



**COUNCIL
AGENDA**
for the meeting
on
4 December 2017
at
6.30 pm

To: To All Members of the Council

Date: 24 November 2017

A meeting of the **COUNCIL** which you are hereby summoned to attend, will be held on **Monday, 4 December 2017** at **6.30 pm** in **Council Chamber, Town Hall, Katherine Street, Croydon CR0 1NX**

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24 November 2017

Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting. If you require any assistance, please contact officer as detailed above.

The meeting webcast can be viewed here: <http://www.croydon.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

The agenda papers are available on the Council website
www.croydon.gov.uk/meetings

AGENDA – PART A

1. Apologies for Absence

To receive any apologies for absence from any Members.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (Pages 7 - 26)

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 30 October 2017 as an accurate record.

3. Disclosure of Interests

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct and the statutory provisions of the Localism Act, Members and co-opted Members of the Council are reminded that it is a requirement to register disclosable pecuniary interests (DPIs) and gifts and hospitality to the value of which exceeds £50 or multiple gifts and/or instances of hospitality with a cumulative value of £50 or more when received from a single donor within a rolling twelve month period. In addition, Members and co-opted Members are reminded that unless their disclosable pecuniary interest is registered on the register of interests or is the subject of a pending notification to the Monitoring Officer, they are required to disclose those disclosable pecuniary interests at the meeting. This should be done by completing the Disclosure of Interest form and handing it to the Democratic Services representative at the start of the meeting. The Chair will then invite Members to make their disclosure orally at the commencement of Agenda item 3. Completed disclosure forms will be provided to the Monitoring Officer for inclusion on the Register of Members' Interests.

4. Urgent Business (if any)

To receive notice of any business not on the agenda which in the opinion of the Chair, by reason of special circumstances, be considered as a matter of urgency.

5. Announcements

To receive Announcements, if any, from the Mayor, the Leader, Head of Paid Service and Returning Officer.

6. The Croydon Debate (Pages 27 - 28)

a) Local Petition Debate: Save Matthew's Yard

7. Croydon Question Time (Pages 29 - 104)

- a) **Public Questions** (30 minutes)
To receive questions from the public gallery and submitted questions by residents in advance of the meeting.
- b) **Leader and Cabinet Questions** (105 minutes)
To receive questions from Councillors.

8. Member Petitions (Pages 105 - 108)

To receive notice of petitions presented by Members on behalf of local residents.

9. Council Debate Motions

To debate any Motions submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rules.

10. Recommendations of Cabinet or Committee referred to Council for decision (Pages 109 - 110)

To receive the attached report which summarises the business considered by the Mayoralty and Honorary Freedom Selection Sub-Committee, since the last ordinary Council Meeting and in so doing, deal with the recommendations on the following matter:

- a) Appointment of Honorary Recorder of the London Borough of Croydon

11. Exclusion of the Press and Public

The following motion is to be moved and seconded where it is proposed to exclude the press and public from the remainder of a meeting:

“That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information falling within those paragraphs indicated in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended.”

PART B

Public Document Pack Agenda Item 2

Council

Meeting of held on Monday, 30 October 2017 at 6.30 pm in Council Chamber, Town Hall,
Katherine Street, Croydon CR0 1NX

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Toni Letts (Chair);

Councillors Patsy Cummings, Mike Selva, Hamida Ali, Jane Avis, Sara Bashford, Jeet Bains, Sue Bennett, Margaret Bird, Carole Bonner, Simon Brew, Alison Butler, Jan Buttinger, Robert Canning, Richard Chatterjee, Sherwan Chowdhury, Luke Clancy, Pat Clouder, Stuart Collins, Jason Cummings, Mario Creatura, Mike Fisher, Sean Fitzsimons, Alisa Flemming, Maria Gatland, Timothy Godfrey, Lynne Hale, Simon Hall, Patricia Hay-Justice, Maddie Henson, Steve Hollands, Yvette Hopley, Karen Jewitt, Humayun Kabir, Bernadette Khan, Shafi Khan, Stuart King, Oliver Lewis, Stephen Mann, Maggie Mansell, Dudley Mead, Margaret Mead, Vidhi Mohan, Michael Neal, Tony Newman, Steve O'Connell, Andrew Pelling, Helen Pollard, Joy Prince, Badsha Quadir, Andrew Rendle, Pat Ryan, Paul Scott, Manju Shahul-Hameed, Donald Speakman, Andy Stranack, Phil Thomas, James Thompson, Wayne Trakas-Lawlor, Mark Watson, John Wentworth, Sue Winborn, David Wood, Louisa Woodley, Chris Wright and Callton Young

Apologies: Councillor Jamie Audsley, Jason Perry and Tim Pollard

PART A

1/17 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 26 June 2017 were approved as an accurate record of that meeting.

The minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting held on 18 September 2017 were approved as an accurate record of that meeting.

2/17 Disclosure of Interests

Members present confirmed that their disclosure of interest forms were accurate and up-to-date. No further declarations were made at the meeting.

3/17 Urgent Business (if any)

There were no items of urgent business.

4/17 Announcements

The item began with a presentation to Mark Fowler, Head of the Gateway service at the Council, who was moving from Croydon to Barking and Dagenham Council. Mark was thanked for his 20 years of service at the Council, including leading on the nationally recognised Gateway service, and presented with a citation from the Mayor.

The Chief Executive, in her capacity as Returning Officer, announced the result of the recent by-election that had been held in the South Norwood Ward on 7 September 2017. Councillor Patsy Cummings had been elected with 1,671 votes.

Councillor Newman passed on his sympathies and thoughts to the family of a young man who had lost his life the night before the Council meeting due to a knife attack in the town centre. It was announced that the borough commander would host a Gold command meeting on the murder the following day after the Council meeting.

Councillor Jason Cummings added that the events of the previous night were a terrible tragedy and would hopefully be the last of its kind.

Councillor Newman announced that it was the administration's intention that care leavers would be exempt from Council Tax in the 2018/19 budget. Councillor Newman urged other local authorities to follow suit.

5/17 Croydon Question Time

The Mayor started the item with questions from members of the public.

Blake O'Donnell asked what was being done to combat violent crime in Norbury.

Councillor Ali stated that in response to a violent attack in the area in June 2017 there had been increased police patrols and stepped up youth engagement activities. Serious youth violence was a key priority for the Council, as stated in the community safety strategy. A youth violence plan had recently been adopted with a significant range of activities planned to tackle violent crime, and knife crime in particular.

Ben Joce asked what consideration and support would be given in the new Licensing Policy for residents living in the town centre.

Councillor Ali responded that the policy was out for consultation and it was not proposed to relax the current regulations. Evidence suggested that the borough's night time economy had changed considerably since the last policy was made, and the proposals reflected this change by removing the town centre's cumulative impact zone status. Licensing regulations were enforced by the Council's own team and by the Police; resident concerns about breaches of these rules should be directed to the Council and Police licensing teams.

Ben Joce asked a supplementary question regarding what support was available to town centre residents.

Councillor Ali responded that the Council's Licensing Sub-Committee performed a quasi-judicial role and would treat each application on a case by case basis and must be satisfied that the applicant would uphold the licensing objectives. Processes were in place to ensure residents could report concerns should issues arise.

Kofi Frimpong asked how residents in Broad Green ward could feel safe after the recent Ofsted report on Croydon's children's services.

Councillor Flemming recognised that Broad Green ward was the third most deprived ward in the borough, and that four young people had been reported missing. Outreach was taking place across the borough to address this and included a lot of work on the Handcroft estate and also in Valley Park. Work was also being done in Broad Green around tackling gangs and knife crime.

Robert Ward asked a question on Croydon's recent rating as being the third worst London borough for fly-tipping and in particular an increase in large fly-tipping incidents.

Councillor Collins responded that the high statistics in Croydon were due to the success of the Council's campaign that encouraged residents to report incidents and showed confidence in the system. The increased reporting had allowed for increased prosecutions. Fly-tipping was a national problem and it was stated that the government had failed to provide local authorities with funding to tackle the problem.

Robert Ward asked a supplementary question related to the increase in large fly-tips in the borough.

Councillor Collins responded that the campaign was about raising awareness of the issue and engaging with residents to increase reporting, for example through social media. Covert surveillance teams had been set up and officers had liaised with magistrates and other London boroughs to ensure fly-tippers were caught and prosecuted.

Ola Kolade asked when removed trees in Norbury would be replaced.

Councillor King responded that regular inspections of trees took place and were removed where they were found to be dead, diseased or dangerous. The tree planting season started in December and the Council prioritised planting in areas with poor air quality.

Ola Kolade asked a supplementary question as to whether there could be guarantees that removed trees in Norbury would be replaced.

Councillor King responded that the Council was in the process of a capital bid submission for a five year programme of tree planting across the borough's streets.

Alessia Cesanan asked whether households in the vicinity of the Jubilee Bridge car park could be provided with free permits for that car park to alleviate pressures on neighbouring residential roads.

Councillor King responded that Ward Councillors had brought a petition on the issue to the July 2017 Council meeting and a solution was being delivered. Residents would be consulted on including the area into the central controlled parking zone which would increase the parking controls. In the meantime, residents could apply for an annual permit for the Jubilee Bridge car park for overnight parking.

The Mayor announced that a question submitted by Mark Samuels had been ruled out by the Monitoring Officer due to the content pertaining to issues of a personal nature.

The Mayor then moved to pre-submitted public questions put on behalf of residents who could not attend the meeting.

Ruth Edwards asked why residents could not use recycling centres nearest their homes where the centres were in a different borough.

Councillor Collins responded that the Council had been proactive in reducing the pressure on Croydon's recycling centres by reconfiguring the sites to allow better traffic flow. Croydon did not have a permit system for its system unlike other boroughs and had three centres whereas many boroughs only had one.

Janet Gardner asked why elderly residents and those on benefits were expected to pay for the garden waste service.

Councillor Collins responded that the charge was required due to the funding cuts from government; the Cabinet Member had written to the Chancellor of the Exchequer but had received no response. The garden waste service in Croydon was due to be launched as an all-year round service starting in 2018. It was stated that the service was good value for money given the number of collections provided for.

Carmel Spanswick asked why demolition was allowed on The View public house given its architectural value to the area.

Councillor Butler responded that the partial demolition of the building was undertaken without planning consent. Enforcement officers were sent to the site when the Council became aware of the situation and the work was halted and protective covering set up to protect the site from further damage.

The Mayor moved to Councillor questions to the Leader of the Council.

Councillor Jason Cummings asked when the administration would take political leadership over the failure of Children's Services in the Council.

The Leader responded that since the Ofsted report there had been a scrutiny meeting, a Cabinet, and a Council meeting all dedicated to the issue. There had been numerous meetings with the government appointed Commissioner. It was stated that the administration were taking their share of the responsibility and the opposition needed to do likewise.

Councillor Jason Cummings asked a supplementary question pertaining to what the Leader believed had gone wrong for the Children's Services to receive the rating it did.

The Leader responded that the quality of the information received on the performance of the service was poor and there had been chronic underfunding in the service due to government cuts.

Councillor Chowdhury asked a question pertaining to the steps the Council had taken since the Grenfell tower tragedy.

The Leader responded that the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government had only provided words, and not actions, to support local authorities in taking steps to address fire safety in their boroughs. The Leader stated he was proud of the proactive steps taken in Croydon but that more support from central government was needed.

Councillor Wright asked why Labour Councillors had failed to attend meetings with the Local Plan Inspectorate to protect the status of green spaces in the borough.

The Leader responded that there were Labour Councillors at the meetings in question, but that Labour were the administration and the Local Plan was the administration's plan, which the Inspector was reviewing. It was thus the opposition's job to raise objections with the Inspector if they did not agree with aspects of the Local Plan.

Councillor Wright asked a supplementary question asking the Leader to apologise for not supporting voluntary groups who protect green spaces in the borough.

The Leader responded that the question was factually incorrect as green spaces were protected in the Local Plan.

Councillor Butler added that the administration had sought additional protection to green spaces in the Plan, and these areas were also protected by the London Plan and the national planning framework. Despite this, the government appointed Inspector had modified the plan and there had been a cross-party response to this change.

Councillor Pelling asked whether the borough's Islamic community could be represented in the Remembrance Day events taking place in Croydon, in recognition of the hundreds of thousands of Muslims who fought for Britain in the First World War.

The Leader responded that he hoped this would take place in future events to reflect the diversity of the borough and in recognition of the contribution Muslim people had made to this country.

The Mayor then moved to Councillor questions to the first Cabinet Member pool.

Councillor Butler announced that the Gateway service had recently won national awards in recognition of the unique and pioneering work undertaken to support families affected by the recent welfare reforms.

Councillor Dudley Mead asked if the Cabinet Member could point to sites in the borough that were being developed by the Brick by Brick development company.

Councillor Butler responded that planning permission had recently been granted on a number of sites in the borough, which included a high proportion of affordable housing, and development would begin soon.

Councillor Dudley Mead asked a supplementary question pertaining to the record of the previous Conservative administration building Council homes, compared to the current Labour administration who had not.

Councillor Butler responded that the previous administration had built homes through funding provided by the then Labour Mayor of London. It was stated that, by contrast, the following Conservative Mayor and central government had undertaken policies that made building and retaining council homes difficult for local authorities. It was further stated that housing associations

were missing from the statistics used in the question, which were a form of social housing as well.

Councillor Canning asked for an update on the roll out of sprinklers in the Council's high rise housing blocks.

Councillor Butler responded that the administration remained committed to installing sprinklers in the borough's tallest Council blocks and work had already started. Twenty-six blocks were expected to be completed by the spring of 2018. Councillor Butler also expressed her disappointment that the government had not delivered on its promise to help finance these initiatives.

Councillor Canning asked a supplementary question pertaining to the lack of government funding for local fire safety works.

Councillor Butler responded that the government lack of action was disappointing given previous promises made by Ministers.

Councillor Hale asked whether the Cabinet Member supported the government initiative regarding the housing allowance cap, that would not be applied to supported or social housing.

Councillor Butler responded that she welcomed the government's U-turn on the policy and stated that it was disappointing that supported housing development had stalled due to the uncertain government position on funding.

Councillor Hale asked a supplementary question regarding how many Croydon residents would benefit from the policy.

Councillor Butler responded that many residents would benefit and it was important the uncertainty around the issue could be resolved.

Councillor Canning asked what plans there were for development of a master plan in the Waddon area around Fiveways.

Councillor Butler responded that given the developments taking place, it was an area that required a masterplan and this would be looked into.

Councillor Gatland asked a question on the partial demolition of The View Public House and the suggestion that residents had warned Council officers that it was at risk.

Councillor Butler responded that it was a difficult situation and that planning officers received a lot of notifications from residents of suspected issues or concerns. Officers were in pre-application discussions with the developers of the site and advised that permissions were needed before demolition could take place. Despite this the illegal action took place and was stopped by enforcement officers as soon as the Council became aware.

Councillor Gatland asked a supplementary question pertaining to lessons that could be learnt from the incident.

Councillor Butler responded that the planning process would be made tighter to reduce the risk of such rogue actions happening again.

Councillor Ali expressed her condolences to the family of the young man who was killed the night before the Council meeting in a knife attack. The Cabinet Member had spoken to the borough commander and received an update on the Police investigation, and urged residents with information to come forward to the Police. Youth engagement teams had been tasked to go into the North End area to engage with young people after school in the coming weeks.

Councillor Rendle asked whether businesses should be supported by the Council to recruit more disabled people into the workforce.

Councillor Watson responded that the second Reverse Jobs Fair in Croydon had been inspiring. The Cabinet Member advocated the business case for equality as there was wasted talent in the borough, and feedback from employers involved in the Fayre were that employees recruited through the scheme had been excellent.

Councillor Rendle asked a supplementary question regarding the third week of the borough's disability self-employment course.

Councillor Watson responded that there had also been a pop-up business school for potential self-employed people, and a similar type of support should be made available for disabled people.

Councillor O'Connell asked whether the Council would support the application by Matthew's Yard for the Mayor of London's good growth fund.

Councillor Watson responded that Matthew's Yard had transformed an under-used area of Croydon and that the building it was situated in had been put forward for planning permission which would include demolition of the building. The developers have stated their intention to keep a venue similar to Matthew's Yard on the new site. In the meantime, the venue Project B had been identified as a space for creative groups who may be displaced from Matthew's Yard while the works are undertaken.

Councillor O'Connell asked a supplementary question regarding support for a campaign for fair business rates in the borough.

Councillor Watson responded that the government's re-evaluation of businesses had been bad for London, and Purley had been particularly hard hit. The Council would support businesses as much as it could, and would campaign for a fairer system of business rates.

Councillor Lewis asked a question related to the New Addington BID renewal that had been submitted to a recent Cabinet meeting.

Councillor Watson responded that he was a supporter of BIDs and was supporting new BIDs being set up in Coulsdon, Addiscombe and Norbury. It was stated that the New Addington BID document was excellent and the Cabinet Member applauded the organisation's work in the previous five years.

Councillor O'Connell asked a question on the balance required in the Licensing Policy between encouraging a night time economy whilst protecting town centre residents from the disruption that such an economy can cause.

