

Council Questions – 1 November 2022

Qn.	Councillor	Question	Response by	Response
1.	Cllr Whysall	What impact does the Leader believe the Government's crashing of the economy will have on Barnet and its residents and businesses?	Leader	An adverse impact - and we're already seeing it. Higher interest rates, higher mortgages, higher inflation, higher prices, more people in debt, likelihood of more businesses failing, terrible cuts to public services and the adverse impact of that on vulnerable service users.
2.	Cllr Thomas	Does the Leader recognise the difference between a refund and a reduction?	Leader	Yes, and the advantages to the way we are delivering our pledge to refund the 1% Conservative council tax hike is as follows: Residents in immediate financial difficulty as a result of the Conservative-caused cost-of-living crisis will benefit from a targeted refund made available through our £2m Resident Support Fund (equivalent to 1% on council tax), and all residents will benefit from a universal 1% refund delivered through next year's council tax bills which means a total of £4m or 2% in council tax terms will have been given back to Barnet's residents - effectively double the pledge made. We are ensuring that the Council is not spending any additional money for consultation and other costs to deliver the pledge, and residents benefit from lower council tax levels going forward.
3.	Cllr Rose	Does the Leader agree that the implementation of the new health and social care bill should be delayed until it is properly funded by the Government?	Leader / Cllr Edwards	Absolutely - it's likely to cost us at least £3m at a time when we are getting very little support from central government to cover the demand for adults social care services.
4.	Cllr Longstaff	"In the Labour Party Manifesto, it is clearly stated, "We will maintain quarterly deep cleans of residential streets". But in the P&R papers from 29th September, you commit to two deep cleans per year. Why are you not sticking to your manifesto commitment on street cleaning?	Cllr Schneiderman	The reference to a minimum of two street cleansing cleanses a year in appendix B of the Business Planning report submitted to Policy & Resources Committee on 29 September details the existing street cleansing specification that was set prior to May 2022 and the confirmation of the council's current commitment in respect of this service. Street Cleansing service proposals that seek to deliver four visits per annum to residential roads are currently being developed in conjunction with the Chair of the Environment & Climate Change Committee for introduction by the end of the calendar year.

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5.	Cllr Young	Does the Leader agree that the new policies in the emerging local plan will give stronger protection to the green belt in line with national policy and help deliver the administration's commitment to protecting our green spaces in the future.	Leader	As part of the Local Plan examination, the Council has taken the opportunity to submit initial modifications for the Inspector's consideration. Changes have been made to remove 'low quality, low value' element of ECC04 – Parks and Open Spaces. The Local Plan's housing target is not reliant on the development of such spaces or any Green Belt release which is afforded the strongest protection in accordance with London Plan and national policy.
6.	Cllr Thomas	Will the Leader commit to doing the right thing and freeze council tax next year, given the rising cost of living?	Leader	Unfortunately, the Conservative Government has crashed the economy, and we are now expecting swingeing cuts from central government to plug the gaping £40bn hole they have caused, which makes my desire to freeze council tax that much harder. But we will be delivering our 1% refund through council tax bills next year, and we will not be hiking up council tax by the legal maximum as the Barnet Conservatives did - even without the refund.
7.	Cllr Velleman	One of the most frequent issues we receive from residents, community groups and schools is the safety of our roads in Whetstone and Barnet in general. Do you think it is time to support 'twenty's plenty' campaigns on residential roads and other measures to make our roads safer for all road and pavement users?	Cllr Schneiderman	<p>"We agree that reducing speed limits is one measure that may help reduce road casualties as well as deliver a range of other transport and health benefits.</p> <p>The Administration has stated its support for 20 mph zones where residents want them. Such zones typically involve physical measures alongside a speed limit to calm traffic and cover an area consisting of several roads; evidence shows that this approach is more effective than simply introducing a 20-mph speed limit. There are already a number of such zones in Barnet.</p> <p>We intend to review the Council's Long-Term Transport Strategy and as part of this will look at setting out a policy to identify places suitable for 20mph zones and the process for taking proposals forward. Of course, introducing zones will require full and timely consultation with residents, the police and other emergency services, and other stakeholders including local businesses, pedestrians, cyclists and drivers."</p>

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8.	Cllr Grover	How does the Leader anticipate maintaining service levels and accountability from the Council's privatised service providers for the next three and a half years now that they have been handed their notice?	Leader	The current contract management process will continue to operate for the extended services. The extended services will still be subject to performance targets and service credits for any underperformance.
9.	Cllr Clarke	What is the Leader most proud of after 200 days in administration?	Leader	The fact that we have made progress to deliver so many of our election pledges already in such a short space of time, including: Our pledge to refund the 1% Conservative Council Tax hike in a targeted way to help people in crisis now through the Resident Support Fund, and universally through a 1% refund in all council tax bills next year, that we have maintained weekly bin collections, declared a climate emergency, agreed a community skips services, about to roll-out community safety hubs and ward safety walks, are investing an additional £1.8m to upgrade the borough's CCTV, proposed more robust policies on affordable housing, height, density and protection of green spaces, and worked with the community to put in place a wonderful Black History Month programme to name only a few things we can be proud of.
10.	Cllr Thomas	How will increasing parking charges by 10% help residents and businesses?	Cllr Schneiderman	The proposed increases are 5% less than the Barnet Conservatives proposed in their budget and are in line with inflation which is unfortunately high due to the Conservative Government crashing the economy.
11.	Cllr Khalick	When and where will the community safety hubs pathfinder programme be launched?	Cllr Conway	The first two community safety hubs will be launched in Edgware and West Hendon. The Edgware hub is located at The Meeting Room in Broadwalk Shopping Centre and will open on Thursday 27 October between 3pm and 6pm. The West Hendon hub is located at the Metropolitan Thames Valley Community hub facility and will open on Tuesday 1 November between 3pm and 6pm. The hubs will then open at these times weekly for the duration of the pathfinder, though the opening times will be reviewed in December. Further sites will be explored as part of the pathfinder, in particular sites in the North and the East of the borough. A number of sites are being explored and should be open shortly.

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12.	Cllr Thomas	In March this year, Labour proposed to save £2m by cutting senior Council officers. They have now scrapped this proposal and are instead recruiting for two posts costing ~£160k a year. How can they justify this?	Leader	We will be making much more than £2m savings in this year's budget process - the current budget gap for next year is £10m, and we will close that gap to deliver a balanced budget whilst protecting frontline services and keeping council tax low.
13.	Cllr Mitra	What is the Council doing to enhance street cleaning in the Borough?	Cllr Schneiderman	An additional £500k is being invested in the council's street cleansing service. Service proposals that seek to deliver four street cleansing visits per annum to residential roads (currently two per annum) are currently being developed in conjunction with the Chair of the Environment & Climate Change Committee for introduction by the end of the calendar year.
14.	Cllr R Cornelius	Could the leader confirm how many extra homes will be built by the next council election and how this compares with the plans inherited from the last administration.	Cllr Houston	In addition to the schemes that have been inherited by the previous administration (for which we are reviewing the unit and tenure mix to maximise affordable housing delivery) a number of new schemes are currently being explored, for which we hope to bring business cases forward to Committee over the coming year. These schemes are all subject to resident and stakeholder engagement which will inform the number of units that will be delivered. It is important that any homes coming forward meet housing need and so will be prioritising affordable, larger, accessible, family homes where possible.
15.	Cllr Rose	I was disappointed to see that the national Planning Inspector approved the Barnet House development of mainly rabbit hutch flats. Does the Leader agree this situation was the failing of the previous Conservative administration to pressure developers to build homes fit for families here in Barnet?	Leader/ Cllr Houston	Yes, the Conservative approach to growth has been flawed all along - the planning reforms allowing wider permitted development has not helped deliver quality affordable family homes, and following 'Trussonomics' building affordable family homes has got so much harder overnight. Ironically the Truss growth plan is unlikely to result in much growth any time soon.....

