



Leader of the Council Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Tony Newman October 2018

Latest News

I am disappointed that we have not received a response to the letter sent to the Home Secretary prior to the summer recess in regards to Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC). The failure of Government to properly fund the direct and indirect costs of Croydon's status as the gateway authority for UASC continues to add to our financial pressures. The Council continues to make a concerted drive for fairer funding for Croydon. Discussions are still ongoing with the Home Office to increase our funding for UASC.

Corporate Plan

The commitments on which the Labour administration were returned will become the basis for the organisational delivery programme. The Corporate Plan outlines the key Council priorities for the next four years (2018 – 2022), how they will be delivered, and how they will be measured.

We will work with communities across Croydon and colleagues from both the business sector and voluntary community to ensure Croydon truly is a safer greener and healthier place to live and where as a council we will ensure culture remains at the heart of our regeneration.

Over the coming months, we will be sharing a set of policy positions through Cabinet built around a set of nine outcomes.



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Tackling Knife Crime

Cabinet colleagues, Alisa, Hamida, Jane and our Health and Wellbeing Board Chair, Louisa joined me in meeting representatives from Glasgow City Council where we looked at their ground breaking approach to tackling knife crime. It was a real opportunity to touch base with officers and the Leader in Glasgow to hear their challenges and successes first hand. Croydon is the only borough currently seeing a reduction in knife crime but there's always room for improvement. Seeing the way another Council works will help us innovate and continue to reduce knife crime within our borough.



Guardian Public Service Awards

I am extremely proud that the Residents and Gateway division and the Community Connect/Food Stop have been shortlisted for the Guardian Public Service Awards.

The Residents and Gateway division work tirelessly to support residents in times of difficulty and crisis. The Gateway approach focuses on prevention and early intervention and, by reducing overlap/duplication between services, it provides a holistic response to whole family needs, looking beyond the presenting issue, to stabilise households in crisis and help shape a positive future for Croydon residents.

The Community Connect/Food Stop moves our innovative Gateway approach beyond the local authority and its public sector partners into the community to enable the community to develop its own solutions for residents, help prevent homelessness and build community resilience. Based at the Family Centre in Fieldway, it is a community-led, multi-agency ('Alliance'), solution focused model that provides

AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON



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innovative housing financial stability, homelessness prevention support and food poverty solutions for our most vulnerable residents. Community Connect/Food Stop ensures residents are financially stable, able to better manage their money and maximise their income through personal budgeting support, debt management, landlord liaison and by gaining employment.

We've closely tracked progress of the first 100 residents and seen fantastic results:

	September 2017	July 2018
In work	14%	32%
In Financial risk	45%	21%
In poverty	45%	34%
With rent arrears	22%	0%

Urban Art Festival



Thousands of people visited Croydon for the Urban Arts Festival hosted by RISE gallery. I was delighted to see yet another example of culture being at the heart of our regeneration.

AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON



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The festival launched the Croydon Collection, our very own free, open and accessible collection of art which is growing every year. We are heading for owning the largest collection of street art in the UK and we have national and international visitors to Croydon to see the works. Overall, it was a great success for our borough.

Westfield

A further step towards the commencement of Croydon's £1.4billion retail development has been achieved following the delivery of formal notices to affected premises under the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO). The Croydon Partnership, the joint venture between Unibail-Rodamco-Westfield and Hammerson which is developing the project, are set to take possession of the site during 2019. The anticipated centre opening is 2023.

The Croydon Partnership's plans will provide Croydon with a new flagship destination comprising more than 300 shops, restaurants, cafes and leisure facilities including a multi-screen cinema complex and around 1,000 new homes. A brand new John Lewis department store with a Waitrose supermarket and a new Marks & Spencer have already been announced as anchor retailers. Additionally the development will see the creation of 7,000 new jobs in Croydon's town centre, the delivery of over 10,400 new homes, new transport and public realm infrastructure and a £30m refurbishment of the Fairfield Hall into a 21st century cultural hub.



AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON



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Leader's Diary for July to September

- LGA Annual Conference in Birmingham
- London Councils Leader's Committee
- LGA Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board
- Meeting with Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan
- Coast to Capital AGM and launch of Strategic Economic Plan
- Croydon Cultural Partnership Launch
- Local Strategic Partnership Board
- Meeting with Chief Superintendent Jeff Boothe, South Area BCU Commander
- Visit to Glasgow

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