

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>MEETING</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">COUNCIL</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>DATE AND TIME</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">TUESDAY 26TH JULY, 2022</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AT 7.00 PM</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>VENUE</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">HENDON TOWN HALL, THE BURROUGHS, LONDON NW4 4BQ</p>

Dear Councillors,

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


Item No	Title of Report	Pages
8	Questions to the Leader (and Committee Chairmen if he/she has delegated)	3 - 10

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QN	Councillor	Question	Response by	Briefing
1	Cllr Narenthira	Please outline progress so far to deliver the administration's manifesto pledges?	Leader	<p>Good progress has been made on implementing the new administration's priorities, especially on the top 5 commitments. We have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - declared a Climate Change emergency, appointed a Lead Member and Lead Officer on Climate Change, joined the London wide Anti-Idling campaign and have started planning how to deliver the Citizens Assembly on Climate Change in the Autumn to help us get to net zero. -delivered approx. £400k savings over 4 years by reducing SRAs and will deliver a budget predicated on keeping CT low - started work on options to deliver the 1% council tax refund - confirmed our commitment to protect weekly bin collections - started work to convert housing delivery plans to ensure they contribute to delivering at least 1000 council homes -submitted modifications to the draft Local Plan to strengthen policies on height and affordable housing - approved the revised Outline Business Case for CCTV transformation programme at CLLC in June <p>The agenda goes much wider than the top 5 commitments. Work has started on the development of a new corporate plan which will include the timeframe for delivering other priorities, including delivering excellent services for all our residents, the implementation of Community Skips, ward safety audits, piloting of community safety hubs, and the delivery a new community participation strategy. We have also formally made the decision to bring the bulk of Capita 'Easy Council' services in-house next year and intend to end the remaining CSG contract during our first term of office.</p>
2	Cllr Thomas	What is the administration's view on ULEZ expansion?	Cllr Schneiderman	We note that the previous Conservative administration in Barnet included lobbying to expand the ULEZ in their Long-Term Transport Strategy. A detailed response to the current consultation is currently being drafted to ensure residents in Barnet are not penalised in any expanded ULEZ zone.
3	Cllr Young	Does the Leader of the Council agree with the former Conservative administration's proposed policy position as set out in the draft Local Plan (Regulation 19), which designated the whole of the A1000 as an area where tall buildings (8-14 storeys) may be appropriate?	Leader	No I do not, and that is why we will be proposing an amendment to that policy as part of our commitment to stand up to over development. Unfortunately, we have inherited a policy from the previous Conservative administration, which it is too late to completely remove before it is examined by the planning inspector in the Autumn, but we are proposing amendments to protect town centres such as East Finchley and High Barnet from 14 storey tower blocks, which may have been possible under that previous Conservative policy.
4	Cllr Longstaff	For nearly a decade Labour have been calling for thirty minutes free parking at all pay and display locations. When will Labour introduce the 30 minutes of free parking?	Leader	30 minutes free parking was not a pledge in the 2022 manifesto. Unlike the previous Conservative administration, the new Labour administration will deliver on its manifesto pledges.
5	Cllr Mittra	How will the Council ensure that Black History Month is celebrated across the Borough?	Cllr Sara Conway	We are starting to develop our plans for celebrating Black History Month, this will support the administration motion "Celebrating Black History Month – Time for change: Action not words"
6	Cllr Thomas	What is the administration's view on 'pay per mile' driving schemes in Barnet?	Leader	There aren't any 'pay per mile' schemes in Barnet, and there are no plans for any, but I do remember seeing a line on road pricing in the previous administration's procurement plans in the past - so perhaps Cllr Thomas will advise why that was included.
7	Cllr David	What progress has been made to date to re-introduce the popular community skips service in Barnet?	Cllr Schneiderman	The Environment and Climate Change Chair and Vice Chair are working with Officers on an options appraisal due for review and approval at September's Environment and Climate Change Committee. It is expected that, subject to Committee approval, the new service will be available towards the end of 2022.
8	Cllr Grover	One of the Administration's first acts on taking over the Council was to change the constitution in order to create an 'Environment and Climate Change' committee, yet Labour's flagship policy of establishing a Citizens Assembly on Climate Change won't be scrutinised by this Committee. Why will committee members not be able to see details on the proposed Assembly before it is set up, including how residents will be able to engage with it, how often the Assembly will meet, and what the cost to taxpayers will be?	Leader	There is a Climate Emergency, and we don't want to delay setting up the Citizens Assembly to tackle it in Barnet. We know the Barnet Conservatives don't believe there is a Climate Emergency, and this question is yet more evidence of this fact. The details of the Citizens Assembly will be reported back to the Environment and Climate Change Committee in the autumn and members will have plenty of opportunities to scrutinise its work.
9	Cllr Rose	Will the Chair of the relevant Committee support the Whetstone Councillors to address the need for controlled parking zones on Manus Way and Blackney Close? Given its proximity to the station and High Road, residents struggle to park, including those who have access needs.	Cllr Schneiderman/Roberts	I am very happy to support the Whetstone Councillors in addressing the needs of their residents and am happy to meet with them to discuss what those needs are.
10	Cllr Thomas	What is the administration's target, in percentage terms, for new affordable homes as a proportion of new homes completed over between now and 2026?	Cllr Young	Unfortunately a large number of new home completions in 2026 will have already been granted planning consent under the previous Conservative administration who were not good at securing affordable housing and therefore a number of these schemes will not have delivered as many affordable homes as they should have. Since taking control of the Council, the new Labour administration has prioritised affordable housing and acted quickly to submit modifications to the draft Local Plan to include a tougher overall policy that 50% of development should be affordable housing (where the Mayor's fast-track target of 35% is not used). Taking a longer term view, by 2035 Barnet has a target to deliver 35,000 new homes, of which at least 35% we expect to be affordable, with the ambition to have a strategic target of 50% in line with the London Plan.
