

Conservative Group Members Questions – Full Council July 2022

QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLOR MATT HARTLEY

1. To Councillor Anthony Okereke, Leader of the Council

Residents will be deeply concerned by the Council's referral to the Regulator of Social Housing (RSH) after the discovery of significant levels of non-compliance in the areas of Electrical (EICR) standards, Asbestos surveys and following up on Fire Risk Assessment actions in the council's housing stock. The Cabinet Paper concludes these problems have been ongoing for at least the last 10 years. When did the Leader first become aware of this problem in his previous role as Cabinet Member for Housing?

What broader lessons has he drawn, as Leader of the Council, for the way risk is managed across the council?

2. To Councillor Anthony Okereke, Leader of the Council

Can the Leader confirm that it will now be at least September before any actions resulting from the new administrations Cost of Living 'engagement exercise' are taken? Secondly, how will any resulting actions be funded?

3. To Councillor Anthony Okereke, Leader of the Council

What contact has the Leader had with the Mayor of London since his election as Leader?

4. To Councillor Averil Lekau, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport

The cross-party Motion that was passed in June 2019, as amended to call for the introduction of a Carbon Neutral Plan, mandated that an Annual Report produced every January. Can the Deputy Leader confirm that an Annual Report will be put to Full Council in January 2023?

5. To Councillor Averil Lekau, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport

As part of the implementation of the Towards Zero Waste strategy, can we have a categorical assurance from the Cabinet Member that all residents who want to upgrade to a larger black bin will receive their larger bin BEFORE the Council's switch to fortnightly black bin collections commences in February 2023?

6. To Councillor Averil Lekau, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport

The Deputy Leader will be aware of London City Airport's resurrected plans to allow more flights on Saturday (until 10pm rather than the current 1pm) and increasing the number of early morning and late evening flights. Will the Council oppose these proposals?

7. To Councillor Averil Lekau, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport

At the last Council meeting the Cabinet Member, in a written reply to my question on whether the Council is aware how many vehicle owners in Greenwich will be impacted by the Mayor of London's proposed ULEZ expansion, said that "as an indication of scale, only 18 per cent of vehicles in outer London are not already ULEZ compliant". Does this mean the specific figure for Greenwich residents is not known by the Council? Has the Council requested this information from Transport for London?

8. To Councillor Pat Slattery, Cabinet Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods and Homelessness

How will the actions being taken to address the Council's non-compliance with Electrical (EICR) standards, Asbestos surveys and the backlog of Fire Risk Assessment Actions be communicated to tenants and leaseholders?

9. To Councillor Pat Slattery, Cabinet Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods and Homelessness

What metrics will the Cabinet Member use to measure the required turnaround in the performance of the Repairs Service? Can she provide a list of the specific measures that will be used?

10. To Councillor Ivis Williams, Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Social Value

Can the Cabinet Member share details of how she plans to consult residents on the council's Budget for 2023/24? And what arrangements will be in place for Pre-Decision Scrutiny during the Budget-setting process?

11. To Councillor Aidan Smith, Cabinet Member for Regeneration

How does the Cabinet Member intend to ensure that developers build out planning permissions in a timely fashion?

12. To Councillor Denise Hyland, Cabinet Member for Inclusive Economy, Business and Skills

At the last council meeting the Cabinet Member provided figures showing that in 2021 only 24% of the Apprenticeship Levy was reclaimed, and that over the last three years more than £4.7m of the Levy went unclaimed by RBG. How do these two figures compare to other London authorities? Can the Cabinet Member provide any other benchmarking data against other London boroughs?

13. To Councillor Denise Hyland, Cabinet Member for Inclusive Economy, Business and Skills

At the last council meeting the Cabinet Member kindly agreed to look into ensuring the Council collects data on empty shops in the borough's smaller shopping parades, and not just the Town Centres. When will this data be available?

14. To Councillor Denise Hyland, Cabinet Member for Inclusive Economy, Business and Skills

Can the Cabinet Member provide an update on the proposed Living Wage Zone in Thamesmead? What specific actions will the Council take as part of this measure?

15. To Councillor Ann-Marie Cousins, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Enforcement

Can the Cabinet Member provide an update on her meeting this month with the BCU Chief Superintendent, including what issues were discussed?

16. To Councillor Ann-Marie Cousins, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Enforcement

Based on her experience in her new Cabinet Role so far, what is the Cabinet Member's view of the Metropolitan Police's tri-borough arrangements?

17. To Councillor Adel Khaireh, Cabinet Member for Equality, Culture and Communities

Can the Cabinet Member provide assurances that the future of all current libraries are secure, and that all smaller libraries will remain in their current sites, under the new administration?

18. To Councillor Adel Khaireh, Cabinet Member for Equality, Culture and Communities

Can the Cabinet Member provide details of future rounds of the Greenwich Neighbourhood Growth Fund? When will community groups have the opportunity to submit bids?

QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLOR PAT GREENWELL

1. To Councillor Anthony Okereke, Leader of the Council

Does the Leader of the Council plan to resurrect Better Together events?

2. To Councillor Pat Slattery, Cabinet Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods and Homelessness

At the recent briefing on the Council's Housing Capital works programme I was assured that leaseholders will be included in consultations. How will the Cabinet Member ensure that the cost implications to leaseholders are arrived at via a fair process?

3. To Councillor Averil Lekau, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport

Last year I raised concerns regarding the very busy traffic light system at the junction of Avery Hill, Southwood and Footscray Roads, New Eltham. It causes massive tailbacks of traffic on these roads and is a highly dangerous junction for both drivers and pedestrians. Will the Cabinet Member agree to meet on site with the relevant Council officers, Transport for London representative and the ward councillors for Eltham Town & Avery Hill ward, and also Mottingham, Coldharbour & New Eltham ward, to discuss this issue?

4. To Councillor Averil Lekau, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport

Can the Cabinet Member provide an update on what the Council is doing to address the problem of idling car engines, particularly in the hot weather when drivers are keeping engines running for the purposes of air conditioning?

5. To Councillor Adel Khairah, Cabinet Member for Equality, Culture and Communities

Residents have raised concerns regarding neglect of our local woodlands and gardens. In particular in Oxleas woodlands, many fallen trees are being left, with some lying over paths, and other areas covered by brambles. What is the Council doing to address this problem?