

<p><b><u>MEETING</u></b></p> <p><b>COUNCIL</b></p>
<p><b><u>DATE AND TIME</u></b></p> <p><b>TUESDAY 20TH OCTOBER, 2020</b></p> <p><b>AT 7.00 PM</b></p>
<p><b><u>VENUE</u></b></p> <p><b>VIRTUAL MEETING</b></p> <p><b>LINK TO THE VIRTUAL MEETING <a href="https://bit.ly/3lr8UEK">https://bit.ly/3lr8UEK</a></b></p>

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 - 50

Abigail Lewis abigail.lewis@barnet.gov.uk 020 8359 4369

Please note that this will be held as a virtual meeting. An audio and video live stream of the meeting can be accessed using the link below <https://bit.ly/3lr8UEK>

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Qn.	Councillor	Question	Response by	Response
1	Cllr Duschinsky	How does the Leader feel the Council responded to the many challenges of Covid?	Leader	I believe the Council response has been fantastic and would like to thank all staff, residents and businesses for their hard work in helping our communities through this challenging time. As a Council, we have provided financial and wellbeing support, assisted schools, care homes, businesses and those in our borough most in need. More can be found at: <a href="https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=692&amp;MI d=10198&amp;Ver=4">https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=692&amp;MI d=10198&amp;Ver=4</a>
2	Cllr Barry Rawlings	Does the Leader feel let down by the Government breaking its promise to cover all Covid-19 related costs to Barnet Council?	Leader	This is a disingenuous question. So far the government has supported Barnet with: £38.2m, and at the Prime Minister's briefing last week a further £1bn was announced for local government.
3	Cllr Prager	How many of the borough's libraries are currently open?	Chairman, CLL	All 14 of the borough's libraries are offering a book lending service via a 'Select and Collect' scheme. The 4 Core Plus libraries are also open for pre-booked PC access. The Home and Mobile Library and Schools Library Service are also operational.
4	Cllr Anne Clarke	How is the replacement waste transfer site progressing as part of the Brent Cross Regeneration?	Chairman Housing and Growth	This has already been set out in the report to the Housing and Growth Committee on 14 September 2020.
5	Cllr Byers	Could the Chairman of Housing & Growth let me know how Barnet's recladding is progressing?	Chairman, H&G	The council had 3 tower blocks in Childs Hill that had been previously fitted with ACM cladding. Barnet Homes completed the remediation and recladding of these blocks in 2018.
6	Cllr Paul Edwards	How many incidents of fly typing have been reported between 1 April and 30 September 2020, and how does this compare with the same period for 2019?	Chairman Environment	Between the 01/04/2019 and 30/09/2019 there were 4,134 requests for service fly tip removals from members of the public and councillors. Between the 01/04/2020 and 30/09/2020 there were 5,106 requests for service fly tip removals from members of the public and councillors.

7 Cllr Rozenberg	Given the £61m budget gap facing the council, many services will have to be radically transformed in the years ahead. What kind of changes should residents prepare themselves for?	Leader	The future funding picture is currently very uncertain ahead of the spending review later this autumn. If additional government funding is provided to local authorities, this gap will reduce. Details of proposals will come forward to Policy and Resources Committee in December.
8 Cllr Wardle	How does the Chairman of Planning feel virtual planning meetings have been going?	Chairman, Planning	I've been incredibly pleased with the virtual planning committee meetings.
9 Cllr Arjun Mittra	Shop owners in East Finchley report that they did not receive consultation letters regarding the cycle lane on the A1000, will you pause works and consider their responses to issues raised, such as the loss of the island that prevents turns into Baronsmere Road, problems with the proposed bus lane and loss of car parking spaces?	Chairman Environment	Letters were posted to all residents and businesses along A1000 Phase 1 section, prior to the start of works. Whilst time has been short to consult with individuals, as we would have wished under normal circumstances we have endeavoured at stages during the design to keep Ward Members apprised of developments. This culminated in an invitation to a site visit which some Ward Members availed themselves of. The officer's recollection from that meeting was that those attending were accepting of the proposals and thankful for being consulted ahead of works. We have responded to some business queries regarding loss of parking and are looking at limited mitigation, where possible. The question of parking loss was raised during a pre-construction site visit attended by some Members and in response, it was emphasised that every attempt was made to minimise parking loss whilst maintaining a safe route. With regards to Baronsmere Road, the island has been narrowed down to accommodate space for the cycle lane. A gap already existed to allow cyclists to make a right turn into Baronsmere and this has been maintained, albeit lengthened for safety reasons to compensate for the reduction in island width. The existing central island at the mouth of Baronsmere should still make it impossible for motorists to make a right turn movement. However, we are monitoring the layout and will provide additional measures should motorists deliberately or otherwise attempt to turn right.

10 Cllr Freedman	Can the Chairman of Environment comment on Montrose Park's first spring and summer after the improvements carried out?	Chairman, Environment	<p>The council were able to open Montrose Playing Fields and Silkstream Park in May 2020 following a £5m investment programme which has transformed the park.</p> <p>During the lockdown period of Covid, Montrose and Silkstream parks like all others in Barnet saw a huge increase in the use of the parks which is something we hope will be continued int he future.</p> <p>The wetland area in Silkstream Park has provided environmental benefits, especially for water retention supporting rising river levels during extreme conditions.</p> <p>The play and sports facilities have been well utilised, providing an important opportunity for residents and families to play and and stay healthy together.</p> <p>We are pleased that the improvements offer a range of environmental, social, community and health benefits and hope residents continue to enjoy the opportunities available.</p>
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11 Cllr Sara Conway	The state of Grahame Park and some of our other housing estates like West Hendon is terrible. The local councillors and Labour Group have been raising this for some time - when will the Council put in place a co-ordinated and sustained plan to make sure people are not living in such terrible conditions?	Chairman, H&G	<p>A new delivery plan is being prepared which incorporate all the activity underway in Grahame Park across a number of different service areas and partners. The Community Safety Team, Police and Barnet Homes have also met to develop a new Multi-Agency community safety plan for the estate. Barnet Homes have established a new team dedicated to management on regeneration estates. Setup of the team was completed by the end of July with the aim of providing a more integrated management service to residents across all regeneration estates, but particularly Grahame Park. The aim of the new service is to provide residents with clear and consistent information on the capital investment refurbishment schemes being carried out in their local area and provide them with a single point of contact for management, rehousing (for residents impacted by regeneration) or repairs enquiries. It will also help us to work even more closely with resident groups and other key partners such as LBB, Re and private developers. The wider remit of the new team is to work collaboratively with partners to create sustainable improvements to the environment and the lives of everyone on the estate by tackling issues and increasing resident engagement. There will be a a report to Housing and Growth Committee in November providing an update on progress.</p> <p>The plan for West Hendon was set out in the report to Housing and Growth Committee in January 2020.</p>
12 Cllr Don	How does the Leader view the likelihood of potential future lockdowns?	Leader	<p>Unfortunately, Covid-19 cases are continuing to increase in the borough. However, the Council has used the past months to fully prepare for a number of scenarios - including another lockdown. This preparation means that in the case of another lockdown, the Council is prepared to support our businesses and residents are best we can.</p>

13 Cllr Ross Houston	Please provide an update on the Council's planning, included identified risks, for a no-deal Brexit, and how this may affect the Council and the Borough.	Leader	The Brexit planning group met 17th September to review planning for a no deal Brexit and will meet again 5th November. There is a Brexit Impact Log which reviews five themes: Workforce, Citizens Rights, Community Cohesion, Council Funding, IT, Legislation, Economy, Emergency Planning and Elections. The risks for each theme have been identified based on data and insight and the impact log includes the assessment of the risk and the agreed mitigations. Consideration is also now being given to the possibility of a no-deal Brexit coinciding with a second wave of Covid-19 and what contingencies services might need to consider.
14 Cllr Brayne	What percentage of school-age children are currently attending school? What is being done to reach out to those who are not?	Chairman CES	Approximately 92% each day currently. Schools are working hard to engage with parents of children not attending. For children with a social worker, schools inform Social Care daily if any children have not attended school and these are followed up by their social worker. The SEN Team are working with parents of children with EHCP if they are not attending.
15 Cllr Weeden-Sanz	How many businesses have taken advantage of pavement trading?	Leader	We have provided 'parklets' to 25 businesses across the borough.
16 Cllr Alan Schneiderman	What percentage of fly tipping has been garden waste since the introduction of the green waste collection charge (also known as the garden tax)?	Chairman Environment	The percentage of fly tipping classed as "Green waste" since the introduction of the chargeable garden waste collection service is 4%.

17 Cllr Jajeh

How has the Council been managing to collect rents over the past six months?

Chairman, H&G

As has been the situation nationally, collection rates of rental income in social housing have generally been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic since March. Housemark reports month on month increases in arrears levels nationally between March and August.

