

## Council Questions (in proper order) - 8 December 2015

Qn no	Councillor	Question	Councillor Answering	Answer
1	Cllr Brian Salinger	Under the terms of the lease for the 'HAB building' in Woodhouse Road, who is responsible for clearing the gutters?	Cllr Daniel Thomas (Chairman of Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee)	Responsibility for clearing the gutters will rest with the potential lessee under the terms of the lease. A lease offer has been put to the potential lessee but this has not yet been agreed. In the meantime, responsibility lies with the building services team.
2	Cllr Alison Moore	The 3 year review of the Capita CSG Contract is due next summer. Will the Leader agree with me that it is vital that the review is thorough, rigorous and challenging? Can he detail the process that will be followed, when that will be brought to committee for agreement, how members will be involved in throughout the review and what public consultation will take place?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>The CSG contract has seen significant success and resulted in significant change in Barnet since the middle of 2013. At a headline level the partnership is on track to deliver £126m of savings, and the majority of services are performing well against the required outcomes.</p> <p>The inclusion of the Year 3 Outcome Review is a helpful mechanism given the time that has lapsed since the outset of the contract and the extent to which the landscape has changed. This will be a thorough, vigorous and challenging process.</p> <p>A paper outlining the whole review process will go to Performance and Contract Management Committee in January. This paper will ask members to consider how they want to proceed.</p> <p>The process that will be outlined in the report will show how both parties will have an opportunity to consider what is working well, areas for improvement and to consider the changing needs of LBB. The report will</p>

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				<p>also explain how the views of residents and wider stakeholders will feed into the review. Annual satisfaction surveys are at the point of being circulated this year, and the results of these will ensure staff views are fed into the review.</p> <p>A further report that will detail the outcome of the review will be bought to Performance and Contract Management Committee in the autumn.</p>
3	Cllr Brian Salinger	How much money has been set aside within the Council's capital budget for the next few years for the maintenance of Council owned community centres such as The Freehold Centre in Alexandra Road, N.10?	Cllr Daniel Thomas (Chairman of Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee)	We have set aside a revenue budget of approximately £600k per annum to allow us to maintain all council assets to a similar standard, including community centres such as the Freehold Centre.
4	Cllr Amy Trevethan	Can the Leader explain what contribution the axing of the meals on wheels service makes to delivering the Conservatives' long term economic plan?	Cllr Sachin Rajput (Chairman of Adults and Safeguarding Committee)	The long term economic plan is about ensuring the nation's future financial security and prosperity. One of its key requirements is to eliminate the huge budget deficit left by the last Labour government. This has necessitated cuts in spending across central and local government. The decision not to re-procure a Home Meals Service at the expiry of the current contract in March 2016 will save the council £274k per year, thus making a contribution to meeting our budget challenge. Over half of London boroughs have already done this, with the numbers of people choosing to use Meals on Wheels having dwindled due to the range of alternative options now available to them.

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5	Cllr Sury Khatri	Would the Leader join me in congratulating the Corporate Anti-Fraud Team (CAFT) on their work investigating and prosecuting those attempting to defraud the taxpayer? Would he agree with me that we should further actively promote their work, for example in relation to cases where people have fraudulently used addresses to try and win school places, so as to act as a deterrent to others?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	CAFT do a terrific job in discovering cases of fraud and bringing the perpetrators to justice. They routinely recover in excess of £10m annually for the taxpayer. We try to publicise the outcomes of investigations in the media where appropriate so that people can see that fraudsters will be caught. Any attempt to use a false address to hoodwink the admissions system is a serious issue and we can certainly look at ways to further communicate this message and the work of CAFT.
6	Cllr Barry Rawlings	Labour has always supported Neighbourhood Watch. Will the administration join us in thanking them for their work and assure them that the Council will fully support their vital role in community safety?	Cllr David Longstaff (Chairman of Community Leadership Committee)	The work of Neighbourhood Watch (Barnet Borough Watch) is appreciated and supported by the council. That appreciation and support extends to the wider community safety partnership including the Police.  We also welcome and appreciate the support that is being offered to Barnet Borough Watch by CommUnity Barnet who are working closely with them to sustain and develop the approach of delivering a Neighbourhood Watch service in the Borough.
7	Cllr David Longstaff	On November 18th Councillor Patel, a member of the Adults and Safeguarding Committee, wrote the following message on twitter: 'Barnet Council's	Cllr Sachin Rajput (Chairman of Adults and Safeguarding	The report which went to the Adults and Safeguarding Committee on 12 <sup>th</sup> November did not recommend food banks as an alternative to the meals service. The appendix in question gave an exhaustive list of all sources of information and advice about food options within the borough. This was made clear by a senior officer at the meeting. There is no suggestion that

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		suggestion that food banks might be considered a better alternative' with links to a press article regarding the Home Meals Service. Would the Chairman of Adults and Safeguarding like to comment on whether this was ever suggested as a better alternative?	Committee)	people should rely upon food banks and no responses to the consultation (including the Labour Group's own submission) indicated that this had been perceived. Such claims as that made in the tweet to which you refer are typically disingenuous and deliberately misleading.
8	Cllr Amy Trevethan	Does the Leader believe that civil servants in the DfE are better placed than locally elected and locally accountable councillors for making decisions on which new schools open in Barnet?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	Barnet Council has always had a good relationship with the DfE.
9	Cllr Anthony Finn	What discrepancies are there between the amount of grant funding per head each borough receives and what impact do these differences have?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	The discrepancies in the level of central government grant funding received by different boroughs are substantial. For example, whilst Barnet received £330 per head in 2014/15, neighbours Enfield, Brent, Haringey and Camden received £469, £560, £632 and £805 per head respectively. This means our spend per head is lower and consequently we have to be far more efficient in our operations.
10	Cllr Alan Schneiderman	Local residents tell me that they are unhappy with Tory plans to reduce North Finchley library to less than a third of its current size and leave it	Cllr Reuben Thompstone (Chairman of Children, Education,	The public are telling me they want the libraries kept open. The consultation is still underway.

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		unstaffed most of the time. What are they telling the Leader and chair of the committee who are pushing through these plans?	Libraries and Safeguarding Committee)	
11	Cllr Anthony Finn	What would Band D council tax in Barnet be if we were funded to the same level as other authorities?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	Because our grant funding is so low, a greater proportion of our budget has to be generated from council tax. If we received the same grant funding per head as Enfield our Band D Council Tax would need only be £708 per year for us to maintain current spend on services. The level of Band D Council Tax would drop to £452 and £247 per year if funded to the same level as Brent and Haringey respectively. If we were given the same funding settlement as Camden, far from charging council tax we would instead actually be able to give residents £243 per year.
12	Cllr Arjun Mittra	In the aftermath of the dreadful Paris attacks, can we be assured that Jewish and Muslim community centres and schools have adequate security, given the possibility of reprisal attacks and attacks here?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>Following the tragic incidents in Paris the Council continues to work closely with the police. The police will act upon any intelligence on the threat of attack not only in Barnet but across London and the UK.</p> <p>The Council have in place the required emergency planning and business continuity processes for the sites that they own and manage, officers also review the security arrangements for council owned and managed buildings on a regular basis. I would urge our local communities to do the same and review and refresh the security arrangements they have in place to ensure they are adequate – this is good practice.</p> <p>The threat level has been severe since August 2014 and people will be aware that there have been large scale training exercises held in London this summer for the type of scenario that tragically happened in Paris. What is ever more important now is a focus on the trust and relationships</p>

