

Council Questions – 12 December 2017

Qn no	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
1	Cllr Peter Zinkin	The Chancellor announced in the autumn budget that councils would gain the right to charge a 100% Council Tax Premium on empty properties on top of full Council Tax paid on those properties. Could the Leader inform Council how many empty properties there are in Barnet, and how much revenue a 100% premium would raise for the Borough?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>As at 2 October 2017, there were 1364 empty properties, of which 1052 have been empty for more than 6 months. 303 properties have been empty for more than 2 years, and are already subject to the levy of 50%.</p> <p>If this levy was increased to 100%, this would yield an additional £216,000.</p>
2	Cllr Jack Cohen	I understand the monitoring officer provided advice to members of the Constitution, Ethics and Probity Committee when they met on the 19 th October which related to members declaration of interests in respect of entertaining or being entertained . What was that advice?	Cllr John Marshall (Chairman of the Constitution Ethics and Probity Committee)	<p>The Monitoring Officer expressed the view that the requirement of Members to give notice of gifts and hospitality received over the value of £25 should not apply to any gifts or hospitality received from the Council. He further advised that the purpose behind a requirement to declare gifts and hospitality is to seek to prevent bribery and corruption; this cannot be applicable when the Council under lawful decision-making has invited its own Councillors to events and so they need not be required to register hospitality on these occasions.</p> <p>Members agreed with the Monitoring Officer but did consider the need for transparency and accordingly details of civic events with related expenditure are to be published on the council's website as soon as possible.</p>

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3	Cllr Barry Rawlings	<p>The Coalition Government, endorsed by Barnet Council, pledged to end child poverty by 2020. The Labour Government 1997-2010 had reduced child poverty by over 1 million. The Institute for Fiscal Studies recently forecast that child poverty will rise by 1.2 million 2015-2021 taking it to over 5m. Is the council still committed to eliminate child poverty in Barnet by 2020 and, if so, what are they doing about it?</p>	<p>Cllr Reuben Thompstone (Chairman of the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee)</p>	<p>Barnet Council is tackling the causes and symptoms of child poverty through a number of different routes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment and Welfare advice, brokerage and support – specific support on employment and benefits for parents is delivered by the dedicated employment and welfare advisors seconded to the council through the Troubled Families programme. This is supplemented by BOOST – a multi-agency programme bringing together housing, money and employment services to provide a holistic service to residents, including parents. The BOOST approach has been successful so far, and is now being extended to the Childs Hill area. • Childcare – Cost and availability of childcare has been identified as a barrier by parents for moving into employment, particularly in lone parent households (who are more likely to have higher rates of child poverty). Through proactive outreach, the Council is connecting families to the free education places they are entitled to for 2, 3 and 4 year olds, as well as working with all childcare providers to improve standards so that all children benefit from a high quality early years education. • Generating employment opportunities in the borough – through the major re-development of Brent Cross/Cricklewood, we are developing better places for businesses to set up in borough This in turn will provide more employment opportunities for parents living in the borough (we estimate around 27,000 more jobs will be generated by this scheme alone). • Affordable Housing – The Council has been proactively reviewing the land and buildings that it owns across the borough that are surplus to requirements, and has embarked on a programme to develop these sites to provide more high quality housing, and improve affordability for families. • Free School Meals – Barnet schools implement the national programme of

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				Free School Meals for all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.
4	Cllr Shimon Ryde	Tower block residents in Barnet will no doubt be relieved that, in his budget statement, the Chancellor reassured councils that he will “not let financial considerations get in the way of any fire safety work” and that “if any local authority cannot find funding they should contact us immediately.” As the setting aside of £10m for fire safety works from the Housing Revenue Accounts can only be a temporary salve to this expense, will the Leader write the Secretary of State asking for this to be reimbursed?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	I have asked and written and will keep seeking this money
5	Cllr Jack Cohen	In relation to the site known as the Dixon Site South of the Holiday Inn, on Templefield s Avenue NW2, please explain the circumstance by which PB Donoghues came to occupy this site in particular, did the company first approach the Local	Deputy Leader (Chairman of the Assets Regeneration and Growth Committee)	<p>Property Services arranged for PB Donoghue (PBD) to informally secure the land on a temporary basis by parking its skips along the boundaries of the land to prevent illegal vehicular access, while it applied for planning consent for temporary change of use for vehicle storage. But after extensive, planning permission was refused.</p> <p>The licence was on the condition that should there be public concern LBB could terminate the licence at any time.</p> <p>The expectation was that if PBD was granted planning consent then it would</p>

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		<p>Authority or Vice Versa ? Did the Council offer a lease or Licence or any other form of agreement to occupy ? Was a Lease or Licence or any other agreement actually granted. Did the Local Authority set out an expectation or condition that PB Donoghues will clear the land of fly tipping?</p>		<p>also clear the fly tip for £25,000 which would have been a saving of £100,000 for the Council (contractors quoted £125,000).</p>
6	Cllr Andreas Ioannidis	<p>What are the locations of the electricity posts for recharging electric cars in Barnet, separated by ward and as a visual location map?</p>	<p>Cllr Dean Cohen (Chairman of the Environment Committee)</p>	<p>We have four existing electric vehicle charging points in the following locations:</p> <p>Lodge Lane Car Park , West Finchley Ward</p> <p>Finchley road: Golders Green Ward</p> <p>East Finchley high road: East Finchley Ward</p> <p>Bunns lane car park: Mill Hill Ward</p> <p>We also have plans to install four more Electric Vehicle Charging Points in early 2018 in the following locations:</p> <p>Fitzjohn car park, Underhill Ward Stanhope Road Car Park, Woodhouse Ward</p> <p>Motson Street Car Park, High Barnet Ward</p> <p>Stapleton Road Car park, High Barnet Ward</p>