In relation to the Barnet housing stock, the result for rent arrears measured as a percentage of the debit as at September 2020 was 4.42%. When compared to the September 2019 result of 3.68% this equates to an increase in arrears of circa £400k on an annual debit of £55m. The increased arrears have been a result of a combination of factors including but not limited to; increased levels of unemployment and a ban on issuing legal possession proceedings between March and July.

Barnet Homes have implemented a variety of budgeting and welfare benefits services to ensure tenants are well supported to sustain their tenancies through this difficult period and these continue and will be supplemented further by the employment support activities of the BOOST service.

For commercial tenants, at the onset of lockdown, the council implemented a hardship policy, in response to many of the shops and businesses that occupy the Council's commercial properties having to close during lockdown. This resulted in one quarter of rent being waived, without the need to pay back at a later stage, and was offered to any eligible tenant who applied for it. As such all remaining rents have been invoiced as usual with the allowance only being made for those who were offered the rental assistance. Total commercial rent waived over the period amounts to £271,470.60.

18 Cllr Nagus Narenthira	Please provide details of which private, council or housing association blocks in Barnet still have dangerous cladding and do not meet the regulations for fire safety? (Please break this down by ward and where possible state how many homes in total are affected).	Chairman, H&G	A Fire Safety - progress update was presented to Housing and Growth Committee on 14th September. This report provides a progress update on Fire Safety issues in Barnet, including progress with the agreed package of fire safety improvement works for council properties managed by Barnet Homes, together with activity in relation to relevant Registered Provider and Private Sector housing stock. Barnet Homes have confirmed that there are no remaining council blocks over 18m which have ACM cladding. Advice from MHCLG is that details of specific blocks should not be shared publicly.
19 Cllr Zinkin	Would leader like to congratulate the team responsible for the commission of the southern junction sidings at our planned new train station?	Leader	Absolutely - I am thrilled that the south junction sidings have been commissioned and would like to congratulate all the hard work done by the team in getting it done.
20 Cllr Geof Cooke	Mott Macdonald/Cambridge Education pulled out of its Education and Skills Service contract with Barnet Council prematurely and at fairly short notice in response to a change in market conditions in another part of its business unrelated to Barnet. This caused an unexpected impact on officer time and expense for the Council and a period of worrying uncertainty for the staff involved and for schools. For other Council contracts with private suppliers what mitigation against a similar risk is included in the risk registers?	Chairman F&PC	The commercial viability of strategic suppliers is identified as a risk within the council's risk register. The key mitigations are the regular review of business continuity plans for individual services, the contractual arrangements that would allow the council to "step in" and run the services, in the event of any failure and the contractual payments due associated with any decision by the supplier to terminate the service. These arrangements are reviewed regularly and reported to the Financial Performance and Contracts Committee annually.

21 Cllr Rozenberg	What has been the impact in Barnet of the end of the evictions ban on September 20 <sup>th</sup> , and what effect does the council expect to see from this in the coming months? What preparation has been made by Barnet Homes to address the potential for a homelessness crisis in the borough?	Chairman Housing and Growth	Currently there has been no impact.
22 Cllr Smith	What support has the Council given to our care homes?	Chairman, Adults	Since the start of the pandemic, the council has provided a range of support to care homes and other care settings including: additional funding, free PPE, 7 day a week support & advice from the Care Quality and Public Health Teams. The council has also worked with the CCG to provide infection prevention and control training and increased GP and health support for care homes.
23 Cllr Gill Sargeant	The issue of domestic violence has been highlighted during lockdown. What resources are in place to deal with elder abuse?	Chairman, CLL	<p>The Adults Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub led by the council's Adult Social Care team looks into safeguarding concerns raised by professionals and members of the public and ensure the appropriate response from the council, police, health, housing and the voluntary and community sector.</p> <p>If the case involves domestic abuse, then the Councils Domestic Abuse services form an important part of this multi-agency approach. The Domestic Abuse services and act to support the victim, identify and reduce risk and help prevent further abuse from occurring. This includes the Domestic Abuse Independent Advocacy (IDVA) Service which supports victims on a 1 to 1 basis. Between 15th March 2020 to 30th September 2020, the IDVA service supported 59 victims of Domestic Abuse aged over 50 years old in Barnet.</p>

24 Cllr Grover	What are the Leader's thoughts on how the borough might be impacted by more of its residents working from home?	Leader	While Barnet residents have long-standing and strong employment connections with the rest of London, a large number of people have always worked either from home, or within the borough. We see opportunities to support increased home working and, in doing so, potential benefits for the wider economy, health and well-being. Local town centres stand to benefit from higher demand for services that would normally be delivered near the workplace; reductions in commuting lead to less traffic, less congestion, and cleaner air; and less time spent commuting means that families have more time to spend together and with the wider community. In order to facilitate working from home and near home, the council is working with partners to address challenges with broadband connectivity and to encourage new flexible workspace in town centres. It is also acknowledged that working from home can have its challenges and is not an option available to everyone. The council is committed to ensuring that services are maintained to support all residents.
25 Cllr Barry Rawlings	Does the Leader agree that in our four split wards every councillor must be offered equal access to officers' time and advice and all must be informed at the same time of matters affecting their wards?	Leader	Yes
26 Cllr Wardle	How many households have taken up Green Bins since the charge was introduced, and how does this compare with what Labour had forecasted?	Chairman, Environment	41,533 garden waste stickers have been sold since the launch of the service up to and including 06 October 2020. This equates to a participation rate of 55.4% based on the circa 75,000 green bins serviced by the previous garden waste collection service. This is the highest participation rate in London based on those authorities able to provide comparable service data.
27 Cllr Anne Clarke	When will the current waste transfer station on Brent Terrace close?	Chairman, H&G	The council is currently working with NLWA and LEL to agree a precise date, which is anticipated to be in 2021. An update will be provided to the Financial Performance and Contracts Committee at the end of October.

28 Cllr Brayne	How many officers are working on preparing the borough for the end of the Brexit transition period? What work, if any, has been done to prepare Barnet for this massive event, which is now barely ten weeks away?	Leader	There are no staff working full time on Brexit, however we have established a network of officers across the council to ensure that any risks and opportunities associated with Brexit are managed effectively. A report was provided to Policy and Resources Committee October 2019 setting out the council's approach to responding to Brexit. The officer network met in September 2020 to refresh this approach and an update will be provided to December Policy and Resources committee.
29 Cllr Teare	Can the Chairman of Children's provide an update on the return to school and attendance levels?	Chairman, Children's	All schools and both colleges opened at the start of term. Most schools phased the return over the first couple of weeks with year groups starting one day or week at a time, so that control measures could be tested out before more year groups started. There is an increasing number of pupils and staff who have tested positive or are self isolating due to contact with someone who has tested positive. The reporting process for schools is working well; schools report to both the London Coronavirus Response Cell (LCRC) and to Barnet Public Health. Testing capacity has increased in the borough.
30 Cllr Paul Edwards	For several months at 8pm on a Thursday Evening we all stood on our doorsteps applauding the nations' key workers. It is stating the obvious that such events, no matter how welcome, do not put food on a families' tables or pay the household bills. Many of these key workers are low paid residential and home care workers. Will the Leader commit to ensuring that funding is sought so that by the start of the financial year 2021/22 all care workers working directly for the Council or commissioned by LBB from the private and voluntary sector will receive the London Living Wage?	Chairman, Adults	The council does not directly employ any care workers, however all staff employed by the council are paid the London Living Wage or above. When commissioning a service, the council requires care providers to meet a range of service & quality requirements and outcomes for our residents, alongside legal requirements in terms of employment and the national living wage. The council's position is that staff remuneration is a matter for the employer, in line with their responsibilities under employment law

31 Cllr Bokaei	How many organisations have been partnering with to deliver food packages to our residents most in need over this difficult period?	Leader	The council has partnered with 52 organisations to deliver food to residents, working with the Barnet Together Network to co-ordinate efforts. A wide range of organisations have been involved with this effort, including food banks and other voluntary groups who have been supporting particular areas of the borough or communities; hospitals and care homes; and institutional partners such as the RAF Museum and London Fire Brigade.
32 Cllr Sara Conway	When will a fly-tipping action plan be published by the new task group?	Chairman Environment	A cross service working group (including representatives from Barnet Homes) has been established to focus on fly-tipping and
33 Cllr Prager	What deregulations have been popular with our businesses?	Leader	Early in the Covid-19 pandemic, government introduced changes to use classes allowing restaurants to operate as takeaways and pubs to make more use of outdoor space. Although businesses are not required to apply or report to the local authority, anecdotally, officers are aware that many businesses have taken advantage of this.
34 Cllr Arjun Mittra	East Finchley Councillors have repeatedly asked to be informed about progress on the Kiosk at Cherry Tree Wood, but we have not been. Will you ensure that before any decisions are made that we will be consulted?	Chairman H&G	A number of offers were received through the marketing of the Kiosk of Cherry Tree Wood. These offers have been evaluated and Officers are currently undertaking checks and assessments to ensure the viability of the winning bid. Once the viability has been confirmed Officers will inform ward members of the headline details and will prepare a Chief Officers Decision for the award.

