

Council Questions – 25 July 2017 (In proper order)

Qn no	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
1	Cllr Gabriel Rozenberg	<p>Leasehold reform is an increasingly urgent aim for thousands of renters across the country. While most developers are fair and scrupulous, there are widespread reports of ground rents which are poorly explained at the point of purchase and which grow unpredictably and fast. Some ground rents double every decade, leaving leaseholders out of pocket and often unable to find buyers for their homes. Furthermore, short and inflexible leaseholds of under 80 years are increasingly common. In a recent speech Sajid Javid, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, said: “As a government committed to building a fairer society, I don’t see how we can look the other way while these practically feudal practices persist.” What data exists for the proportion of new build homes in Barnet sold as leasehold? What are we doing to ensure that leasehold rights on new build homes are sold on fair terms, with ground rents which are predictable and affordable?</p>	Cllr Tom Davey (Chairman of the Housing Committee)	<p>This is clearly an important issue for national and regional government to pick up on. Barnet will have to be aware of this issue when we are involved in housing developments where we have an element of control.</p> <p>The Council does not collect data on the proportion of new built homes in Barnet that are Leasehold. The most comprehensive information on Leasehold properties is held by the Land Registry.</p> <p>However as a broad indicator, most properties developed as new flats are most likely to be leasehold. Nearly 5,200 (85%) new flats and almost 900 (15%) new houses have been constructed in Barnet since 2012.</p> <p>The Council has no control over the terms set out when new build homes are sold or the setting of ground rents. This is often dealt with through a lease between the buyer (leaseholder) and seller (freeholder).</p> <p>The Leasehold Advisory Service is an independent board, appointed by the Secretary of State, who can provide specialist advice on leasehold matters to residents. Leaseholders can apply to the First-tier Tribunal (Property Chamber) at HM Courts to deal with disputes about service charges, repairs, extending leases or buying the freehold.</p>

Council Questions – 25 July 2017 (In proper order)

Qn no	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
2	Cllr Barry Rawlings	<p>In the monitoring report to the last PCM Committee there was the following statement :</p> <p>'It is estimated that Barnet schools on average will lose 1% of current funding by 2019/20 as a result of the introduction of the National Funding Formula. This comes on top of growing pressures on school budgets arising from annual pay rises and increases in employers' National Insurance and pension contributions. As a result, a growing number of schools are facing financial challenges'</p> <p>In light of this will the Leader now disown the comment of Cllr Thompstone welcoming the Funding Formula and support Barnet Labour's campaign for Government to properly fund local schools?</p>	Cllr Reuben Thompstone (Chairman of the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee)	<p>The statement in the PCM report was correct at the time it was written. However, on 19 July 2017, the Government announced an additional £1.3 billion for schools over the next two years. Officers have not yet calculated the implications of this additional funding.</p>

Council Questions – 25 July 2017 (In proper order)

Qn no	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
3	Cllr Gabriel Rozenberg	Commonhold is a system that provides indefinite freehold tenure in multi-occupancy buildings with shared responsibility for common areas and services. It is used in Scotland and the rest of the world and has been on the statute book in England for more than a decade. What consideration has been given to the use of commonhold in our development areas in Barnet?	Cllr Tom Davey (Chairman of the Housing Committee)	The answer is not much, but it should be.
4	Cllr Adam Langleben	Would the Leader update us about fire safety practice and risk assessments in all housing association properties in Barnet following the Labour Group question about this at the last Housing Committee meeting? What was the response of our housing associations with properties in Barnet to the Grenfell Tower tragedy?	Cllr Tom Davey (Chairman of the Housing Committee)	The Council continues to communicate with RPs who manage properties in the borough. Larger RPs with blocks of 5+ storeys have checked their Fire Risk Assessments to ensure they are up to date. Clad blocks have either been tested or are currently awaiting test results through independent inspections. In a small number of cases where cladding has failed tests, RPs have taken steps to communicate with residents and to ensure that appropriate short term mitigations are put in place. All have committed to taking appropriate longer-term actions following recommendations from the investigation and any future changes in legislation. The majority of RP's have also reviewed their evacuation and emergency systems and procedures. We continue to work with smaller RPs but don't believe they have buildings taller than five stories.

Council Questions – 25 July 2017 (In proper order)

Qn no	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
5	Cllr Mark Shooter	Can the Leader assure Council that fire safety checks have been completed on all high rises buildings run by Barnet Homes, and that the buildings are all fully compliant?	Cllr Tom Davey (Chairman of the Housing Committee)	All 24 tower blocks managed by Barnet Homes have Fire Risk Assessments (FRA's) completed on an annual cycle. Additionally all tower blocks have been re-inspected and assessed since the tragic fire at Grenfell Tower. The FRA system has been developed in conjunction with independent fire safety experts and the London Fire Brigade, whom Barnet Homes continue to work with closely in respect of the fire safety of their residents. We are therefore satisfied that the requirements of The Regulatory Reform (Fire safety) Order 2005 are being fully complied with within these buildings.
6	Cllr Arjun Mittra	Who is meeting the cost of the re-surfacing of Abbots Gardens in East Finchley?	Cllr Dean Cohen (Chairman of the Environment Committee)	The remediation of the work undertaken in September 2016 will be completed by the contractor at their cost.

Council Questions – 25 July 2017 (In proper order)

Qn no	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
7	Cllr David Longstaff	Does the Leader share the concerns of the Federation of Small Businesses that, despite hailing himself as the ‘most pro-business’ Mayor ever, Sadiq Khan’s plans to bring forward Boris Johnson’s Ultra Low Emissions Zone by one year would expose many small businesses who entered into vehicle contracts under the previous mayoralty to exorbitant fines? The current proposals would hit our local businesses while providing little benefit to Barnet residents — because the ULEZ stops short of the North Circular.	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	Yes, but Barnet is further disadvantaged in that our businesses will need new vehicles whilst the borough is largely excluded from any benefit.
8	Cllr Nagus Narenthira	Can the leader give a full explanation as to why the council has not taken any action regarding PCO which is a private leasing company whose cars are parked in streets of Colindale for more than three months? This is effectively doing business on a public street.	Cllr Dean Cohen (Chairman of the Environment Committee)	We believe the main issue is on the Rushgrove Avenue sections where there are no parking restrictions to enforce. Unfortunately as all vehicles are taxed and therefore legally parked there is little that we can do to improve the situation for local residents.

Council Questions – 25 July 2017 (In proper order)

Qn no	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
9	Cllr Reuben Thompstone	In October 2015, the Council made a commitment to resettle 50 Syrian refugees in Barnet through the Government's resettlement programme. Would the Leader please update members on the progress of this commitment?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	As of May 2017 the council has fulfilled this commitment, resettling 50 individuals made up of 15 families across the borough. All of the families are housed in the private rental sector and Barnet Homes continues to provide wraparound support to the families as they continue to settle in the borough, working with Citizens UK, Finchley Progressive Synagogue and TimeBank to ensure that we are able to provide support within the community.
10	Cllr Jim Tierney	Many residents have been complaining about the 'profusion' of weeds in the streets. What is the latest position on using weed killer and removing weeds on our streets?	Cllr Dean Cohen (Chairman of the Environment Committee)	A second application of glysophate weed spraying is currently underway. The first application was carried out in April and was seen to be effective. The second application commenced on 19th June and has been slightly delayed due to a number of wet days, as weed spaying is limited in its effectiveness if applied during wet weather. The second application is now due to be completed at the end of the month. There have been limited complaints relating weeds following the first application.
11	Cllr Dean Cohen	Would the Leader consider following Camden Council in providing Registrars' services on days they do not provide them, in order to assist the communities who require urgent burials?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	Yes, this is something that officers are looking into.

Council Questions – 25 July 2017 (In proper order)

Qn no	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
12	Cllr Jess Brayne	Why is Brexit not a highly rated risk on the Council's risk register?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	Because it isn't.
13	Cllr David Longstaff	Could the Leader tell Council how many trees Mayor Khan has planted in the borough since coming into office?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	The 2017 GLA London Tree Programme funded the purchase and planting of 107 trees in four locations: Brunswick Park (47), Oak Hill Park (15), Lyndhurst Park (35), Edgwarebury Park (10): total cost £25,639. The Council funded watering and aftercare costs of £21,346.

