

**MEETING**

**COUNCIL**

**DATE AND TIME**

**TUESDAY 25TH JANUARY, 2022**

**AT 7.00 PM**

**VENUE**

**HENDON TOWN HALL, THE BURROUGHS, LONDON NW4 4BQ**

Dear Councillors,

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

Item No	Title of Report	Pages
8	QUESTIONS TO THE LEADER (AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN IF HE/SHE HAS DELEGATED)	3 - 42

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

This page is intentionally left blank

25 January 2022 Questions to Council

QN	Councillor	Question	Leader / Chairman	Response																					
1	Cllr Dushinsky	Leader, you recently announced that the Council would be a net-zero carbon organisation by 2030. What steps do we need to take in order to reach that important goal?	Leader	The Sustainability Strategy Framework was approved by P&R committee in December; this included the commitment to reach Net Zero as an organisation by 2030. The framework report provided information on some of the steps that the council has taken to date which support this commitment, such as energy savings measures in some councils buildings and a wholesale conversion of all street lamps to LED. Additionally, it provided an overview of the initial set of actions that the council will undertake over the next few years to help reach this commitment, such as further retrofitting and energy savings measures on council buildings, reviewing our supply chain and sustainable procurement policy, and having a fully electric fleet. These actions will be reviewed and developed further in line with the production of the full Sustainability Strategy.																					
2	Cllr Rawlings	At the last Council meeting the Conservative Group of Councillors stated in an amendment that the Council was making all financial viability assessments publicly available as and when submitted in support of a planning application, unless there was an 'exceptional circumstance' reason not to. The Council has now confirmed that this had not been happening in all cases prior to 2021. Why did the Conservatives not explain this to Full Council?	Leader	All 26 applications received in 2021 had their assessments publicly available. The answer given to the previous meeting was therefore accurate.																					
3	Cllr Prager	How much less does this Conservative borough charge in Council Tax than the neighbouring Labour boroughs?	Leader	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Borough</th> <th>Council Tax Band D charge 2021/22 (excl. GLA precept)</th> <th>£ difference against Barnet</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Barnet</td> <td>1,337.33</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Camden</td> <td>1,355.82</td> <td>18.49</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brent</td> <td>1,378.26</td> <td>40.93</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Enfield</td> <td>1,431.81</td> <td>94.48</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Haringey</td> <td>1,441.04</td> <td>103.71</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Harrow</td> <td>1,598.71</td> <td>261.38</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Borough	Council Tax Band D charge 2021/22 (excl. GLA precept)	£ difference against Barnet	Barnet	1,337.33	-	Camden	1,355.82	18.49	Brent	1,378.26	40.93	Enfield	1,431.81	94.48	Haringey	1,441.04	103.71	Harrow	1,598.71	261.38
Borough	Council Tax Band D charge 2021/22 (excl. GLA precept)	£ difference against Barnet																							
Barnet	1,337.33	-																							
Camden	1,355.82	18.49																							
Brent	1,378.26	40.93																							
Enfield	1,431.81	94.48																							
Haringey	1,441.04	103.71																							
Harrow	1,598.71	261.38																							

AGENDA ITEM 8

## 25 January 2022 Questions to Council

4	Cllr Clarke	What impact does the reduced Thameslink timetable have on the Brent Cross regeneration?	Cllr R Cornelius Chairman, Housing & Growth	The council is working with DfT and Network Rail and the Train Operating Company on the timetable for the new BXW station - this relates to both the timetable being introduced in May 2022 to reflect current demand as a result of the Pandemic and when the station is brought into service based on the timetable agreed at the Full Business Case stage. Further updates will be provided to the Housing and Growth Committee in due course.
5	Cllr Byers	Can the Leader please tell us about how the <i>Winter Festival</i> is going?	Leader	The Discover Barnet Winter Festival consisted primarily of an on-street Festive Market in Edgware Town Centre and the promotion of community and faith sector events across the borough. The Edgware Winter Festival was a success, despite taking place just after the Covid-19 Omicron variant numbers started to increase and Government advice was updated. This impacted attendance numbers, which were lower than originally anticipated. There were 12 vendors selling a wide range of items, which were well received with between 50-100 visitors to the stalls each day. The walkabout performers also garnered a lot of attention from passers-by and local businesses who commented on how happy they were to see things happening in Edgware.
6	Cllr Cooke	The Barnet Labour Group has stated unequivocally that if elected we would not build on the green belt. By means of the written answer to this question, will the Leader state whether or not he accepts that assurance?	Leader	We know that Labour say one thing in opposition and do another in power.
7	Cllr Rozenberg	Does the Leader agree that TfL proposals to reroute the 143 bus route down Archway Road will worsen travel links in Barnet, by preventing direct access to the Whittington Hospital for residents in Finchley Central and Hendon, and by making it more difficult to visit Highgate Village?	Leader	Yes, I agree and several residents have written to me to express a similar view, however I am not confident that TfL will listen to Barnet residents.
8	Cllr Wardle	In a recent Newsletter, the Barnet Labour Party claimed they would focus on getting the basics right... starting with weekly waste collections. Would the Leader	Leader	Barnet Council has provided weekly refuse and recycling collections since c.2001. The UK Government has recently set out its framework for new waste management arrangements in England within the Environment Act. Barnet along with other local authorities is liaising with DEFRA and Ministers on the detail to be set out in regulation and guidance that will shape and

## 25 January 2022 Questions to Council

		please point out to Labour that we already have weekly bin collections? Unlike neighbouring Labour controlled boroughs.		direct future waste collection arrangements. The council will adhere to any new statutory requirements accordingly.
9	Cllr Conway	Why does the Council spend so much money on communications but often get such low responses to public consultations?	Leader	<p>Communicating and engaging with residents is a fundamentally important part of the council's work. A point well demonstrated during the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, where the need for strong and continuous communications and engagement with residents, communities and businesses was vital to support vaccinations and keep residents safe and informed of government guidance, and ensure businesses got the support they were entitled to.</p> <p>The council's formal consultations do experience quite wide variations in responses - typically ranging between 30 and 2000 responses. However, that isn't always a good indicator how well residents feel involved or how engaged they are in council activities. We know that 66% of residents feel that the council keeps them well informed (Residents Perception Survey, Autumn 2020) and our data on our strategic communications campaigns suggests that we are effective in reaching residents. For example, data from the Discover Barnet Presents...Summer Festival (June- Sept 2021) shows that our social media output generated 685,000 page views with engagement rate of 5% (1-5% classed as good by marketing industry standards), with around 2 million+ (across all our channels) "opportunities to see" information on the festival, resulting in over 12,000+ residents attending events. Also in October 2021, we joined forces with the Andy's Man Club to launch a digital campaign on men's suicide prevention. This was designed to raise awareness of male suicide and promote sign up to the StayAlive app and our data suggests that the app was downloaded 7,568 times – far exceeding our target of 3500 – and that there was a 31.3% increase in new users (compared with August &amp; September in London), as well as a 4.85% increase in the usage time by regular users of the app.</p> <p>We are not complacent though and are keen to continue to improve how we engage and communicate with residents.</p>
10	Cllr Bokaei	What are the Leader's most proud Council moments from 2021?	Leader	<p>2021 has been another year dominated by COVID-19 and the need to respond to the ongoing impact of the pandemic. Teams across the council have worked hard to support residents by facilitating testing (included periods of surge testing), contact tracing and to promoting vaccinations, as well as wider 'how to stay safe' messages, through our network of volunteer health champions and communications campaigns.</p> <p>Throughout the disruption and challenges of the pandemic we have maintained a strong focus on our strategic priorities and on delivering services.</p> <p>We published the Barnet Plan (2021-2025) which sets out the council's vision to provide the best possible services for residents in communities where there are opportunities to grow and thrive, and where everyone feels safe. This also set out our intention to do more in collaboration with</p>

			<p>partners across the borough and to explore how we could take more a more place-based approach to meet resident needs. We have also developed and implemented the Delivery and Outcomes Framework to report progress. This is underpinned by £6.2m of additional resource across a range of priorities and robust financial management, building up reserves and balancing the budget.</p> <p>We launched a new area-based Street Cleansing Operating model in April 2021, investing £600,00 in the Service and increasing the number of staff in the service from 77 to 115 employees. In 2021, the Street Scene service have emptied over 3500 litter bins every week and swept over 300 roads every week. Waste collections and missed bin performance total 324,000 collections per week (almost 17 million per year) with a missed lift rate of 0.03% - which is the lowest rate in London.</p> <p>We have strengthened our capacity to tackle issues like fly-tipping and anti-social behaviour by recruiting an additional 16 enforcement officers to establish a team of 21 officers, operating on a ward basis and undertaken a strategic review of Barnet's Community Safety CCTV requirements. Our schools have done a brilliant job of managing the impacts of COVID -19, keeping schools open and ensuring our children and young people could safely access high quality education and learning opportunities. We published the Corporate Parenting strategy, stepped up our communications to children and young people on accessing mental health support and ran 3 holiday activity campaigns. We launched the Parenting Hub in November, which will provide specialist support to families across the borough and provided care to large than ever numbers of Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children. Ofsted undertook a Children's Services focused visit in June and reported in August that we continued to improve services to children in care in Barnet and that the vast majority of children in care benefit from living in placements that meet their individual needs and impact positively on their experiences and progress. We have continued to bring health and care together, working with health and VCSF partners to develop the Barnet Integrated Care Partnership focusing on Same Day Access &amp; Discharge, implementing the Integrated Discharge Team, Integrated Care Pathways and clinical support to care homes. There has been a strong focus on mental health throughout 2021 - the Suicide Prevention Partnership 2021-25 was established, and we ran a borough wide suicide prevention campaign in the Autumn. We have consulted on the Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy 2021-2024 and have started the process of securing "White Ribbon" accreditation (White Ribbon is the UK's leading charity in engaging with men and boys to end violence against women). We have continued to deliver our housing development and regeneration programme with securing over £1.7m of funding from the Brownfield Land Release Fund to support the delivery of 252 affordable homes in the borough and invested around £500m in the Barnet Group new build and acquisition programme to</p>
--	--	--	---

25 January 2022 Questions to Council

				<p>deliver 1400 new affordable homes for rent. We have continued to progress the proposals for the Hendon Hub and stepped up our support for town centres including a flagship shop local campaign (Discover Barnet) and provided the first Discover Barnet Presents...Summer Festival. We have invested £750,000 to deliver an expanded skills and employment offer in response to COVID and are on track to have supported 1000 people into work (working in partnership with BELS, BOOST and the Shaw Trust) are implementing a major programme of investment to improve digital connectivity across 14,000 Barnet Homes properties, with over 2,000 properties connected to gigabit speed broadband services since February 2021. We have continued to support the major growth scheme at Brent Cross with construction of Brent Cross West Station and junction works underway. In September we unveiled our first community mural on Claremont Way and a three-storey eco-friendly community hub – the first building to be completed in the 180-acre park town - opened in November. 2021 has seen us make significant progress on our Net Zero journey. We have provided 150 electric vehicle charge points across the borough to help in the transition to electric vehicles and secured £3.5m of government funding – the largest grant to a council in the country thus far - to install a further 500 charging points. We have also benefited residents by securing over £1m of funding to retrofit Barnet social housing through the Green Homes Grant scheme and have secured £6m to reduce river and surface water flooding in the Silk Stream catchment area. And in December the council announced its commitment to becoming a net zero council by 2030. There is a lot to be proud of and staff across the organisation have worked hard all year to deliver for residents. It was particularly pleasing to see three of our teams recognised as sector leaders with the Finance Team, (Finance Team of the Year – Councils, Public Finance Awards, 2021), Parking team (Front Line Award, British Parking Awards, 2021) and Adults Social Care (Health and Social Care, Local Government Chronical, 2021) – winning national awards.</p>
11	Cllr Rich	As the London Borough of Barnet is the landlord of Pontall's Allotments N3 and it is alleged that the managing Committee is evicting vulnerable persons, can the Leader please provide a full clarification of what is happening there?	Cllr D Cohen, Chairman, Environment	<p>The boroughs allotments sites are all run under self managed leases. Under these leases the council does not have the power to intervene on disputes in relation to individual tenancies. This is a matter between the Allotment Society and the Tenants. specifically in relation to Pontalls Allotments, a County Court decision was made on 22nd December 2021 in relation to "Claimants vs Pontalls Allotments Ltd (PAL)". Judge Raeside QC awarded PAL possession of two plots that had previously been let to the claimants; PAL were defending issue of eviction notices. PAL had terminated the tenancies in each case based on a 30-day notice. A subsequent challenge was launched by the claimants based the notification period. PAL issued updated 12-month eviction notices, which are specifically provided for under allotment legislation. The plots were therefore lawfully ended 12 months after the notices in April 2021. The Judge ruled that the 30-day eviction notices (issued under the contracts) were not sufficient to terminate the tenancies because PAL were obligated to serve in each case a notice under section 146 of the Law of</p>

