

**Council Questions to Cabinet Members
6 November 2012
Questions and Responses**

Question 1**Councillor Brian Salinger**

How many council owned and how many housing association properties have been let since 1st April, broken down by size of property and ward?

Answer by Councillor Tom Davey

The table below outlines the number of Local Authority and Housing Association properties let since the 1st April.

LA Lettings 1 April-30 September 2012							
	Number Of Beds						
Ward	0	1	2	3	4	Grand Total	
Brunswick Park Ward		4	7			11	
Burnt Oak Ward		17	24	9		50	
Childs Hill Ward		2	2			4	
Colindale Ward	2	2		2		6	
Coppetts Ward		9	8	3		20	
East Barnet Ward		3	5	5	1	14	
East Finchley Ward	4	7	6	5		22	
Edgware Ward		1	1	2		4	
Finchley Church End Ward		3			1	4	
Garden Suburb Ward		1				1	
Golders Green Ward		3	2	2		7	
Hale Ward		1	6	2		9	
Hendon Ward	5	12	15			32	
High Barnet Ward		3				3	
Mill Hill Ward	1	3	5	2	1	12	
Oakleigh Ward	1	2	1			4	
Totteridge Ward	3		2			5	
Underhill Ward	4	11	7	2		24	
West Finchley Ward		7	2			9	
West Hendon Ward	1	7	4	2	1	15	
Woodhouse Ward		1	3	3		7	
Grand Total	21	99	100	39	4	263	

HA Lettings 1 April-30 September 2012							
Count Number of Beds	Number Of Beds						
Ward	0	1	2	3	4	Grand Total	
Brunswick Park Ward			4	1		5	
Burnt Oak Ward		1	6			7	

Childs Hill Ward		7	2	1		10
				2		
Colindale Ward	2	9	47	4	1	83
Coppetts Ward		3	2			5
Edgware Ward		1	2			3
Garden Suburb Ward			2	1		3
Golders Green Ward		5		1		6
Hale Ward		3	1	4		8
Hendon Ward		2	1			3
High Barnet Ward	1	2	4			7
Mill Hill Ward			7			7
Oakleigh Ward		3				3
Underhill Ward		1	4			5
West Finchley Ward		3				3
Woodhouse Ward		7	3			10
				3		
Grand Total	3	47	85	2	1	168

Question 2

Councillor Alison Moore

Would the Cabinet Member explain why the One Barnet 'efficiency' programme has not managed to make any net savings to date?

Answer by Councillor Daniel Thomas

The suggestion that the One Barnet programme has not managed to make any net savings to date is not accurate.

The programme spent a total of £6.4m to the end of March 2012 and expects to spend a £9.7m by the end of March 2013.

The base budget saving from the programme totals £5.7m at the end of March 2012 and expects to be £7.8m by the end of March 2013. These figures represent the amount that the Council's annual budget has been reduced by. So for example, a £5m base budget saving in year 1 becomes a £10m cumulative saving in year 2, a £15m cumulative saving in year 3 and so on.

The cumulative saving from the programme to the end of March 2012 was £7.1m and will be £15m by the end of March 2013, demonstrating that the programme has saved more than it has cost.

	<i>To end March 2012</i>	<i>To end March 2013 (projected)</i>
<i>Cost of the programme</i>	<i>£6.4m</i>	<i>£9.7m</i>
<i>Reduction in the Council's annual budget</i>	<i>£5.7m</i>	<i>£7.9m</i>
<i>Cumulative saving to the Council</i>	<i>£7.1m</i>	<i>£15.0m</i>

<i>Net benefit of the programme</i>	<i>£0.7m</i>	<i>£5.3m</i>
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The savings from the programme will grow over time. Savings made by the programme will repeat from year to year. To reflect this, we have always focussed on the savings that the programme will deliver over a 10 year period - which we currently forecast to exceed £111m.

This equates to a £17.4m decrease in the Council's annual 'base budget'. If the One Barnet programme was not delivering these savings, other services would have to be cut.

That annual reduction in the Council's budget is equivalent to this year's combined spend on waste collection, street cleansing, recycling, parks & greenspaces, transport, community safety and community protection.

Question 3

Councillor Brian Salinger

How many families with children have been re-housed by the Borough in to privately rented properties since 1st April, broken down by size of property and ward (or if outside the Borough by Council)?

Answer by Councillor Tom Davey

The table below provides details of instances where families with children have been re-housed by the Borough in to privately rented properties since 1st April, broken down by size of property and ward, and out of Borough locations.

Location	1 bedroom	2 bedrooms	3 bedrooms	4 bedrooms	Total
Colindale		2	3		5
Cricklewood		2			2
East Barnet	1	3	1		5
East Finchley		1	1		2
Edgware		3	1		4
Enfield			3	2	5
Finchley Central		3			3
Friern Barnet		2	1		3
Golders Green		2			2
Hackney			1		1
Hendon		1			1
High Barnet		11	2	2	15
Mill Hill		4	1		5
North Finchley	1	1	2		4
Palmers Green		1		1	2
Romford		1			1
Tottenham			1		1
Whetstone		3	1		4
Wood Green				1	1
Grand Total	2	40	18	6	66

Question 4

Councillor Gill Sargeant

Would the Cabinet Member please explain what children and young people's play facilities will be available on the new Peel Centre site?

Answer by Councillor Dean Cohen

The Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) and the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS)

are planning the regeneration of the Peel Centre Site. A masterplan for the site is being developed which will form the basis for an outline planning application. The proposals include a major new public park that will be available for the wider community and will include a range of play, sport and amenity facilities for different age groups. The development will also include play facilities in line with the Mayor of London's published guidance. The principles of a play strategy will be included in the outline application. Detailed proposals will come forward in the future within reserved matters applications.

Question 5

Councillor Brian Salinger

Will the Cabinet Member please list all the Community Payback schemes that have been completed in the last year or which are currently underway in Barnet?