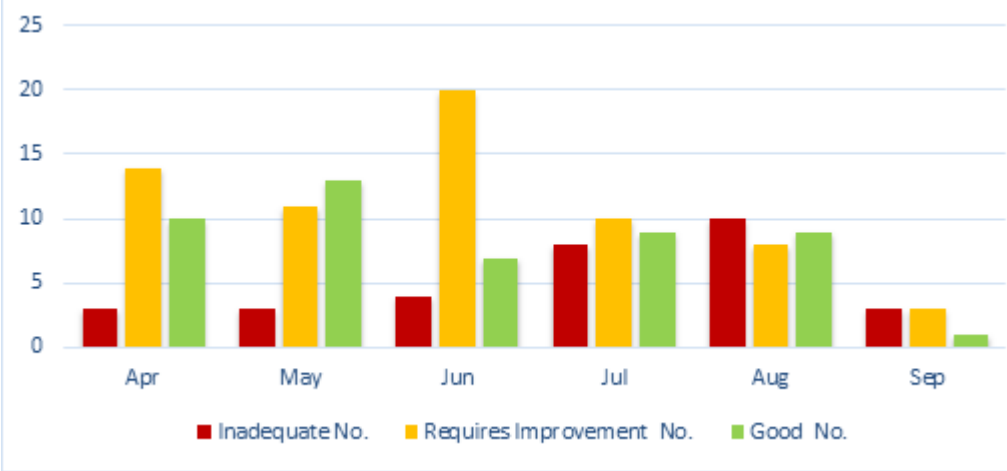
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				<p>Plot nine A, Colindale Ward As part of the Council's relocation We installing 20 Electric Vehicle Charging points in this car park (including one rapid charge unit). These will be available to both our staff and residents. We anticipate that these will be installed in April/May 2018.</p> <p>Street Lighting Colum Electric Vehicle Points Finally, we are also planning to install circa 70 Electric Vehicle Charging Points on Street lighting columns. Exact locations for these are not known yet, but we anticipate an even spread based on need throughout the borough.</p>
7	Cllr Peter Zinkin	Was the Leader invited to send a letter to the Chancellor on housing ahead of the budget?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	No. the Mayor and London Councils Labour Group wrote requesting the HRA Conservatives were invited to sign only after the letter had been received.
8	Cllr Jack Cohen	Is it Council policy to reduce street lighting (by this I mean wattage or reduced operational times) in parts of the Borough, in particular child hill ? If so what is the criteria?	Cllr Dean Cohen (Chairman of the Environment Committee)	The Council implemented the central management system (CMS), along with other measures, specifically to manage the electricity consumption associated with its street lighting assets. The Council operates a variable street lighting output based on the type and location of road in question. This approach is not specific to just Childs Hill, and operates across the whole borough.
9	Cllr Charlie Omacauley	The lights in Watling Park have not been working for a long time. Why	Cllr Dean Cohen (Chairman of the Environment Committee)	<p>The lights running through Watling Park were switched off following a series of assaults that took place in the park at night. The police requested this action.</p> <p>Although it is often believed that by lighting a park at night it makes it a safe place, it can actually have the opposite effect as you are unable to see into the surrounding area.</p> <p>There are safe lit alternative routes around the park that residents may wish to use at night.</p>

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10	Cllr Brian Gordon	Following the Prime Minister's visit to the Stonegrove estate in Edgware last month, could the Leader relay her reaction to witnessing Barnet's ongoing project to build 27,000 new homes by 2026?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	The Prime Minister was impressed by the work going on and the results of our projects. She appreciated that Barnet has a Council that gets things done rather than talking about it.
11	Cllr Jack Cohen	Does the Leader agree with me that the Councils current policy of tarmacking over pavements to deal with tree roots is not working ?	Cllr Dean Cohen (Chairman of the Environment Committee)	No, the new treatment works well.
12	Cllr Kath McGuirk	Will the Leader make a commitment to save Whalebones Park from development	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	I am supportive of keeping as much of this area open to the public as possible. The decision does not rest with the Council.
13	Cllr Gabriel Rozenberg	Would the Leader agree that, given RightMove puts the average price of a Barnet flat at £438,098, the Chancellor's abolition of Stamp Duty on the first £300,000 of London properties under £500,000 will be a welcome help to young families starting out in the borough?	Cllr Tom Davey (Chairman of the Housing Committee)	Yes. This is a positive move.
14	Cllr Jack Cohen	I refer to my Question number 7 I asked at the last Council meeting. Did	Cllr Dean Cohen (Chairman of	An inspection took place on the 16 November; an order has been raised to install a post and padlock. The work is scheduled for completion in December.