25 January 2022 Questions to Council

				Property Act 1925, which requires the setting out of details of each tenant's breach(es) of his/her tenancy agreement, stating that the tenant must remedy if possible, and allowing a reasonable time to remedy.
12	Cllr Grover	In a recent Newsletter, the Barnet Labour Party claimed they would focus on getting the basics right... starting with missed waste collections. Would the Leader please point out that we already have exceptionally low numbers of missed bins – by any measure, the least in London and one of the lowest in the country.	Leader	In the Financial Year 2021/22, from April to December, just 0.04% of all domestic collections were reported as missed. There is no national or regional standard for measuring missed bins so it is not possible to provide a direct comparison however the council believes its missed bin rates indicate excellent performance.
13	Cllr McGuirk	What can the Council do to further support local businesses given the continued impact of Covid-19 following the spread of the Omicron variant?	Cllr R Cornelius, Chairman, Housing & Growth	<p>The Council is currently working with local strategic partners to offer more support to businesses negatively affected by Covid-19. From January 2022 this will include:- Working with Arts Council England to award grants to arts, culture and recreation businesses- Additional financial support for Barnet's town teams to deliver projects designed to increase town centre footfall- More than £5m (part of the government's Covid-19 Additional Relief fund) to fund business rates relief for non-public facing companies in the retail, leisure, culture and hospitality sectors who have been ineligible for previous relief schemes - Targeted, one-to-one business support schemes in Burnt Oak, West Hendon, Finchley Central and North Finchley town centres- A comprehensive borough-wide programme of training and support addressing employer and employee skills and knowledge gaps delivered by Middlesex University and Barnet &amp; Southgate College, plus funded memberships to the Federation of Small Businesses- An updated programme of Temporary Street Space Fund Parklets, enabling businesses to continue trading while managing social distancing</p> <p>The Council will also shortly be introducing two Government funded business support grant schemes. - Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grants (OHLG). This is a nationally set scheme for which Barnet have received £1.776m in funding. Awards will only be available to eligible businesses who are liable for business rates, who will receive £2.7k if their rateable value is below £15k; £4k if their rateable value is between £15k and £51k; and £6k if their rateable value is above £51k.- Omicron Additional Restrictions Grants (OARG). This will be a locally determined discretionary scheme with some centrally set criteria, Barnet have received £1.095m.</p> <p>Clarification is required on the guidance provided by government before opening up to applications to either scheme and there is a meeting scheduled for the 10th January with the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy to assist. Applications will be invited as soon as both schemes are set up and finalised.</p>

25 January 2022 Questions to Council

14	Cllr Brayne	<p>The North London Waste Authority's new incinerator at Edmonton was given the green light last month by both Conservative and Labour councillors: only the Liberal Democrats oppose it. Campaigners claim that the plant will emit 700,000 tons of CO2 per year. Does the Council agree with this figure, and if so, what are its plans to offset these emissions under its emerging Net Zero strategy?</p>	Cllr D Cohen, Chairman, Environment	<p>The net carbon impact of the new Energy Recovery Facility (ERF) is expected to be 28,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents each year. This calculation has been developed using the scientific standards set by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) (Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories – 2006) and the UK’s Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Energy Recovery for Residual Waste – A carbon-based modelling approach – February 2014). In 2019, a Carbon Impact Screening report was produced for the North London Waste Authority (NLWA) by Ramboll, a world leading thermal engineering company, to compare the carbon impact of the new ERF to the alternative of sending non-recyclable waste to landfill. It was prepared in line with the standards set by the IPCC, in which guidance states that biogenic waste (like food, paper and wood) should not be included in national emission inventories for greenhouse gasses. This is because plants sequester carbon when they grow. In line with this guidance, the report divides household waste into fossil content (e.g. plastics) and biogenic content. It is expected that around 55% of the waste treated by the new ERF will be biogenic and 45% fossil. Following IPCC standards, only the fossil content is included when calculating greenhouse gas emissions. The report shows that the fossil content from north London’s residual waste is expected to have an impact equivalent to 308,560 tonnes of carbon dioxide each year. To establish the effective realistic carbon impact of the new ERF, it is vital to consider the displacement of heat and power generated by other energy sources. The report follows the standard set by DEFRA for carbon intensity modelling, which is clear that a combined cycle gas turbine power plant is the appropriate counterfactual for assessing energy generated by an ERF. In addition to displacing power plants that use virgin fossil fuels, the ERF will recover metals from residual waste for recycling. This will avoid the carbon-intensive process of extracting virgin metals from the ground. Following this scientific methodology, the net CO2 emissions from the new ERF are predicted to be equivalent to 28,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide every year as a greenhouse gas emission. Sending the same amount of waste to landfill would generate 215,000 additional tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents every year. That is the same carbon impact as putting 110,000 extra cars on the road. Landfill produces significantly more greenhouse gasses than energy recovery because a) methane is an extremely potent greenhouse gas, and b) thousands of additional lorry movements would be required to transport the waste outside of north London. The new ERF is therefore part of the solution for tackling the carbon impact of north London’s waste. To further reduce carbon emissions, a project to consider how carbon capture can be incorporated is underway.</p>
15	Cllr Richer	<p>Can I congratulate the Chairman of Adults &amp; Social Care committee for the recent adult care national</p>	Chairman, Adults & Social Care	<p>Barnet, as part of our partnership with Camden, Enfield, Haringey and Islington, won the national LGC (Local Government Chronicle) award for adult social care in 2021. Barnet initiated the adult social care partnership programme between the 5 Councils just over 4 years ago, with key work areas on care homes, learning disabilities, the care sector workforce and joint work</p>

25 January 2022 Questions to Council

		<p>award, and ask what successes he believes we achieved to receive it?</p>	<p>with the NHS. In each of these areas the programme has strong evidence of improved outcomes for residents and the system, financial savings and / or increased external investment into social care. Dawn Wakeling is the lead director for the partnership. We won the award for our response to the Covid 19 pandemic, where through joint work we were able to deliver improved outcomes for residents: 1. Our comprehensive response to wave 1 of the pandemic (Feb – Apr 2020): a. We increased home care capacity by over 50% in very short timescalesb. We created new integrated stepdown services that helped residents regain independence, in a matter of weeksc. We provided over 5 million PPE items free of charge to the care sectord. We secured early access to testing for care staff, provided comprehensive Infection Prevention and Control training and increased clinical support for care providerse. Providers valued our support – some quotes from care home managers: “I must say that your support, any time we needed you, made us more strong and confident in the job that we do.” “I think that this support has meant that as managers and providers of services, we didn’t feel overwhelmed.”2. Rapid recruitment into care (Feb – April 2020)a. The 5 councils had created a free to use recruitment portal for care providers - Proud to Care North London. Using this, we developed a rapid recruitment campaign where any resident could express an interest in working in care and we would quickly match them into a role that would make a difference (such as reablement, home care or care home worker)b. As part of the London pandemic response we were asked to scale this to London widec. Over 2,000 London residents came forwards (c. 200 in Barnet) of which over a third were under 30. d. We matched around 700 of these into roles in care which provided residents with meaningful work at a time when large parts of the economy were closed and increased our capacity in critical services responding to the pandemic. Here is a video of some of the recruits in NCL: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BAGinu4_yOA">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BAGinu4_yOA</a> e. The approach was so successful that London ADASS are now working with us to develop it into a permanent London wide offer3. After action review of wave 1 of covid with care providers (summer 2020)a. Due to the significant impact covid had had on residents receiving care we agreed with Councils, NHS partners and care providers to lead an in-depth after action review to look at what we could learn and how we could strengthen arrangements and support for care providers in the event of future wavesb. We engaged with all parts of the system, including c. 60 care providers, residents and families, and looked at an international evidence base to form 40+ recommendationsc. Some of our key successes were:i. Agreed policy across the North Central London ICS that no one that is covid infectious or a covid contact will be discharged to bedded social care but will instead be care for in an NHS setting. We were the first ICS in London to achieve this and one of the first in the country ii. Every resident in bedded care has access to a device to speak to family and friends and access medical careiii. Significant staff training and wellbeing programme, with lots of support to care workers and registered managers to help them cope with the strains of</p>
--	--	---	---

## 25 January 2022 Questions to Council

				working through the pandemic. 75% reduction in covid deaths in wave 2 compared to wave 1. Key NHS partners supported our submission which can be seen here: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x5X9yz9bkBE">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x5X9yz9bkBE</a> The judging panel said that it was clear that our submission demonstrated an innovative and effective partnership that improved resident outcomes, supported the NHS through the pandemic and saved lives.
16	Cllr Schneiderman	Although lagging behind most other councils, Barnet has now belatedly published a sustainability framework to form the basis of a sustainability strategy. Will the borough's residents, environment and community groups be given a meaningful opportunity to influence the strategy unlike in many other council consultations? Will the strategy have clear targets, timelines and funding plans?	Leader	As noted in the Sustainability Strategy Framework report, we will be undertaking public engagement in the next few months (before the pre election period) to help shape the development of the strategy and test the content of this framework. This will include events with a number of stakeholders including residents, young people, businesses and community groups. A full public consultation will also be undertaken in the summer to help shape the final strategy.
17	Cllr Mearing-Smith	In a recent Newsletter, the Barnet Labour Party claimed they will freeze council tax next year. The Labour Mayor of London is likely to raise his council tax take by 8.8%, down from 9.2% for the current year. Are there any circumstances under which the Leader would ever consider believing the Barnet Labour Party?	Leader	Sadly not as the Barnet Labour Group in my view are prone to exaggerate and mislead.
18	Cllr Mitra	How many properties of Barnet Homes and other social housing providers have had their bin collections cut from twice weekly to once weekly?	Cllr D Cohen, Chairman, Environment	The council provides statutory weekly collections of recycling and refuse to all households in Barnet in line with its Household Recycling & Waste Policies published in 2018. Prior to this the council provided collections from some locations more frequently than once a week, however these informal arrangements were brought in line with the council's Household Recycling & Waste Policies in 2018. The council works with all social housing providers to ensure that effective waste collection services are provided to residents.
19	Cllr Stock	What Council projects is the Leader most looking forward to seeing in 2022?	Leader	In 2022 we will maintain a tight focus on providing high quality services to residents and businesses in the borough, to ensure that it remains Family Friendly, Healthy, Thriving, Clean, Safe and Well Run. Supported by firm grip on council finances we will take responsible budget