Answer by Councillor David Longstaff

The following areas have utilised the payback scheme:

- Brent Terrace NW2 - painted posts along hedgerow in total (approx 40 posts)
- Clitterhouse Playing Fields - litter picked on 2 occasions
- Millennium Green Claremont Road NW2 -- assisted on action day
- Car Park Rosa Freeman Residential Car Park - litter pick of alcohol related litter
- Brent Cross underpass & surrounding area - litter picking

"Agency Placements" also take place - this is where offenders work directly for a beneficiary, traditionally this has been charity shops. Approximately 33% of offenders work in this manner.

Question 6

Councillor Ansuya Sodha

Legislation against age discrimination came into effect on the 1st October - what plans does the council have to address this, and what training will be provided for staff and elected councillors?

Answer by Councillor Richard Cornelius

The Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006 were repealed on 30 September 2010 and were replaced by the Equality Act 2010. This new discrimination legislation came into effect from 1 October 2010 and age is a protected characteristic within this piece of statute.

The council anticipated the changes in the Equality Act 2010 by reviewing all of its employment policies to ensure that they were compliant with this new Act and by paying 'due regard' to the protected characteristics by assessing the impact of budget decisions on protected groups. The cumulative impact of the budget cuts was considered as part of the Budget Report presented to Cabinet in February 2011. A review was undertaken of the impact of the cuts after 6 months. This information was subsequently presented to Cabinet as part of the 2012/13 budget proposals for members to consider as part of their decision making.

Member briefing on the Equality Act has been delivered as part of the member development programmes for 2011/12 and 2012/13. Briefing on age discrimination was also presented to members at the launch of the 'Aging Well' campaign in July of this year.

I think it would be helpful to include all aspects of equalities in the next cycle of briefings for members.

Question 7

Councillor Brian Salinger

What discussions has the Cabinet Member had with the Borough Police Commander regarding the future of our Safer Neighbourhood Teams and what information has he been given about their future role?

Answer by Councillor David Longstaff

The discussions on Neighbourhood policing I've had with the Borough Commander, Superintendent Adrian Usher, are as follows.

His vision is that officers should treat every victim as if they were a member of the officers own family or personal friend; the police must then leave no stone unturned in the relentless pursuit of every offender. He wants to hear from the public if this standard is not being upheld by his officers.

Repeat victimisation will be a priority.

Officer efficiency must be improved so as to require only one visit to the scene of a crime for evidence.

There must be improved communication between the Police and those affected by crime.

In line with the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, Bernard Hogan-Howe, frontline officers are a priority and will be staffed as such. Community policing will be at the forefront of future policing and will be enhanced in the new Neighbourhood Policing Model. This will be done by reducing the back office and putting more officers on the frontline.

Whilst no figures are available at present, Superintendent Usher expects officer numbers to remain the same or slightly higher.

The new local policing model is expected in April 2013. It will maintain the ward teams, but those teams will become part of a Neighbourhood Policing Group, made up of 3 or 4 ward teams and linked through geographical proximity and significance.

Question 8

Councillor Alison Moore

Only half of council services are high performing / low cost – would the Cabinet Member explain why?

Answer by Councillor Daniel Thomas

This data needs to be taken in context, the outcome ranks Barnet 4th in London overall and the highest performer alongside those authorities reporting the same number of services in the period. For a few services - Social Care Adults and Secondary Education, the unitised expenditure was above the local authority average, however this is due to:

- Some authorities did not include learning disabilities in their base budget, whereas we did, and therefore compared to those Barnet appear to have higher expenditure but in reality we do not
- Some authorities where schools moved to academy status took out the expenditure but did not adjust population sizes and hence this misreported their performance

These data quality issues aside that London Councils (body responsible for the data), still places the Council as high performing for this indicator.

Question 9

Councillor Brian Salinger

Will the Cabinet Member advise the council on how many volunteers are working in each of our public libraries?

Answer by Councillor Robert Rams

In the last year (November 2011 to present day) 302 volunteers, delivered a total of 3218 volunteer hours.

Examples of work carried out include,

Early Years – volunteers help staff running rhyme time and other early years sessions by signing

people in to sessions, helping them find books to borrow and read in the session and handing out instruments and other props. They are directed by a member of library staff who leads the session.

Shelver – re-shelving items and keeping library shelves tidy

ICT buddy: the volunteer is available at advertised times to provide support to people who need help using IT applications. They are able to spend lengthy amounts of time with customers on things like setting up email accounts, social media etc.

Conversation café helper: the conversation café is a setting in which customers who speak English as a foreign language can practice their English conversation. Sessions are run by library staff and volunteers support by engaging in conversations with participants.

Events assistant: these volunteers support staff running adult events like coffee mornings.

Holiday volunteering: we had retired people reading with children in the summer holidays and young people supporting staff in the delivery of the children’s summer reading challenge. They asked children about the books they had read and gave out their prizes and stickers and supported staff running related events.

Question 10

Councillor Julie Johnson

Would the Cabinet Member advise what the latest plans are for Phase 3 of the West Hendon regeneration project, including number of homes, tenure of homes, and height of buildings / blocks?

Answer by Councillor Joanna Tambourides

Phase 3 of the West Hendon Project is still under discussion with officers and exact numbers and heights of buildings have not been finalised.

The unit numbers currently under discussion are:

<u>Open Market</u>	
Studio	0
1 Bed Flat	410
2 Bed Flat	848
3 Bed Flat	224
4 Bed Flat	0
3 Bed House	10
4 Bed House	8
Sub Total	1,500
<u>Affordable</u>	
Rented	
Studio	0
1 Bed Flat	55
2 Bed Flat	115
3 Bed Flat	35
3 Bed Duplex	0
4 Bed Flat	10
3 Bed House	0
4 Bed House	1
Sub Total	216

Shared Ownership	
Studio	0
1 Bed Flat	67
2 Bed Flat	133
3 Bed Flat	68
3 Bed Duplex	16
4 Bed Flat	0
3 Bed House	0
4 Bed House	0
Sub Total	284
Grand Total	2,000

Question 11

Councillor Brian Salinger

Will the Cabinet Member please update Members on the latest position with regard to the planning for the new library in the artsdepot building, including details of available finance for any works that are needed and an anticipated date when it might be fully operational?

