

MEETING

COUNCIL

DATE AND TIME

TUESDAY 28TH JANUARY, 2020

AT 7.00 PM

VENUE

HENDON TOWN HALL, THE BURROUGHS, LONDON NW4 4BQ

Dear Councillors,

Please find enclosed additional papers relating to the following items for the above mentioned meeting which were not available at the time of collation of the agenda.

| Item No | Title of Report | Pages |
|---------|--|--------|
| 1. | QUESTIONS TO THE LEADER (AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN IF HE/SHE HAS DELEGATED) | 3 - 44 |

Faith Mwende faith.mwende@barnet.gov.uk 020 8359 4917

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| Qn. | Councillor | Question | Response by | Response | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 1 | Cllr Jennifer Grocock | In response to a question I asked in 2018 I was advised that there was a 96% success rate for council tax collections. I remain interested in discovering what the missing percentage equated to and over how many years. Indeed, I am aware that one of my residents has had a substantial sum due and owing over many, many years. Can you please now assist with the sourcing of and provision of such information from Capita? | Leader | <p>Capita guarantee a collection rate of 98.5% over four years, with current performance at 98.8% collected for bills relating up to 2016/17 financial year. The collection of outstanding Council Tax continues until such times as its paid in full or written off for reasons such as the debtor has gone away, the debtors cannot be traced or its uneconomical to collect. The table below shows the breakdown of outstanding debt and the year it relates to:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1205 480 1668 1399"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="1205 480 1361 563">Year</th> <th data-bbox="1361 480 1668 563">Total Balance including Costs</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td data-bbox="1205 563 1361 604">2000</td><td data-bbox="1361 563 1668 604">73,474.12</td></tr> <tr><td data-bbox="1205 604 1361 646">2001</td><td data-bbox="1361 604 1668 646">21,671.95</td></tr> <tr><td data-bbox="1205 646 1361 687">2002</td><td data-bbox="1361 646 1668 687">41,881.10</td></tr> <tr><td data-bbox="1205 687 1361 729">2003</td><td data-bbox="1361 687 1668 729">84,525.54</td></tr> <tr><td data-bbox="1205 729 1361 770">2004</td><td data-bbox="1361 729 1668 770">214,199.68</td></tr> <tr><td data-bbox="1205 770 1361 812">2005</td><td data-bbox="1361 770 1668 812">498,253.50</td></tr> <tr><td data-bbox="1205 812 1361 853">2006</td><td data-bbox="1361 812 1668 853">1,046,191.40</td></tr> <tr><td data-bbox="1205 853 1361 895">2007</td><td data-bbox="1361 853 1668 895">1,064,439.81</td></tr> <tr><td data-bbox="1205 895 1361 936">2008</td><td data-bbox="1361 895 1668 936">898,784.66</td></tr> <tr><td data-bbox="1205 936 1361 978">2009</td><td data-bbox="1361 936 1668 978">1,029,957.99</td></tr> <tr><td data-bbox="1205 978 1361 1019">2010</td><td data-bbox="1361 978 1668 1019">1,539,403.35</td></tr> <tr><td data-bbox="1205 1019 1361 1061">2011</td><td data-bbox="1361 1019 1668 1061">1,806,360.01</td></tr> <tr><td data-bbox="1205 1061 1361 1102">2012</td><td data-bbox="1361 1061 1668 1102">2,141,413.49</td></tr> <tr><td data-bbox="1205 1102 1361 1144">2013</td><td data-bbox="1361 1102 1668 1144">2,568,503.35</td></tr> <tr><td data-bbox="1205 1144 1361 1185">2014</td><td data-bbox="1361 1144 1668 1185">2,834,043.76</td></tr> <tr><td data-bbox="1205 1185 1361 1227">2015</td><td data-bbox="1361 1185 1668 1227">3,784,076.61</td></tr> <tr><td data-bbox="1205 1227 1361 1268">2016</td><td data-bbox="1361 1227 1668 1268">4,276,461.05</td></tr> <tr><td data-bbox="1205 1268 1361 1310">2017</td><td data-bbox="1361 1268 1668 1310">5,243,816.06</td></tr> <tr><td data-bbox="1205 1310 1361 1351">2018</td><td data-bbox="1361 1310 1668 1351">7,075,725.86</td></tr> <tr><td data-bbox="1205 1351 1361 1393">2019</td><td data-bbox="1361 1351 1668 1393"></td></tr> <tr><td data-bbox="1205 1393 1361 1434">Total</td><td data-bbox="1361 1393 1668 1434">36,243,183.29</td></tr> </tbody> </table> | Year | Total Balance including Costs | 2000 | 73,474.12 | 2001 | 21,671.95 | 2002 | 41,881.10 | 2003 | 84,525.54 | 2004 | 214,199.68 | 2005 | 498,253.50 | 2006 | 1,046,191.40 | 2007 | 1,064,439.81 | 2008 | 898,784.66 | 2009 | 1,029,957.99 | 2010 | 1,539,403.35 | 2011 | 1,806,360.01 | 2012 | 2,141,413.49 | 2013 | 2,568,503.35 | 2014 | 2,834,043.76 | 2015 | 3,784,076.61 | 2016 | 4,276,461.05 | 2017 | 5,243,816.06 | 2018 | 7,075,725.86 | 2019 | | Total | 36,243,183.29 |
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| 2 | Cllr Barry Rawlings | The corporate priority 'Getting Barnet Clean' is currently status-rated red/limited. Why does Barnet Council find delivery of basic universal services like street-cleaning so difficult? | Chair, Environment | The delivery of street cleansing services represents a challenge for all local authorities including Barnet, one of the largest and the most populated borough in London. Improvements are being made to street cleansing following the allocation of an additional £500,000 in line with options agreed by Environment Committee on 4 th June 2019. Should there be specific areas of concern we would welcome further detail on these so that they can be addressed as we continue our street cleansing improvement programme. Elected members can report issues via the Members Enquiries service. |
| 3 | Cllr Brian Gordon | The Government has announced it will be allocating free parking for many categories of patients at NHS hospitals. Will our Council have a role – even if only one of liaison - to ensure this policy is properly and efficiently implemented at all NHS hospitals within our Borough? | Chair, Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee | The Council's Parking department will continue to have ongoing dialogue with NHS hospital Trust with regards to parking in CPZ areas adjacent to NHS hospitals. |
| 4 | Cllr Sara Conway | Why was there no apparent progress on the implementation of Burnt Oak town centre plans last year? | Chair, Housing & Growth | <p>Following works to Burnt Oak Library, the International Gospel Church and the new kiosk, officer attention shifted to supporting Love Burnt Oak (LBO) to access Mayor of London funding to expand the community kitchen at the church, which had significant potential to improve the lives of those living in the wider Burnt Oak area.</p> <p>Unfortunately, the council and LBO were ultimately unsuccessful in the funding bid.</p> <p>Since that time, attention has shifted back to the delivery of town centre projects. In support of the council's new Growth Strategy, officers have requested additional staff to lead delivery and coordination of town centre improvement projects in Burnt Oak and Colindale.</p> |
| 5 | Cllr Brian Gordon | Business rates are to be reformed, with a retail discount increased from one-third to 50 percent. Would you fully welcome this, and what are the implications of this in terms of our Council's income? | Chair, Housing & Growth | <p>Support for local businesses is welcomed, particularly when supporting our high streets.</p> <p>The Council's overall level of income will be unaffected as the Council will receive a grant from the government in lieu of the foregone tax receipts.</p> |

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| 6 | Cllr Anne Clarke | Given the scale of changes to our library service and the size of the borough, will the decision to have only 2 public engagement sessions on the impact of these changes be reviewed? | Chair, Community Leadership & Libraries | Communities Leadership and Libraries Committee agreed a budget of £30,000, a tender exercise was undertaken and the contract for the evaluation awarded to Activist who have substantive experience in delivering library services and evaluations. When designing the stakeholder engagement they advised targeted focus groups, group interviews and a survey were the most effective ways to obtain a cross section of views from target groups and the wider community in general. In order to achieve this and to deliver to budget a survey, focus groups, group interviews, 1:1 meetings and 2 public meeting have been carried out. |
| 7 | Cllr Brian Gordon | Almost 150 people have been murdered this year in London, the highest number for more than a decade. This is a tragically massive number, and arguably an appalling reflection on the allocation of police time and resources. How many of these murders occurred in the Borough of Barnet, and how will the recruitment of thousands more police officers, as promised by the Government, impact positively on allocations of front-line police to our Borough? | Chair, Safer Communities Partnership Board | <p>Between January 2019 to December 2019 there have been 4 homicides in Barnet.</p> <p>From the numbers of additional police being recruited annually we understand that around two thousand will be allocated to the Metropolitan police, and that around 120 of these will be assigned to the North West BCU area which covers Barnet, Brent and Harrow. We are pleased that these additional officers will be assigned to front line policing duties and will undoubtedly make a positive impact in keeping Barnet safe.</p> <p>Indeed, Barnet remains one of London's safest boroughs – Barnet has 2nd lowest rate (per 1000 population) of Violence with Injury offences out of all 32 London Boroughs. The rate of Violence with Injury offences in Barnet is 32% lower than the London average and the rate of Knife crime is 23% lower than the London average (date: 12 months up to December 2019)</p> |
| 8 | Cllr Sara Conway | Have any non-disclosure agreements been issued to Marsh Drive residents? | Chair, Housing & Growth | No |