11	Cllr Velleman	Will the Leader of the Council congratulate Queenswell Foundation and other schools in Barnet on a fantastic schools music festival run by the Barnet Education Arts Trust?	Leader	Yes, I am delighted to join you in congratulating all participating schools, pupils and the Trust for a very successful music festival! It's just the sort of event we need to show we are serious about Culture in Barnet.
12	Cllr Longstaff	Does the Leader believe it is right that committees should choose to commit to expenditure on projects without any proposals or cost estimates?	Leader	I don't know what Cllr Longstaff is referring to, but the previous Conservative administration agreed to an entire medium term financial strategy at Full Council and Committees with very little in the way of detailed proposals or cost estimates - maybe that's what he's referring to?
13	Cllr Mittra	What is the proposed timetable for further consultation and engagement regarding the A1000 Cycle Lane?	Cllr Alan Schneiderman	Officers are currently finalising a scoping document to address a two phase engagement and consultation exercise. The initial phase envisages a series of activities such as workshops and focus groups, to be carried out during the summer and early autumn. This will be followed by a more formal consultation in the autumn with final recommendations on the future of the A1000 route early in 2023.
14	Cllr Thomas	The Leader said he wants 'affordable homes not tower blocks', so will he oppose any tower blocks proposed by Sadiq Khan, yes or no?	Leader	I will stand up to all developers against tower blocks that do not conform to the new rigorous policies on height that we are will establish. From the Cricklewood B&Q site to a local plan that reads like a Developers' Manifesto, the Barnet Conservatives showed who was boss when they ran the council. Cllr Thomas may remember including the Finchley Central Tube Station site in the Local Plan when he was leader, along with his administration's bid for £9.8m from the Housing Infrastructure Fund to support this scheme on a site where they now claim they oppose development.

15	Cllr Whysall	Can the Leader please confirm that all directly employed Barnet Council staff are able to save with the North London Credit Union through direct deductions from their pay?	Leader	Yes, although the council does not have any staff saving with the North London Credit Union via deductions from their salary. However, a number of staff do save with the London Capital Credit Union via salary deductions, and this is available for all staff.
16	Cllr Dean Cohen	Does the Lead member for the Environment support the parklets, and indeed the newly replaced parklets, that have just been	Cllr Schneiderman	Yes, I think it's a good idea.
17	Cllr Monasterio	What is the Council doing to help people with the cost of living crisis?	Leader	A paper will be brought to Sept P&R to outline the implications of and support for those faced with the cost of living crisis. We have also brought information support offered by the council and other local organisations in to one page on our website Cost of living support Barnet Council. (link in the righthand column). We have also published this information in the summer edition of Barnet First and our social media platforms.
18	Cllr Thomas	Why has the Barnet Labour Group changed its policy of having an opposition councillor chair the Audit committee?	Leader	Given the various financial scandals that took place under the watch of the previous Conservative administration, I don't have much confidence in their stewardship of the Audit Committee.
19	Cllr Radford	Now that Barnet has finally caught up with other local authorities and declared a Climate and Biodiversity Emergency, will the Council undertake to talk to other Councils where a Citizens' Assembly has been run, as well as taking written submissions on this topic from Barnet Friends of the Earth and others to learn the lessons of what has worked well in engaging the community in	Cllr Schneiderman	I will be happy to do so, and work to do this already underway.
20	Cllr Longstaff	The Chair of the Environment and Climate Change Committee has stated that "Councillors should pay for parking, like the residents". How does that tally with introducing a new ward-based permit for councillors, as residents don't have access to a ward-based permit?	Cllr Schneiderman	<p>The Council is removing the free member permit which, while intended to allow parking for ward business, provided for parking in any permit or paid parking place throughout the borough.</p> <p>The replacement permit is charged at the same rate as a resident would pay for an equivalent permit and only allows parking in bays available to residents.</p> <p>The new permit is for Ward Councillor use only whilst undertaking ward business. The changes will see a removal of the ability to park borough-wide and to park in 'casual' paid parking facilities such as car parks and on street 'pay and display' type bays.</p> <p>The provision of a permit for use in multiple Controlled Parking Zones (where multiple CPZs are found within the ward) arises because ward and controlled parking zone boundaries are not aligned. This ensures that all Ward Councillors to whom the charge would apply only pay one charge, with variation only to reflect the emissions of the vehicle.</p> <p>The validity is different but the principle is equivalent to a resident permit in that members require a permit for their ward, whereas residents require a permit to park close to their home. Members who are resident in a controlled parking zone in their ward will continue to need a separate resident permit in order to park outside their home or while not on resident business.</p>
21	Cllr Kamal Gurung	Why is Barnet's CCTV so outdated and what is being done to change this?	Cllr Sara Conway	The legacy CCTV contract is coming to an end after 6 years. The current CCTV assets are being reviewed in line with the councils borough wide strategic CCTV review project. This project is looking to install and utilise new technology as well as flexible redeployable assets to cater for the changing needs of issues around the borough. This also ties in with the councils plans for reinvigorating town centres and open spaces.
