

<u>MEETING</u>
COUNCIL
<u>DATE AND TIME</u>
TUESDAY 19TH JANUARY, 2021
AT 7.00 PM
<u>VENUE</u>
VIRTUAL MEETING

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) - TO FOLLOW	3 - 16

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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

Qn.	Councillor	Question	Response by	Cleared response
1	Cllr Rutter	Can the Leader comment on the progress of vaccinating Barnet residents against Covid-19 to date?	Leader - Cllr Daniel Thomas	As of 11.1.2021, at least 70% of Barnet's care homes for older people have been visited by vaccination teams to vaccinate residents and part of the staff (staff can also access vaccination sites at Barnet Hospital and Royal Free). By the time of Full Council, all vaccinations in the borough's care homes for the elderly should be completed, and then the rollout will continue with the remaining priority groups. The PCN vaccination hubs report good uptake amongst people over 80 years of age. Actual data on COVID-19 vaccination update will be shared in due course.
2	Cllr Rawlings	Is the recovery plan being updated given the continuation of the pandemic and the new strain of the virus and when will it be presented to the Policy & Resources Committee?	Leader - Cllr Daniel Thomas	The recovery planning programme is under constant review to ensure activity is current and reflects the changing situation in relation to Covid-19. Staff are presently prioritising the response to the current peak in infections, including work around hospital discharge, compliance with government guidance and community testing. Recovery priorities will be reflected in the draft Barnet Plan due to be considered at P&R in February as part of the Business Planning cycle.
3	Cllr Jajeh	Would the Leader agree with me that the Council has done a great job at supporting the most vulnerable in our borough over this challenging winter?	Leader - Cllr Daniel Thomas	Yes, the council has carried out the following work, which is not an exhaustive list: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The council has continued to support the vulnerable through its adult social care and children's social care teams, who have helped and protected thousands of individuals over the winter with essential care, support and interventions • The council, working with its NHS colleagues has supported over 2000 people who have been in hospital, with our hospital social work team continuing to work from 8am to 8pm, 7 days a week throughout the winter • We have given financial support to circa 7,000 families for food during the school holiday period, delivered through schools and early years providers • We have given an additional £100k of funding to ensure food bank resilience through boosting stock levels at the Council's Essential Supplies Hub, which provides food to food banks • We have worked closely with our voluntary sector and given funding to a range of local VCS partners to support residents who are struggling. The support offered includes a comprehensive offer of employment and training support, benefits information, debt advice and food vouchers • We have put additional funding of £50k into the Barnet Community Response Fund to support outreach to communities and groups who may need specialist or culturally appropriate support with food insecurity • We continue to fund Age UK and Barnet Mencap to provide wellbeing checks and support with things like shopping to people who may be particularly impacted (e.g. Barnet Mencap – people with learning disabilities and their families, Age UK Barnet – older residents) • The council has continued to offer advice and support to those who are shielding and our helpline for the shielded is still operating • Throughout the pandemic, our core services for the most vulnerable have continued at the same level (albeit virtually) including our safeguarding hubs for children and adults
4	Cllr Clarke	Does the Leader support Mayor Khan's proposal of a levy on developers to replace dangerous cladding on London homes?	Leader - Cllr Daniel Thomas	There is currently limited information about the practicalities of a levy and how this would be implemented. We would want assurance that a levy would not impact negatively on the other benefits that are important to residents such as affordable housing, community facilities and employment support. There is also the question of whether all developers should be charged a levy when some are not responsible for using dangerous materials.
5	Cllr Prager	What are the Leader's ambitions for 2021?	Leader - Cllr Daniel Thomas	In 2021, I want to embed our refreshed draft corporate priorities, ensure Barnet is a great place to live and work, to continue customer service improvements and ensure that the borough is ready for a post-Covid world.
6	Cllr Schneiderman	Which of Barnet's parks and open spaces are currently assessed as being 'low quality/low value'? Which of these parks and open spaces will have restricted access for residents as part of the planned review?	Chairman, Environment - Cllr Dean Cohen	The Parks and Open Spaces Strategy approved by Environment Committee (2016) provides a review of the quality of the Boroughs parks and suggests a range of opportunities that open spaces offer to enhance the quality of life and economic success of the borough. A full list of the Quality / Value Assessment can be located via; https://open.barnet.gov.uk/dataset/22m6e/open-spaces-strategy
7	Cllr Rozenberg	Could the Leader provide a summary on the council's efforts to address the Covid-19 infection rate in the borough since Christmas?	Leader - Cllr Daniel Thomas	Response to the COVID-19 pandemic has concentrated on enhanced local contact tracing, public health communication campaigns, increased testing for symptomatic cases, asymptomatic testing for places of worship and further preparation on mobilising community asymptomatic testing that is implemented from 11th January. We have worked with secondary schools over the Christmas break to understand and support asymptomatic testing for when they re-open, whenever that may be. We have also responded to incidents/outbreaks in care settings and questions on vaccinations. Covid champions continued their activities albeit with reduced capacity over Christmas break. Enforcement activities from LBB and local police also continued over Christmas and to this day.

