

Conservative Group Members Questions
Full Council December 2022

QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLOR MATT HARTLEY

1. To Councillor Anthony Okereke, Leader of the Council

In introducing ‘Our Greenwich’, the Council’s new Corporate Plan for 2018-2022, the Leader states that “We’ve set some tough, but realistic targets”. While the Plan outlines ‘success measures’ for each of its 20 missions, no quantified targets for these success measures are included in the Plan.

When and where will four-year targets for each success measure be published? If annual targets are instead going to be set in producing each annual Business Plan, when will the first set of targets be published?

2. To Councillor Anthony Okereke, Leader of the Council

In the Leader of the Council’s conversations with the Mayor of London on the Silvertown Tunnel, has the Leader raised the issue of Transport for London’s non-delivery of the promised new Eltham to Beckton bus route? If so, what was the Mayor’s response?

3. To Councillor Anthony Okereke, Leader of the Council

What is the Leader’s view on the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman’s new *Equal Justice* report, which calls on councils to commit to a “rights-based mindset” towards service design and delivery? How will the findings of the report be considered by Officers and incorporated into RBG’s design and delivery of public services?

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

In Transport for London’s report to the Mayor of London following his ULEZ expansion consultation – in which the expansion was opposed by 60% of Londoners and a much higher proportion in areas being expanded into – TfL note that “the Royal Borough of Greenwich ... requested exemptions for their specialist fleet vehicles required to meet their statutory obligations, given the high cost of replacement vehicles.”

Given this statement, how much does RBG estimate the expanded ULEZ charges will cost in relation RBG’s specialist fleet vehicles each year?

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

Policy 1g of the council’s new Transport Strategy states that the council will “Reduce through traffic by delivering schemes which encourage walking and cycling and to discourage driving, such as school streets and Traffic Management schemes.” To do this, the policy goes on to say that the Council will be “using an evidence-led

approach to identify areas which would most benefit from through-traffic reduction schemes, such as Low Traffic Neighbourhoods".

To implement this 'evidence-led approach', I understand that the Council intends to commission consultants in early 2023 to analyse the borough's whole 483 kilometre road network, to determine which roads will be prioritised.

Can the Cabinet Member confirm a) When will this consultancy exercise start and conclude?, and b) What metrics will be used to determine prioritisation of roads for planned measures?

6. 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 how many requests for larger black bins have so far been made by residents as a result of the Towards Zero Waste engagement campaign, and how many of these have now been delivered? Is the Council on track to deliver larger black bins to every resident who requests them before the switch to fortnightly black bin collections in February?

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

Further to our exchange on this at Overview and Scrutiny's examination of the first Carbon Neutral Plan Annual Report, can the Cabinet Member outline what actions she is now taking to ensure the Council is able to 1) measure and 2) reduce its (corporate) production of office waste?

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

Following the traffic death of Awaab Ishak as a result of a respiratory condition caused by exposure to mould in his family's Rochdale Boroughwide Housing flat, the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities wrote on 19th November to all social housing providers on the need for all providers to "raise the bar dramatically on the quality of social housing and empower tenants so their voices are truly heard". The letter explains that providers will be specifically instructed to undertake assessments of:

- "damp and mould issues affecting your properties, including the prevalence of category 1 and 2 damp and mould hazards"
- "the action you have identified that may need to be taken in relation to damp and mould issues affecting your properties."

Can the Cabinet Member provide an update on what actions she has taken since the Council received the Secretary of State's letter on 19th November? When will the required assessments be carried out and when will there results be published?

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

Can the Cabinet Member provide an update on the corrective actions being taken to address the Council's non-compliance with Electrical, Asbestos and FRA Actions following its self-referral to the Regulator of Social Housing earlier this year?

In particular, the performance figures reported to the Housing Scrutiny Panel meeting in November showed a decline in performance between April and September in relation to a) the number of low-medium rise blocks with a current FRA, b) the number of overdue High Rise Actions: Red, c) the number of overdue high-risk asbestos actions, d) the number of blocks with current Legionella risk assessment and e) the percentage of lifts with current LOLER inspection carried out (Communal). Why is performance in these five areas actually declining, despite the self-referral to the RSH, and what actions are being taken on each?

10. To Councillor Ivis Williams, Cabinet Member for Finance

Following the extension for one year, in the Chancellor's Autumn Statement, of the Government's Household Support Fund – which has funded the vast majority of the council's Greenwich Supports' cost of living measures – can the Cabinet Member confirm when decisions will be taken on how the 2023/24 funding will be allocated?

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

What feedback did the Cabinet Member receive from Park friends group on the organisation of ParksFest 2022? In particular, what steps is the Cabinet Member putting in place to address concerns about the additionally burdensome process that many groups reported experiencing this year?

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

Can the Cabinet Member provide an update on discussions with the Metropolitan Police about a potential Police Base in Kidbrooke Village?

QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLOR PAT GREENWELL

1. To Councillor Matt Morrow, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

In light of the recent outbreak of Strep A what advice is the Council giving to our schools, and parents?

2. To Councillor Denise Scott-McDonald, Cabinet Member for Health and Adults Social Care

Can the Cabinet Member for Health and Adults Social Care provide an update on the council's Public Health team's response to the current Strep A outbreak?

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

How many empty Council homes do we have in the Borough at the present time and how long does it take to fill these properties once they become vacant?

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

On Sat the 19th November Christmas lights were switched on in Passey Place. Many residents again asked me why the Eltham Parade has not taken place this year. It brought the children of primary schools across Eltham together to enjoy the festive activities. Please can I ask again that this event be considered for next year?

5. To Councillor Matt Morrow, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

Please can we have an update on the latest position regarding the new Sixth Form boys school in Avery Hill?

6. To Councillor Aidan Smith, Cabinet Member for Regeneration

Given the recent demolition of Wellington House in Messeter Place Eltham, what can we do as a Council to help save our local listed buildings from being destroyed?