

Council Questions – 13th December 2016 (in order)

Qn	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
1	Councillor John Hart	Could the Chairman of CELS please tell me how the take-up of the European Bacculaureate in Barnet is affecting subjects connected with the arts and with foreign languages	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>The English Bacculaureate (EBacc) is a performance measure for schools in England. It allows people to see how many pupils get a grade C or above in the core academic subjects at key stage 4 in any government-funded school.</p> <p>The subjects are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • Mathematics • History or Geography • the sciences; and • a language <p>The government first introduced the EBacc measure in 2010. In June 2015, it announced its intention that all pupils who start year 7 in September 2015 should take the EBacc subjects when they reach their GCSEs in 2020.</p> <p>In Barnet GCSE entries for languages as a proportion of the KS4 cohort increased significantly in 2014 and have remained relatively stable since then. The proportion of GCSE students entered for the arts rose slightly in 2014 and 2015 but then fell back in 2016. Attainment levels have varied between 87% and 83% achieving at least a C grade in a language and between 76% and 80% achieving this in arts subjects.</p>

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2	Councillor Barry Rawlings	<p>Could the Leader and relevant committee Chair comment on the e mail below, sent by a local resident, and after a wait of over 100 months has the review been completed?</p> <p>'Last night, the unthinkable happened. A crash of such severity, that it is possible that the young motor cyclist involved, did not survive. The car that went into the young man, was abandoned on pavement, and the (3?) from the car, ran off. Wreckage strewn from outside number 85 Ashurst Road up to number 92. The young motor cyclists body was thrown along Buxted Road. towards the end of 90 Ashurst Road's garden. The emergency services worked for at least two hours on the poor motor cyclist. The police forensic team</p>	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>The raised table at the junction of Ashurst Road and Buxted Road was removed in 2004 as part of a localised resurfacing scheme. Between that date and June 2016 there have been a total of 2 recorded incidents both of which were recorded as resulting in “slight” injuries.</p> <p>Officers were informed of the recent tragic fatal incident at this junction. As a matter of priority a site meeting with the police took place to review the circumstances of the incident and agree on any urgent improvements. It was agreed that all road markings in the vicinity should be refreshed and this work has now been completed</p> <p>This incident was subsequently raised as an urgent item at the Area Committee meeting on 30th November where members requested to be informed of the process to review sites that have involved fatalities. This information will be provided to members at a future committee in order to consider this location for future improvement works.</p>																																											

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		<p>finally left some four/five hours after the initial crash. In June 2008, I spoke at a Finchley and Golders Green Environment sub-committee meeting, regarding the number of accidents that had taken place since the safety table at the junction of Buxted Road and Ashurst Road, N12, had been taken away. I distributed photographs and the then, principal officer for highways who had denied any accidents taking place, agreed to review the situation and inform the local residents of the findings. Here we are, some eight years later, with not even a scrap of paper to announce the results.'</p>		
3	Councillor John Hart	<p>Could the Leader please tell me who concocts the names of new streets and thoroughfares in Barnet?</p>	<p>Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)</p>	<p>The names of streets are proposed by developers who pay to name the new street (s) and will normally choose a theme for the area. A consultation process then takes place with the Fire Brigade, Royal Mail and the Gazetteer Custodian before a final decision is made to authorise the new name by officers under the Chief Planning Officer.</p>

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4	Councillor Jess Brayne	Why do the call centres operated on behalf of the Council insist on asking for titles from those calling in? The gender and marital status of residents is irrelevant when they are asking for their bin to be replaced or road repaired. Will the Council demonstrate their commitment to equality by ceasing to request this information from callers across all services?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	Many people do care about titles. If someone has an aversion to such then their wishes should be respected.
5	Councillor John Hart	Would the Leader agree with me that the growth of street markets in Barnet is stimulating trade and adding a spot of joie de vivre to the Borough	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	Yes.
6	Councillor Geof Cooke	How many Secondary Modern schools would the administration like there to be in the borough?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	We like a varied choice of schools. Most types are well received in Barnet. However, there are no secondary modern schools in the borough and there is no ambition to have secondary modern schools in the borough.

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7	Councillor John Hart	Could I have confirmation that the blind and partially-sighted bowlers in Mill Hill Park will have their game and premises safeguarded?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	Discussions with the bowls clubs are ongoing with the objective of continuing the playing of bowls by blind and partially sighted bowlers within the Borough
8	Councillor Anne Hutton	Canada Villa and The Finchley Youth Theatre and Centre offer many opportunities for young people to obtain skills and qualifications. Would the Leader ensure their survival given the proposed drastic cuts to the youth budget?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	The Strategic Outline Case for the youth service review, which went to CELS committee last month, set out the context around buildings that the youth service use, including Finchley Youth Theatre, Canada Villa and Green Top. It is recognised that these centres offer many opportunities for young people. The use of each of these buildings will need to be considered as part of the review.

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9	Councillor Rohit Grover	Does the Leader agree that in light of the undignified and troublingly dark comments he has previously made about Conservative politicians, London's "Night Czar", who was recently appointed by Sadiq Khan, would do well to adopt a bi-partisan approach to her role-bearing in mind that in order to be successful she will need to work with a number of Conservative-run boroughs which make significant contributions to the 24-hour economy?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	The title Czar can lead to an assumption of autocracy. This should be avoided in a democratic society.

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10	Councillor Paul Edwards	Would the Leader confirm how much income in total has been generated by Capita from court costs related to revenues and benefits since the start of the contract (please provide a breakdown by year and revenue/benefit type. Please include the detail for how much of this is from those on council tax support)?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>The table below shows the court costs that have been recovered from Council Tax and Business Rate payers since 2013/14. The court costs recovered could relate to any of the years for which council tax is due since 2010. The years before and after Council Tax Support (CTS) started (1 April 2013) has been separated.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1272 512 2085 1377"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Year</th> <th colspan="3">Council Tax</th> <th rowspan="2">Business Rates</th> <th rowspan="2">Total</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Costs recovered from Council Tax relating to pre April 2013 debt.</th> <th>Non CTS costs recovered from Council tax relating to debts from April 2013.</th> <th>CTS costs recovered from Council tax relating to debts from April 2013.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2013/14</td> <td>£ 415,814.96</td> <td>£ 481,656.07</td> <td>£ 204,273.04</td> <td>£ 129,758.96</td> <td>£ 1,231,503.03</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2014/15</td> <td>£ 151,270.28</td> <td>£ 539,318.09</td> <td>£ 295,683.61</td> <td>£ 93,188.13</td> <td>£ 1,079,460.11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2015/16</td> <td>£ 79,486.30</td> <td>£ 696,861.49</td> <td>£ 411,249.48</td> <td>£ 101,362.73</td> <td>£ 1,288,960.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2016/17 to 1 December 2016</td> <td>£ 39,634.37</td> <td>£ 526,906.82</td> <td>£ 246,463.07</td> <td>£ 73,338.58</td> <td>£ 886,342.84</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Council Tax			Business Rates	Total	Costs recovered from Council Tax relating to pre April 2013 debt.	Non CTS costs recovered from Council tax relating to debts from April 2013.	CTS costs recovered from Council tax relating to debts from April 2013.	2013/14	£ 415,814.96	£ 481,656.07	£ 204,273.04	£ 129,758.96	£ 1,231,503.03	2014/15	£ 151,270.28	£ 539,318.09	£ 295,683.61	£ 93,188.13	£ 1,079,460.11	2015/16	£ 79,486.30	£ 696,861.49	£ 411,249.48	£ 101,362.73	£ 1,288,960.00	2016/17 to 1 December 2016	£ 39,634.37	£ 526,906.82	£ 246,463.07	£ 73,338.58	£ 886,342.84
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11	Councillor Brian Salinger	Will the Leader please inform the Council which of the conditions that were part of the grant of Planning Permission for the new Finchley Memorial Hospital have not yet been complied with..... and can he set out what steps officers have taken to ensure compliance with each of those conditions?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>There are currently five outstanding conditions which have not been discharged, they are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Condition 9 (Car Park Management Plan) – was required to be submitted prior to occupation • Condition 10 (Activities Management Scheme Plan) - was required to be submitted prior to occupation • Condition 11 (Changes to Parking) – was required to have been submitted if parking charges were introduced • Condition 31 (Community Use Plan) - was required to be submitted prior to occupation • Condition 37 (Taxi Drop off Facilities) - was required to be submitted prior to occupation. <p>These five conditions, along with two others relating to provision of a football pitch, are being investigated for non-compliance.</p>

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12	Councillor Charlie O'Macauley	Would the Leader confirm if the roads on the Adastral estate have been adopted by Barnet Council, and if so on what date and what areas?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	Some areas of the Adastral Estate are maintained by the London Borough of Barnet. There are large areas of the Adastral estate that are managed by housing organisations Roads on the Adastral Estate have been adopted as the public highway. For details, please see attached s38 Notice and plan. See Appendix 1 to this document for the S38 Notice and Plan
13	Councillor Anthony Finn	A recent Barnet Unison webpage headline read: Barnet Unison writes to Voluntary Organisations: "Don't take our jobs". Does the Leader believe any Council jobs belong to Unison?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	Jobs are not the property of a Union. People are employed at the tax payer's expense to do jobs.
14	Councillor Nagus Narenthira	Would the leader explain why there is no road sign in the newly named Bristol Avenue?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	The temporary road signs are now up and the permanent signs will go up shortly.

