

# Council Agenda



To: Councillor Toni Letts (Chair)

Councillors Mike Selva, Hamida Ali, Jamie Audsley, Jane Avis, 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, Patsy 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, Jason Perry, Helen Pollard, Tim 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

A meeting of the **Council** which you are hereby summoned to attend, will be held on **Monday, 26 March 2018 at 6.30 pm in Council Chamber - Town Hall**

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London Borough of Croydon  
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Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting.  
If you require any assistance, please contact the person detailed above, on the righthand side.

N.B This meeting will be paperless. The agenda can be accessed online at [www.croydon.gov.uk/meetings](http://www.croydon.gov.uk/meetings)

## **AGENDA – PART A**

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Item Title</b>	<b>Report Page nos.</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> To receive any apologies for absence from any Members.	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</b> To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 27 February 2018 as an accurate record.	7 - 16
<b>3.</b>	<b>Disclosure of Interests</b> 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.	
<b>4.</b>	<b>Urgent Business (if any)</b> 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. Croydon Question Time** 17 - 78
- 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.
- 7. Member Petitions** 79 - 82  
To receive notice of petitions presented by Members on behalf of local residents.
- 8. Council Debate Motions**  
To debate any motions submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rules.
- 9. Recommendations of Cabinet or Committee referred to Council for decision** 83 - 86  
To consider the recommendations made by the Mayorality and Honorary Freedom Selection Sub-Committee since the last ordinary Council Meeting relating to the following matters:
- a) Nomination of Mayor of Croydon 2018/19
- 10. 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**

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## Council

Meeting of held on Tuesday, 27 February 2018 at 6.30 pm in Council Chamber - Town Hall

### MINUTES

**Present:** Councillor Toni Letts (Chair);

Councillors Mike Selva, Hamida Ali, Jamie Audsley, Jane Avis, Jeet Bains, Margaret Bird, Carole Bonner, Simon Brew, Alison Butler, Jan Buttinger, Robert Canning, Richard Chatterjee, Sherwan Chowdhury, Luke Clancy, Pat Clouder, Stuart Collins, Jason Cummings, Patsy 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, Jason Perry, Helen Pollard, Tim Pollard, Joy Prince, Badsha Quadir, Andrew Rendle, Pat Ryan, Paul Scott, Manju Shahul-Hameed, Donald Speakman, Andy Stranack, Mark Watson, John Wentworth, Sue Winborn, David Wood, Louisa Woodley and Callton Young

**Apologies:** Councillor Sue Bennett, Phil Thomas, James Thompson, Wayne Trakas-Lawlor and Chris Wright

### PART A

11/18 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 January 2018 were agreed as an accurate record.

12/18 **Disclosure of Interests**

There were none.

13/18 **Urgent Business (if any)**

There were no items of urgent business.

14/18 **Announcements**

The Mayor congratulated Councillor Henson on the recent birth of her second child. The Mayor also thanked Councillor Shahul-Hameed and her family and friends who had organised a very successful cultural event that had raised over £2,000 for the Mayor's Charity.

15/18 **Council Tax and Budget**

At the start of the item Councillor Newman proposed, and Councillor Tim Pollard seconded, a motion that the consideration of the item move straight to the debate at section (d) of item six on the agenda.

The motion was put to the vote and carried unanimously.

The Mayor therefore moved to the debate under section (d) of item six.

The Leader, moving the recommendations, thanked officers for working on a strong budget for Croydon. It included the most significant investment in young people in the borough for a decade, such as the announcement at Cabinet of the Youth Zone. The budget included campaigns for fairness and fighting injustice such as the London Living Wage, the white ribbon campaign against domestic violence, the landlord licensing scheme, and the commitment to fit sprinklers into the Council's tower blocks. The administration had intervened to help residents affected by the universal credit reforms and had brought the borough's libraries back into community control.

It was stated that these achievements were made despite the previous administration leaving Croydon with a £100million black hole in the Council's finances, filthy streets and the borough's Riesco collection sold off. It was stated that the new administration had turned this situation around and Croydon should never return to it.

It was further stated that the current administration had taken their share of responsibility for the Ofsted report's findings of children's services in Croydon, and the Leader claimed that the opposition had failed to take their share – such as cutting funding for youth services when they were in power, and abstaining to vote for more funding for vulnerable adults when in opposition.

The Leader stated that Croydon was now London's growth borough which included successes such as large companies moving to Croydon, Crystal Palace Football Club committing to stay in Croydon for the long-term, the Westfield-Hammerson development becoming a reality, and hundreds of new affordable homes being built.

The Leader stated that culture in the borough had grown significantly under the current administration, with the redevelopment of Fairfield Halls being a significant example. The Leader stated he was confident that the proposed

budget would maintain Croydon as London's growth borough, whilst ensuring that all residents in Croydon would have the opportunity to benefit from the growth and securing the long term future of Croydon with stable finances.

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

Councillor Tim Pollard stated that the budget was a testimony to the failure of the administration. It was stated that the Leader attempted to blame the government cuts for everything whilst failing to mention government measures introduced to allow local authorities to source additional income streams. The reason for the government cuts, it was stated, was due to the Labour government's spending and mismanagement of the economy.

Councillor Pollard stated that whilst the administration was calling for more funding it was not demonstrating a commitment to keep debt under control; the finances were out of control, with the Council failing to stick to its budgets such as in the People department. Key projects in the borough had been delayed and thus Council Tax was being raised to cover the missed revenue. It was announced that due to these errors by the administration, the opposition had no choice but to support the proposed rise in Council Tax so as to deal with the mess made of the finances by the administration.

Councillor Tim Pollard stated that the opposition, if elected, would re-introduce a free bulky waste collection. It would deliver on key issues such as affordable housing and bin collections. It was also stated that the opposition would make serious capital investments in the borough's parks, including creating a super-park. It was stated that the administration had failed Croydon.

Councillor Butler stated that the proposed budget would support homelessness prevention as well as delivering on much needed homes through Brick by Brick. This would be coupled with the landlord licensing scheme that was driving up standards in the private sector. The Council would continue to invest in improvements and repairs to its housing stock, including fitting sprinklers in the taller tower blocks. The administration would continue to lobby government on matters such as matched funding, the enforced rent reduction and to lift the cap on borrowing against the Housing Revenue Account (HRA). It was also stated that the Council should be allowed to choose how to spend its right to buy receipts.

Councillor Butler welcomed the investment earmarked for regeneration in the borough's district centres and thanked the officers in the housing and gateway departments for the huge difference they had made for the residents of Croydon.

Councillor Hale stated that despite a housing crisis, the administration had not built one council house. It was claimed that Brick by Brick lacked transparency and had taken large sums of Council money and yet had not completed construction of one property as yet. It was further claimed that despite huge sums of money gained through the landlord licensing scheme, only two licences had actually been revoked and that there continued to be appalling

conditions in the private sector. It was stated that despite the administration's pledge on arts and culture, the Fairfield Halls opening had been delayed, the parks department had been severely cut, and Croydon had lost the Mayor of London's borough of culture bid.

Councillor Ali stated that it was scandalous that government had failed to provide adequate funding for children's services, and instead had placed the burden on residents through Council Tax. It was stated that the Mayor of London was doing everything he could to protect the Metropolitan Police from government austerity measures, using the precept and business rates to plug the huge funding gap left by government cuts. In addition the administration had taken steps to boost safety and enforcement in Croydon such as a 50% increase in enforcement officers. A new community fund had been announced, providing £250,000 to work with residents on schemes to support young people in the borough. It was stated that the choices made in the budget were made on the side of residents.

Councillor Mohan stated that the Take Pride in Croydon campaign had failed to deliver. Recycling rates had dropped and it was claimed Croydon had gone from being the best performing borough in this area to one of the worst. It was further claimed that fly tipping had sky-rocketed, and the £5million savings in the new waste contract were, it was claimed, nothing but an accounting trick. It was stated that the additional £1million in landfill charges showed a failure of the Council's recycling policy and yet the budget included the closing down of neighbourhood recycling centres. It was stated that the money spent on 20mph road signage would have been better spent on targeted work in accident hotspots. Finally, it was claimed that the planned closure of Council car parks would result in over half a million pounds a year of lost revenue.

Councillor Lewis stated that the proposed budget was ambitious but responsible. A lot of investment had been targeted at New Addington, a ward that had been overlooked by the previous administration, it was claimed. This investment had included a new leisure centre, a health living hub, and a new Special Educational Needs (SEN) school. There had also been improvements to the central parade, commitment to installing sprinklers in the ward's tower blocks, additional police officers, a community food stop and an outdoor gym. It was claimed that this was the choice residents face: investment in services for young people, vulnerable adults and working in partnerships to support the health and safety of residents, or underinvestment and cuts to services.

Councillor O'Connell stated that the Greater London Authority (GLA) had voted against the Mayor of London's budget however the Mayor had been provided opportunities to increase funding via devolved powers given by government. It was stated that Croydon's budget failed to allocate significant investment in dealing with serious youth violence such as knife crime, and support for young people more generally.

Councillor Flemming stated that Croydon had the largest youth population in London and the largest number of unaccompanied asylum seeking children

(UASCs). The administration would continue to lobby for a fair funding level from government to meet these unique challenges, and the provision for young people contained in the proposed budget was welcomed. Councillor Flemming stated her pride in the investment in world class facilities for young people in the borough such as the Youth Zone as well as other initiatives such as the redevelopment of Fairfield Halls and the Krept and Konan Foundation supporting young people in the borough. It was stated that the number of schools rated good or outstanding had risen considerably under the current administration and the community fund of £250,000 was welcomed as a key initiative to support local groups in preventing youth gang and knife crime.

Councillor Gatland stated that the culture of blame from the administration had been corrosive within the Council and the opposition would be more open and collaborative in their approach if elected. It was stated that the Ofsted report highlighted the administration's failure to prioritise the protection of young and vulnerable people. Whilst the additional funding to children's services was welcomed, more needed to be done such as a mentoring campaign which some opposition Councillors had already begun work on. The investment in services for children with disabilities was welcomed however it was important that parents led the design of the services provided.

Councillor Collins stated that the history of Croydon illustrated that Conservatives cut services whereas Labour invested. Examples were provided such as afternoon street bin collections and weekly residential bin collections. It was further stated that there had been a significance increase in the rate of fly tip clearances within 48 hours of reporting. There had been increased enforcement measures as well as high numbers of prosecutions and a campaign to motivate residents. It was claimed the current administration had monitored the contractor properly and a better value contract had been negotiated for the near future. Local residents had been mobilised through recruiting street champions and a number of community clean ups. Questions were also raised regarding the costings to the opposition's proposals for a 24 hour monitoring system, which it was claimed would cost nearly £12million.

Councillor Jason Cummings stated that the administration had a very poor record of meeting budgets and was abdicating its responsibility for this by blaming central government. It was stated that there were local solutions available but by blaming government, the administration was not looking for solutions. The administration, it was claimed, had allowed an overspend in the People department for four years, and this was a reason why the opposition had reluctantly agreed to support the proposed Council tax increase. It was stated that the previous Conservative Mayor had kept taxes low, whilst the new Labour Mayor had increased taxation on residents. Councillor Cummings questioned if the increased precept was going to the Police when the budget had been cut yet there was growth in other areas of the GLA. It was stated that where Labour were in power there were tax increases, and where Conservatives were in power there were tax cuts.

Councillor Hall stated that in 2014 the administration had inherited a £100million financial black hole from the previous administration. In addition, since that time there had been huge cuts to local authority funding. It was further stated that Croydon had suffered from historic underfunding when accounting for issues such as being a universal credit pilot authority, and the disproportionately high number of UASCs in the borough. It was stated that in this context Croydon could have ended up in the situation that Northamptonshire Council had found itself in, with government intervention to control its dire financial situation. It was claimed that the work of the administration had ensured that Croydon had emerged in a much stronger financial situation with measures such as the Gateway service and bringing more services back in-house. It was stated that the administration had got the Council's finances under control and this had allowed it to react to events such as providing additional money to children's services after the Ofsted inspection. There had been a number of other investments such as increased street cleaning and more funding for young people through the community fund and the Youth Zone. New Addington had also seen significant investment with new community facilities. It was claimed that government had made it very difficult for local authorities to deliver on new homes. It was further stated that the government was operating on the basis that local councils would increase council tax and the precept to the maximum allowed.

The Mayor then moved the item to section (c) and invited the Chair of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee to present the scrutiny business report.

Councillor Fitzsimons stated that the Committee had looked at the proposed budget in December and the education budget had been considered at a separate meeting at the Children and Young People Sub-Committee. The scrutiny committees had also undertaken a number of question and answer sessions with Cabinet Members throughout the year. The key issue identified was an increased in demand for Council services with a lack of funding from government. Particularly acute pressure was identified in services for young people and over 80s.

The Mayor then moved to the vote on the recommendations.

The first vote was for recommendation 1.1: A 2.99% increase in the Council Tax for Croydon Services (a level of increase Central Government has assumed in all Councils' spending power calculation).

