

Council – 20 January 2015

The running order of questions is collated by which Party provides the first questions.

	Question
1.	<p><u>Cllr Alison Moore</u> Given that the Leader admits that "540 square feet is small for a Library and it is difficult to imagine one smaller" is he still happy to continue advocating reducing our libraries to this size?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> Yes, where appropriate.</p>
	<p><u>Supplementary Question</u> No supplementary</p>
2.	<p><u>Cllr Anthony Finn</u> Could the Leader confirm the budget details proposed by the Labour Group?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> I have seen none.</p>
	<p><u>Supplementary Question</u> It seems that the Labour Party do not have a budget. It seems therefore that if one is to have a credible opposition, they should have a budget. Does the Leader think the reason they don't have a budget is because lack of proper leadership of the Labour Group or because of internal squabbles within the Labour Group?</p> <p><u>Supplementary Answer</u> I really wouldn't want to think that. I think it is actually because they don't have a plan.</p>
3.	<p><u>Cllr Barry Rawlings</u> Would the Leader like to comment on the work of Jesus House in providing over 2000 hampers to needy households in Barnet?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> I have always been a fan of their work and cooperation with other Barnet communities.</p>
	<p><u>Supplementary Question</u> Given this great increase in the number of hampers and the increase in the use of food banks, including now one in Coppetts, is the Leader proud that the last five years has seen an increase in inequality and increasingly the working poor paying, rather than those with the broader shoulders.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Answer</u> It is my understanding that those with the broadest shoulders are paying more tax than ever before but I would of course always regret when anyone is in poverty.</p>
4.	<p><u>Cllr Anthony Finn</u> Could the Leader confirm the budget savings proposed by the Labour Leader in her speech at the last council meeting? How much more do Labour need to find in order to present a realistic strategy?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> If you accept her figures, the Leader of the Opposition suggested about £4.5m in savings in her speech. The Labour Group would then have another £45m odd to find to compensate for the £50m they voted against and £69m to find if they are to meet the overall budget challenge.</p>

	<p><u>Supplementary Question</u> I tend to agree with you when you say you don't think they don't have a plan. Would you have any great objection if I volunteered my services to the Labour Party to help them formulate a budget plan?</p> <p><u>Supplementary Answer</u> That would be a very worrying suggestion!</p>
5.	<p><u>Cllr Paul Edwards</u> Can the Leader respond to my supplementary to question 14 which I asked of him on 4 November 2014?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> The Council made payments totalling £88.6m up to the end of September 2014.</p> <p>This includes £47.6m of payments in line with the payments schedule to Capita, and £16.1m payments in line with the payment schedule to Re (which combined equal £63.7m).</p> <p>This also includes the £14.8m interim service contract.</p> <p>This also included £10.1m of payments to Capita for a range of project activity. This includes schools programme fees, technical fees, IT implementation projects not included in the contract (Adults and Children's system implementation), and other transformation projects.</p>
	<p><u>Supplementary Question</u> My understanding is only six weeks' worth of spend was used on this and the last I heard we were awaiting a repayment by Capita. I wonder if the Leader would like to comment on that. And am I right in assuming the £10.1m for the rate of project activity was money spent without going to any Committee?</p> <p><u>Supplementary Answer</u> As regards to the first supplementary, yes we have had the money back as I understand. With the second point, I can't imagine that any funding that this council would authorise would not have gone through the proper channels.</p>
6.	<p><u>Cllr Anthony Finn</u> Could the Leader indicate the total of the savings that Labour have opposed since the election. What was the total of savings they opposed in the last council?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> Business planning reports have been through theme committees throughout the autumn setting out proposed future savings for consultation. Labour abstained from the vote on these reports for Adults & Safeguarding, Assets, Regeneration & Growth, Children's Education & Libraries, and Housing Committees. Labour voted against the business planning report for Community Leadership Committee, and voted to refer the business planning report to Full Council for Environment Committee. Labour also voted to refer the whole savings package to Full Council at Policy and Resources Committee, and then voted against this report at Full Council.</p> <p>In the previous Council, with a Cabinet system, Labour proposed budget amendments at Full Council in March. These budget amendments typically accepted the majority of the administration's proposals, and made minor amendments for specific items.</p>
	<p><u>Supplementary Question</u> Can the Leader confirm that on the basis of the information he has, that there will be a black hole of over £50m if Labour was in control of the budget?</p> <p><u>Supplementary Answer</u> I think it is rather more than that because the savings that this side of the chamber has identified as worthy of consideration, did not come to the £70m in savings that we will be required to make. Furthermore, of course, should the general election produce the very unsatisfactory result of a Labour</p>

	<p>or Labour-led government, we would then actually have even larger savings to find because they are pledged to transfer funds away from London and the South East to their northern heartlands.</p>
7.	<p><u>Cllr Reema Patel</u> Would the Leader confirm whether he will stop the plan to make £2.85m cuts to the Library Service if the majority of respondents to the Libraries consultation say they are not in favour of any of the proposals?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> The committee will take account of responses and suggestions as to where savings can be made.</p>
	<p><u>Supplementary Question</u> An independent report has called into the question the consultation process on the council's library strategy. In relation to the consultation process, given the independent report that has called that into question; does the Leader plan on re-running the consultation process and / or consulting with those who feel they have not been sufficiently consulted with?</p> <p><u>Supplementary Answer</u> This council is always very cautious about consultation and we have learned we have to consult an awful lot and we will do so.</p>
8.	<p><u>Cllr Mark Shooter</u> Could the Leader confirm to council the statutory requirements with regard to setting the annual budget?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> Statutory regulations require Councils, through their elected Councillors, to spend money with regularity and propriety. In terms of the annual budget setting process, Councils are required to set a level of Council tax which will ensure that a balanced budget is set. This process will involve reviewing expenditure plans and income sources to enable this balanced position to be achieved. In making their decision, Councillors must have due regard to the section 151 officer's report which will set out the robustness of estimates within the report and the adequacy of reserves. Councils must also restrict borrowing levels to what is affordable under the Prudential Code, and must also ensure that a sound system of internal control arrangements are in place (for example internal audit and risk management).</p>
	<p><u>Supplementary Question</u> Based upon the voting record, does the Leader think the opposition will have met those statutory requirements?</p> <p><u>Supplementary Answer</u> Certainly not on the basis of what we have heard.</p>
9.	<p><u>Cllr Phil Cohen</u> Could I have an answer to Q 129 on 16 December which was not answered, namely how much is the council paying private company Opinion Research Services (ORS) to run consultations on the library and leisure services?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> External research organisations are largely used for the objectivity they bring to a consultation process, which can provide further reassurance to residents and councillors that all feedback has been listened to and reported on impartially. This is standard practise for Barnet and many other councils.</p> <p>For libraries, the cost of Opinion Research Service's conducting the consultation on the council's behalf will be approximately £80,000. This includes the running of events and processing the information. The exact amount will depend on the number of responses.</p>

	<p>For the Sports and Physical Activity Review Autumn 2014, the cost for Opinion Research Service's conducting the consultation on the council's behalf was £36,005.</p>
	<p><u>Supplementary Question</u> Does the Leader think that £80,000 paid the company running the libraries consultation is a rather excessive use of taxpayers' money given that they have used it to listen to residents telling us what we knew in the first place; that they don't want any cuts or down-grading of the service.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Answer</u> It is a lot of money and I have some sympathy with what Cllr Cohen is saying, however the problem is the various local governments acts do require us to have an awful lot of consultation in the way we conduct our business and the courts have reinforced that.</p>
10.	<p><u>Cllr Mark Shooter</u> Is the Leader pleased with progress on the Council's budget for future years?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> Yes.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Question</u> Does the Leader agree that advanced planning not only makes budgetary proposals more achievable but it's fairer to residents by indicating what is ahead?</p> <p><u>Supplementary Answer</u> Yes, of course. It is very important to plan ahead. A saving which is planned well in advance is always a much better deal than something that is done 'on the hoof' and which can be very unfair and very unpleasant.</p>
11.	<p><u>Cllr Anne Hutton</u> Given the uncertainty surrounding Barnet's library service can the Leader assure residents that the local archives will be appropriately housed, looked after by a trained archivist and be easily accessible to the public?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> The budget is very difficult as savings are needed and some things we value will not continue. It is important, though, that we do not lose our heritage documents.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Question</u> Could the Leader say where the archives are going to be lodged, please?</p> <p><u>Supplementary Answer</u> That is a question that I can't answer. As soon as I have answer to that I will of course share it with the councillors but it is important that we do keep them safely.</p>
12.	<p><u>Cllr Mark Shooter</u> Is the Leader confident that the budget savings proposed to meet the government spending reductions can be met?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> I believe that we will succeed with this.</p>
	<p><u>Supplementary Question</u> Why does the Leader think this is so?</p>

	<p><u>Supplementary Answer</u> We have been very successful as a council over the last four years in reducing spending. I have no doubts that we will continue in the future to meet the budgetary discipline that is set for us.</p>
13.	<p><u>Cllr Geof Cooke</u> Comer Homes paid £8M for the Abbots Depot site off Oakleigh Road South N11 and the Council intends to pay £13.5M for it for a waste depot giving Comer Homes a profit of £5.5M (a whopping 68.75% profit at the expense of Barnet council tax payers on a site with no planning permission for housing and no prospect of it being developed for housing in the foreseeable future). According to his answer to question 74 at Council on 16/12/14, the deputy council leader Cllr Daniel Thomas did not know what Comer Homes paid for the site and therefore did not know what level of profit he was 'imploring' councillors to authorise from public funds. Does this indicate on his part:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ignorance Recklessness Incompetence Panic All of the above? <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> No in each case.</p>
	<p><u>Supplementary Question</u> You recently told the Coppetts Ward Residents' Association that the Abbots Depot Site would not be acquired before the issue came back to the Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee. Could you now confirm that is the case?</p> <p><u>Supplementary Answer</u> Yes, I did say that. That was an undertaking I made.</p>
14.	<p><u>Cllr John Hart</u> How many retrospective planning applications for overdevelopments have been submitted in Barnet in the three years 2012 -2014? How many have been refused and how many of these have had enforcement notices issued to reconstitute the site? How many were there in the same period in Mill Hill Ward and what were the corresponding outcomes?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> The council has received 132 retrospective planning applications over the three year period 2012-14. 50 of these applications were refused planning permission and in most cases enforcement notices would have been served against those which were refused planning permission.</p> <p>6 of these retrospective planning applications were within the Mill Hill Ward and 3 of these were refused planning permission. Enforcement notices have been served against the 3 developments refused planning permission.</p>
	<p><u>Supplementary Question</u> How many of these enforcement notices have actually been implemented? Are people made to pay up or knock down what they have built wrongly?</p> <p><u>Supplementary Answer</u> I suspect that information is very difficult to find and those cases where enforcement has not been successful, we are very reliant on members of the public informing us as such.</p>