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15	Councillor Brian Salinger	Given the 146 page response given to my question about planning enforcement at the last meeting, can the Leader tell me what steps are being taken to change the culture in planning enforcement to ensure that the expectation of members are being met?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>A number of steps have already been taken, including recruitment of more enforcement officers, better recording of data to explain why action is not taken, and a date for Member briefing put in the diary. The enforcement service within Re, working with Council Commissioners and Communications staff have undertaken a comprehensive review of Planning Enforcement services, processes and communications to ensure it meets the expectations of members and residents</p> <p>This review has identified a number of actions that are either already being delivered, or will be rolled out between December 2016 and March 2017. These changes will improve quality assurance / performance monitoring, member information and the customer experience.</p> <p>A Members briefing is being arranged to share details of the plan and obtain specific feedback.</p>
16	Councillor Arjun Mittra	With reference to question 60 at the Council meeting on 1st November 2016, has Councillor Cohen now reviewed the monitoring of environmental works commissioned to contractors? Does he believe that the system is working fully?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>The Tree Maintenance Contract has a robust contract monitoring regime in place. Contractors are required to carry out post works inspection of 25% of works as part of the contracts in place. Tree officers monitor during works to ensure safe roadside works and carry out sample post works monitoring.</p> <p>We use robust KPI's assessed monthly to form part of performance management with contractors, this has a significant financial consequence attached to poor performance.</p>

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17	Councillor Gabriel Rozenberg	How many new homes are expected to be completed in Barnet during the next five years?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	We expect 14,376 new homes to be completed during the next 5 years.
18	Councillor Barry Rawlings	Between August 2015 and July 2016 knife crime with injuries rose by 30 percent and the number of victims of serious youth violence by 40 percent. What is the Council doing to counteract this surge and to ensure its work is borough wide and not just concentrated in one area?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>The London Borough of Barnet Trading Standards Department are working closely with the police in relation to preventing the sales of knives to persons under the age of 18. A training pack has been produced and has been provided to a number of traders. Furthermore regular test purchases are taking place to ensure premises are not selling to under 18s. In terms of knife crime incidents the police are the lead agency to respond to this. The police data shows the following which puts the figures in context.</p> <p>As at the reporting period for 1st December 2016 knife crime offences compared to the same period last year (December 2015) has shown a decrease of 10% from 356 offences for the 12 months leading up to December 2015 to 320 offences for the 12 months leading up to December 2016. Approx. 61 of the 320 offences in the last 12 months relate to a knife injury where the victim is under 25 years of age. We have seen an increase of 39% when comparing 12 month to</p>

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				<p>December 2015 (44 offences) to 12 months to December 2016 (61 offences), an increase of 17 offences over a 12 month period. The police also work closely with the schools to raise awareness.</p> <p>The council's response to serious youth violence has been addressed in question 92 from Cllr Mitra.</p> <p>In addition to this the council lead on the management of young offenders through the Youth Offending Team. The June 2016 performance report for the youth offending team shows a continued reduction of offences (-55 offences) by young people known to the youth offending team from 159 offences between October and March 2014/15 to 104 offences between October to march 2015-2016. For the same period performance shows a 9.8 % increase in the % of young offenders engaging with employment, education and training and complying with their order. As at May 2016 the Council's youth Offending Team were working with 75 young people who were on statutory orders.</p>
19	Councillor Val Duschinsky	How is construction progressing at the Depot and Colindale office sites?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	The depot has a building up and a large area tarmacked. Ground has been broken at Colindale.

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20	Councillor Jess Brayne	How will the council be protecting youth services in the face of the budget cuts? Could the administration please commit to supporting all voluntary groups delivering youth services across the borough however possible?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>Resources will be focussed on provision for those that most need support.</p> <p>We are fully supportive of the voluntary sector and recognise the importance of it in providing services to young people. There is a contract with Community Barnet to provide infrastructure support to the voluntary sector and we are working closely with the recently launched Young Barnet Foundation, supported by the John Lyons charity. We are also working with Onside on the jointly funded development of Youth Zone, a start of the art facility for young people.</p>
21	Councillor Brian Salinger	Further to my question about planning enforcement at the last Council meeting, Can the Leader tell me how many of those cases listed in the reply had actually been visited by officers?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>Without examining each case individually it is difficult to ascertain which sites required a visit. It is likely that over 95% of all sites were visited. A large proportion of these sites will have been visited on several occasions as work/the case progressed.</p> <p>Of the minority of cases where a visit was not deemed necessary it is likely that one of the following applies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A full assessment could be made from photographs and documents obtained from the complainant or other resources - The case did not concern a 'planning matter' - The case was a duplicate of an on-going investigation.

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22	Councillor Paul Edwards	Would the Leader confirm how much of the income generated by Capita since contract start from court costs related to revenues and benefits they have benefitted from by gainshare? Please provide the information broken down by year and revenue/benefit type - including the detail for council tax support.)	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>The table below shows the total court costs that have been recovered from Council Tax and Business Rate payers since 2013/14 and the gainshare that has been paid.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1272 437 1727 898"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="1272 437 1424 608">Year</th> <th data-bbox="1424 437 1576 608">Total Costs Recovered</th> <th data-bbox="1576 437 1727 608">Total Gainshare Paid</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="1272 608 1424 667">2013/14</td> <td data-bbox="1424 608 1576 667">£ 1,231,503</td> <td data-bbox="1576 608 1727 667">£ 72,101</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1272 667 1424 726">2014/15</td> <td data-bbox="1424 667 1576 726">£ 1,079,460</td> <td data-bbox="1576 667 1727 726">£ 41,692</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1272 726 1424 785">2015/16</td> <td data-bbox="1424 726 1576 785">£ 1,288,960</td> <td data-bbox="1576 726 1727 785">£ 83,592</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1272 785 1424 898">2016/17 to 1 December 2016</td> <td data-bbox="1424 785 1576 898">£ 886,342</td> <td data-bbox="1576 785 1727 898">tbc</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The table below shows the gainshare paid in respect of Council Tax and Business Rate payers since 2013/14. The court costs recovered could relate to any of the years for which council tax is due since 2010. The years before and after Council Tax Support (CTS) started (1 April 2013) has been separated.</p> <p>The gainshare (£) derived from each income type</p>	Year	Total Costs Recovered	Total Gainshare Paid	2013/14	£ 1,231,503	£ 72,101	2014/15	£ 1,079,460	£ 41,692	2015/16	£ 1,288,960	£ 83,592	2016/17 to 1 December 2016	£ 886,342	tbc
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				Council Tax					
				Year	Gainshare paid - derived from Costs recovered from Council Tax relating to pre April 2013 debt.	Gainshare paid - derived from Non CTS costs recovered from Council tax relating to debts from April 2013.	Gainshare paid - derived from CTS costs recovered from Council tax relating to debts from April 2013.	Gainshare paid - derived from Business Rates	Total Gains hare Paid
				2013/14	£ 24,344.65	£ 28,199.44	£ 11,959.54	£ 7,596.98	£ 72,101
				2014/15	£ 5,842.52	£ 20,830.10	£ 11,420.20	£ 3,599.21	£ 41,692
				2015/16	£ 5,154.87	£ 45,193.06	£ 26,670.47	£ 6,573.60	£ 83,592

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23	Councillor Brian Salinger	<p>Further of those cases which are marked as 'No Further Action' which were described in that way because :-</p> <p>a) The initial complaint on investigation did not show any breach of planning regulation</p> <p>b) The number of such cases which were deemed as 'permitted development'</p> <p>c) The number of cases where there had been building works which should have required planning permission which in the opinion of officers would have been granted (albeit retrospective) planning consent had been applied for</p> <p>d) The number of those in d. where officers advised householders or developers that they must apply for planning permission but the resident/developer did not apply</p> <p>e) The number of other cases for which 'no further action' was taken for other reasons..... stating what those reasons were.</p>	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>Without examining each case individually it is not possible to ascertain which of the categories the cases listed fell into.</p> <p>In October the enforcement team introduced several new 'reasons for closure' descriptions. Of cases received after 30 September 2016 it will be possible to distinguish between cases that were closed for the following reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) No breach of planning control was found 2) A breach was detected but harm sufficient to justify enforcement action was not found 3) The breach was resolved informally 4) The breach was resolved after the taking of formal action (usually after the service of an enforcement or similar notice) <p>Recent activity is as follows:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1308 954 1962 1364"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>October</th> <th>November</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>No breach of planning control</td> <td>55</td> <td>48</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Breach detected but harm insufficient to justify enforcement action</td> <td>19</td> <td>16</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		October	November	No breach of planning control	55	48	Breach detected but harm insufficient to justify enforcement action	19	16
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				Breach resolved informally	10	23
				Breach resolved after taking formal action	8	9
24	Councillor Charlie O Macauley	Is Barnet Council responsible for any maintenance of the grassed areas on Adastral Village South?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	There is a small strip of verge in the vicinity of Pocklington Close maintained by the council.		