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16.	Cllr Thomas	Barnet's Iranian community will be concerned to see the mistreatment of women in Iran, which have led to justifiable protests, where they have friends and relatives. Does the Leader agree with me that the treatment of women in Iran - and Afghanistan for tha matter - is unacceptable?	Leader/ Cllr Conway	I condemn the mistreatment of women wherever it occurs. Ending violence against women and girls requires us to challenge and change harmful societal attitudes towards women globally, including here at home in the UK. I am in favour of making misogyny a hate crime, and I look forward to all members supporting this campaign.
17.	Cllr Lemon	When will the new community skips service begin?	Cllr Schneiderman	It is anticipated that the Community Skip Service will commence in November. We have scheduled 12 weeks' worth of skip locations initially, and will use the intelligence and learnings from this first phase of the project to inform the development of the future phases on a dynamic basis as we progress through the schedule.
18.	Cllr Thomas	A recent P&R report contained the following line which was confirmed as relating to CPZ permits: "Parking - A review of services and policies to ensure a consistent, fair approach to improving traffic, highway air quality and road safety. Meeting existing unaddressed needs and demands on the highway." Based on the current CPZ regime, how many extra CPZ permits need to be sold to achieve the administration's target of increasing parking revenue by £1.5m?	Cllr Schneiderman	The CPZ programme covers areas with identified potential need for a CPZ and areas of existing CPZs which need review to ensure that controls remain suitable for current highway need and demand. The programme assumes that implementation, operation, maintenance, and administration costs are offset over time using a range of sources including parking penalties, parking permit sales incorporating visitors, business and schools parking permits. Turn up and pay parking contributes the next largest amount followed by the suspension of parking bays. It is not possible to determine exact numbers of permits that will be sold under this programme but estimate it to be approximately 5,000."
19.	Cllr P Cohen	Can we welcome the co-operation between councillors and the Met Police in taking to the streets of Barnet to promote safer transport on buses and tubes, particularly for women and girls, through such means as the Street Safe pilot service and the Hollie Guard smartphone app. Does the Leader agree that the	Cllr Conway	I welcome this co-operation, and note we are inviting the Roads and Transport Police to the Safer Communities Partnership Board on 4 Nov. Community safety, including the safety of women and girls, is a key priority for this Labour administration and we have already made progress on delivering key pledges including for community safety hubs, ward safety walks, developing an identified network of safe spaces, and investment of an additional £1.8m to upgrade our CCTV.

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		Labour administration places a high priority on community safety and what are its ambitions in this field?		
20.	Cllr Longstaff	<p>"In Labour's 2022 Election manifesto, which you proudly referred to at the last council meeting as something you would faithfully implement, the following was written:</p> <p>"To help you, we will freeze Barnet's council tax this year, and give you back the 1% Conservative Council Tax Hike forced through in March."</p> <p>Please will you tell me in which municipal year you will be freezing council tax? "</p>	Leader	The Barnet Labour Group budget amendment included a general council tax freeze for 2022/23 which has been implemented. We also promised to refund the 1% council tax hike (social care precept) imposed this year by the Barnet Conservatives. We will be delivering the refund through council tax bills in 2023/24 to avoid costs to the council tax payer of around £200,000 that would be incurred if we implemented the refund before then.
21.	Cllr Perlberg	How are Barnet schools coping with increasing costs of energy, goods and food prices?	Cllr Coakley-Webb	Barnet schools ended the 2021-22 year with 23 schools in deficit, up from 12 the previous year. The total amount of deficit also increased £760k to £3.57m in the year to March 22. The increasing costs of energy, goods and food prices, as well as salary increases is putting further pressure on the school budgets. Regarding energy 61 LA maintained schools in Barnet, out of a possible 90 LA maintained schools, purchase their energy through the Barnet contract (academies don't have the option of purchasing energy centrally) and it is unlikely that there will be any reduction in charges under this phase of the Energy Bill Relief Scheme as the charges currently paid under the Barnet contract arrangements are already substantially lower than the support levels set by the government to reduce maximum costs paid by energy consumers. The situation will continued to be monitored going forward, particularly as arrangements under the scheme are expected to be reviewed after three months.
22.	Cllr Thomas	When I was Chairman of Policy & Resources Committee, I kept officer introduction of reports to an absolute	Leader	It's good to know Cllr Thomas read the reports in his own name as I do. I can recall a time under the Conservatives in Barnet when it wasn't clear this was always happening and the then Leader didn't notice the Council

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		<p>minimum. This is because Councillors were then in charge of this Council, Councillors are meant to read reports in advance, and the reports have a helpful summary page. Officer introductions can also add 20-30 minutes to a meeting depending on the number of reports. Will the Leader commit to scrapping officer introductions at committee, or is he not familiar with the details of his own reports?</p>		<p>had breached it's own Treasury Management Strategy resulting in a loss of £27m to the Council after money was incorrectly deposited in failing Icelandic Banks.</p>
23.	Cllr Radford	<p>What has taken place in the Borough as part of hate crime awareness week?</p>	Cllr Conway	<p>Hate Crime Awareness Week took place during 8th - 15th October. Events were hosted online and across the borough with Barnet Mencap and the Police. Hate Crime reporting centres and the Barnet Safe Places Scheme were both promoted, alongside encouraging people to become Hate Crime reporting champions, pledging to report hate crime if they witness it. Hate Crime Awareness week Events Flyer attached.</p>
24.	Cllr Thomas	<p>What is the risk that garden waste subscriptions will fall if the annual charge is increased from £70 to £80?</p>	Cllr Schneiderman	<p>None - we're not increasing the charge. The increase the councillor refers to was a proposal from the Conservatives which we are rejecting.</p>
25.	Cllr Velleman	<p>As an alumnus of Alonim nursery, then in Southgate, now in Whetstone, I am delighted that Alonim will be celebrating their 40th anniversary in November. Will the Leader congratulate them on their activities to date and wish them well for the future?</p>	Leader	<p>I am delighted to congratulate the Alonim Nursery on their 40th Anniversary, and to send them my very best wishes for their future success.</p>
26.	Cllr Grover	<p>We're told the Citizens Assembly on Climate Change will be up and running by Autumn. What outcomes does the Leader</p>	Cllr Schneiderman	<p>A citizens' assembly is a group of the public who are brought together to consider a public issue in depth over multiple days and meetings. TPXimpact have been appointed to support us in delivering the Citizen's Assembly - work to develop a 'killer question' which will be deliberated by</p>

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		hope will come out of the process, and by when?		<p>assembly members. As part of the assembly members hear evidence, question witnesses and deliberate with one another, before reaching recommendations on what they think should be done. Citizens' assemblies put the trade-offs faced by decision-makers in front of members of the public and ask them to arrive at workable recommendations. The main outcome of a Citizen Assembly is that it can bring out diverse perspectives on complex and contested problems, enable decision-makers to come face-to-face with citizens or those with lived experience of an issue, help participants to understand, change and develop their opinions, and offer policymakers an insight on public opinion on a contested issue based on the public having access to thorough and unbiased information and time for deliberation.</p>
27.	Cllr David	How is the national economic picture impacting Barnet Council's finances and ability to deliver for our residents?	Leader	<p>"The change national economic picture (including rising inflation, increasing interest rates and changing budget announcements) along with uncertainty related to future funding for local government is creating significant pressure in the council. The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) presented to Policy & Resources Committee on 29th September 2022 presented a range of scenarios with the mid-case showing a budget gap of £10.443m for 2023/24 and additional savings of £44.721m being required for expected expenditure to be sustainable within expected income across the MTFS period to 2026/27. Since then, announcements from subsequent Chancellors have made it clear that further reductions to public spending should be expected.</p> <p>The Chancellor has announced a full medium term fiscal plan on 31st October 2022. This will provide greater clarity around local government funding and enable us to better plan resources across 2023-2027 to ensure a balanced budget for 2023/24 and prepare for any future budget gaps to 2027.</p> <p>The national economic picture is having an impact on residents as well and supporting them through the cost of living crisis is also expected to have an adverse impact on income particularly in relation to leisure and parking income and around the council's ability to collect council tax and business rates debt."</p>