Council Questions – 25 July 2017 (In proper order)

Qn no	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
14	Cllr Agnes Slocombe	Please would the Leader provide the details of all publicly owned land in Barnet that is potentially available for development (broken down by organisation, location and size)?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	The Council does not hold register of all publicly owned land in Barnet that is potentially available for development. The Review of the Local Plan will identify sites (both public and private) that are likely to become available for development in the next 15 years. The pipeline of development on the Council's own land is well established and details of all current development sites have been published in various Asset Regeneration and Growth (ARG) Committee papers. The council has also established internal processes for provisionally identifying further sites & assets that are surplus to council requirements, and some of these may be recommended for disposal or development in future. Identified surplus sites will be subject to detailed options analysis to establish the best course of action for each one, so that appropriate recommendations can be made. In addition, the One Public Estate initiative encourages all parts of the public sector to work collaboratively to identify land that could be potentially released for housing development. The council is integral to this process and has already helped to identify a number of opportunities on NHS managed land in particular. These opportunities are still subject to internal scrutiny and analysis within the NHS, so cannot yet be classed as being available, but work to bring these potential sites forward will continue.
15	Cllr David Longstaff	Could the Leader invite Mayor Khan to explain to Barnet residents how his pledge to "make sure there are zero days of strikes" squares with the Northern line strike in January and the Southern Rail strike on July 10th?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	I can't.

Council Questions – 25 July 2017 (In proper order)

Qn no	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
16	Cllr Gill Sargeant	Could you confirm when the bridge over to Montrose Park will be completed?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	Planning has now been approved for this bridge to be constructed by Fairview as part of their S106 obligations. The developer is currently in the process of obtaining the appropriate licences for carrying out this work as the land is no longer in their ownership. Once they have the licence they will commence the works. As the Bridge is constructed as pre-fabricated off site and then dropped onto the pre-laid foundation the expected time frame is four to six months from commission to completion.
17	Cllr David Longstaff	After Mayor Khan's unanimous censure by the GLA on June 28th for not showing up to a transport plenary, could the Leader tell Council how many transport plenaries Boris Johnson missed?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	Mayor Khan does not have the attendance record of his predecessors. Mayor Boris attended all such meetings.

Council Questions – 25 July 2017 (In proper order)

Qn no	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
18	Cllr Anne Hutton	<p>What is the administration doing to help current Barnet residents on Housing Benefit who are the victims of so-called revenge eviction (they complained about poor maintenance for example) but are unable to find accommodation because housing agencies won't accept those on housing benefit?</p> <p>This seems to be universal among local housing agencies and is affecting single people, in work but who don't earn high wages – whom Barnet aren't obliged to house and are told to 'go to an agency' – when they do, as soon as they mention HB they are told there is nothing available.</p>	Cllr Tom Davey (Chairman of the Housing Committee)	<p>The Deregulation Act came into force on the 1st October 2015 which introduced changes to how landlords can evict their tenants. If a tenant complains to Environmental Health about the condition of their property and a notice is then subsequently served on the landlord to carry out repairs, the landlord cannot then issue a notice of eviction on their tenant until 6 months after the notice has been served by Environmental Health. Barnet Homes has a dedicated team of tenancy sustainment officers who work with tenants and landlords to ensure that the correct legal procedures are followed.</p> <p>Since the new law came into force the team have not had any cases where invalid notices have been served due to revenge evictions. It should be noted that the law only applies to tenancies that are created after the 1st October 2015.</p> <p>Barnet Homes funds St Mungo's to provide advice and assistance to single homeless applicants to whom the council does not have a legal duty to house. They operate a successful rent deposit guarantee scheme for those on low incomes who are eligible for Housing Benefit. In 2016/17 they assisted 156 single households into the private rented sector.</p>

Council Questions – 25 July 2017 (In proper order)

Qn no	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
19	Cllr Caroline Stock	Could the Leader update members on the progress of Barnet's ground breaking Violence Against Women & Girls initiative?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>Preventing and responding to violence against women and girls remains a priority for Barnet's Safer Communities Partnership. As more victims and survivors come forward to report domestic abuse and violence, we need to ensure that they get the support they need and that our services reduce the impact on children and families who witness incidents.</p> <p>I am pleased that on 26th July the Safer Communities Partnership Board signed into effect the new 2017-2010 Barnet Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy. On the 21st of June the draft strategy was presented to the Community Leadership Committee who gave their approval of it.</p>

Council Questions – 25 July 2017 (In proper order)

Qn no	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
20	Cllr Phil Cohen	What is total amount of income received by the council so far for letting out commercial space in Barnet's libraries since the start of the latest library strategy, and what is the breakdown for each of its libraries?	Cllr Reuben Thompstone (Chairman of the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee)	No rental income for commercial space in libraries has yet been received because in most cases, work to complete reconfiguration of the commercial space libraries is still underway. Negotiations are well underway with a number of potential tenants however, and soft market testing has recently been completed prior to procurement of a business hub provider who will potentially take space in four libraries.
21	Cllr Caroline Stock	Could the Leader brief the Council on the status of the borough's new Automatic Number Plate Recognition cameras?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	There are operational traffic cameras and the council is also implementing a joint initiative with the police to increase the number of community safety ANPR cameras deployed across the borough. These cameras will help deter and prevent crime involving vehicles. The community safety ANPR cameras have been supplied to the police by the council. The police, working together with our street lighting service, are currently in the process of deploying the cameras across the borough. By 31/08/2017 all cameras will be operational.
22	Cllr Paul Edwards	What is the leader's understanding of the UK governments offer to EU citizens in relation to their local government voting rights, and what representations he will make to the UK government to ensure that EU citizen voting rights are retained?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	I look forward to a successful Brexit with all these difficulties ironed out.

Council Questions – 25 July 2017 (In proper order)

Qn no	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
23	Cllr Shimon Ryde	Will the Leader make a statement outlining the assistance offered and given by the borough to the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea in the aftermath of the Grenfell Tower disaster?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	LBB has provided considerable assistance to both the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea (RBKC) and the London Borough of Camden following the Grenfell Tower disaster and subsequent evacuation of the Chalcot estate. This has included extensive assistance from LBB's emergency planning team, housing officers, social workers, communications officers and rest centre volunteers. A request was also received for counsellors to support LFB staff, and the emergency planning team was able to use its networks to refer a number of non-council counsellors to the LFB.
24	Cllr Agnes Slocombe	According to information presented to the recent Performance & Contract Management Committee, the administration has spent £4.6m on agency workers in 2016/17 to fill senior manager roles within the Commissioning Group. These workers include heads of service for HR and Finance as a result of the CSG 'thin client' not working. Would the Leader advise the total spend on extra items paid for but not included in the core CSG contract cost since the contract was signed including contract variations, additional staff, so-called project spend (consultancy spend), and any other items?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>The council's clienting arrangements in respect of the CSG contract were presented to PCMC in May 2016 and do not represent a 'thin client' model. These can be found here: https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s32127/Report.pdf</p> <p>The spend due to contract variations and spend on projects is reported quarterly to PCMC and links to latest information is here:</p> <p>Contract change: https://barnet.gov.uk/dam/jcr:978a660e-bda3-4e3f-b8af-06038a4aa27d/CSG%20Performance%20Report%20Q4%202016-17%20Final.pdf</p> <p>Project spend: http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s40667/Appendix%20Hi%20-%20CSG%20benefit%20revised%20realisation%2031%2003%2017%20Q4%20FINAL%20FOR%20PUBLICATION.pdf</p>

Council Questions – 25 July 2017 (In proper order)

Qn no	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
25	Cllr Lisa Rutter	Will the Leader please explain to members why officers have failed to get action taken to deal with the outbreak of Japanese knot weed in Firs Avenue, N11?	Cllr Dean Cohen (Chairman of the Environment Committee)	A Greenspaces Supervisor has previously undertaken a site visit at this location. They have confirmed that the Japanese Knotweed is not located on public land. The Greenspaces Team will contact Councillor Rutter directly in order to advise on how best to progress this issue. If an owner has Japanese knotweed on their property, they must not allow it to spread into neighbouring properties, as it would be classed as a private nuisance
26	Cllr Barry Rawlings	Council Leaders in London have written to the Government to demand a halt to planned cuts to the Metropolitan Police. No Conservative leader has signed the letter. Are you content with the proposed cuts?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	Barnet needs more police. We pay more than any other borough towards the police budget yet have the lowest deployment per head. Mayor Khan needs to fix this for us.
27	Cllr Lisa Rutter	Will the Leader tell the Council what the arrangements are for periodic cleaning and ensuring the visibility of road signs and will he detail who is responsible for carrying out this work?	Cllr Dean Cohen (Chairman of the Environment Committee)	All of our Highway signs are cleaned on a cyclical basis. Re Highways clean the borough's non-illuminated signs Illuminated signs are cleaned by our street lighting contractor, Bougyes.
28	Cllr Nagus Narenthira	Street cleaning around Colindale station is appalling. How often is it cleaned?	Cllr Dean Cohen (Chairman of the Environment Committee)	The area around the tube station is cleansed daily by a crew who attend in the morning. The service will monitor the area and asses if there are any further cleansing, or enforcement action that may be required by both the Council, TFL or other parties