Answer by Councillor Robert Rams

Members will have seen a copy of my statement issued on the 30st October. As I said in that statement, the Council undertook a very thorough feasibility study to look at options for delivering a landmark library in the Arts Depot building and I am disappointed that this is not going ahead. However, as is now public knowledge, this option is no longer feasible. The Arts Depot would not work with us to submit a capital funding bid to the Arts Council unless we signed up to a series of demands that were unaffordable to us. I have made available the full range of options that we were considering as well as the initial plans we commissioned for the existing North Finchley Library.

Question 12

Councillor Geoffrey Johnson

Would the Cabinet Member advise why you have to pay £1 to park for half an hour in the streets in West Hendon, but in Bell Lane near Green Lane in Hendon ward it is only 50p for 40 minutes?

Answer by Councillor Dean Cohen

It is standard practice to charge differential tariffs dependent on the location and its parking and traffic requirements.

Question 13

Councillor Brian Salinger

Will the Cabinet Member update Members on the actions taken and the costs involved in removing the squatters from Friern Barnet library?

Answer by Councillor Robert Rams

To date, the only costs involved are for the legal action to evict the squatters. At the time of writing the cost of the legal action is not known although in any event this is funded from within the allocated hours for legal services in relation to property. We expect some increase in utility bills but these have yet to come in.

Question 14

Councillor Julie Johnson

Would the Cabinet Member advise the latest projections for new affordable homes (broken down by type e.g. social rented, intermediate etc..) that will be delivered over the next ten years?

Answer by Councillor Tom Davey

It is not possible to provide details of a 10 year time horizon, only 8 years. This is because the affordable housing trajectory makes projections for affordable housing delivery from 2012/13 to

2019/20. There are no projections beyond this timescale

The latest projections for new affordable homes (which consist of social rented and intermediate) to be delivered over the next eight years are **3660** homes.

This is split as follows:

Affordable Rented Homes: 2,695 Units

Affordable Intermediate Homes: 965 Units

Question 15

Councillor John Hart

Could the Cabinet Member inform me how many new Tree Preservation Orders have been raised within the Hendon constituency, by wards, since January 2012, and how many rescinded?

Answer by Councillor Joanna Tambourides

The number of Tree Preservation Orders made and revoked within the Hendon constituency, by wards, since January 2012 is none.

4 Tree Preservation Orders have been made since January 2012 – Hampstead Garden Suburb (Dalmore, 81 Winnington Road), Finchley Church End (Kingsgate House, Amberden Avenue), East Finchley (Holy Trinity Church, Church Lane), Childs Hill (Hodford Road street trees).

Question 16

Councillor Anne Hutton

What is the reason for the delay in delivering a landmark Library at the artsdepot?

Answer by Councillor Robert Rams

Please see answer to Question 11

Question 17

Councillor John Hart

Could the Cabinet Member please update me on the take-up so far by shop outlets of the sale of traffic vouchers, better known as scratch cards?

Answer by Councillor Dean Cohen

The total number of traders signed up to the new online service is 9 with approximately 6 to be processed via the CSO

Approximately 200 vouchers were sold to traders before the online service was set up in early September including some buying directly from the libraries and continuing to do so = 275

The total number of scratchcards sold

½ hour Traders - £342 = 342

1 hour Traders – £485 = 242

Approximately 859 vouchers sold in total to traders since early September 2012

Question 18

Councillor Alan Schneiderman

Is the Cabinet Member going to privatise the management and grounds maintenance of our parks and green spaces?

Answer by Councillor Dean Cohen

An outline business case for these and other environment services is to be reviewed at Cabinet Resources Committee on Wednesday 7 November. The Council is proposing to retain these

services in-house at this time. The Council will be looking at how it can work better with third sector, residents and local groups and businesses to both look after and better utilise our parks and green spaces.

Question 19

Councillor John Hart

Is the Cabinet Member in a position to inform me of the interest being shown by potential purchasers in the former Church Farmhouse Museum, Greyhound Hill?

Answer by Councillor Robert Rams

A formal marketing exercise was carried out following council committee approval 28 July 2011. 150 sets of particulars were sent out to potential parties interested in the property, with the tender closing date May 4th 2012. Two proposals were submitted. One for a health centre, to buy at some £760,000 for the freehold ownership, the other was from a private school offered to buy a long leasehold interest, 125 years, with a premium up front payment of £1,000,000 and then to pay a £50,000 rent per annum. These bids when worked through have been identified to have high planning risk to see implemented, which could see the building left vacant over a longer term.

The Barnet Borough Arts Council, community group, approached the council however require significant financial support from the Council and proposals will require applying for Heritage Lottery Funding, this currently doesn't offer a sustainable proposal in line with community users.

There was strong residential interest in the property however no proposals were submitted because of the challenges of the public open space grounds and there being no private garden area. This building has also been affected by the difficult economic climate and the availability of funding, this is a more challenging residential development opportunity with the buildings Historic Grade II* Status, which requires more planning consultation work.

The strategic partner Middlesex University showed interest in the property including undertaking due diligence professional survey work. They could not justify buying the property to their boards because of the work that would need to be done, however they did indicate an interest in a short term letting opportunity initially for 6 months - 2 years.

Question 20

Councillor Julie Johnson

Would the Cabinet Member advise the number of social homes that will be delivered in Barnet over the next ten years, including a breakdown of those that already have both planning permission and funding?

Answer by Councillor Tom Davey

The Council's main priority with regards to social housing is the continuation of regeneration, which will see a sizeable element of our existing stock rebuilt to a better standard.

Going forward, the Council believes increasing Affordable Rent and affordable home ownership units is a more positive approach, as this will help meet the whole range of housing needs in the borough and encourage greater home ownership. Question 14 provides more details on the number of units in the pipeline.

