

Council Questions – 26 January 2016 (in proper order)

| Qn | Councillor | Question | Answer by | Answer |
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| 1 | Cllr Rohit Grover | Please could you confirm the criteria that determines how often each pavement within the Borough is litter-picked, and whether a record is kept of the last time each pavement within the Borough has been litter-picked? | Cllr Dean Cohen (Chairman of the Environment Committee) | <p>When designing the current Street Cleansing operation, officers used benchmark data from other London Borough's and discussed the approach taken regarding cleansing in town centres and residential areas.</p> <p>In addition to this we used local knowledge from cleaning staff and supervisors, as well as background data collected as part of the NI195 process.</p> <p>Criteria and frequency are shown below :-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Town Centres and Secondary retail areas are cleared of litter daily Monday to Friday 2. Town Centres and a number of the busiest secondary retail areas are cleared of litter at weekends (Sat & Sun) and bank holidays (except 25th December) 3. Residential roads are litter picked on a fortnightly schedule 4. Trunk Roads pavements and grass verges are litter picked every 3 weeks or when required. 5. Responsive works - we respond to requests for service from residents via Customer Services, accumulated litter reports are dealt with |

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| | | | | <p>within agreed timescales.</p> <p>The Street Scene service retains records of residential roads, trunk roads, secondary retail roads and town centre litter pick and cleansing data.</p> |
| 2 | Cllr Barry Rawlings | Will the leader commit to halving the number of children in Barnet living in overcrowded housing by 2020? | Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council) | This is a worthy aspiration, which we will certainly strive towards, but reality will depend on circumstances in the coming years. |
| 3 | Cllr Brian Gordon | Could you please give us a brief progress update on the Burnt Oak Town Centre Strategy, being pursued by Barnet Council jointly with the GLA. | Cllr Dan Thomas (Chairman of Assets, Regeneration & Growth Committee) | A design team was appointed in early October 2015 to begin the development of the town centre strategy. The initial draft has been issued to the Council and reviewed by the GLA in December 2015. Further development is on-going, to be followed by consultation and events in early February 2016. Further engagement is also on-going with existing businesses to establish a programme of business support in the area. |

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| 4 | Cllr Ross Houston | <p>Can I ask how the Leader would respond to the following constituent who has written in? "I am at a loss. I have been privately renting within the borough for three years. I work full time earning a wage of £30k. I have two children ages 12 and 17. Both in full time education within the borough both high achievers. I am about to be homeless. My current rent is £1100 per month. I have never been in arrears. All bills and taxes are up to date. My ultimate main concern is I cannot find a suitable home to rent on my income. The current rental market exceeds my income . I am finding it difficult for landlords and letting agents to accept housing benefit. I am told I cannot be accepted on the housing register because I have not been in the borough for five years. I have also been told I cannot get any help because I am earning a full time wage this I should rent privately. Which brings me back to letting agents and landlords not accepting housing benefit. I am also told once I've been in the borough for five years I could be housed in another borough which I'm told in most cases is either Luton -</p> | Cllr Tom Davey (Chairman of Housing Committee) | <p>Barnet Council's Allocations Scheme actively rewards those who work, volunteer, or who are in education, placing households who make a community contribution into Band 2 of the scheme, which is a higher band than those who do not.</p> <p>Demand for accommodation far exceeds the current supply of affordable LBB and housing association properties. Since the start of 2015/16 fewer than 500 secure LBB and HA properties (of all bedroom sizes and including sheltered accommodation) have been let. In comparison Barnet Homes have received some 2209 applications for housing assistance during the same time period.</p> <p>It is highly unlikely that any applicant will be offered a LBB or Housing Association property unless they are either in Band 1 or Band 2. Therefore there is a disadvantage for any particular resident giving up work, as they would go into a lower band in the allocations scheme.</p> <p>Every person who applies for assistance with their housing undergoes a comprehensive housing assessment, which takes into account a range of important issues including that of children's education. The aim of the assessment is to ensure that any accommodation offered is suitable taking into account the needs of individual households as well as the current availability of accommodation.</p> <p>To be able to join Barnet Council's Allocations</p> |