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28.	Cllr Thomas	Will the Leader guarantee that no council-run workforce will go on strike between now and 2026?	Leader	Council workers striked under the Barnet Conservatives - I don't recall the Conservatives making any such guarantee.
29.	Cllr Rose	Open spaces and playgrounds are vital for children to play and spend time outside. Will you welcome the new playground that is being refurbished on Barfield Avenue with council support?	Cllr Coakley-Webb	It's excellent news that this playground is being refurbished, along with others across the Borough, following council funding.
30.	Cllr Mire	Have you worked on identifying key individuals working on the Barnet Capita account, to lock in prior to transitioning to ensure no knowledge loss?	Leader	As part of the transition programme, key individuals have been identified and a knowledge transfer process established. We are jointly working on a strategy to retain staff and reduce any loss of Capita staff.
31.	Cllr Lusingu	Following Black History month, what key issues are being taken forward throughout the year?	Leader	<p>The Black History Month programme was wonderful, and I attended some great events during the month so I would like to thank the member for her motion on this issue and for taking a lead on it throughout. We will build on this success for next year's programme which will have a longer lead-in time and I know the programme will go from strength to strength each year. Through our Tackling the Gaps: Tackling Inequalities work we will continue to explore areas where data tells us we could do more to support our residents who are disproportionately affected by systemic barriers, our policies or service delivery. The continued delay in the release of Census 2021 data has prevented us from updating our action plans and the development of an updated Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion Policy – we expect to do this in the New Year. However, we plan to take the annual Equalities Statement to Policy and Resources Committee in December. This will set out further detail on the work we have been doing over the last 12 months.</p> <p>There is a wider link to the refresh of the Community Participation Strategy and recent community engagement e.g. funding community groups to celebrate Black History Month and the winter festival and as</p>

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				<p>part of this we will be developing a community events programme for FY 23/24</p> <p>The council is also taking action to promote the Equalities Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) within its own workforce. A Workforce EDI Board, chaired by the AD of HR, has representatives from all of the staff networks. An action plan has been agreed, based around 6 key policy aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An inclusive culture based on an empathic understanding of people’s life situation and lived experiences • A workforce that is representative of the communities the council serves, at all levels • A working environment that is safe and supportive, free from bullying, harassment and micro-aggressions, where all staff can bring their whole selves to work • All staff are given the opportunity to grow and develop • Barriers to equality are better understood and eliminated • Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion are promoted at all levels of the council <p>The action plan contains specific targets for key priorities such as the representativeness of senior staff in each directorate, as well as a range of changes to areas such as recruitment, training and workforce policy.</p>
32.	Cllr Thomas	At the last P&R Committee, the Leader proposed to discount next year’s council tax increase from 1.99% to 0.99%. 1.99% is and has been the maximum by which council tax can be increased without a referendum and the Leader has previously said he will never charge that amount. So why is the Leader using a figure he said he would never charge as	Leader	Council tax levels for 2023/24 will be lower than the legal maximum even without the 1% refund.

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		the baseline from which to make the 1% reduction?		
33.	Cllr P Cohen	Does the Leader agree that we should listen more to the voices of people who use health and social care services and does he welcome the commitment by the chair of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to invite a different user or carer group to each committee meeting to hear their experiences.	Leader	I quite agree and would like to thank the Chair of HOSC for his work in this area.
34.	Cllr R Cornelius	Does the leader subscribe to the Salinger doctrine that a public meeting in the community where officers and members outnumber the public ,it is a failure	Leader	Not necessarily, although I note that there were many of these types of meetings when the Barnet Conservatives ran the Council.
35.	Cllr Innocenti	How will Barnet's culture strategy be developed and delivered?	Cllr Conway	<p>We want the Culture Strategy to be a deliberative and co-produced. We will work with residents, members, community groups, the creative industry sector in the borough, retailers and businesses to understand what 'culture' means in Barnet. We want the strategy to recognise and celebrate the cultural diversity within the Borough and establish Barnet as a cultural destination and a borough of fun, as well as providing growth and employment opportunities.</p> <p>As a deliberative process, we're assuming a generous timescales giving plenty of opportunity for engagement with residents (and other partners) in the development of the strategy aiming to have a strategy in place by September 2023. This timescale will also support the development of a bid for London Borough of Culture in 2026.</p>
36.	Cllr Thomas	Why didn't the Leader explain at Annual Council that the so-called 1% council tax refund would not be in this financial year and would take the form of a council tax discount next year?	Leader	We hadn't seen or discussed the options for delivering the 1% refund at the time of the Annual Meeting.

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37.	Cllr Cooke	Would the Chair provide an update on the roll-out of electric vehicle charging in the Borough?	Cllr Schneiderman	The council is committed to encouraging the uptake of electric vehicles and sustainable modes of transport through the provision of electric vehicle charge points. Barnet currently has over 200 publicly accessible charge points and will be installing a further 610 charge points over the coming year. 510 of which will be placed along 34 streets in the borough, with installations starting on the first site (Gloucester Grove) on 17 October. The other 100 will be Fast Chargers placed in town centre locations across the borough and this work will take place over the next 9 months. The Council has been successful in securing large sums of grant funding to support these two current EV projects and we are currently working on submitting a further grant funding bid for a further project to be delivered in 23/24. In addition to the current projects identified above we will continue to also roll out Lamp post mounted EV charge points.
38.	Cllr Wardle	Will the North Finchley SPD be revisited?	Cllr Young	There are no plans to revisit the North Finchley SPD
39.	Cllr Velleman	What are the Council doing to support residents in this cost of living crisis exacerbated by the Conservative Government's mismanagement of the economy?	Leader	The Council have put in place a package of measures totalling £9m to help residents through the cost of living crisis, including a £2m Resident Support Fund (which is equivalent to 1% of council tax and represents a targeted refund of 1%) for those in immediate financial crisis, a universal refund of 1% of council tax through next year's council tax bills, a Housing support fund of £2.5m, a contribution of £150k to the Barnet Together Alliance Community Response Fund taking their total to £300,000, a Community Innovation Fund of £250,000, payments of Council Tax Discretionary Relief, Discretionary Housing Payments up to £1,445,000 (£626,000 awarded to date), a School Uniform Fund (£17,000 spent to date), and we are also currently working with colleagues to develop Health & Safety guidance for any community spaces that wish to be a warm space for local residents - we will be making a list of these spaces and initiatives available on a website later in the year. We are also providing ongoing advice through our Cost of Living Hub online, and specialist advice in partnership with BOOST.
40.	Cllr Thomas	Is the administration's botched implementation of the 1% refund the	Leader	We're actually providing double the pledge - a total of 2% of council tax is being given back to residents. 1% through our targeted Resident Support Fund now, and 1% to all council tax payers through next year's bill.

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		result of making a promise it could not deliver?		
41.	Cllr Whysall	Following the report sent to all councils last month by the government regarding the implementation of the Elections Act 2022 what steps are being taken to introduce the proposed permanent or interim Voter Card the Council have been instructed they must make available?	Leader	<p>It is recognised that the Elections Act 2022 will bring forth some significant changes to the way elections must be conducted and of these, the requirement for electors voting in polling stations to show photo ID before receiving their ballot papers is rightly considered to be the change that will have the most impact.</p> <p>The government have stated that their research shows that 98% of electors already have an acceptable form of identification. Electors that do NOT have suitable photo ID will be able to apply for a free Voter Authority Card (VAC) – and the government is creating a national online portal where this application can be made and following which, upon successful application, the elector will receive their VAC in the post. Local Authority Electoral Registration Teams may need to, in what is anticipated by the government to be a small number of cases, produce a VAC locally for an elector to collect from the Council’s offices should the elector not have received their VAC in the run up to an election.</p> <p>The detail around the actual mechanisms that Electoral Registration teams must follow is still emerging from DLUHC and the secondary legislation that will bring the relevant processes into law has yet to be seen. Finally, DLUHC have committed to providing local authorities with funding to meet all new pressures upon them from the Elections Act 2022 and we are expecting details about the funding that Barnet will receive before the end of the year. Barnet’s Electoral Services Team is fully and actively engaged with the information being provided by DLUHC as well as the guidance and advice available from the Electoral Commission and the Association of Electoral Administrators. Barnet’s Electoral Registration Officer and Returning Officer maintains regular dialogue and consultation with the Head of Electoral Services and the Assistant Director for Assurance to ensure that all necessary preparations are undertaken and maintained as appropriate.</p>
42.	Cllr Duschinsky	Will the Leader write to the Mayor of London, and ask for his helps to reduce	Leader	<p>Yes. This is one of the borough’s junctions that has levels of traffic that frequently lead to delays, particularly at peak hours. As the question notes, the A1 is part of the Transport for London Road Network and steps to reduce congestion will require action by Transport for London. There</p>