As such I am not aware of any plans for new medium to large scale social Housing construction schemes in the Borough.

Question 21

Councillor Kate Salinger

Will the Cabinet Member please tell me when the plans for the Landmark Library at the artsdepot will be ready for the public to view?

Answer by Councillor Robert Rams

I have made the plans available – please see response to question 11.

Question 22**Councillor Anita Campbell**

Will the council be following other local authorities like Richmond in resisting the government's plans to allow larger extensions of around double the size without planning permission?

Answer by Councillor Joanna Tambourides

The government's proposals on relaxing permitted development have not been formally published as a consultation. The council is however opposed to permitted development allowances for single storey rear extensions being doubled.

Question 23**Councillor Brian Coleman**

Has the Council any plans for the future of Finchley Youth Theatre?

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

The Council's plans are to continue delivering at Finchley Youth Theatre the excellent programmes and other services that are already provided there for children and young people, not least those with learning difficulties and/or physical disabilities. The centre works with a number of local partners to ensure a diversity of delivery and opportunities for young people.

Currently, there are drop-in facilities for young people every Friday, offering information and advice about education, employment, training, sexual health, housing, relationships, emotional health issues, positive activities or whatever is on their mind. Future plans include extending the drop in service to be available from Monday to Friday, running a Duke of Edinburgh Open Award Centre and offering alternative learning programmes in line with the Council's 14-19 Strategy and its response to the raising of the participation age.

Question 24**Councillor Julie Johnson**

Would the Cabinet Member advise the number of affordable homes that will be delivered for each of the regeneration projects, including those that have already been delivered? As part of his answer, would the Cabinet Member include the number of affordable homes that were originally on each of the regeneration estates / sites?

Answer by Councillor Tom Davey

Scheme	No of Affordable Homes - Existing (at time of Outline Planning Application)	No of Affordable Homes Delivered to date (25 Oct 2012)
Whitefields (part of Cricklewood Brent Cross)	151	0
Grahame Park	1,365	180
West Hendon	530	13
Stonegrove & Spur Road	467	202
Dollis Valley*	362	0

Mill Hill East (Inglis Consortium)**	0	0
Granville Road*	16	0
Total	2891	395

* Dollis Valley and Granville Road have not yet been considered by Planning

** Mill Hill East is not a previously owned Council housing estate

Question 25

Councillor Brian Coleman

Is Councillor Longstaff happy that the Police in Barnet are enforcing his Borough wide Alcohol free zone and can he report what instructions the Borough Commander has given his Officers on enforcement?

Answer by Councillor David Longstaff

The Designated Public Place Order comes into effect on 19th November 2012, so happiness is on hold. This is a borough wide partnership initiative by the Council and local police. The police will enforce the order under sections 13 Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 as they have done in the other pre existing areas within the borough.

Question 26

Councillor Geof Cooke

In April next year how many people in Barnet will get an increase in council tax as a result of Pickles' Poll Tax?

Answer by Councillor Daniel Thomas

I assume the Member is referring to the Government's plans to localise Council Tax Benefit. The council has consulted on a range of possible options for a localised system of Council Tax Support and a full report will be presented to Cabinet in December, outlining the options. The number of people impacted depends on the nature of the scheme adopted. Out of the 30,000 current recipients of Council Tax Benefit, 10,000 of these are pensioners who will not be impacted by these changes. A full Equality Impact Assessment will be provided alongside the Cabinet report.

Question 27

Councillor Brian Coleman

Does Cllr Cohen remain committed to the Policy of not introducing 20mph zones?

Answer by Councillor Dean Cohen

Whilst not a stated policy, the Council has not generally supported the introduction of 20mph limits or zones, which whilst not obligatory usually rely on physical measures to restrict the movement of traffic. The types of measures typically implemented can also have adverse impacts on local residents, bus services and emergency services.

While 20mph zones have undoubtedly been successful in many areas where they have been introduced in response to a history of road traffic accidents, the distribution of accidents in Barnet is such that other measures may be more effective means of reducing casualties.

20mph area wide limits without physical measures to reduce traffic speeds have been introduced in some areas. They are most likely to achieve speeds at or close to the 20mph speed limit in locations where road conditions e.g. narrow heavily parked streets mean that existing speeds are already low. Where this is not the case adequate enforcement of the limit may be unachievable.

Nevertheless consideration of 20mph zones or limits may be considered appropriate in some locations depending on the particular prevailing circumstances and I would expect such a measure to be considered on a case by case basis based on merit. Notably the recent Finchley and Golders Green AESC did agree to the introduction of a 20mph speed limit in Church Lane having considered the matter as a local issue, but I would emphasise that this does not necessarily mean that 20mph will be the default solution when speeding concerns are investigated boroughwide.

The 20 mph scheme at the Hocroft Estate has been made permanent, illustrating the Council's responsiveness to particular circumstances.

Question 28

Councillor Anita Campbell

The kerbsides in my ward seem to be covered in weeds – how often are kerbsides cleared in the council's street cleansing programme?

Answer by Councillor Dean Cohen

Street cleansing in residential areas will remove dead weeds during the cyclical sweep which currently happens every 6 weeks. The wet weather conditions during the summer have meant that the weed control contractor has had a difficult task this year. The final treatment is now under way.

Question 29

Councillor Brian Coleman

Could the Leader outline the arrangements following the resignation of the Chief Executive?

Answer by Councillor Richard Cornelius

This matter will be dealt with at the Council meeting under the report of Head of Governance.

Question 30

Councillor Alison Moore

I have requested complete copies of the council's risk registers, including those for the One Barnet programme but have received nothing to date. Would the Cabinet Member please provide these now?