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				<p>with our communities. The police rely on information from our communities – including suspicious behaviour from groups or individuals – the police have received more reports over the last year and it is these reports that can potentially contribute towards preventing an incident occurring.</p> <p>We need to recognise the role our communities will play in potentially preventing an attack by remaining alert, vigilant and reporting anything suspicious to the confidential Anti-Terrorist Hotline on 0800 789 321 (999 in an emergency).</p> <p>The National Security Office also provides advice and guidance on general security matters – <a href="http://www.nactso.gov.uk">www.nactso.gov.uk</a></p> <p>This terror attack shows the importance of further pushing the Prevent agenda and our work in this regard..</p> <p>Police and officers from the council will continue the dialogue and to strengthen the links with various community groups, which was reinvigorated following from the attack in Paris in the spring - this will provide an opportunity to have the 1-2-1 dialogue that is needed to build our community resilience so we are working together to keep Barnet safe.</p>
13	Cllr Anthony Finn	Is the Leader aware of Enfield Council's Council Tax Support Scheme consultation, which proposes increasing the minimum contribution residents must pay to 43%?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	Enfield's proposal to ask those on the lowest incomes to pay a minimum of 43% of their council tax liability shows what Labour actually do when in office. The proposed increase equates to an extra £328 per year for a Band D household. Our minimum contribution is in line with our neighbouring borough at 20%.

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		What are Barnet's plans with regards to the minimum contribution for 2016/17?		
14	Cllr Zakai Zubairi	Grahame Park Way is a narrow road, cars are parked on both sides and there is already congestion during peak hours. What arrangements will be put in place to manage the traffic and parking chaos there at peak times?	Cllr Dean Cohen (Chairman of Environment Committee)	I am advised that Grahame Park Way is not Public Highway and the Council therefore has no jurisdiction over the management of parking in this road.
15	Cllr Val Duschinsky	How many net new homes were delivered in Barnet and in each of our neighbouring boroughs between 2010/11 and 2013/14 (the last year for which verified figures are available)?	Cllr Tom Davey (Chairman of Housing Committee)	The number of net new homes delivered between 2010/11 and 2013/14 are as follows:  Barnet – 5250 Brent – 2340 Camden – 1920 Enfield – 1820 Haringey – 2480 Harrow - 1930
16	Cllr Reema Patel	Does the Leader think it was appropriate to refer to food banks in their papers about the decision to axe the council's funding for meals on wheels?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	The only reference to food banks came towards the end of a 19 page long table in an appendix, which provided an exhaustive list of all providers of advice about food options in the borough. This was an attempt by officers to be as comprehensive and helpful as possible. Food banks were not being suggested as an alternative meal option.  Clearly their inclusion in the appendix was regrettable as it enabled your attempts to mislead the public by misrepresenting the report's

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				recommendations, despite being advised by a senior officer at the meeting that food banks were not part of the recommendations. To anyone who has seen the papers in their entirety it is evident that you have given food banks undue significance.
17	Cllr Val Duschinsky	For the same boroughs over the same period, how many affordable homes were built?	Cllr Tom Davey (Chairman of Housing Committee)	Affordable home completions between 2010/11 and 2013/14:  Barnet – 1800 Brent – 2280 Camden – 1140 Enfield – 1710 Haringey – 1280 Harrow - 1080



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18	Cllr Jim Tierney	<p>A report in the National Press recently claimed that many who purchase new-build homes are encountering unexpected extra costs as a consequence of the poor quality build and workmanship. Our own Millbrook Park Estate in Mill Hill is taken as an example. There a new home was found to be very poorly insulated, most walls did not have cavity insulation and there was cold air coming through the skirting boards. All this inevitably led to very high heating costs. There was noise coming through the badly fitted windows and many more faults besides. The National House Builders Council (NHBC) is involved and attempting to get the necessary remedial work done. But who did the Building Control sign-off for this shoddy work? We know it was not done by Barnet</p>	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	I have sympathy with the councillor's views and think that this section of the development was not granted planning permission by Barnet, but by the Planning Inspectorate. This is why the NHBC exists.

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		<p>Building Control. The NHBC is funded by the developers but sometimes it signs off the work. Home buyers have no confidence in this arrangement. Whoever it was signed off this, some very poor quality build and workmanship was approved. We know the developer is not obliged to use Barnet Building Control but ultimately the Local Authority still has a responsibility to residents. Could I ask the Leader therefore to look into this and see what the Council can do to regain control in these matters?</p>		
19	Cllr Val Duschinsky	<p>Would the Committee Chairman give Council an update on the progress of the new council homes being built across the borough?</p>	Cllr Tom Davey (Chairman of Housing Committee)	<p>Barnet Homes is making excellent progress with their development programme of 40 new affordable homes across six sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bedford Road, NW7</li> <li>• Brent Place, EN5</li> <li>• Green Lane, HA8</li> <li>• Haldane Close, N10</li> <li>• Tarling Road, N2</li> <li>• Wade Court, N10</li> </ul>

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				<p>Three of these units at Green Lane, HA8, will be completing in December, earlier than originally programmed. The Housing Allocations team are preparing potential occupants meaning that there will be a seamless transition from handover with the contractor to letting the properties and the new tenants will be able to move into their new homes in time for Christmas.</p> <p>The rest of the programme is still on time with projected site completion dates between March and June 2016. 26 of these 37 units will be family homes, helping to meet the borough's greatest housing need. Four of the units are built to wheelchair accessibility standards and are adaptable to meet the needs of their occupants. This will help to reduce costs for adult social services as residents can live in purpose-built accommodation and avoid high-cost care or adaptations bills.</p> <p>Barnet Homes is also working on its next pipeline of potential development sites and is aiming to start consultation with Members in the forthcoming months.</p>
20	Cllr Anne Hutton	<p>Could I have an update on what is happening with the (ex) Church Farm Museum? The lease to Middlesex University allowed for an element of community use. What community activities have taken place since it was leased almost three years ago? The Grade II listed building still appears to be empty.</p>	Cllr Daniel Thomas (Chairman of Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee)	<p>The draft lease to Middlesex University has been issued and is awaiting final agreement of the terms. The building is currently occupied by 'Guardians' to ensure it is secure which precludes use by third parties for community activities at this time. The terms agreed provide that the building will be reasonably available to community groups - further detail will be agreed as part of the final documentation.</p>

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21	Cllr Brian Gordon	How will our residents benefit from the Government's recent announcement that it will allow Housing Associations to voluntarily introduce the extension of Right to Buy to their tenants?	Cllr Tom Davey (Chairman of Housing Committee)	<p>The Government has made it clear that it wants to increase opportunities for home ownership, and as part of this has reached a voluntary agreement with Housing Associations on extending the Right to Buy to their tenants. The Housing Bill provides a mechanism for compensating Housing Associations for the loss of assets, as well providing funds to build replacement homes for those that are sold.</p> <p>The Government has signalled that the Right to Buy will be rolled out gradually, and has just announced that a pilot scheme will commence next year with five housing associations, London &amp; Quadrant, Sovereign, Riverside, Saffron Housing and Thames Valley. Under the pilot scheme, people who have been social housing tenants for at least 10 years will be able to apply to buy their home and receive discounts of up to £100k in London and £70,000 elsewhere.</p> <p>However, although London and Quadrant and Riverside have some stock in Barnet ( 82 homes outside of Dollis Valley), these will not be included in the pilot. In the longer term, it is expected that the scheme will be extended to all housing associations, which will give many of the 7000 housing association tenants in the borough the opportunity to own their home.</p>
22	Cllr Kathy Levine	Does the Leader share our dismay that Barnet Council has now agreed to abrogate its responsibility to provide child mental health provision in Primary and Secondary schools unless the schools themselves pay for it? And is	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>The Council and the Clinical Commissioning Group remain committed to primary mental health services but through the national "Future in Mind" CAMHS transformation approach we need to ensure that provision is delivered in a 21st Century way meaning we will seek to work differently using appropriate technology, drop in provision and peer-led programmes.</p> <p>The Children Education Libraries and Safeguarding (CELS) Committee considered changes to the way Child and Adolescent Mental Health</p>

