

Croydon Council

For General Release

REPORT TO:	COUNCIL 15 July 2014
AGENDA ITEM NO:	13
SUBJECT:	BUSINESS REPORT OF THE LEADER INCORPORATING COUNCILLORS' WRITTEN QUESTIONS TO THE LEADER AND CABINET MEMBERS
LEAD OFFICER:	Julie Belvir, Director of Democratic and Legal Services
WARDS:	ALL
CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT: The Business Report of the Leader and Cabinet is prepared in accordance with the Council Procedure Rules at Part 4A of the Constitution.	

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Council is asked to:

1. Note the business report of the Leader and Cabinet;
2. Approve the Cabinet recommendations set out in the Leaders Business Report
 - **Community Safety Strategy for Croydon 2014-17**; and
3. Note the rotation of the 'batting order' for cabinet members questions prepared by officers but attached as an appendix to the business report and Party Chief Whips to discuss any alternative suggestions for 2014/15 Municipal year with the Director of Democratic and Legal Services(Appendix 2 and 3.)

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Business Report of the Leader and Cabinet comprises a summary of matters of business formally undertaken by the Leader and Cabinet since the last ordinary meeting of the Council. .
- 2.2 The Constitution also permits written questions to Cabinet Members during consideration of the Business Report.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Part 4A of the Constitution allows the Leader and the Cabinet to present to Council a report summarising the business it has undertaken since the last ordinary Council meeting. Cabinet is also required to include any recommendations that it has made to Council within that report.

- 3.2 In addition to oral questions on the content of the report, Members are also permitted to submit written questions on any relevant matter during consideration of the report.
- 3.3 No more than 20 minutes shall be allocated to questions to the Leader of the Council (including up to 4 minutes for announcements) and no more than 10 minutes shall be allocated to questions to any other individual Cabinet Member (including up to 2 minutes each for announcements). There is a strict guillotine of 10pm for the Council meeting as a whole. At that time the business report and written replies shall be taken as read and moved en bloc with any recommendations not deferred for debate put immediately to the vote.
- 3.4 Oral questions on matters included in the business report are limited to two per Councillor on any item contained within the report. Cabinet Members and the Councillor that seconds the report are not permitted to ask any questions.
- 3.5 Written questions on any other relevant matter are limited to three per Councillor. A Councillor may ask two supplementary questions arising from the reply given to a question they have submitted but shall do so only if called by the Chair.
- 3.6 The order in which the report shall be laid out, and that questions will be taken, is as follows:
- i) The Leader of the Council; and
 - ii) Cabinet Members (order rotated for each meeting).
- 3.7 The rotation order for this meeting and the ordinary meetings of the Council for the remainder of the Municipal year: are attached as appendix 2 and 3

4. BUSINESS REPORT

- 4.1 The business report is attached at appendix 1.

5. WRITTEN QUESTIONS

- 5.1 Copies of all written questions and their draft replies, which may be subject to oral amendment, shall be circulated to all Councillors at the beginning of the meeting.
- 5.2 A Councillor may ask two supplementary questions arising from the reply given to a question they have submitted but shall do so only if called by the Chair.

CONTACT OFFICER: Solomon Agutu, Head of Democratic Services and Scrutiny, x62920.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: None

**REPORT FROM THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL
COUNCILLOR TONY NEWMAN**

As all Members will be aware, this new Labour administration has been exceptionally busy since taking office on 3rd June following our successful election on 22nd May 2014. We thank the people of the Borough for putting their trust in us.

During that time I have asked my Cabinet colleagues to focus on delivering Labour's ambitious vision for Croydon, which explains why there isn't a full report from each Cabinet Member available in time for this meeting. Normal service will of course be resumed at the October Council meeting.

I'm very pleased to report that at the Cabinet meeting on 30 June we made an excellent start on delivering the commitments we made to the people of Croydon in our manifesto 'Ambitious for Croydon'.