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25	Councillor Alison Cornelius	<p>How many tiers of management are there between:</p> <p>A care worker and the CEO - Please list each management tier and the number of staff reporting to each line manager.</p>	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>In adult social care, there are 4 layers of management between the Chief Executive and a social care practitioner.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1263 400 1928 802"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="1263 400 1599 443">Manager</th> <th data-bbox="1599 400 1928 443">Span of control</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="1263 443 1599 491">Chief Executive</td> <td data-bbox="1599 443 1928 491">8</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1263 491 1599 579">Adults and Communities Director</td> <td data-bbox="1599 491 1928 579">2</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1263 579 1599 667">Assistant Director, Adult Social Care</td> <td data-bbox="1599 579 1928 667">5</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1263 667 1599 715">Head of Service</td> <td data-bbox="1599 667 1928 715">Typically around 6</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1263 715 1599 762">Team Manager</td> <td data-bbox="1599 715 1928 762">Typically around 10</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1263 762 1599 802">Social Worker</td> <td data-bbox="1599 762 1928 802"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>In Family services there are 4 layers of management between the CEO and a social care practitioner.</p> <p>42 fte Social Workers plus 8 x Deputy Managers reporting to 21 x Team Managers reporting to 5 x Head of Service reporting to 2 x Assistant Directors reporting to 1 x DCS (Director of Children’s Service) reporting to CEO</p>	Manager	Span of control	Chief Executive	8	Adults and Communities Director	2	Assistant Director, Adult Social Care	5	Head of Service	Typically around 6	Team Manager	Typically around 10	Social Worker	
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Council Questions – 13th December 2016 (in order)

Qn	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
26	Councillor Anne Hutton	How do the proposed drastic cuts to youth services contribute to Barnet being a 'family friendly Borough?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	Barnet has to decide where to spend money. It's difficult. The Youth Zone represents a huge expenditure and overall youth spending is up.
27	Councillor Alison Cornelius	How many tiers of management are there between: A refuse collector and the CEO - Please list each management tier and the number of staff reporting to each line manager.	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	There are 4 tiers of management between a Refuse Collector and the CEO and the numbers of people reporting to each tier in relation to Recycling and Waste are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Refuse Collector/Driver - 146 •7 Supervisor with 21 Refuse Collector/Driver per supervisor •1 Operations Manager – 7 Supervisors •1 Head of Service – 3 Reports •1 Director – 4 Reports •1 CEO (Barnet Group)
28	Councillor Phil Cohen	Will the Leader support the petition signed by over 200 people which was started by mothers of small children in East Barnet who want a vital baby clinic reinstated at East Barnet health centre?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	Yes. I am particularly grateful for the help of Theresa Villiers MP. Services need to be provided as close to home as possible, in order to meet local needs, while making the best use of the resources available. However, the service that provides the baby clinic (Central London Community Health NHS Trust) had to leave the premises so that asbestos removal could be carried out. The baby clinic was rehoused in temporary accommodation last year while CLCH looked for alternative local venues.

Council Questions – 13th December 2016 (in order)

Qn	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
				<p>CLCH are now making plans for the Health Visitors to move back in to East Barnet Health Centre and plan to visit the building on Monday 5/12/16 to ensure this is fit for purpose.</p>
29	Councillor Val Duschinsky	<p>Could the leader indicate how many primary and secondary school places will need to be created to accommodate Barnet's children in the next five years.</p>	<p>Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)</p>	<p>Pupil projections indicate that there is a need for about 20 forms of entry at the secondary level and plans are now in place to ensure that all of this need is met through expansions of existing schools and three new free schools - Saracen's High School, Ark Pioneer and The Compton (Cricklewood).</p> <p>At primary level, there are plans to provide two forms of entry primary provision at Ark Pioneer and a new three form entry primary school in Colindale. Projections indicate that there may be also be need for between one and three further expansions of existing schools in the next five years. Applications and patterns of parental preference at primary level are being closely monitored and expansions will be commissioned where appropriate</p>

Council Questions – 13th December 2016 (in order)

Qn	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
30	Councillor Nagus Narenthira	Would the leader assure me that a pelican crossing will be installed on the busy Aerodrome Road on A41 end using the CIL money collected from the developers of the new developments? Can he give a time line as to when this will be in operation?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	A crossing on Aerodrome Road has been installed near to the junction with Heritage Lane using s106 contributions from the Beaufort Park development. In addition, two additional islands have been proposed on Aerodrome Road, in the form of dropped kerb and tactile paving funded via s278 agreement with Colindale Gardens developers. No pelican crossing has been proposed, though any specific suggestion could be made to the Area Committee to consider as part of its local CIL allocation.
31	Councillor Alison Cornelius	Could the leader advise how many extra GPs will be needed in Barnet in the next five years?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	Workforce modelling has been undertaken at an NCL level, not specifically for Barnet, and has identified that there will be a gap of between 90-100 full time GPs across NCL by 2021.

Council Questions – 13th December 2016 (in order)

Qn	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
32	Councillor Arjun Mittra	Can we have an update on where the Council is on Unified Reward, and how to operate it in schools where existing job descriptions do not fit those provided?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>The Council reached a collective agreement with the Trade Unions on 31st May 2016 to implement Unified Rewards in Schools with effect from 1st April 2017.</p> <p>Jobs which do not fit in to agreed job families will be evaluated individually and the process for doing this is being implemented in consultation with schools.</p>
33	Councillor Brian Salinger	Can the Leader tell members exactly who was consulted before a licence was issued for the mobile food sales outlet that is now outside Barrydene, in Oakleigh Road North, and can he tell the Council how many complaints have been received since the outlet started operating at this venue?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>The London Borough of Barnet Street Trading policy was followed in relation to the granting of the licence for the mobile food van on Oakleigh Road North. The policy states for temporary licences that the Police, Environmental Health and Highways should be consulted prior to the issuing of a licence.</p> <p>The consultations for temporary licenses was raised and discussed at the recent Licensing Committee meeting on the 20th November and Officers will be presenting a report on this at a specially convened Licensing Committee meeting in February.</p> <p>The Licensing department have received 13 letters from residents raising concerns about this trader and are investigating these further as part of the ongoing review of the suitability of this site.</p>

Council Questions – 13th December 2016 (in order)

Qn	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
34	Councillor Gill Sargeant	How many customers contact Barnet each year to say that their grey bin has gone missing? How much does it cost for a replacement? How much does it cost for a second hand bin?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>This year to date we have replaced 258 missing residual refuse bins, 59 of these were replaced free of charge due to the bin being damaged by the lifting equipment and 199 where the resident was charged for a replacement. The current charge for a bin is £55.60.</p> <p>Please note we have also replaced 725 damaged and repaired 105 refuse bins free of charge.</p>
35	Councillor Anthony Finn	What support does the council give Unison and what does the union do with the taxpayers' money.	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>The Council gives paid release for 1 FTE post for Unison to represent its members on various industrial relations matters including disciplinary, capability, sickness and health and safety in accordance with the Acas code of practice on time off for trade union activities.</p> <p>The Council does not provide any direct financial payment to Unison or any other trade Union.</p>
36	Councillor Paul Edwards	Would the Leader confirm once more what Capita charges as the fee for court costs for those taken to court for non-payment of council tax or council tax support? Please would he also now confirm what fee the court actually charges?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>The costs for non-payment of council tax are £97 for both accounts discounted with Council Tax Support (CTS) and those without. The council incurs a fee of £3 for each summons.</p> <p>The council tax regulations allow for the council to request that magistrates order reasonable costs to be added to the balance owed. The council has already given a breakdown of the costs that it deems reasonable to the magistrates, and on each occasion for a liability order these are confirmed to the sitting magistrates.</p> <p>The court costs are broken down into two parts-the cost of a</p>

Council Questions – 13th December 2016 (in order)

Qn	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
				<p>summons for Council Tax is £72.00 and if the debt is not cleared before the hearing date the cost of a liability order is £25.00. For business rates the summons cost is £130.00 and the liability order cost is £40.00. A fee of £3.00 is paid to the magistrates for each summons issued irrespective of whether that summons is withdrawn at a later date.</p> <p>The calculation of the level of court costs are based on the enforcement costs of the service and the volumes of summonses and liability orders granted in previous years, and more recently by having regard for the case law established in R v Tottenham Magistrates & London Borough of Haringey (2015).</p> <p>A summons is issued on the basis that the liable party has defaulted on their instalments and (subject to a low debt threshold) is irrespective of the amount or whether the taxpayer is in receipt of council tax support or not. Enforcement action beyond this point is determined on the merit of each case. All CTS cases are manually checked before progression to the next stage of enforcement.</p>

