

**Council Questions – 31 January 2017 (in proper order)**

<b>Qn</b>	<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Question</b>	<b>Answer by</b>	<b>Response</b>
1	Councillor Brian Gordon	During the last few months of 2016 the Dept for Education sent out a consultation paper to schools, educational bodies and local authorities entitled "Schools that work for everyone". Its main focus was independent, selective and faith schools. Did the Council respond to this?	Cllr Reuben Thompstone (Chairman of Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee)	<p>The council did not submit a response. The Children's, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding committee considered the consultation and other national education policy proposals and developments in Barnet on the 17th November 2016.</p> <p><a href="http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s36056/National%20education%20policy%20proposals%20and%20developments%20in%20Barnet.pdf">http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s36056/National%20education%20policy%20proposals%20and%20developments%20in%20Barnet.pdf</a></p>

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2	Councillor Jack Cohen	<p>I refer the leader to an application by Heathside School for a certificate of lawfulness to carry out the business of a boarding school at 84 West Heath Road NW3.</p> <p>Will the leader please provide the following information.</p> <p>On what date was the certificate of lawfulness received by the Local Planning Authority On what date was the application registered ( or formally accepted). Did the applicant pay a fee if so how much. Were any other payments made by the applicant for example for pre planning advice. Did the local planning authority have prior contact with the applicant if so what date was the first contact and in what form. Has the local authority met with the applicant or their agents or any authorised persons representing the school, if so please provide the dates. Has the local planning authority sought legal advice on the merits of the application. If so did the local planning authority instruct solicitors and would this have been Harrow Law if so what was the date of the instructions , did the solicitor instruct Counsel if so what was the date of the instruction. Has the local authority</p>	<p>Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)</p>	<p>On what date was the certificate of lawfulness received by the Local Planning Authority</p> <p>10 August 2016</p> <p>On what date was the application registered (or formally accepted).</p> <p>11 August 2016</p> <p>Did the applicant pay a fee if so how much?</p> <p>£192.50</p> <p>Were any other payments made by the applicant for example for pre planning advice?</p> <p>None from this applicant. No pre-application advice was sought.</p> <p>Did the local planning authority have prior contact with the applicant</p> <p>None before the application was submitted.</p> <p>If so what date was the first contact and in what form.</p> <p>N/A</p>

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		<p>received an opinion, if so what was the date this was received.</p> <p>Is the Leader aware that local residents are frustrated at the length of time it is taking for the local planning authority to come to a decision and meanwhile have to put up with unacceptable noise and disturbance because the School is operating currently as a day school for which planning permission is required..</p> <p>Will the Leader explain why at the date of asking this question (2 January 2017) the Local Planning Authority has still not made a decision after all this time either to determine the cert of lawfulness or to take action for operating a day school with out permission.</p>		

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		<p>(if solicitors or Counsel was instructed) received an opinion, if so what was the date this was received.</p> <p>Is the Leader aware that local residents are frustrated at the length of time it is taking for the local planning authority to come to a decision and meanwhile have to put up with unacceptable noise and disturbance because the School is operating currently as a day school for which planning permission is required.. Will the Leader explain why at the date of asking this question !2 January 2017) the Local Planning Authority has still not made a decision after all this time either to determine the cert of lawfulness or to take action for operating a day school without permission.</p>		<p>Has the local authority met with the applicant or their agents or any authorised persons representing the school, Yes</p> <p>If so please provide the dates. The first meeting with the applicant and the Council (represented by the enforcement officer) took place on 7 September. Another site visit took place on 14 September but no meeting took place. The case officer met with the Head teacher and their representatives on 23 September. Frequent emails, telephone conversations have occurred through September to December.</p> <p>Has the local planning authority sought legal advice on the merits of the application? Legal advice was sought through HB Law on two occasions: 1) On 26 September for a response to applicant's Counsel advice/opinion. 2) 28 November for an overview of the case officer's report.</p> <p>If so did the local planning authority instruct solicitors Yes see above</p> <p>And would this have been HB Law Yes</p> <p>If so what was the date of the instructions , Legal advice was sought through HB Law on two occasions: 1) On 26 September for a response to applicant's Counsel advice/opinion.</p>

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				<p>2) 28 November for an overview of the case officer's report.</p> <p>Did the solicitor instruct Counsel if so what was the date of the instruction. No</p> <p>Has the local authority ( if solicitors or Counsel was instructed ) received an opinion, Yes</p> <p>If so what was the date this was received.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 October from the first instruction</li> <li>• 12 January 2017 from the second instruction.</li> </ul> <p>Is the Leader aware that local residents are frustrated at the length of time it is taking for the local planning authority to come to a decision and meanwhile have to put up with unacceptable noise and disturbance because the School is operating currently as a day school for which planning permission is required? Will the Leader explain why at the date of asking this question 12 January 2017) the Local Planning Authority has still not made a decision after all this time either to determine the cert of lawfulness or to take action for operating a day school without permission.”</p> <p>Officers regularly update residents with progress of the enforcement investigation and are aware of public interest associated with the current unlawful use of the site. Officers have also sought the views of Members / residents to inform potential enforcement action. An enforcement notice was served on the 17th January.</p>

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				<p>The application for a certificate of lawfulness to change the use of the site from a residential institution to a boarding school is complex as such an application has not been tested by case law. Furthermore the decision hinges on the percentage of full time boarders. Therefore legal consideration has been vital to make recommendations.</p> <p>A report for the certificate of lawfulness has been drafted and reviewed by HB Law and will be issued imminently.</p> <p>Members are frustrated at the slow speed of enforcement processes. However, the law is not always helpful in assuring a sensible practical solution.</p>
3	Councillor Brian Gordon	One of the London Assembly Members has raised concerns with the London Mayor and the Met Police concerning a potential increase in noise and crime around London Underground stations when the all-night tube service starts. Has the Council taken any account of this perceived problem, in view of the large number of stations within this Borough?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	The Safer Communities Partnership will continue to monitor the situation and liaise closely with the police.
4	Councillor Barry Rawlings	Would the Leader update me on the situation with regard to the continuation of diving in Barnet?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	I have written to Mr Dismore requesting support for this facility and I have instructed officers to meet the GLA, Sport England and the Amateur Swimming Association to identify what funding they can contribute to this facility.