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		<p>he also not concerned that our Barnet provision for social care is already overspent by £2.5 million because of what were already anticipated rising demands for services, such as: growth in residents with dementia; increase in residents with mental health issues and an increase in self-funding residents in care homes who have run out of money and who now look to their council to take care of them? Will he join with other Council Leaders, including many from Tory councils, to call on the Chancellor to rethink his policy for continuous cutting back of local authority services?</p>		<p>Services (CAMHS) were funded. The Council does not provide these services as they are commissioned from Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health Trust. The Council does not have a responsibility to fund these services for schools. Through the proposed new model of working being considered as part of the future work programme for CELS we want to explore the development of more bespoke support for schools meeting the needs of their pupils. We will work with schools and providers to see how this can be best achieved.</p> <p>The adults budget position is a challenging one and one that is not unique to Barnet. Within Barnet work is focused on bringing the budget back in line through a focus on preventative services, enabling individuals and communities to help themselves and each other , delivering efficiencies, ensuring value for money and finding a sustainable solution for Adult Social Care through our medium term financial plans.</p>
23	Cllr Brian Gordon	Is the Council geared up for the highly significant change announced by Chancellor Osborne whereby local authorities will be allowed to	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	This is a significant shift in the way local authorities will be funded in future and is a big opportunity for a growing, successful place like Barnet. The announcement indicates that Councils will retain all of business rates by 2020, and as yet little detail has emerged on how the system will work and what redistribution arrangements will be put in place between Councils. It

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		retain all their business rates income locally?		will require careful planning and engagement with the business community and the Council will ensure that sufficient attention is given to this in the future.
24	Cllr Pauline Coakley Webb	Across all areas, in-house or outsourced, how many staff vacancies are there, and for how long has each post not been filled? [please provide the information by job title]	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	Please see the attached spreadsheet in Appendix A. These are the vacancies that relate to the establishment lists that the council and its partners hold. Areas like CSG and Re do not keep an establishment and, as such, there are no vacancies.
25	Cllr Brian Gordon	The Refugees Minister Richard Harrington has recently announced that funding for Syrian refugees will continue for longer than one year for local authorities where such people will be moving. In the light of the debate on the subject at our previous Council meeting, do we have any up-to-date information as to how many refugees may be coming to Barnet and how much Government funding will be available to us?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>The council has committed to resettle 50 refugees from Syria through the Government's Vulnerable Person Relocation Scheme. Arrangements with the Home Office are being finalised and we expect to begin welcoming refugees in the New Year. In terms of numbers, the commitment is to resettle 50 and Barnet is one of the few London boroughs to voluntarily make such a commitment to date. The 20,000 refugees that the Government has committed to resettling by 2020 will be accommodated across the UK. It may be that, in future, refugees placed in other areas move to London and to Barnet but it's not possible to predict how many.</p> <p>Those resettled through the Government scheme will be given 5 years Humanitarian Protection status, meaning that they will be entitled to work and claim benefits upon arrival. At the end of the 5 years, they can apply for indefinite leave to remain. In terms of funding, Government has committed to fund the full costs of resettlement in the first year through a system of unit costs with continuing funding for the following 4 years as refugees become integrated or return home.</p>

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26	Cllr Gill Sargeant	As the Council are a signed up partner to Colindale Our Place, can you update me where you are with getting the go ahead for Grahame Park Community Centre to coordinate its running alongside other community centres in Colindale.	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	At the meeting of the Grahame Park Strategy group on November 18, 2015, it was agreed to set up a small sub group comprising the Council, Barnet Homes and Genesis to explore options to improve the current community centre 'offer' as part of the 'Our Place' initiative. This will include improved marketing, booking, maintenance and refurbishment.
27	Cllr Joan Scannell	What is the crime rate in Barnet and how does it compare to both the London average and our neighbouring boroughs?	Cllr David Longstaff (Chairman of Community Leadership Committee)	The crime rate in Barnet for 2014/15 was 62.7 (per thousand). This compares to a London average of 84. Barnet is also safer than neighbouring Brent, Enfield and Haringey, with Camden's crime rate of 123.5 being virtual double that in our borough. Keeping crime rates as low as possible continues to be a key objective.
28	Cllr Phil Cohen	Why did the council totally ignore the findings of the public consultation into ending the meals at home service which concluded that 'people are not in favour of the proposal', and why did you ignore the Equalities Impact Assessment which said that there would be a disproportionate negative impact on older people aged 85 and over, people with	Cllr Sachin Rajput (Chairman of Adults and Safeguarding Committee)	The findings from the consultation and the EIA have been fully considered as part of the overall proposal that was put forward for Committee to agree and indeed a number of questions were asked by committee members from both parties about both documents. Cllr Davey for example asked several questions about the impact of the decision on people from BME groups and women. Regarding the EIA, while it has identified negative impacts for specific groups of people, there are a number of mitigating actions that have been taken and will continue to be taken so that we are appropriately supporting Barnet's residents, for example providing information and advice about a range of options available including cultural specific provision. All service users will still be able to access meals through a variety of options, and instead of service users paying their contribution for the lunch

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		physical disabilities, and carers, as well as groups such as the Jewish and Asian communities?		time meal to the Council, service users can choose how they spend the money and who is best placed to provide that service. Users of the current service will be supported to put in place alternatives and the Council has always made it clear that, for those whom no other option is available, the service will still be provided.
29	Cllr Joan Scannell	When do we cease to be a member of the LGA and how much will this save over a full year?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	The council's membership of the LGA will end on 31 March 2016. Given that we have served notice to leave, we do not know the exact cost of membership for 2016/17. However, the direct cost for this financial year was £60,491, so we'd expect the saving achieved by not renewing to be a similar.
30	Cllr Alison Moore	What consideration has the Leader given to the cumulative impact on Barnet's most vulnerable residents of the proposed cuts to welfare and public services and how does he intend to mitigate the impact of Barnet's share of the Chancellor's £12 billion cuts on Barnet residents?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>Helping people into work is the best mitigation and outcome for them and their families, as well as for the taxpayer.</p> <p>The Welfare Reform Task Force has supported 1885 people due to have their overall benefits capped since June 2013. The team include JobCentre Plus, Barnet Homes, the council's Benefit service and a commissioned health coaching service. This service offers support, advice and access to discretionary funding such as Discretionary Housing Payments, the Crisis Fund and discretionary Council Tax Relief. The team have supported 669 people or 35% of their caseload into work. The team have supported new claimants of Universal Credit with managing their money and digital inclusion since March. This multi-agency support has also be extended to a community based team in Burnt Oak that runs from the library.</p>