22	Cllr Thomas	What are the administration's plans for cycle lanes in Barnet?	Cllr Schneiderman	<p>Through a planned engagement and consultation exercise we are currently working towards recommendations for the future of the A1000 cycle route. We are also finalising preliminary designs for a cycle lane running parallel to the A5, using residential roads and greenspace. This will run from Edgware station to West Hendon playing fields and will form part of the Barnet Loop walking and cycling route.</p> <p>Beyond these two schemes that are already in hand, we envisage work on developing a cycle strategy for Barnet, as part of the Long Term Transport Strategy, that will identify and facilitate specific leisure and commuter cycling routes within the borough, connecting where appropriate to the wider London cycling network. We are also engaging with Brent Cross developers to expand the local cycling offer in the SW of the borough.</p>
23	Cllr Sargeant	Could we have an update on when the works will begin on Rushgrove Park?	Cllr Schneiderman	<p>The planning application for Rushgrove Park was considered by the Councils Strategic Planning Committee on 16 June 2022 and was unanimously approved. The link to the decision can be found here:</p> <p>https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cld=703&Mid=11087&Ver=4</p> <p>Construction on site is anticipated to begin in Quarter 3 2022/23. Future updates will be made available via the parks section on the Council's website.</p>
24	Cllr Wakely	Does the Leader support the rail and tube strikes that have had a huge impact on the lives of Barnet residents and businesses over the past month?	Leader	I support the right for all workers to withdraw their labour following the correct industrial relations process - it's a fundamental human right. In the case of the recent rail and tube strikes, the Government (if you can even call it that at the moment) have utterly failed to get round the table and agree a deal, or deal with the cost of living crisis, and it is entirely their fault that strikes have taken place. The impact on Barnet residents and businesses is therefore down to the Conservative Government.
25	Cllr Lemon	Please can the Chair of the Environment & Climate Change Committee provide an update on the reintroduction of the food waste collection?	Cllr Schneiderman	A date is yet to be set for the re-introduction of a food waste recycling service, but it is our intention to do so as soon as possible. The project requires significant investment into vehicles, staffing, depot space and containers. It is important to align service changes to the upcoming requirements of the Environment Act, on which the Government's response to consultation is awaited.
26	Cllr Thomas	How much will the 'Citizen's Assembly' cost to run and how long will it run for?	Leader	We are currently in the design phase of introducing the Citizen's Assembly - exact costs have not been agreed yet.
27	Cllr Ambe	What plans are there to establish a law centre in Barnet?	Leader	We fully intend to have a Law Centre in Barnet to provide vital support to local residents. I have had a discussion with Middlesex University who are happy to support this enterprise and we will soon be setting up a task force to move this project forward.
28	Cllr Longstaff	When can residents expect the re-introduction of the food waste collections?	Cllr Schneiderman	A date is yet to be set for the re-introduction of a food waste recycling service, as its re-introduction is subject to the matters addressed in the response to Question 25.

		In the first two months of the administration, what have we achieved for residents within the Brent Cross regeneration area?		<p>Since taking control of the council, Cricklewood Ward councillors have met weekly with the Brent Cross Regen team and are working to reset the relationship between the council and local residents. The first new style resident drop-in went well with council officers, developers and councillors on hand to answer questions and pick up many local issues arising from the regeneration. Councillors have been on several ward walks with residents and will continue to do so. Councillors are working hard with police, residents and council officers to address anti-social behaviour and are looking for opportunities for young people in the regeneration. We welcome the new small businesses onsite and are particularly delighted to see Happy Face Pizza, Karma Bread and Cricklewood Coffee opening. Responding to local concerns, Cllrs Clarke and Schneiderman have successfully got agreement for the Brent Cross Team to look afresh at the plans for the Clitterhouse Playing Fields to ensure the new park reflects the needs of existing residents as well as those who will move into the area.</p>
29	Cllr Clarke		Cllr Ross Houston	
30	Cllr Thomas	Who does the Leader consider as his boss, the people of Barnet or the trade unions?	Leader	The people of Barnet and not developers or Capita shareholders.
31	Cllr Mittra	Will ward members be consulted soon over the future of Park House in East Finchley?	Cllr Ross Houston	the design and viability for the site. When the review has been completed, we will be briefing the ward members on the proposed development in advance of public engagement.
32	Cllr Mire	Does the Leader support the proposed airline strikes that will ruin the holiday plans of many Barnet residents over the summer?	Leader	<p>Of course nobody wants to see strike action, and that's why what's needed is a resolution, with all parties negotiating in good faith and honouring commitments they've previously made. The Government have failed in their part in this.</p> <p>Barnet's Healthier High Streets programme launched in April 2022. Any business, regardless of location, can take part in Barnet's Healthier High Streets Programme by expressing their interest/getting in touch with the Public Health Business Engagement officer via healthierhighstreets@barnet.gov.uk or 07801991857. Further information about the programme can be found at: https://www.barnet.gov.uk/barnetstreets</p> <p>Once an expression of interest is received, site visits will be conducted and support provided to the business in order to help them fulfil the criteria they need to become a Healthier High Streets business. Public Health Business Engagement Officer is also conducting weekly outreach visits to two pilot high streets: West Hendon and North Finchley to raise awareness of the scheme, this is to be extended in August 22 to East Finchley and Edgware and, by early 2023 outreach visits will be happening across all high streets in the borough. In order to understand how we can make the programme work for businesses, we are also actively encouraging feedback from businesses directly via our business survey found here (link in the right hand column 1). Information on the scheme is regularly included in the Barnet Buzz Newsletter and we encourage all Councillors to spread the word about Healthier High Streets with business owners in their local area.</p> <p>And how is information on businesses taking part, offering among other things toilet facilities, water bottle refills and breastfeeding facilities, being advertised to the public?</p> <p>To communicate with residents and customers, businesses that are taking part in the programme will have the Healthier High Streets window sticker displayed. The Healthier High Streets sticker looks like this:</p> 
33	Cllr Claire Farrier	What information, encouragement and support is the Council providing to shops, cafes, pubs and other business premises, to take part in Healthier High Streets? And how is information on businesses taking part, offering among other things toilet facilities, water bottle refills and breastfeeding facilities, being advertised to the public?	Cllr Houston/Schneiderman	
34	Cllr Thomas	How many of the 1,000 affordable homes that the Leader has pledged to build will be extra to those already in the pipeline?	Cll Houston	We are committed to delivering more genuinely affordable homes in Barnet and to achieve this our first priority is to review the existing pipeline to explore opportunities for converting the affordable homes already planned into social rent or London Affordable Rents. Based on the initial assessment it is anticipated that over half of the 1000 homes may need to be from schemes that are not yet approved, whilst ensuring that new schemes coming forward have the most appropriate tenure mix, and unit size to meet housing need. Our manifesto pledge is to build at least 1,000 council homes, so if we can do 1,000 in addition to what's in the current pipeline we will.