8	Cllr Freedman	Have there been many visits to our mobile and permanent Covid19 testing sites?	Leader - Cllr Daniel Thomas	As per latest update on 11.1.2021, the weekly uptake has been high at all testing sites: 106% of estimated capacity at Watling community centre and 84% at Fenella (both permanent sites). Mobile testing units have been utilised 88% at Edgware hospital, 80% at Barnet House and 82% at Brent Cross.
9	Cllr Conway	Is there a contingency plan for back-up volunteers, deep cleans, etc to help ensure food banks can be maintained despite increased Covid-19 infection and self-isolation rates?	Leader - Cllr Daniel Thomas	All workplaces and buildings open to the public are required to operate under Covid Secure guidelines. The Public Health team alongside other council teams continue to offer advice and guidance to local stakeholders, services and businesses to mitigate against the risk of outbreaks and in response to outbreaks when they do occur. Some of the "Contain" funding has been set aside to support food banks with deep cleaning should this be required. As part of the Covid Community Response, the council, in partnership with Barnet Together, implemented an online volunteering brokerage solution to expedite the volunteering process and enable swift and easy access to the pool of volunteers. There remain more than 700 people registered, and communications have been consistent and ongoing to ensure that there is still sufficient supply as roles are identified. In the event that a food bank was to be affected, Barnet Volunteering (provided by Groundwork) would be able to advertise and allocate resource swiftly, once the location was deemed Covid secure and no infection risk.
10	Cllr Smith	Does the Leader agree that in difficult times such as these, we have to be vigilant against any potential increase in hate crimes?	Leader - Cllr Daniel Thomas	Absolutely, in these challenging times, as indeed at all times, it is important to be vigilant for any potential increase in Hate Crimes. We know that Hate Crimes are typically one of the most underreported crime types which is why the work of the Barnet Zero Tolerance to Hate Crime Project is so important. In partnership with the Police and the Voluntary and Community Sector, the Barnet Zero Tolerance to Hate Crime project is continuing to engage with communities and organisations across the borough to improve access to justice for victims of Hate Crime and to make it easier for people to report Hate Crime and get the support that they need. To date over 500 residents have signed up to become Hate Crime Reporting Champions. In addition, the project has delivered Hate Crime Awareness Training to over 170 staff across 19 partnership organisations in Barnet so that organisations are better able to support victims of Hate Crime report incidents to the police. In the 12 months to November 2020 there were 787 Racist or Religious Hate Crimes reported in Barnet borough. This compares to 804 in the previous year (12 months to Nov 2019)
11	Cllr Rawlings	Will the Council publish an update of the previous Equality Strategy including the success or otherwise of the Action Plan?	Leader - Cllr Daniel Thomas	The council has produced a new Equalities, Inclusion and Diversity Policy. A public consultation on the draft policy was conducted during December 2020 and the results will be available soon. The finalised Policy will then be submitted to Policy and Resources Committee for approval. Progress on delivery of the Equalities Inclusion and Diversity Action Plan is detailed each year in the Annual Equalities Report. These have historically been submitted to Community Leadership and Libraries committee and the most recent report can be found at: https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s60112/Annual%20Equalities%20Report%2019-20%20CLL%20publication%20080920_.pdf
12	Cllr Wardle	What is the Leader most proud of the Council having achieved in 2020?	Leader - Cllr Daniel Thomas	I think it is safe to say that 2020 was one of the most difficult years for people, businesses and public institutions since the end of the second world war. We saw unprecedented challenges and I am incredibly proud of how the council stepped up to meet them. From the Essential Supplies Hub to keeping bin collections going, the Council provided services that not only protected the most vulnerable, but supported every household in Barnet.
13	Cllr Clarke	Please can I have an update on progress of the relocation of Donoghue?	Leader - Cllr Daniel Thomas	The council remains in discussions with PB Donoghue and will provide an update as soon as we are able.
14	Cllr Brayne	What steps will Barnet take to scale up the vaccination programme in our area? Can we make use of large outdoor spaces for mass vaccinations? Can we bring in logistical support from the private sector to set up a round the clock process? Given the scale of the emergency we are living through, which is acutely concentrated in the London area, what can Barnet do to go above and beyond the pace of the national rollout programme?	Chairman of HOSC - Cllr Alison Cornelius	Barnet Council has been supporting the NHS, which has responsibility for the vaccination programme, to identify possible sites which would suit the needs of clinicians (and ensure as much capacity as possible). Mass vaccination is getting going but depends on large supplies of vaccine coming through. The Health and Wellbeing Board was advised at their meeting on 14 January that this is happening and the most vulnerable will receive a first vaccination by the Prime Minister's target of the mid February . The Doctors, nurses and administrators of the NHS are to be congratulated on the rollout of what will be the largest vaccination programme in British history. We have a National Health Service and, whilst it would be wonderful to get Barnet vaccinated first, national allocation criteria will decide which groups are prioritised. I am confident all political representatives of Barnet will press for the proper share of vaccine for our residents. The key to controlling the virus depends on a rapid and extensive vaccination campaign and any worries about the various vaccines need to be assuaged.
15	Cllr Longstaff	Would the Leader join me in congratulating Evelyn Forde, Headteacher of Cophthall School, on winning the 2020 TES (Times Educational Supplement) Headteacher of the Year award.	Leader - Cllr Daniel Thomas	We are very fortunate to have such strong leaders, teachers and support staff in our Barnet schools and it is wonderful when they are recognised in national awards or honours. I was extremely pleased to see the TES recognising the work of Evelyn Forde at Cophthall, awarding her the Secondary Headteacher of the Year. She was also awarded MBE in the Queens New Year Honours.

16	Cllr Schneiderman	When will the scrapped separate food waste collections be restarted?	Chairman, Environment - Cllr Dean Cohen	A viability assessment of the options for food waste is ongoing as detailed in the Barnet Reduction & Recycling Plan approved by the Mayor of London. This assessment includes validation of the sustainability gain this service would deliver and the identification and confirmation of funding sources to support any potential introduction.
17	Cllr A. Cornelius	The Government introduced the National Transfer Scheme (NTS) for unaccompanied asylum seeking children on 1st July 2016. The scheme is designed to ensure an even distribution of UASC across LAs nationally. Under the NTS, a Local Authority should have a maximum of 0.07% UASC to child population. What is the percentage in Barnet?	Chairman, CES - Cllr David Longstaff	On the latest child population figures, Barnet's nominal 0.07% is 68 young people and there are currently 72 UASC in Barnet. Up until very recently, the number of UASC in Barnet has fallen within the amount. The NTS relates only to under 18-year-olds which means that Barnet remains responsible for all over 18 care leavers who were previously UASC until they are 25.
18	Cllr Conway	What progress has Barnet made to have laptops, dongles etc available for school pupils who need these resources during periods of self-isolation and particularly when schools are having to close?	Chairman, CES - Cllr David Longstaff	Barnet and individual schools have made use of any available DfE schemes to source laptops, dongles and routers for pupils who require them. Since September all laptops have been ordered directly by schools so we do not have full details. However, we are aware that, following the closure of most schools to most pupils, there are still a lot of pupils without laptops etc to access online learning. We are therefore undertaking a survey with schools to ascertain how many pupils we have across the Borough who still require a laptop and broadband access.
19	Cllr Richman	Which registered social landlords, operating in the borough, have the best performance in terms of dealing with maintenance issues?	Chairman, HAG - Cllr Richard Cornelius	At the last H&G Committee in November, the Annual Performance Review of Registered Providers 2019.20 was received. Performance on maintenance issues was reported on from the Council's Regeneration Estates by using the % of tenants satisfied or very satisfied with repairs and maintenance. Metropolitan Thames Valley had the highest score of 76.78%. The London average for this indicator as reported by HouseMark was around 75% for the last few years.
20	Cllr Rawlings	What is the timetable for completing the proposed cycle lane on the A1000 and what consultation will there be before implementation?	Chairman, Environment - Cllr Dean Cohen	There is no formal timetable covering the experimental pop-up cycle lane currently on the A1000. We are focusing on ensuring the scheme is optimised for the benefit of all road users and gathering data to inform future decisions. We have received considerable feedback as part of the consultation for the experimental traffic management order and we are taking the comments raised on board. Our focus over the next few months will be directed at addressing the issues raised so far.
21	Cllr Rozenberg	Has the council investigated the potential for constructing a 'green wall' around the Beaufort Park NW11 estate (Garden Suburb ward), which sits between the A406 and A1, and which is directly exposed to a high and rising level of pollution owing to the construction of new tall buildings south of Beechwood Avenue? What progress has been made to address this growing problem?	Chairman Environment - Cllr Dean Cohen	This is something I will suggest to relevant officers to look into as part of our sustainability strategy.
22	Cllr Fluss	How much has the Government contributed to the Council for its Covid-19 expenses?	Chairman, P&R - Cllr Daniel Thomas	As at the end of November 2020, Government has provided four tranches of unringfenced funding totalling £29m, it has also provided targeted funding (including sales, fees and charges scheme) of £35m. The council is due to receive funding from the NHS of £7m. At current estimates, excluding collection fund, the government have fully funded the cost of Covid response for the council. Government has made a commitment to fund 75% of the council's 2020/21 collection fund deficit. It is likely that the remaining deficit will be in the region of £1.5m.

