

Council – 16 December 2014

The running order of questions is collated by which Party provides the first questions.

	Question
1.	<p><u>Councillor Peter Zinkin</u> Would the Leader like to congratulate the Friends of Childs Hill Park on their magnificent victory in the Big Lottery Peoples Millions competition and the award of £50,000 for the Marsh Garden in the Park to which the Council will be adding £7,500 to the funding as a result of the win?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Councillor Dean Cohen (Chairman of the Environment Committee)</u> Yes.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Question</u> Could I ask the Leader if he regards the model of the Friends of Childs Hill Park as a very good model for the future, given the reality of the economic situation?</p> <p><u>Supplementary Answer</u> Yes, it's an excellent model and I would like to give praise to Mrs Ingrid Posen for all the hard work that she put in and obviously without her and her team this wouldn't have happened.</p>
2.	<p><u>Councillor Alison Moore</u> How does the Leader reconcile the pledges made within the Conservative Manifesto 2014 with the plans the Administration are now consulting on for Barnet's libraries?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> Easily. I would be interested to hear what Labour's plans are to deal with the budget challenge.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Question</u> No Supplementary.</p>
3.	<p><u>Councillor Shimon Ryde</u> The Mayor's London Plan policies require boroughs to resist loss of open space unless equivalent or better quality provision is made. Will the Leader confirm he recognises the importance of the open space to the residents who live on and nearby the Granville Road Estate and the impact on the residents if it were lost?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> Yes.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Question</u> As a result of newly installed width restrictions at the Claremont Road end of The Vale, HGVs are using nearby side roads as shortcuts. Residents of Dersingham, Somerton and Thorverton Roads are regularly seeing in excess of 20 HGV movements a day on their roads, putting pedestrians, other road users and property in danger. Please could I therefore ask the Leader to request of the Borough Commander that he enforces weight restrictions on these roads as a matter of urgency?</p> <p><u>Supplementary Answer</u> Yes, I can see no problem with doing that.</p>
4.	<p><u>Councillor Zakia Zubairi</u> What is the council doing to stop the blight of fly-tipping in Colindale and across the Borough? Are they using CCTV, how many enforcements / prosecutions have the council brought against fly tippers since 2010?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> The Council is doing whatever it can to counter fly-tipping.</p>

	<p><u>Supplementary Question</u> I asked a question and I didn't get an answer. This is no answer: that the council is doing whatever it can to counter the fly-tipping. I want to know what the council is doing.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Answer</u> I will make an effort to find out what that is but perhaps Councillor Zubairi could write to me and inform which officer she has already inquired so I don't do it a second time.</p>
5. Supp	<p><u>Councillor Shimon Ryde</u> Does the Leader agree with me that weight restrictions on side roads to prevent HGVs using them as short cuts should be strictly enforced and if the Leader does agree with this would he kindly request a meeting with the Borough Police Commander as a matter of urgency to discuss police enforcement of these weight restrictions which are currently being ignored by drivers of these lorries?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> Yes, I will speak with the Borough Commander.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Question</u> No Supplementary</p>
6.	<p><u>Councillor Devra Kay</u> How much does the Council save by dimming street lights by 50%.</p> <p><u>Answer by the Councillor Dean Cohen (Chairman of the Environment Committee)</u> The initiative is on target to achieve a £400k saving for the financial year 2014/15.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Question</u> No Supplementary</p>
7.	<p><u>Councillor Brian Gordon</u> Following your very successful appearance as Guest of Honour at a recent event organised by the Torah Vodaas Boys Primary School, could you please comment our Administration's interest in local schools that are independent and not part of the state or voluntary aided sector?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> The better the variety of the offer across our schools, the better the education for children. Independent schools are an important source of educational places that we would struggle to provide.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Question</u> With regard to private schools, could the leader confirm more strongly ... I'm very pleased that he says this ... 'independent schools are an important source of educational places that we would struggle to provide' ... I think that's an excellent statement and really sums up the way we think and would you not agree that our Administration, the Conservative Administration and the Conservative Party more widely is really the only party that believes in independent schools and freedom of the individual to educate their children in a private way, is they wish to, as a matter of principle rather than a matter of tolerance which I think is the case with the other parties.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Answer</u> Councillor Gordon is of course quite right there. It is very important that there is a choice of education that is available and those people who do not choose the state route, they should have the right to go private.</p>

8.	<p><u>Councillor Geof Cooke</u> Was any risk assessment carried out before you decided to appoint a Monitoring Officer who was not legally qualified?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> The appointment was made in line with the proper recruitment process, as overseen by the cross-party Remuneration Committee.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Question</u> Appointing an unqualified Monitoring Officer illustrates the mind-set that brought us the thin Client Outsourcing Model and contracting to vacate the Mill Hill Depot without anywhere else to go. Do you get a thrill from risking public money and the council's reputation?</p> <p><u>Supplementary Answer</u> I assume that he is being rhetorical and facetious.</p>
9.	<p><u>Councillor Brian Gordon</u> The Communities Secretary Eric Pickles has recently written to local authorities across the country urging them to do more to tackle racist and hate graffiti. Have we any plans to improve our Council's performance in response to this?</p> <p><u>Answer by Councillor David Longstaff (Chairman of the Community Leadership Committee)</u> The council and partner organisations already deal swiftly with incidents of such graffiti and stepped up our efforts earlier in the year in response to increased prevalence of anti-Semitic and Islamophobic graffiti.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Question</u> Would you agree that this issue of racist graffiti is a form of hate-crime and that we should continue to look at this in a very strict way because any kind of overt racism in terms of graffiti and statements and abuse is something which is totally against the ethos of our council, especially in such a borough as ours which is a multi-racial and multi-cultural one and all in all a pretty tolerant one – long may that remain the case.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Answer</u> I totally agree and as part of the forthcoming Safer Communities Partnership Board Strategy that will be out in January, hate-crime will be top of the list and is a major issue or racist behaviour.</p>
10.	<p><u>Councillor Anne Hutton</u> Could I please have a reply to my supplementary question to question No. 59 at the Council meeting on 4 November? I was told I would receive a written response, to date I have not received anything.</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> We will write to confirm the answer to your previous supplementary.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Question</u> Would there be a time scale attached to that?</p> <p><u>Supplementary Answer</u> No but there is considerable embarrassment that you haven't had it already.</p>

<p>11.</p>	<p><u>Councillor Brian Gordon</u> The Local Government Association has pledged to support a private members' bill calling for a national law on pavement parking. Does our Administration think that such a law is necessary to ostensibly make pavements safer or would it be our view that, as far as Barnet is concerned, we have got our pavement policy right?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Councillor Dean Cohen (Chairman of the Environment Committee)</u> The council's new parking policy includes a fairly hefty section on pavement parking, which should deal with this issue comprehensively.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Question</u> The hefty section on pavement parking, you would be on top of what this actually proposes but I wonder whether we could look at some of the roads which are narrow roads which still do not have white lines on the pavements which entitle people to park on the pavement and I do think we should look at them in a very understanding way and where possible allow such parking to take place in order to ensure that people don't get caught by traffic wardens given tickets when the pavement parking is necessary in order to avoid congestion.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Answer</u> All these roads will be coming up for review shortly.</p>
<p>12.</p>	<p><u>Councillor Jim Tierney</u> We are getting many complaints from residents in West Finchley Ward concerning damaged pavements which are a danger to pedestrians. In the majority of cases we find that the damage has occurred where there was recent building work or the work is still going on. I understand in issuing the necessary licences to the builders for the hoarding, scaffolding, building materials on the public highway, in each case we also take a deposit against possible damage to the road or pavement. Can the Leader please provide a list of locations in West Finchley Ward where all or part of these deposits have been retained against damage done.</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> The data is being gathered. However, I would join the councillor in the belief that they should contribute to the cost of the damage and this is something we are looking at.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Question</u> I thank the Leader for the information more than the answer, simply because I did ask specifically could this information be available at ward level. Simply because we need it when the builders break up roads, we need to be able to tell people we have taken this money in lieu of repairs. So I need to ask the Leader again whether this information can be made available, itemised, site by site in West Finchley Ward or any ward.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Answer</u> This information should have been provided and it should be available on a ward basis but the more important point made is there should be a much more rigorous system.</p>

<p>13</p>	<p><u>Councillor Brian Gordon</u> You will no doubt be aware that a number of faith schools around the country, including some in Barnet, have been upset by the conduct of certain OFSTED inspectors who seem to have been targeting such schools for inspection disproportionate to their numbers and have been asking pupils somewhat insensitive and embarrassing questions. Can the Council monitor this to some extent and assist local schools in raising tactful complaints to the Education Dept. should future incidences of this arise?</p> <p><u>Answer by Councillor Reuben Thompstone (Chairman of the Children, Education, Libraries & Safeguarding Committee)</u> This is not a matter for the council as there is no mileage we can make with OFSTED. However, we are supportive of such schools.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Question</u> Is it not arguable that the council can take some kind of action if only lobbying if OFSTED is concerned because there are a number of schools in this borough which are very upset about the behaviour of some of the OFSTED inspectors, some of the very inappropriate questions they have been asking children at faith schools – you may have read about it in the press – could the council consider taking some kind of action on behalf of those schools if requested to do so for the benefit of the citizens of our borough who send their children to faith schools.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Answer</u> I am very supportive of the faith schools and of the work that OFSTED does with those schools. I understand some of the concerns that have been raised by the schools and I am happy to work with them to work through these issues.</p>
<p>14.</p>	<p><u>Councillor Nagus Narenthira</u> Can the leader provide the following - a) Floor area of the present library in Grahame Park b) The floor area of the new library built in the new Barnet College site? Will there be a new library built in the regeneration site to meet the needs of the increased population if the leader thinks libraries are an essential part of peoples’ lives?</p> <p><u>Answer by Councillor Reuben Thompstone (Chairman of the Children, Education, Libraries & Safeguarding Committee)</u> An appropriate library will be provided.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Question</u> What is appropriate in terms of the increasing population of Colindale, is it one, two or three libraries?</p> <p><u>Supplementary Answer</u> The outcome will be obvious from the outcome of the consultation that’s in process and I would strongly encourage people to continue with that process.</p>

15.	<p><u>Councillor Brian Gordon</u> Are we well enough equipped in terms of road clearance, snow measures etc. to deal with any severe weather conditions that might arise this winter?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Councillor Dean Cohen (Chairman of the Environment Committee)</u> Yes. I have also been encouraging residents and local organisations to consider using the pledge bank scheme.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Question</u> In case we do not get a mild winter, what is a pledge bank scheme. I have heard of it but I am not sure what it is or how it works. Do you not agree that we must try to avoid sudden snap storm and tremendous snow, that we don't find we are caught unawares and residents complain that we are not ready for it.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Answer</u> Pledge banks are for residents to grit their own roads and they are provided a bag of grit, shovels, etc, and also for local schools to do the same in the locations and it has been successful in the last few years since it was established.</p>
16.	<p><u>Councillor Barry Rawlings</u> While glad to note the administration has accepted Labour's 2014/15 Budget amendment by using reserves to fund the shortfall in the Leisure contract, it is a year too late. This could and should have been done last year. Will the Leader now apologise to the thousands of Barnet carers who lost out on £250,000 of extra support this year due to his refusal to listen to our common-sense budget last year?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> I don't recognise to what Cllr Rawlings is referring.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Question</u> No supplementary</p>
17.	<p><u>Councillor Anthony Finn</u> Has the Leader received an update from the Leader of the Labour Group as to what action has been taken with regard to Cllr McGuirk following the recommendations of the last Group Leader's Panel?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> No.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Question</u> Does the Leader agree that in the interests of transparency, this is something that should be forthcoming from the Labour group?</p> <p><u>Supplementary Answer</u> Yes.</p>

18.