Answer by Councillor Robert Rams

The One Barnet Programme risk register is publically available on the website as part of the openness and transparency agenda, and is available here:

It can be found at

http://www.barnet.gov.uk/info/930372/one_barnet_programme_level_risk_register/1023/one_barnet_programme_level_risk_register

I assume the Member has asked the relevant council service and Cabinet Member for each individual risk register however also in line with our transparency agenda individual risk registers for council wide directorates are published quarterly with performance information, for your information the quarter 1 results are here:

http://www.barnet.gov.uk/downloads/download/1008/corporate_plan_indicators_201213_quarter_1

Question 31

Councillor Brian Coleman

Following complaints from Members of all Parties and even the Mayor, will Cllr Thomas withdraw the revised IT arrangements with regard to members pending consultation?

Answer by Councillor Daniel Thomas

The changes are planned following instructions from the Councils IGC (Information Governance Council) to remove practices that threaten our compliance in relation to the Public Services Network. To ensure that risks are mitigated against, to avoid Information Commissioner Office fines and data security/protection issues changes have to be made to how members currently use their IT equipment and email accounts. A phased approach to this work is being considered given the impact on members and the IT service.

Question 32

Councillor Jim Tierney

On the N3 section of Nether Street approaching the roundabout at the junction with Dollis Road the traffic and parking problems continue. There are long queues morning and evening. The main cause of this is that daily commuters are still allowed to park their cars on both sides of the road there between the junction of Elm Park Road and Eversleigh Road N3. This parking leaves insufficient space for traffic to get through, particularly larger vehicles, and is causing major problems. The 326 bus is frequently delayed. There are single yellow line restrictions in force further north on this N3 section of Nether Street and traffic moves relatively smoothly there. Can the Cabinet Member extend the yellow lines to the section in question?

Answer by Councillor Dean Cohen

Officers will investigate this request and make recommendations to extend the yellow line if they consider it appropriate.

Question 33

Councillor Brian Coleman

Following the Prime Minister's announcement of arrangements for the Nation to mark the Centenary of the First World War between 2014 and 2018 will the Leader ensure suitable commemoration takes place in Barnet and will he perhaps invite the Representative Deputy Lieutenant, Mr Russell who did an excellent job on the Diamond Jubilee to coordinate. Will the Leader particularly ensure that the Prime Minister's aim of using the occasion to involve and educate our young people is achieved in Barnet?

Answer by Councillor Richard Cornelius

I have already spoken to the Representative Deputy Lieutenant and intend that Barnet should commemorate this important anniversary in an appropriate manner.

Question 34

Councillor Arjun Mitra

Will the Council undertake to examine the state and sufficiency of play equipment in Cherry Tree Woods and the playground on Market Place in East Finchley?

Answer by Councillor Dean Cohen

Cherry Tree Woods – Benefitted from a £55k Playbuilder scheme in 2009 which saw the addition of play equipment and natural play elements alongside the existing play area, which included an aerial slide, tyre swing, climbing rock and tarantula trampoline. Due to the wet weather experienced this year this part of the play area has become very muddy as with the rest of the field, this is something out of the Council's control and should remedy itself by next Spring. The internal play area is well catered for in terms of play equipment for the under 14's.

Market Place – There has been a loss of some significant pieces of play equipment over the last few years as these have come to the end of their life, it has not been possible to replace this equipment due to financial restraints. The Council were working alongside a resident group to access external funding to carry out improvements, but after one unsuccessful bid the group disbanded.

Question 35

Councillor John Marshall

Would the Cabinet Member please comment on Mayor Johnson's Inquiry into education?

Answer by Councillor Andrew Harper

Mayor Johnson is to be congratulated for having launched this important initiative. I welcome its findings and the Mayor's enthusiastic acceptance of the recommendations. The Inquiry Panel - on which Robert McCulloch-Graham sat - made recommendations under three broad headings: (i) promoting excellent teaching with all London schools; (ii) preparing young Londoners for life and work in a global city and (iii) a good school place for every London child. Members will recognise the similarity between the third theme and Barnet's own priority of ensuring every school is a good school for every child!

Question 36

Councillor Pauline Coakley Webb

What road safety measures will be put in place for the 307 bus re-route to Barnet Hospital, and when will these take place?

Answer by Councillor Dean Cohen

Concerns regarding pedestrian safety on Wellhouse Lane have been recently tabled at the Area Forum on 16 October 2012 and are being looked into. The forum submission wants the areas of investigation to include siting of bus stop facilities and consideration of a new pedestrian crossing on Wellhouse Lane, and also possibly widening Wellhouse Lane.

Currently, the siting of bus stop facilities on Wellhouse Lane has been temporary so as to allow TfL-funded improvements within the bus turning area outside the hospital to take place and also to increase capacity to cater for the relocated 307 route.

It is anticipated that feasibility and design will be completed and work on any identified measures commenced early in the next financial year.

Question 37

Councillor Alison Moore

What lessons has the administration learned from failed large outsourcing projects and problems with outsourcing in places like Somerset and Cornwall?

Answer by Councillor Richard Cornelius

Outsourcing of Council services is a common practice by local authorities, led by all political parties, across the country. In the majority of cases, outsourcing provides better services for less money to the taxpayer. There are, of course, situations where such improvements are not achieved. In some situations, this is because the process of awarding the contract is not successfully completed.

At a general level, two key lessons must be learnt from such instances:

- The process of tendering and awarding the contract must be completely robust, so that it is not possible for unsuccessful bidders to challenge the contract award. The Council is aware of this risk and has employed leading national commercial and legal specialists to ensure that the NSCSO and DRS procurement processes are run in a robust manner.
- The political support for the contract must be firm. I can assure all members of Council that the administration's support for the NSCSO and DRS contracts is unwavering.

Question 38

Councillor Claire Farrier

Following on from his response to my question at the last Council meeting, would the Cabinet Member please tell me when the review that he promised of Burnt Oak Town Centre will take place, what the remit of the review will be, how it may improve the parking situation for residents around Watling Avenue, and who the officer is who will lead the review?

Answer by Councillor Dean Cohen

The parking review in Burnt Oak is part of the Boroughwide Town Centre and Shopping Parades Parking Review which has recently been undertaken

The review is seeking to obtain views of the on-street and off-street requirements from traders and businesses in Town Centres and Local Shopping Parades that have Pay by Phone parking facilities nearby, with a view to establishing whether the current parking arrangements could be improved to better serve the area.

