have been recorded at summary level based on the accounting information provided by fund managers. This recommendation is accepted and full reporting of transactions within SAP will be in place for the 2011/12 accounts.

**Question 4**

**Councillor Susette Palmer**

Surely we should not have to wait until the end of July for our new diaries since the format is roughly the same every year. The Committees get out of date anyway so perhaps we should just put in the Mayors photo and print immediately after Mayor making. Why must it take so long?

**Answer by Councillor Richard Cornelius**

It would have been good to produce the diaries quicker but this year there were difficulties with the production despite constant chasing by officers and Cabinet Members. Much as the Mayor's picture is admired, the main purpose of the diary is to get our schedule of meetings into order. The diary is not easy to compile and this year took four weeks longer than it should have to print and bind. It will be earlier next year.

**Question 5**

**Councillor Brian Gordon**

Can the Cabinet Member update the Council on the number of roads which have been closed or restricted recently in areas such as my own due to gas, electricity or other works involving excavation. Is the Council able to increase its control over the timing of these works and the streamlining thereof between utility companies to keep such closures and restrictions to a minimum? This is certainly the stated wish of the Mayor of London.

**Answer by Councillor Brian Coleman**

Far too many. In the past 12 month period there have been 58 road closures and 552 sites where some form of restriction was necessary in order to accommodate utility company works to be carried out safely. When compared to the total number of work sites during the same 12 month period this equates to 6.28% of all works carried out.

The Authority's Street Works team are entitled by legislation to request full details of a utility company proposed works, including methods of working, timing and traffic/pedestrian management arrangements. We can challenge works durations and propose changes to traffic management arrangements and often do so. We also impose penalty charges on the utility companies when their works overrun the agreed durations. This will be further stepped up in the near future by extending the conditions we attach to Street Works permits and utilising Fixed Penalty Notices to assist in encouraging better management and compliance by the utility companies.

**Supplementary Question 5**

**Councillor Brian Gordon**

I'm very pleased that you've explained the Council's right to challenge inefficient and unreasonable road closures and restrictions. Can I suggest you have a look at the appalling state of road closures around Hale Lane and Edgware at the present time? They have been going on for far too long in my view and they're causing huge inconvenience and disruption to all the people using those roads.

**Answer by Councillor Brian Coleman.**

Indeed Madam Mayor. Quite why utility companies can't use their common sense and do these works in the school holidays, I don't know. Madame Mayor, there is a virtually constant state of war between the officers of this Council and the utility companies over the unnecessary and irresponsible disruption which, in my view, they continue to cause at a number of locations including the one raised by Councillor Gordon.

**Question 6****Councillor Julie Johnson**

There appears to be an increase in fly tipping in West Hendon Ward. Can the Cabinet Member provide details of the amount of dumping in West Hendon and the cost of clearance? How do these figures compare with the overall cost of the now defunct free skip service which was well used by West Hendon residents.

**Answer by Councillor Brian Coleman**

The annual cost of the fly tip removal team is approximately £90K.

The annual cost of the neighbourhood skip service was approximately £238K.

**Question 7****Councillor Brian Gordon**

Could the Cabinet Member please give some brief details of the Council's "planning alerts" service?

**Answer by Councillor Joanna Tambourides**

Planning Alerts are one of a series of web based initiatives which the Council has developed with "MySociety" with the intention of opening up local services and giving residents greater knowledge of proposals to change their environment.

We give residents two options to sign up and use the facility:- by Ward, or by postcode. The latter option allows residents to choose if they want to know about development within 200 yards or 180 metres, about half a mile or 800 metres, and about a mile or 1.6 kilometres. The service is part of a commitment to exploring how we can make the information the council holds more easily available and more relevant to residents. I am pleased to report that to date 745 Barnet residents have signed up for planning alerts. A total of 39,503 alerts, covering 1,148 planning applications, have been sent out as of 6 September 2011.

Members will know that few issues excite local interest as much as planning so I am sure this innovative new service will be welcomed by residents.

**Supplementary Question 7****Councillor Brian Gordon**

Will the planning alert service perhaps help ease the burden on planning officers and enable them to be more efficient and quicker at dealing with planning applications?

**Answer by Councillor Joanna Tambourides**

I don't quite see the relevance of that to the efficiency of the planning department, but I'll write to the Councillor about this.

**Question 8****Councillor Ross Houston**

Has the council written to all residents who were on the open housing register to inform them about the change in housing allocations policy? Where applicable have residents been advised that they have been removed from the housing register and have they been offered housing advice?

**Answer by Councillor Tom Davey**

Letters have not been sent to all those households that were on the Housing Register. Instead, a number of actions were taken to ensure that the closure of the register and the introduction of the new allocations scheme were widely publicised, including:

- An article in the March 2011 edition of Barnet First;
- Article in Barnet Homes' March 2011 edition of "At Home";
- Notices in the Local press as part of Choice Based Lettings adverts throughout February, March and April 2011;
- Direct contact by the Housing Service with existing cases identified as likely to have high priority under the new scheme;
- Barnet Homes wrote to all Council tenants registered for a transfer; and
- Information placed on the Council's and Barnet Homes' web sites and the Home Connections web site.

Housing advice is offered to all members of the public who contact the Housing Service, including those who may have been on the housing register before it was closed.

**Supplementary Question 8**

**Councillor Ross Huston**

Yet, the cross party Scrutiny Panel specifically asked as a matter of common decency that we at least inform all those on the waiting register of the removal. Will the Cabinet Member now do so?

**Answer by Councillor Tom Davey**

No.

**Question 9**

**Councillor Brian Gordon**

Can the Cabinet Member inform the Council what lessons regarding law and order and policing within Barnet were learned from the disgraceful riots that took place around London during August?

**Answer by Councillor David Longstaff**

Fortunately the London Borough of Barnet did not experience the level of disturbance seen in other parts of the Capital and across the country.

The response to the disturbances locally was excellent. Barnet Police were extremely proactive, deploying their resources rapidly so that timely interventions were made at key locations around the Borough.

The Council supported the Police along with other partners as much as possible, for example co-ordinating responses with our CCTV Service.

The Metropolitan Police Service has commenced formal reviews into the disturbances, the results of which will hopefully provide useful lessons for the future.

**Supplementary Question 9**

**Councillor Brian Gordon**

Would you agree that respect for law, discipline and our democratic tradition which is severely lacking in certain areas, although thankfully not so much in Barnet, is something to be deprecated and it is very much up to schools and parents to instil those values and respect for democracy and law and order in their children from the youngest possible age?

**Answer by Councillor David Longstaff**

Madame Mayor, yes I would.

**Question 10**

**Councillor Jill Sargeant**

What youth provision was there on Grahame Park this summer?

**Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper**

The activities offered to young people over the summer on Grahame Park Estate included: football every Wednesday evening, targeted towards young people at risk of or involved in gangs, drugs, and anti-social behaviour; a Community Clear up on 28 July 2011 as part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme; and Urban Gamez, a multi-sports event delivered in partnership with Barnet Homes attended by over 100 young people. A Motor Mechanics course was also held for four days in August in which young people maintained a fleet of dirt bikes before spending a day off-roading.

In partnership with SWITCH (Barnet's mobile skate park), a number of young people involved in gang activity on the Grahame Park estate were supported by a targeted youth worker during the summer and will be offered a preventative programme starting mid-September. Since the riots, regular outreach work has been taking place.

**Supplementary Question 10**

**Councillor Jill Sargeant**

Thank you very much Madame Mayor. Whilst it is important that there are a number of initiatives on Grahame Park Estate, I wanted to know what full time provision was going to be developed on Grahame Park Estate for young people?

**Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper**

There are a range of options there for the Grahame Park Estate and announcements will be made in due course.

**Question 11**

**Councillor Brian Salinger**

Will the Cabinet Member for Children's Services join me in congratulating the Head Teacher and staff at the Pupil Referral Unit (the Pavilion) on the outcome of their recent Ofsted inspection?

**Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper**

The outcome of the Pavilion's recent Ofsted inspection has not yet been formally published by Ofsted and so I am not in a position to comment. Nevertheless, as I'm sure Members will agree, the Pavilion has for a number of years been working successfully with some of our most vulnerable children - those excluded from mainstream schools - and the Head Teacher, Shelley Dannell, and her staff are to be commended for their hard work and dedication.

