

COUNCIL MEETING: MONDAY 7 DECEMBER 2015**WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Question Number	Question asked by Councillor:	Subject
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL – Councillor Tony Newman		
CQ476	Pollard T	Fairfield Halls
CQ477	Pollard T	Universal Credit recipients
CQ497	Creatura	Cabinet meeting
CQ503	Thomas	Union reps
CQ505	Hale	Fairfield Halls
CQ506	Hale	Fairfield Halls
CQ509	Pelling	Leaders Diary
CQ511	Audsley	Council grants
CQ515	Henson	Fairness Commission
CQ527	Jewitt	Funds for regeneration
CQ533	Wood	Tax cuts
CQ535	Khan S	Government cuts
CQ536	Khan S	Riesco funds
CQ537	Khan S	Impact of cuts
CQ538	Benn	Remembrance Service
CQ539	Benn	Best practice borough
CQ544	Henson	Fairfield Halls
CQ545	Lewis	Unaccompanied asylum seeking children
CABINET MEMBER FOR FAMILIES, HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE – Councillor Louisa Woodley		
CQ460	Mead, D	Bed & Breakfast
CQ472	Hopley	Croydon Care Solutions
CQ473	Hopley	Croydon Care Solutions
CQ474	Hopley	Croydon Care Solutions
CQ484	Stranack	Outcome based commissioning
CQ486	Mead, M	Croydon Care Solutions Ltd.
CQ487	Mead, M	Croydon Care Solutions Ltd
CQ488	Mead, M	Croydon Care Solutions Ltd
CQ522	Canning	Tuberculosis cases
CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT & ENVIRONMENT – Councillor Kathy Bee		
CQ453	Thompson	20mph
CQ491	Mohan	Parking Charges

Question Number	Question asked by Councillor:	Subject
CQ492	Mohan	20 mph
CQ500	Wright	Woodplace Lane -20mph
CQ501	Thomas	Free parking
CQ510	Pelling	Tramlink
CQ514	Mann	Low carbon future
CQ517	Shahul-Hameed	parking charges
CQ528	Kyeremeh	Flood hoptspots
CQ529	Karen Jewitt	Road repairs
CQ534	Wood	Selhurst Station
CQ542	King	Flood Defence Spending
CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND LEARNING – Councillor Alisa Flemming		
CQ462	Bird	Fairness Commission
CQ463	Bird	Children missing in education
CQ465	Brew	Operation Raptor
CQ469	Gatland	Davidson Primary School
CQ470	Gatland	Serious case reviews
CQ471	Gatland	Croydon PRU inspection
CQ475	Clancy	Coulsdon CALAT
CQ483	Stranack	Fairfield Halls - use by children
CQ485	Stranack	School transport
CQ513	Audsley	London Living Wage - Education
CQ524	Rendle	Improving Outcomes for Children with Autism
CABINET MEMBER FOR ECONOMY & JOBS Councillor Toni Letts		
CQ482	Winborn	JSA
CQ516	Henson	Christmas lights
CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES, SAFETY AND JUSTICE - Councillor Mark Watson		
CQ479	O'Connell	Residents Safety
CQ480	Mohan	Budget savings
CQ481	Shahul-Hameed	Residents Safety
CQ493	Wood	Fairness Commission
CQ519	Lewis	Christmas lights
CQ532	O'Connell	Community policing
CQ546	Mohan	Cuts to policing

Question Number	Question asked by Councillor:	Subject
CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE AND SPORT Councillor Timothy Godfrey		
CQ454	Brew	Fairfield Halls
CQ457	Bashford	Fairfield Halls
CQ489	Pollard , H	Queen Elizabeth Park
CQ507	Hale	Libraries
CQ540	Benn	London Youth Games
DEPUTY LEADER (STATUTORY) AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOMES, REGENERATION AND PLANNING – Councillor Alison Butler		
CQ456	Bashford	Local plan
CQ461	Mead, D	Council Housing supply
CQ464	Bird	Cleaning of flats
CQ466	Neal	Council Homes
CQ467	Neal	Council Housing company
CQ478	Pollard T	Pre application Developments
CQ490	Pollard, H	Local plan
CQ494	Perry	Permitted Development rights
CQ495	Perry	Consented planning applications
CQ496	Perry	Consented planning applications
CQ499	Creatura	Council housing
CQ504	Wright	Local plan
CQ520	Canning	Subway under Croydon flyover
CQ525	Rendle	Developers engagement
CQ541	King	Concord House - play activities
CQ547	Lewis	Housing Bill
DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR CLEAN GREEN CROYDON – Councillor Stuart Collins		
CQ452	Thompson	Veolia performance
CQ458	Bashford	Green Waste
CQ468	Neal	Street cleaning
CQ502	Thomas	Street cleaning
CQ508	Pelling	Fly tipping
CQ518	Shahul-Hameed	Fly tipping
CQ521	Canning	Bin theft
CQ523	Rendle	FPNs
CQ526	Wentworth	Fly tipping
CQ530	Kyeremeh	Fly tipping prosecutions
CQ531	Ali	street cleaning

Question Number	Question asked by Councillor:	Subject
CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND TREASURY – Councillor Simon Hall		
CQ455	Brew	Civic Remembrance Service
CQ459	Mead, D	Pension Payments
CQ498	Creatura	Coulsdon Community Centre
CQ512	Audsley	Cuts to services
CQ543	King	Council savings

CQ476-15 from Councillor Tim Pollard

Councillor Tony Newman

At Cabinet on 20th October I asked you to publicly release the full and unredacted report from Mott MacDonald upon which the council bases its assertion that Fairfield Halls must close for two years during its refurbishment. You said that you would do so and when I pressed for a timescale you said 'sooner rather than later'. Since then a number of excerpts have been given to councillors (but not released publicly as promised), but the page numbering on those clearly indicates that at least twenty pages are missing. Further, there is at least one appendix missing and all financial information in the main cost schedule appendix has been deleted, making it totally useless.

When are you going to make good on your promise to release this important information in full?

Reply

At the last scrutiny meeting you received a substantial level of information and yet still you are unable to support these exciting plans for a new Fairfield Halls and College facility. You have also been offered a detailed briefing which I understand you have chosen not to take up.

Your previous conservative administration committed various acts of cultural vandalism and oversaw years of continued neglect. Now that this Labour administration is putting arts and culture at the heart of the exciting regeneration of our town, all you can do is throw mud from the side lines in the vain hope that some of it sticks.

To be frank Councillor Pollard, it is desperate and sad and I implore you to take more pride in Croydon. Your reputation as Croydon's own Victor Meldrew clearly is well earned.

CQ477-15 **from Councillor Tim Pollard**

Councillor Tony Newman

At Cabinet on 16 November Cabinet Member Cllr Alisa Fleming launched an extraordinary attack on Croydon residents, suggesting that many Universal Credit recipients would be too incompetent to manage a single monthly benefit payment and suggesting that in too many cases this would lead to them spending their benefits at the betting shop. She went on to suggest that they would be unable to budget to pay their rent and this would lead to a rise in evictions. She said "While it would be a nice idea to get one payment a month, there are so many residents within this borough that do not, unfortunately, have the skills and capability to manage their money in such a way that at the end of the month their bills are paid and their children are fed and looked after".

Will you wholeheartedly condemn this extraordinary outburst and assure us that you do not share her belief?

Reply

I will not be taking any lectures from a local leader of a party that has overseen draconian cuts to council services. May I remind you that these cuts affect some of the most vulnerable residents in Croydon.

CQ497-15 **from Councillor Mario Creatura**

Councillor Tony Newman

Can the Leader of the Council please tell me whether he agrees with his senior Cabinet Member, Cllr Flemming, (expressed in Cabinet on 16th November) that benefit claimants can't be trusted with their money and will spend it in betting shops rather than feed their children? I and thousands of Croydon residents find this view very offensive, does Cllr Newman?

Reply

I will not be taking any lectures from a member of the party that has presided over massive cuts to council services that impact on the most vulnerable residents of Croydon.

CQ503-15 **from Councillor Phil Thomas**

Councillor Tony Newman

As you are looking at the Council budget for 2016 / 17 can you confirm the following.....

- a] How many full time Union reps are paid for by the Council ?
- b] How many part time Union reps are paid for by the Council and how many are given time off for Union business?
- c] What is the cost to the Council tax payer of paying for Union reps out of Council funds?

Reply

As Councillor Thomas is aware, I cannot confirm any of the above as the budget for 2016/17 will not be set until February next year.

CQ505-15 **from Councillor Lynne Hale**

Councillor Tony Newman

At the recent Fairfield Scrutiny Meeting we heard that the Council would be committing £30 million to the re-development of Fairfield Halls. Please confirm this sum and provide a full breakdown of how the £30 million will be allocated and spent.

Reply

Thank you for your question and I welcome your much more positive engagement on the exciting plans for both the Fairfield Halls and the new College facility. It is a genuinely pleasant contrast to both your party's leader and some of your opposition colleagues who seem determined to ensure that Croydon is preserved in a 1960s concrete bubble.

Due to the nature of the information being commercially confidential, the details of the scope of works for Fairfield Halls totalling circa £30m were released as a part B document at the recent Scrutiny meeting.

The schedule of works was developed by Mott MacDonald and Rick Mather Architects and includes a range of improvements to the Halls including the Get In, improvements to the Concert Hall, Arnhem Gallery, and Ashcroft Theatre, the Foyer and Box Office experience and importantly ensuring the building can continue into the future by replacing the out of date building services. It will also enable the introduction of new Food and Beverage offers to the north of the building onto College Green and at the front of the building, all of which will help to make the building itself become a destination of choice for people from across South London and beyond.

CQ506-15 **from Councillor Lynne Hale**

Councillor Tony Newman

Please could you advise whether there is any financial risk at all with regard to the Council's plans for the redevelopment of Fairfield and College Green?

Reply

The council has appointed commercial advisors as part of the multi-disciplinary team producing the planning application and they are reviewing the scheme on an ongoing basis to ensure viability, including the cross funding of the Fairfield Halls. This is reviewed on an ongoing basis to ensure that financial risk to the Council is minimised.

The council is continually reviewing all funding and delivery options to finance the scheme to ensure we achieve value for money and minimise risk to the Council.

CQ509-15 **from Councillor Andrew Pelling**

Councillor Tony Newman

One of the merits of the Croydon Labour administration is the number of hours dedicated to the job by leading councillors. Please could the Leader publish his personal highlights of his recent and upcoming diary?

Reply

I couldn't agree more. Being involved in the work of the council, promoting and negotiating for Croydon and, spending time with the residents, organisations and businesses of this borough is a critical role for all councillors and a privilege. As leader of the council I get invited to lots of excellent events and involved in a range of activities. The list below provides some highlights of recent weeks and some of the activity taking place in upcoming weeks.

Meetings in Recent Weeks

Go On Croydon launch event
Home Office Minister – Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children Funding
Develop Croydon Conference
Croydon BID Business Engagement Event
London Councils
West Croydon community meeting
London Property Summit
Heritage Lottery Fund
Croydon Congress – Child Sexual Exploitation
Modern Slavery Conference
Diwali Community Celebration
Croydon Council Staff Awards
Community Land Trust Site Visit
Urgent Care Consultation
Croydon Care Solutions
Director of Public Health Interviews
Enfield Council
Budget Planning Meetings
BBC television and radio interviews

Upcoming Weeks

Arts Council
London First
Croydon Chamber of Commerce
LGA Environment, Economy, Housing & Transport Board
Safeguarding Children Governance
National Union of Teachers
John Ruskin College
Opening of South Norwood Recreation Ground

CQ511-15 **from Councillor Jamie Audsley**

Councillor Tony Newman

Cllr Newman, how are you challenging the Government's austerity programme and the continued cuts to Croydon Council's grant?

Reply

We have been challenging austerity cuts and working closely with Labour's frontbench spokesperson for Local Government, Steve Reed MP. I have written to various government ministers on funding issues including Marcus Jones MP and the Chief Secretary to the Treasury. In addition, colleagues from across all political parties at the both LGA and London Councils continue to fight more resources for local government.

I have personally met James Brokenshire to fight the in-year £4m cut to funding for unaccompanied asylum seeking children. In partnership with a number of other outer London councils we have met the Minister to tackle the inequity of funding across London and just last week, we hosted the Work and Pensions Select Committee to influence their understanding of how austerity is affecting people in the real world.

That said, I have previously been very clear that this Labour administration will not stand by and be victims of the Conservative Government's brutal attack on local services. That is why we have focused on delivering a strong economic and cultural growth agenda, including our Growth Zone deal. We have reinvigorated the partnership with the GLA, attracting new investment into Croydon. We have given our clear and full support to Gatwick. We have become a key partner in the South London Partnership. We have also refocused the Council's services to ensure that every community benefits from Croydon's recovery – whether that is dramatically increasing the number of work experience opportunities, making contracts accessible to small business and the third sector to bid for or developing a new gateway service that puts people and families at the heart of a wraparound support service, rather than the assessment and entitlement regime of old.

We will continue to challenge cuts to public services in Croydon at every opportunity, but at the same time, we will also do everything we can to ensure that no community is left behind in Croydon.

CQ515-15 **from Councillor Maddie Henson**

Councillor Tony Newman

Cllr Newman, thank you for taking a lead on addressing inequality in our borough by commissioning the Fairness and Opportunity Commission. How will you ensure the recommendations from the commission are successfully implemented?

Reply

An excellent question. I was delighted to welcome the Bishop of Croydon at the last cabinet meeting and to hear the ideas presented by the residents of Croydon in the interim report. I look forward to the final report early next year. In light of government cuts, the work of the Commission is even more important.

CQ527-15 **from Councillor Karen Jewitt**

Councillor Tony Newman

The money given to help clean up and transform my ward Thornton Heath's High Street is gratefully received. We had an outstanding meeting of inclusiveness with the local residents recently, standing room only. Can he please keep lobbying for more money from this Government to do this kind of regeneration across the borough?

Reply

Of course, congratulations go to everyone involved in this event which was a fantastic example of people working together and taking pride in their local neighbourhood. Thornton Heath is a vibrant and exciting place and I'm delighted that this Labour administration has been able to secure funding for this regeneration programme.

It is absolutely our plan to deliver regeneration to district centres across the Borough and we are working hard, despite even more draconian funding cuts from the Conservative Government, to deliver this. More details on our plans can be found in the 'Croydon Promise' document, which can be found at either:

<https://secure.croydon.gov.uk/akscroydon/users/public/admin/kabatt.pl?cmte=CAB&meet=29&href=/akscroydon/images/att4293.pdf>

or alternatively I can provide you with a hard copy.

CQ533-15 **from Councillor David Wood**

Councillor Tony Newman

Please could the Leader outline what steps the council is taking to support Croydon residents in mitigating the effects of the pernicious cuts in tax credits for working families brought in by this government?

Reply

While I welcome the Chancellor's massive u-turn, announced in his autumn statement, that tax credit support for working families will not in fact be cut, I remain concerned about the impact the welfare reform and cuts will have on the most vulnerable.

