

## QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There are 4 questions from members of the public.

**1. From Mr Atkins to Councillor Halden**

Could the Portfolio Holder please tell me what the criteria is for those children with special needs when it comes to qualifying for home to school transport.

**2. From Mr Perrin to Councillor Johnson**

I believe the Council operates what it calls a “like-for-like” policy when it comes to moving from one Council house to another and also the carrying out of repairs/replacements in Council rented housing including outside repairs/replacements such as boundary fencing. Would you accept that the “like-for-like” policy is no longer an acceptable practice and needs replacing with a policy that puts emphasis on improvement and enhancement?

**3. From Ms Haywood to Councillor Huelin**

Can the Portfolio Holder please explain what reasons there could be to withhold the use of the area under Centurion House, given to the people of Tilbury to be used for sports and recreation, from being used by Tilbury Martial Academy?

**4. From Mr Arnold to Councillor Coxshall**

Can the Portfolio Holder help me understand how a covenant placed on Sand Pits Car Park when it was disposed of, requiring the new owner to retain 100 free parking spaces for three-hour short-stays, is no longer in place?

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## Appendix A to the Council Minutes – 30 January 2019

### **Item 6 – Questions from Members of the Public**

There were 4 questions from members of the public.

#### **1. From Mr Atkins to Councillor Halden**

Could the Portfolio Holder please tell me what the criteria is for those children with special needs when it comes to qualifying for home to school transport.

**Deputy Mayor:**

Councillor Halden, please respond to the questions

**Councillor Halden:**

Thank you Mr Deputy Mayor and Mr Atkins for your question.

First of all I would say that I really acknowledge that the parents especially parents with children with special needs it can be very stressful time making sure their children get to school is one of the reasons I am so proud that my department working with department of education, one just under 20 million pound to build a brand new tree tops special needs school a part of the wider 70 million were spending to build 3,500 school places in the borough within the next couple of years to look after these children.

In terms of the responsibility we have for the statutory bracket of 5-16, we would offer school transport to any child who's got a statement of educational needs that is related to their mobility issue so it's on an individual basis that child be assessed.

EHCP plan will be considered and to look at what package is correct for them. And what I would say is If you compare children with special needs with main stream pupils, we remove the distance criteria, so were the statutory guidelines direct us to the considered as 3 miles radius to the school for mainstream children. SEND issues we don't take that into consideration, so it's purely done on the basis of what is the mobility issue relating to that specific child.

**Deputy Mayor:**

Thank you Councillor Halden, Mr Atkins do you wish to pose a supplementary question?

**Mr Atkins:**

Yes I do. Thank you for your reply. As you know rewards and benefits don't always contact the SEN department when making their final decision who gets

school transport, so how do they arrive at the final decision considering they never see the children nor are they medically trained.

**Councillor Halden:**

Thank you Mr Deputy Mayor.

What I would say the package that is approved for individual children is signed off by the education team it's not signed off by the finance directorate or rewards and benefits team. So when the plan is actually written the team that actually assess the plan is a part of the education directorate so there is cross working between the educational psychiatrist team and the team that physically decide what is the correct package for that individual child.

We acknowledge that the system does not always work in the way that we want it to, it does not always work in the swiftest way we want it to. As I announced last year I'm soon to be starting I think actually on Monday a series of engagement events with parents, with head teachers and with carers so they can talk directly with myself and to my director about some concerns they have when engaging with our SEND team and some of the problems they experience when engaging with our SEND team.

We know we can do better, we know we can be swifter for parents it whether we can increase the capacity of our SEND team so we can turn around this plans quicker and assess the needs for transport much much faster, so we are on that journey to improve this system but I can assure you that when transport decisions are made those decisions are made by the education team.

**Deputy Mayor:**

Thank you Councillor Halden

**2. From Mr Perrin to Councillor Johnson:**

I believe the Council operates what it calls a "like-for-like" policy when it comes to moving from one Council house to another and also the carrying out of repairs/replacements in Council rented housing including outside repairs/replacements such as boundary fencing. Would you accept that the "like-for-like" policy is no longer an acceptable practice and needs replacing with a policy that puts emphasis on improvement and enhancement?