The recommendation was put to a poll vote:

Members who voted in favour: Hamida Ali, Jamie Audsley, Jane Avis, Jeet Bains, Margaret Bird, Carole Bonner, Simon Brew, Alison Butler, Jan Buttlinger, Robert Canning, Richard Chatterjee, Sherwan Chowdhury, Luke Clancy, Pat Clouder, Stuart Collins, Mario Creatura, Jason Cummings, Patsy Cummings, Sean Fitzsimons, Alisa Flemming, Maria Gatland, Timothy Godfrey, Lynne Hale, Simon Hall, Maddie Henson, Steve Hollands, Yvette Hopley, Karen Jewitt, Humayun Kabir, Bernadette Khan, Shafi Khan, Stuart King, Toni Letts, Oliver Lewis, Stephen Mann, Maggie Mansell, Dudley Mead,



Margaret Mead, Vidhi Mohan, Michael Neal, Tony Newman, Steve O'Connell, Andrew Pelling, Jason Perry, Helen Pollard, Tim Pollard, Joy Prince, Badsha Quadir, Andrew Rendle, Pat Ryan, Paul Scott, Mike Selva, Manju Shahul-Hameed, Donald Speakman, Andy Stranack, Mark Watson, John Wentworth, Susan Winborn, David Wood, Louisa Woodley, Callton Young.

The recommendation was carried unanimously.

The second vote was for recommendation 1.2: A 2.0% increase in the Adult Social Care precept (a charge Central Government has assumed all councils' will levy in its spending power calculations).

The recommendation was put to a poll vote:

Members who voted in favour: Hamida Ali, Jamie Audsley, Jane Avis, Jeet Bains, Margaret Bird, Carole Bonner, Simon Brew, Alison Butler, Jan Buttlinger, Robert Canning, Richard Chatterjee, Sherwan Chowdhury, Luke Clancy, Pat Clouder, Stuart Collins, Mario Creatura, Jason Cummings, Patsy Cummings, 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, Toni Letts, Oliver Lewis, Stephen Mann, Maggie Mansell, Dudley Mead, Margaret Mead, Vidhi Mohan, Michael Neal, Tony Newman, Steve O'Connell, Andrew Pelling, Jason Perry, Helen Pollard, Tim Pollard, Joy Prince, Badsha Quadir, Andrew Rendle, Pat Ryan, Paul Scott, Mike Selva, Manju Shahul-Hameed, Donald Speakman, Andy Stranack, Mark Watson, John Wentworth, Susan Winborn, David Wood, Louisa Woodley, Callton Young.

The recommendation was carried unanimously.

The third vote was for recommendation 1.3: This Council welcomes the GLA increase of 5.07%, where over 81% of which is being used for the Police and 16% being used for the Fire service. With reference to the principles for 2018/19 determined by the Secretary of State under Section 52 ZC sub-section 1 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended) confirm that in accordance with section 52 ZB sub-section 1 the Council Tax and GLA precept referred to above are not excessive in terms of the most recently issued principles and as such to note that no referendum is required.

The recommendation was put to a poll vote:

Members who voted in favour: Hamida Ali, Jamie Audsley, Jane Avis, Jeet Bains, Margaret Bird, Carole Bonner, Simon Brew, Alison Butler, Jan Buttlinger, Robert Canning, Richard Chatterjee, Sherwan Chowdhury, Luke Clancy, Pat Clouder, Stuart Collins, Mario Creatura, Jason Cummings, Patsy Cummings, 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, Toni Letts, Oliver Lewis, Stephen Mann,

Maggie Mansell, Dudley Mead, Margaret Mead, Vidhi Mohan, Michael Neal, Tony Newman, Steve O'Connell, Andrew Pelling, Jason Perry, Helen Pollard, Tim Pollard, Joy Prince, Badsha Quadir, Andrew Rendle, Pat Ryan, Paul Scott, Mike Selva, Manju Shahul-Hameed, Donald Speakman, Andy Stranack, Mark Watson, John Wentworth, Susan Winborn, David Wood, Louisa Woodley, Callton Young.

The recommendation was carried unanimously.

The remaining recommendations 1.4 to 1.8 were put to a normal vote *en bloc*, and were carried unanimously.

16/18 **Recommendations of Cabinet or Committee referred to Council for decision**

Item 7.1 was the recommendations from Cabinet related to the Treasury Management Policy Statement. Councillor Hall moved the nine recommendations contained within the report and Councillor Collins seconded the motion.

The motion to approve the nine recommendations contained in the report was put to the vote and was carried unanimously.

Item 7.2 was the recommendations from the Cabinet Member for Homes, Regeneration and Planning related to the Croydon Local Plan.

Councillor Butler, moving the recommendations, stated that the proposed Local Plan set an ambitious vision for all parts of the borough. It would meet the needs of Croydon by providing new homes and strengthening district centres. It was stated that the Local Plan protected the borough's parks for future generations and provided additional protections for open spaces and new areas designated with heritage status. The officers involved in the delivery of the Local Plan were thanked for their passion and commitment to the project.

Councillor Scott seconded the motion.

The Mayor announced that written notice had been received from Councillor Perry to defer the item for debate. Councillor Stranack seconded the motion for deferral. The motion read:

"We, the Conservative Group request that the recommendation to adopt the Croydon Local Plan be referred back to the Cabinet for further consideration, as the plan in its current form is not fit for purpose. In particular reconsideration must be given to the 31 parks and green spaces losing local protected status, unnecessary intensification zones and the loss of precious green belt"

Councillor Perry, speaking in favour of the deferral motion, paid tribute to the effort of officers in the delivery of the plan. It was stated that the plan did not provide adequate protection for green spaces and it proposed development on green belt land. It was claimed that the administration had failed to properly consult with friends groups of local parks to gather robust evidence for the submission to the inspector. The plan in its current form did not guarantee protection of open spaces in Croydon. It was further stated that the intensification zones in the south of the borough required numerous modifications from the inspector, and many were located in residential areas. The inspector found that the zone boundaries were arbitrary and Councillor Perry stated they were too large and required further revision. It was stated that the plan had not been imposed on the Council, it was the administration's submission, and would result in the loss of green belt land and intrusive intensification in many residential areas.

Councillor Butler stated that the Local Plan was based on well-researched evidence which the inspector considered satisfactory. It was stated that the plan was one of the most scrutinised pieces of work the Council had produced. The administration had disagreed with some of the inspector's modifications and some of these objections had been accepted, but others had not – particularly on green spaces. However there were additional protections afforded by the London Plan, and the opposition were accused of scaremongering on this issue. The intensification zones were necessary to alleviate the housing crisis – particularly for Croydon's young people and the homeless. The administration believed that the green belt was precious, however it was also important to provide enough school places for the borough's young people, and placing schools in green environments was preferable than traffic-polluted areas.

Councillor Stranack stated that, as a disabled resident in Forestdale, there were considerable concerns with the planned intensification of the area. The area had a low public transport level rating and parking was already a serious issue. This had had severe effects on disabled residents trying to access their homes, and this had been echoed by a local charity supporting elderly people. The proposals for the area in the Local Plan would double the local population which would create severe pressure on street parking. It was claimed that some of the intensification zones were placed in areas with poor public transport infrastructure and a high level of elderly residents. It was claimed that this would create ghettos of loneliness and isolation in parts of the borough.

Councillor Prince stated that the motion was to defer back to Cabinet a decision that was four years in the making, and this was clearly impracticable. It was stated that in Waddon there were many residents desperate to enter the housing ladder, or concerned for their children's ability to do so. The number of homes needed in the borough required some controlled intensification and this included not just housing but the infrastructure around this such as transport plans and community facilities. It was critical, therefore, that local authorities had up-to-date plans.

Councillor Bains stated that the administration had been ignoring residents on planning issues – particularly around objections raised at the Planning Committee. It was stated that the Local Plan also did not heed the views of residents and had not been conducted in a fair process; instead it was an ideological imposition. It was claimed that the plan did not take into consideration schools and transport, and failed to protect the character of local areas. It was further claimed that 31 parks and green spaces would lose protected status. It was stated that intensification in areas such as east Addiscombe had created problems for residents, from parking issues to one-way streets.

Councillor Scott read a quote from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government that authorities had to prioritise the provision the delivery of housing to deal with the housing crisis. The inspector had found the Local Plan fit for purpose and it was stated that tackling the housing crisis should not be used by the opposition as a political football. It was claimed an opposition Councillor had stated in a Planning Committee meeting that there was no housing crisis, and it was stated that the opposition opposed garden building yet received planning permission to build on a garden in a property owned by the opposition. There were thousands of families in the borough without secure homes and many children on school waiting lists. The proposed Local Plan integrated the delivery of 30,000 new homes with protections to open spaces and characteristics of neighbourhoods. In four suburban areas, modest intensification was proposed which would enable the retention of existing structures in many of those areas. The Local Plan was commended to the Council as fit for purpose and paving the way for the delivery of the homes Croydon needed.

The deferral motion was put to the vote and fell.

The recommendations from the Cabinet Member for Homes, Regeneration and Planning were put to the vote and were carried. Thus Council **RESOLVED** to adopt the Croydon Local Plan 2018 in accordance with section 23(5) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

The meeting ended at 8.24 pm

**Signed:**

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**Date:**

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**For General Release**

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>COUNCIL</b> <b>26 March 2018</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>CROYDON QUESTION TIME:</b> <b>A) PUBLIC QUESTIONS</b> <b>B) LEADER AND CABINET QUESTIONS</b>
<b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>	<b>Stephen Rowan, Head of Democratic Services and Scrutiny</b>
<b>WARDS:</b>	<b>ALL</b>
<b>CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT:</b>	
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:
- a) public questions;
  - b) 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**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Portfolio</b>
Councillor Alison Butler	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Homes, Regeneration and Planning
Councillor Hamida Ali	Cabinet Member for Communities, Safety and Justice
Councillor Manju Shahul-Hameed	Cabinet Member for Economy and Jobs

**Pool 2**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Portfolio</b>
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 3**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Portfolio</b>
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

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 February - March 2018

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## Latest News

### Young Mayor

My personal congratulations to William Awomoyi, Croydon's first Young Mayor, and Shea Williams, our first Deputy Young Mayor, both of whom I really look forward to working with.



The election has been a great success and I'm delighted to say that we are committed to making this an annual event. Thank you to all the young people who voted and to all those who put themselves forward as candidates. They did a great job and every one of them is a winner.

### Croydon Health Summit

I was really pleased to see how many came to join us on 7 March for Croydon's very first Health Summit. It was a fantastic build upon the conversation on Health between our local community groups, practitioners and officers.

We had some brilliant guest speakers from health experts from KPMG, Stephen Dorrell - a former Secretary of State for Health - and Steve Reed MP to name a few. Thank you to Cllr Maggie Mansell for chairing the event.



## Leader of the Council Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Tony Newman February - March 2018

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Overall, a brilliant event with a fantastic turnout. This is the start of a very exciting time for Croydon.

### UASC

I am absolutely astonished and very disappointed by Croydon's allocation from the Government. We look after almost 10 per cent of the unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in the UK, yet are getting less than two per cent of funding. The funding formula they have applied appears to be very basic and in no way does it represent a fair way of reflecting the burden faced by local authorities.

Croydon is extremely proud of its long track record in welcoming and caring for these vulnerable young people. But if like us, the Government truly wants them to integrate and thrive in our local communities, it needs to step up and provide the funding for councils to support them. Croydon taxpayers simply cannot be expected to foot the bill for over £3m annually in direct costs of being a gateway borough when this is a national issue.

We welcome the Government's decision to make this funding available for these young people but Croydon's allocation is completely unacceptable. As these allocations are at draft stage we are asking them to re-consider.

### Network Rail

I am pleased the government has listened to Croydon and progress is now being made to deliver the improvements desperately needed to the Brighton Main Line, and specifically to the railway through Croydon.

Our borough is undergoing significant regeneration and it is essential we have the rail infrastructure to support this. We welcome the news vital upgrades to train lines are a step closer to fruition.



## Leader of the Council Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Tony Newman February - March 2018

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We have been lobbying government for urgent improvements to the Brighton Main Line, specifically in the East Croydon area, to increase the number of trains into central London per hour and reduce over-crowding on services.

And now, Network Rail has announced that they have received funding from the Department for Transport, which will enable them to work up detailed designs for the track and station work in the Croydon area.

Their initial proposals would see a new, expanded East Croydon station, with additional tracks and flyover junctions, increasing the number of platforms from six to eight.

### Thornton Heath Walkabout

It was great to be able to join Cllr Alison Butler, ward councillor for Bensham Manor, and have the opportunity to thank the staff who have been working hard with the local community to deliver the regeneration and transformation of Thornton Heath.



It was also a brilliant opportunity to visit the Thornton Heath library which, along with all of the libraries in the borough, is now back under public ownership and safe under this administration.