The Conservative government's latest round of cuts includes:

- Benefits freeze - Working age benefits (including tax credits and local housing allowances) will be frozen for four years from 2016/17 to 2019/20. Statutory payments and disability benefits will continue to increase by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) rate. Over 24,000 residents will be affected.
- Household Benefit Cap - The £26,000 cap on the amount of benefit that a household can receive will be reduced to £23,000 in London, though claimants in work will continue to be exempt from the cap. In Croydon 305 households are already capped, and face a further income reduction of £58.31 per week, with 215 facing a significant risk of eviction. 90 of these will require a move to homes outside London and the South East; the remainder will need other interventions to prevent homelessness. 653 households with over 1750 children in Croydon will be affected by the cap for the first time.
- Backdating of housing benefit - Reduced from 6 months to 1 month. Currently residents are able to apply for backdating of their claim if they can demonstrate good cause, i.e. in hospital, experiencing domestic violence. From the 1 April 2016 this will be limited a single month. Last year over 10,000 residents were supported in this way.
- Employment and Support Allowance - From April 2017, new claimants of Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) who are placed in the Work-Related Activity Group will receive the same rate as those claiming Jobseeker's Allowance, alongside additional support to help them take steps back to work. It is estimated just under 300 residents will be affected losing £40 per week.
- Youth obligation for 18 to 21s - from April 2017, jobless 18 to 21s will have to participate in intensive support and after 6 months apply for an apprenticeship or traineeship, gain work-based skills, or go on a work placement. Automatic entitlement to housing benefit for that age group will be abolished. In Croydon 650 single claimants of housing benefit are age 18-21.

- Reduced housing costs for single residents – under current housing benefit regulations, single people over 35 receive a maximum of £152 per week. From April 2017 under universal credit their maximum housing support is limited at £82 per week
- Capped child premium – under means assessed benefits a premium is awarded for every child within a household/household. From April 2017 all new applicants under universal credit will have their assessments limited to 2 children.

Residents in Croydon who are experiencing financial difficulty will be offered support by the council's Gateway and Welfare service.

Our Gateway and Welfare service provides a holistic approach to intervention and work in partnership with households in the borough to ensure that financial stability is achieved. This will involve access to employment or enhanced employment opportunities, maximisation of income through budgeting, working with households to reduce debt and help to access to suitable and affordable housing.

The landlord licencing scheme which was implemented on 1st October will raise standards in the private rented sector and provide Croydon residents with better quality homes. This scheme along with the delivery of 30% of the 418 homes being built on the Taberner House site being affordable will help meet the needs of Croydon's residents.

CQ535-15 **from Councillor Shafi Khan**

Councillor Tony Newman

In reference to your reply to CQ427-15, would the Leader welcome the prime minister as another Tory MP joining our campaign against George Osborne's cuts?

Reply

Councillor Khan, one would laugh it wasn't so serious and affecting so many people's quality of life.

That the Prime Minister has complained to his own local council about cuts to front line services following five years of his own brutal cuts to local authority budgets is almost beyond belief.

We see a similar story with our two local conservative MPs, who happily vote through spending cuts in parliament and then start petitions when it means there are less resources for services in their own constituencies.

On the issue with the Prime Minister, there were many Council Leaders that were shocked to see that he had offered his Cabinet Office staff's support to his own local Council. Here in Croydon I know that both this Labour administration and the previous Conservative administration have struggled to get Ministers to take us seriously on funding issues in many key areas, so it was a genuine shock to see the Prime Minister offering what appears to be special treatment to Oxfordshire County Council. On that basis, I have written to him offering to host his team to take them through the impact of his cuts to local services in Croydon.

CQ536-15 **from Councillor Shafi Khan**

Councillor Tony Newman

Can the Leader tell us how the money received from the sale of Riesco Gallery exhibits, were spent?

Reply

Thank you for your question. The sad answer is that the previous Conservative administration never spent the money they received from their scandalous decision to sell off pieces of the Riesco collection.

While we would rather those pieces had never been sold, what we will do is ensure that the money is reinvested in Croydon's Arts and Culture and, specifically, into the redevelopment programme for Fairfield Halls.

What is clear is that the previous Conservative administration - who not only oversaw the sale of parts of the Riesco collection, but also closed the Warehouse Theatre and David Lean Cinema, had eight years of inaction on the Fairfield Halls and cut the arts budget to the bone - was determined to turn Croydon into a cultural wasteland.

Fortunately, the people of Croydon demanded better and this Labour Administration has ensured that arts and culture are right at the heart of the regeneration of our town and district centres.

Croydon's cultural heritage and vibrant creative talent should be celebrated and I am delighted that this Labour Administration is supporting creative talent from across the Borough to be a pivotal player in the transformation of Croydon.

CQ537-15

from Councillor Shafi Khan

Councillor Tony Newman

Can the leader update us about the impact of welfare reform and benefit cuts inflicted on individuals, families and to the local economy in Croydon?

Reply

The residents of Croydon will be hit by massive £12bn cut in welfare spending over the next four years. These will present major challenges for the Council at a time of increasing demand and hit some of the borough's most vulnerable residents. The Council has put in place a multi-service team to provide holistic support to those in most need and impacted by these pernicious cuts.

Some of the main changes in 2016 – 17 are as follows:

- Benefits freeze - Working age benefits (including tax credits and local housing allowances) will be frozen for four years from 2016/17 to 2019/20. Statutory payments and disability benefits will continue to increase by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) rate. Over 24,000 residents will be affected.
- Household Benefit Cap - The £26,000 cap on the amount of benefit that a household can receive will be reduced to £23,000 in London, though claimants in work will continue to be exempt from the cap. In Croydon 305 households are already capped, and face a further income reduction of £58.31 per week, with 215 facing a significant risk of eviction. 90 of these will require a move to homes outside London and the South East; the remainder will need other interventions to prevent homelessness. 653 households with over 1750 children in Croydon will be affected by the cap for the first time.
- Backdating of housing benefit - Reduced from 6 months to 1 month. Currently residents are able to apply for backdating of their claim if they can demonstrate good cause, i.e. in hospital, experiencing domestic violence. From the 1 April 2016 this will be limited a single month. Last year over 10,000 residents were supported in this way.
- Employment and Support Allowance - From April 2017, new claimants of Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) who are placed in the Work-Related Activity Group will receive the same rate as those claiming Jobseeker's Allowance, alongside additional support to help them take steps back to work. It is estimated just under 300 residents will be affected losing £40 per week.
- Youth obligation for 18 to 21s - from April 2017, jobless 18 to 21s will have to participate in intensive support and after 6 months apply for an apprenticeship or traineeship, gain work-based skills, or go on a work placement. Automatic entitlement to housing benefit for that age group will be abolished. In Croydon 650 single claimants of housing benefit are age 18-21.

- Reduced housing costs for single residents – under current housing benefit regulations, single people over 35 receive a maximum of £152 per week. From April 2017 under universal credit their maximum housing support is limited at £82 per week
- Capped child premium – under means assessed benefits a premium is awarded for every child within a household/household. From April 2017 all new applicants under universal credit will have their assessments limited to 2 children.

In light of the original welfare reform, the Council set up a multi-service team that provided holistic solutions for residents, considering finance, housing, debt management and establishing employment or training for employment. The methodology developed forms part of the Council's new Gateway & Welfare division in the people department. The division focuses on identifying residents in or on the cusp of crisis working with them in establishing long term sustainable solutions, proactively identifies residents at highest risk; those who have defaulted on payment arrangements, have multiple debts to the Council, are living in emergency accommodation but have not claimed housing benefit, or have high levels of rent arrears.

However, further welfare reform will increase the numbers of households where out of borough placement is used. Households will be left with minimal money to pay rent, where this is the case it is key that the Council are able to assist in finding safe, sustainable and affordable solutions with the households. In many cases such accommodation may be a considerable distance from Croydon to meet these criteria.

Residents will receive support to enable successful outcomes to be sustainable: budgeting support will be given to ensure that they can meet their new rent and housing costs including assistance in setting up these new payment arrangement, housing benefit entitlement and Council tax liability will be assessed promptly to avoid overpayments and where residents receive support from adults or children's social care, this will be coordinated.

CQ538-15 **from Councillor Emily Benn**

Councillor Tony Newman

Will the leader join me in thanking all who took part in the Croydon Civic Remembrance Service at the Fairfield Halls? Would he agree it was magnificent to see so many Croydon residents turn out to remember and thank our brave servicemen and women?

And will he also thank the Royal British Legion and all the Armed Forces and Emergency Services for their help in organising the Remembrance Day Service on Tuesday 11th November? And to the representatives from the Council who took part and paid their respects?

Reply

Croydon's Civic Remembrance Service at the Fairfield Halls was an outstanding success due to the effort and contribution of Royal British Legion, the Armed Forces, Emergency Services and council officers. The Service was a real opportunity for residents to say thank you to the borough's brave service men and women for what they have done and continue to do. Our thoughts are with them and their families.

CQ539-15 **from Councillor Emily Benn**

Councillor Tony Newman

Will the leader join me in congratulating all the members of the Croydon Armed Forces Community Covenant Group, following the recognition from the Ministry of Defence that Croydon is a 'Best Practice' borough? And thank the council staff who work tirelessly to make this a reality.

Reply

I would like to thank my colleague and all those involved with the Armed Forces Covenant Group in Croydon which has rightly been recognised for its best practice work to support our brave service men and women to return to civilian life.

CQ544-15 **from Councillor Maddie Henson**

Councillor Tony Newman

This administration has laid out ambitious plans for the future of the Fairfield Halls and Croydon College and the cultural renaissance of Central Croydon. Isn't a fantastic cultural offer important for the regeneration of the town centre and isn't it regrettable that the Tory opposition have opposed this?

Reply

The regeneration of the Fairfield Halls and the new college building are something that this Labour administration is extremely proud to commit to.

The current Fairfield Halls served the 20th century well, but it is no longer in a fit state to serve us for a further 50 years. The building is tired and many performers refuse to play there because of the poor access and backstage facilities. Sadly, the halls can no longer compete with many of London's other cultural venues.

So as a Labour Administration we are proud that we have put together a regeneration plan that will deliver a modernised Fairfield that will be on a par with the transformation seen at the Southbank. We will see the largely desolate 'College Green' turned into a public space open to all and alongside the modernised Fairfield we will build a brand new Croydon college and Institute of Technology & the Arts to offer the very best for Croydon's young people for generations to come. Alongside this there will be new homes and a welcome walkway from East Croydon station.

To those Conservatives that say leave the building as it is, we have made it clear that with its failing infrastructure we would be condemning it to a slow death. To those that say keep it open whilst the modernisation work is undertaken, we have made it clear this would add an additional £4.8 million, money which we simply don't have, to the cost of the regeneration.

CQ545-15 **from Councillor Oliver Lewis**

Councillor Tony Newman

Earlier this year, the Tory Government made an in year cut of £4m to the budget for unaccompanied asylum seeking children. Can the leader update the council on the Government's response to this council's representations to reclaim that money?

Reply

We had a constructive meeting with the Minister and were given assurances to believe that our funding would not be cut.

At the time of writing this response, we are still awaiting formal written confirmation from the Minister.

CQ460-15 from Councillor Dudley Mead

Councillor Louisa Woodley

Referring to my question CQ 364 –15 Council Meeting Monday 19th October 2015, in your answer you acknowledged that you had exceeded the statutory guide lines of 6 weeks by 75 families on the 30th June 2015 and 117 on 30th September 2015. What new short term initiative are you going to implement before Christmas to reduce the 117?

Reply

From the 16/11/2015 we have launched a new service delivery model based on learning from the People Department Gateway programme. This focuses on working with residents in helping them find the right options in the private rented sector, drawing down on the various schemes the council has in place to support customers with rent advance and deposits. We also support residents in budgeting and finding work where appropriate, an approach which increases financial stability, enabling and empowering residents. We have already seen a reduction of 11% in the numbers over 6 weeks, currently standing at 103 families.

Whilst we carry out this work we are also working on increasing supply. The following initiatives will contribute to assisting us tackle this issue.

- Windsor House will be available to provide temporary accommodation by February 2016 – 140 rooms.
- Build on the success of the Landlord Forum, as a result of which we are working with 25 new landlords.
- We are considering how we can repackage our offer to encourage private landlords to let to our customers.
- Through our empty property programme of providing grants to owners of properties which have been empty to bring them back into use, we expect to have 90 long term empty properties turned into much needed homes.
- We are securing accommodation through use of our managing landlords and agents database established through our introduction of the licensing scheme.

CQ472-15 **from Councillor Yvette Hopley**

Councillor Louisa Woodley

Further to the suspension of the board members from Croydon Care Solutions could the cabinet member give me an update on the current position of the company further to the governance and financial review and highlight the trigger points for their actions along with the outcome of any urgent meetings of the board to address these issues.

Reply

Before answering this question it may be helpful to those not familiar with Croydon Care Solutions to briefly set out the company's background.

The driver for the Council's decision to set up CCS as a local authority trading company in 2010 was "... *The need to increase income and to provide service solutions in the most cost efficient way*". After examining a number of options, the Council determined that a LATC was the best vehicle for achieving financial savings and other additional service delivery benefits.

CCS is a private limited liability company wholly owned by the Council which is the sole shareholder. The structure of the company is a small executive, informed by independent advisers, balanced by Council representation.

The above objective remains the primary objective. While CCS is and remains independently governed it is important that the Council as shareholder and effective guarantor of services to the clients of CCS ensures good governance and sound finances.

The question is inaccurate. Only one board member was suspended, by the chair of CCS.

Regarding the financial position of CCS, the view of the board is that the company is currently financially solvent.

The board is working to speedily implement the action plans arising from the recent joint governance review (jointly between the company and the Council as 100% shareholder) and of the independent financial review.

CQ473-15 **from Councillor Yvette Hopley**

Councillor Louisa Woodley

Could the cabinet member please identify any significant changes in the operating model, company dynamic, the financial position or any deficit recharges that may have impacted on the company causing any adverse variance in the financial forecasts?

Reply

Regarding the financial position of CCS, the view of the board is that the company is currently financially solvent.

Strong financial control and governance are important to any organisation. An independent Financial Review was commissioned by CCS from Deloitte to assess the financial position of CCS. The final report for this review was circulated to the CCS Board on 16th November 2015. From this review, a number of recommended actions have been outlined to improve the operating model of CCS.

A CCS Board meeting has been convened for 3rd December 2015 to discuss and agree next steps and action plans to implement the recommendations of the review.

CQ474-15 **from Councillor Yvette Hopley**

Councillor Louisa Woodley

Given the growth and complexity of the company, could the cabinet member outline the important role of the finance director/financial controller. In a company of this size and nature I would expect to see monthly, quarterly and annual reporting systems and analysis for the current and future positions, commercial analysis of trades, bad debts, cash flow and all outturn positions. Internal and external audit would have played a key role along with risk management and analysis. Please could you give me an understanding and assurance that all these processes were in place and highlight any concerns raised in the monitoring process and systems analysis?

Reply

Strong financial control and governance are important to any organisation. An independent Financial Review was commissioned by CCS from Deloitte to assess the financial position of CCS. The final report for this review was circulated to the CCS Board on 16th November 2015. From this review, a number of recommended actions have been outlined to improve the operating model CCS.