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| | | <p>Thurrock somewhere far which would be impossible for me to travel for work and travel for the children schooling.</p> <p>So my question to you is - in order to find housing do I give up work and rely on government hand outs ? Taking out of the government system on full benefits ? Up root the children schooling and place them in something unsuitable ? Or is there a way where you can find a home I can rent from the council or housing association thus putting back in the system? My mind boggles on how the minority is struggling and the majority is not !”</p> | | <p>Scheme, an applicant must have lived in the borough for 5 years continuously. If the applicant does not have this residential history, they do not qualify to be banded onto the Scheme. This provision is designed to prioritise local residents with a long-term residential history within the borough.</p> <p>Current homelessness legislation allows those applicants without a 5 year residential history to access housing advice and assistance through the private sector.</p> |
| 5 | Cllr Brian Gordon | How were the free parking facilities during the recent festive period managed by the Council and received by the general public? | Cllr Dean Cohen (Chairman of the Environment Committee) | Residents were pleased with this programme. |
| 6 | Cllr Gill Sargeant | The new SPD for Grahame Park assumes that organisations such as Barnet College and the new offices will have spare accommodation for community groups. Is the Council aware that this may not be sufficient? | Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council) | No. The Grahame Park draft SPD provides policy guidance for stage B of the regeneration programme whereas facilities such as the new college and office are part of stage A. However, the re-provision of stage B social facilities such as the Centre for Independent Living (CIL) and Colindale library are included in stage A as part of the new college building which is scheduled for |

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| | | | | completion in July 2016. All of the remaining social facilities (health, children's, community) as well as some retail space will be re-provided as part of stage B. The draft SPD provides policy guidance on how this will be achieved and a detailed planning application covering the whole concourse area will follow later in 2016. |
| 7 | Cllr Brian Gordon | The Government is looking to introduce more intrusive regulations on faith schools in terms of the content of teaching of religion, the principal object of which is to try and curb the dissemination of extremist views and the radicalisation of pupils. Does the Chairman have any knowledge as to how such measures might impact on the broad range of faith schools we have in this Borough? | Cllr Reuben Thompstone (Chairman of Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee) | We hope to steer the government towards a sensible set of regulations. |
| 8 | Cllr Arjun Mittra | How many children under 18 who are Barnet residents have been kept in police cells overnight and over weekends in the last 6 months? | Cllr David Longstaff (Chairman of Community Leadership Committee) | According to the Metropolitan Police, in Barnet over the last 6 months (between July and December) 137 young people aged under 18 have been kept in police custody overnight. And 20 young people have been kept police custody over the weekend. |
| 9 | Cllr John Hart | What measures are being taken in Barnet to join the national Clean for the Queen anti-litter campaign to mark her Majesty's 90th Birthday? | Cllr Dean Cohen (Chairman of the Environment Committee) | The Clean for the Queen event should be supported by Barnet. Although the initial focus is on keeping Barnet clean, the campaign presents a wider opportunity to push the important community participation agenda, which is a core part of our Corporate Plan, by promoting existing |

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| | | | | <p>initiatives to help people, get involved in keeping their local areas clean, safe and well looked after. Currently options are being looked at in regard to selecting local sites to launch the event. We will look to engage with local groups including Friends Groups and resident groups.</p> |
| 10 | Cllr Claire Farrier | <p>The former child guidance centre on the North Road estate in Burnt Oak is derelict and at risk of vandalism or fire. The area is used for anti-social activities including use of alcohol and illegal drugs. Planning permission was given for a school on this site, but nothing has happened since. Could the Leader please tell me who now owns this site and what are the plans for redevelopment and use?</p> | Cllr Dan Thomas (Chairman of Assets, Regeneration & Growth Committee) | <p>The site was sold on 2 Feb 2015 to the NOAM Educational Trust. Planning permission for a school has been approved and NOAM are currently investigating their funding options for the redevelopment of the site for their school and anticipate being in a position to commence development on site within a year.</p> <p>In the mean-time, NOAM have advised that as a result of the anti-social behaviour that is reportedly taking place on the site, the existing structure is to be demolished and site cleared within one month.</p> |
| 11 | Cllr John Hart | <p>In view of the dearth of grave space, has any re-consideration been given to woodland burials in Barnet</p> | Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council) | <p>Officers are assessing the longer term requirement for burial land within the Borough, and will consider natural burials as part of this project.</p> <p>However, I suspect the problem will be the reluctance of those who live near suitable sites to agree to such burials.</p> |

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| 12 | Cllr Geof Cooke | <p>Here are some comparative costs for inserting a new station on an existing railway line in London: Langdon Park (DLR, £10.5m including bridge and lifts 2007)</p> <p>b. Mitcham Eastfields (Thameslink, £6m including bridge 2008)</p> <p>c. Imperial Wharf (London Overground/National Rail, £3m including lifts 2009)</p> <p>d. Surrey Canal Road/New Bermondsey (London Overground, £10m developer contribution agreed with TfL to be paid if/when it goes ahead).</p> <p>A station at Brunswick Park would require no lifts, no new bridge and no slewing of existing railway tracks. Do you agree that comparisons with the £215m quoted for the proposed Thameslink station at Brent Cross South are wrong by much more than an order of magnitude and are no reason to dismiss the idea of a Brunswick Park station?</p> | Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council) | It is not considered that the emerging redevelopment proposals for the Business Park would provide sufficient development to justify a new station; hence a new station is not included in the Planning Brief. |
| 13 | Cllr John Hart | When will Barnet realise the need for one or more tourist offices? | Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council) | Barnet is not a natural tourist attraction within our capital city. I am not sure what a tourist office might accomplish. |