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		traffic congestion at the Mill Hill circus roundabout?		have been discussions in the past about the potential redesign of the junction. We will write to the mayor to explore the scope of action to address this issue.
43.	Cllr Cooke	What does the Leader think about the Prime Minister's comments about North Londoners, and will he make clear to her that Barnet residents are not 'anti-growth'?	Leader	Liz Truss' comments were uncalled-for, incorrect, and ill-advised and she is no longer Prime Minister following her disastrous 'mini-budget' which has crashed the economy and stopped growth in its tracks. Barnet's residents are not anti-growth, but the Conservative Government seems to be.
44.	Cllr D Cohen	When will the separate food waste collections be restarted?	Cllr Schneiderman	The council is committed to introducing a food waste service as soon as possible, but is waiting on regulation and statutory guidance to be issued by Government. These documents will confirm future statutory waste collection specifications and importantly is expected to confirm details of and accessibility to new burdens funding to help support the introduction of this service.
45.	Cllr Roberts	What is the Council doing to promote cycling and active travel in the Borough?	Cllr Schneiderman	Barnet Council is committed to promoting cycling and active travel in the borough. We are continuing the health walks, school travel plan support, STARS accreditation scheme for schools, cycle training programme and cycle parking programme. We have also held events to mark Clean Air Day (June 2022) and World Car Free Day (September 2022). We are progressing with the design of improvements to junctions for pedestrians and cyclists across a number of sites in the borough. Furthermore, we have two School Super zones at Edgware Primary School and Saracens High School to aim to protect young people's health and enable healthy behaviours. The promised engagement and consultation exercise has started for the A1000 experimental 'pop up' cycle lane and will continue into early December. We are looking to present feedback and recommendations on the future of this scheme in January 2023.
46.	Cllr Longstaff	The recent proposal at P&R Committee of an increase in the garden waste collection charge will see the charge rise from £70 to £80. That is an increase of 14.3%. Will the Leader explain the	Cllr Schneiderman	There won't be an increase - the proposal the councillor is referring to was made by the Barnet Conservatives when they ran the Council. The new Labour administration will not be implementing this increase.

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		thinking behind the justification for the £10 (14.3%) increase in the charge?		
47.	Cllr Monasterio	What is the latest update on the Council's CCTV upgrade?	Cllr Conway	A new contract for CCTV Monitoring Services for the Community Safety and Library Services was awarded on 1st September 2022 and the strategic procurement for the installation and maintenance contract is currently out for tender. The current estate of 127 cameras are expected to be fully operational by end of Nov 22, currently at 107 and 20 new mobile (re-deployable) CCTV cameras will be deployed by the end of Oct 22 (all HikVision cameras have been removed). A full update on the Council's CCTV upgrade will be provided at CLLC on 31st October 2022.
48.	Cllr Thomas	What is the percentage reduction in the council's CO2 emissions since the declaration of a climate emergency (not including initiatives commenced prior to May 2022)?	Cllr Schneiderman	A carbon baseline of our emissions was completed in the Summer 2021 and a follow-up again this summer (2022), since the initial baseline, Scope 1 emissions have fallen by 2%, and Scope 2 by 26%. We are unable to measure the specific reduction since declaring a Climate Emergency.
49.	Cllr Haylett	What does the Leader think about the Government's plans to fund adults' social care and the impact that will have on adults social care in the Borough??	Cllr Edwards	<p><u>Adult social care reform funding – national</u></p> <p>The rate at which upper tier councils can increase tax specifically to pay for social care was reduced from 3% to 1%, at the autumn 21 spending review.</p> <p>At the same time a new National Insurance Levy was announced which was designed to raise £12b per year in additional revenue, in part to fund Adult Social Care reforms. In total, over the next three years, £3.6b (£1.2b per year) of this is allocated to pay for the cap on care costs and the extension to the means test, and to support progress towards local authorities paying a fair cost of care. The levy has now been reversed by government and confirmation of additional funding to councils relating to reform is awaited</p> <p>On the fair cost of care specifically, in December 2021 the Government launched the Market Sustainability and Fair Cost of Care Fund which will allocate £1.4b of the total £3.6b injection from the Levy to achieving this</p>

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			<p>aim. £162m of this £1.4b will be allocated in 2022/23 to support local authorities as they prepare their markets for reform.</p> <p>DHSC have indicated that a further £600 million will be made available nationally in both 2023/24 and 2024/25. Up to 25% of allocated funding in 2022/23 can be used to fund implementation activities associated with meeting the fund's purpose.</p> <p>Research by the county councils network indicates that the amount of funding allocated by government for reform is lower than the true cost of the reforms – so the reform programme will worsen the ASC funding position for councils</p> <p>The majority of lead members for ASC in England have publicly stated that the reforms should be delayed until fully funded</p> <p><u>Funding committed so far – LB Barnet toward the Adult Social Care Reform Agenda</u></p> <p>LB Barnet have been allocated £0.977m in 2022/23 from the Market Sustainability and Fair Cost of Care fund. This has been used to fund fee increases for care providers, alongside the council's own revenue funding</p> <p>In June 22, there was notification of an additional £100k to assist with the cost of implementing the care cap.</p> <p>Of the funding made available from central government in 2023/24 and 2024/25, LB Barnet have been estimated to receive £8.444m and (rising to) £12.062m respectively. Note – our estimates.</p> <p>Earlier modelling for Barnet indicates that the funding estimated to be received is not sufficient to cover demand expected through the reforms. This is a view shared by London Councils and the County Council Network when looking at the picture across London and nationally.</p> <p><u>Wider funding issues</u></p>
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				<p>The reform programme is taking place in the context of a worsening financial position for adult social care nationally. The county councils network estimates a £3.7bn shortfall for ASC over the next 18 months.</p> <p>The Health foundation has modelled a £6bn funding shortfall for ASC annually, rising to £13bn by 2030/31.</p> <p>At the same time, councils nationally are seeing increased demand and need for ASC from their communities. National ADASS reports that between Nov 21 to Feb 22 across England, there was an increase of 28% of people waiting for an assessment, care or direct payment or review, and an increase of 26% of people waiting six months or more for an assessment to be completed.</p> <p>This increase in demand is also being experienced in Barnet. In 2019/20, we saw 5400 new referrals. In 20/21, we saw 5900 new referrals and we anticipate a continued growth in demand throughout this year and next. "</p>
50.	Cllr Thomas	Why do Labour need two political advisors paid for by Barnet's taxpayers?	Leader	For the same reason that the Barnet Conservatives had a Cabinet Advisor and a Political Assistant when they ran the Council.
51.	Cllr Bilbow	What are the Council's plans for the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence, that takes place annually (25 November - 1 December)?	Cllr Conway	The council VAWG Team are planning a Webinar on the new offence of Non-fatal Strangulation and Suffocation taking place on 6 December. Further, the council will be raising awareness of our local services through digital platforms and via a Barnet First Magazine drop to every household in Barnet. Students at Middlesex University, in collaboration with Barnet's VAWG team, are working on #HearMyVoice initiative which will utilise students' work to deliver awareness-raising messaging, campaign materials and learning resources for local dissemination.
52.	Cllr Thomas	Why didn't the Leader ban plastic water bottles across the council and at the town hall after declaring a climate emergency, given that an 'emergency' is a very serious situation and he had plenty of time to act after the election?	Cllr Schneiderman	From what I understand, the plastic bottles in question were left over from the previous Barnet Conservative administration's time in office. We have given instructions that plastic bottles won't be bought or used in the future.