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		the promised inspection of the Nant Road Width Restriction take place , if so when ? and what is the outcome?	the Environment Committee)	
15	Cllr Ross Houston	How many Barnet children are currently living in temporary accommodation, and how many years have they been there?	Cllr Tom Davey (Chairman of the Housing Committee)	2820 children are classified as in long term TA which includes those in suitable private rented sector housing. The more significant figure is the 182 households in emergency TA with 281 children for an average of 47 weeks. No families are in B&B or have shared facilities.
16	Cllr Peter Zinkin	Given the negative response to the consultation on introducing the 13 bus and the number of complains that have subsequently been received about the reduction in service quality since cancellation of the 82 bus, does the Leader believe the Mayor of London and TfL care about Barnet residents and the service they receive?	Cllr Dean Cohen (Chairman of the Environment Committee)	No.
17	Cllr Jack Cohen	I refer to my supplementary to question number 4 at the last Council Meeting. I asked about the missing CPZ time plates. Cllr Dean Cohen responded and also immediately sent an email to officers . What action if	Cllr Dean Cohen (Chairman of the Environment Committee)	An inspection on 19 October found 14 signs missing in Granville Road. Repeated replacement has proved ineffective and has put a burden on maintenance budgets to the detriment of other areas. Restrictions were introduced 16/05/2016. These same signs were replaced three times in the first year of operation and we must expect that they will be promptly removed again on replacement. The cost of replacing an individual permit holders' bay sign is approximately

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		any has been taken ? Have the officers inspected if so when?		<p>£20 for each sign itself plus the time of the officer performing the installation. Secure fixings were trialled but made no difference, suggesting that those removing the signs are equipped with appropriate tools. Other different fixing types to make it harder to remove a sign can be counterproductive where sign removal is repeated rather than opportunist as they can serve to increase the levels of damage - requiring the replacement of the post as well as the sign.</p> <p>We have also seen an increase in the use of spray paint to obscure signs as an alternative to removal of signs which could not be deterred by other fixing types, the nature of the paint used is such that cleaning is no longer possible and replacement is needed.</p> <p>In light of these difficulties we have met with community safety in regard to possibilities for monitoring and detection of this criminal damage.</p> <p>Accordingly signs are on order and will be deployed in line with these monitoring measures</p>
18	Cllr Pauline Coakley-Webb	Does the Leader believe it is ok that 100 Barnet schools are facing cuts to their funding from next year?	Cllr Reuben Thompstone (Chairman of the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee)	No, unlike neighbouring Labour boroughs we are working to avoid cuts.

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19	Cllr Mark Shooter	Would the Leader agree that the Mayor of London's extension of the Ultra Low Emission Zone up to, but not including, the North and South Circulars — thus exempting the most polluting TfL roads outside our schools — demonstrates he is a mayor for inner London, and not outer London boroughs like Barnet?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	Yes.
20	Cllr Jack Cohen	I refer you to agenda item 8 (update report on progress of Barnet Children 's Services Improvement Action Plan) on the agenda of Children Education Libraries and Safeguarding Committee 15 th November. Please will you explain what the graphs set out in para 1.12 mean.	Cllr Reuben Thompstone (Chairman of the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee)	The graph in paragraph 1.12 shows the number of case audits completed each month and breaks this down by the grading of the audit; Inadequate, Requires Improvement and Good. The graph shows there has been a shift in the balance of these audit grading's with the proportion of audits rated as good and requires improvement decreasing and the proportion of audits rated as inadequate increasing. This reflects increased rigour and a more robust audit process which demonstrates there is a stronger understanding of 'what good looks like' and more importantly an increased ability to identify and know what is not good enough for our children and young people. These audits are then used to target resources for improvement work accordingly.

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				 <table border="1"> <caption>Bar Chart Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Month</th> <th>Inadequate No.</th> <th>Requires Improvement No.</th> <th>Good No.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Apr</td> <td>3</td> <td>14</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>May</td> <td>3</td> <td>11</td> <td>13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jun</td> <td>4</td> <td>20</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jul</td> <td>8</td> <td>10</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Aug</td> <td>10</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sep</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Month	Inadequate No.	Requires Improvement No.	Good No.	Apr	3	14	10	May	3	11	13	Jun	4	20	7	Jul	8	10	9	Aug	10	8	9	Sep	3	3	1
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21	Cllr Alan Schneiderman	When were security guards introduced at the former Dixon's site on Tilling Road? How much has the Council spent on security for the site WHILE Donoghue's skips or vehicles were still being stored there?	Councillor Dan Thomas (Chairman of the Assets Regeneration and Growth Committee)	<p>Blue 9 was first deployed on 9 February 2017 until 2 May 2017 at a cost of £25,000 per month.</p> <p>Thereafter, PB Donoghue informally secured the site from May 2017 saving LBB £150,000 over 6 months. LBB reinstated Blue 9 from 24 October 2017 at a cost of approx. £20,000 per month.</p> <p>The Council spent nothing on security while Donoghue's skips were on site since May, save for 23 days from 24 October 2017 to 17 November 2017 (£11,000) where 24 hour security was necessary due to the presence of travellers in the area.</p>																												
22	Cllr Tom Davey	Could the Leader inform Council how many cases have been heard by the Standards Board in the last 12 months?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	None - the Standards Board ceased to function on 31 January 2012 and was formally abolished on 31 March 2012.																												

