

EALING COUNCIL

WRITTEN COUNCIL QUESTIONS: TUESDAY, 20 July 2021

QUESTIONS

PAGE

1. QUESTIONS TO – CABINET MEMBER FOR CLIMATE ACTION & STATUTORY DEPUTY LEADER..... 2

2. QUESTIONS TO – CABINET MEMBER FOR GENUINELY AFFORDABLE HOMES 9

3. QUESTIONS TO – CABINET MEMBER FOR GOOD GROWTH 15

4. QUESTIONS TO – CABINET MEMBER FOR THRIVING COMMUNITIES 17

5. QUESTIONS TO – CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTHY LIVES 20

1. QUESTIONS TO – CABINET MEMBER FOR CLIMATE ACTION & STATUTORY DEPUTY LEADER

Q No.	From Cllr	Question	Background
8.	Gallant	<p>Has the Council considered offering grants to install Hydrogen Injection systems into vehicles in order to reduce emissions?</p> <p>At this stage of technology development, decarbonising essential vehicle journeys is primarily achieved through the replacement of fossil-fuel powered vehicles with electric vehicles. Hydrogen is primarily being introduced as an alternative for heavy vehicles, such as buses and waste collection vehicles.</p> <p>The primary challenge with hydrogen continues to be that it is primarily derived from fossil fuels and therefore not a carbon-free fuel. According to data from 2019, steam methane reforming from natural gas, a fossil fuel, was the most common method of producing hydrogen in the United Kingdom. As of 2019, methane reforming accounted for nearly half of total production, with electrolysis, a zero-carbon emitting procedure, accounting for just four percent.</p> <p>For the reasons that it is not a widely-adopted fuel for private vehicles, and that it is not normally zero-carbon, the council has not made any consideration for offering grants to install hydrogen injection systems into vehicles to reduce emissions. The council has three climate change objectives related to travel, to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase active travel 2. Reduce vehicles travelling in or through the borough 3. Decarbonise essential vehicle journeys 	<p>Connor McDonagh/ Jo Mortensen</p>
9.	Young	<p>Will the responses received directly as a result of the publication of the LTN Experimental Traffic Orders and the responses on Commonplace be considered alongside the 'CPZ style' consultation results?</p>	<p>Dipti Patel</p>

Q No.	From Cllr	Question	Background
		A full analysis of all the consultation responses via both the traffic notice emails and Commonplace, alongside the 'CPZ style' non statutory consultation will be undertaken to inform the decision on LTNs.	
10.	Young	Will the Experimental Traffic Orders that are due to expire in August be extended, even if the response to the current consultation is overwhelmingly against the LTN's?	Dipti Patel
		The Experimental Traffic Order (ETO) 6-month statutory objection period comes to an end on the 16 th August. The ETO for each LTN remains in place until they are revoked, extended or made permanent. The decision on whether or not to make the temporary LTNs permanent or removal will be made following the conclusion of the 6-month ETO objection period alongside the outcome of the CPZ style consultation referenced in Q9. The current ETOs do not expire in August, as they can last for up to 18 months, but this administration has made a commitment to providing certainty over whether each of the trial LTNs will be retained or removed by the end of the statutory objection period, and we will keep to that commitment.	
11.	Young	When will a decision be made on the future of LTN's?	Dipti Patel
		The decisions will be made after the consultation results have been analysed.	
12.	Young	Will the administration honour the statement of local Ward Councillors, that if a majority of local residents are against LTN's, the LTN's will be removed?	Dipti Patel
		We have pledged to give residents a final say before the decision on the future of the trial LTNs is made.	
13.	Conti	How much council taxpayer's money was spent on the commonplace consultation on LTNs? Why was this money wasted if the council failed to listen to the results?	Dipti Patel