Council Questions – 13th December 2016 (in order)

Qn	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
37	Councillor Gabriel Rozenberg	What does the council spend on consultants and what does it spend on agency staff.	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>Spend on agency staff and consultants is difficult to project for the year ahead as it's typically based on staff turnover during the year and specialist project or assurance work required. Agency spend to the end of Q2 2016/17 was £9.5m. Most of this spend covers vacant frontline staff and £5.7m is on adults and families. This represents the continuing difficulties in recruiting social workers. Costs are now coming down.</p> <p>Spend on consultants for the same period totalled £1.4m, £1.1m of which is HRA expenditure on regeneration projects.</p> <p>Although spend on consultants and agency staff is necessary to provide specialist skills and cover for time limited projects, Directors are currently reviewing spend across the organisation to identify where costs can be reduced. Costs are already coming down in the Adults & Communities Directorate and we expect to see the same within Family Services following a successful recruitment campaign.</p>
38	Councillor Barry Rawlings	Given the crisis facing social care does the Leader now admit it was a mistake not to ask for the full 2% precept in the current year's budget?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	One has to keep promises.

Council Questions – 13th December 2016 (in order)

Qn	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
39	Councillor Anthony Finn	Does the leader feel that Unison supports its members or has other interests that are more important to it?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	Unison should be representing those employees of the council who are members. It should not be a political activist.
40	Councillor Charlie Omacaulley	Would the council be willing to put litter bins around the Adastral estate and if so would they be responsible for emptying them?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>Street Cleansing Officers will assess the areas of the Adastral Estate that are maintained by the London Borough of Barnet and will place litter bins if required. Any council owned litter bins will also be emptied by the council.</p> <p>We would welcome any further information on specific locations that Members wish for litter bins to be located.</p>
41	Councillor Brian Salinger	If the Council has taken enforcement action against a resident for breaches of planning regulations which has involved expensive legal action in the Magistrates Court, and won the case with fines and costs awarded against the individual, does the Leader think that officers still have the authority to negotiate for lesser action to be taken than that which was argued for in Court?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>Except in cases of listed buildings, protected trees or advertisements where specific rules apply the magistrates or jury on trial are asked only to consider whether or not a defendant was, without valid defence, in breach of a notice. They are not asked to consider the merits of the notice or to otherwise exercise 'planning judgement'.</p> <p>The Code for Crown Prosecutors (http://www.cps.gov.uk/publications/code_for_crown_prosecutors/) requires that potential prosecutions be kept under continual review and that they only be pursued if it is in the public interest to do so. Where steps short of full compliance have been taken the prosecutor must be certain that it remains appropriate to continue with the action. However, whether there is authority or not such lesser action should be avoided.</p>

Council Questions – 13th December 2016 (in order)

Qn	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
42	Councillor Phil Cohen	Does the Leader support the call from several quarters for the Chancellor in his Autumn Statement to increase funding to local authorities specifically to cover the massively increased demand for social care?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	I would like there to be more money for social care and for the meeting point between social services and the NHS to be even better coordinated than it is now.
43	Councillor Gabriel Rozenberg	When will the first building work commence at Brent Cross.	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	Early enabling works and utilities diversions are planned for Autumn 2017. Works to deliver the highways infrastructure improvements in the first phase of development (Phase 1A North) along with the extension to the Brent Cross Shopping Centre (Phase 1B North) are planned to commence in summer 2018. Works on the Thameslink Station and first building plot in the first southern development phase are anticipated by Autumn 2018.

Council Questions – 13th December 2016 (in order)

Qn	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response										
44	Councillor Gill Sargeant	Would the Leader let me know how many children are still on waiting lists for primary school places for September 2016? How many of these children are living in the Colindale area?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	All applicants for school places for September 2016 have received the offer of a school place. Parents can and do exercise their right to place their children's names on the waiting lists of schools of their preference.										
45	Councillor Graham Old	How many people are accommodated in residential care homes in Barnet and how many receive support in their own homes.	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>Those whose provision is through Barnet Adult Social Care:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Age Banding</th> <th>Support in their own homes</th> <th>Residential Care</th> <th>Nursing Care</th> <th>Grand Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Grand Total</td> <td>3,882</td> <td>826</td> <td>285</td> <td>4,993</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>In the total Barnet market for residential and nursing care there are at least 2,741 beds.</p>	Age Banding	Support in their own homes	Residential Care	Nursing Care	Grand Total	Grand Total	3,882	826	285	4,993
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Grand Total	3,882	826	285	4,993										
46	Councillor Anne Hutton	Given the growth in individual 6th forms in many of Barnet's secondary schools how can the Leader assure council that young people are receiving appropriate impartial careers advice?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	Schools now have a statutory responsibility 'to secure independent careers guidance for all year 8 to year 13 pupils'. This should be overseen by the governing body and is inspected through OfSTED. The Education and Skills service offers a quality assured service that is purchased by 13 schools in the borough, including the local authority maintained pupil referral unit. In addition the service supports schools through externally funded (ESF) projects, e.g. Careers Clusters.										

Council Questions – 13th December 2016 (in order)

Qn	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
47	Councillor Val Duschinsky	From the latest surveys what do the residents of Barnet feel about council services?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>The results of the Spring 2016 Residents' Perception Survey show that 74 per cent of residents are satisfied with the way the council runs things, an increase from 63% in 2012 and significantly above the outer London average of 70 per cent. The survey also shows that residents like living in Barnet with 89 per cent of residents satisfied with their local area as a place to live, above the national average of 83 per cent.</p> <p>60 per cent of residents agree that the council provides value for money for the council tax they pay which is in line with when this question was last asked in spring 2015, and is significantly higher when compared to the London average of 54 per cent. When asked about specific council services, refuse collection (77%), street lighting (73%) and doorstep recycling (73%) were rated highest in terms of satisfaction by residents.</p> <p>The Resident Perception Survey results can be found here https://engage.barnet.gov.uk/consultation-team/residents-perception-survey-spring-2016</p>

Council Questions – 13th December 2016 (in order)

Qn	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
48	Councillor Arjun Mittra	Council officers agreed to survey residents of Abbots Gardens and Beresford Road to see if they are happy with the respective road and pavement resurfacing work. When will this be done, and will the council ensure the results are sent to the ward councillors?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	Following a site visit to Abbots Gardens, remedial measures were identified and as a consequence it would be prudent to wait for the works to be completed prior to any satisfaction surveys. In relation to Beresford Road, residents raised the issue of workmanship at the Environment Committee. Following the final inspection and sign off of the works with the contractor a satisfaction survey will be carried out.
49	Councillor Alison Cornelius	How do Barnet's plans for library re-configuration compare with those of neighbouring boroughs?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •As part of their 2015-2018 strategy Enfield are maintaining 17 libraries with 4 becoming flagship sites and 13 community libraries (these will be smaller libraries co-located with other services/organisations/voluntary groups). •Harrow libraries are delivered in partnership with Ealing by Carillion. As part of their 2015-2018 strategy 4 libraries have been closed and a trial of Open+ technology has begun at one site. •In Camden, all libraries except one are having open access technology installed. Staffing levels will be reduced. There are 3 community managed libraries independent of the council since 2012. •Brent – the number of libraries was reduced from 12 to 6 in 2011. •Haringey – maintaining 9 libraries. Strategy included co-location with other services in 2 libraries.

Council Questions – 13th December 2016 (in order)

Qn	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
50	Councillor Barry Rawlings	When can we expect to know the effect on Barnet of 100% business rate retention?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	We do not yet know where Barnet's share will be after redistribution and any tax grab by the Mayor. I have not seen a timetable.
51	Councillor Gabriel Rozenberg	How do the plans for additional homes compare with neighbouring boroughs in terms of planned completions in the next five years?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	An examination of the 5 year housing supply figures for our neighbours shows that Barnet expects to deliver the most new homes. The next highest contribution to housing delivery amongst our London neighbours is Haringey who expect to deliver 54% of the levels estimated for Barnet.
52	Councillor Charlie Omacauley	Would it be possible to have double yellow lines put on the corner of Kenley Avenue/Lanacre Ave as it is almost impossible to see on coming traffic.	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	This is a matter for Committee but there will have to be a comprehensive review in the area.
53	Councillor Val Duschinsky	Could the leader comment on how the boroughs co-operate within the NLWA.	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	The boroughs are edging towards agreement. This is conducted in a collegial way.