			<p>decisions, ensuring we have the resources we need to deliver.</p> <p>Our residents are at the heart of all we do and that is why we will continue to roll out measures to improve our customer services and ensuring that when residents and service users do engage with the council that they have a good experience. This means tightening our internal processes and embedding our “Make Every Contact Count” approach.</p> <p>2022 will see the adoption of our first Sustainability Strategy. This will set out our ambition and pull together the strategies and activities that we will implement to become a net zero council by 2030 and a carbon neutral borough as soon as possible thereafter. We have secured £3.5m (the largest to date) government grant to install a further 500 electric vehicle charge points by November 2022 and residents and businesses can expect to see more from us on how they can do their bit and help us all achieve our sustainability goals.</p> <p>In December 2022 we expect to see the opening of the Brent Cross West station, marking a very significant milestone in the Brent Cross Cricklewood Regeneration Programme and we will be taking forward our plans for the Hendon Hub which will provide a brand-new state-of-the-art library, an additional 100sqm of community space; public health, community facility; an improved public realm; green spaces and community facilities benefiting everyone who lives and works in Hendon. It is also hoped to include a neighbourhood community safety team office.</p> <p>Residents will continue to see the benefit from our housing and development programme in local areas and neighbourhoods through the work of the Area Committees and investment of the Community Infrastructure Levy supporting the schemes that matter most in that area.</p> <p>The Chipping Barnet Area Committee will be bringing forward three greenspaces schemes, providing new outdoor gym equipment in Swan Lane Park, New Southgate Park and Riverside Park. In Finchley &amp; Golders Green community led schemes funded recently include the renovation of the main path for Long Lane Pasture and community group funding (The Hope of Childs Hill) for the purchase and storage of bikes for community use. In Hendon Area Committee there will be funding for the North Road Community Centre to enhance security of the building and provide new furniture and funding for community group led (Living Way Ministries) project to purchase infrastructure to run sewing and clothes making training programme for residents on the Grahame Park Estate.</p> <p>This year we will be completing construction work for the boroughs new Pupil Referral Unit which will continue to ensure there is adequate alternative education provision for children in the borough.</p> <p>We look forward to the progression of the planned enhancements to West Hendon Playing Fields as well as construction works to enhance the parks at Heybourne &amp; Rushgrove.</p> <p>In our town centres work will be commencing this year to create a new town square for Finchley Central, along with improvements to Burnt Oak, Golders Green and others. And following last</p>
--	--	--	---

## 25 January 2022 Questions to Council

				<p>year's success, we are planning to run the Discover Barnet Presents...Summer Festival again. Plans for this are currently in development and we will come forward with further details as soon as possible.</p> <p>The Domestic Abuse and Violence against Women and Girls Strategy 2021-2024 will be adopted bringing forwards our proposals to prevent domestic abuse and violence against women and girls, how we will pursue perpetrators and change behaviours and how tackle issues around under reporting.</p> <p>Recorded crime figures for Barnet are low and it is one of the safest places to live in London. We want to keep Barnet safe, and we know, from the Resident's Perception Survey (Autumn 2020), that crime and anti-social behaviour are some of our residents top concerns so in 2022 we will be investing in our CCTV infrastructure to continue to improve safety and continue to embedded the expanded, ward based, enforcement officer team and continue to focus on tackling fly tipping, we will also bring forwards an Community Safety Strategy 2022-27 which will set out detail on how we will work with tackle these issues. We will continue to work with partners across Barnet to ensure that children remain safe, our schools remain excellent and older people are live independent healthy lives. And through our Health and Wellbeing Strategy, we will focus on ensure that residents of all ages are able to make positive healthy choices to live well. 2022 is an exciting year for Barnet and I am looking forward to continuing to deliver for all our residents. We are also looking forward to supporting and publicising events across the borough celebrating the HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee.</p>
20	Cllr Rawlings	According to the Council, since Government Guidance was issued in 2018 planning staff were told at least three times that they needed to publish all financial viability assessments when submitted in support of a planning application, yet none were published until 2021. Why?	Leader	All viability reports submitted for applications in 2021 are published on the Council's website. Prior to that date, some but not all were published.
21	Cllr Rozenberg	A report by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Air Pollution, published last month, called for an immediate moratorium on the expansion of new waste incineration plants, to protect human health and cut	Cllr D Cohen , Chairman, Environment	The North London Waste Authority (NLWA) was fully aware of the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Air Pollution's work and participated in discussions and meetings of the APPG. NLWA presented at a meeting with the APPG in September and this was fully reported to the members of the NLWA. In December 2021 the APPG on Air Pollution published a report "Pollution from Waste Incineration – A Synopsis of Expert Presentations on Health and Air Quality Impacts". On 14 December the NLWA responded including the comments that "There is no reference to the most detailed, robust and recent reviews of energy from waste facilities carried out by Imperial

## 25 January 2022 Questions to Council

		carbon emissions. Did Cllr Zinkin or Cllr Dean Cohen read the report before or after they voted to award a construction contract for the Edmonton waste incineration plant?		College London, and supported by Public Health England, which contradict claims made in the report. Imperial College London has stated: “modern and well-regulated incinerators are likely to have a very small, or even undetectable, impact on people living nearby.” And “North London Waste Authority presented at the meeting with the APPG on Air Pollution in September where it was acknowledged by industry and scientific experts that the Edmonton Energy Recovery Facility will have better pollution controls than any other UK facility. It was suggested that ours is a benchmark for others to follow, and that 19 (now 20) facilities have been consented since ours in 2017, and none will have the full range of high-tech environmental controls that ours will. Residents can be assured that we are investing in the very best technologies, well beyond UK legal requirements to ensure we are safeguarding the communities in north London.
22	Cllr Smith	How does the local government finance settlement compare with the various assumptions put to Financial Performance and Contracts Committee for budget proposals?	Cllr Zinkin, Chairman, Financial Performance & Contracts	<p>Local Government Finance Settlement provisional figures were published on the 16/12/21. The settlement is for one year only and further details on proposed funding reforms and consultations are due to follow in the new year. Overall the figures published were a slight improvement on the assumptions we modelled under Scenario B of the MTFS.</p> <p>The £1.6bn additional funding announced in the Chancellor’s Autumn Budget and Spending Review 2021 translates to £8m for Barnet and has been distributed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Services grant (one-off grant and will not be taken into consideration for transitional support when future system changes are made): £4.05m;</li> <li>- Social care: £3.45m</li> <li>- Revenue support grant (inflationary increase): £0.5m</li> </ul> <p>The allocation is just shy of the £8.025m we had assumed under scenario B of the MTFS presented to P&amp;R on the 9 Dec 2021.</p> <p>Other announcements, compared with Scenario B modelling in the MTFS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Referendum limits have been confirmed at 2% for general council tax, with a 1% social care precept to fund pressures in adult social care. This is consistent with what we assumed;</li> <li>- New Homes Bonus has been rolled over, however the allocation was £1.4m less than modelled;</li> <li>- Lower tier services grant has also been rolled over and is the same as modelled;</li> <li>- Compensation for under-indexing business rates multiplier is £4.8m, some of this will compensate for businesses that do not survive or have a change of use, however £1.8m of this is more than modelled;</li> <li>- The ‘eight-authority’ business rate pool has also been approved, which will see an estimated one off benefit of £2.8m for Barnet.</li> </ul>
23	Cllr Clarke	Please provide a list of all planning applications where a developer	Cllr Greenspan,	The service was stopped in early 2021 and removed from the Council Fees and Charges in April 2021. The service was stopped in early 2021, and removed from Council Fees and Charges in

25 January 2022 Questions to Council

		<p>paid a fee to name their own planning case officer.</p>	<p>Chairman, Strategic Planning</p>	<p>April 2021. In the two years prior to ending the service, the service was used 34 times with 13 different officers requested. The applications were:</p> <p>18/4899/FUL      13 Brent Street</p> <p>20/3231/HSE      102 Colin Crescent</p> <p>20/4647/HSE      48 Glebe Road</p> <p>20/4825/HSE      5 Friars Walk</p> <p>19/1834/HSE      23 Elmhurst Avenue</p> <p>20/0128/HSE      6 And 8 Elmcroft Crescent</p> <p>18/5276/FUL      Ravensdene</p> <p>18/7503/FUL      1302 High Road</p> <p>18/7479/FUL      48 Oakleigh Avenue</p> <p>19/4144/FUL      62 Cranbourne Gardens</p> <p>19/4352/FUL      21 Brampton Grove</p> <p>19/2970/FUL      784 High Road</p> <p>20/4788/HSE      36 Great Bushey Drive</p> <p>20/4889/HSE      12 Greenway</p> <p>18/3187/FUL      Blocks 1-6 Britten Close &amp; Blocks 7-9 Chandos Way</p> <p>18/5398/S73      31 - 33 Dollis Avenue</p> <p>20/3248/FUL      Flat 41 Spectrum Apartments</p> <p>20/4949/HSE      24 Ridge Hill</p> <p>20/2754/HSE      3 Neville Drive</p>
--	--	--	---	--

25 January 2022 Questions to Council

				20/4418/HSE 54 Hervey Close 20/0515/HSE 1 Hendon Park Cottages 20/0572/FUL 783 High Road 20/1176/S73 12A Crescent Rise 20/2652/HSE 15 Millway 20/2959/HSE 44 Fortis Green 20/4210/HSE 4 Southfields 20/5258/HSE 10 Sunnyfield 19/5034/HSE 4 Harman Close 20/0122/HSE 37 Cheviot Gardens 20/1562/HSE 62 Clitterhouse Crescent 20/2867/HSE 19 Brampton Grove 20/2993/HSE 121 Wentworth Road 20/4278/FUL 1489 High Road 20/5051/FUL 159 Hendon Way
24	Cllr Simberg	What percentage of Barnet Schools are judged 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted?	Cllr Longstaff, Chairman, Children, Education & Safeguarding	97.6% of Barnet Schools are judged good or outstanding by Ofsted.

## 25 January 2022 Questions to Council

25	Cllr Cooke	Have the new owners of a long lease on North Finchley Library told you what they intend to do with the building?	Cllr R Cornelius, Chairman, Housing & Growth	North Finchley Library is still a council asset and an active library. There are currently no plans to dispose of, or re-develop the site nor will there be in the near future.
26	Cllr Shooter	In a recent Newsletter, the Barnet Labour Party claimed they will stand up to developers... With the recent application for High Barnet Station, as well as with the Labour Mayor of London's proposed tower block at Finchley Central – did the Leader notice the Barnet Labour Party standing up to the developers?	Leader	against the Mayor of London's awful planning applications. It is clear to me that they will continue not to stand up to the Mayor of London.
27	Cllr Conway	When will the cafe in Montrose Park be fully open and operational?	Cllr D Cohen, Chairman, Environment	The Montrose Hub has been let and it is understood that the café is now fully open.
28	Cllr Brayne	How many HEPA filters have been installed in Barnet classrooms since the start of the pandemic? Roughly what proportion of Barnet school children attend classes in a room with a HEPA filter?	Cllr Longstaff, Chairman, Children, Education & Safeguarding	The council does not hold this information. HEPA filters would only be relevant where mechanical ventilation is used as the main and only source of ventilation. As far as we know, most Barnet schools rely on natural ventilation or a mixture of mechanical and natural ventilation.
29	Cllr Rutter	What are the Leader's thoughts on the Electric Vehicle award recently received from the Government?	Leader	I'm extremely pleased that the funding source OZEV felt that our bid was of excellent quality and showed real intent and ambition to rapidly grow our EV Infrastructure for the benefit of our residents who are also showing great intent to switch to more environmentally friendly forms of transport as is demonstrated from the number of new EV Registrations by Barnet residents being consistently higher than any other borough in London. This initiative to create a step change in our roll out of much needed charge points is integral to the delivery of our Sustainability Strategy ambitions. This is also by far the largest award of EV related funding to any UK Authority to date.