I would like to start by thanking Councillor Stuart Collins for getting the '**Don't Mess with Croydon**' campaign off to such a quick start. This is a wide ranging campaign to clean up our previously neglected streets. In addition to quicker clearing of fly tips by our three new fly tip squads, the campaign will focus on taking stronger action against the small minority of people that cause the mess. We are also making it much easier for local communities to play a part in keeping their neighbourhoods clean. We have also made it easier for people to report fly tips and we are recruiting community champions to play a lead role in a series of community pride clean ups. Councillor Collins gave an excellent presentation to the Cabinet and a copy of the slides is appended to this report. The scheme will also help residents who tell us that their streets are blighted by poorly managed properties.

Another key part of the 'Don't Mess with Croydon' campaign is our **new landlord licensing scheme**. Councillor Butler has begun work on delivering on our commitment to crack down on the small number of rogue and criminal landlords in the Borough. People across the Borough have told us that this is a problem and we know that complaints regarding private landlords had more than doubled over the past two years. By introducing a new licensing scheme for private sector landlords we are helping to improve the number of decent homes available for private tenants and giving accreditation to the vast majority of landlords that do a good job for their tenants.

During the election we also heard from a great deal of residents about the inequalities and barriers to opportunity that still exist across Croydon today. That is why I have also launched a **Fairness Commission for Croydon** that will look at how our local policies in areas such as health and well-being, community safety, social care, employment, housing and investment can all be improved to give a greater equality of opportunity to all residents. The Bishop

of Croydon has agreed to be a member of the commission, which really underlines just how important this piece of work is to our Borough.

Over the last few months we have also been asked by many residents for the chance to develop **Playstreet** schemes in their local areas. The Labour group made this a clear manifesto commitment and I'm delighted to report that Councillor Kathy Bee led a report that gives local communities the chance to lead on closing some of their streets for a fixed period of time. This allows adults and children to use the space for safe play. I encourage anyone who would like to do this in their area to contact us right away.

The Cabinet also received a presentation from Councillor Mark Watson that accompanied the new **Community Safety Strategy** for Croydon. Councillor Watson highlighted the issue of domestic violence in the Borough and a campaign to raise awareness of this issue has recently been launched. Councillor Watson also announced that he has written to the Home Secretary seeking urgent talks on how public agencies can work together better to prevent domestic violence. A copy of his presentation to Cabinet is also appended to this report.

The full Cabinet papers can be accessed online at <https://secure.croydon.gov.uk/akscroydon/users/public/admin/kabmenu.pl?cmte=CAB> for anyone wishing to read them. I'm absolutely delighted to say that the whole meeting was webcast. We had in excess of 100 people viewing the meeting live and many more have streamed the video after the meeting. This Labour administration is absolutely committed to being more honest and open in how we do our business and this commitment was reinforced by details of all recent contracts worth over £500,000 being included in the Cabinet papers. This administration will stick to that commitment at all future Cabinet meetings.

I'm writing this report in advance of our next Cabinet meeting on 14 July. To that end I can't say that I know what will be decided, but I can say that the Cabinet will be continuing to deliver on our ambitions for Croydon. Your Cabinet Members are working hard to get a range of further essential reports ready in time for that meeting.

Councillor Simon Hall is busy reviewing the Council's finances and has got the process for setting next year's **budget** underway. He is also preparing a report that recommends that the Council adopts the **London Living Wage**, making sure that not only directly employed staff, but also our contractors' staff all receive a fair wage in keeping with the real cost of living in London. Councillor Hall will also be bringing the **mid-year financial review**, which gives us the first opportunity to fulfil our commitment of publishing an open and honest account of the **CCURV finances**. If that wasn't enough, he has also prepared reports recommending plans to **open the town hall** up to Croydon residents and community groups and highlighting new ways in which the council will be more **open and transparent**.

Councillor Flemming has already taken a report through Cabinet to create a **Schools Mutual**. This is a jointly-owned new company, owned by the council and local schools, that will help to raise local educational standards. Councillor

Flemming is also preparing a Cabinet report that will recommend plans for delivering more good quality **school places** in the areas that they are needed most.