Council Questions – 13th December 2016 (in order)

Qn	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
54	Councillor Phil Cohen	Many small business in Barnet are struggling to cope with a range of issues such as business rates and lack of consumer demand so what is the council doing to help them through this difficult period?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	We can't help with the level of business rates per se or with the level of consumer demand. We can, however, ensure that the council does not get in the way.
55	Councillor Graham Old	Could the leader comment on the level of co-operation with neighbouring boroughs within the NCL on health matters	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	All five boroughs are working well and share objectives.
56	Councillor Gill Sargeant	Would the Leader say what action will be taken to ensure that weekly recycling is collected on time on the regeneration estates?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	We have a good record on this across the borough. I did not know there was a particular issue.

Council Questions – 13th December 2016 (in order)

Qn	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
57	Councillor Alison Cornelius	Does the leader feel that the merged legal service works well with the boroughs of Harrow and Hounslow?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	Yes. The borough involved work well together to achieve a reasonable service that is cost effective.
58	Councillor Arjun Mittra	Cllr Peter Zinkin told the Environment Committee that councillors had the ability to "veto" road and pavement resurfacing methods in their ward. Is this true, and when was this communicated to Councillors?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	All Councillors were offered the opportunity to meet the highways team to go over the proposed programme for their ward and discuss any changes they thought appropriate.
59	Councillor Anthony Finn	Would the leader thank those councillors who put in so much effort on the CSG review and also particularly thank Cllrs Cooke and Levine for their active involvement and supporting all but one conclusion from the review?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	I am happy to thank the councillors for their work.

Council Questions – 13th December 2016 (in order)

Qn	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
60	Councillor Barry Rawlings	Would the Leader join me in congratulating the Save Barnet Diving campaign in showing the support for retaining diving at Copthalls?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	The campaign has raised the issue and it is for Council to decide how much to spend on this project as opposed to any other that might have to be cut back.
61	Councillor Graham Old	How does Barnet benchmark against Camden Harrow, Brent, and Enfield in terms of school quality, new housing provision, library provision and youth unemployment.	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p><u>Youth unemployment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barnet 2.1% • Enfield 3.3% • Harrow 1.8% • Brent 2.9% • Camden 1.5% <p><u>Library provision:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barnet 16 libraries including 2 community libraries • Enfield 17 libraries • Harrow 6 libraries • Brent 6 libraries • Camden 9 libraries <p><u>Good or outstanding schools</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barnet 94.6% • Enfield 96.5% • Harrow 94.1% • Brent 94.2% • Camden 96.2% <p><u>New housing</u></p>

Council Questions – 13th December 2016 (in order)

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62	Councillor Charlie O'Macauley	Who is responsible for the street lighting across the Adastral development?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	Street lighting of adopted roads would be the responsibility of the Council.																		
63	Councillor Shimon Ryde	Does the leader feel that the devolution of powers from Whitehall to councils that was confirmed in the last Autumn statement will be a success?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	It may well be. I am a fan of local decision making and a supporter of Councils having more responsibilities.																		

Council Questions – 13th December 2016 (in order)

Qn	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
64	Councillor Phil Cohen	How many council staff are to be housed in Barnet's public libraries in the next 12 months?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	The council will establish Business Hubs that can provide touchdown office spaces in the commercial spaces within libraries and in the ground floor of the new Colindale Offices to allow staff, local businesses and members of the public to use these areas as agile “hot desk” space. Osidge will house permanent members of library staff currently based at NLBP, approximately 20-25 staff.
65	Councillor Alison Cornelius	Does the leader feel that Barnet's staff and sub-contractors work diligently and effectively in the interests of residents?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	I do. The current team and arrangements are working well with the need for improvement in some areas.
66	Councillor Gill Sargeant	Would the Leader let me know how many children of primary school age in Barnet have been offered separate schools to their siblings?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	The Council does not hold this information.
67	Councillor Shimon Ryde	Would the leader advise as to what the Barnet share of affordable housing funding should be expected from Mayor Khan now that he has had additional new funding promised from the treasury in the Autumn statement.	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>The recent autumn statement included £3.15bn to deliver 90,000 new affordable homes in London by 2021. The mayor and the government have agreed that 58,500 of these new homes will be for shared ownership or London Living Rent, with the remainder for affordable rent.</p> <p>The Mayor’s Affordable Homes Programme, published in November 2016, sets out how housing grant will be used to increase the amount of affordable housing delivered.</p>

Council Questions – 13th December 2016 (in order)

Qn	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
				<p>It is not possible to say how much of the funding will be allocated to schemes in Barnet at this stage, as this will be dependent on submissions of bids by registered providers and other organisations against the Mayor’s Affordable Homes Programme 2016 to 2021. The Mayor has recently published guidance for organisations wishing to make bids, and the bidding process itself starts in January 2017.</p> <p>The council will work with housing providers to ensure that grant is secured from the GLA to support the delivery of our ambitious plans to deliver new homes in the borough.</p>
68	Councillor Arjun Mittra	Who is responsible for health and safety in libraries during unstaffed hours?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	The council will retain responsibility for health & safety issues in libraries during unstaffed hours.
69	Councillor Alison Cornelius	Does the leader feel that the STP process will lead to better health outcomes in Barnet?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	The STP process has been cloaked in bureaucratic mystery but may help. It will take years to reach a conclusion as to its success or failure.

Council Questions – 13th December 2016 (in order)

Qn	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
70	Councillor Barry Rawlings	In the year April 2014-15 youth self-harm cases rose by 40 percent. We are now in the sixth year of focussing on early intervention and yet there are few signs of impact. How can we, working with partners, provide the right services at the right time with sufficient resources to better support young people with mental health issues?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>Services for the early support of children and young people, to address and help prevent emotional distress and mental ill-health, are being further developed in 2016/17, in line with 'Future in Mind' the government's vision for promoting, protecting and improving children and young people's mental health and wellbeing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is a bid for IAPT (Improving Access to Psychological Therapies) and PWP (Psychological Wellbeing Practitioner) funding to provide graduate Clinical Psychology trainees in the Early Help service. They will offer holistic support to C&YP and their families before the need for a CAMHS referral develops, or for C&YP who are on the waiting list for CAMHS. - The THRIVE approach to supporting C&YP's emotional wellbeing and resilience is being implemented in Barnet schools by Public Health. - The proposal to re-design and re-commission CAMHS services in 2016/17 will retain the necessary clinical resources while also providing more emphasis on emotional wellbeing support at an earlier stage, and aiming to achieve a universal coverage. Plans include outreach workers in schools and possibly primary health care venues, well-publicised drop-ins, and the use of mobile phone applications designed to support good mental health and wellbeing in young people.

Council Questions – 13th December 2016 (in order)

Qn	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
71	Councillor Caroline Stock	Could the leader highlight the most interesting items of capital expenditure that are in current budget proposals?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swimming pools • New depot • Youth Zone • Council offices • Regeneration of council estates • Rebuilt schools
72	Councillor Charlie Omacauley	Would the recycling team do a push or give us information to leaflet residents and help avoid all the cross contamination of recycling bins which BLR say we'll have to pay more for as they say they need to monitor these?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	If the council services need to leaflet then it will. Other contractors will look to their own procedures.
73	Councillor Shimon Ryde	Will Barnet Police keep its own borough commander?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	We are likely to have a Barnet Superintendent but the police will be formed into Brent, Harrow, and Barnet Force subject to consultation.

Council Questions – 13th December 2016 (in order)

Qn	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
74	Councillor Phil Cohen	When will councillors see and be able to scrutinise the business plans of community groups who want to run so-called Partnership Libraries in the borough?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	It is anticipated that successful community groups will continue to develop and refine their business plans during the transition period to establish their Partnership Library. During this phase, it can be arranged for any interested Member to meet one or all of the community groups so that they can share their plans for their Partnership Library in more detail. Each successful community group will be asked to share its business plan with Members following the procurement, during the transition phase in setting up the Partnership Library.
75	Councillor Shimon Ryde	What does the leader feel about the re-use of hundred year old grave spaces in Hendon cemetery?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	I have mixed feelings – different religious groups have their own views. Personally, I would choose cremation. Re-use does have to be considered.
76	Councillor Charlie Omacauley	Who is the best team to contact about dumped vehicles in parking spaces?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	The Parking Client Team can help with this issue. They can be contacted on: parking.clientteam@barnet.gov.uk
77	Councillor Caroline Stock	Does the leader feel that Barnet is able to accommodate unlimited housing construction or because of healthcare constraints and traffic limitations the borough is full?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	If the infrastructure provision falls behind then building will not be possible. At some time Barnet will simply be full. This needs to be recognised in the emerging London Plan.

