

Council – 14 April 2015

Responses to Supplementary Questions

<p>1</p>	<p>Cllr Gabriel Rozenburg</p> <p>How many registered users did the council website, barnet.gov.uk have as of 1 March 2015, the day that the overhauled website was launched? Could the Leader outline some of the advantages of registering an account with the new website, both for residents and for the borough? Does he expect to see website registrations increase over the coming year?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>There was a “soft” launch of the new website and My Account at the beginning of March, with the main publicity being an insert with the Council Tax bills sent out in the middle of the month. As of the 31 March 2,481 people had registered a My Account. Having an account enables customers undertake a number of transactions with the council including; requesting and paying for parking permits and vouchers, join a local library, reserving or renewing books, registering for Council Tax, checking a balance and make a payment and applying for housing benefits.</p> <p>The new website, which went live on 1 March 2015, attracted 186,542 visits and 2,481 new My Account registrations in the first month. We expect registrations to increase this year, which will be reported as part of the quarterly performance report to Performance and Contract Management Committee. The old website, which was live for 3 years, accumulated nearly 15,000 registered users, although less than 2,000 had been accessed in the last 18 months.</p> <p>The advantages for residents of registering with the website by creating a new My Account are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It provides secure 24/7 access to multiple council accounts in one place, using one password for council tax, parking permits, libraries and housing benefits • It saves time by automatically populating your name and address into new council webforms you complete (when you are logged in) • It displays the requests for road/pavement repairs or other environmental services that you have logged with customer services and what their status is, so that you don't have to call the contact centre • It tells you whether anyone else has already reported the environmental problem you wish to report, and allows you choose to be updated on its progress • It shows you a calendar of your different bin collection dates, including what happens over the nearest bank holiday period • It shows what library events are happening near your house, on a map. <p>Until 30 April, residents who register with the website will be entered into a competition to win an iPad.</p>
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	<p>Cllr Gabriel Rozenburg</p> <p>Supplementary Question These figures show that 20 per cent more people registered for Barnet's new website in the first month than were actively registered and using the site over the entire previous year and a half and that's because the massively improved website lets people access the most popular and important services, benefits and payments, all with one simple logon and this streamlined system saves the council money. Conservatives stand for an efficient government. Can the Leader therefore think of anything else that Barnet citizens could benefit for by registering for this month?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>Obviously to register to vote so that they can vote Conservative.</p>

<p>2</p>	<p>Cllr Alison Moore</p> <p>Can the Leader tell me how he will ensure that no tenants in Barnet will be disenfranchised by being moved or decanted ahead of May 7th 2015?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>Every household in the borough has received a “You must be registered in order to vote” leaflet reminding them of the need to register, especially if they have recently moved. All households in Barnet Homes’ managed properties have also received a version of this leaflet on the back page of the last “At Home” magazine which was distributed last week.</p> <p>Any new tenants who move into Barnet Homes’ managed properties are given a copy of the leaflet as part of the interview when they sign their tenancy agreements. This includes for example non-secure tenants who are rehoused from the Regeneration estates. We have contacted our Housing Association partners and asked them to do the same for any new tenants that they sign up.</p> <p>We have also given some additional advice to those who are due to move after the last date for registering (20th April) and before the election. If someone is currently on the electoral register, they will remain registered at their old address (even if they move) until they re-register at a new address. In the case of Regeneration properties, destined for demolition, if no re-registration is received, attempts are made to contact the resident before removing them from the register. This would not happen until after the election. In order to vote residents who have already moved should go to the polling station shown on their polling card (and not the one in their new location) and give their old address.</p> <p>For secure tenants due to move to a new home on their estate just before the election, our advice is therefore that they wait until after 7th May to re-register. When voting they will just need to remember to go to their old polling station and give their old address. We have written to every secure tenant who is likely to be in this situation and explained this advice, and will also advise others who move in this period at the point of sign-up. Up until 21st April, registered electors that know they will be moving before election day could also apply for a postal vote if the distances involved do not make going to their old polling station practical or desirable.</p>
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	<p>Cllr Alison Moore</p> <p>Supplementary Question I think the disruption created by moving house is significant and doubly so when you are being forced to move. Given that the date of this election has been known for the best part of five years, I fail to understand why residents are being decanted during the election period. It is an added worry for those residents and it's additional work for the electoral registration office. How would you ensure that there are no decants during the period 20th April – 7th May and certainly that nobody will be forced to move on election day?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>Cllr Moore is of course being completely disingenuous here and I shan't dignify that with an answer.</p>
3	<p>Cllr John Marshall</p> <p>What has been the reduction in people claiming unemployment benefits over the last 12 months and, more specifically, what has been the change among those aged 18-24?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>Over the last 12 months the number of people claiming unemployment benefit has fallen by a quarter. There has been a 24% reduction in the number of people claiming Job Seeker's Allowance in Barnet, both within the 18-24 age range (down from 2.6% to 2%) and across all those of working age (down from 2.1% to 1.6%).</p>

	<p>Cllr John Marshall</p> <p>Supplementary Question Will the leader welcome these figures which demonstrate the need for a government with a long-term economic plan rather than the opposition which created the chaos which the present government has had to rectify?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>Yes.</p>
4	<p>Cllr Geof Cooke</p> <p>How many staff were/are providing the Highways service for Barnet:</p> <p>A)Before the outsource to Re? B)Now after Re's staff reductions?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>Prior to the outsourcing there were the equivalent of 71 in full time employment and this has since risen to 81.</p>
	<p>Cllr Geof Cooke</p> <p>Supplementary Question How do you reconcile this rosy view of highway service staffing with the report to committee that RE had been and was continuing to get rid of highway staff under what was euphemistically called a 'recovery plan' ie, to save money.</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>People leave and move employment. Cllr Cooke may not be aware of it but slavery has been abolished and people do move job.</p>

5	<p>Cllr John Marshall</p> <p>Does the committee Chairman welcome the approval given by the government to two new free schools in the area – Kisharon and Ashmole Primary – and agree that the Conservative Party’s pledge to support more free schools will further increase the choice and quality of education available in our borough?</p>	<p>Answer by Councillor Reuben Thompstone, Chairman of the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee</p> <p>I am delighted that both Kisharon and Ashmole Primary are featured on the government's approved list of free schools. These new schools will make vital contributions to the local educational offer and I am sure will prove popular with parents and pupils alike. Education in Barnet has been greatly enriched by the numerous and diverse free schools established and I believe it is firmly in the interests of our young people that we continue to have a council and a government that supports them.</p>
	<p>Cllr John Marshall</p> <p>Supplementary Question Does the councillor agree that the success of the free school programme in Barnet and elsewhere underlines the folly of the Labour Party for opposing it?</p>	<p>Answer by Cllr Reuben Thompstone</p> <p>In a word: yes. Once again demonstrates the other side have no plan.</p>
6	<p>Cllr Kathy Levine</p> <p>What routes will the council waste lorries take on exit from the Abbots Depot site?</p>	<p>Answer by Councillor Daniel Thomas, Chairman of the Assets Regeneration and Growth Committee</p> <p>All collection routes will be reviewed. Wherever possible vehicles will stay on main roads.</p>

	<p>Cllr Kathy Levine</p> <p>Supplementary Question When we will have information on the impact that this is going to have on traffic in the area, please?</p>	<p>Answer by Cllr Thomas</p> <p>To plan such routes takes an awful lot of officer time so officers aren't going to start doing that until a decision is made. Once a decision is made there is a time line to submit a planning application which will have all the details within.</p>
7	<p>Cllr John Marshall</p> <p>Does the Council share my concern about the proposed withdrawal of the 13 Bus route? Will it make representations to TfL?</p>	<p>Answer by Councillor Dean Cohen, Chairman of the Environment Committee</p> <p>The 13 is a long established and much valued route and I share my colleague's concerns about the impact its withdrawal would have on residents. I am making representations to TfL on this matter.</p>
	<p>Cllr John Marshall</p> <p>Supplementary Question Did Cllr Cohen tell London Transport that the closure of the North London Jewish Cultural Centre will of course put additional pressure on this route? Is he aware that the 82 bus, which is the alternative is frequently full by the time it reaches Golders Green?</p>	<p>Answer by Cllr Dean Cohen</p> <p>I did make representations to TfL that also the number of people affected is quite substantial in Childs Hill wards as Cllr Marshall points out and I have indeed made representations and am trying to see if a solution can come towards it.</p>