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| 9 | Cllr Linda Freedman | What steps do the Council take for large fly tips on private property, especially if they are an environmental and health hazard? How do we deal with those landowners that ignore any Notices to clear? | Chair, Environment | <p>The council remove fly tips off public land and not private land. However, we do engage with private landowners to find the most appropriate solution to clear the land. This includes providing quotes to remove the fly tip, using various statutory notices afforded to us under planning, environmental health and ASB legislation.</p> <p>Legal Powers that assist Local Authorities in tackling such waste include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Protection Act 1990: Section 89(1) places a duty on certain bodies to ensure that their land (or land for which they are responsible) is, so far as is practicable, kept clear of litter and refuse. • Environmental Protection Act 1990: Sections 92c provides the powers for Local authorities to issue Litter Clearance notices upon land owners. • Environmental Protection Act 1990: Part 2A; Contaminated Land clearance powers. • Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 part 4; Community Protection Notices. <p>With all three powers a remedial order can be applied for through the courts to recover any costs incurred by the Local Authority incurred to clear the land and make it safe.</p> |
| 10 | Cllr Sara Conway | Is there a community safety plan in place for the reopening of Montrose and Silkstream parks? | Chair, Environment | <p>There is a multi-agency community safety and ASB plan in place for Burnt Oak. This is regularly reviewed and will include any crime and ASB issues or risks arising from Montrose and Silk Stream park. Burnt Oak has been subjected to increased partnership presence and focus over the last 12-18 months, with targeted community engagement, enforcement and the implementation of a Public Space Protection order. The PSPO covers the area of both the parks and will remain in place until October 2020. This PSPO is currently under evaluation and the findings of the review will inform the decision if the Council is to extend the duration and/or area covered by this PSPO will be reviewed. We have an active police safer Neighbourhood Team that continue to work with the council to respond to crime and ASB in Burnt Oak. Members are kept regularly updated on partnership action taken with regular member ward walkabouts conducted by staff from the Community Safety Team as part of the approach to capture local crime and ASB issues to be addressed in the plan.</p> |

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| 11 | Cllr Stephen Sowerby | Please can the Council's Estates Department explain why two years after completion the community building within the Well Grove Development, constructed under the terms of the Section 106 Agreement, remains unused and abandoned - and fast becoming a local eye sore. What action is being taken to bring this building into community use and under what timescales? | Chair, Housing & Growth | This property has been the subject of a complex title issue that affects the permissible use of the premises. The Council's solicitors have been working through the issue with the developer's solicitors and we are confident that a resolution has now been found. In the meantime, the Council has a tenant lined up who is ready and waiting to take possession and undertake fit-out works. |
| 12 | Cllr Sara Conway | Is there an action plan and timetable to take forward the development of an accreditation system for volunteering? | Chair, Community Leadership & Libraries | Our current volunteer brokerage service – Volunteering Barnet - does provide a volunteer recognition scheme called Value You. This provides certificates and discount offers as rewards for volunteers. We are also looking to work with partners to develop a scheme where volunteers in Barnet can achieve recognised accreditation for skills they have gained through volunteering. This would enable volunteers to have these transferable skills recognised by employers when seeking paid work and developing their careers. The West London Alliance has been developing a similar project – “digital passporting” – focused on accrediting in-work learning, and this – along with the experience of partners such as Middlesex University and Barnet and Southgate College could be helpful in shaping our scheme. |
| 13 | Cllr Nizza Fluss | Are all businesses in the Borough entitled to have loading bays for themselves due to the volume of traffic? | Leader | <p>Loading bays are not assigned to specific businesses and it is not policy to automatically consider the introduction of individual loading bays to cater for individual business.</p> <p>However, the Council will consider the introduction of loading bays for use by businesses and in some cases, customers, as part of its overall strategy in managing the kerbside space in the borough.</p> |
| 14 | Cllr Paul Edwards | Residents who attended the Chipping Barnet Residents Forum on 8 January 2020 were informed that your predecessor whilst still leader of the Council approached Barnet Hospital with a very sensible and reasonable proposal to address the long-standing problem | Leader | At its meeting of 11 September 2019 the Environment Committee agreed that Barnet Hospital were to partake of parking permits based on the school permit scheme. This followed agreement at its previous meeting of 11 January 2018 to give consideration to issuing the Hospital or Hospital Staff permits to park. The committee agreed to a Barnet Hospital permit scheme to be provided for based on the findings of surveys conducted showing that there was adequate capacity within the controlled parking |

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| | | <p>with parking at the hospital. A problem that increasingly impacts on the daily lives of local council taxpayers living in the surrounding area. As I understand the proposal, it was about a joint venture between the Council and the NHS to build a multi-storey car park from which both organisations would share the income raised. A win-win situation one would think. However, the NHS rejected completely this proposal! For a least the last two years, and I understand from members with longer service, for many years Barnet Hospital has been saying it would be submitting a planning application to build its own multi-story car park. No such proposal has emerged. It would seem, therefore, quite premature for the Council's Environmental Committee held on 11 September 2019 to agree to provide the Hospital with 100 car parking permits for purchase only for its staff. What incentive is there for the Hospital to invest in upgrading parking facilities on site if it can relieve the pressure for staff looking for a parking space? None at all! Would you agree that the Council should withhold these permits until the Hospital submits a serious planning application for a multi-story car park which it has been promising, and that the Council is still open to working jointly with the NHS in resolving this matter?</p> | | <p>zone to accommodate some hospital staff parking and would be aligned with similar schemes offered to schools. This followed from conditions agreed for schools permits in general by the Environment Committee of 11 May 2017 and 11 January 2018.</p> <p>None of these resolutions tied the issuing of parking permits to the hospital progressing a multi-storey car park. Having met the expectations set out for the permit scheme, namely that the new controlled parking zone around the hospital be settled and has the required excess capacity (well below the 85% maximum occupancy that would be a barrier to the hospital permits being issued) the permits are considered suitable for issue. To protect the parking of residents in those roads closest to the hospital, an exclusion zone was included in the agreed report. By the request to the local area forum it is likely this will be increased by three additional streets to give further coverage to local roads. Ultimately as a key local stakeholder and community asset it was always a fair expectation of the hospital that when the local area was brought into a controlled parking zone that some allocation would be made for their parking, in the same way other residents and businesses are eligible for permits even where they have their own off-street parking. The management of this expectation by the Council, by holding off allocating any space until the controlled parking zone has settled into operation, has ensured that a measured number of permits are issued which the zone can accommodate without impacting the usability of parking by local residents. We would disagree that the problem increasingly impacts local residents as the controlled parking zone now manages the issue of parking in the expected manner. We continue to encourage the hospital to develop its own parking on site but do not consider it would be proportionate to withhold permits from them pending that and have not sought legal advice on the legality of withholding them, which may be contrary to our duty to accommodate a reasonable parking request.</p> |
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| 15 | Cllr Nizza Fluss | In the interest of transparency the Barnet Council website needs a section where the Planning Class Uses of all businesses in the Borough are shown, from A to D, and Sui Generis inclusive. Can we undertake to do this? | Leader | The Planning pages of the Council's website already contain advice relating to changes of use and have a link to the Planning Portal which provides details of various uses and permitted changes as per the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 (as amended). |
| 16 | Cllr Barry Rawlings | Despite throwing at least £16m at Capita to 'invest' in the Council's IT, Barnet Council still has regular problems with the email system and phone system. Why? | Leader | The investments in technology have enabled the authority to migrate away from ageing legacy systems and platforms. This has seen the volume of incidents impacting the Authority decrease year on year since 2017, with a 50% reduction in these types of incidents. For example, there were 6 outages in total for phone and email in 2019. All major incidents are accompanied by a full review and recommendations are implemented, where appropriate, to mitigate future incidents. |
| 17 | Cllr Nizza Fluss | How many trees have been felled each year during the years 2017, 2018, and 2019? | Chair, Environment | <p>Felled trees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st January 2017 – 31st December 2017: 700 • 1st January 2018 – 31st December 2018: 828 • 1st January 2019 – 31st December 2019: 639 <p>We plant during the winter so the figures are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2016/17 - 613 • 2017/18 - 618 • 2018/19 - 989 • 2019/20 - 1,076 <p>The increase last year was due to the internal planting funding we received from Environment Committee and this year saw a further increase from the Urban Tree Challenge Fund from central government meaning we have an increase in Colindale (50) & Golders Green (100) wards this year, otherwise we would have been looking at around 920 trees.</p> |

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| 18 | Cllr Anne Clarke | Please inform me what actions the council has taken to rectify the gas safety situation at Marsh Drive? | Chair, Housing & Growth | <p>Barnet Homes have been working closely with the gas network distributor Cadent to agree a range of short term safety measures to further enhance the safety of residents in the block whilst it remains occupied. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removing and replacing all gas cookers with new electric cookers at no cost to residents • Installing equipment that measures the flow of gas and detects gas should there be a leak • Once works are completed, carrying out monthly inspections of the appliances in all occupied homes to ensure they are functioning correctly. • Enforcing the “no bottled gas” rule within the block. <p>In addition to these measures, Cadent have carried out surveys to all their gas pipework that serves the building and have confirmed that it is in a safe and satisfactory condition. They will continue to undertake checks on their pipework on a regular basis whilst the block remains in occupation.</p> <p>Barnet Homes also commissioned expert building consultants Ridge and Partners to undertake surveys regarding the structural integrity of the buildings, which concluded that the above measures are sufficient to render the block safe for the remainder of its occupation. Barnet Homes also commissioned expert health and safety consultants PHSC to undertake a review of all safety aspects of the building, the outcome of which supported the measures being taken.</p> |
| 19 | Cllr Laithe Jajeh | Would the Leader join me in congratulating our three Conservative MPs in Barnet for being returned to Parliament? | Leader | <p>I am thrilled to congratulate our MPs Mike Freer, Matthew Offord and Theresa Villiers on their re-election, along with the election of the 362 other Conservative candidates around the country.</p> |

