



Leader of the Council Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Tony Newman March 2020

LATEST NEWS

Borough of Culture 2023

Just a couple of weeks ago London Mayor Sadiq Khan announced our town of Croydon the winner of the race to be London Borough of Culture 2023, a fitting recognition indeed of much hard work by many, and less than six months after we reopened the iconic Fairfield Halls, now home amongst others to both the London Mozart players and the Talawa Theatre Company. One of our key supporters for the Borough of Culture bid was Croydon's very own Stormzy, and it was also great to see him just weeks after his now legendary homecoming gig at Boxpark win a major award at the Brits.



Along with the prestige of winning the Borough of Culture award, comes over a million pounds of funding to support the arts and culture across Croydon, and this at a time of ongoing cuts to our funding by national government, and growing demand for our services is vital.

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Citizen's Assembly on Climate Change

Just last week we had our final session of our first Citizen's Assembly. I'm incredibly proud of how our residents have worked together to create a robust set of innovative recommendations on the challenge of how to make Croydon carbon neutral by 2030.

The main themes that emerged from our assembly members over the course of the three sessions were transport, air quality, energy use and awareness and engagement.

The recommendations and final report on the Citizen's Assembly will be presented at March Cabinet and once approved, will go on to guide the initial work of the Climate Crisis Commission.



Climate Crisis Commission

We have made clear that building a truly sustainable Croydon is everybody's business, from lifetime homes, new green jobs, empowering our young people or the quality of the air we breathe this climate Emergency impacts upon us all every day.

I am delighted we are launching our Climate Crisis Commission on March 12th at Croydon College with the Commissions Chair Miatta Fahnbulleh.

Miatta is the chief executive of the New Economics Foundation, a think-tank promoting social, economic and environmental justice and will lead the commission, set up to tackle the climate and ecological emergency.



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Budget

As we present our budget for 2020 with a council tax increase of 1.29p (band d) for local services, it presents an opportunity to look back over the last twelve months and review the progress we are making as a council Administration determined to continue delivering high quality public services, against the toughest ever funding pressures local government has ever faced.



Against this challenging backdrop how we deliver public services in the 21st Century is changing and I am proud that the LB Croydon is at the forefront of this innovation, whether through our One Croydon health alliance with the NHS, building the inspirational Legacy Youth Zone with a range of partners or unlocking 42m of land values to fund the renovation of the iconic Fairfield Halls at minimal expense to local council taxpayers along with making sure funding available for the violence reduction network to help us achieve our vision of a public health approach to reducing violence across the board - stepping in earlier and preventing violence from taking place with our communities playing a central role.

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