35	Cllr Velleman	Will the relevant Committee Chair meet with the Whetstone ward Councillors about a potential crossing on Totteridge Lane?	Cllr Schneiderman/Roberts	Happy to!
36	Cllr Longstaff	What is the reason for the delay in re-instating the quarterly community skip service?	Cllr Schneiderman	The Environment and Climate Change Chair and Vice Chair are working with Officers on an options appraisal due for review and approval at September's Environment and Climate Change Committee. It is expected that, subject to Committee approval, the new service will be available towards the end of 2022. At June Environment and Climate Change Committee, officers were tasked to consider how the introduction of community skips might be used as an opportunity to raise public awareness of the importance of, and options for, disposing of waste and litter properly, develop options and proposals with a further paper brought back to committee in due course and prior to implementation.
37	Cllr Lusingu	What is being done to divest from investments in fossil fuel companies / decarbonise the Council's pension fund?	Cllr Anne Hutton	The Pension Fund Committee (PFC) takes its Responsible Investment duties seriously. The Committee formulated its Responsible Investment policy in 2019 and since then has taken steps to reduce the Carbon Emissions from the fund by around 40k tCO2, on a Scope 1 and 2 measure. Net zero is an important ambition and PFC is looking to update its policy over the autumn: Developing the Funds Responsible Investment strategy.pdf (modern.gov.co.uk); it will develop a strategy around how it engages and possibly divests from companies who are not meeting their obligations under the Paris Agreement, however as shareholders we may be in a better position to influence policies of companies not meeting their obligations rather than divesting. It will also consider how the Pension Fund can deploy capital to support the development of new greener technologies, at both a global and local level. This, of course, has to be done while being mindful of and having a strong fiduciary duty to members of the pension fund.
38	Cllr Thomas	Given the Labour group's strong view in opposition that all services should be run in-house and that this was best value for money, how quickly will Labour implement this policy?	Leader	As soon as we possibly can, hence the decision taken at Policy & Resources on 19 July.
39	Cllr Mittra	When will the results of the East Finchley CPZ consultation be available?	Cllr Schneiderman/Rich	Officers will be contacting Ward Councillors in August to present the outcome of the engagement and consider recommendations.

40	Cllr Prager	What impact does the Leader believe the current rates of inflation will have on the Council, and will it have any impact on the delivery of promises laid out in his Party's manifesto?	Leader	Current rates of inflation are difficult to manage and we're seeing an impact not just on council services but also on residents. The blame for this lies squarely with the Government. The new administration in Barnet will do exactly what we pledged to do in our manifesto. We will deliver on our Top 5 pledges, and work hard to achieve as much of the wider manifesto as we can within the first four years.
41	Cllr Clarke	The Long-Term Transport Strategy drawn up by the previous Barnet Conservative administration committed the Council to lobbying TfL for the Ultra-Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) to be extended to the borough boundary. Given that the Mayor of London is now consulting over such a ULEZ extension, will the Leader support the Mayor's call for the Government to help fund a comprehensive scheme to help motorists to scrap older more polluting vehicles, and to promote the use of car clubs and where possible encourage switching to more sustainable forms of transport?	Cllr Alan Schneiderman	Yes.
42	Cllr Grocock	The residents of the Borough have been waiting for the Boroughwide CCTV review to be concluded. It was promised to us in July, then October, then March 2022. Please provide the end date for this to be concluded, and what the issue(s) are in providing this much awaited review.	Cllr Sara Conway	The review is ongoing. This is taking a long time because the Conservative administration failed to properly manage and invest in the Borough's community safety infrastructure with this being the first review since 2013. All updates including a timeline and project milestones have been reported through CLLC and will continue to be reported in this way. The review includes Crime statistics across the borough as well as a review of the technology required to tackle the identified issues in a range of settings. New and emerging technology is also being reviewed in line with new government and industry guidance relating to both hard and software origins. Updates will be made to relevant committees at appropriate times and as project milestones are achieved. 2 responses:
43	Cllr McGuirk	How many Platinum Jubilee events took place in the Borough? Would the Leader congratulate all residents and community groups who organised and participated in these events and thank council staff for their work to support residents in ensuring all these celebrations could go ahead?	Leader	More than 130 street parties and community events took place across Barnet over the Platinum Jubilee weekend. Three beacons were lit on the Thursday evening, including one at Golders Hill park, at the culmination of a community fun day organised by the council in partnership with the City of London. Community event held at Golders Hill Park in collaboration with City of London. A Platinum Jubilee Civic Service and Reception organised by the Mayor's Office which took place at St Mary's Church Hendon. The Mayor was invited and
44	Cllr Thomas	Does the Leader commit to implement all of the ideas and suggestions made by the so-called 'Citizen's Assembly'?	Leader	I trust the residents of Barnet and therefore I have every confidence that the Citizens Assembly will come up with sensible, affordable and cost-effective proposals.
45	Cllr Innocenti	What are the new administration's plans for regenerating and revitalising our town centres and high streets?	Cllr Ross Houston	We are undertaking a review of the town centre investment programme to develop a new strategy for our town centres, with sustainability at its heart, working in partnership with Town Teams and actively engaging with local businesses, residents and community groups. This will provide a framework for bespoke packages of interventions to revitalise our main town centres and high streets involving a potential matrix of initiatives centred around enhancing the leisure offer, vibrant arts & culture scene, community hubs to better align public services, public realm improvements, suitable new housing, targeted business support and inward investment programme.