A governance review was undertaken jointly between CCS and Croydon Council. The findings of the review were shared with the CCS Board on 16th September 2015.

A CCS Board meeting has been convened for 3rd December 2015 to discuss and agree next steps and action plans to implement the recommendations of the reviews.

CQ484-15 **from Councillor Andy Stranack**

Councillor Louisa Woodley

In April next year the new £2 Billion output based commissioning process for over 65 services will begin. How much money is the Council committing to the contract? Can Cllr. Woodley give Members an update on how the tendering process is progressing?

Reply

The Council's indicative budget at this stage for OBC for Over 65s is C£35m per annum. The Council and CCG commissioners have carried out a Most Capable Provider assessment to appoint the 5 Accountable Provider Alliance members, including the Council's Adult Social Care Services division as the lead for Social Care, who have passed capability assessment 1 and have been in collaborative dialogue with commissioners for the last 8 weeks. The outcomes framework, scope of services, financial modelling and care model as well as the contractual terms and the process for the Alliance developing their preferred Provider Organisational Form is all progressing with the revised Contract Information Pack due to be issued by commissioners to the APA on 2nd December. The APA have submitted their Capability Assessment 2 in relation to the Alliance Memorandum of Understanding between partners and will submit against Capability Assessment 3 on 18th January. If this is passed Commissioners will proceed to recommendation of contract award for April 2016.

CQ486-15 **from Councillor Margaret Mead**

Councillor Louisa Woodley

Can the Cabinet Member please state when she first had concerns over the governance of Croydon Care Solutions Ltd? Presumably auditors gave an unqualified report for Croydon Care Solutions Ltd and its subsidiary companies for the years to March 2014 and 2015. Were there any comments in the letter of representation of note and if there were what actions did the Cabinet Member take? Was the Cabinet Member aware of any sudden on costs or recharges imposed, such as a pension recharge and what did the qualified accountant director on the board do about the situation?

Reply

A governance review was undertaken jointly between CCS and Croydon Council. The findings of the review were shared with me as Cabinet Member and the CCS Board on 16th September 2015. Strong financial control and governance are important to any organisation so further to the findings of that governance review an independent Financial Review was commissioned by CCS from Deloitte to assess the financial position of CCS. The final report for this review was circulated to the CCS Board on 16th November 2015. From this review, a number of recommended actions have been outlined to improve the operating model of CCS.

A CCS Board meeting has been convened for 3rd December 2015 to discuss and agree next steps and action plans to implement the recommendations of the reviews.

No material changes in recharges or pension charges have occurred.

CQ487-15 **from Councillor Margaret Mead**

Councillor Louisa Woodley

When the Managing Director of Croydon Care Solutions Ltd was suspended some three months ago, can the Cabinet Member say who was appointed Interim Managing Director and how were the 200 plus vulnerable clients protected?

Reply

The Deputy Managing Director was immediately asked to depute, by the chair of CCS.

The existing CCS Head of Service (Safeguarding, Progression and Support) was informed by the chair of the managing Director's absence and has assumed the day to day oversight of day activities – a role in which she has continued to be provided with effective support in her role to protect vulnerable clients.

CQ488-15 **from Councillor Margaret Mead**

Councillor Louisa Woodley

Croydon Care Solutions Ltd has over 140 staff, many of whom are experienced and highly skilled. Because of their innovation they were independently recognised by being nominated as finalists for two national awards. Now the Board management has changed, can the Cabinet Member tell me what is the future for the staff under the new structure, how are they being supported at this time of change or are they included in your endless staff reduction programme?

Reply

The Chair of CCS has confirmed that the Board management has not changed. The presence of the Deputy Managing Director and the Head of Service for Safeguarding, Progression and Support has ensured staffing continuity has been maintained. CCS has not made any other significant changes to staffing.

CQ522-15 from Councillor Robert Canning

Councillor Louisa Woodley

How many cases of tuberculosis have been recorded in Croydon in each of the last five years and what steps are being taken to tackle the threat that tuberculosis poses?

Reply

Cases and rates of tuberculosis in Croydon:

The average number of cases of tuberculosis per year in Croydon is 121, the rate per 100,000 population is 33.3.

The TB rate in Croydon remained fairly stable over the last decade at between 30-36 /100,000. Rates varied, however, across the borough.

Cases and rates of tuberculosis in London:

In 2013, 2,985 new TB cases were reported among London residents, a rate of 36 per 100,000 population.

Epidemiology of Tb in Croydon:

Cases were seen in all age groups, although young adults 20 to 49 were the most common group, and rates were highest among males.

The majority of patients were born abroad, most commonly in India followed by Pakistan.

In Croydon, the highest numbers and rates were seen among the Indian population. TB patients resident in Croydon were more often drug resistant compared to the London average.

Steps taken to tackle tuberculosis in Croydon

The Croydon Health Protection Forum identified TB as one of its priorities. The next meeting of the Forum in January 2016 will focus on Tb to discuss how local partners and key agencies can work together to improve diagnosis and treatment of TB.

Croydon CCG is in the process of implementing screening for latent TB, which will bring down active TB cases in the longer term. Croydon meets the public health outcome framework target of 85% completion of treatment.

CQ453-15 **from Councillor James Thompson**

Councillor Kathy Bee

Please could you outline how you will be ensuring there will be better consultation during phases 2 to 5 of the proposed 20mph roll-out? Will these be open to the suggestions of local ward Councillors?

Reply

Local ward councillors were made aware of the consultation exercise for area 1 and would therefore did have the opportunity to make comments and suggestions. During the area 1 consultation a number of issues were identified with the informal consultation exercise. The Council is shortly to resurrect the working group for the 20mph project to discuss what improvements or changes should be made, particularly to improve participation. Going forwards, if local ward Councillors have any suggestions, on any part of the process please contact Mike Barton, Highways Improvement Manager at mike.barton@croydon.gov.uk where these would be gratefully received.

CQ491-15 **from Councillor Vidhi Mohan**

Councillor Kathy Bee

In reply to my question CQ397-15 at the last Council meeting, you said that residents will be informed of the changes to parking charges 'as soon as details have been finalised'. With just over a month to go before these charges are introduced, when will residents actually get to know? Don't you agree that residents need time to prepare for your planned huge increases in parking charges?

Reply

The Council's new Parking Policies will streamline more than 40 existing tariffs covering central Croydon and the borough's district centres into just 12. The proposals will go to the relevant cabinet member later this month for approval and, if this is agreed, the changes will come into effect from 1 February. The current proposals are now live on the Council's website.

CQ492-15 **from Councillor Vidhi Mohan**

Councillor Kathy Bee

Can you please give me an update on your plans to introduce 20mph speed limits across the Borough?

Reply

The informal consultation on the 20mph speed limit for area 1 has now been completed and the Council is currently at the formal public notice stage. Any objections to the public notice and full details on the outcomes from the public consultation exercise will be reported to the Traffic Management Advisory Committee (TMAC) in February 2016.

Assuming this scheme is approved by TMAC, implementation of the 20mph speed limit for area 1 is programmed to take place during the early part of 2016.

Running in parallel, the Council will also be developing its plans for area 2 and I would hope that we will be consulting with local people in this area before the end of this financial year. Areas 3, 4 and 5 will follow in due course and all should have received their informal consultation by the end of 2018.

CQ500-15 **from Councillor Chris Wright**

Councillor Kathy Bee

The Cabinet Member is aware that residents in Woodplace Lane are united in requesting 20mph restriction in their road as soon as possible. They are also willing to consider paying for this installation. Could she therefore please advise me of the cost involved and when this could be implemented?

Reply

Thank you for your question. Both the Leader and I are aware of the issues in Woodplace Lane and I'm delighted that you are supporting the Labour administration's 20mph policy which will make our residential roads significantly safer.

The Leader and the Chair of Coulsdon Residents' Association have recently visited Woodplace Lane to see the issues first hand. At present, consultation for introducing a 20mph speed limit for Woodplace Lane sits within the 5th phase of the programme, with consultation expected to start in late 2017 and implementation in 2018.

However, I welcome the chance to work with you and the local residents to investigate any opportunities that could deliver the scheme for Woodplace Lane sooner.

CQ501-15 **from Councillor Phil Thomas**

Councillor Kathy Bee

At the last local election Labour promised to introduce 1hr free parking. When do you intend to do this?

Reply

The Council's new Parking Policies will streamline more than 40 existing tariffs covering central Croydon and the borough's district centres into just 12. The proposals will go to the relevant cabinet member later this month for approval and if this is agreed, the changes will come into effect from 1 February. The current proposals are now live on the Council's website.

CQ510-15 **from Councillor Andrew Pelling**

Councillor Kathy Bee

What is the view of the authority on the proposed tramlink town centre loop?

Reply

Tramlink is a great asset to Croydon and a key element in supporting Croydon's sustainable growth. It is a great success story, ridership having increased from 18 million passenger journeys when it opened in the year 2000 up to 31 million passenger journeys today – a figure that is expected to double by 2030. The capacity of the town centre loop line is however a major limiting factor on the network. Consequently we see the Dingwall Loop as a pragmatic means of delivering additional capacity and resilience to the tram network. However, we are working closely with TfL to ensure that the scheme also delivers a high quality public realm along both Dingwall Road and Lansdowne Road, complimenting the improvements already made via the Connected Croydon programme and creating a positive streetscape for residents and visitors alike. Similarly, we are working with TfL to ensure that the new loop contributes towards the council's wider goal to make central Croydon a more pedestrian and cycle-friendly environment.

CQ514-15 from Councillor Stephen Mann

Councillor Kathy Bee

Cllr Bee, this Council meeting is taking place during the vitally important Paris climate change negotiations. What steps have you taken to commit Croydon to a low carbon future?

Reply

Croydon Council agreed a “Climate Change Mitigation Action Plan” in 2010 to reduce borough wide carbon emissions by 34% by 2025 (based on a 2005 baseline). Total borough emissions in 2013 (the latest data available) were 1,451 thousand tonnes CO₂. This figure represents a 17.5% reduction on the 2005 baseline figure which indicates that the borough is currently on track to meet the 2025 target.

Over this autumn and winter the council has been delivering the first phase of its RE:FIT energy saving project. This has installed packages of energy saving measures across 11 corporate buildings, 2 schools and 14 social housing blocks. These projects are expected to reduce emissions from these sites by around 480 tonnes CO₂. Future phases of this project will be aligned with our current strategy for our property assets.

My portfolio covers both Transport and the Environment. However transport accounts for 19% of the borough’s total carbon emissions. Changing the way we travel particularly for the shorter trips, the majority of journeys we make are vital to achieving a sustainable future. We set out our objectives including for Transport in the ‘Croydon Promise: Growth for All’. I then reaffirmed the commitment to taking us towards a sustainable transport future through our ‘Croydon Transport Vision’

CQ517-15 **from Councillor Manju Shahul-Hameed**

Councillor Kathy Bee

Can the Cabinet member explain the on-street parking charges in Croydon? The residents are particularly interested to find out how the parking charges will affect in our district centres, where there are 30 mins and 1 hour free parking.

Reply

The Council's new Parking Policies will streamline more than 40 existing tariffs covering central Croydon and the borough's district centres into just 12. The proposals will go to the relevant cabinet member later this month for approval and if this is agreed, the changes will come into effect from 1 February. The current proposals are now live on the Council's website.

CQ528-15 **from Councillor Matthew Kyeremeh**

Councillor Kathy Bee

With respect to the revised LFRMS and the relevant Action Plan, what specific action is earmarked to deal with known surface water flood hotspots in the Thornton Heath ward? How do central government cuts affect any of such plans? Are local residents being adequately kept informed?

Reply

The action plan is mainly set up for a boroughwide approach to dealing with flood risk across Croydon and includes actions such as mapping ordinary watercourses, developing a list of flood hotspots across the borough and putting together potential remedial measures and any necessary bids for funding.

At this stage it is unclear how the government cuts will affect our plans however the Council makes individual bids to the Environment Agency based on each identified problem area and potential cost-benefit that would be derived.

Part of the action plan includes how we plan to improve awareness and communicate with all our residents. If Cllr Kyeremeh has any further queries on this matter he can contact the Council's senior drainage engineer, Daisi Osibona at daisi.osibona@croydon.gov.uk.

CQ529-15 **from Councillor Matthew Kyeremeh**

Councillor Kathy Bee

Could the cabinet member outline current or anticipated plans for road repairs - with names and dates - in the Thornton Heath ward?

Reply

The highways team undertake, as a minimum, 6 monthly Safety Inspections of all the borough roads and footpaths. Any minor defects that meet out interventions levels are scheduled for repairs.

In addition to this the Council also undertake a proactive repairs programme and below is the current list of schemes for Thornton Heath.

ROAD NAME

LOCATION

Bensham Lane	Mayday Road to London road (planned for week commencing 29 Feb 2016)
Beulah Road	o/s 119 to o/s 137 (planned for early March 16 - date to be confirmed)
Beulah Road	j/w Brook Road to o/s 59 (planned for week early March 16 - date to be confirmed)
Mersham Road	Livingstone Road to o/s 67 Mersham Road (planned for week commencing 07 March 16)
Parchmore Road	o/s 229 to o/s 233 (planned for early March 16 - date to be confirmed)
St Paul's Road	o/s 11 to 5, Luna Road (planned for week commencing 07 March 16)

CQ534-15 **from Councillor David Wood**

Councillor Kathy Bee

Will Cllr Bee please agree to make representations to Network Rail about the appalling state of Selhurst station railway bridge and the filthy pavements and railings beneath it? This has been a health risk for many years due to the large number of pigeons that congregate there, and surely gives an unfavourable impression of our borough, not least to the large numbers of visitors to the Brit School and Crystal Palace Football Club.

Reply

The Council's highways team will contact Network Rail to highlight the environmental issues to them.

There is some existing pigeon proofing to both sides of the Selhurst Station railway bridge above the footway areas however we note that the lighting columns may need to have be addressed to prevent pigeons roosting on them. Arrangement will be made to address this as soon as possible.

CQ542-15 **from Councillor Stuart King**

Councillor Kathy Bee

How much money did the council spend in 2014/15 on flood defence spending and how was this spending broken down by council ward? What was the basis used to determine where the money was spent?

Reply

The council provided £850K to carry out flood remedial works along the Caterham Bourne catchment (Kenley and Purley Wards). We also bid for £1m to the Environment Agency jointly with Surrey County Council and have received £100K for the investigation and feasibility studies towards a longer term flood remedial measures along the Caterham Bourne catchment area, including Kenley, Purley Waddon Wards and along parts of Tandridge District Council.

We also received £154K from Central Government for property level flood resilience measures across the borough for those affected by the 2013/2014 flooding (Boroughwide).

Spend has been focused on the worst areas affected by flooding in 2014.

CQ462-15 **from Councillor Margaret Bird**

Councillor Alisa Flemming

Can the Cabinet Member tell me what she thinks of glossy draft Fairness Commission report presented at the Children and Families Partnership meeting and the inaccuracies contained in it which were pointed out at the meeting?

Reply

As the presenters explained in their introduction at the Children and Families Partnership meeting, the purpose of producing a draft report and sharing this widely with a range of partners is to make sure that the final report is accurate.

