

EALING COUNCIL - ORAL QUESTION

UNDER COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE PROCEDURE RULE 10(1)

Council Meeting	Date of Council	Portfolio
Question No. 1	24 th April 2018	
From Councillor	David Millican	
To Councillor	Binda Rai	(Children and Young People)

Question:

How much is the government spending building three brand new high schools in Ealing and Acton?

Answer:

Consistent with DfE policy, the three planned new secondary schools in Ealing are Free Schools which are being procured directly by the Education and Skills Funding Agency. The Council is therefore unable to confirm the value of the projects or amounts which are being invested. We understand that the ESFA have not as yet awarded any building contracts for these projects and are at a pre-contract negotiation stage.

You will recall that the Education Act 2011, introduced by your government, changed the arrangements for establishing new schools and introduced section 6A (the free school presumption) to the Education and Inspections Act 2006. This essentially means that where a local authority thinks there is a need for a new school in its area it must seek proposals to establish an academy (free school).

In practice, this means that this Tory government has taken away the freedom of local authorities to take responsibility for setting up the right sort of schools for their communities. We are now shackled to the ideological obsessions of this government who are determined to destroy locally run and accountable schools, which are recognised the world over for their quality and outcomes. What we need is a Labour government that will give us the freedom to invest and build new, high-achieving comprehensive schools that meet the needs of our pupils and our communities.

EALING COUNCIL - ORAL QUESTION

UNDER COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE PROCEDURE RULE 10(1)

Council Meeting	Date of Council	Portfolio
Question No. 2	24 th April 2018	
From Councillor	Aysha Raza	
To Councillor	Julian Bell	(Leader of the Council, Policy Overview, Regeneration and Planning)

Question: Can the portfolio holder update us on how many unaccompanied child refugees Ealing have taken in from the Calais camp and elsewhere since 2011?

Answer:

The London Borough of Ealing is currently supporting 51 unaccompanied minors. The young people range from 13 years old (1 child) to 17 years old. 86% are 15 and older. These children and young people are fleeing conditions of strife and poverty in their countries of origin and have very often been travelling in dangerous circumstances, for many months.

We also support 32 unaccompanied minors as Care Leavers (over 18 years of age).

Between the 1st April 2011 and April 2018, 102 unaccompanied asylum seeking children have become looked after in Ealing.

Ealing had 13 UASC (Dubs children), come to us via Calais. The other unaccompanied young people come via the London Rota or have presented themselves at Ealing police stations.

The vast majority, 84%, are male.

Albania (21%), Eritrea (21%) and Afghanistan (19%) represent the top 3 countries of birth, with Albanian, African and Afghanistani being the top 3 ethnic groups.

Of the 51 UASC, 43% are living in semi-independent accommodation and 42% are in foster care. 15% live independently.

EALING COUNCIL - ORAL QUESTION

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Council Meeting	Date of Council	Portfolio
Question No. 3	24 th April 2018	
From Councillor	Ian Proud	
To Councillor	Bassam Mahfouz	(Transport, Environment & Leisure)

Question: Will the portfolio holder bring forward the review of the pay and park on the north side of Cleveland Road as requested by residents in Bellevue Road?

Answer:

As per the council's revised CPZ policy, compulsory CPZ reviews are no longer undertaken. The report approved by Cabinet June 2016 states *"Existing CPZs will only be reviewed when substantial requests are received and there is evidence and justification to do so"*.

The petition received currently stands at 136 signatures, so this could be classified as *"substantial"* however, the signatures originate from outside of the zone, so cannot be considered in the same way as a petition received from the actual residents of the zone. When we refer to a petition triggering a review, it's usually in such scenarios where residents of a zone want their zone reviewed for a change in operational hours etc. Not in the sense that residents outside of a zone want the zone reviewed because they are being impacted by it.

Therefore, this does not trigger an automatic review.

EALING COUNCIL - ORAL QUESTION

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Council Meeting	Date of Council	Portfolio
Question No. 4	24th April 2018	
From Councillor	Gary Malcolm	
To Councillor	Yvonne Johnson	(Finance, performance and customer services)

Question: Following an incident (which was seen on CCTV) where an Amey vehicle damaged a constituent's vehicle on Ramillies Road recently, why, when the constituent made at least three calls to Ealing Council but was not given any advice about what to do in his situation?

Why were his calls not escalated to a supervisor or someone from the relevant team to give him the advice he was looking for?