## 25 January 2022 Questions to Council

30	Cllr Schneiderman	How can the council make better use of its enforcement powers to ensure that water companies take swift action to stop sewage overflowing onto pavements and in parks?	Cllr D Cohen, Chairman, Environment	<p>The Council has no enforcement powers against Water Companies as they are regulated by Ofwat (<a href="https://www.ofwat.gov.uk/regulated-companies/ofwat-industry-overview/legislation/">https://www.ofwat.gov.uk/regulated-companies/ofwat-industry-overview/legislation/</a>) and the Water Industry Act 1991.</p> <p>The Environment Agency has enforcement powers if the sewage that overflows into rivers and watercourses are beyond permitted limits. The Environment Agency and Ofwat launched a major investigation in November 2021 into sewage treatment works.</p> <p>Water companies could face legal action after investigation launched into sewage treatment works - GOV.UK (<a href="http://www.gov.uk">www.gov.uk</a>)</p> <p>The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 identify Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFAs) to manage local flood risks (i.e. risks of flooding from surface water, ground water and ordinary (smaller) watercourses).</p> <p>LLFAs are required to work in cooperation with Risk Management Authorities, including Water Companies, but this Act does not provide any enforcement powers against Water Companies either.</p>
31	Cllr Jajeh	In a recent Newsletter, the Barnet Labour Party claimed the council wasted millions in failed banks. Will the Leader confirm all deposited funds were returned with interest?	Leader	All money invested in Icelandic banks (Glitner and Landsbanki) were received with interest.
32	Cllr Clarke	What did the Leader do to reach out to the Markaz and ensure they felt welcome in Barnet?	Leader	The council supported the Markaz in a number of ways: promoting events that it held at the Hippodrome such as the interfaith blood donation sessions and connecting the group with other faith communities and organisations in the borough.
33	Cllr Marshall	How many electric charging points will be rolled out in the next municipal year?	Cllr D Cohen, Chairman, Environment	Plans are being made to deliver the Barnet 500 Project (substantially funded from the OZEV Grant as identified in the answer to Q29 above) which consists of introducing 500 EV charge Points across 34 residential streets. In addition to this it is expected that there will be an ongoing roll out of lamp column mounted EV charge points (based on current levels of requests) this could amount to a further approximate 250 charge points. In addition surveys are being undertaken currently to identify suitable sites for Rapid Charge Points - it is likely that this may lead to around 10 rapid charge points being installed within the next 12 months.
34	Cllr Mittra	Given the national shortage of COVID testing kits, have there been issues reported in Barnet at schools and care homes, or any other places?	Cllr Stock, Chairman, Health & Wellbeing Board	For care homes and other adult social care providers, there have been some reports of delays in providers receiving both PCR and LFD devices, particularly during the holiday period where issues were reported nationally. During outbreaks, providers are using the 119 escalation route and there is a national commitment of 48hr response to provide tests to care settings. In emergencies the council has a limited local supply of LFDs but has not yet had to supply these to providers. We continue to work closely with Barnet schools to support them during the pandemic. Most schools have enough LFD tests for their community. A few schools did not



## 25 January 2022 Questions to Council

39	Cllr Rawlings	Why did the Council fail to meet statutory deadlines in the handling of the Markaz planning application?	Cllr Greenspan, Chairman, Strategic Planning	Prior to referral to committee in the summer, the applicant for the Golders Green Hippodrome worked with officers and agreed an extension of time to extend the statutory determination period for the planning application. The planning application remains undetermined.
40	Cllr Greenspan	How many people has the Council helped back into work through its programmes since the administration was formed in 2018?	Leader	From March 2018 to March 2021 BOOST supported 621 residents into work. Since producing the Work, Skills and Productivity Action Plan, the Council have started tracking data on all council commissioned employment and skills programmes. From April to December 2021 BOOST and BELS have helped 371 individuals into work. The council are also working with the SHAW trust who helped 345 into work between April and November 2021. Between these providers the council is on track to help 1000 residents into work by March 2022.
41	Cllr Clarke	The approved outline planning application for the West Hendon regeneration includes a second pedestrian bridge. The design of this bridge directly endangers the SSSI. A number of concerns by environmental groups have been raised, and fresh evidence shows the planning application appeared to overlook key facts relating to the habitats and ecology of the area. Is it time for a rethink?	Cllr R Cornelius, Chairman, Housing & Growth	The Silk Stream Bridge was designed to avoid negative ecological impacts. Planning permission for its construction was approved in 2018 after full consultation with the Environment Agency, Canal & River Trust, Natural England and others. The London Wildlife Trust independently reviewed the proposals for planners and an ecologist was retained and involved in the design of the bridge to protect wildlife in the SSSI. The Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee were kept abreast of proposals including detailed discussions in November 2017. The Silk Stream Bridge will create a 'treetop' walk across the river, linking West Hendon Playing Fields to more than 2,000 new homes. The construction of the bridge provides an opportunity to remove invasive species, such as Himalayan balsam, from the area, improve wildlife habitats and enhance biodiversity. It will also create new pedestrian routes, linking residents to the open spaces of the Welsh Harp and West Hendon Playing Fields, the subject of a c£20m investment by the council. Residents on the West Hendon Estate are very supportive of the project. Re-positioning the bridge is unfortunately not straight forward. Moving it would require a comprehensive re-design, add very significantly to build & development costs, require a new planning application and re-negotiation of the footings without the assistance of a Compulsory Purchase Order (which was in place for the current route). Not proceeding with the bridge would inhibit movement between the regenerated estate and the playing fields and remove one of the key elements of the scheme masterplan as approved in 2013. The Council continues to receive ecology and biodiversity advice, via consultancy arrangements, and our emerging draft Sustainability Strategy will include considerations around the natural environment in the future. We continue to work with the Canal & River Trust, Brent Council and other partners to develop an overarching vision for the future of the Welsh Harp.
42	Cllr Brayne	How many fire risk assessments on Barnet Homes properties have been published since the Grenfell	Cllr R Cornelius, Chairman,	Barnet Homes have published 178 Fire Risk Assessments (FRA's) of residential Council housing blocks since the Grenfell Tower tragedy. These were uploaded to the Open Barnet website following a request to do so shortly after the Grenfell incident and can be accessed here; Barnet

## 25 January 2022 Questions to Council

		Tower disaster in 2017? Does the publication rate meet the required frequency? Why is this data seemingly lacking from the Open Barnet website under Datasets > Barnet Homes - Fire Risk Assessments ?	Housing & Growth	Homes - Fire Risk Assessments – Barnet Open Data  Since this time, Barnet Homes have made FRA's available as and when requested and will continue to do so. Currently there is no explicit requirement to publish FRA's, however as part of its work relating to building safety, Barnet Homes do have plans to make FRA's available on their own website during 2022/23. In the interim period please contact <a href="mailto:Information@barnethomes.org">Information@barnethomes.org</a> to request a copy of any up to date FRA that exists.
43	Cllr Grocock	How many homes have been built in the borough since 2018?	Cllr R Cornelius, Chairman, Housing & Growth	For the years 2018/19 to 2020/21 - 6,612 new homes have been completed in Barnet.
44	Cllr Cooke	Have the new owners of a long lease on artsdepot, in North Finchley, told you what they intend to do with the building?	Cllr R Cornelius, Chairman, Housing & Growth	The Arts Depot is still a council freehold.
45	Cllr Gurung	What discussions have taken place about the supply chain in regards to reducing our carbon footprint?	Leader	As noted in the Sustainability Strategy Framework report to December P&R committee, it is clear from the Carbon Baseline that the council's supply chain is a key area to focus on in order to reduce our carbon emissions and move to net zero by the proposed date of 2030. The newly adopted Social Value Policy seeks to secure wider social, economic and environmental benefits through supply chain procurement and our Themes, Outcomes and Measures specify carbon reduction outcomes as part of the council's expectations. The Framework report also provided next steps, one of which was a Procurement Strategy major redesign. This redesign will place sustainability as one of the key pillars of how the council procures goods and services and improve data collection, monitoring and insight across the council's supply chain activity.
46	Cllr Conway	What discussions have there been with the local housing associations about women's safety issues, including lighting in shared spaces and car parks?	Cllr Grocock, Chairman, Safer Communities Partnership Board	Discussions are currently being held with the council's Community Safety Team regarding this issue with the view to engagement with Registered Providers about these issues. Further information can also be found in the Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Woman & Girls strategy. We will also be asking Registered Providers to provide information about how they support the objectives of the strategy in our next Annual Performance Review.

## 25 January 2022 Questions to Council

47	Cllr Hart	How many miles of road have been improved in Barnet over the past 4 years?	Cllr D Cohen, Chairman, Environment	Due to the volume of time taken to calculate this number, Officers will commit to providing the response in the first week of February.
48	Cllr Schneiderman	Having rejected calls to appoint a biodiversity officer, who will be developing the proposed biodiversity action plan?	Cllr D Cohen, Chairman, Environment	The Sustainability Strategy was approved by Policy & Resources Committee in December 2021. The framework sets out the ambitions and proposed actions to meet government targets and create a sustainable future for Barnet. As part of this emerging policy, a Biodiversity Action Plan will be developed with a range of stakeholders, led by the Environment Directorate.
49	Cllr Rozenberg	Barnet's Food Security Dashboard shows that, in October 2021, 7,068 Barnet residents were listed as beneficiaries of Foodbanks. This was 33% higher than in October 2020. Did this negative trend continue throughout the Christmas period? What does it say about our society that food poverty is growing so rapidly, even in one of the wealthiest boroughs in the country?	Leader	<p>LBB publishes data on food security on the Food Security Dashboard. We take this from information provided to us by foodbanks throughout the borough. There is a time lag in updating the dashboard – we have just received data on November usage so it will be another month before we can provide information on usage of foodbanks over the Christmas period. It's also worth noting the caveats around the quality of the data and -based on what data we do have – not all of those accessing foodbanks in the borough are residents of Barnet.</p> <p>There are a number of external factors that can affect an individual or family's need to use a foodbank as school holidays, where we often see an upturn. It's also the case that we have a large number of asylum seekers temporarily accommodated in hotels, some of whom are known to access foodbanks, which could be influencing the data. Beyond this there are factors beyond the scope of local government or local community action, such as rising housing costs, changes to food stocks and welfare reform policies. Of course, one of the biggest factors influencing the growth of people accessing foodbanks in 2021 has been COVID-19 and the ongoing economic impact of the pandemic and we recognise the very significant contribution of foodbanks and wider community mobilisation in supporting our COVID response.</p> <p>We have also seen a significant benefit from the Barnet Food Hub which is able to put food to good use that would otherwise be wasted, and so supports our Net Zero ambitions. The Hub (run by our VSC partner the Barnet Together Alliance working closely with the Felix Project and Fair Share and large corporate donors) works with both tinned and fresh food and can accept and store perishable items that foodbanks are unable to take. These can then be transformed into meals which sees surplus food being used and cuts down on food waste. As a result, it is estimated that there have been 1,478 tonnes of CO2(E) emissions avoided so far.</p>