Councillor Claire Farrier

How many people are currently waiting for the offer a property on each of bands one and two? How long are people expected to wait for the offer of a suitable property on each of these bands?

Answer by Councillor Tom Davey (Chairman of the Housing Committee)

Currently there are 81 Band one cases and 252 Band two cases listed on Barnet Council's Allocations Scheme.

The last 40 Band one customers who were housed across all bedroom sizes and types of tenure, waited on average 195 days. Band one customers tend to be extremely vulnerable with very specific needs. They often require disabled or wheelchair accessible properties. This means that many Band one customers can wait for a longer period until a suitable property that meets all of their needs becomes available.

The last 40 Band two customers who were housed across all bedroom sizes and types of tenure, waited on average 217 days.

Supplementary Question

It does seem that we do now have a waiting list, the allocation banding system was supposed to get rid of the waiting list. We have a waiting list of 333 families who have been assessed as in need of urgent and immediate housing and we are told they are going to have to wait up to eight months to be rehoused. Could I ask the Leader what you are doing for these families assessed to be in need of urgent re-housing, to be rehoused within a realistic expectation of time – not eight months.

Supplementary Answer

The intention of being the allocations banding scheme was not to get rid of a waiting list, it was to help prioritise so that we ensure those with the greatest need get access to housing as fast as possible. In terms of why there are longer waiting times, when you have a specialist requirement, Barnet Homes may not have a property which is adapted to your needs readily available, therefore you have to wait a little bit of time to get that. In terms of why we don't have as much housing, that's because we are undergoing a scheme to build more affordable housing but also there are a number of properties occupied by people who may not necessarily be in need and I was surprised to see Councillor Mitra deems himself worthy of being in need by declaring he is a Barnet Homes tenant. Some individuals who are living in social housing who are not necessarily in need and I would urge them to return their properties to the council so the council can allocate housing to individuals in need that cannot necessarily afford accommodation in the private sector.

19.

Councillor Anthony Finn

Does the Leader expect the Labour Group to propose an alternative budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy?

Answer by the Leader

No.

Supplementary Question

Does the Leader not think that a credible Opposition should be proposing an alternative budgets and a Medium Term Financial Strategy?

Supplementary Answer

It would be very interesting and helpful and in the interests of the people of Barnet if we could have the ideas that Labour have rather than them just being in opposition to everything else that is proposed.

20.	<p><u>Councillor Alan Schneiderman</u> Under the new plan to base the cost of resident parking permits on the level of CO2 emissions, will residents with cars in the (a) below 110 CO2g/ km band, (b) 110 - 200CO2g/km band and (c) above 200 CO2g/km band, pay less, the same or more than they currently do?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Councillor Dean Cohen (Chairman of the Environment Committee)</u> The policy advocates having three bands linked to CO2 emissions – the pricing structure is yet to be decided by committee.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Question</u> In proposing this new method for charging for residents parking permits, residents want to know how much they are actually going to pay. For instance, a resident with a car in the middle emissions band pay less, more or the same than they do at the moment?</p> <p><u>Supplementary Answer</u> This will come out as part of the budget setting in the New Year.</p>
21.	<p><u>Councillor Anthony Finn</u> Given that the Performance and Contract Committee on 11th November expressed concern at the tight timescales for the relocation of the depot, was it not irresponsible for Labour members at the Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee meeting on 12th to refer an item progressing this matter to this Council meeting, more than a month later?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> It was indeed disappointing that Labour councillors could not understand the urgency of the matter in hand.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Question</u> Is this yet another example of Labour’s inability to make a decision?</p> <p><u>Supplementary Answer</u> Yes.</p>
22.	<p><u>Councillor Laurie Williams</u> Is it fair that residents parking should be based on emissions, when whilst parked they are not producing any. And does this suggestion not disadvantage those people with older cars that do lower mileage, and that by not replacing them are saving the emissions caused by new car manufacture.</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> As the owner of an aged Volvo I am interested in the councillor’s point.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Question</u> No supplementary.</p>
23.	<p><u>Councillor Tom Davey</u> Would the Leader join me in thanking Cllr Philip Cohen and the two Labour subs for choosing to attend their socialist Housing Commission rather than the Adults and Safeguarding Committee, hence robbing their colleagues of the ability to enact their inevitable decision to refer the business up to full council?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> I am grateful for their common sense.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Question</u> No supplementary.</p>

24.	<p><u>Councillor Gill Sargent</u></p> <p>At the last meeting I asked for some information about rents on Colindale developments – Cllr Thomas said he would write to me – could I now have the information: what rents are being charged per calendar month for social housing in new development in Colindale in Pulse, Beaufort Park, Redrow and Genesis? What are the service charges? Are service charges inclusive?</p> <p><u>Answer by Councillor Daniel Thomas (Chairman of the Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee)</u></p> <p>The rents charged for The Pulse, Grahame Park and Beaufort Park developments are social rents. The properties are provided by several different registered providers. Please see below details of actual rents and service charges for each development.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Question</u></p> <p>The rents that we are being shown are £700 a month and the affordable housing is at nearly £1000 a month. What is going to happen to the tenants at Grahame Park who at the moment pay well below this and with the 20% reduction in housing benefit it going to cause them serious hardship.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Answer</u></p> <p>We haven't found that to be the case in Beaufort Park, so I don't envisage it to be a huge problem and I'd love to be paying £700 a month for a three bedroom property.</p>
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SUMMARY OF RENTS AND SERVICE CHARGES FOR NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN COLINDALE – October 2014

Scheme /Block	Registered Provider	Tenure	Unit type	Net weekly rent	Weekly Service Charge (inclusive)	Gross weekly rent	Monthly
Beaufort Park – Earhart House, NW9	Catalyst	Social rent	2 bed	£123.95	£37.99	£161.94	£701.74
Beaufort Park, Earhart House, NW9	Catalyst	Social rent	3 bed	£136.91	£38.18	£175.09	£758.72
Beaufort Park, Erwin House, NW9	Catalyst	Social rent	2 bed	£123.95	£35.57	£159.92	£693.99
Beaufort Park, Erwin House, NW9	Catalyst	Social rent	3 bed	£136.91	£35.76	£172.67	£748.24
Beaufort Park, Gilmour House, NW9	Catalyst	Social rent	2 bed	£123.95	£32.80	£156.75	£679.25
Beaufort Park, Gilmour House, NW9	Catalyst	Social rent	3 bed	£136.91	£33.01	£169.92	£736.32
Beaufort Park, Gull House, NW9	Catalyst	Social rent	2 bed	£123.95	£33.02	£156.97	£680.20
Beaufort Park, Arado House, NW9	Genesis	Social rent	2 bed	£124.00*	£40.78(actual will be lower by £5.71 as overpayment last year)**	£164.78	£714.05
Beaufort Park, Astoria House, NW9	Genesis	Social rent	2 bed	£124.00*	£38.24 (actual will be higher by £0.48 as underpayment last year **	£162.24	£705.38

Scheme/Block	Registered Provider	Tenure	Unit type	Net weekly rent	Weekly Service charge	Gross weekly rent	Monthly
Beaufort Park, Ball House, NW9	Genesis	Social rent	2 bed	£124.00*	£25.38(actual will be lower due to overpayment of £10.00 last year) Due to increase in future years in line with the other blocks**	£149.38	£647.31
Beaufort Park, Arado House, NW9	Genesis	Social rent	3 bed	£152.00*	£40.78(actual will be lower by £5.71 as overpayment last year)**	£192.78	£835.38
Beaufort Park, Astoria House, NW9	Genesis	Social rent	3 bed	£152.00*	£38.24 (actual will be higher by £0.48 as underpayment last year **	£190.24	£824.37
Beaufort Park, Ball House, NW9	Genesis	Social rent	3 bed	£152.00*	£25.38 (actual will be lower due to overpayment of £10.00 last year) Due to increase in future years in line with the other blocks**	£177.38	£768.65
Scheme/Block	Registered Provider	Tenure	Unit type	Net weekly rent	Weekly Service charge	Gross weekly rent	Monthly
Grahame Park, NW9	Genesis	Social rent	1 bed	£108.00*	£16.24	£124.24	£538.37
Grahame Park, NW9	Genesis	Social rent	2 bed	£138.00*	£ 3.11	£141.11	£611.48
Colindale Hospital, The Pulse, NW9	NHHT	Social rent	1 bed	£119.71	£ 7.50	£127.21	£551.24
Colindale Hospital, The Pulse, NW9	NHHT	Social rent	2 bed	£141.11	£ 7.50	£148.61	£643.98
Colindale Hospital, The Pulse, NW9	NHHT	Social rent	3 bed	£153.90	£ 7.50	£161.40	£699.49
Colindale Hospital, The Pulse, NW9	NHHT	Affordable Rent	1 bed	£212.59 (incl of SC)		£212.59	£921.22
Colindale Hospital, The Pulse, NW9	NHHT	Affordable Rent	2 bed	£217.77 (incl of SC)		£217.77	£943.67
Colindale Hospital, The Pulse, NW9	NHHT	Affordable Rent	3 bed	£222.96 (incl of SC)		£222.96	£966.16

*Maximum rent charge – rents start £5 below figure stated

** Service charges the same for each unit in a block

25.	<p><u>Councillor Tom Davey</u> Is the leader aware of Labour's plans to find the savings they have refused from the libraries?</p> <p><u>Councillor Reuben Thompstone (Chairman of the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee)</u> No.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Question</u> No supplementary</p>
26.	<p><u>Councillor Pauline Coakley Webb</u> Could the deputy leader tell me what progress has been made in agreeing a 'sustainable lease' for Friern. Barnet Community library?</p> <p><u>Councillor Daniel Thomas (Chairman of the Assets, Regeneration & Growth Committee)</u> This is being considered with regards to both HGS and Friern Barnet as part of the wider consultation. We intend to agree business plans and premises-related agreements through to 2020.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Question</u> Could the Leader or Deputy Leader confirm that would actually be proposed for Friern Barnet Library will be a saleable lease and that the word license will not come into the equation?</p> <p><u>Supplementary Answer</u> I'm not prepared to confirm that tonight. That will be a matter for the ARG Committee on which Cllr Coakley Webb sits and I am sure we will make the right decision to ensure the library can secure grant funding going forward. I'm not prejudice to any arrangements. We want the best arrangement for the group. I look forward to seeing the group's business case for an extension to their current arrangement.</p>
27.	<p><u>Councillor Tom Davey</u> Is the leader aware of Labour's plans to find the savings they have refused from the Nursery Schools?</p> <p><u>Answer by Councillor Reuben Thompstone (Chairman of the Children, Education, Libraries & Safeguarding Committee)</u> I do not believe Labour have a plan.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Question</u> Does the Member not find that odd, given that the Labour group are happy to oppose all of our plans at every stage without providing a single funded alternative themselves?</p> <p><u>Supplementary Answer</u> I would find it surprising if I didn't find it on each and every one of these issues, it appears that Labour has no plan.</p>