**Supplementary Question 11**

**Councillor Brian Salinger**

Thank you Madam Mayor. In the section of the Ofsted report headed 'What the school needs to do to improve further' it states as a matter of urgency, ensure that all teaching accommodation is fit for purpose. Can the Cabinet Member please assure me that the inadequacies of accommodation of the Pavilion site in Chandloss Avenue will be addressed with the urgency needed?

**Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper**

Madame Mayor, Councillor Salinger is ahead of me on this because he's had the benefit of seeing the Ofsted report as he is Chairman of the Management Board of the Pupil Referral Unit. Ofsted have not officially published the report. Therefore I and my officers have not seen it and it is not really appropriate for me to comment.

**Question 12**

**Councillor Alan Schneiderman**

How much, if any, of Barnet's £3m reduction in Housing/Council Tax benefit grant from the Department of Work and Pensions has been recovered?

**Answer by Councillor Daniel Thomas**

Each year the Council provides an estimate of the total benefits bill to Department of Work and Pensions so that an estimate of grant payable to the Council can be made. This year, the implementation of our new system has made it more difficult to provide the necessary evidence to the Department of Work and Pensions. We remain confident that this will be resolved, and that the correct level of grant will be paid to the Council by the Department of Work and Pensions.

**Supplementary Question 12**

**Councillor Alan Schneiderman**

Thank you Madam Mayor. Can Councillor Thomas actually answer my question? Have the IT problems been resolved and will the council tax payers be getting back the £3 million that we've lost?

**Answer by Councillor Thomas**

I have been quite clear in my answer and we are quite confident that the level of grant from the Department of Work and Pensions will be forthcoming.

**Question 13**

**Councillor Brian Salinger**

Will the Cabinet Member for Housing tell the Council:-

- a) How many units of nightly purchased accommodation were in use as at 1 August 2011.
- b) How many of those units had been occupied by the same individual or family for:
  1. less than one month
  2. more than 1 month but less than 3 months
  3. more than 3 months but less than 6 months
  4. more than 6 months but less than 9 months
  5. more than 9 months but less than 12 months
  6. more than 12 months.

In the case of those over 12 months will the cabinet member identify each case (suitably anonymised) indicating the date on which the arrangement started.

**Answer by Councillor Tom Davey**

a). There were 213 units of nightly purchased accommodation in occupation as at 31<sup>st</sup> July.

- b).
1. 35 had been occupied for less than one month
  2. 59 occupied for more than one month but less than 3
  3. 50 occupied for more than 3 months but less than 6
  4. 17 occupied for more than 6 months but less than 9
  5. 17 occupied for more than 9 months but less than 12
  6. 35 occupied for more than 12 months

A list detailing dates of occupation for those in residence for more than 12 months is below

08/07/10  
03/06/10  
03/06/10  
27/05/10  
20/05/10  
19/04/10  
26/03/10  
11/02/10  
11/02/10  
11/02/10  
08/02/10  
03/02/10  
13/01/10  
06/01/10  
04/12/09  
04/11/09  
07/09/09  
26/08/09  
21/08/09  
31/07/09  
02/07/09  
09/04/09  
19/02/09  
19/01/09  
07/10/08  
24/09/08  
15/08/08  
13/06/08  
12/05/08  
12/05/08  
03/04/08  
14/06/07  
26/04/07  
12/09/06  
26/07/06

**Supplementary Question 13**

**Councillor Brian Salinger**

Madam Mayor, I'm sure the Cabinet Member will accept from me that nightly purchased accommodation, whilst often necessary to handle emergencies, is the most expensive to the public purse for the form of temporary accommodation that we use. I'm equally sure that he will be as horrified as I am by the numbers of people and families that have been left in such temporary accommodation for lengthy periods, some of them clearly for many years. Will he personally instigate a review of each case where people have been in occupation for more than six months

that are listed in the answer we've been given and will he write to me to let me know what justification is given for each of these cases?

**Answer by Councillor Tom Davey.**

I will be willing to look at everything over 12 months because I think Councillor Salinger has raised a very valid point and I will write to him personally.

**Question 14**

**Councillor Andrew McNeil**

Would the Cabinet Member attend a quick site visit with myself and parents at Martin Primary School in East Finchley who are worried about the many dangers posed by the positioning of recycling bins so near to the School? The pavement is made narrower with the positioning of the bins and at school run times, children and parents often have to step onto the road to navigate around the bins which is clearly very dangerous. While officers have tried to find an alternative location for the bins, so far the bins, and the danger, remain.

**Answer by Councillor Brian Coleman**

Following a conversation with Councillor McNeill, I have instructed that the bins which are ugly and dirty, as well as an obstruction, are removed.

**Supplementary Question 14**

**Councillor Andrew McNeil**

Thank you Madam Mayor. I've already thanked the Cabinet Member for his decisive action which is greatly welcomed by the children who attend Martin Primary School and their parents. Could he now ensure that this site and others in the vicinity are kept clean and free of fly tip rubbish?

**Answer by Councillor Brian Coleman.**

Yes Madam Mayor.

**Question 15**

**Councillor Brian Salinger**

Will the Cabinet Member for the Environment please advise the Council how many premises in each Ward have applied for and been granted temporary street trading licences (otherwise known as the pavement tax) since the introduction of the charge? Will the Cabinet Member advise the Council how much has been paid to the Council for these licences? Will the Cabinet Member tell the Council what enforcement action has been taken against traders who do not apply and the outcome of those actions?

**Answer by Councillor David Longstaff**

Temporary licences are issued for a maximum period of six months at a time in accordance with the legislation (London Local Authorities Act 1990 as amended). Licences cover the periods April – September and October – March.

Some discrepancies with historic data were identified due to the transfer of data to a new IT system and an office move. Caution should therefore be taken with regard to the reliability of the data presented.

Temporary street trading licences granted per financial year since introduction are detailed below;

	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Number of premises licenced	102	98	65	94
Licence fees received	£29,800 (part year only)	£57,400	£39,000	£28,200 (6 months only. October renewals pending)
Enforcement action	Education only	3 FPNs issued	39 FPNs issued	58 warnings 6 FPNs issued

Notes:



- 2008/09 was the year the regime was introduced. An educational approach was taken, informing traders of the policy and application process rather than adopting a formal enforcement approach.
- The introduction of the regime in 2008/09 was incremental across the borough commencing from May 2008. Only 1 temporary licence was issued per premise due to the timing of the implementation programme.
- In 2010/11 Licensing Enforcement Officers were deleted as part of 2010/11 budget efficiencies. The work has now been re-profiled to the Priority Intervention Team but regulatory work during 2010/11 was reduced.

The table below sets out the licences issued per ward for 2011/12 April to October:

2011/12	Tables and Chairs	Displays of Goods	Total
Finchley Church End	3	2	5
West Finchley	7	9	16
Woodhouse	4	2	6
East Barnet	1	0	1
High Barnet	0	0	0
Totteridge	2	0	2
Edgware	3	4	7
Burnt Oak	0	7	7
Hale	0	1	1
Colindale	0	0	0
West Hendon	1	0	1
Hendon	0	4	4
Mill Hill	3	1	4
Golders Green	1	0	1
Childs Hill	12	8	20
Oakleigh	4	0	4
Garden Suburb	3	4	7
East Finchley	1	4	5
Coppetts	0	1	1
Underhill	0	0	0
Brunswick Park	1	1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>94</b>

#### Supplementary Question 15

**Councillor Brian Salinger**

Thank you Madam Mayor. These temporary licenses, or the so called pavement tax licences, were introduced by the Cabinet Member for the Environment who is apparently no longer responsible for this area of what was his portfolio. Will the Cabinet Member agree with me that the licences have made no impact on approving the appearance or use of our town centres which was the supposed justification for introducing them? The fact that they are being largely ignored by shopkeepers has created an uneven playing field where some pay and others get away without paying. It's in the interests of fairness that we either scrap the scheme altogether, or we have to enforce it to make it equitable. Personally I would favour the former and probably argue that those who have paid should get their money back.