8	<p>Cllr Ross Houston</p> <p>Does the Leader agree with me that where public land – particularly HRA land – is involved in regeneration or re-development in Barnet, viability reports for those developments should be published and made available for public scrutiny?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>In projects of this type, there is a fine balance to be struck between transparency and commercial considerations.</p>
	<p>Cllr Ross Houston</p> <p>Supplementary Question Would the Leader agree with the comment in which Roger Tichborne in 2009, that ‘if one has transparency then there should be nothing to hide.’ What is there to hide from the public when there are deals which we as council are involved with?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>I’m sure the council will have nothing to hide and Cllr Houston can be fully aware that I have nothing to hide.</p>

9	<p>Cllr Mark Shooter</p> <p>Would the Leader or the Chairman of the Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee welcome the excellent contribution Argent Related have made to the Kings Cross development and does he share my enthusiasm and expectation that they will be an equally positive partner for the council at Brent Cross Cricklewood?</p>	<p>Answer by Councillor Daniel Thomas, Chairman of the Assets Regeneration and Growth Committee</p> <p>In Argent Related the council has a first class development partner for the south-side of the scheme. Their work within the King's Cross redevelopment has been very well received and I am excited about the positive impact they can make in helping us deliver the all-important 7,500 new homes, new community facilities and spaces we need.</p>
	<p>Cllr Mark Shooter</p> <p>Supplementary Question</p> <p>How many new homes are hoped to be built in Barnet in the next ten years?</p>	<p>Answer by Cllr Thomas</p> <p>I am proud to confirm that this council plans to build 20,000 new homes between now and 2025.</p>
10	<p>Cllr Andreas Ioannidis</p> <p>The council's waste trucks are set to use the North Circular Road to access the Abbots Depot site. The section of the North Circular Road, Pinkham Way and Station Road is often blocked with traffic congestion. What alternative route will the vehicles take to and from the waste depot when this traffic problem occurs?</p>	<p>Answer by Councillor Daniel Thomas, Chairman of the Assets Regeneration and Growth Committee</p> <p>Vehicles need to stay on the major road network and timing will be key to avoid times when the North Circular is blocked.</p>

	<p>Cllr Andreas Ioannidis</p> <p>Supplementary Question How will this timing be in conjunction with the waste collection schedule on the Borough? And as many major road network are very narrow, who will monitor these extra activities and how will it be measured?</p>	<p>Answer by Cllr Thomas</p> <p>Cllr Ioannidis will know that the refuse trucks leave the depot well before the rush hour, so I fail to see why this would be an issue.</p>
11	<p>Cllr Mark Shooter</p> <p>Could the Leader outline the importance of the funding awarded for the new station at Brent Cross in the Chancellor's Budget for the overall advancement of the scheme?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>The funding awarded to us by the Chancellor in his budget for the building of the new station at Brent Cross is crucial in unlocking the whole scheme's potential. The £97m will allow us to deliver the station and earlier than initially planned. The station will be an important factor in generating up to 27,000 new jobs and 7,500 new homes and will make the whole site more accessible and desirable.</p>
	<p>Cllr Mark Shooter</p> <p>Supplementary Question</p> <p>Would you agree that this funding shows what can be achieved for Barnet when three tiers of Conservative government work together?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>I can of course agree with that. It has been very valuable for the people of this borough in producing the much needed housing.</p>

<p>12</p>	<p>Cllr Barry Rawlings</p> <p>Is the Leader still committed to his and the Coalition's pledge, to eradicate child poverty by 2020 and could he explain what actions the administration are undertaking to mitigate the effects of high housing costs in Barnet and the effect of welfare reform that will force increasing number of families into poverty?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>The Council is working hard to support families in need and through the government's troubled families programme has achieved a 100% success rate in turning around 705 families. Of these, 691 families were supported through our partnerships with the Job Centres to help reduce the impact of welfare reform. Barnet is an early adopter of stage 2 of the national Troubled Families programme, which will mean that we will be supporting a further 2170 families over and above the 705 families worked with to date and will continue to work closely with Barnet Homes, the Job Centres and other partners to provide the right support and advice for families who are at risk of financial exclusion in the Borough. We are expanding the levels of free childcare places particularly for 2 year old children from families who form the bottom 40% of Barnet's families in terms of household income. We are working with schools, children's centres, private and independent sector nurseries to ensure that we can offer places to all those families who qualify - our target is to offer 2014 free childcare places for 2 year olds. Finally the Council through its Housing Strategy and regeneration programmes will be increasing the overall net number of affordable homes within the Borough.</p>
	<p>Cllr Barry Rawlings</p> <p>Supplementary Question I agree with some of what the Leader says, especially the work of the troubled Family Unit but my question was about poverty. Child poverty, according to figures is 19% without taking housing costs and 27% with housing costs. In other words, well over 3000 extra children in Barnet are in poverty because of the high cost of housing. How many more children, in addition to that will be placed into poverty with an 80% rent hike.</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>Cllr Rawlings knows perfectly well how the housing benefit and housing allowance schemes work and the council tax benefits reliefs work and he knows that that is not a genuine case that he is putting.</p>

13	<p>Cllr Mark Shooter</p> <p>Does the Leader welcome the £2.5m in funding awarded to RAF Hendon in the recent Budget statement?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>Yes, this was another welcome announcement in the recent Budget, which I'm sure will prove invaluable to the museum.</p>
14	<p>Cllr Alison Moore</p> <p>Will the Leader tell me how he will ensure the £2.5 m of Barnet tax payers money still frozen in Iceland is reclaimed in full and when he envisages that will happen.</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>The council is actively engaged in legal action, with legal advice from Bevan Brittan, to try and ensure the remaining amount is recovered. Recovery of the balance has been restricted by Icelandic Government currency export controls. We had the opportunity to sell the escrow balance but set a reserve price to ensure as much of the taxpayer's money is recovered as possible. The reserve price was not met and we are therefore continuing to earn interest currently at 3.7% while trying to recover the escrow balance.</p>
15	<p>Cllr Anthony Finn</p> <p>Why does the Leader think that Labour failed to table an alternative budget at the last Council meeting?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>Labour have shown they have no plan for the council's budget or for Barnet as a place. This is despite having raised their hands to vote in agreement with the amount each committee had to spend and save in the early committee meetings. One can only speculate as to the reasons why: a lack of ideas; irrevocable internal rifts; acknowledgement that they would do nothing differently; an admission that their sums would not add up; a combination of these?</p>
16	<p>Cllr Kathy Levine</p> <p>How many staff will access the Abbots depot site when the waste depot is relocated there and how many cars are expected to access and/ or park on the site?</p>	<p>Answer by Councillor Daniel Thomas, Chairman of the Assets Regeneration and Growth Committee</p> <p>There will be parking provided for 75 office and workforce staff cars on site.</p>

	<p>Cllr Kathy Levine</p> <p>Supplementary Question</p> <p>Does the councillor recognise that this figure of 75 parking spaces is significantly more than those currently used by Winters and hence the information previously given was rather misleading?</p>	<p>Answer by Cllr Thomas</p> <p>I'd like to know where Cllr Levine got that information. We all know Winters use 250 trucks a day, we have half the number although they have less staff than us. There are currently 89 staff based at the Mill Hill Depot. When it moves to Oakleigh Road South that will be reduced to 60 staff anyway. So there is going to be a reduction in the number of staff using the depot.</p>
17	<p>Cllr Anthony Finn</p> <p>What would the constitutional implications of Labour failing to present a budget have been in the event that the administration's budget had not been passed?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>It is a statutory duty of a Council to set a balanced budget. If the Conservative Group budget had not been voted through, and no alternative was available to be voted on, then the Council would not have fulfilled its statutory duty. If agreement had not been reached, the Section 151 officer has the statutory powers to enforce a balanced budget for the forthcoming year.</p>

18	<p>Cllr Reema Patel</p> <p>The council has been discussing a 10 year lease with Friern Barnet Community Library (FBCL). Could council let us know which body is likely to be liable for repairs under this arrangement? If it is FBCL how does council propose to protect FBCL from accruing repair charges that jeopardise the future of the library? Does council acknowledge a responsibility to ensure the provision of a library service in the instance that repairs which cannot be borne by FBCL accrue?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>We are currently working with Friern Barnet Community Library on the production of a second draft of their business plan which will include proposals for repairs, ongoing maintenance and outgoings. This will be considered, together with items such as notice periods, in preparing draft Heads of Terms for a new lease.</p>
19	<p>Cllr Brian Salinger</p> <p>Will the Leader tell the Council how many new affordable homes were built by the Council when the Labour party were in control of the Council between 1994 and 2002?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>Zero.</p>
	<p>Cllr Brian Salinger</p> <p>Supplementary Question</p> <p>Would the Leader agree with me that given the record of</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>Cllr Salinger knows this history far better than me and I bow to his superior knowledge, and I think it is very</p>