| 20 | Cllr Paul Edwards | How many children and young people attending schools in Barnet are in receipt of Pupil Premium? What percentage of the school population do these figures represent? Could you provide a breakdown by constituency? | Chair, Children, Education & Safeguarding | <p>13,290 pupils are in receipt of Pupil Premium, which represents 26% of pupils on roll. The figures by constituency are as follows;</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1205 300 1697 660"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>No. of pupils eligible for the Pupil Premium*</th> <th>% of school population</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Finchley & Golders Green</td> <td>3,569</td> <td>23.51%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hendon</td> <td>5,625</td> <td>30.67%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chipping Barnet</td> <td>3,816</td> <td>22.50%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>*includes Deprivation Pupil Premium, Service Child Pupil Premium, Post-LAC Pupil Premium</p> | | No. of pupils eligible for the Pupil Premium* | % of school population | Finchley & Golders Green | 3,569 | 23.51% | Hendon | 5,625 | 30.67% | Chipping Barnet | 3,816 | 22.50% |
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| Chipping Barnet | 3,816 | 22.50% | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 21 | Cllr Alex Prager | What are the Council's priorities for 2020? | Leader | <p>Strategic priorities for 2020 were considered in the January P&R committee. Those priorities place a particular emphasis on ensuring that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The growth of the borough benefits all residents • Barnet's credentials as a family friendly borough are protected and enhanced • We create opportunities for resident to live independent, active and healthy lives and • The council is well run and easy to deal with. <p>Theme committees will consider how they contribute to these priorities in the February/March when they consider their Annual Delivery Plans in February and March.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 22 | Cllr Geof Cooke | In Barnet's current budget and upcoming budget, is austerity over? | Leader | <p>The Council has a responsibility to our residents to close our budget deficit while providing the services that they both want and need. We will continue to invest in services while making sure to both make savings and increase revenue in a responsible and sustainable manner.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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| 23 | Cllr Rohit Grover | What powers does the Council have to intervene when businesses advertise on Council assets (e.g. lampposts, street signs, pavements) without permission? | Chair, Community Leadership & Libraries | <p>Where an individual is caught illegally advertising through the use of flyposting as described in the question, a fixed penalty notice can be issued. The council is aware of the areas in Barnet where this has become a persistent problem. The council will be launching a 'caught in the act ' campaign where the images of individuals caught on council cameras flyposting or fly tipping will be displayed on a poster, in the area, appealing to the local community to help to identify them.</p> <p>Under the Highways Act Highways Officers have the power to remove signs causing an obstruction on the highway.</p> <p>Our Street Lighting Service Provider has a process which requires them to approve all applications for attachments to street lighting columns and illuminated traffic sign posts. When they find an item attached to one of these assets, such as an advertising board, they would check whether this has been approved and if not, they would automatically proceed to remove it. Clearly that assumes that they are proactively picking these issues up (which is a requirement of the contract – but of course they are not able to be everywhere all the time), however they would also react to any reports they receive, so if anyone has any concerns about any fly posting adverts they should make these known to our Service provider who would then act on these enquiries.</p> |
| 24 | Cllr Anne Clarke | When will separate food waste collections be reinstated? | Chair, Environment | As part of our Reduction and Recycling Plan the Council is looking to begin to reintroduce the separate food waste collection service by 2022. |
| 25 | Cllr Elliot Simberg | I understand that a Transport Strategy is being prepared – can the Chairman comment on its progress? | Chair, Environment | A draft Long -Term Transport Strategy (LTTS) has been produced and it was agreed to take forward for public consultation at the January Environment Committee. It is anticipated the LTTS will go to Environment Committee for endorsement in the summer. |

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| 26 | Cllr Alan Schneiderman | The business planning paper considered at Policy and Resources committee on 6 January said that there may be some 'irrecoverable costs' incurred as a result of remediation works at Oakleigh Road Depot. Why is the council willing to pass on these costs to Barnet residents rather than recover ALL costs from the contractors responsible? | Leader | <p>Remedial works to the Oakleigh Road Depot are being undertaken directly by the contractor at their cost. The council will seek to recover all additional costs that have been incurred as a result of the requirement to carry out these works, for example costs associated with the introduction of some Saturday collection rounds. Ultimately, the settlement of the council's claim will require negotiation with the contractor and/or its insurers. The council will have to provide robust evidence of the actual costs incurred and that they have arisen as a direct result of the requirement to undertake remedial work. The council will also need to demonstrate that these costs are reasonable and that appropriate action has been taken to mitigate the level of cost. As such, there remains a risk that some elements of cost reported as being attributable to the works may, in fact, prove not to be legitimately recoverable.</p> <p>The business planning paper highlighted this potential outcome as a risk in order to provide transparent context to the budget setting process. The paragraph also highlighted the Council's intended strategy of fully recovering costs from the contractor.</p> |
| 27 | Cllr Linda Freedman | What steps are being taken to deter the large amount of fly tipping on public spaces? | Chair, Environment | <p>The council continues to task enforcement action in public areas subjected to fly-tipping. This includes regular patrols by environmental enforcement officers; using CCTV to secure evidence against offenders; the seizing and crushing of vehicles (we have seized four vehicles and crushed two); and taking tough enforcement action against offenders including such as issuing Fixed Penalty Notice fines. In 2019, over 1700 Fixed Penalty Notices were issued for fly tipping.</p> <p>In 2020 the council will develop and deliver a borough wide campaign to deter environmental crime, including fly-tipping.</p> |

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| 28 | Cllr Anne Clarke | What is the strategy for rehousing residents of the Whitefield Estate? | Chair, Housing & Growth | <p>A Residential Relocation Strategy has been approved by the council which can be downloaded on this link: https://publicaccess.barnet.gov.uk/online-applications/files/6339BCA952774051F457E00EF9028D26/pdf/15_00659_CON-AMENDED_RESIDENTIAL_RELOCATION_STRATEGY-3237992.pdf</p> <p>L&Q has been appointed to build and manage the new replacement homes on plots 53 and 54 on Brent Terrace, while Argent Related will build homes on Plot 12 for the Whitefield Estate residents in Brent Cross South. The Brent Cross regeneration team are working with the residential provider L&Q, PEP (independent resident advisor), Barnet Homes and Brent Cross South to ensure that the rehousing and transition is as disruptive as possible once their new homes are built. Since L&Q was appointed to build the new homes on plot 53 and 54 in October 2018, a detailed design period has begun with L&Q's design and technical team is determining all the details within the homes and exactly how the buildings will be constructed. Regular meetings are held with the Whitefield Estate Steering Group (comprising residents from the Estate) and open meetings with all residents.</p> |
| 29 | Cllr Felix Byers | How does our cost of providing back-office services now compare to the rest of London? | Leader | <p>Whilst London wide benchmarking data is not available specifically on back office functions, the council is able to recognise that it has made significant savings and service improvements in its back-office services.</p> <p>The back-office services provided through the Capita contracts will be benchmarked as part of the year 6/7 review.</p> |

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| 30 | Cllr Sara Conway | What problems and additional costs are already evident in the enforcement system introduced last year for litter/fly-tipping offences? | Chair, Environment | <p>The Council has adopted the ‘polluter pays’ model for environmental waste enforcement and that service is being provided by our contractor, Kingdom Services Group (now Local Authority Support) and is at no cost to the Council.</p> <p>Offences of littering and fly tipping that are detected by the enforcement officers are initially dealt with by way of Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN).</p> <p>As part of the contract 30% of all FPN fine monies paid are retained by the council to pay for the legal and contract administration costs and reinvest into tackling environmental anti-social behaviour and crime enforcement. Once an FPN is paid, this stops the penalty from progressing to a registered fine or conviction in some circumstances.</p> <p>Where individuals or businesses are prosecuted through the court by the Council, and upon successful prosecution, the Council receives the legal costs incurred as a result of the prosecution. Any fines imposed are retained by the Court/Crown.</p> <p>Where we identify an individual or business committing a repeat offence the party is referred to the Community Safety Team for investigation and prosecution.</p> <p>Where we encounter any issues surrounding missed waste collections, enforcement action is suspended for the area and any FPNs issued withdrawn for the affected period/area.</p> <p>Where we receive requests from elected members for FPN case reviews the Community Safety Team undertake an independent review as agreed through the Environment Committee.</p> <p>In 2019 the Community Safety Team processed 261 Elected Members enquires. Of these 51 were for FPN case reviews, of these reviews 22 were upheld and 7 cancelled. 22 are currently subject to further investigations by the Community Safety Team officers.</p> |
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| 31 | Cllr Golnar Bokaei | Can the Leader comment on the Barnet's new ward boundaries as set out by the Local Government Boundaries Commission for England? | Leader | While many of the new ward boundaries are wholly appropriate, and make sense when taking growth into account, there are also some that I believe to have been errors on the part of the Commission. In all of our recommendations, which received support from hundreds of residents, we suggested wards that would keep communities together while accounting for expected growth. |
| 32 | Cllr Geof Cooke | During the last 5 years, what meetings have taken place between administration councillors and government ministers to lobby for Barnet to receive its fair share of much-needed investment in orbital public transport across the borough? | Chair, Housing & Growth | This is a matter being taken forward by the West London Alliance. |
| 33 | Cllr Jennifer Grocock | Does the Leader believe that the state of political discourse in Barnet, particularly during December's election, had an impact on community cohesion in the borough? | Leader | Yes |
| 34 | Cllr Anne Clarke | How many tenants and how many leaseholders are still living in the blocks at Marsh Drive? | Chair, Housing & Growth | At time of writing there were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 143 tenants (118 non-secure and 25 secure) • 51 leaseholders |
| 35 | Cllr Lisa Rutter | I understand that there was a fatal stabbing in the borough last month – what is being done to reduce violent crime in Barnet? | Chair, Safer Communities Partnership Board | Tacking violent crime is a priority. While it is a good thing that Barnet has 2nd lowest rate (per 1000 population) of Violence with Injury offences out of all 32 London Boroughs, we are committed to working in partnership with the Police and the partners of the Barnet Safer Communities Partnership to reduce violent crime. Barnet has a Multi-agency <i>Knife Crime Reduction Plan</i> which includes a wide range of activities and interventions delivered across the partnership focused on reducing knife crime and serious violence. |

