

**COUNCIL MEETING: MONDAY 19 OCTOBER 2015**

**WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS**

<b>Question Number</b>	<b>Question asked by Councillor:</b>	<b>Subject</b>
<b>LEADER OF THE COUNCIL – Councillor Tony Newman</b>		
CQ369	Hale	Council appointments
CQ379	Pollard T	Private Sector rental
CQ380	Pollard T	Fly tipping
CQ381	Pollard T	Green Belt Development
CQ411	Pelling	Croydon Advertiser headline
CQ417	Audsley	London Living Wage
CQ426	Khan S	Voter registration
CQ427	Khan S	Funding cuts
<b>CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE AND SPORT Councillor Timothy Godfrey</b>		
CQ359	Bird	Coulsdon Memorial Park
CQ370	Hale	Fairfield Halls
CQ371	Hale	Cost of Ambition Festival etc.
CQ388	Pollard, H	St James Memorial Park Community Garden
CQ402	Wright	Fairfield Halls
CQ422	Rendle	Ashburton Park
CQ433	Wentworth	Upper Norwood Joint Library
CQ438	Prince	Waddon Leisure Centre
CQ445	Lewis	Free swimming
<b>CABINET MEMBER FOR ECONOMY &amp; JOBS Councillor Toni Letts</b>		
CQ408	Perry	Connected Croydon
<b>CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES, SAFETY AND JUSTICE - Councillor Mark Watson</b>		
CQ410	Pelling	Community partnerships
CQ414	Mann	Football banners
CQ424	Canning	Warden Olympics
CQ447	O'Connell	Fireworks
CQ448	O'Connell	Neighbourhood Watch
CQ449	O'Connell	Neighbourhood Safety Officers

Question Number	Question asked by Councillor:	Subject
<b>CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT &amp; ENVIRONMENT – Councillor Kathy Bee</b>		
CQ356	Clancy	Parking Charges
CQ373	Brew	Purley Multi Story Car Park
CQ387	Buttinger	Road safety
CQ392	Speakman	Road budget
CQ393	Speakman	Parking Charges
CQ397	Mohan	Parking charges
CQ398	Mohan	Free Parking
CQ399	Mohan	Quietways
CQ403	Thomas	Parking Charges
CQ415	Mann	Cycling space
CQ418	Audsley	Community Energy
CQ421	Rendle	Road Improvements
CQ430	King	One way working
CQ431	Henson	Road Improvements
CQ432	Henson	'yellow box'
CQ437	Prince	Air quality
CQ441	Kyeremeh	Winter road preparations
<b>CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND LEARNING – Councillor Alisa Flemming</b>		
CQ360	Bird	School Transport
CQ374	Brew	Looked after Children
CQ375	Brew	Social Workers
CQ382	Gatland	missing children
CQ383	Gatland	Secondary School Places
CQ394	Gatland	Coasting schools
CQ419	Audsley	First Step Croydon
CQ420	Rendle	Improving Outcomes for Children with Autism
CQ442	Kyeremeh	Unaccompanied asylum seeking minors
<b>CABINET MEMBER FOR FAMILIES, HEALTH &amp; SOCIAL CARE – Councillor Louisa Woodley</b>		
CQ357	Hopley	Budget
CQ358	Hopley	Outcome Based Commissioning
CQ364	Mead, D	Bed & Breakfast
CQ365	Mead, D	Bed & Breakfast
CQ367	Mead, M	Healthy Eating
CQ368	Mead, M	Personal budgets
CQ372	Hopley	Digital by Design exclusion
CQ416	Bonner	Food Flagship

Question Number	Question asked by Councillor:	Subject
CQ440	Kyeremeh	Rough sleepers
CQ444	Lewis	Food Flagship
<b>CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND TREASURY – Councillor Simon Hall</b>		
CQ366	Mead, M	Agency staff
CQ376	Winborn	Cost savings
CQ390	Quadir	Purley Multi Story Car Park
CQ409	Pelling	Boundary review
CQ436	Ali	Central Government Grants
CQ451	Scott	Cut to Tax Credits
<b>DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR CLEAN GREEN CROYDON – Councillor Stuart Collins</b>		
CQ361	Bird	Green Waste
CQ362	Neal	Green Waste
CQ385	Bashford	Green Waste
CQ386	Buttinger	blocked drains
CQ389	Pollard, H	Street Cleaning
CQ404	Thomas	Green Waste
CQ405	Thomas	Green Waste
CQ413	Mann	Fly tipping
CQ423	Canning	Street champions
CQ429	King	Road sweeping
CQ439	Prince	New Recycling bins
CQ443	Lewis	Fixed Penalty Notices
CQ450	Scott	Fixed Penalty Notices
<b>DEPUTY LEADER (STATUTORY) AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOMES, REGENERATION AND PLANNING – Councillor Alison Butler</b>		
CQ363	Mead, D	Landlords Licensing Scheme
CQ377	Neal	Pay to Stay
CQ378	Neal	Neighbourhood Wardens
CQ384	Bashford	Landlord Licensing Fee
CQ391	Speakman	Homes for Croydon People
CQ395	Clancy	Planning Applications
CQ396	Clancy	Back garden development
CQ400	Wright	Green Belt Development
CQ401	Wright	HRA Account
CQ406	Perry	Planning Applications
CQ407	Perry	Members referral rights
CQ412	Mansell	London Road

<b>Question Number</b>	<b>Question asked by Councillor:</b>	<b>Subject</b>
CQ425	Canning	Housing tenants
CQ428	Khan S	Landlords Licensing Scheme
CQ434	Ali	Westfield/Hammerson development
CQ435	Ali	Local Housing allowance
CQ446	Winborn	Westfield/Hammerson development

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**CQ369-15**

**from Councillor Lynne Hale**

**To Councillor Tony Newman**

Please can you advise why you decided not to appoint any Council trustees to Fairfield this year?

**Reply**

I hope you will have seen by now the wonderful news that after more than eight years of inertia by the Conservative opposition we have recently announced £30m investment to deliver a stunning fully refurbished Fairfield Hall alongside a magnificent new college for Croydon.

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**CQ379-15**

**from Councillor Tim Pollard**

**To Councillor Tony Newman**

How many applications for registration of private sector rented properties were received before the 30 September deadline for 'early bird' discounts and what percentage of the total private sector rental properties do you believe this represents?

**Reply**

For future enquiries I refer Councillor Pollard to my excellent Deputy Leader, Councillor Butler, who for his information leads on Homes, Regeneration and Planning matters.

The process of registering applications for the Private Rented Property License Scheme commenced on 1 July 2015. An early bird discounted registration fee of £350 was on offer for applications registered between 1 July and 30 September 2015 and a total of 23,347 applications were registered during this period. This represents 72% of the total private sector rented market of 32,500 properties.

The registration fee increased to £750 from 1 October 2015.

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**CQ380-15**

**from Councillor Tim Pollard**

**To Councillor Tony Newman**

Prior to the 2014 local election you repeatedly claimed that fly tipping was a problem in the borough because the Conservative Council did not care about it. Now that the evidence proves that fly tipping incidents have increased massively since May 2014 and Croydon has the 7th highest increase in the country, do you still believe you can substantiate your pre-election claims?

**Reply**

Councillor Pollard, with all due respect it wasn't just me that claimed fly tipping was a problem, the people of Croydon also expressed their concerns on the issue. It's one of the reasons they threw your party out of office.

It is this Labour administration that has introduced effective measures to deal with fly tipping, including increasing the number of Street Champions, introducing faster and easier to use reporting processes, speedy removal of fly tips, more community clean up events and taking effective action to prosecute offenders.

I refer Councillor Pollard to the comprehensive response provided by Councillor Collins, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Clean, Green Croydon to CQ405-15.

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**CQ381-15**      **from Councillor Tim Pollard**

**To Councillor Tony Newman**

Before the General Election, Labour candidate Sarah Jones said that the council needed to be brave and build in areas where people didn't want them to. Recently you have published plans to encourage back garden development (significantly curtailed under the previous administration) and encourage development of schools and traveller sites in the Green Belt. Why should residents believe that Green Belt and other green spaces are safe under Labour?

**Reply**

The Council's Development Plan conforms with the National Planning Policy Framework in terms of Green Belt policy. This national policy approach is supported by both the current Mayor of London and leading mayoral candidates. The Development Plan is clear that inappropriate development in the Green Belt will be resisted. Proposals for development in the Green Belt will be therefore considered in accordance with the Development Plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. Development in the Green Belt not in accordance with the Development Plan, including Traveller development, is inappropriate development in the Green Belt and will be considered in this context. This Labour administration will oppose any inappropriate proposal to build on the Green Belt.



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**CQ411-15            from Councillor Andrew Pelling**

**To Councillor Tony Newman**

While I appreciate that the sold print copies of the Croydon Advertiser only ran to 6,087 a week in 2014 as according to the Audit Bureau of Circulations thus limiting the impact of that newspaper with its very modest print circulation what is the view of the Leader on the inflammatory headline of the Croydon Advertiser edition of September 11?

**Reply**

I presume that Councillor Pelling is referring to the front page headline “13 suspected illegals found inside tanker”.

In the light of the current global refugee crisis and the harrowing images of a young boy’s body washed up on a beach, I agree that the headline for this issue could have been more sensitive.

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**CQ417-15**      **from Councillor Jamie Audsley**

**To Councillor Tony Newman**

Cllr Newman you publicly committed Croydon Council to become an accredited London Living Wage Employer in May 2014. What is your target date for this commitment to be realised?

## **Reply**

I am delighted to confirm that we are delivering another Labour manifesto commitment. Since taking office this Labour Administration has demonstrated its commitment by taking steps to secure the London Living Wage (LLW) for all eligible employees, including contracted staff working on council contracts. Major successes include the Integrated Framework for Care and Support, which delivers community based social care and support services, SEN Passenger Transport which provides a statutory home to school transport service for children with Special Education Needs, and the Facilities Management Cleaning Contract, presently at award stage. We are currently working with Veoila to embed LLW into our waste and cleansing contracts.

This council is leading the way in securing LLW for local people. We are currently in the process of preparing an application for accreditation as a living wage employer which will be submitted to the Living Wage Foundation in due course. As part of this process we are in dialogue with all of our contractors to establish their commitment to the LLW and where necessary plan its introduction.

I will take this opportunity to congratulate LIDL who are the first major high street supermarket to commit to paying the Living Wage.

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**CQ426-15**      **from Councillor Shafi Khan**

**To Councillor Tony Newman**

Can the Leader update us about the latest voter registration process in Croydon?

**Reply**

We are currently in the middle of the electoral registration canvass to publish a fully revised electoral register on 1 December.

We have been working on the new register since late July and every household in Croydon has received a Household Enquiry Form to obtain elector details. In conjunction and under the system of Individual Electoral Registration as introduced in 2014, newly identified electors have been sent an Invitation to Register Form.

For the month of October and into early November, electoral registration canvassers will be making personal calls to households that have so far failed to respond to the canvass.

Underpinning all this has been an extensive public engagement campaign to encourage residents to register.

To date the response to the canvass is very encouraging and at the time of writing we have a response rate of over 75%

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**CQ427-15**      **from Councillor Shafi Khan**

**To Councillor Tony Newman**

Can the leader update us about the impact of latest funding cuts as a result of unilateral decision of the National Government?