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23	Cllr Jack Cohen	What progress is the council making to ensure all documents are free of jargon and written in plain English?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	There is more to do but we are committed to making sure that materials are clear and easy to read. Progress is being made, with the most visited pages on the website in the process of being updated to make the information more relevant and concise. The redesign of the adult social care sections of the website was done using feedback from those that use the services available. The council has previously updated important correspondence that go to all households - such as Council Tax bills - to make them clearer.
24	Cllr Barry Rawlings	The Chancellor's recent budget announcement produced no money for fire safety measures in Barnet high-rise buildings. Instead the £17m bill is being paid by tenants and leaseholders who are not responsible for the situation. Does the Leader agree that tenants and leaseholders are right to feel badly let-down by this Government?	Cllr Tom Davey (Chairman of the Housing Committee)	We continue to lobby for support from central government
25	Cllr Brian Gordon	In 2012 Andrew Dismore AM and Cllr Alison Moore posed for a photograph outside Barnet Police Station with five comrades carrying placards proclaiming '999, SOS' in order to stop the threatened closure of Barnet Police Station. Can the Leader think of any reason why no such photographic	Cllr David Longstaff (Chairman of the Community Leadership Committee)	It is extraordinary that they missed this opportunity which might have helped Mayor Khan to a more sensible decision.

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		opportunity was posed for this year to save Barnet Police Station from Labour's decision to close it?		
26	Cllr Jack Cohen	When will the DB cargo planning application for the use of land (400 Edgware Road) as an aggregate transfer station come to Committee? And what is the status of the temporary application deferred by the planning committee on the 19 th September?	Cllr Melvin Cohen (Chairman of Planning Committee)	Application 17/5761/EIA is currently under consideration by the LPA. Officers have requested further information and clarifications in relation to noise assessment, air quality and transport. The application will be reported to Planning Committee once Officers have concluded their assessment. Following the deferral of the application at the 19th September DB Cargo have given residents a commitment that they will not be actively pursuing the temporary application.
27	Cllr Andreas Ioannidis	How many primary school-age children in Barnet are currently out of school and waiting for a place?	Cllr Reuben Thompstone (Chairman of the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee)	One.
28	Cllr Brian Gordon	In December 2016 the Labour Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, said on the subject of raising the police precept: "Nothing is more important to me than keeping Londoners safe – and that means maintaining the strategic target of	Cllr David Longstaff (Chairman of the Community Leadership Committee)	I believe numbers have fallen to below 30,000 and are falling. However, Barnet has the lowest number of police per capita of all London Boroughs.

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		32,000 police officers across London.” How many police officers are there now?		
29	Cllr Jack Cohen	How many DOLS (deprivation of liberty safeguarding) assessment requests did the Local Authority carry out in the calendar year ending 31 December 2016 and in the year to date? How many related to care homes , how many were granted? Is there a laid down time scale for completing an assessment if so what is the compliance rate?	Cllr Sachin Rajput (Chairman of the Adults and Safeguarding Committee)	<p>The Council received 1456 applications in 2016 and has received 1289 this year. 574 were authorised in 2016 and 172 in 2017. 86% related to care homes in 2016 and 88% in 2017.</p> <p>The target timescale for assessment is 21 days which authorities find impossible to deal with because of the volume of applications and the need to prioritise urgent cases, which may be very complex.</p>
30	Cllr Charlie Omacauley	How many affordable homes have been built in Burnt Oak in the last ten years?	Councillor Dan Thomas (Chairman of the Assets Regeneration and Growth Committee)	124.
31	Cllr Shimon Ryde	Would the Leader join me in congratulating the NorthwestTwo Residents' Association and Cricklewood Town Team in achieving Asset of	Councillor Dan Thomas (Chairman of the Assets Regeneration and Growth	I would also like to congratulate Cllr Shimon Ryde for his work together with local residents and the Town Team. This shows what Conservative representation can do.

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		Community Value status for Cricklewood Green?	Committee)	
32	Cllr Jack Cohen	Will you explain exactly what the effect of the proposed stopping up order to facilitate the Granville Road estate development will have on pedestrian access	Cllr Dean Cohen (Chairman of the Environment Committee)	The effect of the Stopping Up Order is to extinguish the highway rights so that the approved development can be facilitated. During construction phase the existing pedestrian access points may need to be closed and alternatives provided temporarily. In these instances the Developer will be responsible for providing signposting and alternatives routes for pedestrians. Highways Officers will monitor the development to ensure compliancy with their responsibilities.
33	Cllr Phil Cohen	Is the Leader happy to see longer wait times in the NHS in Barnet?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	No.
34	Cllr John Hart	With many of London's estimated 40,000 Zimbabweans living in Barnet, does the Leader share their hope and mine that the resignation of Robert Mugabe and the inauguration of Emmerson Mnangagwa as president of Zimbabwe will finally lead to a free, fair, and prosperous future for all its citizens?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	Indeed.