Councillor Ali responded that the policy was out for consultation and that only a small handful of changes were being proposed in the document. The situation in 2017 was different to 15 years ago; the night time economy of 2017 was a more food-centred offer, rather than in the early-noughties where the offer was more focussed on alcohol and late night music.

The Mayor then moved the item to the second Cabinet Member pool.

Councillor Collins announced he had been working with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Treasury to fund new street cleansing teams in the borough's district centres. It was also announced that officers in the street cleansing teams had been nominated for a residents' award and this highlighted the positive resident feedback on the service.

Councillor King announced that, after concerns raised by the Council, Transport for London (TfL) had put on hold their proposed changes to the tram network service. Assurances were being sought that such unilateral action would not happen again. It was also announced that for the second year running, Love Lane had been awarded Play Street of the Year. Congratulations were passed to the lead officer, Maria Nawrocka.

Councillor Hall announced that over 700 care leavers would benefit from the Council Tax exemption announced by the Leader. In addition, £2.5m had been set aside for schemes related to the improvement of children's services.

Councillor Thomas asked why Croydon had been rated the third worst borough in London for fly tipping.

Councillor Collins responded that some opposition Councillors had been wrongly reporting fly-tipping and that officers always got back to residents quickly when fly tips were reported. The Council could control its response to fly-tipping but could not stop offenders fly-tipping in the first place. Long-term education was needed to tackle the issue and the Council was working with schools as part of this initiative. A national campaign was needed to make fly-tipping a social stigma in the same manner as was done with drink driving.

Councillor Thomas asked a supplementary question related to Labour manifesto promises of going to war with fly tipping in Croydon.

Councillor Collins responded that he had worked with residents' associations to support community clean ups and promote street champions. The number of enforcement officers had also been increased considerably and a dashboard set up to provide transparency of the statistics around fly-tipping.

Councillor Canning asked what the latest figures for fly-tipping related prosecutions were.

Councillor Collins responded that there had been 87 and that part of the success had been targeting key hot-spots in the borough. Many other offenders had been caught and paid the fine to avoid prosecution in the courts. A recent Freedom of Information Request (FOI) highlighted that in nearly every ward, fly-tips were down.

Councillor Canning asked a question pertaining to the Waddon Safer Neighbourhood Team's work around checking vehicle permits for waste removal.

Councillor Collins responded that the team had done a fantastic job, as had the three local Ward Members.

Councillor Pelling asked what the Council were doing to ensure charity shops stopped selling second hand safety items such as helmets and baby seats, which posed a safety risk to users.

Council King responded that the Council would look at positive ways to engage with charity shops on this issue and would talk with officers to move it forward.

Councillor Jason Cummings asked whether the accounts of the Brick by Brick development company were in line with the legal comments of the Council Solicitor, that the company should not receive more than 50% of its funding from the Council, as stated in the Cabinet report from March 2015.

Councillor Hall responded that the structure of the Brick by Brick had changed considerably since the time of the original report at the March 2015 Cabinet meeting, and that a full written response to the question would be provided to the Councillor.

Councillor Jason Cummings asked a supplementary question on the accounts that suggested all funding for Brick by Brick had been borrowed from the Council.

Councillor Hall responded that the exact details to answer the question would be provided in a written response to the Councillor.

Councillor Rendle asked if the Cabinet Member would undertake a site visit of Lower Addiscombe Road to look at street parking issues in the area.

Councillor King responded that he would do so and would look into freeing up additional parking spaces in the area.

Councillor Rendle asked a supplementary question pertaining to the TfL works on Blackhorse Lane bridge that were causing severe disruption in the vicinity.

Councillor King responded that the Council were concerned at the length of time the bridge had been closed for, but that the works were complicated and a recent safety report had judged the bridge to be at risk of a “catastrophic incident”. The Cabinet Member would continue to raise the issue with TfL officers.

Councillor Dudley Mead asked whether the recently published trading accounts of the Brick by Brick development company suggested that the company was insolvent. It was further asked whether the company’s directors were receiving remuneration and had been offered indemnity towards their personal liabilities to the company.

Councillor Hall responded that remuneration for directors related only to independent directors, not Council officers sitting as directors. It was further stated that when taking into account the asset base and when liabilities were due, the Brick by Brick accounts made clear that the company was not insolvent.

Councillor Dudley Mead asked a supplementary question regarding the appropriateness and accountability of the sole funding of the company coming from a Council loan. Questions were also asked of supposed irregularities with the co-terminus year end of the company.

Councillor Hall responded that the accounting date had been set by the independent company board. The funding arrangement was suitable as it would deliver affordable homes for the borough and was value for taxpayer’s money. The loan arrangement was externally tested and reviewed by auditors of both the company and the Council, the terms of which would be kept under review.

Councillor Scott asked when the Council would move to completely paperless meetings, as had been successfully implemented in Planning Committee.

Councillor Hall responded that the paperless roll-out was easier at Planning Committee due to the regularity of meetings. However assurance was made that the paperless rollout was in progress, but would take longer on Committees that met less frequently. Significant savings would be made and the roll-out was expected to be completed in the coming six months.

The Mayor moved the item to the final pool of Cabinet Members.

Councillor Godfrey announced that measures were in place regarding the possibility that Carillion could collapse; the library services currently run by that contractor would be brought back in house.

Councillor Flemming announced that there were many upcoming training opportunities for Members on Children's Services. It was also announced that the Children in Care Council had been launched. Members were invited to the graduation of first year social workers that was due to take place shortly. Two heads of service had also been recruited for Early Help and the Multi-Agency Services Hub (MASH) departments. Finally, condolences were made to the family of the young man who died from a violent knife attack in the town centre the evening before the Council meeting.

Councillor Woodley announced that the BBC had been present in the Council filming a Croydon project related to hoarding that dealt with the issue as a social care matter, whereas it had traditionally been considered a housing matter.

Councillor Gatland asked what concerns had been raised by the Chair of the Safeguarding Board in 2015.

Councillor Flemming stated that the previous Chair of the Board had raised concerns over how data was being accessed by the Council's partner agencies. Discussions were had with the Local Government Association (LGA) regarding whether a peer review was required and a Joint Targeted Area Review (JTAR) was launched which considered that the MASH service was sufficient.

Councillor Gatland asked a supplementary question on whether those concerns raised were taken seriously at the time.

Councillor Flemming responded that the concerns raised at the time were considered by the JTAR and a report was taken to Cabinet on the matters raised and the provision was considered sufficient.

Councillor Pelling complemented the organisers of the Wandle Park Mela and asked whether the event may take place at the park the following year.

Councillor Godfrey thanked all those involved with the organisation of the Mela and stated it was the first major partnership with the Arts Council to put the event on. There were plans to bring the event to Wandle Park again in 2018.

Councillor Pelling asked a supplementary question around the success of Wandle Park as an event venue, and whether Ward Councillors would be consulted on future events held there.

Councillor Godfrey responded that working with Ward Councillors and other areas of the Council such as the Pollution Team ensured that the views of residents were considered.

Councillor Gatland asked whether the Cabinet Member's remarks that the Ofsted report was an "opportunity" were insensitive.

Councillor Flemming responded that the response was that the Council must not rehearse the report but move forward in creating a service that meets the needs of young people in the borough.

Councillor Gatland asked a supplementary question regarding what the Cabinet Member would say to young people in light of the Ofsted findings.

Councillor Flemming responded that she would say the Council was committed to ensuring that young people receive the best support possible.

Councillor Lewis asked what the ambitions were for the operator of the new leisure facility in New Addington.

Councillor Godfrey responded that the new facility would be better quality and better value for money than the previous centre. Bids for the operator role would be open soon and a customer-focussed business plan would be a key requirement.

Councillor Lewis asked a supplementary question on the role of resident engagement in the shaping of the service provided.

Councillor Godfrey responded that there would be a user panel for the services provided which would meet regularly. A proper partnership approach was required which would reduce the risk of the problems experienced under the Fusion contract for the previous centre.

Councillor Stranack asked what accounted for the large rise in number of missing children in Croydon in the past year.

Councillor Flemming responded that the issue had been heard in considerable depth at a recent scrutiny sub-committee. There were policies that needed to be properly followed such as conversations with young people after they return from going missing. There were a number of complex factors such as a high number being unaccompanied asylum seeking children and many children placed in Croydon from other London boroughs.

Councillor Stranack asked a supplementary question pertaining to data on missing children that he had brought to the recent scrutiny meeting.

Councillor Flemming responded that Councillor Stranack was advised at the meeting that it was not appropriate to provide data on the day of the meeting to be scrutinised.

Councillor Rendle asked what work was being done to develop services for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

Councillor Flemming responded that the Council was reviewing the local offer for young people with disabilities, and there were plans for a new service model which would integrate the different partners into one multi-agency service. More school places were needed for children with special education needs (SEN) and the regeneration of the borough would support such initiatives.

Councillor Rendle asked a supplementary question pertaining to a recent report that stated that 85% of headteachers had cut funding for SEN support in their schools.

Councillor Flemming responded that this was an increasing concern that had to be stopped. Young people with SEN should be provided with access to support in mainstream schools, and there was a worrying practice of schools using exclusion policies to remove SEN children.

Councillor Speakman expressed sympathy for the position Councillor Flemming found herself in, which it was claimed was due to senior officers lying to the Cabinet Member to protect their position in the Council. It was asked what the definition of a corporate parent was, and the Cabinet Member was urged to ensure that action was taken to deliver the change needed.

Councillor Flemming responded that performance indicators would be monitored on a regular basis and a newly constituted safeguarding board had been set up with a new Chair in post. The forward plan of the Corporate Parenting Panel was also being reviewed. Members were recommended to attend sessions in which they could meet with social workers to hear directly from the front line of the service.

6/17

Member Petitions

The Mayor invited Councillor Pelling to read out the title of the submitted Member petition which read:

"Petition to London Borough of Croydon for parking to be permitted on the pavement on one side of Hillier Gardens CR0 4EH with parking signalled with white paint on the pavement as is already in place on neighbouring roads such as Coldharbour Road."

Councillor King responded that consideration would be given to a signed and lined footway parking scheme for Hillier Gardens although the scope could be limited due to the narrowness of the road and footway. Initial findings from an Ordinance survey suggested that there may be insufficient space for a formal footway parking scheme. The Councillor would be kept updated and a pragmatic solution would be sought to deal with the issue.

The Mayor invited Councillor Hollands to read out the title of the submitted Member petition which read:

“Petition for permit parking in Lower Road, Kenley Surrey.”

Councillor King responded that Lower Road has been identified for a consultation, but due to the number already identified in the parking design programme, this would be most likely considered in the summer of 2018.

The Mayor invited Councillor Creatura to read out the title of the submitted Member petition which read:

“It is currently extremely difficult for residents of South Drive, Coulsdon to park on the street due to parking by non-residents.

We would like Croydon Council to make parking on South Drive available to residents only, using a Pay and Display system.

We understand that those residents wishing to participate in this scheme would incur charges of £80, £126 & £305 per annum for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd permit issued to a household.”

Councillor King responded that South Drive had been identified for consultation however was in a similar situation to the previous Member Petition and thus would be most likely out for consultation in the summer of 2018 at the earliest.

7/17

Maiden Speeches

Councillor Patsy Cummings, delivering her maiden speech, stated that Croydon was one of the most dynamic boroughs in London. The fifth anniversary of the passing away of the widely respected Croydon North MP Malcolm Wicks had recently taken place; he had pledged to relieve poverty through education. Homage was paid to Councillor Cumming’s parents who advised that anything was possible. Being in an environment still dominated by white men was a motivation to succeed. Politics needed to be collaborative to deal with residents’ issues, such as the deaths of young people due to knife crime. As a symbol of the collaborative approach advocated for, Councillor Cummings invited Councillor Jason Cummings to join her in the centre of the Chamber to shake hands as a sign of unity to support the young people of Croydon.

The two Councillors shook hands on the Chamber floor and Councillor Jason Cummings added that he endorsed such an approach, and that whilst the parties may disagree on tactics, both were in agreement to support the people of Croydon.

The item began with the Administration motion which read:

“In light of the cruelty and hardship the government’s universal credit program is inflicting on many people, both in Croydon and across the country, this council calls for an immediate halt and review of the policy. Any review should also have direct input from local authorities who have experience of how this is affecting people on the ground and the implications for social landlords.”

Councillor Butler, proposing the motion, stated that the roll out of universal credit in Croydon had had a hugely detrimental impact to the residents of the borough. Since it was launched as a pilot roll out, the scheme should be reviewed and if necessary should be stopped so as to listen to those who have been negatively affected.

Over 2,500 Croydon council tenants were claiming universal credit, and the number in rent arrears was nearly 2,000, amounting to approximately £2million owed to the Council. This was due to the position claimants had been put in by the universal credit scheme. The same issues had been experienced across the country where it had been rolled out, and thus there was something fundamentally wrong with the system. These problems were causing landlords to become less likely to take on tenants who were claimants, further pushing these people into the risk of homelessness. The motion called for the government to stop and listen to those residents negatively affected by Universal Credit.

Councillor Ali seconded the motion and reserved her right to speak.

Councillor Jason Cummings, opposing the motion, stated that this was a national issue that the local authority could not change, and was another example of the administration blaming other people for issues in the borough. The universal credit scheme was not perfect and problems had been identified and changes made. The motion was not a call for improvement of the scheme but to halt it altogether. It was stated that under the Labour government people were worse off in work than benefits, and universal credit sought to address this. It would result in thousands of people getting off benefits and into employment. Whilst improvements were needed to the scheme, the motion was worded so as to leave the Opposition no choice but to oppose it.

Councillor Hale, speaking against the motion, stated that universal credit was launched to address the flawed system left by the previous Labour government. There was cross party support for the merging of benefits into one system which mirrored the reality of work. Croydon was a pilot borough for the scheme and the high rate of rent arrears was worrying. However, it was stated, the issue was complex and rent arrears were caused by many issues – an example was given of a claimant who was withholding his rent until urgent repairs were made to the property. Many tenants had been in arrears prior to the roll out of universal credit. Mark Fowler and the Gateway service

were commended for their work in supporting residents who were in arrears. The message to residents struggling with rent and debt was that help was there to support them; as much communication as possible to residents was needed to ensure they knew where to go for help. Landlords with tenants claiming universal credit could also access support, such as the Alternative Payment Arrangement and Discretionary Housing Payments from the Council. All these issues raised the question of whether Universal Credit really was the root of tenancy arrears in Croydon.

Councillor Ali, speaking in favour of the motion, stated that the United Nations had described the Universal Credit roll out as a human catastrophe, yet the Prime Minister stated it was working. The Citizens Advice Bureau, Trussell Trust, and even some Conservative MPs had all spoken out against the scheme. Councillor Ali stated that the objectives of Universal Credit were not being met. The scheme was pushing residents into debt, and tribute was paid to the Gateway service officers supporting those people. In Croydon, there had been cases where claimants were waiting 12 weeks for their first payment. It was stated that the inclusion of emergency and temporary accommodation within Universal Credit made no sense and urgently needed to be reversed. The scheme was causing human misery for residents and financial difficulties for local authorities dealing with rent arrears.

At the request of Councillor Butler, the motion was re-read to the Chamber by the Chief Executive to clarify the wording.

The motion was put to the vote and carried.

The Mayor then moved to the Opposition motion which read:

“Croydon's incredible carers make considerable sacrifices to care for loved ones within their home. That's why the Conservative manifesto for the 2018 election will contain a pledge to use council tax discounts to support many carers and specifically to introduce a scheme similar to that run in Bournemouth (and other councils) which exempts some carers from council tax entirely. This Council commits to endorsing this Croydon Conservative manifesto pledge and the introduction of such a scheme.”

Councillor Hopley, proposing the motion, stated that being a carer was difficult and in many cases a full time job with no respite. The care centre in Croydon estimated that millions of pounds were saved by carers and the Council should support those residents. The joint-commissioning work undertaken by Councillor Margaret Mead was beginning to bear fruit and linking with the voluntary sector was an important part of this. To this end, it was stated that it was disappointing that the Health and Wellbeing Board had been brought to a standstill. The motion presented a small way in which the Council could support the many carers in the borough whom undertook such difficult work.

Councillor Stranack seconded the motion and reserved his right to speak.

Councillor Hall paid tribute to the thousands of carers in Croydon, many of whom went unnoticed. The administration, it was claimed, had a tradition of supporting carers through protecting services for the most vulnerable and had recently included the extension of the Council Tax waiver to carers. It was stated that the policy proposed in the motion had many deficiencies, with many carers being unable to benefit from it. It was further stated that the motion was hypocritical as the opposition had voted against the adult social care precept and had supported the government's 70% cuts to Croydon's funding that have caused a huge national gap in adult care funding.

Councillor Henson stated that carers were extraordinary people that undertook emotionally and physically draining work. It was stated that carers were a high percentage of the Councillor's work load and examples were given of such cases. The cases were proffered as in those examples the carers would not qualify for the scheme proposed in the motion. It was stated that the scheme was ill-thought out and did not help many carers who needed the support. The administration had done a huge amount of work to support carers before crisis hit; it was claimed that no such support had existed under the previous administration.

