

Question Number	Item No	Raised By	Question Raised	Answer
1	5	Mr John Dix	Given that you have had two years to prepare Plan B, why did you wait so long before instructing officers to do so?	An organisation can only run one budget. The council's medium-term financial strategy (MTFS) is the process that produces the greatest savings and most protects frontline services. Cabinet and council therefore approved this budget and strategy.
2	5	Mr John Dix	What has gone wrong with the library saving proposals and who is responsible?	<p>Nothing has gone wrong with the programme. However, the expected savings from the One Barnet programme have enabled us to reprofile savings and avoid restricting services in the short term.</p> <p>The Council is delivering an excellent library service and has made considerable progress in delivering the Library Strategy. Substantial savings have been achieved. Changes to staffing have produced savings of circa £550,000 this year while library opening hours have been extended, self-service technology and wi-fi have been rolled out to all but one library which will see kit installed in September) and the service is now supported by a comprehensive volunteering programme. A £3m capital programme has been initiated, with building improvements already made at a number of sites. Plans are in progress for the delivery of a link library in Grahame Park.</p> <p>As with any large programme, some change over time is to be expected. For example, delivery of the link library at Grahame Park now falls outside the original timescale envisaged.</p> <p>Like all services, the libraries budget has to take its share of the overall council savings.</p>
3	5	Mr John Dix	At 9.2.3 the report states that the residents perception survey says the council is	<p><b>Q a) How much has this changed since 2010/11?</b></p> <p>2010/11 = 29%, 2012/13 = 35%. This is a significant 6% increase.</p>

			<p>doing a better job than in 2010 please can you clarify by how much that has changed and why in the latest survey 31% of respondents were not asked this question?</p>	<p><b>Q b) Why in the latest survey were 31% of respondents not asked this question?</b></p> <p>Certain questions in the survey were asked of a sample of 1,600, and other questions were asked of 1,100 respondents (an industry-recognised sample size).</p> <p>The questions that were asked of the larger sample allowed the council to look more closely at the significant differences within demographics.</p> <p>At the overall level, the confidence intervals/error margin of results are very similar for a sample of 1,100 (+/-2.94%) compared to a sample of 1,600 (+/-2.4%).</p>
4	5	Mr John Dix	<p>What are the environmental improvements that are costing £2.5 million and why have they only just been identified?</p>	<p>For the last two years, the Council has set aside funding in the service development reserve for priority projects and services as identified in-year through the residents' perception survey. Funding was allocated to apprenticeships and improvements to roads and pavements in 2012, and is being allocated to environmental improvements for 2013. For 2013/4 these are likely to involve dealing with the impact of last winter on the roads of the borough.</p>
5	5	Mr John Dix	<p>Given the outcome of the Parking Judicial Review is unknown should provision be made in the special parking account in case the resident permit increases are deemed illegal.</p>	<p>The current outcome of the Parking JR is unknown. In the scenario that the JR goes against the council, proposals will be brought back to Cabinet to deal with the funding implications.</p>
6	5	Mr John Dix	<p>Given that concessionary fare cost over £15 million when will</p>	<p>London's transport system has improved immeasurably under the current mayor and this has to be funded somehow, either by fares or direct public subsidy. You are right however to point out the impact that fully funding freedom passes now makes on local</p>

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			you tell Boris Johnson to stop putting up fares above inflation?	government financing.
7	5	Mr John Dix	Is paragraph 4.8 correct?	<p>Yes. This refers to page 31, paragraph 1.65 from the spending review, which says: “making funding available for local authorities that choose to freeze their council tax in 2014-15 and 2015-16, and planning to set a council tax referendum threshold in each of those years that gives local people a say if their council tax rises by more than two per cent”.</p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/209036/spending-round-2013-complete.pdf">https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/209036/spending-round-2013-complete.pdf</a></p>
8	5	Mr John Dix	Is a council tax freeze funded by grant a short term solution to a long term problem?	It is always the council’s intention to set Council Tax as low as possible for the benefit of residents, and the government contribution to freezing Council Tax is welcome support for this.