***On a point of personal explanation, Councillor Coleman informs Council that the Pavement Tax was introduced by him when he was Cabinet Member for Community Engagement and Community Safety.***

**Answer by Councillor David Longstaff**

Madam Mayor, having just taken over this portfolio, I am currently reviewing the pavement tax as Councillor Salinger suggests. You will be hearing more in the near future. Thank you.

**Question 16**

**Councillor Alison Moore**

How long has the ESIS server been unsupported and, with a failing back-up, by when will the historic children's data that is being held on this server be migrated to a more secure server?

**Answer by Councillor Daniel Thomas**

The ESIS server had various data bases on it that were used for historical data access. All data is now held on a new server and appropriate backups are in place.

The data has been secure for some months as a temporary measure was put in place to ensure the data was safe.

**Question 17**

**Councillor Wendy Prentice**

Does the Leader welcome the grant of £417,000 to Chipping Barnet from the Mayor of London's Outer London Fund? Will he congratulate those involved in the bid and especially thank our London Assembly Member for his behind the scenes lobbying? Does the Leader look forward to future grants from this fund under Boris Johnson's continuing Mayoralty?

**Answer by Councillor Richard Cornelius**

All of the residents and business owners who contributed to and the officers who produced the bid are to be congratulated. The town centre has indeed cause to thank our Assembly Member for his contributions to the successful formulation of this bid and lobbying that gained this money.

We are all disappointed that the other bid we put in for Edgware was not successful, but look forward to working with other town centers to achieve further success.

**Supplementary Question 17**

**Councillor Wendy Prentice.**

Thank you Madam Mayor. Could the Leader please tell me what is happening with these bids?

**Answer by Councillor Richard Cornelius**

Madam Mayor, I'm pleased to tell you that we are working on other bids with communities, community involvement as well as lobbying our Member of the Greater London Authority who is required to extract this money from City Hall and we're working very hard. I was working for three hours with the Edgware Town Centre people and they seem to be moving ahead with their bid, which is excellent news. Thank you.

**Question 18**

**Councillor Zakia Zubairi**

What level of resident complaints / concerns over parking on the Grahame Park estate led to Barnet Homes' CPZ survey, and how much did it cost Barnet Homes to conduct the Grahame Park CPZ survey?

**Answer by Councillor Tom Davey**

The survey was undertaken for a number of reasons:-

- a. a notable increase in parking on the estate particularly near Grahame Park way as a result of the development of Beaufort park which charges for parking and use by staff/ visitors to the police station
- b. an awareness that as the regeneration takes hold there is likely to be a greater increase in traffic on the estate with contractors and their staff
- c. a knowledge the CFGP are looking to implement a CPZ on the new estate after the councils adoption of the new roads
- d. a minor but unquantifiable increase in complaints from residents. The issue was raised by Grahame Park resident at Barnet Homes resident meeting on 31 August 2011.

The survey distributed to all properties on the estate sought residents views on the idea of a CPZ. It also sought information regarding the number of vehicles per household and whether residents wished to rent a garage on the estate.

The survey closed on the 5 August 2011, but due to holidays, forms have continued to be received. As at the 31 August 2011 over 250 surveys have been received, but have yet to be analysed. The level of response and the results will inform whether the scheme is developed any further.

The survey was produced and distributed by Barnet Homes staff from the local housing office at minimal cost.

**Supplementary Question 18**

**Councillor Zakia Zubairi**

Would the Cabinet Member be able to reassure residents that no CPZ will be introduced on Grahame Park, unless the majority of residents respond that they want one?

**Answer by Councillor Tom Davey**

I'm not in any position to make any comments on a CPZ.

**Question 19**

**Councillor John Hart**

Could the Cabinet Member please update me on progress towards self-management of allotments in the Borough?

**Answer by Councillor Brian Coleman**

Eight sites have now agreed to go self management with a lease for a term of 38 years and we have developed an agreed and appropriate model. I shall be bringing these proposals to the Cabinet Resources Committee for ratification in September. The process (although far too long winded) has demonstrated good will and collaborative working to achieve this excellent example of the Big Society. The lease model will then be rolled out to all remaining sites from September to April 2012.

**Supplementary Question 19**

**Councillor John Hart**

I thank the Cabinet Member for his answer. However, for those 40 or so allotment sites in addition to the eight he's spoken about which may not be able or wish to embark on self management, what fate does the Cabinet Member see?

**Answer by Councillor Brian Coleman**

I am delighted by the progress we've made on the self management of allotments. The first eight leases will be signed, subject to a decision from Cabinet Resources Committee, later this month. By the end of April, I envisage all remaining sites will have gone for self management. For those sites in a weaker state because they don't have a functioning Committee or are not able, they will be either grouped together, or they will be twinned with stronger sites to have ownership or some kind of joint management. So I am confident that by the end of the year, all allotment sites in this Borough will be self managed which will be in the interest of the allotment holders as well as the Council tax payers of the Borough.

**Question 20**

**Councillor Barry Rawlings**

Regarding the closure of Hampstead Garden Suburb Library and the relocation of some of those Library services to the Hampstead Institute: Why did the Cabinet Member report to the last Cabinet meeting that the Council had had "very positive conversations" with the Hampstead Institute, and that they were "very keen for it to happen" when the Institute have clearly decided that this was "not a satisfactory solution"?

**Answer by Councillor Robert Rams**

The Council had indeed had very positive conversations with the Hampstead Institute. The circumstances for the Institute have now changed and I look forward to hearing their conclusions in due course. In the meantime, I am pleased that a number of Hampstead Garden Suburb residents have been working with officers to develop community proposals for library services in the area.

**Question 21****Councillor Graham Old**

Would the Cabinet Member report on the enforcement of parking restrictions around schools in Barnet and will he outline plans for the Autumn term?

**Answer by Councillor Brian Coleman**

Whilst enforcement around schools has always been undertaken, I instructed that this was to be stepped up in May 2011 as part of this Administration's policy of encouraging children to walk to school and ensuring it is safe to do so.

In support of a publicity campaign to highlight this issue a press release was issued on 7 June in which I made it clear that dangerous or irresponsible parking around schools would not be tolerated and penalty notices would be issued without warning. This campaign is about to be repeated at the start of the new school year.

In terms of enforcement at school gates, between 9 May and 22 July a total of 727 visits were made to 31 schools resulting in the issue of 187 Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs). The schools with the highest number of PCNs were:

St Mary's NW4	19 PCNs
Rosh Pinah HA8	17 PCNs
Fairway NW7	16 PCNs
Bell Lane NW4	14 PCNs
Danegrove NW4	14 PCNs
Deansbrook NW7	10 PCNs
Wessex Gardens NW11	10 PCNs
Menorah Gardens HA8	10 PCNs

Securing compliance with parking controls will continue to be a priority throughout the coming school year and action will be taken to deal with inconsiderate drivers on the school run who cause danger and inconvenience for both residents and pupils at our schools. A rolling programme will be established of attendance outside schools (including private schools) by Civil Enforcement Officers and it is envisaged that this will operate on every school day with 50 schools being visited each week.

**Supplemental Question 21****Councillor Graham Old**

Thank you Madam Mayor. I would like to thank the Cabinet Member for his detailed answer to the question but I just want to ask what advice he has for those who might be tempted to flout the parking regulations around our schools.

**Answer by Councillor Brian Coleman**

Madam Mayor, there is clear advice from me and I'm sure all Members of this Council to any parents who may be tempted to drop their little darlings from the four by fours in restricted areas, don't do it, you will be ticketed, you are putting the lives of our school children at risk by flouting parking regulations surrounding our schools.

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

Since the start of the 2011/12 financial year, what level of savings have been achieved by the easyCouncil/One Barnet programme and what level of implementation costs have been incurred?

**Answer by Councillor Daniel Thomas**

Planned One Barnet savings are £4.682m for 2011/12, £4.131m for 2012/13 and £3.326m for 2013/14 as set out in the Medium Term Financial Strategy. These are ongoing, year on year, savings to the Council's base budget.

The total projected cost of the One Barnet programme for 2011/12 is £4.9m, this is a one off cost. As at the end of August, the spend to date for 2011/12 is £1.6m. The total budget for the programme remains at £9.2m.