<p>28.</p>	<p><u>Councillor Adam Langleben</u> The Council issued a press release regarding the revised offers to leaseholders on the West Hendon estate. Council the Leader tell me if any terms and conditions are attached to taking this final offer including the goodwill payment and covering of maintenance works and if there are such terms, what are they?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> The detailed commercial terms are confidential to each property owner.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Question</u> Will the leader confirm that there is a gagging clause attached to the offer to leaseholders on the West Hendon Estate?</p> <p><u>Supplementary Answer</u> That wouldn't be the term I would use to describe it.</p>
<p>29.</p>	<p><u>Councillor John Marshall</u> Could the Leader comment on London Councils' Summit on 22nd November, particularly as to the progress other councils seem to be making with their budget problems?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> Strangely, Labour councils in London are engaged in meeting the same challenges Barnet are, with some of the same solutions.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Question</u> Can the Leader tell us whether any London Labour councils are engaged in outsourcing and if they are can they have a seminar to educate the Labour Party locally about the advantages of outsourcing?</p> <p><u>Supplementary Answer</u> All councils outsource in some way, shape or form. There are always going to be functions that are not exercised directly by a councillor. Many of the other Labour councils in London are going a long way further than the opposition in Barnet would have us believe is practical and possible. I think your suggestion of a seminar could be very helpful. Thank you for that.</p>
<p>30.</p>	<p><u>Councillor Philip Cohen</u> 'Visiting our local library with my family is the highlight of our week.' Who said that?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> I don't know.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Question</u> This quote was – if I can remind you ... 'Visiting our local library with my family is the highlight of our week.' That was said by an older resident at the East Barnet Consultation event. Does he support her view and the view of thousands of other Barnet residents who signed a petition to save our libraries, that public libraries are held in the same high regard as the NHS; a free, unique and universal service that provides a space to read, learn and receive advice from qualified staff and therefore they should all remain directly run by the council at their current level?</p> <p><u>Supplementary Answer</u> Libraries are enjoyed by many people and are an important local asset. Many people do really appreciate them and this council will endeavour to provide the best possible library service that we can. There will be change and just as so many libraries had to convert from scrolls to books, times do change.</p>

<p>31.</p>	<p><u>Councillor John Marshall</u> Does the Leader or the Committee Chairman welcome Labour’s embarrassing U-turn on free schools?</p> <p><u>Answer by Councillor Reuben Thompstone (Chairman of the Children, Education, Libraries & Safeguarding Committee)</u> Yes. I’m pleased that Labour have come to appreciate the merits of this flagship Tory policy and that the excellent education being offered by free schools in Barnet is being recognised.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Question</u> Has the councillor seen the latest issue of Suburb News which pointed out that the Archer Academy is already a heavily over-subscribed school and would he like to congratulate the Government on producing this school which met the needs of pupils in the N3 and NW11 postal districts?</p> <p><u>Supplementary Answer</u> Thank you for giving me the opportunity to welcome the changes that were introduced by this government and also to note the accolades of this particular, one of many great outstanding free schools.</p>
<p>32.</p>	<p><u>Councillor Paul Edwards</u> Would the Leader confirm if any senior officer currently employed by the London borough of Barnet has also been an employee of Capita in the last 5 years; and if so, for which Council Department/theme area are they currently employed?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> I do not believe so, but it would not be a barrier to their employment.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Question</u> It seems that the Leader has not been fully informed. On 4th September 2013, the managing director of Capita took up his new role as Director of Education and Skills at the London Borough of Barnet and is now leading the possible outsourcing of the children, education, libraries and safe-guarding services. Given that Capita has previously had interest in bidding for this service, would the Leader agree with me that there is a real conflict of interest here?</p> <p><u>Supplementary Answer</u> No and I don’t count the enormous donations made to the Labour Party by Capita as an obstacle as well.</p>
<p>33.</p>	<p><u>Councillor Stephen Sowerby</u> Does the Environment Committee Business Planning paper, referred to this meeting, include a decision – or even firm proposal – to outsource streetscene services?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Councillor Dean Cohen (Chairman of the Environment Committee)</u> No, there are many proposals.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Question</u> No supplementary</p>

<p>34.</p>	<p><u>Councillor Alison Moore</u> Can the Leader explain why, despite it being quite clear from a survey of other Councils that such models are currently in use, his Administration continues to oppose the adoption of an independently chaired 'standards' committee with independent as well as councillor members in place of the current model which is solely councillors and is Chaired by and has an in-built Administration majority?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> I believe it can operate satisfactorily, but am open to new suggestions.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Question</u> I have made a serious of suggestions over several cycles of meetings however the question is: can you honestly say that the current Leader's Panel has any integrity?</p> <p><u>Supplementary Answer</u> I am surprised that Cllr Moore would suggest that any committee on which she sits would lack integrity. I don't believe that's a very fair suggestion of any of us. I would agree it's entirely unsatisfactory that we have a costly and unproductive process in Barnet. I am not sure her suggestions would improve the situation, in fact, I think they would make them markedly worse.</p>
<p>35.</p>	<p><u>Councillor Stephen Sowerby</u> On 15th July full Council agreed a motion which, among other things, called on members "not to bring forward proposals to reverse policy without having identified an appropriate compensating saving." Why does the Leader think Labour are not abiding by this resolution?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> Because they can't – they have no alternatives and no plan. Their only implied alternatives would be a massive council tax increase or bankruptcy.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Question</u> No supplementary</p>
<p>36.</p>	<p><u>Councillor Devra Kay</u> We have all experienced Capita's appalling standard of services that they are contracted to provide to Barnet, including call centre, IT, payroll and highways. If we received service like this in our personal lives we would blow the company out of the water. In the light of Capita's failures, what is the Council doing and intending to do about Capita?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> Overall, Capita is delivering a good service.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Question</u> When I was in a recent meeting with Capita it was dropped into the conversation that the Call Centre is soon to be automated and that only 30% of staff would be retained and that this was in the original contract. So knowing this, the council encouraged council employees to move to Coventry in order to keep their jobs and some did so. Does the Leader believe that he has behaved ethically? And does he have more consideration for Capita which is indicated by his written answer than for the people of Barnet, the employees of the council and their futures and the futures of their families?</p> <p><u>Supplementary Answer</u> Yes and no.</p>

37.	<p><u>Councillor Eva Greenspan</u> Is there yet a prospective date for the meeting to confer the Freedom of the Borough upon the Chief Rabbi?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> Tuesday 3rd February 2015.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Question</u> Can I please invite every Member of this council to put that date in their diaries?</p> <p><u>Supplementary Answer</u> Yes.</p>
38.	<p><u>Councillor Barry Rawlings</u> Can the Leader explain his groups decision to support Cllr. Thompstone's amendment that mean's in the options for Libraries rather than 540 square feet being a minimum it is now a minimum 'on average' i.e. could be smaller?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> The words 'on average' were not an addition made by the amendment, but were already part of the report. However, 540 square feet is small and it is difficult to imagine one smaller.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Question</u> No supplementary</p>
39.	<p><u>Councillor Mark Shooter</u> The National Audit Office has found that over half of single tier and county councils are not well-placed to deliver their medium-term financial plans. Does the Leader agree that this again shows the importance of facing up to the serious challenges for council spending and for all councillors to work to ensure we can achieve a balanced budget?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> Barnet has a good record of forward planning and we are now planning for a difficult spending round – whatever the make-up of the next government. The alternative to not having a plan is much worse.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Question</u> Does the Leader agree that the Opposition cannot be taken seriously until they are fully costed in terms of solutions?</p> <p><u>Supplementary Answer</u> Absolutely. There seems to be a characteristic of the Labour Party both locally and nationally when they are in opposition they fail to come up with any proposals. When there are boroughs are unlucky enough to have a Labour administration they then do set budgets which seem to be far more draconian than Barnet's.</p>
40.	<p><u>Councillor Alison Moore</u> Can the Leader assure me that the council will continue to pay at least the London Living Wage to all directly employed staff and what action he has taken to encourage contractors to do the same?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> Yes, we will pay the equivalent of the London Living Wage to all directly employed staff and encourage contractors – but the delivery of the latter is in the long-term.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Question</u> No supplementary</p>

41.	<p><u>Councillor Mark Shooter</u> What does the Leader make of Labour-run Harrow Council’s proposals to close four libraries, reduce the opening hours of all others, reduce staffing and, at times, leave libraries unmanned and accessible by swipe card?</p> <p><u>Answer by Councillor Reuben Thompstone (Chairman of the Children, Education, Libraries & Safeguarding Committee)</u> What it shows is that other, Labour-run, councils are making proposals similar to, or indeed more radical than, our own. We hope to keep all libraries open and I hope Harrow will have the same success.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Question</u> So Labour councils on one side of us are closing libraries, what about Enfield on the other side? Are they set to leave their services untouched?</p> <p><u>Supplementary Answer</u> I have seen papers today that evidence that Enfield has chosen proposals to radically change their libraries to include community libraries, to have something similar to the open libraries that we are looking at. So this is very much something that seems to be in keeping with where we are with libraries.</p>
42.	<p><u>Councillor Amy Trevethan</u> Would the Leader provide an update on the installation of superfast broadband in Underhill ward; what steps he is taking to work with BT to accelerate the provision of superfast broadband in the ward; and when he envisages that residents and small business will be able to benefit from superfast broadband provision?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> Superfast broadband is important in every ward and we are encouraging BT to accelerate this.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Question</u> Could the Leader just say in what way specifically the council is encouraging BT to do this and what plans are in place to address remaining gaps in superfast broadband provision?</p> <p><u>Supplementary Answer</u> Cllr Trevethan knows that there are particular problems in my ward, her ward and one of the other Chipping Barnet wards where BT have been at best unhelpful. I am in correspondence with them but I have to say they very rarely answer letters. However, I haven’t given up.</p>
43.	<p><u>Councillor Wendy Prentice</u> Does the Leader know why Andrew Dismore was forced to withdraw two motions at the GLA, with regards to the council’s housing allocations policy and domestic violence, by the Monitoring Officer at City Hall?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> I believe they had to be withdrawn for factual inaccuracies.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Question</u> Has the council received an apology from Mr Dismore on this?</p> <p><u>Supplementary Answer</u> I don’t think we have received an apology but there’s a surprise!</p>