Q No.	From Cllr	Question	Background
		<p>The cost of the Commonplace platform was £15k. The feedback received through Commonplace was used to undertake the interim assessment of the scheme s and to make amendments including replacing barriers with ANPR, allowing blue badge exemptions and making additional changes to the Adrienne Avenue LTN.</p> <p>Commonplace remains open until end of the Experimental Traffic Order (ETO) process. Feedback received through Commonplace will be included in the final review report.</p>	
14.	Young	<p>The 2-month closure of the waste and recycling centre is cited as a contributory factor to the drop in the recycling rate. Yet, despite having a target of 60% by 2022, the Council, against fierce opposition, is continuing with plans to close the Acton Recycling site. Is the Council not creating the conditions for an own goal on this issue?</p> <p>The main impact on the recycling rate from the closure of waste and recycling centres during the first lockdown arose from the closure of the Greenford site, which processes a much greater tonnage of waste than Acton.</p> <p>It is not anticipated that there would be a negative impact on the recycling rate as a result of the permanent closure of Acton Waste & Recycling centre. If none of the waste formally disposed of via the Acton site was recycled following closure, a worst-case scenario might see a 0.1% reduction in the borough's recycling rate. However, this is highly unlikely given the other options of recycling from home, bulky waste collection and garden waste collection services and with the Greenford HWRC and the nearby WLWA site at Twyford Abbey Road still available to residents.</p> <p>In addition, the Council is extending the food waste collection service to 20,000 flats across the borough, working with the Waste Disposal Authority and a third sector provider to provide waste electrical and electronic equipment kerbside and textiles collections and delivering a four year reduction and recycling programme. Collectively, this activity will more than offset any negative impact of Stirling Road closure. However as stated above, the impact of site closure on the recycling rate is at most anticipated to be minimal.</p>	Dipti Patel/ Earl McKenzie

Q No.	From Cllr	Question	Background
15.	Gallant	<p>Will the Council take note of opinion expressed to date including the March on 22 June, feedback on Commonplace and other less formal platforms?</p> <p>The council will ensure all relevant factors are taken into account in making a final decision on the future of LTNs and this is why we have given residents a final say through our CPZ style consultation.</p>	Bridie O'Shea
16.	Dabrowska	<p>What is the estimated financial impact to the Council of the introduction of the ULEZ in the autumn?</p> <p>The council strongly supports the expansion of the ULEZ to the North Circular, following its success in improving air quality in central London, and looks forward to similar reductions in deadly air pollution for residents of Acton, Park Royal and parts of Ealing. The short-sighted policy of Shaun Bailey to not expand the hugely successful ULEZ, and to turn a blind eye to the thousands of premature deaths caused annually in London by poor air quality, was thankfully overwhelmingly rejected at the ballot box by Londoners.</p> <p>The council expects the financial impact to be minimal and has been reviewing all vehicles to ensure these are ULEZ compliant as soon as possible.</p>	Dipti Patel
17.	Dabrowska	<p>Who will bear the brunt of the ULEZ charge to social workers and other key council workers and contractors? Will it be the service provider, the critical worker or the end consumer?</p> <p>The Mayor of London has announced an additional £5m to help low-income or disabled Londoners scrap older cars and motorbikes ahead of the expansion of the ultra-low emission zone. This is on top of previous scrappage schemes and brings the total offered by the mayor for Londoners to scrap or retrofit their vehicle to £61m. Almost 10,000 air polluting vehicles, including 5,000 vans, have already been taken off the road under the various TfL schemes, demonstrating the far sightedness of the mayor in using the ULEZ as a lever to tackle the air pollution health emergency.</p> <p>Employees who incur additional costs through the use of their private vehicles will be entitled to claim mileage at the agreed rate.</p>	Dipti Patel

