

EALING COUNCIL
WRITTEN COUNCIL QUESTIONS: TUESDAY, 02 March 2021

QUESTIONS	PAGE
1. QUESTIONS TO – THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL	2
2. QUESTIONS TO – CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH & ADULT SERVICES.....	6
3. QUESTIONS TO – CABINET MEMBER FINANCE & LEISURE	7
4. QUESTIONS TO – CABINET MEMBER ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE	11
5. QUESTIONS TO – CABINET MEMBER FOR SCHOOL AND CHILDREN’S SERVICES	13

1. QUESTIONS TO – THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Policy Overview, Regeneration and Transport

Q No.	From Cllr	Question	Background
8.	Millican	<p>What are the terms of reference of the Race Equality Commission?</p> <p><i>This question falls within Cllr Camadoo-Rothwell’s portfolio and has been answered by her.</i></p> <p>The Commission was established through a decision of Ealing’s Cabinet in September 2020. The Council decision in setting up the Commission was to focus on race equality, to learn from issues that are being raised locally, by the Black Lives Matter movement more widely, and the health inequalities that have been experienced during the Covid-19 crisis. The Commission is independent of the Council, but the remit set by the cabinet and available online is provided below. This is an opportunity to listen to Ealing’s residents about how they experience inequality, and to encourage organisations and individuals to proactively respond to those experiences.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Commission will be composed of appointed individual Commissioners, led by an independent Chair, Lord Simon Woolley. The vice-chair is Councillor Joanna Camadoo-Rothwell, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Inclusion.</p> <p>The Commission will engage with local people and consider what it hears, along with other evidence, to provide a strategic assessment of the nature and impact of race inequality in Ealing and to make recommendations for tackling this locally. The Commission will produce its final report in September 2021.</p> <p>Scope of the Commission</p> <p>As part of the Cabinet decision that established the Commission, three key questions were proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How are structural inequalities impacting on outcomes? - How can race inequality be addressed in Ealing and prevented in the future? 	<p>Mark Wiltshire/ Joanna Sumner</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To what extent is the history of our built environment perpetuating inequality? This will include reference to Ealing’s review of the public realm and will respond to the Mayor of London’s call to review public realm and improve diversity across public space. <p>And five themes were suggested to structure the work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - education and learning - income and employment - crime and justice - participation, decision-making and leadership - health and housing. <p>There will be an open-minded and flexible approach in defining priorities. As engagement with communities progresses, different priorities may emerge and be more heavily weighted.</p> <p>Issues related to arts, culture and media are will be considered as part of other themes, particularly education and participation.</p> <p>The Commission will consider issues related to the promotion of community cohesion alongside issues related to racial inequality.</p> <p>The recommendations will be addressed to the wide range of stakeholders in Ealing who can tackle race inequality, for example, the local business community, the health service, Ealing Council, civil society, national government, local schools and colleges. The Commission will seek to ensure that the recommendations put forward are directly actionable locally.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Roles <p>3.1 The role of the Chair is to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lead on agreeing the scope of the Commission and its terms of reference 	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advise and steer Commissioners and Council officers on lines of enquiry and research to be undertaken - Represent the Commission in the publicity for its work, providing a steer on the approach to communication and engagement - Take part in other events, where possible, such as evidence gathering sessions, all of which are likely to be virtual meetings - Chair the formal meetings of the Commission, also virtual, between January and September 2021 - Lead the Commission in coming to a consensus around a set of findings and recommendations to be presented to Cabinet in the form of an interim set of findings in May, and a final report with recommendations in September 2021. <p>3.2 The role of the vice-chair is to facilitate the work of the Commission by providing a link to the Council, i.e. to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure that the Commission is established in line with the Cabinet decision of September 2020, that Commissioners are recruited, and that a Chair is appointed who will lead the work of the Commission from the date of their appointment - Stand in for the Chair if he is unable to attend one of the formal meetings in order to chair the meeting, but not in any decision-making capacity. - Support the Council's elected members to contribute to the work of the Commission, both with their own knowledge and expertise, and in their role as community leaders, leading on engagement with the people of Ealing - Oversee the allocation of Council resources to the work of the Commission, including officer time - Contribute knowledge and expertise to the Commission's work as a Commissioner - Ensure that the Commission's reports are programmed to be considered as part of the Council's formal decision-making process. <p>3.3 The Commissioners have been appointed on the basis that they</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - live in Ealing, or have a strong Ealing connection - are knowledgeable about race equality issues - have analytical skills to carry out investigations 	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have an open and enquiring mind - are passionate about making a difference. <p>The role of Commissioners is to bring their expertise across the range of issues, by contributing to formal meetings, getting involved in fact-finding and engagement activity, and evidence gathering sessions.</p> <p>1. Support for the Commission</p> <p>The Council's Community Engagement Team (of 3), and the Assistant Director – Communities, will provide support to the Commission.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A small budget is available to the Commission, which could be used to fund research and engagement activity, and administrative support for the Chair and Commissioners. 	
9.	Kumar	<p>Please can you list the faith and community groups which the Council contacted with a view to setting a Vaccine site?</p>	
10.	Ball	<p>What is the Council as a whole doing to address anti-vaccine misinformation in our community, from anti-vaccine and anti-lockdown stickers on street furniture to similar messages on local social media?</p>	<p>Judith Finlay/ Anna Bryden/ Bridie O'Shea / Ellen Schwartz</p>
		<p>The Council and the NHS have a comprehensive strategy around the communication of information relating to the pandemic and the local response, including the rollout of vaccinations. As part of the communication strategy, possible misinformation is being taken into account and addressed. We are proactively undertaking activities, such as vaccine briefings for faith and community leaders and briefing sessions for the voluntary and community sector to ensure that trusted local leaders and organisations have the information and background necessary to provide accurate reassurance regarding the vaccine</p>	<p>Judith Finlay/ Anna Bryden/ Bridie O'Shea / Ellen Schwartz</p>