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| 14 | Cllr Adam Langleben | To ask the Leader whether as part of the agreement with Genesis over the regeneration of the Grahame Park estate there is a clause which ensures that all socially rented properties will remain rented out as a social rent in perpetuity unless the right to buy is exercised? | Cllr Tom Davey (Chairman of Housing Committee) | Yes. Both the Grahame Park PDA and nominations agreements ensure that newly provided, socially rented properties in the ownership of the housing association remain rented out in perpetuity, unless Right to Buy is extended and exercised. |
| 15 | Cllr John Hart | How many penalties for littering have been issued in Barnet during 2013-14 and 2014-15? | Cllr Dean Cohen (Chairman of the Environment Committee) | During 2013-2014 eight fixed penalty notices (FPN's) were issued for littering and during 2014-2015 two FPN's were issued for a littering offence. Additionally, 63 FPN's were issued for fly-tipping in 2013-2014 followed by 49 FPN's in 2014-2015. |
| 16 | Cllr Alan Schneiderman | How much money was paid using parking meters during the pre-Christmas weekends when parking should have been free? Will all of this be refunded as it should be? | Cllr Dean Cohen (Chairman of the Environment Committee) | Despite the wide publicity and signage place on the parking meters themselves, a number of parking payments were made over the three weekends which totalled £2,521.55. All payments were made via Debit/Credit cards, the details of which are held by the Council's bank. The bank has been instructed to process refunds for all transactions over the three weekends. A number of repayments have already been made and we are advised that the remainder will be done imminently. |
| 17 | Cllr Wendy Prentice | How many people are engaged in community service (also known as community payback) in Barnet in any one year and how many hours of work does this amount to in total? | Cllr David Longstaff (Chairman of Community Leadership Committee) | In Barnet, on average 24 offenders per month receive a sentence which includes a requirement to engage in community payback work, over a 12 month period there would typically be between 250 – 300 offenders receiving such a sentence. |

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| | | | | <p>The number of hours required varies with the individual sentences given by the Courts and can vary between 40 and 300 hours depending on the seriousness of the crime.</p> <p>Those engaged in Community Payback work in Barnet work on projects at various locations across the borough, including the Grahame Park Estate, the West Hendon Estate, the Vale Farm Allotments and the Dollis Valley Estate. All the projects work on the basis of a 7 hour working day starting at 9am and finishing at 4pm.</p> |

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| 18 | Cllr Pauline Coakley Webb | At the last council meeting I asked for a complete list across of vacancies across all services, for how long each post had not been filled and information of job title. I was told that areas like CSG and Re do not keep an establishment list and as such there are no vacancies. That there never any vacancies within CSG and Re is clearly short on facts since you can never recruit unless you have a vacancy. I am asking again and this time in particular relating to the CSG and Re contracts, how many posts are unfilled / vacant in these services, how long have the posts been vacant and please provide information by job title. If you are unable to provide the information in this format please advise how many Environmental Health officers Barnet Council had prior to outsourcing the service to Re along with any vacancy rates, and how many there are now working specifically on Barnet Council business? | Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council) | <p>There are currently 11 vacancies within CSG. Four posts within Finance, three within Revenues and Benefits and four within Estates.</p> <p>There are currently 27 vacancies within Re. 10 relate to environmental health, trading standards and land charges; 12 relate to planning, three relate to programme delivery, 1 road safety post and 1 crematorium post.</p> <p>Please see the attachment in Appendix A.</p> |
| 19 | Cllr Wendy Prentice | What influence does the council have over what tasks offenders are given to perform and is there scope in the current system for us to have greater input? | Cllr David Longstaff (Chairman of Community Leadership Committee) | <p>In Barnet there are a variety of Community Payback placements running across the borough, this includes a placement on the Grahame Park Estate, the West Hendon Estate, the Vale Farm Allotments and the Dollis Valley Estate.</p> <p>The Safer Communities Partnership, through the</p> |