In the week commencing 10th September 2012, traders and businesses in Town Centres and Local Shopping Parades across the borough were sent a letter directing them to an on-line questionnaire designed to enable them to give the Council information about their business and their customers' and clients' parking needs, and highlight any specific issues that may affect them on a regular basis. The option to download or request a hard copy of the questionnaire was also available.

The closing date for returns was 28th September 2012, and Officers are currently analysing the responses before making recommendations on what changes if any could be made to better serve each area.

The work is being undertaken by the Traffic and Development Section in the Planning, Environment and Regeneration Directorate – the Director being Pam Wharfe

Question 39

Councillor Charlie O'Macauley

How many houses or flats are being built or expected to be built in and around Burnt Oak and Colindale areas, what additional general facilities will be provided, and how many people do we estimate will come and live in those areas?

Answer by Councillor Joanna Tambourides

The London Plan identifies Colindale / Burnt Oak as an Opportunity Area with a minimum housing target of 12,500 new homes. This includes a number of sites along the Edgware Road which fall within the London Borough of Brent. To guide development in the area, the Council adopted the Colindale Area Action Plan (AAP) in 2010. This planning policy document sets out how 10,000 new homes will be built within the Colindale area. The new population resulting from these new homes is anticipated to exceed 20,000 people and the Council recognises the importance of providing appropriate supporting infrastructure to meet the demands of the rising population. The AAP therefore identifies new infrastructure including new primary schools, road infrastructure, public parks and open spaces, health, community and sports facilities that is being delivered through a combination of developer contributions and other funding sources. The Council is particularly aware of the potential strain on public transport infrastructure. Upgrades are planned to the Northern Line within TfL's Business Plan for 2009/10 – 2017/18 which will increase capacity. These upgrades are designed to take into account all housing that may come forward during the London Plan period, including the growth happening in Colindale. The Council will continue to work with TfL to undertake further capacity studies to ensure that existing services are developed and upgraded as appropriate.

Question 40

Councillor Arjun Mitra

Will the Cabinet Member for Environment consider improving signage on East End Road to reduce speeding?

Answer by Councillor Dean Cohen

Although sporadic requests for traffic calming on EER have previously been made, when assessed against the Council's agreed criteria for consideration of such measures that places focus on mitigating personal injury accidents there has been no justification in recommending any speed control measures. However, if there is a specific stretch of East End Road that warrants consideration and may benefit from improved signage this can be looked into.

Question 41**Councillor Charlie O'Macauley**

Fly tipping has increased in and around Burnt Oak. Are there any arrangements to counter or help reduce this problem?

Answer by Councillor Dean Cohen

The majority of fly tipping in Burnt Oak area consists of individual bulky items of unwanted or broken furniture which local residents simply dump onto the small green areas at the ends of their roads. This normally happens during the hours of darkness when neighbours are less likely to see and report the offenders.

We will continue to clear reported fly tips promptly however where physical evidence is not available and fly-tip cannot attributed nor tracked, we do rely on residents providing us information as to who is doing the dumping.

Question 42**Councillor Alan Schneiderman**

What assessment has been made of the performance of NSL, the Council's parking contractor?

Answer by Councillor Dean Cohen

Parking services continues to assess, review and where necessary has adjusted the new contract for Parking with NSL.

The majority of the start of the contract has been to deal with historical elements and the resulting reviews have allowed for changes and recommendations with regards back office and enforcement processes. The service is under regular review as it is a new contract, to make sure that it is delivered effectively.

Question 43**Councillor Charlie O'Macauley**

Watling Park is supposed to be a premier park. What is the council doing about the litter, dog fouling and the poor lighting which does not correspond to the park's premier status?

Answer by Councillor Dean Cohen

The Premier Parks Strategy ceased in 2010. The lighting in the park was turned off (2009/2010) as there were a number of incidents where people using the footpath, as a cut through, were becoming the subject of crime. As the footpath was lit it implied that it was a safe route to use after dark which is not the case as much of the park is not overlooked by neighbouring properties or open to the neighbouring streets. The lighting was disconnected to discourage the use of the footpath after dark. This decision was made in liaison with Met Police.

Litter and dog fouling is cleaned regularly from the park by the maintenance teams, during the summer the entire park is cleaned three times and the playground is cleaned daily. There is more than ample provision of litter and dog bins in the park, but unfortunately some park users do not make use of these facilities.

Question 44**Councillor Barry Rawlings**

What is the timetable for the consideration of the Village Green application for the land next to Friern Barnet Library? Please note that the fact it is protected under the Public Health Act should not be used to disregard the application.

Answer by Councillor Joanna Tambourides

Representations from the applicant in response to the council's objection have been received at the end of September. These representations are currently being reviewed by the council's legal department. The application will then be submitted for an independent decision by Counsel because of the council's interest in the land. Officers anticipate that this will be submitted by the middle of November.

Question 45**Councillor Charlie O'Macauley**

Have all parking machines in Barnet now been removed, and what has the cost been to remove them?

Answer by Councillor Dean Cohen

There are 7 non functioning machines still in the borough currently in the process of final removal. The cost of the removal exercise is £81.5K.

Question 46

Councillor Alison Moore

Would the Cabinet Member please send me a copy of the process and procedure for evaluating bids under the One Barnet programme outsourcings currently taking place?

Answer by Councillor Robert Rams

Copies of the requested documents have been emailed to Councillor Moore as requested.

Question 47

Councillor Alan Schneiderman

Why can Brent residents be told about plans for a joint procurement of street scene with Barnet and other authorities but Barnet residents are kept in the dark?

Answer by Councillor Dean Cohen

The Council is part of the West London Alliance and as part of this group officers have been working collaboratively to investigate the possibility of a shared service. Brent Council felt the most beneficial route for them was a shared service, subject to all boroughs agreeing. Due to their committee dates they submitted their business case earlier than other boroughs.