Council Questions – 25 July 2017 (In proper order)

Qn no	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
29	Cllr John Marshall	Will the Leader advise the Council of the progress made at those schools which were identified three years ago in the Priority Schools Building programme?	Cllr Reuben Thompstone (Chairman of the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee)	The Priority Schools Building programme (PSBP2) is being delivered directly by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (EFSA) in two Barnet schools: St Michael's and Cromer Road. The Council has been advised that these projects are progressing as planned. The third successful project, Pavilion Study Centre, is a complete rebuild of the facilities and therefore a more complex and costly project. This project is being delivered locally and is aiming to seek planning permission once the EFSA has given approval to the design and construction proposal that has been developed in partnership with the school.
30	Cllr Jim Tierney	How many more affordable housing payments have been received by the council as a result of the review mechanism since my last question to April Full Council, and what are the details (amount, development etc.,)?	Cllr Tom Davey (Chairman of the Housing Committee)	Since April 2017 one affordable housing payment has been received as a result of a review mechanism. £1,769,251.00 was received in May 2017 from the Land at Former Hendon Football Club development (Planning reference H/02747/14.

Council Questions – 25 July 2017 (In proper order)

Qn no	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
31	Cllr Brian Gordon	Have we any information as to how the revised proposals for the allocation of schools funding nationally will impact on schools in Barnet and our own educational budget?	Cllr Reuben Thompstone (Chairman of the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee)	No. The Government has allocated an extra £1.3 billion over the next two years and confirmed that no school will lose out.

Qn no	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response														
32	Cllr Jess Brayne	Following the fire in Golders Green how have residents been rehoused and compensated?	Cllr Tom Davey (Chairman of the Housing Committee)	<p>Re-housing efforts</p> <p>The fire in Golders Green affected 21 households who had been placed into temporary accommodation (TA) there by Barnet Council. Barnet Homes have since secured accommodation for 17 households. A full breakdown of the 21 households is provided below:</p> <table><tr><th>Housing situation (13.07.17)</th><th>No. households</th></tr><tr><td>Rehoused into alternative TA</td><td>15</td></tr><tr><td>Rehoused into PRS by let2barnet</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>Refused offer of alternative TA to make own arrangements</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>Staying with family</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>In prison</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>21</td></tr></table> <p>Compensation</p> <p>The agent London Online has confirmed that compensation for the 21 households is being followed up through the landlord's insurance investigation</p>	Housing situation (13.07.17)	No. households	Rehoused into alternative TA	15	Rehoused into PRS by let2barnet	2	Refused offer of alternative TA to make own arrangements	1	Staying with family	2	In prison	1	Total	21
Housing situation (13.07.17)	No. households																	
Rehoused into alternative TA	15																	
Rehoused into PRS by let2barnet	2																	
Refused offer of alternative TA to make own arrangements	1																	
Staying with family	2																	
In prison	1																	
Total	21																	

Council Questions – 25 July 2017 (In proper order)

Qn no	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
33	Cllr Brian Gordon	Before the general election, Secretary of State Sajid Javid announced “funding certainty” for Councils over the next four years. Councils would receive more than £200 billion in funding for deliverance of frontline services. Assuming this announcement still applies, will Barnet obtain an improved financial deal from this?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>In October 2016, Policy and Resources approved an efficiency plan for submission to DCLG to accept the multi-year settlement deal in order to secure a minimum funding guarantee. As part of this LBB has certainty of its RSG and transitional grant up to 2020. Since then we have also received notification of additional money for Adult Social Care through the improved Better Care Fund, the allocation for Barnet was £11.5m which will be used to meet adult social care need and reduce pressures on the NHS, including supporting more people to be discharged from hospital when they are ready and ensuring that the local social care provider market is supported.</p> <p>However, with the uncertainty around the pilot for business rate devolution, it is important that the council continues dialogue with central government to ensure pressures around demographic changes, schools funding and homelessness are continued to be recognised and supported.</p>
34	Cllr Gill Sargeant	Now the consultation is completed over the plans for the zebra crossing at Aerodrome Road when is the proposed date for the crossing to be installed?	Cllr Dean Cohen (Chairman of the Environment Committee)	<p>We can confirm that the zebra crossing on Aerodrome Road was installed on 14th June 2016.</p> <p>Currently there are no plans to install a further zebra crossing along this road.</p>

Council Questions – 25 July 2017 (In proper order)

Qn no	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
35	Cllr Brian Gordon	Will you accept the appreciation of many residents of my ward for the long-awaited installation of the new pedestrian crossing in Edgwarebury Lane South?	Cllr Dean Cohen (Chairman of the Environment Committee)	Yes.
36	Cllr Phil Cohen	Will the Leader take action to stop private developers buying up land at the back of other people's properties where there is no proper access in order to build expensive housing? Does he realise there have been at least two recent cases like this in East Barnet, much to the anger and opposition of many local residents?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	I think this is really difficult and residents should think twice about selling any shares in such land or access rights.
37	Cllr Gabriel Rozenberg	Does the Leader welcome the announcement by Volvo that all their new car models from 2019 onwards will be electric or hybrids, and could he update the Council on the development of electric charging infrastructure in the borough?	Cllr Dean Cohen (Chairman of the Environment Committee)	The Environment Team has noted with considerable interest the announcement made by Volvo last week that all their cars will be electric hybrid by 2019. This announcement demonstrates just how rapidly cars are changing and suggests that the Borough is right in its approach to pursue its strategy of installing electric vehicle charging points and establishing electric vehicle car clubs. We are currently making a £400,000 investment in electric vehicle charging points and detailed work to ascertain the best locations in which to install these is underway.

Council Questions – 25 July 2017 (In proper order)

Qn no	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
38	Cllr Paul Edwards	In the report to P&R on Brexit, concern is expressed about the recruitment of EU workers and students, which confirm recent reports that there has been reduction in NHS and social care job applications from suitably qualified workers from the EU. These concerns are also expressed in the comments by West London Business's and Middlesex University. Can the Leader explain what he proposes to do to ensure that Barnet projects a welcoming message to EU workers and students now and when we leave the EU?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	Barnet is always welcoming.

Council Questions – 25 July 2017 (In proper order)

Qn no	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
39	Cllr Hugh Rayner	Govia is rightly being challenged over its poor performance on the Thameslink and GNR lines. But an independent report by Network Rail director Chris Gibb concluded the RMT and Aslef were “the primary cause for the system integrity to fail” on Govia’s Southern line. Given the Labour Party’s links to the trade union movement, would the Leader agree to discuss the matter with the Leader of the Labour Group to ensure such industrial sabotage does not spread to the Govia lines used by Barnet commuters?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	Sabotage is always bad and I will always do what I can to help Barnet residents.
40	Cllr Barry Rawlings	The Queen's Speech did not mention local government funding. Does the Leader know whether 100% business rate retention is still going ahead?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	I understand there are timing difficulties for this project.

Council Questions – 25 July 2017 (In proper order)

Qn no	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
41	Cllr John Marshall	Could the Leader inform the Council whether the Cambridge Education contract has resulted in any improvements in the service offered?	Cllr Reuben Thompstone (Chairman of the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee)	Cambridge Education carried out reviews of all areas of the Education and Skills service in the first 100 working days after their strategic partnership with the council began in April 2016. They found that most services were already effective and well-regarded by schools. However, some aspects of statutory SEN service provision were performing less well, in particular the time being taken to complete assessments for Education, Health and Care Plans. As a result of the review, changes were introduced and there has been a substantial improvement in performance, with the number of assessments completed within 20 weeks rising from 30% in the summer term 2016 to over 90% in the spring term 2017.

