



# Leader of the Council Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Tony Newman October 2020

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## **CROYDON MOURNS FOR SERGEANT MATT RATANA**

In the early hours of Friday morning on the 25<sup>th</sup> September, a tragic shooting took place where Sergeant Matt Ratana sadly lost his life. It is an absolute tragedy for a police officer to lose their life in service to our community. All our thoughts and sympathies are with his family, friends and colleagues at Croydon police.



The flag at Croydon Town Hall was lowered as a mark of respect to Sergeant Matt Ratana that Friday and a minute's silence was held outside the CVA on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October in remembrance.

## **CROYDON ACTS FOR SUSTAINABLE FUTURE**

Croydon Council is taking immediate action to meet its significant financial challenges and secure a sustainable future for the borough. Cabinet members approved a report on Monday 21st September at the Council's Cabinet meeting asking officers to urgently develop Croydon's renewal plan, which would be submitted to central government asking for its support.

Like many local authorities, Croydon Council has been badly affected by the financial consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic and the increased costs and loss of income that has created. This is on top of a decade of funding decreases from central government.

## **AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON**



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Croydon's plan will set out how we are taking swift and decisive action to protect priority services for our residents. Our borough is facing significant financial challenges following its 24/7 response to the Covid-19 pandemic, on top of a decade of funding decreases. We need to change the way we do things now to ensure we can continue to deliver the services on which local people depend, particularly our most vulnerable residents.

This is hugely important for Croydon and I am calling on everyone to work together to make this happen. We want our staff, residents and partners at the heart of this process and we will be listening to them throughout so that together we create a council that meets local needs in a way that is sustainable for the future.

If you want to help shape Croydon's future, send your views to: [croydonplan@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:croydonplan@croydon.gov.uk)

## **WELCOME TO OUR NEW INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Following a cross-party appointments committee meeting held on the 10th September, Katherine Kerswell joins Croydon in the role of Interim Chief Executive.

Katherine comes to Croydon having most recently been the interim chief executive at Nottingham City Council, where she helped develop a new in-year budget and managed the Covid-19 response. As well as having over 15 years' experience as chief executive at several large local authorities, she was the first director general to have responsibility for civil service reform at the Cabinet Office.

Katherine brings a wealth of experience and a strong track record of delivering for local communities. She will provide clear and steady leadership to help us through our financial challenges and Covid-19 recovery, and help to set strong foundations to deliver our priorities for the future.

Katherine will work with members, officers and partners on this very challenging phase for Croydon as we look to recover from the pandemic and manage the significant impact on our finances while supporting our communities and our most vulnerable residents.

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## **WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES TO KEEP CROYDON SAFE**

With infection rates rising the borough's agencies are once again stepping up their response to the pandemic, with the public, private and voluntary sectors working as one strong partnership to protect and support Croydon's communities.

At a meeting of Croydon's Local Strategic Partnership which is now meeting fortnightly, leaders from the council, health services, police, business, faiths and the voluntary sector urged local communities to stay vigilant and play their part.

Although Covid-19 levels in Croydon remain lower than elsewhere in London and nationally, the numbers are rising around the country so we must all be vigilant and play our part in limiting the risk to ourselves and others. The best way we can all do that is by following government guidance on social distancing, the rule of six, regular hand washing and wearing a mask.

Since lockdown began the council has worked with colleagues in the NHS, businesses, charities and the local community in response to Covid-19, and this ongoing work is more important given this week's new government restrictions.

I want to reassure everyone in our borough that every organisation on the LSP will continue to work together and support our residents and businesses through this difficult time.

In the meantime, I know there may be many people in our borough who are unsure about what these restrictions mean for them and what they can and cannot do. Visit the NHS UK website for the latest updates on how to stay healthy and safe, and if you develop coronavirus symptoms, self-isolate and get tested as soon as possible by calling 119.



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## NEW PLANS FOR TOWN CENTRE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS

One of London's leading universities has taken the next step in its bid for a new town centre campus in Croydon for students of health and social care, business and finance.

A planning application has been submitted to turn an empty Wellesley Road building into a new London South Bank University (LSBU) campus offering courses including degrees in nursing, accounting, business management and a Masters for chiropractors.

The university proposes to convert the four-storey Electric House to include a lecture theatre, classrooms and a café. For nursing students, the building would also include nursing skills suites that replicate hospital wards.



The council's vision is to deliver a Croydon Creative Campus, which would bring economic growth and more jobs while giving top-class university education opportunities through LSBU to all of our residents, including London's largest population of young people.

These plans represent another welcome step towards this goal, and it demonstrates that confidence in Croydon and our future remains high despite the economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic across the country.

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## COMMUNITY FOOTBALL EVENT TO UNITE AGAINST YOUTH VIOLENCE



I was delighted to attend The Palace for Life Foundation football match to unite against youth violence on Sunday 6th September. The Mayor of Croydon along with the Councils BAME Champion Cllr Patsy Cummings, Croydon Community Members and Croydon organisation such as the Met's Violence Reduction unit and Legacy Youth Zone participated to show a shared commitment of working together to ensure young people can lead safe, healthy and positive lives.

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