Councillor Stranack stated that Councillor Margaret Mead, under the previous administration, had set out a vision to unite the myriad partnerships to serve residents over 65, which eventually became what is now the Outcome Based Commissioning. It was claimed that the new administration had slowed this process to a standstill, like had happened on other schemes like the Fairfield Halls development and Westfield Hammerson. The Alliance contract was forging a community-focussed approach to care provision, and discarding the old mentality. A vision was required for creative ways to support the army of carers in the borough, that prevent elderly people from becoming lonely and isolated; there was a real financial and emotional cost to this care. The motion was another example of building on this vision and supporting those who volunteer to help elderly residents.

The motion was put to the vote. The Minority Group voted in favour *en bloc*. The Majority Group abstained *en bloc*.

The Motion was carried.

9/17 **Recommendations of Cabinet or Committee referred to Council for decision**

Councillor Ali, moved the recommendations in the report that the Community Safety Strategy be adopted by the Council.

Councillor Wood seconded the recommendations.

The motion was carried unanimously.

10/17 **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

The meeting ended at 9.42 pm

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For General Release

REPORT TO:	COUNCIL 4 DECEMBER 2017
SUBJECT:	THE CROYDON DEBATE: a) LOCAL PETITION DEBATE
LEAD OFFICER:	Stephen Rowan, Head of Democratic Services and Scrutiny
WARDS:	ALL
CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT: This report is prepared in keeping with paragraphs 3.11 to 3.13.6 of the Council Procedure Rules at Part 4A of the Constitution.	

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 In accordance with Part 4A of the Council's Constitution one borough-wide petition and one local petition can be debated under the Croydon Debate item. A local petition was received and the wording is presented below at para 2.1 in the body of this report.

2. LOCAL PETITION

- 2.1 A local petition was received by the Monitoring Officer. The wording of the petition received is detailed below:

"Save Matthews Yard!

I am concerned about plans for the demolition of the building at 5-9 Surrey Street which Matthews Yard is based in and that no alternative home has been found.

Matthews Yard is an essential asset for many people in Croydon's community and has for 5 years been a springboard for grassroots groups and business including the Croydon Citizen, Croydon Tech City, Croydon International Film Festival, Soda Soda a theatre group for people with learning difficulties and hundreds more.

I urge Croydon Council and the Mayor of London to support this worthwhile cause in any and every way possible as without it Croydon will undoubtedly be a much poorer place. This vital community asset must be preserved for the benefit of existing and future generations in Croydon."

2.2 The rules for debate for a local petition are set out in paragraph 3.13.6(b) and are set out below:

- i. The Lead Petitioner or their representative may address the Council on the Petition for up to three minutes from the public gallery;
- ii. A Member of the Majority Group may then speak for up to three minutes;
- iii. A Member of the Opposition Group may then speak for up to three minutes;
- iv. A Member of the Majority Group may then make a final response for up to one minute and summarise the next steps to be taken in the matter;
- v. No further debate shall take place on the Local Petition thereafter.

2.3 After the procedural steps stated in paragraph 2.2 have been completed, there shall be no further debate and no vote taken.

CONTACT OFFICER: James Haywood, Senior Democratic Services and Governance Officer
Ext 63319.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: None.

For General Release

REPORT TO:	COUNCIL 4 December 2017
SUBJECT:	CROYDON QUESTION TIME: A) PUBLIC QUESTIONS B) LEADER AND CABINET QUESTIONS
LEAD OFFICER:	Stephen Rowan, Head of Democratic Services and Scrutiny
WARDS:	ALL
CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT: The business reports of the Leader and Cabinet are prepared in accordance with the Council Procedure Rules at Part 4A of the Constitution.	

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report outlines the process for:
- public questions;
 - questions to the Leader and Cabinet from Councillors

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Part 4A of the Constitution details the process that allows for the Leader and Cabinet Members to take oral questions. The Question Time is split into two parts, public questions and Councillors' questions to the Leader and Cabinet.

Public Questions

- 2.2 Public questions can be asked of the Leader or Cabinet Members on issues of policy at the Meeting as set out within the Constitution Part 4A, Sections 3.16 - 3.20. Any questions of a purely factual or of a detailed nature that cannot be answered on the evening shall be noted and shall receive a written response within three weeks following the meeting. The responses shall be published on the Council's website.
- 2.3 Public Questions shall only be taken at Ordinary Council meetings and shall be allocated a total time of 30 minutes. This time frame shall include both the questions and responses by the relevant Cabinet Members or Leader.
- 2.4 The Mayor has absolute discretion to decline to allow any question to be dealt with under this procedure on the grounds that it addresses matters that would be inappropriate to consider at the meeting, including where the questions being asked are repetitive or have already been addressed.

- 2.5 Questions shall be dealt with in the order in which members of the public seated in the public gallery are invited by the Mayor to address the Leader or Cabinet Member. Members of the public invited to put their questions will also be permitted to ask a single supplementary question but shall do so only if called upon by the Mayor to do so as this may be subject to time constraints.
- 2.6 The Mayor may also accept questions from Members of the Public submitted by email to the designated email address by 12noon on the Friday prior to an ordinary Council meeting. The Mayor will put questions received by email to the relevant Cabinet Member and, where a number of questions are received on the same subject, the Mayor may put a summary of those questions instead.

Leader and Cabinet Questions:

- 2.7 This item is to enable Members to ask questions of the Leader and Cabinet on issues of policy. Any questions of a purely factual or of a detailed nature that cannot be answered on the evening shall be noted and shall receive a written response within three weeks following the meeting. The responses shall be published on the Council's website.
- 2.8 Questions which relate to a current planning or licensing matter or any matter relating to an individual or entity in respect of which that individual or entity has a right of recourse to a review or right of appeal conferred by or under any enactment shall not be permitted. In addition, questions shall not be received or responded to where they pertain to anticipated or ongoing litigation, conciliation or mediation or any employment or personnel related issues or disputes.
- 2.9 The Leader shall be the first to respond to questions under this item and the total time allocated to questions by Members to, and responses from the Leader, shall be 15 minutes. The first two minutes of the Leader's 15 minute slot may be used by the Leader to make any announcements.
- 2.10 Cabinet Members, divided up into three 'pools' of three Members each, shall thereafter respond to questions by other Members of the Council. The total time allocated to each 'pool' of Cabinet Members shall be 30 minutes. The three Cabinet Members shall each be permitted to use two minutes of this 30 minute slot to make announcements.
- 2.11 The 'pools' for this meeting will be as follows:

Pool 1

Name	Portfolio
Councillor Stuart Collins	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Clean, Green Croydon
Councillor Stuart King	Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment
Councillor Simon Hall	Cabinet Member for Finance and Treasury

Pool 2

Name	Portfolio
Councillor Timothy Godfrey	Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport
Councillor Alisa Flemming	Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Learning
Councillor Louisa Woodley	Cabinet Member for Families, Health and Social Care

Pool 3

Name	Portfolio
Councillor Alison Butler	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Homes, Regeneration and Planning
Councillor Hamida Ali	Cabinet Member for Communities, Safety and Justice
Councillor Mark Watson	Cabinet Member for Economy and Jobs

2.12 Representatives of political groups may give advance notice to the Council Solicitor by 12noon on the Friday preceding an ordinary Council Meeting, the names of the first two Members of their respective political group that they wish the Mayor to call to ask a question of each Member of the Cabinet, including the Leader of the Council.

2.13 After those Members have been called, the Mayor will call Members that indicate they have a question, with a presumption of inviting questions from as many different Members as possible. Each Member asking a question will also be allowed to ask a supplementary question.

3. Cabinet Member Bulletins

3.1 The Leader of the Council and Cabinet Members may submit bulletins to be included in the Council agenda papers for this item. Bulletins may summarise the business undertaken by a Cabinet Member since the last ordinary meeting of the Council. The bulletins can be found at Appendix 1.

CONTACT OFFICER:

James Haywood
Senior Democratic Services and
Governance Officer
Ext 63319.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: None

APPENDICES:

Leader and Cabinet Member Bulletins

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Leader of the Council Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Tony Newman December 2017

Latest News

Tram Memorial

A year has now passed since the Sandilands tram tragedy occurred, but that fateful day remains etched on Croydon's mind. I am pleased the community came together to pause, reflect and remember those who lost their lives and were deeply affected by this terrible incident. Croydon will never forget.



Hundreds of people attended the civic ceremony we hosted on Central Parade in New Addington when the permanent memorial was unveiled for the first time in honour of the seven who died and others affected by the tragedy. The local community came together to remember and pledged to continue to support each other in the challenging times that lay ahead.

As well as members of the public, the New Addington ceremony was attended by myself, our local councillors, local charities, members of the emergency services and volunteers from organisations including the Samaritans, Victim Support and British Red Cross, who helped in the aftermath one year ago. The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan and Sarah Jones, MP for Croydon Central were also there to comfort and stand by the community.



Leader of the Council Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Tony Newman December 2017

The event followed a private ceremony earlier that morning close to the site at Sandilands, for the families who lost loved ones. During their visit a permanent memorial plinth inscribed with the names of their relatives and the date of the incident was uncovered, and a minute's silence was also held. Both memorials were designed in consultation with the families of those who sadly died.

Westfield

The £1.4bn redevelopment proposal for the Whitgift Shopping Centre by the Croydon Partnership – the joint venture between Westfield and Hammerson – has unanimously been given the green light by members of our planning committee.

This is fantastic news for Croydon and we have been doing everything we can to bring the redevelopment of the Whitgift Centre to fruition so local people can benefit from its wealth of offerings, including the creation of 7,000 new jobs.

The new homes and the thousands of new jobs this development will bring shows investors are rightly confident about Croydon as a place to live, work and spend free time. I am delighted contractors will be on site in 2019 to start the exciting transformation of the heart of our town.

I'm pleased we have reached this major milestone in the delivery of a world class retail and leisure facility and it's another step to reinforcing Croydon's growing reputation as one of London's top destinations.

As well as thousands of construction jobs, the exciting mixed use scheme will bring with it thousands of other roles in over 300 shops, restaurants, cafés and leisure facilities including a multi-screen cinema and bowling alley which will cement Croydon's reputation as one of the best destinations in the capital to live, work and play.



Leader of the Council Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Tony Newman December 2017



We worked closely with the Croydon Partnership, the Greater London Authority (GLA), and Greg Hands MP the Minister for London, to ensure the scheme progressed as quickly as possible and I just want to say a huge thank you to everyone that helped make this happen.

Children's Improvement Plan

Our improvement plan is taking shape and extra resources and support are already focused on the frontline.

The priorities for this plan are to ensure that we:

- Help families be healthy and resilient and able to maximise their life chances and independence
- Create a place where people feel safe and are safe

Croydon's ambition is to deliver good services for our children and young people, however we recognise that 'getting to good' will be a three year journey and we will



Leader of the Council Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Tony Newman December 2017

have to work with our partners to make sure this happens. We'll be using the feedback we expect to hear from children, staff and partners to keep us on track.

All of this work is to make sure that: 'All Children and young people in Croydon will be safe, healthy and happy, and will aspire to be the best they can be. The future is theirs.'

The Leader's Ministerial meeting with Rt Hon Brandon Lewis

On 16 November, I made my way to Victoria for a meeting with Rt Hon Brandon Lewis, the Minister of State for Immigration accompanied by Cllr Simon Hall, Richard Simpson and Philip Segurola. It was a positive and constructive meeting with the Minister thanking me for all the work Croydon has done with the Home Office on unaccompanied asylum seekers.

Whilst I welcomed his recognition of what we have done; we did make the case in terms of Croydon needing a fairer funding settlement to support that work. I am hopeful that the Government will lend us their support so we can continue with and maintain the excellent work going on to help the unaccompanied asylum seekers that we have welcomed in our borough.

Councillor Tony Newman

Leader of the Council

Cllr Alison Butler - Homes and Regeneration

December 2017

Latest News – Regeneration

Whitgift Planning Decision

On Tuesday 14th November the Council's Planning Committee unanimously resolved to grant planning permission for the redevelopment of the Whitgift Shopping Centre. Officers are now working to finalise the Section 106 Legal Agreement and the application also needs to be referred to the Mayor of London and the Secretary of State prior to the decision being issued. This is a significant development that will provide substantial public benefits to the town and will act as a catalyst for regeneration across the wider town centre. The development will provide up to 967 new homes, 20% of which will be affordable, increased retail and leisure floorspace (including 2 new department stores), up to 7,048 new jobs and a £1.4 billion investment.

Let's hear it for the Girls! –

I would like to particularly thank the teams that worked incredibly hard to deliver this planning application, right across the council and beyond including –

- Sarah Jones MP – Croydon Central
- Helen Furnell – Deputy Team Leader, North
- Heather Cheesbrough – Director of Planning & Strategic Transport
- Shifa Mustafa – Executive Director of Place
- Fiona Fletcher-Smith - Executive Director of Development, Enterprise and Environment – GLA
- Jo Negrini – Chief Executive
- And I understand the Cabinet Member was a woman too! (just in case, anyone thought it was all down to the men)



Cllr Alison Butler - Homes and Regeneration

December 2017

The Local Plan

Following the completion of the Croydon Local Plan Examination in Public Hearings in June 2017, the Planning Inspector's Main Modifications to the Local Plan were consulted on for a period of six weeks. The consultation on the Main Modifications concluded on the 10th October 2017. The Planning Inspector will consider all representations made on the Main Modifications before issuing his final report. Subject to the Planning Inspector finding the Local Plan 'sound', it is anticipated the Local Plan will be adopted by Council in January 2018.

Long Lane Gold Driving Range

Following the Council's refusal of planning permission for the redevelopment of the current golf driving range in Long Lane earlier this year on grounds of inappropriate development of Metropolitan Open Land, the subsequent planning appeal is scheduled to be heard (by way of a public inquiry) on the 23rd January 2018. The inquiry venue will be Bernard Wetherill House.

Latest News - Homes

Update on Sprinklers

Work has begun in the first tower block, College Green in Upper Norwood and alongside our contractors Mulalley, successfully created a demonstration flat within this block, to exhibit how the sprinklers will look in our residents' homes. There has been positive feedback from residents, especially those who may have initially been apprehensive about the system and how it may look.

You can find the before and after photos also a timelapse video of the installation process on the Croydon website <https://www.croydon.gov.uk/housing/firesafety>

Following the success of the demonstration flat, work is now underway, in order to install the sprinkler system within the entire block. The programmed work commenced 23 October 2017 in the communal areas, from the ground floor up, fitting sprinklers and conducting any preparatory work needed.

The sprinkler alarm system, which will alert the London Fire Brigade in the event of fire, water tank and pumps will be installed between 30th November – 6th December 2017; with work starting within each individual flat (top floor down) from 4th December 2017 and it is estimated that the overall completion of works will be 24th January 2018.

Cllr Alison Butler - Homes and Regeneration

December 2017

Taking Pride

A very successful clean-up day undertaken on housing land at Hillars Heath where over 20 people (residents, the local Cllrs, and Council housing and Veolia staff) cleared two 7 tonnes truck worth of fly-tips and cut back vegetation. The residents hope that we can now turn the area into an orchard. Two more clean up days are planned at Longheath Gardens and Wooderson Close.

Working with partners

Following the tragedy of Grenfell Tower fire Tenancy and caretaking have been working alongside the London Fire Brigade and the Repairs Technical team delivering letters to residents who are storing items outside their flats. The LFB have insisted that all communal areas for the safety of the residents should be free of items that could cause obstruction or could accelerate the spread of fire. The letters ask that all items are removed. In cases where items are still there they are removed by the caretaking service.

The Launch of the Community Food Club: The Food Stop

The Gateway service has supported the Family Centre and its Alliance members with the development of Croydon's first FareShare local collection point and community food club known as The Food Stop.

For the cost of just £3.50 per week residents in need will be able to have access to food worth around £15- £20 per week. Not only will residents benefit from affordable and fresh food but they will as part of the membership conditions commit to engage with the Community Connect project to help them identify a clear pathway into employment, housing and financial stability.

The local collection point is already supporting charity organisations offering 6 local charities the opportunity to start collecting Fareshare (charitable provider of surplus food) from the Family Centre once a week. Community organisations can pay as little as £19.38 per week to receive 67kg of fresh fruit, vegetables, meat, dairy and cupboard staples.

The Family Centre officially opened the Food Stop doors to the New Addington and Fieldway Community on Friday 27th October 2017 with a community fun day in partnership with its alliance partners. For more information regarding The Food Stop and how residents can become members please contact Julia Pitt, Head of Gateway Service Development at Julia.pitt@croydon.gov.uk

Croydon calls for urgent Government help over Universal Credit

Soaring council payouts to prevent families on Universal Credit from becoming homeless have led to Croydon asking the Government for urgent extra funding.

Last year Croydon Council gave a total of £2m in emergency rent money to families on benefits who would otherwise have risked losing their homes – by next March that figure is set to be £3.1m. Croydon Council uses the discretionary housing payments (DHP) fund to help by reducing arrears, paying deposits for those moving into the private sector, and topping up residents' rent while the council's Gateway service provides employment training and budgeting support.