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		<p>and to push back against some of the more common myths. A dedicated area of the council's website setting out information on vaccines in an easy-to-share manner has been provided, as well as information in a wide range of languages.</p> <p>A leaflet providing information and myth-busting on the vaccine will be included with all council tax bills posted to households later this month, and similar information is being provided through Around Ealing which is distributed to every household in the borough.</p>	

2. QUESTIONS TO – CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH & ADULT SERVICES

Q No.	From Cllr	Question	Background
11.	Ball	<p>Following the gap in vaccine availability at Ealing Town Hall and the Dominion Centre this week, and in light of the number of South Africa variant cases found in the borough, what is the portfolio holder doing to put pressure on government to ensure continuity of vaccine supply at all vaccination centres in the borough?</p>	
		<p>NHS colleagues running our local sites book patients into vaccination appointments based on the national supply of vaccines.</p> <p>Vaccine supply is more limited in the first 2 weeks of March but the NHS has confirmed that it will significantly increase from 15th March.</p> <p>For this period, a limited number of appointments have been planned at both Ealing Town Hall and the Dominion Centre. This is only for the short term.</p> <p>CP House and the pharmacy sites continue to provide appointments. If anyone is within an eligible cohort, they can book via the national system.</p> <p>The Council and NHS are working very collaboratively and positively on the covid vaccination programme. There are weekly meetings with our senior NHS leaders at which the Leader and Portfolio Holder continue to ensure the best programme for local residents.</p>	<p>Judith Finlay/ Anna Bryden</p>

Q No.	From Cllr	Question	Background
12.	Ball	While most people vaccinated at Ealing Town Hall, including me, have been pleased with the way it is set up, some residents have expressed anxiety about the level of social distancing in place while people are confirming their identity and queueing. Do we have any influence to improve this or is it purely a halls booking by the Ealing PCN?	
		Our NHS colleagues have reviewed infection control in the PCN sites and found the environment to be safe. We will ask our NHS colleagues to review this on a regular basis.	Judith Finlay/Anna Bryden/Bridie O'Shea

3. QUESTIONS TO – CABINET MEMBER FINANCE & LEISURE

Q No.	From Cllr	Question	Background
13.	Young	What was the original estimated cost for the Latco (Greener Ealing) cost and what is the current budget now? i.e. what was the amount which made the Latco “the best option”?	
		<p>The increase in relevant costs from the July 2018 options appraisal is as a result of clarification of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • indicative staff numbers • indicative overheads • annualised fleet costs • payment in relation to depots rent <p>The previous contract was operating at a significant loss, and it was therefore highly likely that any new arrangement would result in the need for increased budget to meet investment requirements and to cover costs at current, real market rates.</p>	Gary Alderson/ Earl McKenzie