35 Cllr Rozenberg	We congratulate Barnet on its first new cycle lane for many years. Does the council intend it to be a one-off?	Chairman Environment	<p>The Borough's first Long Term Transport Strategy was approved / adopted by Environment Committee on 9th September 2020. The strategy includes proposals regarding cycle infrastructure and so it is planned that cycle infrastructure schemes will be considered and feasibility studies conducted.</p> <p>The Council will be closely monitoring the use of the A1000 cycle lane and may replicate similar facilities elsewhere. Barnet's Long Term Transport Strategy outline's Barnet's Commitment to cycling as a sustainable travel mode.</p>
36 Cllr Richman	How many Covid patients have been released from Barnet hospitals to date?	Chairman, Adults	Approximately 800 from Barnet Hospital and the Royal Free combined, still awaiting accurate figures for Barnet Hospital.
37 Cllr Ross Houston	Is the Leader pleased that people (including for example, companies that own a residual interest in the freehold of blocks of leasehold flats) can now build up to two storeys on their home/property (with a few exclusions) with no planning permission? We are already aware of one example of this for three blocks of flats in Childs Hill ward.	Leader	<p>The introduction of new classes of permitted development over the summer for upward extensions to buildings applies to a limited number of buildings in the Borough and is subject to a prior approval process.</p> <p>In each case, an application must be made to the Local Planning Authority which is subject to public consultation. A number of matters are to be assessed including but not limited to potential highways impacts, impact on amenity (including overlooking, privacy and natural light), the external appearance of the building and noise.</p> <p>The first three applications received in the Childs Hill ward have been refused by officers.</p>

38 Cllr Rutter	How many people have been reached by our public awareness campaigns?	Leader	Most of our campaigns are on the population level aiming to target all residents so it is hard to estimate exact numbers. Campaigns so far have included posters at High Streets, leaflets to all households in Barnet with a particular focus/repeated messages in wards with the highest incidence, written to 2500 households in vicinity of fixed testing centre, 728,000 tweets (up by 80%), over 3000 visits since launch of test and trace webpage, 169,000 Facebook visits, 70,251 Covid Hub visits etc.
39 Cllr Alan Schneiderman	Barnet's effectiveness in dealing with fly tipping is being hampered by an uncoordinated and poor value for money system with different parts of the council (streetscene, greenspaces, estates and Barnet Homes) all carrying out separate collections to separate deadlines. When will a proper cross-council service be introduced?	Chairman Environment	A cross service working group including representatives from Barnet Homes has been established to focus on fly tipping and enforcement in Barnet. This group will review existing arrangements for dealing with fly tipping cases and will explore options for better collaboration and the harmonisation of service standards. Initial scoping meetings have been held and work is currently being undertaken to develop an action plan with a view to this being available by mid November.
40 Cllr Jajeh	How are the borough's crime figures this year, compared with last?	Cllr Weeden-Sanz	Overall, in the 12 months to August 2020 there were 28,637 crimes in Barnet. This is 2,059 crimes fewer than in the equivalent period a year ago, representing a reduction in crime in Barnet of around 7%.
41 Cllr Nagus Narenthira	What is the council proposing to do to help those residents who live in fear due to their buildings not meeting fire safety?	Chairman H&G	We continue to work with a range of partners including the Fire Authority and MHCLG joint inspection team to resolve outstanding cladding issues in the borough. We have been working with property owners to ensure that they are aware of their responsibility for maintaining the safety of their blocks and the government funding that may be available to assist them in doing so. Enforcement action will be taken as appropriate where owners do not demonstrate satisfactory progress towards improving the safety of their properties.

42 Cllr Rozenberg	What is the council's initial assessment of the impact that the new cycling lane is having on traffic at the junctions between the A1000 and a) The Bishops Avenue and b) East End Road / Fortis Green?	Chairman Environment	It is difficult to make any assessment until the works have been completed. Post construction monitoring will be taking place and the extent and scope of that will be reviewed as necessary.
43 Cllr Thompstone	What are the financial implications from our transfer from Cambridge Education to Local Authority control?	Chairman, Children's	The financial implications for the transfer from Cambridge Education to BELS (LA control) are follows: • One off project costs to transfer the service into a Local Authority Controlled Company. £0.100m, which are costs the Council, charged to Covid • Savings through the transfer are estimated to be £0.161m per annum.
44 Cllr Geof Cooke	For its contract with Barnet Council, Barnet Education and Learning Service (BELS) has inherited from Mott MacDonald/Cambridge Education a two-tier workforce in which some staff have the benefit of a superior pension scheme (Local Authority or Teachers) and others have a cheaper, inferior pension scheme. This provided the main component of the financial case for adoption of the Local Authority Controlled Company model rather than insourcing staff as directly employed Council staff. If you do not agree that a two-tier workforce is bad for clients of the service, especially the children, please say so and state the reasons why.	Chairman, Children's	All staff that transferred from Mott MacDonald to BELS did so under TUPE and so all of their terms and conditions, including their pensions, have been protected and have not changed. Over the last five years, under these pensions arrangements, performance has been strong and education in particular has improved consistently year on year. 96.8% of schools in Barnet are now good or outstanding, we are 2nd in the country for both Progress 8 and Attainment 8 and in the top 10% of all measures for disadvantaged pupils. There were a number of reasons set out in the Business Case for transferring services into a Local Authority Controlled Company, one of which was financial impact, but other reasons included that there was slightly stronger support from schools for this option and 100% of respondents from the Steering Group of the Parent Carer Forum supported this option.

45 Cllr Grocock	Can you confirm what the situation is with leisure centres around the borough?	Chairman, Adults	<p>The Council re-opened Barnet Copthall, New Barnet, Burnt Oak and Hendon leisure facilities on the 25th July 2020 (see Q94 for detail on the re-opening of Finchley Lido). Each facility has a COVID secure risk assessment in place. We have introduced new routes (eg separate entrance / exit points) throughout the facilities, this is all clearly marked by new COVID secure signage which has been installed. Within each Centre you will also find social distancing arrangements, sanitising stations and cleaning products to support the safe use of</p>
46 Cllr Gill Sargeant	What measures are in place to prevent flooding of the Silkstream over the winter?	Chairman Environment	<p>Re Highways have been in touch with the Environment Agency (EA) Asset Management team to ensure the cleaning of the screens and the Silk Stream is undertaken regularly to prevent any blockages and have arranged a long term loan key for the EA team (for Silk Stream and Montrose parks) to enable them access to the stream and the flexibility to undertake operational works as and when needed.</p> <p>A request for an update from the EA for the latest status of the Silk Stream Flood Alleviation Scheme project being (led by EA) is currently awaited. Officers understand that the scheme has received a further £100,000 of funding to finish the final optioneering and outline business case to enable them to secure the required funding for the construction of the scheme.</p> <p>£75,000 of funding has been received for the Greenway Flood Alleviation Scheme (led by the council) which we aim to spend this year (2020-21), to develop flood risk alleviation options to properties along the Greenway and Montrose Park.</p>

47 Cllr Shooter	Do you believe that the performance of the delivery team on the Brent X project receive adequate scrutiny?	Chairman, FP&C	As the project moves increasingly into the delivery phase, scrutiny of that phase becomes increasingly important. Regular reports are provided to Members through the council's committee structure on the BX project. Updates are provided to each meeting of the Housing and Growth Committee. Decisions are made through the Policy & Resources Committee and Housing and Growth Committee as required. Financial Performance and Monitoring of the delivery of the contracts is provided to Members through the Financial Performance and Contracts Committee. BX will be reviewed in both October and December.
48 Cllr Barry Rawlings	What is the Leader's opinion on MHCLG enforcing much higher building targets on both the Mayor and Barnet?	Leader	<p>With the overall aim of delivering 300,000 new homes per annum nationally the Standard Method proposed by MHCLG is based on a formula. However, planning is by its nature more complicated than that, and any formula-based needs to be balanced with the borough's context and within our land constraints.</p> <p>Particularly important is the experience of local planning authorities (LPAs) that currently through local plans seek to achieve a target that reflects not only local housing need, but also character and infrastructure requirements.</p>
49 Cllr Brayne	How many people have applied for council housing since March this year as opposed to the same period last year? To what extent have these needs been met?	Leader	If the case involves domestic abuse, then the Councils Domestic Abuse services form an important part of this multi-agency approach. The Domestic Abuse services and act to support the victim, identify and reduce risk and help prevent further abuse from occurring. This includes the Domestic Abuse Independent Advocacy (IDVA) Service which supports victims on a 1 to 1 basis. Between 15th March 2020 to 30th September 2020, the IDVA service supported 59 victims of Domestic Abuse aged over 50 years old in Barnet.