The latest monitoring position shows that the Council is not overspending in 2011/12 and that savings have been implemented. The Quarter 1 monitoring report (to Cabinet Resources Committee) will show that of the total £29.1m savings that needed to be delivered, £1.4m are considered "high risk", but they are not One Barnet savings. In the context of the recent spending review and cuts to government grant, this is a very strong financial position to be in.

**Supplemental Question 22**

**Councillor Alan Schneiderman**

Thank you Madam Mayor. My question about what level of savings have been achieved and what level of implementation costs have been occurred. As usual with Easy Council, we've got the details of the cost, but no details of any actual savings as there's no figure for savings there. Will the savings on Easy Council ever exceed the costs?

**Answer by Councillor Daniel Thomas**

Madam Mayor, yes they will. There is £1.4 million pounds of savings this year and we're on track to hit that and the bigger savings that come next year and the year after. We will hit our savings plan.

**Question 23**

**Councillor Joan Scannell**

Can the Cabinet Member please tell me how many Barnet schools have achieved Academy status, and are there more in the pipeline?

**Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper**

10 Barnet schools have successfully converted to Academy status (nine secondary schools and one primary). This is in addition to our two pre-existing academies - The Wren Academy and The London Academy. A further three secondary schools have received Academy Orders and are in the process of converting. The council continues to be supportive of Barnet schools that wish to convert to Academy status and welcomes their inclusion in our wider schools partnership, helping to ensure that every school is a good school for every child.

**Question 24**

**Councillor Charlie O-Macauley**

What is being done to tackle the fear of crime in Burnt Oak ward?

**Answer by Councillor David Longstaff**

Resident Perception Surveys performed in 2011 have highlighted that fear of crime within Burnt Oak ward is higher than any other ward in the borough (80% worried about being a victim of crime as opposed to an average of 65% across the borough, and 33.6% of residents feel unsafe at night as opposed to an average of 17.8% across the borough).

Some recent incidents have undoubtedly added to community concern within the area and the Police have instigated a reassurance programme, engaging with local residents and businesses, which the council's Priority Intervention Team are supporting.

A Multi-Agency Action Plan has been developed by the council's Priority Intervention Team officers in conjunction with the Safer Neighbourhoods Team for the Burnt Oak Town Centre which will focus upon issues related to street drinking and environmental improvements.

**Supplementary Question 24**

**Councillor Charlie O-Macauley**

Thank you Madam Mayor. We've heard from the Cabinet Member about security problems for the Burnt Oak Ward. Could he elaborate more on what he means about the Multi-Agency Action Plan and also assure us that he will listen to Councillors in that Ward about drinking problems?

**Answer by Councillor David Longstaff**

If the Councillor would like to write to me, I will investigate Burnt Oak further, but I can't give any further information on what the Police are doing in Burnt Oak at this minute.

**Question 25****Councillor Daniel Seal**

Will the Cabinet member advise what progress is being made with the monitoring of contracts?

**Answer by Councillor Daniel Thomas**

Excellent progress has been made as highlighted in a report to the Audit Committee this month.

**Supplemental Question 25****Councillor Daniel Seal**

Thank you Madam Mayor. I'm pleased to see that 80% of spending is compliant. Will the Cabinet Member inform us how this compares with the rest of London?

**Answer by Councillor Daniel Thomas**

Madam Mayor, it's interesting that this review of complied contract spend and Cllr Seal is correct in reminding us that 80 percent of spending is compliant compared to 63 percent across London. So yet again this is an example of this borough being a high performing Council.

**Question 26****Councillor Geof Cooke**

- a. How many houses and flats are owned and managed by the Council (as opposed to Barnet Homes)?
- b. Of those, how many are currently unoccupied?
- c. How long has each of those been unoccupied?

**Answer by Councillor Tom Davey**

- a. There are a total of 97 units of accommodation that are owned and directly managed by the Council. The majority of units are self-contained and classified as temporary accommodation hostels.
- b) & c) There are currently 17 void units. The three long-term voids are undergoing major works as a result of long-term inherent defects.

- 3 void from 29/08/11 (3 days)
- 4 void from 22/08/11 (10 days)
- 1 void from 15/08/11 (17 days)
- 5 void from 08/08/11 (24 days)
- 1 void from 25/07/11 (38 days)
- 1 void from 18/07/11 (45 days)
- 1 void from 27/12/10 (248 days)
- 1 void from 24/05/10 (465 days)
- 1 void from 29/03/10 (521 days)

**Supplemental Question 26****Councillor Geof Cooke**

The void rate of 17 units is nothing to be proud of. Do these figures include Park Lodge in Oak Hill Park which has been boarded up for ages with no sign of any work taking place or any fault with the property?

**Answer by Councillor Tom Davey**

I'm not sure of the specific addresses of these properties, but I can get officers to look into it and we can write back to Councillor Cooke.

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

According to an internal IS Action Plan, an external IS contractor has passed all risks back to the council for maintaining the council's IT infrastructure. What is being done to ensure that risk is properly transferred to private sector contractors who take over any council services?

**Answer by Councillor Daniel Thomas**

In the last budget you will see the council has made provision to invest £1m per year for 3 years to refresh the councils Infrastructure. As part of the NS/CSO procurement dialogue with private sector partners, we will explore all possible options for providing the infrastructure solution.

**Supplemental Question 27****Councillor Alison Moore**

That was not an answer to the question so I'll repeat it. What is being done to ensure that the risk is properly transferred to private sector contractors who take over any Council services?

**Answer by Councillor Daniel Thomas**

Madam Mayor, in this instance it was part of the contractual arrangements that risk gets passed back to the Council and actually this contractor has not done anything wrong in what they've done. The infrastructure has come to the end of its life and we then take on the risk. We've dealt with that risk and at no time has the data been in danger of being lost, so I'd just like to clarify that point and I hope that answers Cllr Moore's question. Thank you.

**Question 28****Councillor Alex Brodtkin**

What direct role does Barnet Council have in the ongoing discussions about the future of Northgate Clinic and Northgate School?

**Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper**

A consultation on the future of Northgate Clinic is being led by the North Central London Health Service. This process continues and Barnet Council leads have encouraged input to the consultation locally. Service leads across Barnet, Haringey and Enfield continue to discuss the process for developing a community-based mental health intervention model.

Northgate School Pupil Referral Unit has recently completed an Ofsted inspection and has been judged as outstanding. The decision on Northgate Clinic may impact on the usage of the Northgate School Pupil Referral Unit and discussions are ongoing.

The consultation was presented to the joint cross-borough Overview and Scrutiny Committee for Health in July where a request was made for additional consultation and information regarding the education of pupils receiving mental health interventions. This will be presented to the Committee on 19 September 2011 and to Barnet Council's Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 20 September 2011.

**Question 29****Councillor Pauline Coakley Webb**

Has council secured an agreement with artsdepot to move Friern Barnet Library and North Finchley Library to this location? If so, what are the terms of the agreement?

**Answer by Councillor Robert Rams**

Officers have been working with colleagues at the artsdepot for several months. Now that Cabinet has approved the Library Strategy, a project team has been put in place, jointly overseen and sponsored by a Council Assistant Director and the artsdepot Chief Executive. This stage of the project will provide a comprehensive proposal for an integrated facility, including architectural designs and management arrangements, to be considered by Cabinet Resources Committee and the artsdepot Board.

**Supplemental Question 29****Councillor Pauline Coakley Webb**

Thank you Madam Mayor. I'd really like a clear answer to the question I have asked and just to reiterate, the idea of what I was asking was to do with an agreement with artsdepot and to find out if this agreement had actually been arrived at. So I really want to find out whether or not artsdepot have agreed that we can use their premises to house a library. One way or the other, have they or haven't they. And if they have, what are the terms of the agreement please?

**Answer by Councillor Robert Rams**

We've had a number of meetings with the Artsdepot and we're in a continued discussion with them. We've set up a Board, as I said in my answer, to take things forward and work up an agreement, to take the rules of engagement forward so that we can work together to build one of the best libraries in London.

**Question 30****Councillor Andrew McNeil**

What is the estimated annual value of the contribution made by carers in Barnet?

**Answer by Councillor Sachin Rajput**

Nationally, it is estimated that the average carer contributes the equivalent of £15,000 per year of social care services. In Barnet, with an estimated 28,000 carers, that means an annual contribution of over £420 million.