Now the council has written to ask the Secretary of State in charge of Universal Credit for extra money to manage these “unsustainable” costs. In my letter to David Gauke MP, Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, I have highlighted concerns about the impact of Universal Credit and related current pressures on the council's DHP contributions, including:

- Clearing each Croydon resident's arrears costs £800 more this year because Universal Credit has caused higher rent debts through its six-week payment delay
- Croydon has helped 494 more customers than last year – an 84% rise. Of these 494, 370 are on Universal Credit
- From April to August this year the council made 958 extra DHP awards, up from 529 for the same period last year
- Croydon has 1,782 residents on Universal Credit living in temporary accommodation with unpaid rent totalling over £2.5m.

In 2016-17, the Department for Work and Pensions gave £1.5m towards helping struggling Croydon families and the council topped that up with £500,000 from its own reserves. For 2017/2018, the DWP contribution rose by £200,000 to £1.7m, while the council's rose by £900,000 to £1.4m.

As little as £1,500 per household over three months can help a household avoid homelessness. In contrast, it costs councils an average of £6,750 to accommodate a homeless household.

For the last three years we have had to contribute additional money to the DHP fund and this year we have an unprecedented pressure as a direct result of the roll out of Universal Credit. Therefore we are requesting a further DHP funding release from Government to help us to minimise the impact on our residents. Without this extra DHP support, Croydon Council's costs will continue to increase at an unsustainable rate. This would both affect the vital support we give Croydon residents at risk of homelessness and further highlight the flaws requiring urgent fixing in the Universal Credit policy.

CROYDON LAUNCHES COMMERCIAL ARCHITECTURE PRACTICE

The Council has established a commercial architecture practice to help realise it's ambition to design and develop high quality homes of all tenures. The new venture will form part of Brick by Brick, the award winning development company established by the Council in 2016.

Any profits generated by the practice will be returned to Croydon Council as sole shareholder to be reinvested in the borough.

Cllr Alison Butler - Homes and Regeneration

December 2017

The newly formed practice is to be called Common Ground Architecture and will initially focus on working with local authorities and other public sector clients to realise the full potential of their land assets by creating beautifully designed, commercially efficient housing schemes. The practice will be led by Chloë Phelps, who has headed up the in-house design team at Brick by Brick for the last few years following spells at Lifschutz Davidson Sandilands and Croydon's own Planning department.

The first scheme to be delivered by the practice will involve the development of new homes on Station Road in the South Norwood Conservation Area. The design has been strongly influenced by the Art Deco cinema that once stood on the neighbouring site and will also accommodate a new community space. Planning was secured for the development in May 2017 and work is set to commence on site in early 2018.



LGC Awards 2018

Croydon Smaller Sites Programme from Brick by Brick has been shortlisted in the Housing Initiative category for the LGC Awards 2018

The judges had a difficult job scoring the entries and have commended the high quality of entries this year, so to be shortlisted is a fantastic achievement!

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Clean Green Croydon Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Stuart Collins December 2017

Investing in a Cleaner, Greener Croydon

Operation Kestrel

A multi-agency clampdown against fly-tippers and their vehicles (Tuesday 7th November) led to Croydon Council seizing its 31st van suspected of being used to illegally dump rubbish.

More than 30 officers from Croydon Council patrolled locations across the borough with counterparts from the Metropolitan Police, HM Revenue and Customs and the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA). The operation ranged from fly-tip patrols in the north of the borough to vehicle spot checks in Purley Way.

Meanwhile, council environmental enforcement officers, police officers and DVSA staff pulled over 40 vans and lorries on Purley Way in Waddon to check drivers had full licences and insurance, were not carrying fly-tipped waste, and that their vehicle was roadworthy. One delivery driver's vehicle was seized after DVSA officers found it had faulty brakes.

Part of the operation involved checks on 40 businesses along Thornton Heath High Street to make sure they had the correct licence to dispose of business waste properly. Two of the businesses were told to upgrade the type of licence they held, and the rest had the correct licence.

The operation also led to six people being issued with £80 fixed penalty notices for fly-tipping, 11 parking tickets and leaflets being handed to local businesses and residents about time-banded waste collection.

The joint operation is the sixth such event in 2017 as part of the council's 'Don't Mess With Croydon – Take Pride' campaign, which combines enforcement with encouraging over 300 local volunteers to lead community clear-ups.

Councillor Collins, Croydon Council's Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Clean and Green Croydon, said: "This kind of operation is a good way for the council and our partners to clamp down on vehicles being driven illegally and to tackle fly-tippers who flout these kind of rules.

"I'm pleased our dedicated council officers have impounded their 31st van used for fly-tipping, as that makes it harder for criminals to blight our Croydon residents' local environment."



Clean Green Croydon

Cabinet Member Bulletin

Councillor Stuart Collins

December 2017

To report a fly-tip in Croydon, call the council via 020 8726 6200 or email flytip@croydon.gov.uk

Reduction in Fly-tipping numbers

The number of confirmed Flytip reports continues to drop with a 20% reduction compared to the published figures last year.

In addition we are now clearing 87% of fly tipping within 48 hours and are working with our contractor, Veolia to ensure they proactively report and collect fly-tips as soon as they are seen by street sweepers.

Since I last reported on the activities of the Flytip Task Force [FTTF] the team have been very active identifying current and emerging Flytip hot spots in the borough.

Since the last update I can report that the team have been active in the North of the borough and in particular most recently [November 2017] in the Broad Green area with some significant and positive outcomes.

The areas we are targeting in Broad Green and elsewhere are as follows:

- Stanley Road
- Boston Road
- Cecil Road
- Nova Road
- Brading Road
- Aurelia Road by Parade
- Sumner Gardens
- Elmwood Road
- Vicarage road close to the Tram Stop.
- West Croydon Station area and its environs.
- Ampere Way
- Therapia Lane
- Hathaway Road
- Thornton Road
- Canterbury Road
- Wellington Road
- Oakfield Road
- Montague Road
- Lathams Way



Clean Green Croydon Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Stuart Collins December 2017

These areas are known to attract disproportionate Flytip activity. Officers have been assigned specific areas to monitor and carry out a combination of engagement, education and enforcement.

In relation to the Hathaway Road, we are continuing in our efforts to contact the landlords who benefited from the Alley gate scheme to ensure that the gate is closed during out of hours to deter fly tipping.

We have also deployed a CCTV Camera at Elmwood Road which has had some positive outcomes leading to the successful issue of a number of fixed penalty notices.

Since the introduction of the Fly tip Task Force as a pilot scheme some 6 months ago the team as has been previously reported has undertaken a number of proactive Flytip operations and during that period have issued **304** Fixed Penalty Notices.

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Families, Health and Social Care

Cabinet Member Bulletin

Councillor Louisa Woodley

DECEMBER 2017

LATEST NEWS

Successful grant to deliver a local supported employment initiative



Gateway and welfare in conjunction with Mind and Status Employment have been successful in securing a grant payment to support delivering a Local Supported Employment Proof of Concept for people with learning disabilities or autism who are known to adult social care, and people with a severe mental health condition who are in contact with secondary mental health services.

The initiative is in partnership with the Department of Works and Pensions (DWP) and aims to identify a viable and effective way of delivering Local Supported Employment. This is a model for supporting people with significant disabilities to secure and retain paid employment, developed by the [British Association for Supported Employment](#) (BASE)

The scheme can be scaled up and delivered nationally to increase the amount of high quality Supported Employment provision, reflecting the Supported Employment 'place and train' model.

For more information: Mark.Meehan@croydon.gov.uk

Making safeguarding personal

Sean Olivier, safeguarding co-ordinator for Croydon council received excellent feedback after presenting at a Police conference in November. Sean spoke about some of the joint work that had happened between adult safeguarding and trading standards teams at the council. Ian Pilling, Deputy Chief Constable, Greater Manchester Police emailed to thank Sean for his passionate and power presentations. He explained that the feedback from the event was excellent and highlighted the usefulness of hearing different perspectives on how the Police can make safeguarding personal.

Croydon were well represented by key agencies and Members at the recent ADASS (Association of Directors of Social Services) conference where important issues such as [Making Safeguarding Personal](#) were high on the agenda.

Since the publication of the Annual Report, Sarah Baker has left the role of Independent Chair of the Croydon safeguarding children board. An Interim Chair has been appointed until a permanent chair has been recruited. The Interim Chair is Dr Adi Cooper, the Care and Health Improvement Advisor for London for the LGA. Dr Cooper is nationally renowned as an authority on Safeguarding Adults and took up the role in October 2017.

The permanent chair position is being actively recruited to

For more information: Nick.Sherlock@croydon.gov.uk

Help us to be a Sugar Smart borough



Look out for more information early in the New Year when we will begin our campaign for Croydon to be a Sugar Smart borough. We are working with the Jamie Oliver Foundation and

the charity, Sustain, to help residents to be more aware of the amount of sugar in some food and drink. Our aim is to support you to make healthier choices when buying products for yourself or your family.

This is part of our Healthy Weight Action plan to tackle obesity issues among children and adults and support residents to live longer, healthier lives.

The Action Plan has been developed in partnership with stakeholders and we are continuing the work with schools, residents and businesses that was started by the [Food Flagship programme](#).

We have also signed the [Local Government Declaration on Sugar Reduction and Healthier Food](#). This means we are committed to raise awareness of our work to improve the availability of healthier food and drinks and reduce the availability of and promotion of unhealthier alternatives.

The Daily Mile gathers pace in Croydon

We are encouraging Croydon schools to get involved in [The Daily Mile](#) initiative to help children to be fitter and to also boost their confidence.



The Daily Mile is a popular fitness challenge that involves pupils doing 15 minutes of walking, jogging or running each day around a designated route, outside in the fresh air. This can improve children's physical, social, emotional and mental health, and well-being.

This is also part of Croydon's Healthy Weight Action Plan. The Daily Mile is easy for schools to set up and some schools in the borough are already seeing the benefits of taking part.

Click [here](#) to find out how your school can join in, or you can email

For more information: Laura.Flanagan@croydon.gov.uk

Don't fall foul to Flu - protect yourself and your family this winter

Please don't wait until there is a flu outbreak this winter, get your free flu jab now if you are eligible.



Flu can be serious – It's a highly infectious disease with symptoms that come on very quickly, which can lead to even more serious illnesses, such as pneumonia.

It's really important that anybody considered to be in a high risk group gets their vaccine as soon as possible. You can check the [NHS Choices website](#) and also ask your GP or local pharmacist for advice on whether you are

eligible to receive a flu jab or nasal spray.

An annual flu vaccine nasal spray is also offered to healthy children aged two and three, and to children in reception class and school years one, two, three and four.

And, if you are a health or social care worker or work out and about in the community, please protect yourself too, particularly if you are at risk or work directly with those more at risk of flu.

For more Flu facts: visit the NHS Choices [website](#)

DELIVERING OUR AMBITIONS

Silver Sunday - celebrating age and alleviating social isolation

Over 70 residents attended a Silver Sunday afternoon tea party at St. Georges Church, Waddon hosted by the sustainable communities team, housing needs. The aim of the event was to reduce social isolation and loneliness. People came from as far afield as Coulsdon, (Tollers Tuesday Club), New Addington over 50's Club as well as Beech, Cedar House and Ashwood Gardens. Everyone enjoyed an afternoon of fun, refreshments and cakes. The entertainment was old time musical singing and dancing by Gordon Bennett which included a "Conga" around the room!

Partners also came along, e.g. Age UK and Just Be, to speak about what they're doing in their area. Waddon ward councillors, Cllrs Joy Prince, Robert Canning and Andrew Pelling also popped in to chat and promote their Saturday morning surgery at St Georges Church.

The feedback from the event was positive, people who came really enjoyed the opportunity to meet people and make new friends. Many found out about local events and will be joining new groups, either locally or further afield, as they want to keep in touch with the people they met on the day.

A survey was completed and the results have given the team great ideas for new activities to develop locally, e.g. day trips out, knitting groups, craft making, fashion catwalk shows for older people and more entertainment. They are also supporting local community groups to host more events that would encourage older people to attend.



Embracing technology for independent living

DIGITAL CATAPULT CENTRE

Croydon were approached to become involved with an innovation programme co-ordinated through the [Digital Catapult centre](#), an organisation who facilitate providers, suppliers and small businesses to collaborate with wider organisations on new product development and prototyping of technology to introduce it into the market. Croydon currently has the fastest tech start up rates in London so it was a great opportunity to be part of this next round of innovation.

At the two events in October Croydon presented the complex demographics of the borough, highlighting the specific challenges for our older population to groups of developers. They discussed these, along with other aspects such as internet usage and the wider challenges of social care and health. The groups were tasked with thinking about how technology can support independent living, enabling people to remain at home, living independent and safe lives wherever possible to do so.

Colleagues from the Croydon telecare and assisted living teams also attended, giving expert knowledge and answering questions ensuring the technology experts has all the information needed for the final phase.

The key areas that Croydon highlighted as being important ahead of the third and final phase of the Digital Catapult Centre programme were:

- the ability to detect fluctuations of health early, therefore preventing problems such as falling
- moving away from traditional wearable devices with a focus on environment control that reduces risk, for example fully digital enabled 'real time monitoring'
- Supporting people when they are out of the home, keeping them safe from becoming lost whilst monitoring health conditions

This is an exciting stage as all the small businesses have now gone away to refine products that sit within the Independent Living area. The final session is on the 27 November, where their findings and ideas for potential prototypes will be presented to organisations who may be interested in working in partnership with to bring them into the market.

For more information: Guy.VanDichele@croydon.gov.uk

Just Live Well

Did you know that the health website for Croydon residents at www.justbecroydon.org also offers some residents the opportunity to benefit from a face-to-face service called *Just Live Well*?

The service works with specific groups of people in the borough who might find it difficult to make changes in their life without additional support.

Just Live Well helps clients to quit smoking, lose weight, become more physically active, cut down on alcohol or be helped to improve their mental health and wellbeing. We know that with a little bit of help and support, taking big or little steps can make a real difference.

By completing the [Health MOT](#) on the JustBe website, you can find out if you could benefit from this additional face-to-face support.

Even if a resident is not eligible for this service, JustBe offers a wide range of information, advice and support to help you make changes to your lifestyle and you can routinely track your progress using the [Health MOT](#).

Find out more <https://www.justbecroydon.org/just-live-well/>

What we did for October's Breast Cancer Awareness Month



October was Breast Cancer Awareness Month. More people than ever are surviving, but the reality is that someone is diagnosed every 10 minutes in the UK, men included. This life-threatening disease will abruptly become part of their story and that of their friends and families.

Croydon Council's women's staff network hosted awareness-raising and fundraising activities to explain what breast cancer is, how to spot it, and how to prevent it.

Big Pink events took place across the country, and thousands of men, women and children took part by wearing pink to raise money and awareness for [Breast Cancer Care](#).



WORKING WITH PARTNERS

Supporting young adult carers

Since June 2016, Croydon Council has funded a service specially designed by young adult carers,

for young adult carers in Croydon. Run by Off the Record, the service supports young adult carers

aged between 18 and 25 by providing activity days, trips, social groups, information and advice, one-to-one support, and support with education, employment or training opportunities.



In the first year, the service supported 60 young adult carers. This included 33 sessions with young adult carers and their parents, 76 one-to-one support sessions with young adult carers and 94 young adult carers attending activity and social events in and around Croydon, including a trip to Chessington!



One young adult carer said:

"I went on a couple of the trips. I liked how relaxed and how easy it was to be myself and be proud of it. Also it helps get me out of the house and de-stress me. I like how the group is a lot more carefree with its jokes and humour than younger groups tend to be. I also like how we tell each other about ourselves and meet other people."

For more information: Stephen.Bahooshy@croydon.gov.uk

A finger-prick test is all it takes to know your HIV status

Croydon is again supporting National HIV Testing week, which starts on Saturday 18 November. There will be widespread promotion encouraging more people to take care of their health.

Examples of some of the Croydon posters you will see during for this year's campaign:



The purpose of this campaign is to promote regular HIV testing among the most affected population groups, to reduce the number of people who are undiagnosed with HIV and to reduce HIV related stigma.

Free and confidential HIV testing is available all year at Croydon University Hospital, GP surgeries and other clinical settings. In addition, there will be extra testing sites in Croydon during testing week, with many remaining open until the day after World Aids Day on 1 December. The venue locations and times can be found at www.StartsWithMe.org.uk

This year's HIV Testing Week theme – *Give HIV the Finger* – aims to demonstrate that getting tested for HIV is as easy as a quick finger-prick test, with the result available within 15 minutes. Receiving an early diagnosis and treatment can help people to live up to a normal lifespan.

NHTW is an initiative of HIV Prevention England, funded by Public Health England, and coordinated by Terrence Higgins Trust, with support, partnership and participation from organisations across the public, statutory and private sectors.