CQ463-15 **from Councillor Margaret Bird**

Councillor Alisa Flemming

Can the Cabinet member tell me, since this was last raised, how many children missing in education have returned and what have the return interviews shown?

Reply

Pupil referrals to the CME Officer are closed when the location of the pupil has been established. The majority of referrals received are for pupils who have left Croydon whose education destination is unknown. The Children Missing Education Key Worker undertakes checks with other Local Authorities to establish that the pupil is residing in another area. The majority of referrals closed to the Children Missing Education Key Worker since September 2015 have been for pupils who have moved out of area. 92 such referrals have been closed on this basis since September 2015.

Those pupils who have been identified as resident in Croydon and without a school place are escalated to the Admissions Service to be reintegrated into education. Complex cases are considered at the Fair Access Panel. Since September 2015, 17 referrals have been closed on this basis.

Since September 2015, 13 referrals have been closed as the pupils have returned to their mainstream school. There are no current formal arrangements for pupils returning from a period of missing education: when a young person returns from a period of being reported as missing a return home interview is arranged by the NSPCC.

CQ465-15 from Councillor Simon Brew

Councillor Alisa Flemming

This question arises from the report dated August 2015 on Operation Raptor:

From page 3, it appears that the perpetrators of CSE come from similar backgrounds to the vulnerable young girls who are the survivors. What are you doing to reform the attitudes and behaviour of these perpetrators?

Reply

The recent Council and LSP Congress on Child Sexual Exploitation was a great opportunity for the public and professionals across Croydon to share knowledge and information regarding this issue. Our current intelligence on the incidence of CSE in Croydon is that it is predominantly a peer on peer issue. This is the general picture in London. This does not diminish the impact that this has on the young people who are victims. It also means that we have a clear responsibility towards those young people who have become perpetrators are who at risk of this. This is an area of work that Croydon, in common with other authorities, has recognised requires further development. We have already developed actions as set out below.

All the evidence suggests that this issue can only be dealt with through a wide partnership. This coordination is managed through the Local Safeguarding Children's Board. A specific sub-group, the CSE and Missing Sub-Group, oversees the Child Sexual Exploitation Action Plan.

As a Partnership, we have recognised the vital role that voluntary agency partners can play in combatting CSE, both in working with victims and perpetrators.

1. The Child Sexual Exploitation Action Plan and the MsUnderstood Project has developed with partners Safer London and the NSPCC a specific outreach programme for young men in schools where we work with groups of young men on sex, gender, power and relationships. Our plan is to extend this programme throughout 2016 and this will form the central part of our CSE prevention strategy.
2. Our Child Sexual Exploitation Action Plan has a priority to invest and develop further our interventions with young men and boys. This includes reviewing all victim and perpetrator cases by the Multi-Agency Sexual Exploitation Panel and developing a clinical pathway for boys and young men who present with sexually harmful behaviour. In 2016 we will also be attending a large number of specific Black Church groups and their related youth groups and clubs where we will again focus on gender, sex and relationships.
3. We are already intervening with young men convicted of sexually harmful behaviour through our Youth Offending Services and we need to capture and share the learning from these interventions across the wider partnership.
4. Our Sexual health Services are currently supporting a number of schools assemblies, PHSE lessons and other bespoke interventions in schools in Croydon again focused on gender, sex and relations.
5. The CCG via CAMHs will fund a specific post co-located in Children Social Care and Youth Offending Services to undertake specific clinical intervention with boys and young men who are identified as demonstrating sexually harmful

behaviour. The post holder will also train social workers and others on techniques in how to intervene as well as develop a universal risk assessment and support the partnership develop its learning and strategy in this relatively new area of work.

6. We have developed a communication strategy that challenges those who perpetrate abuse or sexually harmful behaviours and this will be circulated across the borough in 2016.
7. We also plan a specific conference for young people in Croydon where these issues will be raised and discussed.
8. We gather intelligence which informs us where to intervene to prevent and disrupt sexual exploitation and this includes targeting known offenders.
9. The partnership is working with Safer London and the NSPCC to extend services to this client group.
10. We are working with Croydon police in an attempt to increase the numbers of convictions. We will also continue to gather data and intelligence about hot spots, individual perpetrators, gang activity and other factors which inform our multi-agency and 'targeting' operation known as Operation MakeSafe a regular police led and coordinated operation to prevent and disrupt CSE.

CQ469-15 **from Councillor Maria Gatland**

Councillor Alisa Flemming

Could the Cabinet Member update me on the situation at Davidson Primary School?

Reply

The governing body of Davidson Primary School voted to seek a sponsor and convert to an Academy. The Regional School's Commissioner has approved the application and identified Pickhurst Junior Academy as the sponsor. It is anticipated the school will convert to become an Academy on 1 April 2016.

CQ470-15 from Councillor Maria Gatland

Councillor Alisa Flemming

What lessons have been learnt from the recent Serious Case Reviews?

Reply

Serious Case Reviews are undertaken under the oversight of the Croydon Children's Safeguarding Board. The criteria for undertaking a Serious Case Review are set out in Working Together 2015. The outcomes from Serious Case Reviews are published on the Safeguarding Board website.

The primary reason for undertaking Serious Case Reviews is to learn from such incidents and to share this learning as widely as possible.

The Safeguarding Board has commissioned a comprehensive training programme for staff across the Partnership in the past year regarding the outcomes of recent Serious Case Reviews in Croydon and this has been very well attended.

In addition, we undertake specific actions to address any identified systemic gaps in our procedures or multi-agency arrangements.

Each Serious Case Review is accompanied by specific recommendations and an Action Plan to oversee that these are put into place. The Action Plans are monitored by the Serious Case Review sub-group of the Safeguarding Board, which is chaired by the Independent Chair of the Board.

Where it is evident that actions are required prior to publication, then individual agencies are expected to take such action promptly, rather than waiting for final conclusions.

Key lessons learned in recent reviews are:

- Where children are reported missing, especially from home, all agencies should follow the appropriate Missing Procedures and develop plans to manage the risks to individual children
- There needs to be good communication between agencies about concerns - where agencies have a concern about a child and are not satisfied with the response that they have received, they should use the appropriate escalation policy of the Safeguarding Board to alert management to this concern. Information should always be shared
- Assessments by all agencies should ensure that as far as possible fathers and other significant male figures should be included and that their views are sought. This would include both risk factors as well as protective factors.
- That there should be improvements in the multi-agency work regarding pre-birth assessments and those of newly born infants. This includes Early Help assessments as well as more specialist services

- That there should be a greater understanding of the risks associated with parental substance misuse, including alcohol use.

Our actions to address the above lessons include the following:

Missing children

- Missing Children in Croydon have a high priority, with daily, weekly and monthly returns of Missing children are provided to senior management
- The monthly Missing Children Panel has comprehensive multi-agency representation sharing details and intelligence about issues surrounding specific children missing and the wider implications.
- Missing children are tracked, regular strategy meetings are held and their cases revisited on a regular basis. Children are provided with Return Home Interviews from the NSPCC and advocacy from Safer London.
- SWs are trained in completing the Missing notification flag available on the CRS system, so that every child is immediately highlighted. .
- Croydon has made senior contact with other LAs whose children are living in Croydon of the concerns re any of them being missing (they make up a considerable % of missing children in Croydon) and developed a joint strategic approach with the Police to address these issues.

Escalation procedures

- The Escalation procedures, where agencies raise concerns on particular cases, were launched and uploaded onto the CSCB website in March 2015 and have proved successful in helping challenge and resolve interagency issues.

Engaging and assessing fathers

- A significant drive to engage fathers has been instigated. Training has been provided and future courses are well subscribed. A Father's project has been initiated to drive the Father's agenda forward and will be launched in January 2016 to ensure that father's and relevant males in a child's family are engaged with, assessed and intervention provided.
- This will be formally monitored by the Father's project.

Pre-birth and Early Help

- The effectiveness of Early Help is the key priority for the Board's Business plan 2015/16. We are holding an Early Help conference in Feb 2016 and EH is the topic for the Board development day in Nov. The Business Plan requires specific feedback on targets for improvement and monitoring effectiveness.
- A multi-agency Pre- birth project has commenced which will tackle pre-birth issues at all levels, i.e. Early Help, Child in Need and Safeguarding Children. Engagement and assessment of pre-birth casework will be actively monitored and supported by the multi-agency project.
- The implementation of the Best Start programme will bring together services working with children aged 0-4.

Substance Misuse

- Further training has been commissioned.
- We are developing further protocols with Adult Social Care and with commissioned providers to ensure that information is effectively shared to safeguard children

CQ471-15 **from Councillor Maria Gatland**

Councillor Alisa Flemming

When was the last inspection of any Croydon PRU?

Reply

The last inspection of a Croydon PRU was Moving On in September 2014. Prior to that Coningsby PRU was inspected in January 2014, Phil Edwards in December 2013 and Cotelands in January 2013. All were judged 'good' - so 100% of Croydon PRUs currently have an OFSTED 'good' status.

CQ475-15 **from Councillor Luke Clancy**

Councillor Alisa Flemming

What form of consultation was undertaken, and with whom, before the decision to close Coulsdon CALAT was taken. If a funding cut of £600,000 is to be made, how much is being borne by Coulsdon? What other funding measures have been considered to keep Coulsdon CALAT open? What plans are there for the buildings and the land on the Coulsdon CALAT site?

Reply

This funding cut is imposed on the Council by the in-year cut by the National Skills Funding Agency as a result of government cuts affecting adult learning nationally.

As part of the process to close the CALAT centre in Coulsdon we are consulting and engaging with the learners who use the centre. In particular we are consulting with our adults with learning difficulties and disabilities and their families. The consultation for this latter group is formed of a survey, a meeting with the learners and a meeting with their families and carers. In addition a dedicated email address has been set up so that people can send us their comments, feedback and questions. It is calatengagement@croydon.gov.uk

A learner's forum for other learners at the centre has also taken place.

The savings from the building overheads for CALAT Coulsdon will be £93k. However the reduction in the range and number of courses will also contribute to meeting the gap caused by the budget cut. The exact amount of this will be dependent on the consultation with the learners and staff therefore is not available at this time.

We have not been able to identify any revenue funding streams that would enable the centre to stay open or replace the reduction in funding.

At present there are no fixed plans for the use of the centre.

CQ483-15 **from Councillor Andy Stranack**

Councillor Alisa Flemming

How many schools and school children used Fairfield Halls in 2014/15. Where will these displaced young people go next year when you close the Fairfield?

Reply

Fairfield Hall's records of the work with young people done by them and their partners in 2014/15 show the following:

11,376 young people attended 58 partnership activities and 13 schools were involved. There are no numbers for the ages of those attending tickets activities but many of Fairfield's shows were aimed at children.

As part of the temporary close down process currently being developed, partner organisations will be consulted and alternative venues and delivery models considered to ensure that projects continue in other ways and at other locations.

CQ485-15

from Councillor Andy Stranack

Councillor Alisa Flemming

Can you outline the criteria used to allocate Council funded school transport so that young people with disabilities can get to school?

Reply

Under the Education Act 1996 (as amended by the Education and Inspections Act 2006), Croydon LA has a duty in certain circumstances to make such travel arrangements as they consider necessary in order to secure that suitable home to school travel arrangements are made for the purpose of facilitating a child or young person's attendance at relevant educational establishments. Croydon LA has a 'home to school' travel assistance policy and travel assistance for children and young people with special educational needs and/or a disability is considered under this policy.

In general terms: Travel assistance will be provided under this policy for:

- 1) Primary school aged children (5-11) who are registered pupils at a "qualifying school" where the school is more than 2 miles from their home address (up to 8 years of age) or 3 miles (aged 8 and over), and where no suitable arrangements have been made by the local authority for enabling the pupil to attend a school nearer to his home.
- 2) Secondary school aged pupils of compulsory school age who are registered pupils at a "qualifying school" where the school is more than 3 miles from their home address, and where no suitable arrangements have been made by the local authority for enabling the pupil to attend a school nearer to his home.

In some cases the distance criteria may be reduced for families on a low income.

The local authority expects parents who choose a school which is not the nearest school that the Council considers to be suitable to take full responsibility for transporting their children to and from school.

Travel assistance will be provided to children who live within statutory walking distance of the school, where no suitable arrangements have been made to enable him to attend a school nearer to his home, and who cannot reasonably be expected to walk to school because of the nature of the route.

Wherever possible the local authority expects parents/carers of pupils with a Statement of SEN or EHCP to make arrangements for their child to attend school in the same way as for parents/carers of pupils without a Statement or EHCP as this is an important factor in developing the pupil's independence, social and life skills.

The provision of travel assistance is to ensure access to education for children and young people who because of mobility difficulties or health and safety issues as a result of the complex nature of their special educational needs or disability they are unable to walk or travel on public transport to school. Eligibility, for children and young people with special educational needs and/or a disability is considered on an individual basis to identify their particular travel requirements.

Where no suitable arrangements have been made by the local authority to enable a pupil to attend a school nearer his home, travel assistance will be provided for pupils living within statutory walking distance of their school who, because of their special educational needs, disability or mobility problems, cannot reasonably be expected to walk to school. In considering whether a child cannot reasonably be expected to walk to school, the local authority will consider whether the child can walk to school on their own or with someone to accompany them.

I am also including the link for Croydon's Home to School Travel Assistance Policy which details the eligibility criteria in full. However, please do not hesitate to contact me if further clarification is required.

https://www.croydon.gov.uk/sites/default/files/articles/SEN_travel_0.pdf

CQ513-15

from Councillor Jamie Audsley

Councillor Alisa Flemming

Cllr Flemming, please can you provide me with a list of education institutions that are accredited London Living Wage Employers or have made the commitment to become accredited.

Reply

The Council has received confirmation from the following Croydon maintained schools that they are committed to and are paying the London Living Wage:

Beaumont Primary
Beckmead
Beckmead - Chaffinch Brook
Bensham Manor
Beulah Juniors
Coulsdon Nursery
Courtwood JMI
Crosfield Nursery
Davidson Primary.
Downsview JMI
Elmwood Infants
Gilbert Scott Primary
Greenvale JMI
Gresham JMI
Heavers Farm JMI
Howard JMI
Kenley JMI
Kensington Avenue Primary
Kingsley Primary
Monks Orchard JMI
Norbury Manor JMI
Orchard Way JMI
Parish Church (CE) Infants
Parish Church (CE) Juniors
Purley Nursery
Purley Oaks JMI
Red Gates
Rockmount Primary
Smitham JMI
South Norwood JMI
St Giles
St John's (CE) JMI
St Nicholas
St Peter's JMI
Tunstall Nursery
Winterbourne Junior Girls
Wolsey Infants
Woodside Primary

In addition we are aware that some academies are also London Living Wage employers.

CQ524-15 **from Councillor Andrew Rendle**

Councillor Alisa Flemming

Will Cllr Flemming join me in thanking all the officers and partners who organised the recent conference "Improving Outcomes for Children with Autism", and does she agree with me it's vital that all the schools in Croydon have the skills, resources and confidence to help pupils on the spectrum get the best start in life.