**Deputy Mayor:**

Councillor Johnson please respond to the question.

**Councillor Johnson:**

Thank you Deputy Mayor and thank you for your question Mr Perrin.

I am glad you asked me because there seems to be reoccurring theme here I responded to the exact same question to your Ward Councillor back in November. This is not policy it's more of terminology shall we say. The council undertakes 2500 repairs per month which costs the portfolio in line with the policy which the members have all agreed. The terminology like for like is only really every used or referred to when it comes to repairs more for ascetics than anything else, let's say if we was to replace a bathroom or a kitchen things like cupboards or tiles will always look to be replaced like for like more for ascetics than anything else. In answer to your question do I think the policy is outdated, I think it would be an unworkable policy but it isn't the policy.

**Deputy Mayor:**

Mr Perrin, do you wish to pose a supplementary question?

**Mr Perrin:**

Yes Mr Deputy Mayor.

Perhaps I should have made in clear in my original question. I was specifically referring to boundary fencing when suggesting that the like for like policy is no longer an acceptable practice. Councillor Fletcher and Hamilton and along with the council quality assurance officers after inspecting recent fencing repair work carried out by Mears agreed that the work was below standard and unacceptable and that Chesnut fencing was no longer fit for purpose an should be replaced with a more appropriate type of fencing.

I believe the Leader of the Council is of similar mind. In an email to Councillor Fletcher a council quality assurance officer made this statement:

*"The use of concrete post and gravel boards for fencing of Broxburn burn must provide stability and also increase long Gevity of event whilst taking in to consideration cost effectiveness to ensure value for money"*

Cllr Johnson, I rest my case, bearing in mind the quality assurance officer assessment will you recommend that the future Chesnut fencing would not be used as boundary fencing for council rented houses.

Thank you Mr Deputy Mayor.

**Deputy Mayor:**

Mr Perrin, please could you ask your question. Do you wish to reply?

**Councillor Johnson:**

I don't think there was a question in there, but other than will I say that we will use a specific type of fencing. I will go as far to say is we will use the best as we can do to do the best job. That's as far as I can go Mr Perrin.

**3. From Ms Haywood to Councillor Huelin:**

Can the Portfolio Holder please explain what reasons there could be to withhold the use of the area under Centurion House, given to the people of Tilbury to be used for sports and recreation, from being used by Tilbury Martial Academy?

**Deputy Mayor:**

Councillor Huelin, please respond.

**Councillor Huelin:**

Thank you Mr Deputy Mayor and thank you Ms Haywood for your question.

The area beneath Centurion house is thought to be protected by covenant whereby it's described as being for community use or as a gym to ensure the use of the space has local benefit. The developer only transferred the management of that space to the Council in December and the assets team need a little time to engage with the local community and ask them for their views and opinions about the future of this space and how they would want to see it used.

This space is not being withheld its only right and proper that Council seek guidance for the very community this space will serve it would be very wrong of the Council to give preferential treatment to any one community group over another. We believe in democracy and it's only fair that the local community and charity groups have the opportunity to compete equally with each other for the use of the space

**Deputy Mayor:**

Ms Haywood, do you wish to pose a supplementary question?

**Ms Haywood:**

No thank you.

**4. From Mr Arnold to Councillor Coxshall:**

Can the Portfolio Holder help me understand how a covenant placed on Sand Pits Car Park when it was disposed of, requiring the new owner to retain 100 free parking spaces for three-hour short-stays, is no longer in place?

**Councillor Coxshall:**

Thank you for your questions, the decision to expose the sand pit site was taken to cabinet in 2013 based upon the granted of planning permission in 2012. The imposed covenant and those registered to the land registry have since lapsed due to the expiry of the planning permission linked to it in 2012

which can no longer be implemented. The covenant can no longer be enforced.

**Deputy Mayor:**

Mr Arnold, do you wish to pose a supplementary question?

**Mr Arnold:**

Yes, is there any hope that we can tie the hands of the developer to keep the 100 spaces with 3 hours free parking and is there anything that can be done in future to prevent this happening?