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53.	Cllr Cooke	What are the implications for Barnet for the funding settlement between the Government and TfL?	Cllr Schneiderman	London is the only capital city with a transport system that is not subsidised by the Government. The failure by the Conservative Government to properly fund TfL can only mean worse public transport services for people living, working in and visiting Barnet.
54.	Cllr Thomas	How much will your Citizens Assembly cost?	Leader	The one off procurement cost was £18k and the annual cost is expected to be £80k.
55.	Cllr Vorou	How is the new administration listening to residents in comparison with the previous administration?	Cllr Conway	In addition to refreshing our Community Engagement and Participation Strategy to include more co-production and listening events with residents, we have agreed to scrap the Conservatives' limit on public questions at Committee, we have agreed to keep Hendon Library in its historical building, we will be setting up a Partnership Board for the Hendon regeneration project, and we will be listening to residents in our Citizens Assembly on Climate Change. These are just a few key things - there's lots more!
56.	Cllr Thomas	How much CO2 emissions will the arrangements for the Citizens Assembly cause (transportation, officer time, venues etc) and will the Leader commit to offsetting this in order for the assembly to be net zero?	Cllr Schneiderman	Work has only just commenced in designing the citizen's assembly - at this stage we are unable to quantify the amount of emissions it will generate.
57.	Cllr Lusingu	Will the Leader congratulate Barnet Together on their first sector conference?	Leader	It was a wonderful event that I enjoyed speaking at immensely and I look forward to attending future events organised by Barnet Together. Our partnership with Barnet Together is working well, and we are very supportive of their work and welcome their input into ours.
58.	Cllr R Cornelius	Could the leader explain how the promised council tax rebate will be delivered and whether this ties in with promises made.	Leader	The pledge on the 1% council tax refund will be delivered to all council tax payers in council tax bills for 2023/24.

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59.	Cllr Innocenti	Is Barnet supporting the Cultural Education Partnership's Strategy?	Cllr Coakley-Webb	BELS officers sit on the Barnet Cultural Education Partnership Steering Group and have contributed to the formulation of the Strategy.
60.	Cllr Thomas	What is the council's estimate of the CO2 footprint of all the community skips, given the use of tippers, transporting skips and the public travelling to multiple sites?	Cllr Schneiderman	The Community Skip service is being introduced to help tackle fly tipping across the Borough and to provide convenient disposal points for residents closest to where they live. It is anticipated that the service will have a positive impact on the number of vehicle movements and CO2 emissions associated with journeys to the Civic Amenity site and those associated with clearing fly tipping incidents.
61.	Cllr Ambe	What are the current subscription figures for: Barnet First online; and the Together CTN Bulletin?	Leader	There are currently 38,004 subscribers to the Barnet First e-newsletter and there are 2,807 subscribers to the CTN Bulletin. Both of these are free to access.
62.	Cllr Longstaff	In the 'First 100 Days of the new Administration' edition of Barnet First, why did the Leader not mention the spending of £300,000 on Local Government Association membership, plus all the associated costs of staff time, expenses and charges that could easily take that total to over £500,000 in four years?	Leader	Lack of space - its hard to fit everything we're doing into the word limit in these articles. Our membership of the LGA provides benefits to Barnet, and of the 333 councils in England 331 are members.
63.	Cllr K Gurung	Where are the hate crime reporting centres and what will we be doing to publicise these and related initiatives further?	Cllr Conway	All Barnet Hate Crime reporting Centres can be found via the Barnet Council Community Safety webpage and Barnet Mencap website www.barnetmencap.org.uk We work very closely with Barnet Mencap to support activities and initiatives incl. the Zero Tolerance to Hate Crime Project which is led by Barnet Mencap's Hate Crime Reporting Co-Ordinator and supported by Barnet Council, the Metropolitan Police and other local voluntary and community organisations. The Zero Tolerance to Hate Crime Project implements parts of the Council's Hate Crime Strategy and focuses on increasing reporting of Disability Hate Crime; Racist and Religious Hate Crime; and Anti LGBTQ+ Hate Crime, Providing ongoing support to victims of hate crime, Increasing community

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				confidence in reporting hate crime to the Police, Improving cross-agency working to tackle hate crime and safeguarding vulnerable adults and children from the impact of hate crime. Future Hate Crime events and initiatives will be promoted within the Community Safety Hubs and Access to justice for those affected by Hate Crime is also one of our five priorities within the community Safety Strategy 2022 - 2027.
64.	Cllr Longstaff	<p>"At the election count in May, Cllr. Rawlings clearly stated, "We are already working on our promise to you to rebate residents the 1% Council Tax increase imposed in March, and to focus the council on getting the basics right."</p> <p>After nearly six months of Labour efficiency in controlling the council, will residents receive their 1% council tax refund this municipal year?"</p>	Leader	Please see my response to Q58.
65.	Cllr Rich	What events are happening locally for interfaith week in November (13-20 November)?	Cllr Conway	<p>"A series of events are being held at Middlesex University throughout interfaith Week:</p> <p>Monday 14 November: Food Faith and Fiction: creative writing workshop with Muslim Bangladeshi author Shamim Azad</p> <p>Tuesday 15 November: Film and Faith Discussion: The Emigrant Youssef Chahine's Egyptian take on the Biblical story of Joseph</p> <p>Friday 18 November: Eco Show and Tell Sustainability Fair: in partnership with Barnet Multi Faith Forum, Middlesex University Inter Faith Network and Shiri Atsmon of non-profit sustainable children's publishing house Helpful Kids. Stewardship and protection of the planet lies at the heart of faith. Staff, students and the public will have the opportunity to hear about encouraging cycling and walking to get fit and reduce car usage, educating young people about nature, helping bees flourish, tasting vegan cakes, growing your own food, buying locally produced honey and things made out of rubbish, improving recycling and waste collection, indoor</p>

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				<p>composting of food waste, eco-friendly cleaning products and children's parties plus much more.</p> <p>Tuesday 22 November Middlesex University. Presentation of the Hidden Stories funded project in collaboration with BMFF and Yad Vashem 'Righteous Muslims' and 'I am your Protector'</p> <p>Barnet Multi Faith Forum are also hosting a meeting with councillors at the Colindale offices: 'The Covenant The Reaction and Response of the Faith Sector to the Cost of Living Crisis'</p> <p>Plans are also underway for a Mitzvah Day event on 20 November. "</p>
66.	Cllr Thomas	Does the council acknowledge that the community skip service will increase waste-related CO2 emissions?	Cllr Schneiderman	<p>The Community Skip service is being introduced to help tackle fly tipping across the Borough and to provide convenient disposal points for residents close to where they live. It is anticipated that the service will have a positive impact on the number of vehicle movements and CO2 emission associated with journeys to the Civic Amenity site and to clear fly tipping incidents.</p>
67.	Cllr Zubairi	What's the latest update on the community participation strategy?	Cllr Conway	<p>The draft Community Participation will be presented to the Community Leadership and Libraries Committee on 31 October.</p> <p>This will set out a new vision for how we will become a listening council that places community participation and engagement at the heart of everything we do; a council that cares about our residents and enjoys a trusted and collaborative relationship with its communities.</p> <p>It will support the council's work to the inequalities our residents face. We will be inclusive in our engagement and seek to reach out and involve communities who are less often heard by us. We will ensure that all our communities feel celebrated, listened to and included</p> <p>It will set out the principles we will adhere to in trying to achieve this vision and some key pathfinder projects we will use to test our approach.</p>
68.	Cllr R Cornelius	With the ending of the Re contract will the leader undertake that there will be increased planning enforcement action.	Leader	<p>The planning service has built an efficient and proactive planning enforcement team that will transfer back to the Council at the end of the Re contract. Planning Enforcement is an important function of the Local Planning Authority that preserves the integrity of the planning system and</p>