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| | | | <p>Over 40 partnership organisations and agencies (including the Police and Council) are connected to the plan which contains over 40 actions focused on: Targeting Lawbreakers; Keeping deadly weapons off our streets; Protecting and educating young people; Standing with communities; Supporting Victims of Crime; and offering interventions to young people and adults which help them move away from criminality.</p> <p>Examples of schemes and interventions in place as part of the local offer and the Barnet Knife Crime Reduction Plan include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The police working to keep dangerous weapons off the streets through regular Op Sceptre including Test purchase operations and weapons sweeps (over 180 such weapon sweeps were conducted in a recent three-month period alone) • All schools with an allocated Safer Schools Officers have been offered knife arch days of action by the police. • The Barnet Council REACH (<i>Resilient, Engaged, Achieving Children</i>) Team, based within Family Services, engages and support vulnerable young people to reduce their vulnerability to gangs, serious youth violence, child sexual exploitation, missing episodes and related vulnerabilities. REACH has capacity to work with up to 45 young people (aged 11-17) and their families at any one time. • <i>No Knives, Better Lives Programme</i> successfully embedded alongside work of the REACH and YOT who are working with young people at a risk of criminal or sexual exploitation. • <i>Art Against Knives</i> provides community based creative safe spaces for children and young people. • Family services are working with schools to support and engage with young people identified as being vulnerable to exploitation and being risk of school exclusion • YOT police and youth justice practitioners are delivering 1:1 interventions with young people (the 0-19 delivery hubs support school and community based engagement) <p><u>Other back ground information:</u> The rate of Violence with Injury offences in Barnet is 32% lower than the London average and the rate of Knife crime is 23% lower than the London average (date: 12 months up to December 2019)</p> |
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| 36 | Cllr Barry Rawlings | The Council's risk score for environmental sustainability is 20 / High. This risk relates to the inability of the Council to adequately manage the environmental impact of resident and business activities such as air quality, resource management and climate change which could lead to negative long term consequences. Why did the administration councillors all vote against a raft of mitigations proposed by the Labour Group at a recent Council meeting that are urgently required to tackle the effects of climate change in Barnet? | Chair, Environment | <p>There is a high risk score on these items is because the issues are outside our control or long-term. For instance, solutions to air pollution are not immediate, and much improvement will require national legislation or mass change in consumer habits. We will continue to provide options, for instance through installing electric vehicle charging points – but this alone will not mean that more in the borough buy these cars.</p> <p>Cllr Rawlings knows full-well that we did not vote against a raft of mitigation, it is however telling that the Labour group voted against a motion that would request the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, make improvements to the roads that he controls outside our schools.</p> |
| 37 | Cllr Saira Don | The Leader has made clear his commitment to Customer Service- what improvements have been taken, and what is planned? | Leader | <p>An update report on improvements made to customer services and agreement to a further phase of improvements was agreed by the Policy and Resources Committee on 6th Jan. The full report can be found here https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s56932/Customer%20Strategy%20Update%20Improving%20Customer%20Services.pdf</p> <p>Key improvements include; a new website launched in 2019, more digital services enabled providing greater access to services and improvements to communication to residents tracking a request. The next phase will place a greater emphasis on improving the customer's experience of the whole organisation and all the touchpoints a person has with the Council. A focus will also be placed on ensuring customer service values and a strong resident focus is embedded in the organisation's culture.</p> |
| 38 | Cllr Anne Clarke | What strategy is in place to improve the conditions on Brent Terrace? | Chair, Housing & Growth | <p>The council regeneration team are looking at ways to improve the conditions on Brent Terrace including looking at parking and ways to improve kerb lines through timber and post rails as well as how construction traffic will be managed. Meetings have been held with residents to progress this, and will continue as the construction programme is finalised. A number of joint visits between different council services have been undertaken to ensure that teams are joined up in enforcing any breaches of parking, environmental health and planning rules, particularly by industrial operators in the area.</p> |

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| 39 | Cllr Linda Freedman | Many grass verges are damaged and rutted by crossovers being too narrow for the occupant to keep within the crossover space when driving in and out of their driveway, causing wet mud on the footway. Who is responsible for making good the damage to the verges? | Chair, Environment | <p>Should the crossover be narrow, and the residents are traversing grass verges / footway to access their vehicle crossover. Highways Officers write to residents requesting they apply for a crossover extension.</p> <p>If the grass verge becomes hazardous to pedestrians / road users, the Highways Department are responsible for repairing the damage.</p> |
| 40 | Cllr Alan Schneiderman | Why is the cost of running Barnet's bin collection service out of control with a forecast overspend of almost £2 million only six months into the financial year? | Chair, Environment | <p>There are number of reasons for this, that have been analysed and reported. The primary reasons are –</p> <p>1) the budget not being adequately adjusted to reflect the changing service operating environment over past two years. This has been addressed in next year's (2020/21) budget.</p> <p>2) use of agency staff and ageing fleet of vehicles.</p> <p>The Collection service is currently undertaking recruitment drive to reduce the use of agency staff going forward and the fleet replacement programme is also underway for 2020/21, which will help to address this issue. Early indications suggest an improvement in the year end forecast at month 9, compared to what was previously reported.</p> |
| 41 | Cllr Sarah Wardle | With a new national budget due in March, what will be on the Council's wish-list? | Leader | <p>The council's key ask is for long term, stable financial investment including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A multi-year financial settlement that enables us to invest in infrastructure and services • Confirmation that the Social Care Precept will continue for future years • Ensuring that residents continue to benefit from growth through the New Homes Bonus • A fair funding review that recognises the increasing pressures on Outer London, and its relative under-funding • Certainty on the future of business rates and councils' ability to retain them |

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| 42 | Cllr Anne Clarke | How many properties at Marsh Drive still have gas supplies to their cookers? | Chair, Housing & Growth | At time of writing there were 25 properties which still have known gas supplies to their cookers. Another 17 properties have not yet allowed access to survey, and therefore some of these properties may also have gas cookers. Barnet Homes are aiming to replace all remaining cookers by the end of January. This is however subject to residents allowing access. |
| 43 | Cllr Linda Freedman | Many schools have been reporting falling rolls. How is this currently impacting, if at all, on Barnet schools? | Chair, Children, Education & Safeguarding | <p>In October 2019, 60 schools had fewer pupils on roll than in October 2018. Of these, 25 schools, all of them primaries, had a reduction of more than 10 pupils. These figures relate to all year groups. 7 primary schools had a fall in reception numbers of more than 10 pupils. Most schools, however, are still over-subscribed; overall secondary numbers are increasing, and primary reception rolls have only fallen by 0.7% (29 pupils) overall.</p> <p>As the school funding formula is driven by pupil numbers, a fall in pupil numbers between the October school census in one year and the next results in reduced pupil-driven funding, which may also mean an overall reduction in funding, unless the fall in numbers is relatively small and offset by increases in funding per pupil as a result of applying the formula without a cap or applying the minimum funding guarantee. Schools with significant reductions in pupil numbers will almost certainly have to adjust their staffing to match the fall in income, unless they have already done so. This can, and often does, involve redundancies. Several schools have already made such staffing adjustments over the last three years.</p> |
| 44 | Cllr Geof Cooke | During the last 5 years, what meetings have taken place between administration councillors and government ministers to lobby for CrossRail 2 to be funded and implemented as soon as possible including the New Southgate branch? | Chair, Housing & Growth | The Council continues to lobby all relevant departments, as well as City Hall, for improvements to local public transport. |
| 45 | Cllr Thomas Smith | This is our first Council meeting since October – does the Leader agree that the December meeting was not missed this year and could be abolished in the future? | Leader | Absolutely, on both counts. |

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| 46 | Cllr Claire Farrier | For many planning applications developers submit a very generous viability assessment to justify not providing affordable housing in line with our planning policy. In lieu of affordable housing on the site, a financial contribution towards affordable housing may be agreed with planning officers. This contribution may be subject to a review mechanism, whereby if the financial viability changes a further financial contribution may be requested. Would the Leader please update us with how many of these reviews have been carried out in the last two years, and which of them resulted in an increased financial contribution towards affordable housing. | Chair, Planning | <p>In the last 2 calendar years, 2019 and 2018, 1 review was carried out. The outcome was that no increased financial contribution was payable. In 2017 4 reviews were carried out. 2 resulted in no contribution being payable, 2 resulted in contributions being paid.</p> <p>The contributions of £5.2 million have been used to bring forward affordable housing as part of Barnet Homes microsites programme.</p> <p>Around 10 sites with review mechanisms are currently being constructed and will be reviewed at the appropriate stage in the construction /sale programme.</p> |
| 47 | Cllr Jennifer Grocock | Would the Committee Chairman give Council an update on the number of first-time buyers in our regeneration schemes? | Chair, Housing & Growth | Since 2016, more than 1,000 homes have been sold to First Time Buyers on regeneration estates in the Borough |
| 48 | Cllr Alan Schneiderman | How will charging for green waste collections reduce vehicle emissions as claimed in the Environment Committee savings proposals for 2020/21? | Chair, Environment | If charges are introduced over time the Council would be able to review the collection rounds and resources required across the borough. This may reduce the number of vehicles required to complete collections. This in turn would reduce vehicle emissions. |
| 49 | Cllr Julian Teare | How successful was this year's Christmas tree collection? | Chair, Environment | The collection of Christmas Trees has gone well. We have had a very small number of instances where trees have been reported as not collected and in these cases, we have returned and collected them promptly. Our guidelines remain for residents to cut the tree in half and leave it out next to their bin. |

