

# Croydon Council

For General Release

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>COUNCIL</b> <b>6 October 2014</b>
<b>AGENDA ITEM NO:</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>BUSINESS REPORT OF THE LEADER INCORPORATING COUNCILLORS' WRITTEN QUESTIONS TO THE LEADER AND CABINET MEMBERS</b>
<b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>	<b>Julie Belvir, Director of Democratic and Legal Services</b>
<b>WARDS:</b>	<b>ALL</b>
<b>CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT:</b> 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. 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 is attached as appendix 2.

#### **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.

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

**BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:** None

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

Since the last meeting of the Council on 15 July, we have all witnessed one of the defining moments of our country's history. On 18 September, the people of Scotland voted on whether to remain part of the United Kingdom or to become an independent country.

What transpired during the course of the debate over Scottish independence was that what the majority of people wanted was greater devolution of decision making powers to Scotland. This desire for greater devolution of powers to local areas is one echoed across local government and very strongly here in Croydon.

At the Cabinet meeting on 15 September, assisted by Councillor Hall, I brought a report that sought a fairer share of funding for Croydon and greater devolution of powers from Westminster to help deliver a sustainable future for local government.

I'm pleased to report that the Shadow Minister for Communities and Local Government, Hilary Benn MP, attended the Cabinet meeting to speak to this item and outlined plans for how a Labour Government would work with local Councils to deliver more efficient services and restore many decision making responsibilities back to local government. This was a very powerful talk and it gives me great confidence that our views in Croydon chime so strongly with those of the Shadow Minister.

In the interests of balance, I should say that the current Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Eric Pickles MP, was also invited to attend the Cabinet meeting but unfortunately was not able to attend.

Elsewhere on the Cabinet agenda on 15 September, we brought forward several items that are key to the delivery of our ambitious plans for Croydon. Perhaps most importantly, we agreed proposals to increase the minimum level of affordable housing to be built as part of new developments to 30%. We know that demand for housing in Croydon is rapidly increasing while at the same time we have inherited a significant homelessness problem. By increasing the amount of affordable housing that developers are required to include in their developments, we are able to secure additional housing for local people and help reduce homelessness.

The need for housing growth is as clear as the need for cultural growth in the Borough. At the last Cabinet meeting we also brought forward plans to develop a cultural quarter in the centre of Croydon. The report highlighted early investment that we have made to begin the rejuvenation of Fairfield Halls and wider ambitions to develop a significant cultural quarter for Croydon.

The Cabinet also considered the annual reports of both the Children's and Adult's Safeguarding Boards. Both of these boards are chaired by people

independent of the Council and I know that Members from both sides of the Council take these matters exceptionally seriously. The reports gave a strong flavour of the hard work undertaken across agencies and service providers to ensure that the most vulnerable people in Croydon are protected from neglect and harm. While there will never be any complacency, I do take this opportunity to place my thanks on record to the many people that go the extra mile to ensure that we keep everyone safe.

One other matter from the 15<sup>th</sup> September Cabinet that I would draw to your attention was the award of a joint contract framework for Health and Social Care Services. This report was ground breaking for two reasons. Firstly, we have committed to requiring social care providers that we contract to pay all of their staff the London Living Wage as a minimum. Secondly, the joint award of this contract framework between the Council and the Clinical Commissioning Group is a big step in the right direction for the integration of Health and Social Care Services.

As I write this report, the Cabinet is also looking forward to its meeting on 20 October, where it will be considering several reports that will deliver more of our Ambitious plans for Croydon.

A new Housing Delivery Vehicle will be created to help deliver more affordable housing and tackle homelessness; our detailed Growth plan for our town and district centres will be launched; plans to integrate health and social care for people over 65 will be considered; and we will see a range of projects to improve the local transport infrastructure.

The new administration's 100<sup>th</sup> day in office was marked on 12<sup>th</sup> September. In that time, we have delivered a strong and ambitious agenda for Croydon that will clean up our streets, help deliver decent and affordable homes in the private sector and creating jobs and economic growth across Croydon. I'm very proud of the work that this new administration has undertaken so far and we will continue to ensure that a Labour Croydon continues to be both fair and ambitious for all.

Cabinet papers can be viewed in full on the website - <https://secure.croydon.gov.uk/akscroydon/users/public/admin/kabmenu.pl?cmte=CAB>.

## October 2014

	<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Cabinet Portfolio</b>
	Tony Newman	Leader of the Council
9	Timothy 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	Cabinet Member for Transport & Environment
6	Alisa Fleming	Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Learning
4	Louisa Woodley	Cabinet Member for Communities and People
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

	<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Cabinet Portfolio</b>
	Tony Newman	Leader of the Council
4	Louisa Woodley	Cabinet Member for Communities and People
5	Kathy Bee	Cabinet Member for Transport & Environment
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	Timothy 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
3	Simon Hall	Cabinet Member for Finance and Treasury

## January 2015

	<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Cabinet Portfolio</b>
	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 Communities and People
1	Alison Butler	Deputy Leader (Statutory) and Cabinet Member for Homes and Regeneration
5	Kathy Bee	Cabinet Member for Transport & Environment
6	Alisa Fleming	Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Learning
9	Timothy Godfrey	Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport
8	Mark Watson	Cabinet Member for Safety and Justice

## February (Council Tax) 2015

	<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Cabinet Portfolio</b>
	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	Timothy 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 Communities and People
5	Kathy Bee	Cabinet Member for Transport & Environment
6	Alisa Fleming	Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Learning

**April 2015**

	<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Cabinet Portfolio</b>
	Tony Newman	Leader of the Council
6	Alisa Fleming	Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Learning
9	Timothy Godfrey	Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport
5	Kathy Bee	Cabinet Member for Transport & Environment
8	Mark Watson	Cabinet Member for Safety and Justice
7	Toni Letts	Cabinet Member for Economic Development
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