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| | | | | <p>police and Barnet Homes engages closely with the Community Rehabilitation Company who are responsible for delivering Community Payback in Barnet.</p> <p>We are clear in our understanding that Community Payback works best when the work is being done by those on the programme is focused on addressing priorities identified by local communities.</p> <p>Therefore we are currently working to strengthen our engagement with the Community Rehabilitation Company on Community Payback. This will result in greater scope for us as a local authority to influence the focus of work being undertaken through Community Payback and help ensure it matches the needs and priorities of the borough.</p> |
| 20 | Cllr Charlie Omacualey | How many people are homeless in Burnt Oak? | Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council) | In December 2015 Barnet Homes co-ordinated a rough sleeper estimate within the borough. This found that 21 people were rough sleeping across the borough. Unfortunately this number cannot be broken down by postcode. |
| 21 | Cllr Wendy Prentice | Similarly, how many hours of community work will likely be contributed by those long-term unemployed required to undertake it? | Cllr David Longstaff (Chairman of Community Leadership Committee) | The information relating to unpaid work undertaken by the long term unemployed is held by the Job Centre Plus. A request for this information has been made, however due to how the information is recoded JCP are unable to provide us with the information of how many hours of work are completed broken down to the borough level. |

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| 22 | Cllr Anne Hutton | How many children in Barnet receive education at home? | Cllr Reuben Thompstone (Chairman of Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee) | 128 |
| 23 | Cllr Wendy Prentice | Does the Leader agree that it should be for the council, and elected members, to determine the priorities for those doing work in the community either as criminals or jobseekers and that the work undertaken, whilst ideally contributing to the individual's rehabilitation or skills development, should also help advance the objectives of our corporate plan? | Cllr David Longstaff (Chairman of Community Leadership Committee) | Yes. |
| 24 | Cllr Nagus Narenthira | Does the leader feel responsible for the difficulties faced by all residents in Barnet? If so, why is he not intending to adopt the roads in Pulse development and provide affordable parking so that the developers do not get away with paying exorbitant rates to buy parking spaces when they buy properties in this development? | Cllr Dan Thomas (Chairman of Assets, Regeneration & Growth Committee) | LB Barnet is adopting the main spine road leading to the Fairview Development from Colindale Avenue. Side roads off the main spine road were not offered for adoption by the developers. Road adoption will be progressed once all remaining phases are completed and after satisfactory completion of maintenance period. Officers are aware of potential parking issues which could arise as a result of the main spine road being developed with the side roads remaining private. Consideration will be given to what these potential issues might be and how they could be alleviated. |

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| 25 | Cllr Anthony Finn | The Taxpayers' Alliance has praised the council for working to increase transparency and, in particular, for the comprehensiveness of the expenditure records we publish. Does the Leader welcome this acknowledgement? | Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council) | Yes. |
| 26 | Cllr Barry Rawlings | How many homes are there in Barnet that have planning permission that are still unbuilt? | Cllr Tom Davey (Chairman of Housing Committee) | As at 1st December 2015 there are 4,332 homes with planning permission where development has not started. |
| 27 | Cllr Anthony Finn | Does the Committee Chairman welcome the decision to grant Menorah High School for Girls voluntary-aided status and bring excellent new places into the state system? | Cllr Reuben Thompstone (Chairman of Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee) | This is a really important success story that will bring school places in an area of provision where there is great demand. |
| 28 | Cllr Gill Sargeant | Could you confirm when the bridge over to Montrose Park will be presented to Planning committee? | Cllr Dan Thomas (Chairman of Assets, Regeneration & Growth Committee) | This will not go to committee. There have been no objections, only statements of support. This is also not varying the S106. There are therefore no grounds for this to go to planning committee. |
| 29 | Cllr Hugh Rayner | How is Barnet responding to the increasing prevalence of dementia being witnessed across society? | Cllr Helena Hart (Chairman of Health and Wellbeing Board) | An expression of the importance Barnet places on helping those with dementia is the fact that we have developed our very own Dementia Manifesto for Barnet specifically tailored to the needs of our Borough. As far as we know, we are the only London borough to have such a Manifesto. Our Manifesto will help make Barnet a Dementia Friendly Community and continue to increase |