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| 50 | Cllr Geof Cooke | When considering the Draft Local Plan, why did the Leader decline to commit to actually developing proposals to improve orbital transport provision within the borough rather than merely "seeking" to develop them? | Leader | It is not possible for the Council to directly develop proposals which will improve orbital travel. The emerging Local Plan includes policies to support the delivery of key new transport infrastructure and lists potential projects. The majority of these transport projects are dependent on CIL and S106 income raised from developers to mitigate the impact of their schemes and being delivered by external organisations such as TfL. The Council cannot therefore commit to developing the infrastructure. |
| 51 | Cllr Saira Don | I understand that last year murders and knife crimes in London were at their highest rate in over a decade. What number of murders and knife crimes took place in Barnet last year, and what do you believe is the best way to begin to solve this epidemic in 2020? | Chair, Safer Communities Partnership Board | Between January 2019 to December 2019 there were 4 homicides in Barnet. The recruitment of new police officers – thanks to the Government and despite Sadiq Khan – will really help in combating knife crime. Ultimately, the election of a new Mayor of London who prioritises crime over PR this May can have a real impact on these sorts of crime in Barnet and across London. |
| 52 | Cllr Anne Clarke | What assessment has been made of the ability of the buildings at Marsh Drive to cope with increased electrical demand? | Chair, Housing & Growth | The electrical rising main network in the Marsh Drive blocks was replaced in 2014/15 as part of safety upgrade works. Expert advice has therefore confirmed that gas detection equipment currently being installed has a negligible additional load impact on the electrical infrastructure. |
| 53 | Leader Smith | What investment in community infrastructure is due to take place in 2020? | Leader | In 2020 the authority will continue to invest in the provision of new leisure and education facilities such as the expansion of Blessed Dominic and St James' schools and the re-provision of the Pupil Referral Unit which also provides enhanced sports provision. Investment in parks and open spaces is also ongoing. The authority will also be working with the Clinical Commissioning Groups to bring forward improvements to health centres across the borough and the Barnet General Urgent Treatment Centre using section 106 contributions. The authority has published a report on how the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) was used in 2018/19 https://www.barnet.gov.uk/sites/default/files/regulation_62_report_-_pdf_format_2018-19.pdf |

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| 54 | Cllr Alan Schneiderman | Why has the risk score of the council's winter gritting service increased and what is being to ensure that residents can safely use the borough's roads and pavements? | Chair, Environment | <p>The risk score for the Council's winter gritting service reported in Quarter 2 reflected the ongoing discussions with the Street Scene service to agree the gritting rota and specifically the release of Street Scene drivers as and when required for gritting duties and also the progress made at that point in drafting and finalising the 2019/20 Winter Service Plan.</p> <p>Whilst these issues were highlighted as potential risks at that time, there was also in accordance with prudent risk management, a mitigation plan identified to ensure these risks were resolved in advance of the Winter gritting season commencement in Q3. These mitigating actions were successful in resolving these risks and this has been reflected as such in the Quarter 3 update. The Q3 improved position and hence updated risk score will be reported to Environment Committee in March 2020.</p> |
| 55 | Cllr Sarah Wardle | Can the Leader please tell us more about the progress of the council-funded £5million regeneration of Silkstream Park and Montrose Playing Fields? | Leader | The works are progressing well and as per contract. Both the café and landscape works are due for completion at the end of February. We have partially opened areas of both parks that are completed so residents can use them, for example the play area in Silkstream park as well as large grassed area within Montrose park. |
| 56 | Cllr Sara Conway | Why is there no public consultation event in Finchley and Golders Green for the Library Service Review, particularly given the many concerns that have been raised by library users in these areas? | Chair, Community Leadership and Libraries | Communities Leadership and Libraries Committee agreed a budget of £30,000, a tender exercise was undertaken and the contract for the evaluation awarded to Activist who have substantive experience in delivering library services and evaluations. When designing the stakeholder engagement they advised targeted focus groups, group interviews and a survey were the most effective ways to obtain a cross section of views from target groups and the wider community in general. In order to achieve this and to deliver to budget a survey, focus groups, group interviews, 1:1 meetings and 2 public meeting have been carried out. |

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| 57 | Cllr Alex Prager | Can the Leader update us on the work of our fantastic home-grown charity Live Unlimited? | Leader | <p>Live Unlimited continues to grow from strength to strength since its launch in February 2018.</p> <p>We now operate two successful schemes which are already unlocking the potential of Barnet's 314 looked after children and 317 care leavers; the Imagination Trust small grants scheme, and Driving Ahead, a driving lessons scheme delivered in partnership with the AA.</p> <p>Through the Imagination Trust we have already provided more than 70 grants for a wide variety of different things including; gym memberships, IT, sports and music equipment, vocational qualifications and horse riding lessons to name just a few. The feedback we have received from the young people has been incredibly positive, such as care leaver Morris Deer, 22 (permission given to use his name) who applied for money towards a set of tools to enable him to complete his level 2 NVQ mechanical engineering. Previously he had to borrow his manager or workmates' tools which made him feel awkward. With his new tools he has gained independence, says his credibility in the workplace has grown and he is now able to take his qualifications to the next level.</p> <p>Our Driving Ahead scheme has so far seen three young people pass their driving test on their first attempt, which given the national pass rate is 47 per cent is something we are extremely proud of! We have funding for nine more young people to enrol on the scheme which provides 30 hours free driving lessons. As a sign of their commitment the young people must pay for their provisional licence and theory test themselves. All the candidates go through a rigorous selection process, are required to demonstrate how learning to drive will assist them in their education, employment or training. They each have a mentor to support them through the process.</p> <p>18 year old trainee hairdresser Emma Harris (permission given to use her name) wanted to learn to drive so she can run her own mobile hairdressing business and visit her family who live spread out across the country. She has already saved up for her first car and can't wait to experience the new found freedom that passing her driving test has given her with the support of Live Unlimited.</p> |
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| | | | | <p>Our main challenges lie in raising our profile across the borough among residents and businesses and receiving regular income streams. We are currently working on our business plan and fundraising strategy which will aim to ensure a stable future for the charity with the potential to grow additional schemes.</p> <p>For further information please visit our website www.liveunlimited.org.uk</p> |
| 58 | Cllr Ross Houston | Has Barnet Council written to any other London Boroughs asking them if they would take some of Barnet's families in housing need because Barnet hasn't met its affordable housing targets? | Chair, Housing & Growth | <p>No, Barnet has not written to other London Boroughs asking them to 'take' some of Barnet's families in Housing Need. However, as part of the development of the Local Plan, council officers have assessed that Barnet could not deliver the 4,126 homes per year calculated by MHCLG as being required. In accordance with the statutory duty to co-operate we have therefore written to neighbouring councils to see if their Local Plan targets can be increased to offset this shortfall. This is a routine part of the Local Plan development process. Policy and Resources Committee approved consultation on the draft Local Plan on the basis of 3,060 units per year at its meeting on 6 January 2020.</p> <p>Where we do place families in housing need out of borough, we notify the hosting authority in accordance with the statutory requirements under section 208, Housing Act 1996. This requires us to provide the name, address and date they moved in, together with the family composition and the legal duty within the homeless legislation under which they were placed.</p> |
| 59 | Cllr Elliot Simberg | What are the Leader's views on countering incidents of awful racist graffiti that have taken place across the borough? | Leader | <p>I strongly condemn any instance of racist graffiti. Barnet Council and Police are committed to working together with residents and communities in Barnet to tackle Hate Crime.</p> <p>We are committed to taking a zero-tolerance approach to hate crime (as set out as one the priorities in the Barnet 2024 cooperate plan '<i>celebrating our diverse and strong communities and taking a zero-tolerance approach to hate crime.</i>') Recently Barnet has had a number of incidents of anti-Semitic graffiti and these have been investigated by the Metropolitan Police Safer Transport Team.</p> <p>I would urge anyone (whether the landowner or a passer-by) who sees any racist graffiti to report it to the police. The police will then investigate it as an offence of racially motivated criminal damage.</p> |

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| | | | | <p>People should call 101 for instances where the damage has already caused and the has already left, 999 if suspect is at scene and committing the offence.</p> <p>The Council's Street Cleansing team will endeavour to clear any racist graffiti which is visible within the shortest possible time (so long as it can be safely accessed by the officers). This approach includes cases where the racist graffiti is on private land (in which case the team will engage with the landowner to secure their consent for access)</p> <p>The Safer Communities Partnership will continue working together with partners and the community to tackle Hate Crime.</p> |
| 60 | Cllr Anne Clarke | When were the boilers serving Marsh Drive buildings last given safety inspections and what is the plan for them? | Chair, Housing & Growth | <p>Barnet Homes have up to date annual Landlord Gas Safety Records in place for all tenanted properties at Marsh Drive. Leaseholders are responsible for the servicing of their own gas installations.</p> <p>However, as part of the in-progress safety works agreed with gas network distributor Cadent the gas installations in all properties will be checked on a monthly basis between the completion of the works and the vacating of each property.</p> |
| 61 | Cllr Laithe Jajeh | Can we have an update on the number of subscribers to the FAB scheme since the opening of the new leisure centres – and the use of the centres themselves? | Chair, Adults & Safeguarding | <p>The number of new subscribers to the FAB scheme since the opening of the new leisure centres in August/September is 6,105 residents. Total FAB Card registration now sits at 25,137.</p> <p>There were 259,255 attendances at the two new centres between their opening and 31.12.19.</p> <p>For the purposes of comparison, attendances at the new Barnet Copthall centre between September – December 2019 were 10,000 higher than average attendances per quarter at the old centre.</p> <p>New Barnet replaced Church Farm with an increased range of activities, hence the attendance would inevitably be higher, however usage and number of members signing up exceeded expectations and has remained consistent. Quarterly</p> |

