

## Council – 8 March 2023 - Written Questions

Question	Questioner	Proposed Officer Lead	Cabinet Lead	Response
What weight of batteries was collected this year on the recycling collection rounds?	Cllr Anthony Young	Earl Mckenzie/ Darren Henaghan	Cllr Deirdre Costigan	Just under 3 tonnes of batteries were collected this year.
What weight of textiles was collected this year on the recycling collection rounds?	Cllr Anthony Young	Earl Mckenzie/ Darren Henaghan	Cllr Deirdre Costigan	80 tonnes of textiles were collected this year.
Why does generic information about ward forums, now discontinued, remain on the council's website? Why is the website not updated?	Cllr Seema Kumar	Amanda Askham	Cllr Peter Mason & Cllr Jasbir Anand	<p>Thank you for bringing this to our attention.</p> <p>Information about ward forums has now been removed from the website and initial information on our plans for Town Forums has been added.</p> <p>You can view this webpage here: <a href="#">Town forums   Ealing Council</a></p> <p>As our approach to Towns Forums develops, this webpage will be updated.</p>
As part of the consultation for the local plan what effort was made to consult with vulnerable groups	Cllr Fabio Conti	Steve Barton / Sandra Fryer	Cllr Shital Manro	As part of the recently concluded Local Plan Regulation 18 consultation we are required to notify the public and details are set in our SCI: <a href="#">Statement of Community Involvement 2022   Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)   Ealing Council</a> (please note this linked to but separate from our local plan). The SCI confirms that the Council specifically

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<p>and the visually impaired? Were organisations that support our visually impaired residents such as Talking Newspapers and the Middlesex Association made aware of the consultation?</p>				<p>‘acknowledges that specific barriers to engagement may include language and cultural differences, physical, mental, or sensory disabilities, childcare or dependency care responsibilities, lack of a permanent residence, lack of access to a computer, or economic disadvantage such as the cost of travelling to meetings.’ It also confirms that where requested, the Council can make copies of consultation documents available in large print, braille, or provide a translation or interpretation service.</p> <p>The Council has also created the document in an accessible format so that you can listen to it if you are visually impaired. This is available on our website consistent with our Accessibility Statement.</p> <p><a href="#">Accessibility statement   Accessibility statement   Ealing Council</a></p> <p>You can also read more about what a regulation 18 consultation is and what is lawfully required from us here: <a href="#">The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (legislation.gov.uk)</a></p> <p>In terms of the extent of consultation undertaken we made the public aware by producing public notices, placing physical copies of the document at all 13 libraries across the borough, and contacting everyone on our data systems (which includes thousands of individuals and organisations). We also held 41 in-person/online events across the borough, including outreach events.</p> <p>We have also tried to reach as many organisations as possible through other streams including placing a public notice in our local newspaper, sending copies to everyone who has signed up for the Around Ealing magazine and online. The NHS has also</p>
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				<p>advertised this on their server (intended to reach some of the organisations you are concerned about). We advertised on our website, social media, and used a marketing firm called Built-ID who reached a larger section of the community and in 9 different languages. We contacted umbrella organisations such as SCA, EMC, ECN, and Ealing Matters, etc (for them to advertise this on their websites and mailing lists).</p> <p>However, it is important to note that inevitably there will always be some organisations both nationally and locally of which we are not specifically aware, so we do rely on representatives and other streams I mentioned above, to reach as many groups as possible.</p> <p>We have considered and provided ways of enabling those who are visually impaired to access the proposals and to respond. The fact that the Council did not specifically write to the two groups mentioned does not mean that there has been a breach of the Equality Act 2010.</p> <p>If you think that the groups you refer to would like to be on local plan database please just ask them to contact Steve Barton, Strategic Planning Manager (<a href="mailto:bartons@ealing.gov.uk">bartons@ealing.gov.uk</a>) and this will be arranged.</p>
When will the uplift in payments from Ealing Council to families hosting Ukrainian refuges, as announced at Full Council in	Cllr Julian Gallant	Lynne Duvall/ Darren Henaghan	Cllr Aysha Raza	Payments were sent on February 23 <sup>rd</sup> 2023.