For more information: Rachel.Flowers@croydon.gov.uk



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Latest News

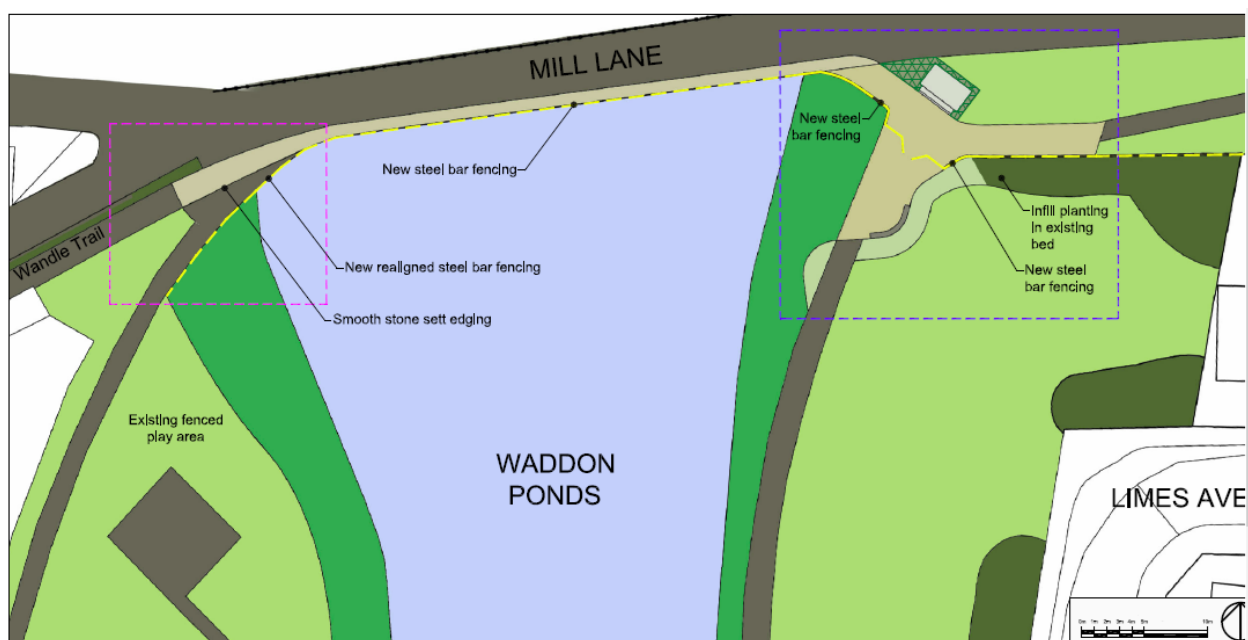
Waddon Ponds Gateway Project

The Active Lifestyle Team has been working with Wandle Valley Regional Park Trust (WVRPT) and Groundwork London to develop the Waddon Ponds Gateway Project on Mill Lane.

This is one of a number of 'Gateway' projects along the length of River Wandle to improve access. The projects focus on designing new physical infrastructure at entrance points to parks and the river – including the removal of clutter, opening up views, planting, interpretation/information and also wayfinding.

The project is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) through the Living Wandle Landscape Partnership (LWLP), Wandle Housing Association and Croydon has provided £63,338 towards the project from S106 contributions for open space enhancement. Work started on 13th November and will be completed by the end of the year. Groundwork have worked closely with Croydon to develop the project and have sourced additional external funding to manage the delivery of the project.

The Gateway Project includes alterations to the Mill Lane entrance into the park with new paving, railings, gates, seating, bins and planting. New signage will be installed promoting Waddon Ponds, the Wandle Valley Regional Park, a network of over 40 green spaces and 12 nature reserves linked by the River Wandle, and acknowledging the funding from the HLF. There will be a new paving surface along Mill Lane to delineate the pedestrian link to the Wandle Trail to the west of the site.





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Great North Wood –the London Wildlife Trust has secured £699,000 from Heritage Lottery Fund for a 4 year project. Croydon is a key partner to the project which will see more residents involved in the revival of the remnants of the Great North Wood, learn new skills, take part in community events and citizen science projects. The project will also fund small scale woodland management interventions on some of the sites, which include Beaulieu Heights, Biggin Wood, Spa Wood/The Lawns, Grangewood Park and Long Lane Wood

TCV Croydon continues to deliver a 2 day mid-week conservation volunteer project, carrying out valuable nature conservation work across the borough. TCV has been successful in its £80,000 bid to HLF to deliver a 2 year Croydon Pond project. The project will employ a part time officer who will work with local communities, aiming to record and survey all open water bodies in Croydon, and their history, and involve them in their ongoing management.

Preferred leisure operators commitments to Croydon include:

The Preferred Leisure operator (GLL) are *committed to delivering an accessible and inclusive service* in Croydon that is enjoyed by all. That will *drive participation and improve the health and wellbeing of the diverse communities* across the borough. Through engaging local residents, providing a variety of grassroot and community based activities, and maximising usage of the leisure centres, parks and green spaces.

GLL is structured under '**Four Pillars**': **Better Service, Better Communities, Better People, Better Business**. This forms the basis of our high quality delivery, social ethos, and employee ownership that together will provide a strong service for Croydon.

- **2% year on year increase in overall participation** up to mature year 5
- **2% year on year increase in participation by priority groups** up to mature year 5
- **660 participants** in a mature year onto the **Exercise Referral Scheme**
- **3% increase year on year of members within target groups** up to mature year 5 e.g. Better H&F Club (over 60's), Juniors, Better Inclusive (disability), Concessionary Members and Better Health Members.
- **Employ a dedicated Community Sports Manager and Community Activators**
- Achieve **80% satisfaction score** across the partnership via the Annual User Survey
- GLL will **pledge £5,000** as a dedicated cash fund for projects in Croydon as part of **GLL's Community Foundation**. GLL in-kind contributions may also be available.
- **Achieve IFI, Quest Plus and Quest Sports Development accreditation**



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- **Provide 1,000 athlete awards** at a support **value of £450,000** over the length of the contract as part of the **GLL Sport Foundation**
- Implement our **innovative 'Aqua Splash'** fun swim product hosting 250 sessions a year
- Provide a **dedicated low-cost membership for people with disabilities** 'Better Inclusive'
- **Free junior memberships to Looked After Children** on the Council's database
- Implement a **concessionary pricing and membership** structure that provides up to **50% discount** on activities and discounted hire rates for community groups
- Achieve and maintain the **Croydon Good Employer Charter**
- Commit to the **London Living Wage and locally employing over 60% of staff**
- Provide up to **10 x apprenticeships p/a** and **20 x volunteers and work experience placements p/a**

Over 60's

- GLL's targeted **'Club' programme** includes exercise classes (walking football, 60+ fitness classes, etc.), tea dances, and subsidised memberships. Working with Age UK Croydon and local Housing Associations, GLL will engage and promote Club programme activities
- Enter a team in **GLL's Club Games** which bring together over 600 participants.
- Interventions as part of **GLL's Healthwise PARs**
- Work with the Alzheimer's Society to ensure the service is **dementia friendly**, this includes training for staff.

Children and young people

- Provide **concessionary pricing and memberships** for juniors and students and raise awareness within schools, colleges and universities.
- **Link with schools** to identify ways we can support pupils, staff and families to be more active through an individualised approach with tailored solutions including taster sessions, assemblies and visits from **GLL Sport Foundation athletes to inspire pupils**.
- Deliver school curricular and extra-curricular activities; e.g., **school swimming**; and provide GLL's **Activate Healthy Schools** offer educating children and families about healthy lifestyles.
- Deliver a **variety of lessons and courses** e.g., swim school, gymnastics, trampolining and tennis.
- Deliver a variety of **taster sports activities through NGB links** and other sporting partners allowing juniors to have their first sports experience
- **Free Swimming for u8s** – It is believed that increased attendance by accompanying adults means this is cost neutral, as well as providing increased



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participation and health benefits. This offer will be available during a range of popular swimming times.

- **Kids for a Quid** GLL's low cost swimming initiative for U16's
- **Swim Guarantee** – Supporting pupils who have taken part in swimming lessons and have not achieved 25m by key stage 2 will receive a block of free lessons to achieve 25m.
- **Aquatics Memberships include General Swimming**: all juniors holding an aquatics membership swim free at general and fitness swim sessions.
- Provide **junior gym sessions and group exercise classes**.
- Provide a wide range of **holiday activities** for young people including our Ofsted registered Holiday Clubs offering affordable all day child care.
- As part of Healthwise GLL can offer family **weight management** provision.
- Provide **1,000 athlete awards** at a support **value of over £450,000** over the length of the contract to talented Croydon athletes, through the largest independent athlete support programme in the UK, the **GLL Sport Foundation**.
- GLL will **link existing Croydon athletes that are part of the GLL Sport Foundation to ambassadorial roles** to raise awareness and provide that inspirational link.

Vulnerable groups and those facing socio-economic disadvantage

- **Concessionary pricing and memberships** (Pay & Play, and Pre-Paid)
- **Low Cost Off Peak Swimming Lessons** – Ensuring a vital life skill is accessible to all.
- **Pay As You Gym** – Flexible payment, for customers who don't want to commit to DD
- **GLL's Community Foundation** – GLL commit to £5,000 cash funding for community projects in Croydon (additional in-kind funding is also available).
- Use the 'Croydon Community Bus' to consult with young people and **deliver community satellite sessions in deprived wards**.

Looked After Children / Care Leavers and Carers

- **Looked After Children** on Council's database receive free junior Pay & Play memberships. This includes Asylum Seeking Children in Care.
- Provide a **discounted Carers Memberships** in partnership with leading care organisations in Croydon.
- **Host quarterly respite events for young carers**, providing free fun activities and the opportunity for social engagement with like-minded young carers.

People with disabilities

- **Inclusive pathway** in mainstream sports courses and specialist programmes for people that need specialist support; e.g., **disability swim pathway**
- Dedicated low-cost membership for people with disabilities '**Better Inclusive**' and **discounted Carers Membership**



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- **Achieve IFI** at appropriate centres and as a minimum ensure at least 10% of CV equipment is IFI accredited.
- Work with key **local disability organisations and groups** such as Croydon MENCAP, Croydon Disability Forum, and 'The National Autistic Society' Croydon branch, to promote inclusion tours of the centres, help us identify gaps in the service and develop initiatives delivered with Disability Sports Coach UK.

People with medical conditions

- Deliver **GLL's Healthwise PARS** is a targeted programme for people with long term medical conditions. In partnership with the Council develop or support other programmes identified such as; diabetes screening, falls prevention, weight management, cardiac and stroke rehabilitation, and COPD specialist programmes.
- **Mental health classes** working closely with organisations including MIND, Imagine Mental Health, Hear-Us
- **Healthy walks programme and jogging groups** in parks and green spaces
- **12 x local health promotion campaigns per annum** e.g. Stoptober, Heart Month etc.

Women and Girls

Example activities include:

- **Group exercise, Swimming, Back to Netball, Women only sessions** in the gym, swimming pools and group exercise
- **Social orientated sports activities** e.g. No Strings Badminton, Women only running groups.

Ensuring facilities are inclusive for all ages and abilities

- Provide high quality **DDA compliant facilities and services** that meet the needs of the community, whilst supporting independence and improving health and wellbeing.
- **Use data identified in the JSNA and our own research/mapping** alongside partner consultation to target specific wards and community groups in disadvantaged communities within Croydon.
- Provide **specialist staff training to increase opportunities**; e.g., Equality and Diversity Training, Disability Awareness Training via EFDS, Dementia Friendly Training via Alzheimer's Society. GLL are also signed up to the **"Two Ticks Scheme"** with Jobcentre Plus that focuses on the employment and development of disabled people.
- Work with **local partners to provide feedback** on the performance of the service to ensure the service is welcoming and providing a quality service. This will include **'mystery visits' by local people** from a variety of local community organisations.



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- Secure **IFI, Quest Plus and Quest Sports Development accreditation**, introducing internal **disability audits** that will review and identify ways to improve centres' accessibility.
- Support the **Mental Health Charter for Sport and Recreation** as produced by Mind and the Sport and Recreation Alliance. For example they will provide specialist mindfulness sessions, promote and adopt best practice within our activities, promote positive public health messages relating to mental health problems, and encourage social interaction.

Concessionary pricing and memberships

Our approach to pricing ensures we maximise income from those that can afford to pay and subsidise those that require assistance. Our approach to concessionary pricing aims to:

- Optimise participation and income to enable cross-subsidisation/access for target groups
- Increase active participation of Croydon's target groups (shown below)
- Ensure price is not a barrier to participation
- Be responsive to local needs
- Reduce health inequalities
- Target 16-19 year olds who traditionally drop out of sport

In order to breakdown barriers to participation; e.g., financial/economic factors, GLL have a number of pricing techniques, and resources (utilising our Community Sports and Outreach Team that engage with local communities) to help increase participation amongst target groups. These include (also see section 2.1):

- **Discounting & concessionary pricing** – Structure is made up of three tiers; Non-Member, Member, Concessionary. All discounts are calculated and set as a percentage from the peak adult non-member price:
 - Standard Memberships – up to a **30% discount**
 - Concessionary Memberships – up to a **50% discount, this includes those in receipt of benefits, over 60's, juniors, students, and people with disabilities.**
 - **Discounted hire rates** will be available **for community groups** e.g. New Addington Community Hall and New Ashburton Hall, to ensure facilities remain accessible.
- **Looked After Children** – Free junior pay & play memberships distributed to Looked After Children on the Council's database, including Asylum Seeking Children in Care.
- **Targeted Programmes** – Subsidised to ensure they remain accessible to priority groups (e.g., 60+ Club sessions, discounted junior sessions, low-cost drop in sessions, free swimming U8's, Kids for a Quid swim).



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- **Tiered Healthwise GP Referral Membership** – GLL have a GP referral scheme, which is based on a sliding scale over 3 years for people who successfully complete the course.

Delivering equality and social value

GLL fully supports the Social Value Act and the Council's Opportunity and Fairness Policy. Objectives include:

Increase the rate of employment and improve attainment levels:

- Paying the **London Living Wage** in Croydon
- Link with local recruitment providers/agencies e.g. **Croydon Works** job-brokerage service, reinforcing our desire to **locally employ over 60% of staff**.
- Host **2 x recruitment fayres p/a**, and advertise job vacancies through local mediums and social media e.g. Croydon Advertiser.
- GLL are the only Leisure Provider to hold **Main Provider Status on the Register of Apprenticeship Training**. With support from our National Apprenticeship Manager, we will ensure there is a clear pathway in place to provide up to:
 - **10 x apprenticeships p/a**: 1 x apprentice per centre with larger centres having up to 2 (based on our experience of operating similar partnerships across London).
 - All successful candidates that complete our **apprenticeships are guaranteed an interview** with GLL.
- GLL will work **with 'Volunteering Matters'**, our volunteer partner, to support with the management of volunteers from DBS checks through to training. Opportunities will be promoted locally through **Croydon Voluntary Action Services** to provide **20 x volunteers and work experience placements p/a** (based on 1 volunteer/work experience placement at each centre, the majority will be assigned to the community settings programme).

Support the reduction on the rate of child poverty:

- Providing **free or low-cost activities in community settings in deprived wards**
- Running **activator led programmes as part of the parks programme**
- The **Community Sport Manager and Activators will work with key youth organisations** including: Turnaround Centre, Off the Record, Croydon Youth Development Trust, key youth hubs in order to improve opportunities for more organised but informal sessions such as running, swimming, multi-sports and offering specific activities for girls.

Reduce the number of young people entering the youth justice system:



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- Work in **partnership with the Croydon Youth offending service** to identify at risk young people or areas with higher rate of crime or anti-social behaviour to engage young people in positive activities. For example a **park programme** designed by young people at South Norwood Park or Ashburton Park as part of GLL's multi-sport hub approach e.g. **MUGA drop in activities** e.g. martial arts, basketball, bootcamp sessions.
- Link partners supporting this target group to existing and **new apprenticeship opportunities** within the leisure centres.

Reduce social isolation, reduce differences in life expectancy, and improve the proportion of different backgrounds that get on well together:

- Support healthy aging, and maintaining independence through our **'Club' over 60's programme** bringing together a series of initiatives to encourage older people to become more active. This includes the introduction of Silver Fit across the borough open spaces
- Provide disabled residents, those with health conditions and people from BAME backgrounds with **targeted programmes** and offers and make **adjustments to facilities** where possible to improve accessibility.
- **Implement GLL's Disability and Inclusion Commitments** to empower local communities to achieve a better quality of life
- **Deliver GLL's 'Healthwise' PARS** and specialist classes in partnership with the Council
- **Flexible opening hours e.g. later closing times during Ramadan**, to meet the needs of the community. This approach works well across our other partnerships e.g. Tower Hamlets.
- Provide support and **clear signposting** to the Council's **Live Well services** and www.justbecroydon.org website.

The Preferred Leisure Operator GLL intend to create a true Community and Cultural hub at Ashburton Hall, along with significant activation of the surrounding park commencing in March 2018.