## 25 January 2022 Questions to Council

50	Cllr Smith	How many booster jabs have been given across Barnet so far?	Cllr Stock, Chairman, Health & Wellbeing Board	As of Monday 3rd Jan there was around 167,700 booster doses given for the Barnet registered population. This is around 73% of those eligible for a booster dose at the time. These figures are the highest in NCL
51	Cllr Sargeant	Could the Council liaise with the NHS to ensure that during the pandemic fit notes are sent out in a timely manner?	Cllr Stock, Chairman, Health & Wellbeing Board	The fit notes specifically for COVID illness are issued via 111 online, rather than local GPs. This is a nationally agreed protocol. Since the pandemic, there have been some national changes in issuing fit notes such as an introduction of electronic fit notes, as a result of a virtual consultation. However, issuing of a 'fit note' after 7 days off work, was considered medium priority by British Medical Association and Royal College of GPs, as part of their COVID-19 prioritisation guidance. This was deemed appropriate in order to support increased general practice support to the covid vaccination programme, across the country. As a result there may be some variability in the speed of issuing fit notes these across the borough. This has been raised locally and Barnet Council will continue to work with local NHS to ensure that this process continues to be as timely as it could possibly be, given various competing priorities.
52	Cllr Sowerby	Overall in 2021, how many businesses have we supported through Covid related support grants?	Cllr R Cornelius Chairman, Housing & Growth	There have been 2,894 businesses supported by covid related grants in 2021.
53	Cllr Mittra	When will the broken and missing wands on the A1000 cycle Lane be replaced?	Cllr D Cohen, Chairman, Environment	We monitor and maintain the A1000 cycle lane regularly. The missing wands are replaced as soon as possible by our term maintenance contractor.
54	Cllr Byers	How many potholes did the Council fill in 2021?	Cllr D Cohen, Chairman, Environment	3193 potholes were repaired in 2021
55	Cllr Clarke	Should planning applications be decided on their own merits?	Cllr Greenspan, Chairman, Strategic Planning	Each planning application must be determined on its own merits, taking into account national and local Planning Policy as well as other material considerations.

## 25 January 2022 Questions to Council

56	Cllr Brayne	Does the Leader agree that women are more likely to use segregated cycle lanes, which are safe and well lit, rather than less well-used, darker residential roads and quietways, and that our walks, quiet ways and alleys are inappropriate for cycling, because of the risk of pedestrian/ cyclist conflict? Will any assessment of this be included in the Equality Impact Assessment of the A1000 cycle lane?	Cllr D Cohen, Chairman, Environment	I agree well lit routes, for cycling and walking, will help women feel safer. For roads that can accommodate them, fully segregated, dedicated and well lit cycle lanes would be an ideal design choice for all cycle infrastructure, irrespective of gender, age or ability. However, this does not preclude consideration of alternative cycle design options where a balance between other factors such as available road space, route and destination connectivity and cost all need to be taken into account. The primary consideration is the safety of cyclists as well as other users, in the specific circumstances of each route. The EIA looks to address a number of considerations including age, ability and gender.
57	Cllr Wardle	Can the Chairman of CLL please provide an update on the borough's online library services?	Cllr Thompson e, Chairman, Community Leadership & Libraries	Online library services continue to be extremely well-used. Since the beginning of April 2021 there have been 398,161 loans of digital materials. This represents an increase of 79% (eAudiobooks), 45% (eBooks) and 195% (e newspapers/ magazines) compared with digital issues in the first 3 quarters of 2019/20. The Library service has also delivered a total of 164 online events and activities attended by 2,510 residents since April 2021. During the same period, 3,476 residents joined the library online and 48,364 library items were reserved online for loan via the Barnet Libraries Select and Collect service.
58	Cllr Cooke	Does the Leader expect Michael Gove to overrule any of Barnet's planning decisions the way his predecessor Robert Jenrick did at North London Business Park?	Leader	No.
59	Cllr Freedman	What work is the Council doing to combat fly-tipping?	Cllr D Cohen, Chairman, Environment	We have a new communication campaign dedicated to deterring fly tipping. Also new enhanced Community Safety Team has officers in high visibility uniform patrolling the borough daily to locate Fly Tips and carry out investigations to identify perpetrators and take appropriate action. In addition, we have revised and enhanced our arrangements within Street Scenes to ensure that fly tips are cleared as soon as possible.
60	Cllr Conway	Will the tramshed in Montrose Park be accessible for community use?	Cllr R Cornelius Chairman, Housing & Growth	The tramshed is envisioned to have some form of permanent use long term. It has power but no water, gas or telecoms. It is suggested that any interested parties contact <a href="mailto:estates.businesssupport@barnet.gov.uk">estates.businesssupport@barnet.gov.uk</a> detailing their proposal.

## 25 January 2022 Questions to Council

61	Cllr Teare	What has the council been doing to limit the impact of the Covid19 pandemic on learning?	Cllr Longstaff, Chairman, Children, Education & Safeguarding	An update on this is included in the Education Standards Report going to CES Committee on 19th January 22. Barnet Education and Learning Service (BELS) staff had various meetings with headteachers, other senior leaders and governors between April and June 2021 about what schools needed to help them to recover from the effects of school closures during the Covid19 pandemic and how best the council and BELS could support this. The council made £500,000 available from its covid recovery fund and BELS provided £100,000, to support education recovery. BELS officers worked with headteachers to design a project that would have maximum impact by providing structured support that addresses many of the challenges schools are facing. These projects started last term and are already showing significant impact.
62	Cllr Schneiderman	Having handed over North Finchley and Hendon libraries to developers, can residents be informed about whether similar plans are in place for Barnet's remaining libraries?	Chairman, Community Leadership & Libraries	The premise of the question is incorrect. Hendon and North Finchley libraries have not been handed to developers. In 2020 the Activist Group undertook an independent evaluation of the Barnet Library Service. In their report they identified that a 'number of Barnet's libraries would benefit from relocation to new premises' and recommended that the council identify 'long-term opportunities for improved sites as part of redevelopment plans'. The recommendations in the Activist group report were agreed unanimously at CLC Committee on 5th January 2020. This process is managed via the council's Infrastructure Delivery Plan. Unlike Labour-run Brent Council, which closed half its libraries some years ago, Barnet Council will not close any libraries.
63	Cllr Rozenberg	What consideration has been given to planting trees to reduce air pollution on the slope from A406 opposite Manor Cottages Approach N2?	Cllr D Cohen, Chairman, Environment	We will look at this location shortly, a contact or more detail would be useful as there is already a shelter belt of trees in this greenspace opposite the cottages adjacent to A406. (1 Manor Cottages Approach - Google Maps link to the site)
64	Cllr Richman	What more can be done to make our schools more sustainable?	Leader	The council has recently submitted a Public Sector Decarbonisation Bid (PSD3), requesting £5.3M from the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy via Salix Finance. If successful, this will lead to the installation of 19 heat pumps at 19 schools in Barnet, and additional energy saving measures such as solar panels, solar thermal and insulation. We will seek further funding if the projects are successful.
65	Cllr Sargeant	What consultation was taken by Barnet Council before choosing the names of the new Square outside the Civic offices that would be submitted to the public?	Leader	The Council's street naming policy requires the proposed name to be 'theme based' reinforcing local/historical character. The desire was to find a name for the new "Public Square" located at the front of the Barnet Council offices at Bristol Avenue in Colindale, to reflect Colindale's close links to the Royal Air Force since 1914. The theme chosen was the first female Tiger Moth pilots who were known as the "First Eight". This was in consultation with street naming colleagues, emergency services and the RAF Museum. Four names were removed due to similarities or scope for confusion with existing street names.  Subsequently the Council launched an online poll for the renaming of the new public square, on

## 25 January 2022 Questions to Council

				<p>Wednesday, 6 October 2021. The online poll, which was conducted via <a href="http://www.engage.barnet.gov.uk">www.engage.barnet.gov.uk</a>, invited the community, businesses and those that worked in Colindale to take part in remaining the square and was advertised through the Council's social media channels, residents e-newsletter and internally to staff, over this period.</p> <p>The poll was open for a four-week period and received more than 300 responses. Following this, the highest ranking name selected by the public; Patterson Square, went through a formal approval process and a four-week statutory consultation period.</p> <p>Now approved, we are pleased to announce that the Square is officially named Patterson Square, after female RAF and ATA pilot Gabrielle Patterson. The Square also celebrates the contribution made by all female pilots.</p>
66	Cllr Marshall	How do our number of EV charging points compare with our neighbouring boroughs?	Chairman, Environment	<p>According to statistics published by DfT in October 2021 this indicated the following number of charge points in Barnet at that time as 210 and this compares with neighbouring boroughs as follows:</p> <p>Hertsmere - 28          Enfield - 125          Camden - 373          Brent - 237          Harrow - 49</p> <p>Since October 21 the Barnet number has increased to 272 as the roll out of EV charge points is ongoing. Updated figures are published every quarter so the next update will be available within the next month.</p> <p>As identified in the answer to Q33 above Barnet has an ambitious programme to deliver over the next 12 month period which will provide a real step change in the number of charge points throughout the borough.</p>
67	Cllr Clarke	How has the Council's management of the Brent Cross Regeneration gone so wrong that Cricklewood Town Centre has been left with a massive, 3 storey eyesore?	Cllr R Cornelius, Chairman, Housing & Growth	<p>The regeneration has not 'gone wrong', it is on track and will improve the area significantly. The highways works to the junction of Cricklewood Lane and the A5 Cricklewood Broadway were completed last year as planned. Work is now underway to approve the appearance of the area in the short term, and to put the development site to good use in future, as set out in the answer to question 88.</p>
68	Cllr Richer	What plans, if any, does the borough have regarding district heating networks?	Leader	<p>Decarbonising heating and cooling is a central part of the government's Net Zero Strategy and is also highlighted within Barnet's recently approved Sustainability Strategy Framework.</p>

## 25 January 2022 Questions to Council

69	Cllr Cooke	Do you think that the very high Government target for the number of new residential units to be delivered in Barnet allows for the quality of new homes and the environment for existing residents, including avoidance of inappropriate density and height, to be safeguarded?	Leader	Barnet is required and has agreed to meet the targets as adopted by the Mayor of London's 2021 adopted London Plan as carried forward by the submission of Barnet's Local Plan. The target of 2,364 homes per year up to 2036 is challenging, however it will not be at the expense of equal securing sustainable growth and priorities for securing quality design and places with a range of housing tenures, type, size and affordability to meet local needs.
70	Cllr Rozenberg	What has been the initial response to the installation of CCTV in The Causeway N2 (Garden Suburb ward)? Does the Council believe it is proving effective in deterring crime, and if so, what consideration is being given to making the scheme permanent?	Cllr Grocock, Chairman, Safer Communities Partnership Board	Since the installation of the cameras in the causeway N2 there have been no reports of and no evidential recordings of any criminal activity. It should be noted that the hedging in the causeway was also cut back to allow better visibility and the lighting is all fully functional. The crime statistics continue to show this to be an area of low crime compared to other areas of the borough. This location will be considered as part of the CCTV Strategic Review.
71	Cllr Prager	From 3rd Feb all unvaccinated health & social care providers will have to be vaccinated. Does the Chairman know what percentage of these workers have now received at least their first vaccine?	Cllr Rajput, Chairman, Adults & Social Care	Covid 19 vaccination as a condition of deployment (VCOD) has been in place for all staff working in care homes and those who enter care homes as part of their role since 11th November 2021 (with exceptions for those entering to respond to an emergency and for those who are medically exempt) VCOD for the wider social care and health workforce will come into effect on 1st April 2022. Detailed national guidance on its application to the social care workforce has not been published at the time of writing. However, what has been published states that VCOD will apply to front line staff and those with face-to-face resident/patient contact in settings that are regulated by the Care Quality Commission (CQC). For social care, this definitely applies to CQC registered providers of home care, supported living and extra-care. To work from 1st April, staff in scope will need to have had their first dose by 3rd February 2022 at the latest. Locally, CQC registered providers of these services have reported an average of 81% of staff having had the first dose at the time of writing. It is not clear at the moment if VCOD will apply to social care staff who do not work in CQC regulated services but it is anticipated that this will be clarified in the detailed guidance.
72	Cllr Conway	Why has the Borough's CCTV system not been properly reviewed and updated since 2013?	Cllr Grocock, Chairman, Safer Communities	Since the current CCTV system was installed in 2013 - the contract with our CCTV provider required daily monitoring and maintenance of the cameras. There has also been ongoing deployment of additional mobile CCTV devices as required. The current reassessment of our CCTV system is part of a wider Strategic CCTV review - this review began in 2020 as our current contract comes towards the end of its term (and although hindered by the Covid pandemic) and includes a