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				public confidence in the decisions of the LPA by ensuring that development accords with the rules and it will be maintained upon the return of the service to the Council.
69.	Cllr McGuirk	Is the Council supporting the VAWG awareness street stands alongside the Roads and Transport Police?	Cllr Conway	Barnet council have invited all the members of the VAWG Forum, which includes voluntary, community and faith sectors, key domestic abuse and violence against women and girl's stakeholders and partners working across the council. There is close collaboration with Roads and Transport Police team who have supported events such as the Domestic Abuse and VAWG Strategy launch on International Women's Day and the council will continue this collaboration to share information on local services during the 16 days of activism.
70.	Cllr Thomas	What is the Leader's view of the Metropolitan Police being under special measures under Sadiq Khan?	Cllr Conway	My view is that you forgot to mention that the special measures came in under a Conservative Home Secretary.
71.	Cllr Ioannides	How has the community safety walks proposal developed?	Cllr Conway	The ward walk programme has been developed, with a process for the walks agreed with councillors. This will involve invited resident assoc./community groups and council officers visiting specific areas of complaint/issue, with the relevant ward councillors. Residents will be able to report issues in advance via the email address Saferstreets@barnet.gov.uk , which will form the basis of the walks. The first walk will take place in East Finchley on 2 November. Further walks will follow in the weeks after this. After the first six walks, a small break will take place to make sure the process is operating effectively. Following this, a full programme of ward walks will be rolled out, ensuring each ward is covered.
72.	Cllr Shooter	What are current plans for the covid and flu vaccine booster roll out?	Cllr Moore	Both COVID-19 booster and flu vaccine are delivered by NHSE with local authorities supporting the rollout Eligible groups for the COVID-19 booster are following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all adults aged 50 years and over • those aged 5 to 49 years in a clinical risk group, including pregnant women

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • those aged 5 to 49 years who are household contacts of people with immunosuppression • those aged 16 to 49 years who are carers • residents in a care home for older adults and staff working in care homes for older adults • frontline health and social care workers <p>DHSC has extended the offer of the free flu vaccine to more eligible groups. These additional groups will only be eligible once the most vulnerable, including previously announced pre-school and primary school children, those aged 65 years and over and those in clinical risk groups, have been offered the jab. The additional groups in England are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all adults aged 50 to 64 years • secondary school children in years 7, 8 and 9, who will be offered the vaccine in order of school year (starting with the youngest first) Wherever possible the two vaccines are administered together. The comms campaign for COVID-19 booster and flu vaccine is joint as the year before. Last year's flu uptake was the highest we've ever seen and we hope for even better results this year. <p>Barnet public health are working closely with NCL ICS and primary care colleagues to monitor uptake, identify areas or groups with lower uptake and coordinate comms and outreach work. We are working with VCS, religious and ethnic groups to provide tailored information and address specific concerns.</p> <p>The Health Champions programme delivered by Groundworks continues supporting COVID-19 vaccine uptake and is also linked into the wider programme "Community Vaccine Champions" (CVC) which is funded by DLUHC with the initial aim to increase COVID-19 vaccine uptake rates within the borough, but then expanded to support uptake of flu and routine vaccinations and other health improvement programmes.</p> <p>The CVC programme in Barnet has 5 distinct workstreams to ensure our target groups with low vaccine uptake are reached effectively:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insight & Communications – including insight gathering by a research organisation and bespoke comms assets and resources for our target populations • Health Champions & Ambassadors – expansion of our health champions programme and recruitment of paid Health Ambassadors
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				<p>within target groups, including different ethnic and religious communities (led by Groundwork London)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VCFSE Grants Fund – grant funding to Barnet VCFSE organisations to recruit Health Ambassadors, gain understanding of vaccine barriers and develop practical solutions to overcome these barriers (led by Young Barnet Foundation) • Asylum Seekers Outreach – vaccine specific outreach to our asylum hotels within the borough (led by Deputy Head of Strategy with support from Public Health) • Training – a suite of training for our new recruits to understand vaccine hesitancy and have conversations with our target groups led by Public Health Registrar and Groundwork London) <p>Barnet council is offering free flu jabs to all staff who are not eligible for free NHS jabs. There will be flu clinics organised on site and vouchers are offered as alternative.</p>
73.	Cllr Navqi	What will the winter festivals fund cover?	Cllr Conway	<p>The funding will cover bids for from voluntary, community and faith organisations to support events that celebrate culture, community and faith. We will encourage events that foster community cohesion, inter faith understanding and that celebrate our borough's diverse communities. These events should be open to everyone (where possible and appropriate). The grants will be between £500 and £1000 and offered on a rolling basis throughout the festival, which culminates at the time of the Lunar New Year at the end of February.</p>
74.	Cllr Thomas	The Labour manifesto promised to protect green spaces, but on Labour's watch planning consent has been granted for two sites on the Green Belt, why didn't Labour councillors 'protect' these sites?	Cllr Young	<p>It is understood that the sites in question are Jeanettes, land north of The Ridgeway, Barnet NW7 1EL - 22/0650/FUL and Arkley Riding Stables, Hedgerow Lane, Barnet EN5 3DT - 22/1514/FUL. In the case of the former Members determined that the value of the affordable housing offer outweighed the harm to the Green Belt and Conservation Area. In the latter case, the application followed an appeal on the site and it was considered that the effect of the proposal on the provision of community facilities in the Borough would be acceptable and that it would not be inappropriate development within the Green Belt, on this previously developed land, including taking into account the effects of the development on openness.</p>

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75.	Cllr Beg	How will the safe spaces (for reporting domestic abuse) work as part of the Hate Crime reporting centres?	Cllr Conway	Meetings to plan the set-up of 'Community Safety Hubs ' in the borough were held with Corporate Programmes Manager, VAWG team and Hate Crime Team so that the hate crime model and One Stop Shop model good practices can be learned from in order to expand the hate crime reporting model to Community Safety Hubs. Survivors will be able to safely report cases of harassment and abuse in addition to hate crime and will be supported by clear referral pathways to services. The creation of additional safe spaces across the borough e.g. within licensed premises, shops and businesses is included in the three year DA & VAWG Strategy action plan and will be explored with key stakeholders of the safer community partnership following the launch of the Community Safety Hubs pathfinder programme on 27 October.
76.	Cllr Grocock	How many Community Safety Hubs will be rolled out this year?	Cllr Conway	An initial two hubs will be rolled out, with the Edgware hub opening on 27 October and the West Hendon hub opening on 1 November. A further four sites will be opened as part of the pathfinder, with the remaining sites spread across the borough. The ambition is to open these before the end of 2022, though this will depend on the availability of locations and any lessons from the first two pathfinder hubs.
77.	Cllr Farrier	When will the Town Hall renovations finish? Is there a marketing plan for promoting the refreshed facilities for events and to local businesses etc?	Leader	The Town Hall renovations are planned to finish before Christmas 2022. However, damp has been detected in some areas of the building, which, whilst being remediated as quickly as possible, might delay completion. With regards to marketing and promotion, the property portfolio and registrars' teams are exploring how they can coordinate bookings of rooms after weddings to include receptions etc. Other plans include implementing an online booking system, advertising via the council's website and social media advertising.
78.	Cllr Thomas	The committee system allows more councillors to be at the table when decisions are made whereas the cabinet system concentrates decision-making to approximately 10 councillors. Does the Leader have the support of every single member of his group for conversion to the cabinet system?	Leader	I have more support for my plan to move to Cabinet than I believe the then Conservative Leader had for his plan to move to a Committee system.