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35	Cllr Jack Cohen	Are you aware of the serious concern of the Governors and Head Teacher of St Agnes RC School that Capita appear to have completely changed the proposals for the School's Expansion?	Cllr Reuben Thompstone (Chairman of the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee)	As a project moves through feasibility to delivery, changes are sometimes required to come within the overall allocated budget. In this instance, the proposals are being revisited to ensure that the project can be delivered for the budget available. The council will continue to work with the school and the Diocese to develop a project that meets the needs of the pupils to enable the school to achieve its ambition to become a 2 form entry school.
36	Cllr Kath McGuirk	Will the Leader support Labour's proposal to protect the green space outside the B&Q site in Cricklewood?	Councillor Dan Thomas (Chairman of the Assets Regeneration and Growth Committee)	Cllr Ryde and Cllr Zinkin have worked hard with the local residents and the Town Team to achieve this. Only with Conservative councillors has proper protection been put in place.
37	Cllr Gabriel Rozenberg	Could the Leader explain to Council how much Barnet taxpayers have saved in real terms DOLS their Council Tax bills since 2014?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	Since 2014 it is 7% whilst since 2010 21% excluding social care precept.
38	Cllr Ross Houston	How many Barnet families are currently living in temporary accommodation, and how many years have they been there?	Cllr Tom Davey (Chairman of the Housing Committee)	See answer to question 15
39	Cllr Shimon Ryde	Could the Leader set the record straight with regards to Donoghue's occupation of the Dixon site and any	Councillor Dan Thomas (Chairman of the Assets	See answers to questions 5 and 21

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		security arrangements before, during, and after that period?	Regeneration and Growth Committee)	
40	Cllr Barry Rawlings	The Chancellor's recent budget announcement produced no extra money to stop or slow down the 400 million pounds of cuts still to come and forced on London's police service. Given that crime remains one of the top 3 concerns of local residents, does the Leader agree that Barnet residents have, yet again, been badly let down by this Government?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	We have been let down by the Mayor. Perhaps he would prefer to be in opposition – constantly complaining and not having to make hard choices. He controls the budget.
41	Cllr Stephen Sowerby	The Leader of the Council will be aware that the Mayor of London has decided to close High Barnet Police Station and dispose of the building. This decision will leave London's fourth largest borough in terms of geographic size and the largest by population with only one police station. Does the Leader of the Council share the Mayor's view that the	Cllr David Longstaff (Chairman of the Community Leadership Committee)	Crimes do not stop at Barnet boundaries and the lack of a police station between Colindale and Edmonton is a very serious issue.

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		Borough of Barnet does not require two police stations and that there will be no detrimental impact to policing in the east of the Borough by this closure?		
42	Cllr Charlie Omacaulley	What is the current Council policy on frequency of clearing of leaves from residential streets?	Cllr Dean Cohen (Chairman of the Environment Committee)	Leafing clearance is managed through scheduled and responsive work. We have dedicated clearance teams which go around the borough clearing the high footfall / high leaf fall areas such as travel hubs, town centres and roads around schools whilst our standard sweeping crews carry out leaf clearance as part of their normal sweeping duties. We also respond to reports from Members, the public and our own staff who see areas which may need so more urgent targeted clearance i.e. due to a sudden leaf fall. We do use the reports from the previous year to feed into the scheduled works the following year.
43	Cllr John Marshall	Several Barnet schools appeared in The Sunday Times' best primary schools table. Would the Leader join me in congratulating their maintained record at offering some of the best standards of education this country has to offer?	Cllr Reuben Thompstone (Chairman of the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee)	Yes.
44	Cllr Phil Cohen	Does the Leader believe it is right to scale back plans to improve cancer and mental healthcare - a move that will affect Barnet residents?	Cllr Helena Hart (Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board)	Barnet CCG and the North London STP have confirmed that there are no plans to reduce investment in either area. As an example, the women's psychiatric intensive care unit that has just opened at St Pancras is a new facility open to Barnet residents as well as residents from the rest of NCL.

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45	Cllr John Marshall	Could the Leader inform Council as to how much the budget for senior officers has been decreased since 2014? Could he further detail how this was achieved?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	The budget reduced by £100,000 in 2014, a further £100,000 in 2016 and subsequently a further £300,000 in 2017. All of these were agreed by General Functions Committee.
46	Cllr Ross Houston	What's the Council's current overspend on temporary accommodation?	Cllr Tom Davey (Chairman of the Housing Committee)	The business planning report considered by Policy and Resources Committee on 5th December (at paragraph 10.1.2), reported a projected overspend of £1.411m. The same report also sought authorisation to release contingency money of £1.3m allocated to this pressure, leaving a projected overspend of £111k. This is a demand led service, and therefore subject to fluctuation.
47	Cllr Brian Gordon	What is the opinion of the Chairman of the Children, Education, Libraries & Safeguarding Committee regarding the recent Court of Appeal ruling against the legality of all-boys or all-girls schools that share the same campus, bearing in mind we have a number of excellent schools of this kind within Barnet?	Cllr Reuben Thompstone (Chairman of the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee)	This must be very worrying for parents who have chosen a particular form of schooling.
48	Cllr Barry Rawlings	Would the Leader join me in thanking Mayor Sadiq Khan, clearly a friend of the local people, for the trees he has given to Barnet?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	I am grateful to the London tax payer for the trees that have been planted. The Mayor has not personally planted or paid for any in Barnet and is woefully short of what he promised when seeking election. Barnet has always planted trees.

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49	Cllr Brian Gordon	In view of this Council's unanimous call for a complete ban on the Hezbollah terrorist organisation in the UK – including its so-called political wing – would the Leader be willing to send a personal message to the Home Secretary urging her to enact such a ban, seeing there are still prominent politicians calling for this, and it has not happened?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	Yes.
50	Cllr Arjun Mitra	What data does the Council collect on gender pay parity? Does the Council have a gender pay gap, and if so what is it?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	In accordance with the Gender pay gap regulations the Council is required to publish its information by the 31st March 2018. The intention is that this will be considered at the General Function Committee in January 2018.
51	Cllr Brian Gordon	The Borough of Barnet is the major gateway to and from the North for road traffic into and out of London. Many residents share my view that the long stretches of 50mph speed limits along sections of the M6 and M1 are totally unnecessary and unfairly impede motorists who wish to arrive lawfully at their destination as quickly as	Cllr Dean Cohen (Chairman of the Environment Committee)	Speed limits and traffic signals that are not needed – should be removed.