## **Reply**

It is a great shame that the Conservative Government and the previous Conservative-led coalition place such little value on vital local services. Their latest cuts to Croydon are just another step in their long list of attacks on local services.

Since forming the coalition government in 2010, the Conservatives have cut over £20billion of funding for council services across the country, leading to:

- 350,000 fewer full time staff;
- 150,000 fewer people receiving adult social care;
- 470 libraries closing;
- Spending on sports and leisure services decreased by 15 per cent;
- Spending on road repairs decreased by 17 per cent; and
- Spending on parks decreased by 10 per cent.

In Croydon, our funding by the Conservative government has already been cut by 45% and this is likely to be further cut in the next Autumn Statement and comprehensive spending review.

The Government's attack on local services isn't limited to cutting the grant allocation. They have continued to introduce new burdens on local authorities without funding them and moving the goal posts on existing funding arrangements.

A great example of the former is the Conservative welfare reforms, which have pushed more households into poverty and added further fuel to the homelessness crisis. It is local authorities that have the responsibility to provide and pay for services for households that have been made homeless in addition to absorbing cuts to Council Tax support and Crisis Loans. Despite the damage that the Welfare Reforms have already done, the Conservative Government is proposing even further cuts to Tax Credits and reductions to the Housing Benefit Cap, both of which will add a further £2m of pressures on Croydon's budget.

In terms of the latter, a good example is the Conservative led Government's push to encourage Councils to take local control of their Housing Revenue account. Croydon did this on the basis of a 30 year business plan agreed with the Government. Since taking local control, the Conservative Government has changed the rules on social housing rents on several occasions which will lead to Croydon having a deficit of £481m over the life of the HRA business plan, damaging local efforts to deliver more council homes and maintaining the high standard of our homes.

Similarly, the Conservative Government continues to refuse to properly address the unprecedented demand for additional school places in Croydon. This means that the Council has to borrow money to build places and the cost of this borrowing is unfairly met by local council tax payers.

Incredibly, the Conservative Government has now found a new wheeze to attack local services in Croydon. Not content with slashing budgets, shunting costs to the Council, moving goalposts or introducing unfunded new burdens, they have now taken to cutting budgets in-year.

This latest attack on public services in Croydon has seen:

- An in-year cut to funding rates for unaccompanied asylum seeking children that will cost Croydon £4m per year;
- A £1.3m cut to the Public Health budget; and
- A £600k cut to the Adult Skills budget in Croydon – a massive cut to local services that help improve the employment and earning potential of many of our residents.

I would like to say that hopefully the Conservative Government will draw the line there, but with the Autumn Statement and Comprehensive Spending review to come, it is inevitable that they will continue to find new ways to try and decimate vital local services.

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**CQ359-15**

**from Councillor Margaret Bird**

**To Councillor Timothy Godfrey**

The play equipment in Coulsdon Memorial Park has not been repaired with some items being out of use for over a year. A resident had offered to sponsor some repairs at the beginning of summer, information I passed on to Parks Dept. but I am advised they have been unable to get repair quotes.

Can the Cabinet member tell when the repairs will be done?

**Reply**

The parks team are aware of the issues with the equipment in Coulsdon Memorial Park and have ordered the necessary equipment to reinstate the Trapeze Handles and Cable rider. This equipment should be delivered within the next three weeks and shall then be installed.

The basket swing repair is a more costly item and funding is being investigated. Due to the fact there are individual swings available in the play area the parks team have decided to repair the other two items as a priority until funding has been secured. They are currently waiting for the final costings of this equipment and shall make contact with you to liaise with the resident who offered to sponsor some of these repairs.

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**CQ370-15**

**from Councillor Lynne Hale**

**To Councillor Timothy Godfrey**

Please confirm the Council 100% commitment to Fairfield and outline the works which have taken place at Fairfield Halls during July, August and September

**Reply**

Thank you for your question on this. The Fairfield Halls is our only professional arts organisation in the borough since the previous administration closed the Croydon Clocktower and forced the closure of the Warehouse Theatre by withdrawing the grant in the middle of a programme targeted at working with BME&R audiences. We are fully committed to developing and building the offer for this borough. We are fully committed to the modernisation of Fairfield Halls and we are taking a paper to Cabinet on 20 October setting out our plans for the Fairfield Halls in the context of the wider Cultural and Education Quarter, including the modernisation of the halls to create a high quality facility which will not only enhance the borough's cultural provision but also promote the economic development and regeneration of Croydon.

In April this year, the Council employed local organisation Mott MacDonald to lead a team including Rick Mather Architects, who have been involved in designing to develop a planning application, for Fairfield Halls and the wider College Green area including new homes, enhanced public spaces and routes through the area and the provision of a new College building for Croydon College. This is due to be submitted by the end of the year.

We are progressing with some early pieces of work within the Halls and a new server room was created over the summer as well as undertaking procurement for new kitchen equipment. Any works undertaken now will not be abortive and will be used as part of the wider modernisation.

The Cabinet Paper on 20<sup>th</sup> October is proof that we are now in the Season of Delivery, after 8 years of delays, countless consultant reports, cancellation of the 2005/6 scheme and other wasted opportunities by the previous council administration.

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**CQ371-15**

**from Councillor Lynne Hale**

**To Councillor Timothy Godfrey**

Please advise the full financial cost to the Council of the Ambition Festival and the town centre cycle race.

**Reply**

I am very disappointed that the Conservatives in Croydon have been attacking these important events in the Cultural life of our Borough.

The damage that the Conservatives did to this town in the field of culture was immense. Our reputation as a Council and as a borough was damaged.

I am sad that the previous administration had no ambition for our borough, but note that a political party has to have significant ambition in order to be elected, as we did in last years local election.

As documented on the Cabinet Papers for October, this administration is about making Croydon known for delivery and for a rich cultural offer. An offer that is important to balance the towns economy and attract further investment to it.

Croydon hosted the Men's Pearl Izumi Tour Series and women's Matrix Fitness Grand Prix cycling races in June 2015. A thrilling evening's racing over multiple laps of a 1 km town centre circuit, taking in North End and Surrey Street and crossing the tram lines in two places, showcased Croydon in a fresh light. An estimated 12,500 lined the streets for the races. Over 300,000 UK viewers watched the hour-long highlights package on ITV and the race was broadcast in a further 60 countries – with a potential TV reach of nearly 94 million viewers worldwide. A range of community events took place on the day, contributing to a celebration of all things cycling in Croydon.

One of the prime reasons for hosting the event was to encourage more people to cycle and exercise for fun, sport or as part of their daily routine, in order to combat the rising tide of ill health resulting from increasingly inactive lifestyles. This in turn is intended to help limit the call on Council and health services and the consequences for the public purse resulting from obesity and health problems associated with sedentary lifestyles. The route infrastructure was used in the afternoon to host schools' cycle races. Our own Smarter and Safer Travel team along with local employer AIG, TfL's Cycle Activation Team, British Cycling and Kier used the day to promote more active, healthier and safer travel. Between us we were able to reach far more people than had been through past Bike Week events.

The cost to the council of hosting the races and supporting events was £107,721. This cost was offset by income of £106,000, comprising £16,000 commercial direct cash sponsorship and £90,000 TfL Local Transport Funding earmarked to promote sustainable and healthier travel. The direct net cost to Croydon council was £1,721.

A number of services were provided at nil cost to the council through sponsorship



deals, notably with EM Highways/ Keir.

Including all associated staffing costs the festival cost £182,995, of which £25,000 was on capital items for future community use.

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**CQ388-15**

**from Councillor Helen Pollard**

**To Councillor Timothy Godfrey**

Can the Cabinet Member tell me what plans there are to support residents in setting up St James Memorial Park Community Garden?

**Reply**

Working with friends groups, supporting them and establishing new groups is very important to the Administration. We sadly inherited a service that did not adequately support volunteers and our amazing network of friends groups. We now have a borough forum that is independent of the Council representing the individual friends groups and this is vital to showcase the importance of parks and green spaces. It is vital that these messages are heard both here in Croydon and in Government, as you can not keep valued public services and keep cutting the grant to local government.

The Council is currently working on a Parks Review as part of wider Council strategies. One of the outcomes of that work will be how we better support volunteers.

Turning directly to the question, if there is interest from local residents to set up a community garden at St James's then the Council are able to give it the same support we give to all the other local Friends of park/community garden groups in the borough. Our Park team received an expression of interest on 22/09/15, from the Friends of Park Hill and the Master Gardening Scheme to explore the opportunity to set up a community garden at St James' Rest Garden. Two members of our Environment and Leisure team are due to meet them next week on site to discuss suitable locations and recruitment of local volunteers to set up a garden.

The Council support new Friends of Park groups with the formal group set up (constitution, bank account, insurance), they can assist with volunteer recruitment, point them into the direction of funding for their project, volunteer training, how to run small events and how to improve the biodiversity value of their site. To further support community gardens they point groups towards existing community gardens and link them up with bigger growing projects like Capital Growth or the Flagship Food Project for advice and further support.

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**CQ402-15            from Councillor Chris Wright**

**To Councillor Timothy Godfrey**

When will the Cabinet Member provide proper disabled parking in the forecourt of Fairfield Halls in place of the wholly inadequate present arrangement?

**Reply**

After years of empty Conservative promises and underinvestment in the Fairfield Halls, I am delighted that this Labour administration is transforming this cherished cultural landmark. Opening up the front of the building and improving the surrounding environment are part of a package of improvements that we have prioritised for the Fairfield Halls. In turn, this is just one part of our ambitious programme for local arts and culture following the cultural vandalism and neglect of the previous Conservative administration.

Of course, accessible parking facilities are important and some of these accessible parking options are:

- Fairfield Halls multi-storey car park (operated by NCP); there are lifts to the various levels at the part of the car park near to the law courts. The underground part of the car park can be accessed via a pedestrian ramp onto the large footway area near Park Lane close to the entrance to Fairfield Halls
- Fell Road; there are dedicated disabled bays (3 hour maximum stay) close to Katharine Street which is a reasonably short distance to the Fairfield Halls via the new surface level pedestrian crossing of Park Lane
- College Road; there are spaces available in the on-street bays which is a short distance to the Fairfield Halls
- Chatsworth Road / Friends Road area; there are parking bays and yellow lines (3 hour maximum stay for blue badge holders) with level crossing points to Fairfield Halls

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**CQ422-15**      **from Councillor Andrew Rendle**

**To Councillor Timothy Godfrey**

Recently The Friends of Ashburton Park have been very busy making our park even more beautiful and helping us plan for the future. Would the cabinet member like to join me in thanking them for their dedication and doesn't this show that Labour were on the right side of the argument and working with residents is much better than selling public buildings at a knock down price. Also since the debate last year has he had any representation from councillors of either party about the halted sale?

**Reply**

The campaign and position of The Ashburton Councillors is very clear.

I am delighted at the friends group and look forward to this group developing alongside the building and park as an even richer community resource.

I can confirm that the local councillors have been pressing the interests of Ashburton Park and the refurbishment project at every opportunity.