# **Leader of the Council Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Tony Newman February - March 2018**

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## **Communities and Local Government (CLG) Committee**

I had the opportunity to give evidence at the CLG Committee on behalf of the LGA with particular focus on Croydon's success on Landlord Licencing at the end of January. I was pleased to inform the committee that more than 30,000 properties had signed on and the scheme was and is still very well supported by both landlords and tenants.

**Councillor Tony Newman**

**Leader of the Council**

### **Crystal Palace Football Club**

Plans have been submitted to the Council to redevelop the main stand at Selhurst Park stadium, increasing the overall ground capacity from 26,000 to 34,000. The planning application number is 18/00547/FUL.

Key features of the redevelopment include:

- A large new main stand, glass fronted, that would increase capacity from around 5,400 to 13,500, with more than 10,700 General Admission seats - an increase of around 6,000 on existing numbers
- Compliance with Accessible Stadia Guidelines, through improved facilities for supporters with disabilities and a substantial increase in wheelchair spaces.
- Selhurst Park to be compliant with UEFA regulations and eligible to host tournament football.
- A new museum documenting the club's history and its place in the community
- Premium hospitality and entertainment facilities
- New community facilities, supporting the work of the Palace for Life Foundation, which delivers health, education and sporting programmes for more than 13,500 local children and young adults.

The scheme will create additional employment opportunities, with an estimate of 124 additional Full time Equivalent (FTE) jobs and 30 new permanent jobs. The club has made a public commitment to signing up to Croydon's Good Employer's Charter and therefore paying London Living Wage to employees. Further details of the wider economic benefit are provided in the planning submission and this is being scrutinised by officers.

The council is working hard to ensure an application comes to committee that sees benefits for local communities and residents.

The council has not yet reached an agreement with the club over the terms of the acquisition of land and property. As they stand, the proposals would require a number of council tenants to be rehoused, with the loss of five council properties in total (as well as one private house). The council has been working closely with those tenants affected.

If the club achieves planning permission then the current ambition is to start work in early 2019, with a current estimate of a completion date 2-and-a-half to 3 years from then.

### **Sprinklers update**

The sprinkler installation works are now completed on the first residential block - College Green in Upper Norwood. Installation works have also commenced on the next three blocks Grosvenor, Belgrave and the second College Green Blocks with five further blocks scheduled



to start by the end of March. The councils Residents Involvement team are engaging with residents in preparation for the works to begin and a new demonstration flat at Tonbridge House block has been completed to allow our residents to view the sprinkler installation and help answer any questions they might have about the works.

### **Construction skills academy opens in New Addington**

Thanks to the Council's investment in new community and leisure facilities in New Addington, a new skills academy which provides residents with the chance to undergo training and gain qualifications in construction was officially launched in New Addington on 13 March.

The Building Futures Academy, is part of the new multi-million pound New Addington leisure and community centre development and will provide training and qualifications for local people interested in working in construction.

The council has partnered with Willmott Dixon who are building the new leisure centre, MRG Services, Carshalton College and Croydon Council's jobs brokerage service Croydon Works, to provide the training hub.

Candidates will learn Level 1 Construction Operations, practical skills training, CSCS training, Level 1 Health and Safety at work and employability skills. After their training the newly qualified candidates will be supported by Croydon Works to apply for work placements with Willmott Dixon, supply chain partners or other construction jobs advertised by the employment service.

Located next to the Octagon Building on Central Parade, the first cohort of students will enter the academy to start their training in April.

If you would like more information about the course, qualifications and expected outcomes, please call 0208 604 7471 or email [info@croydonworks.co.uk](mailto:info@croydonworks.co.uk)

### **Landlord fined over illegally-let property**

A landlord who illegally rented out a South Croydon flat to tenants without getting the required licence has been ordered to pay a £6,000 fine.

Croydon Council reminded the Landlord several times over six months that he needed to apply for a licence on the property in Warham Road and pay the £750 licence fee, but he did neither and continued to rent to tenants. The Landlord also failed to respond to council notices that legally required him to give more information about the property.

# CLr Alison Butler - Homes and Regeneration

## March 2018

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Landlords who do not apply for a selective property licence covering flats and houses they let in Croydon are breaching section 95 of the Housing Act 2004.

The council introduced its selective licensing scheme in 2015 to raise the standard of housing for tenants and improve the local environment, and over 30,000 properties in the borough are now licensed.

The council resolves most enforcement cases without needing to take legal action because landlords follow improvement notices that bring faster results. We introduced the landlord licensing scheme to ensure all those who rent in the borough live in a decent home. The vast majority of Croydon landlords are responsible and get the proper licence, but this case shows we will continue to take enforcement action where needed to ensure all homes are licensed.

### **Croydon to publish developers' viability reports**

Developers in Croydon will now have the viability appraisal submitted as part of their planning applications made public. The reports are submitted to provide evidence of the developers' capability to meet all planning requirements, including meeting the levels of affordable housing required by the council as the local planning authority.

Previously applicants could request for their viability assessment to be kept confidential, but the report will now be published alongside the other planning documents submitted. The publication of the appraisals on the council website will ensure greater transparency and accountability, by enabling members of the public to scrutinise viability reports and the associated implications for the delivery of affordable housing and other benefits. In these instances the publication of the appraisal will make the reasons behind the decision clear.

This is good news for Croydon residents. The publishing of these appraisals will make the council's work with developers much more transparent and enables the public to hold both parties to account. Most importantly it will also help ensure affordable housing, which is much needed in Croydon, is built.

### **All Ages Family Safety Challenge Final and award ceremony 2017/18**

As part of its work on both bringing residents of all ages together and looking at fire safety, the council annually holds a Fire Safety Challenge along with the Fire Brigade. This challenge is growing in popularity every year.

# CLlr Alison Butler - Homes and Regeneration

March 2018

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Mighty Men of Valour, the Broad Green-based group working to improve the lives of boys, men, husbands and fathers were this year's champions. They beat off stiff competition from 11 teams across the borough in the finals held in a packed council chamber. This year almost 2,000 people of all ages have taken part in 78 community events as part of the project.

Fire safety is a serious matter as the tragic fire at Grenfell has shown – but learning about it is important and can save lives.

David Gill from London Fire Brigade's Crossfire team said: "Having a plan for what to do in the case of a fire and knowing some basic first aid are all life-saving skills, and this challenge helps us to teach hundreds of people every year how to stay safe in their homes. It's a great project and has undoubtedly helped prevent some potential tragedies".

The challenge is open to any community groups based in or near Croydon's council housing developments. For more information please email

**[sustainable.communities@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:sustainable.communities@croydon.gov.uk)** or telephone **020 8726 6100** ext. **62065**.



The Mighty Men of Valour team walked away winners at Croydon's sixth annual All Ages Family Safety Challenge finals on Wednesday 14 February.





### **Brick by Brick**

BXB will be delivering a large number of schemes on site in 2018. You may have noticed hoardings are up on many sites across the borough including Marston Way in Upper Norwood, Regina Road in South Norwood, Northbrook Road in Selhurst and around the College Green scheme in central Croydon.

As demolition and construction begins on the first phase, the next phase of planning applications has begun along with the ongoing search for more potential sites. As part of the commitment to 'use local first' BxB is committed to working with local contractors and sub-contractors and promoting the employment of local people through Croydon Works.

Overall BXB aims to deliver 50% affordable homes across their residential programme. All affordable rented homes will go to those nominated from Croydon's housing register BXB will make any units for sale solely available to Croydon residents for a set period of time, before offering them more widely. This is a key priority for BXB. BXB CEO Colm Lacey says; *'We are building beautiful new homes for people to live in and places where people want to stay. Key to that is understanding and providing for the specific needs of both existing and new residents'*

### **Croydon apprentices celebrated at National Apprenticeship Week event**

Apprentices working with council contractors on a range of Croydon projects were commended at a special event held as part of National Apprenticeship Week. Nine apprentices working for council housing and schools maintenance contractors Clairglow and Mulalley, were each presented with a certificate and gift card, in recognition of their hard work on local schemes.

The apprentices' contributions have been across three contracts and they have been involved in planned maintenance works including the delivering of kitchen and bathroom refurbishments, external decorating and domestic central heating upgrades. As well as the work carried out for their employers, the apprentices have also been involved in a number of community initiatives including the renovation of Timebridge Community Centre in New Addington for the FareShare food programme and decorating for the New Addington Pathfinders community group and at the Salvation Army's food bank.

I am delighted we have been able to recognise the invaluable contribution apprentices are making across Croydon, not just in their work but also in the wider community.

For more information on the council's apprenticeship scheme visit [www.croydon.gov.uk/jobsatcroydon/apprenticeship](http://www.croydon.gov.uk/jobsatcroydon/apprenticeship) or to find out how an apprenticeship could help benefit your business visit [www.gov.uk/take-on-an-apprentice](http://www.gov.uk/take-on-an-apprentice)

### **Planning Awards**

Croydon's excellent Planning & Strategic Transport Team have been shortlisted in the Planning Excellence Awards for the Planning Authority of the Year 2018. This is well deserved by the team, who have worked incredibly hard to keep up with the ever increasing numbers of planning applications.



# Families, Health and Social Care

## Cabinet Member Bulletin

### Councillor Louisa Woodley

#### March 2018

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## LATEST NEWS

### **Dementia friendly Croydon**

Croydon is working towards becoming a dementia friendly borough and Croydon Council joined the Croydon Dementia Action Alliance committing to dementia friendly actions.

With more than 850,000 people living with dementia in the UK and nearly 40% of the population knowing a close family member or friend who lives with dementia, it's more common than you might think.

You can support Croydon and people living with Dementia by becoming a Dementia Friend. Anyone of any age can be a Dementia Friend, all you need to do is to learn more about what it's like to live with dementia and then turn that understanding into action. The actions don't have to be big, it could be as simple as being patient if someone ahead of you in the supermarket is struggling or as big as ensuring a new building is dementia friendly.

Dementia Friends Champions are running bite sized dementia awareness sessions. Each session lasts for 45 mins – 1 hour, no laptops or notebooks needed, just go along and learn.

**More information:** [rachel.carse@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:rachel.carse@croydon.gov.uk)



## All-age disability HUB for Croydon

Croydon has long had the ambition to develop an enhanced offer for people of all ages, and all disabilities and has started plans to develop an all-age disability HUB at St James Road, on the site of the old Cherry Orchard day service. The exact offer at St James's Road is still being scoped, but the new site will provide better facilities giving us the ability to provide a wider variety of person-centred services and facilities that are needed within the borough.

We are building on the insight gathered by the ['Walk in Our Shoes'](#) project, talking to people who currently use the service, their families and carers. We held a successful engagement session on March 6, where people came along to give their ideas about the facilities that could be available, discuss the developments with staff, and see the plans for the new site. The architects, [Pedder and Scampton](#), who have a history of working closely with communities and a strong focus on user and stakeholder engagement, were at the event gathering information from the attendees.

As part of this development, the Autism service, currently based in Chatsworth Road, will be relocating to the new premises. Staff and people using the service will be fully supported throughout the move.

We will continue to involve people in the development and keep the community updated on this exciting project.

**More information:** [Annette.McPartland@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:Annette.McPartland@croydon.gov.uk)

## Delivering services during the cold and snow



Unfortunately, the poor weather can have a seriously negative impact on the welfare of some of our most vulnerable and elderly residents. CarelinePlus, which helps people live independently in their own homes and provides a 24/7 response service to about approximately 3000 vulnerable residents in Croydon and the Living Independently for Everyone (LIFE)

service, which supports people to have early safe discharge from hospital or prevent hospital admission have both been working tirelessly to continue to support residents. Margaret Bailey, service manager said 'committed frontline staff have made their way to work wherever possible and covered for colleagues when required.'

An example from March 1 is that Careline staff received a call from a 96 year old lady who had no heating or hot water. Careline staff attempted to contact British Gas to come out as she has a 24 hour call out arrangement. They also visited and provided heaters, hot drinks and to make sure she was as safe and comfortable as she could be. The Careline team worked with centralised duty to make alternative arrangements for this lady in case she needed to be moved out temporarily, however she decided to remain at home. Careline continued to check on her over the next few days and the duty team chased British Gas to come out and attend to the problem.

The adults social care centralised duty team implemented a special action plan which included putting in place duty workers with specialised knowledge about resources available in these weather conditions. They completed welfare checks on our most vulnerable service users and also had our care providers and our meals on wheels service checking on people living on their own to ensure they are warm, and that they have sufficient food and drink to tide them over the weekend. Preparations were put in-train for visiting residents with food provisions and heaters, should the poor weather continue and the team were poised to assist residents who could not be reached by their visiting carers where required. These arrangements are all part of implementing our ASC Winter Plan, 2018.

A vulnerable elderly couple were unfortunately left without heating, and the problem could not be fixed immediately. Social services offered to transport them, via a taxi, to stay in alternative accommodation. However, since they wanted to stay at home, local community volunteers rallied around to help the couple who were much happier to remain in their home. The local community voluntary group arranged for heaters, food and all sorts of support for the couple to remain at home. Mrs X was very cheerful when social services phoned to check on them.