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79.	Cllr Chakraborty	What is the Council doing to help the digitally excluded?	Leader	<p>There is a comprehensive programme across a range of services. Initiatives include:</p> <p>in the last 6 months, Gigabit Broadband via Community Fibre made live connections to over 50% of the Barnet Homes stock, the WLA led Fibre West project appointed BT to install fibre connections to various sites across the corporate estate. We expect c10,000 properties to benefit from new fibre connections.</p> <p>3 community centres are now benefitting from free fibre broadband: Grahame Park, Tarling Road, and Cricklewood. 10 more by mid-2023.</p> <p>250 low-income households offered 12 months of free broadband to provide support through the cost-of-living crisis.</p> <p>A ‘digital triage’ pilot launched in Summer 2022 to better signpost residents towards available support via frontline teams.</p> <p>A network of volunteer Digital Champions are providing 18 weekly digital skills training or support sessions each week, coordinated by Barnet BOOST.</p> <p>During ‘Barnet Get Online Week’; Microsoft hosted free workshops for residents and small businesses, BOOST hosted 17 digital skills events & launched a libraries laptop and tablet scheme to enable the re-distribution of refurbished council equipment (over 400 laptops distributed to date), the Digital Skills drop-in clinic at Burnt Oak saw 30 attendees and the Digital Champions Network saw 124 courses completed.</p> <p>Since April 2022, the Library Service has supported 139 residents via formal IT sessions and other training sessions.</p> <p>The customer service team is providing additional support accessing services digitally and has established referral routes via Age UK Barnet (supported c60 residents since launch).</p> <p>The Council is continually improving accessibility to its digital services to ensure equal access to all, completing an external accessibility audit and launching a new tool to support residents access digital content who have</p>
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				accessibility needs and also invested in an improved telephony platform, to be launched in October, to ensure residents can speak to someone when they need to recognising digital is not the only way to access council services.
80.	Cllr Longstaff	<p>"In the changes made to 'Public Questions' at Committee meetings, the questions are published prior to the committee meeting, but not the answers.</p> <p>The questioner must come to the table and ask their printed question. They receive a verbal response from the Chair. Following this exchange and using the answer supplied, the resident must instantly construct and ask their supplementary question. The new process takes up twice the amount of time of the previous system, where answers were published in advance of the meeting.</p> <p>At the Environment Committee, it was explained that if the questioner is not in attendance, then the answer is not given. It is up to the Chair to decide whether they will provide a written answer to the questioner. The public and the committee members are not given the answer to the absent resident's question; and nor is an answer ever printed.</p> <p>As this is hardly transparent or efficient, will the Leader revert to the old system of publishing the answers with the questions</p>	Leader	All meetings will be webcast from now on widening the access to the public and ensuring there is a record of any oral answers and oral questions.

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		prior to the meeting and allow questioners to go straight to their supplementary?"		
81.	Cllr Thomas	A high proportion of Labour councillors who sat during the 2018-2022 term had no employment interests declared at the end of the last municipal year. Can the Leader confirm if that was an oversight when submitting interests, or is the Barnet Labour Group the party of the unemployed and retired?	Leader	Labour councillors take their responsibility to declare interests seriously, as I hope Conservative councillors also do.
82.	Cllr R Cornelius	At a recent committee meeting a Labour member stated that conservative literature had made scare stories regarding what a Labour administration might do. I am re-assured that the member concerned did believe them to be scare stories. However this is difficult to square with the finessing of council tax promises. What else will the administration do that it promised not to.	Leader	We are an administration that delivers on its promises, and that delivers more than its promises.
83.	Cllr Thomas	Will the Leader explain why some Labour councillors had election expenses paid by a trade union whereas some did not (as per the registers of interests)?	Leader	No election expenses were paid directly to individual Labour councillors by trade unions. Some councillors have chosen to declare that a donation was made to the Labour Party on their register of interests. I note that the Conservative councillors declarations on this issue are also mixed.
84.	Cllr Mire	Does the leader have any view on the operating model for services being taken back from Capita? Will all FTE be based in Colindale? Can all transitioned staff fit in Colindale?	Leader	Staff will transfer in accordance with TUPE - including any current home working or hybrid arrangements. The number of additional staff subject to TUPE and not currently located in Colindale will be clarified through the transition programme, and space will be found for them.
85.	Cllr Grocock	Earlier this year you claimed you wanted to merge CLLC into Environment Committee - what changed?	Leader	We made the proposal as part of a package of savings to the councillors' allowances budget before the elections, but we decided to make the savings in the allowances budget in a different way. Over the four years of

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				a Labour administration we will have saved the council £400k by reducing councillors allowances.
86.	Cllr Wakely	What pressure has the Council applied to TfL and the utility companies regarding the emergency works on Station Road, Edgware? There have been several days where no or little work has been ongoing, whilst Edgware businesses suffer a drop in footfall.	Cllr Schneiderman	<p>The A5 is the responsibility of the London Borough of Barnet. The emergency works are due to a void of circa 30-40m³ beneath lanes one and two in front of numbers 68-70.</p> <p>The Highways Service has undertaken a Ground Penetrating Radar survey of the area to determine the extent of the void, Thames Water has reviewed its assets and National Grid has investigated its asset (London Power Networks tunnel system carrying a 400KVA supply). It is essential to determine the cause of the void and liability prior to undertaking a reinstatement. The authority has written to businesses in the vicinity to provide an update and officers are also reviewing the possibility of installing a temporary loading bay on Station Road to assist them.</p>
87.	Cllr Thomas	Is the Leader absolutely certain that all Labour councillors correctly declared their trade union sponsorships when they first submitted their register of interests in May?	Leader	Yes if Labour members have been directly sponsored by trade unions. Also in the interests of complete transparency wording has been added to registers of interests.
88.	Cllr M Cohen	You can have a residents permit for your car and up to 4 temporary cars, but not all at same time. Cllr Schneiderman - do you think it's fair that that's the case? Should there be an unlimited number of temporary cars instead of it being limited?	Cllr Schneiderman	The purpose of the limit to permit numbers is to ensure that each resident may hold a permit and that one household may not add more than four vehicles to the highway. Temporary permits for vehicles are to cover such events as vehicles being repaired and the purchase of new vehicles etc. Allowing multiple simultaneous additional vehicles would add pressure to the highway and reduce availability of parking for other residents' vehicles.
89.	Cllr Wardle	What is the Labour administration doing to encourage TfL to invest in the crucial repair works needed to underpasses that connect Edgwarebury residents either side of the A1 and A41?	Cllr Schneiderman	Council Officers and Transport for London (TfL) have been in constant communication, and as a result, TfL decided to enhance subway maintenance and took interim steps in March 2022. Further works were undertaken and completed by TfL in September 2022 to the pumps in the

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				<p>A1 Fairway underpass, which is expected to resolve the flooding issue in the underpass.</p> <p>The Council Street cleansing team has also been undertaking enhanced maintenance. An officer steering group has been formed to investigate both the short-term and long-term interventions required for the flooding issue at the underpass. A long-term flood action plan is being drafted with the Council, TfL, and Thames Water as the key stakeholders.</p>
90.	Cllr Shooter	What are the current Labour administrations plans for the Hendon Hub?	Leader	The scheme will go ahead in an amended form. The administration has decided that Hendon Library will remain in its original location and be refurbished, preserving the library's heritage. It is anticipated that Middlesex University will now occupy the Rotunda building in its entirety. New applications will be prepared by the applicant for consideration by planning committee in May 23.
91.	Cllr Grover	How will residents be able to assess, by the time of the next election, whether the Administration's target to achieve zero carbon in Barnet by 2042 is on track?	Cllr Schneiderman	A climate action plan is being developed and will be shared with residents through our Net Zero Hub (which is being developed and launched in the New Year) - progress against our actions and trajectory to Net Zero will also be available through this method.
92.	Cllr Longstaff	<p>"In the Labour alternative budget proposals put to council in March 2022, there was a detailed costing for senior management and staff savings of £2,077,862.</p> <p>Which senior management posts have been removed? "</p>	Leader	None - but we're still making the savings in other ways!
93.	Cllr Longstaff	"In the new Labour Party propaganda rag, previously known as 'Barnet First', Labour restated in its 'First 100 Days' edition, their pledge to protect green spaces.	Leader	See answer to Q74.