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| | | | | attendance at New Barnet between September – December 2019 was 20,047, compared to an average quarterly attendance at Church Farm of 7,025. |
| 62 | Cllr Sara Conway | Is there an urgent road repairs service for large potholes that are causing serious road safety issues? | Chair, Environment | Should urgent repairs be required to the network, Highways Officers can instruct the DLO to undertake urgent repairs. This arrangement sits alongside the wider arrangements in place with Conway Aecom. |
| 63 | Leader Smith | Can the Environment Chairman give an update on bin collections over Christmas? | Chair, Environment | <p>The Christmas refuse and waste collections were very successful with bins collected on time.</p> <p>A daily report was sent from the operations team to management detailing numbers of staff reporting to work, any issues with vehicle deployment as well as predicting the outturn position for the next day's activities.</p> <p>All of the scheduled operational days we adequately staffed and up to 43 crews were deployed as necessary.</p> <p>Very few enquiries and complaints were received and those that were received were promptly actioned and answered.</p> |
| 64 | Cllr Alan Schneiderman | How much has been spent on agency costs for the council's streetscene service in each month of the current (2019/20) financial year? | Chair, Environment | Street Scene Services include four front line services areas; Street Cleansing, Grounds Maintenance, Recycling & Waste and Passenger Transport. Average monthly agency spend across all Street Scene services is c£252,000 per month. This level of agency spend has been primarily caused by a recent increase in resources in order to improve our Street Cleansing service and essential depot works on front line services. Now there is more clarity about the aforementioned issues a recruitment drive has been commenced to appoint permanent staff in order to reduce our reliance on agency in the future. |

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| 65 | Cllr Linda Freedman | Central Edgware is one of the PSPO zones. However, there are numerous amount of licensed premises within a very short distance of each other selling alcohol, some having 24 hour permission. This exacerbates the illegal street drinking. Can anything be done on the meantime to curtail the selling of alcohol hours? | Chair, Safer Communities Partnership Board | In the last 12 months over 80 instances of street drinking related ASB have been spotted by our CCTV control room – allowing the police to be alerted and providing evidence for the Council and Safer Communities Partnership to put in place measures such as the street drinking ASB Public Space Protection Orders. Evidence is shared with our licensing teams to review relevant licenses or take action against license breaches. |
| 66 | Cllr Claire Farrier | For many planning applications the developer submits a very generous viability assessment to justify not providing affordable housing in line with our planning policy. In lieu of affordable housing on the site, a financial contribution towards affordable housing may be agreed with planning officers. Would the Leader please give us details of how and where these financial contributions have been made? For the last two years how many units below the 40% of our policy have been covered by these contributions, and how many new affordable units on other sites have been provided by the financial contributions? | Chair, Housing & Growth | <p>Affordable housing contributions since 2014/15:</p> <p>2014-2015 £0.87m 2015-2016 £0.82m 2016-2017 £0.27m 2017-2018 £8.99m 2018-2019 £0.41m 2019-2020 £0.17m</p> <p>2018/19:</p> <p>Planning ref – H/03404/11 Site – St Joseph’s College, Lawrence St NW7 4JX Amount received - £185,597.83 Receipt date – 17/4/2018 Decision date – 29/3/2012</p> <p>Planning ref – H/03404/11 Site – St Joseph’s College, Lawrence St NW7 4JX Amount received - £7,223.47 Receipt date – 17/04/2018 Decision date – 29/03/2012</p> <p>Planning ref - H/03404/11 Site – St Joseph’s College, Lawrence St NW7 4JX Amount received - £5,302.79 Receipt date – 17/04/2018</p> |

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| | | | | <p>Decision date – 29/03/2012</p> <p>Planning ref - H/03404/11 Site – St Joseph’s College, Lawrence St NW7 4JX Amount received - £3,983.46 Receipt date – 17/04/2018 Decision date – 29/03/2012</p> <p>Planning ref - H/03404/11 Site – St Joseph’s College, Lawrence St NW7 4JX Amount received - £3,983.46 Receipt date – 17/04/2018 Decision date – 29/03/2012</p> <p>Planning ref - 16/7307/FUL Site – Sparrow House, 5 Glengall Road, Edgware, HA8 8TE Amount received - £179,877.00 Receipt date – 12/07/2018 Decision date – 22/06/2017</p> <p>Planning ref - 15/06397/FUL Site – 104 Brunswick Park Road, London, N11 1EZ Amount received - £30,152.04 Receipt date – 05/11/2018 Decision date – 02/03/2017</p> <p>Planning ref - 15/06397/FUL Site – 104 Brunswick Park Road, London, N11 1EZ Amount received - £1,356.84 Receipt date – 05/11/2018 Decision date – 02/03/2017</p> <p>TOTAL £413,493.44</p> <p>Affordable Housing Expenditure since 2016/17</p> |
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| | | | | <p>Affordable Housing Moreton Close Completed 2016-17 Allocated: £1.29m Spent: £1.29m</p> <p>Affordable Housing Direct Acquisitions Completed 2016-17 Allocated: £.77m Spent: £.77m</p> <p>Affordable Housing New Affordable Homes Completed 2016-17 Allocated: £.55m Spent: £.55m</p> <p>Affordable Housing Microsites phase 1 Completed 2017-18 Allocated: £.38m Spent: £.38m</p> <p>Affordable Housing The Croft Completed 2017-18 Allocated: £.77m Spent: £.77m</p> <p>Affordable Housing Moreton Close 17/18 Completed 2017-18 Allocated: £4.28m Spent: £4.28m</p> <p>Affordable Housing Microsites Phase II Completed 2018-19 Allocated: £6.72m Spent: £1.97m Allocated to be spent: £4.7m</p> <p>There is currently £636,149.02 that has been received but not yet been allocated to an affordable housing project.</p> |
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| 67 | Cllr Saira Don | What are the locations of the electricity posts for recharging electric cars in Barnet? Which wards are they in and is there a map for those who wish to find them? | Chair, Environment | <p>To date the following EV chargers have been installed in the borough:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lamp Post Chargers Phase 1 x 40 locations • Lamp post chargers Phase 2 x 32 locations • Moxon Street Car Park x 2 charge points • Stapylton Road Car Park x 2 charge points • Fitzjohn Avenue Car Park x 2 charge points • Bunns Lane Car Park x 2 charge points • New Barnet Leisure Centre x 7 charge points (charging hub) • Copthall Leisure Centre x 15 charge points (charging hub) • Finchley Road – Temple Fortune TC – x 1 Dual Freestanding charging point <p>It is currently planned to introduce further charge points as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dual Free Standing Charge Points x 8 (Colindale CPZ area) • Rapid 50Kw Free Standing Charge Point x 1 (A1000 Finchley) • Community Hub x 1 (Watling Avenue Car Park) • A small number of additional residential charge points – Lamp Post and/or Free Standing units with the balance of GULCS funding <p>Officers are currently in the process of mapping all of the installed charge points and are arranging for these to also be added to the Councils Web site and also to https://www.zap-map.com/live/ which is a very useful site that attempts to plot all EV charging provision in a UK wide mapping tool.</p> |
| 68 | Cllr Anne Clarke | Residents are not clear about plans for the Brent Cross Regeneration, i.e. about what is happening and when. Will the Leader commit to reinstating a Brent Cross Regeneration website with clear information and updates? | Chair, Housing & Growth | <p>Yes. A dedicated programme website for Brent Cross Cricklewood regeneration project is being developed at TransformingBXC.co.uk to serve exactly that purpose. The website is live and will be developed further with an interactive map launching in February.</p> |

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| 69 | Cllr Lisa Rutter | Some people consume as many as 40 teaspoons of sugar each day – that’s more than five times the recommended daily allowance. Can you tell us more about what the council’s doing to combat this problem? | Chair, Health & Wellbeing Board | <p>Barnet Public Health Team launched the Sugar Smart Barnet campaign on 20th January, an initiative aimed to raise awareness of the health benefits of reducing sugar intake. App. 40 organisations across Barnet already signed up and our target is over 150 by the end of this year. While all schools, workplaces, venues and organisations are encouraged to take part in SUGAR SMART Barnet, our primary focus will be on children aged 0 to 11 years and the places they go. This will include early years settings, primary schools, community groups and relevant businesses such as leisure centres, sport clubs and retailers.</p> <p>LBB has already pledged to take action to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote free drinking water • Reduce high sugar options in vending machines • Provide clearer information about nutritional values of food and drink <p>Any organisations, businesses or individuals who want to find out more the campaign, which runs from January 2020, are invited to visit https://www.barnet.gov.uk/sugarsmart and www.sugarsmartuk.org.</p> |
| 70 | Cllr Alan Schneiderman | With regards to the council's contracts with Capita/Re, when is 'guaranteed income' not guaranteed? | Leader | Guaranteed income is always guaranteed. What cannot be guaranteed is the precise split of income between services, nor between the General Fund and HRA. |
| 71 | Cllr Rohit Grover | Do car wash/ car valeting businesses require a licence to operate from specific premises, and if so can conditions be included in them? | Leader | There is no licence required from the Commercial Premises in relation to car washes. However, planning permission is required and conditions can be attached. |
| 72 | Cllr Pauline Coakley Webb | Why is there no out-of-hours noise nuisance service in operation on New Year’s Eve? | Chair, Environment | <p>The out of hours noise team operates on a Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday only and New years eve fell on a Tuesday this year. However even when NYE does fall on a usual day of operation the service does not operate.</p> <p>Complaints of noise nuisance can be made using a webform which allows for audio and video files to be attached capturing the issue or by email. When the out of hours service is not operating residents can use this method of contacting us. The case will</p> |