Council Questions – 25 July 2017 (In proper order)

Qn no	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
42	Cllr Arjun Mittra	What steps are The Council taking to review the cases referred to MASH and to allocate appropriate resources to children whose circumstances have otherwise been de prioritised or matters not considered.	Cllr Reuben Thompstone (Chairman of the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee)	<p>The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) is a partnership of professionals from Police, Health, Children’s Social Care, Education, Probation, Substance Misuse and Domestic Violence who work together to share information to enable decisions to be made about the level of help children need.</p> <p>The MASH acts as a single front door for children in need of early help services and those that need statutory assessment of their needs to safeguard their welfare.</p> <p>Children who are not considered to require a statutory assessment of their needs are routinely passed to early help services for an assessment under the Common Assessment Framework (CAF). Early Help professionals alert the MASH if and when they consider the child’s circumstances to require a statutory assessment of need. It is our intention to improve the consistency of decision making within the MASH to ensure children receive the right level of help first time.</p> <p>Since June there has been a new Head of Service leading the MASH who has instigated multi-agency audits to test the quality of information sharing and consistency of decision making in relation to children’s needs.</p> <p>Daily MASH meetings have been introduced to ensure that information is gathered from partners swiftly in order to assist decision making and promote access to the right services first time.</p>

Council Questions – 25 July 2017 (In proper order)

Qn no	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
43	Cllr Val Duschinsky	In light of the national changes in reporting progress and attainment at primary school level, how do Barnet schools compare to national outcomes and to Barnet outcomes over the last three years in phonics according to the provisional results published by the Department for Education?	Cllr Reuben Thompstone (Chairman of the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee)	Between 2014 and 2016, the proportion of pupils meeting the expected standards in Year 1 phonics has risen each year, from 76% in 2014 to 81% in 2016. In 2014 and 2015 Barnet's results were above the national average; in 2016 they were in line with the national figures. Provisional results suggest Barnet's 2017 phonics result will be above national, with a 4 percentage point increase.
44	Cllr Barry Rawlings	The Brexit vote and the Government's refusal to grant full citizenship rights to EU nationals is having a negative effect on people living or working in Barnet. We have received a report showing the loss this is having in both Higher and Further Education. We are waiting for a report from local health services. Construction costs are rising a lot faster than inflation as skilled staff shortages increase. How much will this cost the council tax payers of Barnet through increased costs in regeneration, building schools, etc?	Cllr Reuben Thompstone (Chairman of the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee)	I was not aware of any proposed restrictions on EU workers.

Council Questions – 25 July 2017 (In proper order)

Qn no	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
45	Cllr Val Duschinsky	In light of the national changes in reporting progress and attainment at primary school level, how do Barnet schools compare to national outcomes and to Barnet outcomes over the last three years in reading according to the provisional results published by the Department for Education?	Cllr Reuben Thompstone (Chairman of the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee)	In 2016 Barnet reading results (proportions meeting the expected standard) were above the national average for both Key Stage 1 (77% compared to 74%) and Key Stage 2 (73% compared to 66%). Although the raw proportions meeting the new, harder, expected standards dropped between 2014 and 2016, this happened nationally too. Provisional results for 2017 suggest Barnet's reading results will remain above the national average for both Key Stages 1 and 2. In 2016, Barnet's reading progress score (between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2) was significantly above the national average, demonstrating that pupils make more progress from their individual starting points than similar children nationally.
46	Cllr Arjun Mittra	When was the decision taken to install banners saying that libraries are being "refurbished"?	Cllr Reuben Thompstone (Chairman of the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee)	The banners were ordered in May 2017.

Council Questions – 25 July 2017 (In proper order)

Qn no	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
47	Cllr Val Duschinsky	In light of the national changes in reporting progress and attainment at primary school level, how do Barnet schools compare to national outcomes and to Barnet outcomes over the last three years in maths according to the provisional results published by the Department for Education?	Cllr Reuben Thompstone (Chairman of the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee)	In 2016 Barnet maths results (proportions meeting the expected standard) were above the national average for both Key Stage 1 (74% compared to 73%) and Key Stage 2 (77% compared to 70%). Although the raw proportions meeting the new, harder, expected standards dropped between 2014 and 2016, this happened nationally too. Provisional results for 2017 suggest Barnet's maths results will remain above the national average for both Key Stages 1 and 2. In 2016, Barnet's maths progress score (between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2) was significantly above the national average, demonstrating that pupils make more progress from their individual starting points than similar children nationally.
48	Cllr Nagus Narenthira	Can the leader give a definite date as to when the consultation on the Colindale CPZ begin? We had many dates given to us in the past but nothing has happened yet.	Cllr Dean Cohen (Chairman of the Environment Committee)	Officers are preparing for consultation to begin on the 25th September 2017. Has the councillor conducted any private consultation?
49	Cllr Val Duschinsky	In light of the national changes in reporting progress and attainment at primary school level, how do Barnet schools compare to national outcomes and to Barnet outcomes over the last three years in science according to the provisional results published by the Department for Education?	Cllr Reuben Thompstone (Chairman of the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee)	In 2016 Barnet science results (proportions meeting the expected standard) were above the national average for both Key Stage 1 (83% compared to 82%) and Key Stage 2 (83% compared to 81%). Although the raw proportions meeting the new, harder, expected standards dropped between 2014 and 2016, this happened nationally too. Provisional results for 2017 suggest Barnet's science results will remain above the national average for both Key Stages 1 and 2. There are no national progress scores for Science at Key Stage 2.

Council Questions – 25 July 2017 (In proper order)

Qn no	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
50	Cllr Jess Brayne	What is the Council's approach to equality and diversity? In particular ensuring residents with protected characteristics are able to access all council services with ease and do not experience discrimination.	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>This is really important to all councillors. Information on the Council's approach to equalities and diversity for Residents and staff can be found on the equality pages on our website at <u>www.barnet.gov.uk/equality-and-diversity</u>.</p> <p>The Council's Equality policy was refreshed in 2014 and is reviewed annually. The council's approach is light touch and mainstreamed into all council workstreams to demonstrate compliance with 2010 Equalities Act and Public Sector Equalities Duties. It reflects the need of additional groups as discussed at the first meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee on June 10 2014. Barnet therefore assess the impact of proposals on the 9 protected characteristics, (Age, disability, gender, gender reassignment, marriage/civil partnership, maternity and pregnancy, race,/ethnicity, religion and belief and sexual orientation) and the impact on other groups who may be considered disadvantaged and/or vulnerable or who may experience additional disadvantage, such as people with learning disabilities, people with mental health issues, carers (including young carers), people on low income, lone parents, people from areas of deprivation and the unemployed.</p> <p>The Council has set a Strategic Equalities Objective (SEO) that "citizens will be treated equally, with understanding and respect, and will have equal access to quality services which provide value to the tax payer". This is mainstreamed into all actions the Council takes to deliver the Corporate Plan 2016 -2020. In order to transparently monitor performance against the SEO, an Annual Equalities Report is publicly reported to Policy and Resources Committee.</p>

Council Questions – 25 July 2017 (In proper order)

Qn no	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
51	Cllr Val Duschinsky	In light of the national changes in reporting progress and attainment at primary school level, how do Barnet schools compare to national outcomes and to Barnet outcomes over the last three years in average attainment according to the provisional results published by the Department for Education?	Cllr Reuben Thompstone (Chairman of the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee)	<p>In 2016 Barnet Reading, Writing and Maths combined results (proportions meeting the expected standard) were above the national average for Key Stage 1 (63% compared to 60%) and Key Stage 2 (59% compared to 54%). Although the raw proportions meeting the new, harder, expected standards dropped between 2014 and 2016, this happened nationally too.</p> <p>Provisional results for 2017 suggest Barnet's Reading, Writing and Maths combined results will remain above the national average for both Key Stages 1 and 2.</p> <p>There are no national progress scores for Reading, Writing and Maths combined results at Key Stage 2.</p>
52	Cllr Gill Sargeant	The new SPD for Grahame Park assumes that organisations such as Barnet college and the new offices will have spare accommodation for community groups. Is the Council aware that this may not be sufficient?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>The Grahame Park SPD identifies the main replacement provision for community facilities as the community hub with additional space available on the adjoining Diocese of London site. An outline application for the hub has been submitted to planning and the Council and Genesis are currently consulting with user groups including the Colindale Community Trust to establish space requirements and internal arrangements for the building. This is a large space comprising around 400m² over 4 floors. There will be additionally some new retail facilities in plot 10. Further, the Council has created 1000m² of space in the new college building comprising 500m² each for the replacement library and BCIL facilities. There may be additional community space available within the new office but this has yet to be agreed.</p>

Council Questions – 25 July 2017 (In proper order)

Qn no	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
53	Cllr Wendy Prentice	Could the Leader account for the failure of officers to have the Hendon Town Hall lift repaired, some two months after it broke? This already inconvenienced a number of disabled people at Annual Council, yet we hear it will now take a further two months because the wrong sized door was ordered.	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	The lift doors are now repaired after a considerable and unacceptable delay.
54	Cllr Phil Cohen	Will the Leader condemn Communities Secretary Sajid Javid's attack on local government following the Grenfell Tower fire, in which he said 'local government is facing a looming crisis of trust.' Isn't this a ridiculous lumping together of the failures of one council with everyone else, including Barnet, and this from a Government which has slashed funding to local authorities by almost half since 2010?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	This was an awful fire and our hearts go out to the victims and their families. I am sure the Secretary of State was responding after being deeply affected by such a dreadful tragedy; after his visit he was quoted as saying: "this has shaken my comprehension of office."

