

QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS

Question Number	Question asked by Councillor:	Subject
CABINET MEMBER FOR HOMES, REGENERATION & PLANNING (HRP) Councillor Alison Butler		
CQ004-18	Mario Creatura	Viability appraisals for Brick by Brick
CQ015-18	Lynne Hale	Selective Licensing
CQ016-18	Tim Pollard	Residents of Cherry Tree Green/Woodview Close
CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & LEARNING Councillor Alisa Flemming		
CQ007-18	Andrew Pelling	Volunteers in Schools
CABINET MEMBER FOR ECONOMY & JOBS Councillor Manju Shahul-Hameed		
CQ013-18	Tim Pollard	.Parklet Installation

CQ004-18 from Councillor Mario Creatura

Councillor Alison Butler

'In a press announcement released on the 22nd January, the Council said:

'Developers in Croydon will now have the viability appraisal submitted as part of their planning applications made public.'

You are quoted in the release as saying: "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."

In that spirit of openness and transparency, will the Cabinet member commit to implementing this policy retrospectively - and in particular agree to swiftly publish the full list of viability appraisals for all Brick by Brick schemes that have been already granted planning permission?'

Reply

I welcome your support for having viability assessments made public but I am somewhat bemused by your reference to Brick by Brick. I appreciate your concern that developers may submit applications where they use 'viability' as an excuse not to provide affordable housing, so why you have chosen to target Brick by Brick, who are bringing forward levels of affordable housing beyond that which is required and far beyond the majority of developers submitting applications in Croydon, is a mystery.

The decision to make development viability assessments publically available was taken towards the end of 2017, in response to the Mayor of London's Affordable Housing and Scheme Viability Supplementary Planning Guidance and our own desire to increase the transparency with such information and processes.

To maintain a level playing field, we decided not to publish viability reviews retrospectively (especially those relating to schemes where planning applications have been previously determined or where negotiations have reached an advanced stage).

A number of recent applications for planning permission (submitted by Brick by Brick) include viability appraisals which seek to determine the most appropriate level of affordable housing and housing tenures and these can be viewed via the Council's web site.

CQ015-18 from Councillor Lynne Hale

Councillor Alison Butler

Please advise the income from the Landlord Licensing Scheme since it commenced.

Please advise how this income has been spent with as full a breakdown as possible.

Please advise the number of landlords registered pa since the scheme began.

Have any landlords lost their Licence and if so – please advise the reason/s.

What is the process whereby a Landlord has their Licence removed?

Reply

A) Please advise the income from the Landlord Licensing Scheme since it commenced.

The total income from license income received up to the 21st February 2018 is £10,505,957.

B) Please advise how this income has been spent with as full a breakdown as possible.

The following table shows the expenditure breakdown since the commencement of the scheme to 21st February 2018.

	1st August 2015
	to
	21st Feb 2018
Type Of Expenditure	£
Licensing	3,092,061
Enforcement	1,398,778
ASB and Noise Teams	924,535
Management and Supervision	94,646
ICT Support and Maintenance	192,453
ICT Capital Investment	300,000
Legal	137,175
Corporate Overheads	468,291
Total	6,607,938

Note:

- 1) **This is the total expenditure attributed to Selective Licensing since the commencement of the scheme up to the 21st February 2018.**
- 2) **There is currently no corporate recharges for 2017/2018 included in the above figure.**
- 3) **The £3,898,019 not yet utilised will be held in an earmarked reserves and drawn down at the end of each financial year till the end of the scheme to pay for future expenditure. The scheme is due to last until September 2020 and it anticipated that all this reserve will be utilised in the remaining months of the scheme.**

C) Please advise the number of landlords registered pa since the scheme began.

The number of landlords registered since the scheme began is 15,267 as of 1st February 2018, some landlords have multiple properties and the total number of individual licence applications received is 31,156 as of the same date.

D) Have any landlords lost their Licence and if so – please advise the reason/s.

2 licences have been revoked, in both cases we discovered that the landlord lived outside the UK which is not permissible.

E) What is the process whereby a Landlord has their Licence removed?

The licence holder is notified of our intention to revoke the licence and the reason for this, and has 14 days to make representations. If no representations or made, or we do not accept them, the licence is revoked. The landlord must then either sell the property or appoint a managing agent who must then apply for another licence and pay another fee. If the landlord does not do either of these things they face prosecution for operating an unlicensed property.

CQ016-18 from Councillor Tim Pollard

Councillor Alison Butler

On 16 Dec 2016 you provided an answer to my written question on Woodview Close, pasted below:

*CQ361-16 from Councillor Tim Pollard
Councillor Alison Butler*

Residents at Cherry Tree Green/Woodview Close are asking that the council takes steps to prevent cars accessing the communal grassy area in Woodview Close. This presents both a health and safety risk and causes environmental damage. Will you support their request as per the attached document?

Reply

I can confirm that this is housing land and that we are happy to take steps to improve the parking issues and the misuse of the green that has been reported.

We will request that the sign is re-located so that it is clearer to the resident how to park their car and will consider creating additional bays on the side of the spur road and will consult with the residents regarding this. We will certainly consider placing bollards around the green to stop inconsiderate drivers and any anti-social behaviour.

I was very happy with the positive tone of your response but sadly, since this reply, residents tell me that precisely nothing has happened. I understand that no consultation has taken place.

Will you undertake to look into why nothing has happened and get things underway without further delay?

Reply

I have investigated the matter and I do apologise that the consultation has not taken place.

I have taken immediate steps to rectify this and the consultation with residents has now commenced and I have asked that the sign be relocated once the consultation is completed. Officers will update you when this has been done. Once again, I apologise for the delay.

CQ007-18 from Councillor Andrew Pelling

Councillor Alisa Flemming

What is the authority's estimate on the number of volunteers in Croydon schools supporting literacy?

Reply

The Local Authority does not collect or hold this information. Each school makes its own arrangements with volunteers and therefore individual schools would need to be contacted directly to gain this information.

CQ013-18 from Councillor Tim Pollard**Councillor Manju Shahul-Hameed**

What was the cost of the installation of the new seat/'parklet' installed on the pedestrianised part of the High Street. What has it cost for maintenance and signage since installation?

Reply

The Parklet currently in the High St is one of a series of interventions designed to change the way the public space is used in the longer term. It can be used as both an area for seating and informal staging for performances in the High Street which in itself is part of a wider programme of meanwhile and cultural projects.

The overall cost for this was £31,609 which includes the initial design as well as fabrication and installation and a 12 month defects liability period. The structure can be easily moved to other locations and has a lifespan of up to 5 years. The structure is also intended to tour to different district and neighbourhood locations where it can enhance the public realm particularly in areas where providing seating and staging of this kind will pave the way for future permanent changes and change of use. The capital cost is attributable over this 5 year period.