44.	<p><u>Councillor Alison Moore</u> Does the Leader believe that community and voluntary organisations in Barnet are important partners in supporting vulnerable residents and building resilience in our communities?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> Yes.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Question</u> No supplementary</p>
45.	<p><u>Councillor Wendy Prentice</u> Would the Committee Chairman join me in congratulating the schools in Barnet that made the Sunday Times Parent Power Top 200, especially QE Boys which claimed the top spot?</p> <p><u>Answer by Councillor Reuben Thompstone (Chairman of the Children, Education, Libraries & Safeguarding Committee)</u> Yes, that Barnet has five schools on the list – including the top two – is once again testament to the enormous efforts and talents of students and teachers in the borough.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Question</u> No supplementary</p>
46.	<p><u>Councillor Paul Edwards</u> In Autumn 2013, Barnet Council paid £16.1m to Capita PLC in support of the CSG contract for IT and back office infrastructure We were originally told that Capita would meet this investment: indeed this was one of the major justifications for the contract. However the Audit Committee on 23 October reported that “The council agreed to fund the capital costs up front because the council benefits from a lower interest rates which keeps the overall cost of funding CSG as low as possible. The assets are Capita’s but Capita is obligated to provide them back to the council upon contract termination for at no further cost” This is clearly a loan to Capita. Would the Leader confirm what level of interest the Council is charging Capita for this loan, and what level of income this is generating for the LBB?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> The £16.1m is not a loan, neither is it an additional payment. It forms part of the core contract. By paying up front rather than over a 10 year period, it has saved taxpayers £800k in interest costs.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Question</u> Could the Leader confirm if this arrangement was something that was discussed pre-awarding of the contract, or post-awarding?</p> <p><u>Supplementary Answer</u> I think it goes to the heart of the contract, so as the contract was signed.</p>

47.	<p><u>Councillor Graham Old</u> To quote from the Guardian (19th Nov): “One in six councils are not expected to deliver services within budget this year, and more than half of councils are at risk of financial failure within the next five years.” With such a warning in their deified newspaper, does the Leader think will Labour now finally wake up to reality and cease their blanket opposition to every single savings proposal?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> I am not a Guardian reader, but hope that Labour realise it is dishonest to oppose all savings.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Question</u> In light of the Ed Milliband speech last week, whether the Leader thinks that the Labour Party locally was hoping that the advent of a Labour Government would get them off the hook but now, in the light of Mr Milliband’s speech regarding the deficit that they are going to have to face the facts of life.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Answer</u> And of course the Labour Party is committed nationally to continue with the current spending plans. The spending review that will take place after the election will undoubtedly have an impact on Barnet whichever form of government is elected but with the potential Labour Government committed to transferring money away from London, we would be more adversely affected here in Barnet and would indeed have to budget for even larger cuts than those which we are planning now.</p>																		
48.	<p><u>Councillor Alison Moore</u> Does the Leader believe it is reasonable to renegotiate and cut the contract price to small organisations mid-term?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> I think it is important to be fair to both the taxpayer and the organisation.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Question</u> No supplementary</p>																		
49,	<p><u>Councillor Graham Old</u> How much has the Labour-led NLWA lost in its procurements?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> Information previously provided by the North London Waste Authority (NLWA) advises that in the region of £21 million has been spent on the procurement process over a seven year period. In addition, £5m has been spent on settling a litigation claim.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Question</u> Does this not show that complete and utter incompetence of a Labour-led administration?</p> <p><u>Supplementary Answer</u> I believe that to be a general truth.</p>																		
50.	<p><u>Councillor Amy Trevethan</u> Can the Leader provide the number of people directly employed by Barnet Council in October 2010, October 2012, and October 2014, both head count and FTE?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="220 1877 1102 1995"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">01/10/2010</th> <th colspan="2">01/10/2012</th> <th colspan="2">01/10/2014</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Headcount</th> <th>FTE</th> <th>Headcount</th> <th>FTE</th> <th>Headcount</th> <th>FTE</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>3,404</td> <td>2,988</td> <td>2,77</td> <td>2,302</td> <td>1,32</td> <td>1,678.85</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><u>Supplementary Question</u> No supplementary</p>	01/10/2010		01/10/2012		01/10/2014		Headcount	FTE	Headcount	FTE	Headcount	FTE	3,404	2,988	2,77	2,302	1,32	1,678.85
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51.	<p><u>Councillor Val Duschinsky</u> Does the Committee Chairman endorse the build to sell approach for housing, adopted by London Borough of Camden?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> Yes and I am happy to take inspiration from the good work of Labour councils when that occurs.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Question</u> No supplementary</p>
52.	<p><u>Councillor Amy Trevethan</u> Could the Leader provide the number of consultants and agency staff engaged on Barnet Council work between April 1st 2012 - March 31st 2013 and between April 1st 2013 – March 31st 2014.</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> The Council engages non-payroll arrangements with agency roles and senior interim resources through our contract with Comensura. This contract commenced in October 2012 and had been preceded by a contract with Hays.</p> <p>Use of a ‘consultant’ is a very specific arrangement, where we have a contract with an individual who owns their own intellectual property, who has been brought in to provide specific advisory services or a clear deliverable. This form of arrangement is used in exceptional circumstances. More commonly, the Council is using two different forms of non-payroll resource – agency roles, and within this two forms of interim resource.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agency: This refers all short-term deployments via Comensura to provide non-payroll roles to the Council – whether in street cleaning, waste, catering, administrative function, or covering a management role 2. Interim: This refers to the deployment of skilled specialist resource for a specific activity or period of time, working at management level or equivalent (and higher-cost resources). There are two specific forms of interim deployment: those covering an established post at a senior level; and those used for a specific project, activity of deliverable. <p>April 2012: Agency Number – 367 Interim Number – 37</p> <p>April 2013: Agency Number – 507 Interim Number – 30</p> <p>April 2014 Agency Number – 452 Interim Number – 47</p> <p>For a more up-to-date picture; as at September 2014 the Council had 33 interim deployments, of which 8 were short term assessors within Adults and Communities. The remaining 25 are made up of 6 senior level interims working on projects, (ie where the amount paid is equivalent to Barnet Head of Service or above as an annualised cost) and 19 below this level of cost.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Question</u> No supplementary</p>

53.	<p><u>Councillor Bridget Perry</u> Where does Barnet sit among other Conservative-run boroughs, and London as a whole, in respect to the building of affordable housing?</p> <p><u>Councillor Tom Davey (Chairman of the Housing Committee)</u> We have built more than any other Conservative borough and sit in the top third overall.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Question</u> Data was recently released showing the affordability of London Boroughs by comparing the house price to earnings ratio. How did Barnet compare to neighbouring Labour Harrow, Brent, Camden and Haringey?</p> <p><u>Supplementary Answer</u> I believe we were on about par with Haringey but were more affordable than Brent and Harrow and significantly more affordable than Camden. So might I suggest that when the GLA member for Barnet and Camden is talking about affordable housing, he has a conversation with Labour in Camden before focusing on the Conservatives in Barnet?</p>
54.	<p><u>Councillor Amy Trevethan</u> What value does the Leader place on Barnet's trained professional librarians?</p> <p><u>Answer by Councillor Reuben Thompstone (Chairman of the Children, Education, Libraries & Safeguarding Committee)</u> The role of librarians is constantly changing and it is important to keep up with current trends.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Question</u> What is the extent to which the council's librarians are being involved in discussions regarding their future role in Barnet's library service?</p> <p><u>Supplementary Answer</u> I thank the councillor for raising this issue once again. Every opportunity I get to raise the point that this consultation will be best served by having the greatest number of people involved, the better it will be. All librarians within the borough of course have been welcomed and I am sure most have participated within the consultation. I welcome all Members and all residents, all users of the libraries to participate in this consultation so that we can get the fullest picture of what our future library service should look like.</p>
55.	<p><u>Councillor Bridget Perry</u> Does the leader wish to comment on the latest remarks made by Tristram Hunt, as he attacks successful independent schools?</p> <p><u>Answer by Councillor Reuben Thompstone (Chairman of the Children, Education, Libraries & Safeguarding Committee)</u> We rely upon the private sector as an important source of school places and we should support all good schools. The politics of envy should be discouraged, as should hypocrisy.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Question</u> No supplementary</p>
56.	<p><u>Councillor Amy Trevethan</u> Would the Leader provide an update on whether there are any directly employed staff working on less than London's Living Wage?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> I do not believe so.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Question</u> No supplementary</p>

57.	<p><u>Councillor Joan Scannell</u> What are the administrative implications of Labour referring items up to this Council meeting?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> Aside from limiting discussion and running from debate, the Labour members who have referred up items have disrupted the efficient progress of council business and delayed public consultation on the budget.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Question</u> No supplementary</p>
58.	<p><u>Councillor Amy Trevethan</u> The Leader has said that Barnet Council paying a Living Wage to its direct employees is the ‘right thing to do’. However, the Council does not insist on payment of the London Living Wage by its contractors, either when these contracts are tendered or re-tendered. Can the Leader explain why, although it is the right thing for staff directly employed by the Council to be paid the London Living Wage, it is apparently not the right thing to insist that the LLW is paid to employees whose jobs have been outsourced or stand to be outsourced – through no fault of their own?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> Because the council’s budget does not permit this.</p> <p><u>Supplementary Question</u> This answer would appear to suggest that outsourcing is being used by the council to reduce expenditure on staff wages. Would the Leader please comment?</p> <p><u>Supplementary Answer</u> It’s not being used deliberately to do that however the council budget would be completely blown were we to move to this in any kind of hasty way. I would agree with Cllr Trevethan that we should pay the London Living Wage; it is something we should aim to do. Now, signing up to the scheme does not mean that a body actually pays the London Living Wage, it just means that they aspire to it. so they get the ‘street cred’ without actually doing it but I think it is something that we should actually move towards doing.</p>
QUESTION TIME CONCLUDES	
59	<p><u>Councillor Joan Scannell</u> Would the Committee Chairman like to comment on the go ahead for the two new primary schools to create through-schools at the Wren Academy, North Finchley and the London Academy, Edgware?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> I am delighted that we will see these new through-schools offering valuable places and an excellent educational offer for their pupils.</p>
60.	<p><u>Councillor Amy Trevethan</u> Do Barnet contractors use zero hours contracts for staff employed on Barnet work.</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> Sometimes.</p>
61.	<p><u>Councillor Alison Cornelius</u> Would the Committee Chairman further comment on the plans to expand the Oak Lodge Special School in East Finchley set to create additional places and improved facilities for children with learning difficulties?</p> <p><u>Answer by Councillor Reuben Thompstone (Chairman of the Children, Education, Libraries & Safeguarding Committee)</u> We are working hard to ensure sufficient and high quality new school places across our school system.</p>