	<p>housing when the Labour and Liberal Parties had responsibility for it in this time that they have no right to lecture Conservative Councillors on housing policy?</p>	<p>important that people in the public gallery listen to this kind of thing as it dispels so many myths.</p>
20	<p>Cllr Andreas Ioannidis</p> <p>How many council waste truck movements will be using Oakleigh Road North to access the relocated waste depot at Abbots Depot each day and have residents on Oakleigh Road North been consulted / informed about the plans?</p>	<p>Answer by Councillor Daniel Thomas, Chairman of the Assets Regeneration and Growth Committee</p> <p>There will be 127 traffic movements on average each day. An engagement exercise with a two-day public exhibition (on a Friday and Saturday) and a newsletter which was sent to 1,324 addresses local to the site. These include those we believe will be most concerned by a potential depot. In part this was intended to alleviate fears and dispel myths (some residents attending the exhibition believed, erroneously of course, that waste from five boroughs was coming to the site, that there could be incineration or landfill taking place at the site). The public exhibition was also advertised via half-page adverts in two consecutive editions of the Barnet Press (which is circulated to 70,000 households in the borough). The council intends to send a second newsletter with an even wider circulation to pick up on comments made to date. The pre-planning consultation period is also being extended by two weeks to the 27th April 2015.</p>
	<p>Cllr Andreas Ioannidis</p> <p>Supplementary Question</p> <p>Why has there not been public consultation before the council decided to bring the waste depot to the area, all residents within one mile radius of the waste site?</p>	<p>Answer by Cllr Thomas</p> <p>1300 addresses have been consulted, I think that's quite enough. If Cllr Ioannidis wants to spread the word, he is more than welcome to.</p>

21	<p>Cllr Brian Salinger</p> <p>The local government Association and the British Bookmaker's Association recently announced an agreement aimed at controlling the spread of betting shops in our high streets. Can the Leader make a statement on how this will impact on the Borough of Barnet?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>The LGA and BBA have recently produced a framework for local partnership working between Local authorities and gambling businesses. The founding principles of this framework are to ensure that all parties are working together to prevent the negative impact of gambling. The Licensing Authority within the London Borough of Barnet has already established a good working relationship with the gambling premises within the borough. Much of the best practice mentioned in the framework is already in place and issues relating to gambling are usually resolved quickly and effectively. The Licensing team also meet regularly with the police licensing team to monitor any issues. The licensing team are involved in discussions in relation to changes to the Gambling Act and the Chair of the Licensing Committee recently attended a Gambling Commission roadshow on this alongside the Licensing Department.</p>
	<p>Cllr Brian Salinger</p> <p>Supplementary Question</p> <p>Would the Leader agree with me that this is one occasion where having the Local Government Association representing all the local government across the country have enormous benefits from each and every council?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>I understand there are some who believe the Local Government Association has an important value. Sadly, I have been disappointed in most of what they have done and I find it quite hard to imagine anything good of them. However, I bow to the councillor's superior knowledge in this matter.</p>

22	<p>Cllr Barry Rawlings</p> <p>There have been two recent judgements on the publication of viability reports and information contained in viability reports – one for the Heygate development in Southwark, and another for the Greenwich Peninsula development in Greenwich. Both judgements ruled that information contained in viability reports should be published – the Greenwich Peninsula judgement ruled that the viability report should be published in full. In the Greenwich Peninsula development the number of affordable homes has been cut dramatically on the basis of the confidential viability report, and affordable homes have been moved within the masterplan away from waterside views. This is scarily similar to what is going on in West Hendon, so does the Leader agree with me that the viability reports for the West Hendon estate regeneration should be made available for public scrutiny?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>It is not right to conflate these cases.</p>
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	<p>Cllr Barry Rawlings</p> <p>Supplementary Question</p> <p>From your answer I presume you will still retain the position of lack of openness and transparency by refusing to allow the viability reports on the West Hendon Estate to be published.</p>	<p>Answer by The Leader</p> <p>I am not sure that it's for us to do that.</p>
23	<p>Cllr Brian Salinger</p> <p>Will the Leader tell the Council how many of the members of the school's forum have attended each of the last two meetings?</p>	<p>Answer by Councillor Reuben Thompstone, Chairman of the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee</p> <p>There is a maximum of 29 voting members. Quorum is 40% and average attendance over the last year was 57%, although it varies over the school year. Members may appoint a substitute to attend in their absence and these are included in the figures. At the last two meetings attendance in December 14 was 46% (13 out of 28) and 63% (17 out of 27) in February 15. There was one vacancy in December, and two in February. Attendance is recorded in the minutes of each meeting which are available on the council website.</p>
	<p>Cllr Brian Salinger</p> <p>Supplementary Question</p> <p>Given the importance of the work done by the schools forum, given the impact that it has on our schools, what steps can be taken to improve the attendance of those people who have been given that job of overseeing that substantial part of our budget?</p>	<p>Answer by Cllr Thompstone</p> <p>Continuing to publish the attendance of such members in the minutes, is certainly the right course of action and where needed to approach the members who had better attendance.</p>

24	<p>Cllr Reema Patel</p> <p>When does the council plan to agree a decision on the ten year lease for Friern Barnet Community Library? Is the council proposing only to allow one month's notice for this and other similar leases? If so can the council explain how it expects local community organisations to be in a position to find alternative homes and sites within a one month period?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>We are currently working with Friern Barnet Community Library on the production of a second draft of their business plan which will include proposals for repairs, ongoing maintenance and outgoings. This will be considered, together with items such as notice periods, in preparing draft Heads of Terms for a new lease.</p>
	<p>Cllr Reema Patel</p> <p>Supplementary Question</p> <p>With regards to the lease on the Friern Barnet Community Library, will the council publish its timescale for agreement of a lease for Friern Barnet Community Library and also in addition to that, the important issue relates to notice period for that lease and there is a rumour going around that only one month would be allowed for a notice period. I am deeply and gravely concerned about that because one month isn't really sufficient time for</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>That rumour is not true.</p>

	<p>any not-for-profit or community organisation to seek an alternative venue from which they might provide a service. Would the Leader be able to comment on that?</p>	
25	<p>Cllr Brian Salinger</p> <p>Will the Leader tell Members exactly what help, training and support is available to members of the School's Forum to help them decide on matters that affect a sizeable part of the Council's budget and tens of thousands of our children?</p>	<p>Answer by Councillor Reuben Thompstone, Chairman of the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee</p> <p>Training, support and advice is provided through a range of mechanisms including ad hoc sessions held outside the scheduled meetings – for example an additional session was held last July to inform and advise members of the requirements and issues to be considered ahead of the formation of the 2015/16 budget. In previous years, training sessions have been held for new members of the Forum and one is planned for the end of this academic year as new members are scheduled to join the Forum in the summer.</p>
	<p>Cllr Brian Salinger</p> <p>Supplementary Question</p> <p>Will Cllr Thompstone acknowledge that the schools forum members used to have the services of an independent advisor and would he agree that possibly part of the reason why the attendance at those meetings has dropped is because the members do not feel adequately supported?</p>	<p>Answer by Cllr Thompstone</p> <p>This is the first time such a relationship has been drawn to me. I am happy to consider it.</p>

26	<p>Cllr Kathy Levine</p> <p>How will the current Winters site be used if we purchase the remaining lease?</p>	<p>Answer by Councillor Daniel Thomas, Chairman of the Assets Regeneration and Growth Committee</p> <p>The Council will have a number of options for the use of the space.</p>
	<p>Cllr Kathy Levine</p> <p>Supplementary Question</p> <p>Could you please tell us when the residents will be informed of what is likely to be put on the Winters site were it to go ahead?</p>	<p>Answer by Cllr Thomas</p> <p>The current time frame is for the planning application to be submitted in June and all the details of the site and the layout of the site, will be detailed in those papers.</p>
27	<p>Cllr Brian Salinger</p> <p>Will the Leader tell members which schools have approached the Council with a view to becoming voluntary aided schools?</p>	<p>Answer by Councillor Reuben Thompstone, Chairman of the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee</p> <p>Noam school is in the process of finalising proposals to apply to become a voluntary aided school. Other governing bodies are at an earlier stage in considering making proposals.</p>
	<p>Cllr Brian Salinger</p> <p>Supplementary Question</p> <p>Can Cllr Thompstone please explain what requirements does a school have to satisfy the borough with before it can become voluntary-aided?</p>	<p>Answer by Cllr Thompstone</p> <p>I am happy to point the member in the direction of the minutes of the previous Committee where that was outlined in Appendix 1 of the second item.</p>