23	Cllr Clarke	How is Barnet's bee corridor coming along following Cllr Schneiderman's motion approved by Environment Committee in June 2019?	Chairman, Environment - Cllr Dean Cohen	The service are seeking to identify a series of spaces in parks and open spaces where we can follow No Mow May which will allow grasses to grow longer and flower/seed which is good for pollinators. Officers are also reviewing locations to assess areas where wildflower meadows can be sown.
24	Cllr Freedman	Has there been an increase in fly tipping since we've been in Tier 4?	Chairman, Environment - Cllr Dean Cohen	The number of fly tips reported following the move into Tier Four when compared to the same period last year shows a decrease in the number of reported incidents as follows: 20/12/2019-04/01/2020 (inclusive) – 169 20/12/2020-04/01/2021 (inclusive) – 142
25	Cllr Schneiderman	The MTFS budget savings proposals for Environment include £1,000,000 to be saved from a 'fundamental Service Review of existing waste collection arrangements'. What will this review cover and how will this saving be achieved?	Chairman, Environment - Cllr Dean Cohen	This item refers to potential efficiencies in waste management operations. There are a number of things happening in the waste sector that provides the potential opportunity for efficiencies and this is a savings estimate pertaining to that. Examples of these items are the potential introduction of a separate food waste collection service and a new waste disposal point. It is possible that Government may also include some of these changes in statute in the future.
26	Cllr Marshall	How many electric car charging points are there in the borough? How does this compare with the situation two years ago?	Chairman, Environment - Cllr Dean Cohen	The Current operational Electric Vehicle Charging Point Infrastructure is as follows: 72 Lamp Post Mounted 3.5Kw Charge Points 5 Car Park located 7 Kw Charge Points 2 Community Hubs x2 (consisting of 7 x 7Kw charge Points in one and 15 x 7Kw charge points in the other) This Year's installation programme includes a further: 100 Lamp Post Mounted Charge Points 2 additional Community Hubs (consisting of 6 x Dual 7Kw Charge Points in each) 4 Rapid Charge Point Sites (consisting of 2 rapid charge points 50Kw at each location) This compares with a position two years ago when we only had the 5 car park charge points.
27	Cllr Conway	What is the Council doing to improve community safety at Grahame Park, particularly given the recent fire, and the breaking of security doors?	Chairman HAG - Cllr R. Cornelius	Partnership working between Barnet Homes, Community Safety Team and the Police has resulted in robust actions being put into place to ensure the safety of our residents on the Grahame Park Estate. Some of these actions include but are not limited to; - Completed the installation of new entrance doors controlled entrance systems to 13 blocks on the concourse prior to Christmas - Increased warden patrols to 24 hours a day 7 days a week prioritising known "hotspot" areas - Developed a joint Estate Action Plan working with Community Safety and the Police - Taken legal action on tenants believed to be contributing to ASB - Increased the number of staff dedicated to the estate to increase visible presence and address any issues that arise - Undertake joint estate inspections with the local Police team
28	Cllr Brayne	How are Barnet's schools managing with the supply of technology, and provision of internet access, to children who are in need of them during periods of home schooling?	Chairman, CES - Cllr David Longstaff	See answer to question 18
29	Cllr Byers	Has the Chairman received any further update(s) from the Secretary of State for Education about his review into a longer-term funding settle for maintained nursery schools?	Chairman, CES - Cllr David Longstaff	I received a letter from the Secretary of State dated 16th December. He confirmed that the government have been exploring a funding solution for all maintained nursery schools to fund them for the long-term. He said that they continue to consider what is required to ensure a clear, long-term picture of funding for all maintained nursery schools, including the ones in Barnet, and that they will say more about that soon.

30	Cllr Rawlings	What plans are there to ensure the May elections can happen safely?	Leader - Cllr Daniel Thomas	Electoral Services are working closely with their counterparts across London and the GLA to ensure that the planning and arrangements for the elections on 6 May '21 are held as safely as possible. Within Barnet, all polling venues have been visited and assessed so that they can be made as Covid-secure as possible. Given the changing pandemic situation, final polling station arrangements are still being developed, but it is already clear that extra staff will need to be in place to manage elector access, social distancing, hand sanitising and station hygiene throughout the day - and to make sure electors are informed and operate safely within the station. In addition, extensive public awareness comms will be utilised to ensure that electors are informed about the options available to them to apply to use postal and proxy ('absent') voting methods. The processes and guidance that will be given to elections staff are currently under ongoing review - and more information and advice is expected from Public Health England, the Electoral Commission, the GLA and other relevant stakeholders - but as is usual in Barnet, all elections staff (no matter how experienced) will be required to attend online training specific to their roles for the elections being held on 6 May '21. Similarly, guidance for electors and candidates, agents and observers will be made available and, where practical to do so, shared directly.
31	Cllr Teare	Would the Lead Member provide an update on school attendance in Barnet since September and how this compares nationally?	Chairman, CES Cllr David Longstaff	Attendance in schools started in September at approximately 85% and rose to 92% in early October. With increasing numbers of positive cases in schools the attendance rate started to drop and by the end of November was approximately 82%. At the start of December over 4,500 pupils (7%) and 600 teachers and support staff (8%) were absent from school each day due to covid related reasons e.g. symptoms, a positive test or contact with someone who had tested positive person (so self-isolating). By the end of the Autumn Term, attendance in Barnet schools was down to 73% with 11% of pupils (5247) absent for Covid related reasons (the large majority of these a close contact). Approximately 300 teachers (10%) and 300 support staff (9%) were also absent for covid related reasons. These attendance levels seem to be broadly in line with the national position. Nationally attendance in state-funded schools steadily increased in September to a period of stability at between 89% and 90% until October half term. After half term, attendance fell, reaching a low point of 83% on 19 November. Attendance then recovered in late November and early December, although not to levels seen in October. Attendance on 10th December was 85%. The national end of term figure is not yet known.
32	Cllr Clarke	When will we see brown waste collection return?	Chairman, Environment - Cllr Dean Cohen	A viability assessment of the options for food waste is ongoing as detailed in the Barnet Reduction & Recycling Plan approved by the Mayor of London. This assessment includes validation of the sustainability gain this service would deliver and the identification and confirmation of funding sources to support any potential introduction.
33	Cllr Grocock	How is the Brent Cross Town project progressing?	Chairman, HAG - Cllr Richard Cornelius	Works on Brent Cross Town are progressing to programme with ground remediation and site preparation well underway for plot development commencing late in 2021. Further properties are being procured by the council as and when required for development. Public consultations and planning applications continue to come forward for plots and infrastructure across the scheme. The Exploratory Park has been completed and opened and has seen a high utilisation rate since opening. This park will remain in place while the new Claremont Park is built. Works have also commenced on the Brent Cross Town pavilion which will act as a visitor centre, including exhibition space and flexible ground floor commercial space.
34	Cllr Schneiderman	The planned review of waste collection arrangements refers to a 'potential negative effect' on customer satisfaction. What does this negative effect refer to?	Chairman, Environment - Cllr Dean Cohen	This highlights the potential risk of an impact on customer satisfaction should any future proposal include potential changes to the current and established waste management arrangements implemented across the Borough. It is a risk not a prediction.
35	Cllr Rozenberg	What efforts have been made in the past 12 months to return College Farm in Finchley to community benefit? When did council officials last liaise with the trust which owns the farm? What is the significance of the trust revising its articles of association and changing its name, in October, to College Farm Vision Limited?	Chairman, CLL - Cllr Reuben Thompstone	No attempts have been made to engage with owners of College Farm in Finchley. The property was added to the Register of Assets of Community Value in March 2019. This means that should the owners wish to sell the property they must first allow the local community the opportunity to buy it. It does not, however, confer any obligation on the council to require the owners to use it in a particular way.