**Councillor Coxshall:**

Thank you, I am very disappointed at that when I first took administration of this, it was very disappointing so I am asking that the Thurrock Legal team look at if there is any case law that exists that we can rely on to prevent the foremost covenants being used and to tie down the new developers there. But that doesn't help yourself and doesn't help at the moment obviously what has gone wrong here. In the future what will be done, under retain reuse release its completely changed the asset strategy of this council to make sure that hopefully nothing like that will happen again under this conservative administration.

**Item 15 – Questions from Members**

**QUESTION TIME**

**Questions from Members to the Leader, Cabinet Members, Chairs of Committees or Members appointed to represent the Council on a Joint Committee in accordance with Chapter 2, Part 2 (Rule 14) of the Council's Constitution.**

There was 1 question to the Leader and 10 questions to Cabinet Members, Committee Chairs and Member appointed to represent the Council on a Joint Committee.

1. Councillor Fletcher withdrew his question to Councillor Gledhill.

**QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS TO CABINET MEMBERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND MEMBERS APPOINTED TO REPRESENT THE COUNCIL ON A JOINT COMMITTEE**

1. Councillor Worrall withdrew her question to Councillor Johnson.
2. **From Councillor Shinnick to Councillor Halden**

Councillor Halden can you please inform the chamber what plans are being put in place after the Ofsted inspection at the Ockendon Academy.

**Deputy Mayor:**

Councillor Halden please respond.

**Councillor Halden:**

Thank you Mr Deputy Major. When the Ofsted report was published the full report is already referencing the existing improvements that the new head is already making but Ofsted have put in an improvement plan in place in response to the Ofsted inspection even though improvements were already in place under the new leadership of the school. The Directors visited the school, I visited the school and we are keeping a close eye on the improvement plans but what we need to do to improve is to look at both ends of the spectrum.

We have to support the primary schools in the area because no school sits in isolation so we need to support the primary schools to make sure that children that level year 6 are given the best possible chance to start year 7 that is why myself and Councillor Jefferies visited the Bens School just before Christmas as we look to invest large sums of money to expand those schools so that local Ockendon children get the opportunity to go to good schools and therefore get the best before they get to secondary school and in terms of secondary school we are making sure to continue to work with the teachers in the schools in the borough, William Edwards leads from a big teach in schools to act on peer or peer to support at the higher end.

**Deputy Mayor:**

Councillor Shinnick do you wish to pose a supplementary question?

**Councillor Shinnick:**

No thank you.

**3. From Councillor Shinnick to Councillor Johnson**

Councillor Johnson can you please inform the chamber what plans are there for the painting of garages on the Flowers Estate in Ockendon.

**Deputy Mayor:**

Councillor Johnson please respond.

**Councillor Johnson:**

Thank you Mr Deputy Mayor. Thank you for the question. Let me start but saying we are intending to undertake a full structural integrity survey to all council owned garages to establish which garages are not cost effective to repair and where our priority spends should be and that a report on Garage

Review will be presented to the Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 5 February. But specifically as the question relates to the Flowers Estate in Ockendon I am glad you brought it up because Councillor Jefferies and I had a walk around the estate with the chair of the Residents Association who pointed out several things he would like done. And in relation to the actual garages obviously we need to weather to improve; it is proposed to request the assistance of the Community Payback Team and the Probation Service, to begin a programme of painting garage doors in the stand-alone blocks, to improve the outlook for the residents.

Our Community Safety Partnership Manager has agreed that this could be a project for the community payback to be involved with. As I said this is being checked out now. Once that has happened we will then look to begin to demolish the blocks which are beyond repair and then utilise this space to provide additional parking or redevelopment. And in specifically as we are talking about the Flowers Estate Garages that something that emanated from that same walk about with Councillor Jefferies and I that he was asked to look at the installation of CCTV around the Quince Tree Park area which I can say is currently being considered by the Housing ASB Team.

**Deputy Mayor:**

Councillor Shinnick do you wish to pose a supplementary question?

**Councillor Shinnick:**

Yes I hope just like to hope that you can keep the local community up to date with what is happening.