Council Questions – 13th December 2016 (in order)

Qn	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
78	Councillor Gill Sargeant	What are the plans for the fenced off area in front of the new Colindale library?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	This area, known as Plot 9 (of the Grahame Park Regeneration), is intended to be redeveloped by Genesis HA to provide non-residential space at ground floor level with approximately 28 flats above. Genesis have instructed consultants to produce designs with a view to submitting a planning application in the summer of 2017. In the interim the council are working with Genesis to improve the appearance in the short term.
79	Councillor Graham Old	What is the number one healthcare issue that we should be concerned about in Barnet?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>The Office of National Statistics recently announced that dementia and alzheimer's disease have become the leading cause of death in the UK (https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/bulletins/deathsregisteredinenglandandwalesseriesdr/2015#dementia-and-alzheimer-disease-was-the-leading-cause-of-death-in-2015).</p> <p>We haven't seen this reflected in Borough level data yet where coronary health disease remains the biggest cause of death (https://www.barnet.gov.uk/jsna-home/health.html). However whilst deaths from coronary health disease are on a downward trend, dementia/alzheimer's deaths are increasing, reflecting wider demographic changes.</p> <p>However, diabetes is the one thing we can do something about.</p>
80	Councillor Charlie Omacauley	What are the possibilities of funding/assistance for starting small businesses in Barnet?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>I am interested in this question but do not feel that the council should go into the banking field.</p> <p>Will signpost businesses to suitable finders.</p>

Council Questions – 13th December 2016 (in order)

Qn	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
81	Councillor Gill Sargeant	I welcome the new Colindale library, however could some action be taken to ensure that the flooring is more soundproof?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	The new Colindale library been operational since September 2016. The building meets all standards for acoustics and noise management.
82	Councillor Charlie Omacauley	What is the total of parking tickets that have been issued in Burnt Oak and how many have been cancelled?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	The total number of parking tickets that were issued in Burnt Oak during the financial year <u>2015/16</u> is: 3820 . Out of these, 582 have been cancelled. The total number of PCNs issued during this financial year <u>2016/17</u> thus far is: 3643 . Out of these, 425 have been cancelled.
83	Councillor Arjun Mittra	What advice is the Council giving to schools regarding fining parents of persistently low attendance children? Does the Council follow up a school's threat to fine, or is it a bluff?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	The council offers advice to schools in cases where persistent absence is an issue, based on the individual circumstances of each case. In some cases this may result in the issuing of a fixed penalty notice, if that is assessed as being the intervention most likely to result in the student attending regularly. In all cases where a school requests the council to issue a Fixed Penalty Notice, the council does so and failure by a parent to pay the fine results in legal action through the Magistrates Court.
84	Councillor Gill Sargeant	What plans are in place for the additional 100 parking spaces for the new Offices in Colindale?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	Planning Committee on 31st March 2016 included 100 additional car parking spaces to the original proposal for 5 disabled spaces immediately outside and 94 spaces proposed in the neighbouring RAF Museum Car Park. An approach for

Council Questions – 13th December 2016 (in order)

Qn	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
				<p>the use of the Colindale Office parking spaces is currently being developed which will include identification of how these 194 spaces will be allocated, and, will consider staff that have to use a car for business purposes as priority. It will also consider how best to encourage staff to use other more sustainable forms of transport, both in travelling to and from work, and when travelling for business purposes.</p>
85	Councillor Arjun Mittra	The blue container in the Brownsell Road car park is still yet to be removed. Why is this and when will it be?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>Following a site inspection in October 2016, it was confirmed that the container was situated on an area of land which is under the control of Barnet Homes. The owner was subsequently identified. Barnet Homes have advised that an arrangement is in place to have the container removed. We've requested a further update on the status of this matter and are currently awaiting their response.</p>
86	Councillor Gill Sargeant	What are the future plans for Flightways and the old library on the Concourse before they are demolished in several years time?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>The flightways facility in Grahame Park is still occupied with LBB tenants, we are currently investigating options to ensure the building is fully utilised until development commences. The impending demolition to facilitate development of Plot 11 within Stage B of the regeneration scheme makes the required level of investment to bring the building to an adequate standard unviable in practice but our aim is to ensure this community building is not closed.</p> <p>In relation to the former Grahame Park Library, this facility is currently being investigated to potentially provide an interim use for youth activities to meet the needs of residents within the local area.</p>

Council Questions – 13th December 2016 (in order)

Qn	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
87	Councillor Arjun Mittra	What update can the Council give on their efforts to improve parking for local residents on Stanley Road?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>As part of Section 106 obligations, proposals to introduce a Zebra Crossing and School Keep Clear markings in and in the vicinity of Stanley Road were developed. In addition, to address junction safety, double yellow lines were proposed in Stanley Road at its junction with Homefield Gardens, Ashburton Gardens and East End Road.</p> <p>During the consultation process for these proposals, objections were received. Amongst the objections, concerns were raised about the hours of operation of the hours of the CPZ in Stanley Road, and the impact non-resident parking has in the road which are currently being considered by Officers before a decision is made on the way forward.</p> <p>This notwithstanding, the residents' requests for longer periods of restriction has been noted and is part of a list of requests which the Council will assess and prioritise prior to developing future years' parking-related work programmes.</p>

Council Questions – 13th December 2016 (in order)

Qn	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
88	Councillor Gill Sargeant	Is the Council in discussion with Sainsburys and Genesis to ensure that they operate a ticketing system for parking on Heath Parade? At the moment even residents moving into Heath Parade are unable to unload in Heath Parade before moving into their flats .	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	Yes, the Council is in discussion with Genesis HA about localised parking problems in the vicinity of the Sainsbury's store. Genesis engaged the services of a parking enforcement contractor, which has improved, but not solved, the problems. Genesis is making contact with Sainsbury's to try to improve the situation through negotiation with them. In the longer term, the Council is considering options for a Controlled Parking Zone across Colindale, which will take in this location.
89	Councillor Arjun Mitra	What update can the Council give on letterboxes, after the site visit in East Finchley with myself, Cllr Moore and Cllr Cooke?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>The letter plates fitted to the door are certified as fire resisting and have been fitted as part of an overall door set designed to provide 30 minutes fire and smoke separation between the dwelling and the communal areas. In order to meet this requirement the letter plate itself must incorporate a number of specific design functions whilst also meeting the requirements of secure by design. An internal security plate is therefore fitted.</p> <p>Further to the site visit with Cllr's our contractors have been instructed to fit alternative letter plates that meet the above requirements to all doors being installed in future.</p> <p>Based on the low level of complaints received around the design of the current letter plates fitted (circa 3 complaints from more than 1500 doors installed) it is not planned to replace the</p>

Council Questions – 13th December 2016 (in order)

Qn	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
				<p>existing plates fitted across the borough as it would require a significant amount of additional funding to do so. If individual residents have specific concerns then Barnet Homes are happy to address these on a case by case basis.</p>
90	Councillor Arjun Mittra	Can the Council state how they are going to consult residents on installing a 20 mph zone on Leslie and Leopold Road, and how quickly we can expect this to be implemented?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>This is a matter for Committee.</p> <p>In September/October 2016, the Council carried out an informal consultation with residents of Leslie Road and Leopold Road N2 about the parking issues they had previously raised and whether they would like to have a CPZ introduced in those roads.</p> <p>Analysis is underway and provisional feedback will be reported to the Finchley and Golders Green Area Committee on 30th November 2016 as the item was not able to be considered at the 26th October 2016 meeting of the same.</p> <p>Furthermore, at the 26th October 2016 Committee, the Committee considered a petition requesting a one-way and 20mph speed limit in Leslie and Leopold Road, and decided that <i>the Commissioning Director for Environment be instructed to note the request and consider the request in light of the responses to the CPZ consultation which was recently carried out, with a view to referring to this request within the report which is due to be reported to this Committee about the CPZ</i></p>

Council Questions – 13th December 2016 (in order)

Qn	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
				<i>consultation.</i>
91	Councillor Arjun Mittra	Is the Council confident that information about drug dealing and other criminal activity fed to Barnet Homes or other Housing associations by residents are acted upon? Is information passed to the police?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>Barnet Homes and Registered providers both participate in the Barnet Community Safety MARAC (multi-agency risk assessment case conference) is a multi-agency meeting where stakeholders across the community safety partnership come together to discuss and resolve complex, high risk anti-social behaviour cases and includes the following members:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barnet Community Safety Team • Police • Children’s Services - Youth Offending Service, Social Care, Youth Service, Family First and a representative from schools • Housing Associations • Barnet Homes • National Probation Service (NPS) and CRC • Victim support • Mental Health Services <p>Partnership working has led to a number of initiatives including door knocking exercises with Barnet Homes and the Police and weapon sweeps in high risk areas, and joint work between neighbourhood policing teams and other agencies such as victim support following reports of substance abuse raised by local housing association tenants. This proactive approach has helped to obtain court orders relating to the anti-social behaviour cases that have been reported to the ALMO and housing associations.</p>

Council Questions – 13th December 2016 (in order)