36	Cllr Prager	How much has the Council received from the Government to support businesses and residents in Barnet and how much has been distributed?	Chairman, HAG - Cllr Richard Cornelius	<p>The council has received the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government support for Businesses since Covid outbreak <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o £81,996,329 funding provided to date (this does not include the latest lockdown support package announced as the allocation for Barnet is not yet known) o £68,371,465 of the funding has been distributed o The reason for the variance is primarily because £7.9m of funding allocated can be used over 2 years (2020/21 and 2021/22) and £6.5m allocated for lockdown during November 2020 had a maximum allocation of £3k per business and it is likely we will underspend against this. • Government support for Residents since Covid outbreak <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o £4,132,829 Hardship funding provided to support those on Council Tax Support £ 3,316,375 of the funding has been distributed o £256,051 funding provided to support those having to isolate per NHS test and trace £ 197,000 of the funding has been distributed
37	Cllr Conway	What support is the Council giving to the hundreds of residents caught up in the cladding scandal?	Chairman HAG - Cllr R Cornelius	The council has been in contact with all local Housing Associations and private sector landlords to identify the highest priority buildings and appropriate action continues to be taken. We have processes in place to respond to queries from residents, including directly liaising with the Housing Associations/landlords or signposting to other relevant bodies. As stated at the previous council meeting, we support those residents impacted by the national cladding issues and we are calling on the Government to assist.
38	Cllr Freedman	Do we know how have we fared with the vaccine rollout, compared to neighbouring boroughs like Harrow & Enfield?	Leader - Cllr Daniel Thomas	Borough level data is not available yet, however, we are advised that vaccinations within care settings are going well and one of our Primary Care Network hubs in Barnet is second highest with the number of doses given so far.
39	Cllr Rawlings	How many staff have been affected by both Covid19 and need to self-isolate and how is this impacting on service delivery?	Chairman, Environment - Cllr Dean Cohen	<p>In May, June and July 2020 staff absence was in the region of 2,000 instances per month. This included Covid related sickness, self-isolation, underlying health condition and bereavement. August 2020 figures are in the region of 1300 instances. Sept, Oct, Nov and Dec 2020 figures consistently fallen from 737, 620, 572 and 392 instances.</p> <p>The council continues to run all of our services (apart from those shut due to restrictions), and everyone that can work from home is working from home. However, we will need to keep our frontline services under review over the coming weeks, as we are starting to see greater levels of sickness.</p>
40	Cllr Simberg	What work was done to assist our shops and shoppers over winter?	Leader P&R - Cllr Daniel Thomas	<p>news bulletins to businesses across the borough detailing further opportunities for support; supporting local businesses to develop market trading opportunities in anticipation of new markets to be launched later in the spring; continuing to disburse grant funding directly to over 4,000 businesses impacted by Covid, now totalling almost £70m.</p> <p>The Discover Barnet communications campaign aimed at promoting independent high street businesses was temporarily halted to be consistent with public safety Covid messaging as part of the third lockdown.</p>
41	Cllr Clarke	Will the details of the purchase of Brent Park Shopping Centre be made public?	Chairman HAG - Cllr R Cornelius	Details will be shared with the Housing and Growth Committee. Although we presume that as much as possible should be shared in the public domain, there may be some details where the commercial detriment in publishing outweighs the public interest. However, these will be kept to the minimum.
42	Cllr Brayne	Please set out the number of families reached with free meals during the Christmas holidays; the number of meals provided; and the amount spent.	Chairman, CES Cllr David Longstaff	On 8th November the government announced the Covid Winter Grant Scheme, the objective of which is to provide support (food, energy, water) to vulnerable households and families with children particularly affected by the pandemic throughout the winter period. Barnet was allocated £987k for the period early December 20 to the end of March 21. The Barnet Eligibility Framework and Approach were agreed at CES Committee on 30th November. Vouchers of £63 per eligible child (equivalent to £21 per week, in line with child benefit, for one week of each month for the 3-month period) are being distributed by schools, early years providers and other registered partners for the period December to end February. 7,437 vouchers have been distributed so far at a cost of £468k with a further £147k to be distributed in January. £200k is being provided for vulnerable households without children, which is being paid to the Essential Supplies Hub (£100k) to provide food and to partner organisations (Mencap, Age UK, Barnet Carers Service, etc.) to provide links to financial advice, welfare calls and signposting to available support. The remaining £172k will be distributed in further vouchers in March.
43	Cllr Smith	How much has the Council paid out in Supplier relief?	Leader P&R - Cllr Daniel Thomas	Supplier relief ensures critical suppliers are protected from the impact of the pandemic to ensure service delivery when services resume to normal. For the period March – October 2020, under Supplier Relief notices PPN02 and PPN04, £5.93m was provided to 8 suppliers. We are continuing to work with suppliers for subsequent lockdown periods and the impact on their businesses. This will be presented to FPCC as part of the CFO report.

44	Cllr Schneiderman	The last fundamental review of waste collections in Barnet by this Tory administration led to chaos with missed collections across the borough, recycling being mixed with general waste and rather than making any savings it actually ended up costing over £1 million. What reassurance can be given to Barnet residents that the current planned review of waste collections will not lead to similar chaos?	Chairman, Environment - Cllr Dean Cohen	The findings and recommendations arising from any future review would be reported through the appropriate decision-making mechanism within the council at that time e.g. committee and/or full council and would be subject to scrutiny and challenge as part of that process. I can assure all members all steps will be taken to ensure any changes, if there are any, will be implemented smoothly.
45	Cllr Prager	Have the various measures put in place temporarily to aid business recovery been effective and should they be continued after the current lock down?	Leader P&R - Cllr Daniel Thomas	In terms of financial aid, I have no doubt that this has been of great help to business owners and helped keep many afloat. However, the borough's prominent retail sector has been hit hard and only time will tell what the long term impact will be. The vast majority of retailers in Barnet are small and micro businesses, with a number of much larger employers in some locations e.g. Brent Cross Shopping centre. The retail environment in the borough remains challenging. We have tried to assist with measures on the ground, for instance, pavement licensing and parklets, however, these are temporary measures which will need to be reviewed and be approved by members to become permanent.
46	Cllr Conway	Has the Council or administration councillors signed up to the national End Our Cladding Scandal Campaign?	Chairman HAG - Cllr R Cornelius	A motion on this subject has been tabled by the administration.
47	Cllr Prager	How many businesses have we supported through Covid support grants to date?	Chairman, HAG - Cllr Richard Cornelius	As of 8/1/2021, over 4,800 businesses have been supported by covid related grants.
49	Cllr Rozenberg	How is Covid impacting children living in poverty, and what measures are the council planning to address this?	Chairman, CES Cllr David Longstaff	A draft Life Chances strategy was approved for public consultation at the CES Committee in March 2020, just before Covid struck. This set out the progress that had been made in Barnet on child poverty and further actions to improve children's life chances. The consultation was delayed and the strategy was revised, in consultation with a range of key internal and external stakeholders, and sets out a needs analysis of the potential impacts of Covid on children, young people and families, and a range of actions to mitigate those potential impacts. The strategy was also informed by a survey of Barnet pupils in July on the impacts of Covid with 737 responses. The strategy went for public consultation in November and December and a draft of the strategy is going to CES Committee for approval on 11th January. The draft of the strategy going to CES can be found here: https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s62664/Appendix%20Life%20Chances%20Strategy%20Final%202020-2024_1.0.pdf
50	Cllr Hart	What environmental footprint is the Leader expecting the Brent Cross Town to create?	Chairman, HAG - Cllr Richard Cornelius	Argent Related have published four pledges as part of the Brent Cross Town development, one of which is to "build a net-zero carbon town" As part of the pledge, Brent Cross Town will address the urgent challenge of the global climate crisis, achieving net zero carbon by 2030 at the latest. This will be achieved with low-carbon construction, renewable power, circular economy principles, carbon offsetting — and by empowering everyone who lives and works here to make low-carbon lifestyle choices of their own.
51	Cllr Clarke	What mitigation strategies will Barnet employ to make conditions more bearable for those living nearest Donoghue until they are moved from the area?	Leader - Cllr Daniel Thomas	Across the Councils departments, we continue a dialogue with Donoghue's and are keen to encourage them to find a development partner that would enable them to relocate. We are also working within Highways and with TfL to see if we can identify ways of relieving some of the traffic pressures in the area around the site, when we have any progress on this item we will update local members and residents.