Our teams worked closely with partners to ensure homeless people and verified rough sleepers were placed in emergency accommodation / shelter. The churches shelter was open and full and 43 clients had been placed in emergency cold weather B&B. The outreach team took verified rough sleepers to a pan-London shelter. The emergency number for out of hours help was circulated to partners and the emergency duty team (EDT) placed people on an emergency night-by-night basis. The teams asked all partners and colleagues not to end and temporary placements during this adverse weather.

**More information:** [pratima.solanki@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:pratima.solanki@croydon.gov.uk)

## Short breaks and respite – update

Croydon carried out detailed stakeholder engagement, using a range of methods to gather views from a variety of people, including those with learning disabilities. The feedback showed that there was a desire for more flexible short breaks and respite provision than could be offered at Heatherway. There was a great fondness expressed for the staff, but there was a lack of choice.

Throughout the process, social workers have, and continue to, work closely with families and people with learning disabilities to offer personalised respite in other locations.

Heatherway closed for short breaks and respite care on the 31 January 2018. All the permanent staff who were employed at Heatherway have been redeployed within Croydon council.

**More information:** [Annette.McPartland@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:Annette.McPartland@croydon.gov.uk)

## DELIVERING OUR AMBITIONS

### Developing our Carers strategy

# Carers' Strategy 2017-2021



In Croydon approximately 10% of our population are carers, a valuable part of our health and social care system. Croydon council and NHS Croydon clinical commissioning group (CCG) are committed to supporting carers.

The carers strategy was coproduced with the Carers Partnership Group, involving young and adult carers, professionals and other key stakeholders. In total, 239 carers and professionals were engaged through 22 workshops. This was made up of 111 carers and professionals attending 13 workshops to coproduce the themes, ideas on service provision and commissioning. They helped to identify gaps in the current system that have informed the development of the strategy. There was also an online



survey open for six weeks. This was followed by further workshops to listen and ensure views were correctly captured.

From this key themes were developed and prioritised into three categories with a timeline for delivery. The next steps are to ensure these actions are delivered, it will be the task of the Carers Partnership Group to scrutinise the actions and where necessary support the delivery of the strategy. These outcomes will be evaluated annually by us to ensure delivery.

**More information:** [Stephen.Bahooshy@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:Stephen.Bahooshy@croydon.gov.uk)

### Are you Sugar Smart?



It's been just a few weeks since Croydon launched its SUGAR SMART campaign, and in that time we have seen over 50 residents as well as eight schools, one nursery chain, and two businesses/organisations sign up to the movement! SUGAR SMART is part of our

commitment to support Croydon residents to improve their health and wellbeing by making healthier food and drink choices. Working in partnership with the Jamie Oliver Foundation and Sustain, the SUGAR SMART campaign aims to raise awareness of levels of sugar in the diet and its health implications, and to reduce sugar consumption across all age groups and communities across the borough. The campaign was launched at the Surrey Street Sunday market New Year, New You event on 14th January, and since then several more SUGAR SMART events have been held in various locations including schools, colleges and GP practices, with more in the pipeline.

If you would like to learn more about the campaign and how you, your family or your educational, health or business setting can get involved, be sure to visit our website at [www.croydon.gov.uk/sugarsmart](http://www.croydon.gov.uk/sugarsmart) or contact [sugarsmart@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:sugarsmart@croydon.gov.uk)

## YourCare

YourCare is an exciting, new venture wholly owned by Croydon Council which has been set up to improve the quality of life and independence of adults, children and young people by



offering a trusted equipment retail service to customers across the UK.

We have a friendly and helpful team who are Trusted Assessors. This means they are able to provide advice and make suggestions on what equipment may be best to support a person's needs, helping them to make a fully informed decision to be independent at home or in a similar setting.

YourCare will begin trading in April 2018 with the launch of a [brand new website](#) offering over 1000 products, available in store and online.

The shop is at 28 Boulogne Road, CR0 2QT, open Monday to Friday, 9am – 5pm. To get in touch call 020 8664 8860, option 3.

**More information:** [wecare@yourcare.org.uk](mailto:wecare@yourcare.org.uk)

## Community Equipment Service - Croydon Council Team of the year

Based at 28 Boulogne Road, the Croydon equipment service (CES) provides aids and adaptations to help people remain safely in their homes, whether they have a physical, hearing or sight disability or have a long term health need.

The CES team have a real 'can do' attitude and always strive to offer the very best service to their clients while maintaining their marketplace leaders in innovation. In the last year the service delivered 69,000 specialist pieces of equipment to 25,000 clients. CES carry out all deliveries, adaptations decontamination, cleaning and recycling of ICES equipment for Croydon, Sutton and Merton councils. CES also works in partnership with 5 other boroughs carrying out their procurement function, these include the County of Essex, Sandwell in the West Midlands and Tower Hamlets, Newham and Bexley councils.



CES regularly receive compliments for their outstanding work, for example:

*Your service is much appreciated throughout the year by Sutton staff and our residents.*

*Your timely response and support especially at bank holidays, over the Christmas, New Year and already potential severe weather conditions, has enabled care and nursing equipment to be loaned so that disabled people can continue to be supported in their own homes. Thank you to you all*

*I wanted to email so as to let you know how amazing your staff team are. I had an enquiry and urgent request for some equipment for a patient of mine who was wanting to go home- for his end of life care.*

*X was superb.*

*She helped me to sort out a same day delivery- nothing was too much trouble for her- she was patient, effective and efficient and helped to arrange same day delivery. When I was able to go back to the ward and to the patient, the ward and the Doctor were delighted, the patient and their family started to cry...*

*So, I just wanted to say a huge 'Thankyou' for making a difference to someone's life today*

*With very grateful thanks*

**More information:** [glenn.bartlett@croydon-equipment-solutions.com](mailto:glenn.bartlett@croydon-equipment-solutions.com) or call 020 8664 8860

## WORKING WITH PARTNERS

### "Partnership working improving the lives of older people"

As part of the local health and care partnership One Croydon, adult social care services have been working with health services and the voluntary sector to introduce new ways of integrated working.



The new LIFE Team,

(Living Independently For Everyone) has been working hard to support people to have safe early discharges from hospital and prevent admissions to hospital. The combined working of social care staff, therapists and nurses alongside a domiciliary care provider and the voluntary sector has helped over 400 people since the service started at the end of September. The new LIFE service began with a planned gentle roll out on two wards at Croydon University Hospital but by November the team had to speed up the project to respond to the growing demand that all NHS services have experienced this winter. The LIFE team rose to this challenge magnificently and pulled out all the stops to support hospital colleagues in safely discharging patients.

The service not only has significantly reduced the length of stay in hospital for this group of patients, but 60% receiving the service did not need ongoing support by the end of the 6 week programme.

Social workers have also been part of integrated working in the "Huddles", the new multiagency team working based around GP practices. Here they have joined GPs, community nurses, pharmacists and the new Personal Independence Coordinators (PICs) from Age UK Croydon to proactively plan the care of people with complex needs. This [video of Robert's story](#) shows how joined up working helped one Thornton Health resident.

These initiatives are only the beginning of transforming health and care services in Croydon. The next step includes working with the voluntary and community groups to create six Local Voluntary Partnerships to support local people to play a greater role in managing their health and care and remain independent.

The model received much praise from the 'National Home to Hospital Team' who visited us in November, and they are promoting us as a good practice example for others to learn from.

*Our vision 'Working together to help you live the life you want'*

**More information:** [Rachel.soni@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:Rachel.soni@croydon.gov.uk) or [Kathy.wocial@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:Kathy.wocial@croydon.gov.uk)

### **Improved performance on delayed transfers of care**

There has been a significantly improved performance on delayed transfers of care (DTocS) – all attributable to the implementation of the integrated LIFE model and the Discharge to Assess service since it commenced in September 2017:-

- During April to August 2017, the average number of delayed transfers of care were 29. From September 2017, this number started to drop from 23 in September to 11 in December 2017.
- The above pattern was also reflected in the number which were attributable to Adult Social Care, from April to August 2017 the average number of social care attributable delayed transfers was 11. From September it dropped to 8 and is now at 3 for December 2017.
- The number of delayed days between April and August 2017 was high at an average of 893 delayed days each month, which sat Croydon at one of the worse compared to our statistical neighbours. In September we saw a considerable drop

of days delayed and this has continued to reduce month by month, resulting in an overall reduction of 519 delayed days between August 2017 and December 2017. Croydon now sits at 8<sup>th</sup> best compared to our statistical neighbours (up from 13<sup>th</sup>).

A reduction in DTOCs and delayed days means that our residents have the best outcomes and recovery out of hospital.

**More information:** [Pratima.Solanki@Croydon.gov.uk](mailto:Pratima.Solanki@Croydon.gov.uk)

### **Success supporting people who hoard**

Croydon and MIND worked closely together to run a successful scheme to support people who hoard. The scheme, which was funded by Croydon Council and developed and run by the charity Mind in Croydon, involved people attending group meetings over a 12-week period, as well as one-to-one sessions at home with their declutter buddies.



Hoarding can result in social isolation and safeguarding issues, so being able to help someone can make a great difference to their lives. Working with their hoarding buddy, the person is supported to take practical measures such as bagging-up items, filing or taking unwanted items to the charity shops. This, along with the counselling support can help people understand why they hoard and hopefully to be able to let go. This project was covered by the BBC, you can [read more](#) or [watch a short clip](#) from the news at ten.

**More information:** [Sean.Olivier@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:Sean.Olivier@croydon.gov.uk)

### **Success of Food Stop**



The Food Stop shop was launched by the Mayor of Croydon and JB Gill (former JLS band member) in October 2017 at a family fun day attended by nearly 400 local residents.

It is a partnership with the Community Connect Alliance, London's first combined welfare and food club - 'The Food Stop'. Based at the Family Centre in Fieldway, residents get around £15-£20 worth of fresh fruit and

vegetables, meat, dairy and other foods for £3.50 per week. The scheme is innovative because it offers a wider range of products than is usually available at a food bank and membership conditions provide families with a holistic support package via Community Connect. This includes access to a community job club, homelessness prevention and personal budgeting support. Food Stop membership provides a clear pathway to employment, improved housing options and financial stability.

The idea was turned into reality thanks to a grant from the Evening Standard Dispossessed Fund's Food for London programme and financial support from council repairs contractor Mulalley, Public Health and the Gateway service.



It has surpassed its target of 100 members within just weeks of its launch and has already helped struggling households save a combined £6,154. This success is as a result of partnership working between the Community Connect Alliance, including the Council, the Family Centre and FareShare (a national charity that redistributes surplus food to frontline charities/community groups that support vulnerable people).

As part of the project, we also launched a Fareshare Local Collection Point (LCP), a central point for local groups to collect surplus food from. Food is delivered to the LCP weekly by FareShare London volunteers and collected by the organisations signed up to LCP. By receiving food from FareShare London, these organisations are better able to provide nutritious meals to Croydon residents alongside their respective, ongoing support services.

**More information:** [Julia.Pitt@Croydon.gov.uk](mailto:Julia.Pitt@Croydon.gov.uk)



# Economy and Jobs Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Manju Shahul-Hameed March 2018

## Latest News

With National Apprenticeship Week taking place between 5<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> March and following on from the success of our internal apprenticeship programme, the council is now recruiting for our second cohort of apprentices.



In October 2017, we welcomed 24 new apprentices into the council and I'm pleased to note that we have a 100% retention rate.

The feedback from managers and their apprentices has been overwhelmingly positive, with managers reporting that their apprentices have made 'invaluable contributions to [their] teams' and apprentices stating that 'this has been a life changing experience'. Here's what they had to say:

**Imad, 22, Business Administration (Economic Development Team):** *I have thoroughly enjoyed my experience as an apprentice in Croydon Council and have learned a wide range of things working with all the people in my team. Every day I learn something new because my team works on so many projects to support local businesses and local people. I also enjoy the fact there is so much variety in my role – no two days are the same!*

**Nazifa, 17, Finance and Accounting (Incomes Team):** *I've seen a massive development in my competency skills. My ability to take initiative when needed has also improved and I'm now able to*





# Economy and Jobs Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Manju Shahul-Hameed March 2018

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*assist anyone within my professional role as a Rent Accounting Officer. Being in a professional environment has had a huge impact on me and has changed and shaped me as a person and my behaviour.*

The apprentices have acted as Croydon Council Apprentice Ambassadors at the largest regional careers fair (Skills London) as well as playing an instrumental role in the council's 'Choose Your Future' campaign. Furthermore, they are currently working on a film project to give both local residents and internal staff more insight into their experience so far.

We are currently recruiting our second cohort of apprentices and once again they'll be working towards qualifications ranging from Level 2 – 4 in a wide range of teams across the council. We'll be offering apprenticeship qualifications in areas such as Youth work, Project Management and Procurement, helping residents across the borough gain the essential skills and experience employers look for.