**Deputy Mayor:**

Councillor Johnson

**Councillor Shinnick:**

Yes most definitely.

**4. From Councillor Abbas to Councillor Watkins**

Road conditions on Elm Terrace (West Thurrock) are really bad and require urgent attention. Do you have any plans to resurface this road?

**Deputy Mayor:**

Councillor Watkins please respond.

**Councillor Watkins:**

Thank you very much Deputy Mayor and thank you Councillor for your question.

I am sorry to disappoint you Councillor as I understand the frustrations of no doubt of yourself and of the residents which have experiencing with this road but the road in question is an un-adopted, thus private, this means unfortunately that the road is not maintained by the Council and the responsibility does fall on the freeholders and frontages of the road. As I say I understand that it is a good point for here especially for those residents however I would advise yourself and those residents, not sure if you have heard about this before, we do have something called the CEDF fund which funds every single year and applications will be starting again soon where residents can come together and work with the council to put in a grant and to take some money from that fund in order to repair those roads.

A great example if you want of where the community has come together in order to repair a private section of the road is the Frost Estate in Corringham they are a shining example of a community group that have come together to work on that road and have done an awful lot of work not just in 2016 and again in 2019, this year as well they have been doing some more work. Again as I say I understand the frustrations but if you would like some more information on the CEDF fund please let me know and we can get that shared out to you and how this works for residents as well.

**Deputy Mayor:**

Councillor Abbas do you wish to pose a supplementary question.

**Councillor Abbas:**

No thank you.

**5. From Councillor Potheary to Councillor Huelin:**

What role do you envisage for the arts in Thurrock?

**Deputy Mayor:**

Councillor Huelin please respond.

**Councillor Huelin:**

Thank you Deputy Mayor. Thank you Councillor Potheary for your question. A very broad question so I will try and answer it as best as I can. I see arts and culture as having a huge and very important role to play in Thurrock. By participating in the arts we are not just helping people enjoy themselves although the Thameside Theatre which I think is a great asset and last year's pantomime was brilliant, I really enjoyed it. The theatre has and will continue to host a great variety of fun and educational treats for schools and families to enjoy.

Art broadens our minds such as the World War One Experience that I was privileged to attend at the theatre. I mean who knew that suffragettes actually converted a Belgium hotel into a front line hospital completely manned by woman, doctors, and surgeons, everybody there working it. The Shakespeare workshops put on during the week for children and I can still see the smiles on my face as the children's interpretation of the witches in MacBeth. The new digitised ticketing system which has opened up great marketing opportunities for the theatre with deals and offers for the whole community.

We have seen the theatre go from being in deficit to breaking even. But as I have said by participating in arts is not just about having fun I wanted to see the arts continue to bring communities together learning about each other's cultures such as the Windrush celebrations and the Trailblazer programme in schools. The use of arts is well known for its health and wellbeing properties and I want to see more of this. It can have great healing properties to help people find a voice, it can be an outlet for anger as well as for love and it helps people to destress and can be used as a form of pain relief, and it stimulates minds, increases social contact, and helps isolation and loneliness. The possibilities are endless. I want to see them all explored. I want to see the arts continue their great work to help to build and develop new skills to open up employment opportunities and job creation.

The future of the arts in Thurrock, I think, is looking amazing. The culture industries are one of the fastest growing sectors in the South East and the arts and the culture can help create high quality places in the borough to support existing communities. The Council will continue to participate and support this wider agenda which includes the TEPC initiative which recently won over £4m from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. We are a key partner in this Thames Estuary production corridor initiative. Both have seen growth in cultural industries across London, South Essex and North Kent. We have the Tilbury Community led local development strategy with the budget of £4.4 million supporting local people to access local jobs and to develop this. And finally we are one of the partners working towards submitting a bid to the Arts Council – Creative People and Places Programme, and if successful, this will draw in a significant amount of money to purport grass roots art facilities throughout the Borough.

**Deputy Mayor:**

Councillor Potheary, do you wish to propose a supplementary question?