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| | | | | <p>then be allocated to the day noise team who will provide advice and monitor the matter.</p> <p>In relation to noise in general, the noise service priorities persistent and unreasonable noise nuisance. One off parties do not usually result in enforcement action, instead the out of hours service provides information and advice to residents to help them to be more considerate of their neighbours when undertaking an occasional social event. The out of hours team will usually refer the case to the day team who will provide further advice if needed and monitor the matter.</p> <p>NYE is recognised as a one off occasion where people in general do celebrate until after midnight. When a service was run on this date, it was found that it was very unlikely that any of the calls would result in any enforcement action during the evening. It also was received very negatively by residents who were holding an occasion social event. Resources are now used for preventative measures to properties where this is a history of issues or where it is believed that a significant nuisance will occur. In the case of this NYE the team became aware of a property where a party was planned that had a previous issue and was such that a significant nuisance was expected. The team served a closure notice to prevent anyone who didn't live there entering the property, thus cancelling the party.</p> <p>Any issues occurring during the closure of the service on NYE are dealt with as outlined above, with residents either logging a webform or emailing the service. This is actioned by the day noise team.</p> |
| 73 | Cllr Julian Teare | Barnet came fifth out of all the London councils competing in the capital's New Year's Day Parade this year. This meant that our Worshipful Mayor was able to collect £6,000 for her chosen charities, Cherry Lodge Cancer Care and family support charity Home-Start Barnet. Can you tell us more about the impact these donations will have on the lives of people who live in Barnet? | Leader | I am thrilled to say that the Barnet float was viewed by some 500 million viewers around the world. The fantastic local charities this money has gone to, both specifically picked by the Mayor, do great work for Barnet residents. Cherry Lodge Cancer Care provides support and therapies not only to people with cancer, but also their families. Home-Start Barnet helps to provide both practical help and friendship to those families in Barnet who are in need. |

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| 74 | Cllr Anne Clarke | What is Barnet Council doing to ensure EU residents feel welcome in our inclusive and diverse borough? | Leader | <p>We have launched the 'Together, we are Barnet' community cohesion campaign to highlight the important contributions our diverse communities bring to the borough. We are keeping residents and community groups up to date via media channels with any useful information we receive.</p> <p>A detailed communications plan has been developed for how we're going to continue to communicate with residents, businesses and the VCS in the lead up to our exit and following this. This also includes an internal communication plan to ensure staff from the EU27 countries continue to feel welcome and have access to the information they need.</p> <p>The Brexit pages on Barnet Council website signposts to useful central government information. There has been improved tagging of the Brexit pages so residents can find them more easily.</p> <p>We have featured details on the EU Settlement scheme in the autumn and winter editions of Barnet First mag, and signposting to the support resources available to Barnet residents to apply for Settled status. We will run similar one-page articles in the next two quarterly issues.</p> <p>There is a booking-only clinic at Hendon Town Hall for residents to check they have the right documentation for their application for Settled Status. The latest figures regarding people applying for EU status is very positive, from Sept 2019 28,950 Barnet residents have now applied for EU Status (one of the top 10 Local Authorities). So many EU citizens clearly feel confident and satisfied to maintain their lives here in Barnet.</p> <p>Our Community Safety team monitor hate crime statistics to ascertain if there are any issues in relation to increased hate crime linked to Brexit, or any emerging community tensions. To date there have been very few instances of hate crime specifically linked to Brexit, and there is no evidence of any increased community tensions. The situation continues to be monitored on a weekly basis.</p> |
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| 75 | Cllr Roberto Weeden-Sanz | What is being done to protect Barnet's historic sites, buildings and landmarks? | Leader | <p>The protection of Barnet's heritage is carried out in accordance with national and local policies, including those set out in the section 16 (Conserving and enhancing the historic environment) of the National Planning Policy Framework, and in section 7 (Heritage and conservation) of Barnet's Local Plan.</p> <p>The Council recently updated and adopted it's Local List (buildings of heritage value). This was the first time the List has been fully updated since 1986. Additionally, measures have been put into place to update the List on an annual basis. In December 2019, Barnet Museum signed the lease for Physic Well, following the Council's refurbishment project in 2018. The Museum is responsible for opening the Physic Well to the public (10 times per year), and maintaining the building (with support from the Council when maintenance costs exceed £2,000 per year). An information board (funded via CIL from Area Committee) will also shortly be ordered.</p> <p>The Council is currently in the process of commissioning a Heritage Consultant to provide condition surveys for three Council owned statutory listed buildings (East Finchley library, Hendon library and Hendon Town Hall) and the Henrietta Barnet Memorial. These surveys will identify recommended remedial works for which grant funding will be sought.</p> <p>In addition, the Council has applied for a grant to the War Memorial Trust for 13 war memorials across the Borough in November 2019, and has been invited to submit additional information by the end of this month to progress this application. The council is also encouraging Middlesex University to address the issue of pigeon droppings on the façade of Hendon Town Hall. Middlesex University have received a quote from a contractor for anti-pigeon measures and are currently liaising with the Planning Heritage team to determine whether Listed Building Consent is required to proceed with these works.</p> |
| 76 | Cllr Sara Conway | Will Barnet bid to be a Borough of Culture and what work is already underway? | Chair, Community Leadership & Libraries | <p>The deadline for bids to become London Borough of Culture 2021 or 2023 was 28 October 2019. Barnet did not submit a bid. The decision not to enter was reached following careful consideration and discussion both inside the council and with partners. We concluded that Barnet was not yet in a position to submit a sufficiently convincing bid for the award.</p> |

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| | | | | <p>However, before reaching this decision, the council's Cultural Education Partnership did begin to map out the main themes that might be included in a cultural development programme. This work will continue, and will inform the update of the borough's Arts and Culture strategy in 2020-21. The ambition being to bring Barnet to a position where we could mount a potentially winning bid for London Borough of Culture when the next rounds of the competition are announced.</p> |
| 77 | Cllr Felix Byers | I understand we had a Winter Faiths Festival recently as part of the Together, we are Barnet campaign. How did that go? | Chair, Community Leadership & Libraries | <p>The festival has been successful with a diverse range of events held that received good levels of engagement from the public. A total of 20 events were listed in the online festival calendar. Some of these were activities that were already scheduled to take place. The Strategy team worked with the faith groups to promote the events more widely and open them up to an inter-faith audience (if they weren't already). Other events were held specifically for the festival, including an evening event to explain the festival of Chanukah, and an interfaith blood donation session. We feel that the festival bears repeating, and while this was definitely a good start, we can we make it bigger and better for next year. There was very little cost to the council in running it, as our role was mostly to encourage others to hold events that we then promoted through digital channels.</p> |
| 78 | Cllr Charlie O'Macauley | When is the zebra crossing going to be in place at Montrose Avenue opposite the park, which was agreed after the fatality of a young child a few years ago? | Chair, Environment | <p>Works for the zebra crossing on Montrose Avenue are in progress. Officers aim to complete by March.</p> |
| 79 | Cllr Elliot Simberg | Can the Leader update the Council on progress at the depot? | Leader | <p>In order to facilitate the remedial works, an adjacent site was acquired under licence, before Christmas, and is now being used by the service as a parking area for refuse trucks and a means to allow service traffic to bypass the main site safely.</p> <p>Since Christmas, additional electronic monitoring has been installed on site to monitor any potential movement of the site during remedial works, which are scheduled to commence on 20th January. The path along Oakleigh Road has also been temporarily closed as a precaution.</p> <p>Wilmott Dixon (the contractor responsible) is in the process of reviewing the design, in light of recent monitoring data. Sheet piling will therefore be installed initially and</p> |

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| | | | | <p>further piling may then be necessary, in order to fully stabilise the slope. Any design and / or programme changes will be determined by how successful the sheet piling is.</p> <p>The council has continued to engage with an independent geotechnical consultant, who will review the monitoring data and the contractor's design & construction methodology, for assurance purposes, throughout the works.</p> |
| 80 | Cllr Anne Clarke | With the Brent Cross Shopping Centre expansion "on ice", does the Leader of the Council agree with me that it's time to invest in the Whitefield Estate and accept that the Living Bridge is now as likely as the Garden Bridge? | Chair, Housing & Growth | <p>The Living Bridge forms part of the connections links between Brent Cross South and the shopping centre as set in the outline Section 73 planning permission. Construction works on the replacement homes for the Whitefield Estate will start later this year. Brent Cross North are currently reviewing their plans for the shopping centre and due to meet with council officers and Brent Cross South on a monthly basis and will update on their plans throughout the year. Updates will be provided through the Housing and Growth Committee. Any changes to the masterplan should be addressed within the context of the Brent South scheme.</p> |
| 81 | Cllr Sarah Wardle | Would the Chairman of Housing comment on new home completions over the past few months? | Chair, Housing & Growth | <p>For the last quarter a total of 756 new homes were completed in Barnet.</p> <p>This exceeds completions in the previous two quarters combined (678 new homes).</p> <p>Housing completion figures are updated on an annual basis. In 2017/18, 2,379 homes were completed and in 2018/19, 2,229 new homes. The annual target is currently 2,349 new homes.</p> |
| 82 | Cllr Anne Clarke | The 5-year budget includes £50.7 million income from New Homes Bonus (NHB) yet the report says the Government are looking to review NHB and it may not be guaranteed after next year. What happens if it is cut/reduced? | Leader | <p>If the New Homes Bonus amount is cut by the Government and not replaced with an alternative funding source then the Council will need to review its MTFS.</p> |