Changes to funding rules have also meant that existing staff can take advantage of a wide range of training pathways and we are currently working on building an offer that will help ensure that Croydon council has the most skilled workforce it possibly can. Most recently, a staff member in the Procurement team was enrolled for a Data Analyst qualification which will help boost her skills in her current role and help the team meet its wider objectives more effectively. This option has garnered high levels of interest in teams across the council and will be launched in April 2018.

## Working Together

### Croydon Means Business

Croydon Means Business 2018 - our Year for Business, aims to support and encourage the growth of local businesses and inspire further innovation among the borough's business community.

Since January, the council and the Croydon Business Network has delivered over 50 events that continue to develop, support and grow our business community, creating new job opportunities for local people and boosting the local economy.

Creating cross-organisational working so that collectively businesses, business support agencies and the council are working together to unleash Croydon's growth potential and has enhanced our communication with our local business community and ensuring that Croydon continues to be perceived as a place of opportunity open to growth.

If you would like to take advantage of any of the opportunities available for businesses, and for the full programme of events, visit <https://www.croydon.gov.uk/business2018>

### Start and Grow Supports CELF



# Economy and Jobs Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Manju Shahul-Hameed March 2018

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Working with Enterprise for London, Croydon Council are pleased to be able to support a new initiative called Start & Grow, an online portal which provide free business advice, accessible at any time for our Croydon entrepreneurs.

Start&Grow is the 'go-to' site for businesses looking for free access to assistance and support. The online Start&Grow web portal aims to develop the personal skills or knowledge needed to progress through the journey from pre-start to start-up and growth. It offers access to finance from sources such as Croydon Enterprise Loan Fund , with expert practical support and loans ranging from £1k - £50k for start-up or existing businesses.

The online bitesize course modules can help businesses master the essentials of starting and growing their businesses.

Foundation modules include: Business Planning; Market Research; Setting Up; Financial Forecasting; Bookkeeping & Taxation; Marketing and Funding

Development modules include: Digital Marketing; Financing for Growth; Advanced Financials; Government Support; Taking on Staff; Organising Workspace; Scaling Up; Generating More Sales and E-commerce

Find out more at: [www.croydonloanfund.co.uk/start-and-grow/](http://www.croydonloanfund.co.uk/start-and-grow/)

## Croydon Works



It's been a busy start to the year for Croydon Works, despite Jan and Feb being notoriously quiet on the recruitment front, 70 jobs have been filled since the start of 2018. Croydon Works has developed really strong relationships with employers and the team is working on a number of campaigns for major employers including Mulalley's, Gatwick Airport, Chequers Contract Services, Primark and F Estates.

The focus for this year is developing pathways in to employment for our residents, particularly young people, and working with employers to create opportunities for those who are furthest away from the job market. A joint project with Croydon Works, Willmott Dixon and Carshalton College launched this month with delivery starting in early April; the project will give residents in New Addington the opportunity to train in the construction industry. Participants will go through a 4 week programme offering construction skills, employability skills, CSCS card (allowing them to work on any construction site across the UK) and hands on work experience at the new Leisure Centre site under development in New Addington.

Over the past three months Croydon Works has been working closely with Gatwick airport and London Learning Consortium, a grass roots training provider based in Croydon, to deliver a Hospitality and



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Retail employability course right here in Croydon. This short course offers basic customer service skills with a City and Guild certificate at the end, on completion participants will be offered a guaranteed interview with one of the many employers in and around Gatwick Airport. This will also be launched in April 2018.

This month has also seen the start of the Shrubland's outreach project, which is being delivered in partnership with Groundwork UK. The project offers residents in Shrubland's the opportunity to train and work in construction. The first cohort started their training on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March, the next phase will be negotiating job opportunities for participants with the Council's main third party providers and contractors.

## Work and Health Programme



The South London Work and Health Programme went live on 1st March 2018 and within the first week 25 residents have been attached to the programme. Over the past few months Reed in Partnership (the provider) has been securing fixed and co-location sites across the five London Boroughs within the South London Partnership and will be delivering the programme from nine locations across the sub region. The co-location sites include CALAT in New Addington, Evolve Housing and The Commonsides Trust in Mitcham, which will help support a joined up approach with local support services for participants.

Reed has met with key stakeholders from all five boroughs and visited all JCP offices to present the programme to frontline staff as part of their stakeholder engagement activity. A range of marketing materials, including a website, aimed at participants, partners and JCPs have been produced and are being rolled out across the boroughs.

An official launch of the programme is planned for May 2018, to allow time for delivery to start having an impact on participants.

## Surrey Street Market







# Economy and Jobs Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Manju Shahul-Hameed March 2018

The Surrey Street Sunday Market will host a free Easter egg hunt and Easter-themed arts and crafts activities on 25<sup>th</sup> March from 12pm. Families and children can enjoy finding clues along Surrey Street leading them to the big Easter egg prize as well as make Easter-themed crafts, such as an Easter bunny bag and egg character making.

Since the Sunday Market relaunched six months ago following the public realm improvements at Surrey Street last spring, it has provided residents and Sunday shoppers with an alternative market offering and an affordable trading platform for market traders. In August 2017, residents were asked to shape the vision for the Sunday market in terms of its product offering and events programme. Residents wanted to see a Sunday market offering comprising street food, artisan bread and vintage goods, as well as a comprehensive events programme consisting of themed markets, outdoor performances, outdoor workouts and religious and cultural events. The Sunday Market has since brought a variety of traders selling street food of multiple cuisines, artisan bread, vintage clothing and more. Over 16 events have been hosted to date, engaging Croydon's diverse community, including Canadian-themed markets and entertainment, interactive street theatre by Zoo Co and Croydon Bicycle Theatre, Diwali Mela by Croydon Hindu Council and outdoor exercise classes by Nuffield Health.

As the warmer months approach nearer, the Sunday market will continue to welcome new traders and events to extend the activity throughout 2018, including a Love Your Local Market campaign in May. For residents and businesses interested in the Sunday market, more information can be found at [www.croydon.gov.uk/surreyst Sundays](http://www.croydon.gov.uk/surreyst Sundays).



## Skills for South Londoners

On 28<sup>th</sup> February I attended the launch of the South London Partnership's new skills



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## **Economy and Jobs Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Manju Shahul-Hameed March 2018**

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strategy for the region, 'Skills for South Londoners'. The event, held in Kingston was well attended by a range of businesses, providers, local Councillors, Council Leaders and officers. Discussion sessions were held on the priorities for action presented in the strategy.

The strategy sets out SLP's approach to making the skills system much more responsive to residents and employers needs by strengthening sub-regional working, influencing the skills devolution agenda and shaping commissioning of the devolved Adult Education Budget. It also makes the case for increased engagement of employers in the design and provision of training.

The headline priorities for action are:

1. Support all residents towards or into work and to progress through their career
2. Increase employer participation and investment in skills
3. Align the skills offer to our growth and strategic sectors

The strategy can be found at <http://southlondonpartnership.co.uk/skills/> and is also available in hard copy upon request to [sarah.randall2@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.randall2@croydon.gov.uk)



# Culture, Leisure and Sport Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Timothy Godfrey March 2018

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## Latest News

### Live Well Croydon

The Live Well programme is nearing completion of its first year of delivery and we are looking forward to continuing onwards into 2018/19 to help even more residents in making lifestyle changes, whether it be small steps towards increasing physical activity or tackling greater challenges by giving up smoking. Across the service so far this year we have provided 807 initial appointments with residents and of these 314 residents have successfully reached either their 3 or 6 month follow up stage, which is a very positive demonstration of their commitment to the programme.

Our latest Quarter 3 report shows some significant achievements in healthy outcomes for residents participating in the Live Well programme:

- 79.7% 4 week quit date success rate.
- Highest client participation rate in two of Croydon's top areas of deprivation
- 38.5% participation by BAME individuals in the face to face service
- MIND in Croydon started delivery to support people with advanced mental wellbeing issues

In addition, the Just Be website has had just over 25,600 hits with the highest number of visits in January at 3,375 in response to our New Year, New Year campaigns.

A number of residents have provided feedback on the service they are receiving from our Live Well Advisor teams celebrating their success so far on their behaviour change journey:

Mr G - so happy to have given up smoking and he has managed to pay of a large credit card debt and looking to get into volunteering.

Mrs S - Smoke free and very happy she has started to knit again.

Mr P – as a result of recent COPD diagnosis has given up smoking with our service. Happier to be smoke-free and now has more money to spend on his daughter.

More information about the Live Well Croydon Programme and healthy lifestyle information, advice and support can be found via: <https://www.justbecroydon.org/>

### Get Active Wandle

Get Active Wandle moves into year 3 in January and is continuing to deliver positive outcomes for Croydon. The Wandle Valley Regional Park Trust have delivered a number of physical activity sessions in Croydon as a result of our support to this project and are in contact with us regarding the activities to be delivered in year 3. These include beginners running sessions at Wandle Park, family cycle rides and BMX sessions as well as family activities.



# Culture, Leisure and Sport Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Timothy Godfrey March 2018

## Biodiversity

### Green Floating Platforms

Thanks to funding from the Environment Agency 3 floating green islands have been installed at South Norwood Lake in January 2018. The islands will help improve water quality and provide refuge for smaller fish to hide under.



### Hazel coppicing- traditional woodland management in action

The Conservation Volunteers have been coppicing Hazel in King’s Wood again this winter producing fencing stakes, binders for hedges, pea and bean sticks for local allotment societies.

Both Selsdon Wood and King’s Wood have a long tradition of hazel coppicing and managing the areas for products results in the operation being sustainable and beneficial for wildlife as coppice areas provide sheltered, sunny areas for woodland butterflies, nesting areas for birds and hide outs for deer. The better value coppice areas are managed by a traditional Underwoodsman who markets the products.







# Culture, Leisure and Sport Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Timothy Godfrey March 2018

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## **TLC for Croydon's Ponds gets underway thanks to HLF funding**

The Conservation Volunteers Croydon have received a Heritage Lottery Funded grant for a two year Pond project. The new part time officer has taken up the role in February to work with community groups and volunteers to survey all existing public accessible ponds, research their history and carry out vital management work to ensure the ponds provide a thriving habitat for local wildlife.



Volunteers hard at work clearing excess growth at Beulah Pond

## **London National Park City Event week 21-29 July**

The London Mayor Sadiq Khan has announced a week of events to celebrate all things wild and natural in the city.

Croydon has a wealth of green open spaces and a large diversity of habitats and species present, all 44 Friends of Park and local nature conservation organisations have been contacted and asked if they could help put Croydon on the map. The events week will also be a great boost to get more local people involved in enjoying and caring for the biodiversity of Croydon's parks and open space.

For further information, visit: <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/parks-green-spaces-and-biodiversity/london-national-park-city-week>



# Culture, Leisure and Sport Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Timothy Godfrey March 2018

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## Friend of Park groups

44 parks in Croydon now have a Friends of park group, with the latest addition of Lloyd Park, A recent meeting with residents marked the start of yet another positive partnership between residents and the council to bring about positive improvements to parks and open spaces. The new group wants to focus on promoting the many different activities on offer in the park.

To support the network of Friends of groups, the council is running free first aid training courses for key volunteers, on 28 September and 5 October and continues to offer regular 'drop-in' sessions to enable face to face contact between groups and the Community Partnership Officer.

## Great North Wood Project

Croydon is a key partner in the London Wildlife Trust's 4 year Heritage Lottery funded Great North Wood Project. The Trust received £ 669,000 from the Lottery to work with local people to revive the once great north wood. Croydon is a stronghold of woodland remnants and with the help from London Wildlife Trust volunteers will be able to get in involved in managing these woods, learn to survey them for wildlife and take part in many community events which aim to bring to live the history of the woods, ranging from guided walks, bat surevye, to spoon carving and charcoal making events. Woods that will benefit from this project are Biggin Wood, Spa Wood (The Lawns), Grangewood Park, Beaulieu Heights and Long Lane Wood.

The project is looking for keen volunteers, no experience required, to find out more visit [www.wildlondon.org.uk/great-north-wood](http://www.wildlondon.org.uk/great-north-wood)

## Wandle Park Heritage Lottery Project

It's too early in the year for any Wandle Park events to have taken place but an exciting programme of events has been compiled for 2018 taking the season to September and the end of the HLF project.

New partnerships are starting to build with the local Military College who are keen to adopt the park and support maintenance projects. Tramlink are engaged with the project in allowing a vegetation and litter clean up on land they own leading in to the park. The clean-up would have happened Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> March as part of the Great Britain Spring Clean but unfavourable weather forecasts meant it was cancelled and re-arranged to the Sunday before Easter.

The community gardening group took advantage of a cold but sunny Sunday morning and made a fantastic job of clearing one side of the footbridge that had become covered in leaf mulch and was becoming a hazard. See some before and after pictures below.