Source: Inter-agency Carers Strategy, Barnet, 2009-2012

*NB This figure is calculated on certain historical assumptions about the relationship between the citizen and the state and expressed in terms of replacement factor of carers input if commissioned by the state without modification resulting from a range of other interventions which would require further research and actuarial type analysis.*

**Question 31****Councillor Geoff Johnson**

At a recent Hendon Environment Sub-Committee, the Chairman requested a parking review on pavement parking because there was no uniformity or continuity in Barnet on this issue. Some areas were allowed to park, others, including narrow streets in Colindale, were prohibited and issued with Penalty Charge Notices. Can the Cabinet Member advise if any decision has been made on this matter?

**Answer by Councillor Brian Coleman**

This issue was raised for discussion as a Members Item at the Hendon Area Environment Sub-Committee and a more detailed response is being prepared for the September meeting of that Committee. The position is that footway parking in these roads is not allowed and this offence will continue to be enforced. The council have not got the resources to carry out a parking review and the Hendon Area Environment Committee does not have the power to change highways legislation.

**Supplemental Question 31****Councillor Geoff Johnson**

Thank you Madam Mayor. I'd like to thank Councillor Coleman for his reply, but I did know that it was raised as a Member's Item as I was the Member who raised it. At last night's Hendon Area Environment Sub-Committee, a Cabinet Member who is also on the Committee stated that a review would not be placed until the new parking contract is completed next March. Can you tell me which version is correct?

**Answer by Councillor Brian Coleman**

Madam Mayor, there are no plans for parking reviews.

**Question 32****Councillor Ansuya Sodha**

Why are people being allowed to park their entire vehicle on the pavement outside the Magistrates Courts in Hendon whilst other residents are being issued with Penalty Charge Notices for only part-parking on the pavement in areas where it has been allowed for years due to the inability of cars to pass on narrow roads?

**Answer by Councillor Brian Coleman**

Officers from the Parking Service identified footway parking at this location as an issue and commenced the process of introducing enforcement, going so far as to issue warning notices. This action did not, however, receive the support of Ward Members and the activity was discontinued. If Councillor Sodha wishes to change her mind, perhaps she would let officers know.

**Question 33****Councillor Barry Rawlings**

What is the expected impact on Barnet's social care of the cuts planned in health?

**Answer by Councillor Sachin Rajput**

The NHS seeks to reduce costs through its Quality, Innovation, Productivity and Prevention (QIPP) Plan. This will include reducing admissions and discharging earlier where clinically safe to do so. In turn, this could increase the need for services such as enablement, telecare and homecare as people previously receiving activities of daily living support in hospital will instead receive them from social services in their own home. The impact of changes in health on social care has been recognised and the Council received £3.9m from the NHS in 2011/12 to enhance and develop



social care services that also support health. A further tranche of funding will be received in 2012/13 and is expected to be £3.7m

A high level plan was agreed by the Cabinet Resources Committee in February 2011 for this funding and a programme of work is underway in collaboration with health colleagues to implement this plan. The planned initiatives are intended to support both the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy and the NHS QIPP and business cases are being developed as invest to save plans to ensure sustainability of any new interventions. This joint approach to use of these funds is a requirement of the allocation, but also recognises that cuts in social care may also impact on health services. The Council is pursuing a system-wide approach to ensure robust management of financial and care risks locally through the Health and Well-Being Board.

**Supplemental Question 33**

**Councillor Barry Rawlings**

I do understand what the Cabinet Member is saying, but it seems to me that the figures he gives, £3.9 and £3.7 coming from the NHS What I'm asking is does it cover the amount being spent? Though he mentioned it came from the NHS, he and I know that that money was meant to be coming for social care. They got the inflation figures wrong. There were going to be cuts in the overall figure for the NHS so the government gave money from the NHS to Local Authorities to disguise the fact that they were actually cutting the health service as well. The question is, is that enough to cover the impact of health on social care in Barnet?

**Answer by Councillor Sachin Rajput**

Madam Mayor we have assessed the information as we know it at present. We will of course monitor the situation as we go forward but we are trying as hard as we can to work with the National Health Service to achieve joint aims.

**Question 34**

**Councillor Julie Johnson**

When is the river bank adjacent to the new marketing suite in Cool Oak Lane going to be replanted? The agreement with the developers I understand was to provide appropriate planting suitable for water birds. However this has not happened.

**Answer by Councillor Joanna Tambourides**

The planting concerned is required as part of the temporary four year consent given for the erection of a compound containing single storey buildings for use as a marketing suite and site office, associated with the early phases of the regeneration of the West Hendon Estate.

The Landscaping Plan agreed with officers includes a strip of planting along the waters edge varying between three and seven meters in width intended to improve the ecological value around the margins of the Welsh Harp, a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), with a particular focus on securing benefits for waterbirds as indicated.

Condition 15 attached to the application requires that all work comprised in the approved landscaping scheme is carried out before the end of the first planting and seeding season following the commencement of the use. The first planting season will end in March 2012.

Planting along the water's edge includes Yellow Iris, Water Plantin, Flowering Rush, Lesser Pond-sedge and a variety of other appropriate native plants to the satisfaction of Natural England. Officers are monitoring matters closely and liaising with the developer partner to ensure that the area is appropriately planted in season and achieves the desired ecological improvements, eventually forming an important part of the natural buffer to the SSSI following the removal of the temporary compound.

**Supplementary Question 34**

**Councillor Julie Johnson**

Thank you Madam Mayor. Thank you to Councillor Joanna Tambourides for her comprehensive answer. Could I request that the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee be informed of both the exact planting dates and details of the other variety of plants when known?

**Answer by Councillor Joanna Tambourides**

If Councillor Johnson writes to me, I will respond to her in detail.

**Question 35****Councillor Alan Schneiderman**

What progress has been made in implementing the £110,000 cut to Risk Management set out in this year's budget, described as 'restructuring and consideration of alternative delivery options'?

**Answer by Councillor Daniel Thomas**

A risk officer post has been held vacant as capacity has been built up with risk champions across the Council. The risk management system, JCAD, has been embedded further within the council and senior management has had targeted support given to build up capability at a senior level. Further improvements have been made to the reporting of risks to ensure greater scrutiny and challenge of risks. Risk management support has been built into the re-tendered contract with PwC. This has also meant that the pressure of the Risk Manager post has not been required. Within Finance, there is floating CIPFA student resource who have been assisting in risk management activity. The council has also used e-learning packages for risk management training. A restructure is currently taking place to realign further risk management capability within Internal Audit and Risk Management. The Internal Audit and Risk Management budget is being managed within the Finance budget and collectively the budget is being achieved.

**Question 36****Councillor Alison Moore**

Would the Cabinet Member provide an update on how the Customer Services Transformation project is progressing?

**Answer by Councillor Robert Rams**

There are several elements to the Customer Services Transformation Programme. The first phase of customer service consolidation was completed in April this year. Recently completed elements of the programme are:

- Consolidation of the Assisted Travel Service into Customer Services
- Completion of review and mapping of customer processes in all Development & Regulatory Services, Environment, Housing, Registrars and Corporate Governance services, in advance of consolidation into Customer Services.
- Launch of the Govmetric customer satisfaction measurement tool to provide rich insight data for all Council services

By the end of September, projects to transform contact centre operations, parking customer services and the assisted travel service will be underway.

By mid-October, customer processes in all remaining Council services, including Adults' and Children's Services, will have been mapped and transformation plans put in place.

I expect all services to have been mapped, reviewed and appropriate action to have been taken by the time we reach the conclusion of procurement of a new customer service partner.

**Question 37****Councillor Julie Johnson**

The former garden nursery in Cool Oak Lane is being used by the owner to manufacture low grade compost / aggregate. I understand an enforcement notice has been issued by Barnet Council because this practice is in breach of planning laws on this site. As a result there are now several large slag heaps on this land. I am informed it will take a minimum of three months before this situation is resolved, longer if an appeal is lodged. Should a risk assessment be undertaken to ensure these large heaps are safe from collapse which could cause damage to the nearby SSSI?