25 January 2022 Questions to Council

			es Partnership Board	provider procurement exercise, re-location and build of a new LBB CCTV control room – as well as the review of our current CCTV system and assets. This review is reported to the Communities Leadership and Libraries Committee (CLLC).
73	Cllr Simberg	With the current Fit and Active Barnet Framework coming to an end in March, what are some of the biggest successes that have come from it?	Chairman, Adults & Social Care	A 'Fit & Active Barnet Framework review' report was presented to Adults & Safeguarding Committee in September 2021 (link below). The report outlines the successes and improvements throughout the Framework, some of which include; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The number of adults aged 16 and over who are active for at least 150 minutes per week increased by 7.3% between Nov 15/16 to Nov 17/18 (measured by the Sport England Active Lives Survey). With Barnet showing the highest increase amongst similar London Boroughs (by socio-economic factors) at the time of writing</li> <li>• Delivery of a FAB campaign involving the development of a FAB Hub (digital platform) and creation of the FAB Card - incentivising residents to be active through offering physical activity discounts and benefits. At time of writing there are 35,353 registered FAB Card holders</li> <li>• Formation of a Disability Physical Activity Network which has supported collaborative working to deliver inclusive interventions such as wheelchair rugby, dementia swimming and multi-sports session.</li> <li>• Procurement of a 10-year leisure management contract with Better which includes operation of the boroughs five leisure facilities and the delivery of health and community-based physical activity interventions</li> <li>• Delivery of two new leisure facilities at Barnet Copthall and New Barnet, supported by £44.9m Council investment and £2m from the Sport England Strategic Facilities Fund</li> <li>• Circa. £2m investment from Better to enhance facilities and Burnt Oak, Finchley Lido, and Hendon Leisure Centres</li> <li>• An estimated 2 million attendances across targeted physical activity interventions delivered within the borough e.g., Parkrun, London Youth Games, Health Walks and Rugby4Life</li> <li>• More than 2.5 million visits to the boroughs five leisure centres operated by Better between 1st January 2018 to 31st March 2020 - an increase of 9% based on the same reporting period in 2016-2017.</li> <li>• Delivery of Barnet Playing Pitch Strategy and Indoor Sport and Recreation Study</li> </ul> The full report can be found via; A4 Letterhead (moderngov.co.uk) We are currently in the process developing and updating the Strategy which is due to be presented to Adults & Safeguarding Committee in January 2022.
74	Cllr Schneiderman	Why does the sustainability framework make no reference to bringing back separate food waste collections?	Cllr D Cohen, Chairman, Environment	The UK Government has recently set out its framework for new waste management arrangements in England within the Environment Act. Barnet along with other local authorities is liaising with DEFRA and Ministers on the detail to be set out in regulation and guidance that will shape and direct future waste collection arrangements. This detail was not known or sufficiently confirmed at the time of producing the initial strategy document so was not directly referenced. The council will adhere to any statutory requirements arising from new regulation accordingly. The inclusion of such requirements will be considered as the strategy document is developed.

## 25 January 2022 Questions to Council

75	Cllr Teare	The Government has just published its Victims' Bill. What will Barnet be doing to change its culture to provide even better support to victims of crime in response to the Bill?	Cllr Grocock, Chairman, Safer Communities Partnership Board	Barnet Homes and the council supports victims of domestic abuse through a range of interventions including the provision of refuges and safe accommodation, an Independent Domestic Abuse Advocacy (IDVA) service, a Domestic Violence and Abuse One Stop Shop and Sanctuary Scheme. The Domestic Abuse Act has reinforced the requirements to support survivors of domestic abuse and the council is currently reviewing its VAWG strategy to reflect these changes and to enhance the support provided to victims. The GLA have been granted funding for London to provide safe accommodation and support services. Barnet Homes is bidding to the Mayor's London Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Framework to enable a specialist domestic abuse housing and floating support team providing trauma and gender informed assessments and support together with specialist training and acquiring Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance Accreditation (DAHA) accreditation for housing management services. The council, through its Domestic Abuse and VAWG Services and Children's Services have established mechanisms for supporting victims of crime and abuse. Trauma-informed mental health support for victims and survivors of abuse, crime and violence underpins our approach to working with victims. We have already established much of the specialist support outlined in the Bill through provision of Integrated Clinical Practitioners, Independent Sexual Violence Advisors and Independent Domestic Violence Advisors. Further, Restorative justice approaches are used to bring those harmed by crime or conflict and those responsible for the harm into communication in our Youth Justice Services to prevent conflict, build relationships and repair harm by enabling people to communicate effectively and positively; it is an approach that can be used in schools, workplaces and communities. The council will continue to follow the Victims of Crime Code of Practice (Victims Code) which came into effect in April 2021 in our work with victims and partners in the criminal justice system. The Victims Bill which is out to consultation until 3 February 2022, will further strengthen our approaches to supporting victims, by extending these core principles to all vulnerable or intimidated witnesses and victims (defined as all child witnesses under 18 and any witness whose quality of evidence is likely to be diminished because they are suffering from a mental disorder or physical disability or has significant impairment of intelligence and social functioning and/or victims of sexual offences and modern slavery offences). It will also support our engagement with communities affected by crime and anti-social behaviour to give communities a stronger voice in making our neighbourhoods safer and strengthen accountability.
76	Cllr Sargeant	The CST are working to prevent the anti social behaviour outside the civic offices. Can the Council look to see whether the new design may also be looked at again?	Leader	The anti-social behaviours that have been reported are not thought to be encouraged or exacerbated by the design of the square so the council's Community Safety Team are currently working with the school and police, to remedy the situation.

## 25 January 2022 Questions to Council

77	Cllr Stock	How much has been invested in Barnet's parks over the past four years?	Cllr D Cohen, Chairman, Environment	Approximately £2.67m of investment has been secured from 2016/17 to 2021/22 to deliver parks infrastructure improvements. This is in addition to £6.6m which has been invested in Montrose Playing Fields, Silkstream Park and Colindale Park. These investment costs general exclude maintenance.
78	Cllr Mitra	What progress has been made on signing leasing agreements for the Tarling Road hub?	Cllr R Cornelius. Chairman, Housing & Growth	Good progress being made, leases are likely to be completed shortly.
79	Cllr Dushinsky	What improvements have been made to customer service in the last year?	Leader	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At the beginning of the year a range of improvements were made with our street scene service, with the introduction of a new IT system. The improvements enable a more proactive and targeted approach to update our residents, ensuring accuracy of the information provided within our customer service teams. This has resulted in fewer complaints and escalations and an 18% reduction in the need for residents to report missed bins, as an example. Enhancements to the data available enables identification of trends and hotspots much more easily, ensuring continuous improvement in the service offered.</li> <li>• There has been continued investment in improving the council's website, which is now the preferred way residents contact us and find information on Council services. Making the website more accessible to all and driving a considerable rise in resident satisfaction and usage. We have seen a 13% in resident satisfaction over the last year</li> <li>• Working with our Council tax team there has been a programme of work to improve web content, access to information, phone access, reducing the need for residents being passed between teams and staggering reminder notices out to residents to reduce demand and wait times when residents call us</li> <li>• Improvements have been made to ensure that when residents need to speak to someone, the support is there. Multiple changes have been made to the telephony system to make it easier for customers to navigate. We have seen a significant reduction in customer complaints and Members' Enquiries related to the telephony service following these changes</li> <li>• Resources have been prioritised to provide more time to support residents with more complex and sensitive issues or where residents cannot engage online. Digital champions have been embedded into the customer service team to support residents getting online</li> <li>• The Social Care Direct function transitioned out of the CSG Customer service contract early in 2021 and a new model for customer service delivery within adult social care was established. This enabled the team to resolve complex contacts more effectively, with a multi-disciplinary approach involving both social care and occupational therapy skills, expertise and knowledge</li> </ul>

## 25 January 2022 Questions to Council

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Residents told us that sometimes the customer service they receive is inconsistent and a new training offer has been established, which all staff can access to improve the standard of customer service across all services</li> </ul>
80	Cllr Rawlings	When will the Council do something about speeding traffic along Cool Oak Lane?	Cllr D Cohen, Chairman, Environment	A Road Safety Request has been submitted to look at speeding on Cool Oak Lane. A speed survey will be undertaken and if applicable, measures to address the issue will be proposed.
81	Cllr Prentice	How successful was this year's Christmas tree collection?	Cllr D Cohen, Chairman, Environment	The council provides its kerbside Christmas tree collection service throughout the month of January. The service is still live and separate collection tonnages are not collated for this seasonal service. Feedback from the council's Street Scene team is that the service has been well received and take up levels this year have matched those of previous years.
82	Cllr Clarke	How many car parks were highlighted as suitable for development in Banet's local plan?	Chairman, Strategic Planning	Thirteen site proposals are taken forward in the Barnet Local Plan that have car parks accessible to the public. The Mayor of London wants to develop the car parks at High Barnet and Finchley Central tube stations, for example.
83	Cllr Grocock	Is the Leader pleased with how the reforms to CIL funding have been positively impacting Barnet, our residents and businesses?	Leader	<p>With the new arrangements and enlarged budgets, Area Committees are considering larger and more varied schemes. In the first six months since implementation approximately £0.5m of CIL funding has been allocated by the Committees (twice the amount of the previous 12 months). There is also an increase in community led schemes coming to the Committees, and this is trending upwards as the new arrangements bed in and Members engage with their networks.</p> <p>The reform committed to undertaking a review after two cycles of committees, the review has identified some areas for further improvement and officers are working to implement these improvements now.</p>
84	Cllr Cooke	In the last 3 months, what progress has been made towards securing the various sums owed to the Council by the developer of 11-13 Approach Road EN4 and obtaining redress for the developer's failure to meet its covenanted obligation which was due in May 2021?	Leader	The s106 affordable housing contribution has been received. A demand notice for the CIL payment was issued in May 2021. Payment has not yet been received - as the developer has been trying to make the case that the s106 monies were the only monies outstanding. Officers have not accepted this position and are in correspondence with the developer's solicitor on the matter. We are awaiting a response from the developer's solicitor to an email sent prior to Christmas.
85	Cllr Richman	The School Streets Initiative has been successfully introduced in various locations in and around	Cllr D Cohen, Chairman,	Officers will take, and prioritise requests, for school streets and a programme of implementation may be rolled out subject to funding being available. Further information can be found on the Environment Committee update report found here

