QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS

Question Number	Question asked by Councillor:	Subject
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL **Tony Newman**		
PQ054-17	Luke Clancy	Service of Committees
CQ-110-17	Philip Thomas	Committee Appointments
CQ-111-17	Philip Thomas	Ofsted
CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND TREASURY **Simon Hall**		
CQ002-18	Andrew Pelling	Parenting in the workplace

From Mark Samuel

Councillor Tony Newman

Question No. PQ054-17

Congratulations we have a new Honorary Recorder, it's a shame the
Learned Judge wasn't at the last Licensing Committee. She would have
witnessed the debacle around item 6, and no doubt been keen to help!
So will the leader please ensure that future committees are adequately
serviced in all ways?

Reply

The Committee was fully supported by Democratic Services and had all
the correct legal advice relevant to the November 23rd agenda.

From Councillor Philip Thomas

Councillor Tony Newman

Question No. CQ110-17

This week you sacked 2 of your Councillors from paid positions [one a deputy CABINET Member and the other a Chairman of the Pensions Committee] Explain why they were sacked ?

Reply

Internal group discipline is a matter for the Labour Group. In your final few months as a Councillor I suggest you focus on the multiple failings on your own side including the latest national Tory debacle regarding the Carillion scandal.

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From Councillor Philip Thomas

Councillor Tony Newman

Question No. CQ111-17

Why have you still not resigned as Leader of the Council after failing to protect the young people of this Borough as set out in the Ofsted report?

Why do you keep blaming everyone else rather than take responsibility for this failure on your watch?

Reply

The Letter from the Minister of State for Children and Families says clearly "I am encouraged by the commitment the leadership of the Council has demonstrated following the inspection and the steps that have been taken to better resource and build capacity in Children's services". They recognise we have done a large amount of work since the original Ofsted judgement but we are the first to acknowledge that the changes needed will take some time. The response to the Ofsted judgement has been about the collective effort of both parties, the staff, the organisational leadership and our partners. We remain committed to collectively improving the service and ensuring young people are safe here in Croydon. I along with the cabinet lead for Children's services will continue to support the improvements being made.

From Councillor Andrew Pelling

Councillor Simon Hall

Question No. CQ002-18

What provision is made to encourage the widest participation for parents in the council's workforce by providing for parenting in the workplace and how is this provision seen for future improvement?

Reply

Croydon Council recognise that flexibility in employment is key to attracting and retaining a workforce that is committed and valued. The council is accredited with Timewise which supports employers to encourage flexible working practices internally and share good practice. There are a number of ways in which working parents are supported to have a positive work balance. The council has a well-developed approach to flexible working enabling individuals to balance a working day and working arrangements, either by investing in technology to work at home through to the application of part time and term time contract options. In addition there are a range of benefits available to staff, also support working parents these include:

- A child care voucher scheme
- A negotiated discount for employees in a local nursery.
- Ability to buy additional annual leave each year
- Croydon Option Schemes including the Croydon Bid card offers a wide range of discounts for big retailers and can be used by all staff
- Travel/holiday discounts can be accessed also by Croydon Options
- Healthcare schemes are available for staff to join covering the whole family for costs including dental and optical