<p>15.</p>	<p><u>Cllr Dr Devra Kay</u> Promises were made before the local elections held in May 2014 that certain pavements and roads in West Hendon would be repaired as they were regarded as dangerous and neglected. Some of those works began but immediately after the elections, with work unfinished, equipment and materials were removed and no work has recommenced in spite of assurances with starting times given. Cheyne Walk in Shirehall is one of these roads and was visited by the Chief Executive together with West Hendon Councillors when the Chief Executive commented that if money had already been allotted for the work it would most likely still be available and that he would check. Nothing has been heard. Please would the Leader give an assurance that outstanding work will recommence in this financial year, together with a starting date and would he please confirm that there is indeed money available for this work.</p> <p><u>Councillor Dean Cohen (Chairman of Environment Committee)</u> The works that have already been undertaken are most probably reactive highway safety works. All carriageways and footways are inspected on a regular basis to ensure that wherever possible defects are identified and repaired within agreed timescales. The network is also subjected to a condition survey in order to develop a planned maintenance programme. This will be reported to the Environment Committee on 27th January where next year's programme will be submitted for Members consideration.</p> <p>We are currently awaiting a report following a condition survey which will decide whether Cheyne Walk is included or not.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Question</u> Could Cllr Cohen consult with the Chief Executive about this matter as he has relevant correspondence as do I? There is a paper trail that will explain this matter, which is not as Cllr Cohen describes it in his reply and will he then come back to me about it?</p> <p><u>Supplementary Answer</u> I can speak to the Chief Executive regarding this but I think only today a list of roads was released in what is anticipated to be done in the 15/16.</p>
<p>16.</p>	<p><u>Cllr John Hart</u> Has there been any consultation with Church of England and Roman Catholic diocesan authorities to cater for the spiritual needs of the 40,000 or so new residents forecast for the massive redevelopments down the west side of Barnet?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> There have been some discussions, but there need to be more.</p>
	<p><u>Supplementary Question</u> Does the Leader agree that people need places to pray as well as to play, as well as places to work and to live?</p> <p><u>Supplementary Answer</u> Yes, I can agree with that.</p>
<p>17.</p>	<p><u>Cllr Alan Schneiderman</u> How much money was paid by motorists to park in Barnet Council car parks or on street pay to park bays on the weekends in December when parking was free?</p> <p><u>Councillor Dean Cohen (Chairman of Environment Committee)</u> On the first of the three weekends a total sum of £5,601.15 was paid. All of the payments processed were identified by officers who conducted pro-active checks of the Pay by Phone System and having identified the error these sums were pro-actively refunded along with an apology text sent to each</p>

	<p>motorist. All refunds had been processed by 22 December.</p>
	<p><u>Supplementary Question</u> The Christmas Free Parking Initiative has been a cock up yet again with inadequate publicity. The motorists to paid to park by phone have been refunded although they should never have been charged in the first place. Will he now arrange to pay the refunds to people who paid by card at meters? Meters that had no signs on them at all, that parking was free. Meters that accepted cards without any warning. Will he arrange refunds for those people as well? I have made a payment for test purposes and await my refund.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Answer</u> I am quite happy to take that away and see what has occurred on street in the pay and display streets</p>
18.	<p><u>Cllr John Hart</u> What is the planning policy for providing workshops and work-places in the extensive redevelopments down the west side of Barnet?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> Borough wide planning policy to promote a strong and prosperous Barnet is set out in the Local Plan. One of the ways in which the Local Plan supports small to medium enterprises is by ensuring new employment provision provides a range and choice of units such as affordable and flexible workspaces. The recently adopted Supplementary Planning Document on Delivering Skills, Employment Enterprise and Training from Development highlights that improvements to the quality of employment space will be secured through S106 Agreements.</p>
	<p><u>Supplementary Question</u> No supplementary</p>
19.	<p><u>Cllr Kathy Levine</u> Would the Leader please update us on any developments regarding the Abbots Depot, Oakleigh Road South site, in particular those regarding the purchase of the freehold or a lease agreement with an option to purchase the site.</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> Exploratory discussions are taking place which will be reported to committee.</p>
	<p><u>Supplementary Question</u> We have been told that a planning application will be going in, in April or May. Can you confirm that this is correct and that there will be plenty of time for consultation?</p> <p><u>Supplementary Answer</u> I don't think the plans have as yet been drawn up but as soon as they, they will be put in for planning. Of course there will be lots of consultation about that.</p>
20.	<p><u>Cllr John Hart</u> What measures are being taken to accommodate Barnet Community Transport when the Mill Hill East depot closes?</p> <p>The depot relocation project has identified two preferred sites for the relocation of the Mill Hill operation. Work is currently on-going to identify whether the Barnet Community Transport facility can be located on these sites, or whether a different solution is required.</p>

	<p><u>Supplementary Question</u> Can the leader assure me more firmly than in his reply that this invaluable Barnet voluntary service – costs us nothing – for the disabled and others would be really provided with a home commensurate with what they have at present at the depot in Mill Hill?</p> <p><u>Supplementary Answer</u> I can't formally declare that but I think it would be very important that this invaluable service continues and accommodating them is a priority.</p>
21.	<p><u>Cllr Andreas Ioannidis</u> Would the Leader confirm if Cllr Lisa Rutter has a veto on the waste depot being moved to the Abbots Depot site in Brunswick Park ward?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> No individual councillor has a veto. I thank Cllr Ioannidis for his support.</p>
	<p><u>Supplementary Question</u> Last week Cllr Rutter, in front of the residents in a meeting in front of the Leader said that based on current evidence it would vote against the proposal for the Abbot Depot. Could the Leader accept that if a vote were to take place today, the vote would be lost? Yes or no?</p> <p><u>Supplementary Answer</u> I can't answer that question.</p>
22.	<p><u>Cllr John Hart</u> Is there any training for planning officers in the legislation protecting such wildlife species as bats, newts, slow worms, etc., and their habitats?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> Planning Officers are aware of the guidance and advice on Protected Species available from Natural England and specialist advice is provided by the Trees and Environment team. In addition, it is proposed to provide more detailed ecological training to planning officers.</p>
	<p><u>Supplementary Question</u> No supplementary</p>
23.	<p><u>Cllr Charlie O'Macauley</u> What are Barnet council's plans for housing or regeneration in Burnt Oak?</p> <p><u>Answer by Councillor Daniel Thomas (Chairman of Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee)</u> Barnet Council has submitted a bid to the Mayor of London High Streets Fund to make improvements to Burnt Oak town centre. The bid seeks to reintroduce and enhance the distinctiveness of this centre with a variety of measures including: de-cluttering, public realm improvements and town centre greening in addition to a capital fund to deliver support for local business and traders and generate job opportunities within these locations. The bid total is £305,000 with match funding from the council of £348,000. The Mayor of London's office will be announcing successful bids in January/February 2015.</p> <p>In addition, Barnet Council has been successful in funding from the Transformation Challenge Award to pilot 'Jobs Team' providing a multi-agency place-based approach to employment support, located in the heart of Burnt Oak. Delivery is anticipated to begin in Summer 2015.</p> <p>The Assets Regeneration & Growth Committee will be invited at its March meeting to consider whether to seek planning permission for development of the site known as "Watling Car Park" as part of the next tranche of developments on surplus Council land.</p>

	<p><u>Supplementary Question</u> No supplementary</p>
24.	<p><u>Cllr Wendy Prentice</u> Could the Leader outline the saving reductions that are anticipated by political parties and the treasury in forthcoming years?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> All political parties have been clear that further public spending cuts will be necessary to eradicate the country's budget deficit. There is some marginal difference between the main political parties over the pace at which this deficit will be reduced (Conservative by 2018, Labour by 2020). Political parties have also indicated that they will continue to protect Health and Education spending, which means a disproportionate level of spending cuts will continue to be made in local government for the foreseeable future.</p>
	<p><u>Supplementary Question</u> I understand Ed Balls recently spoke about this matter. Could the Leader appraise us as what was said?</p> <p><u>Supplementary Answer</u> Mr Balls said he wouldn't be cancelling the cuts and he is pledged to cut £3.3b from council budgets and he has also pledged to restrict public sector wage increases to the existing 1%. He said that when Labour criticise cuts, it doesn't mean that they would be reversed.</p>
25.	<p><u>Cllr Laurie Williams</u> How much section 106 money obtained by Barnet has been spent how much remains to be spent and how much is due to be returned because it is "Out of Time"?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> We are presently auditing the S106 dataset to reconcile the data with the Council's finance system ahead of the end of year financial closing. We will aim to work on a response for members by the end of January when the audit should be complete.</p> <p>In terms of expired funds, the Council has minimised the amount it has to refund to developers. In the past five years the Council has refunded two S106 payments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) £30,000 for a CCTV camera between East Finchley station and The new Institute Building, by the footpaths, because there were insufficient funds to both install and pay for the operation of an additional camera and supplementary funding could not be identified in time before the funds expired. The Council agreed with the developer to reallocate these funds towards additional highways costs that it was required to pay to the Council through the S278 agreement. ii) £35,000 for Glebelands Open Space where the service had received contributions from two separate developments, but allocation had only committed the income from one development towards the improvements. This error was only identified after the funds had expired and been reclaimed by the developer. The developer accepted the transfer of over half of these funds towards the long overdue S106 requirements of another development where it still owed money to the Council.
	<p><u>Supplementary Question</u> No supplementary</p>
26.	<p><u>Cllr Wendy Prentice</u> Could the Leader outline some of the proposals that other boroughs have developed to meet their budget requirements?</p>

	<p><u>Answer by the Leader</u></p> <p>Just looking at some of our neighbouring boroughs and some of the proposals they are consulting on proves instructive.</p> <p>Harrow may: close libraries; switch off some street lights; cut call centre staff; remove noise nuisance cover on Friday and Saturday nights; enact cuts or closures to early years support including children’s centres; require community management of parks; charge for green waste collection; and reduce street cleansing.</p> <p>Brent may: cut Youth Services; find external partner to run children’s centres; cut day care and respite care; significantly reduce street cleansing.</p> <p>Haringey may: cut 630 jobs; hire out parks; increase parking charges; reduce public consultation on planning applications.</p> <p>There are similar examples across London boroughs, including – as those above – Labour-run councils.</p>
	<p><u>Supplementary Question</u></p> <p>Does the Leader not think it hypocritical for Labour in Barnet to criticise us for sometimes merely reviewing or considering proposals their colleagues are enacting in, in neighbouring boroughs?</p> <p><u>Supplementary Answer</u></p> <p>The answer to that is yes or else they are delivering a really big rebuke to our neighbours who unfortunately are red coloured rather than blue.</p>
27.	<p><u>Cllr Gill Sargeant</u></p> <p>Can I have an update on when the zebra crossings in Aerodrome road will be completed?</p> <p><u>Answer by Councillor Dean Cohen (Chairman of Environment Committee)</u></p> <p>Locations have been agreed with Transport for London for new bus stops flags on Aerodrome Road and we await installation of these.</p> <p>A pedestrian refuge was previously introduced on Aerodrome Road. Design work to upgrade this to a zebra crossing has been delayed by the need to confirm where new access points for the development of the Peel Centre site would be located so that conflict with these locations (and consequent abortive work) can be avoided.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Question</u></p> <p>I wanted to ask about Aerodrome Road because this is a long-standing saga about the zebra crossings, Beaufort Park had put in the funding for this. There have been the new bus stops in Aerodrome Road so why we are able to put in new bus stops but not put in a pedestrian refuge, I do not know and we are constantly being asked by the residents when this is going to be introduced. I think if you put in new bus stops, I would have thought you could put in the new pedestrian refuge as well.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Answer</u></p> <p>As it says very clearly in the answer, the bus stops were resolved and the pedestrian refuge was also resolved. The only thing outstanding is the zebra crossing. And I said that’s awaiting, regarding the Peel Centre.</p>
28.	<p><u>Cllr Wendy Prentice</u></p> <p>Could the Leader outline the expected revenue returns from the various projects that are now under way, identified by section 106, CIL and Overage?</p>