Reply

I am grateful to all the officers and partners for organising this excellent event. This was the second conference in the series on Improving Outcomes for Children with Autism, organised by Octavo in partnership with Croydon Council to support schools in developing best practice in meeting the needs of children and young people with autism. There were contributions from nationally known speakers - Glenys Jones from the University of Birmingham and Gina Davies leading a workshop on Attention Autism - as well as input from local practitioners. Local special schools, Chaffinch Brook and Bensham Manor, and two of our Enhanced Learning Provisions for children and young people with autism at Kensington Avenue and Castle Hill Primary Schools led workshops.

I would certainly agree that all schools in the borough need to be skilled in strategies that will help children with autism achieve their potential. It was evident that attendees were inspired by the various speakers and motivated to take action to develop inclusive practice for pupils with autism within their schools.

CQ482-15 **from Councillor Susan Winborn****Councillor Toni Letts**

Would the Cabinet Member please detail the total JSA count for the London Borough of Croydon on a month to month basis from February 2015 and also detail the JSA count for 18-24 year olds also from February 2015.

Reply**Total JSA Count**

Over the nine month period the total JSA claimant count has in the main fluctuated between 4,700/4,800. Month on month changes have been minor. February had the highest count at 4,865 compared with the lowest in October at 4,650 a difference of -4.4% pointing to a positive direction of travel. During that period more people came off JSA than went on.

18-24 JSA Count

In the case of the JSA claimant count for 18-24 year olds, the rate for March to May fell, month on month with a slight reversal in July to August. A downward trend was resumed September and October. Overall the trend has been positive with October showing a 15.9% reduction compared with February's claimant count. During that period more people came off JSA than went on.

Month 2015	Total JSA	% change on previous month	18-24 JSA	% change on previous month
February	4865	-0.6%	1035	+4.0%
March	4745	-2.5%	990	-4.3%
April	4760	+0.3%	950	-4.0%
May	4705	-1.2%	915	-3.6%
June	4725	+0.4%	930	+1.6%
July	4735	+0.2%	930	0.0%
August	4820	+1.8%	975	+4.8%
September	4770	-1.0%	960	-1.5%
October	4650	-2.5%	895	-6.7%

CQ516-15 **from Councillor Maddie Henson**

Councillor Toni Letts

Would the cabinet member join with me in celebrating the excellent work done by ASPRA and Blackhorse Residents Association in bringing Christmas Lights back to Lower Addiscombe Road. And would she also agree that projects like this are very useful in helping to promote our district centres.

Reply

The Council has been pleased to support ASPRA's initiative to install festive lighting in Lower Addiscombe Road. This is a part of a successful partnership with ASPRA funding the hiring of the lights and the Council, through its lighting contract with Skanska, arranging for their installation and removal after Christmas.

CQ479-15

from Councillor Steve O'Connell

Councillor Mark Watson

In the light of the atrocious events in Paris would the Cabinet Member advise how the Council has acted to reassure the residents of Croydon and how it has altered any of its practices?

Reply

No single agency can tackle such a complex agenda in isolation and the council works closely with the police to reduce the threat of extremist activity and increase public confidence.

In addition to the high-visibility patrols that have been put in place by the police to provide reassurance at key locations across the capital the police are also working closely with London's communities and businesses to offer reassurance and advice. The council has assisted in sharing information to its local community contacts and offering advice and support if there are particular issues that communities are experiencing. The council is also assisting with monitoring community tension and hate crimes locally.

The council works closely with the police delivering the Prevent strand of the National Counter Terrorism Strategy. The council manages the Channel panel, which is a multi-agency group that aims to protect vulnerable people from being drawn in to extremism. The council has also delivered over 50 training sessions for front line staff working in social care, youth settings, safeguarding and schools to raise awareness of this issue and how we can better support people at risk of being drawn in to extremism.

CQ480-15

from Councillor Steve O'Connell

Councillor Mark Watson

A couple of months ago the Cabinet Member gave me some details of proposed savings and efficiencies in his portfolio. Can he update me on the latest position please?

Reply

Eyes and Ears has successfully pulled together a range of different teams from across the council into a more joined up structure delivering a range of enforcement, regulatory, environmental and safety related activity. This restructure of management positions has seen significant efficiencies and has resulted in full year savings of £470k. This has rolled out successfully with no impact on front line service delivery.

Phase 2 of Eyes and Ears is in now in development and has identified further potential savings and efficiencies. This includes:

- Looking at enforcement roles and explore opportunities for officers dealing with a broader range of issues , improving efficiency and reducing duplication of effort
- New ways of working such as the use of IT and using a triage based approach and so that officers can deal with multiple issues saving specialist officer time in dealing with initial enquiries
- Looking at options for services such as CCTV and the Environmental response Team taking on responsibilities that are currently delivered elsewhere in the council
- A review of discretionary licensing fees to ensure that the council is recovering the full costs of delivering the licensing function.

The exact detail of these projects is still being worked through but we are confident that they will generate savings whilst maintaining important front line services

CQ481-15 **from Councillor Steve O'Connell**

Councillor Mark Watson

A strong police presence in the Town Centre allied to a robust approach to Licensing controls improved safety over recent years. Is this an approach that the Cabinet Member unreservedly supports?

Reply

This Labour administration is committed to supporting the delivery of a mixed and vibrant evening economy. The Council continues to work in partnership with the police and licencees, supporting pub watch, the annual awards scheme for venues and with the Croydon BID.

A balanced approach to policing the town centre, that is tough on crime but that also puts people first and supports our evening economy is what is required and I continue to work with the Borough Commander to deliver this approach.

CQ493-15 **from Councillor Vidhi Mohan**

Councillor Mark Watson

Now that your Fairness Commission has submitted its report, when are you going to tell residents of what actions you will be taking based on its recommendations? After costing Croydon residents £200,000, I hope this report is not just going to sit on a shelf somewhere.

Reply

The Bishop of Croydon presented the interim report from the Opportunity and Fairness Commission at the last cabinet and is expecting feedback from local residents and partners on the themes and ideas. I look forward to the final report early next year.

Given the latest round of draconian cuts imposed on local services by your Conservative colleagues in government, it is clear that the work of commission is more important than ever.

Just to pick you up on the point about costs, the cost of the Commission is well documented and is not £200,000. You know full well that the Commission is made up of volunteers who have dedicated their time to listening to the residents of Croydon – over 3000 of whom have contributed their time, experiences and ideas to the Commission.

CQ519-15 **from Councillor Manju Shahul-Hameed**

Councillor Mark Watson

Does the Council use any contractors to install Christmas lights in our Borough? If you do, who is the contractor and which wards were benefited from Christmas lights funded by the council? What is the possibility of using the same contractor in other parts of the borough with the contribution from the local businesses?

Reply

The Council's street lighting Service Provider (Skanska) is used to attach festive decorations on the council owned highway street lights within designated area of the borough (High Streets), for street lights that are on Transport for London's (TfL) roads (A22, A23 & A232) permission from TfL is necessary. The council does not fund the hire / purchase or energy consumption of festive decorations these costs are borne by the resident associations or business community although both Skanska and the council's street lighting team are able to assist with providing information of suitable festive decoration providers.

If Cllr Shahul-Hameed would like further details John Algar the council's street lighting manager will be able to assist you further, Mr Algar's contact number and email address are as follows 02083944717 John.Algar@croydon.gov.uk

CQ532-15

from Councillor David Wood

Councillor Mark Watson

We have seen a spate of stabbings in London in recent months, sadly including here in Croydon. In the light of the short-sighted cuts being imposed on the Metropolitan Police Service by the government, with police stations already closed and PCSOs possibly next in the firing line, can residents be assured that their safety will continue to be a priority for this council and he will continue to do his utmost to seek to safeguard the community policing that is so reassuring to many Croydon residents who see it as the best deterrent against crime?

Reply

Thankfully the government have seen sense and reversed the decision to impose further cuts to the police. This will help ensure that local policing is protected and that we can continue to work together to keep our Borough safe.

The Safer Croydon Partnership has set out its plan to keep Croydon a safe and attractive place for people to live, work and visit through its Community Safety Strategy. This sets out four key priorities as follows:

- Reduce the overall crime rate in Croydon; focus on violent crime and domestic violence
- Improve the safety of children and young people
- Tackle anti-social behaviour and environmental crime
- Improve public confidence and community engagement.

There is also specific action to tackle youth violence, which is set out in the Youth Crime Prevention Action Plan that was approved at Cabinet in October 2015. This sets out the council, police and a range of other partners plans to keep young people safe. The plan sets out activity under the following 4 themes:

PREVENTION

- Improved early identification and support of children and young people at risk of offending, anti-social behaviour and gangs
- Evidence of more work which takes a “think family” approach building on the strengths of families and reduces risk factors.

ENFORCEMENT AND INTERVENTION

- Improved life chances for those young people identified as at high risk of re-offending or committing anti-social behaviour
- Identify young people involved in gang activity/serious youth violence and they are provided opportunities and interventions to exit the lifestyle.

PROTECTING YOUNG PEOPLE AND SUPPORTING VICTIMS

- To reduce the number of victims of youth crime
- To ensure young people are safe as possible from violence, sexual exploitation, gangs, bullying and domestic abuse
- To raise the skills and knowledge in relation to young people that go missing and at risk of Violence, Sexual Exploitation and Domestic Abuse

PARTICIPATION

- To ensure children and young people are able to participate in decision making regarding crime issues of concern to them.

CQ546-15 **from Councillor Oliver Lewis**

Councillor Mark Watson

Do the Tory Government's cuts to policing risk undermine all the good work this council is doing to ensure that residents feel safe in their communities?

Reply

Thankfully the government have seen sense and reversed the decision to impose further cuts to the police. This will help ensure that local policing is protected and that we can continue to work together to keep our Borough safe.

The Safer Croydon Partnership has set out its plan to keep Croydon a safe and attractive place for people to live, work and visit through its Community Safety Strategy. This sets out four key priorities as follows:

- Reduce the overall crime rate in Croydon; focus on violent crime and domestic violence
- Improve the safety of children and young people
- Tackle anti-social behaviour and environmental crime
- Improve public confidence and community engagement.

There is a raft of partnership activity to target offenders and support victims and only recently the Youth Crime Prevention Action Plan was approved at Cabinet in October 2015, which sets out the council, police and a range of other partners plans to keep young people safe.

Croydon is a safe place but this is often not the perception that people have. The Safer Croydon Partnership has therefore worked together to produce a Pride in Croydon plan. This has been designed to ensure that we are promoting Croydon positively at every opportunity. There is a raft of activity underway including the use of social media, promoting good news stories and community engagement, which is helping to address the fear of crime experienced by some residents.

CQ454-15 **from Councillor Simon Brew**

Councillor Timothy Godfrey

Following the announcement that the Fairfield Halls will close for two years, please advise

- 1) In which month and year will the halls close?
- 2) In which month and year will the halls re-open?
- 3) How many staff have worked at the halls for 5yrs, 10 yrs, 15 yrs 20yrs or more?
- 4) What are the redundancy implications, if any?
- 5) How much budget has been allocated in which financial year(s) for the re-marketing of the halls before they re-open?

Reply

Thank you for your questions. We are finalising the transition plan with the Fairfield (Croydon) Ltd including the final date of closure, however the indicative programme will see works to the halls commence by July 2016 and will last circa 2 years to summer of 2018.

As mentioned the Council is working with Fairfield (Croydon) Ltd on a transition plan for the operation and they are best placed to answer your questions regarding staff and redundancy implications.

Once the transition plan for the halls is finalised we will be in a position to release details of the budget for reopening.

Your other questions should be directed to the Fairfield (Croydon) Ltd.

CQ457-15 **from Councillor Sara Bashford**

Councillor Timothy Godfrey

Can Cllr Godfrey please confirm whether or not he agrees with the plan to close the Fairfield Halls? As he was not at the Cabinet Meeting or Scrutiny Meeting which discussed this and as he is the lead on culture, his view is of interest.

Reply

Firstly I would like to state that I am fully behind the refurbishment of the Fairfield Halls.

It is important to put this decision into context.

The council has had schemes for the last 10 years to refurbish the Fairfield Halls. Indeed the previous Conservative administration cancelled a full refurbishment 9 years ago that had been a key part of the then Labour administrations plans.

None of those schemes ever got funded or past the stage of pretty pictures. In this time, the Halls have deteriorated as a lack of basic maintenance and long term planning has adversely affected the building and the programme.

It is essential in order to keep the facility viable and fit for purpose for the future. We recognise the importance of culture to the wider area and it is for this reason that we took the approach of aligning the Fairfield Halls improvement project with the wider College Green Cultural and Educational Quarter to put the Halls front and centre of the scheme.

Fairfield Halls is a key part of this development and the modernisation works will secure its future as an efficient and sustainable entertainment venue of regional status. The fact that we are investing £30m into the building at a time when local government is under significant financial pressure shows how much importance we place in both Culture and Fairfield Halls in the regeneration of Croydon as a place.

The plan to close the building, which I support, is the best approach to undertaking this work. This is the most cost effective way for the construction and development to ensure we get a building that can survive into the future. It also minimises risk to timescales, health and safety, and the complexity of the works. I also do not see that it is materially different from the full closure that the Fairfield themselves proposed, followed by at least 9 months of part closures.

For clarity, it would assist the debate if the opposition were to clarify if they would find the additional £4.8million + revenue support + balance sheet support in addition to the £30million budget or from the £30million budget?

CQ489-15 **from Councillor Helen Pollard**

Councillor Timothy Godfrey

I recently arranged for my family to visit the Orbit in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. The ticketing website states that host borough residents receive a significant discount on ticket prices. As one the boroughs that paid for the park I assumed this would include Croydon. However I discovered that 'host' boroughs are Barking and Dagenham, Greenwich, Hackney, Newham, Tower Hamlets or Waltham Forest.

So not only do the residents in Newham etc benefit from having the new facilities, that were paid for by all London boroughs, on their doorstep, but they get a discount too. This seems very unfair on Croydon and other London boroughs who actually paid for the developments and find them more difficult to access due to the length of the journey to get there.

Will the Cabinet Member be raising this issue at the highest possible level, to ensure that Croydon residents get a fair deal on the Olympic legacy that they paid for?

Reply

Thank you for your question.

The host boroughs are those that had 2012 venues located within their boundaries.

I will ask the Sport and Physical Activity Manager to initially raise with the Head of the GLA Sports Team and will provide you with a written update when he has received a response.

This is a clear example of how the Olympic Legacy and other issues including the Lee Valley Regional Park were and continue to be comprehensively mishandled over many years. I fully agree that all boroughs that contributed to the success of the London Olympics should receive a benefit.

CQ507-15 **from Councillor Lynne Hale**

Councillor Timothy Godfrey

Please advise whether you have any plans to close or merge any of the Borough's libraries.

Reply

At present there are no plans to close or merge any libraries in borough.

However we as a borough do need to consider how we meet the Conservative Governments requirement that we reduce the Library budget, along with every other budget in the council.

I am fully committed to a high quality library service with professional librarians offering a wide range of services.

As we look to reduce costs, I am always very happy to work with community groups, charities or businesses that have proposals for how they can use our Library buildings alongside our Library services.

CQ540-15 **from Councillor Emily Benn**

Councillor Timothy Godfrey

Will you join me in wishing the best of luck to all Croydon competitors in the London Youth Games 2016 season? And congratulate the cross country competitors on their success in November?