**Answer by Councillor Joanna Tambourides**

An enforcement notice has been served against the use of the former nursery garden site for "the mixing/processing of soil including the industrial grading of reclaimed building material and soil with storage and deliveries of the same".

The notice requires the unauthorised use to cease and the land to be restored back to its state prior to the breach of planning control. Officers have recently been advised that an appeal against this notice has been made to the Planning Inspectorate and a decision on this appeal will take at least four months.

Officers have visited the site and seen the large heaps of earth and do not currently consider these to be at risk of collapse.

In the event the heaps of earth represent a dangerous occurrence, the council does not have powers to deal with this type of situation; the authority resting with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) who have been notified of the situation.

If persons do believe that the heaps of earth may pose a danger, then they should contact the HSE direct. The following link gives details on how to report dangerous occurrences:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/contact/index.htm>

**Question 38**

**Councillor Charlie O-Macauley**

How many evictions from private sector rented properties in which tenants were council nominees have there been in the last twelve months, and what resource impact is this having (if any) on the council in terms of homelessness acceptances and the cost of temporary accommodation?

**Answer by Councillor Tom Davey**

We are not required to report on the number of evictions from private sector properties where tenants were council nominees and no decision has been taken locally to identify these cases. We are required only to report on the total number of evictions from private sector properties for our P1e returns to Government. In the last four quarter periods (01/07/10 – 30/06/11) there have been 95 homeless acceptances (38%) as a result of evictions from private sector properties. In the same period, there were 248 homeless acceptances in total.

Overall, there has been a slight increase from the same period in the preceding year (01/07/09 – 30/06/10); there were 68 homeless acceptances (29%) as a result of evictions from private sector properties from a total of 234.

Despite an increase in demand, the cost of temporary accommodation has reduced in the same period. The council re-structured its private sector leasing scheme and reduced the costs of nightly purchased accommodation. Both forms of privately sourced temporary accommodation now fully cover costs and make minor surpluses for the council.

**Supplementary Question 38**

**Councillor Charlie O-Macauley**

Thank you Madam Mayor. The answers are very complete from the Cabinet Member. In spite of that, private rented sector capacity is shrinking and homeless acceptances are increasing and set to increase further. Has the Council assessed how much more this will cost over the next year and following years? Thank you very much.

**Answer by Councillor Tom Davey**

Councillor O-Macauley is very accurate in talking about the pressures we're facing and we are reviewing costs and expected costs on an ongoing basis.

**Question 39**

**Councillor Alison Moore**

Would the Cabinet Member advise the number of enquiries the council has received from residents regarding benefits advice for the last three years and the number of housing benefit claimants there were for the last three years?

**Answer by Councillor Daniel Thomas**

Benefits receive in excess of 450,000 contacts from the public each year broken down roughly as follows: 280,000 (written correspondence or email), 140,000 phone calls and 30,000 face to face.

The number of claimants continues to increase, the July snap shots of cases in payment since the credit crunch are as follows:

July 2011: 33,742  
July 2010: 32,332  
July 2009: 30,413  
July 2008: 27,547

**Question 40**

**Councillor Julie Johnson**

Can the Cabinet Member for Regeneration elaborate on what housing arrangements will be offered to adult children on West Hendon Estate when their parents are rehoused under the current regeneration of this estate?

**Answer by Councillor Richard Cornelius**

Adult children can apply for their own property but there is no guarantee that they will be accommodated. Social housing is allocated to those who will most benefit from it and need it. It is unacceptable for people to be trapped in generational and indeed institutional poverty. The aspiration must be that adult children will get a job and house themselves rather than be dependant on the state.

**Supplementary Question 40**

**Councillor Julie Johnson**

Thank you for your answer Councillor Cornelius. However, this seems to conflict with the response from the Metropolitan Housing Trust at the Ward Councillors last regeneration meeting. We were told, and I quote, 'tenants would be on a like-for-like, even if that meant unoccupied bedrooms'.

**Answer by Councillor Richard Cornelius**

I'm not sure where the question is there, but discussions are ongoing with Barrett Metropolitan. As the Member is aware, we both attended a very unsatisfactory meeting there and discussions are ongoing.

**Question 41**

**Councillor Pauline Coakley Webb**

Given the recent unrest, does the Cabinet Member think that this is the time to be cutting police numbers?

**Answer by Councillor David Longstaff**

Regardless of the recent mob violence, arson and looting, I would like to state, unequivocally, that police numbers are rising.

The Metropolitan Police Authority figures show that, when Boris Johnson entered office in May 2008, police officer numbers stood at 31,398 for the 2007/08 financial year.

The approximate number of officers expected for the 2011/12 financial year will rise to 32,380.

Compared to his inheritance of 31,398, this would mean police officer numbers will have increased by 1,112 during Boris Johnson's term of office.

**Supplementary Question 41**

**Councillor Pauline Coakley Webb**

The Independent Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary have said that 1,907 police will be cut by 2015. The Metropolitan Police as a whole had 33,144 Officers as of May 2010, but by August 2011 this had fallen to 31,830, an actual cut of 1,314 in Barnet. There were 595 Police Officers and 177 Police Community Support Officers on the 1 of May 2010. Now there are 569 Police Officers and 143 Police Community Support Officers, a fall of 26 Police Officers and 34 Police Community Support Officers, meaning 60 fewer pairs of eyes and ears on the street. The police are being cut and that is not what Councillor Longstaff is saying in his answer. The question is, does Councillor Longstaff agree with the figures I've just quoted?

**Answer by Councillor David Longstaff**

Madam Mayor, the question was are police numbers being cut and as the Metropolitan Police are recruiting at the moment, I would say that numbers are definitely rising. As for whether the figures are correct then, no, I disagree.

**Question 42****Councillor Geof Cooke**

Is aborting well-advanced viable projects and writing off the money already spent on them part of the Council's Financial Strategy?

**Answer by Councillor Daniel Thomas**

No, this isn't the Council's strategy.

**Supplementary Question 42****Councillor Geof Cooke**

Why then was Councillor Brian Coleman allowed to write off £6,000 already spent in design of consultation costs for a much needed bus stop in Summers Lane, North Finchley, near Sunny Way.

**Answer by Councillor Daniel Thomas**

Madam Mayor, I can't answer on behalf of Councillor Coleman, but of course Councillor Coleman can write to Councillor Cooke.

**Question 43****Councillor Barry Rawlings**

Would the Cabinet Member confirm if the council has received any expressions of interest to transfer Friern Barnet Library to a community group under the Community Asset Transfer legislation and if so, how this expression of interest will be dealt with by the council?

**Answer by Councillor Robert Rams**

The council has received a preliminary draft of a proposal for a 'Community Hub' in Friern Barnet. This has been shared with officers from Finance, Legal, Property and Planning services for initial consideration.

**Supplementary Question 43****Councillor Barry Rawlings**

Thank you. Again, it's one of these strange ones where the answers have obviously got nothing to do with the question. The question was about Community Asset Transfer, completely different to a Community Hub as it's a different option. I've heard that applications have gone in asking for advice on Community Asset Transfer. I'm sure the Cabinet Member doesn't want to be seen to determining the answer before he's looked at all the options. Could he provide advice and guidance to the people against the closure on Community Asset Transfer?

**Answer by Councillor Robert Rams**

Madam Mayor, I believe that information has already been given. I've instructed my officers to do so again when we were in front of the Scrutiny Committee last week. The only offer I've actually seen myself, Madam Mayor, was for us to give campaigners a brown field site so they could then sell that brown field site and buy the library off us. We won't be going down that route.

**Question 44****Councillor Charlie O-Macauley**

Now that the council is aware that there is a brothel in Watling Avenue in Burnt Oak, what steps are being taken to deal with this and in future discourage this sort of business setting up in the area?

**Answer by Councillor David Longstaff**

The brothel identified in Watling Avenue has been closed. The Serious Crime Division are still investigating the incident at the brothel and arrests have been made and one person charged with murder.

The issue of tackling brothels has now become a standing agenda item at the fortnightly Police/Borough tasking meetings. Currently, Safer Neighbourhood Teams are identifying all suspected brothels within their areas informed by relevant intelligence from other agencies, partners, businesses and residents.

Once intelligence has been gathered, an action plan to tackle the problem will be implemented. Such action will take a multi agency approach and adopt the use of a range of relevant powers including the use of brothel closure orders.