The image below gives an overview of the offer which GLL will be looking to deliver:

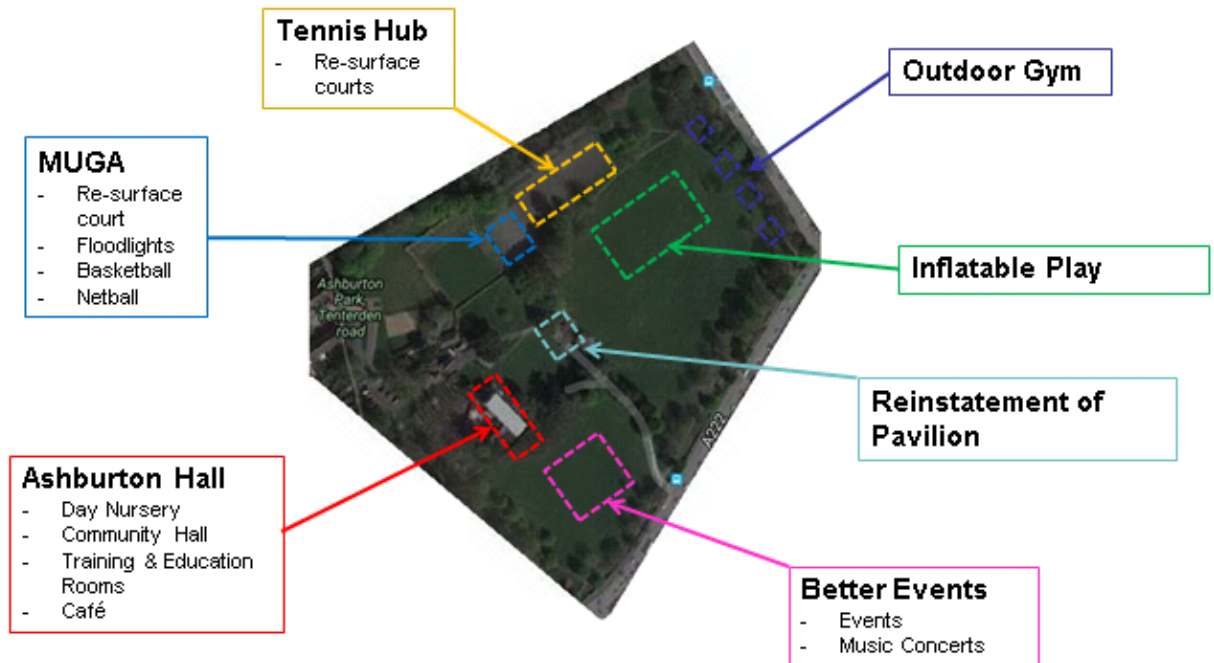


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Nursery Development

GLL propose to development the 1st floor of Ashburton Hall into a Day Nursery which will provide early years child care provision for Ashburton and the surrounding areas. The Nursery will have the capacity to cater for up to 54 children at one time and will support the goal of providing the best start in life for children (which has shown to have a significant impact on health) as well as supporting the financial requirements of the partnership.



GLL has experience and expertise in operating early years' provision and currently operates children centres in Greenwich and a number of day nurseries across the capital.

All GLL Nurseries will follow the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory framework to ensure that children learn and develop well and are kept healthy and safe. The EYFS promotes teaching and learning to ensure children's 'school



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readiness' and gives children the broad range of knowledge and skills that provide the right foundation for good future progress through school and life.

The EYFS seeks to provide:

- **quality and consistency** in all early years settings, so that every child makes good progress and no child gets left behind
- **a secure foundation** through learning and development opportunities which are planned around the needs and interests of each individual child and are assessed and reviewed regularly
- **partnership working** between practitioners and with parents and/or carers
- **equality of opportunity** and anti-discriminatory practice, ensuring that every child is included and supported

The EYFS specifies requirements for learning and development and for safeguarding children and promoting their welfare. The **learning and development requirements** cover:

- the **areas of learning and development** which must shape activities and experiences (**educational programmes**) for children in all early years settings
- the **early learning goals** that providers must help children work towards (the knowledge, skills and understanding children should have at the end of the academic year in which they turn five)
- **assessment arrangements** for measuring progress (and requirements for reporting to parents and/or carers)
- The **safeguarding and welfare requirements** cover the steps that providers must take to keep children safe and promote their welfare.

A key driver is to ensure we are supporting young children's development is their physical activity, healthy eating habits and mental health development. With the above in the forefront of our thinking, our nurseries will create an exciting extra "*early years experience*"

Every child who attends a GLL nursery will have the opportunity to;

- Learn to ride a bike.



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- Learn to swim.
- Learn age appropriate sports skills, such as tennis, dance and gymnastics.

The above will enhance the three EYFS areas particularly crucial for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, and for building their capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive. These three prime areas are:

- Communication and language
- Physical development
- Personal, social and emotional development

Community Hall

GLL will work in partnership with a variety of community groups, including Friends of Ashburton Park, to provide a comprehensive range of inclusive activities within the Community Hall. The programme will include:

- Group Exercise Classes
- Short Mat Bowls
- Table Tennis
- Coffee / Social Mornings
- Bingo

GLL will also work in partnership **with Age UK, Social Care services** and other local older people groups to develop an activity programme that appeals to the older generation. A key priority for programming for this group is the provision of activities within **community settings** promoted through the community hub programmes. This will enable more people to access services and to reduce the identified issues of social isolation in this age group.

Performing Arts

GLL propose to create a Performing Arts hub at Ashburton Hall which will provide the community with Arts based education and entertainment. We will utilise the fantastic space within the Community Hall to operate a Dance Academy and in addition to this



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we will convert two of the offices at the front of the centre into music rooms and run a comprehensive Music Lesson programme. The provision of these activities will help attract a new range of customers into the leisure centres and help increase participation.

Dance Academy

Dance builds strength, stamina and coordination as well as developing good posture and self-esteem and working together in a social group. GLL will look to hold the following classes across a 3 day programme:

Beginners Ballet: Discover the world of ballet in our Ballet tots and babes classes for children from 18 months up to 4 years of age. Our teachers use an imaginative approach to natural movement to help encourage development of balance, poise and co-ordination.

Graded Ballet and Tap ISTD (Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing) classes: Classes are available from 6 years and children have the opportunity to participate in exams, the school offers the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing (ISTD) and RAD (Royal Academy of Dance) syllabus.

Jazz & Street Dance: Dance is all about expression, movement and individuality. Get motivated and express yourself through jazz or street dance in our fun and friendly classes.

Academy Music Tuition

GLL's Academy Music Tuition is for beginners through to professionals and our 1-2-1 lessons are suitable for all ages from 5 years upwards. Early musical training can help develop brain areas involved in language and reasoning, and music study has been shown to enhance teamwork and provides children with a self-expression. All the classes are conducted in a safe and welcoming environment, giving customers an excellent lesson and value for money. The staff will promote community cohesion and social inclusion and students are encouraged to join music groups, attend professional recitals and perform in concerts. GLL will look to run a number of music classes including; Woodwind, String, Percussion, Vocal and Keyboard.

Training and Education

GLL would look to utilise the training rooms on the ground floor of Ashburton Hall and deliver the following courses:



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- Level 1 to 4 Sports Course (NVQ, BTEC, Foundation Degree)
- CYQ Fitness Instructor (Gym & Exercise to Music) level 2
- ISRM Supervisory & Fitness Management Certificate

MUGA

GLL propose to invest in the current MUGA and provide an significantly upgrading facility which will include a complete court resurface, fencing and potentially floodlights.

Basketball: GLL's programme would look to expand opportunities through providing basketball sports courses aimed at teaching the basics of the game and extending participation and competition opportunities. The programme would aim to complement current opportunities being offered and will include lesson and courses, drop in, such as Ball Again sessions.

Netball: GLL are working in partnership with England Netball on a range of projects to help develop the sport and will host Back to Netball sessions at sports centres and outdoor areas targeting women aged 16+ who have not played netball since school. Drop in and 'Netball Now' sessions will be hosted at both venues for those not wanting to commit to the sport but play for enjoyment. Walking Netball will also be added to the Club programme at both centres to provide a variety of activities for anyone over the age of 60.

Outdoor Gym

The Outdoor Gym will activate the space and help engage the local residents in a number of health and fitness programmes. GLL will use the outdoor gym as the hub from which to deliver a wide ranging outdoor fitness programme which will include:



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- **Boot Camp Classes:** one of the best weight loss workouts and focuses on burning fat. This physical training programme can give you an exhilarating total body workout using your own body weight. Boot camps are usually based on intermediate to advanced fitness, but at High Road West introductory classes will also be offered
- **Buggy-a-cise:** combines a range of exercise that cater for the needs of new mums to help increase fitness levels. Mums are invited along, with their baby and buggy in to, to meet up with other mums to have fun, get fitter and feel better in the fresh air
- **Family Fitness Workouts:** the gym equipment / rig at the top of the green spine will be family orientated and allow GLL to offer supervised weekend sessions where parents and children can exercise and have fun together.



Inflatable Play

Extreme obstacle / assault course (representative image below) – GLL will operate this new Croydon initiative in the Ashburton Hub during the summer holidays, this will engage **5,000 new participants** (both existing customers and importantly new residents), the activity will be fun / event themed experience. Then during the winter month the inflatable will be toured around the centres, whereby 1 Sunday per month a centre will host a full days programme. This will keep the continuity of the product across the year and importantly bring new customers into the centres.

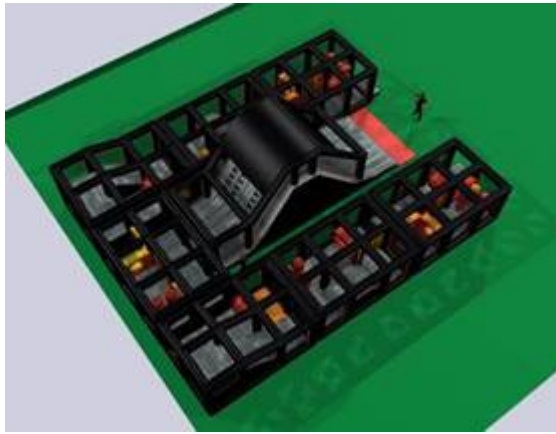


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Working Together



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LATEST NEWS

Children's Improvement



We have been continuing to work hard on our improvement plan. This was presented to the scrutiny and overview committee on the 31st October before being discussed at the Children's Improvement Board meeting on the 7th November. The plan was also approved at Cabinet on the 20th November. The plan focusses on four areas; Practice, People and Performance, Platforms and Partnerships.

The views of front-line staff have been paramount in the development of this plan and these were received from the ideasforchildrensimprovement.com inbox, the suggestion boxes and the sprint sessions, with over 400 attendees.

May I remind you all of the engagement sessions that have been arranged for elected members to meet with frontline practitioners and gain further insight into the journey of a child or young person through the service. The first session is scheduled for December 2017 and will focus on our MASH & Children's Social Care Front door. I hope that many of you will be able to attend as it will be a valuable opportunity for us all to increase our understanding as Corporate Parents of the journey for some of the most vulnerable children in our community.



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Choose your future

Croydon's Choose Your Future campaign aims to bring the borough together to help young people to make positive life choices and to give them a voice. Support for the campaign is growing, with many young people from Kicks, Reaching Higher and Croydon College backing its goals. The campaign asks them to think about the choices they make – whether it's about their dream jobs, personal achievements, or staying safe. Residents, businesses and local organisations are being encouraged to support them in this.

With 93,000 young people living in Croydon – more than anywhere else in London – the future is theirs and they have the potential to make Croydon even better.

The campaign priorities were agreed by young people at the first Youth Congress in July, and plans have already been announced to elect a young mayor and deputy mayor next spring.



You can find out more at www.choose-your-future.com



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New Heads of Service

We are pleased to have welcomed three new Heads of Service to the team this month. Their combined experience and expertise will be considerable assets as we continue to improve our services for all children and young people.

On Monday, 30 October Hannah Doughty joined us as Head of Service for Target Services and Iain Low as Head of Service for Early Help and MASH.

Hannah joins us from Liverpool City Council, where she was Head of Targeted Services for young people for 4 years. Prior to that Hannah was a Team Manager in their youth offending service, and spent 18 months on at HMI Probation on secondment.



Iain joins us from Northamptonshire County Council, where he was Strategic Manager for Safeguarding and Care Planning for 3 and a half years. Prior to that Iain worked at Haringey Council for 5 years.

On Wednesday 1 November, Tom Stevenson started as our Interim Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance. He has joined us from Lewisham Council where he was the Interim Service Manager for Safeguarding Quality Assurance in Kent County Council at a time in their journey, which involved their progression through to their recent good Ofsted judgement.

Croydon Music and Arts - Funding from Youth Music

Croydon Music and Arts, part of our Education and Youth Engagement Directorate, have been successful in a bid for funding from Youth Music for a three year programme for music for children in challenging circumstances. This means that over the next three years some of our most vulnerable children, including those Looked After by the Council, will benefit from £150,000 of music activities. Congratulations to Graeme Smith and his team for putting together a successful bid which will enable us to invest more in our children and young people.



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DELIVERING OUR AMBITIONS

Croydon Live; an Opportunities Fair

At Youth Congress 2017, young people cited employability as a key issue in the borough. In response to this, 16-25 year old Croydon students and/or residents were invited to Croydon Live; an Opportunities Fair where employers and providers showcased their live opportunities.

95 young people engaged with organisations such as Willmott Dixon, TfL, Superdrug, Croydon & John Ruskin colleges). They also had the opportunity to attend employability workshops facilitated by CALAT.

Matt Stay, Marketing Co-ordinator at Sutton & District Training said, 'this was a useful opportunity to engage directly with potential learners and also network with fellow providers within the borough'. Furthermore, over 50% of young people deemed the event to be useful in their pursuit of employment or training.

Delivered by Croydon's Youth Engagement 14-19 team in partnership with the Employment Pathway team and Croydon Works, this event was an outstanding example of cross departmental working for the benefit of young people in the borough.

Contact Officer: jo.jack@croydon.gov.uk

Takeover Challenge

Croydon's young people will be taking over some of the borough's top jobs in a quest to highlight youth voice and to gain fresh perspectives on the borough's top priorities.

Up to 70 young people have been placed to take over areas of responsibility for one day in this month as part of the Takeover Challenge. The event which is a Children's Commissioner Initiative now in its tenth year and has seen thousands of young people take over high office in organisations right across the country.

The purpose of the event, which this year takes place on 24th November 2017, is to have young people take over organisations for the day and learn about the world of work. Every young person has the right to have a say in the decisions that affect them, and Takeover Challenge encourages them to exercise that right.

Croydon's schools and voluntary organisations have been instrumental to the success of recruiting so many keen and talented young people between the ages of 11-18 and the event is positioned to provide young people with a chance to gain



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critical skills to boost their education and to help grow their social capital and networks which will support their career ambitions.

This year will see Croydon invite young people to take part for the first time ever with participants taking over a wide range of important roles such as councillors and the councils executive leadership and directorate, services such as the library, Croydon police, and voluntary organisations such as Palace for Life Foundation, Croydon Drop-In and in business with the TMRW Café & Hub.

The day which will launch and finish with a celebration event for young people in the Council Chamber and promises to focus on the impact young people can have in the borough. The individuals and organisations fortunate enough to have young people bringing a fresh perspective to their work are positioned to take advantage of new and innovative ideas to further enhance our work in Croydon this year.

Contact Officer: david.butler@croydon.gov.uk

School Admissions – Starting School in September 2018

The online application process remains open for families applying for a reception or junior school place, to start school in September 2018.

The application deadline is **15 January 2018**.

Parents and carers should apply online at www.croydon.gov.uk/admissions and we strongly encourage visits to preference schools.

Contact Officer: david.butler@croydon.gov.uk

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Funding for Children Services' improvement

Some £3 million has been allocated to fund improvement initiatives within Children Services following the Ofsted review. These are a mixture of short term interventions and measures to ensure that a sustainable good service will be achieved.

I chair a Children Improvement Finance Group that considers requests and allocates funding to initiatives. This group, which includes Cllr Flemming, Richard Simpson and Barbara Peacock, ensures that there is strong governance for such expenditure.

Areas that have been allocated to include:

- Additional social work teams, to allow case loads to be brought down
- Additional management resource, to improve the level of supervision
- Increased legal support, notably to deal with the increased number of care proceedings
- Increased level of business support, to allow social workers to focus more on children
- Increased levels of advocacy, return home interviews and independent visits
- Investment in workforce recruitment and retention
- Programme Management resource
- Expert advice on key areas

This expenditure is being funded from transformation and so does not give rise to an in-year revenue pressure.

The implications of the level of activity in Children Services and the possible new service models are being factored into the budget planning for 18/19.

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children

The Leader and I, along with officers, met Brandon Lewis, the Immigration Minister recently to discuss the issues around Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC).

The Minister was very complimentary about the work that Croydon was doing and the difference we were making to the lives of UASC.

We raised the issue of the funding arrangements for UASC and other costs associated with Croydon being a gateway authority. We were able to make a series of specific requests.

The Minister clearly heard our arguments and promised that he would get his civil servants to look into the issues in detail, with a view to achieving a proper solution that is fair to Croydon council tax payers, both in terms of direct costs for UASC and other related costs, such as those associated with the Home Office not enacted two year old legislation.