Q No.	From Cllr	Question	Background
18.	Dabrowska	<p>If the Council is adamant in making cycling safer along the Uxbridge Road, the basal growth is not only scratching passing vehicles but also a serious hazard to cyclists.</p> <p>Since last autumn I have reported several times excessive basal growth (previously just branches, now with leaves) around trees along the northern verge on the Uxbridge Road, why has this not been actioned? Only one tree has been maintained.</p>	Dipti Patel/ Earl McKenzie
		Maintaining safe routes for cyclists in Ealing is vital. The council has 2 basal growth contractors working in the borough. One of these contractors also delivers the primary tree maintenance contract. Due to programme challenges relating to this part of contract delivery, largely due to covid and recent extremes of weather, the current basal schedule on A roads is running behind. Greener Ealing are identifying additional resources and are confident that works will soon be complete.	
19.	Dabrowska	<p>What is the average daily volume of PCNs issued by CEOs just before the recent strike action?</p>	Dipti Patel
		Before the strike action a CEO average issuance of PCNs was 1.1 per hour.	
20.	Dabrowska	<p>What is the actual daily volume of PCNs issued during the strike days in recent weeks?</p>	Dipti Patel
		During the strike periods, the average number of PCNs issued per CEO was 1.3 per hour. It is possible that this figure is slightly higher due to prioritisation of enforcement in areas with higher non-compliance.	
21.	Malcolm	<p>On Monday 12th July, when the floods hit due to high rainfall, the neighbouring boroughs of H&F and Hounslow managed to put out tweets and statements on social media around what to do and who to contact - why did Ealing appear to do little compared to others?</p>	Mark Wilshire/ Earl McKenzie/ Jon Judah/ Stuart Turner

Q No.	From Cllr	Question	Background
		<p>This questions is being answered by Cllr Peter Mason, as civil protection and communications fall in his portfolio.</p> <p>The impact of flooding was more significant in Hounslow and Hammersmith & Fulham and therefore their command and control structures were activated.</p> <p>In Ealing, while a number of roads were affected by the flooding, we were not notified of any properties being flooded or called to assist with any evacuations. As such the council did not activate its gold arrangements on this occasion.</p> <p>We internally circulated the weather warning we received in a timely manner. We provided information throughout the incident using the internal sitrep reporting process.</p>	
22.	Malcolm	<p>In Southfield ward, for each street, when were all the gullies that the Council are responsible for last checked as residents said some of their gullies in Berrymede Road, W4, were blocked?</p> <p>Currently, gully cleansing is done on a reactive basis (as and when we receive reports from members of the public or via the Highways inspectors). Officers' view is that flooding occurs as a direct result of Thames Water's sewers not having the capacity to discharge sudden surges in rainfall. Thames Water are currently in the process of replacing their 150 years old sewers in London with a 25-kilometre network of large capacity drains which should help to minimise the impact of flooding. Berrymede Road is inspected every six months as part of highway inspection regime and was last inspected on 13 April 2021. None of the gullies were identified as blocked during that inspection.</p> <p>We have committed to clear the gullies in Berrymede Road within the next 10 working days.</p>	Earl McKenzie
23.	Ball	<p>Was the heavy rainfall this month at a completely exceptional level (bearing in mind climate change increases the frequency of unusual weather events) or does the portfolio holder believe that the LBE gully system should have coped with it?</p>	Jo Mortensen/ Earl McKenzie

Q No.	From Cllr	Question	Background
		<p>Data received from the Met Office confirmed that parts of London received the equivalent of one month's rainfall over a short period of time in one day, so it was exceptional. There is little evidence of flooding under 'normal' rainfall conditions, so Ealing's gully system is sufficiently efficient. Where we do see issues arise as a result of exceptional rainfall, we will review those locations and identify if any work is needed.</p> <p>Officers' view is that flooding primarily occurs as a direct result of Thames Water's sewers not having the capacity to discharge sudden surges in rainfall. Thames Water are currently in the process of replacing their 150 years old sewers in London with a 25-kilometre network of large capacity drains which should help to minimise the impact of flooding.</p>	
24.	Ball	<p>What are the factors that indicate whether LBE has liability for flooding to residential or commercial property caused by overflowing gullies?</p> <p>Ealing is not liable for damage resulting from 'flash flooding'. Residents and businesses are directed to their respective building insurance providers in the event of claims. We strongly urge residents to report persistent flooding issues to the council so that they can be investigated and mitigated as necessary.</p>	Earl McKenzie