46	Cllr Longstaff	When will the Leader bring a motion to Council to remove the 1% Social Care Precept council tax increase for 2022/23, in order for the Leader to fulfil his promise to Barnet residents for a freeze of council tax?	Leader	It may not need a motion to Council. We have tasked officers to give us options to deliver the 1% council tax refund, and a report will come to Sep P&R.
47	Cllr Rich	Would the Leader join me in congratulating Barnet's Youth Offending Services for their 'Good' rating following Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) inspection and thank all staff and partners involved?	Leader	I am delighted to join you in congratulating Barnet's Youth Offending Services for their 'Good' rating following Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) inspection and I thank all staff and partners involved.
48	Cllr Thomas	If there is a conflict of opinion between the 'Citizen's Assembly' and the Labour administration, which view will prevail?	Leader	The councillor is missing the point. The Citizens' Assembly is about the Council working in partnership with local people to come up with a jointly agreed climate action plan.
49	Cllr Mittra	What is the latest update on the consultations with residents of Fairlawn Avenue regarding speeding problems?	Cllr Schneiderman/Rich	The speed survey forms part of a wider feasibility study under Road Safety & Parking to identify possible solutions following the Officer/Member site visit. The speed survey is due to commence in September/October when schools return. The speed survey locations will be shared with Members prior to implementing on street for agreement. Following the feasibility study, if it is identified that measures are required, Officers will provide a Chief Officer Decision with their recommendations and costings.
50	Cllr Grover	How many pledges did the Labour Party make in their manifesto for the recent Council elections?	Leader	I'm sure Cllr Grover has counted them himself. For the benefit of the public, here is the whole manifesto, so they can see our full list of pledges: http://www.barnetlabour.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/651/2022/04/Barnet-Labour-Manifesto.pdf
51	Cllr Rose	Last month, we marked Pride Month here in the UK and across the world. As an LGBT+ Councillor, and resident of this wonderfully diverse borough, will the Leader of the Council and relevant Chair explore what more can be done for Pride Month in Barnet next year?	Leader	Yes, and we will be delighted to work with you on this.
52	Cllr Thomas	If the Labour group are against outsourcing, why are they outsourcing policy formation and decision making to a 'Citizen's Assembly'?	Leader	We're not outsourcing anything. The Citizens' Assembly is an opportunity to work in partnership with residents on a big issue, because we pledged to put residents and communities at the heart of what the Council does.
53	Cllr Zubairi	What are the administration's plans for improving community engagement?	Cllr Sara Conway	We are drawing up a whole new strategy for community engagement and participation, which will put residents and our communities at the heart of what the Council does, starting with our Citizens' Assembly on Climate Change which will begin work in the autumn.
54	Cllr Longstaff	The Leader said he wanted to help residents in tackling the cost of living crisis. When can residents in a Band D dwelling expect their £13.37 cashback?	Leader	A paper will be brought to Sept P&R to outline the implications of and support for those faced with the cost of living crisis. Including how we will deliver on our pledge to refund the 1% council tax increase.
55	Cllr Innocenti	Barnet in places has some of the worst cases of air pollution in London. What is being done as a matter of urgency to tackle this problem and risk to lives?	Cllr Alan Schneiderman	We have already signed up to London's Anti-Idling Campaign as well as taking part in World Clean Air Day – as part of our work on Climate Change we will be introducing a number of other initiatives to improve air quality.
56	Cllr Thomas	How much will the 1% rebate of the adult social care precept cost to administer and how much revenue will the council lose as a result?	Cllr Edwards	The administration is working with the relevant teams to ensure we implement this manifesto pledge, there is no further cost to the council tax payer. The 1% CT equates to roughly £2m.

57	Cllr Mittra	How much money has the Council provided to support the plans for Market Place Playground to date, and what more can be done to help ensure the project is a success?	Cllr Schneiderman/Rich	The project has been allocated £30k from Area Committee budgets, the council has also allocated £50k from Strategic CIL for when the project is in delivery. Separate to the project there is a small Spinner that needs replacing and this is being done as part of standard maintenance works (circa £3,500). I am keen as Chair of the Area Committee to work with the ward councillors and the organisation to help find further funds to deliver the project.
58	Cllr Wardle	Will Labour set a maximum storey height in Barnet to stop "tower block blight"?	Cllr Young/ Cllr Houston	A maximum storey height threshold would not, as a single mechanism, prevent inappropriate tower blocks from being developed across the Borough. This administration has inherited a Local Plan Policy from the previous Administration which considered appropriate locations for tall buildings across the borough to be the A1000 and A5 Corridor, Town Centres and opportunity areas. However, the council has taken the opportunity to submit Local Plan Modifications to protect the borough from excessive tower block development. We have sent these changes to the Planning Inspector, but at this late stage in the process we can't say if these will be accepted and a maximum storey height threshold would not be accepted. Even so, on the Tall Buildings Policy the council is proposing a stronger, more criteria-based and design-focused policy, with greater safeguards in place. We are seeking to restrict references to locations where tall buildings would be acceptable and highlighting the constraints for tall buildings in town centres such as N Finchley and Finchley Central as well as along the A1000. We will also bring forward Supplementary Planning Guidance to further control tall buildings in the borough.
59	Cllr Beg	What progress has been made to take forward the administration's proposals on community safety hubs and safety audit walks?	Cllr Sara Conway	Community Hubs are currently being considered in order to define the operational requirements that deliver the best support for the community. In addition to this positioning and location considerations are being given to ensure easy/ convenient access to these services by residents and service providers. The aim is to launch a pilot scheme in the Autumn.