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| 83 | Cllr Sara Conway | What plans are there for improving broadband connectivity in areas of the Borough where there are long -running issues? | Chair, Housing & Growth | Although Superfast Broadband coverage is more comprehensive in Barnet than other parts of London, Ultrafast connectivity is below that seen across Outer London. The council is focusing on this through the new Growth Strategy. As a first step, we are working with the West London Alliance and Transport for London to install new high-speed broadband infrastructure in areas close to underground stations. These works are due for completion by March 2021. Further initiatives will be brought forward in due course. |
| 84 | Cllr Anne Clarke | What is Barnet Council doing to ensure DB Cargo's aggregate site complies with planning conditions on their site in the heart of Cricklewood? | Chair, Housing & Growth | <p>Planning permission was granted for the use of the Cricklewood Railway Yard site as an aggregate and construction waste transfer facility in July 2018. The application was accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment. The planning permission was granted subject to a number of conditions, including some to be discharged prior to commencement of any construction work, some to be discharged before aggregate and construction waste transfer operations commence, and others to be complied with to control the development once commenced.</p> <p>Since then, DB Cargo have satisfactorily discharged all pre-commencement requirements, namely approval of a Construction Environmental and Transport Management Plan (CETMP) (Condition 15) and a Contamination Remediation Method Statement (Condition 34 (Part A and B) – both of which were reviewed by the Transport Planning Officer and Environmental Health Officer. These were approved in October 2018 under LPA application ref. 18/5022/CON. The construction of the rail freight facility is nearing completion. DB Cargo have provided newsletters and updates to the local residents at different stages of the works to update them on progress on the site. The works have been carried out in accordance with the approved CETMP including hours of construction works and dust and noise mitigation measures.</p> <p>In terms of the pre-operation requirements, DB Cargo have submitted details pursuant to the remaining conditions that are required to be discharged before aggregate and construction waste transfer operations commence. The following details/conditions which are currently being considered by the LPA under application ref. 19/6294/CON. This information is also being reviewed by the Council's Environmental Health officer:</p> |

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| | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Condition 3 – Detail Plot Layout Plans for Plot 1 and Plot 2; • Condition 11 – Floodlighting; • Condition 15 – an updated CETMP (amended to account for non-material amendments to the scheme approved in November 2019); • Condition 28 – Site Management Plan • Condition 31 – Noise Monitoring • Condition 32 – Air Quality Monitoring • Condition 34 (Part C) – Remediation Verification; and • Condition 36 – Acoustic Fencing Specifications. <p>The noise levels for the site will be monitored for the first 3 weeks of operational work and site noise monitoring alerts to protect residents will be agreed with the LPA and Environmental Health team to ensure target levels are accurate and can be actioned to minimise disturbance to residents.</p> <p>There are also two further applications being assessed which include details submitted pursuant to the following pre-operation conditions: Condition 16 (Servicing & Delivery Strategy); Condition 39 (Landscape and Ecological Maintenance Plan); Condition 22 (Automatic Number Plate Recognition Details); and Condition 35 (Fuel Tank Details).</p> <p>DB Cargo are required to comply with the management plans / strategies approved under these conditions. Breaches of these conditions can be enforced by planning and statutory nuisance by Environmental Health.</p> |
| 85 | Cllr Sara Conway | Some of the patching of major dangerous potholes is lasting only a couple of days. How much is the system costing and why aren't they just repaired properly the first time? | Chair, Environment | <p>The Council's contractor is instructed to undertake permanent first-time repairs of carriageway defects.</p> <p>If the contractor is unable to undertake a permanent repair on the first visit (due to constraints such as traffic management) then they will make safe or undertake a temporary repair that may break out.</p> |

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| | | | | They are then are required to make a repeat visit to undertake a permanent repair at no additional cost to the Council. The reactive maintenance service is paid for via an annual lump sum and as such repairs are not paid for on an individual basis. |
| 86 | Cllr Charlie O'Macauley | How many people said they were in favour of the new CPZ in Burnt Oak, and how many vehicles have been registered under scheme? | Chair, Environment | <p>52 residents (81% of respondents) were in favour of a CPZ on their road.</p> <p>The results of the initial Colindale CPZ consultation, which included roads in Burnt Oak were reported to the Hendon Area Committee on 8th March 2018 (Agenda Item 11 applies)</p> <p>https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=717&MId=9325&Ver=4</p> <p>Results from roads subsequently making up the Burnt Oak 'BO' CPZ can be found in Appendix B to the report here</p> <p>https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s45273/Appendix%20B%20All%20Area%20Results.pdf</p> <p>214 resident permits have been issued in the Burnt Oak CPZ.</p> |
| 87 | Cllr Anne Clarke | When did the Council first realise there was a serious problem with the safety of the buildings at Marsh Drive due to poor construction and the danger posed by the gas supply? | Chair, Housing & Growth | <p>The first block to be tested on the West Hendon estate was Tyrrell Way, with results received in October 2019. Guidance from the Building Research Establishment state that due to the variation in the quality of large panel system construction, it is not possible to draw conclusions about other blocks from these surveys and therefore further surveys were subsequently instructed for Marsh Drive and completed in December, with the interim report provided to Barnet Homes by expert building consultants Ridge and Partners on the 17 December 2019. The report was duly passed onto residents via the West Hendon Partnership Board on the 20 December 2019. Large panel system surveys are complex and involve significant destructive works inside flats and are therefore cab be very disruptive for residents. Therefore in order to reduce any disturbance to residents on the estate, it was intended that the results of the surveys carried out in vacant properties in the neighbouring block of Tyrell Way could be used to inform an assessment of the Marsh Drive blocks.</p> |

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| | | | | <p>Prior to the completion of the surveys, Barnet Homes had been working closely with the gas network distributor Cadent to agree a range of short term safety measures to further enhance the safety of residents in the block whilst it remains occupied. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removing and replacing all gas cookers with new electric cookers at no cost to residents • Installing equipment that measures the flow of gas and detects gas should there be a leak • Once works are completed, carrying out monthly inspections of the appliances in all occupied homes to ensure they are functioning correctly. • Enforcing the “no bottled gas” rule within the block. <p>In addition to these measures, Cadent have carried out surveys to all their gas pipework that serves the building and have confirmed that it is in a safe and satisfactory condition. They will continue to undertake checks on their pipework on a regular basis whilst the block remains in occupation.</p> <p>Consultants Ridge and Partners survey report concluded that the above measures are sufficient to render the block safe for the remainder of its occupation. Barnet Homes also commissioned expert health and safety consultants PHSC to undertake a review of all safety aspects of the building, the outcome of which supported the measures being taken.</p> |
| 88 | Cllr Sara Conway | The contracting-out system for road repairs and other works (e.g. yellow lines) seems to be regularly causing unnecessary delays, mistakes and associated costs, what will you be doing to improve this? | Chair, Environment | <p>We recognise the frustration that arises when the repair of what appears to be a minor defect on the network seems to take an inordinately long time and does not always deliver the desired outcomes.</p> <p>To monitor the performance on defect repairs carried out by a third party, Re has an auditing regime to identify work quality and timeliness of repairs. To build on this we are working on the current processes to streamline them improving outcomes working collaboratively across LBB, Re and our suppliers. Our intention is to get these issues rectified as soon as possible with the new processes implemented in April.</p> |

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| 89 | Cllr Alan Schneiderman | Will the leader undertake to ensure that residents can submit nominations at any time for the council's local list of buildings of architectural or historic merit? Will he also undertake to ensure that the list is reviewed every year and that a comprehensive boroughwide consultation is undertaken before updated lists are published? | Chair, Planning | As agreed at Policy and Resources Committee on 6th January 2020, an annual review will be carried out to allow nominations to the Local Heritage List to be considered. Nominations – which can be submitted at any time – should contain photographic information, an indication of the relevant selection criteria and a description of the heritage asset. The first update will take place in April 2021 to cover the period January 2020 to 31 March 2021. Thereafter, the review will be undertaken on an annual basis to cover the preceding financial year. This timeframe accords with the Authority's Annual Monitoring Report. |
| 90 | Cllr Anne Hutton | Barnet residents seem to be generally unaware of the anti-idling scheme – last week there were several cars lined up opposite the Town Hall – all seemingly waiting for people – all with their engines running. What is the council doing to help raise awareness among residents? | Chair, Environment | <p>Promotion of anti-idling awareness is a part of the Air Quality Action Plan and officers do promote it at several schools per year – 16 last year.</p> <p>In conjunction with Public Health, Road Safety and Scientific Service Teams we will be running an anti-idling campaign at a number of schools in the Finchley Central corridor, an area identified as suffering with poor air quality in spring 2020. The group is developing a questionnaire to distribute outside the identified schools and also a targeted message to highlight the impact of idling on air quality and pollution.</p> <p>It is difficult to promote in the depths of winter or a hot summer as people waiting in cars like to keep warm or cool. Recent research has shown that cars at rest (especially with newer engines) do emit a small fraction of emissions compared to running at speed.</p> <p>If it's a regular problem at the Town Hall we will contact facilities to see if a sign is practical.</p> |
| 91 | Cllr Anne Clarke | What compensation is being offered to Marsh Drive residents with higher bills as a result of not having gas connections? | Chair, Housing & Growth | It is not anticipated that replacing gas cookers with electrical cookers will result in a material increase in costs to residents, however Barnet Homes will assess on their individual merit any cases where this is reported. |
| 92 | Cllr Anne Clarke | What is the council doing to address concerns of residents regarding the Brent Cross Regeneration stopping up order? | Chair, Housing & Growth | We recognise there were concerns around consultation, traffic management plans and footpaths. We met with the objectors on 16 Dec 2019 to address their concerns and are working through these with them. |

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| 93 | Cllr Anne Clarke | What is the council doing to address the spate of “tagging” graffiti in NW2, NW4 & NW11? | Chair, Environment | <p>The street cleansing service is progressing the procurement of an additional jet washing vehicle. In the interim a vehicle has been hired for a period of six months to help the service to address a peak in graffiti which has become evident within the borough during recent weeks. We have also worked to support partners to address longstanding graffiti on non-council land, for example on Transport for London Roads such as the A406. We would encourage Elected Members to report graffiti to the Street Scene Service via Members Enquiries and for residents to report via the Council’s website so that the graffiti can be investigated and scheduled for removal.</p> <p>The Community Safety Team will continue to work with the police regarding persistent taggers and offensive / political graffiti.</p> |
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