50 Cllr Teare

Would the Chairman for Children & Education please provide an update on the borough's work with Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children?

Chairman Children's

Barnet Family Services currently has 69 unaccompanied asylum seeking children in our care. The majority of the young people are over 16 and are accommodated in semi-independent provisions with the necessary support to ensure they are able to adapt to the UK and have access to health services and education. The children who are deemed to be young are placed with foster carers. The Virtual School ensure that the young people access ESOL courses and where possible they attend the Whitefield's UASC project at Whitefields school that provides a bespoke education programme for them. If unable to access this project, they are enrolled at a college or school in the vicinity of their placement and receive additional support from the Virtual school. Their health is tracked carefully by the LAC Health Team and the CCG have provided additional funding to extend the time of their initial health assessments to ensure thorough assessments are completed and the young person's physical and especially emotional wellbeing is monitored closely with specialist referral made where necessary.

51 Cllr Ross  
Houston

At the last Policy & Resources Committee meeting, the Leader refused to join Labour councillors in opposing the Government's 'Planning for the Future' proposals. Which element of the proposals is he most enthusiastic about – the automatic granting of planning permission in 'growth areas' which would see massive overdevelopment projects similar to Victoria Quarter in East Barnet waived through with no local planning committee control, or the poor quality housing and slums of the future that this bonfire of regulations is likely to result in?

Leader

The Government's consultation on the Planning White Paper 'Planning for the Future' sets out a proposed radical reform of the national planning system.

Local councils have a crucial role to play in the planning system. Local democracy and accountability to our local communities must always be a priority. The consultation closes on 29 October 2020 and the Council is studying the proposals carefully. We would encourage local political groups to do the same.

The proposed zoning approach for growth, renewal and protection has the potential to cut tape to help boost housebuilding which in turn should provide for a range of tenure types to meet the breath of both market and affordable housing need. However, developers would still need to secure reserved matters in accordance with design codes drawn up by local communities. Proposals could also advance the regeneration of our town centres and commercial areas.

The references to a focus on beautiful design and the establishment of a national design code body are encouraging. It is also encouraging to see a move towards a faster and simpler plan making system, and utilising technology to make the process both more accessible and transparent to a silent majority. Although, there is much more detail that is needed to back the proposals set out in the Paper.

52 Cllr Byers	What's Barnet's position regarding PPE preparedness for any second wave of Covid?	Chairman, Adults	Current local stock is 1.2m items which is very healthy and can be supplemented, if needed, by a number of arrangements in place with NCL NHS system and via access to a range of suppliers locally. And at the national framework, DHSC provides PPE directly to all registered care settings and we have access to an online portal that went live at the beginning of October 2020. Employed PPE Hub manager to support logistics and distribution, if needed too.
53 Cllr Anne Clarke	Does the Council anticipate the need for any temporary waste facilities?	Chairman Environment	In conjunction with the NLWA, the council is looking into the possibility of temporary waste facilities which would provide additional capacity to enable the completion of NLWA's eco park.
54 Cllr Don	What work has been done to set up new systems to pay out rates relief and other grants for which the Council has become the point of distribution for?	Leader	<p>A cross-council approach has been taken in order to set up the service quickly: The finance team working across with internal audit, CAFT and CSG designed, built and implemented new processes and policies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Revenues and Benefits team was utilised for administering the business rate reliefs and paying the main business support grants. In total reliefs of c£80m have been awarded to local businesses reducing their rates payable to nil and grants totalling £66.5m have been awarded.</li> <li>- The Discretionary Business Grant scheme was set up in conjunction with economic development team and utilised our Accounts Payable upload function to make payments. Grants totally £3.2m have been awarded.</li> <li>- Hardship support to those on Local Council Tax Support Scheme was implemented through the housing benefit team. A total of £3.16m has been applied to reduce bills as at 30/09/20.</li> </ul>

55 Cllr Arjun Mittra Is there still space to rent in the Tarling Road Hub? Chairman H&G

City YMCA have now taken over the management of Tarling Road. The Centre is finalising its risk assessments to minimise the threat of COVID 19 and once completed there will be space to rent.

At present the Centre has an independent nurse on the ground floor and that space is continually occupied. However, the following other facilities will be available for hire by the community:

- First floor meeting room and office (116.2 sq m).
- First floor meeting room (17.4 sq m).
- First floor office (13.6 sq m)
- Ground floor Café area (17.4 sq m). The Centre is fully accessible

56 Cllr Rozenberg	In August 2020, the Government loosened the prior approval process so as to allow blocks of flats to be extended upwards by two additional storeys, without requiring planning permission. Please list all sites/developers that have notified the Council of their intention to take up this right. Please also set out what kind of engagement the council has had in each situation.	Leader	<p>20/3568/PNV -Orchid Court, 171 Granville Road, London. Construction of 4 self-contained units above existing block of flats. Refused 5 October 2020. No engagement with the Council.</p> <p>20/3680/PNV -Sunflower Court, 173 Granville Road, London. Construction of 4 self-contained units above existing block of flats. Refused 5 October 2020. No engagement with the Council.</p> <p>20/3686/PNV -Daffodil Court, 169 Granville Road, London. Construction of 2 self-contained units above existing block of flats. Refused 5 October 2020. No engagement with the Council.</p> <p>20/3784/PNV -Blocks 7- 9 Chandos Way and Blocks 1 To 6 Britten Close, London. Erection of single storey rooftop extension across all blocks, with external lift shafts to create 48no. self-contained flats with provision of 16 additional car parking spaces and 50 cycle spaces. Undetermined. Officers entered into pre-application discussions with the applicant who was seeking guidance as a previous appeal was dismissed on the site.</p> <p>20/4161/PNV -Sparrow House, 5 Glengall Road, Edgware. Addition of two storeys to provide an additional 6no self-contained flats. Undetermined. No engagement with the Council.</p>
57 Cllr Grocock	What has the uptake of use been on our virtual library resources?	Chairman, CLL	Loans via the digital library (23 March and 28 September) total: 24,131 e-audio books; 46,247 e-books; 171,151 e-newspapers and magazines
58 Cllr Sara Conway	Will the Council introduce a mechanism for ward councillors to formally raise community safety issues at the Safer Communities Partnership Board in order to enhance scrutiny and effectiveness?	Chairman Safer Communities Partnership Board	This matter will be included in the agenda of the Safer Communities Partnership Statutory Working Group (October 2020) who will address this point.

59 Cllr Longstaff	Would the Leader join me in recognising the work of and thanking all our Foster Carers, Children's Residential Care Home Staff and the staff at 'Onwards and Upwards' for their dedication in selflessly looking after our children and young people, who we are the corporate parents of, from the beginning of this ongoing Covid-19 pandemic?	Leader	Absolutely- it is incredibly heartening to see so many do so much to look after children and young people across the borough. I would like to thank all our Foster carers, Children's Residential Care Home Staff and the staff at 'Onwards and Upwards' for all that they have done, and continue to do.
60 Cllr Alan Schneiderman	The pandemic gives us an opportunity to build back better and help ensure our ambitions for a greener and more sustainable borough are mainstreamed into the way we do business as a Council. What can be done to speed up this work?	Chairman Environment	The council are supporting a green recovery by supporting and encouraging active travel in the borough, creating innovative public space provision in town centres which provide extra space for businesses to use. We are also reviewing the need for a sustainability strategy where we are working with neighbouring boroughs on initiatives that would enable us to build back better.
61 Cllr Smith	What is the Council doing to support increased cycling in the borough?	Leader	The A1000 Phase 1 experimental cycle lane provides an opportunity to assess cycle uptake utilising emergency funding provided by DfT. The A1000 is one of a number of routes identified in the council's Transport Strategy. The 18 month experimental order will provide valuable information, engagement and lessons learned.

62 Cllr Nagus  
Narenthira

How will the council help community schools meeting their extra expenses due to COVID since government has declined any financial help?

Chairman Children's

The council is passporting the additional financial help provided to state-funded schools by the government. This includes: **1. Funding to reimburse schools for exceptional costs.** Funding has been made available to schools that were unable to meet additional costs arising from the pandemic from their existing resources for the period March to July. The amounts were capped according to the size of schools and ranged from up to £25,000 for the smallest schools to up to £75,000 for the largest schools. The DfE has indicated there will be another round of bidding for exceptional costs for the current term. **2. Catch-up Premium**  
The government is providing £1 billion of funding to support children and young people 'to catch up'. This includes a one-off universal £650 million catch-up premium for the 2020 to 2021 academic year to ensure that schools have the support they need to help all pupils make up for lost teaching time. They have also launched a £350 million National Tutoring Programme to provide additional, targeted support for those children and young people who need the most help. The catch-up premium amounts to £80 per pupil for primary and secondary schools and £240 for each high needs place or place in a Pupil Referral Unit. The funding means that a typical primary school of 200 pupils will receive £16,000 while a typical secondary school of 1,000 pupils will receive £80,000.