28	Cllr Phil Cohen The long-suffering users of East Barnet Health Centre have now been waiting since last summer for the centre to re-open after asbestos removal. Can the Leader put pressure on the landlords - NHS Property Services - to start the refurbishment work in March as promised? Can he also find out why NHSP and Central London Community Healthcare, who provide the telephone service at Vale Drive primary care centre where health centre users have been redirected, have still not sorted out an adequate appointment booking system there?	Answer by the Leader I can confirm that works at the Practice have commenced. The work is being conducted in two distinct phases. Phase One commenced on 24 th March and was to remove all of the old equipment and plant, and ensure the structure of the building was prepared for modernisation. Phase Two involves installing all new plant, like the lifts, so that the Practice is transformed. The main contractor commenced on Monday 30 th March 2015 with initial works involving site set up, erect hoarding, soft strip out, CCTV drainage survey, roof survey and excavation of lift pit. The main construction works will start on Monday 14 th April 2015. Meetings are on-going to finalise the final look and specification of the Practice, and behind the scenes work is also progressing to ensure all formal documentation, like the lease, is finalised and agreed. The £1 million refurbishment will transform the Practice for local residents. The telephone project at Vale Drive was successfully completed on Thursday 26 th March 2015, following multiple visits to site by British Telecom, who had to install new external cabling. Upon BT's testing, Central London Community Healthcare have re-commissioned the switch which was transferred from East Barnet. The capacity of the system is as it was previously at East Barnet and testing and random calls show the system is working.
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	<p>Cllr Phil Cohen</p> <p>Supplementary Question</p> <p>Will the Leader join me in congratulating the campaigners of East Barnet who fought a brilliant campaign to get the work restarted on their local health centre and to get it refurbished and open so they can use it again?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>Of course I congratulate on this achievement. It's a very important example of what can happen when residents work with the council. I would draw particular attention to the excellent work that the local MP Theresa Villiers put in on this.</p>
29	<p>Cllr Brian Salinger</p> <p>Will the council support the call for a full enquiry into the decision of North London Waste Authority to squander £24m of public money on the Pinkham Way site, for which they now have no viable plans for any meaningful use?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>The NLWA lost £26m on its failed procurement and will lose more money if they fail to find a use for the former Friern Barnet Sewage Works at Pinkham Way. I cannot understand the way that the authority can write off such huge sums. It is important to note that Barnet is one vote of seven when decision making is undertaken by this statutory body. I hope the Audit Committee in Barnet might get together with its fellow Audit Committees across the boroughs to look into this series of decisions.</p>
	<p>Cllr Brian Salinger</p> <p>Supplementary Question</p> <p>Can the Leader think of any other public body that has lost £26m without any sort of formal inquiry into a loss of this size?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>I can't think of anyone who's got away with anything like this.</p>

30	<p>Cllr Geof Cooke</p> <p>Do you think that Capita's IT service management for the Council should be independently audited for compliance with ITIL, the industry standard set of practices?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>The CSG IT Service is aligned with ITIL best practice and ISO20000. However, the service we have procured balances the costs of aligning to the best practice with those from gaining full accreditation and officers determined that the former is appropriate.</p>
	<p>Cllr Geof Cooke</p> <p>Supplementary Question</p> <p>Do you not think that if Capita complied with ITIL rather than just being aligned with it, whatever that means, there would be fewer computer system failures and the modest cost would be money well-spent?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>I am pleased that the computer system does at last seem to be improving and I am particularly pleased with the way that the IT has worked behind the scenes and has been really efficient since the old system was scrapped.</p>
31	<p>Cllr Brian Salinger</p> <p>Will the Leader please tell members when the Council will bring forward changes to the published primary school catchment arrears to take account of the major new developments and the presence of a number of new schools that have opened and are planned in the Borough?</p>	<p>Answer by Councillor Reuben Thompstone, Chairman of the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee</p> <p>We are not in a position to confirm exactly when this will be brought forward to Members as it is a complex piece of work. The need for this work has been discussed at the CELS committee and officers will be working with schools to review primary school catchment areas during 2015/16</p>

	<p>Cllr Brian Salinger</p> <p>Supplementary Question</p> <p>Can I ask Cllr Thompstone to give this matter more urgent attention given the changes that are going on in the borough and the new schools that are being developed. Residents need to know which schools their children might be attending when they are applying for those places even for next year?</p>	<p>Answer by Cllr Thompstone</p> <p>I think the urgent item for parents is to understand that there are no imminent changes. I think the more fundamental important issue that needs to be addressed here, that thankfully Cllr Salinger has raised and I know has been raised in committee over a year ago, was that the shape of the boundaries at the moment is not the way one would describe them if you were starting from scratch. And so with that in mind and the fact that such changes would have an impact on all of the individual primary schools, there's no way that this local authority is going to embark on a massive, quick change for that to happen. There's a lot of consultation, a lot of review, a lot of stakeholders that will need to be consulted with. So what I can assure Cllr Salinger of is that for the year coming there are not going to be any changes.</p>
32	<p>Cllr Alison Moore</p> <p>Does the Leader think the state of Barnet's roads is acceptable given that this has been a relatively mild winter?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>We accept that more work can be done to improve further our roads and pavements, hence the £50m investment announced in the council's budget - a budget voted against by Cllr Moore and her colleagues, without alternative.</p>

33	<p>Cllr Brian Salinger</p> <p>What plans does the Borough have to celebrate the 800th anniversary of the signing of the Magna Carta?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>I do not know of any special events planned in the borough, but there are a series of national events - details of which can be found at http://magnacarta800th.com/events/. This is a year rich in anniversaries.</p>
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	<p>Cllr Brian Salinger</p> <p>Supplementary Question</p> <p>What help will the council give to anyone wanting to organise street parties to celebrate any of these anniversaries?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>I always enjoy a good street party and I would be very supportive of that.</p>
34	<p>Cllr Kathy Levine</p> <p>There are plans to increase the recycling levels from 40% to 50% (this represents a 25% increase on current recycling levels). How has this expansion in capacity been accommodated in the plans for the transfer of the current site?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>The onsite bulking facility will have sufficient capacity to accommodate the increase in recycled material and will be designed on this basis.</p>
	<p>Cllr Kathy Levine</p> <p>Supplementary Question</p> <p>You mentioned here about the booking facilities and materials but could you please say what estimates you have made for an increase in traffic on the site?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>I understand it won't lead to an increase in traffic.</p>

35	<p>Cllr Brian Salinger</p> <p>Will the Leader tell the Council what the cost was of policing the demonstrations at the public enquiry in to the CPO issues relating to the West Hendon regeneration?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>The Council does not hold the information. We have requested an estimate of costs from the police, and will provide further information in due course.</p>
	<p>Cllr Brian Salinger</p> <p>Supplementary Question</p> <p>Can I ask when the Leader expects the information to be made available?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>We have requested it and we haven't received it from the police. I hope they will be forthcoming with that and I will remember to ask them again this week.</p>
36	<p>Cllr Rebecca Challice</p> <p>I have been sent two copies of Barnet First and two have been posted through my door. Is this a cost efficient way of running this service?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>Cllr Challice will have had copies as a councillor and a resident and will, I trust, now be more than well equipped with the information to help us increase our recycling rate to 50% and beyond - an achievement that would have a positive effect on the council's budget.</p>
	<p>Cllr Rebecca Challice</p> <p>Supplementary Question</p> <p>Perhaps my question was not clear enough. A total of four copies of Barnet First have been posted through my door. Have the council printed too many? Surely even a person who is not a natural recycler</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>If Cllr Challice has received four then this is clearly something to be looked into with the distributors because it would be quite reprehensible should some residents be denied their copy.</p>

	would agree it's best not to over print these to the extent where people are receiving double the number they should.	
37	<p>Cllr Brian Salinger</p> <p>The government recently announced that £50m plus would be made available for a holocaust memorial centre. Will the Leader tell the council what representations have been made to the government to try to get the centre built in Barnet?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>Barnet would be a fitting home for such a memorial centre. I have written to the Prime Minister on this matter asking that Barnet be considered in addition to the existing options.</p>
	<p>Cllr Brian Salinger</p> <p>Supplementary Question</p> <p>Can I ask the Leader if he has had any response from the Prime Minister and would it help if this council were to formally support the proposal?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>The Prime Minister may be busy at the moment but we could to be doing that. I think that would be a sensible way forward.</p>
38	<p>Cllr Geof Cooke</p> <p>Do you think it is important to have role separation between the commissioning, delivery and assurance functions of the Council?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>Yes.</p>