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**CQ433-15**      **from Councillor John Wentworth**

**To Councillor Timothy Godfrey**

Would the Cabinet Member please give me an update on the situation regarding the Upper Norwood Joint Library?

**Reply**

Lambeth Council has recently announced in a cabinet paper 'Culture 2020' their plans for the development of culture in Lambeth. This paper includes details about a change in their approach to the provision of the library in Upper Norwood. Their proposal is to turn it into one of five neighbourhood libraries. This proposal involved transferring the building to the Upper Norwood Library Trust for them to use for community and income generating purposes. As part of this a "neighbourhood" library will be provided. This will have limited library services and be unstaffed.

With funding provided by Croydon Council the Upper Norwood Library Trust is currently testing income generation models in the library. This is to test the feasibility and sustainability of services should they take a lease from Croydon & Lambeth Councils.

As this change to the provision of the service by Lambeth is a significant one we are currently reviewing their proposals. We are assessing implications for the library and the cost implications of any lease transfer, taking account of the condition of the building. We are working with the Trust and Lambeth to ensure that it has a sustainable future with minimum financial risk to the council. Discussions with Lambeth and the Trust are on-going and a final decision on the building and service transfer will be made in the spring of 2016.

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**CQ438-15**      **from Councillor Joy Prince**

**To Councillor Timothy Godfrey**

On average, what percentage of the community space in Waddon Leisure Centre is booked and used, and how does this compare with the other centres run by Fusion in Croydon?

**Reply**

The community facilities at Waddon are booked as below in comparison to other Leisure centres in the borough

**Sports Halls**

Waddon	60%
Thornton heath	70%

**Studios**

Waddon	68%
Thornton heath	72%
South Norwood	67%

**Number of people signed into swimming lesson sessions**

New Addington Leisure Centre	271
Purley Leisure Centre	415
South Norwood Leisure Centre	715
Thornton Heath Leisure Centre	859
Waddon Leisure Centre	749

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**CQ445-15**      **from Councillor Oliver Lewis**

**To Councillor Timothy Godfrey**

Many families in New Addington were pleased to see the return of free swimming for children and young people during the summer holidays. Can the cabinet member update me on how many took advantage of this offer?

**Reply**

I am pleased that this initiative is being well received by people in New Addington. I can confirm that our last monthly report showed that 1108 children and young people took advantage of this offer at New Addington Leisure Centre.

With the exciting new development soon to take place in New Addington, enhanced facilities will mean that this type of outreach should become more and more popular.

Such a programme helps market the service and build loyalty as well as contributing to public health agendas etc.

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**CQ408-15      from Councillor Jason Perry****To Councillor Toni Letts**

Please provide an updated schedule for the Connected Croydon programme, detailing milestones to date and future plans.

**Reply**

Below is a table that details principal milestones of Connected Croydon projects that are complete. Attached is a similar 3-page table detailing these milestones for those projects that are currently in the delivery phase. The Legible London project was delivered as a pan-London project that did not stipulate a target completion date for the works in Croydon. The Parks to be Proud of Project comprised of 11 separate schemes that were intentionally delivered on different timescales, guided by the aspirations of the community that voted for those improvements. The programme as a whole did not have a published target completion date.

<b>Connected Croydon project</b>	<b>Target Start on site</b>	<b>Actual Start on Site</b>	<b>Target for Completion of Construction</b>	<b>Actual Project Completion</b>
Completed projects				
Purley	Oct-10	Apr-11	Aug-11	completed January 2012
New Addington - Ph1 (Outer London Fund)	Jan-12	Feb-12	Jun-12	completed October 2012
Addiscombe District Centre	Aug-11	Jan-12	Jun-12	completed December 2012
Connect 2 (west of Croydon)	Apr-13	Feb-13	Dec-13	Dec-13
Legible London	Jan-12	Jan-12	Not recorded	completed July 2013
East Croydon Station Cross-Platform Bridge	Oct-11	Oct-11	Nov-13	Completed Dec 2013
Wellesley Road Ph2 - Lansdowne & Dingwall roundabout	Jul-13	Jul-13	Dec-13	completed April 2014
Parks to be Proud of	Oct-12	Apr-13	Not recorded	completed April 2015

**Schedule of Milestones for Completed Connected Croydon Projects**



## Schedule of Milestones for Connected Croydon Projects Currently in Delivery As at 7 October 2015

Connected Croydon project	Appoint Design Team	Principal Contractor	Target Start on site	Actual/ Forecast Start on Site	Target for Completion of Construction	Forecast Works Completion	Actual Project Completion
<b>ON SITE - approved capital projects, cost certainty, funding secured</b>							
High Streets: South End	Jan-13	Public Realm - FM Conway  Building Fronts - BRAC	Apr-14	Feb-14	Feb-15	n/a	<b>Public Realm:</b> defect correction period started 1 March 2015 <b>Building Fronts:</b> May 2015
Wandle Park and Ph.1 of Pavilion	Apr-10	Breheny	Jun-12	Jun-12	Dec-13	n/a	Apr-14
High Streets - London Rd (public realm & building fronts)  phase 1 = West Croydon to Lidl phase 2 = Lidl to Sumner Rd phase 3 = Sumner Rd to Bensham La	Apr-13	phase 1: EM Highways  phase 2 (and proposed for 3): TG Ram  building fronts: BRAC	phase 1: Aug 14  phase 2 & 3: Aug 15  building fronts: Aug 14	phase 1: Aug 14  phase 2: Aug 15  phase 3: Jan 16  building fronts: March 15	phase 1: Feb 15  phases 2 & 3: March 16  building fronts: Nov 15	phase 1: completed  phase 2: March 16  phase 3: June 16  building fronts: Feb 16	<b>phase 1:</b> March 2015
High Streets - Old Town (public realm & building fronts)	Apr-13	Public Realm: EM Highways Building Fronts - Lambourn	Jun-14	Mar-15	Sep-15	Nov-15	

Connected Croydon project	Appoint Design Team	Principal Contractor	Target Start on site	Actual/ Forecast Start on Site	Target for Completion of Construction	Forecast Works Completion	Actual Project Completion
High Streets - Central (Public Realm works) - Surrey Street/High Street junction, High Street Beneath Flyover North End declutter	Apr-13	EM Highways as term contractor	Jun-14	North End: Jan 15 remainder: Jan 16	North End: July 15 remainder: March 16	North End: completed remainder: June 16	<b>North End:</b> August 15
East Croydon Interchange Phase 1 INCL East Croydon Cycle Hub	Jan-13	JB Riney	Sep-14	Jan-15	Oct-15	Nov-15	<b>Cycle Hub:</b> August 15
West Croydon Public Realm	Jan-13	Walker Construction	Apr-14	<b>Mar-15</b>	Dec-15	Mar-16	
<b>Approved capital projects, cost certainty, funding secured, detailed design underway</b>							
Connect 2 (east of Croydon)	Apr-10	TBC	Jun-15	Jan-16	Jul-15	Jun-16	
Wellesley Road Ph.1 inc Crossings at Lansdowne & Bedford Pk	Jun-11	TBC	Mar-13	Mar-16	Dec-13	Jan-17	
East Croydon Interchange Public Realm - Phase 2 (bus station BUT NO LONGER Billinton Hill)	Jan-13	TBC	Jan-15	Mar-16	Nov-15	Nov-16	
New Addington - Central Parade Ph2	Apr-13	EM Highways as term contractor	Jan-15	Jan-16	May-15	May-16	

Connected Croydon project	Appoint Design Team	Principal Contractor	Target Start on site	Actual/ Forecast Start on Site	Target for Completion of Construction	Forecast Works Completion	Actual Project Completion
<b>Approved capital projects, cost certainty, funding secured, detailed designer yet to be appointed</b>							
South Norwood District Centre Public Realm	Feb-15	EM Highways as term contractor	Jun-16	Apr-17	Feb-17	Oct-17	
Thornton Heath Public Realm (New Homes Bonus) INCL Building Fronts	<b>building fronts:</b> Sept 15  <b>public realm:</b> April 16	TBC	Mar-17	May-17	Nov-17	Nov-17	

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**CQ410-15            from Councillor Andrew Pelling**

**To Councillor   Mark Watson**

As the London Assembly Member for Croydon & Sutton I much enjoyed attending Neighbourhood Partnership meetings across the Borough that the then Labour council introduced. Most of the Partnerships secured widespread community participation. In these times of austerity for local councils and wide social media access what is the Cabinet member's vision for future community participation in the council's affairs that can replicate some of the successes of the Partnerships abolished by the previous administration?

**Reply**

The Council has a strong local strategic partnership where local people can get involved in shaping and influencing the development of borough and council policy and strategy. Recent examples include the Congress meeting that focussed on developing a community response to domestic abuse and sexual violence. In addition each strategy partnership board will have engagement activity that involves a wider group of interested residents. The Stronger Communities Partnership Board recently held a meeting to discuss preventing extremism. The Council hosts a number of events from meetings to walkabouts to engage local people, most recently in New Addington. The Council also funds community and voluntary sector to get involved in participatory and representative community activity in particular through active communities and community ward budgets. The Council hosts a range of tenant and resident activity on housing estates and provides an online platform called The 'Get Involved' platform <https://getinvolved.croydon.gov.uk> This is an online way for people to participate in public consultation, engagement and to find out about events / meetings. Residents can see what is happening in the Council, how they can get involved and what the outcomes are. The site is mobile friendly so works on multiple devices. In addition there are Purple Tent events, the Council ran a series of events at community festivals over the summer – Purley, Ambition and Thornton Heath to raise the visibility of the Council and gather customer feedback / insight. At these events residents could meet and chat with colleagues from a variety of Council service, for example public health, Safer Croydon Partnership, education and the Big London Energy switch.

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**CQ414-15            from Councillor Stephen Mann**

**To Councillor   Mark Watson**

Football banners are part of the modern game. Can you please outline the current position in relation to the policing and stewarding of banners at Selhurst Park and if there are any differentials between home and away ends.

## **Reply**

The policy that has been circulated by CPFC in relation to banners is:

- The Club will have to be notified at least 10 days before the match with details of the size of banner, its content and how it is proposed to be displayed.
- The banner itself must be totally compliant with all safety regulations including fire retardancy and its content must not be offensive in the opinion of the club.
- The installation and removal of the banner will have to be fully risk assessed to avoid any risk to fellow supporters.
- Any supporters putting up any unauthorised banners will face a club stadium ban.
- The club will assist wherever it can to make the use of banners possible but recognise that putting supporter's safety at risk is simply not an option.
- Bag searches take place on entry to the stadium and any unauthorised banners will be confiscated.

This policy is the same for home and away fans. Flags are permitted but they must not be offensive

The only exemption concerns the Homlesdale Fanatic banner that is placed on the lower tier front hoarding of the Holmesdale Road stand. This banner is put up at the start of each match by the stadium stewards and is taken down by the stadium stewards at the end of the game. There is a fire marshal positioned close by.

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**CQ424-15**      **from Councillor Robert Canning**

**To Councillor Mark Watson**

The Warden Olympics held in Waddon on 11 August was a popular and successful community event. Will the Cabinet Member join me in thanking all those involved in hosting this event and assure my constituents that this annual event will continue following the merging of the neighbourhood warden service into the new neighbourhood safety team?