	<p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> The Council has generated significant revenue returns from projects across the borough. In terms of Council Tax receipts, the medium term financial strategy sees a growth in income of nearly £1m per annum from additional properties, the Assets, Regeneration & Growth Committee budget proposals include Council Tax and business rate income growth of £5.4m as a result of successful regeneration schemes. The Council has generated £35m from section 106 receipts over the last 5 years, and projects to receive £19m from CIL up to the end of the decade. These figures exclude the value of directly delivered benefits, such as will be the case for most of the infrastructure at Brent Cross.</p> <p>In terms of overage, the Council expects to receive over £40m from the Mill Hill East development.</p>
	<p><u>Supplementary Question</u> Does the Leader agree that development cannot only deliver tangible improvements for residents but financial benefits also? And can such growth help us to meet our budget challenges in the future?</p> <p><u>Supplementary Answer</u> Yes, of course it does. It can produce mutual benefits and it has an important part in our plan for the financial wellbeing of this borough but we do have to make sure that development is appropriate and doesn't destroy the character of the place we live in.</p>
29.	<p><u>Cllr Kitty Lyons</u> Does the Leader agree that the council needs to do everything it can to encourage and enable local people to be able to cast their vote in elections?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> Absolutely.</p>
	<p><u>Supplementary Question</u> I am delighted to hear that the Leader is in favour of enabling residents to exercise their vote. Can Cllr Cornelius therefore explain why he voted against the officer's recommendation at the General Functions Committee on the 11th November to provide an extra polling station at Annunciation School for the huge HOC polling district in Hale Ward which would enable less mobile voters, eg elderly, disabled and those with babies, etc, to avoid the 13 minute or so walk to exercise their right to vote? Will he now endorse the officer's recommendation for a polling station at Annunciation School?</p> <p><u>Supplementary Answer</u> A long supplementary question. No.</p>
30.	<p><u>Cllr Maureen Braun</u> Could the Leader indicate the savings realised through the CSG and Re contracts?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> Cumulatively over the 10 year contract durations, the CSG contract will save the Council £125m, and the Re contract will save the Council £39m. Both contracts are delivering the promised savings.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Question</u> Labour said they opposed these schemes yet accepted all the savings. Does the Leader have any idea where they now might have found £164m in savings?</p> <p><u>Supplementary Answer</u> No, I have never understood them to have a plan at all.</p>

31. Cllr Amy Trevethan

Would the Leader provide the latest position on the number of Barnet Homes tenants affected by the Bedroom Tax, the number of those tenants in rent arrears, the total rent arrears of those affected by the Bedroom Tax and the number of under-occupying tenants who have been able to move into a smaller property?

Answer by the Leader

At the end of December 2014

- Current numbers of Barnet Homes tenants affected by Under Occupation charge: **584**
- The number of these tenants in arrears: **309**
- The total rent arrears: **£170,686** [It should be noted that Under Occupiers had rent arrears of circa £116,000 before changes in welfare were made so the net move has been around £54,000 since Under Occupation charges were applied]
- The total number who have been able to move into a smaller property: **82**

Supplementary Question

No supplementary

32. Cllr Maureen Braun

How much higher would Council Tax be if the outsourced contracts had not been undertaken?

Answer by the Leader

Savings from CSG and Re have been banked into the Council's current financial strategy. For CSG, these figures represent a £6.3m reduction in annual running costs, and for Re these figures represent a £4m reduction in annual running costs of these services. If these savings had not been delivered, Council Tax would have increased by 7.4% (or £80 per household per annum at band D) to compensate.

Supplementary Question

Does the Leader think it actually worth the 7.4% council tax increase just to keep a service in house?

Supplementary Answer

No and I am sure residents wouldn't either.

33. Cllr Tim Roberts

How much money has the council had to pay out in insurance claims since 2002 as result of people tripping on poorly repaired/maintained pavements/roads (broken down by year and ward)?

Answer by the Leader

Due to using a different claims management system we are only able to accurately provide information for 2003 onwards. However, please find the information as requested. These are the amounts that have been paid out currently to settle claims. If any open cases are settled in the future the costs will be allocated to the year that the incident occurred.

Department Name	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	Grand Total
Brunswick	750	8250	12725	3500	18728.79	2898	51315.69	12509.18	3000	14100	12472	2800	143048.86
Burnt Oak	13657	20510	47274.87	6890	40300	7100	19650	23185	2500	5000		1500	193366.87
Childs Hill	7250	6800	28858.42	6800	14300	59150	7942.6	6100	5750	2000	3650		150326.02
Colindale	5200	2500	21804.5	4613.3	2562.72	7500	28792	1008.5	2500	12200	1200		89881.02
Coppetts	24275	1200	1000	24450	26600	9800	33510	7395		38495	3650		170375
East Barnet	5026	25	30515.23		6956.33	7562.24	5655	19570	70460	15337.85	10650	4694	176451.65
East Finchley	11000		24750	13200	15750		4330.4	27072.7	27142.85	19250	7475	6479	157049.95
Edgware	5800	18549.95	27429.18	63117.32	21633	8000	83482.54	16387.98	1500	21333.6	19032.24	25	286290.81
Finchley-Church End	4203.72	20250	5468.6	16250	27900		40755.6	89000	1000	3000	7036.85		214864.77
Garden Suburb	3291.76	8400	19913.99	10050	51820	39800	36712.04	10130.17	18750	35225	4000	1450	252542.96
Golders Green	22000	200	18563.24	16075.05	16593.95	10800	8651.25	13835.3	2550	39465	3050	4117	161270.79
Hale	16663.51	10631	12000	8170	11791.87			8750	12000		1824.5		83680.88
Handon	21138.5	16550	11300	21523.2	17625	20518.75	18450	5700	11500	14258.62	6900		164765.07
High Barnet	16160	6000	14300	3000	10405.87	23140	14900	13017.77	21250	9250			132673.64
Mill Hill	4500	3452.5		4250	33325	17750		5952.46	10175	16722.91	3320		99047.87
Oakleigh	3038.95	12680	20320	11280	16355	2200	8797.5	55741.09	6000		6658		161570.54
Tottenham	24070	10805	4720	12750	26879.07	10800	9850	2500	32612	9600	33030		177616.07
Underhill	17060	2040	8989.95	6025	3000			18680	3250	6604.5		1200	66849.45
West Finchley	15050	4500	15155.99	4000	26500.34	23677.4	3000	6750	20325	51399.16	7100	4000	181757.89
West Hendon	5043.2	7620	17497.3	25773.68	16387.68		29730	7000	12500	9522			132133.86
Woodhouse	13310	2050	7500	15500	23719.44	122430	18600	11500	10500	26255	2565		255239.44
Grand Total	235468.64	168343.45	350046.27	276217.55	439794.06	373126.39	424134.62	361385.16	275294.85	348468.64	138643.59	26265	3457493.21

	<p><u>Supplementary Question</u> No supplementary</p>
34.	<p><u>Cllr Maureen Braun</u> Could the Leader identify the outsourcing projects that have been undertaken by Labour London boroughs?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> Outsourcing is common-place among Labour-run London boroughs. A host (including Brent, Camden, Haringey, Lambeth and more) have outsourced waste and recycling services; Enfield have outsourced ICT services to Serco; Brent revenue services to Capita, to name just a few.</p> <p>A notable example is Lambeth who enacted a £60m 10 year extension of its outsourcing deal with Capita to include IT services and call centre management – on top of an existing arrangement for revenue collection services.</p>
	<p><u>Supplementary Question</u> No supplementary</p>
35.	<p><u>Cllr Kath McGuirk</u> LB Barnet dims street lights by 50% - why does the administration believe that this reduction in lighting is imperceptible to local people?</p> <p><u>Answer by Councillor Dean Cohen (Chairman of Environment Committee)</u> There have been many lighting industry based trials regarding light output levels and their effect on human optical perceptions. These trials have been carried out by various industry experts and supported by field trials in a number of local authorities. Barnet officers and members were, in fact, invited to a field trial in Enfield, prior to commissioning the central management system (CMS) in the borough. The trials took in a variety of locations and differing light sources and showed, beyond doubt, that reducing lighting levels is imperceptible to the untrained human eye, even when it happens in front of the onlooker. During the trials a number of residents approached the on-site teams and commented they had not even noticed any change in the lighting levels.</p>
	<p><u>Supplementary Question</u> I don't recognise the answer. Many of my residents, mainly women and young people who walk, feel they are unsafe now that the lights have been dimmed. As the party who believes in saving money and a party of litigants, what insurance policy have you got in place if there accident or criminal activity and they challenge the council on the fact you have dimmed the lights across the borough? Or is this going to be collateral damage for your failed privatisation project.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Answer</u> It is perfectly safe. The current dimming, the residents are perfectly safe in this borough.</p>
36.	<p><u>Cllr John Marshall</u> How many extra secondary school spaces will be needed in the future years of this council?</p> <p><u>Answer by Councillor Reuben Thompstone (Chairman of Children, Education Libraries and Safeguarding Committee)</u> We will need 664 additional Year 7 secondary school places by September 2021, phased in as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 214 by September 2018 (approximately 7 forms of entry) • rising to 537 by 2019 (18 forms of entry) • rising to 664 by 2021 (22 forms of entry)

	<p><u>Supplementary Question</u> No supplementary</p>
37.	<p><u>Cllr Ross Houston</u> The council recently consulted DCLG and the Mayor of London on their proposals around increasing council rents – would the Leader publish their responses?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> Neither organisation has formally responded to the Council on this matter.</p> <p>Whilst the CLG provided an e-mail reply, they made clear was not a formal response with the following caveat: <i>“This is not a formal response from DCLG and therefore I would be grateful if no reference in the consultation is made to my comments here.”</i></p> <p>The GLA have not responded.</p> <p>In addition, the Council has sought legal advice on its proposal for a new rents policy in the draft Housing Strategy and is satisfied that these are legal.</p>
	<p><u>Supplementary Question</u> Does the Leader not agree that the lack of response from the Mayor (of London) shows just how little he cares for the welfare of London’s social rent tenants?</p> <p><u>Supplementary Answer</u> Whilst, of course, we all know that the Mayor of London is a very popular figure, we can also be reassured that he cares about all Londoners.</p>
38.	<p><u>Cllr John Marshall</u> What contribution has been made by Free Schools and academies to numbers of school places in Barnet?</p> <p><u>Answer by Councillor Reuben Thompstone (Chairman of Children, Education Libraries and Safeguarding Committee)</u> They have enriched our school community and are a valuable contribution to the educational offer.</p>
	<p><u>Supplementary Question</u> Would Cllr Thompstone agree that the free schools have provided over 1000 new school places in this borough and they are providing choice as well as places and, in particular, would he welcome the popularity of the Archer Academy which is serving the people of East Finchley and Garden Suburb wards where there was a real need for a school that served both boys and girls.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Answer</u> I am delighted that Barnet is seen as a very welcoming place for Free Schools. We have enormously benefited from it. They make a great contribution to our borough.</p>
39.	<p><u>Cllr Arjun Mittra</u> How many Barnet Homes tenants still affected by the Bedroom Tax are disabled, how many of these are in rent arrears and what is Barnet’s policy to help those struggling to pay their rent because of the bedroom tax?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> We unfortunately do not routinely collect this information. Disabled clients would still be affected by</p>