Cabinet Resources Committee on Wednesday 7 November will receive a report for approval which advises that a joint procurement option would not be the best approach for Barnet and recommends an in-house service for approval.

Question 48

Councillor Arjun Mitra

What input has the Cabinet Member for Health had in the Sport and Physical Activity review?

Answer by Councillor Helena Hart

Given the importance of physical activity to the health of our local population, as Cabinet Member for Health I was very keen from the outset that this Review should be centred on sport and physical activity rather than just being part of the original much wider Leisure Review and I am extremely pleased that it has evolved in this way. Apart from this, my involvement has included attendance at the two Member Consultation Events in February and August 2012 and the opportunity to comment on the draft Strategic Outline Case in July 2012.

More broadly, this project has linked closely to officers and partners working in the field of health. Dr Andrew Burnett (Joint Director for Public Health) was involved in the early development of the Strategic Outline Case as was his colleague Rachel Wells (Public Health Consultant). A member of the Public Health team has also sat on the Project Board and provided professional public health input. In addition the Public Health team has led the Sports and Physical Activity Needs Assessment and Facilities Mapping work.

Now that the Strategic Outline Case has been approved by Cabinet Resources Committee, it is planned to bring it to the Health and Well Being Board where it can be discussed in much greater detail by all Members of the Board, with input being particularly welcomed from our CCG and Public Health colleagues, the LINK and the Cabinet Members and Directors for Adults and Children.

Question 49

Councillor Andreas Ioannidis

How many 20 mph zones are there in Barnet and where are they (broken down by ward), and are there any areas in Brunswick Park ward where the council are consulting on 20mph zones?

Answer by Councillor Dean Cohen

There are 9 distinct areas in the borough where a 20mph zone or limit is in place. These are:

	Roads	Ward
1	Wentworth Road & Byng Road, Barnet.	High Barnet
2	Courtlands Avenue, Robin Close, Stockton Gardens, Hankins Lane, Norbury Grove, Bedford Road, Worcester Crescent, Ramillies Road & Glenwood Road, NW7.	Hale
3	Bushfield Crescent Springwood Crescent, Meadfield, Burrell Close, Hamonde Close, Warrens Shawe Lane, Knightswood Close & Bushfield Close, Edgware.	Edgware
4	Victoria Avenue, Church Crescent, Clifton Avenue, Dollis Avenue, Lyndhurst Avenue, Grass Park, Rathgar Close, Freston Park, Kingswood Park, Grenville Close, Hendon Avenue, Claremont Park, Village Road, Cyprus Gardens, St. Mary's Avenue, Cyprus Avenue, Dollis Park, Crescent Road & Queenswood Park, N3.	Finchley Church End (part of Crescent Road is in West Finchley)
5	Addison Way, Childs Way, Creswick Walk, Hogarth Hill, Wordsworth Walk, Coleridge Walk, Willifield Green, Asmunds Hill,	Garden Suburb

	Willifield Way, Erskine Hill, Woodside, Holmfield, Denman Drive, Chatham Close, Denman Drive North, Denman Drive South & Oakwood Road, NW11.	
6	Prayle Grove, Marble Drive, Wallcote Avenue, Jade Close, Amber Grove & Pearl Close, NW2.	Golders Green
7	Partingdale Lane, NW7	Mill Hill
8	Mays Lane, Barnet	Underhill
9	Ranulf Road, Lyndale, Hocroft Road, Farm Avenue, Hocroft Avenue, Harman Drive & Harman Close, NW2	Childs Hill

The council is not consulting on 20mph zones in Brunswick Park Ward.

Question 50

Councillor Alan Schneiderman

What action has been taken to improve the performance of NSL, the Council's parking contractor?

Answer by Councillor Dean Cohen

Already answered as part of question 42.

Question 51

Councillor Barry Rawlings

How will the Council ensure any commissioning under the One Barnet Programme takes account of the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012?

Answer by Councillor Robert Rams

This Act comes into effect from January 2013. Statutory best value guidance states that any commissioning the council undertakes will seek to maximise the additional benefit that can be created by procuring or commissioning goods and services, above and beyond the benefit of merely the goods and services themselves. The council will consider the social value of any commissioning undertaken under the One Barnet programme.

Question 52

Councillor Gill Sargeant

What is the latest assessment of the impact that the One Barnet mass outsourcing will have on both members of the pension scheme and the viability of the pension scheme itself?

Answer by Councillor Daniel Thomas

The Council implemented its staff 'TUPE Transfer Commitments' with effect from September 2011.

These TUPE Transfer Commitments explicitly state that: *'The London Borough of Barnet will ensure that employees transferred from the Council to a new employer will be able to continue in membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme [LGPS] by requiring that the new employer obtains Admitted Body Status [ABS] within LGPS. ABS permits employees to participate in LGPS should they choose to do so although they will no longer be employed by the Council.'*

Since that date all Barnet TUPE transfers have been admitted to LGPS as an Admitted Body. As a result, all things being equal, if members continue to be paying into the pension fund via their admitted body status there will be no impact on the viability of the pension fund.

Question 53

Councillor Alan Schneiderman

What measures is the Cabinet Member going to take, beyond those already announced, to address the concerns of Barnet's traders that the current parking regime is hurting their businesses and ruining our town centres?

Answer by Councillor Dean Cohen

We have recently undertaken a Boroughwide Town Centre and Shopping Parades Parking Review sought to obtain views of the on-street and off-street requirements from traders and businesses in Town Centres and Local Shopping Parades that have Pay by Phone parking facilities nearby, with a view to establishing whether the current parking arrangements could be improved to better serve the area.

In the week commencing 10th September 2012, traders and businesses in Town Centres and Local Shopping Parades across the borough were sent a letter directing them to an on-line questionnaire designed to enable them to give the Council information about their business and their customers' and clients' parking needs, and highlight any specific issues that may affect them on a regular basis. The option to download or request a hard copy of the questionnaire was also available.