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5	Councillor Brian Gordon	Would the Leader like to comment on the new community centre in the heart of Stonegrove, Edgware, that is an integral part of Barnet's regeneration programme?	Cllr Dan Thomas (Chairman of Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee)	<p>OneStonegrove, is a purpose built joint facility incorporating St Peter's Church and a community centre.</p> <p>This is the result of many years of successful partnership working between residents of former Stonegrove and Spur Estates and the Vicar and Parish of St Peter's Church, as well as key stakeholders including the Council, the London Diocesan Fund, Family Mosaic and Barratt.</p> <p>One Stonegrove is a fantastic building incorporating a church, a nursery, a café as well as a range of halls and offices for use by local residents and the wider community.</p> <p>OneStonegrove is run and managed by the Stonegrove Community Trust, which is chaired by a local resident and includes representatives from the church, the Council, the housing association and local businesses.</p>
6	Councillor Anne Hutton	What is the cost to the council of monitoring the libraries during unstaffed hours?	Cllr Reuben Thompstone (Chairman of Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee)	<p>The final cost of monitoring the libraries during unstaffed hours is not yet confirmed - the cost is expected to be in the region of £100k to £125,000 per year.</p>

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7	Councillor Brian Gordon	In view of the discussion generated by the Motion I proposed at The Council the subject last year, would the Leader concur with the view that whereas elected politicians are welcome and should be encouraged to attend Resident' Forums to hear the issues of public concern, raising items for the Agenda should be for ordinary residents and not for them?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>Absolutely. However, I am mindful of the test of relevance of the Forums that was proposed by a senior member of this Council.</p> <p>Where officers and members out-number the public the exercise is moving towards pointless.</p>
8	Councillor Arjun Mittra	What measures does the council have in place to monitor whether developers are actually completing the affordable and social housing that they promise to deliver?	Cllr Dan Thomas (Chairman of Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee)	<p>The Planning department have a S106 team who are responsible for monitoring all aspects of the S106 agreement, this team monitor any financial contributions received in lieu of Affordable Housing.</p> <p>In addition the Affordable Housing Liaison Coordinator (in the regeneration team) monitors all affordable housing completions.</p> <p>Regular contact is made with each Registered Provider delivering that year to ensure they are on track with anticipated target completions (as per S106 or other agreements) this includes visits to the scheme to monitor progress.</p> <p>Completion Certificates and full postal address are collected from the Registered Provider as soon as the units complete and this is monitored against the target. Completions are recorded monthly via KPI's and also to the Planning team.</p>



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9	Councillor Brian Gordon	Would the Leader like to comment on the Government's commitment to establish a clearer and wider definition of antisemitism, as would affect a major section of the population of this Borough.	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	I welcome this and expect we will talk about this at full Council.
10	Councillor Geof Cooke	Once again, apart from one evidence gathering session, the administration has decided to exclude the press and public from working group meetings where councillors review a major contract with Capita (this time it is the Re contract covering highways, planning and regulatory services). Most of the material is not commercially confidential. Why are these meetings secret?	Cllr Anthony Finn (Chairman of the Performance and Contract Management Committee)	Arrangements for the Working Group's meetings are a matter for the Performance and Contract Management Committee to determine. Meeting in private session allows free-ranging discussion of the issues at hand, without having to constantly consider whether these discussions are venturing into the territory of commercial confidentiality. All activities of the Working Group, and the evidence it considers as part of the Review, will be published for public scrutiny and considered by the Performance and Contract Management Committee in due course, as was the case with the CSG contract review. As part of the Review, there will be public consultation, as well as a public evidence gathering meeting that residents can attend to express their views.
11	Councillor Brian Gordon	By way of guidance to the excellent schools of Barnet, would the Chairman comment on efforts by various pressure groups nationally to discourage teachers from addressing classes as "boys" or "girls"?	Cllr Reuben Thompstone (Chairman of Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee)	<p>The council has not had any approach by pressure groups on this issue, nor have schools asked for any advice on this.</p> <p>Barnet is fully committed to promoting equality of opportunity for all children and young people and promotes inclusive and non-discriminatory practices within its schools, as evidenced in Barnet's Education Strategy 2013/14 to 2015/16 in which Barnet aims to narrow the attainment and progress gaps between groups of children, and "to have high aspirations for all children and young people and, from the start, help them to overcome barriers and obstacles to their learning and</p>

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				development to enable them to achieve a successful transition to adulthood".
12	Councillor Alan Schneiderman	Which roads that were the subject of 'surface dressing' or 'micro asphalt' schemes still require remedial work? When did the original work in those roads take place and when will the remedial work be carried out?	Cllr Dean Cohen (Chairman of Environment Committee)	<p>In Year 1 of the NRP programme (April '15 – Mar '16) 42 Microasphalt roads and 126 surface dressing sites were completed. 13 of the Surface dressing sites were considered to have a substandard final surface as specified under the contract and subsequently defect notice were issued to the Contractor. A further 26 Surface Dressing sites also require some remedial works. As with all works of this nature there is a "maintenance period" where the responsibility for all remedial works rest with the contractor, in these instances this period is 2 years from when the works were signed off. Senior officers from both Regional Enterprise and London Borough of Barnet are in discussions with Contractor's Chief Operating Officer to ensure rectification of these historic issues.</p> <p>In Year 2 of the NPR programme (April '16 – Mar '17) Microasphalt was used on 23 roads.</p> <p>There are 4 locations that require remedial works to be undertaken which are programmed for to be rectified in June this year. Two remedial patches on Britannia Road and Sheaveshill Avenue, 1 ridge area of Abbots Gardens and a low area also on Abbots Gardens.</p>

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13	Councillor Brian Gordon	The National Audit Office recently reported that in order to continue the standards of education expected of State schools within budgets available, there would need to be a reduction of some 30 billion pounds from schools' administrative expenses nationally by 2020? How is such a scenario envisaged in Barnet?	Cllr Reuben Thompstone (Chairman of Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee)	<p>According to the National Audit Office, the Department for Education estimates that mainstream schools will have to find savings of £3 billion (8%) by 2019-20 to counteract cumulative cost pressures, such as pay rises and higher employer contributions to national insurance and the teachers' pension scheme. It expects that schools will need to make efficiency savings through better procurement (estimated savings of £1.3 billion) and by using their staff more efficiently (the balance of £1.7 billion).</p> <p>The Department's overall schools budget is protected in real terms but does not provide for funding per pupil to increase in line with inflation. In the 2015 Spending Review, the government increased the schools budget by 7.7% from £39.6 billion in 2015-16 to £42.6 billion in 2019-20. While this increase protects the total budget from forecast inflation, the Department estimates that the number of pupils will rise over the same period, by 3.9% (174,000) in primary schools and by 10.3% (284,000) in secondary schools. Therefore, funding per pupil will, on average, rise only from £5,447 in 2015-16 to £5,519 in 2019-20, a real-terms reduction once inflation is taken into account.</p> <p>Schools in Barnet face similar cost pressures to schools in other areas and it is therefore anticipated that schools will need to make, or continue to make, efficiency savings. Furthermore Barnet schools will be adversely affected by the introduction of the National Funding Formula for schools, which is expected to result in an average loss of funding per pupil of 1%, phased over 2018-19 and 2019-20.</p> <p>Schools have direct access to the current benchmarking tools</p>

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				<p>provided by the DfE. A number of schools in Barnet already participate in the LASER purchasing scheme for energy provision (a South East region arrangement), but not all. We do not yet have an indication of the support packages or procurement strategy that the DfE mentions in its latest consultation document on school funding, but it states that this information will be cascaded to schools through School Leaders and Business Manager networks.</p> <p>In the meantime the council continues to work with schools facing financial difficulties, agreeing recovery plans for those that are unable to set a balanced budget.</p>
14	Councillor Barry Rawlings	Which is more important to the Leader – hiring more communications officers in the run-up to the 2018 local elections, or ensuring funding for social care is maximised?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>Funding of social care is of vital importance but informing residents about social care is important too.</p> <p>The two activities are not mutually exclusive.</p>