Qn	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
				<p>In a recent case, for example, Barnet Homes were informed of drug dealing and prostitution and in response contacted the Safer Neighbourhood Team and requested additional patrols in the area.</p> <p>Barnet Homes will also approach the Police for Information Sharing Requests and also have the ability (limited to a few people in the organisation) to access the Social Services data to carry out vulnerability risk assessments.</p> <p>In another example, a housing association tenant was issued with an acceptable behaviour contract (ABC) following reports of noise and drug abuse. This was breached and a Community Protection Notice was issued.</p> <p>The larger housing associations also provide the council with information on how successfully they are tackling anti-social behaviour and this is reported to the Housing Committee. Most recent information, which went to Housing Committee in October 2016, is in the table below:</p>

Council Questions – 13th December 2016 (in order)

Qn	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response																		
				<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="1256 288 1330 507">RP</th> <th data-bbox="1330 288 1404 507">Genesis</th> <th data-bbox="1404 288 1478 507">One Housing Group</th> <th data-bbox="1478 288 1552 507">Metropolitan</th> <th data-bbox="1552 288 1626 507">Network Homes</th> <th data-bbox="1626 288 1700 507">Sanctuary</th> <th data-bbox="1700 288 1774 507">Catalyst</th> <th data-bbox="1774 288 1848 507">Family Mosaic</th> <th data-bbox="1848 288 1921 507">Barnet Homes</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="1256 507 1330 643">% resolved</td> <td data-bbox="1330 507 1404 643">90.1</td> <td data-bbox="1404 507 1478 643">93.7</td> <td data-bbox="1478 507 1552 643">76%</td> <td data-bbox="1552 507 1626 643">77.78</td> <td data-bbox="1626 507 1700 643">No data held</td> <td data-bbox="1700 507 1774 643">100</td> <td data-bbox="1774 507 1848 643">86</td> <td data-bbox="1848 507 1921 643">73</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	RP	Genesis	One Housing Group	Metropolitan	Network Homes	Sanctuary	Catalyst	Family Mosaic	Barnet Homes	% resolved	90.1	93.7	76%	77.78	No data held	100	86	73
RP	Genesis	One Housing Group	Metropolitan	Network Homes	Sanctuary	Catalyst	Family Mosaic	Barnet Homes														
% resolved	90.1	93.7	76%	77.78	No data held	100	86	73														
92	Councillor Arjun Mittra	Is the Council confident that the gang related activity that saw two residents murdered in East Finchley is being dealt with effectively? What resources do the council deploy to tackle gang activity?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>Whilst social services are involved in trying to help lure gang members from their gangs, murderers are a matter for the police.</p> <p>Yes, the council is confident that the police have responded effectively to this, arrests have been made and the victims' family members have been well supported.</p>																		

Council Questions – 13th December 2016 (in order)

Qn	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
93	Councillor Arjun Mittra	Will the council reconsider programming works to East Finchley library between April and July, which is peak exam season, so students have the least possible disruption?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	The works to East Finchley library form part of a complex programme of activity across 12 libraries between December 2016 and summer 2017, scheduled to avoid concurrent closures in particular localities. We are notifying schools and will explore the feasibility and cost of securing alternative study space for local pupils where libraries are closed for long periods during exam periods.
94	Councillor Arjun Mittra	Will lavatories in libraries be open during unstaffed hours?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	No. The Library report approved by Full Council on 4th April 2016 considered this matter in detail.
95	Councillor Arjun Mittra	When can we expect the plaque to the war dead to be installed in East Finchley Library?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	The plaque would be installed in the library as part of the forthcoming building works

Council Questions – 13th December 2016 (in order)

Qn	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
96	Councillor Ross Houston	Would the Leader advise how many Barnet residents have been placed in properties owned by Stef and Philips in Luton, how many of these properties are being used by Barnet council, what the rental cost is to LB Barnet and would he also comment on the quote given to the BBC by the Luton Cabinet Member for Housing that London tenants were paying "vastly inflated rents" there? http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-38050820	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	The Council currently rents 43 properties owned by Stef and Philips in Luton at a net rental cost of around £90,000 per annum. This figure represents the difference between the rent paid to the provider and the rent received by the Council. It averages £40.11 per unit per week for a two bed unit, compared to £46.10 per unit per week for a similar sized unit in London. The properties are of a very good standard and prices agreed with the provider Stef and Philips are reflective of prices charged for the provision of fully managed temporary accommodation in the Luton area.

Council Questions – 13th December 2016 (in order)

Qn	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
97	Councillor Alan Schneiderman	Local residents say to me that they are not happy with the plan for North Finchley library which will see the loss of the dedicated spaces for children and teenagers, less books, less study space and staff present for only 15 hours a week. Have any residents responding to the council's consultation on North Finchley library supported these plans?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>The changes being implemented at North Finchley Library are part of the Library Strategy approved by Council on the 4th April 2016. This followed a consultation process, reported in full in the report considered by Council.</p> <p>With regards the current children's library, whilst there are some advantages to separate spaces for children, these are not now generally provided in new libraries as they are much harder to supervise and result in a much less flexible use of the available space. Indeed, the current configuration of children's provision in North Finchley library poses a number of operational challenges, not least that it is split across two rooms both of which are some distance from the usable activity space. The activities and events that currently take place upstairs in the former Children's Centre rooms will also continue to be provided in the new look library in the proposed community meeting space. This will be adjacent to the children's library area which will help us to promote use of the library to those families attending popular events such as baby rhyme time.</p>
98	Councillor Alan Schneiderman	When will the one year trial period of using asphalt rather than paving stones in residential streets end?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	The decision to use standard footway treatment types was recommended to the Environment Committee on 14th July 2016 and it was agreed that this would be implemented for a trial period of 12 months which commenced on 1st September 2016. The trial will finish at the end of August 2017.

Council Questions – 13th December 2016 (in order)

Qn	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
99	Councillor Alan Schneiderman	The Environment committee agreed at its meeting on 29 September that Govia should be invited to a future meeting in order to answer questions about the poor level of service on the Great Northern and Thameslink routes. Have they responded yet and if not will the chairman of the Environment committee contact them again and remind them that they should be accountable to their customers including Barnet residents who have had to put up with unacceptable delays, cancellations and overcrowding for far too long?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	This is a matter for Committee.

Council Questions – 13th December 2016 (in order)

Qn	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
100	Councillor Alan Schneiderman	Will the chairman of the Environment Committee write to John Barry, head of network development at London Buses to thank him for attending the last Environment committee meeting and to apologise for only allowing him five minutes to answer members' questions?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>Mr Barry has been thanked for his attendance by Officers who have also apologised for the delay of his presentation at the Committee.</p> <p>If Councillors have any additional questions for Mr Barry, that they were unable to ask at the Committee, then please send these on to Jamie Cooke, Strategic Lead for Effective Borough Travel who will pass them onto Mr Barry for a response: jamie.cooke@barnet.gov.uk</p>
101	Councillor Alan Schneiderman	When will urgent action be taken to improve safety at the junction of Ashurst Road and Buxted Road?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	Please refer to response to Q2 regarding the accident history at this junction. Following a site meeting with the Police, road markings at the junction have been refreshed and a new sign installed on one approach. As also noted at Q2 the junction is on the route of a proposed Quietway cycle route and traffic levels and road safety at the junction and in surrounding roads are issues that this project will be considering carefully. That project has just commenced and is expected to complete in 2018.

Council Questions – 13th December 2016 (in order)

Qn	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
102	Councillor Alan Schneiderman	At the Council meeting on 1 November, Cllr Dean Cohen said that would send me the figure of how many residents in streets where paving stones had been replaced with tarmac were happy with their new footways, does he have this figure yet?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	The percentage of residents that believed that works have made an improvement to their footway is currently 78% where paving slabs have been replaced with either asphalt or asphalt with block crossings.
103	Councillor Anne Hutton	Does the Leader support the application for an ARK Pioneer academy in Underhill?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	We need school places but there are some major highways issues to overcome.

Council Questions – 13th December 2016 (in order)

Qn	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
104	Councillor Geof Cooke	<p>A wheelchair user complaining about the state of footways in two particular roads in her area received the following response from Re: 'Highways under take [sic] regular inspection on Barnet road networks where the footway [sic] are inspected for intervention level defects and appropriate works orders raised'. There was no indication whether the roads in question are in a programme for footway replacement, when the last inspection took place or whether any repairs have been done recently or are planned. Do you think this is an adequate standard of communication with residents?</p>	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	The grammar is appalling. No.

Council Questions – 13th December 2016 (in order)

Qn	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
105	Councillor Alison Moore	During the spring each year many students use East Finchley Library to study and revise for their exams. The projected timetable for capital works to East Finchley library indicates that the library will be closed from April to June next year, coinciding with the run up to national exams and depriving those students of their study space. Will the Leader agree with me that this is unacceptable and disadvantages young people who lack adequate study space at home. What is he going to do to ensure the timetable is reorganised to allow access at this crucial time	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	The works to East Finchley library form part of a complex programme of activity across 12 libraries between December 2016 and summer 2017, scheduled to avoid concurrent closures in particular localities. We are notifying schools and will explore the feasibility and cost of securing alternative study space for local pupils where libraries are closed for long periods during exam periods.