Councillor Letts has begun her new role by getting out and speaking to the businesses and industry that will help create jobs and drive growth across Croydon for years to come. She has begun discussions with representatives of **Croydon Tech City** to identify how the Council can help small tech business to rapidly grow in the heart of our city. Councillor Letts is also putting the final touches on a Cabinet report recommending a new **growth plan**, not only for the city centre but also for each of our district centres.

It has been a long time since culture in Croydon made the headlines for the right reasons, but Councillor Godfrey has started to change all that. Having begun positive discussions with the **Fairfield Halls**, a report recommending initial plans for how we refresh this key cultural asset will be ready for September Cabinet. Councillor Godfrey has also held an open seminar on 8 July, where this Labour Council has begun to listen to local residents and groups again on how we can make Croydon's cultural offer central to our ambitious plans for the Borough.

In addition to the new **Landlord Licensing Scheme**, Councillor Butler is pressing ahead with the drive to increase the supply of housing in Croydon. A report to the July Cabinet will recommend a range of measures to bring more **empty properties** back into use to help reduce the shortage of housing in many communities.

Finally, Councillor Woodley has got to grips with health and adult social care in no time at all. She has worked with the Director of **Public Health** on his annual report, which will highlight the challenge we face in reducing health inequalities across this borough. Councillor Woodley has begun the review of services that are commissioned for some of Croydon's most vulnerable people and has recently been working on the new provision for **Drug and Alcohol Engagement, Treatment and Recovery Service for Adults and Young People**. Again, it gives me great pleasure to say that this contract will now be **London Living Wage** compliant and in addition to improving these services, we are making sure that the valuable people that provide them get a fair wage for their committed work.

So as you can see, our first two Cabinet agendas are full of the policies that we know Croydon residents and businesses asked for. We are cleaning up this Borough, opening up the Council and working hard to deliver the decent jobs and homes that are needed across our communities. A Labour Croydon is all about creating opportunities and being ambitious.

I'm looking forward to reporting to you again on even more much needed progress being delivered at the next Council meeting in October, in the meantime Cabinet colleagues and I would be very happy to answer your questions.

METHODOLOGY OF ROTATION OF CABINET MEMBERS
July 2014 – May 2014 for Council Agenda Item:

Leader	LE	Leader	Cllr Tony Newman
Portfolio 1	H&R	Deputy Leader – Homes and Regeneration	Cllr Alison Butler
Portfolio 2	C&G	Deputy Leader – Clean and Green	Cllr Stuart Collins
Portfolio 3	F&T	Finance and Treasury	Cllr Simon Hall
Portfolio 4	P&C	People and Communities	Cllr Louisa Woodley
Portfolio 5	T&E	Transport and Environment	Cllr Kathy Bee
Portfolio 6	CFL	Children Families and Learning	Alisa Flemming
Portfolio 7	ED	Economic Development	Toni Letts
Portfolio 8	S&J	Safety and Justice	Cllr Mark Watson
Portfolio 9	CL&S	Culture Leisure and Sport	Cllr Tim Godfrey

To ensure portfolios are fairly rotated the following order has been devised. The order of the Council Tax meeting ensures that the Leader and the Cabinet member for Finance and Treasury are high on the order.

15 Jul 14	06 Oct 14	01 Dec 14	26 Jan 15	23 Feb 15 COUNCIL TAX (Questions on Council Tax/Budget only)	20 Apr 15	18 May 15 ANNUAL COUNCIL (No questions)	The following limits apply with a meeting guillotine of 10.00pm. Please note the statement time is included in the overall time for questions.	
							Questions	Announcements
LE	LE	LE	LE	LE	LE	-	Max 20 mins	Max 4 mins
1	9	4	7	3	6	-	Max 10 mins	Max 2 mins
2	7	5	3	1	9	-	Max 10 mins	Max 2 mins
3	8	6	2	7	5	-	Max 10 mins	Max 2 mins
4	5	7	4	9	8	-	Max 10 mins	Max 2 mins
5	6	3	1	2	7	-	Max 10 mins	Max 2 mins
6	4	9	5	8	2	-	Max 10 mins	Max 2 mins
7	3	1	6	4	3	-	Max 10 mins	Max 2 mins
8	1	2	9	5	4	-	Max 10 mins	Max 2 mins
9	2	3	8	6	1	-	Max 10 mins	Max 2 mins