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| | | | | <p>awareness. It will build on the excellent work already being done by our Dementia Advisors and at our three fantastic Dementia Cafes, as well as by a whole range of groups and services across the borough. Barnet does have a high rate of residents with dementia, but our success in diagnosing a large proportion of patients (almost 10% above the national target), and diagnosing them early, means we can get help to the people who need it. We are also planning for the future and investing in support for residents. A dementia-focussed extra-care housing scheme comprising 51 flats, due to open next year, is just one example of this.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 30 | Cllr Arjun Mittra | How many planning enforcement orders have been made in each of the last 5 years? | Cllr Melvin Cohen (Chairman of Planning Committee) | <p>Planning enforcement notices served.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1368 847 1928 1134"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="1368 847 1514 951">Calendar year</th> <th data-bbox="1514 847 1928 951">Number of enforcement notices served*</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="1368 951 1514 986">2011</td> <td data-bbox="1514 951 1928 986">105</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1368 986 1514 1021">2012</td> <td data-bbox="1514 986 1928 1021">91</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1368 1021 1514 1056">2013</td> <td data-bbox="1514 1021 1928 1056">133</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1368 1056 1514 1091">2014</td> <td data-bbox="1514 1056 1928 1091">111</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1368 1091 1514 1134">2015</td> <td data-bbox="1514 1091 1928 1134">113</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Please note - Number of notices include; enforcement notices, breach of condition notices and section 215 notices (number of planning contravention notices are not included)</p> | Calendar year | Number of enforcement notices served* | 2011 | 105 | 2012 | 91 | 2013 | 133 | 2014 | 111 | 2015 | 113 |
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| 2011 | 105 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2012 | 91 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2013 | 133 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2014 | 111 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2015 | 113 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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| 31 | Cllr Hugh Rayner | The great imbalance between funding for inner and outer London boroughs is largely a result of historic levels of deprivation which meant that inner London needed more support. With the ongoing changes to the capital's socio-economic geography, notably the fact that inner London is almost uniformly seeing reductions in deprivation whilst outer London is seeing widespread increases, does the Leader agree that the time is right to look again at the relative levels of per head funding when the government is working on the details of how the forthcoming full Business Rate Retention Scheme will operate in practice? | Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council) | <p>The whole system is grossly unfair. The distortions of the Prescott era have not been corrected.</p> <p>Barnet's allocation of Settlement Funding Allocation per head in 2015/16 is amongst the lowest in London. Data collected by Index of Multiple Deprivation shows that between the period 2004-2013 outer London boroughs have seen increases in deprivation whilst inner London boroughs have seen significant reductions and therefore historic funding formulas reflecting need are out dated, overly complex and opaque. In setting the baseline for changes to the business rates retention scheme Government needs to look at a more transparent basis; this could be based on population.</p> |
| 32 | Cllr Geof Cooke | Please could you confirm that Barnet Council has not lobbied the Mayor of London, the Secretary of State for Transport or Network Rail on the desirability of a railway station on the Great Northern line at Brunswick Park? | Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council) | Yes. |
| 33 | Cllr Graham Old | Could the Committee Chairman comment on the Environment Committee's deliberations about road surfacing and the lessons learned? | Cllr Dean Cohen (Chairman of the Environment Committee) | Re have undertaken a review of Lesson Learnt during year 1 of the Network Recovery Plan and produced a Service Improvement Plan for year 2 with the main focus on improved proactive customer communications and contractor |

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| | | | | <p>management with the aim of improving customer satisfaction and ensuring a “right first time” approach. The overall approach of asset management for highways where specific treatments are identified for specific roads in order to prolong the whole life costing is a nationally recognised best practice method and one that is being used in Barnet.</p> <p>We continue to consult on this matter with ward members accordingly.</p> |
| 34 | Cllr Adam Langleben | To ask the Leader whether as part of the agreement with Metropolitan over the regeneration of the West Hendon estate there is a clause which ensures that all socially rented properties will remain rented out as a social rent in perpetuity unless the right to buy is exercised? | Cllr Tom Davey (Chairman of Housing Committee) | Yes. The West Hendon PDA and associated Nominations Agreement ensure that newly provided, socially rented properties in the ownership of the housing association remain as social rented properties in perpetuity, unless Right to Buy is extended and exercised. |
| 35 | Cllr Graham Old | As a gauge of the affordability of housing in Barnet, how does the ratio of house prices to earnings compare to that in other neighbouring boroughs? | Cllr Tom Davey (Chairman of Housing Committee) | The table below shows the latest (2015 provisional) ratios of median house prices to median earnings in Barnet and in neighbouring boroughs. According to this measure, Barnet is similar to Harrow, Brent and Haringey; more expensive than Hertsmere and Enfield; and less expensive than Camden. |