	<p>the under occupation charge unless they can show that they have an overnight carer residing with them. However we continue to support all clients affected by the under occupation charge with; financial budgeting, income maximisation, discretionary housing payment and promotion of trade downs.</p>
	<p><u>Supplementary Question</u> Will he endeavour to collect the information, please?</p> <p><u>Supplementary Answer</u> I am not going to give you a straight answer. The answer is if it is possible to do it without undue expense, yes.</p>
40.	<p><u>Cllr John Marshall</u> How many adults are in receipt of a package from Adult Social Services and what is the average value? How much of the Adult Social Service budget is spent on administration?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> At the end of December 2014, 3,961 adults in Barnet were in receipt of an on-going care package (residential or home care). In addition to this, 4,089 clients were receiving Respite Care, Enablement (short term home based support), Meals, Equipment and other short term support. In 2013/14, 5.2% of the Adult Social Care Budget was spent on administration. This percentage includes back office support (roles focused on commissioning, business support, workforce planning, contract management, procurement, improving quality with providers, performance management, financial assessments) and senior management costs.</p>
	<p><u>Supplementary Question</u> No supplementary</p>
41.	<p><u>Cllr Adam Langleben</u> The original council/Metropolitan Housing Trust booklet promoting the ballot on the West Hendon Regeneration stated that “We guarantee that every Council tenant and owner-occupier living on the West Hendon estate and Ramsey Close will be offered a new home in the new West Hendon.” It also stated that “We guarantee that our commitment to a partnership with local people will be based on trust, openness and respect.” Given that the first guarantee has been reneged on what would the Leader say the second guarantee is worth?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> It is unnecessary and inappropriate to provide answers in this forum to questions about the West Hendon Estate due to the Public Inquiry into the Compulsory Purchase Order which opened today (20th January 2015). Councillor Langleben has submitted a statement of objection to the confirmation of the Order and is aware that matters raised in his question will be addressed as part of the inquiry process.</p>
	<p><u>Supplementary Question</u> The enquiring authority in the West Hendon public inquiry being Barnet has been told by the planning inspector that they need to cooperate with giving evidence so, Cllr Cornelius, will you accept my invitation to be a witness under interrogation at the public inquiry by me on Thursday evening?</p> <p><u>Supplementary Answer</u> I am advised that I shouldn't be but I will explore that advice again.</p>
42.	<p><u>Cllr John Marshall</u> How many libraries have been closed in London boroughs, identified by borough in the last five years and what do their current budget projections suggest might happen in the future period?</p>

	<p><u>Answer by Councillor Reuben Thompstone (Chairman of Children, Education Libraries and Safeguarding Committee)</u></p> <p>The CIPFA Public Libraries Profiles are currently only available for 2013 and do not provide information on budget projections. It is known that locally Brent closed 6 of its 12 libraries in 2012. In the same year, Camden closed 1 library and transferred three libraries to community ownership, leaving 8 libraries in Council ownership.</p> <p>Harrow and Enfield are currently consulting on the future of their library services. Harrow is proposing to close 4 of its 10 libraries. There are no proposals for library closures in Enfield. Under one option, there would be 4 Council-run flagship libraries and 13 community libraries. The alternative proposal is for 4 Council-run flagship libraries, 2 traditional Council-run libraries and 11 community libraries.</p>
	<p><u>Supplementary Question</u></p> <p>Given the enthusiasm with which neighbouring Labour councils are planning to close libraries, does the councillor not agree that it is complete hypocrisy of the local Labour Party to say they are opposed to library closure? If they were in control they would be closing libraries at a speed that has never been done by this council.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Answer</u></p> <p>Given the number of libraries that Brent has already closed and that Harrow is suggesting to close, it would appear that our colleagues opposite are either in denial or once again they demonstrate that in Barnet, Labour has no plan.</p>
43.	<p><u>Cllr Alison Moore</u></p> <p>When will the Leader agree a new 5 year management agreement for Barnet Homes?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u></p> <p>It is not for the Leader to agree this – we have a committee system.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Question</u></p> <p>Cllr Cornelius, you are being disingenuous. You are the Leader of the council. A rolling one year contract with a five or even better a 10 year management agreement, without that it would be difficult for Barnet Homes to maintain its standing and retain and attract good staff. You were happy to give Capita two 10 year contracts. Why will you not do the same for Barnet Homes?</p> <p><u>Supplementary Answer</u></p> <p>I won't necessarily fail to support that.</p>
44.	<p><u>Cllr Brian Gordon</u></p> <p>I have recently had cases of residents of Council homes, who have lived there with their parents for many years, coming to me highly distressed on being told that due to the death of both parents and an absence of succession rights they have to move. What can be done to alleviate the hardship this can cause?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u></p> <p>Social housing is allocated on the basis of need and it is important to be fair.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Question</u></p> <p>I agree it is important to be fair and I am not suggesting policy should be any different in relation to council tenants who unfortunately can't continue once there has been a death or two deaths and non-transmission. But can it be, perhaps, better explained to tenants because my experience is sometimes they are caught out in a situation where they have been bereaved and never realised that they would have to leave their homes or be downsized and it has come as a very big shock to them.</p>

	<p><u>Supplementary Answer</u> I think if there is a lack of clarity, that is something that should be looked at and improved.</p>
45.	<p><u>Cllr Barry Rawlings</u> What is the latest forecast for the number of residents who will be adversely affected by the roll-out of Universal Credit?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> The stated aims of Universal Credit are to make work pay by ensuring claimants are better off in work than on benefits. Universal Credit is also designed to simplify the complexity of the current benefits system, by rolling up 6 individual benefit payments into a single payment.</p> <p>Local estimates suggest that up to 48,000 people who are both in and out of work could be eligible for Universal Credit when it is fully rolled out in Barnet.</p> <p>Barnet will start rolling out Universal Credit to some new and single claimants from 2 March 2015. Current JCP estimates suggest that there could be 34,783 new single UC claimants between March 2015 and February 2016.</p> <p>Local support will be available to help claimants where appropriate to manage the changes- this will include budgeting and digital support, alongside support to get people into work.</p>
	<p><u>Supplementary Question</u> No supplementary</p>
46.	<p><u>Cllr Brian Gordon</u> Is the Council involved in any schemes to try to reduce business rates in the period ahead? If so, could you please give brief details</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> The Council encourages its business rate payers to apply for any reliefs to which they are entitled. In 2013 the government introduced retail rate relief, and re-occupation relief to assist businesses. Retail rate relief reduces business rates for shops, pubs and restaurants with rateable values below £50,000 by £1,000 in 2014/15, and by £1,500 in 2015/16. Re-occupation relief provides a 50% business rates discount for 18 months for businesses moving into previously empty retail premises between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2016. Ratepayers can check their entitlement by contacting the business rates team on 020 8359 2735.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Question</u> On the question of business rates, thank you for the explanation given and the figures. Would you agree that helping business rates to be as low as possible and encouraging these sorts of schemes alluded to here, is very much part and parcel of our policy not only of this administration but as a Conservative Party and it's not the policy that any other major party has at the present time?</p> <p><u>Supplementary Answer</u> I would absolutely agree with that and furthermore if Barnet could set its own business rate, I would be very tempted to set a very competitive rate in order to attract business to our borough.</p>
47.	<p><u>Cllr Reema Patel</u> South Friern Library is well used, popular and a vital hub for the local community. There are no other similar local and public buildings nearby for residents. How can the Leader justify its closure or reducing it to the size of a living room?</p>

	<p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> Whilst South Friern Library is geographically ill positioned for Barnet, its future is safe.</p>
	<p><u>Supplementary Question</u> Does the Leader agree that it is inappropriate to call any library within Barnet 'geographically ill-positioned'?</p> <p><u>Supplementary Answer</u> No, I know where this library is.</p>
48.	<p><u>Cllr Brian Gordon</u> The Government has announced a tough new crackdown to combat rising anti-Semitism following a surge of sickening attacks against Jewish communities within Britain. This matter is of course of immense concern within this Borough. Communities and Local Government Secretary Eric Pickles has called on local authorities to play their part. What is the Council's up to date approach to this, bearing in mind our steadfast policy on race relations and inter - community harmony?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> All parties in Barnet reject intolerance. We have to be steadfast in our commitment to inter-community harmony.</p>
	<p><u>Supplementary Question</u> Thank you for endorsing the importance of rejecting intolerance and of inter-community harmony. But on the question of terrorism which was the subject of our two minutes' silence this evening, can we continue to work with the police to ensure that the maximum vigilance and security be applied to protecting Jewish premises which are undoubtedly potentially in the front line in the event of a terrorist attack of the kind that we have seen elsewhere.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Answer</u> Yes of course and I am sure all councillors in this chamber would agree with that. We certainly need to make sure that the police do look after the Jewish community in their places of worship but we also need to make sure that those moderate Muslims who are also vulnerable to terrorist attack at the moment should also be protected.</p>
49.	<p><u>Cllr Phil Cohen</u> Will the Leader agree to support a proper cross-party review of the Barnet Library Service, led by the Children, Education and Libraries committee, taking into account the recently published Independent Library Report (18 Dec 2014) commissioned by DCMS which calls for 'a re-invigoration of the library network', and, pending the outcome of that review, suspend the £2.85m cuts to the library service proposed for 2015-16?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> It is for the councillor to propose this to the committee and to come up with alternative savings.</p>
	<p><u>Supplementary Question</u> Can try to get some sense on this library's plans? It is not just the residents who are opposed to closures or downgrading of the service. It seems that some of the people of the blue persuasion are also opposed. We have seen the statement by Councillor Zinkin and Ryde who said that they were quite clear that '<i>we are determined to ensure that Childs Hill continues to have a first class library service based on that and Golders Green and will therefore not be supporting proposals for the closure of either.</i>' So there seems to be a cross-party consensus. Can we not get together as Labour and Conservative to try to identify some savings in the budget so that we can ring-fence the library budget? That's what our residents want and it's what we want and I think it's in the interests of Barnet that we do that.</p>

Supplementary Answer

That is what the committee system is all about. When proposals are prepared by officers, members of the committee will have an opportunity to speak about them, talk about them and work through them. After the failure of the working party system obviously that will be done in public which will be very transparent and the success in finding the cuts will be a measure to Labour Party cooperation with us.

50. Cllr Brian Gordon

What is our position on the desirability of street markets around the Borough?

Answer by the Leader

I like them and support them.

Supplementary Question

My colleagues Councillors Hart and Scannell and I myself are very pleased by your answer that you support street markets because we particularly would like to see this implemented in Edgware where there is a great desire for this by traders and there seems to be a lot of 'foot dragging' if I can no less politely than that by the officers, whoever they may be within the council to get this thing moving. Could you encourage the idea of a street market in Edgware which is definitely wanted and I cannot see why there should be any delay in that.