Council Questions – 25 July 2017 (In proper order)

Qn no	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
55	Cllr Brian Gordon	Could the Leader inform Council what the Metropolitan Police's intentions are regarding the borough commander, and the command unit for policing in the borough?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>The MPS wishes to move to a model where one chief superintendent will run two or three boroughs. For Barnet the provisional grouping for Barnet is Barnet, Brent and Harrow. The provisional chief superintendent appointee for this group is Simon Rose. Under the proposed new model there will be five superintendents not the current one of two for each Borough. They will have themed responsibility across the three Boroughs. The people to occupy these posts have not yet been decided, provisionally or otherwise.</p> <p>The decision whether or not this will happen will be made by Mayor Khan probably after September when the pilots / pathfinder sites of Camden and Islington and Havering, Redbridge and Barking and Dagenham are evaluated. The time line for this may slip.</p>
56	Cllr Barry Rawlings	Does the Leader agree public sector workers, including those who work for Barnet deserve more than 1% pay rise after years of pay restraint?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	The budget situation remains extremely tight.
57	Cllr Caroline Stock	Would the Leader explain the implications of the Article Four restrictions on permitted development from business to residential use?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	Officers are currently finalising evidence to present to Planning Committee, for the Committee to consider making an Article 4 Direction to restrict conversion of office space to residential without planning permission. This will identify those clusters of business space across the Borough that are most in need of protection. The council will consider such a direction. A short term fix delivered by government has become long term and needs addressing.

Council Questions – 25 July 2017 (In proper order)

Qn no	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
58	Cllr Arjun Mittra	What progress in being made on making Leslie and Leopold Roads one-way and 20mph zones?	Cllr Dean Cohen (Chairman of the Environment Committee)	A report will be presented to the Finchley & Golders Green Area Committee on the 2nd August for consideration.
59	Cllr Reuben Thompstone	Could the Leader explain to Council what role he and our Conservative MPs in Barnet played in securing extra cash for the National Funding Formula so that no school loses out?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	There has been much private lobbying.
60	Cllr Gill Sargeant	Where will the additional 100 spaces for the Colindale Council offices be located?	Cllr Daniel Thomas (Chairman of the Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee)	The additional spaces will be located within a 10min walking distance. Options are being finalised.

Council Questions – 25 July 2017 (In proper order)

Qn no	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
61	Cllr Graham Old	How will Barnet benefit from the £300 million discretionary relief fund for business rates, and what plans are in place to implement this?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	The £300m discretionary relief fund has been established for four years to be awarded to businesses facing the steepest increases in their business rate bills as a result of the revaluation. The LB Barnet share of the £300m is £2.373m. Policy and Resources in June 2017 agreed a scheme for consultation. This is out to consultation now and details can be found here: http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s40450/Appendix%201%20-%20Draft%20Revaluation%20Support%20scheme%20-%20discretionary%20business%20rate%20relief.pdf
62	Cllr Phil Cohen	Does the Leader agree that the controversial Sustainability and Transformation (STP) plans for the NHS should be halted while proper consultation takes place with local patients and residents? Is he aware that a senior official of the North Central London STP told the council's Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee that a longer timescale was needed, since the plans could not be implemented without further cuts?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	The council has made its position clear on this on several occasions. We have debated this at Policy and Resources Committee, and at full council. I, with the leader of the opposition, have written to NHS England setting out the need for the full involvement of democratically elected members and for full public consultation. I am aware of the recent discussion at the Joint HOSC. I understand that the STP Convenor has given a written assurance to the chairs of Healthwatch in each of the five boroughs in the north London STP that consultation will continue.

Council Questions – 25 July 2017 (In proper order)

Qn no	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
63	Cllr Hugh Rayner	Would the Leader like to congratulate the efforts of everyone involved in lobbying TfL to promise step-free access at Mill Hill Broadway Underground station, including our Conservative Mill Hill councillors?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	Yes.
64	Cllr Arjun Mittra	How many Barnet Homes blocks have one fire escape similar to Grenfell Tower? What are your plans to remediate this?	Cllr Tom Davey (Chairman of the Housing Committee)	Barnet Homes manage seven blocks which contain 6 or more floors and have a single stairwell. The provision of a single staircase within a tower block complies with the building regulations and is based upon the principles of the stairwell being a protected shaft and the block operating a stay put policy. The Council's Housing Committee has committed to investing an initial £10 million in fire safety improvement measures in response to the Grenfell Tower fire. Barnet Homes will carry out a review of fire safety measures in the council's 24 high rise blocks to ensure they all meet best practice. This will include consideration of sprinkler systems, ventilation systems and improved fire and smoke alarm systems. Each block will be individually assessed, and recommendations made.
65	Cllr David Longstaff	Would the Leader agree that Sadiq Khan should come clean about the fact he has been planning to close half London's police stations for six months?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	Yes.

Council Questions – 25 July 2017 (In proper order)

Qn no	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
66	Cllr Gill Sargeant	What are the plans to improve the clearing up of fly tipping in Colindale?	Cllr Dean Cohen (Chairman of the Environment Committee)	Colindale is subject to a daily scheduled visit to remove fly-tips from public land. In addition to this work as part of the Keep Barnet Clean campaign has seen successful enforcement work in the area to combat fly-tipping, and raise awareness of the implications of flytipping. Work is also being carried out across the Borough to review how CCTV can be utilised to reduce flytipping in key hotspots. Within Colindale there is a mix of ownership and although the Council are responsible for clearing fly tipping on public land, some large areas of land, however, are under the management of Barnet Homes and other housing management organisations. If issues of fly tipping are reports in these areas then our partner organisations are notified.
67	Cllr John Marshall	Does the Leader agree with Ofsted inspectors that senior officers in Children's Services "demonstrate a sound understanding of the areas for development and a commitment to improving services for children and families in Barnet" and does he have confidence in their ability to continue to make progress in upcoming inspections?	Cllr Reuben Thompstone (Chairman of the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee)	Yes, and I do. The report does recognise and support this.

Council Questions – 25 July 2017 (In proper order)

Qn no	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
68	Cllr Arjun Mittra	What reassurance can the council give to schools that referrals to the MASH will be dealt with appropriately with sufficient priority and resources allocated when concerns are raised? What steps will they be taking to re-examine decisions taken over recent months/years?	Cllr Reuben Thompstone (Chairman of the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee)	<p>The MASH acts as a single front door for children in need of early help services and those that need statutory assessment of their needs to safeguard their welfare.</p> <p>Children who are not considered to require a statutory assessment of their needs are routinely passed to early help services for an assessment under the Common Assessment Framework (CAF). Early Help professionals alert the MASH if and when they consider the child's circumstances to require a statutory assessment of need. It is our intention to improve the consistency of decision making within the MASH to ensure children receive the right level of help first time.</p> <p>Since June there has been a new Head of Service leading the MASH who has instigated multi-agency audits to test the quality of information sharing and consistency of decision making in relation to children's needs.</p> <p>Daily MASH meetings have been introduced to ensure that information is gathered from partners swiftly in order to assist decision making and promote access to the right services first time.</p> <p>Steps to re-examine previous decisions taken in the MASH will not be necessary as children who were in need of services will have been allocated to Early Help so that a professional can assess and monitor progress. Early Help professionals will refer children back to MASH if the child and family require a statutory assessment of their needs.</p>

Council Questions – 25 July 2017 (In proper order)

Qn no	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
69	Cllr Hugh Rayner	Camden had to evacuate some of its high rise blocks in the middle of the night - citing tenant safety. Barnet did not. Would the leader like to suggest what Barnet are doing right and possibly suggest what Camden are doing wrong?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	Camden were found wanting and I understand that there were numerous problems that have had to be addressed before reoccupation. Barnet Homes have a strong track record of managing fire safety through a robust programme of fire risk assessments and joint working with the London Fire Brigade. Further details on this are contained within the Housing Committee Report of the 26th June 2017 "Grenfell Tower Fire response".
70	Cllr Phil Cohen	Will the Leader join the call for a public inquiry into the running of Finchley Memorial Hospital, which according to a project manager for Barnet's Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is costing the taxpayer £1.4 million a year to subsidise the empty, unused space in the hospital?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	The CCG has been working to find tenants for the space currently unoccupied and has been in discussion with CHP on the rental costs. The new chief operating officer and finance director of Barnet CCG, who both started in June, have confirmed that getting FMH fully occupied is top priority. The Health Service just has to get its act together.