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15	Councillor Stephen Sowerby	Unlike other London Boroughs Barnet Council does not provide residents with an online facility to check whether Trees are covered by Tree Protection Orders. Residents are currently required to email the Planning Department to check whether a tree is protected which is both burdensome for residents and resource intensive for the Council. Can the Tree Department be asked to make TPO information available (preferably by Ward) on the Council's website.		<p>The data is currently being collated in a form that can be published online on the council's open data portal <a href="http://open.barnet.gov.uk">open.barnet.gov.uk</a> by the end of February. The goal is to make this data available by ward but this may take longer due to the way the data is currently held.</p> <p>The council's Customer Transformation Programme, which aims to make it easier for residents to access services online, will also be reviewing how to make the data that our residents request most often, easy to obtain online.</p>
16	Councillor Kathy Levine	The performance indicators measuring the percentage of unacceptable levels of detritus and litter in the borough have been removed from the Corporate Plan in the latest refresh. Given that the administration are about to reduce the frequency of street cleaning in some areas wouldn't it be better to continue monitoring these?	Cllr Dean Cohen (Chairman of Environment Committee)	<p>The indicator for the percentage of unacceptable levels of litter and detritus is based on an old National Indicator (NI) which was very prescriptive, time consuming and costly to assess. In addition the sample size was only based on small transects of streets and therefore the assessing of this indicator did not provide a good operation view of the borough and any hotspots for litter and detritus.</p> <p>We believe that the best indicator for street cleansing is the views and satisfaction of our residents who travel around the borough every day. As such we have kept the indicators based on our resident's perception survey as one of our key indicators.</p> <p>Our cleansing team will continue to monitor the borough, using supervisory checks, feedback from residents, business and</p>

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				members, as well as links to our environment enforcement officers
17	Councillor Stephen Sowerby	The majority of the Borough's Conservation Area Appraisal Statements have not been reviewed (as originally intended) every 5 years. In fact a number of the Borough's Conservation Area Appraisal Statements have not been reviewed for over 10 years. Considering that inappropriate building alterations and land use within Conservation Areas is an ongoing problem, can the Chairman of Planning instigate a much needed chronological review of the Borough's outdated Conservation Area Appraisal Statements and Management Plans.	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	Some of these are old and whilst they do not need to be reviewed at the moment we are starting to look at them as resources become available.
18	Councillor Phil Cohen	Does he agree that Barnet council will not sign up to any Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) for the North Central area unless we hear from the Secretary of State that the health and social care funding needs of Barnet's residents are properly met?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>I and my fellow council leaders in north central London have already made statements publically and to NHS England that STPs must address local priorities, have strong democratic leadership and be open with local residents. The need to recognise social care in this is evident and was considered by the recent JHOSC meetings including all five councils in north central London.</p> <p>The STP does not need a formal sign up from the Boroughs; however, there is a fine line between influence and opposition.</p> <p>I do aspire to greater integration and control of local health</p>

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				care along with social services but believe that control of acute services over a larger area is better
19	Councillor John Marshall	Can the Leader indicate whether SEND assessments are being made more quickly by Cambridge Education than was the case previously?	Cllr Reuben Thompstone (Chairman of Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee)	<p>Yes they have.</p> <p>Under the SEN reforms introduced under the Children and Families Act, 2014 and a revised statutory SEN Code of Practice, which took effect in September 2015, local authorities are required to follow new procedures for assessing the needs of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities. New statutory assessments, leading to the production of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) for individual pupils must now be completed within 20 weeks (previously 26 weeks).</p> <p>A review of the SEND and Inclusion service was carried out by Cambridge Education and this identified insufficient progress with the timely completion of new assessments. In the first quarter of 2016/17 the percentage of new assessments completed within 20 weeks was below 25%. Following an improvement programme, the rate of completions of new assessments within 20 weeks (excluding allowed exceptions) has risen each month since June:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• July 32%</li> <li>• August 63%</li> <li>• September 78%</li> <li>• October 88%</li> <li>• November 94%</li> <li>• December 100%</li> </ul>

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20	Councillor Ross Houston	Would the Leader provide details of all planning consents granted over the last five years where affordable housing was agreed – please provide a breakdown of the total number of homes, the number of affordable homes and the percentage of affordable homes by development?	Cllr Dan Thomas (Chairman of Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee)	The details are provided in the attached spreadsheet <i>which highlights all residential planning consents where we have secured affordable housing on site or a commuted sum.</i>
21	Councillor Rohit Grover	Is the Council making progress towards achieving its key objectives for the first year of its strategic partnership with Cambridge Education (CE) to provide Barnet's education services?	Cllr Anthony Finn (Chairman of the Performance and Contract Management Committee)	Yes, Members of the Performance and Contract Management Committee recently had an opportunity to hear of the positive work of the new strategic partnership with CE during its first six months. The report can be found at:  <a href="http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s37001/Progress%20report%20-%20Cambridge%20Education%20Partnership.pdf">http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s37001/Progress%20report%20-%20Cambridge%20Education%20Partnership.pdf</a>
22	Councillor Charlie O'Macauley	How many people live in substandard housing in Burnt Oak and what is the council doing about it?	Cllr Tom Davey (Chairman of Housing Committee)	We do not know the actual number of people living in sub-standard housing in Burnt Oak, however, on notification of such conditions the property would be investigated by Environmental Health and a range of actions considered under the Housing Act 2004 and other appropriate legislation such as Public Health Acts. Such actions range from serving Improvement Notices requiring works to be carried out by the landlord to Prohibition Orders, prohibiting the use of part or all of the property depending on the conditions found.  If a property is found to be in multiple occupation and is covered by a House in Multiple Occupation Licensing Scheme



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				then these will be dealt with specifically by the HMO Licensing Team and appropriate standards enforced.
23	Councillor John Marshall	How many forms of entry will be provided by free secondary schools by 2020?	Cllr Reuben Thompstone (Chairman of Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee)	By 2020, there will be an additional 18 forms of secondary entry each year.
24	Councillor Barry Rawlings	Given the dire state of overground rail travel that affects many Barnet residents will the Leader be supporting the call for the Mayor to take over responsibility for running these services?	Cllr Dan Thomas (Chairman of Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee)	<p>The Council recognises that some residents experience difficulties with using train services within the Borough. The Authority takes this issue seriously and has invited a Senior representative from Govia Thameslink Railway to Environment Committee on 11th May to answer questions regarding the difficulties that our residents have been experiencing.</p> <p>I would not wish the Mayor to become overstretched. He has many difficulties in achieving what he promised during the election.</p>
25	Councillor Peter Zinkin	Was the Leader pleased by the response to the request for community groups to become involved in running partnership libraries?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	Yes. The response from groups interested in working with the council to maintain and sustain local services for their communities is really encouraging and a testament to the voluntary and community sector in Barnet.
26	Councillor Anne Hutton	What is the council procedure for identifying and supporting children and young people with sensory impairment?	Cllr Dan Thomas (Chairman of Assets, Regeneration	The Barnet Specialist Support Team work as part of the Education and Skills Service, Barnet with Cambridge Education. The team consists of qualified teachers of the visually impaired, hearing impaired and physically disabled. The team also has a multi-sensory impairment advisor and a