	<p>Cllr Geof Cooke</p> <p>Supplementary Question</p> <p>So why is that still not the case for legal services and public health?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>I believe it is.</p>
39	<p>Cllr Bridget Perry</p> <p>Is there to be a strike in Barnet?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>Unions represent some of the people who work for the council. They may seek to strike against an issue that may not arise in the future.</p>
	<p>Cllr Bridget Perry</p> <p>Supplementary Question</p> <p>I understand the strike is to go ahead. Does the Leader know the total number of staff who voted to go on strike?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>I understand it was less than 300. The unions represent about 30% of the employees of this council.</p>
40	<p>Cllr Andreas Ioannidis</p> <p>When will all the residents who are affected by the proposed move of the site to Oakleigh Rd South be properly informed of the proposals and of their ability to make any objections as currently a large number of people are saying they didn't know about this?</p>	<p>Answer by Councillor Daniel Thomas, Chairman of the Assets Regeneration and Growth Committee</p> <p>A public exhibition was held on the weekend of 13 - 15 March 2015, this event was advertised in the local press and through leaflet drop. Further statutory planning consultation will take place following submission of the planning application in June.</p>

	<p>Cllr Andreas Ioannidis</p> <p>Supplementary Question</p> <p>If you look at the public gallery you will find that two days consultation is not enough. It has not taken into account the social cost so I would like to know how you plan to proceed on this matter?</p>	<p>Answer by Cllr Thomas</p> <p>When Cllr Ioannidis talks about two days, that's the number of days that a presentation and officers were able to meet with residents at North London Business park and of course doesn't take into account the amount of time before that event was advertised. And of course, the amount of time that people could respond. So in terms of consultation, there has been plenty and Cllr Ioannidis, by the sounds of it, is putting his own consultation through with misinformation.</p>
41	<p>Cllr Bridget Perry</p> <p>How would the Leader compare the financial and economic situation in Barnet today, with that of five years ago?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>Five years ago there was an economic crisis - a debt crisis, a critically huge budget deficit, a crisis of confidence from consumers, companies and markets. Today, the deficit has been halved as a proportion of GDP, the national debt is falling, the economy is the fastest growing in the developed world, employment is at a record high and living standards are higher than they were at the last election. Consumer confidence is at a twelve year high and business leaders are urging the country not to change course. In Barnet, more people are in work and taxes have been cut by the council and the government. There is still work to do and the council's budget continues to be squeezed, but there is a plan to deal with these challenges.</p>
	<p>Cllr Bridget Perry</p> <p>Supplementary Question</p> <p>Doesn't this show how important it is that the Conservatives are able to finish the job?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>Of course it is very important and one of the interesting factors of the 50th anniversary of this council is that the conservatives have been in control for 42 of those years.</p>

42	Cllr Devra Kay In a recent television interview, the Leader described the homes on the West Hendon Estate as "grotty". As he can be considered to be responsible as a landlord for their condition, would he assure me that the shoddy and dangerous repairs, the neglect and unacceptably bad management and slackness of monitoring of the Estate will be put to rights, as many of the homes are not to be demolished for 10 years and something urgently needs to be done for the health, safety and well-being of the residents.	Answer by the Leader The condition of parts of the West Hendon estate is evidence of the need to get on with the regeneration.
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	<p>Cllr Devra Kay</p> <p>Supplementary Question</p> <p>I am disappointed but not surprised that the Leader has shown the same contempt and lack of caring for council residents in his answer as his refusal to comment about his depriving traditional labour voters from voting in the general elections. Having insulted the homes of West Hendon Estate may he please assure me that after years of neglect and, today I was told there's mould on the walls that's just scraped off and there's no money to buy paint from the council, there are wires ... can you please assure me that he will take his responsibilities seriously and instead of calling the homes 'grotty' as their manager, would he please make sure that repairs are done with less shoddiness and danger and actually take care of the estate for the next ten years while it is still there?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>Of course but it is of vital importance that we pull the whole place down and rebuild it.</p>
43	<p>Cllr Joan Scannell</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p>

	<p>What would have been the implications of Labour's budget for council tax?</p>	<p>Labour had no budget. Their victory in the budget vote would have left the council without council tax income.</p>
	<p>Cllr Joan Scannell</p> <p>Supplementary Question</p> <p>Given this answer, would Labour's Non-Budget have been a disaster for Barnet?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>Of course, it's quite interesting what would have happened were we to have lost our budget, there's a later answer and Labour's dereliction of duty would have been dealt with.</p>
44	<p>Cllr Geof Cooke</p> <p>If you pay someone to do something for you, do you become partners?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>Cllr Cooke and I probably share the view that someone paid to do something is either a contractor or an employee. However, in the case of a joint enterprise they could be considered a partner.</p>
	<p>Cllr Geof Cooke</p> <p>Supplementary Question</p> <p>It's not the use of the partner terminology just to spin by Capita a company with a different commercial interest to the council?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>I'm afraid I don't understand where Cllr Cooke is going with that question so I am unable to answer it.</p>
45	<p>Cllr Joan Scannell</p> <p>What would have been the implications of Labour's budget for Adult Social Services?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>Labour had no budget and would have left the council unable to fund all the important work delivered by the service, including its statutory obligations.</p>

	<p>Cllr Joan Scannell</p> <p>Supplementary Question Given this answer, would Labour's non-budget, yet again, have been a disaster for Barnet?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>Yes of course, it would have been a complete disaster. It was an abject dereliction of duty.</p>
46	<p>Cllr Kathy Levine</p> <p>When will the details of the traffic survey for the Abbots depot proposals be published?</p>	<p>Answer by Councillor Daniel Thomas, Chairman of the Assets Regeneration and Growth Committee</p> <p>These have been made available following public questions. They will also form part of the planning application.</p>
	<p>Cllr Kathy Levine</p> <p>Supplementary Question I am very perplexed by the answer to this question. I was led to believe that there had been a traffic survey and a report. The information made available to the committee was just one or two words. It was hardly a report and for this to be given as an answer is really inadequate. In addition, I have asked for a copy of this report as have a number of residents and we have still not got it. Why?</p>	<p>Answer by Cllr Thomas</p> <p>This is not a report, it's the survey that has the figures of the traffic movements; those have been published. If there are other details or another format in which councillors would like to receive that information then by all means if you give me the precise information you want, you will have it. When you ask for the survey details, we have given you the numbers. They have got the numbers; they really do need to articulate the question a lot better than they already have. And can I just say this is the first time any of the Brunswick Park Ward councillors except for Cllr Rutter has asked any questions. The only person who has been asking any questions about this depot since last year has been Cllr Rutter and not those two.</p>