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31	Cllr Hugh Rayner	We all know that growing up in a workless household unfortunately makes someone more likely to experience poor educational attainment, unemployment and poverty themselves. This is one of the many reasons why getting people into work is so important. Given this, what percentage of children in Barnet are growing up in households where all the adults are out of-work benefit claimants and how does this compare to surrounding boroughs?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>The percentage of children growing up in households where all the adults are out-of-work benefit claimants is 10.6%, significantly below that in neighbouring boroughs. In Barnet we continue to strive to help as many people into work, specifically targeting those affected by welfare reform. The Welfare Reform Task Force has got a third of those affected by the benefit cap into employment. Such work will benefit not only the individuals, but their families and local communities for the long term.</p> <p>The percentage of children in all out-of-work claimant homes is as follows:</p> <p>Barnet – 10.6%  Brent – 15.8%  Camden – 18.9%  Enfield – 19.6%  Haringey – 19.2%</p>
32	Cllr Amy Trevethan	A government budget surplus means by definition that the government is taking more money out of the private sector than it is putting back in; does the Leader agree with this statement?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	A budget surplus means that government income is slightly higher than government expenditure. A budget surplus means that the country is living within its means and that money is being saved for a rainy day. A budget surplus means we are not piling ever more debt on future generations. A budget surplus means we have learned the lessons of the last Labour government.
33	Cllr Hugh Rayner	We recently received the long-awaited and much anticipated result to the West Hendon CPO Inquiry. Could the Leader	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	The decision brings certainty and means we can get on with the long-promised regeneration, improving public space, revitalising the Broadway and providing the quality new homes people deserve. I welcome the clear conclusion of both the Planning Inspector and the Secretary of State that

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		comment on the Secretary of State's decision to confirm the CPOs?		the scheme would contribute significantly to the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the area. I am proud that we will create a mix community with 2,000 homes and new facilities. Granting the CPOs is an important step in being able to get this delivered. I have written to everyone on the estate to explain what the CPO means for them and outlining the next steps.
34	Cllr Barry Rawlings	Will the administration agree with us that cuts to Public Health discriminate against boroughs like Barnet who are already underfunded and inform Council how they will ensure Public Health remains central to improving the lives of residents of Barnet and to reducing inequalities?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	We have lobbied the government in relation to Public Health funding, asking that any further cuts recognise the fact that we are already underfunded and reflect this in their distribution. Public Health remains an important way of improving the health and wellbeing of residents across the borough and our motion on Shisha indicates how seriously we take such issues.
35	Cllr Stephen Sowerby	Does the Committee Chairman join me in welcoming the decision to open the car park at Barnet House to local shoppers at weekends and does he agree it makes sense to utilise council assets like this to benefit residents and businesses?	Cllr Dean Cohen (Chairman of Environment Committee)	Yes, it is sensible to try and maximise the benefits of council assets like car parks for the benefit of local people and businesses. The staff located at Barnet House are contributing to the local economy during the week and this decision will help residents do similarly at the weekends.
36	Cllr Alan Schneiderman	Given that residents often complain about the Borough's dirty streets, why are there	Cllr Dean Cohen (Chairman of Environment	Customer contact figures received for 2015/16 show that requests for service and complaints are 30% lower since the introduction of the new service offer in April 2015.

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		proposals to reduce the frequency of street cleaning and litter picking?	Committee)	<p>Key performance indicators for litter and graffiti (which are benchmarked nationally) evidence good results over the last year.</p> <p>Proposals for further changes to the Street Cleansing service will follow the adoption of an enforcement strategy where action will be taken against offenders, thereby reducing litter occurrences and encouraging good behaviour.</p>
37	Cllr Stephen Sowerby	Would the Leader like to comment on the Autumn Statement and Government Spending Review and how Barnet is likely to be affected?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>The Autumn Statement provided a strengthened financial outlook for the country, with growth and tax revenues revised up and interest rates on debt repayment remaining low. This enable the Chancellor to protect police and security spending and avoid changes to tax credits.</p> <p>For Barnet, the cuts are as expected – although we await the final local government settlement later in the month. There was the welcome reaffirmation of £97m for Brent Cross and support for our regeneration and house-building work. There were also welcome moves towards supporting home ownership, with more investment for those building houses and a Right to Buy for London.</p> <p>Business Rate devolution was also confirmed. We need to see the details of how the scheme will work, but this may reward us for our growth.</p>
38	Cllr Zakia Zubairi	Many residents are interested to find out how the council is going to develop the industrial area on Grahame Park Way which is next to the M1 and railway tracks. In particular	Cllr Daniel Thomas (Chairman of Assets, Regeneration and Growth	The council do not own the majority of the industrial area on Grahame Park Way but do own the freehold in the former Scout Hut site, which is currently leased on a short term basis to a community organisation. The potential options for the site are now being developed for member decision and public consultation. We do need a balance between home provision and premises where residents can work.

Qn no	Councillor	Question	Councillor Answering	Answer
		has the Scout Hall been sold, and can we be assured there will be no tower blocks erected?	Committee)	
39	Cllr Stephen Sowerby	What savings are being achieved for Barnet via the West London Alliance (WLA)?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	The WLA's annual report sets this out. For 2014/15 Barnet achieved savings of £466k. This represents a return on investment of 2:1. Link to the annual report: <a href="http://www.westlondonalliance.org/WLA/wlanew.nsf/Files/WLF-52/\$file/WLA%20annual%20report%202014-15%20final%20web%20version%20151112.pdf">http://www.westlondonalliance.org/WLA/wlanew.nsf/Files/WLF-52/\$file/WLA%20annual%20report%202014-15%20final%20web%20version%20151112.pdf</a>
40	Cllr Reema Patel	What are the Council's plans for managing pressure on parking in the New Southgate area in light of the Crossrail 2 proposals and will residents have the opportunity to input?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	Crossrail 2 is still many decades off. It is too early to consider parking implications.
41	Cllr Bridget Perry	At the last meeting we heard how unemployment is continuing to fall across the borough. Could the Leader indicate the fall in unemployment in each of Barnet's three constituencies in the last year?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	Overall unemployment in Barnet is down 8% in the last year (Oct 2014 – Oct 2015). In each of the three constituencies the changes are as follows:  Chipping Barnet – a fall of 15% Finchley and Golders Green – a fall of 13% Hendon – a fall of 1%

Qn no	Councillor	Question	Councillor Answering	Answer
42	Cllr Phil Cohen	Does the Leader realise that ending the council's meals at home service will increase the risk of malnutrition for older people in Barnet, given that that Malnutrition Task Force has just reported that ' the decline of the Meals on Wheels service has happened at the same time as a significant increase in the number of hospital admissions for malnutrition' and that Age UK estimates that there are about 300,000 people aged 65 and over in England who need help with eating or have difficulty eating unaided.	Cllr Sachin Rajput (Chairman of Adults and Safeguarding Committee)	We have been clear that when any client is considered to have a nutritional need as part of an assessment under the Care Act 2014, the Council will arrange for nutritional support through the most appropriate means. Where people do not have an assessed need, they will be provided with information and advice about the vast range of options available in the Borough. People can also continue to receive a meals service directly from Sodexo, the current provider, by setting up private arrangements. The numbers of people choosing the traditional meals service has gone down by half over recent years, as people instead choose from the many other options available.
43	Cllr Bridget Perry	What are the arrangements for Christmas parking across the borough this year?	Cllr Dean Cohen (Chairman of Environment Committee)	Motorists, as last year, will be able to park for free in all on-street pay to park locations and in the Council's car parks during the three weekends leading up to Christmas. 5th/6th, 12th/13th and 19th/20th December. This is being well publicised in Barnet First, the local press on street and in the car parks.