Supplementary Answer

If ward councillors persuade their colleagues on committees that this is a good idea and exercise their right to bring a motion to that committee, I have never seen any evidence of 'foot dragging' by officers.

51. Councillor Ann Hutton

At the Council meeting on 4 November I submitted a question asking about the costs for security at the Church Farm House ex museum. I was given yearly figures which varied widely and I asked in a supplementary why this was so. I was told that I would receive a written reply. No reply was received and I asked again at the council meeting on 16 December (Question No. 10) and was told by the Leader that I would receive a written reply, I asked in a supplementary when to expect it and was told that it was embarrassing that I still hadn't received a reply and that one would be forthcoming. I still haven't received a reply. Could I please have an answer to my supplementary question asked at Council on 23 September - and again on 16 December in relation to a breakdown of the costs of security at the Church Farm House Museum ex museum?

Answer by Councillor Daniel Thomas (Chairman of Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee)

I apologise for the protracted process Cllr Hutton has had to go through to obtain this information. The costs for security at the Church Farmhouse ex museum are shown below. They vary over time because initially Ad Hoc Property Management Ltd provided 24hr security from Sep 12 to Mar 14, at a cost of £85 per day, but during 2014 this was replaced by a guardian service from the same company (at nil cost) once the building had been minimally adapted to facilitate this service. This meant some capital expenditure in 2014 (shown below) which has subsequently eliminated the need for any further significant on-going security costs, other than some minor physical security measures.

Date	Description	Description	TotSum (actual)
24/09/2012	Ad Hoc-flexi guardian-Church Farmhouse M	Church Farmhouse Museum	£16,345.00
05/04/2013	Ad Hoc-Flexi Guard Church Farm Museum	Church Farmhouse Museum	£17,255.00
28/02/2013	Utilities/ Flexi Guardian/ Nov - Feb 2014	Church Farmhouse Museum	£9,900.00
30/01/2014	Security	Church Farmhouse Museum	£44.25
01/03/2014	Security Works	Church Farmhouse Museum	£1,625.00
18/12/2014	Lighting - Security	Church Farmhouse Museum	£1,131.54
			£46,300.79

	<p><u>Supplementary Question</u></p> <p>The reply states that there has subsequently eliminated the need for any further significant on-going security other than some minor physical security measures. I'm not quite sure what that means. Presumably that means some sort of guardian but we have paid nothing for the whole year for any security person to be on site. Is that accurate?</p> <p><u>Supplementary Answer</u></p> <p>That is correct. The guardian was provided free of charge. The minor security expenditure was on things like lighting and locks.</p>
52.	<p><u>Cllr Brian Gordon</u></p> <p>In view of the impending General Election this year, would the Leader give some early pointers as to why the election of anything other than a Conservative led Government could have highly detrimental consequences for residents of this Borough?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u></p> <p>The proposal from Labour to send money to Scotland and their supposed heartlands will reduce the cash available for us.</p>
	<p><u>Supplementary Question</u></p> <p>On the question of a Labour Government, there must be many other things that would be very undesirable for residents other than the small matter that you mentioned about Scotland, maybe not so small. Would you agree that right across the board their policies on spending, on wastage, on bureaucracy, on appeasing the unions and so many other countless things would be a good reason why every resident of Barnet should be strongly encouraged to support the Conservatives at the next election for a proper full Conservative Government?</p> <p><u>Supplementary Answer</u></p> <p>You won't be surprised to find that I shall be campaigning for just that scenario.</p>
53.	<p><u>Cllr Geof Cooke</u></p> <p>Agendas and contractor reports are available for the Legal Services Project Board that is supposed to provide strategic oversight of the Inter Authority Agreement governing the contract with HB Public Law hosted in Harrow, but why is there no record of attendance or decisions made for any meeting including the one following constitutional chaos in summer 2014?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u></p> <p>No formal minutes were taken from the Legal Services Strategic Monitoring Board meetings from January 13 to May 14 however all meetings from September 2014 have been minuted and actions noted accordingly.</p>
	<p>THAT CONCLUDES QUESTION TIME</p>
54.	<p><u>Cllr Brian Salinger</u></p> <p>Has the Leader of the Council seen the statement put out by Andrew Dismore AM dated 30th December in which he states..."Andrew Dismore, Labour parliamentary candidate for Hendon and London Assembly member for Barnet and Camden has today accused Barnet Council of an abuse of officer delegated powers over the approval of the planning application for the British Library Newspaper Library Site in Colindale Avenue.</p> <p>Mr Dismore said:</p> <p>"I am astounded that such an important development has been decided by officers on their own delegated authority and not submitted to the planning committee, as it should have been.</p> <p>'Officers have decided that the existing landmark building can be demolished, and 395 flats built in</p>

	<p>blocks up to 11 storeys high.</p> <p>'An application of this magnitude should have gone to elected councillors on the planning Committee to decide, where local people may have their voices heard.</p> <p>'This decision shows the utter contempt in which the Conservative Council holds locals residents. The overdevelopment of Colindale is a major issue in the community, and this decision, which does not even give residents a minimal opportunity to have their say and councillors the opportunity to represent their residents' interests to the Committee, is an utter disgrace. It can only be described as an abuse of delegated authority"</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u></p> <p>I have not sought out the comments of Andrew Dismore AM, but the planning process is strictly regulated and I am surprised that he could be so mistaken. (The fact that he actually spoke at the public meeting where this item was considered makes his outraged press release all the more of a personal embarrassment for him.)</p>
55.	<p><u>Cllr Dr Devra Kay</u></p> <p>When did the 50% dimming of street lights in the London Borough of Barnet begin?</p> <p><u>Councillor Dean Cohen (Chairman of Environment Committee)</u></p> <p>Installation of the central management system (CMS) which aids the dimming commenced in May 2013. Lighting levels were adjusted as assets came on stream, following CMS installation, from the Summer of 2013.</p>
56.	<p><u>Cllr Brian Salinger</u></p> <p>Is the Leader aware that Mr Dismore, along with the three West Hendon Councillors, started a petition on his website in October 2014 regarding the passageways at Hendon Central?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u></p> <p>No.</p>
57.	<p><u>Cllr Alan Schneiderman</u></p> <p>I understand that Mike Freer MP wrote to residents in December to say that the Council has no plans to relocate Finchley Lido. In the answer to my question (No. 84) on 16 December asking whether alternative locations were being considered for Finchley Lido and other Barnet leisure centres and pools, the Leader said: "All can be reconsidered; we cannot afford to be luddites". Who is correct?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u></p> <p>Both.</p>
58.	<p><u>Cllr Brian Salinger</u></p> <p>Is the Leader aware that Mr Dismore started a petition on his website in October 2014 regarding the possible abolition of the Hunting Ban?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u></p> <p>No.</p>
59.	<p><u>Cllr Paul Edwards</u></p> <p>Would the Leader join me in congratulating Fred Jarvis a resident of Chipping Barnet who was awarded the CBE in the new year's honours for his lifelong contribution to improving the rights and conditions of working people and in particular his 15 years as General Secretary of the National Union of Teachers?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u></p> <p>Yes.</p>

60.	<p><u>Cllr Brian Salinger</u> Is the Leader aware that Mr Dismore started a petition on his website in October 2014 asking people to sign up if they think that Barnet's Housing policy is unfair?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> No.</p>
61.	<p><u>Cllr Kathy Levine</u> What is the projected timetable for applying for planning permission for the relocation of the 'Mill Hill Depot facility' to the Abbots Depot site?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> We have to move from Mill Hill in late 2016 and all alternatives have to be available by then.</p>
62.	<p><u>Cllr Brian Salinger</u> Is the Leader aware that Mr Dismore started a petition on his website in November 2014 opposing the increase in Council rents?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> No.</p>
63.	<p><u>Cllr Charlie O'Macauley</u> Are there any residents who have passed working age and are still paying council tax and what is the criteria for paying council tax for people who have passed the working age in Barnet?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> Yes. The regulations are clear.</p>
64.	<p><u>Cllr Brian Salinger</u> Will the Leader make a statement outlining what he believes to be the latest position with regard to future use of the Pinkham Way site by North London Waste Authority?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> There are various proposals that the NLWA has murmured about. The Labour controlled authority still aspires for some waste use on its part of the site. I would like to see much needed housing on the Barnet part of the former sewage works. Haringey is the planning authority so will be in the driving seat on the site's future.</p>
65.	<p><u>Cllr Alison Moore</u> Given that Barnet has the 3rd highest child minding costs in the country (£200 per week) and the 18th highest nursery costs in the country (£150 per week) – effectively nearly half of average weekly pay and a third of average weekly pay respectively - does the Leader regret the closure of 8 children's centres in the borough rather than expanding provision?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> I always regret lost funding to Barnet and its residents, but recognise the government's difficulties.</p>
66.	<p><u>Cllr Brian Salinger</u> Will the Leader please make a statement outlining the arrangements that are to put in place for the North London Half Marathon starting and finishing at Allianz Park on 15th March?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> We are currently still in discussions with the promoters of the North London Half Marathon to deal with certain issues. The race is programmed for 15th March</p>

	<p>We have recently received the route and traffic management plans from the organisers Go2 Events and we have been in lengthy discussions with them regarding the impact of the proposed event on Barnet's road network, key services and the wider community. The plans indicate dozens of road closures including closure of the A5 which will have a significant impact.</p> <p>The Council need to be satisfied that impact on traffic and vital services are not affected. Additional information has been requested from Go2 regarding this, and this will form the basis as to whether LB Barnet grant permission for the event to proceed.</p>
67.	<p><u>Cllr Barry Rawlings</u> Will Barnet be an investor in the newly formed Local Government Finance Company to take advantage of the estimated savings of more than a billion pounds in borrowing costs for investing in new infrastructure like homes and roads?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> The Local Capital Finance Company was established in 2014 by the Local Government Association as an alternative to the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB). It plans to issue bonds on the capital markets and lend the proceeds to local authorities. This will be a more complicated source of finance than the PWLB for three reasons: borrowing authorities may be required to provide bond investors with a joint and several guarantee over the very small risk that other local authority borrowers default on their loans; there will be a lead time of several months between committing to borrow and knowing the interest rate payable; and up to 5% of the loan proceeds will be withheld from the Authority and used to bolster the Agency's capital strength instead.</p> <p>The Council is not a founder investor of the Local Government Finance Company. The Council has raised most of its long-term borrowing from the Public Works Loan Board, but it continues to investigate other sources of finance such as local authority loans and bank loans, that may be available at more favourable rates. Decisions on new borrowing will be made in accordance with the Council's Treasury Management Strategy and this will be the subject of a separate report.</p>
68.	<p><u>Cllr Bridget Perry</u> Could the Chairman of the Housing Committee indicate how it may be possible to retain freehold assets and yet create long term rental income from council owned properties that are built?</p> <p><u>Answer by Councillor Tom Davey (Chairman of the Housing Committee)</u> It may be possible to build homes using General Fund funding and rental incomes will come back to the General Fund.</p>
69.	<p><u>Cllr Reema Patel</u> Is the Leader aware that disabled people are twice as likely to live in poverty as non-disabled people? Would he explain why he supports all the welfare reforms and other measures like Bedroom Tax that his government have implemented which adversely affect this vulnerable and underrepresented group?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> The welfare system needs to be reformed and that reform needs to make sure that disabled residents are protected.</p>
70.	<p><u>Cllr Bridget Perry</u> Could the Chairman of the Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee comment on the funding of affordable housing and the impact it has on potential development projects?</p> <p><u>Answer by Councillor Daniel Thomas (Chairman of Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee)</u> We have a good record in producing affordable housing and it is important to be realistic about what</p>