# Culture, Leisure and Sport Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Timothy Godfrey March 2018

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## Parklife

Parklife is a collaborative project with Sport England and the Football Foundation exploring the potential of Croydon hosting two football hubs in the borough. Two sites currently in scope are Purley Playing Fields and Ashburton Playing Fields. Stage 1 feasibility work has now been completed and Stage 2 work is being commissioned on both sites. Further S106 funding has been secured for a wider site plan for each park, and this is in the process of being procured alongside Stage 2 work. We are also developing a report on the social outcomes that each site might provide, in partnership with local organisations such as the Palace for Life Foundation and our Livewell team.

## Funding – Rethinking Parks

A bid to the Rethinking Parks funding by NESTA, Heritage Lottery Fund and Big Lottery was submitted by the Active Lifestyles team with a focus on South Norwood's parks. The funding asked applicants to focus on district centres and consider alternative operating models for parks. An outcome of the stage one expression of interest is expected by the end of April.

## Walking for Health

Our dedicated walk leader volunteers and Intrepid walkers have been walking together in Croydon's parks and woodlands throughout the winter and are looking forward to the Spring.

Croydon Council are the local coordinators for the Ramblers Association national Walking for Health scheme. There are 14 regular walks each week in parks and woodland across the Borough and these are led by volunteer walk leaders. The walks are graded according to the environment covered. They cater for all abilities, from people who start from doing very little or no regular exercise to those ready for the challenge of Nordic Walking. New walkers at any level are always welcome.

We are always recruiting for Walk Leaders (training will be provided). For further information email [walks@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:walks@croydon.gov.uk).



# Culture, Leisure and Sport Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Timothy Godfrey March 2018

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## Registrars Service

### Tell Us Once

Full details now on our website. The service is now well embedded and business as usual. This enhancement has been well received by service users, easing their burden at the time of bereavement.

### Passport Checks

New, short term service offer continues to out perform targeted levels bring in an additional £5.5K since introduced in September 2017.

## Bereavement Services

### Cremation Metals Recycling Scheme

We are now entering the next nomination period for the distribution of surplus monies from the national cremation metal recycling scheme.

This time we have nominated Woodside Bereavement Services a local charity providing free bereavement counselling to young people, families and adults in Croydon for the past 25 years. Clients are referred by GPs, Council Services, Health Agencies, Schools and Colleges as well as individuals self-referring from the website. The service is delivered by volunteers trained specifically in bereavement counselling generally through one-to-one sessions in our premises or at home if required. A very worthy cause indeed.

It is anticipated that we will be donating a similar amount to last time which was £5,000.00

### New Burial Land

Our new planning application was due to go before Tandridge DC Planning Committee in February. Unfortunately a last minute anomaly was identified so we requested our application be deferred. We are now hoping to go to Committee in April 2018.

### Events

Our next service event is the Easter Memorial Service on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2018. This is always a very popular well attended event to which everyone is welcome. We hope that you will join us.





# Culture, Leisure and Sport Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Timothy Godfrey March 2018

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## Libraries

Following the collapse of Carillion on January 16, the council took immediate action to bring the service back in house, safeguarding the jobs of all staff and ensuring a seamless service for library customers.

In the short space of time that has passed, all supply arrangements in relation to our libraries have been transferred to the council, staff have been paid on time and there has been no disruption to library services. We have also made some immediate changes to the way things are done such as improved cleaning regimes and introducing local staff and customer led book selection – new books selected in this way will start to appear on library shelves from April onwards.

The council is now focusing on the exciting opportunities that managing the service in house brings. We are working with Red Quadrant (a specialist consultancy) to develop our future strategy for libraries. As part of this work we are currently engaging with the public through our online “Get Involved” platform, in our libraries and in targeted focus groups to ask our residents what matters to them. The engagement closes on March 26 and we expect our draft strategy to be available in the summer.

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# Communities, Safety and Justice

## Cabinet Member Bulletin

### Councillor Hamida Ali

#### March 2018

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## Latest News

### Community Safety

#### Preventing Knife Crime

Agencies and communities came together for a three-week programme, starting in half term, to raise awareness with young people about knife crime and its impact on the community. The council's Youth Engagement Team worked with the BID, Croydon College, the police, faith groups, the London Ambulance Service, school pastors, Victim Support and Croydon Drop-In hosting a range of events in the town centre – including:

- London Ambulance Service demonstrating how people can help people with a knife injury
- Croydon's Borough Commander working with the council's Youth Engagement Service to run a Q&A titled *Let's Talk About Knife Crime*
- Victim Support, council's Youth Engagement Team, Croydon Drop-In and school pastors all being on hand during the three weeks talking to young people about support available against knife crime
- Police training members of faith groups to conduct weapon sweeps
- Workshop run by ArtHalo to create a temporary wall of anti-knife crime messages
- Croydon College encouraging people to make a personal commitment to stand against violence

During this three-week period, the BRIT School launched their production *You Choose*, commissioned by the Metropolitan Police Service and developed by the school's Community Arts Practice students. It is part of the campaign started by the council, *Choose Your Future* which champions young people and empowers them to make positive choices. *You Choose* is a 40 minute anti-knife crime production and which is being taken to a number of schools in the borough.



# Communities, Safety and Justice Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Hamida Ali March 2018

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## Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime Visits Croydon to Hear about Croydon's Preventative Approach to Tackling Knife Crime

On 16 February Sophie Linden, Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, came to Croydon to meet with young people, head teachers, youth engagement workers and community organisations to listen to their experiences and perspectives on preventing knife crime. She reported how struck she was that the discussion centred less on enforcement tactics like stop and search and more on the impact of young people's experiences of education.

The Deputy Mayor's visit also coincided with the three-week engagement programme which agencies and community organisations developed and delivered together to talk with young people about their safety and highlight the support available for them. Sophie Linden had an opportunity to spend time in the town centre and to see this important initiative at work.

As a result both myself and Cllr Flemming have been asked to take part in a pan-London 'Justice Matters' meeting focused on Knife Crime on 23 March to share the preventative work underway in Croydon.



# Communities, Safety and Justice Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Hamida Ali March 2018

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## Croydon's Family Justice Centre Marked International Women's Day to Highlight Support for Survivors

Croydon's Family Justice Centre (FJC) provides a range of support for women and others who team is looking for volunteers to offer support to individuals and families who are experiencing domestic abuse.

Key highlights in the last year have been:

- The FJC has supported over 1,000 women in the last year who have faced domestic abuse or
- The FJC has launched a volunteer programme and has already trained 16 people to support clientys through longer term support and guidance.
- 80% of schools and 71% of GP practices have identified anti-domestic abuse and sexual violence leads
- 38 schools have had training on domestic ause and sexual violence
- 25 council staff members (with a further 10 to follow) have undergone extensive training to become ambassadors – supporting colleagues at work

If you, or anyone you know, needs help, or you would like to volunteer, please call the FJC on 020 8688 0100, email [fjc@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:fjc@croydon.gov.uk).





# Communities, Safety and Justice

## Cabinet Member Bulletin

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### Food Safety

In the last 3 months the food and safety team have carried out a significant number of inspections on food premises and workplaces. The large number of inspections has resulted in a higher than usual level of enforcement activity. The team have:

- Successfully prosecuted Poundworld for a mouse infestation, health and safety at work offences and poor management practice – resulting in a very significant fine exceeding £1m
- Served a health and safety at work prohibition notice which related to the unauthorised use of fork lift trucks and the use of an unguarded high level platform
- Served a number of health and safety improvement notices relating to poor practices and lack of risk assessments
- Dealt with 14 voluntary closures of food premises for the presence of rats, mice and cockroaches
- Dealt with a hygiene emergency prohibition notice for a mouse infestation in a food premises where the owner was uncooperative who was then taken to court and a hygiene emergency prohibition order was granted along with our full costs
- Investigated and responded to over 100 complaints about food matters.

### Dog awareness

The council's dog warden and neighbourhood safety officers welcomed all dogs and their owners on Wednesday 28 February at Norwood Grove and on 1 March at Lloyd Park. It was part of a series of events organised by the council's dog warden and is always a chance to find out more about free microchipping, free ID tags, free behavioural and training advice, low-cost neutering vouchers, lost dogs advice, rescue dog adoption, dogs and the law, and advice on dog-related issues.





# Communities, Safety and Justice Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Hamida Ali March 2018

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## Communities

### Community Fund Showcase

The Community Fund is a three-year funding programme supporting Croydon's voluntary sector. The Fund is driven around five key themes which were identified by the Croydon Opportunity and Fairness Commission – from young people to social isolation to housing and tackling poverty to developing our voluntary sector. The Fund is made up of 37 contracts with 35 organisations and projects – 15 of which the council had not funded before. On 5 February, providers across the Community Fund came together to celebrate the first year of working as part of the programme.

Over 100 people attended the event which was hugely successful – highlighting the amazing work that is taking place across the Fund. Residents using the services being provided, volunteers and staff members from the organisations involved all told their stories about the impact of their work across our communities.







# Communities, Safety and Justice Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Hamida Ali March 2018

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The Fund is characterised by great diversity – in terms of scale of activity with the smallest award at £5,00 per year up to £780,000, in terms of activity from supporting our preventative approach to tackling knife crime to supporting our most isolated residents, and in terms of geography with impressive work going on right across the borough.

## **Croydon Community Grants**

Croydon Community Grants is part of the wider Community Fund and provides £100,000 each year to communities across the borough to support local activities which contribute to the outcomes we want to achieve in partnership with communities

We've now funded 83 projects to date and January alone saw 22 bids come forward, with 9 successful in securing funding.

We're supporting a really wide range of projects right across the borough including those working with young people, addressing our health and welling, working with a range of black and minority ethnic communities and disabled people.



# Communities, Safety and Justice Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Hamida Ali March 2018

## Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD)

Each year 27 January marks Holocaust Memorial Day, the day for remembering victims of the Holocaust and more recent genocides. In Croydon, the event was marked on 26 January with a public candle-lighting ceremony in the Town Hall foyer, followed by a civic event in the Council Chamber which was very well attended.

This year's theme was *The Power of Words* and the civic event featured a presentation from Wlodka Robertson about her journey and performances from local schools including:

- Poems & Reflection from Riddlesdown Collegiate
- Post Card Project presentation from St Mary's School
- Presentation from Whitgift School
- Presentation from Oasis Coulsdon

Other activities that took place in the borough included;

- Exhibition for Holocaust Memorial Day in the central library.
- Screening of film in the David Lea Cinema

Holocaust Memorial Day gives us the opportunity to consider how we can stand together to counter intolerance and exclusion today – while honouring the victims of the Holocaust and other genocides and atrocities across the world.





# Communities, Safety and Justice Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Hamida Ali March 2018

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## LGBT History Month 2018

Celebrating the lives and achievements of the LGBT community, Lesbian Gay Bisexual Trans History Month takes place every year in February. The national LGBT History Month theme for this year was 'Geography - mapping the World'.

This year, the Council worked in partnership with the LGBT community, the Metropolitan Police Service and the NHS to plan and deliver an extensive programme of events which launched on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2018 in The Braithwaite Hall, Croydon Clocktower. The launch was in the presence of the Mayor of Croydon and was attended by over 70 people.

The event included performances from local singer Katie Rose, Croydon jazz diva Gill Manly, LGBT cabaret artist Mark Bunyan, and the Rainbows Across Borders Chorus who highlighted issues affecting the community such as oppressive regimes, civil partnerships and marriage, and coming out and acceptance

Other events organised as a part of the programme included a display in the Central Library, a talk by Merrick Badger on The Troubled Life of Peter Wells, and an Exhibition - Reclined Nude Drawings in Croydon Art Store (loft), Whitgift Centre



## Croydon Council jumps 95 places in Stonewall Workplace Equality Index

Britain's leading charity for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) rights has placed Croydon Council just outside its top 100 employers to work for.

Each year Stonewall assesses employers and employees from organisations nationwide on how inclusive their workplaces are for LGBT+ people, and the 2018





## **Communities, Safety and Justice Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Hamida Ali March 2018**

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results have placed Croydon Council in the top 30% of the 434 organisations that took part.

The index compiles information about 10 areas of each participating organisation's employment policies and practices, accompanied by an anonymous survey for all staff.

The council has an active LGBT staff network who participate in the annual Croydon Pride event, the capital's biggest such celebration outside central London, which will be held this year on 14 July in Wandle Park. The organisation has also developed a managers' handbook for supporting LGBT staff.

The Stonewall results marked the start of 2018's LGBT History Month which Croydon celebrated with this year's theme of geography by looking at the status of LGBT people around the world.

These results are really encouraging and reflect the success of our LGBT network, whose work alongside our other staff networks both celebrates our employees' diversity and enables us to meet the diverse needs of our residents. These results stand us in great stead to make Stonewall's top 100 next year.

### **Sign up for this year's Royal Wedding & Big Lunch Street Parties**

Croydon residents will once again show their community spirit by hosting street parties on Saturday 19 May 2018 to celebrate the Royal Wedding and on Saturday 2 and Sunday 3 June 2018 for this year's Big Lunch.

In previous years, residents from across the borough have come together to share food and celebrate with their neighbours. Last year, hundreds gathered for street parties across the borough in celebration of the Big Lunch, which also supported the Great Get Together initiative in memory of the late Jo Cox MP.