2. QUESTIONS TO – CABINET MEMBER FOR GENUINELY AFFORDABLE HOMES

Q No.	From Cllr	Question	Background
25.	Ball	<p>For each of the current and 3 previous years, please indicate the total number of new homes (a) started and (b) completed in the borough.</p> <p><i>Note the figures given below are Borough and not LPA based. The figures are net (i.e. losses of existing units are subtracted from the gains). The figures also exclude non-conventional housing units (student accommodation, large HMOs, co-living, care homes etc), and Vacants (vacant properties which have returned to use).</i></p> <p>2018-19 Completed – 3,254 Started – 1,752</p> <p>2019-20 Completed – 1,734 Started – Not yet available.</p> <p>2020-21 Completed – Not currently available – data is to be confirmed in Sep 21 Started – Not currently available - data is to be confirmed in Sep 21</p> <p>2021-22 (Q1) Completed - Not currently available - data is to be confirmed in Sep 22</p>	Philip Browne

Q No.	From Cllr	Question	Background
26.	Ball	<p data-bbox="454 277 1917 352">For each of the current and 3 previous years, please indicate the total number of new homes (a) started and (b) completed in the borough that are defined as affordable by the government.</p> <p data-bbox="454 384 577 416">2018-19</p> <p data-bbox="454 437 741 469">Completed – 1,033</p> <p data-bbox="454 489 589 521">LLR – 21</p> <p data-bbox="454 542 611 574">LAR – 421</p> <p data-bbox="454 595 595 627">SO – 321</p> <p data-bbox="454 647 622 679">DMR – 270</p> <p data-bbox="454 700 689 732">Started – 1,352</p> <p data-bbox="454 753 611 785">LAR – 180</p> <p data-bbox="454 805 595 837">SO – 317</p> <p data-bbox="454 858 622 890">DMR – 855</p> <p data-bbox="454 968 577 1000">2019-20</p> <p data-bbox="454 1021 707 1053">Completed - 600</p> <p data-bbox="454 1074 573 1106">LLR – 6</p> <p data-bbox="454 1126 611 1158">LAR – 289</p> <p data-bbox="454 1179 595 1211">SO – 209</p> <p data-bbox="454 1232 607 1264">DMR – 12</p> <p data-bbox="454 1284 602 1316">DMS – 84</p> <p data-bbox="454 1337 658 1369">Started – 863</p>	Philip Browne

Q No.	From Cllr	Question	Background
		<p>LAR - 381 LLR – 106 SO – 376</p> <p>2020-21 Completed - 497 LLR – 13 LAR – 112 SO – 372 Started – 939 LAR – 564 LLR – 9 SO – 331 DMR – 35</p> <p>2021-22 (Q1) Completed – 447 LAR – 206 LLR – 54 SO- 187 Started – 95</p>	

Q No.	From Cllr	Question	Background
		LAR – 30 LLR – 52 SO – 13	
27.	Ball	<p data-bbox="456 440 1915 544">For each of the current and 3 previous years, please indicate the total number of new homes (a) started and (b) completed in the borough that are defined as genuinely affordable by the Mayor of London.</p> <p data-bbox="456 587 577 612">2018-19</p> <p data-bbox="456 639 707 665">Completed - 763</p> <p data-bbox="456 692 584 718">LLR – 21</p> <p data-bbox="456 745 607 770">LAR – 421</p> <p data-bbox="456 798 591 823">SO – 321</p> <p data-bbox="456 850 658 876">Started – 497</p> <p data-bbox="456 903 607 928">LAR – 180</p> <p data-bbox="456 956 591 981">SO – 317</p> <p data-bbox="456 1066 577 1091">2019-20</p> <p data-bbox="456 1118 707 1144">Completed - 504</p> <p data-bbox="456 1171 568 1197">LLR – 6</p> <p data-bbox="456 1224 607 1249">LAR – 289</p> <p data-bbox="456 1276 591 1302">SO – 209</p> <p data-bbox="456 1329 658 1355">Started – 863</p>	Philip Browne