Reply

I will be pleased to do so.

The Sport and Physical Activity Team work hard every year to ensure that Croydon is represented in every sport and that every team is well supported

Croydon has an exceptional record in recent years winning in 2012, finishing second in 2013 and 14 and finishing 4th this year.

The recent cross-country event was also successful with teams representing Croydon in each age group and finishing 7th overall – a good start to the 2016 Games.

I will ask the Sport and Physical Activity Manager to pass on congratulations to the young people representing Croydon in the Cross-country championships and good wishes for a successful year to all young people representing the Borough.

CQ456-15 from Councillor Sara Bashford

Councillor Alison Butler

Can Cllr Butler please list what areas in the local plan (which is currently being consulted on) are being de-designated from Metropolitan Open Land (MOL), effectively meaning that development is possible? Please do not refer me to the website link and provide a full list.

Reply

A primary school is proposed on amenity land adjacent to Croydon AFC stadium in Mayfield Road. The area of land required for school buildings would be removed from Metropolitan Open Land. At this time it is not known the extent or exact location of the school buildings. This detail will be developed as either part of the next draft of the Local Plan or as part of a future planning application.

The area of Metropolitan Open Land to the south of Shirley Oaks Hospital and surrounding the Shirley Oaks development is also proposed for de-designation.

The area of Metropolitan Open Land to the south of Shirley Oaks Hospital and surrounding the Shirley Oaks development is proposed for de-designation. It does not meet any of the criteria for designation as Metropolitan Open Land because:

1. It does not contribute to the physical structure of London by being clearly distinguishable from the built up area because it is separated from the wider open area of Ashburton Playing Fields, South Norwood Country Park and Beckenham Cemetery by Shirley Oaks Hospital.
2. It does not include open air facilities which serve either the whole or significant parts of London; and
3. It does not contain features or landscapes of either national or metropolitan value.

Should the MOL de-designation be carried forward, other planning policy would also have a bearing on whether development is appropriate.

CQ461-15 from Councillor Dudley Mead

Councillor Alison Butler

Inside Croydon stated that in your first year of office 'only 12 new Council properties were completed despite the fact Labour promised to sort out homelessness in their 2014 manifesto'. When I ceased to be the cabinet member for housing, officers presented me with a montage of pictures of completed developments which noted on the bottom there were 163 units in the pipeline, what has gone wrong?

Reply

The Council continues to build new affordable housing and has increased the rate of delivery in the current year. Since May 2015, 50 units have been completed with more to handover from the contractor before Christmas.

Officers have had to address a number of issues with the performance of contractors engaged by the previous administration, through this programme that have led to some delays, but this work has ensured that new homes are completed to the required standard for our tenants and that the Council receives appropriate financial penalties from the contractor.

There are 97 units from the current Council New Build initiative remaining, which are now part of a much larger programme on which work has already progressed. Over the summer and early autumn technical due diligence was carried out on seventy Council owned sites to help identify and address development risk and prioritise the delivery programme.

This work is influencing design development which is already underway and will progress in detail in the New Year. The programme will commence on sites with the capacity to deliver in excess of 300 units and the number of units will increase throughout the year as more sites come into the programme.

CQ464-15 **from Councillor Margaret Bird**

Councillor Alison Butler

Can the Cabinet member tell me when can the residents of the flats on Ellis Road and Goodenough Way Estate in Old Coulsdon expect routine cleaning of the fascia boards which are covered in algae on their northern sides?

Reply

The Responsive repairs service had identified during an Estate inspection that the fascia boards are badly stained. However as this work will involve costly scaffold to access the roof level and this affects a number of blocks then this work has been passed to Planned maintenance and improvement who have confirmed that it is included in their 2016/17 External painting programme to clean/replace the fascia boards.

CQ466-15 **from Councillor Michael Neal**

Councillor Alison Butler

Out of the 1,528 homes you state have been completed in Croydon since 2014 / 15

Could you list how many new homes have been initiated / granted planning permission by the Conservative administration prior to May 2014 Could you list how many new homes have been initiated / granted planning permission by the Labour Administration after May 2014

Reply

On average it takes 21 months from granting permission to completion of a home. However, this is an average, so some schemes take much longer and some are completed in a shorter timescale.

As context, from 1st January 2013 to 22nd May 2014, 4,103 dwellings were granted planning permission and in the period 23rd May 2014 to 19th November 2015, 5,425 dwellings were granted planning permission.

CQ467-15 **from Councillor Michael Neal**

Councillor Alison Butler

Can you update the Council of the new "wholly-owned housing company" How the funds will be secured and how many homes you expect to build in the next 5 years under this new investment?

In conjunction with that, you have stated there are 70 sites available across Croydon available for new homes delivery / council new build. Can you outline where those sites have been proposed ?

Reply

The wholly-owned housing company has been established and it will become fully operational in early 2016.

Funds will be secured through a mixture of debt and equity, the recycling of some receipts and possible partnering with third parties.

The number of new homes has yet to be finalised. The sites to be developed are likely to include many of the 70 sites. Firmer delivery numbers will be established as the schemes reach planning stage.

We have identified potential sites in Sanderstead, Addiscombe, Upper Norwood, Selhurst, South Norwood, Bensham Manor, Broad Green, Coulsdon, Purley, Croham, Fairfield, Ashburton, Heathfield, Norbury, Thornton Heath, Shirley, and Waddon.

CQ478-15 **from Councillor Tim Pollard**

Councillor Alison Butler

Please outline by polling district all schemes of over ten units where the council is in pre-application discussion with developers or has identified the site as suitable for that scale of development in the local plan. Please indicate the likely or 'best guess' number of units and their predicted size as measured by the likely number of bedrooms.

Reply

I am not in a position to disclose the form and nature of pre application engagement with the Council, due to the confidential nature of the process. The information that you require around site allocations is contained within the Detailed Policies and Proposals Document (CLP.2) which is currently out for consultation and can be accessed via the following web link

<https://www.croydon.gov.uk/planningandregeneration/framework/localplan/clpproposals>

CQ490-15 **from Councillor Helen Pollard**

Councillor Alison Butler

Can the Cabinet Member tell me why the Local Plan proposes that Stanhope Road loses its LASC status going forward?

Reply

As part of the Croydon Local Plan: Strategic Policies – Partial Review, a comprehensive set of designation criteria was developed to robustly guide the move from Local Areas of Special Character (LASC (in the Saved UDP)) to the new Local Heritage Areas (LHA) designation. The aim of the criteria was to create robust and transparent criteria that provide a sound basis for designation.

Heritage significance is at the heart of the new LHA designation. However, in addition to meeting the criterion for heritage significance, each area must also be of architectural, townscape or landscape value that is high quality, distinctive and well preserved. All existing LASCs have been assessed against the LHA criteria. The current consultation for the Local Plan sets out recommendations for new LHAs, comprising either existing LASCs that have been considered to meet the LHA criteria or new LHAs.

In the case of Stanhope Road, although it is an attractive area which meets the criteria for architectural and townscape value, it has not met the criteria for heritage significance. This is because, with the exception of the Water Tower (which is located just outside of the existing LASC), it does not retain any evidence of the original historic development of the area. Historic features such as the landscape setting (including the lake) were lost in 1910 when Stanhope Road was laid out. During that same period the Engine House and Lodge were replaced and the area between these buildings in-filled during the 1930s. In the absence of evidence to demonstrate that Stanhope Road meets the criterion for heritage significance, the area has not been recommended for designation as a LHA.

Consultation on the Croydon Local Plan: Strategic Policies – Partial Review and the Croydon Local Plan: Detailed Policies and Proposals commenced on the 6th November and concludes on 18th December 2015. Representations on the LHA, or any aspect of the draft Plans would be welcomed (email to ldf@croydon.gov.uk).

CQ494-15 **from Councillor Jason Perry**

Councillor Alison Butler

With regard to permitted development rights, please detail the number of new residential units that the Council believe will be delivered from office to residential conversion across the borough. Please detail both those schemes that are underway and those that are planned, by polling district, number of units and bed spaces.

Reply

Below is a table that comprises all the office to residential conversions that have been granted since the permitted development right allowing this type of conversion was introduced in May 2013 and is up to date, as of the 26th November 2015.

The table also includes the 'live' applications for prior approval that are yet to be determined.

The information is not available by polling district, so ward level data is provided.

All Office to Residential Conversions Granted since 2013

Ward	Ref. no.	No. of units	Studios (where stated)	No. of one-bed	No. of two-bed	No. of three-bed	Started	Completed
Addiscombe	13/03159/GPDO	2	1		1			
Addiscombe	14/00635/GPDO	11	11					x
Addiscombe	14/01092/GPDO	1		1				x
Addiscombe	14/02651/GPDO	16	16					x
Addiscombe	14/03993/GPDO	5		5				
Addiscombe	14/03996/GPDO	11		11				
Addiscombe	14/04263/GPDO	15		15				
Addiscombe	15/03854/GPDO	2		2				
Total Addiscombe		63	28	34	1			
Bensham Manor	14/01005/GPDO	18		4	14			
Total Bensham Manor		18		4	14			
Broad Green	13/03463/GPDO	59		18	31	10		
Broad Green	13/03582/GPDO	2		2				
Broad Green	13/04263/GPDO	4		4			x	
Broad Green	13/04332/GPDO	4		4				
Broad Green	13/04369/GPDO	2			2			
Broad Green	14/00185/GPDO	1		1				x
Broad Green	14/00297/GPDO	32		16	14	2		
Broad Green	14/01507/GPDO	2	1	1			x	
Broad Green	14/02100/GPDO	3		3				
Broad Green	14/02351/GPDO	18	18					
Broad Green	14/03926/GPDO	5			1	4		

Broad Green	14/04102/GPDO	4		3	1		
Broad Green	14/05303/GPDO	34		12	22		
Broad Green	15/02834/GPDO	62		62			
Broad Green	15/03207/GPDO	3	3				
Broad Green	15/03251/GPDO	16	16				
Total Broad Green		251	38	126	71	16	
Coulsdon West	14/00882/GPDO	1		1			x
Coulsdon West	14/01297/GPDO	2		1	1	x	
Coulsdon West	14/02041/GPDO	1		1		x	
Coulsdon West	15/02962/GPDO	2	1	1			
Coulsdon West	15/04025/GPDO	3		1	2		
Total Coulsdon West		9	1	5	3		
Croham	13/02032/GPDO	2		1	1		
Croham	13/02212/GPDO	2		2			x
Croham	13/02913/GPDO	4		4		x	
Croham	14/00320/GPDO	5		5			
Croham	14/00857/GPDO	1		1		x	
Croham	14/01319/GPDO	6		5	1	x	
Croham	14/01929/GPDO	30		17	13		
Croham	15/03732/GPDO	10	10				
Total Croham		60	10	35	15		
Fairfield	13/01785/GPDO	8			8	x	
Fairfield	13/02861/GPDO	23		8	15		
Fairfield	13/03270/GPDO	30	10	19	1		
Fairfield	13/03422/GPDO	111		75	36		
Fairfield	13/03767/GPDO	30		2	28	x	

Fairfield	13/03917/GPDO	5	4	1			
Fairfield	13/04096/GPDO	3		1	1	1	x
Fairfield	13/04156/GPDO	5	2	3			
Fairfield	14/04993/GPDO	2		2			x
Fairfield	14/04994/GPDO	4		2	2		x
Fairfield	14/00737/GPDO	8		7	1		x
Fairfield	14/00788/GPDO	16	16				x
Fairfield	14/01447/GPDO	10	1	7	2		x
Fairfield	14/01537/GPDO	54		54			x
Fairfield	14/01544/GPDO	404	5	261	138		x
Fairfield	14/01605/GPDO	121		70	51		
Fairfield	14/01843/GPDO	4		1	3		
Fairfield	14/01950/GPDO	4		4			
Fairfield	14/02067/GPDO	98		55	43		x
Fairfield	14/02319/GPDO	1			1		
Fairfield	14/02928/GPDO	120	25	24	70	1	
Fairfield	14/03017/GPDO	51		51			x
Fairfield	14/03309/GPDO	4			4		
Fairfield	14/03469/GPDO	82		50	32		x
Fairfield	14/03655/GPDO	37		34	3		
Fairfield	14/03808/GPDO	28	28				
Fairfield	14/03826/GPDO	197		177	20		
Fairfield	14/03990/GPDO	5		4	1		
Fairfield	15/00069/GPDO	5		3	2		
Fairfield	15/00073/GPDO	5		2	3		x
Fairfield	15/00160/GPDO	10	3	1	6		
Fairfield	15/00328/GPDO	2		2			
Fairfield	15/00453/GPDO	2		2			
Fairfield	15/00481/GPDO	32	32				

Fairfield	15/00573/GPDO	4		4			
Fairfield	15/00852/GPDO	12	12				
Fairfield	15/01175/GPDO	6		4	2		
Fairfield	15/01378/GPDO	82		80	2		
Fairfield	15/01654/GPDO	4		4			
Fairfield	15/02377/GPDO	134	43	78	13		
Fairfield	15/02406/GPDO	56		56			
Fairfield	15/02655/GPDO	94		94			
Fairfield	15/02723/GPDO	188	1	164	23		
Fairfield	15/02829/GPDO	6	2	4			
Fairfield	15/02871/GPDO	26		24	2		
Fairfield	15/02926/GPDO	67		39	28		
Fairfield	15/02927/GPDO	14		8	6		
Fairfield	15/02928/GPDO	168		96	72		
Total Fairfield		2382	184	1577	619	2	
Heathfield	13/04120/GPDO	8		8			
Heathfield	14/04061/GPDO	13		13			
Heathfield	15/04421/GPDO	2			2		
Total Heathfield		23		21	2		
Kenley	13/02538/GPDO	3		2		1	
Total Kenley		3		2		1	
Norbury	13/01852/GPDO	1			1		
Norbury	13/03078/GPDO	36		14	19	3	
Norbury	13/03746/GPDO	56		24	32		x
Norbury	13/04115/GPDO	47		45	2		x
Norbury	14/04448/GPDO	1		1			

Norbury	14/05098/GPDO	1		1			
Norbury	15/01784/GPDO	140	140				
Total Norbury		282	140	85	54	3	
Purley	14/01373/GPDO	36		36			
Purley	14/01831/GPDO	4		4			
Purley	14/05157/GPDO	24		14	10		
Purley	15/00997/GPDO	1			1		
Purley	15/02245/GPDO	3		1	2		
Purley	15/03559/GPDO	5	5				
Total Purley		73	5	55	13		
Selhurst	13/02507/GPDO	8	4	4			
Selhurst	15/01301/GPDO	8		4	4		
Selhurst	15/03324/GPDO	18	18				
Total Selhurst		34	22	8	4		
Selsdon and Ballards	13/04362/GPDO	1		1			x
Selsdon and Ballards	14/02006/GPDO	16		8	8		
Total Selsdon and Ballards		17		9	8		
South Norwood	14/00941/GPDO	32		12	20		
South Norwood	14/01093/GPDO	6	2	2	2		
South Norwood	14/01260/GPDO	1			1		
South Norwood	14/03881/GPDO	35		35			
South Norwood	14/04951/GPDO	1		1			
South Norwood	15/00192/GPDO	34		34		x	
Total South		109	2	84	23		

Norwood								
Thornton Heath	13/02764/GPDO	1	1					x
Thornton Heath	13/03729/GPDO	3		3				
Thornton Heath	14/02008/GPDO	4			4			
Thornton Heath	14/02653/GPDO	1			1			x
Total Thornton Heath		9	1	3	5			
Upper Norwood	13/04280/GPDO	1			1			x
Upper Norwood	14/01371/GPDO	3		2	1			
Upper Norwood	15/01100/GPDO	2			1	1		
Upper Norwood	15/02672/GPDO	4		1	3			
Total Upper Norwood		10		3	6	1		
Waddon	15/00364/GPDO	1		1				
Total Waddon		1		1				
West Thornton	13/03694/GPDO	126	93	33				x
West Thornton	14/00096/GPDO	56	56				x	
West Thornton	14/02487/GPDO	34	34					
West Thornton	14/03611/GPDO	71		71				
West Thornton	14/04518/GPDO	40		40				
West Thornton	15/03681/GPDO	1			1			
West Thornton	15/04044/GPDO	1			1			
Total West Thornton		329	183	144	2			
Woodside	14/02841/GPDO	9		9			x	

Woodside	14/03215/GPDO	1		1			
Total Woodside		10		10			
Overall Borough Total		3683	614	2202	826	23	

Live Prior Approval Applications yet to be decided

Addiscombe	15/04813/GPDO	4	4				
Addiscombe	15/05227/GPDO	4	2	2			
Total Addiscombe		8	6	2			
Broad Green	15/04893/GPDO	69	61	8			
Total Broad Green		69	61	8			
Thornton Heath	15/05067/GPDO	3		1	2		
Total Broad Green		3		1	2		
Total Prior Approvals awaiting decision		80	67	11	2		

CQ495-15 from Councillor Jason Perry**Councillor Alison Butler**

With regard to consented planning applications, that have not yet commenced construction, please detail the number of residential units approved across the borough; detailed by polling district, number of units and bed spaces approved.