**Reply**

We really appreciate the thanks and support from Cllr Robert Canning for the Wardens Olympics this year and at previous events.

There will be a range of summer activities provided or supported by the new Play and Youth Outreach team as part of the wider summer offer to children and young people aged 5 -19 (up to 24 with additional needs) who live, are educated, or socialise in Croydon.

Working with the Neighbourhood Safety and Community Outreach Teams, the new Play and Outreach service will use the Rio 2016 Olympics as a theme for our summer delivery in 2016 to deliver an outstanding community event.

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**CQ447-15            from Councillor Steve O'Connell**

**To Councillor   Mark Watson**

We are heading towards Firework Season and darker evenings. How is the Council working with the Police Operation Equinox to deal with any spike in ASB, and particularly what controls are in force around the sale of Fireworks?

**Reply**

A joint operational plan called 'Autumn Nights' is being developed and will see the police, Council, London Fire brigade and other partners involved in tackling ASB during this period.

Trading standards will be visiting all shops licensed to store fireworks in the borough at least once over the firework period in order to inspect the site for appropriate storage and stock itself for appropriate labelling and authenticity.

All new premises applying to sell will be visited, together with LFB officers, before stocks are in, to assess the safety of the site and then again once fireworks have been delivered to them.

A free accredited trader training session on the sale of fireworks and other age restricted products has been offered to all businesses applying for a licence to sell fireworks and will be held on Friday 23 October

Two test purchasing operations will be carried out using young people, by Trading Standards, on both Saturdays either side of Bonfire Night.

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**CQ448-15**      **from Councillor Steve O'Connell**

**To Councillor Mark Watson**

Neighbourhood Watch is a key partner in keeping much of our Borough safe. What support is the Council giving them?

**Reply**

Croydon Council have always strived to support Neighbourhood Watch; for example:-

- As a community group they receive a small amount of funding from the Stronger Communities Fund (Approx. £5,000 p a )
- They regularly attend our Joint Agency Group meetings which tackled ASB and crime across the borough
- They are part of the Safer Croydon Partnership family with the Fire Brigade providing them with local accommodation
- The Council supports their Annual General meetings with key speakers and presentations
- The JAG (a sub group of the Safer Croydon Partnership) have also provided small amounts of funding to support their work programme
- The Council have provided both practical and verbal advice to the group regarding securing external funds
- The SCP e-bulletin regularly promote Neighbourhood Watch and encourage residents to join.



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**CQ449-15**

**from Councillor Steve O'Connell**

**To Councillor Mark Watson**

Could you report back on the transition to Neighbourhood Safety Officers with a breakdown of structure and numbers please?

## **Reply**

The Neighbourhood Safety Service commenced its initial roll out on the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015 with the transfer of Neighbourhood Wardens and Area Enforcement Officers into the new service.

All of the transferred officers from the Neighbourhood Wardens scheme have undergone Community Safety Accreditation Scheme Training (CSAS) accreditation along with full induction training. New uniform for the whole service has been ordered along with Body Armour and other PPE.

The team comprises 42 officers split into 5 teams which will cover the following geographical areas:

- North East
- North West
- South East
- South West
- Central



The Neighbourhood Safety officers will be clearly identifiable by their uniform which will include:

- A yellow High Visibility Stab Vest/Waterproof Jacket badged Neighbourhood Safety Officer/Manager
- Corporate Purple/mauve Fleece (Autumn Winter)
- White Shirt
- Corporate Purple Polo Shirts (Summer and optional for Community engagement activities that are not enforcement led)
- Purple/mauve Tie
- Black Trousers
- Black Boots

Information regarding deployment is detailed below.

<b>Area</b>	<b>Manager</b>	<b>Contact details</b>
North East	Dermot Linehan	<a href="mailto:Dermot.linehan@croydon.gov.uk">Dermot.linehan@croydon.gov.uk</a> <a href="mailto:NSOnortheast@croydon.gov.uk">NSOnortheast@croydon.gov.uk</a>
North West	Stanley Enyinnaya	<a href="mailto:Stanley.enyinnaya@croydon.gov.uk">Stanley.enyinnaya@croydon.gov.uk</a> <a href="mailto:NSOnorthwest@croydon.gov.uk">NSOnorthwest@croydon.gov.uk</a>
South East	John Sampson	<a href="mailto:John.sampson@croydon.gov.uk">John.sampson@croydon.gov.uk</a> <a href="mailto:NSOsoutheast@croydon.gov.uk">NSOsoutheast@croydon.gov.uk</a>
South West	Patrick Manet	<a href="mailto:Patrick.manet@croydon.gov.uk">Patrick.manet@croydon.gov.uk</a> <a href="mailto:NSOsouthwest@croydon.gov.uk">NSOsouthwest@croydon.gov.uk</a>
Central	Daniel Guildford	<a href="mailto:Daniel.guildford@croydon.gov.uk">Daniel.guildford@croydon.gov.uk</a> <a href="mailto:NSOcentral@croydon.gov.uk">NSOcentral@croydon.gov.uk</a>

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**CQ356-15**

**from Councillor Luke Clancy**

**To Councillor Kathy Bee**

You are reviewing parking charges policy within the Borough which will be introduced from the 1st January 2016. Can I have assurances that car parking charges (permits) for Tenants and Leaseholders who live on the Council estates will not be increased from the Current £10? Can I also have assurances that garage rents will also not increase.

**Reply**

I can confirm that there are no changes to any permits be that housing estates or residents in the borough wide parking charges changes to be introduced in January 2016.

Garage rents are not under my responsibility, they are the remit of housing & their lead member is Cllr Alison Butler however we have checked and housing confirm that no discussion concerning the garage rents has taken place as yet and will not be decided until the beginning of next year.

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**CQ373-15**

**from Councillor Simon Brew**

**To Councillor Kathy Bee**

Shamefully, the Council has withdrawn the last two (of four) lifts from public service in the Purley Multi-story car park (MSCP) without any public consultation or notification to the local councillors. Until I raised the issue, signs had not even been erected to advise of their demise, and call buttons continued to give the false impression that the lifts were still working. This shows the Labour Administration's total disregard for the welfare of Purley residents.

1) What was the annual maintenance cost for these lifts in 2014, and how much would it cost to restore them to working order. Precisely what parts if any are broken and from where has the Council tried to source them? Which parts can be cannibalised from two lifts to make the other two work properly?

2) In addition to the annual maintenance cost, what would it cost to install CCTV cameras in and around the lifts, to be monitored by the Purley Leisure Centre staffs (who have indicated that they would be prepared to perform this role)?

**Reply**

1) Due to their age the lifts are obsolete and therefore we are unable to source parts. We have taken parts from the other lifts in the car park where we can but the only course now is to renew the lifts an estimated cost of £180k.

2) There is already CCTV in the car park which would need to be extended to cover the lift lobbies, we would need to go back to the CCTV provider for this quote. If we wanted to use the leisure centre staff to monitor these we would need to negotiate a cost with the centre to do so.

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**CQ387-15**

**from Councillor Jan Buttinger**

## **To Councillor Kathy Bee**

Concerns about road safety matters are frequently raised at our Residents' Meetings.

Could we have the most up to date information you have on the grounds in which cameras are installed for example speeding, accident black spot and so on and the part that the Council, TFL and the Police play in the decision to install them.

What other measures are generally introduced in the area, as additional support, to increase the safety of both pedestrians and motorists?

Under what circumstances might a mini roundabout be installed?

## **Reply**

Safety (speed) cameras are controlled and maintained by the London Safety Camera Partnership (LSCP), which is made up of Transport for London (TfL), the Metropolitan Police and Her Majesty's Courts Service (HMCS). The LSCP currently restrict the use of cameras to sites where there is a proven history of road traffic collisions involving fatal or serious personal injuries and where speed has been reported to have been a contributory factor. These criteria have been laid down by Central Government to ensure that resources are properly targeted. You will appreciate that the Council plays no part in the maintenance and day to day running of this equipment and, hence, must accept the decisions made by the London Safety Camera Partnership over the provision of this equipment. For further information on safety cameras in London please see the TfL website at:-

<http://www.tfl.gov.uk/corporate/safety-and-security/road-safety/safety-enforcement-cameras>

There are a wide variety of measures that the Council can introduce to improve road safety for pedestrians and motorists. These include the introduction of pedestrian crossing facilities, the Council's SpeedVisor units, warning signs, carriageway markings etc., but all of these would need to be assessed on an individual site by site basis. If Councillor Buttinger has any particular sites in mind or wishes to meet up with officers to discuss options, please feel free to contact the Highway Improvement manager, Mike Barton, who would be happy to help. He can be contacted via email at [mike.barton@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:mike.barton@croydon.gov.uk).

For a mini-roundabout to be effective in reducing vehicle speeds and improving road safety, there would need to be a sufficient flow of traffic on all approaches to encourage motorists to slow down and give way. For this reason, mini-roundabouts are generally introduced at junctions where all the roads carry a similar traffic flow. At sites with unequal flows, motorists on the main road may become complacent and attempt to pass through the junction at speed and as a result, the number of personal injury collisions may increase. For this reason, the introduction of a mini-roundabout would need to be considered most carefully.

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**CQ392-15**

**from Councillor Donald Speakman**

**To Councillor Kathy Bee**

'Will Cabinet Member, Cllr K Bee please ensure that a portion of the Council's road maintenance budget is allocated for use at the discretion of Ward Councillors. This would help involve local communities determine their priorities.'

**Reply**

The council is dealing unprecedented cuts to its funding from central government. It has seen its grant from government cut by 46% since 2010 and since May this year we have seen cuts of several million pounds to this year's income.

One consequence of this is that we have had to reduce the budget for road maintenance and are having to carefully prioritise our maintenance programme. It would be irresponsible of the council to top slice these funds for the repair of roads outside of the priority programme at the discretion of ward councillors, as this would mean even less would be available for the roads in the poorest condition.

If you want to see a programme such as this I strongly suggest that you and your colleagues make the case for local government funding to David Cameron and George Osborne and help us fight to protect council services.

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**CQ393-15**

**from Councillor Donald Speakman**

**To Councillor Kathy Bee**

The Business Community are against the raising of car parking charges. Why is this Labour Administration intent on raising another £1 million from parking charges and driving visitors and shoppers away from Croydon?

**Reply**

Although business have concerns about parking charges, controlled parking in our district centres is essential to ensure that there is turnover in parking spaces so that customers can park. In turn, for controlled parking to work there has to be regular enforcement so that drivers do not overstay. Enforcement has a cost and the charges from parking do not cover the full cost of providing the bays & machines and enforcement. These charges have not gone up for 6 years. We have to rely on PCN income to cover our costs.

We have reviewed parking charges to bring in consistency between our district centres and to encourage turn over in those bays closet to shops. In setting the charges we have taken account of the cost of controlled parking and the loss of income from PCNs resulting from the outlawing of parking enforcement by CCTV which was introduced by Eric Pickles just before the election. This has resulted in increased problems with parking on double yellow lines in hot spots in the borough and residents are having to put up with problem parking that could have been resolved through the use of CCTV.

Any surplus income generated will contribute to the cost of the Freedom pass for Croydon residents.