Q No.	From Cllr	Question	Background
		<p>LAR - 381 LLR – 106 SO – 376</p> <p>2020-21 Completed - 497 LLR – 13 LAR – 112 SO – 372 Started – 904 LAR – 564 LLR – 9 SO – 331</p>	
28.	Ball	<p>For each of the current and 3 previous years, please indicate the total number of new homes (a) started and (b) completed in the borough that are defined as genuinely affordable by LBE</p> <p>2018-19 Completed - 442 LLR – 21 LAR – 421 Started – 180</p>	Philip Browne

Q No.	From Cllr	Question	Background
		<p>LAR – 180 LLR – 0</p> <p>2019-20 Completed - 295 LLR – 6 LAR – 289 Started – 487 LAR - 381 <i>LLR – 106</i></p> <p>2020-21 Completed - 125 <i>LLR – 13</i></p>	

3. QUESTIONS TO – CABINET MEMBER FOR GOOD GROWTH

Q No.	From Cllr	Question	Background
29.	Gallant	<p>Can the portfolio holder update on the state of Perceval House site development plans? What is the plan in case the Secretary of State rules against the development?</p>	Alex Jackson
		<p>Confirmation that the Secretary of State has decided <u>not</u> to call in the application was received on the 15th July 2021.</p> <p>The Council is now proceeding with the Stage 2 referral to GLA, to complete the s106 agreement and issue the planning permission.</p>	
30.	Gallant	<p>Can the Council guarantee that the new Ealing cinema and surrounding concourse will be open by 1 May 2022?</p>	Jackie Adams
		<p>As the councillor is well aware, the Picturehouse is a private sector development, so the council is not in a position to provide guarantees of this sort. Nevertheless, following on from the good news on progress in the answer to his question last month, I'm delighted to be able to report that the developer of the Filmworks site, St George PLC, have confirmed that the cinema box has been handed over to Picturehouse with fit out works for the cinema commencing. The fit out programme will last 8 months leading to the cinema opening from March 2022.</p> <p>I'm delighted that Picturehouse remains fully committed to opening the cinema in Ealing despite the devastating impact of Covid on cinemas and the film industry and look forward to the long-awaited cinema in Ealing reopening early next year.</p>	

31.	Gallant	<p>What is the Council doing to help the developers in their search for retail operations and advertise Ealing as a new London destination?</p>	<p>Connor McDonagh</p>
		<p>The council takes a proactive approach to ensure new developments that contain commercial floorspace will deliver the uses and amenities that local communities need, whether that be retail space, employment space or other uses.</p> <p>The council also promotes Ealing as place to invest in a number of practical ways. This includes the establishment of the High Streets Taskforce to ensure town centres and high streets remain vibrant and that empty units can be occupied. The council is currently refreshing its approach to inward investment that will promote the borough as a destination and place for businesses to invest, and there will be further announcements on this in the near future.</p>	

4. QUESTIONS TO – CABINET MEMBER FOR THRIVING COMMUNITIES

Q No.	From Cllr	Question	Background
32.	Young	When will a full library service be on offer at Ealing Central Library?	Mark Wiltshire
		<p>Following extended use as an asymptomatic testing centre, Ealing Central Library reopened on 19th July with some usage limitations to support a safe recovery for the service, staff and visitors.</p> <p>All library services are available, although to ensure the safety of staff and users there is reduced offer on activities and room bookings, and varied opening hours whilst staff are also supporting the Council's vital local enhanced contact tracing activities.</p> <p>The library service are taking a dynamic view of demand to incrementally increase the service offer towards the full library services in a safe manner. I'm delighted that all of Ealing's council-managed libraries and the four community managed libraries have now reopened to the public.</p>	
33.	Young	When is Pitshanger Library scheduled to reopen?	Mark Wiltshire
		<p>I'm keen to see Pitshanger Library re-open as a community managed facility as soon as possible and officers are working hard to make this happen. Unfortunately, this has proved more complex than the other four community managed libraries, which have now opened to the public. Pitshanger Library building is owned by a private landlord, and the Council is a tenant in the building under a lease agreement which expired in 2019. The Council's property lawyer's commenced lease negotiations in December 2019. These are yet to be concluded.</p> <p>In January 2020, we received what proved to be a successful bid from a community group to run the Pitshanger Library as a Community Managed Library, and negotiations were commenced. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, the lease negotiations and the discussions with the community group to finalise its position as the community organisation appointed to manage the library have been suspended since April 2020. Lease negotiations have recommenced with the freeholder before further engagement with the community partner. This means that the Pitshanger site may not be operational until December 2021. Officers will however, continue to work collaboratively with our community</p>	