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			and Growth Committee)	<p>children's mobility specialist.</p> <p>The team operates an open referral policy, with referrals mainly coming from medical professionals and school Special Educational Needs Coordinators (SENCOs). Each referral is assessed and the level of the team's input is agreed, in line with a nationally agreed eligibility framework.</p> <p>The team input focuses on all areas of each child's development, to enhance their academic, social and economic wellbeing.</p> <p>They work with parents of pre-school children in the home, and support children and young people in all school settings.</p>
27	Councillor Peter Zinkin	Does the Leader thank those community groups who participated in but did not win the bid for community libraries such as the 'Hope of Childs Hill' group who included the Granville Road Residents Association?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	Yes. The hard work of all the groups that submitted bids and were unsuccessful is appreciated. We are hopeful that the aspirations of the unsuccessful groups can be achieved through working with the new Partnership Libraries as they become established and grow.
28	Councillor Arjun Mittra	I understand that some Barnet Council Computers are still running on Windows 2003. Given the risks of running computers on ageing systems, when will the Council ensure all computers are run on modern software packages?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>Barnet now has 42 servers running Windows 2003 (out of a total of 197 servers). All of these are due to be replaced before the end of Q2 2017-18.</p> <p>These systems are fully supported on extension agreements and our progress has been provided to external Public Services Network (PSN) and IT health-check assessors. A number of these remaining servers also house legacy applications that we must retain for data retention purposes and are no longer used by the Council.</p>

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29	Councillor Peter Zinkin	Does the Leader welcome the opportunity to work with Kisharon , one of the premier charities in Barnet at Childs Hill Library?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	Yes. I think this could be a fantastic opportunity for all who are involved.
30	Councillor Geof Cooke	Please provide details of any service credits applied as a result of KPI or SKPI fails to the Capita CSG contract since the last quarter report (Q2 2016/17).	Cllr Anthony Finn (Chairman of Performance and Contract Management Committee)	The Q3 performance report, which will include this information, is currently being compiled and will be discussed at Performance and Contract Management Committee on 27 February. Papers will be published at the end of the day on 17 February
31	Councillor Peter Zinkin	Will the leader encourage Kisharon to seize the opportunity to work with the local community groups who also participated in the process?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	Absolutely.
32	Councillor Alan Schneiderman	How will the leader ensure that all of Barnet's bowling clubs have a sustainable future?	Cllr Dean Cohen (Chairman of Environment Committee)	The Environment Committee received an update report on progress of the bowls clubs becoming sustainable into the future. Committee agreed that the Strategic Director: Environment be authorised to finalise arrangements with the two clubs considered to have developed sustainable future arrangements. The officers will continue negotiations with the remaining clubs with a view to developing sustainable arrangements into the future and report the outcome of those negotiations to the March meeting of Environment Committee.

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33	Councillor Rohit Grover	Is the Council making progress towards achieving its key objectives for the first year of its strategic partnership with Cambridge Education (CE) to provide Barnet's education services?		Repeat question to number 23
34	Councillor Phil Cohen	Does the Leader agree that the fact that Finchley Memorial Hospital is still half-empty is a scandal and will he write to the Secretary of State to urge him to find a solution?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>I agree it is a scandal. Finchley Memorial remains under occupied because of rules set by the NHS property company [n.b. established around 15 years ago, under previous government] about facilities management costs and rent levels, which make it unattractive for GPs and other NHS providers to rent the site. I have discussed this with our CCG who also agree. I want flexibility in the terms and conditions for this hospital so it can be filled.</p> <p>The STP process may actually revive an opportunity to sort this out.</p>
35	Councillor Brian Salinger	How many apprentices have been taken on by the Borough, Barnet Homes, Capita (on Barnet contracts) and Re in the last full calendar year (2016)?	Cllr Dan Thomas (Chairman of Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Barnet Council employed 14 in 2016 and a further two are going through the recruitment stage.</li> <li>• Barnet Homes employed 9 apprentices</li> </ul>
36	Councillor Kathy Levine	What is the rationale behind keeping some Corporate Plan performance indicator targets static when the most recent outturns exceeded those targets?	Cllr Anthony Finn (Chairman of the Performance	<p>There are nine indicators where 17/18 targets are the same or less than Q2 performance.</p> <p>Three are set within the CSG and Re contracts. The CSG target will be reviewed prior to submission of the Corporate</p>

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			and Contract Management Committee)	<p>Plan – 2017/18 addendum to Council for approval in March. The Re targets will be reviewed as part of the 4-Year Contract Review which will conclude later in the year.</p> <p>Three are survey indicators where the target has been set as a mid-point of an estimated range to take account of the confidence interval, which would be X%pts above or below the target. The targets have been set at current performance levels.</p> <p>The last three are satisfaction with customer services; adults with learning disabilities who live in own home; and adults with mental health needs who live independently. Performance has been steadily improving, which we're looking to maintain. Targets have been set around current performance levels. However, we will review these prior to submission of the Corporate Plan – 2017/18 addendum to Council in March.</p>
37	Councillor Brian Salinger	How many work experience placements have been offered by the Borough, Barnet Homes, Capita (on Barnet contracts) and RE in the last calendar year (2016)?	Cllr Dan Thomas (Chairman of Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee)	<p>Barnet Council do not record the number of work placements centrally as these are dealt with specifically by the DUs directly.</p> <p>CSG and Re have had 14 work experience placements between then during 2016</p> <p>Barnet Homes have had 5 work experience placements in 2016</p>

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38	Councillor Ross Houston	Please would the Leader provide details of all planning consents granted over the last five years where no affordable housing was agreed, including those developments of ten units and below – please provide the total number of homes by development?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>The details are provided in the attached spreadsheet produced in response to Q20.</p> <p><i>The spreadsheet highlights those residential schemes where no affordable housing has been secured on the basis of viability assessments as well as those where affordable housing is being delivered in later phases.</i></p> <p>We cannot provide details on affordable housing in developments of less than 10 units as there is no Local Plan policy requirement to justify such contributions.</p>
39	Councillor Brian Salinger	How many of those apprenticeships and how many of the work experience placements were taken up by Looked After Children?	Cllr Dan Thomas (Chairman of Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee)	Barnet Council employed 1 apprentice from the leaving care service during 2016
40	Councillor Barry Rawlings	Is Barnet participating in the collective investment vehicle for local government pensions?	Cllr Mark Shooter (Chairman of Pension Fund Committee)	The council has been a member of collective investment vehicle (CIV) since October 2015. Annualised fees savings are forecast to be over £330k on transfers to date.
41	Councillor Brian Salinger	Of all the many Olympic and Paralympic sports, how many have training facilities within the Borough?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	There are many local sports clubs in the borough with a wide range of sports but no official Olympic or Paralympic training facilities.

Qn	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
42	Councillor Anne Hutton	What arrangements are in place to enable young people access to their local library after the implementation of the technology-enabled system?	Cllr Reuben Thompstone (Chairman of Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee)	The access arrangements are set out in full in the Library Strategy, approved by the Council on the 4th April 2016. Opening hours at each Core and Core Plus Library will include a mix of staffed hours, volunteer supported hours and technology enabled opening hours. For technology enabled opening hours, Library users, including eligible young people, are being encouraged to register, ahead of the new opening arrangements.
43	Councillor Brian Salinger	Does the Leader and or any Council Officers review the answers given to Council Questions and supplementary questions to ensure that where issues have been raised and commitments given by the Leader or the deputed committee chairman in those responses, that appropriate actions have been taken?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	At present Chief Officers take individual responsibility for ensuring that commitments given in response to council questions and supplementaries are followed up. Governance officers are currently developing a more systematic approach to ensuring that no such commitments are overlooked.  Does the Councillor have any specific undertakings that have not been met that should be pursued?
44	Councillor Arjun Mittra	Will the council undertake to either fix up or rebuild the Pavilion at Cherry Tree Wood? Will you commit to not knocking it down with no replacement?	Cllr Dean Cohen (Chairman of Environment Committee)	An options appraisal will be undertaken relative to the future of the pavilion.  One Councillor's input will be gratefully reviewed.