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		possible. Does the Chairman of the Environment Committee believe this Council could take up this issue and call for a review of these speed limits by the Department of Transport?		
52	Cllr Pauline Coakley Webb	Which councillors were invited to the recent workshops on developing an arts and culture strategy for the Borough?	Cllr David Longstaff (Chairman of the Community Leadership Committee)	The workshops were designed to bring together key organisations and artists working in the borough. Councillors were not specifically invited. No councillors attended as representatives of arts and culture organisations.
53	Cllr Brian Gordon	The residents and traders of Edgware very much appreciate the trees and flowers that have, for a while now, lined the shopping centre in Station Road. The Edgware Town Forum which I regularly attend would like to know whether the Council could extend this adornment somewhat, into Edgware High street and Hale Lane, hopefully at relatively modest expense. Is this a viable request?	Councillor Dan Thomas (Chairman of the Assets Regeneration and Growth Committee)	This would be attractive so long as there is a commitment to water and maintain the plants by traders. This maintenance has not always been successful and dead plants are not an adornment.

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54	Cllr Arjun Mitra	How many men and how many women are paid a salary of over £50,000 by the Council	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Gender</th> <th>Number over £50k salary</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Female</td> <td>127</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Male</td> <td>61</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Gender	Number over £50k salary	Female	127	Male	61
Gender	Number over £50k salary									
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55	Cllr Stephen Sowerby	Would the Leader inform the Council how many members of staff employed by Barnet Council, Capita, or Re are expected to report to other appropriate officers where they find areas of concern that relate to environmental issues such as dumped rubbish, abandoned cars, fly posted signs, signs illegally attached to Council-owned railings or lampposts, possible breaches of planning requirements etc.?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	They all should.						
56	Cllr Ross Houston	How many private landlords are now known to the Council compared to 2014?	Cllr Tom Davey (Chairman of Housing Committee)	<p>There is no legal requirement to maintain a Landlord register however there is a requirement for properties in multiple occupation to be registered with the local authority.</p> <p>We can advise at the end of November 2014 there were 139 licensed houses in multiple occupation and as of the 29 November 2017 there are 602.</p>						

Qn no	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
57	Cllr Stephen Sowerby	When the Council went through the unified pay changes, a significant sum of money was put to one side to ameliorate the impact on the Borough's schools. Will the Leader please tell members how much each school received out of this pot of money?	Cllr Reuben Thompstone (Chairman of the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee)	The costs of ameliorating the impact Unified Rewards on schools differs in each school depending on the make-up and skill mix of the particular school. The average support per school was £6,762.
58	Cllr Arjun Mittra	How many men and how many women who work for the Council through the CSG contract are paid a salary of over £50,000?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	There are 19 women and 39 men who earn over £50K in CSG.
59	Cllr Caroline Stock	Could the Leader offer some insight on why he thinks Barnet was named the friendliest borough north of the river recently, and the second friendliest in Greater London?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	As a Conservative led Council we are naturally friendly and value aspiration. Our excellent schools nurture this ambition.
60	Cllr Ross Houston	How many new council homes in the Barnet Homes / Open Door Homes development pipeline will no longer be delivered as a result of the Government renegeing on their promise to fund crucial fire safety works in Barnet Homes blocks?	Cllr Tom Davey (Chairman of the Housing Committee)	The development pipeline being delivered by Barnet Homes/Open Door Homes will not be affected by the decision to fund fire safety works. This is because the delivery of these new homes is being funded outside of the Housing Revenue Account. Future programmes could be affected, although the Government has recently confirmed that local authorities can apply for an increase in the HRA debt cap to fund new homes in high demand areas.

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61	Cllr Rohit Grover	Could the Leader provide an update on the progress of Entrepreneurial Barnet?	Councillor Dan Thomas (Chairman of the Assets Regeneration and Growth Committee)	The council's Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee received an update on the Entrepreneurial Barnet activity over the past year on Tuesday 27 th November. This can be found here- https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s43515/Entrepreneurial%20Barnet%20-%20Annual%20Update%20and%20Forward%20Plan.pdf
62	Cllr Arjun Mitra	How many men and how many women who work for the Council through the RE contract are paid a salary of over £50,000?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	There are 19 women and 42 men who earn over £50k in RE
63	Cllr Rohit Grover	Could the Leader provide an update on the response to the fostering campaign?	Cllr Reuben Thompstone (Chairman of the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee)	As at 10 November, when the MORE2GIVE fostering campaign had been delivering for 8 weeks, there had been: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 63 new enquiries since September – 32 received in September and 31 received in October which met the objective of getting 25 new enquiries per month.
64	Cllr Ross Houston	How much has the Council spent on temporary accommodation and emergency accommodation since 2014 (please provide a breakdown by year)?	Cllr Tom Davey (Chairman of the Housing Committee)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most London Boroughs continue to experience an increase in the use of Temporary Accommodation. Despite this, Barnet has managed to reduce the number of Households living in Temporary Accommodation by 10% over the last 3 years (2,941 HH in 2015/16 to 2675 on the 30/09/2017). Almost 75% of all the households in temporary accommodation in England are placed by North, East and West London Authorities. This has led to increased pressure in competition for affordable supply. Barnet has the 6th highest number of households in temporary