**Councillor Potheary:**

Yes please, Mr Deputy Mayor. Thank you very much for that, I apologise, it was a very broad question. But thank you very much for outlining your vision and there's a lot we can agree on, there's a lot of common ground there. My supplementary question is that in Spring of 2017, the Portfolio Holder at the time, Councillor Macpherson, commissioned a lecture based consultancy company called 'Art Reach' to create a 10 year vision for the arts in Thurrock

at the cost of just under £15,000. Could you please kindly update us on progress towards this strategy?

**Deputy Mayor:**

Councillor Huelin, would you like to respond and can we keep it succinct?

**Councillor Huelin:**

Thank you Deputy Mayor, I'll try. Thank you for the question. The art strategy hasn't been shelved, the Councillor developed the draft strategy for arts and heritage but it needs to be refined and developed. I believe the arts, they're very organic and inspiration and creativity – well you can laugh, or you can let me finish, it's up to you. I actually do feel that art is organic and that it – anyway, it needs to be refined and developed and I believe the art to be organic and inspiration and creativity evolved and changes as they have grown and developed. And I don't want to see that creativity stifled by the wrong strategy. Now, I believe the very communities we live in are best placed to help develop art projects and it's those projects that meet the needs which is why Officers are working closely with community organisations. In this way, we can build and develop a shared vision of priorities for cultural activities in the Borough.

A good start has been made but areas of work have been identified including alignment with regional and national opportunities for funding. We will make sure that we can get as much money as we can possible into the Borough. And we are working around job opportunities and business. I'm sorry but it's a loaded question. Development and refining some of the ideas is depending on how and by whom the project will be

**Deputy Mayor:**

Right. Councillor, can we – you got 1 minute.

**Councillor Huelin:**

Yes, I've got one little bit. A regeneration plan develops an option for Thameside to come forward; I'm keen to see an organic strategy to improve the arts.

**Deputy Mayor:**

Right. Councillor. Do you have another supplementary?

**Councillor Potheary:**

Thank you Mr Deputy Mayor and thank you Councillor Huelin for your organic response.

**Deputy Mayor:**

Jane, can we keep it smaller please?

**Councillor Pothecary:**

According to our Reaches website, the final report on strategy was presented in March. Rightly, I am concerned as we don't seem to have heard anything about this report, this strategy that had been promised since March with all of the cost of £15,000. I hear what you're saying on perhaps what you want to do in this room but my question is, does it represent a good use of Thurrock Council's taxpayer's money if we're suddenly shelving a report that costs £15,000 that could have just been distributed to the arts group already operating in Thurrock?

**Deputy Mayor:**

Councillor.

**Councillor Huelin:**

I'll be very quick. I feel the money is being well invested, that is being used. We're trying to refine it; we're trying to do more with it. We're trying to make sure that we encompass everything. The next Portfolio Holder meeting that I will have will be next month, I'll make sure that it will be brought forward and I'll give you an update

**6. From Councillor J Kent to Councillor Halden**

Will the Portfolio Holder publish a list of sites considered for the proposed Orsett Heath Academy?

**Deputy Mayor:**

Councillor Halden.

**Councillor Halden:**

Thank you Mr Deputy Mayor. Obviously, the Orsett Heath Academy is being delivered by the EFSA. So the EFSA conduct their own sites so we're not aware of every single site that they consider because they're not a Council body. The Council obviously helps to give praise to the identified sites when we are asked. As we have seen in recent history, the Council does and insist on Council owned land where it's possible to try and protect as much money as possible for not being spent on the procurement of land so that money can be better spent on education provision and I'm sure as you can understand, there are a lot of huge amount of sites, available in Grays.

But it would be nice, just for the sake of variety, if we could hear a little bit of optimism from Labour Councillors to welcome tens of millions of pounds being

invested to create thousands of school places in the communities that they claim to represent.

**Deputy Mayor:**

Councillor Kent, do you wish to propose a supplementary question?

**Councillor Kent:**

First of all, I'll come to the optimism point. I'm very, very optimistic for the first Thursday of May but just for the sake of clarity, do I take the answer to the question to be no?

**Deputy Mayor:**

Councillor Halden.