60	Cllr Thomas	Can the Leader explain why Barnet doesn't get the same number of police officers per households compared to other London boroughs?	Leader	The BCU demand for Response, Local Investigation and Public Protection was mapped using a demand tool called Process Evolution. BCU resources are split across all the three London Boroughs. Each London ward received 2 x Dedicated Ward Officers and 1 x PCSO. Last year some BCUs received Town Centre Teams they were based on the wards and town centre's with the most significant demand. There were also some wards that were given an uplift, these were wards that had highest crime levels outside of the Town Centres. The general formula for allocation of police across London has not changed since Boris Johnson was Mayor of London.
61	Cllr Rose	What road safety measures have been introduced in Whetstone to help reduce speeding and what else can be done?	Cllr Schneiderman/Rich	Officers have completed one scheme in Whetstone and are in the process of completing another. Oakleigh Park South Highways introduced measures on Oakleigh Park South to reduce speeding. These safety measures included: - Refreshing the existing road markings - The introduction of new road markings including "Slow" and dragons' teeth markings - The installation of Vehicle Activated Signs
62	Cllr Longstaff	What are the estimated staff costs of administering the 1% cashback for the Social Care Precept increase?	Cllr Edwards	Manor Drive and York Way Officers have completed speed surveys and traffic movement surveys on Manor Drive and York Way and are due to begin the design phase.
63	Cllr Velleman	How will the Council build on the successes of the anti-idling campaign launch at All Saints' Primary School in Whetstone, where he heard from a number of remarkable schoolchildren on the impact of climate change?	Leader	The administration is working with the relevant teams to ensure we implement this manifesto pledge, there is no further cost to the council tax payer.
64	Cllr Thomas	Will the Leader rule out imposition of Low Traffic Neighbourhood schemes in Barnet?	Leader	We recognise the success of the launch of the anti-idling campaign and will be drawing on this experience to introduce this initiative across Barnet. A communications plan is being developed which will be launched after the summer
65	Cllr Innocenti	What is the administration doing to ensure the interests of the natural environment are at the heart of what the Council does?	Cllr Schneiderman	We will not impose any LTNs in Barnet - as we said during the election. Whilst we wish to explore ways of making streets healthier, we do not wish to see these imposed. If residents are supportive we would envisage more 20mph zones especially around schools and would additionally encourage car clubs, car sharing and improving cycle parking provision and cycle storage. The new administration will also seek to get the A1000 cycle route right.
66	Cllr Greenspan	The Labour administration has abolished one of the planning committees, and they're already struggling to get through their business. Might the Labour group consider reinstating the removed committee to make sure that all applications can be heard in the taxi rank fashion?	Cllr Young	forests where residents support this, and working in partnership to deliver proper protection of the Welsh Harp. We are also developing a robust boroughwide biodiversity strategy, and have appointed a biodiversity officer already.
67	Cllr Clarke	What is the new administration doing to recognise and enhance the provision of arts and culture in the borough?	Cllr Ross Houston/Conway	The new Labour Administration is committed to running services efficiently to keep Council Tax low for residents. The efficient running of Planning Committees is part of that commitment to our residents. All reports were decided in good time for all three planning committees at the last committee cycle in July. It is concerning that the Opposition wants to add additional unnecessary committees to increase bureaucracy, increase costs and reduce efficiency. The chairs of the planning committees will of course continue to meet regularly with Planning Officers to ensure the continued smooth running of the planning committees in the future.
68	Cllr Thomas	Given that the Labour Group have a track record of 'nimbysism', including opposing and abstaining on affordable homes for NHS staff, where, specifically, will the administration be building its 1,000 affordable homes?	Cllr Houston	The Town Centres team have recently appointed a Creative Economy Officer, to work with arts and culture partners around the borough, mapping our cultural assets, makers and creators. This officer will be working with the Strategy and Engagement team, and with creative and cultural organisations, groups and individuals across the Borough to develop a Cultural Strategy for Barnet. This will set out a road map towards a Borough of Culture bid for 2026.
69	Cllr Rose	Will the Leader of the Council join with the Whetstone Councillors in congratulating the community group Love Whetstone, who have fundraised for a Platinum Jubilee bench in Whetstone High Road and for all they do throughout the year?	Leader	The pipeline of housing delivery is being reviewed to ensure that affordable housing is delivered to meet housing need, taking into account scheme viability, unit size and location. New schemes will be reviewed by Housing and Growth Committee as they come forward. We are not in favour of buildings on green spaces.
70	Cllr Longstaff	What is the estimated cost of postage for the 1% cashback for the Social Care Precept increase?	Cllr Edwards	Yes, I am delighted to thank and recognise all community groups, including Love Whetstone, for the work they do all year round for our communities across Barnet.
71	Cllr Farrier	What information and support is the Council providing to help tenants of larger properties wishing to downsize and free up homes for families in need, and how can we do more to help on this?	Cllr Ross Houston	The administration is working with the relevant teams to ensure we implement this manifesto pledge, there is no further cost to the council tax payer.
				Barnet Homes provides a downsizing scheme to council tenants wishing to downsize to smaller homes. The scheme includes a cash incentive, which increases for each bedroom "given up", to a maximum of £4,000, arranging removal companies to assist with the move and a tailored hand-holding service through a dedicated (Fresh Start) Officer. The downsizing scheme is promoted through targeted mailshots, Barnet Homes quarterly newsletter to residents (AtHome), and on the Barnet Homes website.

72	Cllr Thomas	How will the council ensure that it's 'Citizen's Assembly' will attract ordinary, open minded residents rather than obsessive and extremist activists who only represent niche views?	Leader	To answer the point about how residents will be engaged and the Citizens' Assembly participants recruited, I confirm that alongside existing community groups there will be a representative sample of the community involved.