## 25 January 2022 Questions to Council

		London, indeed, across the United Kingdom. It provides for a road outside a school to be designated a “school street” whereby there are temporary restrictions on traffic during school drop-off and pick-up times. It is said to result in a safer, healthier and more pleasant environment for everyone - school communities, parents and children, and neighbours. Can the Council give guidance on, assist with, and promote this scheme in Barnet?	Environment	<a href="https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s69566/Social%20Distancing%20Committee%20Report%20Jan%202022_Rev4.4%20-%20clean.pdf">https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s69566/Social%20Distancing%20Committee%20Report%20Jan%202022_Rev4.4%20-%20clean.pdf</a>
86	Cllr Conway	Will the replies to the VAWG survey link in to the CCTV review?	Cllr Grocock, Chairman, Safer Communities Partnership Board	The public consultation responses will be shared with the Community Safety Partnership Board for consideration for the development of the Domestic Abuse and VAWG Strategy 2022 – 2025 and wider workstreams (such as the Strategic CCTV review) as appropriate.
87	Cllr Grocock	Can the Leader tell us more about the newly-planted Covid memorial woodland planted in the borough?	Leader	<p>The new memorial woodland – planted ahead National Tree Week in November 2021 honours those who have been affected by the loss or sickness of a loved one. It can be found across three separate areas in the Mill Hill Park extension just off Flower Lane.</p> <p>The planting includes 500 trees made up of six different species of native trees which are – Field Maple, Crab Apple, Wild Cherry, Hawthorn, Alder and Goat Willow. While some of the trees will blossom and create beautiful colours in the springtime, others will grow into fine specimens to attract and sustain local wildlife.</p> <p>A range of organisations helped Barnet Council plant the young woodland, including nearby Flower Lane Day Centre, Brookland Infant School, Etz Chaim Primary School and Dolls Primary School. The Memorial Woodland, which is due to open to the public in Spring 2022 will include new walkways, a seating area and will be open to everyone, all-year round. A 5-year after-care plan will be in place to ensure the site remains a clean, safe space to visit.</p>

## 25 January 2022 Questions to Council

88	Cllr Schneiderman	When demolition works were proposed to widen the Cricklewood Lane/Cricklewood Junction, why were no plans made at the same time for what to do with the remaining land resulting in a fenced off eyesore? Will the administration now apologise for this shabby treatment of one its town centres?	Cllr R Cornelius, Chairman, Housing & Growth	The council is working through the use of the land remaining after completion of the junction works and will engage with the local community about future plans, including the potential for a landscaped area with seating, greenery, affordable work space and new public realm. The council has also spent considerable time exploring other options, including the provision of affordable housing, which have been ruled out. This, combined with the impact of the pandemic more widely has delayed the development of alternative plans for the site.
89	Cllr Thompson	How have our schools been impacted by the recent outbreak of Omicron?	Cllr Longstaff, Chairman, Children, Education & Safeguarding	We continue to work closely with schools in Barnet. The numbers of positive cases in schools (pupils and staff) rose at the end of the Autumn Term and continued to rise at the start of the Spring Term. This has led to staffing capacity issues in some schools although all schools were able to open as planned at the start of the Spring Term. The most recent data shows a positive downward trend which we continue to monitor.
90	Cllr Mittra	What progress has been made on rectifying the defects at the Tarling Road hub?	Cllr D Cohen, Chairman, Environment	A carriageway defect was identified on Tarling Road outside the Hub, the defective area was repaired on the 17 December 2021.
91	Cllr Byers	Will the Leader join me in congratulating all the Barnet health staff who received awards in last month's Royal Free Hospital awards?	Leader	Over 200 people joined Barnet Hospital staff ceremony in November 2021 and Barnet council would like to extend thanks and gratitude to all staff at Barnet Hospital for working extremely hard and responding to the pandemic. In particular, warm congratulations to the following members of staff who have received staff 'Oscar' awards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultant microbiologist and infection control doctor Anand Sivaramakrishnan, who was named clinician of year;</li> <li>• Non-clinical employee of the year - Bethany Brown, head of patient experience and involvement.</li> <li>• Angshuman Mukherjee, clinical director and consultant in emergency care for the Chairman Leadership Award;</li> <li>• Intensive Care Unit matron Deborah Kirby who received quality improvement and innovation award;</li> <li>• Sue Young, volunteer of the year;</li> </ul>

## 25 January 2022 Questions to Council

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultant physician Simon Brill, who won patient safety award;</li> <li>• BAME network leads and representatives;</li> <li>• Shayra Khanom, clinical teaching fellow, who received education award;</li> <li>• The clinical team of the year - Respiratory and cardiology response team.</li> </ul>
92	Cllr Clarke	What lessons around building maintenance have been learned from the Apthorp Care Home?	Cllr R Cornelius, Chairman, Housing & Growth	Leasing out an asset delegates responsibility for repairs and maintenance to the tenant. However, this case has made it clear, that whilst not a statutory requirement, spot checks to ensure that lease terms in this respect are being fulfilled, are prudent. Validating building compliance in specific leased out properties already takes place, so this will be expanded to cover other properties too, on a prioritised basis. There is also a formal route for escalation of any issues identified through council oversight of services delivered within the council estate, for example contract management or monitoring activity.
93	Cllr Wardle	Would the Chairman of Housing comment on new home completions over the past few months?	Cllr R Cornelius, Chairman, Housing & Growth	<p>In 2020/21 2369 homes were completed in Barnet, exceeding the housing delivery target of 2364. During Q1 – Q3 2021/22 provisional figures show that 649 homes have been delivered in the borough. This includes 13 completions across the estate regeneration programme (all at Dollis Valley). Affordable Housing in Millbrook Park has been progressing in 2021/22 with a total of 84 completions in both phases 5 and phase 9. Further completions are expected in phases 6 and 10 this year.</p> <p>From June to December 2021 Barnet Homes has let 542 new homes to residents with an assessed housing need under the Housing Allocation Scheme. These properties are a combination of new build supply, new acquisitions and private sector lets. Registered Providers have supplied 135 new builds of which Open Door Homes has completed 56. The new acquisitions programme has during the same period delivered 71 new homes and let2barnet 336 private sector tenancies. This new supply has contributed to a reduction of households in temporary accommodation with the overall number at the end of December being 2142, the lowest total for over 10 years.</p>
94	Cllr Mittra	How many Barnet pupils have taken up the council's holiday food programme?	Cllr Longstaff, Chairman, Children, Education & Safeguarding	Through the Household Support Fund (previously the Covid Winter Support Fund) Family Services has allocated funds for 13,619 vouchers (1 per child) as of Jan 5th 2022. Vouchers have been distributed for Oct/Nov/Dec/Jan through schools and centrally for Early Years children. Further vouchers for households identified will be issued in Feb for the periods of Feb/March 2022. In addition, more than 3,000 children and young people accessed the summer BACE programme to provide them with engaging and healthy activities with an emphasis on physical, emotional, and nutritional wellbeing during the school holidays. Figures for the winter BACE programme will not be reported until 28th January but will be lower with about 500 accessing face to face activities with food due to Covid and families choosing to self-isolate before Christmas. We also worked with the Barnet Food Hub, utilising a volunteer workforce, to pack 500 activity bags and 500 food parcels, with a healthy main and a pudding, including a recipe

## 25 January 2022 Questions to Council

				card to encourage families to cook together. DfE guidance was that if not all activities could be face to face then activity packs with food parcels could also be delivered.
95	Cllr Marshall	How has the revenue from the green waste collection charge been used?	Cllr D Cohen, Chairman, Environment	Income generated from the subscription based garden waste collection charge has been used to support the offer and provision of a fortnightly kerbside collection for Barnet residents. The service has been extremely well received in its second year of operation. The council has sold 44,403 stickers as of 7 January. This is a participation rate of 59.2%. This successful take up has enabled the council to invest in street scene/environment service enhancements, in particular £1.1M additional funding for street cleansing services. Medium term financial savings commitments incorporated within the January 2020 decision to introduce a chargeable service have been delivered.
96	Cllr Conway	Have any safety evaluations been done at the junction of Montrose Avenue and Burnt Oak Broadway (A5)?	Cllr D Cohen, Chairman, Environment	There is currently no safety review being undertaken at the A5 / Montrose Ave junction. Officers have looked at the accident database for the past 5 years and found there was 6 injury collisions at or in the immediate vicinity of the A5/Montrose Avenue junction, all resulting in slight injury only. - Three of these involved a car in collision with a pedal cycle. - One involved a car in collision with a motor-cycle- One a single vehicle (car)- a car in collision with a busNo pedestrian collisions are recorded.
97	Cllr Prager	What work is being done to specifically assist the poorer areas of Barnet?	Leader	<p>The council's estate regeneration programme provides much needed investment to some of Barnet's most deprived communities, this not only includes the provision of new high-quality housing but also investment in new community facilities, public realm and open spaces, improved transport links and better integration into surrounding areas. The schemes also provide construction jobs, training and apprenticeship opportunities. More detail on what has been delivered as part of the regeneration programme can be found in the Annual Regeneration Report - <a href="https://www.barnet.gov.uk/regeneration/annual-regeneration-report">https://www.barnet.gov.uk/regeneration/annual-regeneration-report</a>.</p> <p>The council is also working with broadband providers to provide fibre broadband to the council's housing stock so that access to high speed broadband is no barrier to getting on line. Rollout by Community Fibre started in March 2021 and has connected almost 4,500 homes in Grahame Park, East Finchley and Edgware with all 13,500 council homes to be connected by the end of 2023. Fibre broadband is being offered at affordable rates and, for those most in need, free for a year. At the same time, the council is working with local community groups, like Colindale Communities Trust, to improve Wi-Fi in community spaces and offer digital skills training for residents.</p> <p>In addition to investment in places, BOOST provides employment support as well as housing and benefits advice to Barnet residents. Whilst based in Burnt Oak, one of Barnet's most deprived wards, they work across the borough to support Barnet's deprived communities. BOOST</p>

## 25 January 2022 Questions to Council

				supports not only job-ready Barnet residents but all those who are unemployed or want a change in career. This includes rough sleepers, graduates, people with disabilities, those furthest from the job market and those who lack confidence or motivation.
98	Cllr Mittra	There appears to be a three way dispute between TfL, the Council and Peabody regarding the ownership and responsibility for the area of planted land between Strawberry Vale and the A1000, (around where bus stop D is). It is seldom maintained, but TfL are firmly of the view that it is the council's responsibility. Will the council please send a crew down to pick litter and make a substantial trim back on the bushes near the bus stop, and along the pavement?	Leader	Officers are investigating the responsibility for the land and will liaise with relevant stakeholders and seek to agree, and implement, an action plan to address the issues identified.
99	Cllr Mearing-Smith	What educational successes is the Chairman of Children's most proud of the borough for having achieved in 2021?	Cllr Longstaff, Chairman, Children, Education & Safeguarding	I am proud of the way our schools and settings have managed and responded to the challenges of the pandemic. Our schools have worked incredibly hard to help children and young people recover from the disruption caused by the covid pandemic. Although there were no published results for early years or primary school assessments, we have continued to have very strong GCSE and A Level results across the Borough, with Barnet ranked third best for Attainment 8 at GCSE out of 151 local authorities. The Education Standards Report is going to CES Committee on 19th January 22 which provides more detail.
100	Cllr Clarke	How much money has been spent on the 2 Cricklewood junctions?	Cllr D Cohen, Chairman, Environment	The total cost of the construction and utility works excluding land is £3.3m. This is being funded by HM Government Grant.
101	Cllr Jajeh	Overall, how many missed bin collections were there in 2021?		See response to Q12
102	Cllr Conway	What discussions has the Council had with Thames Water about sewage overflows in our parks?	Chairman, Environment	The Council has reported to Thames Water the sewage overflows in the parks at various times as they are the responsible Risk management Authority for sewage-flooding, and we are still following up on some of the enquiries for sewage overflows in Watling Park