47	<p>Cllr Joan Scannell</p> <p>What would have been the implications of Labour's budget for Children's Services?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>Labour had no budget and would have left the council unable to fund all the important work delivered by the service, including its statutory obligations.</p>
48	<p>Cllr Devra Kay</p> <p>To what does the Leader attribute the sharp rise in violent crime of 31% in Barnet over the past year making it the 2nd highest Borough in London?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>Violent crime in London and Barnet is recorded as having increased. Barnet does, though, have the 4th lowest level of violent crime amongst the London Boroughs. Some of the increase is due to better reporting of crime, particularly of domestic violence. The actual number of ambulance call outs for assaults has reduced. All crime is bad and violent crime must be stamped out. Barnet continues to engage with the Police and courts to encourage a robust approach to punishment and rehabilitation.</p>
49	<p>Cllr Wendy Prentice</p> <p>What would have been the implications of Labour's budget for the Environment portfolio?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>Labour had no budget and would have left the council unable to fund all the important work delivered by the service, including its statutory obligations. The council would also not have been able to implement the £50m capital investment on roads and pavements announced.</p>
50	<p>Cllr Geof Cooke</p> <p>Do you think it is in the client's best interest to have a contract monitoring regime that 'places the onus on the provider to monitor and warrant performance'?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>There is a full monitoring and review system. This is audited.</p>
51	<p>Cllr Wendy Prentice</p> <p>What would have been the implications of Labour's</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>Labour had no budget and missed their prime opportunity to tell us where and with what money they would build more homes. Further to this, had the council's budget been defeated, housing provision would have</p>

	budget for house building in the borough?	been thrown into disarray.
52	<p>Cllr Andreas Ioannidis</p> <p>Councillor Rutter has told residents she would have been 'suspended' if she had voted to remove the option of the transfer of the site into Oakleigh Road South. Is this true? If so what exactly does it mean?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>No.</p>
53	<p>Cllr Wendy Prentice</p> <p>What does the Leader think the impact would be on Barnet should Ed Miliband limp into Downing Street with the support of the Scottish Nationalists?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>It would be a disaster for Barnet. The economy would falter, resources would be transferred from Barnet to shore up Scottish spending ambitions - resulting in enormous further cuts to our budget.</p>
54	<p>Cllr Devra Kay</p> <p>Street lighting in Barnet has been dimmed by 50% and although the Council assures us that this makes no, or little difference, and Cllr Brian Salinger recently claimed at Environment Committee that people are happier since the lights have been dimmed, I have received complaints from</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>There are no government or police statistics to support any such adverse consequences of reducing light output, especially where it is carried out in compliance with British and EU Standards. We are aware that a number of local authorities did take action to completely switch off street lights and some have subsequently reversed their decision. Again, there is no hard evidence to support the claim that turning lights off caused increases in crime anywhere in the country. Switching off lights in no way compares to the action Barnet has taken in reducing lighting levels, whilst (and most importantly) ensuring continued compliance with British and EU standards. Barnet has considered but have since committed to not turning any of its street lighting off for any part of the night time period. LED lighting has already being considered and, in fact, has been implemented to replace all street lighting on the boroughs many footpaths and green spaces. The level of savings from the actions of implementing reduced light output are not insignificant</p>

	<p>local residents unaware that streetlights have been dimmed about the consequences and perceived consequences of the dimness of street lights, especially since the beginning of Autumn when the hours of darkness have been longer. We know that Eric Pickles turned off lighting between 11pm and 5am and was compelled by the police to turn them back on because of the rise in crime. The jury is still out on the consequences of all forms of light-cutting regarding various safety issues. With the small amount of money saved and the safety of the residents in mind, would the Leader please assure me that LED lighting, cheaper and more effective will be considered as an alternative and that lighting will be restored to its original level with immediate effect?</p>	<p>and in addition this action also makes a considerable reduction in the council's carbon footprint, which is also a central government required target for reduction. Therefore, there can be no valid arguments for restoring street lighting to previous output levels, as this would then make us non-compliant with the BS and EU Standards (as lighting levels would be higher than recommended) and this would in addition be wasteful.</p>
55	<p>Cllr Graham Old</p> <p>What has been the change in the shop vacancy rate across the borough since 2010?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>According to the Council's most recent analysis of town centres the shop vacancy rate has fallen from 6.3% in 2010 to 5.4% in 2013. The greatest reduction in vacancies have been recorded in New Barnet and Brent Street.</p>

56	<p>Cllr Nagus Narenthira</p> <p>Can the leader give a definite time frame of events going forward in relation to the Grahame Park regeneration?</p>	<p>Councillor Daniel Thomas, Chairman of the Assets Regeneration and Growth Committee</p> <p>The Grahame Park programme is divided into two phases; A (Plots 1 – 9) and B (Plots 10 – 20).</p> <p>Phase A comprises a total of 690 new homes of which 390 have been completed and a further 143 are on site and due to be completed within a month (plot 3). Plot 4 (infrastructure) has recently completed with the realignment of Lanacre ave. Plots 5, 6, and 7 are fully consented and will all start on site within about 9 months delivering around 152 new homes, a new College, Library and Centre for Independent Living within around 2 years. Plot 8 is scheduled to provide new office facilities and will shortly be the subject of a new planning application. Plot 9 will deliver a small numbers of homes (5) along with ground floor retail facilities</p> <p>The Council is in the process of preparing a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) which will guide the development of plots within Phase B. Work on the SPD commenced earlier in the year and the final document is due to complete in December 2015. This will provide an indicative masterplan, development parameters and design guidelines which will inform the preparation of planning applications for future phases.</p> <p>The first 3 plots within stage B (10, 11 and 12) comprise the accelerated re-development of the Concourse. This programme is subject to the final approval of a loan application from Genesis to the Government’s Estate Renewal Programme. If approved we anticipate this programme will take around 5 years from commencement to conclusion. The phasing of the remaining elements of stage B (Plots 13 -20) will be considered as part of the SPD.</p>
57	<p>Cllr Graham Old</p> <p>How many affordable homes have been delivered in Barnet and how does this compare to other London Boroughs?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>According to the Mayor of London’s recently published Annual Monitoring Report a total of 1,123 additional affordable homes were completed in Barnet between 2011/12 and 2013/14. Barnet delivered the 7th highest number of completions in London. No Outer London borough delivered more additional affordable homes than Barnet.</p>

58	<p>Cllr Geof Cooke</p> <p>Transport for London has announced that its preferred option for London Overground station(s) at Old Oak Common, connecting with Crossrail and High Speed 2, includes a station at a location immediately adjacent to the Dudding Hill freight line that leads to Barnet Council's proposed Thameslink station at Brent Cross South. Also the proposed use of the Dudding Hill line at Old Oak for a new Crossrail branch would require 4-tracking to separate Crossrail trains from goods trains leaving capacity on the goods line for a new passenger rail service to Brent Cross South. At Council on 21/01/14 there was unanimous support in principle for such a passenger service. Would the leader please confirm that that is still the administration's policy?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>Cautiously yes. The rail connexions are to be welcomed, but the costs involved will be huge.</p>
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59	<p>Cllr Val Duschinsky</p> <p>Does the Leader welcome the support given to Barnet's savers in George Osborne's Budget?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>Yes, savers will be rewarded with reduced taxes and greater flexibility.</p>
60	<p>Cllr Kathy Levine</p> <p>What other businesses are on the land adjacent to the Abbots depot site who currently use the same entrance to the site off Oakleigh Rd South and what is the nature of their business?</p>	<p>Councillor Daniel Thomas, Chairman of the Assets Regeneration and Growth Committee</p> <p>GMB (waste management); Buildbase (builders merchant); Brogan (construction company); Fitzgerald & Burke (builders merchant); Winters (waste management and skip hire).</p>
61	<p>Cllr Val Duschinsky</p> <p>Does the Leader agree that raising the personal allowance yet again will be of great benefit to Barnet residents, particularly those on low pay?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>Raising the personal allowance will provide another tax cut for 24 million working people and will mean that 4 million of the lowest paid will have been taken out of income tax altogether since 2010. Barnet residents will benefit from this.</p>
62	<p>Cllr Devra Kay</p> <p>Barnet WiFi - How much has it cost to install the Wi-Fi system that the Council has recently introduced in Barnet together with the private company Arquiva?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>There is no cost to the council. In fact, this arrangement provides a guaranteed income to the council rising to at least £37,000 per year over ten years. The council will also get a share of any revenue growth from the sale of network usage to mobile operators and others. At the same time, this arrangement is supporting high streets and providing a free service for residents. It is a clear example of how this administration's use of innovative models can benefit both residents and the council's finances.</p>

63	<p>Cllr Brian Gordon</p> <p>As you are aware the law has now changed on parking, requiring 10 minutes' grace to be given to motorists after the expiry of a permitted parking period before issue of a Penalty Notice. Are Barnet's Parking Enforcement Officers fully trained up to deal with this new situation?</p>	<p>Councillor Dean Cohen, Chairman of the Environment Committee</p> <p>Yes.</p>
64	<p>Cllr Geof Cooke</p> <p>When did the Council first become aware of the Mayor of London's plan to place the North Circular Road at New Southgate in tunnel and to develop adjacent land for housing?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>Officers were briefed by TfL officials on 28 January 2015.</p>
65	<p>Cllr Brian Gordon</p> <p>Will the Chairman please comment on the renewed request made by Barnet's Statutory Advisory Committee for Religious Education (SACRE) to have a representative co-opted to the Education Committee and can we look forward to this request being accommodated?</p>	<p>Answer by Councillor Reuben Thompstone, Chairman of the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee</p> <p>I am in discussion with the council's Governance Service to determine if there is a legal and constitutional mechanism to enable SACRE to nominate a co-opted member to the Committee. Any change to arrangements for co-opted Members would need to be approved by the Constitution, Ethics and Probity Committee and full Council.</p>