Qn no	Councillor	Question	Councillor Answering	Answer
44	Cllr Anne Hutton	Can the Leader assure me that sufficient funds are available to meet the needs of all Post 16 learners in Barnet, including those with English as an Additional Language? Not everyone wants to do an apprenticeship or 'A' levels, which increasingly seem to be the only options available. Good quality vocational qualifications also need to be on offer in order to address the skills shortage for local businesses and allow young people choice.	Cllr Reuben Thompstone (Chairman of Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee)	<p>The spending review and autumn statement 2015 announced that that the baseline funding for post-16 learners would remain the same. This is really good news for learners in Barnet.</p> <p>Apprenticeships remain as the cornerstone of the skills system for young people and adults, but the introduction of an employer led body to set more rigorous standards for apprenticeships is welcome and will ensure more young people have high quality training with an employment outcome at the end of their apprenticeship.</p> <p>For those wanting a vocational programme there is a broad range of programmes available in local FE Colleges and in some Barnet schools. A number of schools are currently expanding their vocational provision e.g. Totteridge Academy has opened a new vocational 6th form in 2015.</p> <p>In order to strengthen the vocational offer in Barnet we are supporting providers in preparing for the changes to vocational education courses in 2017 and have recently run a workshop for schools and colleges.</p> <p>We will be taking full advantage of the forthcoming Local Area Review of post-16 education and training and with the West London Alliance, along with other sub-regions in London, will be working with BIS and the DfE, as well as local employers and training providers, to undertake an Area Review of all post-16 education and training in the sub-region to ensure it is fit-for-purpose. Ensuring adequate ESOL provision is available for Londoners will form a key part of this process.</p> <p>In order to ensure that all young people in Barnet are aware of the post-16</p>

Qn no	Councillor	Question	Councillor Answering	Answer
				<p>choices available, we will be holding our Apprentice and post-16 event for all year 11, 12 and NEET young people on the 1st December at Middlesex University.</p>
45	Cllr Bridget Perry	<p>Would the Committee Chairman join me in congratulating the six schools in Barnet that received special 'excellence' awards from Transport for London for the work of their staff and pupils in promoting active, responsible and safe travel to and from school via their School Travel Plans?</p>	<p>Cllr Reuben Thompstone (Chairman of Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee)</p>	<p>I would very much like to congratulate the six schools which were commended at the annual TfL Top Schools STARS (School Travel: Active, Responsible and Safe) awards, held on Wednesday 3 November. Awarded in a range of categories, the 'school of excellence' commendations celebrate schools' outstanding achievements in encouraging safe and sustainable travel. They recognise achievements in reducing car use, increasing walking and cycling and using public transport more responsibly.</p> <p>The schools were selected from thousands of other schools from across London and received their awards at a ceremony at City Hall in London. The six winning Barnet schools were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oakleigh Special School was named 'School of the region';</li> <li>• Courtland Primary School and Mill Hill County High School were both awarded 'school of excellence' for their work in promoting the use of public transport;</li> <li>• Wren Academy was named a 'school of excellence' in the 'pupil-led' category for the work of its youth travel ambassadors in promoting safer and active travel to school to their peers;</li> <li>• Parkfield School is a 'school of excellence' for its road safety projects;</li> <li>• Moss Hall Infants School is a 'school of excellence' for promoting scooting to school.</li> </ul>

Qn no	Councillor	Question	Councillor Answering	Answer
				<p>The STARS awards are applied for through developing and implementing a school travel plan (STP), a document created by the school that identifies how everyone travels to school, their barriers to travelling more sustainably and an action plan of initiatives and activities to be implemented.</p> <p>I would also like to commend those Barnet schools which achieved STARS certificates: 48 attained a bronze STARS level, 17 silver and 23 achieved gold.</p> <p>Since the introduction of school travel plans in Barnet, there has been a reduction in travelling to school by car by approximately 10%.</p>
46	Cllr Pauline Coakley Webb	For every small retail business in Barnet claiming small business rate relief, how many have claimed retail rate relief this year?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	There are 2068 business rate payers claiming Small Business Rate Relief, of which 564 also receive Retail Rate Relief.
47	Cllr Peter Zinkin	Does the Leader have confidence that, following the recent workshop meeting with the boroughs, the NLWA will now finally be looking at all the options to identify the best and lowest cost solution for bulk waste disposal for its members?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	We have in the past been concerned that the NLWA has become far too focused on the delivery of a new facility, rather than looking at all alternative options. I am now more confident that, following interventions by our two NLWA members, we have secured a way forward that will look at the environmental and economic benefits of a range of options that will secure benefits for all NLWA members.



<b>Qn no</b>	<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Question</b>	<b>Councillor Answering</b>	<b>Answer</b>
48	Cllr Amy Trevethan	Does the Leader agree that policies which heap debt on to private individuals, which drive low income households to take out pay-day loans in order to make ends meet, and which serve to further inflate the housing bubble, contribute to making our economy more volatile, and therefore in the long-term threaten our economic security?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	Yes.
49	Cllr Peter Zinkin	Does the Leader welcome the realisation by the NLWA that the decision by the inspectorate to consider the planning application for the new waste to energy plant is a step forward in creating an option, but only one of many?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	The willingness of the NLWA to plan for a variety of future options has been noted and is a welcome change to their previous strategy.
50	Cllr Barry Rawlings	What are the Administration's plans to reduce child poverty in Barnet?	Cllr Reuben Thompstone (Chairman of Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding)	The Council is committed to the core principles of Fairness, Opportunity and Responsibility and work on Child Poverty is critical to these. We continue to strive to ensure the best outcomes for children living in poverty through our work, for example, on narrowing the educational attainment gap and through our work on welfare reform supporting parents back into work. The recently refreshed JSNA has also incorporated our up to date Child Poverty Needs Assessment and further work is planned through the

Qn no	Councillor	Question	Councillor Answering	Answer
			Committee)	development of the new Children and Young People's Plan in 2016 to include our Child Poverty Strategy. The JSNA has shown that, whilst challenges remain, the proportion of children living in lower-income families that are in receipt of benefits fell steadily between 2007 and 2012 (the most current year available), and the percentage of children living in workless households has fallen well below the London and England averages. Joined up working between Barnet Homes, council services and JCP is working to support more families into employment. For example the Welfare Reform Task Force has supported 672 families to start working over 16 hours a week and become exempt from the overall cap on benefits since June 2013.
51	Cllr Arjun Mittra	Does the Leader of the Council agree with me that it is right for Barnet Council to accept refugees, as the recent Paris attacks demonstrate exactly what many are fleeing from.	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	I am proud of Barnet's decision to accept Syrian refugees and work is ongoing to prepare for their arrival.
52	Cllr Zakai Zubairi	When are the developers going to demolish the existing Community Centre in Grahame Park.	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	The demolition of the community centre in Grahame Park will be included within the development proposals for plot 11. If the demolition of the existing centre happens before the replacement facility is available the Council will identify temporary alternative accommodation for users requiring it. The developers, Genesis Housing Association, will release the revised timetable for the re-development of plot 11 early in the New Year. This will be confirmed on receipt of the detailed planning application for plots 10,11 and 12 scheduled for September 2016

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53	Cllr Reema Patel	Does the Leader agree with me that after the emergency budget announcement of an increase in the national minimum wage, Barnet Tories' earlier decision to oppose an increase in pay to the Living Wage for care workers looks rather foolish, not to mention regressive?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	I welcome the new National Living Wage and am pleased that workers across the sector will be rewarded by it. We took a lead to ensure all our directly employed staff were paid at least the London Living Wage. We have always encouraged partner organisations and contractors to pay a fair wage, but it is not always practicable to dictate to those operating in a competitive market-place.
54	Cllr Phil Cohen	Why are the Tories proposing to cut staffing hours in Barnet libraries by 70 per cent and sack 52 full time equivalent library posts when the public consultation found that 'there was widespread praise for the expertise and professionalism of Barnet's library staff, and a strong sense that these qualities could never be adequately replaced through the use of volunteers.'	Cllr Reuben Thompstone (Chairman of Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee)	Around 70% of the costs of delivering the current library service are staff related. The proposals for the future of Barnet's Library service have had to balance a range of factors and reflect the overwhelming desire of residents to retain all 14 libraries.
55	Cllr Anne Hutton	Could the Leader give an early indication of how the new arrangements for Children's Centres are working out?	Cllr Reuben Thompstone (Chairman of Children, Education,	The Children's Centre Locality Model went live in September and is now embedding. There are now three localities each with a Locality Manager who is responsible for the Council's teams, managing the commissioning arrangements with school led centres and relationships with other partners. Representatives from each locality are taking part in locality