52	Cllr Freedman	How many reports have been logged on the Covid 19 Enforcement site and can we have an update on how many of those incidents reported have been enforced, or issued with PCNs?	Leader - Cllr Daniel Thomas	Since the 10th of November 2020 the Council has recorded 134 reports regarding alleged or possible breaches of compliance with Covid regulations. Over the same period Council Officers have carried out 1043 visits to commercial premises to check for compliance (including to those venues reported as well as proactively to other venues across the borough). These visits have resulted in us issuing 31 non-compliance warning letters and 1 Fixed Penalty Notice.
53	Cllr Schneiderman	Which of Barnet's car parks will be affected by the budget plans to raise £3m from the planned parking review?	Chairman Environment - Cllr Dean Cohen	The programme for income potential is based on the anticipated completion of planned and emergent programme of delivery for controlled parking zones, other parking controls and moving traffic contraventions in the Borough.
54	Cllr Grocock	What work is being done to improve customer service at the Council?	Leader - Cllr Daniel Thomas	<p>We have a comprehensive programme of over 90 customer service improvement initiatives.</p> <p>The first of these that residents are likely to notice is the rollout of customer service improvements for Street Scene which will make it easier for residents to find information about their bin collections as well as improving the end to end experience they have when reporting issues to the Council i.e. receiving proactive alerts and updates on service-based issues in their area. This improves the online offer for a high volume service, whilst creating better updates if the customer phones the council.</p> <p>Other workstreams include: simplifying high volume correspondence in services like Council Tax; making services more accessible; making it easier to pay for services; and addressing key demand through the creation of new online forms.</p>
55	Cllr Conway	Why did it take so long for funding agreed at Hendon Area Committee to be released for the work on lamp coating for the Watling Avenue area?	Chairman Environment - Cllr Dean Cohen	<p>This issue was raised as a member's CIL item at the Hendon Area Committee meeting in January 2020 for measures to address ongoing litter issues around Burnt Oak tube station. An application for Litter bins with ashtrays for the area around Burnt Oak tube station and nearby key bus stops was made.</p> <p>The request also included anti-sticker coating for lamp posts and street furniture to prevent recurrence of recent major problems and removal of stickers. Following discussion, the Committee agreed £11500 for the bins and anti-sticker coating on lampposts and street furniture in the Watling area. All of the street furniture including the street lighting was coated last year. Many individual services had to be involved in this work which is why there was delay from the point that the funding was agreed by Committee to the delivery of the coating treatments and infrastructure on street.</p>
56	Cllr Brayne	What is the impact on school budget deficits from the cost of additional measures related to Covid and remote learning?	Chairman, CES Cllr David Longstaff	<p>Schools have been supported financially in 3 main ways by the Government:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) They continued to receive their full budgetary allocations whilst closed (from Schools, High Needs and EY blocks) 2) There was a mechanism in place for schools to claim extra money from the Govt to cover extra costs within certain categories caused by COVID during the summer term. Schools could claim up to £75k, dependent on the size of the school. So far 63 Barnet Maintained Schools have successfully claimed a combined total of £440k, averaging at about £7k each. 3) Schools have been allocated a COVID Catch Up Premium of £80 per pupil for primary and secondary schools and £240 per pupil special schools and PRUs to support children and young people to catch up lost time after school closure. Barnet Schools (maintained & academies) have been provisionally allocated £4.1m (average £35k per school) over the academic year 2020/21.
57	Cllr Sowerby	Has council lobbying been effective in reducing housing construction targets within the borough?	Chairman, Planning - Cllr Shimon Ryde	In its response to the recent Planning White Paper and other proposed planning reforms last year, the Council and many other local planning authorities have highlighted several concerns about the methodology behind the Government's housing targets. However, under the current planning system, it remains the Mayor's role to allocate housing targets to London boroughs and the Intend to Publish London Plan continues to set a challenging 2,364 homes pa target for Barnet, (the 3 rd highest requirement in London).

58	Cllr Rawlings	The Council's Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy ended in 2020, and a new Strategy is being drawn up. How did the 2017-20 Strategy do against its Action Plan's key indicators of success, outcomes and outputs?	Chairman CLL - Cllr Reuben Thompstone	<p>The Barnet Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy sets out how the Barnet Safer Communities Partnership works to prevent and respond to Domestic Abuse, and underlines the partnership's commitment to working together to prevent all forms of Domestic Abuse and violence against women and girls. The four key partnership priorities within the Barnet VAWG strategy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preventing Violence Against Women and Girls -Improving outcomes for victims and their children -Holding perpetrators to account -Enhancing joint working practices between agencies <p>To deliver on these priorities, the Council and the Safer Communities Partnership has continued to prioritise work and focus resources on tackling violence against women and girls and supporting victims of Domestic Abuse. This includes Barnet Council's continued funding of specialist services for victims of Domestic Abuse and VAWG; including refuge provision, IDVA Services, the Domestic Abuse MARAC and the perpetrator programme and the multi-agency support and advice provided by the Banet One Stop Shop (OSS). In the last year alone the Barnet IDVA service has worked to support over 1150 victims of Domestic Abuse, over 170 women and children have been supported through the Barnet refuge service and over 350 risk reduction and intervention plans have been put in place for high-risk victims of Domestic Abuse through our Domestic Abuse Multi-Agency-Risk-Conference (MARAC). In terms of work focused on perpetrators, the police have identified and brought to justice over 350 perpetrators of Domestic Abuse in Barnet in the last year. Barnet council also commissions RISE Mutual CLC to deliver an adult and young people's perpetrator service which is focused on changing perpetrators behaviour. Over the last year, over 50 adult perpetrators have received interventions through the Behaviour Change programmes.</p>
59	Cllr Byers	Is the Chairman concerned about the 42% increase, between 04/09/20 - 30/10/20, in children being electively home educated?	Chairman, CES - Cllr David Longstaff	<p>Yes. Monitoring elective home education has now become a key priority for the authority, as it is clear that the pandemic has resulted in a significant increase in the number of families that are choosing to educate their children at home. This is a significant concern but it also understandable given the concerns many parents had about the return of all pupils to schools in September. It is understood there has been a similar trend nationally. In April 2019 there were 228 children registered for elective home education in Barnet. The number in February 2020 was 257, which rose to 310 in October 2020 and 404 in December.</p> <p>The local authority has a duty to establish the identities of home educated children and to check they are receiving a 'suitable education', which means efficient full-time education suitable to their age, ability and aptitude and to any special educational needs they may have. The council also has general duties in relation to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. If the authority becomes aware of any safeguarding concerns, this will be followed up appropriately. Barnet Education Learning Service (BELS) exercises these functions on behalf of the council and has received extra funding from the council to increase the resource devoted to this function from a part-time role to full-time. A new full-time Elective Home Education Officer has been appointed to replace the part-time post-holder who retired recently.</p>
60	Cllr Schneiderman	Will the police and other organisations such as the Suzy Lamplugh Trust be consulted before streetlights are dimmed or turned off at night as part of potential planned changes to Barnet's street lighting?	Chairman Environment - Cllr Dean Cohen	<p>If the council considered instigating actions to dim street lights or switch them off and if such actions resulted in non-compliance with recommended lighting standards, a full Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) would be undertaken. Such an EIA would include appropriate consultation with relevant stakeholders including the Police. However, as has been indicated in current future budget proposals any potential changes to Barnet's street lighting is not intended to adversely impact on compliance with recommended lighting standards and as such, it is unlikely any consultation will be necessary. It is also worth noting that the council's street lighting team remain in very close liaison with the Police at all times so that any concerns they may have in respect to the lighting of the public highway is appropriately reviewed and addressed.</p>
61	Cllr Duschinsky	How does the Chairman for CES believe the National Tutoring Scheme will support pupils in Barnet?	Chairman, CES - Cllr David Longstaff	<p>In November the government announced £1 billion of funding to support children and young people to catch up lost time after school closure. This is especially important for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged backgrounds. This funding includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) a one-off universal £650 million catch up premium for 2020 to 2021 academic year to ensure that schools have the support they need to help all pupils make up for lost teaching time. Mainstream schools were given £80 per pupil (from Reception to Yr 11) with Special Schools and PRUs getting £240 per pupil. Schools get the funding in 3 tranches (one payment per term). b) a £350 million National Tutoring Programme to provide additional, targeted support for those children and young people who need the most help. Participating schools are able to access subsidised (by 75%) high-quality tutoring from an approved list of tuition partners. Schools can use their catch up premium to fund the 25% tutoring costs if they wish. <p>We do not know the extent to which schools have used the National Tutoring Programme so far but early feedback (in November) indicates that on the whole schools are not using the scheme, as they cannot afford the 25% cost and the Catch-Up Premium has already been used for other things, including extra support for pupils. Schools have also fed back that they prefer supporting pupils with staff they know (in-house) rather than bringing in external tutors.</p>