63 Cllr Rozenberg	Please provide a list of <u>primary care</u> sites in Barnet that will be seeing children face to face over the winter period.	Chairman HOSC	<p>Primary Care services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Barnet GP surgeries will see children face-to-face if it is deemed clinically necessary</li> <li>• There are also extended access services which again will see children face to face where clinically necessary. These operate from Edgware Community Hospital (if a patient has COVID symptoms), Finchley Memorial Hospital (non-COVID symptoms) Oak Lodge Medical Centre (non-COVID symptoms)</li> <li>• Children can also be seen face to face at Finchley Memorial Hospital Walk-in Centre</li> </ul> <p>Healthy Child Programme Service</p> <p>Direct access to face-to-face clinic based services will only occur when there is a clinical need or a face to face appointment is otherwise deemed necessary (for instance for children with child protection plans). Clinics are taking place at Oak Lane Medical Centre and Grahame Park Health Centre. Health visitors and other healthy child programme clinicians are also undertaking consultations in the client homes where indicated. The service is otherwise operating through remote consultations, with children reviewed face to face after these where necessary. The service is offering all postnatal healthy child programme health checks. The school nurse service has continued to support schools and children. The service has also established a 7 day a week duty line that young people and parents in the borough can call for advice and support.</p> <p>Immunisations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Routine pre-school immunisations continue to be provided by GP surgeries. Flu immunisations for pre-school children and eligible school aged children with underlying conditions are also provided through GP surgeries.</li> <li>• Since the full reopening of schools the immunisations school nurses have been providing routine immunisations to school aged children in school (including flu immunisations to eligible year groups).</li> <li>• BCG clinics are held at Mill Hill Clinic, Hartley Avenue.</li> <li>• It is also planned that catch up flu clinics for children will also be run in December and January at Coppetts Wood and Silk Stream children’s centre.</li> </ul>
64 Cllr Rutter	By what process does the Council deal with planning applications from TfL?	Chairman, Planning	Planning applications submitted by TfL are processed in the same manner as all other planning applications.

65 Cllr Geof Cooke	<p>Because of the inferior pension on offer to new employees of Barnet Education and Learning Service and the lack of continuity of employment, difficulty in recruitment and retention is an acknowledged risk of the adopted Local Authority Controlled Company option for the service taken back from Mott MacDonald/Cambridge Education though those factors are said not to have caused a problem during the period of the outsource. There is also a potential issue around jobs for qualified teachers being offered on Soulbury terms and conditions rather than Teachers' terms and conditions. Will the administration undertake to report on these matters to the Children, Education and Safeguarding committee whenever there is a perceived problem and at least annually?</p>	Chairman Children's	<p>Please see the response to Q.44 about the strong performance of the Education and Skills Service over the last five years, which reflects that there has not been a problem recruiting good staff. The performance of BELS will monitored through reports to the Children Education and Safeguarding Committee but, as with other contractors, BELS will not be required to provide routine reports on recruitment.</p>
66 Cllr Grover	<p>How much has the Council distributed from its Community Response Fund?</p>	Leader	<p>The Community Response Fund, administered by the Young Barnet Foundation, has distributed £91,217. The Council matched funded £25,000 worth of donations and issued a main grant of £50,000. Further information can be found on the following link: <a href="https://www.youngbarnetfoundation.org.uk/coronavirus">https://www.youngbarnetfoundation.org.uk/coronavirus</a></p>

67 Cllr Barry Rawlings	Is it correct that the Council administration bid for and accepted funding for the residential development at Finchley Central Station?	Leader	The council partnered with Transport for London to submit a bid to the MHCLG Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) (Marginal Viability Fund) and was awarded £5.7M to support essential engineering and other non-housing enabling works on the Finchley Central scheme. These enabling works will only be required if the scheme goes ahead, and does not in any way pre-determine any planning decision. Bearing in mind the Mayor can call in this application and overrule any Barnet decision, the Council has to be prepared for all eventualities, ensuring appropriate investment for any future infrastructure.
68 Cllr Bokaei	Can the Leader comment on the progress of new ward boundaries being drawn across the borough?	Leader	In January 2020, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) published their final recommendations for the future electoral arrangements for Barnet Council on the LGBCE website - <a href="http://www.lgbce.org.uk/barnet">www.lgbce.org.uk/barnet</a> . The LGBCE final recommendations mean that Barnet will continue to have 63 councillors but an increase in the number of wards, from 21 to 24 wards, with 15 three-councillor wards and 9 two-councillor wards. The draft Order was laid before Parliament on 6 July 2020 and as no objections were raised in either House within Parliament, the Order became legislation on 16 September 2020. The new electoral arrangements for Barnet Council will come into effect (i.e. councillors will be elected to the new wards) at the local elections scheduled for May 2022. Council officers have Barnet council has now developed a programme of work to implement the changes to the electoral arrangements. A report is being presented to the Constitution and General Purposes Committee on 12 October 2020, which summarises the next steps for implementing the final recommendations from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England. The report can be found here - <a href="https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=174&amp;MIId=10215&amp;Ver=4">https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=174&amp;MIId=10215&amp;Ver=4</a> .

69 Cllr Anne Clarke	If the new waste transfer station doesn't open on Geron Way, what impact will it have on Brent Cross Regeneration?	Chairman H&G	The council has provided a commitment to deliver a replacement facility to the existing Hendon Waste Transfer Station and is moving forward on that basis. The council is working with its development partners and contractors to ensure that the interfaces are managed so that there is no impact on the construction of the station or the delivery of Brent Cross Town.
70 Cllr Brayne	Will the council embed health and wellbeing across every department – highways, planning, housing?	Chairman HOSC	Yes
71 Cllr Richman	How many Barnet businesses have benefited from Government grants and business rates relief during the pandemic?	Chairman, H&G	In total £66.5m has been awarded in business grants across Barnet to 4,342 businesses : - 2,059 businesses received the £10k small business grant - 399 businesses received the £10k retail, hospitality and leisure grant - 1,549 businesses received the £25k retail, hospitality and leisure grant - 335 businesses received an award ranging from £5k to £25k from our Discretionary Business Grant Scheme. 3,092 businesses have received the Expanded Reliefs as at 30th September 2020.
72 Cllr Arjun Mittra	How many fines related to breaches of COVID rules have been handed out in Barnet?	Chairman CLL	Council officers and Police have been working in partnership since the beginning of the COVID pandemic to ensure compliance of restrictions. There has and continues to be a high level of engagement with residents and businesses through a dedicated programme of joint working, which included high visibility patrols, compliance visits alongside a communication and information sharing campaign. Police and Council officers have worked hard to engage, explain and encourage rather than jumping straight to enforcement. To date there have been 6 COVID related arrests and 3 COVID related FPN's issued, as well as a number of warning non-compliance letters issued.

73 Cllr Freedman	How well did CSG support the Council during the pandemic?	Leader	<p>As reported to the Financial Performance and Contract Committee meeting on 15th June, CSG colleagues, supported by their senior management, response to the pandemic has been exemplary. They far exceeded expectations in terms of their flexibility and responsive in meeting the challenges faced by the council and the borough it serves. The IT service was under particular pressure in terms of supporting the move to working from home, the implementation of new software to support the vulnerability hub and the need to accelerate the delivery of platforms to support virtual meetings and maintain engagement with vulnerable young people. Our contact centres quickly moved to working fully remotely and delivered new services to support vulnerable people and businesses. The Revenues and Benefits service had to turn its operating model on its head to pay out business grants. In non-critical services, employees were actively encouraged by their management to put themselves forward for redeployment to support critical activity.</p>
74 Cllr Sara Conway	When will the Council meet with the Environment Agency to arrange a programme to manage litter, fly-tipping and repairs to Silkstream in Burnt Oak's 3 parks?	Chairman Environment	<p>The council has issued a maintenance access key for Montrose and Silkstream Parks to the Environment Agency so that they can more easily access the open spaces to clear any blockages. The Greenspaces Team will reach out to the EA in order to develop the relationship further in order to include a more coordinated approach to management and maintenance throughout the river corridor.</p>
75 Cllr Weeden-Sanz	Is the Brent Cross Cricklewood regeneration project meeting anticipated timescales?	Chairman H&G	<p>Brent Cross Town and the station remain on track. The station remains on target to open 2022. BXS are now on site undertaking the required demolitions and remediation ahead of site clearance. The Exploratory park opened in August 2020.</p>