July 2014

	Councillor	Cabinet Portfolio
	Tony Newman	Leader of the Council
1	Alison Butler	Deputy Leader (Statutory) and Cabinet Member for Homes and Regeneration
2	Stuart Collins	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Clean Green Croydon
3	Simon Hall	Cabinet Member for Finance and Treasury
4	Louisa Woodley	Cabinet Member for Safety and Justice
5	Kathy Bee	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Clean Green Croydon
6	Alisa Fleming	Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Learning
7	Toni Letts	Cabinet Member for Economic Development
8	Mark Watson	Cabinet Member for Safety and Justice
9	Tim Godfrey	Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport

October 2014

	Councillor	Cabinet Portfolio
	Tony Newman	Leader of the Council
9	Tim Godfrey	Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport
7	Toni Letts	Cabinet Member for Economic Development
8	Mark Watson	Cabinet Member for Safety and Justice
5	Kathy Bee	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Clean Green Croydon
6	Alisa Fleming	Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Learning
4	Louisa Woodley	Cabinet Member for Safety and Justice
3	Simon Hall	Cabinet Member for Finance and Treasury
1	Alison Butler	Deputy Leader (Statutory) and Cabinet Member for Homes and Regeneration
2	Stuart Collins	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Clean Green Croydon

December 2014

	Councillor	Cabinet Portfolio
	Tony Newman	Leader of the Council
4	Louisa Woodley	Cabinet Member for Safety and Justice
5	Kathy Bee	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Clean Green Croydon
6	Alisa Fleming	Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Learning

7	Toni Letts	Cabinet Member for Economic Development
8	Mark Watson	Cabinet Member for Safety and Justice
9	Tim Godfrey	Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport
1	Alison Butler	Deputy Leader (Statutory) and Cabinet Member for Homes and Regeneration
2	Stuart Collins	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Clean Green Croydon
	Simon Hall	Cabinet Member for Finance and Treasury

January 2015

	Councillor	Cabinet Portfolio
	Tony Newman	Leader of the Council
7	Toni Letts	Cabinet Member for Economic Development
3	Simon Hall	Cabinet Member for Finance and Treasury
2	Stuart Collins	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Clean Green Croydon
4	Louisa Woodley	Cabinet Member for Safety and Justice
1	Alison Butler	Deputy Leader (Statutory) and Cabinet Member for Homes and Regeneration
5	Kathy Bee	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Clean Green Croydon
6	Alisa Fleming	Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Learning
9	Tim Godfrey	Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport
8	Mark Watson	Cabinet Member for Safety and Justice

February (Council Tax) 2015

	Councillor	Cabinet Portfolio
	Tony Newman	
3	Simon Hall	Cabinet Member for Finance and Treasury
1	Alison Butler	Deputy Leader (Statutory) and Cabinet Member for Homes and Regeneration
7	Toni Letts	Cabinet Member for Economic Development
9	Tim Godfrey	Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport
2	Stuart Collins	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Clean Green Croydon
8	Mark Watson	Cabinet Member for Safety and Justice
4	Louisa Woodley	Cabinet Member for Safety and Justice
5	Kathy Bee	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Clean Green Croydon
6	Alisa Fleming	Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Learning

April 2015

	Councillor	Cabinet Portfolio
	Tony Newman	Leader of the Council
6	Alisa Fleming	Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Learning
9	Tim Godfrey	Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport
5	Kathy Bee	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Clean Green Croydon
8	Mark Watson	Cabinet Member for Safety and Justice
7	Toni Letts	Cabinet Member for Economic Development
2	Stuart Collins	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Clean Green Croydon
3	Simon Hall	Cabinet Member for Finance and Treasury
4	Louisa Woodley	Cabinet Member for Safety and Justice
1	Alison Butler	Deputy Leader (Statutory) and Cabinet Member for Homes and Regeneration