Reply

As of 31st March 2015 the following units had planning permission but had not yet commenced. Data is not available by polling district so ward level data is provided.

Ward	1-bed	2-beds	3-beds	4-beds	5-beds	6-beds
ADDISCOMBE	154	99	19			
ASHBURTON	2	5	1	2		
BENSHAM MANOR	8	19	1			
BROAD GREEN	81	101	27	1		
COULSDON EAST	2	15	1	2	1	
COULSDON WEST	50	147	262	207	82	
CROHAM	51	84	0	0	2	
FAIRFIELD	1527	918	237	4	-1	
FIELDWAY			-1			
HEATHFIELD	15	-2	-1	1		
KENLEY	18	22	7	3	2	
NORBURY	11	12	2	10	1	
PURLEY	66	56	6	8	1	1
SANDERSTEAD	1	10	6	1		
SELHURST	28	12	3			
SELSDON AND BALLARDS	12	8		1	1	
SHIRLEY	1	6				
SOUTH NORWOOD	20	17	3			
THORNTON HEATH	13	21	5	-2	-1	
UPPER NORWOOD	31	29	13	1	1	
WADDON	22	10	0	-1		-1
WEST THORNTON	122	15			-1	
WOODSIDE	14	7	6	1		

CQ496-15 from Councillor Jason Perry**Councillor Alison Butler**

With regard to consented planning applications, that are currently under construction, please detail the number of residential units approved across the borough; detailed by polling district, number of units and bed spaces approved.

Reply

As of 31st March 2015 the following units were under construction. Data is not available by polling district so ward level data is provided.

Ward	1-bed	2-beds	3-beds	4-beds	5-beds	6-beds
ADDISCOMBE	156	185	53			
ASHBURTON			4			
BENSHAM MANOR	3		-1			
BROAD GREEN	55	93	21	1		
COULSDON EAST	1	13	5	5		
COULSDON WEST	19	20	15	4	5	1
CROHAM	18	5	2	1		
FAIRFIELD	1052	870	42			
FIELDWAY				2		
HEATHFIELD				2	1	
KENLEY	2	7	1	16	1	1
NEW ADDINGTON		2				
NORBURY	102	50	1		1	
PURLEY	30	46	16	3		
SANDERSTEAD		2	3	1		
SELHURST	46	61	18	4		
SELSDON AND BALLARDS			2	8		
SHIRLEY			3	2		
SOUTH NORWOOD	61	62	10	3		2
THORNTON HEATH	18	18	5	3		
UPPER NORWOOD	9	19	21	2		
WADDON	10	25	12			
WEST THORNTON	83	43	11			
WOODSIDE	2	4	1	2		

CQ499-15

from Councillor Mario Creatura

Councillor Alison Butler

In Labour's manifesto it was promised that you would 'solve the housing problem' in Croydon. The latest evidence reveals a 30% increase in homelessness in the borough. Under the Conservative administration 160 new council houses were built and over 1,000 new units were supplied each year. Since May 2014 supply has dropped with only 12 council houses completed in Labour's first year. All 12 of these were started by the Conservatives before the 2014 election. Why are you failing to meet your housing pledge?

Reply

Cllr Creatura will be fully aware that no promise was made "to solve the housing problem" for that we would need a government committed to affordable and social housing, unlike the current one. We did however, have a manifesto that set out to try to tackle the many housing issues in this borough. Sadly, we did not envisage at that time the Tory government's full scale attack on social housing which has led to the increase in homelessness in this borough.

If Cllr Creatura was in the position that many of our residents find themselves in, through no fault of their own, perhaps he would be a little more humble.

The Council continues to build new affordable housing and has increased the rate of delivery in the current year. Since May 2015, 50 units have been completed with more to handover from the contractor before Christmas.

Significant work is underway to develop projects at College Green, Taberner House and New Addington/Fishers Farm together with the smaller sites programme. Design development and project technical work is well underway on all these projects.

The projects are projected to deliver in excess of 1,500 units, representing a significant increase in affordable and private housing in the Borough. Further planning and on-site works commence in 2016 to deliver this programme.

CQ504-15 from Councillor Chris Wright

Councillor Alison Butler

Could the Cabinet Member please explain why she answered my Question CQ400-15 in October saying that

"Residential Development in the Green Belt not in accordance with the Development Plan including Travellers development, is inappropriate development in the Green Belt and will be considered in this context" and yet in the consultation document for the revision of the Local Plan she is proposing such development.

Reply

The Council looked at all opportunities for Gypsy and Traveller sites on previously developed sites that met the established site specific criteria. The search was extended to Green Belt and Metropolitan Open Land sites to ensure a comprehensive search was made for suitable sites and to enable the Council to demonstrate all possibilities had been considered. Failure to demonstrate all possibilities could result in the Local Plan being found unsound, leaving the Council without an up to date adopted Local Plan and consequently risking Government intervention. The search was carried out in the context of the National Planning Policy Framework and existing Green Belt policy in particular.

The NPPF does allow for the redevelopment of previously developed Green Belt sites (NPPF paragraph 89, 6th bullet). This is the same NPPF guidance that was relied on in the determination of Cane Hill, Coulsdon for residential development. Sites are identified in the Local Plan Gypsy and Traveller Assessment as 'with built form', are given a lower negative score in the assessment and three of these sites are identified as preferred options for Gypsy and Traveller sites in the draft Local Plan. A mobile home and amenity block which will be located on each pitch will count as built form and the proposed development will need to be of a similar quantum to the existing built area on each site to 'not have a greater impact on the openness of the Green Belt' in compliance with the NPPF.

The Local Plan Gypsy and Traveller Assessment can be found here

[https://www.croydon.gov.uk/sites/default/files/articles/downloads/Gypsy%20and%20Travellers Site search Evidence %20August 2015.pdf](https://www.croydon.gov.uk/sites/default/files/articles/downloads/Gypsy%20and%20Travellers%20Site%20search%20Evidence%20August%202015.pdf)

The reference to "Residential Development in the Green Belt not in accordance with the Development Plan, including Travellers development, is inappropriate development in the Green Belt and will be considered in this context" points to the fact that should the proposed Gypsy and Traveller allocations form part of the adopted Local Plan in late 2017, their development would be in accordance with the development plan, whilst development elsewhere would not.

CQ520-15 **from Councillor Robert Canning**

Councillor Alison Butler

What consideration is being given - either as part of Connected Croydon or through other regeneration initiatives - to making the subway under the Croydon Flyover between Old Town and Southbridge Road more pleasant to use?

Reply

Thank you for your question.

As you know, this Labour Administration has prioritised the regeneration of our metropolitan and district centres and that includes making pedestrian routes around the Borough easier to use.

This has been reflected in the Connected Croydon programme which has secured £50m of funding to upgrade the town centre and create the ideal conditions for investment.

The Southbridge Road roundabout, including its subways, is one of 29 priority public realm schemes that have been identified for future funding through Section 106 and Community Infrastructure Levy contributions from new developments.

CQ525-15 **from Councillor Andrew Rendle**

Councillor Alison Butler

I completely understand that all wards in Croydon will see development as we need to house people in safe, comfortable and affordable accommodation. However is there any more she can do to encourage developers to engage with councillors and residents before the planning process when they are drawing up their plans.

Reply

Pre planning application engagement with both the local planning authority and local communities is a crucial element when preparing planning submissions. It substantially enhances the chance of a positive development outcome for all those engaging in the process. However, applicants are not required by law, to engage with the local community prior to submitting their planning application although in all my discussions with developers, I constantly raise the issue and encourage engagement.

Developers are encouraged, as part of our published pre planning application guidance, to properly consult with the local community; including Councillors and local residents. Furthermore, with all major pre application submissions, developers are required to present to Planning Committee, which allows Planning Committee Members to raise issues and ask questions of the developer. An officer report accompanies this process which is included as part of the Planning Committee agenda and is published on the Council's web site. Local Ward Members and local residents are encouraged to attend such meetings and listen to the debate to ensure that they are fully equipped to further engage with the developer as part of the pre application process.

CQ541-15 from Councillor Stuart King

Councillor Alison Butler

Can the cabinet member inform members of the council of the play activities undertaken during the October half term for children living in temporary accommodation in Concord House in West Thornton? How was this scheme funded and what was the reaction of the children and their parents who participated?

Reply

During October half term, Housing Needs delivered an outdoor play activity for children living in Concord House. 70 children with their parents/carers enjoyed a successful, fun packed play day session with music, chat and a chance to get to know each other.

Coordinated by Play Place Innov8 CIC (our commissioned youth service provider) and Croydon staff, including family support, sustainable communities, youth and community outreach officers, the children enjoyed arts and crafts, bouncy castle, ball and board games.

The feedback has been extremely positive; "This is the best thing that has happened since I have lived here, I used to go to youth club on my [council] estate where I lived and since I've moved here there has been nothing to do. When are you coming back?"

One parent said; "the accommodation is nice and clean however but there is nowhere to do anything. Most of the rooms have kids living in them and having some activities in the holidays like this is a brilliant idea. Please do more."

This event was funded from the Housing Needs' youth provision budget for commissioned youth and play activities. This includes a youth and play response team to deliver activities in targeted areas of need across the borough.

Concorde House is our pilot temporary accommodation site, where we also run weekly stay and play provision for families with children under 5. These sessions include creative and sensory play, providing opportunities for parents to engage in their children's play. The response has been positive: "They love it here, thank you for everything" "This is my first time at stay and play, I find it hard with lots of others around me, but this session has been fine, look forward to next week."

A Christmas party event at Concord House is planned for 21 December 2015 with games, football and music. Links with the council's early intervention and outreach services means we can signpost families to local support and activities.

We are working with Play Place to expand the pilot in 2016 to deliver half term activities across a further 4 temporary accommodation sites, as part of our commissioned contract. We are developing good links with the families to offer a broader community outreach programme including access to work support, money management, digital skills etc.

CQ547-15 **from Councillor Oliver Lewis**

Councillor Alison Butler

Can the cabinet member update the council on the impact of the Tory Governments recent Housing Bill? What will the implications be for social housing in Croydon?

Reply

The Planning and Housing Bill (issued in draft in October 2015) covers a range of housing and planning issues, including proposals require local authorities to promote starter homes and to count them towards affordable housing requirements, extending the right to buy to housing association tenants and requiring local authorities to sell their “high value” homes as they fall vacant to fund the programme. It also includes proposals to require high earning social tenants (those earning over £40,000 in London) to pay market rent for their homes (known as ‘Pay to Stay’). These proposals coupled with the Welfare Reform and Work Bill, which requires social landlords to reduce their rents by 1% over the next 4 years, will have significant implications for social housing in Croydon and meeting housing need which include:

- A negative impact on affordable housing delivery in Croydon, particularly on the delivery of affordable rent and low cost homeownership in the Opportunity Area and elsewhere
- A reduction in developer contributions towards affordable housing (known as Section 106 contributions)
- Introduction of the concept of starter homes which is a housing product defined as market housing with a 20% reduction on the normal market price with a price-cap of £450,000 in the London (GLA) area. A Croydon resident would need to earn approximately £76,000 in order to afford a mortgage at this rate. (The average income of Croydon residents is approximately £25k/annum).
- A loss of social housing stock through the extended Right to Buy to Registered Providers, with significant concerns around the type, location and quantity of social homes likely to be provided as replacements
- A reduction of up to £38m in the council’s housing revenue account as a result of the requirement to sell high value homes to fund the right to buy for registered providers, with an impact on the extent and quality of management and maintenance services provided to residents of our housing estates
- Potential risk of around £1m per year to the Council’s housing revenue account arising from collecting higher rents under ‘Pay to Stay’

We are waiting to see how these general statements and intentions are translated into policy and guidance; which might require secondary legislation, Government Regulation, amendments to the National Planning Policy Framework and consequential changes to the London Plan and to our own Local Plan affordable housing policies.

Until these changes come into effect, it is difficult to provide any further commentary, although it is clear to me that we must continue to negotiate planning applications in accordance with our current adopted Local Plan affordable housing policies which require the provision of the full range of affordable housing products; especially affordable rented accommodation.

CQ452-15

from Councillor James Thompson

Councillor Stuart Collins

Does Cllr Collins believe the actions of Veolia have been satisfactory in recent months? Particularly with a view around the conduct of their collections in and around the Tollers Estate?

Reply

With the backdrop of central government budget cuts to help the council to reduce the costs of running some front line service, officers and our service providers have been working on transforming our services to become more efficient. The 'village approach' was a new format for collection of household waste & recycling across the borough. We have split the borough into smaller areas to help improve and manage waste & recycling collections; these areas are known as 'villages' for collection purposes only, and will operate with dedicated area based teams. This was a significant change from the previous collections and saw a change of the collection day to approximately 82% of residents across the borough. The new service was introduced in June, both the council and Veolia provided additional resources to handle the transition period however there has been more missed collections than expected and officers and I have been in conversations with Veolia during this transition period regarding this.

These early operational problems have improved significantly and are now below the missed collection rates prior to the new system being introduced. The key issue Veolia are addressing is the issue of repeat missed collections in a few locations and we have now tasked Veolia's new area manager to concentrate on customer service through better staff training and an improvement on their communications.