			<p>o West Hendon Playing fields  o Walkway from The Fairway/Ellsmere Avenue into Stoneyfields Park.  Regular meetings are being held with Thames Water.</p> <p>Thames Water has identified ‘under reporting’ of sewage flooding as one of their key issues. They have stated that this ‘under reporting’ is the reason why they are unable to identify the cause of the sewage flooding in most of the cases.</p> <p>To help address this, the Barnet webpage was updated (April 2021) to include important phone numbers and various reporting tools for sewage flooding. (See extract below)</p> <p>The reason for sewage flooding is often due to the overload of the sewers and their inability to cope with the extreme rainfall events. In extreme rainfall events the surface water is diverted into foul water lines - to protect property flooding but this can lead to sewage overflows on footpaths or greenspaces. The Council is actively working to progress with Sustainable urban drainage schemes in the borough to reduce the load on Thames Water sewers and working in partnership with them to achieve this. For example, Thames Water is a key partner in the Barnet Council led £6m Silk Stream Flood Resilience Innovation (SSFRI) project. As part of this project, sustainable urban drainage schemes will be put forward to reduce the load on Thames Water sewers.</p> <p>We submitted a funding bid to Thames Water as part of their surface water management programme last year to assess the feasibility of a wetland in Friary Park (storing rainfall runoff), aiming to reduce the foul flooding in the area.</p> <p>Misconnections can significantly increase the risk of foul flooding and sewage overflows. We have drafted information/advice to educate local communities to ensure rainwater and foul pipes are connected in right way, surface to surface and foul to foul.</p> <p>The Watling Park sewage overflow is being considered as part of the Silk Stream Flood Resilience Innovation (SSFRI) project; for which thermosensors are being installed in the Thames Water network to identify the ingress of foul water in surface water network.</p> <p>An agreement is being signed with Thames Water to allow data sharing of the flooded areas and properties (within the borough) impacted by sewage flooding in the July 2021 event. Once signed, the data and the extent of the flooding can be reviewed, and the responsibilities of the different Risk Management Authorities will be identified for appropriate action to be taken.</p> <p>Letters have been sent issued by Senior Management (Director level) to corresponding counterparts in Thames Water to escalate the recurring issues.</p> <p>Cllrs have provided assistance to officers by escalating the issues to the Member Liaison Officer at Thames Water., Michael Benke (Michael.Benke@thameswater.co.uk)</p> <p>The relationship with Thames Water and Affinity Water in relation to water services has been</p>
--	--	--	--

25 January 2022 Questions to Council

				<p>bolstered by the implementation of the Utilities Charter. The Charter sets out best practice methods of communication and stakeholder engagement amongst other items and helps to secure a strong working relationship between all parties, this in turn helps strengthens the overall relationship with the water service providers within the borough</p> <p>Sewage flooding problems are widespread across all London Boroughs due to aging infrastructure, rapid urbanisation, unprecedented population growth and evident impacts of Climate Change. There are separate independent reviews being undertaken by Thames Water and Greater London Authority for July 2021 flooding.</p> <p>Reporting sewage flooding via the LB Barnet website, which can be accessed via the below link <a href="https://www.barnet.gov.uk/environmental-problems/flood-and-water-management/report-flood">https://www.barnet.gov.uk/environmental-problems/flood-and-water-management/report-flood</a></p>
103	Cllr Fluss	What has been the level of attendance at Barnet Schools during the pandemic and how does this compare nationally?	Cllr Longstaff, Chairman, Children, Education & Safeguarding	<p>Every two weeks, during the Autumn Term, the DfE released national attendance figures. Barnet's attendance was generally above national figures in all weeks; in some weeks it was significantly above national. Primary attendance in Barnet dropped slightly below the national average in December. We have reviewed the data in special schools and PRUs to understand attendance issues in those settings.</p>
104	Cllr Mittra	Does the council have sufficient supplies of grit for this winter?	Cllr D Cohen, Chairman, Environment	<p>Re Highways manage the council's winter maintenance arrangements and have arrangements in place with suppliers to ensure sufficient grit stock is in place in advance of the winter season commencing and that this is replenished to minimum required levels as the material is used throughout the winter period.</p>
105	Cllr Hart	How many speed cameras are there in Barnet and how does this compare to those given to our neighbouring boroughs?	Chairman, Environment	<p>Transport for London advise there are the following numbers of Safety Cameras (i.e. Speed Cameras and Red Light Cameras combined) in Barnet and adjacent boroughs.</p> <p>Barnet – 26          Brent – 24          Camden – 19          Enfield – 29          Haringey – 27          Harrow – 21</p> <p>Of the Barnet Cameras four are “red-light only” cameras (i.e. only enforce against people jumping a red traffic signal), and two enforce red-lights and record speed data but without speed enforcement. The remaining red-light cameras also have “speed on green” enforcement capability (i.e. can enforce speed when the lights are green to traffic). The majority of the</p>

25 January 2022 Questions to Council

				<p>cameras in Barnet are situated on the Transport for London Road network, with one on the borough controlled A1000. Locations will have been based on meeting criteria for introduction that related to incidence of injury collisions at the time. A review of locations based on the criteria in operation was undertaken a few years ago when TfL upgraded the “wet film” cameras to digital. In October it was reported to London Councils Transport and Environment Committee that In their Vision Zero Action Plan, TfL remain committed to London’s safety camera network as part of efforts to reduce speed and speed-related collisions in the capital. They are currently undertaking the essential strategic assessment and ensuring they have all the necessary elements in place before rolling out new camera sites. TfL have announced that they will be procuring mobile speed/safety cameras to increase coverage and the ability to react to advised incidents of speed non-compliance. There are also plans to re-establish the regular joint London Councils and TfL meetings with boroughs to discuss speed management plans, Vision Zero and improvements in road safety.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Total Safety Cameras</th> <th>Speed Only</th> <th>Red light (with and without “speed on green”)*</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Barnet</td> <td>26</td> <td>10</td> <td>16 (of which 10 can enforce speed on green)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brent</td> <td>24</td> <td>16</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Camden</td> <td>19</td> <td>12</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Enfield</td> <td>29</td> <td>24</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Haringey</td> <td>27</td> <td>20</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Harrow</td> <td>21</td> <td>18</td> <td>3</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>*Numbers of red light cameras with “speed on green” in other boroughs is not known to us</p>		Total Safety Cameras	Speed Only	Red light (with and without “speed on green”)*	Barnet	26	10	16 (of which 10 can enforce speed on green)	Brent	24	16	8	Camden	19	12	7	Enfield	29	24	5	Haringey	27	20	7	Harrow	21	18	3
	Total Safety Cameras	Speed Only	Red light (with and without “speed on green”)*																													
Barnet	26	10	16 (of which 10 can enforce speed on green)																													
Brent	24	16	8																													
Camden	19	12	7																													
Enfield	29	24	5																													
Haringey	27	20	7																													
Harrow	21	18	3																													
106	Cllr Clarke	Should Barnet Highways inspect works for themselves or entrust utility companies when complaints arise about the state of pavements?	Cllr D Cohen, Chairman, Environment	We carry out inspections ourselves in line with our highway inspection policy and associated intervention levels.																												
107	Cllr D Cohen	How many places of worship are there in Barnet, how does that compare to a decade ago and how does it compare to our neighbours?	Leader	<p>Based on information in the OS AddressBase Plus (publication date 09/12/2021), approved records with at least a secondary classification of 'ZW' denoting record’s main use is a place of worship, there are</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">LOCAL AUTHORITY RECORD</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Barnet</td> <td>174</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brent</td> <td>58</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Camden</td> <td>56</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Enfield</td> <td>143</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	LOCAL AUTHORITY RECORD		Barnet	174	Brent	58	Camden	56	Enfield	143																		
LOCAL AUTHORITY RECORD																																
Barnet	174																															
Brent	58																															
Camden	56																															
Enfield	143																															

## 25 January 2022 Questions to Council

				<p>Haringey 100 Harrow 90 Herstmere 47</p> <p>We do not hold data allows us to compare to a decade ago.</p>
108	Cllr Conway	Will the Council pilot lighting Watling Park as a key access route to the town centre during appropriate hours in the winter months?	Cllr D Cohen, Chairman, Environment	Due to a spate of night time assaults at the park, it is recommended that after dark the alternative well-lit route of Orangehill Road is used as the link between Watling Avenue and Deansbrook Road. Even when lit, the path is surrounded by dark open space which provides opportunities for criminals to both hide and get away. Assaults also took place when the path was lit. This is not a simple problem to solve. The council will work with all stakeholders, including the Police to establish the safest way forward.
109	Cllr Zinkin	How many new businesses have opened in Barnet over the past 12 months?	Cllr R Cornelius, Chairman, Housing & Growth	Due to a lag in the release of data, Barnet's 2021 business birth rate is not yet available. However, the latest ONS data shows that Barnet had 4,305 new businesses register in 2020. The 2021 figure is due to be released in March 2022 and will be shared with Members after this.
110	Cllr Mittra	When this year will the Council start to tackle weeds on footways, roads and public areas?	Cllr D Cohen, Chairman, Environment	The council commissions a third party contractor to deliver its weed management programme. This consists of up to four treatments per fiscal year at key points of the growing season across the highway network. The last treatment concluded in September 2021 and the next is scheduled to commence in March 2022 (subject to weather conditions).
111	Cllr Clarke	How has Claremont Road been allowed to become such a mess?	Cllr D Cohen, Chairman, Environment	<p>Claremont Road is inspected on a 3 month cyclical basis, with the last inspection being undertaken in November 2021. During this inspection the Highways Area Inspector noted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• damaged footway slabs outside Whitefield School</li> <li>• potholes on junction with Marble Drive</li> <li>• Pothole outside 70</li> </ul> <p>These have now all been repaired.</p> <p>The next inspection is due mid-February where any further intervention defects will be picked up</p>
112	Cllr Conway	Is there now a limit of £25,000 per project at area committee? Is this in response to a conservative councillor successfully bidding for £200,000?	Leader	Under the new arrangements there is no scheme funding limit and this is to encourage ambitious applications. Area Committees are mandated to work within their overall budgets, and budget reporting is in place to enable them to do so. Under the previous arrangements a scheme funding limit of £30,000 was in place between Feb-21 and Jun-21, and prior to that a limit of £25,000.

## 25 January 2022 Questions to Council

113	Cllr Mitra	Is there an update on any plans for Middlesex County Cricket Club to play home games in Barnet?	Leader	As part of the emerging Copthall Masterplan the English Cricket Board (ECB) and Middlesex County Cricket Club had advised of their prospective interest in creating an enhanced offer at the Copthall site which would include a community cricket facility. However, the Council received indication in 2020/21 that the current plans were not being progressed due to the impact of Covid 19.
114	Cllr Clarke	What proportion of foster carers has the Council retained after the first placement - please provide a breakdown?	Cllr Longstaff, Chairman, Children, Education & Safeguarding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2020-21: 90% (9 retained after 1st placement out of 10 approvals)</li> <li>• 2019-20: 67% (4 retained after 1st placement out of 6 approvals)</li> <li>• 2018-19: 72.5% (21 retained after 1st placement out of 29 approvals)</li> <li>• 2017-18: 80% (8 retained after 1st placement out of 10 approvals)</li> </ul>
115	Cllr Conway	Why did the Council Leader need to write to all councillors to outline the area committee process?	Leader	This was due to a number of applications (from councillors of both main parties) not containing enough information for committees to properly consider, or having followed the recommended route of prior engagement with lead officers for initial feasibility.

This page is intentionally left blank