Qn	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
45	Councillor Brian Salinger	At the meeting of the Finchley and Golders Green Area Planning sub-committee approval was given to an application for a development of a new nursery at 37 Moss Hall Grove, subject to various documents being received by 31st December 2016. If those documents were not received by that date the application was to be refused. The documents were not received. Can the Leader explain why officers have not refused the application, and/or by what authority officers have acted to extend the time limit?	Cllr Melvin Cohen (Chairman of Planning Committee)	<p>The recommendation approved by the Finchley and Golders Green Area Planning Committee authorises the Interim Head of Development Management to extend the period by which the legal agreement has to be completed. This is a standard clause applicable to applications where a legal agreement is required to be secured before permission can be issued.</p> <p>In this particular case, an extension of time to secure the necessary legal agreement has been secured until 3 February.</p>
46	Councillor Geof Cooke	According to the Q2 CSG delivery unit performance report "the definition of [Finance] KPI 30 is being refined to better meet the needs of the council, it is expected that this work will be completed in November. Once confirmed the outturn for the Q1 and Q2 will be agreed retrospectively and reported in Q3." Has this KPI now been refined, and if so what are the details and what was the outturn for Q1, Q2 and Q3?	Cllr Anthony Finn (Chairman of the Performance and Contract Management Committee)	The revised KPI definition has been agreed. The details of this and the outturn for Q1, 2 and 3 will be reported to Performance and Contract Management Committee on 27 Feb 2017.



Qn	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
47	Councillor Rohit Grover	Would the Leader explain the proposed top slice of the Crime Prevention Fund Budget by the Mayor of London?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	The Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime have taken the decision to split the London Crime Prevention Fund (LCPF) where 70% will be used for direct borough funding and 30% will be used to fund co-commissioned services. The reasons provided by MOPAC are that some London challenges relating to the future Police and Crime Plan priorities can be better addressed through either regional or sub regional commissioning arrangements. MOPAC have confirmed a framework for co-commissioning will be developed with London Councils, boroughs, wider partners under the leadership of the London Crime Reduction Board in 2017/2018. The fund will be utilised in 2018/2019 and 2019/2020. This is a decision that has been taken by the London Mayor's Office and not a local borough decision.
48	Councillor Alan Schneiderman	Does the Council support introducing 20mph zones and limits where residents have asked for them?	Cllr Dean Cohen (Chairman of Environment Committee)	<p>The Council supports the most appropriate measure to address the concerns of specific issues in individual areas. The most appropriate traffic engineering solution to specific issues can vary and be selected from a comprehensive range of measures. In some cases a 20 mph speed limit may be the most effective measure to address an issue after investigation of the problem. The current policy is to focus officer efforts around schools as part of their travel plans.</p> <p>The Police do not have the resource to monitor 20mph limits.</p>
49	Councillor Peter Zinkin	Are the new arrangements for gritting roads working well?	Cllr Dean Cohen (Chairman of Environment Committee)	The new arrangements for Gritting Barnet's roads have been operating since late December and are working well. The new arrangements involve operating ten gritting routes (increased from seven routes). The majority of these routes operate from a shared depot facility at LB Harrow and a small number of routes operate from the existing Mill Hill Depot. The Authority is constantly reviewing this operation to ensure we have a robust

Qn	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
				and effective Winter Service.
50	Councillor Phil Cohen	Would the Leader assure the members of East Barnet Valley bowls club that they won't be celebrating their 90th anniversary year by going out of business? They were made an offer by the council to maintain the pavilion if the club funded the bowling green but then they were told they would have to merge with another club anyway? What is the real position and why the rush at such an important time for the club?	Cllr Dean Cohen (Chairman of Environment Committee)	The requirement to reduce the Council's subsidy of bowls by £100,000 commencing 2017/2018 arises from the Council's agreed Medium Term Financial Strategy. This means that the budget available to the Greenspaces Team for the maintenance of bowling greens will reduce by that amount at 01 April. The need to move the Council's bowls clubs to financial sustainability was discussed with the clubs in July 2016. Since then the clubs have been looking, with the assistance of officers, at means of generating additional income and reducing their costs. As reported to the 11 January Environment Committee, East Barnet Valley Bowls Club is one of the clubs that the officers have been requested to negotiate further with; with the outcome being reported to the 15 March meeting of the Committee. The purpose of the further negotiations is to secure the future of the club. However, future arrangements will need to have regard to the numbers of bowlers involved and the cost.
51	Councillor Rohit Grover	Housing delivery is of crucial importance. Could the chairman of the housing committee describe the current situation?	Cllr Tom Davey (Chairman of Housing Committee)	The current situation in Barnet is that we continue to make a major contribution to London's housing supply.  Barnet has a 15 year housing trajectory of 35,000 new homes of which 20,000 have planning consent.
52	Councillor Barry Rawlings	Can the Leader update us on the current state of affairs regarding the move to 100% business rate retention, its time-table and the likely effects on Barnet?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	The Government's consultation on "Self-sufficient local government: 100% business rates retention" closed on 26 September 2016. The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) are analysing responses.

Qn	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
				<p>The proposals in the consultation indicated that retention of business rates at local authority level will be in exchange for additional responsibility and a reduction in separate grants.</p> <p>The Local Government Finance Bill is currently passing through parliament. This creates a pilot for the Greater London Authority to be part of a pilot in 2017, but that will not affect Barnet at this stage. Government have announced that the full retention scheme will be in place by 2020.</p> <p>The difficulty will be the starting point and the sharing of resources. The same outer London problems is very real.</p>
53	Councillor Maureen Braun	London Councils are modifying the Taxi Card scheme. Could the Leader outline the new arrangements?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>The Taxi Card scheme is funded by London Boroughs and Transport for London and is managed by London Councils. London Councils regularly reviews the database of taxi card users to ensure it is kept up-to-date and removes members who no longer use the scheme.</p> <p>London Councils are planning to deactivate the membership of all Taxi Card holders who did not make trips between July 2014 – June 2016.</p> <p>The Council will be writing to all Barnet residents that will be affected by the change giving four weeks' notice of the deactivation. The proposed date of deactivation is the 1st March 2017.</p>

Qn	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
54	Councillor Anne Hutton	What redress does the council have to the potential take-over of one of Barnet's schools by an Academy provider with a poor inspection record?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>Where schools are looking for structural solutions in order to make rapid improvement, we work with the school and the DfE to identify the most appropriate way for schools that are not Good or Outstanding, or whose results would suggest they may not be Good or Outstanding at their next Ofsted inspection, to make the most rapid improvement.</p> <p>We advise schools on procedures to ensure that they follow a robust and thorough process to enable them to make an informed decision about the proposed structural solution.</p> <p>The decision about the capacity and effectiveness of the selected Academy Trust to give the school the support it needs to make rapid improvement is taken by the Regional Schools Commissioner and not the local authority.</p>
55	Councillor Shimon Ryde	Parents sometimes complain that they are not aware of anything there is for children to do in the School Holidays. Would the Leader make sure the council does publicise what is available in Barnet First.	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>Yes. The July 2016 edition of Barnet First featured a special 6pp feature on summer activities in Barnet for families, and other residents in the borough. We are planning another summer special feature for 2017. Community groups and local organisations can also request to have their service or event featured in our new What's On section by emailing <a href="mailto:whatson@barnet.gov.uk">whatson@barnet.gov.uk</a></p>