The closing date for returns was 28th September 2012, and Officers are currently analysing the responses before making recommendations on what changes if any could be made to better serve each area.

Any identified action will be based on local views and parameters and changes introduced will reflect local needs as it is not appropriate to assume a 'one size fits all' approach, although it is accepted that some common concerns exist boroughwide and there may be some uniform changes across the borough.

Officers are working hard to evaluate the response in an effort to introduce any identified changes before Christmas if possible.

Question 54

Councillor Andreas Ioannidis

What is the Cabinet Member doing in his leadership role on crime and community safety to help the police reduce the number of burglaries in Brunswick Park?

Answer by Councillor David Longstaff

Below are some of the tactical options the police and Barnet Council and partners are utilising to tackle burglary in the borough, this includes the area of Brunswick Park.

- Target Hardening advice and support for residents in hotspot areas.
- Repeat victim strategy - Target Hardening advice and support for Burglary victims.

- DNA Selecta kits (property marking) used in homes of Burglary victims
- Borough Watch providing crime prevention advice to residents borough wide
- Enforcement and Prevention targeting of Burglary Hotspots
- Automatic Number Plate Recognition System (ANPR) on arterial routes
- SNT provide specific crime prevention advice for local residents
- Targeted intelligence gathering and development on known offenders
- Warrants based on an Intel package carried out on known offenders.
- Visits by Police to offenders on licence/tag
- ASBOs or ABCs used on suitable offenders
- PPO/DIP Programme - Probation intervention
- Deployment of CCTV
- DAAT Team
- Winter Burglary Campaign
- Care and Repair Environmental Audits
- Introduction of Integrated Offender Management to reduce re-offending

Question 55

Councillor Alan Schneiderman

Does the Cabinet Member now accept that the huge hike in parking charges and removal of parking meters has led to a reduction in income from parking?

Answer by Councillor Dean Cohen

It should be noted that many areas in and outside of the borough offering free parking have seen a dramatic decrease in footfall in the past two years as part of the economic decline. Whist indications show that charging and the facility to pay to park may well have had an effect on income these are not the only issues effecting our high streets and subsequently revenue to the council.

Question 56

Councillor Barry Rawlings

Given various local news items, will the Cabinet Member clarify the situation for disabled residents regarding the ability to undertake community contribution as defined by the Housing Allocation policy?

Answer by Councillor Tom Davey

By law the housing allocations scheme has to give a priority to households in the highest housing need. One of a number of recognised housing needs is a household with a member who is disabled and living in a home that does not meet their needs.

Under the allocations scheme where there are medical grounds for a need to move, doctor and occupational health reports are taken into account to assess the need to move and housing requirements.

Where there is an urgent need for a move, for example a person is in hospital and has a permanent disability as a result and cannot be discharged back to their former home, this household will be given priority for housing and placed in band 1. Community contribution does not apply in this situation.

Where a household needs to move because a disability means that they are living in a home that no longer meets their needs they are placed into band 2 if they make a community contribution or band 3 if they do not.

The council held extensive consultation on the housing allocations scheme in 2010. Disability Action in Barnet and Community Barnet confirmed that there are opportunities for disabled people

to make a community contribution in Barnet, for example through volunteering, and that many disabled people do volunteer. However, the council recognises that sometimes disabled people will be less able to make a community contribution and officers can use discretion in individual cases and reduce or remove the requirements.

Barnet Homes takes the same approach with existing tenants who need to move because of a permanent disability. However, with a limited supply of housing being made available for letting each year, these tenants might also be encouraged to make a home swap through the national home swapper service or they might find a suitable property through Housing Moves, the pan London mobility scheme.

Where it is appropriate, Barnet Homes will make adaptations to an existing home to enable a disabled person to continue to live there.

Question 57

Councillor Alan Schneiderman

Has any investment in signs and lines been made yet by the new parking contractor, and if not, when will it be made?

Answer by Councillor Dean Cohen

A full review of signs and lines is taking place, and as can be seen when travelling around the borough remarking and sign maintenance is taking place weather permitting.

Question 58

Councillor Jim Tierney

We have known for some years now that residents in Elm Park Rd and Eversleigh Rd, N3 and nearby roads frequently find there's no place to park because commuters have taken every available space in the street and leave their cars there all day. The Cabinet Member was made aware of this as far back as 2009 and the Parking Service did indeed circulate a questionnaire to residents at that time. However with the cut backs nothing was done with the data collected. Would the Cabinet Member please consider doing a further consultation to see what the residents' current preferences are?

Answer by Councillor Dean Cohen

I am keen to ensure that where there is evidence that a demand exists from local residents for consideration of parking measures that the matter is investigated appropriately to see what may be justified.

To this end Officers will be identifying know areas of concern throughout the Borough, typically based on previous investigation or requests to the Council with a view to formulating a programme of review which would include the Elm Park Road area.

I would anticipate such reviews to commence in earnest in the new financial year.

Question 59

Councillor Alan Schneiderman

Does the Cabinet accept any responsibility for General Fund balances falling so far below the recommended target level of £15m?

Answer by Councillor Daniel Thomas

I accept responsibility for the council being in a healthy reserve position which was subject to external review that resulted in an unqualified audit opinion. Whilst quarter one shows a *forecast* marginal overspend at the end of this financial year there are recovery plans in place to ensure these are mitigated by the end of the year.

Question 60

Councillor Andreas Ioannidis

When will the Brunswick Park Health Centre reopen?

Answer by Councillor Helena Hart

A precise re-opening date for the Brunswick Park Health Centre cannot be confirmed until a new gas main has been installed. The timing of this is beyond the Council and its partners' control but we are monitoring it closely.

All works directly within the Council and its partners' control are progressing well and all construction work will be completed by the end of November. The GP based at the Centre reviewed the works last week and provided positive feedback. Discussions are also taking place regarding the opportunity for a second local practice to be based in the Centre.

As a guide, it is anticipated that the Centre will re-open in December.