66	<p>Cllr Kathy Levine</p> <p>What are the timescales for decision, consultation and the proposed planning committee meeting for the relocation of the council's waste depot to the Abbots Depot site?</p>	<p>Answer by Councillor Daniel Thomas, Chairman of the Assets Regeneration and Growth Committee</p> <p>June submission followed by a 4 week statutory public consultation (or more given nature of scheme) prior to a decision being made at the September Planning Committee.</p>
67	<p>Cllr Alison Cornelius</p> <p>Did the council bid for extra funding for specialist domestic abuse service provision from the government and, if so, what was the outcome?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>Yes, the council made a bid and has been awarded £100,000 to strengthen accommodation-based specialist domestic abuse services.</p>
68	<p>Cllr Devra Kay</p> <p>Why is Barnet WiFi advertised as "free" when it costs £5 a day with only a free daily 30 minutes, and in addition this is non-accumulative so a one-off session of up to half an hour is offered rather than 30 minutes of actual time during a 24-hour period for short WiFi sessions? Is this not another badly-negotiated contract by the Council with a private company that is intended to generate profits from the public?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>The concession contract has been publicised as providing public Wi-Fi across the borough, with 30 minutes free internet access a day. Users will also be able to enjoy unlimited access to Barnet Council's website and some other key public services. To have offered more than 30 minutes would have breached European Union Competition Rules. The 30 minutes limit has to be taken in one block to fit in with standard industry-wide practice. The Wireless Concession in Barnet is on the same basis as in a large number of other Councils including Camden, Wandsworth, Hounslow, Islington and Hammersmith & Fulham, Haringey, Manchester, Southampton, Colchester and Eastbourne.</p>

69	<p>Cllr Alison Cornelius</p> <p>What percentage of students at KS2 achieved level 4 in reading, writing and mathematics for the last academic year?</p>	<p>Answer by Councillor Reuben Thompstone, Chairman of the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee</p> <p>83% (2013/14)</p>
70	<p>Cllr Nagus Narenthira</p> <p>Can the leader confirm that if the Mayor of Barnet presided at the General Election in 2010 and if 106 Hendon residents felt the day after that they voted wrongly, would he have given them a second chance to and allow them to vote again?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>This would not fall within the remit of the Returning Officer.</p>
71	<p>Cllr Alison Cornelius</p> <p>How do Barnet pupils compare with pupils nationally at writing in KS2?</p>	<p>Answer by Councillor Reuben Thompstone, Chairman of the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee</p> <p>94% of Barnet pupils made expected progress in writing between key stage 1 and key stage 2 (2013/14), whilst the national average was 93%. Barnet ranks 48th nationally out of 152 local authorities for progress in writing.</p>

72	<p>Cllr Kathy Levine</p> <p>The council outlined between three to six alternative sites and options for the waste depot. Details of some of these options have not been disclosed. Reasons for ruling out these options and the considerations at play have also not been disclosed. In the interests of transparency will the council put this information out into the public domain?</p>	<p>Answer by Councillor Daniel Thomas, Chairman of the Assets Regeneration and Growth Committee</p> <p>These were put into the public domain in response to public questions at ARG</p>
73	<p>Cllr Alison Cornelius</p> <p>How do Barnet pupils compare with pupils nationally at reading progress in KS2?</p>	<p>Answer by Councillor Reuben Thompstone, Chairman of the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee</p> <p>94% of Barnet pupils made expected progress in reading between key stage 1 and key stage 2 (2013/14), whilst the national average was 91%. Barnet ranks 6th nationally out of 152 LAs for progress in reading.</p>
74	<p>Cllr Devra Kay</p> <p>As it is not an entirely free service, how can the current form of Barnet WiFi be of advantage to anyone except those making money from it when genuinely free 24-hour WiFi is available at and in the proximity of many cafes and other public establishments?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>The concession contract provides public Wi-Fi across the borough, with 30 minutes free internet access a day, plus unlimited access to Barnet Council's website and some other key public services. The advantage of the contract to the Council is a guaranteed revenue income, plus a share of the extra income generated from sales to mobile phone operators and others for using the WiFi network to deliver 4g services.</p>

75	<p>Cllr Caroline Stock</p> <p>How do Barnet students compare at GCSE with other local authorities on the national benchmark of attaining five A*-C including English and Maths?</p>	<p>Councillor Reuben Thompstone, Chairman of the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee</p> <p>67.5% of Barnet pupils attain 5 A*-C Grades including English and Maths (2013/14) compared to the national average of 53.4%. Barnet ranks 10th out of 152 LAs for attainment in this measure at Key Stage 4.</p>
76	<p>Cllr Devra Kay</p> <p>Why is it not possible to access Barnet WiFi at the Town Hall?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>A request has recently been issued to CSG to quote for extending the wifi coverage and to include public access.</p>
77	<p>Cllr Caroline Stock</p> <p>How do Barnet students compare at GCSE with other local authorities on the national benchmark of attaining five A*-C?</p>	<p>Answer by Councillor Reuben Thompstone, Chairman of the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee</p> <p>75.4% of Barnet pupils attain 5 A*-C Grades (2013/14) compared to the national average of 63.8%. Barnet ranks 8th out of 152 LAs for attainment in this measure at Key Stage 4.</p>
78	<p>Cllr Gill Sargeant</p> <p>When will the zebra crossing agreed over a year ago be in place on Aerodrome Road? The islands have already been put in and so has the bus stop so why the delay on the zebra crossing?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>We have now identified where the new entrances for the Peel Centre site are expected and plan to start design work in spring on a zebra crossing for Aerodrome Road, with a view to implementation late summer. In the meantime the pedestrian island currently in place on Aerodrome Road continues to provide a facility for pedestrians.</p>

79	<p>Cllr Caroline Stock</p> <p>How do Barnet students compare at GCSE with other local authorities on the national benchmark of making 3 levels of progress in English and Maths from KS2-4?</p>	<p>Answer by Councillor Reuben Thompstone, Chairman of the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee</p> <p>83% of Barnet pupils make 3 levels of progress in English (2013/14) compared to the national average of 71.6%. Barnet ranks 4th out of 152 local authorities in this measure. 77.1% of Barnet pupils make 3 levels of progress in Maths (2013/14) compared to the national average of 65.5%. Barnet ranks 7th out of 152 local authorities in this measure.</p>
80	<p>Cllr Andreas Ioannidis</p> <p>Well over a year since a petition was presented by Walksafe N14 for improving road safety on Hampden Way and adjoining roads there has still been no action. Could the Leader explain this unwarranted delay and what actions he will take to expedite matters?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>Proposals for development in the 2015/16 programme were agreed by the Environment Committee in January 2015 and included the Walksafe N14 Location. A Report was presented at the 12 February 2015 Chipping Barnet Area Committee putting forward proposals for the Committee to agree on which measures to progress in this area. The recommendations included a 20 mph speed limit and a new Zebra crossing on Chase Way and Hampden Way. The current plans are for implementation towards the end of the 15/16 financial year.</p>
81	<p>Cllr Maureen Braun</p> <p>Has the number of Barnet pupils on Free School Meals attaining level 4 in Reading Writing and Mathematics improved on last year's results?</p>	<p>Answer by Councillor Reuben Thompstone, Chairman of the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee</p> <p>The percentage of pupils eligible for FSM who attained a level 4+ in Reading, Writing and Maths increased from 65% to 72% from 2012/13 to 2013/14. Attainment in both academic years was above the attainment of Free School Meals pupils nationally.</p>