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December, finally be paid out?				
If the Barclays Sports Ground becomes a development site, as proposed in the Local Plan, can the Portfolio Holder confirm that development would only take place on the current hard standing?	Cllr Fabio Conti	Steve Barton/ Sandra Fryer	Cllr Shital Manro	Yes, this is what is being proposed.
Why is Ealing 26th out of the 33 London Boroughs on Sustain's Beyond the Food Bank league table and what is the portfolio holder doing to address this?	Cllr Jon Ball	Alison Reynolds/ Emily Hill Louisa MacDonald	Cllr Bassam Mahfouz / Cllr Jasbir Anand	<p>We don't believe that, in the modern day, working families should have to rely on foodbanks in order to sustain themselves, a belief underpinned by our pledges to deliver good, well-paid jobs and tackle inequality in our borough.</p> <p>We are working to determine the precise content of the response to this survey which has contributed to the assessment and ranking of Ealing Council compared to other London Boroughs. We don't believe this survey fully takes into account the work the council is undertaking to address food poverty across the borough, especially the wrap around support that the council offers rather than meal to meal support.</p> <p>Below is a list of the programmes the council provides to address food poverty in the borough:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Household Support Fund</u></li> </ul>

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Local Welfare Assistance Scheme</u></li> <li>• Voluntary Sector Funding (via HSF)</li> <li>• <u>Council Tax Support Scheme</u> (council has increased the threshold for non-protected groups from 75% to 80%)</li> <li>• <u>Discretionary Housing Payment Scheme</u> (100% of the budget was spent in 2022/23 and the council has topped this fund up with an additional £170 - 200k)</li> <li>• <u>Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme</u></li> <li>• Community Hubs</li> </ul> <p>The Council's cost of living team is also working to ensure that organisations offering food support across the borough are listed on the Community Support Directory so that residents can easily locate support close to their home.</p> <p>In addition to this, we have been providing direct financial and in-kind support to the Ealing Food Bank during the most challenging times of COVID lockdown, when the government allocated no financial support to charities, we provided funding. We also provided additional payments in subsequent periods of need. Furthermore, we have regularly used our Household Support Fund to provide financial support to those tackling food poverty across the borough and indeed our latest set of proposals for 2023-24 seeks to continue to do so.</p>
Which schools or council buildings in Ealing have Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete	Cllr Jon Ball	Tamara Quinn/ Carolyn Fair/ Ian Smith	Cllr Shital Manro	No information is held on the presence (or otherwise) or Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) in council properties which are not schools.

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<p>in their construction?</p>				<p>In relation to schools, the council has followed the guidance issued by the Department for Education in December 2022 which was aimed specifically at schools constructed between the mid-1950s and the mid-1990s, when RAAC was commonly used in construction. For the relevant schools, the council has therefore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conducted documentary checks for school buildings where the Local Authority is the responsible body which found no indication that RAAC is present.</li> <li>- Undertaken visual inspections of those schools, which found no indication that RAAC is present.</li> <li>- Made contact with those schools where the Local Authority is not the responsible body to seek assurance that appropriate measures are being taken.</li> </ul>
<p>Has LBE applied under the Local Authority Housing Fund to buy housing for refugees, which can be used as general social stock after 3 years if desired?</p>	<p>Cllr Jon Ball</p>	<p>Lynne Duvall/ Darren Henaghan</p>	<p>Cllr Shital Manro</p>	<p>The GLA is responsible for the administration and allocation of the Local Authority Housing Fund in London.</p> <p>The GLA has provisionally been allocated capital grant funding to support the delivery of 600 homes in London by the end of the financial year 2023-24.</p> <p>The fund will be available to London boroughs and housing associations to acquire homes for those who are homeless, at risk of homelessness or who live in unsuitable Temporary Accommodation (including bridging accommodation) and who are also on a Ukrainian or Afghan resettlement scheme.</p> <p>Following the confirmation of London's funding settlement, the GLA will publish a prospectus for London in early spring. This will set out specific guidance for London, and the process for submitting a bid for funding.</p>

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				<p>The GLA is responsible for confirming London’s capital allocation. DLHUC will confirm by the end of March 2023 if any additional funding is available to London local authorities following a reallocations process as set out in their prospectus.</p>
<p>If an applicant agrees to a delay in a planning application being determined and the target determination time is passed, does it count as late for the purposes of the targets?</p>	<p>Cllr Jon Ball</p>	<p>Nigel McCurdy/ Sandra Fryer</p>	<p>Cllr Shital Manro</p>	<p>Agreement to extend the time for determination can be made for applications that would normally be determined with 8, 13 or 16 weeks. For some proposals, when pre-application engagement has not happened or when unforeseen issues or the need for amendment arise through the course of considering the application, there can be good reasons why the application will take longer to determine and the s106 to complete. The interests of neither the applicant, the council nor the wider economy are served by councils prematurely refusing permission for an application just because the statutory determination threshold is approaching. In most case additional time will provide an opportunity for matter to be resolved positively so that a proposal can be recommended for consent.</p> <p>The extension of time date agreed will be measured against for PS2 returns, provided the applications are then determined with the agreed time, the application will be counted positively for the purposes of the performance management of the local planning authority. If the extension of time agreed date cannot be met, if agreed by all parties, a new target date can be set. But if the agreed target date passes and there has not been agreement for a new target date, then the decision made would be recorded as a late for the purposes of the performance target.</p>
<p>Does the council partner with any organisation to</p>	<p>Cllr Jon Ball</p>	<p>Earl Mckenzie/</p>	<p>Cllr Deirdre Costigan</p>	<p>We now provide a reuse service for laptops and tablets at Greenford Recycling Centre. Laptops and tablets are repaired by the Fixing Factory as part of our work with West London Waste</p>