	<p>developers can afford and achieve.</p>
71.	<p><u>Cllr Phil Cohen</u> Is the council proposing to close Church Farm leisure centre and if so what alternative locations are being seriously considered for it when the GLL contract expires in 2017?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> The Sport and Physical Activity (SPA) project is considering the Council's five existing leisure centres at Burnt Oak, Hendon, Finchley, Copthall and Church Farm - both in terms of the services provided and the condition of the facilities.</p> <p>This work was initiated by the Policy & Resources Committee meeting on the 21st July 2014.</p> <p>The current phase of the project has involved a feasibility study, looking at the condition of the five centres, their financial viability and how future facilities should be configured to meet the needs of Barnet's residents. To ensure these criteria address current and future needs the feasibility study is looking at alternative locations for the Church Farm centre, these are; the existing site, Victoria Recreation Ground, New Southgate Recreation Ground, Brunswick Park, Danegrove Playing Fields and Oakhill Park.</p> <p>The feasibility study will form part of a revised outline business case that will be discussed at the Policy and Resources committee on the 17th February 2015.'</p>
72.	<p><u>Cllr Bridget Perry</u> Could the Chairman of the Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee indicate where Barnet sits in the London league table for the construction of new homes of all tenures over the last five years? Could he further indicate what is currently planned across London for the next five?</p> <p><u>Answer by Councillor Daniel Thomas (Chairman of Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee)</u> Barnet continues to be a major contributor to housing delivery in London. It has delivered around 5,400 new homes over the last 5 years. Rates of housing delivery place Barnet in the top half of London Boroughs.</p> <p>As an indicator of future delivery, around 176,000 net residential units were approved in London between 2011/12 and 2013/14. Barnet accounts for around 6,000 of these planned new homes, about the 11th highest level in London.</p>
73.	<p><u>Cllr Geof Cooke</u> The bulking of recyclable items collected from blue bins all around the borough is done at the Council's waste depot and involves tipping large quantities of material including glass into open containers for onward transportation. This must be a noisy operation. How close are the nearest residential properties:</p> <p>a) to the existing Mill Hill depot? b) to the proposed depot off Oakleigh Road South, Brunswick Park?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> The materials delivered to site, from the recycling vehicles, are all dry recyclables, including glass, paper cans, plastic and cardboard. These are bulked into a top loading articulated lorry by a mechanical shovel. This operation will be done inside a purpose built building which will be undercover. The site is swept and left clean at the end of each day and no materials will be left on site. Noise and dust are minimised due to this activity being inside the building which will be purpose built for this activity.</p> <p>Food waste materials are also delivered by food waste collection vehicles into a covered purpose made</p>

	<p>food haulage container which will be undercover and then lifted and transported on a hook loader lorry.</p> <p>Dry recyclables are delivered to the Biffa site at Edmonton.</p> <p>Food waste is delivered to the ECO park run by NLWA at Edmonton.</p> <p>The waste and recycling service will operate the same number of vehicles as the current operation run at Mill Hill which has reduced the numbers of vehicles previously operated by Kier May Gurney as part of the old service offer.</p> <p>The bulking of recyclable materials happens within the Mill Hill Depot site and the nearest residential properties, sited along Bittacy Hill, are approximately 5/10 metres from the boundary of the site. The designs for the proposed Oakleigh Road site are still being worked up, but the same proximity occurs at the Abbots Depot site with the closest residential properties being located along Coppies Grove.</p>
74.	<p><u>Cllr Alison Cornelius</u> What is the cost in terms of printing of the recent spate of referrals from committees to full council?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> There has been an increase of printing costs amounting to £7,854 for the period June 2014 – December 2014 compared to the same period in 2013 which predominately is due to referrals from committee to Full Council.</p>
75.	<p><u>Cllr Dr Devra Kay</u> What monitoring is taking place of Re, the joint venture between Capita and LB Barnet, who have a contract to provide LB Barnet with highways services (amongst other things) and which is being expanded to increase the number of services?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> Monitoring takes place at the Performance & Contract Monitoring Committee, the Environment Committee and via the council's two representatives on the board.</p>
76.	<p><u>Cllr Stephen Sowerby</u> What is the cost of disposing of recyclables and residual waste?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> For 2014/15 Barnet will pay a levy of £9.648m for household waste, £1.412m for non-household waste, £0.262m for chargeable household waste and a Household Waste Recycling Centre cost of £725. These costs are paid to the North London Waste Authority and include the cost of treatment of recycling, garden waste, food waste and disposal of refuse from households, and disposal of refuse from trade waste customers.</p> <p>The net cost of treatment and disposal of materials from the Civic Amenity and Recycling Centre, Summers Lane from April to November 2014 is £143,200.</p> <p>The projected income to be received by the council from the sale of household recyclable materials is £594k for 2014/15.</p>
77.	<p><u>Cllr Alan Schneiderman</u> Will the Leader listen to representations from residents who feel less safe since their street lights were dimmed?</p> <p><u>Councillor Dean Cohen (Chairman of Environment Committee)</u> There have been no recorded instances of complaints from residents who feel less safe since the street</p>

	lights were dimmed. Generally speaking, where complaints relate to poor levels of lighting in a particular location, it is a direct result of another obstruction to light output; for example trees reducing light output because of shadowing.
78.	<p><u>Cllr Stephen Sowerby</u> How are the costs of the failed procurement by the Labour controlled NLWA to be shared amongst the boroughs? What is the running cost of this authority and what capital remains after the losses?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> The failed procurement cost £26m.</p> <p>The costs were borne by each of the seven constituent boroughs of the North London Waste Authority, in the relevant year, in proportion to each borough's council's tax base. Barnet thus had to pay the largest share of this Labour controlled quango. There is a further loss if the land at Pinkham Way is downgraded.</p> <p>The running costs for the North London Waste Authority for 2014/15 are £2.843m for corporate and other support services, £766k for Operations Team, £259k for Technical and Planning Teams. These costs include a wide range of activities, including legal and technical advice, insurance, accommodation and staff costs, waste reduction initiatives, and additional 3rd party support as required.</p>
79.	<p><u>Cllr Kathy Levine</u> What were the 'appropriate mitigations' that Counsel advised would be needed with regard to the feasibility of gaining planning permission for the Abbots Depot site (ref para 1.11 Depot Relocation Project paper to 16 December Council)?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> In order to mitigate the risk that planning permission may not be granted, a public consultation will take place, which will help to inform a number of provisions & measures that will be considered for inclusion in the schemes, such as: easy access & parking, landscaping, noise attenuation and the detailed design of the facility. Detailed analysis of travel plans and hours of use will also take place so that disruption to local residents is minimised as much as possible during business operations. Furthermore, a comprehensive and considerate construction management plan will be developed to minimise the risk of disruption to local residents during construction.</p>
80.	<p><u>Cllr Caroline Stock</u> Could the Leader indicate the spend per capita, excluding education, of the London Boroughs?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> Spend per capita is calculated using the SFA, other grants and Council Tax income. For London Borough of Barnet the spend per capita is £826.27 compared to the London Average of £959.07. From the 33 London Boroughs Barnet is the 10th Lowest.</p>
81.	<p><u>Cllr Reema Patel</u> Boris Johnson recently introduced ticket fares of £10.00 for a previously free view from the banks of London New Year's Eve fireworks. Will the Leader join me in condemning this ill-considered, poorly implemented and thought out policy which seems only to have benefitted touts who have resold tickets for over £200.00 a pop?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> Funding is difficult for all.</p>
82.	<p><u>Cllr Caroline Stock</u> Could the Leader indicate Barnet's position in terms of budget and population relative to other</p>

	<p>authorities in England?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> Barnet's budget position per head is within the top third ranking number 108 out of the 353 Authorities used in the comparison. The budget per head for Barnet is £713.92.</p>
83.	<p><u>Cllr Phil Cohen</u> When are we likely to see a draft of the council's promised Cycling Strategy and how will it take forward the Mayor's Vision for Cycling?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> Following a stakeholder workshop in the Autumn we expect to have a summary of policy influences (which includes the Mayor's Vision for Cycling), a series of objectives and associated commentary and various workshop outputs completed shortly.</p> <p>The collated outputs will inform further work to prepare a draft strategy which is expected to be presented to the June meeting of the Environment Committee. Subject to approval by the Committee public consultation will take place during the summer, including publication on the Council's consultation portal, with a view to formally adopting the strategy by the end of the year.</p> <p>In delivering the Mayor's commitment to cycling our draft strategy will seek to create a network of cycle-ways across the borough, joining town centres, transport hubs, new development sites, and green spaces into a single coherent space.</p>
84.	<p><u>Cllr Caroline Stock</u> What would be the level of council tax in Barnet if we received the same level of central government finance as Central London boroughs?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> The Settlement funding allocation for Barnet per head is £330 compared to the London average of £532. If Barnet was to receive £532 per head of SFA then the Council tax band D equivalent would be £530.55 which would be £571.52 less than the current council tax of £1,102.07.</p> <p>There are six boroughs which if Barnet received the same level of funding per head would result in us not having to charge any council tax at all and would place us in a position to give money back to residents. For example, if we received the same funding per head as Hackney, we could give residents £430 per year. If we were allocated the same per head as Camden we could hand back £243 a year to residents.</p>
85.	<p><u>Cllr Geof Cooke</u> Have any administration councillors, council officers or contractors working on behalf of Barnet Council (including those working for or on behalf of Capita) received any gifts or hospitality from Comer Homes or any of its subsidiaries from the beginning of 2013 to date?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> There have been no declarations made from councillors or council staff in relation to receipt of gifts or hospitality from Comer Homes or any of its subsidiaries from the beginning of 2013 to date.</p> <p>CAPITA have to abide by our hospitality policy and so any declarations would be within our register. They also hold their own records.</p>
86.	<p><u>Cllr Caroline Stock</u> How many school dinners are eaten in Barnet schools and what is their origin?</p>

Councillor Reuben Thompson (Chairman of the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee)

Barnet's Catering Service provides approximately 3.23 million primary schools meals each year and approximately 1.14million secondary meals. The service provides freshly prepared meals cooked mainly on site from fresh ingredients in accordance with Government Food Standards. The service also holds the Soil Association Food for Life Silver Catering Mark which means farm assured meat, free range eggs and some organic foods. We do not hold information for meals provided through other catering providers.

87. Cllr Dr Devra Kay

Why are so many area planning committee meetings being cancelled and why are those who have formally objected to planning applications on their first appearance not been contacted when the applications reappear for consideration?

Answer by the Leader

Because of lack of business. Could the councilor advise us of these re-considerations and let us know what she has already done?

88. Cllr Val Duschinsky

Could the Chairman of the Assets Regeneration and Growth Committee indicate ownership and occupation of the various buildings in the neighbourhood of the Town Hall?

Answer by Councillor Daniel Thomas (Chairman of Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee)

The list of council owned properties are on the attached table below.