Council Questions – 13th December 2016 (in order)

Qn	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response								
106	Councillor Adam Langleben	Could the Chair of the Housing Committee tell me how much has the Council paid to landlords in incentives in 2012/13, 2013/14, 2014/15, 2015-16 and the current financial year to date?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>2016/17 (YTD)</td> <td>£963,874.96</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2015/16</td> <td>£1,051,236.27</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2014/15</td> <td>£840,170.36</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2013/14</td> <td>£698,842.79.</td> </tr> </table>	2016/17 (YTD)	£963,874.96	2015/16	£1,051,236.27	2014/15	£840,170.36	2013/14	£698,842.79.
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107	Councillor Adam Langleben	Will the Leader consider forcing developers to publish viability studies on development proposals which involve funding or subsidy from the council to allow for public scrutiny?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	Officers are reviewing the draft Supplementary Planning Guidance on Affordable Housing and Viability published by the GLA on 29 November, which addresses amongst other issues the question of when viability assessments should be released. Proposals for incorporating this Guidance into Barnet's local policies will be put to Policy and Resources Committee in due course								
108	Councillor Adam Langleben	Would the Leader tell me how many non-secure tenants (as 1 December 2016) are living on a) the West Hendon estate b) Stonegrove estate, c) Grahame Park estate.	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>Please see the breakdown of non-secure tenants below:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Non Secure Tenants as at 1.12.16.</th> <th>No.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>West Hendon</td> <td>156</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grahame Park</td> <td>497</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Stonegrove Estate</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Non Secure Tenants as at 1.12.16.	No.	West Hendon	156	Grahame Park	497	Stonegrove Estate	0
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Stonegrove Estate	0											

Council Questions – 13th December 2016 (in order)

Qn	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
109	Councillor Adam Langleben	Will the Chair of the Community Leadership committee give me his latest assessment of how safe at night the numerous pedestrian subways are between Brent Cross flyover and Five Ways Corner on the A41?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	I will answer that I do not like using these walkways myself. Apart from the safety aspect there is a great feeling of enclosure. If there were more people using the subways it would be more comfortable.
110	Councillor Adam Langleben	Will the Leader apply to the government for an exemption on office to resi conversions in the Brent Cross area, considering the economic importance of the area to the borough?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	I will, but our planned developments would be controlled by way of lease.

Council Questions – 13th December 2016 (in order)

Qn	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
111	Councillor Adam Langleben	<p>In the period from 1st October 2013 to the 31st October 2016, will the leader tell me:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many enforcement notices were served? 2. Out of those that were served, how many breaches of enforcement notices were prosecuted? 3. How many were successful? 	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>366 notices of all types were served by the planning enforcement team during the period 1 October 2013- 31 October 2016. Of these 303 were planning enforcement notices. The remainder all required some form of remedial action but were served under separate legislative provision.</p> <p>During this same period 37 referrals for prosecution were made, 19 of which have been concluded. Of these 16 resulted in a guilty verdict; 2 in not-guilty; and 1, concerning works to multiple trees, resulted in a split decision.</p>

Council Questions – 13th December 2016 (in order)

Qn	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
112	Councillor Adam Langleben	<p>In the period from 1st October 2013 to the 31st October 2016, will the leader tell me:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many planning applications were delayed and did not meet their determination deadlines? 2. How many of these delayed applications went to appeal? 3. How many of the applications which went to appeal were successful? 	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Of all planning applications registered between 1/10/2013 and 31/10/2016, 2479 were determined after their statutory determination period out of 18166 (13.6%) 2) Appeals were lodged against 127 of those applications (5.1%) 3) The outcomes of those appeals are as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. 7 withdrawn b. 40 allowed c. 55 dismissed d. 1 split decision e. 24 still in progress

Council Questions – 13th December 2016 (in order)

Qn	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
113	Councillor Adam Langleben	<p>In the period from 1st October 2013 to the 31st October 2016, will the leader tell me:</p> <p>1. How many complaints against the planning department were received?</p> <p>2. How many were resolved at Stage 1, Stage 2 or at Local Ombudsman?</p>	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>Between the period of April 2014 and 31st October 2016, the council's planning department received a total: 211 complaints of which 33 cases were declined to cancelled leaving a total of 178 complaints which were processed by the department. We apologise but are unable to provide data for the 2013/14 period as the previous complaints system (SAP CRM) being decommissioned in April 2014 we no longer have access to reports containing the required data.</p> <p>Please see below a breakdown of the number of complaints at Stage 1, 2, 3 and at Local Ombudsman which were resolved within this period:</p> <p>Stage 1 – 116 Stage 2 – 47 Stage 3 – 2 LGO – 13</p> <p>Please note the LGO received a total of 41 complaints in relation to the Councils Planning Department, however only 13 of these were accepted and investigated.</p>
114	Councillor Adam Langleben	<p>FOI request (3040897) regarding the Planning Department structure shows a planning enforcement staff of five officers for the whole borough.</p> <p>Will the Leader tell me:</p> <p>1. Are the high numbers of 'No Further Action' results seen on planning website an indication that</p>	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>1 Under the old (pre-2000) system of closing cases all investigations would ultimately be marked as 'no further action' or 'complied' (following compliance with a notice). Cases marked for 'no further action' would include those where no breach was detected; those where a breach was found and resolved without the need for formal action; and those where a breach was detected but harm caused was</p>

Council Questions – 13th December 2016 (in order)

Qn	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
		<p>the enforcement department is understaffed, overwhelmed or poorly managed?</p> <p>2. Do planning officers from other sections (eg those in planning applications) undertake enforcement investigations as well or are their roles not interchangeable and specifically defined to their own area of skills?</p>		<p>insufficient to justify formal enforcement action. A breakdown of recent activity is provided as part of the response to question 23.</p> <p>The case to officer ratio in Barnet is high. However, the funding of an additional post in October 2016 has sought to address this ratio.</p> <p>2. Planning enforcement officers are required to complement their skills and experience as planners with a firm knowledge of planning law and the law of investigations and are expected to be equally proficient as planners and as investigators.</p> <p>Planning officers from other sections may be required to assist with planning enforcement investigations but are not expected to take charge of investigations or to manage an enforcement case load.</p> <p>Complicated investigations, particularly those that are likely to end with Court action require skills and knowledge not widely found amongst town planners.</p>

Council Questions – 13th December 2016 (in order)

Qn	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
115	Councillor Adam Langleben	<p>To ask the leader, why are outcomes of planning enforcement investigations and the reasons for the decisions not notified to the complainant? Transparency of the processes will confer confidence to the residents that the complaint has been correctly investigated and not swept under the carpet /ignored. Investigations take a long time but when a case is closed, the reasons must be more specific then 'No further action (Lawful)' when nothing seems to have changed from the complainant's point of view.</p>	<p>Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)</p>	<p>Complainants are informed of the outcomes of planning enforcement investigations. This notification is usually by email/letter. Outcome letters are based on generic templates that are then adapted to suit the individual circumstances of the case. In all cases complainants are invited to comment or to seek clarification on decisions.</p>

Council Questions – 13th December 2016 (in order)

Qn	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
116	Councillor Jim Tierney	<p>A section of Nether St N12 was resurfaced recently. But yet again the contractor has not finished the work properly. He has left the many manhole covers sunk low in the road. So much so in fact that they are a danger to pedestrians and motorists. I notice drivers are attempting to swerve to avoid these manhole potholes, which is a danger to themselves, pedestrians and other motorists. We have had many complaints from residents about the poor quality of our road works. Now I understand the contractor will return to Nether St N12 to level off the manholes. Could I request therefore that we impress on the contractors in question that their job is to make our roads safer.</p>	<p>Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Nether Street was the last scheme to have been micro surfaced this year and was completed on the 18th of October. The laying of the micro asphalt has been done by a specialist subcontractor, Colas. Following completion, the Council's supervisor has carried out a survey and identified a number of manholes that need level adjustment. This is normal and follows on from the basic principle that micro asphalt involves the overlay of the carriageway by two thin layers totalling 15-20 mm. These manholes adjustments is the responsibility of the main contractor, Conway/Aecom, who advised that works to carry out these surface level adjustments on Nether Street are planned before the Christmas shutdown on 16th of December.</p>

Council Questions – 13th December 2016 (in order)

Qn	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
117	Councillor Alison Moore	What is the Council doing to prevent encroachment on parks in Barnet by residents extending their gardens into parks, including Pymms Brook and Dollis Valley.	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>Parks and open spaces in the London Borough of Barnet are visited regularly by the Parks Development Officers, and any reports of encroachments are investigated. All reported and identified encroachments are investigated and reported to Property Services and HB Public Law in order to reclaim the land.</p> <p>Does the Councillor have a tip off where action should be taken?</p>