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**CQ397-15**      **from Councillor Vidhi Mohan**

**To Councillor Kathy Bee**

Can Cllr Bee be open and transparent with Croydon residents and let me know what the new parking charges are going to be from 1st Jan 2016? How much are parking charges going to go up by?

**Reply**

Residents and councillors will be informed in detail of the changes to parking charges as soon as the details have been finalised.



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**CQ398-15**      **from Councillor Vidhi Mohan**

**To Councillor Kathy Bee**

Can Cllr Bee let me know when this Labour administration plans to implement their manifesto pledge of introducing 1 hour free parking in our district centres?

**Reply**

Details have not been finalised but I can confirm there will be some free parking available in district centres.

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**CQ399-15**            **from Councillor Vidhi Mohan**

**To Councillor Kathy Bee**

Following the chaos in Norbury Avenue, can the Cabinet Member assure residents that there will be proper local consultation before introducing any new 'Quietways' in the Borough?

**Reply**

At the last Council meeting the Councillor asked me what consultation had been undertaken at Norbury Avenue. I was able to outline the extensive engagement activities undertaken before embarking on trialling closures. I was also able to explain that the trial was being conducted under an experimental order and that statutorily the consultation period began when the trial was embarked upon.

By trying to deliver one of London's first Quietways, we are making a modest step towards implementing a major part of the Mayor of London's Vision for Cycling, and doing the difficult task of actually beginning to implement proposals in the previous administration's Mini Holland bid. Those proposals include an extensive network of Quietways, including what looks like one on Norbury Avenue. I do not recall any consultation on those proposals. I would be very pleased to work with Cllr Mohan in the planning of future consultation activities.

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**CQ403-15**      **from Councillor Phil Thomas**

**To Councillor Kathy Bee**

Why is there a need to increase parking charges?

**Reply**

Controlled parking in our district centres and near transport hubs is essential to ensure that there is turnover in parking spaces near shops and that residents can park near their homes. In turn, for controlled parking to work there has to be regular enforcement so that drivers do not overstay. Enforcement has a cost and the charges from parking do not cover the full cost of providing the bays & machines and enforcement. These charges have not gone up for 6 years. We have to rely on PCN income to cover our costs.

We have reviewed parking charges to bring in consistency between our district centres and to encourage turn over in those bays closet to shops. In setting the charges we have taken account of the cost of controlled parking and the loss of income from PCNs resulting from the outlawing of parking enforcement by CCTV which was introduced by Eric Pickles just before the election. This has resulted in increased problems with parking on double yellow lines in hot spots in the borough. Residents are having to put up with problem parking that could have been resolved through the use of CCTV and the income from PCNs has reduced.

Any surplus income generated will contribute to the cost of the Freedom pass for Croydon residents.

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**CQ415-15**      **from Councillor Stephen Mann**

**To Councillor Kathy Bee**

Cycling is a growing means of transport in Croydon thanks to policies launched by this administration. A number of TfL roads such as the A232 and in particular the Five Ways Junction are substandard for cycling. What is TfL, in conjunction with the Council doing to provide space for cycling on these busy roads?

**Reply**

As the Councillor is aware, we are working with TfL to find ways of improving conditions for all at Fiveways including cyclists. We have pressed TfL to do its utmost to better cater for the needs of cyclists and pedestrians during the development and refinement of options for Fiveways.

Each of the major junctions on the A23 from Thornton Heath Pond to Purley gyratory act as a barrier to cycling in and out of the Croydon Metropolitan Centre. We have been working with TfL on a wider study of the A23 and A232 corridors, which is nearing conclusion. That study included looking at how cyclists might be better accommodated at each of the junctions on the A23 as it skirts the Metropolitan Centre, and an initial feasibility assessment into providing segregated cycling on the A232 Croydon flyover similar to that envisaged for the Westway in the Mayor of London's Vision for Cycling.

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**CQ418-15**      **from Councillor Jamie Audsley**

**To Councillor Kathy Bee**

Cllr Bee, please can you update the town on your work to launch Community Energy in Croydon?

## **Reply**

'Community Energy' is used to describe a range of collective community actions to generate, save or purchase energy. There are several groups in Croydon that are interested in community energy projects in Croydon. Steve Reed MP and I met with some of these groups in July and we will shortly be inviting interested parties to a further meeting to look at how we can work together in Croydon for the benefit of the local community. Community energy schemes elsewhere are delivering cheaper energy, training opportunities and energy saving projects and I hope that Croydon residents will be able to benefit from similar initiatives

Recently two not-for-profit energy supply companies have been established by public sector organisations ('Robin Hood Energy' in Nottingham and "Our Power" in Scotland). These schemes have been built around available local energy generation sources (e.g. an existing energy from waste plant at Nottingham) and involve a level of risk. The council will monitor the progress of these projects to assess whether similar schemes could benefit its tenants and residents.

In London, Community Energy generation schemes have focused on solar photovoltaic (PV) installations. Such schemes depend on the revenue from the Feed in Tariff (FIT) subsidy which is paid for each kWh generated by the panels over a 20 year period. For example, the 'Brixton Energy' scheme financed PV panels on social housing blocks by issuing community shares which generate a small rate of return due to the FIT payments. However, the government is currently consulting on proposals to reduce FIT subsidies by 87% (to take effect from January 2016) which is likely to have a significant impact on the viability of such schemes.

So far, the council has only been active in collective purchasing, having helped create the "Big London Energy Switch". This is a collective energy switching scheme where all UK energy suppliers are invited via an auction to submit their best tariffs offers for the customers registered with the scheme. It has consistently secured market beating tariffs that are not available elsewhere (e.g. via online price comparison providers).

The council has also managed projects to deliver FIT financed solar installations on its own assets. When first introduced in 2010, FIT rates were sufficient for third parties to offer 'solar for free' installations in return for receiving the FIT payments. The council was mid-way through procuring a partner to install PV panels across its social housing when the government reduced FIT rates in 2013, this made the project unviable. The council subsequently looked at the feasibility of financing PV installations itself. Solar panels will be soon be installed on a range of corporate buildings (and a school) as part of a wider package of energy efficiency measures via the council's invest-to-save RE:FIT project.

The RE:FIT project will install energy saving measures across 11 corporate buildings, 14 housing blocks and 2 schools. As part of these works, the following sites were found suitable for the installation of solar PV panels:-

Croydon Crematorium  
Winterbourne Youth Centre  
Cherry Orchard Centre  
Atwood Primary Academy  
Selhurst Early Years Centre

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**CQ421-15**      **from Councillor Andrew Rendle**

**To Councillor Kathy Bee**

At a recent meeting of ASPRA residents told me they were very happy about the recent improvements to Bingham Road where visibility has been greatly improved. Residents asked the previous administration for this and we are happy Labour could help. Will we be seeing more of this type of road improvements in Croydon?

**Reply**

I am pleased to hear that residents are very happy about the recent road safety improvements on Bingham Road and can confirm that the Council's highway Improvement team will consider any similar road safety measures on other roads where these are found to be appropriate.

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**CQ430-15**      **from Councillor Stuart King**

**To Councillor Kathy Bee**

What plans does the Cabinet Member have to review the 2014 introduction of one way working into Raymead Avenue, Gonville Road and Limpsfield Avenue?

**Reply**

The one-way working in Raymead Avenue, Gonville Road and Limpsfield Road have all been under review by officers since their introduction. Whilst there are often issues with one-way working when first introduced this usually reduces over time as motorists become more aware of the restrictions and alter their travel patterns accordingly. These one-way working are believed to be working satisfactorily, but if local residents or the ward councillors have any concerns then officers are always happy to attend site to look at what further measures might be appropriate to resolve any outstanding issues.



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**CQ431-15**      **from Councillor Maddie Henson**

**To Councillor Kathy Bee**

Does the councillor agree with me that works completed on Bingham road will seriously improve safety for the pedestrians and cars using it?

**Reply**

I would fully agree that the measures introduced on Bingham Road will provide a real benefit for both pedestrians and motorists.

In particular, the recently introduced raised pedestrian crossing facility close to the junction of Claremont Road should prove a real asset for pedestrians, particularly for the elderly or those with mobility handicaps.

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**CQ432-15**      **from Councillor Maddie Henson**

**To Councillor Kathy Bee**

What has been the progress on investigating the installation of a yellow box in the junction of Shirley Road, Lower Addiscombe Road and Long Lane?

**Reply**

Work is underway on the investigation and upgrading of a large number of yellow box markings across the borough, including that suggested for Shirley Road / Lower Addiscombe Road. At this time the highway team are working on a number of existing yellow box markings which need amendments to bring up to current standards and this is currently the priority. Once this is complete officers will progress to the investigation of those additional yellow boxes, as requested, and this work is provisionally programmed for January 2016.

In preparation for the investigation of a yellow box at the junction of Shirley Road and Lower Addiscombe Road, officers have already contacted TfL regarding the signal timings at this junction and at the Spring Lane / Long Lane Junction with a view to finding out whether any possible improvements can be made to help clear the traffic between these junctions.

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**CQ437-15      from Councillor Joy Prince**

**To Councillor   Kathy Bee**

Concerning air quality, can you please tell me what happened to the monitoring station that I am informed used to be in George Street; the number and exact locations of the fixed stations and the number of mobile stations & their current locations. Also given that public health is now a local authority responsibility, who is responsible for air quality?

**Reply**

The existing Air Quality Monitoring Station in George Street was removed from its previous location on the corner of Wellesley Road as part of the East Croydon Interchange Public Realm project. A new location for the Air Quality Monitoring Station was identified within the central pedestrian island of George St / Park Lane recessed within one of the new planters and is due to be installed in its new location by Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2015.

I can confirm that the Council's pollution team, within the Safety directorate of the Place department will remain responsible for air quality. The pollution team carry out a number of functions, both enforcement and proactive works. Some of the things they are responsible for are below;

1.     Air Pollution monitoring and managing projects for the Council's air quality action plan.
2.     Inspection of Part B processes - these are processes that have the potential to pollute to air, for example concrete batching plant, petrol stations and dry cleaners.
3.     Contaminated land management
4.     Reviewing and commenting on Planning applications with respect to environmental issues, for example air quality, noise, contaminated land.
5.     Noise enforcement

The number and location of all fixed and mobile stations can be found below.