	<p>This must also apply to our outstanding special schools. The plans for Oak Lodge will be of great benefit to local children with learning difficulties.</p>
62.	<p><u>Councillor Amy Trevethan</u> Concerns continue to be voiced by local traders and now the Barnet Society that insufficient free parking and the absence of cash parking facilities are hindering our already-struggling high streets and town centres. Can the Leader explain why his administration thinks these concerns are unwarranted, and tell me when his administration will finally take notice?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> The parking policy that went through the Environment Committee established an occupancy target for on street and off street spaces of 85%. Parking charges and payment methods will be looked at in this context. Perhaps Cllr Trevethan can achieve what her colleagues have all repeatedly failed to do and provide realistic costings and a source of funding for these ideas.</p>
63.	<p><u>Councillor Maureen Braun</u> During Quarter 2 of 2014/15, what was the rate of satisfaction with the service provided through the CSG contact centre?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> Satisfaction further increased to 88%.</p>
64.	<p><u>Councillor Devra Kay</u> It was revealed at the recent Constitution, Ethics and Probity Committee meeting on 25 November that the two councillors who have recently come before the Leaders' Panel, one Conservative, one Labour, were denied their Constitutional rights of access to an independent advisor because Barnet Governance and HB Public Law wrongly advised that the councillors did not have that right. Is the Leader satisfied to conclude the matter with the flippant comment given at the meeting by its Conservative Chairman, Cllr John Marshall, that "It was a mistake. I am very sorry, but it wasn't me" and if not, what action is he intending to take?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> Recommendations coming forward from the Constitution, Ethics and Probity Committee instigate a review of the Standards Committee at the end of the 2014/15 municipal year and allow councillors subject to a case access to the independent person throughout the process, as well as legal representation.</p>
65.	<p><u>Councillor Maureen Braun</u> With regards to the benchmarking of the council's planned spend over 2014/15, how does Barnet compare to the London average in terms of efficiency?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> Benchmarking with other local authorities and London Boroughs shows the Council to be high performing and low cost.</p> <p>When compared with similar local authorities (London boroughs, Unitary Councils and County Councils) using Local Government Association data, Barnet is performing above the benchmark across 86% of the indicators.</p> <p>Data from Department for Communities and Local Government for planned expenditure this financial year (2014/15) shows Barnet is in the lowest quartile of spend per household - £3,359 per household compared to a London average of £4,142. In addition, across 8 out of 9 service areas available for analysis, Barnet spends less than the London benchmark for 8 of the 9 services. The only service where spend is higher is Highways and Transport services.</p>
66.	<p><u>Councillor Devra Kay</u> It came to light by chance that there may be asbestos present in the obsolete fan heating systems in leaseholders homes on the West Hendon Estate when a leaseholder recently requested to have his</p>

	<p>system removed. Would the Leader please provide a copy of the asbestos report carried out about ten years ago; a copy of the annual report on asbestos inspections on the Estate including asbestos levels and the asbestos report carried out with regard to the regeneration of the Estate and will he accept that it is the Council's responsibility to cover the cost of any necessary action after years of ignoring the danger to the health and safety of leaseholders to whom they sold these homes.</p> <p><u>Answer by Councillor Tom Davey (Chairman of the Housing Committee)</u> Once the properties are transferred to the developer prior to demolition the management of asbestos within the building falls to them. The developer is required to survey the building and remove the asbestos in an appropriate manner prior to demolition occurring.</p> <p>Within a leasehold property the responsibility for maintaining the internal services that are of sole benefit to the property falls to the leaseholder and the internal fabric of the building. It is therefore not accepted that the council owes any duty to the leaseholders to reimburse them for the cost of asbestos removal works. The purchaser, prior to completing the transaction to acquire the property would have been at liberty to carry out their own survey of the property to ascertain the overall condition of the dwelling.</p>
67.	<p><u>Councillor Brian Salinger</u> Will the Leader please make a statement about the past, present and future uses of the former Royal British Legion hall off Summers Lane, N12?</p> <p><u>Councillor Daniel Thomas (Chairman of the Assets, Regeneration & Growth Committee)</u> The former Royal British Legion building was previously in a community use, held under a lease for a period of 20 years from the 8th February 2000. Over time the use of the building migrated to the point that the council was alerted to it being occupied by squatters, on the 15 November 2013. Due to the anti-social behaviour of the illegal occupants at the site, police enforcement action was eventually triggered which in turn resulted in the Council being able to take possession of the site on 1 July 2014. Building condition assessment work was undertaken Sep 14 which identified that the property would require considerable investment to get it into a lettable state.</p> <p>Currently, the site and property has been cleared of rubbish and made safe. The site has been secured with on-site guardians and the title has been formally registered to mitigate against any further risk of squatter occupation.</p> <p>There is also a memorial garden where ashes have been scattered at the property, which places some constraints on what can be done on the site. The Council are in contact with the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM) to work through what needs to be done to facilitate the British Legion to be able to relocate the ashes with a memorial plaque to another British Legion property, so that these constraints can be lifted.</p> <p>The council is now planning to initiate a study to identify viable options for the site. This will include an assessment of how the currently unusable site could be brought back into use, whilst ensuring that full consideration is given to its Metropolitan Open Land status, and the surrounding community, allotment, sports and residential uses.</p>
68.	<p><u>Councillor Geof Cooke</u> What costs have been and will be incurred as a result of the constitutional chaos this year broken down by commissioning legal advice from HB Public Law and counsel, officer time responding to the situation, commissioning the Lloyd-Jones report, paying off the former monitoring officer, buying the services of an interim monitoring officer and recruiting a replacement permanent monitoring officer?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> HB Public Law – contained within the contract cost.</p> <p>The Counsel advice was £5,230.</p> <p>Lloyd-Jones report cost £16,200.</p>

	<p>The payment to the former monitoring officer is subject to legal privilege and cannot be published here but all payments to all senior officers will be included in the year end accounts.</p> <p>Cost of interim monitoring officer and recruiting permanent replacement is contained within the existing governance budget.</p> <p>The more times that Labour Councillors refer this item to different committees, the more officer time will be spent on this matter.</p>
69.	<p><u>Councillor Brian Salinger</u> Will the Leader or Chairman of the Education Committee make a statement about the latest position with regard to the re-provision of the Pavilion PRU?</p> <p><u>Answer by Councillor Reuben Thompstone (Chairman of the Children, Education, Libraries & Safeguarding Committee)</u> The council has submitted an application to the Government's Priority School Building programme for the rebuilding of the Pavilion PRU. If successful, the rebuilding of the PRU will be funded by central government and an announcement as to whether this bid has been successful is expected shortly. In the meantime the council has funded a feasibility study for the re-building project in preparation of funding from either the Priority School Building programme or, if unsuccessful, from the council's own resources.</p>
70.	<p><u>Councillor Geof Cooke</u> You and other Conservatives dismissed concerns from trade unions, residents and opposition councillors about the thin client model of outsourcing in which little or no service expertise is retained to assess the quality and cost of work done. In light of the Lloyd-Jones report will you reverse this disastrous policy?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> It is not disastrous, no.</p>
71.	<p><u>Councillor Brian Salinger</u> Will the Leader or the Chairman of the Adult committee please advise the Council how many cases of inter-generation domestic violence have been brought to the attention of the Council in the last 12 months?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> The council does not currently specifically record intergenerational domestic violence, so this would require manually going through each record.</p>
72.	<p><u>Councillor Geof Cooke</u> Do you think that senior officers should be qualified and experienced to undertake the roles to which they are appointed?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> Yes.</p>
73.	<p><u>Councillor Caroline Stock</u> Is the Leader aware of any proposals for the budget having been put forward by the Labour Group?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> No. I have no idea what they think, but they have the luxury of opposition - which is to oppose everything without having their own solutions.</p>
74.	<p><u>Councillor Geof Cooke</u> What did Comer Homes pay for the Abbots Depot site off Oakleigh Road South N11 and what is the administration proposing to pay to buy it?</p>

	<p><u>Councillor Daniel Thomas (Chairman of the Assets, Regeneration & Growth Committee)</u> I don't know what Comer Homes paid for the site. Historic pricing is of limited use. If Labour councillors had allowed discussion at meeting with officers this may have been apparent.</p>
75.	<p><u>Councillor Caroline Stock</u> What is an open library and is there an example of where they have been tried somewhere else?</p> <p><u>Answer by Councillor Reuben Thompstone (Chairman of the Children, Education, Libraries & Safeguarding Committee)</u> An open library is one which can be accessed and used by residents outside of staffed hours.</p> <p>40% of Denmark's 450 libraries are now open libraries, with more on the way. They have expanded rapidly since 2004 and proved popular.</p> <p>According to a Local Government Denmark survey in 2013, 75% of municipalities with open libraries expect to expand the scheme, with 78% of participating municipalities having experienced increasing visiting figures and 65% having seen an increase in loans.</p> <p>A user survey by the Danish Agency for Culture revealed that 92% of people feel that they receive the help they need, 91% feel it is easy to use the open library, 45% do not differentiate between there being staff available or not and only 35% prefer to visit the library when there are staff present.</p>
76.	<p><u>Councillor Geof Cooke</u> The 'consultation' on relocating the Finchley Lido has included the following features.</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> In July a statement that it was coming to the end of its life and a map showing both the present and possible future locations, especially Finchley Memorial Hospital, in completely the wrong places (as was the Church Farm pool in East Barnet). Nevertheless it was approved for the Sport and Physical Activity Project consultation.</p> <p>In August Labour questioning caused the erroneous map to be removed from the Strategic Asset Management Plan consultation.</p> <p>In November councillors were told that a workshop about Finchley Lido would be held at Finchley Memorial Hospital but residents and councillors who turned up were excluded. Councillors were then told by officers that the workshop was not about Finchley Lido but the invitees, from a wide area not immediately local residents, were indeed asked about their view on relocating Finchley Lido. When asked by a councillor to substantiate the 'end-of-life' statement the project leader declined to do so. The 'public' part of the consultation was said to be an online questionnaire but that does not mention the Lido.</p> <p>It appears that the Conservative administration wants to reduce the leisure swimming facility at the Lido and build a replacement on green space somewhere else. Will there be a real consultation on this property transaction with affected local residents before any deal is done?</p> <p>I am not aware that either the Conservative Group or the council has a policy to reduce swimming. Consultation is an important part of any process.</p>
77.	<p><u>Councillor Dean Cohen</u> Has the Leader written to the family of Rabbi Goldberg, expressing condolences following his death in the recent attack on a synagogue in Jerusalem?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> Yes.</p>

78.	<p><u>Councillor Geof Cooke</u> The London European Partnership for Transport has helped London boroughs receive over €5M funding from the European Union.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How much of this has come to Barnet? 2. For how much has Barnet bid? <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> We are not members of the LEPT.</p>
79.	<p><u>Councillor Anne Hutton</u> Why has the public right of way at Church Farm House ex Museum been closed? When will it reopen?</p> <p><u>Councillor Daniel Thomas (Chairman of the Assets, Regeneration & Growth Committee)</u> Following the theft of the flagstones, the Public Right of Way was secured while the flagstones were replaced. Adjustments to the security lighting have since taken place to improve security and avoid a repetition of the theft. The Right of Way has been re-opened this week, but will remain locked at night until 15th December, while the security lighting is monitored; following which the Right of Way will re-open permanently.</p>
80.	<p><u>Councillor Anne Hutton</u> Why are the security lights at Church Farm House ex Museum still not functioning properly? When can we expect this to be rectified?</p> <p><u>Councillor Daniel Thomas (Chairman of the Assets, Regeneration & Growth Committee)</u> Some adjustments to the security lighting have taken place, and they have also been reset to remain on during the night, to improve security and try to avoid further theft of the flagstones.</p>
81.	<p><u>Councillor Nagus Narenthira</u> Can the leader specify what criteria would be used to assess the non-secure tenants in Grahame Park estate to determine the eligibility for re housing?</p> <p><u>Answer by Councillor Tom Davey (Chairman of the Housing Committee)</u> Barnet Council owe the majority of non-secure tenants on the Grahame Park Estate a continuing duty to house under PtVII Housing Act 1996. This means that for the majority of residents the assessment process will divide into two parts. First there is a review of the information held on our files. This involves assessing any change in circumstances that may have occurred since the household started living in the non-secure tenancy, including any changes in passport status, household numbers and income. The second part is assessing household income and outgoings as part of an affordability assessment and undertaking a suitability assessment by understanding if individual factors such as medical conditions and children's education impact on the type and location of property that the household can be reasonably offered as a form of alternative accommodation. Once this is completed the household will be placed onto Barnet Council's Allocations Scheme and can be nominated for properties.</p> <p>The assessment of the majority of non-secure tenants impacted by the regeneration of Grahame Park will take place over the course of financial years 2015/16 – 2016/17. This will be done in a phased way in line with the proposed vacant possession dates of each block on the estate.</p> <p>There may be a small number of non-secure residents who were allocated accommodation at the discretion of Barnet Council and who are not owed an on-going duty. In such cases, Barnet Homes will undertake the assessment as outlined above, to establish if these residents' circumstances have changed significantly and if they now qualify to be placed onto Barnet Council Allocations Scheme. If not these residents will need to find their own forms of accommodation.</p>
82.	<p><u>Councillor Nagus Narenthira</u> How many residents in Grahame Park estate are living in overcrowded dwellings? Does the council realise that overcrowding is risk to health and well-being of the residents?</p>