Answer:

If a contractor vehicle damages a residents' vehicle, instructions to contact centre staff are to refer to the company insurers, which for AMEY were listed as Zurich Insurance plc. The service would not normally get involved in giving any advice other than to give the contact details for the resident to call the insurance company. Unfortunately, the council had not been informed by AMEY that the insurance details had changed and the wrong information was given. The correct details have now been updated and all staff reminded of the process to follow when receiving contacts regarding insurance claims.

EALING COUNCIL - ORAL QUESTION

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Council Meeting	Date of Council	Portfolio
Question No. 5	24th April 2018	
From Councillor	Ray Wall	
To Councillor	Bassam Mahfouz	(Transport, Environment & Leisure)

Question: How much would it cost to sweep every street once a week and collect all garden waste for free?

Answer:

Sweeping every residential street in the borough weekly would require the addition of approximately £1m to the current budget.

The provision of a free garden waste collection service would require an addition of approx.. £1.5m to relevant budgets to cover income loss and operational costs.

EALING COUNCIL - ORAL QUESTION

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Council Meeting	Date of Council	Portfolio
Question No. 6	24th April 2018	
From Councillor	Roz Reece	
To Councillor	Julian Bell	Leader of the Council, Policy Overview, Regeneration and Planning)

Question:

Will the Planning Department revert to the practice in sending letters to houses, flats in the vicinity of planning applications, including houses in the roads backing onto the applicant's address?

Answer:

Article 15 of the Town & Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 sets out the statutory framework for publicity for applications for planning permission. Article 15 requires certain specific types of application to be publicised by way of a site notice and newspaper advertisement and in some cases also by way of notification to adjoining owners or occupiers. This is in addition to a general requirement for information relating to all applications to be available on the Council's website.

Since June 2015 the Council has for most applications* fulfilled the above statutory requirements by placing site notices on lampposts close to the application site rather than by individual notification to adjoining residents by letter. This was as a response to the high cost of sending out individual notification letters (approx. £40k per year)

We are aware there were some teething problems with implementation in 2015. The site notices have been improved in relation to:

- **The durability of the material** – previously laminated card that wasn't weatherproof – now waterproof plastic.
- **How they are attached to the lamppost** – now plastic tags rather than string.
- **Visibility** – previously pale yellow, now fluorescent yellow.
- **Coverage** – account is taken of the need for more than one notice depending on the nature of the development and on the need for notices on side/rear streets where appropriate.
- **Comments that site notices haven't been put up** - The information available for planning applications on the Council's planning access website includes a photograph of the notices in situ and a map showing where the notice(s) have been erected.

It is worth noting that prior to 2015 when letters were sent out the Council also received complaints that neighbours did not receive them. On balance it is felt that site notices

EALING COUNCIL - ORAL QUESTION

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provide more visibility than letters and are it is considered that this notification process is an efficient form of public engagement and generates a considerable amount of response from residents in relation to a variety of applications. There are no plans to revert to a notification process based on letters sent directly to neighbours by post.

* there is a statutory duty to directly notify neighbours in respect of the 'prior approval' process for 'larger' rear extensions to the rear of residential properties.

EALING COUNCIL - ORAL QUESTION

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Council Meeting	Date of Council	Portfolio
Question No. 7	24th April 2018	
From Councillor	Karam Mohan	
To Councillor	Jasbir Anand	(Housing)

Question:

Last week Sadiq Khan released his ground-breaking figures on London Living Rent properties in the Borough. Can you tell us how many of these are provided by Ealing?

Answer:

London Living Rent is a new product, which has been open to the market to bid for financial support from the Mayor of London since 2016.

London Living Rent homes are for middle-income households who now rent and want to build up savings to buy a home. This can be either through shared ownership or outright purchase. Landlords are expected to encourage their tenants into home ownership within 10 years.

The amount of rent you pay will vary according to where you live in London. The Mayor has published benchmark London Living Rent levels for every neighbourhood in the capital. These are based on a third of average local household incomes and adjusted for the number of bedrooms in each home. . For example a one bedroom home in Acton Central will command a rent of £893, Southall Broadway £696 and Northolt West End £680. This represents approximately two-thirds of the median market rent.

This will create an opportunity for those in work to save towards their own future homes, whilst maintaining the security of a rental property.

Grant was allocated in 2017 for these products to registered providers and some Councils, and Ealing is already seeing a small number of these schemes coming to market with 20 London Living Rent homes available this summer provided by Catalyst Housing.

The Council will deliver 2 London Living Rent Properties as part of a mixed scheme development of rent and shared ownership at Doncaster Drive, Northolt later this year.

This is the starting point of our ambition, and alongside the 500 council homes, 500 shared ownership and over a 1,000 affordable homes we should be very proud of what we have delivered so far.