Qn no	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
71	Cllr Sury Khatri	<p>The rise in house prices has meant many more people are renting, but this increase in rental demand has also seen an increase in the ill-treatment of tenants by some landlords. Brent Council has recently announced that all landlords would be required to licence their properties if the Government agrees to the rule and a decision is expected by September. Brent Council are doing this on the basis of reducing anti-social behaviour, deprivation and poor housing conditions to increase tenants' standard of living. Should Barnet Council follow this initiative? I strongly urge the Leader and Barnet Council to introduce this rule change in Barnet ASAP and which has become now more pressing.</p>	Cllr Tom Davey (Chairman of the Housing Committee)	<p>The scheme referred to is a Selective Licensing Scheme</p> <p>In 2015-16 Barnet undertook an extensive piece of work to consider the extension of the governments Mandatory Licensing Scheme for houses in multiple occupation (HMOs). The current scheme requires the licensing of larger HMOs. The work included borough wide consultation and collation of multiple data sets relating to for example antisocial behaviour and property conditions. Consideration was given to area based additional HMO Licensing, borough wide additional HMO licensing and selective licensing.</p> <p>Based on the data and consultation exercise an Additional HMO Licensing Scheme was introduced that expands the existing scheme to cover smaller HMOs of 4 people or more (within set criteria)</p> <p>https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s29179/Additional%20Licensing%20Scheme%20for%20Houses%20in%20Multiple%20Occupation.pdf</p> <p>This was introduced on 5th July 2016.</p> <p>If there is evidence of a problem this will have to be looked at again.</p>

Qn no	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
72	Cllr Arjun Mittra	The MASH have a RAG rating system for referrals. How many people are in each category and how many referrals will be reviewed as a result of the recent OFSTED inspection?	Cllr Reuben Thompstone (Chairman of the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee)	<p>The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) is a partnership of professionals from Police, Health, Children's Social Care, Education, Probation, Substance Misuse and Domestic Violence who work together to share information to enable decisions to be made about the level of help children need. The MASH acts as a single front door for children in need of early help services and those that need statutory assessment of their needs to safeguard their welfare.</p> <p>Children who are not considered to require a statutory assessment of their needs are routinely passed to early help services for an assessment under the Common Assessment Framework (CAF). Early Help professionals alert the MASH if and when they consider the child's circumstances to require a statutory assessment of need. It is our intention to improve the consistency of decision making within the MASH to ensure children receive the right level of help first time.</p> <p>Since June there has been a new Head of Service leading the MASH who has instigated multi-agency audits to test the quality of information sharing and consistency of decision making in relation to children's needs. Daily MASH meetings have been introduced to ensure that information is gathered from partners swiftly in order to assist decision making and promote access to the right services first time.</p> <p>Contacts to the MASH that are RAG rated as Red are passed directly to Children's Social Care; this equates to approximately 22.5% of all contacts to the MASH (15,146 contacts came into the MASH in 2016/16, 3403 were Referred to CSC) and includes referrals that were RAG rated Amber</p> <p>Approximately 13% of contacts to the MASH are requests for information from other services including CAFCASS and Probation Services.</p> <p>Contacts to the MASH that are RAG rated as Amber are passed to the Multi-Agency partnership for information gathering which is used to make a determination about the level of need and risk that may be present in the family and allocate services to assess and address this. A small number of Amber RAG rated contacts will subsequently result in a referral to Children's Social Care when further information has been obtained, some will be passed to Early Help services for targeted support.</p> <p>Green RAG rated contacts can be passed directly to Early Help or are notifications of specific incidents.</p>

Council Questions – 25 July 2017 (In proper order)

Qn no	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
73	Cllr Sury Khatri	<p>Would the Leader inform the Council whether Barnet Council / Barnet Homes entered into a contract with Lakeside and/or Polytek to carry out any works on the Tower Blocks and Council Homes in Barnet?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If so what was the contract value and for over what period this Company has been providing services to Barnet Council? <p>Would the Leader assure the many residents and tenants in tower blocks and other Council homes that if any such works were carried out by these companies the Council will arrange immediate inspection of the works that were carried out and, if need be, then what remedial action will be taken?"</p>	Cllr Tom Davey (Chairman of the Housing Committee)	Barnet Homes have had no contractual relationship with Lakehouse. In relation to Polytek Building Services Ltd, this company was used very briefly in 2014 as part of the domestic electrical rewire element of the electrical rising mains programme sub-contracting to our main contractor, Morgan Sindall Property Services. Part of the selection process for the sub-contractors on this programme was to give them a pilot of between 5 and 10 properties to complete domestic rewire within dwellings and Barnet Homes would then quality assess the work and ensure any issues were addressed. Following the pilot stage involving Polytek Building Services Ltd, there was no further involvement between them and Barnet Homes.
74	Cllr Arjun Mittra	How many of the Barnet Homes blocks have sprinklers systems and what are your plans to install them in the ones that don't?	Cllr Tom Davey (Chairman of the Housing Committee)	No Barnet Homes blocks have sprinkler systems, as current fire safety standards are met with the current fire safety measures in place. However, the Housing Committee has committed to investing an initial £10 million in fire safety enhancement measures in response to the Grenfell Tower fire. Barnet Homes will carry out a review of fire safety measures in the council's 24 high-rise blocks to ensure they all meet best practice. This will include consideration of sprinkler systems, ventilation systems and improved fire and smoke alarm systems. Each block will be individually assessed, and recommendations made. If any are needed, they will be installed.

Council Questions – 25 July 2017 (In proper order)

Qn no	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
75	Cllr Hugh Rayner	High rise' is defined as 6+ stories. Could the Leader confirm health and safety inspections have been carried out on all high rise buildings, including new regeneration buildings?	Cllr Tom Davey (Chairman of the Housing Committee)	<p>All 24 tower blocks managed by Barnet Homes have Fire Risk Assessments (FRA's) completed on an annual cycle. Additionally all tower blocks have been re-inspected and assessed since the tragic fire at Grenfell Tower. The FRA system has been developed in conjunction with independent fire safety experts and the London Fire Brigade, whom Barnet Homes continue to work with closely in respect of the fire safety of their residents.</p> <p>The Council commissioned Re to make contact with housing associations across the borough and with developers involved in delivering our regeneration schemes to ascertain whether panels similar to those at Grenfell Tower had been used and, if so, what action was being taken. All the housing associations and developers involved have confirmed that they have carried out safety check and FRAs. The current information is that these panels have not been widely used on our regeneration schemes. Risk assessments and remedial actions are being taken on the small number of blocks where panels have been discovered. In most cases these cover small decorative areas rather than whole buildings. Affected residents have all been contacted directly by their landlords.</p>

Qn no	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
76	Cllr Arjun Mittra	How did Barnet respond to Eric Pickles apparent communication following the Lakanal House fire in 2013, when the inquest recommended sprinkler systems in Tower Blocks over a certain height?	Cllr Tom Davey (Chairman of the Housing Committee)	<p>Eric Pickles wrote to the Coroner's office in May 2013 in response to the outcome of the inquest into the fire at Lakanal House in Southwark. This included a reference to communication that DCLG officials had sent to stock owning Local Authorities and Registered Providers in April 2013 bringing their attention to another Coroner's report into a fire at Shirley Towers in Southampton, which included a recommendation that Social Housing Providers should be encouraged to consider the retro-fitting of sprinklers in all existing high rise buildings in excess of 30 metres in height, particularly those identified by Fire and Rescue Services as having complex designs that make fire-fighting more hazardous and/or difficult in line with current legislation for all newly built high rise buildings in excess of 30 metres.</p> <p>In response to the Coroner's reports, Barnet Homes reviewed their fire safety policy and risk assessment regime in consultation with fire experts and the London Fire Brigade, and developed a comprehensive fire safety action plan covering key issues including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of fire suppression systems such as sprinklers and water mist • Installation of Property Information Boxes in high risk properties • Improved support for cabling with similar fire resistance to cabling itself • Demonstration of fire safety features to tenants • Improved communication on fire safety with residents • Staff training • Fitting of working smoke detectors in all flats • Emergency lighting covering common escape routes • Ensuring leaseholder compliance with fire door requirements

Council Questions – 25 July 2017 (In proper order)