**Councillor Halden:**

Well, I'm sure you're optimistic for the elections in May; I think you were also optimistic in 2017 and we know how that ended. And you've heard the answer to the question; it's slightly concerning for someone who was the Cabinet Member for Education at one stage, he who doesn't know how the EFSA operates. They are charged to deliver the Free School Programme, he should know, many free schools were delivered during the time he was Leader of the Council and as the body charged to deliver the Free School Programme, they do that land scouting. As I pointed out, we try to offer out land where possible to protect money so we can spend it on education provision.

I've not actually found, a single example of where Labour Councillors have actually welcomed schools being delivered, just in the same way that you allowed, the Manor School to go to wreck and ruin so the building had to be quarantined. You opposed this school, you opposed the other sites. It is a constant bandwagon with you

**Deputy Mayor:**

Councillor, Councillor! Councillor John Kent, do you wish to pose a second supplementary?

**Councillor J Kent:**

Thank you Mr Deputy Mayor, I have all that I require.

## **7. From Councillor Fletcher to Councillor Johnson**

Would the Councillor please explain the SLAs contracted with Mears and their subcontractors, specifically with reference to the acceptable timescales between reporting a problem and completing the repair?

**Deputy Mayor:**

Councillor Johnson.

**Councillor Johnson:**

Thank you Deputy Mayor, thank you Councillor Fletcher.

I will try and explain the Service Level Agreement as simply as I can.

Whether a repair is completed by Mears or their subcontractors, performance is measured within a suite of contractual key performance indicators. Attendance timeframes for repairs are based on the issue or nature of the repair and are categorised as:

Emergency repairs – where attendance would be within 24 hours;  
Urgent repairs – where attendance would be within 5 working days;  
Routine repairs – where attendance will be within 20 working days

In line with these priorities Mears are measured on 7 KPIs which following strong performance in 2017/18, saw the contractual targets being enhanced for 18/19. And during 18/19 to date, Mears have consistently achieved the enhanced contractual targets for all key performance indicators relating to repairs completed within target timeframes and repairs permanently completed first time.

**Deputy Mayor:**

Councillor Fletcher, do you wish to pose a supplementary question?

**Councillor Fletcher:**

Yes please, Mr Deputy Mayor. Thank you for that comprehensive answer. You've got to look somewhere, haven't you?

I'm pleased to hear they consistently achieve their KPI's. May I ask, Councillor, what action is taken where they don't?

**Deputy Mayor:**

Councillor Johnson.

**Councillor Johnson:**

Councillor Fletcher, I'm sorry to say this but all the KPI's are presented at the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee of which you are a Member. You would find out in those cases, which ones aren't being fulfilled and which ones are and which, therefore you should review and perhaps you should say there and then to be able to report back to it on that to me. But as I say, your

question says 'explain SLA' which I've done. Obviously, if they don't, there will be penalties, that's what why KPIs are put in place for.

**Deputy Mayor:**

Councillor Fletcher, do you wish to pose a second supplementary question?

**Councillor Fletcher:**

Yes please, Mr Deputy Mayor.

Totally agree with you Councillor. In fact, in my first meeting of my group meeting with that meeting, that was exactly the question I asked – what exactly happened to those KPIs that are not met? And I'm still waiting for a comprehensive answer.

**Deputy Mayor:**

Councillor Johnson.

**Councillor Johnson:**

Then I suggest you go to the meetings, Councillor.

#### **8. From Councillor Allen to Councillor Watkins**

Can the Portfolio Holder please provide an update of the action that is being taken to tackle the fly-tipping in Tilbury?

**Deputy Mayor:**

Councillor Watkins.

**Councillor Watkins:**

Thank you Mr Deputy Mayor and thank you Councillor Allen for your question. I would also like to point out for your continued persistence with tackling litter and fly tipping issues within Tilbury, I will make a comment. I think judging by your recent activity, I presume you're quite confident in a *[words unclear]* so it goes across as always.

It only feels like last week which you and I had many a meeting in Tilbury going over your many concerns. At the time, obviously, many of those were dealt with quite promptly and will continue to. And I believe and I hope that your most recent meeting with the Environment Officers team and Enforcement team were equally as useful.