76 Cllr Alan Schneiderman	What consultation was carried out with residents and businesses in advance of implementing the A1000 pop-up cycle lane?	Chairman Environment	Letters were posted to all residents and businesses along A1000 Phase 1 section, prior to the start of works. More in depth consultation was not possible as the temporary cycle lane had to be implemented quickly in order to respond to the changing transport requirements created by Covid-19. However, Ward Members were consulted and provided with drawings as the design progressed. An invite to an site walkthrough was issued to affected Ward Members, some of whom attended.
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77 Cllr Rozenberg	Of the Barnet residents who are told to self-isolate as part of the Track & Trace system, how many currently receive a follow-up phone call or email from Public Health during their self-isolation period? Does the council have any information as to how many such residents complete their two weeks' isolation period?	Chairman HOSC	<p>Barnet currently has a relatively high rate of successful contact tracing using the national Test and Trace system alone. The week ending 30th September, 75% of cases were successfully contacted although the weekly average over the past two months has generally ranged between 80 and 85%. LBB are putting in place plans to set up a local contact tracing service to supplement the national work by attempting to contact individuals to whom the national service has been unable to trace within 24 hours. The resource and effort required to set up the local service needs to be balanced with the likely effectiveness in the current situation given the level of spread of COVID-19 in the borough.</p> <p>We currently do not proactively contact cases during the period of self-isolation. We do not have any local information about how many complete their two weeks self-isolation.</p> <p>We recognise the challenges for some individuals to self-isolate fully for the full 14 days asked of them, highlighted in a recent SAGE report (16th September 2020). It is important to note that those who have the lowest rates of self-isolation are those living in poverty as well as the young. We are putting place our offer of support to individuals who need to self-isolate, starting with the national programme to provide additional financial support for some individuals. We are also looking at options to connect individuals who need support from volunteers who may be able to assist with shopping and collecting medicines.</p>
78 Cllr Wardle	How has Barnet Council's affordable housing delivery statistics compared to the neighbouring boroughs of Enfield, Haringey and Camden?	Chairman, H&G	<p>GLA Housing statistics show the following affordable housing completions for the period April 2019 - March 2020:</p> <p>Barnet - 247  Enfield - 193  Camden - 141  Haringey - 22</p>

79 Cllr Geof Cooke	Barnet Education and Learning Service (a Local Authority Controlled Company) has discretion about allowing individual existing employees to transfer to the superior Local Government Pension Scheme and on whether to include the superior pension scheme in job offers to some potential new employees and not to others. So there is potentially a third class of employee - people who are favoured for special treatment in addition to staff who were previously employed directly by Barnet Council and staff who have been recruited since on an inferior pension scheme and are not favoured. In your opinion, does this situation encourage a cohesive and united service?	Chairman Children's	All staff that transferred from Mott MacDonald to BELS did so under TUPE and so all of their terms and conditions, including their pensions, have been protected and have not changed. All new staff recruited over the last five years have been recruited onto an Aviva pension and the intention is that recruitment will continue to be onto the Aviva pension. As set out in the response to Q44, under these pensions arrangements, performance of the Education and Skills Service has been strong over the last five years.
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80 Cllr Teare	What are the Council's plans for encouraging use of Electric Vehicles, including what investment is being made in the charging infrastructure needed to support mass use of EVs?	Leader	<p>The Council is very much committed to encouraging the use of electric vehicles in the borough. To date the Council has installed the following electric vehicle charging points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 76 lamp column mounted charge points.</li> <li>• 12 freestanding 7.5kWh charge points (located in car parks across the borough).</li> <li>• 22 community charging hub charge points located at our leisure centres.</li> </ul> <p>This is in addition to earlier 7.5kWh charge points installed in various car parks.</p> <p>This means that so far the Council have installed over 100 EV charge points and have further plans to continue to expand this number this year and in future years. The Council have been successful in achieving funding from both GULCS and ORCS and are planning further EV charge points based on the funding secured for the period up to March 2021.</p>
81 Cllr Barry Rawlings	What does it mean to “behave fearlessly but with common sense” and how will the Council explain this latest piece of Covid-19 advice from the Prime Minister to Barnet residents?	Leader	<p>People cannot live in a state of fear - and there is a clear difference between being frightened and being cautious. People should take sensible precautions to avoid becoming sick, or spreading illness to others, but should not allow their life to become overwhelmed with a sense of fear that stops them from living it fully.</p>

82 Cllr Grocock	<p>The Council undertake annual highway condition assessment surveys of all roads and pavements across the Borough, and such findings are used for the Forward Works Programme. In view of the number of Agenda items submitted to Area Committees, for road safety issues/concerns – Can the Assessment Surveys look at these types of potentials when undertaking such condition assessment surveys, and where found, deal with appropriately on the FWP?</p>	<p>Chairman, Environment</p>	<p>The asset condition surveys to inform the 2021/22 Network Recovery Programme has been completed and we are currently beginning Ward Member consultations.</p>
			<p>We agree with the Member’s suggestion to consider linking the Network Recovery Programme with previously identified Area Committee issues, subject to separate funding streams being available.</p>
			<p>Once the Network Recovery Programme is confirmed at the January 2021 Environment Committee, as part of the programme planning we will consider the feasibility of linking initiatives together.</p>
			<p>The current survey for the Network Recovery Plan focusses exclusively on the physical condition of the footways and carriageway surfaces. Safety considerations are more varied and wide ranging and therefore would need to be part of a separate survey dedicated to these issues.</p>
83 Cllr Anne Clarke	<p>If another site needs to be identified as replacement for the waste transfer site, how will this impact on the council’s ability to relocate Donoghue?</p>	<p>Chairman H&amp;G</p>	<p>Council officers are working to relocate PB Donaghue. This is not dependent on the relocation on the Hendon Waste Replacement Facility.</p>

84 Cllr Brayne	Can the Leader provide more certainty that the impact of Covid-19 on mental health for families will be fully reviewed on a regular basis, whether as part of the broader family report or separately, and not lost in a broader discussion?	Leader	<p>The Leader and council officers are very conscious of the impact of COVID-19 on mental health of individuals and families. We have a significant offer of wellbeing support on-line which is accessible through the Barnet website <a href="https://www.barnet.gov.uk/mental-health-and-wellbeing">https://www.barnet.gov.uk/mental-health-and-wellbeing</a>, including offering a COVID bereavement service.</p> <p>There is national but no regular local data on mental-wellbeing of our residents which we can use to monitor the impact of COVID on the wellbeing of our residents but we have commissioned Healthwatch to ask our local population about the impact of COVID on their lives and will continue to use other sources of insight to continue to review our response to the many phases of the pandemic.</p>
85 Cllr Freedman	I would like to ask how many fly tips had been cleared since the start of lockdown and if the problem had increased since the waste recycling had reduced service.	Chairman, Environment	Between the 16/03/2020 and 30/09/2020 there were 2712 requests for service fly tip removals from members of the public and councillors. During the week that recycling collections were deferred there was no noticeable increase in fly tips reported.
86 Cllr Arjun Mittra	What preparations have been made by the council for a severe winter, and what stocks of grit are held by the council?	Chairman Environment	The Council is well prepared for this coming winter. Stocks of grit are in place with 3,000T held at Harrow Depot and 600T held at Oakleigh Depot. This years Plan identifies the season starting on 26th October, however the weather monitoring will commence in advance of this date to ensure that we are able to respond to any unusually early weather events. The Gritter Vehicles have been delivered and drivers have been conducting route familiarisation over recent weeks and grit bins are being checked and filled as necessary in advance of the winter season commencement.
87 Cllr Nizza Fluss	Where on the council website can one find out about advertising opportunities and pay for adverts in the Borough	Leader	The Council is currently in the process of introducing a number of new advertising contracts. Once these arrangements are finalised and in place appropriate information will be included on the Councils website.

88 Cllr Sara Conway	When is the draft equality strategy being circulated for consultation and how will the Council ensure effective engagement with local communities?	Chairman CLL	The consultation will open on Monday 19 October and run until 10 December. The EDI policy has been re-edited and laid out into a much more engaging and readable consultation document. This will be hosted on our online Engage Barnet portal with an online questionnaire to capture the views of respondents on each part of the policy and its summary action plan. This will be promoted across all the council's social media channels and supported by a poster campaign.
89 Cllr Teare	How many trees were planted in Barnet this year, and what is the target for tree-planting next year?	Chairman, Environment	2019-2020, 1,098 trees planted. 2020-2021, 703 trees to be planted. 2021-2022, 900 trees planned
90 Cllr Alan Schneiderman	Which roads in Barnet are being considered for the introduction of low traffic neighbourhoods? Will residents, businesses and the emergency services be consulted before any are implemented?	Chairman, Environment	Consultation will open on Monday 19 October and run until 10 December.
91 Cllr Rozenberg	How will the council monitor issues arising from the closure of the children's A&E at the Royal Free and UCLH, with staff and patients being diverted to Barnet and the Whittington Hospitals?	Chairman HOSC	The North Central London integrated care system (ICS) has made a number of changes to clinical services to accommodate the need to provide separate facilities for Covid positive and non-Covid positive patients. This is behind the decision to close paediatric A&E at the Royal Free site in Hampstead and UCLH, and open Barnet, Whittington and North Middlesex Hospitals' paediatric A&E services. These changes are being monitored by the ICS leadership team, which a council director attends, and the commissioner of the service NCL CCG, on a weekly basis. Issues will be monitored through this process.