Greenwich Leisure awarded leisure contract

After a very robust procurement process, Greenwich Leisure Limited ('GLL') has been awarded a concession to run the Council's leisure operations for up to 20 years.

The way this has been done will allow:

- Considerable financial benefits (over £1million per year once fully up and running)
- A vastly improved service which will therefore benefit more of our residents, including more outreach, use of our parks, more targeting of key groups and more work with communities
- Full implementation of the London Living Wage

This is the latest example of the totally different approach that this administration takes to commissioning and procurement and the benefits that this brings, in terms of finances, the service delivered to residents and how those delivering the services are treated.

IT Procurement Strategy

The arrangements with Capita, whilst providing a step improvement from previous arrangements, have not delivered the benefits and services hoped for. These arrangements also do not give us the flexibility we need or allow us to realise the full business benefits of technology.

Cabinet in November endorsed a new strategy, which moves away from the all encompassing single contract, but a different model, with elements being brought in-house and the other services being divided into lots, giving more scope for local procurement.

As with other areas where we have taken this approach, such as Facilities Management, we believe this will give us a better more flexible service at lower costs.

Business Rates Relief

We have now been able to double the reliefs being automatically applied to businesses, as compared to the scheme announced in July, as a way of limiting the adverse impact of the massive increases in rateable values that the government imposed earlier this year.

Help for care leavers

We have listened to the representations from the Children's Society and others, to exempt care leavers in the borough from council tax from 18/19.

I am proud that the scheme we are bringing in is the most generous of any local authority that has brought this in.



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North-west Croydon (area three) – 20mph speed limit

The new 20mph speed limit for area three is now live. There are 20mph signs in place at the entry points and repeater signs within the area covered. In May 2017 the council's Traffic Management Advisory Committee recommended that the proposal be implemented and this has been completed inside six months, which is a considerable achievement by the team leading on this important project. Areas 4 and 5 are also being progressed and will go live in January and March 2018 respectively. This will then complete the Council's aspirations to introduce 20mph limits in all of our residential roads right across the borough, and fulfill a key commitment made by the administration in its 2014 Manifesto, *Ambitious for Croydon*.





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Council secures pause to TfL proposals to change tram frequency

In September, TfL started consultation on its proposal that Tram fares follow the lead of Buses and go cashless. Consultation was undertaken although only 0.3 per cent of single tram journeys are paid for with a ticket bought from a tram stop ticket machine. A month later, TfL announced without any consultation, that as of 5 November it would be implementing changes to the operation of Tramlink, the most significant of which was New Addington trams would no longer continue direct to Wimbledon. Myself, local ward councillors and Council officers expressed our considerable concern to TfL (including via the Public Transport Liaison Panel) regarding the lack of any consultation. We were also acutely aware that these changes were being announced so close to the first anniversary of the tram tragedy. Following this pressure from the council I am pleased to confirm that TfL have now put the changes on hold while they engage with relevant local stakeholders, including the council, ward councillors and passenger and transport bodies.

Air Quality Action Plan

This plan aims to secure for the people of Croydon a safer, cleaner and greener place to live and work. There is no doubt that poor air quality has a negative effect upon us all, children and vulnerable people in particular. Poor air quality is linked to reduced life expectancy from cardio-respiratory diseases and it is estimated that 9,400 deaths occur each year due to illnesses caused by long-term exposure to air



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pollution. Croydon's "share" of this figures is approximately 250. The major pollutant is nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) caused by diesel vehicles and these have been increasing on our roads. There is an air quality objective laid down by government and this is regularly being exceeded at busy roadside sites in Croydon. This plan sets out the local actions Croydon Council can take to reduce emissions and minimise exposure to air pollutants to those who live and work in Croydon.

We want to install green screens between all new schools, new developments and busy roads. Requiring construction sites to use new technology instead of diesel generators will minimise pollution and noise.

In addition extending the area of the existing Smoke Control Zone to cover the whole of the borough and requiring the installation of DEFRA approved stoves and use of smokeless fuel will reduce pollutants. Patrolling regular hotspots to request drivers of vehicles that are idling unnecessarily to switch off their engines will raise awareness of the damage to the environment and people. Creating Clean Air Champions who will volunteer to raise awareness and understanding of the problem of air quality in Croydon is a key part of the plan. Schools will also be encouraged to promote sustainable travel and increase awareness amongst parents. Children and parents will continue to be encouraged to walk to school where possible and not leave engines running outside the school.

Working towards a zero diesel fleet is another of our objectives as well as setting time restrictions on bonfires, a contributing factor to emissions of smoke and other pollutants. Encouraging pocket parks, play streets and more greenery around Croydon with priority afforded to areas with poor air quality. These are the most important actions contained in the plan which will be presented to Cabinet on 20 November and then go out to the public for further final round of statutory consultation.

Council Shortlisted in Freight Transport Association Awards for Construction Logistics

Croydon has led in air quality and freight since 2005, when we started the first South London Freight Quality Partnership. Since then we have pioneered guidance and regulation for Construction Logistics Plans. Our original documents: Code of Practice for Construction and Demolition; A practical guide to drafting a construction logistics plan; and the Construction Logistics Handbook, have become the industry standard



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and are used, copied and re-branded by many and various bodies, including other London councils and the Mayor of London.

Before our intercession most councils were not controlling air quality and noise through CLPs and we have provided CLP training courses for many councils.

We have changed attitudes to freight within councils and the industry. The public has benefitted from reduced pollution and congestion. Developers and contractors have saved money and energy. Our work in CLPs has been pioneering, imaginative, efficient and cost-effective.

Because of our hard work in this area we are now shortlisted for two industry awards:

- **Freight Transport Association**

Award: Logistics Champion of the Year for Public Services. The event is on 13 December. We have also had a further interview with the FTA about all our work around freight which seemed very positive. Good luck to the team.

- **National Air Quality Awards**

Award: Freight Transport Air Quality Initiative of the Year. The event is on the 23 November 2017.

Love Lane Winner of Playstreet Award

For the second year running, a Croydon playstreet, Love Lane in Woodside has won the competition for London Playstreet of the Year. The Brampton Road/Robert Fitzroy Academy (Addiscombe) was also short-listed.

It has been a fantastic achievement for Croydon playstreets to have this recognition. Children from both play streets attended the awards ceremony at the end of October.

If you are interested in organising a play street in your road visit:

www.croydon.gov.uk/healthsocial/families/ccfpartnership/playstreets or contact cfp@croydon.gov.uk for more information.



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Love Lane children receiving their award (photograph courtesy of London Play)

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Latest News

Croydon tram accident first anniversary

Croydon marked the anniversary of the Sandilands tram accident on Thursday 9th November 2017, a year to the day since the tragedy.

Two permanent memorials were unveiled: one in the vicinity of Sandilands tram stop (on the corner of Sandilands and Addiscombe Road), and one Market Square in New Addington. Both memorials included a plinth with inscription as well as surrounding seating and crocuses.

A private ceremony was held close to the site at Sandilands for families who had lost a loved one in the incident and for a small number of local community leaders and representatives of agencies that supported the response on the day.

A civic ceremony was also held in New Addington. Sixty choral singers from Fairchildes Primary School and Meridian High School performed a rendition of Somewhere Only We Know by Keane. The moving civic ceremony was open for all to attend and heard from bereaved families as well a member of the emergency services who was one of the first at the scene.

A minute silence was observed by Croydon council staff members and the Union Jack flag was lowered at Croydon Town Hall



Sandilands Memorial



New Addington Memorial



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Croydon Consortium Knife Crime Bid

On the 31st October 2017 the BME Forum as lead partner of the Croydon Consortium submitted a bid to the Home Office for their Knife Crime Fund.

THE PROJECT

The project is aimed at tackling some of the underlying issues behind knife crime, reduce the numbers of young people joining gangs and participating in gang activity in Croydon & surrounding areas. It also seeks to raise awareness of the dangers associated with being part of a gang, while highlighting successful ways out of gang life.

The Consortium will deliver a programme of activities to young people and parents including

- Raising Awareness of the dangers of associated with being part of a gang.
- Workshops on education, employment and enterprise.
- Workshops and discussions around community empowerment.
- Workshops advice and guidance support on related services and positive ways of engaging with local authority, schools and social services.
- Parent Workshops - to focus on parents who feel excluded from their children's lives.
- Social Media Workshops – What to look out for / How not to be a victim.
- Youth Summit hosted by the Consortium Partners to highlight successful ways out of Gang Life.

The Programme of activities will be delivered to young people aged 8 - 25 who are at risk of offending, being drawn in to gangs, and at risk of or already not in education, employment or training (NEET). If granted funding, the work will be delivered over four months (Dec 2017 – March 2018), From day one the project will involve Croydon Council, schools, Croydon Youth Offending Team, Croydon Probation and the Croydon Turnaround in the project delivery.



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Keeping knives off the street

Testing traders' knowledge of, and adherence to, the law where the sale of knives is concerned is a key tool of Croydon Council's trading standards team in combating the capital-wide problem of knife crime.

Figures published by London Trading Standards show children as young as 13 continue to be sold knives across the capital. It is illegal to sell knives to anyone under 18.

<http://news.croydon.gov.uk/keeping-knives-off-street/>



Keeping the rogues in check

Croydon's trading standards department supported the first London Trading Standards Week.

The Croydon team has an established reputation across the capital for its effective work in combating issues including under-age knife sales, doorstep trading scams and rogue letting agents, and the week helped to showcase the ongoing efforts to ensure consumers and businesses are protected.

<https://wp.croydon.gov.uk/news/keeping-rogues-check/>





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Seasonal crack down on crime and ASB

During the autumn festivities, the Metropolitan Police Service conducted its seasonal crackdown on crime and anti-social behaviour on Tuesday, 24 October.

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) can have a severe impact of the lives of communities and this behaviour typically increases around the start of the autumn school holidays, Halloween and Bonfire Night.

Modern slavery – it's closer than you think

Modern slavery is, alarmingly, alive and well and living in Croydon, and it is this worrying fact that was examined at a town-centre conference.

Aimed at individuals and groups who have direct contact both with the victims and the criminals who benefit from the human misery they promote, the conference addressed the key issues of the matter.

<http://news.croydon.gov.uk/modern-slavery-closer-think/>



Changing tastes prompt fresh look at town-centre licensing

Changes to people's social habits and a drive to boost the night-time economy are behind Croydon Council's decision to conduct a review of licensing requirements in the town centre.

<http://news.croydon.gov.uk/changing-tastes-prompt-fresh-look-town-centre-licensing/>





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Councillor Hamida Ali, cabinet member for communities, safety and justice

The council's obliged to review its licensing policy every five years. Croydon's would have been due for review next year, but given the changes we've seen to the evening economy, and the vision we have for Croydon over the next five years, we wanted to bring the review forward.

"We're keen that our licensing policy better reflects the aspirations we have for Croydon as a place and a destination of choice. We believe the proposed changes will make the application process simpler for licence holders and potential licence holders, and result in a more vibrant and diverse offer for anyone coming into Croydon for a night out.

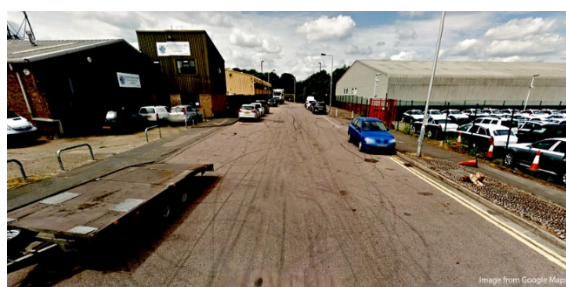
Our reviewed policy better reflects this authority's vision for a vibrant and inclusive evening and night time economy right across the borough.

Croydon hits the pop charts

Croydon is one of six entries shortlisted as a finalist for this year's Problem Orientated Partnership (Pop) Awards for its problem-solving work to tackle road racing and antisocial behaviour on Imperial Way.

The awards – now in their 12th year and run by the Metropolitan Police, the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime, and Transport for London – seek to credit good partnership work between the police and communities to reduce crime and disorder.

<http://news.croydon.gov.uk/croydon-hits-pop-charts/>





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The Community Fund programme

Community Fund programme was shaped by the recommendations of the Opportunities and Commission and aligned to the Community strategy and Ambitious for Croydon Framework. It recognises the significant role the Voluntary, community and social enterprise sector play in supporting residents through difficult times and in reaching the most disadvantaged and vulnerable citizens in Croydon.

The programme was re-designed with a particular focus on outcomes and ensuring residents and diverse communities from difficult backgrounds are valued and supported with the skills, capacity and resilience to improve life chances.

The programme started in October 2016 and through contract performance reporting activity it is showing the impact the programme is making to people lives. Emerging findings

1. Increased attachment between parent and child achieved by learning together and participation in child's homework and school life
2. 70% of young people feel more connected and supported through social isolation
3. 80% of young people have taken part in a team challenge and positive activity
4. 70% have been engaged and feel more awareness about drugs, alcohol and health lifestyles
5. 80% of people have attended training on financial inclusion matters such as benefits uptake, switching suppliers, understanding interest rates, pensions and digital training sessions

A progress report will be published and showcase event is also being planned in late January 2018.

Councillor Hamida Ali, cabinet member for communities, safety and justice

'I regularly visit projects and organisations who are funded by the Community Fund - most recently Play Place and the Family Centre, including the new and impressive Community Food Stop – and never fail to be impressed by the inspirational and entrepreneurial people we have working in our vast voluntary sector'.



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Groundbreaking community mini-market the Food Stop launches for struggling families



London's first combined welfare and food club for hundreds of people opened Friday 27 October through a subsidised mini-market set up by Croydon Council, community group The Family Centre and charities. Families on Universal Credit and anyone unemployed living in Fieldway and New Addington can get around £20-worth of fresh fruit and vegetables, meat, dairy and other foods each week for £3.50 at the Food Stop based at The Family Centre, in Field Way.



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The scheme is innovative because, in return for access to discounted groceries, families in need are signed up to receive help from Croydon Council's Gateway service. Established in response to government welfare reforms, the Gateway service has helped more than 1,000 families avoid homelessness through support with household budgeting, benefits advice and training courses to improve their maths, English and digital skills.

The Food Stop will be open every Wednesday and Friday to anyone who has an address in Fieldway or New Addington wards, but priority is given to residents on benefits such as Universal Credit. Membership will include access to council officers offering help to prevent homelessness and support with household finances. Members will also receive access to a weekly jobs club, volunteering opportunities, healthy cooking workshops and support to quit smoking.

The mini-market offers a wider range of products than usually provided at a food bank, and customers have more choice. The project is also geared towards helping families become healthier, as each food group is colour-coded and customers can have more green items – such as pulses and rice – than meats, which are red items. Food with a short shelf life, such as fresh fruit, vegetables and bread, is free.

The Food Stop has been made possible by volunteers and staff at The Family Centre, Croydon Council, and FareShare, a national charity that sources and delivers surplus supplies to the Food Stop. The scheme is part-funded with over £16,600 from the *Evening Standard's* Dispossessed Fund, £5,000 from council repairs contractor Mulalley, and £10,000 from Croydon Council.

Julia Weller, chief executive officer of the Family Centre, said the initial target is to get 100 members of the Food Stop. She said: "Our priority is anyone who is out of work, but we'd like to open it up because there are also the working poor we want to include."

She said the Food Stop is a community effort, from council Gateway staff offering logistical help and local volunteers painting the centre, to Tesco in Elmers End donating surplus food.

She added: "We couldn't have done any of this without everyone's input, from the council and FareShare to local residents."



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Councillor Hamida Ali, cabinet member for communities, safety and justice

“This is a really exciting community project which could be a real lifeline for many residents struggling to make ends meet. The Food Stop will not only give them cheaper access to fresh food but also vital council support to improve their financial stability.

“We think the Food Stop – a community shop run by community organisations and the council in partnership – is a first for London. If it proves popular, perhaps it won’t be the last in the borough. I’d like to thank everyone from the community and the council who has worked together to make this amazing project happen.”

Young people to take over Croydon

Young people have the exciting opportunity to have their voices heard when they take over some of Croydon’s top jobs as part of the borough’s first Takeover Challenge next month.

68 Croydon residents aged between 11 and 18 stepped into the decision-makers’ shoes in the week beginning 20 November.

I was joined by Brooke Saunders and Tae-Jaden Marius who between them joined me for a busy day meeting with council officers, visiting community projects and taking part in Cabinet. I really enjoyed sharing my day with Brooke and Tae-Jaden and was reminded of the importance of ensuring that we’re working with our young people – who are 1 in 4 of our population in Croydon.

<http://news.croydon.gov.uk/young-people-takeover-croydon/>





Communities, Safety and Justice

Cabinet Member Bulletin

Councillor Hamida Ali

November 2017

Choose your future

Croydon's Choose Your Future campaign aims to bring the borough together to help young people to make positive life choices and to give them a voice. Support for the campaign is growing, with many young people from Kicks, Reaching Higher and Croydon College backing its goals. The campaign asks them to think about the choices they make – whether it's about their dream jobs, personal achievements, or staying safe. Residents, businesses and local organisations are being encouraged to support them in this.

With 93,000 young people living in Croydon – more than anywhere else in London – the future is theirs and they have the potential to make Croydon even better.