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| | | | | <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Borough</td> <td>2015</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hertsmere</td> <td>10,89</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Enfield</td> <td>12.05</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brent</td> <td>13.92</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Haringey</td> <td>14.01</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Barnet</td> <td>14.28</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Harrow</td> <td>14.81</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Camden</td> <td>18.55</td> </tr> </table> | Borough | 2015 | Hertsmere | 10,89 | Enfield | 12.05 | Brent | 13.92 | Haringey | 14.01 | Barnet | 14.28 | Harrow | 14.81 | Camden | 18.55 |
| Borough | 2015 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hertsmere | 10,89 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Enfield | 12.05 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| Camden | 18.55 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 36 | Cllr Alan Schneiderman | How much money does the Council expect to make from charging residents £30 to take wedding photos in Barnet's parks? How will this be enforced? Are there any plans to charge for taking other photos? | Cllr Dean Cohen (Chairman of the Environment Committee) | This is not being progressed. The committee system has a way of dispensing with such ideas. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 37 | Cllr Graham Old | In the last 5 years how many home completions were there and what percentage of these were affordable? | Cllr Tom Davey (Chairman of Housing Committee) | A total of 7886 additional units were completed between the years 2010/11 and 2014/15 of which 26% (2035 units) were affordable. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 38 | Cllr Charlie Omacauley | How many people are unemployed in Burnt Oak? | Cllr Dan Thomas (Chairman of Assets, Regeneration & Growth Committee) | <p>1700 people claim out of work benefits in Burnt Oak (latest data from May 2015). Unemployment data is collected as part of the census and the latest data is available from 2011. In 2011 1300 people or 11.2% of people living in Burnt oak described themselves as unemployed.</p> <p>Unemployed or underemployed Burnt Oak residents are able to access multiagency support</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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| | | | | to find work and increase their income at the Burnt Oak Opportunity Support Team based in Burnt Oak Library. Since May 2015 the team has supported 303 Burnt Oak residents and helped 104 start work. |
| 39 | Cllr John Marshall | Is the CSG contract on target to meet its savings objectives? | Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council) | Yes, it is on target to meet its savings targets and an assessment on this is undertaken at the end of the financial and contractual year – depending on when the guarantee is set for. CSG contracts savings are delivered through reductions to the core contract, savings on procurement and bringing in additional council tax and other income. |
| 40 | Cllr Nagus Narenthira | Can the Leader outline what CPZ proposals are considered to be implemented in the whole ward of Colindale? | Cllr Dean Cohen (Chairman of the Environment Committee) | Colindale ward incorporates one Controlled Zone (Zone P). The Traffweb system can be used to view the detail of the roads included in the Zone and the types of restrictions that apply to the Zone. Barnettraffweb.co.uk |
| 41 | Cllr John Marshall | So far, how much has been saved by the CSG partnership? | Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council) | The reduction in core contract price to the end of 2015/16 is £7.5m per year. Procurement savings and council tax income of £8.5m has been achieved to date. |

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| 42 | Cllr Barry Rawlings | According to the Council's website paper applications for the Older Person's Freedom Pass is only available at Chipping Library. Why is this and can the forms be made available at all the libraries? | Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council) | Paper applications for the Older Person's Freedom pass are available at all libraries. The adult social care webpage is being updated to reflect this. |
| 43 | Cllr John Marshall | How does the cost of providing back office services now compare to the rest of London? | Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council) | When compared with all London boroughs, Barnet has the third lowest costs in London (per head) for our corporate and democratic services overheads. |
| 44 | Cllr Gill Sargeant | Now the consultation is completed over the plans for the zebra crossing at Aerodrome Road when is the proposed date for the crossing to be installed? | Cllr Dean Cohen (Chairman of the Environment Committee) | The proposed Zebra Crossing on Aerodrome Road is programmed to be implemented by the end of March 2016. |
| 45 | Cllr John Marshall | Since the launch of CSG what has been the change in customer satisfaction? | Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council) | <p>The CSG contract started on 1 Sept 2013. The combined customer satisfaction scores around that time in 2013 were: Aug - 59%, Sept – 53%, Oct – 43%. The most recent results in 2015 have been Aug – 72%, Sept - 71%, Oct - 70%, Nov - 74%. The volume of customer ratings has also substantially increased since 2013, and now averages 10,000 a month.</p> <p>The council also collects satisfaction data via the resident perception survey which is included below:</p> <p>'It is easy to access Council services': 2012/13: 64% agree 2013/14 (Autumn): 68% agree</p> |