Keen to see as many people as possible take this chance to get together with their neighbours, the council is doing all it can to make it really simple to set up a Royal Wedding or Big Lunch street party. The costs of closing your road will be covered, and the council will even provide road-closure signs – saving your street more than £1,000.

All it takes is a 10-minute visit to [www.croydon.gov.uk/biglunch](http://www.croydon.gov.uk/biglunch) to apply to hold your street party and we will do our best to help you make your event a success.



# Communities, Safety and Justice

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### Councillor Hamida Ali

#### March 2018

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You will just need to say when and where the event is being held, what sort of facilities will be offered (e.g. if you plan to sell alcohol or intend to provide catering from an outside source). For the latest application deadlines, answers to frequently asked questions and a list of available green spaces, visit [www.croydon.gov.uk/biglunch](http://www.croydon.gov.uk/biglunch)

The Big Lunch website – [www.thebiglunch.com](http://www.thebiglunch.com) – also has a useful frequently-asked-questions section, offering advice on a range of issues, including the important subject of public liability insurance. You will also find details of discounts arranged with insurers.

## Responding to Social Security Reform

### Influencing government policy

Croydon has been instrumental in successfully lobbying Government to exclude Emergency Accommodation Housing costs from Universal Credit and to be paid through Housing Benefit and the abolition of the seven-day waiting period. This policy along with other operational issues relating to the implementation of Universal Credit has resulted in increased rent arrears to £2.8m for 2,235 Emergency Accommodation residents.

From 11<sup>th</sup> April 2018, all nightly let emergency accommodation will move back under Housing Benefit control. Currently we have around 800 households that may potentially have their housing costs paid through Housing Benefit.

### Impact of Benefit Cap

Hundreds of households are affected by the Benefit Cap – and are most likely to be living in private sector rented accommodation. The council has worked with these households in a range of ways to mitigate the impact of the cap – through budget advice, support to draw up action plans and discretionary financial support if necessary.

The Gateway Service held an event at Crystal Palace Football Club on 7 February to support families in bed and breakfast accommodation – supporting nearly 60 people with Universal Credit claims, rent arrears, employment support, Best Start and using the Homefinder and Choice Based Lettings services.

### Working with Croydon Plus Credit Union

Since April 2017, the Gateway service has referred 122 residents to Croydon Plus to set up accounts, where they have struggled to open a bank account. Out of these 35, have money being paid directly from the council to pay their rent. 16 loans have



# Communities, Safety and Justice

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been provided to help residents consolidate their debt into one place, where in many of cases residents have at least one payday loan. In each case, not only has it reduced their outgoings, it's also allowed them to start saving.

#### **Child Poverty, Financial Inclusion and Health and Wellbeing Strategy**

The Gateway service is leading on a collaborative strategy that brings together best practice across the council, public health, and voluntary sector partners to tackle the issues affecting Croydon residents. The strategy aims to promote a holistic whole-family approach to housing and financial sustainability, health and wellbeing, income maximisation for every resident including those with complex needs. An internal interactive help tool has been developed that makes clear how to refer to the Gateway service and all available support both internally and in the community – in relation to accessible financial support, child poverty and well-being, debt management, budgeting, immunisation, food and fuel poverty and online skills.

#### **Key outcomes achieved for our residents Apr 2017 to Feb 2018**

- 227 residents supported into employment with budgeting (financial stability) and housing sustainability
- 151 residents not in education, employment or training supported into college, university or employment with 40 now part of an apprenticeship
- 2,451 residents helped with discretionary support of £2.7 m, the majority of which was spent in preventing homelessness and moves into the private rented sector
- £11.5m maximised benefit income for residents
- 4,418 blue badges, freedom passes and taxi cards approved
- 2,464 assessments for Housing Benefit supported accommodation
- £14m raised through Financial Assessments for residential and domiciliary care
- 606 vulnerable residents with no recourse to public funds supported with subsistence and accommodation.

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# Transport and Environment Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Stuart King March 2018

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## 3,500 New Trees to be planted



London Borough of Croydon is embarking on a five year project to plant 3500 new street trees. Historically Croydon, like other authorities, lose trees due to old age, disease or damage. In general this can be up to 800 trees a year. This leaves large numbers of empty tree pits in the footpath or streets with only a couple of trees where once there were dozens. This project aims not only to replant many of these vacant tree pits, restoring the green streetscene but to also focus this planting in areas of poor air quality. A new Tree Planting Officer has just been employed to develop and roll out this project, seeking new planting opportunities and funding streams to enhance this vital scheme.

## Our Green Mile

The *Our Green Mile* project was recently launched at West Croydon station and Thornton Heath Pond. The project aims to green up London Road and was officially launched on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> March. I was very pleased to help fund this worthy and welcome project with community budget funding. I was also pleased to be at the launch alongside fellow local councillors, Steve Reed MP and representatives from local residents groups – as well as local residents, including some very enthusiastic young people.

The first planter was fixed and planted outside West Croydon Station. The next one was planted just over a mile away at Thornton Heath Pond. Others will be planted along the route between these two locations. The event coincided with the Great British Spring Clean weekend and volunteers undertook a litter pick on the way as well as talking to passers-by about the aim of the project.

The project is important for a number of reasons but principal amongst them is it brings the local community together to care for our environment and make a small commitment to support our efforts to make the London Road corridor brighter and greener given it suffers from high levels of pollution.



# Transport and Environment Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Stuart King March 2018

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## Croydon Completes 20mph Limit Scheme

On Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2018, the fifth and final 20mph area, covering the southwest section of the borough, went live.

This now completes the Council's ambitions to introduce 20mph speed limits in residential roads across the borough to help improve road safety, discourage through traffic, encourage walking and cycling, and to provide a safer and more pleasant environment for people to live and work in.

Monitoring of the five areas across the borough has now started, and for areas one and two, it is expected that initial results will be forthcoming in the summer.

The Council is now looking at further refinements to this project with the possible introduction of 20mph on those parts of the main road network where there is high pedestrian movements and a need to reduce traffic speeds to help improve the local environment, quality of life and community cohesion.

The full benefits of this extensive project may take some years to come to fruition, but Croydon is proud to have taken the ambitious steps towards a safer and healthier borough.

## Brighton Main Line Upgrade

Upgrading the Brighton Main Line (BML) has been a longstanding aspiration for the Council and other key stakeholders, including our local Members of Parliament. This has included ongoing campaigning and lobbying by the Council that included writing to the Secretary of State for Transport, Chris Grayling MP, in mid-2017 urging him to continue to fund the development of the project.

The good news is that the Department for Transport has recently announced that they have allocated Network Rail £15m towards the project, known as the Croydon Area Remodelling Scheme, to take it through key design stages. The project is the central element of Network Rail's BML upgrade programme to deliver major improvements in punctuality between London, Gatwick Airport and the Sussex coast with the potential for more frequent services in the longer term. Network Rail is currently in the process of employing a multi-disciplinary team for the project that are due to be in place by the end of March 2018.

The project, if taken forward, would see construction of a series of new grade-separated junctions north of East Croydon station to remove the 'Croydon bottleneck' where several routes to and from central London converge. These new junctions are like motorway flyovers and will replace the existing flat junctions, where trains have to wait at red signals to allow others to pass in front, causing congestion and delays to 300,000 passengers travelling between the south coast and the capital each day.

Major improvements at East Croydon station would also be delivered as part of the proposed scheme, expanding the number of platforms from six to eight and providing new concourse areas with better access to the platforms and surrounding areas. This would improve the train



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service along the entire BML, transform the station itself and contribute to the ongoing redevelopment of Croydon town. Over-station development is also being considered as part of this project.

Funding from the Department for Transport means Network Rail, working with the Council and other key stakeholders, can now:

- work up detailed designs for the track and station work in the Croydon area;
- produce an outline business case so informed decisions can be made about funding the scheme to delivery in future; and
- carry out a full public consultation so that the local community, travelling public and anyone directly affected by the work can have their say on the designs.

### Cold Weather Response

Following a challenging 10 days starting from around the 23rd February 2018 to 3rd March 2018, we experienced what the press referred to as the 'Beast from the East', when temperatures fell to around -6C and with the wind-chill this felt like -12C. Our Croydon contractors spread approximately 670 tonnes of grit along the equivalent of 4,200 miles of road, which is approximately the distance between London and Delhi in India.

A total of around 140 people, from gritting teams to street cleaners, worked on salting the borough's roads and pavements, with priority going to main roads, town centres and bus routes, plus clearing access to hospitals, care homes, railway stations and schools.

Our winter gritting priority routes are defined from a hierarchy of carriageways and footways and take account of both strategic and local needs such as main distributor roads, town centres and shopping areas, bus routes, approaches to transport interchanges, hospitals, fire stations and other hazardous locations such as steep gradients

The gritting teams were covering these priority borough roads up to twice a night and twice a day. Once primary routes are done, secondary gritting routes are salted.

Our footpath gritting focused on our town centres, local shopping parades and transport hubs, and residents also had use of the borough's 577 salt bins on their roads and pavements.

I would like to personally thank ALL the staff involved with the winter maintenance service our teams have working around the clock to keep the borough going as normally as possible through the disruptive weather

Visit the council website to see a [cold weather and snow FAQ page](#).

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## **Commissioning & Procurement**

Sarah Ireland has been an incredible officer over many years in the Council, rising to her current role of Director of Commissioning and Procurement. She has now been successful in obtaining a more senior role at the Royal Borough of Kingston-Upon-Thames. I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for all her hard work and her role in helping this administration deliver many of its ambitions, including the 'Make or Buy' approach, new contract management regime, insourcing of services and the London Living Wage.

Sarah Warman, who previously reported to Sarah, has been appointed to be her interim replacement for six months. She has done sterling work including being the initial programme manager for the Children's Improvement work. This is another example of our looking at our own resources to fill vacancies.

## **Fair Funding**

This administration is continuing its fight for fair funding. Whilst we have seen some successes, like limited additional money for being a Universal Credit pilot, this in no way compensates us.

It is clear that local authorities across the country are feeling the pressure and central government needs to recognise this in the next spending review.

It is disappointing that our representations on the core funding and on matters such as Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children and costs of dealing with cladding are being met with a deaf ear.

This administration will continue to press hard on core funding, as well as specific areas and needs.

## **Children's Improvement Finance Group**

This group, chaired by myself and with Cllr Flemming and senior officers as members, continues to meet twice a month, to ensure that the relevant resources are made available to support the improvement programme and to ensure that we have a sustainable model going forward.

We have approved over £4million of requests to enable us to support the improvement journey.



## **New Addington**

This administration has always been ambitious for New Addington. I would highlight the following:

- £30 million community and leisure centre, where construction is progressing well
- £10 million new healthy living centre in partnership with the NHS being planned, with capital allocated by both the Council and NHS England
- £4 million new community facility for Fieldway, ensuring that the area has the facilities it deserves after the excellent but time-expired Timebridge Centre is pulled down to make way for a 2 to 19 SEN School.

I would also like to pay tribute to Rachel Flowers, our Director of Public Health, for her work on getting funding from the Mayor of London/ Transport For London for services which will help the whole community of New Addington recover from the long term effect on the community of the November 2016 tram tragedy. The £750,000 secured will make a huge difference.

## **Preparation for the Local Elections**

A huge amount of work has been done to prepare for the local elections in Electoral Services.

With polling station locations now finalised, letters have gone to every property to inform residents of their new ward and polling station and also to ensure that residents check the accuracy of the register. This will really help ensure that all eligible residents get a chance to have their say at May's election





# Children, Young People and Learning Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Alisa Flemming March 2018

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## LATEST NEWS

### Young Mayor launch – Thursday 22nd Feb, 7pm-9pm, Braithwaite Halls

Braithwaite Halls was looking resplendent as individual ‘pitches’ for each of the 28 young mayor candidates were set up. This was an inspiring event to introduce the young mayoral candidates and recognise their commitment to the community of Croydon. All of the candidates were inspiring as they set out their manifestos to a packed hall, which included the Mayor, Leader, Councillors, parents, carers and council officers.

The Election Day for the young mayor will be 13 March, with official polling stations set up in schools and colleges across the borough, as well as at the Town Hall and centres in the north, south and east of the borough. The successful candidate will be announced at a special declaration on Thursday 15 March, followed by a celebration for all who have taken part.

Croydon’s first young mayor will represent the largest youth population in London and be a true trailblazer. It is our chance to celebrate the positive contribution the young people of our borough have to make.

Contact Officer: [Emily.collinsbeare@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:Emily.collinsbeare@croydon.gov.uk)







# Children, Young People and Learning Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Alisa Flemming March 2018

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## Secondary school – Year 7 Admissions – September 2018

Wednesday, 1 March is Secondary Transfer National Offer Day

**86% of Croydon applicants get one of top three choices**



Croydon has maintained its record of ensuring the majority of pupils moving up from primary level get their first preference choice of secondary school. 62% of pupils received an offer at a first preference school and 86% received an offer at a school that was one of their top three named preferences. These figures have been achieved despite a 7%

increase in the number of applications for a secondary school place, growth which is set to continue as the larger numbers of pupils in primary schools feed through to secondary education.