62	Cllr Conway	Will the review of the work of the Community Leadership and Libraries Committee include a mechanism for councillors to triage serious community safety issues?	Chairman CLL - Cllr Reuben Thompstone	It is important that Councillors, as the elected representatives of communities, are able to influence community safety priorities for council teams and partners including the police. There are a number of routes to do this, most notably via the Safer Communities Partnership Board and the Safer Neighbourhoods Board, as well as the Community Leadership and Libraries Committee. The review will consider how these routes might be strengthened and simplified. However, operational restrictions meant that it would not be appropriate for CLLC or its Members to triage serious community safety issues.
63	Cllr Rozenberg	What are the main features of Barnet's plan for how primary schools will reopen post-lockdown? Covering areas such as: temporary classrooms, ventilation, masks, cleaning schedules, recruitment of temporary staff, etc.	Chairman, CES - Cllr David Longstaff	As it did ahead of the full re-opening of schools in September 2020, the council will develop a Recovery Plan in preparation for the re-opening of schools following the current lockdown. As before, it is anticipated that this will include support for schools in carrying out full Risk Assessments, which will include agreed control measures to deal with issues such as accommodation, ventilation, the wearing of masks and so on.
64	Cllr Freedman	With an increase in takeaways over the past few months, how are the highest health and safety standards being ensured by eateries around the borough?	Leader - Cllr Daniel Thomas	All food businesses receive a periodic food safety inspection in line with the frequencies set out by the Food Standards Agency. This means less-compliant food businesses receive more frequent inspections. The rating given at the end of each inspection is also used to produce the FHRS (or scores on the doors) rating. The food, health & safety team are aware of the changing nature of food businesses during the pandemic and inspections include a focus on these types of activities. The team are still carrying a backlog of inspections due to the first lockdown period when the FSA put a temporary stop on inspections. Discussions are being held about the potential for additional resources to help clear this backlog however, it is not yet known whether further restrictions on inspection will be put in place following the government's most recent announcement.
65	Cllr Schneiderman	Last year, the administration's budget included raising £1,650,000 from 'smart cities' initiatives such as 'electric vehicle infrastructure and 5G capacity'. This year's budget has reduced this to just £100,000. What reassurance can be given about the deliverability of this year's proposed savings?	Chairman Environment - Cllr Dean Cohen	Previously the Council considered there to be a greater opportunity to generate income from the combination of electric vehicle charging, 5G and other similar highway-based smart cities technologies. Over the past year, it has become clear that the core infrastructure, such as gigabit broadband and 5G (small cells and macro sites), will not generate the levels of income anticipated due to government directions and court/tribunal judgements that have sought to minimise the barriers/costs for improvements to communications infrastructure. In addition, consumer behaviour, concerning technologies such as charging of electric vehicles, shows that with the rapid roll-out of EV charge points there will be a wide choice of provision available and those charge point providers that provide the best price point will be the most utilised as consumers will be unwilling to pay a premium rate per use when opportunities for low cost and free charging are available in some locations and therefore the commercial case for progressing EV rollout has been revised to assume a more cost-neutral basis. It is disappointing that there will not be the envisaged income opportunities to support wider council services, however, the council still recognises it has an important role in these spheres to ensure the social, economic and environmental benefits of these opportunities are realised.
66	Cllr Prentice	How many unaccompanied asylum seeking children are within the care of Barnet Council?	Chairman, CES - Cllr David Longstaff	We currently have 72 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children in our care.
67	Cllr Conway	What monitoring is done to ensure lighting on estates is working properly in time for the winter months?	Chairman Environment - Cllr.D.Cohen	In respect to the lighting of the public roads and footpaths on estates, these are monitored remotely by a Central Management System (CMS) which provides an alert when an individual light becomes inoperative. This alert is responded to within a maximum of 7 working days with necessary repairs undertaken. In relation to lighting on non-Public highway areas, Barnet Homes carry out routine early morning (whilst dark) health & safety inspections and instruct any remedial repairs as necessary. The process for larger estates is currently being reviewed to improve the ability to proactively respond to failures.