Qn	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
56	Councillor Arjun Mittra	The blue container on Brownsell Road is still yet to be removed, after 3 questions here and several promises to do so. When will this finally be completed?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	Barnet Homes has been in contact with the Parking Team in relation to this issue. Plans will be made to issue the owner of the container a notice next week stating that, if not removed within the set timescales the container will be deemed abandoned and removed by either the London Borough of Barnet or Barnet Homes. The notice will give the owner adequate time to engage with Barnet Homes and remove the container themselves. As soon as the notice has been served Barnet Homes will update Cllr Mittra directly with details of when it expires and what actions will be taken following this.
57	Councillor Gabriel Rozenberg	Many councillors attended the opening of a recent phase of the Beaufort Park scheme. Could the Leader indicate how many homes were affordable and by whom they will be occupied?	Cllr Dan Thomas (Chairman of Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee)	The latest development by St George in Beaufort Park is building F. This is a block consisting of 177 homes; all 177 homes are affordable rent and are provided by Nottinghill Housing Group. The homes will be occupied by residents who have been allocated through Barnet Council's Allocation Scheme.
58	Councillor Alan Schneiderman	What penalty will be imposed on contractors that have not carried out 'surface dressing' or 'micro asphalt' highways work to the correct standard?	Cllr Dean Cohen (Chairman of Environment Committee)	Surface dressing programme is subject to a 24 month defect correction period so any remedial works or deemed material failures under the terms and condition of contract will be rectified at the contractor's expense.
59	Councillor Graham Old	Press reports seem to blame delayed discharges from Hospital on late implementation of care. Is this the case in local hospitals?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	The majority of delayed discharges from hospital are caused by delays in arranging health care in the community. Nationally 65% of delays are due to health or individual's own reasons, and 35% are due to council social care. In Barnet, like the national picture, the majority of delays are not caused by social care. The overall number of delays however is rising, both nationally and locally. Barnet is not alone in seeing an overall

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				<p>increase.</p> <p>However, last weekend there were only 2 cases of delayed discharges caused by late pick up by Barnet Social Services.</p>
60	Councillor Barry Rawlings	How are schools in Barnet likely to be affected by the government's reforms to school funding?	Cllr Reuben Thompstone (Chairman of Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee)	Barnet schools will be adversely affected by the introduction of the National Funding Formula for schools, which is expected to result in an average loss of funding per pupil of 1%, phased over 2018-19 and 2019-20.
61	Councillor Graham Old	Reports of ambulances queuing up outside A and E departments are very disturbing. Does the Leader know what is causing these increases in demand at Barnet General and the Royal Free?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	The problem is caused by both the London Ambulance Service and East of England Ambulance service using Barnet General and the Royal Free when the A&E departments of other hospitals closer to the patient are closed to new arrivals. The official term for this is being 'on divert'. The ambulances come both from nearby and far and wide, such as Northwick Park and a wide range of hospitals in Hertfordshire. Both ambulance services will take patients from 'diverted' hospitals to Barnet General at the same time. All of this is in addition to the needs of local patients, who will also be arriving in ambulances to their closest hospital. It is important for the ambulance services to co-ordinate their work.

Qn	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
62	Councillor Arjun Mittra	When will the former Brackenbury Road war memorial plaque be installed in East Finchley Library as promised by the leader? Can this be done when other works are done to the building over summer?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	It is our intention to install the memorial plaque when the building works are taking place in the summer. In the meantime the plaque is being safely stored in East Finchley Library.
63	Councillor Stephen Sowerby	Will the Leader make representations to the Mayor of London to ensure that Barnet retains its relatively high parking requirement for new development?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>The Council will continue to lobby the Mayor for a more flexible approach to residential car parking standards in the draft London Plan. Our current Local Plan reflects a more local evidence based approach to car parking standards.</p> <p>As part of the review of the Local Plan we will refresh our survey evidence on the impact of new residential developments with regard to pressures on car parking space.</p> <p>I hope that we can get a realistic requirement that reflects the needs of all other London suburbs rather than Zone 1 or 2.</p>
64	Councillor Alan Schneiderman	Why is bowling not part of the Borough's draft playing pitch strategy?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	Bowling Greens are not included within the scope of Playing Pitch Strategies as they are not included within the Sport England framework.
65	Councillor Caroline Stock	Does the Leader consider there is a suitable location for an extra Cemetery in the Borough?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	As set out in the report presented to the Environment Committee on 11th January 2017, the Committee agreed to continue to provide a Cemetery Service for Barnet Residents therefore to investigate the development of a new cemetery site. Officers will be considering how this could be achieved. This includes assessing suitable locations for a new Cemetery either inside or outside the borough. The Environment Committee will consider these options at a future meeting.

Qn	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
66	Councillor Barry Rawlings	Does the Leader believe that cyclists are road users?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	Yes.
67	Councillor Wendy Prentice	The plastic barriers in High Barnet by St John's Church are ugly and impede the smooth running of the traffic system by causing motorists to be compelled to drive along residential roads. This angers local residents. Why was this done and when will it be removed?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>The current closure of the slip road by the Church at the High Road/Wood Street junction is an experimental provision to allow us to assess whether a permanent change could be made to enhance the area and improve the experience of pedestrians in particular. The numbers of vehicles making the left and right turns by the church were relatively low, and if this traffic is able to divert successfully it would allow the pedestrian space to be increased and the environment enhanced. A specific alternative route has not been provided, to try to ensure that diverting vehicles disperse and use various alternatives rather than all diverting down a single residential road. Bus travel time data, video surveys and traffic counts are being used to assess impacts on traffic flow, together with reports from Members and residents.</p> <p>No doubt members and the public will make their views known.</p>
68	Councillor Arjun Mittra	Does the Leader of the Council agree with me that East Finchley-born singer George Michael was an inspiration to millions around the world and that his numerous acts of kindness and generosity should make Barnet proud?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	He was a very popular and talented entertainer with many local fans. His philanthropy has only just filtered through to public awareness and is to be commended. He is also to be commended on his work raising awareness and campaigning for many groups.