73	Cllr Velleman	Will the Leader of the Council and Chair of Children, Education & Safeguarding Committee congratulate Pavilion School for moving into their new building and for the work they do as one of the Pupil Referral Units in the Borough?	Leader/Cllr Coakley Webb	Yes, congratulations and thanks to the Pavilion School!! It is good to see the Pavilion now in its new building.
74	Cllr Conway	make a commitment not to increase the garden waste collection charge?	Leader	We don't have any plans to put it up.
75	Cllr Radford	Will the Leader join me in congratulating both East Barnet School and Church Hill School for their recent Good Ofsted inspections, given the pressures of both Covid and the higher demands of the new Ofsted regime?	Leader	Yes, congratulations to East Barnet and Church Hill School for their 'Good' Ofsteds.
76	Cllr Thomas	Apart from virtue signalling, what real difference has declaring a climate emergency achieved?	Leader / Cllr Scheiderman	It's raised awareness of the failure by the Barnet Conservatives to take climate change seriously.
77	Cllr Clarke	Ahead of the local election, the Barnet Conservatives put a letter through doors that claimed the development of 19 storeys on B&Q Cricklewood had been stopped. Could the Leader clarify the current position of the B&Q development?	Leader/Cllr Houston	This leaflet was very confusing, the Conservatives claimed to have stopped a planning application that they voted to approve, indeed they liked it so much, they included a nearly identical number of flats in their Draft Local Plan. The former Secretary of State didn't stop the application, but has put it on hold while he decided whether to determine the application himself or refuse it. The SoS has now changed, along with much of Government, and we await an update.
78	Cllr Longstaff	What are the estimated bank charges for the 1% cashback for the Social Care Precept increase?	Cllr Edwards	The administration is working with the relevant teams to ensure we implement this manifesto pledge, there is no further cost to the council tax payer.
79	Cllr Rich	How will the Council try to improve powers to deal with anti-social behaviour in public spaces?	Cllr Sara Conway	The Community safety team are currently going out to public consultation on the introduction of a borough wide Public Space Protection Order (PSPO). This was brought before the Community Leadership and Libraries committee in June. Subject to the outcome of the public consultation, an order will be drafted for sign off and implementation. This PSPO increases the ability of both police and council enforcement officers to take quick decisive action for issues relating Anti-social behaviour, littering, dog fouling etc.
80	Cllr Thomas	Does the Labour group intend on switching to a Cabinet system of governance?	Leader	We are seriously considering it. I believe the committee system is not fit for purpose if you want to make significant, transformational change at the pace Barnet residents so richly deserve.
81	Cllr Naqvi	Is Barnet supporting the Right to Food campaign?	Cllr Sara Conway	Yes. In addition there are a number of workstreams emerging from the reviewed Barnet Food Plan that align with the national Right to Food campaign. Barnet's draft Food Plan addresses three main challenges for the food system: health of the population, health of the planet and food insecurity. The proposed recommendations within the new plan emphasises the challenges faced by food insecurity and supporting those in crisis as well as looking at the sustainability angle and the importance of healthy food intake. The proposed vision is to make Barnet a fantastic place for eating for all and support Barnet residents to have access, opportunity and knowledge required to eat food that is good for them and good for the planet. Proposed actions focus on reducing inequalities in Barnet on food insecurity, supporting families to build resilience at individual- and household-level, and that supplies of emergency food aid is available for those in crisis. A strong partnership between all stakeholders involved in the food system, including local residents and voluntary and community sector, will drive the vision forward. The Barnet Food Plan will be going out for consultation and wider engagement in autumn 2022. As local ability to address the drivers of food insecurity is limited, supporting the national Right To Food campaign is one mechanism by which we can influence national policies and strategies to highlight the importance of supporting those experiencing a food crisis. Similar campaigns, such as the Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration can also be supported to address wider challenges within local food system.
82	Cllr Duschinsky	Is the 'new Labour administration' prepared to continue pressing TfL for the promised improvements to Mill Hill Circus, particularly now that Amazon are moving to the ward.	Cllr Schneiderman	We continue to work with TfL on improvements to their network, but the lack of Government funding is having a detrimental impact on what can be done.
83	Cllr Beg	Please provide an update on support for Ukrainian refugees in the Borough, including the number of families that have registered to offer their home to people fleeing Ukraine.	Leader/Cllr Conway	So far, over 1000 Barnet residents have expressed an interest in hosting Ukrainian refugees through the Homes for Ukraine scheme. To date, 444 of these have successfully matched with people from Ukraine and should all of these arrangements succeed, this will enable 713 Ukrainian people to escape the war and find a new home in Barnet. So far we have welcomed 397 of these. The Homes for Ukraine scheme is a multiagency initiative involving several areas of the council and its partner agencies. It is coordinated by the Strategy and Engagement team, with involvement from Finance, Environmental Health, Children's Social Care, Human Resources and Education. English language classes are being provided by Barnet and Southgate College, employability support from BOOST and a range of community support for Ukrainians and their hosts is being provided in neighbourhoods across the borough by voluntary and faith groups. Support includes the Right to Food Campaign (Q81 response).
84	Cllr L Gurung	What work will the administration do to make sure that the Council lives up to our commitments laid out in the Armed Forces Charter?	Leader	Barnet Council have recently been recognised for the Silver Defence Employer Award and will now be working towards the Gold Award. The Armed Forces Champion Officer has recently been working with the Welfare, Employment and Skills team in Growth and Corporate services and the Community Safety team to assist with the promotion of job vacancies in the council that require particular skill sets and share Career Fair details with military service leavers.
85	Cllr Grover	How many of Labour's election pledges will involve a cost to taxpayers?	Leader	The administration's election pledges are about re-prioritising the council's relationship with residents and as such while some areas need investment, we have also saved money, e.g. reducing special responsibility allowances.