**Table 2.1 Details of Automatic Monitoring Sites**

Site ID	Site Name	Site Type	X OS Grid Reference	Y OS Grid Reference	Inlet Height (m)	Pollutants Monitored	In AQMA ?	Monitoring Technique	Relevant Exposure? (Y/N with distance (m) from monitoring site to relevant exposure)	Distance to Kerb of Nearest Road (m) (N/A if not applicable)	Does this Location Represent Worst-Case Exposure?
CM 1	Site Name 1	Urban background	332395	433175	2.0	PM <sub>10</sub>	Y	FDMS	Y (1m)	3.5	Y
CR 7	Purley Way, Waddon	Roadside	531151	164258		NO <sub>2</sub>	Y	Chemiluminescence	Y (Residential at 6.5m)	3.4m	Y
CR 4	George Street	Roadside	532584	165630		NO <sub>2</sub> , PM <sub>10</sub>	Y	Chemiluminescence, TEOM	Y (For short-term exposure: offices at 4.6m)	8.0m	Y
CR 5	London Road, Norbury	Kerbside	530630	169696		NO <sub>2</sub>	Y	Chemiluminescence	Y (Residential at 6.5m)	0.95m	Y
CR 8	Norbury Manor School	Urban background	530325,	169554		PM <sub>2.5</sub>	Y		(Residential at		N

**Table 2.2 Details of Non- Automatic Monitoring Sites**

Site ID	Site Name	Site Type	X OS Grid Reference	Y OS Grid Reference	Site Height (m)	Pollutants Monitored	In AQMA?	Is Monitoring Co-located with a Continuous Analyser (Y/N)	Relevant Exposure? (Y/N with distance (m) from monitoring site to relevant exposure)	Distance to Kerb of Nearest Road (m) (N/A if not applicable)	Does this Location Represent Worst-Case Exposure?
DT1	Site Name 1	Urban background	332395	433175	2.5	NO <sub>2</sub>	Y	N	Y (1m)	3.5	Y
CY41	Purley Fire Station, Brighton Road	Roadside	530705	160815	NO <sub>2</sub>	Y	N	N	Y (Residential at 38m)	3.9m	Y
CY42	Junction Miller Road / Purley Way, Waddon,	Roadside	530881	166312	NO <sub>2</sub>	Y	N	N	Y (Residential at 27m)	3.2m	Y
CY43	South Norwood Hill	Roadside	533170	166470	NO <sub>2</sub>	Y	N	N	Y (Residential at 32m)	1.8m	Y
CY46	Malcolm Road, Coulsdon,	Background	529749	159641	NO <sub>2</sub>	Y	N	N	Y (Residential at 10m)	N/A	N/A
CY47	Purley Town Hall, Brighton Road,	Background	530663	160813	NO <sub>2</sub>	Y	N	N	Y (Residential at 30m)	N/A	N/A
CY48	Whitehorse Road, Thornton Heath,	Roadside	532808	168102	NO <sub>2</sub>	Y	N	N	Y (School at 7m)	2.4m	Y

[Type text]

Site ID	Site Name	Site Type	X OS Grid Reference	Y OS Grid Reference	Site Height (m)	Pollutants Monitored	In AQMA?	Is Monitoring Co-located with a Continuous Analyser (Y/N)	Relevant Exposure? (Y/N with distance (m) from monitoring site to relevant exposure)	Distance to Kerb of Nearest Road (m) (N/A if not applicable)	Does this Location Represent Worst-Case Exposure?
CY50	Heathfield Centre, South Croydon,	Background	535470	163782	NO <sub>2</sub>	Y	N	N	Y (Residential at 142m)	N/A	N/A
CY51	Heathfield Centre, South Croydon,	Roadside	535415	163976	NO <sub>2</sub>	Y	N	N	Y (Residential at 210m)	2.9m	Y
CY52	Selsdon Road, South Croydon,	Roadside	532683	164196	NO <sub>2</sub>	Y	N	N	Y (Residential at 5m)	1.09m	Y
CY55	London Road, Norbury	Kerbside	530637	169696	NO <sub>2</sub>	Y	Y	Y CR5	Y (Residential at 6.5m)	0.95m	Y
CY56	Euston Road	Industrial	531373	166098	NO <sub>2</sub>	Y	N	N	Y (Residential at 3.8m)	N/A	N/A
CY58	Wellesley Road Northbound	Roadside	532383	165981	NO <sub>2</sub>	Y	N	N	Y (For short-term exposure - offices at 3m)	1.0m	Y
CY59	Park Lane Northbound	Roadside	532553	165384	NO <sub>2</sub>	Y	N	N	Y (For short-term exposure - offices at 15m)	1.8m	Y
CY97	Purley Way, Waddon	Roadside	531151	164258	NO <sub>2</sub>	Y	Y	Y CR7	Y (Residential at 6.5m)	3.4m	Y
CY98	George Street	Roadside	532583	165637	NO <sub>2</sub>	Y	Y	Y CR4	Y (For short-term exposure - offices at 4.6m)	8.0m	Y

[Type text]

<b>Site ID</b>	<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Site Type</b>	<b>X OS Grid Reference</b>	<b>Y OS Grid Reference</b>	<b>Site Height (m)</b>	<b>Pollutants Monitored</b>	<b>In AQMA?</b>	<b>Is Monitoring Co-located with a Continuous Analyser (Y/N)</b>	<b>Relevant Exposure? (Y/N with distance (m) from monitoring site to relevant exposure)</b>	<b>Distance to Kerb of Nearest Road (m) (N/A if not applicable)</b>	<b>Does this Location Represent Worst-Case Exposure?</b>
<b>CY99</b>	South Norwood High Street / St Dunstons Road Eastbound	Roadside	533940	168390	NO <sub>2</sub>	Y	N	N	Y (Residential at 2m)	1.2m	Y

[Type text]

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**CQ441-15            from Councillor Matthew Kyeremeh**

**To Councillor   Kathy Bee**

Can the Cabinet Member give us a brief outline of the Council's strategy and preparations for dealing with our road conditions in the coming winter? Are these robust enough in the current wide-ranging cuts in local government funding by the Tory government?

**Reply**

Our highways winter service operations will run from mid-October to mid-April. During this period, our officers are committed to providing an efficient winter service and aim to keep the highest priority roads safe and free from snow and ice as far as reasonably possible.

Our emergency planning officers have also looked at our Winter Preparedness in the event of snow, floods etc. and ensuring we are joined up with all our services and partners in delivering reassurance to the community that “we are ready and able to deal”.

Plans in place relating to our Winter Preparedness include:

- the council's communications response for winter preparedness both in the run up to and throughout the winter which may include snow and heavy rain
- business continuity communications-flow to monitor disruption to council services.

Severe weather can cause a variety of impacts. Heavy snowfall, icy roads and flooding can lead to injury as well as severe disruption to services. Schools may close, access to the vulnerable could be restricted, and council-wide coordination could be stretched. Providing constantly updated public information via the council's website is crucial.

Following on from the flooding emergency response in February 2014 the council has improved the formal and robust corporate plan to ensure that public services continue to be delivered during a period of severe weather conditions and, in addition, many critical service areas have their own business continuity plan.

This is to be used in line with the following plans:

- Resilience team
- Highways winter plan
- Customer services winter weather plans

A link to information on our website around our winter service can be found below:  
<https://www.croydon.gov.uk/transportandstreets/rhps/roads/road-gritting/roadgritting>

I can confirm our current plans are robust enough amidst the reductions in Central Government funding.





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**CQ360-15**

**from Councillor Margaret Bird**

**To Councillor Alisa Flemming**

Can the cabinet member assure me that with the changes to the school transport contract that any children that does not have special needs, for example a Looked After Child, will still get transport they currently receive, and any child in such circumstances in the future will still be able to access the transport if necessary?

**Reply**

I can confirm that the changes to the school transport contract do not impact on the eligibility criteria for children with or without special educational needs. If a child has been assessed as eligible for travel assistance, this will continue, (subject to regular reviews to determine whether travel assistance is still required and the most suitable type of travel assistance for the child or young person). This will also apply to a Looked After Child if they been assessed as eligible for travel assistance.

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**CQ374-15**            **from Councillor Simon Brew**

**To Councillor Alisa Flemming**

This article is taken from the Local Government Information Unit on 2 October 2015: "Looked After Children statistics from the Department for Education show that the number of children being considered for adoption has dipped by 24% in a year, with 7,320 children ruled as eligible for adoption between March 2014 and March 2015. This comes despite the fact that there were 69,540 taken into care to March 2015, more than at any time since 1986. Javed Khan, chief executive of Barnardo's, said: "We are deeply concerned about the drastic 24% fall in the number of children being put forward for adoption. It's crucial that local authorities don't shy away from acting decisively." A DfE spokesman said of the matter: "There has been a decrease in the number of children with an adoption decision, as a result of the way local authorities have interpreted some court judgments. We are monitoring the impact of the new guidance... and will not hesitate to take further action if this proves necessary."

So, in Croydon:

How many children were in the care of Croydon Council as at 31/03/2014, and as at 31/03/2015?

How many children were considered for adoption in the year ending 31/03/2014, and the year ending 31/03/2015?

**Reply**

As at 31/03/2014 there were 816 children, 417 local to Croydon, and 399 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children.

As at 31/03/2015 there were 807 children, 402 local to Croydon and 405 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children.

Current figures are: 863 children, 411 local to Croydon, and 452 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children.

Croydon is in a unique position as a local authority because of its UASC population: these are children that, it is reasonably accepted, cannot be adopted because their parent's wishes cannot be ascertained and presented in court. This means that adoption only applies as a permanence option to the local children in Croydon's care.

Our work in supporting Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children has been made significantly more challenging as a result of the Conservative Government's decision to cut Croydon's funding in-year for this service by £4m. This is an incredible and reckless decision by the Government and I am pleased that local politicians of all parties have joined this Labour Council's fight to get the funding reinstated.

In respect of our 411 local children, only 20% are aged 5 years and under. It is reasonably accepted that it is very hard to place a child aged over 5 years for adoption, although there are some exceptions, and Croydon has successfully placed 3 much older children (between 11-15 years) for adoption this year. Many children aged 0-5 years will have a plan for return to their families after social care intervention.

The number of children referred for adoption in 2013/14 was 36 and this dropped to 28 in 2014/15. This is not the drastic fall seen elsewhere, but it is a fall, and the reasons are complex. Adoption agencies and the Association of Directors of Children's Services have noted that there is greater judicial challenge of Adoption Plans and parents are now being enabled to challenge adoption plans at any stage in the legal proceedings, including the final adoption order hearing, instead of as previously, at the much earlier stage of the Placement Order. There has also been an increase in Special Guardianship Orders, by which means wider family members or foster carers can care for the child and have shared parental responsibility and rights with the birth parent(s) but without severing the contact with the parent or setting aside the rights of the parent. Usually the Special Guardianship Order is fully supported by the birth parent(s) which is not usually the case with adoption except for relinquished babies.

However despite the fall in referrals in 2014/15 the number of adoptions increased from 24 in 2013/14 to 29 in 2014/15 which is an increase at a time of national decrease (referrals in any given year can well result in an adoption order being made in the following year, so the decrease in referrals will affect adoptions in 2015/16).

The number of referrals to Adoption that resulted in Special Guardianship Orders being made instead was 16 in 2013/14 and 28 in 2014/15. This means that in 2014/15 a total of 57 children from approximately 90 children aged 0-5 years, achieved permanence by means of Adoption and special Guardianship Orders.

The local CLA population is not a static population, and whilst numbers have remained in and around 400, over 281 children below the age of 18 years left care in 2014/15. This number includes the 29 adoptions and 28 SGOs for the under 5s. A further 16 children aged over 5 years achieved permanence by SGO (in total 27 of the 44 Special Guardianship Orders were made to former foster carers for the children). A further 15 children achieved permanence by means of Child Arrangement Orders (CAO) and of the remaining 219 children leaving care, with only a few exceptions (for example, 12 children transferred to the care of other local authorities) these children achieved permanence through return to their parents and families. A Child Arrangement Order was previously referred to as a Residence Order. The holder will have Parental Responsibility for the child. They are normally taken by either parents after custody, or by relative carers

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**CQ375-15**      **from Councillor Simon Brew**

**To Councillor Alisa Flemming**

How many agency social workers and how many permanent social workers are currently working in the Children, Young People & Learning department?