	<p><u>Answer by Councillor Tom Davey (Chairman of the Housing Committee)</u> As of May 2014 there were 16 households who currently live on Grahame Park, who have applied to be rehoused in a larger property and have been accepted for a transfer. A transfer is not normally accepted when the current home is one bedroom undersized.</p>
83.	<p><u>Councillor Barry Rawlings</u> Given the Commissioning strategy does not exclude any form of service delivery does this mean with every commissioning activity there will be an in-house option, even if it is currently out-sourced?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> Where appropriate.</p>
84.	<p><u>Councillor Alan Schneiderman</u> In addition to Finchley Lido and Church Farm, for which of Barnet's other leisure centres and pools are alternative locations being considered?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> All can be reconsidered; we cannot afford to be luddites.</p>
85.	<p><u>Councillor Barry Rawlings</u> The Coalition government promised councils that any new burdens resulting for legislative changes will be fully funded. Yet in the business plan it is predicted that the Care Act will cost an extra [unfunded] £7.8m of recurring costs by 2020 and there will be increased [unfunded] extra costs on foster parents being paid for young people up to the age of 21. Does he agree this means the government have broken this promise?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> The government have not yet announced funding for the Care Act beyond 2015/16.</p>
86.	<p><u>Councillor Kathy Levine</u> According to research by RAC Home Insurance, in the 3 month period August-October 2014 there were 243 break-ins in Barnet which makes it the most burgled borough in London. Given the level of concern from our residents on this issueWill the Leader support our GLA member for Barnet, Andrew Dismore, in his campaign to highlight the reduction in police in our Borough and join him in pressing for an increase in police support here?</p> <p><u>Answer by Councillor David Longstaff (Chairman of the Community Leadership Committee)</u> Police Officer numbers are up 1.4% on last year across London.</p> <p>The overall crime rate in Barnet has dropped 15 points since the Coalition came into office and the burglary rate in 2013/14 was down 2.5 points (or nearly 20%) on the previous year and at the lowest level for the 15 years that the data was published.</p> <p>We continue to work closely with the police in the borough to bring crime down even further.</p>
87.	<p><u>Councillor Kathy Levine</u> At the East Barnet Area Forum on 22 October 2014 the Walksafe N14 representative asked about the progress being made on their 2013 petition, signed by 2,365 local residents, for safety measures to be introduced on roads in N14. He was assured that a report would be presented to the 18 November Environment Committee and that there would be consultation with residents prior to this.</p> <p>a) Could the Leader please let us know why this has not happened, when the consultation now will take place and what form the consultation will take? b) Following the promised consultation, when might we expect to see the safety measures put into place?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> It was originally anticipated that a report would be presented to the Environment Committee on 18 November 2014 in relation to the Walksafe N14 petition and the proposed scheme to be implemented.</p>

	<p>However the report was referred back to the service area as the decision does not in fall within the (terms of reference) Environment Committee. Council Constitution, Responsibility for Functions, Annex A states that Area Committees have responsibility for: “Discharging any functions, within budget and policy framework agreed by Policy & Resources Committee, of theme committees that they agree are discharged more properly delegated to a local level. These include but are not limited to: Local highway and safety schemes’ On that basis, this report will go to the Chipping Barnet Area Committee on January 15th 2015</p> <p>As part of the preparation of the report and its recommended measures, Walksafe N14 have been engaged and are supportive of the proposals. Assuming the committee agree the report in January, consultation in the area on agreed measures would likely commence shortly thereafter by way of letter drop and subject to any feedback; the roll out of the scheme could then commence as early as March.</p>
88.	<p><u>Councillor Kathy Levine</u> Why has there been no consultation on the choice of sites for a new depot?</p> <p><u>Councillor Daniel Thomas (Chairman of the Assets, Regeneration & Growth Committee)</u> Following the decision by Labour Councillors to refer the depot relocation report to full Council, the Council currently does not have an alternative depot proposal to consult on. Should the report be agreed by full Council, the Council will seek to enter into the purchase of this site subject to planning permission. As part of the planning process, the Council will undertake full and comprehensive public consultation.</p>
89.	<p><u>Councillor Kathy Levine</u> What will be the Council's position regarding the land set aside for Crossrail 2, including the potential site for the new depot on Oakleigh Road South?</p> <p><u>Councillor Daniel Thomas (Chairman of the Assets, Regeneration & Growth Committee)</u> It is our understanding that this land will not be required for Crossrail 2, although it has been added to the list of safeguarded sites. As such, any planning application for this site will need to be approved by Transport for London. This process would run alongside a local planning process. Based on the current Crossrail experience, TFL have been approving 90% of planning applications on safeguarded sites.</p>
90.	<p><u>Councillor Laurie Williams</u> The CIL has been in operation for 18 months. How much has been collected and how much of that has been allocated to the local communities where the developments are taking place?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> The Council has to formally publish full details of CIL income, allocations and expenditure by 31st December 2014 in accordance with CIL Regulation 62. The details of this report are currently being finalised in response to feedback from communities that they wish to have visibility of the funds received in each Ward.</p> <p>Since adoption of its charging schedule on 1st May 2013, the first year of Barnet CIL collection 2013-14 saw £856,538.78 collected for the Council from developments approved and commenced during this period. This level of collection is based on planning applications decided since May 2013 where the developer has also begun development within the same period.</p> <p>From 1st April 2014 to end of November 2014 the Council received a net income of £2,273,107</p> <p>The Localism Act introduced requirements that a ‘meaningful proportion’ of CIL income is allocated to parish councils to support their neighbourhood infrastructure requirements. As Barnet does not have Parish Councils, the three Area Forums provide that elected framework to support neighbourhood decision-making.</p> <p>The ‘meaningful proportion’ requirement is to be addressed through the provision of a variable budget for each Area Committee. This will be an allocation of 15% (but with capping system applying) of Barnet</p>

	<p>CIL income accrued in the previous financial year within the wards covered by each Area Committee. The total income from 2013-14 due to be allocated to Area Committees is £128,480.82.</p> <p>The 2013-14 annual Barnet CIL report due for publication identifies the following meaningful proportions of income from 2013-14 to be allocated to each Area Committee:</p> <p><u>Area Committee</u> Chipping Barnet - CB Finchley Golders Green – F Hendon - H</p> <table border="0" style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td><u>Net CIL income</u></td> <td><u>15% allocation</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>CB - £646,839.54</td> <td>£97,025.93</td> </tr> <tr> <td>F - £190,513.04</td> <td>£28,576.96</td> </tr> <tr> <td>H - £19,186.20</td> <td>£2,877.93</td> </tr> </table>	<u>Net CIL income</u>	<u>15% allocation</u>	CB - £646,839.54	£97,025.93	F - £190,513.04	£28,576.96	H - £19,186.20	£2,877.93
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91.	<p><u>Councillor Gill Sargeant</u> At the last meeting I asked when the paths in Lynton Avenue will be repaired so older people are able to walk out of their houses? The response was that they will be assessed in the autumn – can I have an update now please?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> Paths are repaired as and when funds are available and prioritised according to need.</p>								
92.	<p><u>Councillor Gill Sargeant</u> Can I have an update on when the zebra crossings in Aerodrome road will be completed?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> In due course.</p>								
93.	<p><u>Councillor Alan Schneiderman</u> In the 'Alternative options considered and not recommended section' of the Business Planning report, which came to the Environment Committee on 18 November, why is there no mention of the administration's proposals to drop weekly bin collections, switch off residential street lights at night, stop locking parks or to charge for the collection of green waste?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> The administration has not proposed any of these things.</p>								
94.	<p><u>Councillor Gill Sargeant</u> How many people are employed to inspect the state of Barnet roads, what criteria are used to prioritise repairs, what records are kept of damage to roads and are these records available for public inspection?</p> <p><u>Answer by Councillor Dean Cohen (Chairman of the Environment Committee)</u> We currently have 5 staff undertaking inspections of utility works on the public highway and a further 8 dealing with the highway safety inspection regime. Following a review of the service, the implementation of a bespoke IT system has enabled more efficient mobile working practices to reduce this number to 6 staff. However, there is an obligation for ALL staff to report any defects they become aware of on the public highway or that may affect the highway. The criteria used to prioritise repairs is prescribed in the London Borough of Barnet Improving Barnet Roads, Highway Maintenance Inspection Manual, last amended January 2013 and which is currently under review. All records of defects are now being recorded on the newly installed “Exor” system which will in the future be accessible to the public through our website for residents to track the progress of defect repairs.</p>								
95.	<p><u>Councillor Alan Schneiderman</u> Given that street lights have already been dimmed by 50%, what assessment has been made of safety</p>								

	<p>implications of the plan to save money by increasing the time taken to complete street lighting repairs?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> It is important to repair the street lights swiftly.</p>
96.	<p><u>Councillor Alan Schneiderman</u> Will North Finchley library remain on its current site?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Councillor Reuben Thompstone (Chairman of the Children, Education, Libraries & Safeguarding Committee)</u> Decisions about the location of individual library buildings have not been made.</p>
97.	<p><u>Councillor Alan Schneiderman</u> Why did Tory councillors reject my amendment to Barnet's new parking policy, which would have provided at least 30 minutes free parking in all of Barnet's town centres given that this is regularly called for by residents and traders?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> Because it was undeveloped and uncoded.</p>
98.	<p><u>Councillor Alan Schneiderman</u> Is there any evidence that local businesses do not want a free parking period or the return of cash parking?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> If the parking spaces are full then I'm sure local businesses will be pleased.</p>
99.	<p><u>Councillor Alan Schneiderman</u> What consultation is planned on the Tory budget proposal for streetscene services, which includes 'Savings from an alternative delivery model'?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> These are budget proposals, not Tory budget proposals. I wonder what the Labour proposal is.</p>
100.	<p><u>Councillor Alan Schneiderman</u> How will the planned 'compulsory recycling of dry and food waste' be enforced?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> Tactfully.</p>
101.	<p><u>Councillor Alan Schneiderman</u> Who will carry out the new proposal to raise income from the enforcement of littering and dog fouling and how much income is it anticipated that will be raised from this activity?</p> <p><u>Answer by Councillor Dean Cohen (Chairman of the Environment Committee)</u> Any new proposal to enforce would be subject to criteria defined within a Barnet enforcement policy. This is currently being considered as part of the wider transformation of street scene and other environmental services.</p> <p>A draft revised enforcement policy will be submitted to a future meeting of the Environment committee for member consideration.</p> <p>Any income raised from enforcement would be utilised to fund the actual enforcement activity and therefore it is expected that this initiative would be self-funding.</p> <p>For future years there is an expectation this action will lead to better compliance and therefore reduced levels of litter etc. This service adjustment will be picked up within future Street Cleansing efficiency reviews.</p>