Qn	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
69	Councillor Wendy Prentice	Councillors and residents have killed off many traffic control initiatives over the years. The schemes seem to be re-born every few years and require fresh quashing. Could the Leader ensure that there is a register of these kept, in order that officer time is not further wasted on unnecessary re-examination?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>Yes the Highway Service will now keep a record of these decisions and the governance concerning their progress.</p> <p>This will avoid expensive re-runs.</p>
70	Councillor Alan Schneiderman	How many tonnes of grit have been used so far this winter?		<p>Since November 2016 to date approximately 690 tonnes of grit have been used on Barnet's road and pavement network. The Council carefully monitors grit usage and re-procures additional supplies when necessary.</p>
71	Councillor Bridget Perry	Could the Leader advise what action will be proposed as a result of Cllr Stock's motion on Diabetes at the last Council meeting?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>Diabetes has been considered by the Health and Wellbeing Board as a result of Cllr Stock's motion, with a discussion in January. I hope that we will have a Cllr diabetes champion to lead on this important matter across the Council.</p> <p>The borough has been successful in its bid to enter the second wave of the National Diabetes Prevention Programme. Public health worked with Barnet CCG and with colleagues in LB Enfield to develop the proposal. The service will provide intensive support for around 1,000 residents and should be operational in May/June. Public health colleagues are also working with the CCG to develop a dedicated service in GP practices to ensure that there is a robust process for identification and management of pre-diabetes including brief intervention to encourage behaviour change.</p>

Qn	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
				<p>Public health are also giving attention to a public campaign both to raise awareness of diabetes in the borough, protective health behaviours and local provision and services.</p> <p>A more detailed plan will be presented to HWBB as part of the annual commissioning plan in March.</p>
72	Councillor Barry Rawlings	According to the recent PCM report on the Corporate Plan “the strategic priorities have been lightly refreshed and include a new priority on delivering quality services.” Would the Leader advise why delivering quality services was not a strategic priority for the council until now?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	This has always been a priority for the council. This year we have made this more explicit.
73	Councillor Eva Greenspan	Many residents perceive that crime is increasingly prevalent across the borough. Could the Leader outline the current situation?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>In the last 12 months there were 25,591 TNOs (Total Notifiable Offences) in Barnet. This does represent a 4.5% increase compared to the same period 12 months ago. This increase is similar to that seen in London overall during the same period (a 3.4% increase).</p> <p>While there has been a slight increase in total offences during the last 12 months in Barnet and London overall, the rate of crime in Barnet remains low and well below the average for the rest of London.</p> <p>In the 12 months to November 2016 the rate of crime in Barnet was 67 crimes per 1000 population. This was the 8th lowest crime rate of all 32 London Boroughs and 23% lower than the London average of 87 crimes per 1000 population.</p>

Qn	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
				<p>Barnet remains one of London's safest boroughs, with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the 3rd lowest rate of Violence with Injury offences (5.8 per 1000 which is 32% lower than the London average);</li> <li>• and the 6th lowest rate of robbery (1.2 per 1000 population which is 50% lower than the London average)</li> </ul> <p>In addition Barnet has achieved significant reductions during the last 12 months in both burglary and robbery. In the last 12 months there were over 250 fewer Residential Burglaries than a year ago (a 10% reduction); and over 150 fewer robberies compared to a year ago (a 26% reduction)</p> <p>The Council is committed to working in partnership with the police, the local community, businesses and partner organisations so that there is a focus on: supporting victims of crime; managing offenders to reduce their reoffending; and directing partnership resources to the areas with higher rates of crime and antisocial behaviour.</p>
74	Councillor Arjun Mittra	Will the Council review their decision to lock Library lavatories in unstaffed hours? Where are visitors supposed to go if caught short?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	Toilets will be locked during technology-enabled opening and this issue was considered in detail in the Library Strategy approved by the Council on the 4 <sup>th</sup> April 2016. Notices will be displayed in each library showing where the nearest publicly accessible toilets are located.
75	Councillor Anthony Finn	Barnet has large regeneration projects underway. Could the chairman of ARG outline how this compares with other boroughs plans?	Cllr Dan Thomas (Chairman of Assets, Regeneration and	Barnet has the highest new housing growth targets of any London outer borough, delivering 28,000 new homes over the 15 year life of the Local Plan. The council is a major contributor to delivering those homes through the delivery of seven estate regeneration schemes (delivering upwards of

Qn	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
			Growth Committee)	<p>8,000 new homes); a significant shareholder in the development of Mill Hill East (adding 2,100 new homes); initiating its own housing development programme through its partner organisations – Re and Barnet Homes; and leading the redevelopment at Brent Cross Cricklewood. Brent Cross Cricklewood alone will provide 7,500 homes, double the size of the shopping centre to attract 20m visitors a year and building enough commercial space to employ 27,000 people. This places it in the Top 5 of development schemes in London.</p> <p>All in all, therefore, the Council is involved in the delivery of c. 18,000 homes. While there is no league table to compare Barnet's regeneration programme with others, the numbers of homes either built, being built or on programme to commence on site, mean that Barnet is generally regarded as having one of the largest regeneration programmes of any local authority in the UK.</p>
76	Councillor Arjun Mittra	Will the council Leader undertake to write to the managers of Sherwood Hall flats on East End Road, to ask that they trim back the trees, which are heavily growing over Gardens on Elm Gardens	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>The Council does not have powers to enforce people to maintain their trees. If the residents of Elm Grove believe the trees to be an imminent danger, we can inspect and enforce work under legislation, but the trees have to be in a condition that is highly dangerous.</p> <p>I am disappointed that the local Councillors have not made their influence felt.</p>

Qn	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
77	Councillor Maureen Braun	Would the Leader report on the current planning enforcement situation. Many members attended a recent briefing and there is widespread interest in the operation and development of this service.	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>A Service Improvement Plan is currently being delivered by the Planning Service. The Plan consists of different strands relating to staffing, improvements to systems, improvements to performance reporting, communication (including with Members and the press) as well as a strategic review of prosecutions.</p> <p>An update on recent enforcement activity and performance referred to the 19th January Area Planning Committees.</p> <p><a href="http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s37224/Planning%20Enforcement%20Quarterly%20Update%20October%202016%20to%20December%202016.pdf">http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s37224/Planning%20Enforcement%20Quarterly%20Update%20October%202016%20to%20December%202016.pdf</a></p>
78	Councillor Arjun Mittra	Despite numerous promises, the tree outside 25/27 Manor Park Road is still yet to be trimmed back. When will this be done?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>The tree was pruned on the 7th November. Works included the cutting back of branches from the property and the removal of lower branches to raise the height of the tree canopy. The works have been inspected and confirmed as completed.</p> <p>Does the member have further information that has been missed?</p>
79	Councillor Anthony Finn	The Barnet taxpayer contributes to flood defence in London. Does the Leader know the risks in our Borough and who is responsible for clearing waterways and keeping the banks in good order?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>Regarding flood defence the attached draft document has recently been sent to Local Councillors outlining the "Local Flood Risk Management Strategy".</p> <p>Clearing waterways and keeping river banks in good order is termed "riparian responsibility" a brief explanation can be found below;</p> <p>London Borough of Barnet or residents as property owners are presumed to own land up to the centre of the watercourse, unless it is known to be owned by others.</p>

Qn	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
				<p>The responsibility for the maintenance, repair and care of the watercourse rests with the property owner, through which the watercourse passes. This is termed “riparian ownership”. A riparian owner has responsibility and duty to ensure that the flow within the watercourse passes through their property without obstruction or pollution, from the landowner upstream to the land owner downstream. This would include the obstruction of flow caused by the collapse of the bank/s of an open watercourse or the collapse of a culvert or pipe through which the watercourse flows.</p> <p>London Borough of Barnet or residents as riparian owners have the responsibility to accept flood flows through the said land, even if caused by inadequate capacity downstream, as there is no Common Law duty to improve a watercourse.</p> <p>The London Borough of Barnet or residents are responsible for keeping the bed &amp; banks clear of any matter that could cause an obstruction, either on London Borough of Barnet or residents land or by being washed away by high flow to obstruct a structure downstream. The watercourse should not be used for the disposal of any form of garden waste.</p> <p>Further information, regarding “riparian ownership” is available from the Environment Agency via their web site address: <a href="http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk">www.environment-agency.gov.uk</a></p>