92 Cllr Grocock	May we have an update on the works at Finchley Swimming Pool works and when this is envisaged to be back in use for the residents of the Borough.	Chairman, Adults	<p>An extensive and specialist remedial programme of Finchley Lido is now complete. The works completed during the closure period include repair, maintenance and strengthening of the roof, beams and steel columns. Additional items also included the repair of glazing panels within the pool hall and essential works within the health and fitness area and studio. The facility re-opened on Monday 28th September in a phased return starting with an offering of Gym and Fitness Classes.</p> <p>The next phase is to re-open the pools, which is currently scheduled for Saturday 24th October.</p>
93 Cllr Sara Conway	What is planned for Remembrance Sunday this year given Covid restrictions?	Leader	<p>Public Health are developing guidance for bodies who organise Remembrance Sunday services at various locations across the borough and this is expected to be issued shortly. Each organisation will be asked to complete an event risk assessments for the Council to review. At present, the Council are not aware which locations in the borough will and will not be holding a service. Where remembrance services do take place, it is anticipated that they will be substantially scaled down (i.e. no parades and limited numbers of individuals participating). Any members of the public who do attend will need to adhere to social distancing measures and any other government guidance in force relating to events and/or public gatherings. Government guidance could change in the lead up to Remembrance Sunday which may result in further restrictions on services.</p>

94 Cllr Freedman	What deterrents are being put in place to stop the increase in fly tips, especially the commercial fly tippers?	Chairman, Environment	<p>A cross service working group including representatives from Barnet Homes has been established to focus on fly tipping in Barnet. The groups work will incorporate the agreement of enforcement and communication activity aimed at deterring fly tipping within the Borough. Initial scoping meetings have been held and work is currently being undertaken to develop an action plan with a view to this being available by mid November.</p> <p>The pre-existing operational investigation responses to fly tipping (both residential and commercial) have been sustained throughout the COVID 19 period. This includes the liaison work between Street Scene, Community Safety Team (with our contractor for waste enforcement (Kingdom/LAS), Environment Agency and Barnet Homes. There have been several Borough wide banning notices (Community Protection Notices) issued to vehicle owners suspected of being involved in fly tipping - these bans are now being monitored by our ANPR cctv system. Since the service of these notices these vehicles have not re-returned or been reported in any local fly tipping. We will continue to utilise this operational tactic on a case by case basis and seek to fine or prosecute offenders in accordance with the corporate enforcement and prosecution policy.</p>
95 Cllr Barry Rawlings	Do we have any further information of the likelihood of the redevelopment of Brent Cross Shopping Centre?	Chairman H&G	<p>Hammerson and Aberdeen Standard Investments are continuing to review refurbishment and development options, timing of these will be influenced by COVID 19 and its impact on the retail and hospitality sectors.</p>
96 Cllr Teare	How many rogue landlords were successfully prosecuted for providing sub-standard accommodation this year and how much was raised in fines?	Leader	<p>Since April 2020 courts have not been fully functioning. There has been one prosecution since April 2020 for failure to licence an HMO contrary to section 72 Housing Act 2004 and failure to comply with the Management Regulations contrary to section 234 Housing Act 2004. This was successful with total fines of £24,000 given.</p>

97 Cllr Anne Clarke	If another site needs to be identified as replacement for the waste transfer site, how will this impact on the council's ability to relocate Donoghue?	Chairman H&G	Council officers are working to relocate PB Donaghue. This is not dependent on the relocation on the Hendon Waste Replacement Facility.
98 Cllr Brayne	Can the Leader provide an update on council cashflows since the recent Policy & Resources committee report? Has there been any change to the estimate of funding that will be provided by central government?	Leader	<p>Since Policy &amp; Resources there has been no material change to the council's cashflow position.</p> <p>As of 12/10/20 Government has announced additional £1bn general emergency funding and per capita funding for those areas in tier 2 and tier 3. There is no further breakdown of the general emergency funding at this moment.</p>
99 Cllr Nizza Fluss	How much does it cost to advertise on our Lamp Post? What is the price for the size of Banner and the period of advertising. Is it	Leader	As per the answer provided above (Q87) these details are in the process of being finalised with the new Service Providers. Information will become available shortly which will identify the way
100 Cllr Arjun Mittra	What is the council doing to ensure that young people are kept safe on our high streets this winter, bearing in mind the appalling mugging that occurred a year ago?	Chairman CLL	The Barnet Safer Communities Partnership is committed to working together to reduce robbery and help reduce the risk of a young person being robbed. In the last year alone, the police have identified and brought to justice suspects in over 35 robberies in Barnet. Barnet Council CCTV supports the police in preventing and investigating robbery offences. Over the Autumn and Winter, we will be ensuring that our CCTV control room is regularly briefed as to the key locations and timeframes so as so maximise their effectiveness towards tackling robbery and related street crimes. In addition, Family Services will be sharing communications on staying safe with young people via our Instagram and Barney Youth pages.

101 Cllr Arjun Mittra	Will the council consider retaining the 20 mph zone on the High Road in East Finchley permanently?	Chairman Environment	The experimental orders for the cycle route included introduction of a 20mph limit along sections of the A1000. Prior to installation, the police were approached and offered no negative comment on its introduction. As with all the measures, they will be considered during the 18 month consultation period. I cannot confirm whether the limit will continue and/or the police would continue to support a limit (ie without physical measures found in a Zone) without the presence of the cycle route.
102 Cllr Anne Clarke	Would the Leader please provide an update on the relocation of Donoghue?	Chairman H&G	Council officers have met with PB Donaghue to discuss potential options to assist in their relocation. These are being considered by PB Donaghue. An update will be provided to the next meeting of the Housing and Growth Committee.
103 Cllr Alan Schneiderman	The A41 Hendon Way by the Brent Cross flyover was flooded again recently leaving at least one car stranded in the water. Flooding in this section of the A41 is a regular occurrence during heavy rainfall. How can the council help to initiate work to alleviate this?	Chairman Environment	<p>This area is included in our Critical Drainage Area assessments completed in 2018/19 which assessed the existing surface water flood risk and high-level options to alleviate the flood risk in the area.</p> <p>It has now been included in the Flood &amp; Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) program and funding bid has been submitted to the Environment Agency for next year (2021-22).</p> <p>If successful Re Highways should be able to initiate the detailed option appraisal studies and submit a business case to secure further funding for the scheme.</p>
104 Cllr Arjun Mittra	How many times have planning applicants paid to select their preferred planning officer?	Chairman, Planning	From 1st January 2020 - 30th September 2020, the Council received 20 requests to select a planning case officer to deal with a planning application or pre-application query with payment made directly to the Council in line with the published Fees and Charges.

105 Cllr Rozenberg	How much ahead of or behind budget is the current contribution to council funds from new housing sales?	Leader	<p>As part of budget setting, the council anticipated 2,253 Band D equivalent properties to become eligible for council tax through the course of the year. This amounts to: £2.87m</p> <p>Housing completions are not linear and we do often have more completions in Q4 than the rest of the year. As at the end of August, 357 new properties had become eligible for Council Tax.</p> <p>Through our Covid monitoring, we have forecast that 60% of completions will be delayed into next financial year, reducing the balance to £1.15m.</p> <p>New Homes Bonus is as expected at budget setting.</p>
106 Cllr Anne Clarke	Are all councillors given the same information when it is requested from officers?	Leader	<p>Councillors should typically be given the same information when it is requested from officers. There are some exceptions to this, for example Committee Chairmen and Vice Chairmen may receive more detailed information, particularly in relation to policy development or emerging options. Chairmen and Vice Chairmen may also receive information relating to the whole borough, whereas Ward Members, depending on what they are asking for, may receive it in relation to their ward only. A Member that is known to have an existing relationship, for example with a community group, may receive a more (or less, in cases of potential conflict of interest) detailed response where appropriate. Occasionally, if requests on the same subject are made to different officers, different levels of detail may be provided. Members are always able to ask for more detail if they feel they have not been given sufficient information.</p>

107 Cllr Alan Schneiderman	Does the administration now accept that cuts to the street cleaning budget and staffing over several years went too far?	Chairman Environment	After changes have been made to the waste collection service including garden waste the council have been able to successful introduction of the garden waste collection service has enabled the council to confirm the initial £500,000 per annum additional investment to support Street Cleansing Services . It has also allowed an additional £600,000 per annum commitment to support the delivery of an enhanced area based street cleansing operation.
108 Cllr Anne Clarke	How have residents been made aware of how to request a cycle hangar?	Chairman Environment	<p>The Council's commitment to cycle parking facilities has been publicised as part of the borough's Long Term Transport Strategy. The cycle storage installation programme is funded through dedicated Transport for London funding, however at present this funding is unfortunately not available. The link below takes you to a site that is using TfL's Cycle Infrastructure database which will show where all currently available cycle parking facilities are located:</p> <p><a href="https://bikedata.cyclestreets.net/#17/51.51137/-0.10498/opencyclemap">https://bikedata.cyclestreets.net/#17/51.51137/-0.10498/opencyclemap</a></p>
109 Cllr Arjun Mittra	When will a decision be made on resurfacing the basketball and tennis courts in Cherry Tree Wood?	Chairman Environment	The service are currently reviewing a schedule of programmed maintenance, which includes improvements to the court surfaces at Cherry Tree Woods. This review is expected for completion by 30 October. Subject and prior to any implementation of remedial activity, the Council will ensure that communication is provided along with information and timescales for delivery for improvements at this site subject to funding being available.
110 Cllr Anne Clarke	How will the extension of permitted development impact Barnet?	Chairman, Planning	It is not expected that there will be a significant uptake of this new permitted development across the Borough

111 Cllr Brayne

With more retailers and restaurants going out of business on our high streets in the borough and a growing number of empty premises, what more can be done by the council to encourage a range of small businesses to choose Barnet as their base?