Tackling prostitution is a complex issue and is seen as a high crime generator having links to organised crime, immigration, serious violence and trafficking.

A holistic approach is required to change the behaviour of those that pay for sex as well as provide support to those who provide sex services to change their lifestyles, as they can be extremely vulnerable, for example with drug and alcohol dependency issues.

**Supplemental Question 44**

**Councillor Charlie O-Macauley**

Thank you very much Madam Mayor. I would like the Cabinet Member (and I thank him very much) to assure me and the people of Burnt Oak that such information received will be acted on quickly and spontaneously.

**Answer by Councillor David Longstaff**

Madam Mayor, the Police are currently carrying out a full review of the Borough to see where there are brothels and will take action accordingly when identified and I know one would hope they would do that all the time. Thank you.

**Question 45**

**Councillor Gill Sargeant**

Would the Cabinet Member comment on the cost of parking in Beaufort Park?

**Answer by Councillor Joanna Tambourides**

The parking charges were agreed as part of the Beaufort Park outline planning consent granted in April 2005 to deliver and manage appropriate and sustainable parking levels in this regeneration area. The charges are based on the council's Parking Permit Charge which is reviewed annually and included in the lease arrangements associated with the affordable accommodation provided.

**Supplemental Question 45**

**Councillor Gill Sargeant**

Thank you. I've had a number of representations from residents in both Beaufort Park because they've said that the cost of parking would be £200. Could the Cabinet Member explain what would be the cost of parking in Beaufort Park?

**Answer by Councillor Joanna Tambourides**

I will write to Councillor Sargeant with full information.

**Question 46**

**Councillor Alan Schneiderman**

Given that the consultation for the Edgware and North Finchley Town Centre Strategies was undertaken in February and March 2010, why have the Strategies still not been published?

**Answer by Councillor Richard Cornelius**

The consultation in February/March 2010 which Councillor Schneiderman is referring to was the consultation undertaken on the draft Finchley Church End Town Centre Strategy. There has not been any public consultation to date on the Edgware Town Centre Strategy.

North Finchley Town Centre is considered to be doing better than some other town centres in the borough and work has been directed at other town centres. A bid for funding from the Mayor's Outer London Fund is being prepared to enhance the public realm in the town centre.

It is anticipated that draft strategies for Finchley Church End and Edgware will be taken forward for public consultation later this year.

**Supplemental Question 46**

**Councillor Alan Schneiderman**

Thank you Madam Mayor. Since I've been a Councillor, I've been to at least two consultations on the North Finchley Town Centre Strategy. Will we ever really see any action or is this just another consultation?

**Answer by Councillor Richard Cornelius**

I believe we will.

**Question 47****Councillor Alex Brodkin**

Schools in Burnt Oak such as Barnfield, Goldbeaters and The Annunciation are not alone in experiencing the problem each school day morning of children having to walk on the road because of the number of parents' cars which have been parked on the nearby pavements. What practical steps is the Council taking to assist these schools in dealing with this issue?

**Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper**

Head Teachers and Governing Bodies are well aware of the need to plan for access to their schools and to manage the impact of pupils and carers on the local community, particularly that caused by those who are dropped off in cars. The Council has previously mounted a publicity campaign throughout the borough, aimed at this set of drivers, drawing attention to the negative impact of the actions of an inconsiderate minority. It also has a rolling programme of enforcing the restrictions around schools, with Civil Enforcement Officers attending locations across the borough on every school day, visiting a total of 50 schools every week to secure compliance with the regulations.

**Supplemental Question 47****Councillor Alex Brodkin**

Thanks Madam Mayor. I'd like to thank Councillor Harper for his answer and I do agree with what he says there. I just wanted to ask him about this figure of 50 schools each week that are to be visited by the Civil Enforcement Officers. That's a very healthy number. Is that going to be to primary schools and is that going to be at school start and finish times and, will each school have a named Civil Enforcement Officer which parents can feed information to on a regular basis so that some constructive dialogue on this issue can be done?

**Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper**

The requested details of enforcement fall within the responsibilities of my colleague Councillor Brian Coleman, the Cabinet Member for Environment, and I am sure he would be able to write to Councillor Brodkin. However, I am sure that the response will echo what Councillor Coleman said in his response to question 21 in relation to the issue of inappropriate parking.

**Question 48****Councillor Geof Cooke**

Barnet is widely perceived as the least cycle-friendly of all the London boroughs. Is the Council doing anything to support the Mayor of London's policies on cycling?

**Answer by Councillor Brian Coleman**

The Borough is friendly to all road users and supports all the Mayor's policies.

**Supplemental Question 48****Councillor Geof Cooke**

So nothing practical is being done in Barnet to support the London Mayors policy on cycling. Are you aware Councillor Coleman, that because of your actions and inactions as Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport you are your party's weakest link in the election campaign for the Greater London Authority?

**Answer by Councillor Brian Coleman**

The Councillor will have to do better than that I'm afraid. We treat all users, pedestrians, cyclists, drivers equally in this Borough and the vast majority of residents are delighted that we have no silly cycle lanes and other unnecessary clutter that so clogs up some of our neighbouring Boroughs.

**Question 49****Councillor Zakia Zubairi**

How much income per annum do Barnet Homes estimate they would generate if a CPZ was rolled out with permits costing £100, £80, £50, or £30?

**Answer by Councillor Tom Davey**

If it is decided to proceed any cost charged would cover the cost of implementing the scheme only. This has not been calculated at this point.

**Question 50****Councillor Pauline Coakley Webb**

Is the cabinet member willing to close Friern Barnet and North Finchley libraries without the guarantee of a seamless move to relocated premises?

**Answer by Councillor Robert Rams**

I do not expect to simply close two buildings and open another. Instead, I believe we will relocate those elements of the service that are easiest to move into the artsdepot first – for example, rhymetime and bookstart – and move other elements of the service at a later stage. Therefore, this is likely to be a gradual merger of Friern Barnet and North Finchley library services.

**Supplementary Question 50****Councillor Pauline Coakley Webb**

Thank you Madam Mayor. I take it from the response, therefore, and given the previous question I asked where we still don't know what stage and what time there may or may not be a deal with Arts depot, just how long will members of Friern Barnet and North Finchley libraries be without a library service and does 'at a later stage' mean this year, next year, longer or never.

**Answer by Councillor Robert Rams**

It will be as short as possible Madam Mayor.

**Question 51****Councillor Geoff Johnson**

Can the Cabinet Member for Regeneration please tell Colindale Ward Councillors where temporary tenants on Grahame Park Estate are being rehoused, as the regeneration programme proceeds?

**Answer by Councillor Richard Cornelius**

Tenants in temporary accommodation on the Estate will be offered alternative accommodation at the time they need to move. The location of the properties will depend upon what is available then and the priority the household has under the Council's allocation scheme.

**Question 52****Councillor Barry Rawlings**

Could the Cabinet Member update us on the implementation of the Fairer Contributions Policy, including what issues there have been with assessments, what issues there have been following-up those clients who have not returned assessment forms and what problems there have been with billing?

**Answer by Councillor Sachin Rajput**

The Fairer Contributions Policy was implemented from 6 June 2011. Currently there are 2721 people who receive services for which they require an assessment under the new policy.

To date, 2026 people have sent in their Financial Assessment form. Of these, 1910 people have been financially assessed and 116 people are currently being assessed. Approximately 120 people have requested a review or appealed against the financial assessment. In these cases the client or carer is contacted and as necessary further information is sought to enable the assessment to be reviewed and revised if appropriate.

A process is in place to follow up people who have not returned their completed financial assessment form or additional information that has been requested. This process takes into account that some people may not have the capacity to complete the form by themselves, so the Financial Assessment Team have been working closely with Social Care Teams to identify those vulnerable clients who need assistance to complete forms. The Financial Assessment Team have also called everyone who has not returned a form in many cases three times.

Currently there are 695 people who have not returned a Financial Assessment form and all of these people have been sent a further financial assessment form with a written offer for a visit to assist with completion.

The first invoices were sent out to clients from week commencing 18 July 2011 for the period 6 June 2011 to 3 July 2011. There were initial issues in 44 cases with regards to people receiving £25 per week transitional protection for people going into day care. This has been rectified. Invoices have been suspended in those cases where the contribution has been queried.