Qn	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
80	Councillor Arjun Mittra	Will the council undertake to make more regular sweeping of the County Roads in East Finchley, or provide more bins or anti littering signs?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	Barnet does not have any roads which class as County roads
81	Councillor Shimon Ryde	What is Barnet's contribution to the Lea Valley Park? Does the Leader think this represents good value?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>In 2016/17 the levy paid to the Lee Valley Regional Park by Barnet residents was £386,634. In 2016/17 the levy decreased by 2%, which was the 6th year of consecutive reduction. This is a statutory levy, and is paid by all Council Tax payers of London, Hertfordshire and Essex.</p> <p>Lee Valley Regional Park is a unique leisure, sports and environmental destination. The 26 mile long, 10,000 acre park, much of it formerly derelict land offers countless opportunities for recreation and a welcome home for wildlife and formation of the park has had many positive impacts for London, including its links with the 2012 Olympic legacy.</p> <p>Given the significant financial pressure we face and our desire to provide some of the best Parks in London, however, we would always welcome the ability to spend money raised from residents to delivery parks in Barnet</p>
82	Councillor Arjun Mittra	The Walks alleyway in East Finchley was left unswept for over two months after the leaves fell off the trees, leaving the alleyway slippery and dirty. When will this alleyway, well used by pedestrians and especially children be prioritised for sweeping?	Cllr Dean Cohen (Chairman of Environment Committee)	<p>The leaf clearance programme targeted a fortnightly visit to roads identified as requiring a regular clearance programme during the leaf fall period, the Walks was not identified on the leafing schedule as a problematic site requiring this level of response.</p> <p>In addition to the scheduled programme all customer contacts requesting leaf clearance were also cleaned. There are no</p>

Qn	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
				<p>recorded requests for leaf clearance operations at the Walks.</p> <p>The leafing programme is being reviewed and remodelled on the service data for the 2017 leafing season and we have added The Walks to the programme.</p> <p>The footpath will continue to receive a fortnightly litter pick, and a deep cleanse every 8 to 12 weeks. The footpath will be cleared of all leaves w/c 23 January 2017.</p>
83	Councillor Lisa Rutter	Are Electric vehicles the transportation of the future and what is the council doing to facilitate their use? Does the leader have any plans to acquire one himself?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>The Council views electric vehicles as a key component of its Long Term Transport Strategy. The Council already has eight electric vehicle charge points in the Borough and has plans to commission and install more in the near future.</p> <p>The Leader will certainly consider an electric vehicle in the future.</p>
84	Councillor Arjun Mittra	What action can the Council take to prevent vehicles accessing the Jamatkhana on East End Road by illegally turning from East End Road on to Market Place. Can cameras be installed, and can the Council write to the Jamatkhana asking that they inform their visitors that that turn is illegal and dangerous.	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>The Council commenced enforcing Moving Traffic Contravention Enforcement in Barnet from 1st January 2016.</p> <p>A report to the 11 January 2017 sought approval for additional locations where CCTV enforcement can be carried out. The report also approved the siting of Moving Traffic Contravention Enforcement cameras at all schools and traffic junctions so that consideration may be given to siting Enforcement cameras at these locations in the future. Therefore, the junction of East End Road on to Market Place will be added to this list of sites for the siting of an Enforcement Camera when additional funding for cameras becomes available. As requested the Council will write to the Jamatkhana asking that they inform their visitors that that turn is illegal and dangerous.</p>



Qn	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
85	Councillor John Hart	There has been interest in the little used freight line between Brent Cross and Old Oak Common. Could the Leader confirm that the opening of this line is possible and backed by other authorities?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	Yes. The West London Economic Prosperity Board – a joint committee between the London Boroughs of Barnet, Brent, Ealing, Hammersmith and Fulham, Harrow and Hounslow – has recently identified the opening of the line to passenger trains as one of its top infrastructure priorities. The new Thameslink Station at Brent Cross is being designed such that platforms for the line could be introduced as a separate project.
86	Councillor Geof Cooke	According to previous answers the administration is in favour of creating additional grammar schools in the borough but has no plans to create any secondary modern schools. Since secondary modern schools are, by definition, secondary schools that take the majority of children who are not selected for the local grammar schools and typically there were 3 or 4 secondary modern schools in the neighbourhood of each grammar school, are you intending to divert attention away from your creation of secondary moderns by pretending that previously comprehensive schools are still comprehensives after more of the academically brightest children go to your new grammar schools?	Cllr Reuben Thompstone (Chairman of Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee)	<p>The local authority is generally no longer able to create new schools – the vast majority of new schools are created through the free school programme, administered and approved by central government. The council is not aware of any government intention to restore a significant responsibility to local authorities to open/approve new schools.</p> <p>However, grammar schools are a good thing in terms of providing social mobility.</p> <p>Secondary modern schools were not all bad but there are no plans to encourage them.</p>

Qn	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
87	Councillor John Hart	There seems to be an increase in fly tipping across Barnet. What can be done about this?	Cllr Dean Cohen (Chairman of Environment Committee)	<p>Over the last six months there has not been a constant trend of increasing fly tipping, Fly tipping is a criminal offence and officers investigate reports of fly tipping and take formal action is evidence can be found as to the origins of the waste material</p> <p>Since the Environment Enforcement Trail started in July 2016 significant work has been undertake to Keep Barnet Clean. Over 2,000 Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) have been given out to those who litter, fly tip, fly post or to business who do not dispose of their waste within the correct legal framework.</p> <p>In October the Environment Committee increased the FPN for fly tipping to its maximum permitted level of £400.</p> <p>In December alone 59 businesses both local and national firms were given FPNs for failing to prove then had waste collection arrangements in place.</p>
88	Councillor O'Macauley	What are the responsibilities of housing associations in Barnet in terms of repairs and decent homes?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>All Landlords are bound by the Landlord and Tenant Act 1985 which sets out the legal responsibilities of any landlord including repairs. In addition all Registered Providers are regulated by the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA).</p> <p>The HCA set regulatory standards by which they expect Registered Providers to meet, one of which is the Homes Standard which includes Repairs and the Decent Homes Standard.</p> <p>The responsibilities include:-</p> <p>Quality of accommodation</p>

Qn	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
				<p>Registered providers shall:</p> <p>(a) ensure that tenants' homes meet the standard set out in section five of the Government's Decent Homes Guidance<sup>1</sup> and continue to maintain their homes to at least this standard</p> <p>(b) meet the standards of design and quality that applied when the home was built, and were required as a condition of publicly funded financial assistance<sup>2</sup>, if these standards are higher than the Decent Homes Standard</p> <p>(c) in agreeing a local offer, ensure that it is set at a level not less than these standards and have regard to section six of the Government's Decent Homes Guidance.</p> <p>1.2 Repairs and maintenance</p> <p>Registered providers shall:</p> <p>(a) provide a cost-effective repairs and maintenance service to homes and communal areas that responds to the needs of, and offers choices to, tenants, and has the objective of completing repairs and improvements right first time</p> <p>(b) meet all applicable statutory requirements that provide for the health and safety of the occupants in their homes.</p>