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			Libraries and Safeguarding Committee)	planning days to develop integrated working; this has happened in the East/Central locality, with South and West taking place in December and January.
56	Cllr Gill Sargeant	Could you confirm when the bridge over to Montrose Park will be presented to Planning committee?	Cllr Daniel Thomas (Chairman of Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee)	It is anticipated a decision on the planning application will be made in January. If officers are minded to recommend approval and five or more objections have been received, then a decision would need to be made by the Hendon Planning Committee and likely to go to this committee on 21st January 2016.
57	Cllr Alison Moore	Does the Leader agree with his Chancellor that pupils in a "leafy London suburb" receive too much funding through the schools funding formula?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>The government is proposing to move to a new national school funding formula and will be consulting on the detail of this proposal in the new year. The current arrangements are based on historical data and the intention is to develop a formula that better reflects current pupil characteristics and needs. Whilst some parts of the Barnet may be characterised as a 'leafy London Suburb', overall, around 48% percentage of primary aged pupils in Barnet schools now have English as an additional language (22nd highest in the country) and around 15% are in receipt of free school meals, close to the national average. Therefore the implications for Barnet will be in the detail of any proposed changes and these are not yet known.</p> <p>Naturally, funding for Barnet schools is dear to my heart. I will always advocate for an allocation of resources favourable to the borough.</p>
58	Cllr Amy Trevethan	Is the Council aware of what work takes place in Barnet schools to promote staff and student awareness and	Cllr Reuben Thompstone (Chairman of Children,	All Barnet Primary and Secondary schools have access to the CAMHS Primary and Secondary Schools Service, within the model of delivery Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Awareness are provided by Specialist trained Child and Adolescent Mental Health

Qn no	Councillor	Question	Councillor Answering	Answer
		understanding of mental health; and can the Leader give me further details?	Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee)	<p>professionals(Employed within the CAMHS service).</p> <p>Public health has a commissioned emotional wellbeing support initiative in schools which is aimed at prevention and raising awareness. This is free to schools and looks at a whole school approach to prevention. The programme equips teachers to recognise emotional well-being issues in students and sign post appropriately. There is also support to the schools to embed emotional wellbeing as part of the London Healthy Schools award Programme. A number of schools working towards their silver award are focusing on emotional wellbeing as their chosen area. The school must undertake an analysis of its pupil's emotional health and well-being needs, and identify new actions that will help pupils achieve and maintain good emotional health and wellbeing. There have been two Promoting Pupil Wellbeing and Mental Health in Primary Schools events organized for schools which have been well attended and a number of actions taken forward.</p> <p>Public health has also commissioned training in self-harm aimed at all practitioners including school staff.</p>
59	Cllr Barry Rawlings	What are the Administration's plans to reduce fuel poverty in Barnet?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	The Winter Well scheme, which has been running for four years, offers energy efficiency improvements to vulnerable people at risk of fuel poverty. We have also recently secured grants from National Energy Action, the fuel poverty charity, to improve home energy efficiency for those discharged from hospital and vulnerable people at risk of fuel poverty. The additional licensing scheme, on which housing committee has recently consulted, would also include requirements around heating and insulation in private rented properties.

<b>Qn no</b>	<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Question</b>	<b>Councillor Answering</b>	<b>Answer</b>
60	Cllr Amy Trevethan	What was the size of the central government's Revenue Support Grant to Barnet Council in the financial years a) 2010-2011 and b) 2014-15?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	Answer is attached in Appendix B.
61	Cllr Barry Rawlings	Several years ago I raised the question of rising gang activity and was assured it was not an issue in Barnet. Given the increase in violent crime and Tory cuts to policing will the administration now admit there is an issue, give the numbers and types of crime associated with gangs and tell members whether the administration can assure the people of Barnet it is winning the battle against local gangs?	Cllr David Longstaff (Chairman of Community Leadership Committee)	<p>Barnet is one of London's safest boroughs and crime is down 12% overall. The borough also has the 4<sup>th</sup> lowest rate of violent crime out of all 32 boroughs.</p> <p>Our Community Safety Team have worked in partnership with our Children's Service and the Police to identify areas where youth violence was showing an increase and have targeted interventions in those areas to address this.</p>
62	Cllr Alan Schneiderman	Which locations in the Borough currently have annual bedding plants and what is the cost of maintaining these?	Cllr Dean Cohen (Chairman of Environment Committee)	<p>We spend between £30,000-35,000 per year purchasing new bedding plants. The cost of maintaining these beds forms part of the works completed by the Grounds Maintenance Service. We have a borough wide approach to grounds maintenance with various teams completing various tasks, meaning we are not able to ascertain what the cost it for this function alone.</p> <p>A full list of the bedding locations is attached in Appendix C.</p>

Qn no	Councillor	Question	Councillor Answering	Answer
63	Cllr Arjun Mitra	Dave, from Chipping Norton says that cuts to local councils are too deep; does the leader of the Council agree?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	The next round of cuts will be increasingly challenging and there are difficult decisions to take. However, in Barnet we recognise the need to tackle the deficit and we have a plan that will allow us to set a balanced budget.
64	Cllr Zakia Zubairi	What is being done to reduce crime in Grahame Park?	Cllr David Longstaff (Chairman of Community Leadership Committee)	<p>Barnet council is working closely with our partners including the police, Barnet Homes, the National Probation Service, the Community Rehabilitation Company and substance misuse services to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour in and around the Grahame Park Estate.</p> <p>This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Early intervention and prevention activity which aims to prevent crime and anti-social behaviour problems emerging;</li> <li>b) Multi-agency problem solving which tackles repeat crime or anti-social behaviour issues putting the victim at the heart of our response; and</li> <li>c) Taking a robust approach towards the perpetrators of crime and antisocial behaviour where they refuse to engage with support services.</li> </ul> <p>An example of early intervention is the work of the Keeping Young People Safe project. The project is now a borough wide initiative however one of the areas the project has been focusing on has been in and around the Grahame Park. The project has worked with young people to reduce their risk of involvement with crime and serious youth violence. This has included detached youth work to engage young people and promote positive activities as well as more intense case work to the reduce risk of involvement with gangs or serious youth violence activity.</p> <p>Barnet police continue to have a focus on reducing crime and providing</p>

Qn no	Councillor	Question	Councillor Answering	Answer
				<p>reassurance within the estate, this includes regular patrols, community engagement as well as intense policing activity focused around those persons repeatedly involved in the local Crime and anti-social behaviour. The partnership works to take robust action against repeat perpetrators including using the powers available under the Crime and Antisocial Behaviour Act 2014 including premises closure notices and Criminal Behaviour Orders.</p> <p>In addition to the above, over the past year all of the local authority CCTV cameras on the Grahame Park Estate have been upgraded to the latest technology providing improved definition and quality of images. This was part of the upgrade of the borough wide CCTV network and infrastructure. The improved images will assist the police in identifying suspects and securing evidence to ensure offenders are brought to justice.</p>
65	Cllr Reema Patel	Recently, a resident wrote to me asking if the Council was signed up to the mental health challenge. To date, I have not received a clear answer as to why the Tories have opposed signing up to this pledge. However, it is not too late to change tack. Will the Leader join me in supporting the mental health challenge?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>Mental Health remains a priority area for Barnet Council and our health partners. It is the number one priority in our new Joint Health and Well-being strategy and we are making significant public health and social care investment into mental health care in the borough. The Council works collaboratively with a number of stakeholders, including Health and the voluntary sector to prevent and reduce mental health problems for our borough's residents and these have been extensively discussed at the Health and Wellbeing Board. The discussion at the Adults committee on this item did not indicate what the additional benefit of signing up to the challenge would be for our residents.</p> <p>The Council is regularly asked to sign up to charters, challenges etc., mainly from national voluntary organisations. The reality is that organisations could sign up to them all, and they become merely a tick box exercise.</p>