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<p>attempt to repair and reuse electrical items left at Greenford Recycling Centre or are they purely recycled?</p>		<p>Darren Henaghan</p>		<p>Authority. Refurbished laptops have been donated to residents in need, including refugees and asylum seekers.</p> <p>Electrical items are sent to a reprocessing site in Kent where the electricals are broken down into smaller components to be recycled. Screens are recycled for their glass and the internal components are broken up and recycled separately.</p> <p>We have also partnered with TRAIID to provide free home collections of unwanted small electrical waste items, as long as residents also have at least one bag of unwanted clothes, shoes and textiles for collection.</p> <p>As stated on our website, the textiles collected from textile banks and from your blue wheelie bin are taken away and sorted, according to their condition, into different grades. They are either then sent to be reused or recycled into different products.</p>
<p>Are occupational therapy assessments done in person, in a person's home, or conducted over the phone and is this service outsourced or conducted in-house by the Council?</p>	<p>Cllr Athena Zissimos</p>	<p>Denise Manu/ Kerry Stevens</p>	<p>Cllr Josh Blacker</p>	<p>During the pandemic there was a shift to completing assessments over the telephone where possible due to the restrictions that were in place on visiting people in the community. These were especially important for vulnerable adults who were at greater risk from Coronavirus.</p> <p>Information about current arrangements can be found on the Council's website at: <a href="#">Occupational therapy   Occupational therapy   Ealing Council</a></p> <p>The Occupational Therapy service is an internal Council service however the service does on occasion use external partners to provide additional capacity as required.</p>



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<p>What is the statutory time it takes from a request for an occupational therapy assessment, and it being carried out and if there is no statutory time scale, what is the average time it takes for the Council to make an assessment?</p>	<p>Cllr Athena Zissimos</p>	<p>Denise Manu/ Kerry Stevens</p>	<p>Cllr Josh Blacker</p>	<p>There is no statutory framework for the completion of occupational therapy assessment. There are however Council targets for average waiting times for contacts 19 days against a target of 28 days.</p> <p>The current performance for completion of generic assessment is 7 days from the date of allocation. Following which recommendations are made and services commissioned.</p>
<p>We had the commitment of a previous portfolio holder a few years ago and the commitment of the lead officer for this area who stated at the end of last year:</p> <p>“As for speeding, we can always add Southfields Road to our list where we monitor speeds</p>	<p>Cllr Gary Malcolm</p>	<p>Gina Cole/ Darren Henaghan</p>	<p>Cllr Deirdre Costigan</p>	<p>Speed and traffic volume monitoring is planned to be carried out as promised. Surveys are organised during Spring or Autumn, avoiding extremes of weather and school holidays, to best match ‘normal’ traffic conditions. The Southfield Road survey is confirmed for this Spring, along with other streets across the borough.</p> <p>In the summer, once the results are collated, officers will assess the results alongside resident feedback, in order to make an informed decision as to whether or not there is a speeding problem that needs further intervention.</p> <p>If further intervention is deemed necessary, an engagement process with residents and Ward Councillors will commence on</p>

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<p>following complaints from residents. We will arrange for the speed surveys to be carried out in the new year and report back soon after what the data reveals. This would be our first priority. Also, I note that we have a kerb build-out at the park entrance near St Alban's Ave and St. Peter's church. I think this could be upgraded to a zebra with adequate sightlines if the speeds and pedestrian activity meets the criteria."</p> <p>However, since then no response so can you please ensure that ward councillors and residents in the vicinity are</p>				<p>the options for the site, and funding would be sought from TfL's Cycling Network or Safety Team.</p>
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consulted about a possible crossing / raise kerb to make it safer to walk from Southfield Rec from Southfield Road?				
What is the amount paid out in insurance claims over the past three years for damage caused to property by the roots of Council owned trees causing subsidence?	Cllr Andrew Steed	Tony Singh/ Emily Hill	Cllr Steve Donnelly	The following figures include claimant costs: 2020 – £118,808 2021 – £42,220 2022 – £29,988
What is the amount paid out in insurance claims over the past three years due to pavement trip hazards causing injury to residents?	Cllr Andrew Steed	Tony Singh/ Emily Hill	Cllr Steve Donnelly	The following figures include claimant costs: 2020 – £163,155 2021 – £125,313 2022 – £102,439