There are two dedicated help lines to advise and assist people who have queries about the financial assessment or care needs.

**Question 53**

**Councillor Alan Schneiderman**

Given that there has been ongoing slippage in the anticipated savings for the One Barnet programme so far, how does the Cabinet Member know for definite that savings that will not now be made in 2012/13 will be made up in 2013/14?

**Answer by Councillor Daniel Thomas**

As set out in a previous answer, the One Barnet programme savings are on track to be delivered in 2011/12.

A series of business cases have been approved by CRC over recent months. For the LATC, NSCSO, Parking and DRS projects, the business cases suggested that savings for 2012/13 would be not be delivered as quickly as originally set out in the One Barnet Framework.

**Question 54**

**Councillor Barry Rawlings**

Would the Cabinet Member advise what increase there has been in waiting lists and waiting times at Barnet Hospital and the Royal Free Hospital?

**Answer by Councillor Helena Hart**

Hospital Waiting Lists are measured through the 18 week Referral to Treatment (RTT) measure. This measures the time to the first out patient appointment and the time to admission (if appropriate).

According to the latest North Central London Performance Report, the Royal Free Hospital and Barnet & Chase Farm Hospitals are RAG (Red, Amber and Green – Traffic Light Warning System ) rated as Green for both measures.

**Supplemental Question 54**

**Councillor Barry Rawlings**

Just briefly whether the Cabinet Member can inform us that when they're rated as green, what direction are they going and are the waiting lists getting longer or not?

**Answer by Councillor Helena Hart**

Thank you Councillor Rawlings. Madam Mayor, in answer to Cllr Rawlings questions, I had in fact, checked with the Chief Executive and the Chairman of Barnet Chase Farm prior to his question coming in about waiting times and I was told that they were well on course and meeting them for accident and emergency and all other waiting times and if this situation were to change, or there were to be any other alerts which we should be made aware of, that they would let me know in good time. Thank you.

**Question 55**

**Councillor Alex Brodtkin**

Have the staff of both Northgate Clinic and Northgate School had an opportunity to put across their thoughts about any service providers who have registered a firm expression of interest to operate on either of these two sites in the future?

**Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper**

Staff at both the Clinic and School have had an opportunity to input into the overall consultation.

The site is currently occupied by Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health Trust. The future use of the existing estate will be managed as part of the commissioning and procurement process which will take place via an open and transparent process.

**Question 56**

**Councillor Andrew McNeil**

Would the Cabinet Member join me in thanking the East Finchley Advice Service (which is due to close in September due to its grant being withdrawn by the council) for their many years of service to Barnet residents in need of advice? Would the Cabinet Member confirm that the cut in funds to

community advice services will definitely not lead to a cut in the number of people who will be able to access advice in the Borough?

**Answer by Councillor Robert Rams**

I do join Councillor McNeil in thanking the work of the East Finchley Advice Service. Whilst the grant was withdrawn it is a shame they did not apply to the Big Society Innovation Bank, failed to complete a successful application for a London Borough of Barnet small grant to start a new debt advice service, despite officers working with them, and did not bid for the new Community Advice Contract singly or jointly despite being involved for two years with the soft market test and development of the specifications.

I can not give Councillor McNeil the guarantee he seeks and the actual number of people using the service will in reality depend on the tender accepted. We do expect there to be a year by year improvement in clients assisted per pound spent over the life of any new contract awarded.

**Supplementary Question 56**

**Councillor Andrew McNeil**

Thank you Madam Mayor. I have to say that the Cabinet Member is being disingenuous and less than fair when he implies that no one from East Finchley Advice Service made any effort to bid for contracts. It was my understanding that the bar was set far too high in all the cases he refers to, chiefly through the interpretation of the enforcement and the concept of sustainability. Will he and the officers in the Third Sector Commissioning Team, meet with me and my colleagues to discuss the catch 22 of sustainability to ensure it does not mar the chances of voluntary enterprises continuing their work in support of those disadvantaged in our community.

**Answer by Councillor Robert Rams**

Madam Mayor, I would happily meet with the Councillor and discuss it with him, but the case was with the East Finchley Advice Service that the officers sat down with them and went through it and it was their decision not to complete the process when applying for the grant. So we have done everything we can to aid them and assist them through this process.

**Question 57**

**Councillor Alex Brodtkin**

Could the relevant Cabinet Member confirm whether it was agreed at the last Hendon Residents Forum to put up 'no cycling prevention notices' on the lampposts situated on the pavements of Watling Avenue in response to the problem of cyclists riding their bicycles on the pavements of Watling Avenue, and, if so, whether this has been implemented by the Council?

**Answer by Councillor Brian Coleman**

No such decision was made at the Forum. The erection of 'no cycling' signs would result in minimal compliance from those who would be inclined to cycle on the footway anyway, contribute to street clutter which we are generally trying to reduce, and involve maintenance responsibilities. It would also suggest that where such signs do not exist cycling on the footway is acceptable, The local SNT have been alerted to this concern and requested to proactively enforce when witnessing such cycling that hopefully will lead to a reduction in this occurring.

**Question 58**

**Councillor Pauline Coakley Webb**

What progress has been made to ensure that Barnet Museum can survive in its current location?

**Answer by Councillor Robert Rams**

Barnet Museum expressed an interest in continuing to provide a museum at the 33 Wood Street premises, submitting a draft proposal in June 2011. A meeting was held on 1 August 2011 between Property Services, Libraries Service and representatives from Barnet Museum to review this proposal. Actions from this meeting will provide information to Barnet Museum that will help them to revise and better present their proposal for evaluation by officers and eventual presentation to Members. The timescale has yet to be set for Members to consider Barnet Museum's proposal. In the interim period, Barnet Council continues to provide the accommodation, building maintenance and utilities to support the continuing service during preparation of the proposal.

**Question 59****Councillor Geoff Johnson**

I have asked for the overgrown foliage including nettles at the junction of Colindeep Lane and Sheaveshill Avenue to be cut back as it has spread across the public footpath. Can I ask why there has been a delay by Barnet Council in undertaking this request?

**Answer by Councillor Brian Coleman**

The land on which this foliage emanates is not owned by the Council and therefore it has been necessary to identify the land owner and hence the party responsible for cutting back the foliage. However I have asked officers to follow the law as it applies to any overgrowing foliage, i.e. cut it down and return it to the landowners.

**Question 60****Councillor Geoff Johnson**

There are two small car parks on Bell Lane which are managed by Met Parking Services. Met Parking Services claim they are managing them on behalf of the London Borough of Barnet, but the council do not seem to know anything about them. Would the Cabinet Member confirm if these are indeed LB Barnet car parks, and if so, what consultation of local residents took place prior to parking charges being introduced there?

**Answer by Councillor Dan Thomas**

The Council owns the freehold interest in the land shown on the 2007 Land Registry Title Plan, and the title has not been sold or transferred to any third party.

As these pieces of land do not fall within an adopted highway, the Council is not obliged to any legislative frame work pertaining to these areas. However, the shop frontage tenants on Bell Lane were consulted and this agreement looks to alleviate the difficulties in parking in front of the Bell Lane shops and the consequent attempt to increase the custom on the parade which has been adversely affected by parking in the slip road and car park. To this end the Council granted a parking arrangement with MET Parking Services Ltd on a fixed term basis.

The agreement does not allow for the introduction of pay-and-display parking to members of the public. Furthermore, I can confirm, at present, that there is no intention to introduce any charges in the future to park for a short-term period.

**Question 61****Councillor Agnes Slocombe**

What powers does the Council have (in Trading Standards for example) to monitor the short-term employment practices of local shops and traders to ensure that people are not being exploited?

**Answer by Councillor David Longstaff**

The regulation of employment practice is via a number of government departments and agencies such as the Employment Standards Agency and HM Revenue and Customs.

Trading Standards and other regulatory council services do not have any specific powers to deal with such issues. However, if concerns are noted whilst officers are inspecting business premises as part of their normal duties they will refer these to the relevant agency.

The Environmental Health, Health and Safety Team, do have some powers with regard to inspecting business premises but these are with regard to health and safety at work regulations.