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| | | | | <p>2015/16 (Spring): 70% agree</p> <p>Similarly, the RPS data related to 'the Council has staff that are friendly and polite' has improved by 6% from 2012 (78%) to 84% in Spring 2015. In addition, the trend on the Council 'responds quickly when asked for help' also improved from 49% in 2012 to 56% in Spring 2015.</p> |
| 46 | Cllr Arjun Mittra | How many children were housed by Barnet in temporary accommodation in December 2013, December 2014 and December 2015? | Cllr Reuben Thompstone (Chairman of Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee) | <p>The number of children/ expected children in temporary accommodation is provided to central government as part of Barnet Council's P1E return. Currently the figures for December 2015 are being calculated. Therefore we have provided figures for December 2012, 2013 and 2014:</p> <p>No. of children / expected children - 2014 December: 3,227 2013 December: 3,065 2012 December: 2,993 Figures for December 2015 will be available at the end of January 2016.</p> |
| 47 | Cllr Val Duschinsky | Does the Leader agree that the building of new state of the art leisure facilities in East Barnet and at Cophall, when coupled with the creation of a Youth Zone in Montrose Park, shows that the council has strong plans to invest across the borough to support all Barnet's residents access quality sports and recreation facilities? | Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council) | <p>Absolutely. The Council is investing £30m in our two leisure facilities. This and the creation of a YouthZone, provide a significant opportunity for Barnet to create destinations which enable health improvement and enhanced recreation for Barnet residents. This is a major investment in a more active and healthy Borough for all ages. As we build these new centres, we will keep all our existing leisure centres open so there will be no disruption to residents' opportunities to enjoy sport and physical activities.</p> |

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| 48 | Cllr Geof Cooke | Do you agree that two miles between railway stations is twice the normal interval in densely populated parts of outer London and that Barnet residents living near the midpoint between Oakleigh Park and New Southgate deserve access to the rail network within walking distance? | Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council) | <p>The two stations are 1.89 miles apart, a not untypical distance between suburban railway stations. There is no normal interval and the area between the two stations has reasonable bus links to the New Southgate and Arnos Grove stations.</p> <p>The train has to move occasionally and not be stopping all the time.</p> |
| 49 | Cllr Val Duschinsky | Does the Leader think that the pledges Sadiq Khan has made on housing and transport fares are achievable? | Cllr Dan Thomas (Chairman of Assets, Regeneration & Growth Committee) | The policies are likely to cause a slump in housing completions and the transport pledge can only be achieved by cutting investment. |
| 50 | Cllr Adam Langleben | Could the Leader tell me what representations he will be making to TfL and Hertfordshire County Council to ensure that there is no reduction in bus services for the 107, 142, 292 and 298 routes which all serve our borough? | Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council) | I will make appropriate representations, but the organisations concerned are not known for their susceptibility to the views of the public. |

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| 51 | Cllr Nagus Narenthira | Why is there a private parking bay next to Sainsbury's supermarket on Grahame Park Way? Tickets are issued even if a car stops there for a few seconds for emergencies and the driver is still in the car. It seems to me this is a money making scheme by the private company. The notices are not very clear. Will the Leader ensure that there is 30 minute free parking provided in these bays as at other shopping centres in Barnet? | Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council) | This is on private property. What has been the response of the supermarket to the councillor's questions? |
| 52 | Cllr Barry Rawlings | Barnet Council seem to have the ability to engender many legal challenges - why does the Leader think this is so? | Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council) | Objecting activists seem to seek court action rather than engaging democratically and suggesting an alternative scheme. |
| 53 | Cllr Arjun Mittra | Please provide a breakdown in spend on repairing pavement defects for each ward for the last year. | Cllr Dean Cohen (Chairman of the Environment Committee) | It is impractical to print this answer, but the councillor has been emailed the information requested. |
| 54 | Cllr Geof Cooke | As far as you know, has any analysis been done on the timetable impact of a Great Northern stop at Brunswick Park? | Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council) | No. |

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| 55 | Cllr Adam Langleben | Could the Leader 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 15th January 2016? | Cllr Tom Davey (Chairman of Housing Committee) | 433 non-secures have been in the same property for longer than 5 years on all regeneration estates across the borough as of 15th January 2016 |
| 56 | Cllr Arjun Mittra | What assurances can be given to Barnet Homes leaseholders that service charges for works are being charged fairly, and that Barnet Homes are rigorous in negotiating with contractors to keep down costs. | Cllr Tom Davey (Chairman of Housing Committee) | Barnet Homes are known for their excellent work in this regard. Thank you to Cllrs Houston and Marshall for all the work they do here. |
| 57 | Cllr Adam Langleben | Could the Leader tell me how much has the Council paid to landlords in incentives in 2012/13, 2013/14, 2014/15 and the current financial year to date? | Cllr Tom Davey (Chairman of Housing Committee) | The amount paid to landlords in payment for incentives is: 2012/13 - £53,058.28 2013/14 - £566,538.12 2014/15 - £720,643.44 2015/16 - £766,053.00 |
| 58 | Cllr Arjun Mittra | Will Barnet homes come up with 3 year work programmes for each estate, with likely costs so that leaseholders can plan their finances? | Cllr Tom Davey (Chairman of Housing Committee) | Barnet Homes have published a programme for the 2016/17 financial year on their web site which can be located at http://thebarnetgroup.org/bh/home-advice/major-works/ Leaseholders who will be affected by major works during the 2016/17 financial year have been advised of the works that are being considered. Barnet Homes has committed to publish a five year programme of works. This commitment was |