Councillor, you, I and everyone in this Chamber, know that fly-tipping is a blight and comes with not just the financial burden to taxpayers and to this Council itself; but to the 'vision', to the way people see Thurrock and the way

that people feel who live in Thurrock. It's despicable that people think it's right that they can come into our Borough or if they do live in this Borough that they can dump their rubbish or whatever it is on our streets and think it's fine. It's not fine and we're taking zero tolerance approach to that and that's continued in Tilbury as well.

Our Enforcement Team do patrol Tilbury, all across Tilbury and across the Borough. And where fly-tipping is evident, we do go to Court and take those people who are responsible to Court. The good thing as well, it's not just down to our Enforcement Team which has grown this year as well. And I don't want to keep a point's score, but when we came in 2016, the Enforcement Team was on its knees compared to where we are looking at it now. It's grown by so much.

We've also trained up our crews on the streets as well. As they're doing their rounds in cleaning, they can identify fly-tip and look for evidence as well and where necessary, they'll get the enforcement crews in as well to get further detail as we look at cleaning.

As well as alongside this, you would have seen in the most recent press release, in which Councillor Gledhill, the Leader, went out with the police team and have got some praise from Councillors within, judging by some of the emails, where we have those joint operations in place. We'll be going after those carriers who are coming into this Borough, checking their waste licenses, checking to see, obviously, where they are going, where their destination is after the rubbish. And alongside this as well, we did a lot of work with the tip, the household waste recycling centre, over the course of 2018, in order to stop the commercial enterprises from using it which we have seen.

Slight reduction in total amount of fly-tipping coming through into the Borough as well. It may only be slight but it means we are moving in the right direction and recently, we have announced, it went through Planning a couple of weeks ago, where we are going to be regenerating, expanding and pumping a lot of money into the household waste recycling centre to complete expansion which will allow and enable residents to have a lot more accessibility to the site with also future ambitions to take on commercial waste there as well. It gives another means for those carriers within Thurrock who are using these services in Thurrock. People should use that.

We'll obviously continue to target –

**Deputy Mayor:**

Can we move it on please?

**Councillor Watkins:**

Cool. I'll just quickly start.

We are continuing, obviously, to go against what is a hotspot in Tilbury where we do get that evidence coming in from residents. We mentioned Enforcement Officers that go out there and patrol the streets, it's not just fly-tipping, it is also for all littering concerns as well.

**Deputy Mayor:**

Councillor Allen, do you have a supplementary question?

**Councillor Allen:**

Yes please Deputy Mayor. Thank you for your answer, it was extensive.

With reference to CCTV, you touched again on the hotspots. I mean, in both wards of Tilbury, we've seen fly-tipping on, which I could safely say on an industrial scale. We've got tipper lorries going down the alleys and tipping whole loads into the alleyways. I'm sure you've seen some of my photos that I've sent in with my enquiries.

And use of CCTV, are we allowed to use temporary CCTV to obtain evidence of who's doing this? Because I suggest that we do this and catch who's responsible because all the time, we're letting someone do this –

**Deputy Mayor:**

I think your question has been answered.

**Councillor Allen:**

Ok, they'll do it more and more.

**Deputy Mayor:**

Councillor Watkins.

**Councillor Watkins:**

Thank you Mr Deputy Mayor and thank you Councillor for your question.

The answer is yes. We continue to work on those hotspots and we're also going to be launching a new comms plan soon where we are going to be engaging further review with residents. We're also going to be seeking information not just on those hotspots which we know of but also on any hotspots which people don't particularly want to report at this point in time and we're going to be engaging with those residents in time so the answer to that is yes. There will be a review of where we move forward with that.

**Deputy Mayor:**

Councillor Allen, do you have another supplementary question?

**Councillor Allen:**

Thank you Deputy Mayor. I'll be very, very – I'd just like Councillor Watkins to look into Fort Road in Tilbury because it's in a terrible mess at the moment. It needs clearing up and again, CCTV would be fantastic, thank you.

**Deputy Mayor:**

Councillor Watkins, can you make it brief please?

**Councillor Watkins:**

I'm aware of it and we're working on it.