Q No.	From Cllr	Question	Background
		<p>Increased costs under any new arrangement would include the financing of a new fleet to deliver waste collection, street cleansing and grounds maintenance services and the payment of at least the London Living Wage (LLW) to all relevant employees (not paid under the previous contract). The payment of LLW is in line with Council requirements for commissioned contractors.</p> <p>The previous contractor was operating at a loss. As part of an agreement to continue to deliver services at the end of the contract for a further three month period before the start of Greener Ealing operations, the council was contractually obliged to pay all costs incurred by the contractor, covering any losses. This allows for a more accurate comparison of the costs of continuing with a private sector contract compared to the actual costs arising from operating GEL. Based on this, the estimated contractor costs for 2020-21, including a £0.750m London Living Wage uplift, would have been £21.677m. By comparison, GEL's operating cost for 2020-21, also including the LLW uplift, would be £20.282m, representing a saving of £1.395m compared to the prior contractor's underlying costs.</p> <p>Although there has been an unavoidable increase in the level of funding required to deliver the environmental services contract, this indicates that there has been a significant cost avoidance as a result of establishment of the LATCO. The increase in cost from original estimates would have been the same for all scenarios analysed as part of the original options appraisal.</p>	
14.	Young	<p>Please can you detail all loans made to the Latco (Greener Ealing) to date?</p> <p>£902,000 is the total of the loans made to Greener Ealing Ltd to date, that all are from the council, with £350,000 drawn on 1 April 2020, and £552,000 drawn on 6 July 2020. All loans are expected to be repaid within the agreed timescales.</p>	<p>Gary Alderson/Earl McKenzie</p>
15.	Dabrowska	<p>Is the Latco (Greener Ealing) providing any further services to residents that was not covered in the Amey contract?</p> <p>Greener Ealing currently provides the same services to Ealing residents as the previous contract did. However, Greener Ealing is providing a noticeably higher level of performance than the previous contract, including 99.97% of all collections done right first time, rising to 100% within 24 hours; just six assisted missed collections missed in January 2021, compared to 40 in January 2020; collection targets</p>	<p>Gary Alderson/Earl McKenzie</p>

Q No.	From Cllr	Question	Background
		exceeded (and improved compared to January 2020) in all areas – rubbish, recycling, food waste, garden waste, bulky collections and fly tips; and street cleanliness substantially improved, with 82.7% of streets receiving an A or B rating after cleaning, compared to 54.18% last year.	
16.	Dabrowska	<p>Are there any staff being paid extra for Covid-19 duties?</p> <p>The current figure for council wide Covid-related overtime, paid in respect of contractual obligations, is £248,490.13.</p>	<p>Judith Finlay/Anna Bryden</p>
17.	Dabrowska	<p>Please can you provide a breakdown of how much has been spent on contractors in the past five financial years?</p> <p>Based on the information on the public website and in the public domain for the Council & Trade Union Joint Committee (CTUJC):</p> <p>2015/16:- £24.568m; 2016/17:- £24.115m; 2017/18:- £21.198m; 2018/19:- £25.136m; 2019/20:- £23.136m.</p>	<p>Liz Chiles/Ross Brown</p>
18.	Dabrowska	<p>What is the Council's ten largest contract spend?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adecco Public Sector. 2. Adecco London Bridge. 3. Adecco Croydon. 4. Eden Brown Ltd. 5. Diverse Rec Limited t/A Social Personnel. 6. Morgan Hunt UK Limited. 7. Liquid Personnel Limited. 8. Tempest Resourcing Limited. 9. Tripod Partners Limited. 	<p>Liz Chiles/Ross Brown</p>

Q No.	From Cllr	Question	Background
		10. Sanctuary Personnel Ltd.	
19.	Millican	<p>Is the Council managing any contracts where the employees are not being paid the LLW? If yes, can you list those contracts and the date by which they are aiming to pay the LLW?</p> <p>Since 2019/20, it has been Council policy that all new procurements and relet contracts should pay LLW. This is included as part of tender documents and as a contract condition.</p> <p>Although most of Ealing's current contracts pay the LLW to their employees, there are some exceptions including apprentices engaged as part of contracts, who have their own pay scales and possibly some smaller legacy contracts which will be ending soon.</p> <p>In common with most of the care sector, some existing contracts in Children's, Adults & Public Health, primarily those contracts for Domiciliary Care Services, individual Care Home placements, Transport services and School Meals service do not yet pay all staff at LLW. As contracts come up for renewal, we seek to ensure that they include steps to work towards delivering LLW, an approach that has been agreed with the Living Wage Foundation as part of our accreditation as a Living Wage Employer.</p>	<p>Liz Chiles/Ross Brown</p>