68	Cllr Teare	With last year's many challenges in mind, what support is the Council providing for those who are suffering from mental health issues?	Chairman, Adults - Cllr Sachin Rajpur	<p>The council works closely with partners to ensure that Barnet has a wide support offer for people in the borough to maintain and improve their mental wellbeing. NCL CCG commission Barnet Wellbeing Service to deliver support ranging from emotional health checks, information and advice, activities (e.g. wellbeing cafe) and befriending support. Alongside this, the CCG commission secondary mental health support services from Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health Trust for residents which includes improving Access to Psychological Therapies which residents can self-refer to or, their GPs can refer them to. Additionally, the CCG commissions counselling from VCS partners including Mind in Barnet, Barnet Refugee Service and Barnet Bereavement Service for residents.</p> <p>Barnet's Public Health have also commissioned a Covid 19 bereavement support service from Mind in Barnet which is specifically aimed at supporting individuals who have been bereaved during the Covid 19 pandemic. Barnet Adult Social Care commissions specialist mental health housing-related support for borough residents. Our Adult Social Care Enablement Network provides a range of support for individuals to support them in mental health recovery including group counselling sessions, assessment of needs and support plans and our Adult Social Care Mental Health Teams work in an integrated way with Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health Trust to ensure that people with mental health illness have Care Act Assessments and support in place tailored to their individual needs which will best enable and support them in our communities (this includes support with accessing a range of community support, direct payments, home care provision, supported living accommodation etc).</p> <p>LBB have provided additional social work resources to the Trust to support the discharge of service users from inpatient units. The Trust, LBB and representatives from the voluntary sector are meeting daily during this difficult time, to discuss how all organisations can work closely together to support people to remain in their own homes. A daily Covid -19 call ensures that managers from the Council and the Trust are informed of any issues and can find appropriate solutions. Further details on how residents can access support as required are below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If an individual would like to access support to maintain and or improve their mental wellbeing they can self-refer to the Barnet Wellbeing Service (03333 449 088/ info@barnetwellbeing.org.uk) or Barnet IAPT (020 8702 5309/ lets-talk-barnet@nhs.net) – please note you can also refer an individual with their consent to the Barnet Wellbeing Service • If an individual is not known to secondary mental health services and you are concerned about their mental wellbeing the individual should contact their GP who will then refer the individual to appropriate services as needed (including secondary mental health services and the ASC Enablement Network dependent on presentation) • If an individual is known to secondary mental health services and appears to be presenting with risk or concern to an organisation and you have details of their care coordination please contact the individual's allocated care coordinator within BEHMHT or allocated social care practitioner. • If an individual presents in crisis the BEHMHT crisis line 0800 151 0023 should be contacted. • If an individual presents in crisis and is displaying a high level of risk to themselves and or others you should contact 999 • If an individual has self-harmed you should contact 999. • If you have safeguarding concerns about an individual (adult) please contact LBB Adults and Health Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub / 020 8359 5000 (Monday to Friday, 9am - 5pm) or 020 8359 2000 (out of hours). • If you have safeguarding concerns regarding a child please contact LBB Family Services Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub / 020 8359 4066 • If an individual has been bereaved during the Covid 19 pandemic they can contact Mind in Barnet on 020 8446 3676 / email bereavement@mindinbarnet.org.uk to access counselling support
69	Cllr Schneiderman	It was great to get unanimous support for creating a Tiny Forest in Barnet when my member's item was discussed at last November's Environment Committee. Will the Environment committee Chair join me in thanking volunteers from GoodGym Barnet for their work on pursuing Tiny Forests within Barnet and will he help to ensure that the council continues to engage with volunteers and the local community to make this a reality, including considering potential sites that are suggested?	Chairman Environment - Cllr Dean Cohen	Environment Committee (Nov 20) endorsed the Members item in relation to Tiny Forests and agreed that Officers would explore a suitable location in terms of funding and consider the locations raised by Cllrs to deliver the proposal by GoodGym.
70	Cllr Marshall	How many European citizens have been given permanent settlement status in Barnet?	Leader - Cllr Daniel Thomas	<p>Data is published quarterly by the Home Office in regards EU settlement scheme statistics. Current data is available to end of the Q3 2020 up to 30th September 2020 and the next quarterly data set is due to be published in Feb 2021.</p> <p>The data breaks down as follows for Barnet;</p> <p>Total applications 60,590 Settled status granted 34,830 Pre-settled 24,540 Other* 1,220 *Other refers to refused, withdrawn or void</p>
71	Cllr Conway	What training is there for Barnet Council and Barnet Homes employees on working with residents with Autism Spectrum Disorder?	Chairman Adults Cllr Rajput	Training for staff and Barnet Homes employees working with residents with Autism Spectrum conditions include: training for social care teams through our contract with Barnet Mencap, which is delivered by people with Autism and lived experience; specialist autism training for adult mental health and learning disability teams; NHS led training on Autism, and how to work with children and young people with Autism. Resources for Autism, a VCS organisation, have also delivered training for Family Services Early Help teams. Barnet Homes provide autism training for staff and have also used an autism reality immersive training bus which has been very well received by staff. This training is supplemented in both organisations by training on equalities. The council and NHS have a Joint Strategic Autism Action Plan. During 2021 the council will be working to identify further training needs later in the year via the SEND Partnership.

72	Cllr Wardle	Last year, there were statistics showing a horrifying increase in domestic abuse - what are we doing to support those being victimised in their homes?	Lead Member for Community & Safety - Cllr Roberto Weeden-Sanz	<p>The circumstances resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic have increased the risks associated with Domestic Abuse and increased the difficulties victims might face when seeking to report the abuse and get help. Our message to anyone experiencing domestic abuse is: "If you are at home due to Coronavirus, then remember you can still get the support that you need. You are not alone." In response to the increased risk surrounding Domestic Abuse, we have implemented a four-fold increase in the frequency of our Domestic Abuse Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) Panel Meetings. As a result, there is now a faster turnaround between referral of complex DA cases and multi-agency risk review and actions at the MARAC. The DA MARAC carries out a multi-agency risk assessment and puts risk reduction plans in place. Over the last three months, approximately 10 cases are being referred into the DA MARAC each week. All the DV services commissioned by the local authority (including the IDVA service, Refuges service, Perpetrator and Perpetrator Programme) have made adjustments to their operating models so that they can continue to operate effectively under the coronavirus restrictions – all are accepting referrals and delivering their interventions and support services. We have also launched a public communications campaign including a new Domestic Abuse poster, updated Website (information for residents and practitioners). Additional details re the communications campaign:</p> <p>—The Domestic Abuse poster asks: "Are you worried about domestic or sexual abuse?" and emphasises that "If you are at home due to Coronavirus, then remember you can still get the support that you need. You are NOT alone." The campaign also provides contact details on how to report Domestic Abuse and get support. Additional information - Details of how to access these services as well as other DA related services delivered by the VCFS can be found here: —Domestic Abuse web-page: https://www.barnet.gov.uk/community/community-safety/help-and-support-domestic-or-sexual-abuse</p> <p>—Domestic Abuse – guidance for practitioners https://www.barnet.gov.uk/working-children-barnet/practitioner-guidance/violence-against-women-and-girls</p>
73	Cllr Schneiderman	Has a decision been taken to terminate the ability of residents to make block bookings of tennis courts in Victoria Park? If yes, who made this decision and when?	Chairman Environment - Cllr Dean Cohen	A tennis pilot scheme commenced in August 2020 across four park locations (Victoria Park, Hendon Park, Montrose Playing Fields, Edgwarebury). The scheme is anticipated to remain in place for 12 months to provide an assessment of management options for future consideration. As part of the pilot, programmes of use and booking options have been amended to provide maximum accessibility for residents. A consultation is anticipated to take place in Spring and will be considered as part of a future report to Environment Committee.
74	Cllr Byers	Is the Chairman able to provide any summary of how suicide rates in the borough in 2020 compare with previous years?	Chairman, Adults - Cllr Sachin Rajpur	Unfortunately, the most recent data from the ONS on deaths by suicide are for the 2017-19 period. However, this year we began to receive real-time data from Thrive London Suicide Prevention Data Sharing Hub. The Thrive data suggests that the number of suicides per year for Barnet may be lower than the average. We don't appear to have had a spike in the number of lives lost to suicide during the pandemic, however, these figures are subject to change in line with the coroner process. Accessing the real-time data has meant that we can offer bereavement support to families following an incident very quickly. Learning from the data also means better planning and improved action in the prevention of suicide.
75	Cllr Conway	Will measures be taken to improve the effectiveness of fly-tipping and litter clearance between Barnet Council and Barnet Homes teams on the grassy corners and other areas?	Chairman Environment - Cllr Dean Cohen	<p>The Council recognises that fly-tipping is a multi-faceted issue and that the removal and clearance of tipped material by the Street Cleansing team, is just one element of the effort required to effectively mitigate and manage the prevalence of such issues.</p> <p>Multiple stakeholders are involved in the investigation and resolution of fly-tipping cases within the London Borough of Barnet. A cross-service/organisation working group including colleagues from Barnet Homes has been established to investigate the opportunities to enhance the effort to tackle fly-tipping with emphasis on greater collaboration and consistency of approach between the stakeholders.</p> <p>A report has been submitted to the 18 January 2021 Environment Committee detailing the objective of the working group and action plan to implemented in the short, medium and longer-term.</p>
76	Cllr Jajeh	Does the Council have any statistics regarding digital poverty in the borough?	Leader - Cllr Daniel Thomas	The Council does not keep any specific data or records on digital poverty in the borough, nor is there a specific national dataset that would directly speak to this in a local manner. The council's approach has been to build upon what we do know, and to reach out to partners to understand if other proxies or information could assist our approach.
77	Cllr Schneiderman	What plans are there to outsource the running of tennis courts in Barnet's parks?	Chairman Environment - Cllr Dean Cohen	Please see response to Q73.
78	Cllr Byers	How many Barnet businesses have supported our residents through Kickstart?	Chairman, CES - Cllr David Longstaff	To date, there are 31 businesses signed up to Kickstart as part of Barnet's first round of registrations. There are a further 24 which are going forward to the next round of registrations in March.