Qn no	Councillor	Question	Councillor Answering	Answer
				Instead, the Council has focused on making mental health a priority in its own strategy.
66	Cllr Phil Cohen	What is the reason for picking out East Barnet and three other libraries as Partnership libraries under the proposed model, so they have only 15 staffed hours a week, and what concrete evidence does the council have that community groups in East Barnet wish to help run the library or that the large numbers of volunteers are available in the local area of East Barnet to keep the library going as a viable service?	Cllr Reuben Thompstone (Chairman of Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee)	<p>A number of factors have been taken into consideration in determining which sites might fall into which proposed category of library (Core, Core Plus and Partnership). These factors include the use of libraries, the demographic need accessibility and site considerations. Adopting a locality model, the proposals ensure that different categories of library, including the four proposed partnership libraries, are spread evenly across the borough.</p> <p>The Council will work with Groundwork and Community Barnet to help develop community capacity to support the new partnership sites. Initial exploratory discussions are on-going with a number of community organisations interested</p>
67	Cllr Gill Sargeant	Once consultation is completed over the plans for the zebra crossing at Aerodrome Road when is the proposed date for the crossing to be installed?	Cllr Dean Cohen (Chairman of Environment Committee)	Installation of the crossing is expected to take place in February or March 2016.
68	Cllr Barry Rawlings	How is Barnet responding to the recent judgements on Section 20 of the Children's	Cllr Reuben Thompstone (Chairman of	Barnet was already monitoring the use of Section 20 placements. However, as a result of the judgments, the S20 cohort has been reviewed on a case by case basis to ensure the right children are in and that where pre-

Qn no	Councillor	Question	Councillor Answering	Answer
		Act and what is the likely effect on fostering, etc?	Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee)	proceedings need to commence this is happening. It is difficult to predict if any significant change in trend will be seen going forward.
69	Cllr Anne Hutton	How many small businesses have been successful in gaining Business Rate concessions through the hardship allowance scheme this year?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	In 2015/16, there has so far been one application for hardship relief, but this has been deemed unsuccessful.
70	Cllr Alan Schneiderman	Aren't plans to charge more for bulky waste and special collections at the same time as cutting the frequency of clearing fly tipping a double whammy for local residents?	Cllr Dean Cohen (Chairman of Environment Committee)	The planned increases in fees and charges for the vast majority of environmental services are in line with inflation and I do not believe that an inflationary increase will alter public behaviour in relation to the collection of bulky waste through the special collection service. There are no plans to reduce the frequency of fly tip collections – we are planning to increase our enforcement and communication efforts to make sure that the fly tips do not happen in the first place and that perpetrators are fined if they break the law.
71	Cllr Arjun Mitra	It seems to have become practice this autumn to sweep fallen leaves to one side. Is the Council aware that that same wind that brings down the leaves also scatters the neat piles of swept leaves, thereby undoing the work of the sweepers? Can we please	Cllr Dean Cohen (Chairman of Environment Committee)	Leaves are currently removed through 3 methods :- Utilising a suction machine where leaves are piled and then sucked directly into a caged vehicle, or as part of a deep cleanse where operatives sweep and collect leaves in piles which are bagged and then removed, or swept up by mechanical sweepers. Sweeping leaves to one side with no following-up collection is not general practice but may occur for short periods of time during the deep cleanse process.

Qn no	Councillor	Question	Councillor Answering	Answer
		ensure that the leaves are collected on sweeping?		
72	Cllr Zakai Zubairi	Please provide an update on whether targets are being met for waiting times at A&E at Barnet Hospital and The Royal Free?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>The NHS A&amp;E performance target is that 95% of people should be seen and treated within 4 hours of arrival. This remains a key NHS commitment.</p> <p>This year to date, the Royal Free Barnet Hospital has achieved an average of 96% of people being seen under 4 hours. The Royal Free Hampstead Hospital comes in just short of the national target of 95%, with 94.88% as its average for this year.</p> <p>Over recent weeks this has started to be challenged, with the Barnet and Hampstead sites having a monthly average of 92.2% and 93.6% respectively. This is seasonal and as a local authority we continue to monitor this and work in partnership with Acute colleagues on a daily basis.</p>
73	Cllr Phil Cohen	Does the Leader think Prime Minister David Cameron will be as disappointed with cuts to Barnet libraries involving the loss of 70 per cent of staffing hours, 52 professional library staff and excessive reliance on volunteers, as he apparently is with cuts to library services in Oxfordshire where he happens to be an MP?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	<p>Unlike in neighbouring Labour-run boroughs, in Barnet we are keeping all our libraries open and will extend opening hours through the use of technology and volunteers. I think the PM would appreciate the efforts we have gone to in Barnet to avoid closures and, more widely, deliver as high a proportion of our necessary savings as possible through efficiencies.</p>

Qn no	Councillor	Question	Councillor Answering	Answer
74	Cllr Gill Sargeant	As the cost of parking spaces for Pulse is now £25,000 can properties be considered reasonable for first time buyers?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	The price of the parking spaces is based on market factors. It is individual buyers' choice on whether they want to acquire a parking space.
75	Cllr Anne Hutton	How is support for small businesses in Barnet organised and how many have benefited from its services this year?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	The council is working with its partners in Middlesex University, Barnet and Southgate College, Barnet Homes and the DWP to support small businesses and entrepreneurs in the Borough through our shared "Entrepreneurial Barnet" approach. Over the last 12 months we have done a range of specific things to support small businesses including; encouraging over 350 to sign up for the government's Business Broadband Voucher scheme, which is worth up to £3000 to each business; implementing free public WiFi in a range of town centre locations for visitors to use; testing new parking technology in Temple Fortune that makes it easier for people to visit their local town centre, and has resulted in greater use of parking facilities; implementing free town centre parking over the three weekends leading up to Christmas; securing £600,000 from the GLA which is being invested in improving Burnt Oak town centre and supporting local traders there; Council procurement officers are now regularly attending monthly Federation of Small Business (FSB) meetings and have directly engaged with over 150 local business through this channel in 2015. Next year will see the launch of improved web pages aimed at supporting local businesses, further investment in town centres including in improved parking technology, and a range of activities to help local entrepreneurs succeed and grow.
76	Cllr Barry Rawlings	What are the Administration plans to reduce Delayed Transfers of Care from	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the	The Council's Adults and Communities Delivery Unit has a dedicated hospital social work team which works 7 days a week on both the Royal Free Hampstead and Barnet Hospital sites. The team works with NHS