The campaign priorities were agreed by young people at the first Youth Congress in July, and plans have already been announced to elect a young mayor and deputy mayor next spring.

You can find out more at www.choose-your-future.com



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Latest News

October saw over 1700 Croydon business delegates take part in Croydon Business Month this year.

More than 45 events were organised by the council and its partners to take place around the borough, offering tips, advice and opportunity for those looking to start or grow their business.

The schedule of events came just weeks after the Small Business Commission, set up by the council to investigate the barriers to growth for local small and medium-sized enterprise (SMEs) in Croydon, presented its findings to over 100 local businesses. The report recommended ways in which the council and its partners could further support the development of local small businesses.

Croydon Business Month kicked off with the opening of Croydon Pop-Up Business School, which offered a week long course focused on helping entrepreneurs get their ideas off the ground to start their businesses. The programme covers topics such as starting a business with no money, how to build a website for free and how to make money doing what you love.



Ask the Expert roadshows provided informal drop in sessions that offered quality business advice and support on how to start up and grow a business and Social Enterprise Saturday (supported by the Croydon Partnership and Start Up Croydon) provided a market place where people could



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promote their social enterprises to the public and find out more about setting up and marketing their social value business.

Participants provided very positive feedback:

"Thank you guys so much, I have learned so many new skills. I will definitely recommend this workshop to other budding entrepreneurs".

"This is money well invested in the community enabling a wide spectrum of people to benefit from business options."

Capitalising on the success of the relaunch of the Sunday market at Surrey Street, Entrepreneur Sunday was a fantastic opportunity for new businesses to showcase their wares to our Croydon residents a perfect opportunity to promote their business and test the market.

Keen to also engage young business minds, a separate young entrepreneurs market also took place on Surrey Street on October 28, giving young people up to the age of 25, the chance to put their business acumen to the test by operating their own stalls and selling their own goods.

'Croydon Live' focused on the borough's young people getting into business. The event which was held on 26 October was centred on providing employment opportunities, apprenticeships and advice and training on interview skills, CV writing, building confidence and managing money. Open to 16 to 24 year olds, the event was attended by a range of employers who were promoting vacancies with their companies.



Celebrating the cream of our Croydon business community at the Croydon Business Awards was the icing on the cake in this month of business and the Council was especially pleased to sponsor the "Best SME Award" – congratulations to Bluebird Care and indeed all the winners of this very prestigious occasion.

A special event on how to grow a business brand online with little to no budget brought Croydon Business Month to a close. The session, run by NatWest, explain the vital tools that can be used to boost your business' online presence.

Croydon Business Month was held not only to offer guidance, support and advice to Croydon businesses to enable them to continue to thrive, but also to celebrate their achievements so far. We are delighted new entrepreneurs as well as experienced business owners took advantage of this varied programme of events to help nurture their business.



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Working Together

Apprenticeships

Last week, our new apprenticeship scheme kicked into action with 24 new apprentices arriving at the council - part of a campaign to create more training and job opportunities for local residents and particularly young people.

The new cohort of recruits arrived on Wednesday 25 October, coinciding with the official launch of our Choose Your Future campaign, which encourages young people to make positive life choices while creating more opportunities for them to succeed.

The new apprenticeship programme has been developed by Tomi Moronkola and Croydon Works; it offers a fantastic opportunity for anyone keen to kick-start their career by gaining qualifications and valuable experience while still getting paid.

After putting the word out over the summer, the response was fantastic, with managers from across the council enquiring about apprentices for their service areas.

Although previously the council has offered apprenticeships, this is the first time a large group has been recruited to start at the same time. The programme is being developed and coordinated at a corporate level and is designed to ensure apprentices are given a wide range of opportunities outside their day to day responsibilities.

While working at the council for a minimum 12-month contract, the 24 new apprentices will have the opportunity to gain level 2-4 qualifications in one of nine subject areas, ranging from building surveying to youth work. They will work with experienced staff, gain skills on the job, have time to study and get paid a training salary with holiday pay.

The council apprenticeship programme is open to all those living or studying in Croydon aged 16 plus.

To find out more about the apprenticeship programme contact Tomi Moronkola (toni.moronkola@croydon.gov.uk) or visit www.croydon.gov.uk/jobsatcroydon/apprenticeship



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Surrey Street Sunday Market

Surrey Street hosted the colourful and lively celebrations of Diwali at the Sunday market on 22nd October. Diwali, the 'Festival of Lights', is one of the most popular festivals in the Hindu calendar and is an occasion also celebrated by Sikhs, Buddhists and Jains. Organised by Croydon Hindu Council with the support of Croydon Council and Croydon BID, Diwali Mela gave residents, customers and visitors an immersive experience of Indian culture – enjoyed also by the Mayor of Croydon who joined in some of the performances. Spectators enjoyed a number of dance and music performances as well as Indian street food and wares to purchase from the Sunday market.



In support of Croydon Business Month, the Sunday market also hosted an Entrepreneurs' Market and Young Entrepreneurs' Market on two weekends in October. This provided a platform for budding entrepreneurs to trial a market environment for free and, as a result, has attracted a vintage clothing trader who now regularly trades at both the weekday and Sunday markets at Surrey Street.



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With Christmas around the corner, the Sunday Market will also be hosting two Christmas-themed events in December. Little Canada will be making a return on 10th December with their Quebec Winter Carnival. Visitors will be able to enjoy a variety of Canadian Christmas-themed treats, including sweet and savoury delights, as well as live music and gospel choir. Hoodoo's will be holding a Christmas market with live music, arts and crafts, and food and drinks on the 17th December to complete the 2017 Sunday market event line-up. Further events are currently being planned for the New Year and details will be released once finalised. The full events schedule up until Christmas can be found on the Council website www.croydon.gov.uk/business/markets-0/surrey-street-sundays.

High Street Pedestrianisation

The council, in partnership with the Greater London Authority and Transport for London, has begun improvement works for the pedestrianisation of Croydon High Street.

This scheme, is a 12 month pilot, which will see the closure of the High Street between Katherine Street and Park Street to all vehicles creating a new public space that will be used for walking, cycling, and for people to enjoy a range of cultural events and activities. These changes will provide a much needed boost to the evening and night-time economy, providing an open and accessible public space for businesses and local groups to utilise, which will encourage footfall at this end of the High Street.

The experimental trial went into force Monday 16 October 2017.

The following changes have now been implemented:

- Park Street will be made one way up to the junction with St George's Walk
- All buses that used to travel along High Street will instead travel via St George's Walk
- The taxi rank on High Street will be relocated to Park Street
- The two bus stops on Park Street will be relocated further up Park Street to the current location of the bus stand
- The bus lane currently on Park Street will be removed to make way for all general traffic
- Along St George's Walk, the existing zebra crossing and motorcycle bays will be repositioned to allow room for the new bus stand which will have moved from Park Street
- Croydon High Street will be closed between Katherine Street and Park Street to all traffic including buses and taxis from Monday 16 October 2017.
- New emergency gates, cyclist provisions and tactile paving have been installed to accommodate all users of the space.

The following is planned for the next 6 weeks:

- Additional feature lighting, to enhance the area and space
- Surface treatment detail – a colourful design is scheduled for the road surface



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- Planters – a selection of attractive planters will be located in this space to make it more vibrant
- One of three projection sites featuring two original pieces by Croydon artists to be played over a 5 week period from November 23rd to the end of December
- A further programme of events are scheduled for this space to be
 - Thursday 23rd November – projection switch on with Festive Funk from 5pm – 9pm Croydon High Street (new pedestrian area between Park Street and Katherine street): an evening of music, street food, drink, art, and performances to boost the night time economy
 - Thursday 30th November / Thursday 7th and 14th December from 5pm – 9pm – evenings of music, cultural dance, pop up street food, projection light shows.

Following implementation, the council will further engage with businesses, residents and people who work in the area to get their views and ideas about how the newly pedestrianised space could be used.

More information can be found, at: www.croydon.gov.uk/highst

Surrey Street Lighting

New festoon lighting will come to light on Surrey Street over the next few weeks, this will be coloured lighting similar to the picture below, creating a splash of colour and festive feel all year round.





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Good Employment Charter

Good Employer Croydon is going from strength to strength, 31 local businesses have accredited and a further 42 have pledged to work towards their accreditation. We are delighted to welcome some of the council's large contractors, Kier and Mullaley as well as the Whitgift Foundation and Shaking Hands. Laurence Grant, Director of Shaking Hands said: "The pledge and accreditation process has been very straight forward, and has allowed us to proudly join the growing group of business owners in Croydon who support local recruitment, nurture local supply chains, and who are or are working towards paying the London Living Wage for all members of staff."

"The Good Employer Charter is a fantastic opportunity for any business in Croydon to support its local people, economy, and future."



'As one of the longest established organisations within Croydon, employing over 1,000 staff across our 3 schools, 2 care homes and carers' information service and using a wide range of local products and services, we are delighted to be part of this initiative to support local businesses and encourage job opportunities for local people'.

Helen Bidgway, Head of Human Resources

Croydon Works New Office

On October 25th the doors for the Croydon Works public office officially opened:

Job hunters seeking employment advice will now be able to drop in to Croydon Works' new office for support and guidance.

The jobs brokerage service officially opened the doors to its new office today, making it easier for the staff to help those looking for employment or training opportunities.



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Now based in Croydon Clocktower on Katharine Street, job seekers will be able to stop by between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday, to receive free employability support, whether it's searching current vacancies, or getting help with CV writing, careers advice or interview preparation.

Local businesses will also be able to visit the new office to find out more about the free recruitment service offered, or to discuss potential recruits for their upcoming job opportunities.



The service, which was set up by the council and partners including Croydon College and Job Centre Plus, aims to ensure residents benefit from the employment opportunities created through the borough's regeneration.

Since launching last June, Croydon Works has helped 225 people into jobs in Croydon and the surrounding area, and assisted a further 132 residents on to training courses to develop new or existing skills.

Croydon Works is proving an invaluable asset to job seekers and businesses in Croydon and I'm delighted to have officially opened its new office in the heart of the town centre.

Croydon is seeing a significant amount of investment and regeneration and we want local residents to benefit from this. Now that Croydon Works is more accessible I hope to see even more local people using the service to help them get into work, apprenticeships or training and I'd encourage those who don't know about Croydon Works to pop in and find out how it can help them.



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To find out more about Croydon Works visit www.croydonworks.co.uk/

Preparing for Whitgift

On 14th November 2017 the council gave it's go ahead to the redevelopment of the Whitgift Centre – the development will bring at least 7000 new jobs to the borough in construction and end-use stages which is obviously great news for our economy, The council and Croydon Partnership will be working together over the coming months to create training and pathways to work packages together with contractors, schools, and local businesses to ensure that our residents, particularly our young people, benefit from the redevelopment.

In addition the council will be working with local businesses to ensure they are ready and fit to supply the major developers and contractors coming into the borough on the back of regeneration projects.

I look forward to updating you in future bulletins when we launch new initiatives and projects that ensure that Croydon residents and our businesses benefit from the investment that the Whitgift development will bring.

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For General Release

REPORT TO:	COUNCIL 4 December 2017
SUBJECT:	MEMBER PETITIONS
LEAD OFFICER:	Stephen Rowan, Head of Democratic Services and Scrutiny
WARDS:	ALL
CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT: This report is prepared in keeping with paragraphs 3.26 to 3.31 of the Council Procedure Rules at Part 4A of the Constitution.	

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 The Council is asked to note the petitions presented by Councillors at the meeting as listed in paragraph four of the report.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 In accordance with Part 4A of the Council's Constitution up to three Members of the Council can present petitions to any ordinary meeting of the Council, with the exception of any meeting of the Council reserved for the setting of Council Tax.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Part 4A of the Constitution allows up to three Councillors to present petitions to meetings of the Full Council.
- 3.2 The Constitution requires that a petition must contain "the signatures of at least 100 local people or 50% of the local people affected by the subject" in order to be presented at a Council meeting.
- 3.3 The full petition wording of each of the three Member petitions to be received will be included in the Council agenda (see paragraph four below). The Member petitions will be received but shall not be the subject of a debate or questions at that or a subsequent Council meeting.
- 3.4 Where possible, the Cabinet Member shall provide a response at the Council meeting at which the Member's petition is received. Where a response is not

provided at the meeting, a written response shall be provided within three weeks of the meeting.

4. PETITIONS TO BE PRESENTED TO COUNCIL AT THIS MEETING

4.1 The Monitoring Officer has received notice of the following petitions to be presented to this meeting of the Council:

a) Petition presented by **Councillor Clancy** on behalf of residents:

"Please stop the access restrictions coming into effect as of 4th September 2017 – Woodcote Primary School Coulsdon.

Parents, carers and residents were not consulted about this scheme before implementing this pilot. We find this scheme to be grossly unfair and as a collective punishment.

This areas demographics necessitates the use of cars due to lack of accessible transport. Croydon Council is insisting children from age 3 walk, cycle and catch a non existing bus service to Woodcote Primary School.

The Council also recommends parking on surrounding roads who have similar access, congestion and other safety issues. So therefore have placed a band aid on these roads and this will exacerbate existing complaints.

Will Cllr Stuart King provide us with a report which suggests this pilot scheme is plausible. Especially to Woodcote School who has zero safety breaches (no accidents) sustained on the restricted roads. Yet they must and should be trying to improve safety on Smitham Bottom and Woodcote Grove A237, which are in dire need of improvements.

So in effect pushing vulnerable children out of a safe zone and onto a unsafe main road.

Residents are also in disagreement as they do not wish to be restricted by permits to access their own homes.

We urge the council to immediately halt the pilot and invite residents and parents to have a discussion with aim to satisfying all parties where possible."

b) Petition presented by **Councillor Wentworth** on behalf of residents

"We call on Croydon Council to take urgent measures to deal with the high volume of traffic and speeding problems in Bradley Road, Moore Road and Woodend SE19."

c) Petition presented by **Councillor Flemming** on behalf of residents:

"We the undersigned residents of Green Lane and surrounding areas call upon the Council and partner agencies to provide the following:

- 1. A greater visible police presence.*
- 2. A permanent CCTV camera along Green Lane parade and surrounding side streets.*
- 3. Resurfacing of the Green Lane parade and provision of street furniture."*

5. NEXT STEPS

- 5.1 Where possible the Cabinet Member will respond to the petition at the meeting.
- 5.2 Where a more detailed response is required, a written response shall be provided within three weeks of the meeting.

CONTACT OFFICER:

James Haywood
Senior Democratic Services and
Governance Officer
Ext 63319.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: None.

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REPORT TO:	FULL COUNCIL 4 December 2017
SUBJECT:	APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY RECORDER
LEAD OFFICER:	Jacqueline Harris-Baker Director of Law and Monitoring Officer
CABINET MEMBER:	Simon Hall, Cabinet Member for Finance and Treasury
WARDS:	All
CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT/AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON: The appointment of a new Honorary Recorder continues to give recognition to the role of Judges to make Croydon safe and secure and contributes to the building of strong and proud local communities.	
FINANCIAL IMPACT: Any costs arising from the ceremonial aspects of this appointment will be minimal and met from within existing budgets.	

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

Subject to approval from the Mayoralty and Honorary Freedom Selection Sub-Committee, Council is recommended to agree to:

- 1.1 Appoint Her Honour Judge Alice Robinson to the position of Honorary Recorder of the London Borough of Croydon for the duration of her tenure as Resident Judge at Croydon Crown Court.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 Following the appointment of Her Honour Judge Alice Robinson to the position of Resident Judge at Croydon Crown Court, the Mayoralty and Honorary Freedom Selection Sub-Committee will consider whether to recommend to Council her appointment to the role of Honorary Recorder at its meeting due to be held prior to the Full Council meeting on 4 December 2017.
- 2.2 The Council has the power to appoint an Honorary Recorder, which is a ceremonial role known as 'an Office of Dignity'.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The appointment of an Honorary Recorder under Section 54 of the Courts Act 1971, read with Section 245 and 246 of the Local Government Act 1972, falls within the discretion of the Council.
- 3.2 The London Borough of Croydon first appointed an Honorary Recorder in 2008. There are no specific tasks associated with the role, though the post holder is

invited to attend Civic Events and is occasionally involved in hosting visitors to the Borough.

- 3.3 At each Crown Court Centre, as in Croydon Crown Court, a particular judge is appointed 'Resident Judge' and leads the team of judges who sit there and provide the link between the judiciary and the work of the Local Authority.
- 3.4 His Honour Judge (HHJ) Warwick McKinnon was appointed to the role of 'Honorary Recorder' in 2008 and has served in this role until his recent retirement on 3 November 2017. HHJ McKinnon's successor as Resident Judge at Croydon Crown Court is HHJ Alice Robinson.

4 PROCESS

- 4.1 If the Sub-Committee resolve to recommend appointment of HHJ Robinson to the role of Honorary Recorder, the Constitution requires Full Council to make the decision as to whether to appoint under the Recommendations from Cabinet and Committees item.

CONTACT OFFICER: Stephen Rowan, Head of Democratic Services & Scrutiny.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: None.