No	PROPERTY NAME	LESSEE
1	GREYHOUND HILL ALL WEATHER PITCH	MIDDLESEX UNIVERSITY
	HENDON TOWN HALL (partial)	MIDDLESEX UNIVERSITY
2	HENDON TOWN HALL (partial)	LONDON BOROUGH BARNET
	HENDON TOWN HALL- CLINIC FORMER	MIDDLESEX UNIVERSITY
3	HENDON LIBRARY THE BURROUGHS	LBB Operational library
4	RAVENSFIELD HSE THE BURROUGHS & CAR PARK	MIDDLESEX UNIVERSITY
5	FENELLA THE BURROUGHS	MIDDLESEX UNIVERSITY
6	CHURCH FARMHOUSE MUSEUM, GREYHOUND HILL	Under negotiation with MIDDLESEX UNIVERSITY
7	EGERTON GARDENS CAR PARK	LBB operational car park
8	HENDON TOWN HALL CAR PARK SITE-SOLD LONG LEASE	MIDDLESEX UNIVERSITY
9	BURROUGHS GARDENS CAR PARK	LBB operational car park
10	17A THE BURROUGHS	EDWARD ADAMBERRY
	THE BURROUGHS CAR PARK (17-23)	LBB operational car park
11	COLINHURST HOUSE, STATION ROAD	MIDDLESEX UNIVERSITY
12	ST GEORGES LODGE THE BURROUGHS	GMB trade union
13	CHURCH END, MERITAGE CLUB	HENDON & OLD PEOPLES DISTRICT WELFARE
	CHURCH END 46 NW4	PATEL VINDORAI S
14	CHURCH END 44 NW4	CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU
	CHURCH END 40/42 NW4	CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU
15	CHURCH END 30 SHERRICK HSE PT	BARNET MENCAP
	CHURCH END 28 SHERRICK HSE PT	AFRICAN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION TRUSTEES OF

89. Cllr Alan Schneiderman

What arrangements are in place to refund motorists who paid to park when it should have been free?

Answer by Councillor Dean Cohen (Chairman of Environment Committee)

In accordance with the answer to Question 17 all sums paid had been proactively refunded by 22 December.

90. Cllr Val Duschinsky

Does the Leader believe the Green Belt serves any purpose in 2015? How is it being protected?

Answer by the Leader

	<p>Yes. The use of the Green Belt is strictly regulated and keeps developers from sprawling ever further into our green and pleasant land.</p>
91.	<p><u>Cllr Kathy Levine</u> What is the projected timetable for the development of the Abbots Depot site should planning permission be given?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> By 2017.</p>
92.	<p><u>Cllr Val Duschinsky</u> Could the Chairman of the Pension Committee advise as to his views on the wisdom of investing in infrastructure projects?</p> <p><u>Answer by Councillor Mark Shooter (Chairman of the Pension Fund Committee)</u> Infrastructure investments suit the long term nature of the liability profile of pension funds, and can offer large returns. However due to higher implicit risks in these projects coupled with their size and complexity, the pension fund investment committee do not envisage investing in any infrastructure projects for the foreseeable future.</p>
93.	<p><u>Cllr Reema Patel</u> Will the Leader join me in thanking those public servants and volunteers who spent their festive holidays working to ensure a safe period for all families at home?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> Yes.</p>
94.	<p><u>Cllr Graham Old</u> What is the current level of Trade Union funding by the taxpayer and does this offer good value?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> As agreed in the 2014/15 budget, the Council provides core funding of £31,000 to Trade Unions this funding is proposed to continue. Additional funding has been agreed for specific project work, for example, where Trade Union representatives are involved in joint evaluation panels of roles as part of the Unified Reward project. We continue to keep the effectiveness of these arrangements under review.</p>
95.	<p><u>Cllr Phil Cohen</u> Has a borough cycling officer been appointed and if so what is their proposed programme of work and what budget do they have for improving cycling facilities in Barnet, which are generally agreed to lag well behind other London boroughs in this regard?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> A Borough Cycling Officer was appointed in December 2014 and two apprentices to promote cycle training have been advertised. Their main aim is to deliver a programme of cycle training to all those that live, work and study in Barnet.</p> <p>With regards to cycling facilities we have an allocation of £100k for the provision of resident cycle parking which is primarily in Barnet Home's sites, £27k for on street cycle parking in the Borough, £400k for investigation and implementation of cycle route schemes.</p>
96.	<p><u>Cllr Graham Old</u> How many employees of the council are members of trade unions?</p>

Answer by the Leader

The Council estimates that trade unions membership (including schools) is around 30% of the total workforce. The council deducts trade unions subscriptions from monthly salaries. However, we do not use this information to monitor the exact number of employees who are trade union members. At the same time, a number of employees do not use the council's payroll deduction mechanisms. Our estimate is arrived at by the information provided by the trade unions at the point of a notification of industrial action.

97. Cllr Geof Cooke

Please list all instances of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and s106 payments that are due from developers as a condition of granting planning permission but not yet received by Barnet Council including developer name, site address, sum outstanding, date sum was due and action taken by the Council to obtain what is owed.

Answer by the Leader

There are no outstanding Community Infrastructure Levy payments due to the Council. In terms of Planning Obligations, please find attached a list of current identified cases.

NB: The total line excludes cases that are 'under review' to determine if they are liable to make payments.

	Site	Status	Due	Paid	Comment
S106	Greenpoint, Edgware Road	Under Review	#####	0	Believed triggered in November 2014, we are in discussion with developer about whether site has formally commenced and payment must be made
S106	Former Fire Station, Bunns Lane, Mill Hill, NW7	Under Review	5,817.00	0	We have been notified this site may have commenced, a review is underway to confirm.
S106	83 High Street & 2-8 Union St	Payment Plan	7,706.46	#####	A payment plan spread over a number of months was agreed to ensure they can make full payment
S106	4 Westover Hill, West Heath Road, NW3 7UH	Payment Plan	9,000.00	#####	This site is in administration, we are waiting to hear from the administrators
S106	Land Adjacent To 95, Formerly 91 and 93, Milespit Hill, NW7	Payment Plan	8,300.00	1,160.00	A payment plan spread over a number of months was agreed to ensure they can make full payment
S106	Dick Turpin, 383 Long Lane, N2 8JW	Overdue Instalment	8,300.00	1,160.00	Final obligation was due by end of December 2014, we are reviewing if payment was made.
S106	25 Edgwarebury Lane HA8 8LJ	Triggered	20,000.00	0	Enforcement process began in November 2014
S106	Farrow House, Colindale Lane NW9 6HE	Triggered	21,000.00	0	Enforcement process began in November 2014
S106	The Archer Academy Playing Fields, Stanley Road, N2	Triggered	12,500.00	0	Enforcement process began in November 2014
S106	3 Bell Lane	Triggered	2,000.00	0	Enforcement process began in July 2014
Condition	3-5 Accommodation Road, NW118ED	Payment Plan	3,073.00	#####	A payment plan spread over a number of months was agreed to ensure they can make full payment
Condition	82 High Road, N2 9PN	Payment Plan	9,479.00	0	A payment plan spread over a number of months was agreed to ensure they can make full payment
Condition	42 Church Lane, N2 8DT	Payment Plan	4,291.00	1,291.00	A payment plan spread over a number of months was agreed to ensure they can make full payment
Condition	53A Ridgeview Road, N20 0HG (Land between 51 and 53)	Payment Plan	10,101.00	0	A payment plan spread over a number of months was agreed to ensure they can make full payment
Condition	Land at rear of 69 Jackson Road, Barnet, Herts, EN4 8JU	Triggered	7,713.00	0	Enforcement process began in September 2014
Condition	Frith Manor Primary School Swimming Pool, N12 7BN	Triggered	5,000.00	0	Enforcement process began in December 2014
Condition	Plot 4, Site between 63 and 81, Winnington Road	Triggered	TBC	0	Enforcement will begin January 2015
TOTAL:			#####	#####	

98. Cllr Graham Old

Do the various trade unions recognised by the council donate to the Labour Party? Is there any indication as to how much is so given?

Answer by the Leader

The matter of donations to political parties is for the individual trade unions to declare. This information is not held or monitored by the Council.

99. Cllr Alan Schneiderman

Will the Council consult traders, residents and ward members over how this year's free Christmas parking initiative was publicised and implemented with a view to learning from the mistakes made this year and in previous years?

Answer by Councillor Dean Cohen (Chairman of Environment Committee)

Yes. (But with the committee now having agreed to this initiative for the next three years, publicity will naturally be able to begin much earlier.)

100	<p><u>Cllr Joan Scannell</u> What is the current use of the former borough mortuary?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> The current Finchley mortuary is still utilised as a functional Coroner’s mortuary to provide public mortuary services to the residents of Barnet.</p>
101	<p><u>Cllr Kathy Levine</u> How is the 'residential value' of the Abbots Depot site likely to be affected by the TfL safeguarding exercise that includes this site?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> Not likely as it is taken into account.</p>
102	<p><u>Cllr Joan Scannell</u> Could the Chairman of the Housing Committee outline big ticket maintenance budgets undertaken by Barnet Homes in the last three years and are there examples in other borough of similar works?</p> <p><u>Answer by Councillor Tom Davey (Chairman of the Housing Committee)</u> In order to maintain assets a planned programme of capital works is delivered each year, informed by a 30 year business plan and stock condition data.</p> <p>Examples of big ticket capital works for the period 2011-2014 include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replacement of windows – £2,020,000 • Replacement of kitchens and bathrooms – £1,918,000 • Rewiring works to communal and domestic areas (including the replacement of electrical rising mains)- £13,047,000 • Boiler replacements –£3,209,000 <p>It is not really possible to compare the capital spend of one local authority to another. The makeup of each Local Authority capital spend will depend upon:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The type, age and condition of the housing stock • Historical investment and maintenance decisions • Where each authority is with its decent homes programme delivery
103	<p><u>Cllr Alan Schneiderman</u> Why have allotment holders been asked for old photographs in order to determine the correct boundaries?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> It seems a sensible request.</p>
104	<p><u>Cllr Gill Sargeant</u> Would the Leader confirm how much additional money Capita have been paid for diverting calls to Coventry and what the cost per call has been?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> The cost per call for customers has remained at local rates and are made by local numbers regardless of whether they are directed to Coventry or Barnet as this is a contract obligation.</p> <p>The service is run at a fixed price which includes the management of all calls across all channels, the</p>

	supporting IT and all related third party contracts.
105	<p><u>Cllr Alan Schneiderman</u> What progress has been made in response to the petition presented at the Hendon Residents Forum last October calling for measures to combat the problems caused by traffic, in particular heavy vehicles, using Flower Lane NW7?</p> <p><u>Answer by Councillor Dean Cohen (Chairman of Environment Committee)</u> Investigations have been undertaken with regards to speed surveys and classified counts in order to ascertain the extent of the problem and any mitigation measure that could be proposed. Any scheme that could be introduced would then be prioritised along with all other schemes in the Borough on an annual basis for submission to the Environment Committee for approval.</p>
106	<p><u>Cllr Ross Houston</u> Would the Leader advise how much the Housing Benefit bill would go up by if LB Barnet increase council rents for current secure tenants to 80% of average market rates or LHA levels?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> These proposals are currently the subject of a consultation and we would not want to pre-empt that process. However, any changes would be introduced gradually and therefore we would not expect to see a significant rise in Housing Benefit claims.</p>
107	<p><u>Cllr Barry Rawlings</u> At Council on 4th November the Leader agreed to a training session before the December Council meeting on the lessons from Rotherham especially the lessons for both Council and councillors. Why did it not take place?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> This training did not take place as it was felt advisable to leave it until the new year. Officers are keen to take it forward and are in discussions with Governance colleagues to arrange a convenient time to deliver the training. Provisionally this session will take place on 3rd March prior to the full council meeting, subject to final details being agreed.</p>
108	<p><u>Cllr Barry Rawlings</u> What progress has been made in updating the facilities at Hendon Crematorium?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> Hendon Cemetery is undergoing a significant period of transformation, most of which has occurred behind the scenes thus far. Over the last 18 months the following projects have been completed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £1M+ programme to replace the cremators was completed in October. 2014. They are now more efficient and fully compliant with emissions legislation. • The crematory has been modernised. • Urgent health & safety matters have been rectified. • Road gullies have been manually cleared • A computer records management system has been installed. • A tree condition survey has been undertaken. • The inscribed paving around the lily pond has been relayed as have a number of footpaths that had become uneven due to tree roots. • The hedges have been trimmed for the first time in three years. <p>Monday 12 January a significant tree safety and tree management programme will begin. Tuesday 13 January all road gullies and surface water drains will be mechanically cleaned. If this does</p>