Qn no	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response																
				<p>accommodation in the country</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whilst it is positive that the regeneration schemes in Barnet are progressing in their development, this has an impact on available supply as 'non-secure' tenants placed in regeneration units as long term TA are decanted and require rehousing, either to alternative TA or social housing units. Over 800 households have been decanted since April 2012 and a further 371 decants are scheduled for the forthcoming two financial years • The total GROSS cost of TA in 2016/17 was £24m. • 84% of this was recoverable through Housing Benefit (£20.14m). Net cost £3.86m <p>The table shows that in 2017/18, the volume of households in TA has fallen, with 61 less households in General Fund TA to-date compared with April 2017. This success is helping to drive down the cost to the General Fund.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1122 927 2092 1326"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="1122 927 1357 1098">Financial year</th> <th data-bbox="1357 927 1601 1098">Number of households in GF TA</th> <th data-bbox="1601 927 1845 1098">Households moved into the private sector</th> <th data-bbox="1845 927 2092 1098">Net Cost of TA & PRS</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="1122 1098 1357 1174">2012/13</td> <td data-bbox="1357 1098 1601 1174">887</td> <td data-bbox="1601 1098 1845 1174">175</td> <td data-bbox="1845 1098 2092 1174">0.323m</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1122 1174 1357 1251">2013/14</td> <td data-bbox="1357 1174 1601 1251">970</td> <td data-bbox="1601 1174 1845 1251">328</td> <td data-bbox="1845 1174 2092 1251">0.248m</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1122 1251 1357 1326">2014/15</td> <td data-bbox="1357 1251 1601 1326">1336</td> <td data-bbox="1601 1251 1845 1326">393</td> <td data-bbox="1845 1251 2092 1326">0.867m</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Financial year	Number of households in GF TA	Households moved into the private sector	Net Cost of TA & PRS	2012/13	887	175	0.323m	2013/14	970	328	0.248m	2014/15	1336	393	0.867m
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65	Cllr Graham Old	Could the leader advise what help has been given to the local health service in the budget?	Cllr Helena Hart (Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board)	<p>The 22nd November Budget delivered an extra £1.6 billion of NHS revenue and £354 million of public capital for 2018-19, with the remainder of the additional funding announced in the budget to be used in 2019-20. The board of NHS England met on the 30th November and discussed how the funding should be used. The plans for this are not finalised and so we do not know yet what the benefit will be to local health services. The NHS England Board indicated that this will be clearer in February and finalised in March 2018. Their board papers suggest it could be used on mental health, cancer, emergency and primary care.</p>												
66	Cllr Arjun Mitra	How many residents of Barnet have a library card and an access code to the libraries out of staffed hours? What is this as a percentage of the Barnet population?	Cllr Reuben Thompstone (Chairman of the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee)	<p>21,531 residents have signed up to use self-service opening, representing circa 55% of active library users (39,357). Active library users represent 11% of the resident population (based on estimated resident population of 367,265). The number of residents signed up for self-service opening represents 6% of the population.</p>												

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67	Cllr Graham Old	What assessment has been made of the impact on reducing speed of the introduction of 20mph zones in and around schools?	Cllr Dean Cohen (Chairman of the Environment Committee)	The 20mph zones have been in place for a relatively short period of time and no assessments have yet taken place as to the effectiveness in reducing speed and accidents.
68	Cllr Barry Rawlings	How much have contract variations for the CSG contract cost Barnet Council since the beginning of the contract, and how much have contract variations cost CSG since the beginning of the contract	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	Extra work has been done by CSG for the Council since the beginning of the contract. This extra work has cost £6.3m.
69	Cllr John Hart	Could the Leader give me the figures for the last three years covering compensation paid by Barnet in response to householders' claims that roots of street trees have damaged their property?	Cllr Dean Cohen (Chairman of the Environment Committee)	<p>Over the last 3 years, from a stock of circa 30,000 street trees and over 800 hectares of open spaces (parks, woodlands, river corridors), the council has received on average just 82 claims per annum alleging either direct damage to private walls/paths and subsidence to houses.</p> <p>Of these, the council has accepted liability in relation to 47 claims at a total cost of £114,600 inclusive of all legal costs, engineering/technical advice and additional tree works/removal where necessary. Payments made in respect of claims period 2014/15 was £66,331, 2015/16 £41,735 and 2016/17 £6548 however due to the long-tail nature of this risk it is not possible to draw any conclusions from these figures until these claims periods mature over the next 3 years or so.</p> <p>101 claims have been closed/defended with no payment incurred. The remaining 98 claims are currently open pending further consideration/investigation.</p>