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| | | | | <p>communicated to all residents in the winter edition of At Home and confirmed this will be published by the end of February 2016.</p> <p>The programme will include an estimated average cost range – however it should be borne in mind that the works included will be subject to further survey and design works and therefore costs may vary from those indicated.</p> |
| 59 | Cllr Geof Cooke | Are you aware that reopening of Camberwell Station on the Thameslink line is under consideration because Southwark Council is collaborating with Transport for London and Network Rail? | Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council) | I was not aware. |
| 60 | Cllr Adam Langleben | Would the Leader tell me how many non-secure tenants (as 15th October 2016) are living on the West Hendon estate? | Cllr Tom Davey (Chairman of Housing Committee) | 176 non-secure tenants are living at West Hendon. |
| 61 | Cllr Arjun Mittra | Will the Council consult with residents of Leslie and Leopold Road as to whether they can be included in the CPZ? | Cllr Dean Cohen (Chairman of the Environment Committee) | The Council receives many requests for parking changes from local residents and other road users. It is expected that an exercise where the requests are assessed and then prioritised will take place before the end of the financial year, with a view to progressing all those schemes which are considered appropriate to progress in future work programmes devised by committees. |

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| 62 | Cllr Geof Cooke | Have you spoken with Comer Homes on the feasibility and desirability of funding a Brunswick Park railway station as part of the North London Business Park development? | Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council) | I have not, although I understand officers have explored the idea with the transport consultants representing Comer Homes and it has been agreed that the size of the proposed development does not justify a new Brunswick Park station. |
| 63 | Cllr Adam Langleben | To ask the Leader why Capita were removed from valuing properties on regeneration estates? | Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council) | Capita were appointed to manage negotiations with leaseholders in West Hendon CPO1. Having overseen and completed the issue of revised offers, as per their original engagement, it was agreed that final discussions with leaseholders would be carried out by the Development Partners and its agents in order to make negotiations as direct as possible. |
| 64 | Cllr Arjun Mittra | Does the Council have any information as to the future of the petrol station on East Finchley High Road at the junction with Church Lane? | Cllr Melvin Cohen (Chairman of Planning Committee) | A pre-application enquiry has been made seeking planning officer's opinion on the acceptability of a proposed housing development on this site (9 houses provisionally proposed). |
| 65 | Cllr Adam Langleben | Further to question 67 from the October 2015 council meeting, will the Leader tell me if Barnet Council will be getting a refund from Capita due to their regeneration estate CPO valuation services being so surplus to requirements that the council have hired in new help? | Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council) | The costs incurred in delivering the CPO are covered by the Development Partners under the CPO Indemnity Agreement agreed as part of the Principal Development Agreement for West Hendon. There is therefore no direct cost to the Council. |

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| 66 | Cllr Arjun Mittra | Will the Council ensure that residents of Leicester Road will still be able to park on their road if the proposed Sainsbury's on the junction with the High Road opens? | Cllr Dean Cohen (Chairman of the Environment Committee) | The proposed Sainsbury's would be implemented under permitted development (A1 Use) and there are currently no proposals to amend the waiting restriction in the vicinity. |
| 67 | Cllr Adam Langleben | In October I asked: "Does the Leader not agree that residents living on regeneration estates which are under construction for long periods of time may be more likely to face health issues, especially mental health issues, due to living in such surroundings and if so what advice does he have for those affected?" I received a two letter answer from the Leader which said "No". Would the Leader elaborate on this? | Cllr Dan Thomas (Chairman of Assets, Regeneration & Growth Committee) | Construction by neighbours is stressful. Regeneration of an estate is going to be the same but on a larger scale. Given the need to rebuild homes at West Hendon and in other areas, these inevitable consequences have to be mitigated. The completion of the developments will improve the quality of life for residents and neighbours. Public health considerations are of course taken into account. |
| 68 | Cllr Arjun Mittra | What is the Leader's view of the suggested merger of the police forces in Barnet, Brent and Harrow? | Cllr David Longstaff (Chairman of Community Leadership Committee) | The Metropolitan Police Service already incorporates all boroughs. |