CQ458-15 from Councillor Sara Bashford

Councillor Stuart Collins

Can Cllr Collins please provide the residents of Croydon who value their green waste collection with details of when they will be written to by the Council to explain what is happening to the service and how they can continue to get their green waste collected in the future?

Reply

The free garden waste collection service ended on 27 November 2015. From April 2016 we are proposing to introduce a charged seasonal garden waste service. Introducing a charge will help the council to offset the costs of running the service, which we can no longer afford to run for free due to budget cuts from central government.

All residents who may be affected by the introduction of a chargeable green garden waste service have been written to and the last of these letters were delivered on Wednesday 02nd December.

We need residents with gardens to register for the proposed service by 31 December 2015 so we can decide if there is enough interest to go ahead with it. To register for the new service please go online and sign-up through your My Account. If you do not already have an account set up in My Account, you will need to create one and then sign up to the garden waste service. Payments for the new service will be through My Account using a debit or credit card. Cash or cheque cannot be accepted.

To log-in to My Account, or to create an account if you do not have one, please go to:

<http://my.croydon.gov.uk/gardenwaste>

I do hope that you and the minority group will encourage residents to sign up for the paid for garden waste collection service as has been the case in many of the other Boroughs that have introduced a charge.

CQ468-15 **from Councillor Michael Neal**

Councillor Stuart Collins

Why are you cutting our street cleaning in the South of the Borough and only putting new litter bins in the North and rejecting the South, I thought the Labour Council was making transparent decisions, this seems totally unfair to the residents of the South. Can you explain the decision so that my residents in Croham can be informed?

If this is around cost savings, can you outline the financial savings to the Council in respect of not delivering your promise of cleaning up this Borough particularly in the South?

Reply

With the backdrop of central government budget cuts and to help the council to reduce the costs of running some front line service, officers and I as cabinet member have been working on transforming our services to become more efficient and providing services to where they are most needed. It is correct that we have reduced the frequency of street cleansing for roads that were 4 weekly and these have been moved to 6 weekly, this represents approximately 20% of the scheduled cleansing.

We have not reduced the number of crews these have been diverted to areas of need to deal with targeted clean ups such as Thornton Heath, Portland Road, Waddon Park Avenue, Duppas Road & Duppas Avenue for example. So clearly it is not just the North of the Borough that benefits from us tackling areas of need and of course all action we take is reviewed.

With regards to the new dual recycling/landfill bins these are designed to assist where residents living in flats above shops have no access to either recycling bins or a landfill storage area, and extra dual bins have been put out and continue to be installed following an assessment. This is not limited to the north of the borough Portland Road is of course Central Croydon, more recently ward councillors in Sanderstead and Coulsdon have requested these bins and officers are reviewing each location for suitability, that suitability is obviously based on the amount of refuse & fly tipping etc in those areas.

On the issue of accountability the previous administration did not inform residents directly about changes in street cleaning frequencies, however we have now put these on line for residents that are interested.

CQ502-15 **from Councillor Phil Thomas**

Councillor Stuart Collins

Why did you try to cover up and mislead people over the reductions in street cleaning?

Reply

There was no cover up or any attempt to mislead anyone. When your Administration changed street cleaning frequencies, you did not inform every resident involved so past practice was followed when frequencies were changed to increase resources into hotspot areas.

We have now put street cleaning frequencies on line so all residents can look them up, something your Administration had eight years to do but chose not to.

So another first for this Council.

CQ508-15 **from Councillor Andrew Pelling**

Councillor Stuart Collins

What can be done to highlight the council's work on combating fly-tipping at specific locations subject to repeated fly-tips?

Reply

As part of the Don't Mess with Croydon campaign there is a focus on alerting the public to the consequences of being caught fly-tipping and also encouraging and working with communities to take pride in their area, report flytips and arrange community clean ups.

Some of the communications that have been completed are:

Hall of shame webpage - <https://www.croydon.gov.uk/environment/dontmess/hall-of-shame> this is updated after each set of prosecutions and promoted to the public. Web banners (see attached) and social media ran at the same time.

Below are some examples of press releases highlighting prosecutions:

- <http://news.croydon.gov.uk/on-the-spot-fines-issued-during-fly-tip-crackdown/>
- <http://news.croydon.gov.uk/litter-and-fly-tipping-campaign-sees-seventeen-prosecuted/>
- <http://news.croydon.gov.uk/dont-mess-with-croydon-15-prosecuted-for-littering/>
- <http://news.croydon.gov.uk/council-hunts-fridge-fly-tippers/>

Each media release is followed by a tweet.

There is a standing item about DMWC in the weekly Your Croydon e-bulletin and all media releases feature as stories. This has 60K subscribers.

Regular features in the Safer Croydon Partnership bulletin

Regular articles in Your Croydon e-magazine (examples below)

- YC - [http://issuu.com/yourcroydon/docs/01 - march-may - issue 67](http://issuu.com/yourcroydon/docs/01_-_march-may_-_issue_67) (pg 4,5 – community clean ups and champions)

- YC - http://issuu.com/yourcroydon/docs/your_croydon_-_june-july_2015 (pg 3 – Crushing vehicle from fly-tipper)
- YC - http://issuu.com/yourcroydon/docs/04_-_october-november_-_issue_70 (HOS, pg 10, 11)
- Next YC will have more HOS and community clean ups

A hall of shame poster campaign was run in August focusing the prosecutions. This ran on the council Decaux sites across the borough (see attached)

Continued promotion of the My Croydon app and My Account as ways for residents to report fly tips to the Council.

Regular updates via social media – facebook and twitter.

The next phase of DMWC will contain elements of recycling and anti-littering awareness and a focus of education within schools.

WE'RE CRACKING DOWN ON

FLY-TIPPERS

AND LITTERBUGS

27

HAVE BEEN CAUGHT,

PROSECUTED

AND NOW HAVE

A CRIMINAL RECORD

SEE WEBSITE FOR HALL OF SHAME DETAILS
WWW.CROYDON.GOV.UK/HOS



**DON'T MESS
WITH CROYDON**
TAKE PRIDE.

CQ518-15 **from Councillor Manju Shahul-Hameed**

Councillor Stuart Collins

How many fly-tippers were prosecuted in Croydon since May 2014? Can the Cabinet member list the numbers per ward?

Reply

Since May 2014 the Council have issued 1322 fixed penalty notices for littering and fly tipping offences. An additional 65 prosecutions have also been handed out to people including one case that saw a man jailed for 6 months. I am pleased with progress but there is more we can do, which is why we have increased enforcement capability through the Eyes and Ear's project. This is reaping dividends as October saw more FPNs issued than ever before.

Ward based surveillance in hotspot areas will enable us to be specific about the numbers per ward at the moment we can't be that specific because not all offenders live in the ward where they have offended. The dash board this Administration introduced on the Council's web site gives our results and fly tip clearance rates as well as the hall of shame list of offenders, we can always add further detail to these.

CQ521-15 **from Councillor Robert Canning**

Councillor Stuart Collins

How widespread is the theft of bins from residential properties and commercial premises in Croydon?

Reply

Our records show that the levels of bin theft in the Borough are very low. It is sometimes the case that missing refuse containers have been inadvertently lost into the back of refuse vehicles or not replaced correctly by the collection crew.

Periodically bulk metal containers are reported as stolen from blocks of flats or commercial premises potentially for scrap metal value and on occasions the odd domestic wheelie bin is reported as missing, potentially stolen.

CQ523-15 **from Councillor Andrew Rendle**

Councillor Stuart Collins

Can Cllr Collins tell me how many fixed penalty notices and prosecutions have been handed out since May 2014?

Reply

Since May 2014 the Council have issued 1322 fixed penalty notices for littering and fly tipping offences. An additional 65 prosecutions have also been handed out to people including one case that saw a man jailed for 6 months. I am pleased with progress but there is more we can do, which is why we have increased enforcement capability through the Eyes and Ear's project. This is reaping dividends as October saw more FPNs issued than ever before.

CQ526-15 **from Councillor John Wentworth**

Councillor Stuart Collins

Could the cabinet member for Clean & Green Croydon tell me how many prosecutions for fly tipping have taken place since June 2014, and how does this compare to the previous 4 years?

Reply

Since May 2014 the Council have issued 1322 fixed penalty notices for littering and fly tipping offences. An additional 65 prosecutions have also been handed out to people including one case that saw a man jailed for 6 months. In the previous four years we achieved two prosecutions. I am pleased with progress but there is more we can do, which is why we have increased enforcement capability through the Eyes and Ear's project. This is reaping dividends as October saw more FPNs issued than ever before.

CQ530-15 from Councillor Matthew Kyeremeh

Councillor Stuart Collins

How many offenders and for offences in which roads/streets has the Council prosecuted so far for fly tipping in the Thornton Heath area? How are residents being kept informed of this, just for information as well as for deterrence?

Reply

So far the council has prosecuted one person for flytipping in Winterbourne Road in Thornton Heath.

As part of the Don't Mess with Croydon campaign there is a focus on alerting the public to the consequences of being caught fly-tipping and also encouraging and working with communities to take pride in their area, report flytips and arrange community clean ups.

Some of the communications that have been completed are:

Hall of shame webpage - <https://www.croydon.gov.uk/environment/dontmess/hall-of-shame> this is updated after each set of prosecutions and promoted to the public. Web banners and social media ran at the same time.

Below are some examples of press releases highlighting prosecutions:

- <http://news.croydon.gov.uk/on-the-spot-fines-issued-during-fly-tip-crackdown/>
- <http://news.croydon.gov.uk/litter-and-fly-tipping-campaign-sees-seventeen-prosecuted/>
- <http://news.croydon.gov.uk/dont-mess-with-croydon-15-prosecuted-for-littering/>
- <http://news.croydon.gov.uk/council-hunts-fridge-fly-tippers/>

Each media release is followed by a tweet.

There is a standing item about DMWC in the weekly Your Croydon e-bulletin and all media releases feature as stories. This has 60K subscribers.

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- YC - [http://issuu.com/yourcroydon/docs/04 - october-november - issue 70](http://issuu.com/yourcroydon/docs/04_-_october-november_-_issue_70) (HOS, pg 10, 11)
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CQ531-15 **from Councillor Hamida Ali**

Councillor Stuart Collins

How frequently and on what days are the following roads in Woodside scheduled to be swept?

- Clifton Road
- Stanger Road
- Merton Road
- Percy Road
- Sidney Road

Is a street sweeping rota indicating this information for all roads in Woodside publicly available?

Reply

Sweeping is scheduled for the following Roads on the days identified:-

Clifton Road	3 per week	Monday, Wednesday and Friday
Stanger Road	2 per week	Tuesday and Friday
Merton Road	1 per week	Wednesday
Percy Road	1 per week	Wednesday
Sidney Road	1 per week	Wednesday

I am pleased to announce street cleansing schedules are now online for residents to see.

CQ455-15 **from Councillor Simon Brew**

Councillor Simon Hall

Where will the 2016 & 2017 Civic Remembrance services be held, given that the Fairfield Halls will be closed at that time?

Reply

Firstly, may I take this opportunity to congratulate all involved in the organisation of this year's Civic Remembrance Sunday event, which without doubt was a huge success. It was very pleasing to see such large numbers of the public in attendance.

Going forward, it is too early as yet to give detail on the proposals for the 2016 & 2017 events. However, please rest assured that every option will be considered and we will ensure the continued success of the Civic Remembrance Sunday service and wreath laying ceremony.

CQ459-15 **from Councillor Dudley Mead**

Councillor Simon Hall

When an employee of the borough retires what is the time delay between their last day of work, payment of the lump sum and the payment of the regular pension?

Reply

The Administration Strategy, which sets out the performance targets the pensions' administration team adhere to, requires that pension benefits are put into payment within 10 days of an application being completed.

A completed application would include certain decisions from the member, such as the amount of their benefits to be commuted into a lump sum, as well as sufficient information from their employer to calculate their entitlement. Occasionally forms have to be returned because they have not been completed correctly and it is not uncommon to find that retirees assume that their pension benefits will be put into payment automatically, which is not the case.

The most significant cause for delay though relates to the timing of receipt of information to allow those entitlements to be calculated. This can be information from employers relating to aspects of pensionable pay but equally could be relating to information from HM Revenue and Customs.

The pension team typically complete the process of putting benefits into payment within 5 days of receipts of a correctly completed application in cases where employment data is up to date.

CQ512-15 **from Councillor Jamie Audsley**

Councillor Simon Hall

Cllr Hall, central Government is forcing you and Cabinet colleagues to cut services. What democratic processes are you putting in place to allow Croydon citizens to influence decisions on how cuts to their services are made?

Reply

Central government has continued, since we set the budget, to put additional pressures on the Council, both in year and, with the Emergency Budget and the Autumn Statement, over the next few years. This is both cutting our funding and putting more obligations on us.

Our focus is and remains to continue delivering the Ambitious for Croydon manifesto that we were elected on in May 2014.

This involves making very tough choices and balancing many competing priorities. We are always seeking to find different ways of delivering services and appropriate charging, so that we can preserve and, where possible and appropriate, enhance services rather than cut them.

This Labour administration has taken a number of steps to allow more local residents to participate in the democratic process. One of our first actions was to open up the Town Hall to residents and we took a report to the Cabinet that outlined a number of steps we have taken to be a more open and transparent Council. We have reintroduced webcasting for key meetings such as Cabinet, Council and Scrutiny. We have dramatically reduced the threshold for public petitions to be debated at Council and we have increased the number of public questions able to be taken at Council meetings. We have also strengthened the Scrutiny function to allow greater pre-decision scrutiny and post-decision review.

In terms of the budget, we have committed to taking this to Scrutiny before Christmas, as we did last year. This allows options that are being considered to be discussed openly well in advance of the budget being formally set in the following February.

We have also convened a Constitution Working Party, who will be looking at how the Council's democratic process can work better. If you have any ideas on this, I am certain that the Members on that Party will be pleased to consider them.

Clearly, we will continue to listen to the voices of citizens as always, including through our strong communications and community engagement, not to mention the recommendations of the Fairness & Opportunity Commission.

CQ543-15 from Councillor Stuart King

Councillor Simon Hall

How much does the council expect to save as a result of the following decisions, taken as a result of central government funding cuts:

- a) introducing a chargeable green waste collection service;
- b) closing the CALAT centre in Coulsdon;
- c) not opting for a phased closure of Fairfield Halls;

As Conservative councillors have expressed their opposition to each of these decisions how does the cabinet member think they would make up the shortfall?

Reply

Central Government has continued this year its onslaught on local government, which is having a huge impact on the Council.

The cost savings in these areas are set out below

- a) £1.6m
- b) £0.214m
- c) £4.8m

So in total this is £6.614m

In the face of this, we have continued to deliver our Ambitious for Croydon manifesto.

It is difficult to know what the Conservatives would do, as they have yet to make a single positive suggestion and did not have a manifesto in 2014. However, based on their track record in 2010-2014, their response would probably include cuts to key valued services, worsening the terms and conditions of the people delivering services, short termist service cuts and some across the board cuts, as well as a do nothing approach to Fairfield Halls!