4. QUESTIONS TO – CABINET MEMBER ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE

Q No.	From Cllr	Question	Background
20.	Millican	<p>Please can you forward to me the attachments to the public notices for these following ETOs: LTN 08 Olive Road LTN 20 West Ealing North LTN 25 West Ealing South LTN 30 Loveday Road LTN 32 Junction Road</p>	
		<p>All published notices in respect of LTN ETOs can be found on the attached link CMIS > Meetings</p>	<p>Gary Alderson/Dipti Patel</p>
21.	Millican	<p>The council had a pollution monitoring tube at St Marks Primary School, Lower Boston Rd, W7 for a year, which was removed before Christmas.</p> <p>Why was this removed?</p> <p>What were the results?</p>	
		<p>There are two diffusion tubes at this school. However, they are not part of the Council’s regular monitoring regime. Under the Mayor’s Air Quality audit programme, the school agreed to undertake this exercise and it is the school that collects the diffusion monitoring tube and sends it directly to the relevant laboratory. The Council is not involved in this process. We have made enquiries with the school and they have advised that due to Covid-19 pandemic, the school has not been able to fulfil this function.</p> <p>The Council has received limited monthly readings in 2020. However, the data received from 2020 and 2019 shows no exceedances of the relevant air quality objective or limit values.</p>	<p>Gary Alderson/Dipti Patel</p>

Q No.	From Cllr	Question	Background
22.	Ball	<p>As we head into Spring with entertainment premises still closed, the numbers of residents in parks is steadily increasing. Will additional bin collections be carried out to avoid unsightly piles of rubbish in our parks?</p> <p>The recent good weather and the ongoing closure of hospitality and entertainment venues has led to significant increase in the use of Ealing's parks and open spaces and we have sought to respond to the impact this is having on levels of rubbish and litter.</p> <p>Under normal circumstances, until 1 April, the schedule for parks cleansing and litter bin emptying is once daily in premier sites. However, in light of expected increased use, working flexibly with Greener Ealing Limited (GEL), a revised resource plan has been agreed which will see an immediate increase at Walpole Park and Northala Fields with the early introduction of GEL operatives located on-site from 6th March. This will help mitigate the knock-on effect these two sites have on crew demands and allow other sites to be visited in a more timely manner. We are also discussing additional infrastructure that will help with the volume and a timescale these can be implemented in advance of the Easter break.</p> <p>Furthermore, the growing reputation and resource provided by community groups such as LagerCAN with its 1,200 members is ably supporting the work of the council and GEL in our collective ability to tackle litter and fly-tips. We are hugely grateful for the time and commitment provided by community volunteers. The council continue to use social media and communications in a vital way to celebrate, educate and inspire our residents about how they respect and value the borough's parks. We will continue to tie in with national events such as Great British Spring Clean (GBSP), National Clean-up day, Volunteer Week and Recycling week raise awareness and engage individuals.</p>	<p>Gary Alderson/Mark Wiltshire/Chris Bunting</p>
23.	Busuttil	<p>What is the council doing to inform residents, particularly those who reside in the affected area, about the introduction of ULEZ in October 2021?</p> <p>ULEZ is a Transport for London (TfL) project, so they are leading on Comms for the project. However, the Council works in close partnership with TfL and share an ongoing commitment to improve air quality, promote active travel options and roll-out provision for electric vehicles. We will support TfL in reaching out to residents across the borough about how the new ULEZ may affect them. We have a wide range of communications options to help support this message. Our magazine, Around Ealing is delivered to every household in the borough and support by our online new platform, Ealing</p>	<p>Gary Alderson/ Dipti Patel</p>

Q No.	From Cllr	Question	Background
		News Extra which includes a weekly email newsletter to local people. Our social media channels, including Facebook and twitter have tens of thousands of followers and are available to support our key messages. We are also able to boost posts and target specific audiences.	

5. QUESTIONS TO – CABINET MEMBER FOR SCHOOL AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Q No.	From Cllr	Question	Background
24.	Ball	<p>What support are you giving to schools in introducing regular Covid testing for students and teachers?</p> <p>From the introduction of testing for staff in primary schools and staff and pupils in high schools at the beginning of term, we have agreed the support required with representatives of headteachers to complement the resources and Webinars arranged by the DfE and DHSC/NHS Test and Trace.</p> <p>The benefit of the programme depends on the accuracy of the self-swabbing process. The school nursing service organised a large number of on-line interactive support sessions for schools on self-swabbing and other aspects of the lateral flow testing.</p> <p>We held a further support meeting with special and high schools on the extension of testing last week, which was very well attended.</p> <p>At these meetings we also reviewed any further support that was required by schools. The feedback was that the support for the nursing and service had been very useful and that the service would be available to provide further guidance that may be necessary.</p> <p>All high schools report that they are well prepared to undertake testing on a phased basis. I am sure Councillor Ball would like to join me in thanking schools for all of their tremendous efforts to ensure that schools are ready to reopen to all pupils from 8th March.</p>	<p>Judith Finlay/Julie Lewis/Mark Nelson</p>