



Leader of the Council Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Tony Newman September - October 2016

Latest news

We are continuing our hard work and bringing more innovation and success to Croydon.

Hot off the press! Last week the Deputy Mayor of Transport, Val Shawcross, joined myself and Councillor Stuart King to open the **new West Croydon Bus Station**. I am really pleased to have such a vital part of our transport link back, and better than it was before. Transport is so important to Croydon and an issue we're putting at the top of our priority list.



September was a busy and exciting time. To begin with, we had an excellent visit with the **Mayor of London** Sadiq Khan at the beginning of the month. Sadiq was really impressed with our ambitious vision for the borough and I in turn was particularly impressed with his knowledge and support for what we're delivering here. We took him to see **BoxPark** by East Croydon station and then on to Fairfield Halls and TMRW, the tech hub. It's clear from our time with Sadiq that what we're doing here in Croydon is streets ahead of others and he commented on the success of our emerging culture scene. I'm pleased and excited to see him return at our Congress in November where we will have an opportunity to plan how we'll take Croydon from strength to strength.



AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON



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I am pleased to say, Croydon is receiving more and more recognition for being a vibrant, excellent borough and a real economic driving force in London. I recently attended the **Croydon Business Excellence Awards** and was delighted to see what a fantastic buzz was being generated about our borough. The passion and energy in the venue was a real show of how far Croydon has come since May 2014. The BoxPark launch at the end of October will only continue to add to the offer of our borough and is sure to be a massive win for our town.

According to the latest research, **Croydon has the UK's fastest growing economy** as it increasingly becomes a leading business hub for technology companies. Croydon topped the list of 173 areas as the fastest growing UK region and has been dubbed 'London's third city' and the 'Silicon Valley of South London'. We are now home to over 1000 digital, creative, and technology companies. And East Croydon railway station is now one of the UK's busiest stations with over 22 million passengers in the last year.

As the largest population by borough, Croydon is, as we know, an incredibly diverse, multi-cultural hub and I was really proud to attend the fantastic launch of **Black History Month** at the beginning of October, the specific theme this year being Our Young Achievers. It served as brilliant introduction to all the events that will be taking place throughout October including elements of dance, film, talks and music all promoted and supported by our Council.

Croydon's first ever **Pride Festival** which was a brilliant event. With special thanks to the 3000 revellers who made the day so successful.

It's good to finally see the **20 MPH zones** in the borough, with what we hope will be fewer accidents, less congestion and pollution and a reduction in smaller streets being used as rat runs. Residents say they want to feel safe and have a high quality of life, and this is something we've worked hard to deliver. You can see which roads are covered by the new 20mph speed limit by visiting www.croydon.gov.uk/20mph

You'll have seen that we bucked the national trend of declining **GCSE performance** to achieve "better-than-expected progress" in this year's exams. And for the first time we have also seen improvements at every stage from early years through key stages one to four. Congratulations to our young people. The challenge now is securing more jobs locally and making sure that young residents have the best possible opportunities when they leave school, whether that be in higher education or in securing their first job.

Councillor Tony Newman
Leader of the Council

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