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		Will the Leader explain why council planning committees are now agreeing to build on the green belt in High Barnet and Mill Hill, despite many objections from residents?"		
94.	Cllr R Cornelius	Could the leader confirm whether there is a uniform policy for charging commercial waste rates to voluntary and community organisations.	Cllr Schneiderman	I will ask officers to write to you with the policy.
95.	Cllr Thomas	Albert Place is set to become a public square in Finchley Central, as a result of plans instigated while the Council was under Conservative control. Will the Leader commit to providing a Christmas tree at Albert Place this Christmas and will he also instruct officers to contact local Jewish communities to offer the space for menorah lighting this year?	Cllr Houston	Yes.
96.	Cllr Longstaff	Will the Leader please explain why he has failed to deliver the council's summer consultation on the 1% council tax refund, as detailed in Labour Party leaflets delivered across the borough?	Leader	Because it would have been an extra cost to the council taxpayer. We can deliver our pledge on the 1% refund through council tax bills in 2023/24 and this will be included in the usual consultation on the budget with no additional cost.
97.	Cllr Prager	What does the Leader expect the increased pension costs to be from bringing in-house those employed by Capita?	Leader	As presented to Policy and Resources Committee in July 2022, the overall impact of returning CSG services at the end of the existing contract alongside the 2 years 7 months extension of Revenues & Benefits, Customer Services and IT and returning Re services is an overall beneficial impact compared with other options. This beneficial impact includes the impact of pensions assumptions, which are commercially sensitive and cannot be shared in this forum but has been factored in.

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98.	Cllr Wardle	When will the skip service return and will residents be consulted on the locations for these skips?	Cllr Schneiderman	It is anticipated that the Community Skip Service will commence in November as set out in response to question 17. Ward members will be engaged in the confirmation of skip locations within their wards. There are a number of constraints on location which, together with the need to provide a comprehensive service across the borough, mean that in practice there is limited choice of sites.
99.	Cllr Shooter	Is the Barnet First magazine a political publication?	Leader	No.
100.	Cllr R Cornelius	Have LGA meetings, briefings and seminars been popular with officers. What is the total number of hours by paid staff spent on them.	Leader	We do not ask staff to report what LGA services and resources they are accessing. Strategically benefits of membership include sharing best practice, opportunity for joint working across local authorities and support through council improvement and peer challenge, as well as leadership development resources and programmes for councillors.
101.	Cllr Shooter	Should local councillors elected by their constituents be holding surgeries exclusively for their residents, or are opposition parties free to hold surgeries in competing wards?	Leader	Local councillors should make themselves available to their residents to help them with any local concerns or case-work.
102.	Cllr Longstaff	Following the summer drought, many pedestrian and cycle paths across the borough's green spaces have slipped or split. What are the Administration's plans to deal with this hazard?	Cllr Schneiderman	Site visits and inspections are regularly undertaken by the Council, where reactive maintenance is required, this is prioritised for completion as part of a planned schedule. If a resident has a concern about a particular location, please contact parks@barnet.gov.uk
103.	Cllr R Cornelius	Could the leader indicate how many extra officers will be employed to end the Capita contracts.	Leader	The report to Policy and Resources Committee 19 July 22 identified that additional staffing resources are being funded by an approved non recurrent allocation from the balance of the £500k originally allocated, together with an underspend in the Commercial budget.

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				<p>However, if it is identified that this is not sufficient to meet the requirement to ensure a smooth transition, a further allocation from reserves or contingency will be sought from</p> <p>the Policy and Resources Committee. There are currently 3 officers employed in the central project team. Within services, support is mostly being provided by existing client teams, which will be strengthened as needed.</p>
104.	Cllr R Cornelius	Could the leader explain how a 1.99% increase in council tax ties in with Labours promise to freeze council tax.	Leader	See response to Q21.
105.	Cllr R Cornelius	I did not understand the pledges regarding council tax in Labour party propaganda. Would the leader explain in clear terms his administration`s undertakings in this respect?	Leader	See response to Q2.
106.	Cllr Longstaff	What discussions have the council had with TfL and Hertfordshire County Council with regards the reinstatement of the 84 bus route from New Barnet to Potters Bar?	Cllr Schneiderman	The Council has raised this issue in its response to the TFL and Central London Bus study submitted in July 2022. Officers have requested a response from TfL, which is currently pending. From Council Officers understanding Hertfordshire have not been involved in the discussion on this matter.
107.	Cllr Greenspan	Barnet has the largest Jewish population in the UK. Does Barnet Labour condemn the election of the now-suspended Naomi Idrissi-Winborne to your Party's National Executive Committee, and do you agree she must be expelled from Labour for her antisemitism?	Leader	Yes, and yes
108.	Cllr Longstaff	"At the last council meeting, I asked three questions on the estimated costs of staff time, bank charges and postage in order	Leader	See response to Q2.

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		<p>to refund the 1% council tax. The answer was...</p> <p>“The administration is working with the relevant teams to ensure we implement this manifesto pledge, there is no further cost to the council taxpayer.”</p> <p>As there are no costs, I assume there will be no refund.</p> <p>Please confirm a refund will not be made in this municipal year and, therefore, your pledge of a refund to Barnet residents is completely worthless.”</p>		
109.	Cllr R Cornelius	Is there any control over the numbers of officers in attendance at meetings.	Leader	Should there be?
110.	Cllr R Cornelius	The Labour party has forced through the ending of the Re contract. How will the service to residents be improved and at what cost.	Leader	As reported to the Financial Performance and Contracts Committee 23rd November 2021, the financial impact of returning Regulatory Services, Regeneration and Highways is affordable. As reported at Policy and Resources Committee 19th July 22, the financial assessment supported the case for bringing the remaining RE services in-house upon expiry of the contract. The Highways service is already subject to an improvement plan, and other returning services are being reviewed in advance of the return date.
111.	Cllr Longstaff	What is the budget for Citizen Assemblies or is it still limitless, as per the Environment & Climate Change Committee decision, as voted for by Labour councillors?	Cllr Schneiderman	The citizen's assembly is costing £80k (see Q54)

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112.	Cllr R Cornelius	Does the leader believe that the changes in the public right to speak at committee have actually been an increase in public access or are they just another promise finessed away.	Leader	The changes were welcomed by the public, and meant an end to the 'gagging rules' imposed by the Barnet Conservatives.
113.	Cllr Grocock	Will the Labour administration push Sadiq Khan to open more SNT Hubs in Barnet?	Cllr Conway	When I next speak to the Mayor, I will definitely discuss with him the starving of the Mets funding by the Conservative Government which has resulted in fewer police, police station closures and fewer SNT hubs in Barnet whilst also advising him of our new council investment in community safety hubs, ward safety walks and additional investment of £1.8m in CCTV.
114.	Cllr R Cornelius	Does the Leader personally co-ordinate the calendar of meetings.	Leader	No.
115.	Cllr R Cornelius	How would the leader wish to be judged at the end of his period in office.	Leader	By being re-elected.
116.	Cllr R Cornelius	Is the ending of all the contracts with Capita based on dogma or reason. Is there an extra cost that the leader will not inflict on the tax payer to achieve this?	Leader	Reason, the mass-outsourcing of council services by the Barnet Conservatives was not an overwhelming success.
117.	Cllr Mire	Does the leader have a detailed business case for transitioning?	Leader	Business cases for Returning services were provided as part of the financial assessment. Additional resources required for the Transition were considered at the Policy and Resources Committee 19th July 22.
118.	Cllr Mire	Who is building the cut over plan for transition?	Leader	The transition programme and governance arrangements have been jointly agreed between Capita and the council.
119.	Cllr R Cornelius	Will the leader commit that there will be no attempt at convergence of council and market rents.	Cllr Houston	Yes.

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120.	Cllr R Cornelius	Residents have noted promises from the new administration regarding cleaning the air in Barnet. What will be done other than devising strategies and talking about it.	Cllr Schneiderman	We are committed to improving air quality. Watch this space.
121.	Cllr Stock	Is there any quality control of roadworks once completed? For example In the Totteridge and Woodside Ward a large stretch of Totteridge Lane was recently resurfaced but it is already breaking up?	Cllr Schneiderman	Yes. I have asked officers to update the member.
122.	Cllr Stock	I have recently been contacted by a number of frustrated residents who can't understand why traffic lights are in place when road works have finished or not actually begun. This causes long unnecessary queues and delays.	Cllr Schneiderman	Road works should be completed as soon as possible. Members can ask for an update on specific locations.