102.	<p><u>Councillor Alan Schneiderman</u> Do the proposals for the 'revised scheduling of highways grounds maintenance including grass cutting and annual bedding' mean less frequent grass cutting and less bedding plants?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> That may well be so.</p>
103.	<p><u>Councillor Alan Schneiderman</u> What assessment has been made on the potential for greater fly tipping around the Summers Lane recycling centre from proposals to cut its opening hours?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> None, but it is something that would have to be taken into account.</p>
104.	<p><u>Councillor Alan Schneiderman</u> Have any lessons been learnt from the operation of Barnet's shared legal service and how will this affect the plan to share the management of the street lighting PFI contract with Enfield?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> In the main, the shared legal service has been successful and I'm sure all shared arrangements will be – even if with Labour councils.</p>
105.	<p><u>Councillor Alan Schneiderman</u> How much money will be raised by the plan to license commercial dog walking?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> No separate income target has been set for the licensing of professional dog walkers. Further research will be undertaken ahead of any decision to set a relevant and appropriate charge.</p>
106.	<p><u>Councillor Alan Schneiderman</u> How much is the contract to notify residents of unclaimed parking permit refunds costing? Since this contract was awarded, how much money has been reclaimed and how much is still outstanding?</p> <p><u>Answer by Councillor Dean Cohen (Chairman of the Environment Committee)</u> After the original refund contract expired (at that point refunds to the value of £1.1Million had been made) there were 6,800 residents who had not claimed a refund. A further contract was entered into with Civica to make contact with the remaining 6,800 residents and the cost of this work which will span a 6 month period is £34,500. To date 1,650 residents have been contacted, and of these 413 refund requests have been received so far with a value of £68,000. A sum of £1.1M has been set aside to accommodate the full extent of this exercise.</p>
107.	<p><u>Councillor Alan Schneiderman</u> Under what circumstances would Tory councillors not claim a dispensation in order to vote on an issue in which they have a disclosable pecuniary interest?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> I believe Conservative councillors have been very straightforward in this matter.</p>
108.	<p><u>Councillor Alan Schneiderman</u> Will the leader be happy for Labour councillors to demonstrate how to effectively perform the role of a ward councillor without the need to award themselves the perk of claiming a free parking permit?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> It is questionable whether Labour councillors are effective ward councillors, with or without a council-use parking permit.</p>

109.	<p><u>Councillor Pauline Coakley Webb</u> Could the leader tell me if he approves of Barnet homes starting to introduce controlled parking areas on council estates?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> If it is appropriate.</p>
110.	<p><u>Councillor Alan Schneiderman</u> At the Environment committee on 18 November, the committee unanimously agreed my amendment to Barnet's new parking policy to say that parking tickets should be issued 'fairly' rather than 'vigorously'. What action is being taken to implement this much needed and called for reform?</p> <p><u>Answer by Councillor Dean Cohen (Chairman of the Environment Committee)</u> We are currently issuing tickets fairly, but where challenges come in these must be considered more fairly.</p>
111.	<p><u>Councillor Pauline Coakley Webb</u> Does the leader agree that ward councillors should be consulted if Barnet Homes wants to introduce controlled parking areas on council estates within their wards?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> Yes.</p>
112.	<p><u>Councillor Alan Schneiderman</u> Will the Council consult residents over the borders and operating times of controlled parking zones?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> Controlled parking zones are always consulted on.</p>
113.	<p><u>Councillor Pauline Coakley Webb</u> In previous question times there has never been an answer as to what was 'plan B' in relation to the plan to relocate the waste depot in 2016. Now that the councils preferred option of a move to Pinkham way has been binned why did it take until July this year for council to research other options?</p> <p><u>Answer by Councillor Daniel Thomas (Chairman of the Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee)</u> The Council has always been aware of alternative options to the depot move to Pinkham Way. However, it was not until the summer of 2014 when the Labour controlled Haringey Council changed its stance on Pinkham Way and the Labour controlled NLWA proved incapable of formulating proposals on their future waste plans that it became apparent that Barnet Council needed to actively pursue an alternative option.</p>
114.	<p><u>Councillor Adam Langleben</u> Could the Chair of the Housing Committee tell me how many Barnet Homes tenants across the borough are 'non-secure' tenants who have been in the same property for more than five years.</p> <p><u>Answer by Councillor Tom Davey (Chairman of the Housing Committee)</u> As of 04/12/2014 there are an estimated 415 non-secure tenants living in Barnet who have been in their non-secure tenancy for 5 years or more.</p>
115.	<p><u>Councillor Pauline Coakley Webb</u> Does the leader agree that had residents been consulted about a proposed waste site and bin lorry depot prior to any land deal, a great deal of time and money may have been saved?</p> <p><u>Answer by Councillor Daniel Thomas (Chairman of the Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee)</u> No. The plan to relocate the depot will save the taxpayers of Barnet tens of millions of pounds. The only waste of public money so far in this process has been as a result of the actions of the Labour controlled NLWA.</p>

116. Councillor Adam Langleben
 Could the Chair of the Housing Committee tell me how many Barnet Homes tenants there are in each ward?

Answer by Councillor Tom Davey (Chairman of the Housing Committee)

No' Active Tenants & Leaseholders			
Ward	Leaseholder	Tenant	Total
Brunswick Park Ward	96	158	254
Burnt Oak Ward	252	1,533	1,785
Childs Hill Ward	239	411	650
Colindale Ward	494	1,273	1,767
Coppetts Ward	434	607	1,041
East Barnet Ward	221	400	621
East Finchley Ward	384	646	1,030
Edgware Ward	110	155	265
Finchley Church End Ward	181	178	359
Garden Suburb Ward	25	27	52
Golders Green Ward	97	389	486
Hale Ward	126	507	633
Hendon Ward	249	466	715
High Barnet Ward	58	138	196
Mill Hill Ward	161	301	462
Oakleigh Ward	142	225	367
Totteridge Ward	129	177	306
Underhill Ward	233	1,154	1,387
West Finchley Ward	115	152	267
West Hendon Ward	229	808	1,037
Woodhouse Ward	149	335	484
Grand Total	4,124	10,040	14,164

117. Councillor Pauline Coakley Webb
 When will residents be consulted about the proposed waste depot at Oakleigh Road South?

Answer by Councillor Daniel Thomas (Chairman of the Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee)
 Resident consultation will take place through the planning process. The timing of this will depend on whether a decision is taken to proceed with the purchase which will be subject to planning permission.

118. Could the Chair of the Housing Committee tell me how many Barnet Homes leaseholders there are in each ward? See Q116.

Answer by Councillor Tom Davey (Chairman of the Housing Committee)
 See Q116.

119.	<p><u>Councillor Pauline Coakley Webb</u> Will a legal agreement to purchase the proposed Oakleigh Road site be in place before residents are consulted?</p> <p><u>Answer by Councillor Daniel Thomas (Chairman of the Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee)</u> Any legal agreement to purchase will be subject to planning permission, and residents will be consulted as part of the planning process.</p>																																																																																																
120.	<p><u>Councillor Adam Langleben</u> Could the Chair of the Housing Committee tell me the average Barnet Homes monthly rent for a 1 bed, 2 bed and 3 bed property in each ward.</p> <p><u>Answer by Councillor Tom Davey (Chairman of the Housing Committee)</u></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="204 589 1002 1641"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="4">Av Monthly Rent by Bed Size</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Ward</th> <th>1 Bed</th> <th>2 Bed</th> <th>3 Bed</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Brunswick Park Ward</td><td>£451</td><td>£517</td><td>£574</td></tr> <tr><td>Burnt Oak Ward</td><td>£426</td><td>£470</td><td>£511</td></tr> <tr><td>Childs Hill Ward</td><td>£448</td><td>£484</td><td>£551</td></tr> <tr><td>Colindale Ward</td><td>£483</td><td>£544</td><td>£568</td></tr> <tr><td>Coppetts Ward</td><td>£470</td><td>£528</td><td>£557</td></tr> <tr><td>East Barnet Ward</td><td>£426</td><td>£497</td><td>£572</td></tr> <tr><td>East Finchley Ward</td><td>£445</td><td>£485</td><td>£543</td></tr> <tr><td>Edgware Ward</td><td>£420</td><td>£474</td><td>£543</td></tr> <tr><td>Finchley Church End Ward</td><td>£465</td><td>£523</td><td>£567</td></tr> <tr><td>Garden Suburb Ward</td><td>£391</td><td>£404</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Golders Green Ward</td><td>£467</td><td>£472</td><td>£519</td></tr> <tr><td>Hale Ward</td><td>£392</td><td>£467</td><td>£522</td></tr> <tr><td>Hendon Ward</td><td>£476</td><td>£526</td><td>£569</td></tr> <tr><td>High Barnet Ward</td><td>£456</td><td>£539</td><td>£560</td></tr> <tr><td>Mill Hill Ward</td><td>£449</td><td>£485</td><td>£553</td></tr> <tr><td>Oakleigh Ward</td><td>£452</td><td>£512</td><td>£554</td></tr> <tr><td>Totteridge Ward</td><td>£510</td><td>£515</td><td>£586</td></tr> <tr><td>Underhill Ward</td><td>£452</td><td>£494</td><td>£536</td></tr> <tr><td>West Finchley Ward</td><td>£477</td><td>£544</td><td>£561</td></tr> <tr><td>West Hendon Ward</td><td>£448</td><td>£475</td><td>£537</td></tr> <tr><td>Woodhouse Ward</td><td>£467</td><td>£505</td><td>£543</td></tr> <tr> <td>Grand Total</td> <td>£456</td> <td>£497</td> <td>£540</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Av Monthly Rent by Bed Size				Ward	1 Bed	2 Bed	3 Bed	Brunswick Park Ward	£451	£517	£574	Burnt Oak Ward	£426	£470	£511	Childs Hill Ward	£448	£484	£551	Colindale Ward	£483	£544	£568	Coppetts Ward	£470	£528	£557	East Barnet Ward	£426	£497	£572	East Finchley Ward	£445	£485	£543	Edgware Ward	£420	£474	£543	Finchley Church End Ward	£465	£523	£567	Garden Suburb Ward	£391	£404		Golders Green Ward	£467	£472	£519	Hale Ward	£392	£467	£522	Hendon Ward	£476	£526	£569	High Barnet Ward	£456	£539	£560	Mill Hill Ward	£449	£485	£553	Oakleigh Ward	£452	£512	£554	Totteridge Ward	£510	£515	£586	Underhill Ward	£452	£494	£536	West Finchley Ward	£477	£544	£561	West Hendon Ward	£448	£475	£537	Woodhouse Ward	£467	£505	£543	Grand Total	£456	£497	£540
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121.	<p><u>Councillor Adam Langleben</u> Could the Chair of the Housing Committee tell me how much has the Council paid to landlords in incentives in 2012/13, 2013/14 and the current financial year to date?</p> <p><u>Answer by Councillor Tom Davey (Chairman of the Housing Committee)</u> 12/13 £42,689 13/14 £698,843 14/15 to 4 Dec 2014 £512,556</p>																																																																																																
122.	<p><u>Councillor Adam Langleben</u> Further to question 92 at the last full council meeting. Could the Leader tell me yet how much Re has made in profit? 122.</p>																																																																																																

Answer by the Leader

Re will publish their first set of accounts as of the end of December 2014 in the New Year. As the Council is a significant shareholder in Re, taxpayers will benefit from any profit.