**Reply**

As at 12 October 2015 there are currently 90.87fte Agency Social Workers and 184.46fte Permanent Social Workers in Children's Services.

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**CQ382-15**

**from Councillor Maria Gatland**

**To Councillor Alisa Flemming**

How many children are missing from education from primary and secondary schools in Croydon?

**Reply**

The total number of children attending Primary and Secondary schools in Croydon is 50,252.

There are currently 173 Children Missing Education (CME) cases known to the Local Authority.

Pupils who are subject to an open CME referral fall into two broad categories. Those who are found to be resident in Croydon without a school place are escalated to the Admissions Service to be reintegrated into education. Complex cases are discussed at the Fair Access Panel.

The majority of referrals received are for pupils who have left Croydon whose education destination is unknown. The Children Missing Education Key Worker undertakes checks with other Local Authorities and partner agencies such as Police, Health and the Home Office. When a pupil's new education placement has been confirmed the referral is closed.

We have a Protocol for Children Missing Education in place to ensure that referrals of children missing education are swiftly followed up to make sure that children are in school or are offered a school place as soon as possible. The protocol allows for extensive checks and home visits where appropriate and promotes joint working with a number of teams and agencies including admissions and social care.

The authority maintains a list of children missing education which is reviewed on a weekly basis by education the Education Welfare Service and the lead officer for CME. A monthly board reviews admissions cases, the numbers of children out of school/without a school place and cases of children missing education who have not been located.

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**CQ383-15**

**from Councillor Maria Gatland**

**To Councillor Alisa Flemming**

What areas of Croydon face the biggest demand for secondary school places 2015/2018?

**Reply**

Every year we project the future demand for school places in the borough.

To ensure we meet local demand we plan across two planning areas for the secondary phase - North and South. The current projections set out that the greatest demand for school places is in the north of the borough.

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**CQ394-15**      **from Councillor Maria Gatland**

**To Councillor Alisa Flemming**

How many schools in Croydon do you expect to be rated as "coasting schools" following this years exam results?

**Reply**

The first year of the coasting schools measure will be 2016 and therefore no schools will be deemed coasting as a result of this year's exam results.

The DfE have indicated there will be a public consultation on the coasting definition and no final decision has been taken at this stage.

Once 2016 results are available the DfE will announce the level above the floor standard which will be the coasting level in that year. A school will be defined as coasting, and become eligible for intervention, if it falls below the standard in 2016, and has already failed to meet the coasting standards specified above in 2014 and 2015.



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**CQ419-15            from Councillor Jamie Audsley**

**To Councillor   Alisa Flemming**

Cllr Flemming, young leaders from Croydon Citizens presented their "First Step Croydon" Local Action Mini Review to Cabinet in July. They identified 4 goals for the remainder of 2015 (see below). As the responsible cabinet member responding to the review, please can you update the town on how you've worked with young leaders since the meeting.

First Step Croydon's Goals in 2015:

1. To work with Cllrs Letts and Flemming to scope and develop a high quality education to employment brokerage and employability support service as part of the proposed job brokerage.
2. To work with Cllr Alison Butler, to create a "youth leadership team" and join the Croydon Promise Delivery Board to monitor future service developments
3. To work with Croydon Council to further improve provision of high quality work experience for the town's young people
4. For the First Step Croydon campaign to work with Croydon Council to:
  - Further develop and define "Croydon's Work Readiness Commitment"
  - Define and award "Recognition" of being work ready
  - Plan an "Annual celebration" of best practice awards event.

**Reply**

The Cabinet's formal response to this mini-review will be taken to the October 2015 Cabinet. The framework to be used will be the set of 13 recommendations used in the initial formal report to Scrutiny.

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**CQ420-15            from Councillor Andrew Rendle**

**To Councillor   Alisa Flemming**

In November Croydon will be hosting a seminar entitled "Improving Outcomes for Children with Autism" for teachers, governors and Support staff. As we have such a high number of children diagnosed with ASD or waiting for a diagnosis does the cabinet member agree with me that this conference is a priority especially for the mainstream schools.

**Reply**

I agree that it is important for us to encourage as many professionals working with children with autism as possible to engage with seminars such as this in order to raise awareness and ensure the support given to children and young people with ASD is as good as possible.

Schools have been notified of both this seminar and Autism Awareness Week via the weekly bulletin to schools and have been urged to send a representative.

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**CQ442-15**      **from Councillor Matthew Kyeremeh**

**To Councillor Alisa Flemming**

What is the current and projected situation of the Council's statutory obligations towards unaccompanied asylum seeking minors? How exactly is this affected by central government funding?

### **Reply**

Unaccompanied asylum seeking children who register at Lunar House in Croydon, who are under 16 become looked after children to the London Borough of Croydon. All London local authorities (except Hillingdon which has arrivals through Heathrow) signed up to a protocol which means that unaccompanied asylum seeking children aged 16 and 17 who register at Lunar House are allocated to all authorities on the protocol on a rota basis: Croydon takes its share of this age-group and these young people also become looked after children to Croydon Council. Once unaccompanied asylum seeking children become looked after children to Croydon, the Council has the same legal responsibilities to them as to our local looked after children. This is also the case when unaccompanied asylum seeking children become 18, as long as they are given leave to remain as an adult: between 18 and 25 the Council has the same statutory duties for these young people as for our local care leavers.

Because Croydon has the Home Office registration centre in its area it is termed a 'Gateway' authority. There are two other authorities that are deemed to be 'Gateway' authorities – Kent and Hillingdon. The Home Office recognises that funding for Gateway authorities needs to be at a different rate than all other authorities, due to the additional infrastructure costs associated with volume.

Our work in supporting Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children as a Gateway Authority has been made significantly more challenging as a result of the Conservative Government's recent decision to cut Croydon's funding in-year for this service by £4m. This is an incredible and reckless decision by the Government and I am pleased that local politicians of all parties have joined this Labour Council's fight to get the funding reinstated.

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**CQ357-15**

**from Councillor Yvette Hopley**

**To Councillor Louisa Woodley**

The recent audit reports flagged a significant overspend against the revenue budgets in the People directorate. This was flagged relatively early in 2014/15 which enabled mitigation action for the 2015/16 budget. In Q1 2015/2016 monitoring continues to forecast significant overspends, which suggests that the budget planning assumptions are not sufficient to deal with the ongoing trend of demand led cost pressures and under-delivery of saving schemes. Could you give assurances that you have this budget under control and will not have to dig deep into already low general fund reserves in order to balance your books?

**Reply**

Your government continues to cut our grant in Croydon significantly year on year and also have a formula to allocate grant that takes no account of both the increasing and ageing population. This challenge of managing demand for those critical and statutory services gets more challenging year on year.

The 2015/16 budget was set based on a number of assumptions about demand for services and also on a number of transformation projects. Growth was built in based on the estimated for 2014/15. There was an acknowledgement when the budget was set that there was a level of risk in the budget.

The position in 2015/16 has been reported to Cabinet in July and September and since then significant work has been undertaken by the department to ensure forecasts are demand projections are accurate and all options to reduce expenditure are reviewed within the context of the statutory services provided.

We have also implemented a more rigorous reporting practice with monthly governance boards at both officer and member level for the 4 key high spend areas of the department (LAC, SEN transport, temporary accommodation and Adult Care Packages). These boards look at expenditure to date, future forecasts and ways to deliver further savings.

Given the size and complexity of the People department budget, it remains critical to our financial strategy and we will continue to work on opportunities to be innovative and provide better outcomes and save money, increasingly focusing on effective ways of preventing demand.

We will not follow your example by saving money by reducing the conditions of those who work for us or on our behalf which we know happened with the outsourcing to Care UK. We have in fact started to ensure that London Living Wage is paid by all our contractors.

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**CQ358-15**

**from Councillor Yvette Hopley**

**To Councillor Louisa Woodley**

The risk register highlights that there is a significant risk that the delivery of the Outcomes Based Commissioning could be disrupted by the providers on the grounds of "providers being disengaged and reluctant to accept the proposed approach of Outcomes Based Commissioning". Could you please give your assurance that the partners in the Alliance are all on board and that phase one of the collaborative dialogue is proceeding as planned?

**Reply**

Good progress is being made on Croydon's Outcome Based Commissioning (OBC) project for over 65s.

In May this year, five local organisations were invited by the CCG's and Council's commissioners to come together to form a single "Accountable Provider Alliance" (APA). The difference between our current way of doing business and the future is that commissioners' contractual framework with the APA will be incentivised to focus on outcomes – the things that matter to local people in the short and longer term to lead healthier and more fulfilling lives.

Over the summer all five providers (the council's Adult Social Care Services division, Age UK, Croydon Health Services, South London & Maudsley Mental Health Foundation Trust and our local GPs group) have worked together proactively to respond to the Commissioners' initial invitation and have addressed Council and CCG commissioners' requirements for the first stage of the Capability Assessment. The APA have set up their own Programme Management Office arrangements to support this development.

Phase 1 of the Collaborative Dialogue process has begun between the commissioners and the APA members. In addition, the APA have also planned some events during the latter part of October at which they will "hot-house" ideas amongst themselves as to how Croydon's services for over 65s could be transformed through this new approach. The APA have invited commissioners to join them for part of this "hot-house" so ideas and the overall future vision can be shared and discussed together.

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**CQ364-15**

**from Councillor Dudley Mead**

**To Councillor Louisa Woodley**

During the 3 months to 30th September 2015 have any Families been in bed and breakfast accommodation for longer than 6 weeks, either within the quarter or spanning 2 quarters?

**Reply**

As of the 30 September 2015 we had 707 households in bed & breakfast (B&B), compared to 636 on 30 June 2015 and 584 on September 2014. Of these 117 households were over 6 weeks on 30 September 2015 compared to 75 on 30 June 2015.

I am sure that Councillor Mead will agree with me that the Conservative Government's disastrous housing policies and repeated attacks on housing supply have dramatically increased the number of households becoming homeless.

Over the past five years of Conservative-led housing policy, we have seen:

- Welfare reforms introduced that have unrealistically capped housing benefit in London, pushing more households into poverty, increasing homelessness and increasing the national housing benefit bill;
- A disastrous economic policy that has left more households unable to afford rental prices in the private sector, the primary reason for a rise of 15% in homeless applications in Croydon;
- House prices reaching levels that make home ownership an unrealistic prospect for thousands of people and families in Croydon;
- Repeated attacks on the Housing Revenue Account, dramatically reducing the Council's ability to increase social housing supply;
- The decision to force all social housing rents to be reduced by 1% per annum for four years in a desperate effort to reduce the national spend on housing benefit, a move which the Office for Budget Responsibility has highlighted as a measure that will reduce social housing supply;
- The ill-thought out decision to force right to buy on Housing Association homes, reducing social landlord housing stock and their ability to invest in new homes;
- The foolish decision to grant permitted development rights for office to residential conversions, which in Croydon has reduced affordable housing supply.

The cumulative impact of these decisions is reduced housing supply, increased demand for social housing, increased homelessness and an increase in the number of larger households presenting as homeless.