**9. From Councillor Smith to Councillor Watkins**

I am delighted that the Aveley traffic consultation is now underway however residents of Romford Road are also blighted by rat runs and HGV incursion. Does Council have any plans to deal with these issues in Romford Road?

**Deputy Mayor:**

Councillor Watkins.

**Councillor Watkins:**

Thank you Deputy Mayor, I'm aware of the time so I will keep this very brief. I am also equally delighted with the fact that we have gone out to consultation on this; it's a long time coming and going but to be pushed in order to get that. And I encourage all residents across Aveley to have their say on this; it's not just one size fits all model and there are multiple options currently on the table for the consultation and we're listening to every single person who does write in. So the residents from Romford Road, what we will do we'll take their feedback onboard, and then as we move forward, once we're out of the consultation, we will develop those plans. We look at the Romford Road residents as an example and see how that can obviously be changed in order to work for that area. And also, the same way we're looking at work we're doing in Ockendon; we have spoken to Councillor Fletcher and others recently in regards to how that will also have a knock on effect in Ockendon.

**Deputy Mayor:**

Thank you Councillor Watkins. Councillor Smith, do you have a supplementary question?

**Councillor Smith:**

No, I'll make way for Councillor Spillman.

**Deputy Mayor:**

I'm afraid we've run out of time for question 10.

10. Councillor Spillman requested a written response to his question to Councillor Little.

## QUESTION TIME

**Questions from Members to the Leader, Cabinet Members, Chairs of Committees or Members appointed to represent the Council on a Joint Committee in accordance with Chapter 2, Part 2 (Rule 14) of the Council's Constitution.**

There is 1 question to the Leader and 10 questions to Cabinet Members, Committee Chairs and Member appointed to represent the Council on a Joint Committee.

## QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS TO THE LEADER

### 1. From Councillor Fletcher to Councillor Gledhill

As the Portfolio Holder knows, anti-social behaviour is a major concern for families across the borough and we have been assured of more police numbers in Thurrock in the New Year. Would the Portfolio Holder please update Members on progress?

## QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS TO CABINET MEMBERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND MEMBERS APPOINTED TO REPRESENT THE COUNCIL ON A JOINT COMMITTEE

### 1. From Councillor Worrall to Councillor Johnson

Is the Portfolio Holder for Housing confident that the temporary accommodation for the homeless in Thurrock are inspected and fit for purpose?

### 2. From Councillor Shinnick to Councillor Halden

Councillor Halden can you please inform the chamber what plans are being put in place after the Ofsted inspection at the Ockendon Academy.

### 3. From Councillor Shinnick to Councillor Johnson

Councillor Johnson can you please inform the chamber what plans are there for the painting of garages on the Flowers Estate in Ockendon.

### 4. From Councillor Abbas to Councillor Watkins

Road conditions on Elm Terrace (West Thurrock) are really bad and require urgent attention. Do you have any plans to resurface this road?

### 5. From Councillor Potheary to Councillor Huelin

What role do you envisage for the arts in Thurrock?

**6. From Councillor J Kent to Councillor Halden**

Will the Portfolio Holder publish a list of sites considered for the proposed Orsett Heath Academy?

**7. From Councillor Fletcher to Councillor Johnson**

Would the Councillor please explain the SLAs contracted with Mears and their subcontractors, specifically with reference to the acceptable timescales between reporting a problem and completing the repair?

**8. From Councillor Allen to Councillor Watkins**

Can the Portfolio Holder please provide an update of the action that is being taken to tackle the fly-tipping in Tilbury?

**9. From Councillor Smith to Councillor Watkins**

I am delighted that the Aveley traffic consultation is now underway however residents of Romford Road are also blighted by rat runs and HGV incursion. Does Council have any plans to deal with these issues in Romford Road?

**10. From Councillor Spillman to Councillor Little**

Sixteen unaccompanied children, who came to Thurrock to seek asylum, have gone missing. Catherine Baker, senior research, policy and campaigns officer at ECPAT UK, believes that: "Ultimately, each missing incident represents a safeguarding failure". If so, can the Portfolio Holder outline what action is being taken to prevent further failures in the future?