86	Cllr Grocock	To the Leader: At the recent CLCC Meeting, I sought an update from the CST officers/Openspaces on my Community Hub Spaces project. Please explain why no update/reply was provided.	Leader	Community Hubs are currently under review to define the operational requirements that deliver the best support for the community. In addition to this positioning and location considerations are being given to ensure easy/ convenient access to these services by residents and service providers.
87	Cllr Dean Cohen	Please could the Leader tell me costings for the supply and installation of the new parklets and the replacement of the old ones?	Leader	Supply and installation of parklets costs £14,500 per unit (this includes 12 months of maintenance on unit and planting). The cost for relocating an existing unit to an alternative location is £1,800 per unit. The funding for this project has come from the unallocated Additional Restrictions Grant Funding received from Government to support Businesses in Barnet.

			A1 underpass: The Council Officers have been continually liaising with Transport for London (TfL), as a result of which TfL undertook interim measures in March 2022 and also agreed to increase the maintenance of the subway. Further works are being undertaken by TfL regarding the pumps in A1 underpass, for which an update is awaited regarding completion of works. The Council street cleansing team has also been undertaking enhanced maintenance.
88	Cllr Wardle	What steps is the council taking to work with TFL to resolve drainage issues at underpasses running under the A1 and A41 in Edgwarebury? Cllr Schneiderman	A41 underpass: An officer steering group has been formed to look into both the short term and long term interventions required for the flooding issue at the underpass. The Council street cleansing team has also been undertaking enhanced maintenance in the short term.
89	Cllr Greenspan	Around the country, three Labour Cllrs have recently been reported for antisemitism. How will the Leader make sure antisemitism doesn't rear its head in the Barnet Labour group? Leader	As the councillor will be aware, under my leadership the Barnet Labour Group proposed at Full Council and agreed unanimously the adoption of the IHRA definition of anti-semitism. The Labour Group continue, and will always continue to uphold this standard.
			<p>All trees on Council land, except for schools* are inspected on a three-year cycle. Service Level Agreements are also in place with Barnet Homes and the Councils Estates Team to survey trees within their identified locations, & closed churchyards are also surveyed.</p> <p>Inspections are organised on a ward-by-ward basis, this approach enables a detailed survey of each ward with all street trees, trees in parks and open spaces. Inspections are undertaken by the Council's Tree team who are all qualified in Arboriculture. The council also sets and maintains a clear pruning schedule. The service maintains detailed records of the inspections, maintenance, and history of each tree.</p> <p>This three-year cycle is designed to discharge the council's legal Duty of Care in regard to personal injury risk and a subsidence risk.</p> <p>* Schools are responsible for commissioning tree inspections and actioning any maintenance required on trees on their land. The council's tree team communicates with schools on this.</p>
90	Cllr Grocock	Please provide for each area the scheduled reviews of the Borough's trees to include the health & safety checks and how often these are undertaken? Please also identify any insurance claims made to the Borough for damage to buildings/vehicles/persons. Cllr Schneiderman	<p>The total number of insurance claims received by the Council from July 2021 to July 2022 is 89. This is broken down into the following categories;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •8 personal injury claims •60 property claims •21 subsidence claims
91	Cllr Greenspan	Will the Leader speak to the Mayor of London to stop any further driving charges, which would impact Barnet residents? Leader	I am always happy to speak to the Mayor of London.
92	Cllr wardle	Can the Lead Member for HAG be clear on how the council will assess the commitment to deliver 1,000 new affordable homes? Cllr Houston	The priority for the new administration is to deliver more genuinely affordable homes. The pipeline is being reviewed to explore opportunities to maximise the amount of social rent or London Affordable rent units that can be delivered while ensuring that new schemes coming forward have the most appropriate tenure mix, and unit size to meet housing need in the borough.
			<p>Control and treatment of trees with oak processionary moth was undertaken by the Forestry Commission until this year. The Council's Tree Team is currently treating 153 oak trees across 7 parks in Barnet for Oak Processionary Moth (OPM). The locations for treatment are;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Oak Hill Park •Cherry Tree Woods •Stonegrove Park •Lyttleton Playing Fields •Princes Park •Mill Hill Park •Victoria Park <p>Each tree has undergone two rounds of spraying with selective bacterial control, and this has proved mostly effective. Warning notices are in place on trees. Communication of future work will be displayed at each location in advance and on the Council's website.</p> <p>The tree team will continue to monitor the effectiveness of this control and an OPM Management Plan is in place.</p>
93	Cllr Grocock	Please identify the specific areas where the Oak Processionary Moth has been identified across the Borough, what controls are being effected to manage this, and how are we advertising health & safety awareness to users of these outside spaces? Cllr Schneiderman	
94	Cllr Wardle	What is the council doing to work with TfL to improve coordination and advertisement of roadworks following weeks of badly communicated chaos caused by bridge works on the A41? Cllr Schneiderman	We appreciate the level of disruption caused by the TfL works to refurbish the bridge on the A41 at Edgware Way. As a result of the disruption caused officers have engaged with TfL at a senior level in order to enable improved communications through to residents, schools and businesses. In addition it has been jointly agreed between TfL and the Council that a lessons learnt review will be conducted to inform the management of such schemes in the future.
95	Cllr Grocock	In the Labour Party manifesto, you promised £2million savings across the Borough – how is this going to affect the services to our residents? What, if any, officers/staff will be made redundant? Leader	Any savings proposed will be taken forward as part of the business planning process, assessed for workforce implications alongside equalities impact assessments and consulted on.
96	Cllr Grocock	In view of the current situation of unions threatening strikes across the UK, what contingencies do you have in place for all of those who will be affected by such? Leader	We have contingencies in place for many circumstances.
97	Cllr Grocock	Will the SCPB Chair continue to circulate to all Members the helpful and useful contact details, and events, as her Conservative predecessor did? Cllr Conway	We will be looking at a clearer flow of information to and from councillors than under the last administration.

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