123. Councillor Adam Langleben
Would the Leader tell me how many non-secure tenants (as 1 December 2014) are living on a) the West Hendon estate b) Stonegrove estate. 123.

Answer by Councillor Tom Davey (Chairman of the Housing Committee)

As of 04/12/2014 there an estimated a) 207 non-secure tenants resident at West Hendon b) 12 non-secure tenants resident at Stonegrove.

124. Councillor Adam Langleben
Further to question 94 at the last full council meeting which to failed to answer. I hope the Leader will now answer my question. Will you now insist that developers publish all viability assessments on large new build proposals?

Answer by the Leader

These are a matter for professional assessment.

125. Councillor Adam Langleben
Could the Chair of the Housing Committee tell me the percentage inflation on property prices in NW9 since 2002? 125.

Answer by Councillor Tom Davey (Chairman of the Housing Committee)

According to Land Registry data there was a 49% increase in median house prices in West Hendon ward between 2002 and 2013. This is lower than e 67% increase across the borough as a whole (over the same period) as set out in the table below.

	2002 median price
West Hendon	£176,000
Barnet	£207,000

	2013 median price
West Hendon	£262,000
Barnet	£346,000

	% change
West Hendon	49%
Barnet	67%

126. Councillor Adam Langleben
Further to question 101 at the last full council meeting to the Leader. Will you attend the next open West Hendon Partnership Board to fulfil your pledge to me?

Answer by the Leader

I will attend a West Hendon meeting.

127. Councillor Philip Cohen
How would unstaffed libraries with card-swipe facilities only help older people suffering loneliness who rely on their library visits and chats with the staff they know well?

Councillor Reuben Thompstone (Chairman of the Children, Education, Libraries & Safeguarding Committee)

I don't understand the syntax of this question.

128.	<p><u>Councillor Adam Langleben</u> Could the Leader offer any Christmas advice to the Council tenants in Franklin House, NW9 in who have been forced to leave their homes today - just 9 days before Christmas? At the time of writing (30 Nov) not all have been offered alternative accommodation. 128.</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> Barnet Homes has sought possession orders against all the non-secure tenants at Franklin House as a precautionary measure to ensure vacant possession by 31 March 2015. Unless and until they are informed otherwise, tenants who have received a possession order containing a date by which they must leave the property do not actually have to do so. This has already been explained to them on several occasions in writing, public meetings and surgeries. We hope that the majority of tenants will work with us and let us help them to find alternative accommodation. We will only enforce the possession orders and apply for evictions where tenants refuse reasonable offers or where their cases are closed for other reasons e.g. that we have no duty to rehouse them.</p>
129.	<p><u>Councillor Philip Cohen</u> How much is the council paying private company Opinion Research Services (ORS) to run consultations on library and leisure services? Why haven't ward councillors been invited to any consultation events during the leisure services review?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> Ward councillors will have opportunities during the regular council process.</p>
130.	<p><u>Councillor Philip Cohen</u> Why is the council not holding proper public meetings so residents can give their views on the leisure services review instead of focus groups and pre-selected workshops. What are they afraid of?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> The council is not afraid of anything – we are a representative democracy where the representatives of the people can express their views.</p>
131.	<p><u>Councillor Philip Cohen</u> By next year the Tory-led coalition Government will have reduced core funding for local authorities by £10 billion or 34 per cent since 2010/11. Has he joined the protest to Ministers about this and does he support Labour's plan to devolve £30 billion of resources to local areas who know their needs better than Whitehall?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> National government is still dealing with the mess left by the last Labour government. Labour's economic plan is to borrow more, tax more and spend more.</p>
132.	<p><u>Councillor Charlie O-Macualey</u> How many elderly residents are there in Barnet that are not in the working age as per "Legislation 2013" and are having "Pension Credit" that the council has been wrongly charging council tax or wrongly sending council tax arrears alerts and also court notices?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> There are 9,343 residents of 'Pension Credit Age' and in receipt of Housing Benefit, and/or Council Tax Support. Of those, 6700 are in receipt of Pension Credit. We are not aware of any cases where council tax has been wrongly charged to this group of residents. Enforcement action has been taken against 572 residents of Pension Credit Age who based on their means are required to pay, but have failed to make the necessary payment on time.</p>
133.	<p><u>Councillor Paul Edwards</u> Could the Leader provide the Council's spend on Consultancy and agency staff in the year 2013-14 and the projected spend for the current financial year 2014-15, and outline what steps the Council intends to take to reduce this expenditure? 133.</p>

	<p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> The Council uses its Comensura contract for the deployment of both agency and interim resource, which is sometimes referred to as use of ‘consultants’. (See the response to question 52).</p> <p>The response below focuses on the overall number of agency posts in place, and within this, the senior interim resource covering an established post or delivering a project or specific piece of work.</p> <p>2013/14 Agency and Interims Spend - £17,531,000</p> <p>2014/15 (Estimated) Agency and Interims Spend – c. £13,500,000</p> <p>There are a number of reasons for delivery units deploying agency and interim resource. For example, the changes to the Children and Families Bill, preparation for the impact of the Care Act and a number of workforce transformation programmes.</p> <p>In terms of the position within 2014/15, we have just over 100 deployments within Family Services supporting social care practice and over 200 within Street Scene covering a variety of established roles; both services are also currently undergoing internal restructuring. AS these changes take place we anticipate reduction in the use of agency resources. There are also just under 100 within Adults and Communities covering a number of established roles and preparing the delivery unit for the implementation of the Care Act, alongside this there are 33 interim roles across delivery units covering either established roles, or providing services for one off pieces of work and projects.</p> <p>Agency usage is reviewed regularly within service areas, at the Council’s Workforce Board, the overall position reported to Performance and Contract Monitoring Committee each quarter. In addition to this, Workforce plans are being created per delivery unit for 2015/16 and this will include the use of agency and interims moving forward, with an aim to reduce expenditure once the series of transformation programmes have been completed.</p>
134.	<p><u>Councillor Arjun Mittra</u> Is there a clear commitment from the Council to provide the Somali Bravanese community with a new centre?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> The ARG Committee on 15th December received a report detailing proposals for a new community centre at Tarling Road. The intention is that this centre will be able to be used by a range of local community groups and will provide a permanent home for the Somali Bravanese.</p>
135.	<p><u>Councillor Arjun Mittra</u> Will the Council ensure that the new Old Barn management are given every chance of success, and that the building will be brought up to standard as soon as possible?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> Yes.</p>
136.	<p><u>Councillor Arjun Mittra</u> Is it true that the council has hired a contractor to consult on the libraries proposals, and that they have hired subcontractors? Was the decision to hire contractors due to a lack of internal ability to consult, or a desire to save money? 136.</p> <p><u>Answer by Councillor Reuben Thompstone (Chairman of the Children, Education, Libraries & Safeguarding Committee)</u> An external research agency was appointed to conduct significant parts of the libraries consultation. External research organisations are largely used for the objectivity they bring to a consultation process which can provide further reassurance to residents and councillors that all feedback has been listened</p>

to and reported on impartially. This is standard practice for LBB, and indeed other councils across the country. Commissioning an external research provider on an ad hoc basis is also far more cost effective when compared to having a larger central consultation team all year round.

The consultation was put out to tender and Opinion Research Services were appointed. Their bid included partnering with another agency (Shared Intelligence) that brought additional expertise and experience to the process.

137.

Councillor Arjun Mitra

Will the Chair of the CELS committee give an undertaking to read the residents consultation feedback, unlike the approach he took to the Mapledown issue, where was frightened that reading the views of residents might actually change his mind?

Answer by Councillor Reuben Thompstone (Chairman of the Children, Education, Libraries & Safeguarding Committee)

I do not accept the premise of this question.

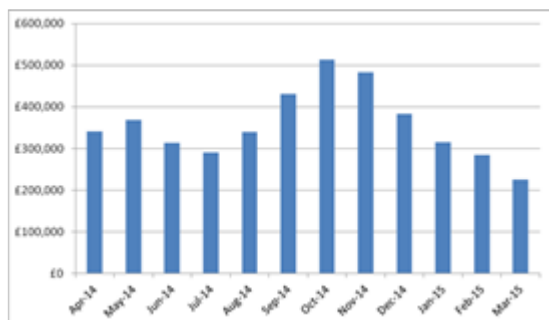
138.

Councillor Arjun Mitra

How much of the road and pavement repair budget has been spent so far this year. Could the monthly expenditures be shown on a table for the 2014 calendar year as well please?

Answer by Councillor Dean Cohen (Chairman of the Environment Committee)

The total projected spend for highways maintenance in 2014/15 is approximately £4.3 million. This includes planned, reactive and cyclical maintenance and is funded from both internal and external sources. The reactive budget for 2014/15 is £1.9m of which £1.6m has been spent or committed as at the end of November. In terms of the total budget for both reactive and planned maintenance, to date we have committed approximately £2.8 million with the indicative spend profile set out below.



139.

Councillor Arjun Mitra

I have asked in written questions before when the plant boxes at the junction of Church Lane and Long Lane will be fixed, and previously been reassured that it was soon. Months later nothing has been done. Please could you explain? 139.

Answer by Councillor Dean Cohen (Chairman of the Environment Committee)

The planters in question have been inspected and although there are some missing and a few with loose bricks they have been deemed to be safe. We are currently focussing our finite resources on those defects that pose a higher risk and assume therefore a higher priority. We will therefore not be undertaking works to these planters in the foreseeable future, unless alternative funding becomes available.

140.

Councillor Arjun Mitra

Will the data from the Church Lane 20 mph zone be made available to the councillors and residents who have asked for it, as we have been requesting it for months? 140.

Answer by Councillor Dean Cohen (Chairman of the Environment Committee)

Officers apologise that follow up review data following the implementation of the 20mph scheme was not available at the time of the request. This was due to issues surrounding the data collection equipment. However this has been resolved and speed data for Church Lane has now been collected.

	<p>The results have been sent to Councillor Mitra for his information.</p>
141.	<p><u>Councillor Arjun Mitra</u> In answer to a previous written question of mine, it was indicated action was taken on only 10% or so of planning enforcement requests made. Does the leader feel residents should be confident that complaints will be dealt with when they report breaches in planning rules?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> Yes.</p>
142.	<p><u>Councillor Arjun Mitra</u> Are all council buildings fully wheelchair accessible? If not does the council have a plan to make them so?</p> <p><u>Answer by the Leader</u> In the fullness of time.</p>
143.	<p><u>Councillor Agnes Slocombe</u> Under Highways inspection repairs programme will the council remind London Highways to remove green and red barriers on the footpaths after pavement repairs are done and not leave them for 2 months?</p> <p><u>Answer by Councillor Dean Cohen (Chairman of the Environment Committee)</u> Yes.</p>