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		hospitals while reducing budgets for Adult Social Care?	Council)	<p>professionals to ensure that people have access to a multi-disciplinary assessment which may result in support, advice and information; enablement; home care; or residential care if needed for those eligible. The Council commissions the Enablement service, and the majority of this service is used to support people leaving hospital. We also commission a Home from Hospital service from the Red Cross, to support people leaving hospital. We work closely with the CCG and the Royal Free Trust on planning for winter and other peak times.</p> <p>Delayed transfers of care can be attributed to the NHS or social care and for many of those affecting hospitals in Barnet the people live outside the borough. Barnet social care's performance on delayed transfers of care has been strong for a prolonged period of time.</p> <p>We will continue to provide this level of service, with a sharper focus on prioritising those with highest need, and making sure that Hospitals are referring people appropriately and at the right time in the discharge pathway.</p>
77	Cllr Alan Schneiderman	How many volunteers have expressed an interest in taking over the full management of Barnet's parks and open spaces?	Cllr Dean Cohen (Chairman of Environment Committee)	<p>Currently we have not requested expressions of interest from volunteer groups to maintain and manage a whole park or open space, although there has already been an expression of interest regarding Darlands.</p> <p>We do have six active 'adopt a place' schemes, where a group has taken on the responsibility and management of a small area within a park (e.g. flower beds).</p> <p>In addition we have a number of active Friends and Residents Groups who complete regular community action days improving their local parks and</p>

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				we also have a successful Green Gym which operates in West Hendon Playing Fields where they undertake a large amount of activities designed to develop the natural space through conservation and biodiversity improvements.
78	Cllr Arjun Mitra	After the recent shooting on Tarling Road, East Finchley, residents have asked for CCTV to be installed around the junction with Pumphandle Path. Will the Council endeavour to support the needs of the community here?	Cllr David Longstaff (Chairman of Community Leadership Committee)	<p>The incident which took place on the 9th of November is subject to a full police investigation. Following the incident the Police Safer Neighbourhood Team enhanced their patrols in the area to provide reassurance.</p> <p>We have taken an evidence based approach to identify where CCTV is located in the borough so that it is located in prime locations to maximise effective use.</p> <p>Recent crime figures do not identify Tarling Road as a long term crime or anti-social behaviour hotspot, and overall levels of reported crime in the street have fallen in the last 6 months.</p> <p>However we recognise that following an incident of this nature that it can heighten the fear and perception of crime across the local community, hence the increase in police patrols and communications with local residents.</p> <p>The area will continue to be monitored for crime and ASB and the Council's Community Safety Team will work closely with the Police Safer Neighbourhood Team to ensure appropriate interventions are in place to reassure the local community and respond to crime and ASB in the area.</p>
79	Cllr Zakia Zubairi	What alternative venue and arrangements will be put in place to accommodate Friday	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the	The demolition of the community centre in Grahame Park will be included within the development proposals for plot 11. If the demolition of the existing centre happens before the replacement facility is available the

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		prayers and prayers during Ramadan when the Community Centre is demolished in Grahame Park?	Council)	<p>Council will identify temporary alternative accommodation for users requiring it. The developers, Genesis Housing Association, will release the revised timetable for the re-development of plot 11 early in the New Year. This will be confirmed on receipt of the detailed planning application for plots 10,11 and 12 scheduled for September 2016</p> <p>The Council will undertake a full evaluation of all the community properties on the concourse to establish status, condition, levels of usage etc. This will supplement desk research already undertaken and the outcomes of the community mapping exercise, commissioned by the Council and undertaken by independent consultants MPCS. The aim will be to consider the needs of all of the current community centre users and how they will be met in any replacement facility and during any intermediate phase prior to full re-provision of the community centre.</p>
80	Cllr Alan Schneiderman	Will action be taken to end the farce that occurred last year where people were still charged for parking in the weekends running up to Christmas when it should have been free?	Cllr Dean Cohen (Chairman of Environment Committee)	<p>There was an initial technical problem with the Pay by Phone system on the first Saturday last year. This was immediately fixed and the system worked well for the remaining weekend periods. We have ensured that the system is fully tested prior to the first weekend of free parking this year.</p> <p>Additional notices have been placed near the parking machines so visitors are aware that parking is free for the designated periods.</p>
81	Cllr Phil Cohen	Will the Leader join me in congratulating the GPs and patients of East Barnet Health Centre for their successful campaign to re-open the much-needed centre, and	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	Yes, I would congratulate the GPs, patients and local residents for a sustained effort to get the health centre re-opened. Theresa Villiers MP has to be thanked for her persistent and effective involvement in resolving this issue.

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		does he agree that this shows that the NHS must always put people before profit?		
82	Cllr Gill Sargeant	Could you confirm who will be taking over the freehold of Pulse properties from Fairview?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	The freeholds are sold when Fairview have disposed of all the units in a private block. There are different freeholders for each of the phases; Phase 1 is Sinclair Garden (Kensington) Investments - Bognor Regis, West Sussex PO21 5UP Phase 2 is Adriatic Land 3 - 21 Palmer Street, London, SW1H 0AD
83	Cllr Arjun Mittra	A number of crossings on the East Finchley end of East End Road need improving as the new Archer Academy site is up and running. Realistically how quickly can the improvements that the ward Councillors suggested on our recent site visit be implemented?	Cllr Dean Cohen (Chairman of Environment Committee)	An options study has identified proposed zebra crossings in two areas. Following completion of the feasibility study this will be sent to the school to confirm financing as part of the planning permission and S106 agreement. Implementation of the crossing facilities is expected by September 2016.
84	Cllr Alan Schneiderman	Will the planned re-procurement of the outsourced parking contract properly evaluate the option to bring this service back in-house?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	Yes.
85	Cllr Gill Sargeant	The Council has no jurisdiction over the parking signage for the parking space next to Sainsbury's in Grahame Park Way yet Barnet residents are	Cllr Dean Cohen (Chairman of Environment Committee)	I am advised Grahame Park Way is an un-adopted area in the Grahame Park Regeneration development. The Parking Client team have confirmed that they do not enforce in this area.



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		regularly being fined for what they see as a public space. Why? Can this be sorted out please?		
86	Cllr Arjun Mittra	Does the Council believe further cuts to the Fire service across London are extremely dangerous, and is a threat to public safety?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	No. The proposal centres on removing 13 appliances that have already been out of service for 2 years and which, if reinstated, would only improve average response times across London by 4 seconds for first appliances and 18 seconds for second appliances.  The number of fires in London was below 20,000 for the first time since records began in 1966 and deaths from fire have reduced significantly.
87	Cllr Alan Schneiderman	Will an in-house bid be fully considered when waste, recycling, street cleansing and grounds maintenance services are outsourced?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	No decision has been made in regard to the future delivery of street scene service. We are committed to delivery efficient and effective services across the Council that guarantee value for money for our residents. This will include supporting our in house teams and not prejudging the outcome of any service review.
88	Cllr Arjun Mittra	The Government has recently cut funding for English Language classes, at places like Barnet College. Given the requirement for people to be able to speak English to access public services and welfare, does the Council agree that this is an illogical decision by the Government, and will impact adversely on Barnet, where there are a large	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	I can see the logic in the councillor's observation.

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		number of people who do not speak English as a first Language?		
89	Cllr Alan Schneiderman	Will the Leader give Barnet an early Christmas present and remove the perk that gives Tory councillors free parking permits to park anywhere in the Borough?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	All councillors have the opportunity to have a permit for council business purposes only. Not all take it.
90	Cllr Arjun Mittra	Does the Council have sufficient supplies of grit for this winter?	Cllr Dean Cohen (Chairman of Environment Committee)	Previous usage of salt in 2012/13 was 3661 tonnes and 743 tonnes in 2013/14. The Council has 2,142 tonnes of salt readily available with a contract in place with the supplier for top up as required. In addition as part of the call off LoHAC contract TfL has a stockpile of 27,000 tonnes stored in Dagenham which could be called upon in an emergency.
91	Cllr Arjun Mittra	Does the Leader agree that scrapping all remaining PCSO's will reduce confidence in the police, and reduce their ability to detect and solve crime?	Cllr Richard Cornelius (Leader of the Council)	The Chancellor has protected the overall policing budget in his Spending Review.