Qn no	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response										
70	Cllr Ross Houston	Since I last asked this question at the January Council meeting, how many more affordable homes have been secured through planning gain (please provide a breakdown by development)?	Councillor Dan Thomas (Chairman of the Assets Regeneration and Growth Committee)	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="1108 284 1626 379">Development</th> <th data-bbox="1626 284 1861 379">Affordable units</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="1108 379 1626 440">Imperial House</td> <td data-bbox="1626 379 1861 440">16</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1108 440 1626 501">Brake Shear House</td> <td data-bbox="1626 440 1861 501">8</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1108 501 1626 561">Peel Centre Blocks H, J, K And M</td> <td data-bbox="1626 501 1861 561">162</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1108 561 1626 616">West Hendon Estate - Phase 4</td> <td data-bbox="1626 561 1861 616">193</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Development	Affordable units	Imperial House	16	Brake Shear House	8	Peel Centre Blocks H, J, K And M	162	West Hendon Estate - Phase 4	193
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71	Cllr Graham Old	Under the Conservative administration of Mayor Boris Johnson, new trains and increased service frequency for the Northern Line had been planned, budgeted and agreed. Under Labour those plans have been scrapped due to economic mismanagement – the financial consequences of a promised fares freeze for all Londoners, which did not even manage to provide a fares freeze for all Londoners. As a regular Northern Line commuter, would the Leader care to offer any thoughts on the	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>I have seen the improvements delivered during Boris Johnson's administration.</p> <p>Mayor Khan will be remembered as the Mayor who turned the Northern Line back into the misery line.</p>										

Qn no	Councillor	Question	Answer by	Response
		sudden halt to these planned upgrades?		
72	Cllr Arjun Mitra	Where is the frieze that was part of the Finchley Gaumont Cinema? Is this still in the possession of the Council? If so are there plans to reinstall it somewhere?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	Property Services and Facilities Management have confirmed the frieze isn't held in their stores and they are working to identify where it was sent.
73	Cllr Ross Houston	In the last five years, how many developments in Barnet with 10 or fewer properties have been given planning consent (please provide a breakdown by development)?	Cllr Melvin Cohen (Chairman of Planning Committee)	In the last 5 years, 1549 applications with 10 or fewer properties have been given planning permission. Due to the manner in which planning applications are recorded, it is not possible to break down this number any further.
74	Cllr Arjun Mitra	Please provide an update on where the Council is with installing a concrete barrier on Brompton Grove to prevent parking past Park House?	Cllr Dean Cohen (Chairman of the Environment Committee)	Property Services are continuing to monitor the usage of this site to establish an appropriate time for the installation of a barrier to prevent continued parking by members of the public.
75	Cllr Arjun Mitra	Please provide an update on plans for a new Barnet Homes block between Chapel Close and Norfolk Close?	Cllr Tom Davey (Chairman of the Housing Committee)	Opendoor Homes (ODH), a subsidiary of Barnet Homes, are building a block of eight flats on the site. Planning permission was received on 21 June 2017 and transfer of the site from LBB to ODH is scheduled for February 2018 with site works commencing thereafter. Development completion is currently scheduled for July 2019.

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76	Cllr Arjun Mitra	When does Barnet Homes expect to finish the construction of the new block on Elmhurst Crescent?	Cllr Tom Davey (Chairman of the Housing Committee)	August 2018.
77	Cllr Arjun Mitra	What measures or controls are in the Council's powers to prevent coaches parking in places where they impede the view of junctions? Coaches from a company named Marshall's regularly park on East End Road (on the East Finchley side) between Thomas Moore Way and Briar Close, blocking the view when exiting Thomas Moore Way. What might be done to prevent this?	Cllr Dean Cohen (Chairman of the Environment Committee)	<p>There are no powers for the Council to target a vehicle that is parked here as the road is uncontrolled. It would be possible to put in place parking controls that would achieve the aim. This could be yellow line restrictions near the junction to keep an area clear to improve sightlines from the junction, which would prevent all forms of parking. Alternatively installing PayByPhone restrictions would put in place marked parking bays which the coach would exceed in size and the parking outside the bay marking could be addressed. A limitation of enforcement of either of these is that the Coach likely contains the driver and would move off before enforcement officers got to issue a PCN, limiting the effectiveness of enforcement. It would not be an option for a weight restriction from entering the road given this is an important A road. If there is any overnight use we can investigate whether a contravention of the overnight waiting ban for vehicles over 5tonnes is taking place.</p> <p>Parking restrictions could be introduced and the councillor could bring an item to Area Committee to take this further. Has he asked Marshall's not to park there? Perhaps this could be a first step.</p>
78	Cllr Arjun Mitra	Residents of Beresford Road sent a petition to the Finchley and Golders Green Area Committee regarding their CPZ hours. No consultation with residents has occurred yet, when will it be?	Cllr Dean Cohen (Chairman of the Environment Committee)	We are in the process of concluding an analysis of Beresford and surrounding roads. If the proposed scheme is supported by the Council then a consultation with residents will follow. Approvals are likely to be sought in January

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79	Cllr Arjun Mitra	Have negotiations with the leaseholder for the Pavilion in Cherry Tree Wood now concluded, and has an arrangement been made? Will the Council publish the details of any agreement?	Councillor Dan Thomas (Chairman of the Assets Regeneration and Growth Committee)	After taking legal advice, the Council made the tenant a formal offer on the 24th November 2017. The settlement is a confidential agreement between LBB & the tenant, consent to publish the agreement would be required from the tenant.
80	Cllr Arjun Mitra	What representations has the Council made to the Government on behalf of the EU citizens on Barnet and their rights to stay?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	The Prime Minister has been clear as to her views, which I share.
81	Cllr Charlie Omacauley	Who is responsible for repairing broken fences at Barnet Homes' properties?	Cllr Tom Davey (Chairman of the Housing Committee)	Individual tenants are responsible for their properties whilst Barnet Homes are responsible for boundary fences.