100% of our parents/carers applied online for a place once again this year. Online applicants will be able to view the outcome of their application as well as accept/decline their offer by logging on to their eAdmissions account [www.eadmissions.org.uk](http://www.eadmissions.org.uk) during the evening of 1 March.

## Reception and Junior Admissions - September 2018

Monday 16 April 2018 will be Primary National Offer Day for those starting school for the first time and those moving from an infant to a junior school.

Almost all our parents/carers have applied online for a place and they will receive an email letting them know which school their child has been offered. Information about how to accept the place, and the waiting list and appeals processes will be available at [www.croydon.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.croydon.gov.uk/admissions)

Contact Officer: [denise.bushay@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:denise.bushay@croydon.gov.uk)

## Rolling out our new social work practice model, Strengthening Families

Training in how to use our new social work practice model, Strengthening Families, has been rolled out across the service in preparation to go live in April. Staff champions have also played an important role in communicating the new model to their peers and feedback from staff on the training has been positive. An event to launch the new model with our partners is scheduled in late April.



# Children, Young People and Learning Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Alisa Flemming March 2018

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Strengthening Families is a strength based approach to social work which places children at the center of our thinking. It will also be the framework through which staff and managers in the service support each other – strength based discussions with an openness about what needs to change. All involved, professionals and the family are asked to think about the following questions:

- What we are worried about?
- What's working well?
- What needs to happen?
- How we will know it's been achieved.

## **New single point of contact launched for early help and children's social care**

We launched a Single Point of Contact earlier this month, which is the single 'front door' to all local authority early help and children's social care services in Croydon. The Single Point of Contact will receive all referrals and requests for services for children, young people and families living in Croydon, whether they need early help or there are safeguarding concerns that may require children's social care involvement.

The Single Point of Contact will ensure that children, young people and their families get the right help at the right time. The Single Point of Contact will be made up of some staff from the current early help hub and the members of our multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH).

Information about how to contact the Single Point of Contact has been shared with our partners and published on our website. The implementation of the Single Point of Contact is a key action in our children's improvement plan to ensure children and young people across the borough receive the right help at the right time. It will also support the development of a coherent Early Help Strategy which is due to be published in June.

Contact Officer: [iain.low@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:iain.low@croydon.gov.uk)

## **Second Ofsted monitoring visit**

By the time you read this we will have had our second Ofsted monitoring visit, on 20 and 21 March. This visit focused on risk and vulnerable adolescents, including missing children, child sexual exploitation and gangs.

Contact Officer: [kerry.crichlow@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:kerry.crichlow@croydon.gov.uk)

## **DELIVERING OUR AMBITIONS**

## **AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON**



# Children, Young People and Learning

## Cabinet Member Bulletin

### Councillor Alisa Flemming

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#### Education Estates Cabinet Report - January 2018

The Cabinet Committee agreed the proposals in the Education Estates Strategy report on 22 January. The strategy will ensure that the Council is compliant with its School place planning duties (s13-14 Education Act 1996) to promote high standards of education and fair access to education; secure provision for children with SEN; and respond to parental preference.

The report focussed on 3 of Croydon's main statutory responsibilities as an education authority:

**School Place Planning** – ensuring a sufficient supply of school places to enable the Council to fulfil its statutory duties. The School Place Supply strategy for the next 3 years – 2018/19 to 2020/21 – and the funding to deliver these additional places were approved by cabinet.

**School Admissions** – determining admission arrangements for all Croydon community schools for admission in 2019/20; and Pan London co-ordination arrangements. Full Council determined the proposed Admission Arrangements for Croydon's community schools for the 2019/20 academic year, including the responses to consultation on the proposed reduction of the admission number for Norbury Manor and Monks Orchard Primary; and adoption of the proposed Pan London co-ordination arrangements.

**School Maintenance** – ensuring that school buildings meet minimum standards. Cabinet approved the proposed Schools' Maintenance Plan for 2017/18 and 2018/19 including an additional £3m for fire safety works in community schools.

Contact Officer: [denise.bushay@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:denise.bushay@croydon.gov.uk)

#### School Admissions Satisfaction Survey

*“Respond to individual queries and requests in a polite and professional manner. Exchange of information between Admissions Team and school excellent”*

The Council recently carried out a School Admissions satisfaction survey which was aimed at Head Teachers, Admission Officers and Business Managers at all Primary and secondary schools in the borough.

The purpose of the survey was to assess how satisfied schools are with the service they receive from the School Admissions Team.



# Children, Young People and Learning Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Alisa Flemming March 2018

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Despite record numbers of children applying for a school place in the borough (secondary applications were up by 7% this year) the findings from the survey show that there has been an increase of 17% in satisfaction with the service in the last year, and 24% over the last two years.

Positive comments included: *efficient, knowledgeable, polite, professional, very pleasant and extremely prompt.*

The findings of the survey provide invaluable information on how well the service is performing and where it needs to improve further based on how the service has been received and perceived by schools.

Congratulations to the admissions team!

Contact Officer: [denise.bushay@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:denise.bushay@croydon.gov.uk)

## CALAT

### Flying the flag for CALAT in New Addington'



Located along the length of Central Parade 13 banners now point the way to the New Addington centre – promoting access to learning in the area.

**Apprenticeships (Pathways and Continued Professional Development):**



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Delivery of apprenticeships is a key focus for the service and programmes are currently being delivered in Business Administration, Early Years, Health and Social Care and Teaching assistants.

CALAT is further developing this area; the Apprenticeship and Vocational Curriculum team is working in close collaboration with Croydon's Employment pathways team to develop the Apprenticeship offer for Council staff maximising use of the Apprenticeship Levy, this includes developing a higher apprenticeship offer linked to developmental needs of staff.

#### **London Mayors Small Projects and Capital fund:**

A funding bid to upgrade CALAT's curriculum network, Wi-Fi and equipment at all sites was submitted to the GLA in October 2017. The bid was successful and GLA has agreed £200,000 allocation to the project which has been match funded by the Council's IT capital fund - £247,102. The delivery timetable has to be aligned to the summer recess to minimise service disruption and impact on learners.

Contact officer: [sidra.hill-reid@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:sidra.hill-reid@croydon.gov.uk)

## For General Release

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>COUNCIL</b> <b>26 March 2018</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>MEMBER PETITIONS</b>
<b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>	<b>Stephen Rowan, Head of Democratic Services and Scrutiny</b>
<b>WARDS:</b>	<b>ALL</b>
<b>CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT:</b> 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 King** on behalf of residents:

*"Request for Resident Parking Permit*

*I'm writing this letter to you on behalf of the Keston Road residents in Thornton Heath. We are requesting the council to introduce the resident parking on our street. We don't have any parking spaces at all due to Mayday hospital staffs who are fully occupying our parking spaces with their cars on our street all day and night. Furthermore, behind our street (around Canterbury Road) there is already resident permit holders parking which has been enforced by the council, so those who live around Canterbury Road, also park their cars on our street.*

*Apart from this car repair centres and MOT Service stations such as Bharadia Autos in Oakwood Road, Thornton Heath Motors in May day Rd, J & A Autos in Canterbury Rd and Auto Tech in Lancing Rd. As you can imagine the difficulty of us going through the parking nightmare in our street daily, most of them who live in this street are families with children studying either in primary school or secondary school. In order to get our children into the car, we are walking two streets away from our house!! There were many occasions in the past we couldn't find any parking space at all and on those days so many of us parked on the double yellow lines because there was no more parking space left in our street!! Simply it is frustrating to the residents not only for the school runs but also for the essential day to day life.*

*So we Residents of Keston Road (majority of them) had a detailed discussion, eventually we all mutually arrived at a conclusion that residents permit holders parking is the only way to going forward to solve our parking problem. Also we strongly believe that this should be implemented by the council as early as possible in order to reduce the disruption and hardships we are currently experiencing."*

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

*"We the residents of Quadrant Road and Brook Road, Thornton Heath, would request that due to the high levels of traffic which use Quadrant Road and Brook Road as short cut to avoid Brigstock Road, which results in grid lock during rush hours because the roads are not wide enough for two-way traffic, which then results in accidents and road rage.*

*We therefore request that the Council adopts a one-way system to alleviate these problems."*



- c) Petition presented by **Councillor Margaret Mead** on behalf of residents

*“We, as the residents of Addington Village, request that Croydon Council look at options to address the significant increase in street parking that has taken place since the Cricketers/Harvester Pub introduced metered parking within their car park.*

*It would appear that people were using the Cricketers/Harvester Pub car park when commuting to work by tram or bus and also parishioners for the Church and now that metered parking has been introduced, they have resorted to leaving their vehicles on roads around the Village to avoid the new charges.*

*We would like the Council to respond to the Addington Village Residents Association with proposed solutions to reduce the number of cars parking on the roads around the Village.”*

## **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.

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### **CONTACT OFFICER:**

James Haywood  
Senior Democratic Services and  
Governance Officer  
Ext 63319.

**BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:** None.

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## For General Release

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>COUNCIL</b> <b>26 March 2018</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATIONS OF CABINET OR COMMITTEES REFERRED TO THE COUNCIL FOR DECISION</b>
<b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>	<b>Stephen Rowan, Head of Democratic Services and Scrutiny</b>
<b>WARDS:</b>	<b>ALL</b>
<b>CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT:</b> The Recommendations of Cabinet or Committees referred to the Council for decision report is prepared in accordance with the Council Procedure Rules at Part 4A of the Constitution.	

### **1. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE MAYORALTY & HONORARY FREEDOM SELECTION SUB-COMMITTEE HELD ON 29 JANUARY 2018**

- 1.1 That Councillor Bernadette Khan be invited to allow her name to be submitted to the Annual Council meeting on 23 May 2018 for election to the office of Mayor for the Council Year 2018/19

### **2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 2.1 The Recommendations of Cabinet or Committees referred to the Council for decision report comprises of matters of business formally undertaken by the Leader and Cabinet since the last ordinary meeting of the Council that require Full Council approval.

### **3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Part 4A of the Constitution requires that Cabinet and Committees include any recommendations that it has made to Council within this report.
- 3.2 These rules do not apply to any recommendations contained in the Annual Report of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee.
- 3.3 The Leader or Chair of the Committee making the recommendation may exercise a right to introduce the recommendation; in so doing the Leader or Chair of the Committee shall speak for a maximum of 3 minutes.
- 3.4 The recommendation shall be seconded without any further speakers and if not deferred for debate shall immediately be put to the vote.

- 3.5 Any Member supported by a seconder, may ask that a recommendation be deferred for debate and the recommendation shall immediately stand deferred.
- 3.6 In the event that any Cabinet or Committee recommendations have not been reached when the time limit for the meeting has expired, those recommendations shall immediately be put to the vote without further debate.
- 3.7 At its meeting on the 29 January 2018 the Mayoralty and Honorary Freedom Selection Sub-Committee voted to recommend to Council that it invite Councillor Bernadette Khan to allow her name to be submitted to the Annual Council meeting on 23 May 2018 for election to the office of Mayor for the Council Year 2018/19. The draft minutes of this meeting are attached at **Appendix 1**.
- 3.8 As Annual Council falls after the local election, the opposition party will be invited to announce who their candidate for Mayor of Croydon will be if they are elected as the majority party.
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**CONTACT OFFICER:** James Haywood,  
Senior Democratic Services and  
Governance Officer  
Ext. 63319

**APPENDIX 1:** Draft minutes of the Mayoralty and Honorary  
Freedom Selection Sub-Committee 29 January  
2018.

**BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:** None

## General Purposes and Audit Committee Mayoralty and Honorary Freedom Selection Sub-Committee

Meeting held on Monday, 29 January 2018 at 6.00pm in the Town Hall,  
Katharine Street, Croydon, CR0 1NX

### MINUTES

**Present:** Councillors Stuart Collins (Reserve); Simon Hall; Oliver Lewis;  
Jason Perry (Reserve); and Tim Pollard.

**Apologies:** Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jason  
Cummings and Tony Newman.

#### 1/18 Election of Chair

Following nominations, the Sub-Committee

**RESOLVED:** That Councillor Stuart Collins be appointed as Chair for that  
meeting of the Sub-Committee.

#### 2/18 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 December 2017 were approved as a  
correct record.

#### 3/18 Disclosure of Interests

There were no disclosures made.

#### 4/18 Urgent Business (if any)

There were no items of urgent business.

#### 5/18 Nomination of Mayor for the Council Year 2018/2019

Nominations were received for Councillors Bernadette Khan and Badsha  
Quadir. Following a vote, the Sub-Committee

**RESOLVED:** To recommend to Council that Councillor Bernadette Khan be  
invited to allow her name to be submitted to the Annual Council meeting on 23  
May 2018 for election to the office of Mayor for the Council Year 2018/19.

#### 6/18 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

This item was not required.

The meeting concluded at 6.05pm.

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