Chairman H&G

Council officers are already working on a number of initiatives aimed at supporting existing and new local businesses in our high streets and town centres. Further activities at the planning stage include:

- Increasing footfall and providing business start-up opportunities through additional street trading, markets, events and community/cultural activities
- Temporarily taking on high street retail units to provide space for business start-ups
- Connecting start-ups supported through council programmes such as Pop Up Business School and the Entrepreneurial Barnet Competition with appropriate retail space on high streets
- Increasing opportunities for people to walk and cycle to town centres which are proven to result in higher spend
- Enhancing the public realm and providing better spaces for people to dwell, increasing the amount of time that people spend in town centres
- Connecting landlords (including the council), developers and workspace providers to bring forward new flexible workspace in town centres, providing much-needed accommodation for SMEs and increasing footfall on high streets
- Developing the evening economy offer by engaging existing and new Barnet businesses and promoting growth opportunities
- Extending the successful Discover Barnet campaign and encouraging people to 'shop safely, shop local', particularly during the festive season.

112 Cllr Rozenberg	How many empty retail spaces are there currently in Barnet compared to this time last year?	Chairman Housing and Growth	<p>The council is in the process of acquiring data on retail vacancies and will update the Housing and Growth Committee at a future date.</p> <p>In relation the council's own commercial portfolio:  2018/19 – 7 empty retail spaces  2019/20 – 15 empty retail spaces  There are 3 empty properties currently under offer or completed lease and therefore will be soon removed from 2019/20 vacant list.</p>
113 Cllr Rozenberg	Why are most of the cyclists in Barnet just passing through? What would the council need to do to demonstrate a total, unqualified commitment to pedal power as opposed to diesel/petrol power?	Chairman Environment	<p>Whether accommodating cyclists passing through, or providing cycling routes to destinations within Barnet, any route needs to adhere to the principles of a safe, direct and clearly visible facility. The A1000 Phase 1 experimental route provides us with an opportunity to assess cycle take-up and apply local lessons learned to future experimental and permanent facilities, based on the council's Transport Strategy.</p>
114 Cllr Brayne	The council's early intervention on NEET programme has been halted due to termination of funding from GLA. Can the Leader provide an update? Will this be prioritised as an area to fund as a matter of priority, even if the GLA funding is cancelled?	Chairman Children's	<p>Historically, Barnet has high participation rates for 16- and 17-year-olds. The figures for NEETS and not knowns combined were 1.9% in 2019 (ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in London) and 1.5% in 2020 (ranked first in London). The success of a range of projects and programmes that support the most vulnerable young people in Barnet has contributed significantly to this reduction in NEET young people and the Council will be looking to ensure the continuation of these projects. More broadly, young people are one of the priority groups within the community being targeted for Covid-related employment support, helping to ensure that they can access information on training, education and employment opportunities in the borough.</p>

115 Cllr Brayne	Can the Leader say what steps are being taken to ensure full identification of and support for families with autistic children where domestic abuse is a risk? It was understood from the last meeting of CELS that there would be further discussion on steps to tackle this matter.	Chairman Children's	Family Services has an Autism Plan in place that is a multi-agency strategy agreed by Health, Education and Children Social Care. which was approved at the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee in September. Within Family Services there is an Early help Autism Pilot Project that provides support, guidance and intervention for families who have children with autism to prevent crises from developing. As part of the MASH screening of all new referrals, health information is viewed and this will confirm any diagnosis of autism for the child that will inform decisions on each referral. The Strategic Manager for Disabilities, based in the 0-25 service, provides support and guidance to social workers working with families where children have autism. Within the 0-25 Service there is a specialist sub-team that will be allocated to families where the child's needs and behaviours are complex and there may be additional concerns in relation to safeguarding the children. All referrals received are screened consistently by MASH and where there are complex decisions to be made MASH managers will hold multi-agency meetings to agree what intervention is needed for the family. If a child in the family has a disability these discussions will include Health and 0-25 service. The Autism Strategy will be reviewed at the SEND Partnership Board.
116 Cllr Brayne	How many school staff have tested positive for Covid-19 since schools reopened?	Chairman Children's	Our records indicate that 26 staff in Barnet state-funded schools had tested positive for covid-19 between schools re-opening at the start of the autumn term and Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> October

117 Cllr Brayne

What work is being done to ensure that every Chairman Children's child who needs it has access to education online?

All schools have platforms or systems in place to ensure learning continues if pupils are at home self-isolating. The Government has published a Temporary Continuity Direction regarding the provision of remote education in schools, under the Coronavirus Act 2020. The Direction means schools have a duty to provide education to children at home, as they do when children are in the classroom, where a class, group of pupils, or individual pupils need to self-isolate, or there are local or national restrictions requiring pupils to remain at home. The Education Secretary announced recently that schools, colleges, teachers and pupils across England will benefit from new remote education support to help children learn at home if they have to self-isolate. The new support includes an additional 100,000 laptops to be made available for those children most in need if they are required to learn at home, as well as expanding the EdTech Demonstrator programme to ensure schools and teachers are able to make best use of technology available to them to enhance the at-home learning given to their pupils. The extra devices will be available to support: disadvantaged children in Years 3-11 who do not already have access to a device; disadvantaged, clinically extremely vulnerable children of all year groups who are unable to return to school, and children in all year groups unable to access remote education whilst attending a hospital school. As far as possible therefore, our focus throughout the pandemic has been on children continuing to learn. As children transition into school, we address any concerns of lost learning. We have participated in a 6-borough project on lost learning which has been used by schools to plan programmes as children have returned to school.

118 Cllr Brayne	How many children have been required to self isolate since schools reopened? What proportion does this represent?	Chairman Children's	Our records indicate that between schools re-opening at the start of the autumn term and Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> October approximately 2,500 pupils in Barnet state-funded schools have been required to self-isolate for a period of 14 days due to close contact, or possible close contact, with someone who had tested positive for covid19. This represents about 4.2% of all pupils in Barnet state-funded schools.
119 Cllr Rozenberg	What assessment has been made of the pressure on primary schools from staff being required to self-isolate? Are any schools at risk of temporary closure due to being understaffed?	Chairman Children's	We meet with primary headteachers on a regular basis and the School Improvement Team are always available to give advice to schools when required and this has been used widely and regularly by schools. No primary schools are currently at risk of temporary closure although the limited access to testing earlier in the term was stretching the schools' staffing resources, with staff off work waiting to be tested. There are more staff self-isolating in secondary/all through schools than primary so that is where the risks of temporary closures are heightened.
120 Cllr Brayne	Have schools been given additional funding to cope with the extra demands on staff and resources when trying to teach both in person and remotely when staff and pupils are forced to self isolate/getting ill? What additional support can be offered should the situation continue to deteriorate?	Chairman Children's	Yes – see the answer to Q62.

121 Cllr Rozenberg	Doctors and nurses are currently advised to avoid having lunch together in enclosed areas, given that by definition no one can wear a mask during a meal. The same logic should apply to school teachers, who in normal times would often have lunch together in the staff room. Does this practice, of shared lunches in staff rooms, presents a risk within Barnet's schools? If so, what is being done to address it?	Chairman Children's	All schools were expected to complete COVID secure risk assessments prior to their full reopening in September. Barnet council provided schools with a COVID- secure risk assessment template and also reviewed the risk assessments for all state funded schools, providing support where necessary. The risk assessment template included advice on ventilation, staggering lunch times to reduce mixing, and remodelling of spaces to allow adults to socially distance. We have advised schools that staff must socially distance at all times including break times and lunch (there will of course be some very limited instances such as intimate care for a child with specific needs where it may not be possible for staff to socially distance from each other but the schools will risk assess these tasks to reduce the risk of COIVD transmission). The public health team are available via a 7 day a week on-call rota to provide schools with any further guidance on social distancing where necessary. Our health and safety team have also provided schools with further advice where necessary.
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