Qn no	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
				<p>Specifically on the issue of sprinklers identified by the Coroners , Barnet Homes manage 11 blocks in excess of 10 floors (approximately 30 meters), and following the April 2013 letter from the CLG the ALMO consulted with the London Fire Brigade (LFB) . It was agreed with the fire service that it was not necessary to install sprinkler systems in these properties; this approach has been reviewed regularly as part of annual fire risk assessments since 2013. In addition Barnet Homes have recently secured LFB funding for three mobile fire suppression systems that will be used in the event of the risk assessments identifying a need for these.</p> <p>As agreed at Housing Committee on 26th June, Barnet Homes have now been instructed to carry out a fire safety review of all of high rise council blocks with the London Fire Brigade and in consultation with residents to identify a programme of works required to ensure best practice in relation to fire safety, including consideration of sprinkler systems, improved fire and smoke alarm systems and other measures. This programme will be reported back to the Housing Committee in October 2017, but in the meantime it has been agree that authority is delegated to the Chairman of the Housing Committee and Deputy Chief executive to approve a programme of up to £10 million.</p>
77	Cllr Rohit Grover	Does the Council have data on how many residential properties within the borough are currently undergoing building works and are uninhabitable?	Cllr Tom Davey (Chairman of the Housing Committee)	Uninhabitable buildings are now normally designated as empty properties. The total number of empty properties (for all reasons) as on the 13th July 2017 was 1,721.

Council Questions – 25 July 2017 (In proper order)

Qn no	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
78	Cllr Arjun Mittra	What was Barnet's response to the government since the Grenfell Tower tragedy and any risk assessment on a similar event happening in Barnet?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	The Council has undertaken a lot of safety work, as reported to Committee. The borough has approved mutual help to Kensington & Chelsea and Camden and has been in communication with Government.
79	Cllr Rohit Grover	When undertaking resident consultations to what extent do we make it clear on the outside of envelopes that the contents relate to consultations being carried out by Barnet Council?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>Paper copies of consultations have the name of the consultation typed on bottom left hand corner of the outside envelope. For example 'Libraries Consultation'.</p> <p>The only exception to this is Traffic and Design and they print on the outside of all their consultation envelopes:</p> <p>To the occupier</p> <p>Do not throw away</p> <p>Important consultation information enclosed</p>
80	Cllr Arjun Mittra	Does the council agree with me that it is the right decision for Christ College to become co-ed, rather than a grammar school?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	It is for the school to decide. I like grammar schools.

Council Questions – 25 July 2017 (In proper order)

Qn no	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
81	Cllr Arjun Mittra	In light of the recent tragic and fatal accident on Falloden Way, will safety measures be reviewed there?	Cllr Helena Hart (Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board)	Members should note that Falloden Way falls under the remit of Transport for London (TfL). Officers have arranged a meeting with TfL and Ward Councillors for 13th July to discuss safety concerns.
82	Cllr Arjun Mittra	How much money has the council spent on anti-shisha smoking campaigns?	Cllr Helena Hart (Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board)	The Shisha communications cost £19,887. The campaign reached 80% of residents aged 13 – 24 and saw a drop in the number of people smoking. 600 young people directly engaged with the campaign (five times the industry average). In May 2017 (two months after the end of the campaign), 33% of residents recognised and remembered the campaign.
83	Cllr Arjun Mittra	What is the point of spending money on anti-shisha smoking campaigns when the council is doing nothing to stop the proliferation of new shisha venues? There are now three in East Finchley alone.	Strategic Director of Adults, Communities and Health	<p>A Task and Finish group has been established, with representation from Environmental Health, Trading Standards, Planning, Community Safety and Public Health to coordinate and focus all activities on tackling the growing use of shisha in Barnet. However, the powers of enforcement which directly apply to shisha are limited and so the group is addressing the overall compliance of businesses, utilising a partnership approach that can enforce all available legislative powers. This has included smoke free legislation & environmental health enforcement, visits to establishments and health promotion advice to shisha establishments. Other London boroughs have used similar approaches successfully.</p> <p>As part of the Local Plan Review we anticipate giving public health issues – including shisha – much greater profile. Where there is robust evidence to justify it we should be able to strengthen policy with regard to shisha bars.</p>

Council Questions – 25 July 2017 (In proper order)

Qn no	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
84	Cllr Arjun Mittra	Doesn't London Pride remind us that LGBT people make a major contribution to life in Barnet, and that this should be celebrated?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	Indeed.
85	Cllr Arjun Mittra	How many marriage ceremonies have been performed at Hendon Town Hall? How many were for LGBT couples? Does the council actively promote Hendon Town Hall as a venue for marriages?	Assistant Chief Executive / Head of Customer Services and Strategy	Total of 244 marriages 7 Via the Council's website and via a wedding brochure
86	Cllr Arjun Mittra	August 2017 marks the 70th anniversary of Indian and Pakistani independence. Will the Leader of the Council join me in celebrating those countries' freedom, and applaud the contribution to Barnet of people from Indian and Pakistani backgrounds?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	Absolutely.
87	Cllr Arjun Mittra	How many CCTV cameras have been inoperable for any amount of time in the last year? When a CCTV camera is known to not be working, how quickly are they repaired	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<u>Moving Traffic Contravention Cameras (MTC)</u> Twenty MTC faults have been logged and nineteen have been resolved to date. Where the fault is related to camera or software failure there is a contractual fix time of eight hours. <u>Bus Lane Cameras</u> Cameras at two bus lane sites have had periods out of service in the last twelve months. Issues with these cameras are normally resolved within seven days. <u>Public Spaces CCTV cameras</u> In the last twelve months there have been eighty seven instances when a camera has been inoperable. In these instances the average duration between the fault being identified and the camera being repaired has been eight days.

Council Questions – 25 July 2017 (In proper order)

Qn no	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
88	Cllr Arjun Mittra	How many criminals have been convicted with the aid of evidence from Barnet CCTV cameras in the last year?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>In total during the last 12 months the Barnet public spaces CCTV cameras have contributed to the arrest of 374 individuals. The cameras have contributed to these arrests in a number of ways: spotting an incident happening live and alerting the police; responding to a live incident to which they have been alerted to by the police; as well as providing retrospective footage of incidents to assist the police identify and prosecute perpetrators. With regards to the retrospective footage Barnet CCTV has, in the last 12 months, provided the police with 230 evidential packs to support police investigations</p> <p>There have also been many incidents where the CCTV control room have identified an incident and provided live information to the police which has been instrumental in leading to the arrest of suspect. During the last 12 months this kind of intervention has resulted in arrests for a wide range of offences, including: 9 burglaries, 8 assaults, 5 firearms related offences. Other offences include Offensive weapon, Assault, robbery, Drugs, theft, sexual offences, drink driving, criminal damage and going equipped to steal.</p> <p>[[Note: While the question has asked for 'conviction' information the answer has used 'arrest' information. This is because while the arrest data is readily available to cross reference with the CCTV data, that is not the case for the conviction data.</p>

Council Questions – 25 July 2017 (In proper order)

Qn no	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response																				
89	Cllr Barry Rawlings	Why were over half of the appeals against penalty charge notices issued by Barnet in 2016/17 either allowed or not contested?	Cllr Dean Cohen (Chairman of the Environment Committee)	<p>We have recently reviewed our internal processes and have contested more cases with an officer present. As a result of our efforts, the performance has improved as shown below</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th><th>Allowed (exc dnc)</th><th>Refused</th><th>% allowed</th><th>% refused</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2014/15</td><td>1560</td><td>1501</td><td>51</td><td>49</td></tr> <tr> <td>2015/16</td><td>592</td><td>755</td><td>44</td><td>56</td></tr> <tr> <td>2016/17</td><td>874</td><td>1141</td><td>43</td><td>57</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>We intend to improve further, but it also needs to be recognised that occasionally, in some cases, new evidence comes to light that changes our view and results in an appeal being allowed.</p>	Year	Allowed (exc dnc)	Refused	% allowed	% refused	2014/15	1560	1501	51	49	2015/16	592	755	44	56	2016/17	874	1141	43	57
Year	Allowed (exc dnc)	Refused	% allowed	% refused																				
2014/15	1560	1501	51	49																				
2015/16	592	755	44	56																				
2016/17	874	1141	43	57																				

Council Questions – 25 July 2017 (In proper order)