Q No.	From Cllr	Question	Background
		partners to endeavour to ensure the earliest possible opening date and support the community in their aspirations for a local vibrant library offer.	
34.	Dabrowska	<p>Ealing Central Sports Ground - it is understood that LBE has received/is receiving monies for soil/construction waste deposited on ECSG.</p> <p>To date, how much has LBE received? How much more is LBE expecting to receive?</p> <p>It is understood that part of this deposit is from the HS2 works.</p> <p>This income is from a commercial contractor working on behalf of the HS2 project (HS2 Ltd) which is a public body and is disclosable.</p>	Chris Bunting
		<p>The primary purpose of these works is to improve the availability and long-term sustainability of the sports pitches as it provides a solution to drainage problems that particularly effected the football season.</p> <p>The Council has received £393K to date for these works, and does not expect to receive any further monies.</p>	
35.	Dabrowska	<p>ECSG - is the soil/construction waste being received a temporary storage measure or a permanent measure on the Ground?</p>	Chris Bunting
		It is a permanent measure, as set out in the answer to Q34, to improve drainage on the site and improve the availability of the sports pitches.	
36.	Dabrowska	<p>ECSG - what impact is there on the cricket pitches? How is the council mitigating the negative impact on the pitches and the grounds?</p>	Chris Bunting
		The cricket pitches are not available to be used this season. It is anticipated that they will return in better condition than prior to the works for use in 2022. LBE have worked with the Middlesex Cricket Board to manage all 2021 cricket bookings to mitigate any negative impact.	
	Dabrowska	ECSG - what is the origin of the non-HS2 soil/construction waste? (donor sites)	Chris Bunting

Q No.	From Cllr	Question	Background
37.		Admiralty Arch, Bankside Yards West, Carrington Street Car Park, Old Kensington Odeon, Park Modern, Perth Close, Whiteleys Shopping Centre.	
38.	Dabrowska	ECSG - how much of the Ground is unusable by the public as a result of these deposits?	Chris Bunting
		At present 91,697m ² (92.3% of the site). Entire site access will be returned once the improved sports pitches have established.	
39.	Dabrowska	ECSG - what are the longer-term plans for the Grounds?	Chris Bunting
		As set out in the answer to Q34, these works are intended to protect the long-term viability of the sports pitches through improved drainage and tackling the ongoing flooding problems on the site.	

5. QUESTIONS TO – CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTHY LIVES

Q No.	From Cllr	Question	Background
40.	Ball	<p>What is your message to providers of businesses and services operating in Ealing regarding continued use of masks and social distancing following the lamentable removal of sensible public health legislation?</p> <p>Our message is clear – the government’s decision to remove mask-wearing and social distancing requirements in locations such as shops and public transport at a time when cases are rising both in Ealing and nationally was premature, irresponsible and dangerous. We strongly encourage Ealing’s businesses and service providers to continue to ask their customers and visitors to wear masks and practice social distancing and we have supported them in this through the provision of signage and the presence of Covid stewards throughout the summer.</p> <p>We want everyone in Ealing to have a safe summer and are urging residents to keep on taking sensible precautions of hands, face, space and fresh air. We are continuing to ask people visiting council services and premises to wear masks and practice social distancing so we can keep on protecting council staff. We know that residents from black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds have been disproportionately hit by this pandemic, in terms of contracting the virus, serious illness and deaths, and these groups also make up a high proportion of the front line workforce. Asking service users and visitors to continue to make those small adjustments around mask wearing and social distancing helps us to protect our workforce and tackle those inequalities.</p>	Anna Bryden