79	Cllr Conway	Is the Council providing any oversight of the mental health crisis service?	Chairman Adults Cllr Rajput	The Council works closely with Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health Trust who deliver secondary mental health services for residents in Barnet. We work in an integrated way with the Trust's mental health services including their crisis resolution home treatment team and mental health liaison service. Additionally, we have a Joint Commissioner for Mental Health and Dementia in Barnet who works across the council and the CCG and reviews performance information regarding the mental health crisis service provision in the borough and works across our ICP with partners to support improvements in mental health support and services. A report was submitted to the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee in October 2020 regarding crisis support and in December 2020 colleagues across the council, the Trust and VCS delivered a seminar to members on mental health support in the borough and multi-agency working.
80	Cllr Byers	Given the exemptions permitted in law, would the Leader encourage churches, synagogues, mosques, and other centres of religious communities to stay open and to continue, in a Covid-safe way, their important outreach and support activities across Barnet?	Leader - Cllr Daniel Thomas	Yes. The public health team has been working closely with faith groups from the beginning of the pandemic to support them operating in a Covid-safe way. We are using their influence within their communities to enhance the testing offer in Barnet with setting up Lateral Flow Device test sites at places of worship that remained open. All of the local mosques, a large number of churches and some mainstream synagogues closed voluntarily and utilised online alternatives. Those that remain open, are supported to ensure Covid secure risk assessment is in place with at least 2m social distancing, face coverings and reduced services. Our Director of Public Health and I have recently written to faith organisations to remind them of the guidance and support available.
81	Cllr Weeden-Sa	What is being done to ensure fair access to voting in the coming elections?	Leader - Cllr Daniel Thomas	Within Barnet, all polling venues have been visited and assessed so that they can be made as Covid-secure as possible. Given the changing pandemic situation, final polling station arrangements are still being developed, but it is already clear that extra staff will need to be in place to manage elector access and (e.g.) social distancing, hand sanitising and station hygiene throughout the day - and to make sure electors are informed and operate safely within the station. Also, extensive public awareness communications will be utilised to ensure that electors are informed about the options available to them to apply to use postal and proxy ('absent') voting methods. Barnet will also be supporting the GLA's 'London Elects' public awareness campaign with its own additional communications to electors to encourage eligible residents to register to vote and then to take part in voting at the 6 May elections.
82	Cllr Simberg	How many potholes did the Council fill during 2020?	Chairman, Environment - Cllr Dean Cohen	3533 pothole defects repaired in the period 1 January to November 2020. December 2020 data is not yet available.
83	Cllr Grocock	Would the Leader agree that the constant doom and gloom, from opposition Councillors, regarding the impact of Brexit on the Council was completely unfounded?	Leader - Cllr Daniel Thomas	Yes. I think one day they will look back and realise their doom-mongering was over the top and off-putting to the general public. I believe Barnet residents want confident, ambitious and optimistic politicians who believe in the abilities of our borough and nation, and do not talk down our prospects. The public are tired of politicians who bang on about Europe.
84	Cllr Fluss	Can the Chairman of CLL please provide an update on the boroughs online library services?	Chairman, CLL Cllr Reuben Thompstone	The Library Service continues to provide a wide range of online services including eBooks, eAudiobooks, digital magazines and newspapers and online activities. Since March there have been 357,885 issues of electronic materials. To date 154 activity and event videos have been produced with 35,392 views. The service also now delivers regular live events for families using Microsoft Teams and has just begun a digital STEM club for primary aged children. In the week commencing 11 January 2021 the Library service will launch a telephone and email IT helpdesk service for residents to obtain help using their own digital devices.

85	Cllr Shooter	What is the Council doing to tackle food insecurity and its underlying causes within the borough?	Leader - Cllr Daniel Thomas	<p>The Council is committed to improving food security in the borough. In 2017 the Food Security Working Group was established, bringing together council officers and VCS organisations to regularly discuss issues and challenges relating to food within our communities. As a result of these meetings and further research, we published our Food Security Action Plan (Oct 2019) following sign-off at Health and Wellbeing Board.</p> <p>The three aims of the plan are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tackle the underlying causes of food insecurity; exploring other policies and strategies the council can take which can contribute to a reduction in food insecurity, budgeting, food/cooking skills. • Minimise the health impacts of chronic and emergency food insecurity; Promote existing schemes such as healthy start vouchers and free school meals, develop a clear referral pathway that can be used by frontline staff and social prescribers, improve the referral relationship between food aid organisations and mental health services • Support sustainability and resilience of third sector food aid providers; Improve data collection so that we understand food insecurity better at a local level, promote volunteer opportunities, communicate issues around food insecurity with the wider population (including food waste, opportunities for food donations etc.), set up regular communication between food banks and council officers. <p>The current plan expires in April 2021 and we are in the process of refreshing the action plan so that it remains fit for purpose. The current action plan is available here: www.barnet.gov.uk/sites/default/files/barnet_food_security_action_plan_2019</p> <p>Key success so far: Relaunch of digital healthy start vouchers (improving accessibility), establish a local food aid network which discusses operational issues and communicates them with the working group, exploring a wider plan on poverty reduction as part of the corporate delivery plan, embed food security into 'Make Every Contact Count' training (due to be launched early 2021), development of a food security data dashboard to monitor trends over time, work with UCL to examine nutritional content of food parcels and improve data collection from food banks (currently awaiting approval from UCL ethics committee), added information on the council's website on food budgeting resources, the launch of social prescribing in Barnet; making it easier to refer patients to food growing or food aid organisations for support.</p>
86	Cllr Byers	Does the Leader share my concern about the number of quality-adjusted life-years being lost by residents across Barnet because of the economic, social, and health consequences of the Covid emergency besides the virus itself?	Leader - Cllr Daniel Thomas	<p>Yes, I share your concerns. We are aware of the national analysis undertaken by DHSC, ONS and GAD on the wider impacts and benefits of the pandemic and the response. Consequently, we are already working with partners across London to look at understanding economic vulnerability to ensure we put in place assistance which will help to mitigate some of the impacts thus reducing the loss of QALY for economic reasons.</p> <p>The national analysis also acknowledges that had there not been a response to the pandemic the loss of QALY is likely to have been substantially greater than for the current estimates of direct and indirect losses to QALY from the response.</p>
87	Cllr Freedman	Have we seen an improvement in hearing planning applications since the new planning committees were formed, even though it's early days?	Chairman, Planning - Cllr Shimon Ryde	<p>There were two meetings of the Strategic Planning Committee and one meeting of Planning Committees A, B and C and held in 2020. All Committees went through the agenda of planning applications and there is currently no backlog of applications waiting to be referred to a Committee for decision. The new system should distribute applications more equally.</p>
88	Cllr Byers	Can the Chairman explain the Council's policy/ies on the introduction of road humps and speed cushions?	Chairman, Environment - Cllr Dean Cohen	<p>Generally, this council opposes the use of vertical traffic calming measures but acknowledges that sometimes such calming measures can be appropriate. For example, 20 mph speed limit reviews can sometimes include options that involve an element of vertical deflection in the form of raised tables at junctions/crossing points.</p>