Qn no	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
90	Cllr Barry Rawlings	How many penalty charges have been issued to businesses for not having a commercial waste contract in place in 2016/17 and to date in 2017/18? What warnings are businesses given before penalty charges are issued?	Cllr Dean Cohen (Chairman of the Environment Committee)	<p>273 Commercial Waste Duty of Care Fixed Penalty Notices were issued to businesses in 2016/17.</p> <p>176 Commercial Waste Duty of Care Fixed Penalty Notices have been issued to businesses in 2017/18 to date.(information correct until the end of June 2017).</p> <p>Environmental Enforcement Officers visit businesses across the borough to check that their legally required commercial waste duty of care documentation is in place.</p> <p>If the business cannot provide the documentation on the day of the visit, they are issued with a duty of care notice by the Environmental Enforcement Officer. This duty of care notice requires the business to provide the documentation to the third party supplier (NSL) within 7 days.</p> <p>If the legally required commercial waste duty of care documentation is not provided within this time frame, the business is then issued with a Commercial Waste Duty of Care Fixed Penalty Notice.</p>
91	Cllr Barry Rawlings	Which roads have had to be resurfaced as a result of the work not being done to the right standard in the first place? How many such roads were there in 2016/17 and to date in 2017/18?	Cllr Dean Cohen (Chairman of the Environment Committee)	<p>In 2016/17 the following roads were resurfaced as a result of work not being done to the right standards:</p> <p>Oaklands Road N20 Abbotts Gardens</p> <p>In 2017/18 there have been no roads resurfaced.</p>

Council Questions – 25 July 2017 (In proper order)

Qn no	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
92	Cllr Barry Rawlings	Work to renew the footway in Torrington Park started in 2012 and is not due to be completed until 2020. Is this a Barnet record and why is this work taking almost as long as it takes to paint the Forth Rail Bridge in Scotland?	Cllr Dean Cohen (Chairman of the Environment Committee)	<p>In 2012 footway resurfacing was completed along Torrington Park from Friern Barnet Road up to 113 Torrington Park and opposite.</p> <p>Currently works are underway between Ashurst Road and Glenhurst Road to relay the footway as part of the Network Recovery Plan.</p> <p>Currently there are no plans to resurface any further sections of Torrington Park within the 3 year rolling programme</p>
93	Cllr Alan Schneiderman	What progress has been made on an Arts and Culture Strategy for Barnet since the Council motion earlier this year?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>An emerging partnership is being developed with Middlesex University and artsdepot to help work with the wide range of partner organisations in the borough that offer arts and cultural opportunities. A workshop, co-hosted by the council, the University and artsdepot was held at Middlesex University on the 6th July, where a number of key organisations came together to explore opportunities for the further development of arts and culture to inform the development of the strategy. A further session is being arranged for September/October.</p>

Council Questions – 25 July 2017 (In proper order)

Qn no	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
94	Cllr Dr Devra Kay	<p>Fire doors on West Hendon estate. Written questions about fire safety regarding both new build and existing blocks on the West Hendon estate were put to Barnet Homes by West Hendon resident partnership board members of which I am a member. The following written answer to whether there are fire doors within the [existing] properties is: "The flat front door to each property should be a fire door. Can the Leader please assure me that all front doors are in fact fire doors and if this is not the case what measures will be taken to ensure that all front doors are in line with the Council's own fire safety regulations.</p>	Cllr Tom Davey (Chairman of the Housing Committee)	<p>All the flat doors at West Hendon are deemed as 30 minute fire resisting doors.</p> <p>Whilst there are a number of different blocks on the West Hendon estate with various risk ratings assigned to them, the last Fire Risk Assessment of the blocks completed by our independent fire safety experts has recommended that upgrade works to further improve the fire resisting properties of the front doors be placed on a fire safety programme which Barnet Homes have done.</p> <p>The Housing Committee has committed to investing an initial £10 million in fire safety enhancement measures in response to the Grenfell Tower fire. Barnet Homes will carry out a review of fire safety measures in the council's 24 high-rise blocks to ensure they all meet best practice. This will include consideration of sprinkler systems, ventilation systems and improved fire and smoke alarm systems. Each block will be individually assessed, and recommendations made. As part of this work Barnet Homes will consider how the existing fire safety programme will complement the enhancement measures programme.</p>

Council Questions – 25 July 2017 (In proper order)

Qn no	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
95	Cllr Dr Devra Kay	<p>Fire drills/mock evacuations on West Hendon Estate. The partnership board has been informed that there are no communal alarms and no fire drills in existing Barnet Homes properties some of which are not due to be demolished for several years. "And if there were communal alarms fire drills would not be carried out "as this goes against the advice of the fire brigade". Would the Leader please tell me how residents are informed of recommended procedure such as the advised circumstances in which they should either remain in or exit their flats so they know how to proceed in the case of fire including location of assembly points and whether such communication with residents will be stepped up.</p>	Cllr Tom Davey (Chairman of the Housing Committee)	<p>Fire action notices are displayed on notice boards within each Barnet Homes block stating the evacuation plan in line with Fire Risk Assessment and LFB recommendations. Barnet Homes have written to each resident reminding them of the fire action instructions and what they should do in the event of a fire in their flat or block. Barnet Homes have also updated their website to reflect the fire action instructions which includes a link to the LFB instructions on what to do in the event of a fire.</p> <p>The Council's Housing Committee has committed to investing an initial £10 million in fire safety improvement measures in response to the Grenfell Tower fire. Barnet Homes will carry out a review of fire safety measures in the council's 24 high rise blocks to ensure they all meet best practice. This will include consideration of sprinkler systems, ventilation systems and improved fire and smoke alarm systems. Each block will be individually assessed, and recommendations made. As part of this work, Barnet Homes will also be reviewing the fire action instructions for these blocks and how instructions are communicated to residents.</p>

Council Questions – 25 July 2017 (In proper order)

Qn no	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
96	Cllr Dr Devra Kay	In the new private ownership high rise block overlooking the Welsh Harp and following the experience of Grenfell Tower evacuation does the Leader consider one staircase adequate for emergency evacuation in spite of there being a fireman's lift?	Cllr Tom Davey (Chairman of the Housing Committee)	<p>In residential buildings a single staircase is acceptable provided that all elements of the building are compliant with the overall fire safety strategy for the building, in accordance with Part B of the Building Regulations.</p> <p>A building with a floor at more than 18m above fire and rescue service vehicle access should be provided with a fire fighting shaft containing fire fighting lifts. This is not a compensatory feature for only having one stair, it is a measure to assist the fire service in fighting a fire. A fire fighting lift should generally not be used for means of escape. If an evacuation lift is provided, other design details are required to ensure it does not become immobilised as a result of fire.</p>

Council Questions – 25 July 2017 (In proper order)

Qn no	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
97	Cllr Dr Devra Kay	In the last five years, how many blocks of flats managed by Barnet Homes have been subject to Fire Risk Assessments which resulted in recommendations for vital improvements such as emergency lighting in communal areas, fire doors, communal fire alarms etc, but which have not been implemented? How many and which action points identified in such Fire Risk Assessments have never been addressed?	Cllr Tom Davey (Chairman of the Housing Committee)	<p>Barnet Homes approach to fire safety is detailed within the report “Grenfell Tower Fire Response” which was discussed at the Housing Committee on the 26th June 2017.</p> <p>There are 1,077 blocks of flats which require a fire risk assessment to be undertaken. All of these blocks have an up to date assessment.</p> <p>Since around 2012 6,241 actions from these inspections have been completed.</p> <p>There are currently 3,437 live actions in the system. Actions are tracked through a database system. Each action is assigned a priority rating depending upon the urgency of the item identified by our independent fire safety experts as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P0 – to be completed within 10 days (2 actions) • P1 – within 6 months (259 actions) • P1+ - within 1 year (35 actions) • P2 – to be placed on a planned programme and works undertaken within 2 years (36 actions) • P3 - To be placed on a planned programme and works completed within 5 years (3101 actions) • P4 – for consideration within a future refurbishment programme to the block/location. (4 actions) <p>There are currently 18 overdue actions in the system, all of which are in progress. None are of significant concern.</p>

Council Questions – 25 July 2017 (In proper order)

Qn no	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
98	Cllr Dr Devra Kay	Why have commissioning officers been putting pressure on NHS bodies to develop the green space outside Finchley Memorial Hospital, space intended for community use, and why is priority not being given instead to addressing the long-term underuse of the half empty hospital building? Is the council working for the benefit of residents, or to facilitate more opportunities for property developers?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	Officers have been working with the CCG and Community Health Partnerships (CHP – a national NHS organisation) which is the owner of Finchley Memorial Hospital, to encourage the CCG in its efforts to ensure that the building is fully utilised. Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee has reviewed the CCG's work in this area. Officers have escalated this issue to the highest level in the CCG. The CCG is working with the council at the same time on a One Public Estate (OPE) project in relation to the site, where the potential for housing has been identified.