	<p>not identify any significant issues requiring excavation, a programme of road surface improvements will be implemented.</p> <p>New grounds maintenance equipment is being procured ready for the grass cutting season. The ability to webcast funerals has been procured and is awaiting installation. An agreement to digitise all of the paper burial and cremations records has been agreed in principal, and is awaiting data protection formalities to be completed before implementation.</p> <p>Business cases for the wider infrastructure; Gatehouse, Chapel Buildings and Grounds Maintenance Buildings have been completed and are going through the necessary governance prior to implementation.</p> <p>Research into providing a range of additional memorial options for the bereaved around the crematorium are well advanced.</p>
109	<p><u>Cllr Barry Rawlings</u> While packing hampers at Jesus House it was noticeable how busy the Tilling Road facility was. How many vehicles per day on average use the site?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> Between 1 April and 31 December 2014 there were 28,339 vehicle movements at the Tilling Road Waste Transfer Station, which equates to approximately 145 vehicles per day.</p> <p>Of these 19,272 were Barnet Council vehicle movements, 6,152 were Camden Council vehicle movements and the remainder were either trade waste vehicles or those operated on behalf of the North London Waste Authority to transfer residual waste to the Energy from Waste Plant at Edmonton.</p>
110	<p><u>Cllr Alon Or-bach</u> What saving or additional penalty revenue is the council making by not sending out resident parking permit renewal letters?</p> <p><u>Councillor Dean Cohen (Chairman of Environment Committee)</u> None – There is no statutory requirement for the authority to issue reminder letters but we do. Where letters have not been sent this has been due to either process or system error as it is not the intention to cease the issuing of reminder letters. Processes have been improved since the last error occurred in order to address this issue.</p> <p>Where it is identified that a renewal letter has not been sent, any PCNs subsequently issued would generally be cancelled.</p>
111	<p><u>Cllr Alon Or-bach</u> What steps is the leader making towards requiring that outsourced services used by the council pay their staff the Living Wage?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> This is not something that is being proposed at the moment, but remains an aspiration.</p>
112	<p><u>Cllr Adam Langleben</u> Could the Chair of the Housing Committee tell me how many Barnet Homes tenants across the borough are 'non-secure' tenants who have been in the same property for more than five years as of 4th January 2015?</p> <p><u>Councillor Tom Davey (Chairman of the Housing Committee)</u></p>

	<p>There are 398 non secure tenants who have been in their current property since 4 January 2010. This is around 40% of the total non -secures.</p>
113	<p><u>Cllr Adam Langleben</u> Could the Chair of the Housing Committee tell me how much has the Council paid to landlords in incentives in 2012/13, 2013/14 and the current financial year to date?</p> <p><u>Councillor Tom Davey (Chairman of the Housing Committee)</u> The amount paid to landlords in payment for incentives is: 2012/13 £42,689 2013/14 £698,843 2014/15 to 4 Dec 2014 £512,556</p>
114	<p><u>Cllr Adam Langleben</u> Further to question 122 at the last full council meeting and question 92 at the meeting before. Could the Leader tell me yet how much Re has made in profit?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> The accounts are not yet closed off but I understand the company is profitable.</p> <p>The Re year-end is 31st December 2014. The year-end accounts are currently being produced, and will be audited shortly. Once this process is complete, the profit figure for Re can be confirmed.</p>
115	<p><u>Cllr Adam Langleben</u> Would the Leader tell me how many non-secure tenants (as 1 January 2015) are living on: a) the West Hendon estate b) Stonegrove estate.</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> There are 197 non secure tenants living in West Hendon and 10 living in Stonegrove.</p>
116	<p><u>Cllr Adam Langleben</u> Would the Leader define the term 'estate regeneration'?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> Re-building</p>
117	<p><u>Cllr Adam Langleben</u> Has the Leader got plans to 'regenerate' other council estates not currently scheduled for regeneration? If so, which ones?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> No.</p>
118	<p><u>Cllr Adam Langleben</u> Would the Leader tell me when weighing up the priorities of developers vs. existing residents on regeneration estates, which interested party should take priority, in his view?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> There needs to be a careful balance.</p>
119	<p><u>Cllr Adam Langleben</u> I welcome the commitment made by the Leader in Question 126 at the last council meeting to attend a meeting with West Hendon residents. Could the Leader tell me when he will fulfil this commitment (preferably with a date)?</p>

	<p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> Soon.</p>
120	<p><u>Cllr Adam Langleben</u> Could the Chair of the Housing Committee tell me how much in Barnet Homes property rent income comes from housing benefit?</p> <p><u>Councillor Tom Davey (Chairman of the Housing Committee)</u> For 2014/15 financial year to the end of quarter 3, 55.6% of current tenant rent charges were paid by housing benefit for our permanent stock.</p> <p>For temporary accommodation, for the 2014/15 financial year to the end of Quarter 3, 84.6% of rent charges were paid by housing benefit.</p>
121	<p><u>Cllr Adam Langleben</u> Could the Chair of Housing Committee tell me what percentage of Barnet Homes tenants are in work?</p> <p><u>Councillor Tom Davey (Chairman of the Housing Committee)</u> This is information that Barnet Homes does not collect.</p>
122	<p><u>Cllr Adam Langleben</u> Could the Chair of the Community Leadership Committee give me his assessment of the success of the Barnet Eruv project?</p> <p><u>Councillor David Longstaff (Chairman of the Community Leadership Committee)</u> Since the planning application was agreed no issues have arisen and I don't expect any issues to arise.</p>
123	<p><u>Cllr Alison Moore</u> Does the Leader think it is acceptable for Leaseholders of The Grange Estate in East Finchley to have received bills for up to £9,000 on 16th December, just before Christmas and on the day that Tory councillors voted down the 'secret' proposals to extend payment terms for Barnet leaseholders and what does he intend to do to help leaseholders pay these bills?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> The councillor is being disingenuous.</p>
124	<p><u>Cllr Zakia Zubairi</u> Would the Leader provide me with an update on how many secure and non-secure tenants there are living on the Grahame Park estate currently and how many will be accommodated on the newly built estate?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> The situation at January 2015 is as follows</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Secure tenants 509 - Non-secure tenants 575 - Resident caretakers 3 - Void units 23 <p>This situation will be changing over the next few months, as more secure tenants move into the new homes being created by the next phase of the regeneration of Grahame Park. Thereafter, the non-secure tenancies and voids will increase, as some properties vacated by secure tenants moving into new properties, are temporarily used to house non-secure tenants. Overall, the regeneration is</p>

<p>expected to provide approximately 1,000 new affordable homes. By March 2014 180 new socially rent homes had been built and occupied. In addition, 39 affordable rent homes had also been built, originally intended for private sale, but these have not been used for decanting existing estate residents. Also, 171 new private properties had been completed by March 2014 and more are being provided in the next phase.</p>

97. Cllr Geof Cooke

Please list all instances of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and s106 payments that are due from developers as a condition of granting planning permission but not yet received by Barnet Council including developer name, site address, sum outstanding, date sum was due and action taken by the Council to obtain what is owed.

Answer by the Leader

There are no outstanding Community Infrastructure Levy payments due to the Council. In terms of Planning Obligations, please find attached a list of current identified cases.

NB: The total line excludes cases that are 'under review' to determine if they are liable to make payments.

	Site	Status	Due	Paid	Comment
S106	Greenpoint, Edgware Road	Under Review	382,997.00	0	Believed triggered in November 2014, we are in discussion with developer about whether site has formally commenced and payment must be made
S106	Former Fire Station, Bunns Lane, Mill Hill, NW7	Under Review	5,817.00	0	We have been notified this site may have commenced, a review is underway to confirm.
S106	83 High Street & 2-8 Union St	Payment Plan	7,706.46	1,070.46	A payment plan spread over a number of months was agreed to ensure they can make full payment
S106	4 Westover Hill, West Heath Road, NW3 7UH	Payment Plan	9,000.00	4,005.00	This site is in administration, we are waiting to hear from the administrators
S106	Land Adjacent To 95, Formerly 91 and 93, Milesplit Hill, NW7	Payment Plan	8,300.00	1,160.00	A payment plan spread over a number of months was agreed to ensure they can make full payment
S106	Dick Turpin, 383 Long Lane, N2 8JW	Overdue Instalment	8,300.00	1,160.00	Final obligation was due by end of December 2014, we are reviewing if payment was made.
S106	25 Edgwarebury Lane HA8 8LJ	Triggered	20,000.00	0	Enforcement process began in November 2014
S106	Farrow House, Colindeep Lane NW9 6HE	Triggered	21,000.00	0	Enforcement process began in November 2014
S106	The Archer Academy Playing Fields, Stanley Road, N2	Triggered	12,500.00	0	Enforcement process began in November 2014
S106	3 Bell Lane	Triggered	2,000.00	0	Enforcement process began in July 2014
Condition	3-5 Accommodation Road, NW11 8ED	Payment Plan	3,073.00	1,025.00	A payment plan spread over a number of months was agreed to ensure they can make full payment
Condition	82 High Road, N2 9PN	Payment Plan	9,479.00	0	A payment plan spread over a number of months was agreed to ensure they can make full payment
Condition	42 Church Lane, N2 8DT	Payment Plan	4,291.00	1,291.00	A payment plan spread over a number of months was agreed to ensure they can make full payment
Condition	53A Ridgeview Road, N20 0HG (Land between 51 and 53)	Payment Plan	10,101.00	0	A payment plan spread over a number of months was agreed to ensure they can make full payment
Condition	Land at rear of 69 Jackson Road, Barnet, Herts, EN4 8UU	Triggered	7,713.00	0	Enforcement process began in September 2014
Condition	Frith Manor Primary School Swimming Pool, N12 7BN.	Triggered	5,000.00	0	Enforcement process began in December 2014
Condition	Plot 4, Site between 63 and 81, Winnington Road	Triggered	TBC	0	Enforcement will begin January 2015
	TOTAL:		128,463.46	9,711.46	