82	<p>Cllr Gill Sargeant</p> <p>What work is being done to improve the traffic congestion at peak time on Colindale Avenue?</p>	<p>Answer by Councillor Dean Cohen, Chairman of the Environment Committee</p> <p>Initial feasibility and Design has been undertaken to improve the operation and capacity of the Junction including improvements for pedestrians. The junction is currently included with the Colindale Area Action Plan (CAAP) during 15/16.</p>
83	<p>Cllr Maureen Braun</p> <p>Has the attainment gap between those primary children on Free School Meals and those not on Free School Meals changed this year?</p>	<p>Answer by Councillor Reuben Thompstone, Chairman of the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee</p> <p>In 2012/13 the attainment gap in Reading, Writing and Maths (level 4+) was 18 percentage points (pp). This decreased to 13pp in 2013/14 (compared to the national attainment gap of 18pp).</p>
84	<p>Cllr Pauline Coakley Webb</p> <p>Does the Leader agree the Chair of Chipping Barnet Area Committee was wrong to cancel the meeting on 25th March citing there was no business when this discriminated against residents who wanted items moved up from the Forum?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>No. There is also some merit in discussing a change to the current timetabling. We could then allow officers to prepare timely reports for the Area Committees to consider.</p>

85	<p>Cllr Maureen Braun</p> <p>How does Barnet fare against other local authorities in terms of those not in employment, education or training (NEET)? What is Barnet doing to reduce this and has Barnet considered collaborating with other authorities to seek improvements?</p>	<p>Answer by Councillor Reuben Thompstone, Chairman of the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee</p> <p>Barnet has a low incidence of NEET at 2.5% (Nov 2014 – Jan 2015) compared to London 3.4% and nationally 4.7%. We have a range of support mechanisms in place to target individual young people who are NEET and are also working closely with secondary schools to identify school leavers at risk of becoming NEET. We are working with the London Borough of Ealing to pilot a new approach to supporting young people at risk of NEET, funded by a grant awarded by central government and learning from this pilot will be shared with members of the West London Alliance.</p>
86	<p>Cllr Gill Sargeant</p> <p>What are the numbers of non-secure tenants in Grahame Park, affected by regeneration, who will be rehoused in Colindale. What numbers will be housed in the rest of Barnet. What numbers will be housed out of borough. And what numbers of these non-secure tenants do Barnet Council no longer have a duty to rehouse?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>There are currently 569 non-secure tenant households living at Grahame Park in properties that will be affected by the Regeneration, according to the current proposals. At the moment we only have “vacant possession” dates for the next three phases which in practice affects 453 non-secure tenant households who will need to be moved with the next three years.</p> <p>Since we have not yet started moving any of these households, nor even started to assess them, it is difficult to predict where they might end up or how many will no longer qualify for housing. Every household will be assessed according to the Council’s Allocations Scheme. Non-secure tenants will be housed in the suitable affordable supply that is available at the point of decanting for the different phases of regeneration.</p>
87	<p>Cllr Maureen Braun</p> <p>Would the Leader like to comment on Unison’s latest strike ballot, supposedly in protest at the Commissioning Council model?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>The timing of this ballot is a little confusing, being either somewhat belated given that the council has been operating this model for some time, or somewhat premature by citing decisions that have not yet, and may not be, made. Perhaps it is inspired by another forthcoming occasion in early May.</p>

88	<p>Cllr Reema Patel</p> <p>A domestic violence victim has been living in non-secure accommodation for 3 years on the West Hendon estate after needing to move boroughs away from the perpetrator. The injunction against the perpetrator is still in force (i.e she is still at risk). She will be evicted from her home in due course. She has two young children. I saw this woman last weekend at my surgery. The residency criteria for housing allocations was raised from 3 years to 5 years this year which prevented her from being able to apply for social housing in the borough. Does the Leader think this is fair, and will he acknowledge that this situation and similar situations need closer attention?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>Since we have not yet started moving any of these households, nor even started to assess them, it is difficult to predict where they might end up or how many will no longer qualify for housing. Every household will be assessed according to the Council's Allocations Scheme. Non-secure tenants will be housed in the suitable affordable supply that is available at the point of decanting for the different phases of regeneration.</p>
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89	<p>Cllr Barry Rawlings</p> <p>What message does the Leader have for families - and mothers in particular - with young children who are hit by the benefit cap and for whom employment wages will be more than offset by the high cost of childcare? As they are hit by a Tory 'double whammy' of not being able to afford rent whether they work or not and as looking after their own children is not considered as contributing to the community under housing allocation policy they are being forced into increasing debt and not considered for socially rented property. Can he offer them any hope?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>The best hope for everyone is an improving economy that will benefit all. There is no hope in a busted model of excessive public expenditure. Governments that spend more than they should cause disaster. The French and Greek models are not anything we should aspire to copy.</p>
90	<p>Cllr Barry Rawlings</p> <p>Does the Leader think it fair that local authorities are facing more years of cuts and austerity due to the fact George Osborne failed to keep his pledge to eradicate the nation's debt by 2015?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>It is disingenuous of Cllr Rawlings to oppose deficit reduction measures and complain that the deficit has not been eliminated. Let's remember that Labour literally left office with a note saying 'there's no money left' and continued constraints on public spending are required to finish fixing the mess they left.</p>

91	<p>Cllr Barry Rawlings</p> <p>What are the Council's plans for the re-location of the trade recycling facility at Tilling Road?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>Tilling Road is within the Brent Cross Cricklewood regeneration area. The planning consent allows for waste facilities in the area to be relocated within the redline of the scheme. Discussions are ongoing with businesses in the area, and with the North London Waste Authority, regarding their future plans.</p>
92	<p>Cllr Barry Rawlings</p> <p>What was the Conservative Group's rationale for voting at the Budget meeting against allocating money to mitigate the effect of increasing Council Tax Support Scheme contributions to 80% when this allocation did not affect the MTFS?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>I have previously been clear that there are various pots of discretionary funding in place and that this resource will be increased if necessary. Perhaps I could ask Cllr Rawlings what the Labour Group's rationale was for failing to produce a budget at all?</p>
93	<p>Cllr Andreas Ioannidis</p> <p>Have staff working at the council's waste depot been consulted on the relocation plans to Abbots Depot?</p>	<p>Answer by Councillor Daniel Thomas, Chairman of the Assets Regeneration and Growth Committee</p> <p>Affected staff have completed a travel survey relating to the Abbott's site and a communication plan is being developed alongside the planning consultation, to ensure staff are kept informed</p>

94	<p>Cllr Kathy Levine</p> <p>What has happened to the proposals from the Walksafe N14 Group that were agreed at Chipping Barnet Area Committee, when will the consultation take place, and when will the safety measures be implemented?</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>Response is as detailed at question 80.</p>
95	<p>Cllr Reema Patel</p> <p>The council has agreed to measures including 20mph zones in roads close to Colney Hatch Lane. Will the council also commit to 20mphz in roads surrounding local schools Coppetts and Hollickwood in addition?</p>	<p>Answer by Councillor Dean Cohen, Chairman of the Environment Committee</p> <p>Proposals for development in the 2015/16 programme were agreed by the Environment Committee in January. Therefore this location will be assessed and prioritised against other proposals during 2015/16 for possible inclusion in future years programmes.</p>

96	<p>Cllr Reema Patel</p> <p>Would the Leader be able to provide full details of all schools they are aware of which may be opened under a Department of Education funded model, including whether and where those schools may be sited in Barnet, as well as full details of the sponsor organisations related to those schools?</p>	<p>Answer by Councillor Reuben Thompstone, Chairman of the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee</p> <p>Watling Park Free School is due to open in September 2015 sponsored by the Belle Vue Trust at Pavilion Way HA8. Ashmole has recently been advised that its proposals to open a primary free school on its site has passed to the next stage. Similarly Kisharon's proposal to open free school provision for children with special educational needs is at a similar stage. New primary provision is being opened on the London Academy and Wren Academy site, each operated by the respective Academy Trust. We have also been advised by the Department for Education that it is considering funding an all through free school in the borough.</p>
97	<p>Cllr Reema Patel</p> <p>Will the Leader join me in congratulating all those who participated in the first ever North London Half Marathon which started and finished in Barnet Allianz Park this year? Particular note must be given to those who raised well over £75,000 for Macmillan, the cancer charity.</p>	<p>Answer by the Leader</p> <p>Yes.</p>

98	Cllr Nagus Narenthira Would the leader let me know how many secure tenants have been moved from the Grahame Park estate and give an exact address where each family has moved to?	Answer by the Leader Since 2003 the secure tenants (excluding those rehoused through the normal transfer process, or evicted due to e.g. tenancy fraud) have been housed as below Aastral Village – 100 Plot 1 – 134 (Heybourne) Plot 2 – 13 (Phase 0) Plot 3 – 55 (New development Lancre ave and surrounding) It is not thought appropriate to release the addresses publicly.
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