Of course, Croydon Labour has been working hard to prevent and reduce homelessness in spite of the Conservative Government's poor decisions on housing.

I am also sure that Councillor Mead will join me in supporting the work of our new Gateway & Welfare division. This service is providing a greater emphasis on working with households to prevent homelessness with earlier intervention using alternative funds to keep residents in their homes. This support is offered whilst we work with households in establishing a suitable longer term solution such as training for work, finding work or moving where appropriate and possible. We are applying this approach for those already in bed and breakfast accommodation.

Whilst we carry out this work we are also working on increasing supply. The following initiatives will contribute to tackle rising homeless and improve housing supply:

- Windsor House is forecast to be available to provide temporary accommodation by February 2016 – 200 rooms.
- Affordable housing – In 2015/16 – 400 new homes (both council and housing association homes) are currently being developed and are due to be handed over for general needs housing.
- Private rented sector – In 2015/16 (to date) we have secured 176 units in total and anticipate securing a further 140 properties by 31 March 2016.
- The percentage of new developments that are to be built as affordable homes has been substantially increased.
- The Council has launched its own Housing Development Company to unlock sites and increase the supply of homes.

The council is also embarking on a new marketing campaign and a landlord and agents' fair will be held on 21 October 2015 to engage with current landlords and to encourage new landlords to join our schemes.

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**CQ365-15**      **from Councillor Dudley Mead**

**To Councillor Louisa Woodley**

How many families are in bed and breakfast accommodation as at 30th September 2015 and how does this compare with 30th June 2015 and 30th September 2014?

**Reply**

Please see the answer to CQ365-15.



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**CQ367-15**

**from Councillor Margaret Mead**

**To Councillor Louisa Woodley**

Given the concerns about improving healthy lifestyles and encouraging more healthy eating does the cabinet member support the government's wish to reduce the number of fast food advertisements? What action, if any, are you taking to encourage this in Croydon?

**Reply**

As part of the Food Flagship Programme, we are running a project called Eat Well Croydon. The aim of the Eat Well Croydon project is to support local businesses operating in Croydon to sign-up to the voluntary scheme which allows food businesses to achieve an award if they can demonstrate a commitment of offering healthier options. The aim is to work alongside small food businesses in an attempt to support them to make positive changes and to support the overall vision of the Food Flagship Programme. Two detailed toolkits have been utilised to support this project; The Takeaway Toolkit and Encouraging Healthier Takeaways in Low-income Communities. Both documents go far in detailing the design and practical examples of how to support public health staff to encourage healthier catering amongst fast food outlets. The specific focus is on independent businesses operating in low income communities. Discussions are taking place around having a local awareness campaign around fast food and top tips on the healthier takeaways and showcasing the businesses that have signed up to Eat Well Croydon.

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**CQ368-15**

**from Councillor Margaret Mead**

## **To Councillor Louisa Woodley**

Since May 2014 how many people are expected to have a personal budget and what is the actual number?

## **Reply**

### **Background information:-**

- **Definition:- Self-Directed Support** is defined as service users that receive their services through a **personal budget or direct payment method**.
- **Personal budgets** are an allocation of funding given to users after an assessment which should be sufficient to meet their assessed needs. Users can either take their personal budget as a direct payment, or – while still choosing how their care needs are met and by whom – leave councils with the responsibility to commission the services (known as a **managed budget**). Or they can take have some combination of the two (**part managed and part direct payment**)
- **Direct payments** are cash payments given to service users for community care services they have been assessed as needing, and are intended to give users greater choice in their care. The payment must be sufficient to enable the service user to purchase services to meet their eligible needs, and must be spent on services that meet eligible needs.

### **Numbers of service users that have received Self Directed Support since May 2014:-**

- These are detailed in the below tables:- (\*Total SDS Service users / (%) is a combined figure of the number of service users that receive a Personal Budget and the number of service users that receive a Direct Payment expressed as a percentage of all service users receiving CBS (Community Based Services):
- **Number of service users receiving social care who receive self-directed support**



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**CQ372-15**

**from Councillor Yvette Hopley**

## **To Councillor Louisa Woodley**

As we move towards a digital by design programme for all are we sure that we are not excluding some of our most vulnerable from accessing key council services?

### **Reply**

We're conscious that as the 21st century UK and the world becomes ever more digital, that we do not leave anyone behind. Public services, including central government, up and down the UK are all putting more of their services online. With the unprecedented levels of cuts continuing to face local government, we have a responsibility to move those services online that would warrant it, such as parking permits.

Nonetheless, please be assured that services for the most vulnerable, such as children's social care, remain accessible via a variety of channels. Our focus, in moving more services and information online, is to protect the services that support the most vulnerable children, adults and families in Croydon.

We know that approximately 14% of customers across Croydon do not have the means or skill to use the internet so we are working on a digital inclusion policy to ensure we don't leave anyone behind, as being online has financial and social inclusion benefits which it is important we support all residents to be able to access. In Access Croydon, for example, we currently offer computer courses via Learn Direct to increase customers skill, where they want to go online. We also have floorwalkers on hand to help customers when they do need help with the service. I am pleased to also advise that we are working with several resident and disability groups to ensure that we capture residents needs when designing services and there usability.

When you consider that a family of four is likely to be £560 per year worse off if they are not online, then we also have a moral responsibility to ensure that those who may not currently have the level of online skill or access to a computer are supported to get online. Ways we are helping residents include:

- If a household does not have internet connection or access to a computer, then we provide access to computer terminals in our libraries.
- Where someone can arrange for access to the internet but may not have the skills, then we have a partnership with Learn Direct and have had a number of residents successfully gain confidence and skills to go online.
- In recent months, we have worked with a local church in Norbury, providing them with some old laptops so that they could run training sessions with older residents. These sessions were over-subscribed, showing us that there are lots of people who want to gain the skills to navigate the internet and access information and services online. Some of those originally trained have now gone on to run classes with their peers, helping them get online too.
- We have installed a system called 'Browse Aloud' on our new website, which can translate text into 99 different languages – thereby enabling someone whose first language isn't English to easier access and understand the information we provide online and enabling them to 'self-serve'

- That same 'Browse Aloud' system also supports users who have a visual impairment or dyslexia, enabling them to change the layout of text on our website in a way that suits them, or download text into an audio file

In November we will be officially launching our partnership with Go ON UK, whose patron is Baroness Martha Lane Fox, to help more Croydon residents get online. A range of events and activities will be taking place, supported by a range of organisations such as AgeUK and Lloyds Bank, to help increase the number of Croydon residents get online.

The good news is that we now have over 110,000 residents who have a 'My Account' and this number continues to grow by the day. Around 60% of My Account users have subscribed to receiving the council's weekly email bulletin (Your Croydon Weekly) and the same number subscribe to the bi-monthly online resident magazine. Last year we had 3.75m visits to our website [www.croydon.gov.uk](http://www.croydon.gov.uk) with searching for information being the primary reason people visit. We also launched our online newsroom [news.croydon.gov.uk](http://news.croydon.gov.uk) which received 350,000 visits in its first year. This shows us that there is an appetite for online services and it's our duty to help eradicate barriers to getting online.

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**CQ416-15            from Councillor Carole Bonner**

**To Councillor    Louisa Woodley**

Can the cabinet member update the council on progress with the food flagship borough? In particular, how Good Food Matters in New Addington is contributing to progress?

**Reply**

Croydon's residents currently have a healthy life expectancy of 63 years for women and 65 for men. Lifestyle is the underlying cause of much of the poor health as well premature and preventable deaths in Croydon, and causes significant health and social care costs. This is particularly acute in our most disadvantaged communities such as New Addington. The Food Flagship Programme is extremely important in helping tackle the high levels of obesity and type 2 diabetes here in Croydon with the vision of a transformational approach to the food environment in Croydon. Obesity rates in Croydon for children and adults are higher than the London average and residents living in poorer areas are more than twice as likely to be overweight as people living in prosperous areas. The causes for obesity are multi-factorial with a key element being the greater consumption and access of processed food and changes in employment and family norms. The Food Flagship Programme therefore has a range of projects that will help tackle these elements. For example, the Community Food Learning Centre based in New Addington offers free cooking and growing workshops to children and adults to encourage residents to cook at home and grow at home. 'Eat Well Croydon' works with small food businesses to encourage them to offer healthier options and there is also an opportunity for residents to apply for small grants to support their own food project. There is a vast amount of working taking place in the schools in Croydon, from improving breakfast clubs to creating edible playgrounds.

The joint edible playgrounds project at Meridian and Fairchildes will involve an entire new garden and outside classroom being built on the Meridian site, for both schools to jointly maintain and use. The Edible Playground is being developed by Trees for Cities and will include a number of raised beds, allotment style food growing areas, an outside classroom with seating and a whiteboard, greenhouses and a complete irrigation system.

The aim of the Edible Playground is to education and engage pupils in food growing across the curriculum, at both Fairchildes and Meridian. Meridian High School currently has no food growing or gardening in school. The original suggestion for the Edible Playground came from a group of Meridian High pupils.

By food growing on site, it is hoped that pupils' understanding of where food comes from will be increased, there will be an increase in consumption of fruit and vegetables, food can be used in school meals and pupils will be engaged in an activity that they may see as a future career. In turn, this will have a long-term impact on pupil health and attainment.

Fairchildes and Meridian High School are collaborating throughout their roles as Food Flagship Schools and see the value of strengthening relationships between pupils, staff and families at both sites. They are working hard to explore how the local community can also be engaged in their Edible Playground and wider Food Flagship work.

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**CQ440-15**      **from Councillor Matthew Kyeremeh**

**To Councillor Louisa Woodley**

What arrangements are being put in place to deal with rough sleepers in Croydon this forthcoming winter?

**Reply**

The council has four immediate options when a person is found rough sleeping by Croydon Reach, our voluntary sector commissioned partner.

1. We work with a group of churches to provide a cold weather shelter with capacity for 14 people. This operates from November to March and is usually at full capacity for most of the winter.
2. We make use of the GLA funded No Second Night Out hub in Lewisham. This is a temporary shelter run by St Mungos Broadway that takes in newly verified rough sleepers from across south London while the borough responsible finds a longer-term option
3. We have limited access to temporary accommodation and will make use of this for rough sleepers as per the pan-London severe weather emergency protocol (SWEPE). When the temperature is forecast to drop to 0° or below for 3 days in a row we will place people into temporary accommodation if options 1 or 2 are not available
4. If no temporary accommodation is available under option 3 we make use of a pan-London rolling winter shelter that is set up under SWEPE, again, funded through GLA grant.

Once the immediate rough sleeping is dealt with every client then receives support to access a longer term solution. Depending on individual need this includes:

- a hostel or shared supported housing
- access with help to find independent private rented tenancy and support with deposit / rent in advance
- a shared HMO

Please note that due to the current and sustained high number of rough sleepers these options are generally only available to people with recourse to public funds. Croydon Reach will support rough sleepers without recourse to engage with the Reconnections team, enabling people to return to their country of origin in a safe, planned way.

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**CQ444-15**      **from Councillor Oliver Lewis**

**To Councillor Louisa Woodley**

Can the Cabinet Member tell me about the importance of Croydon food Flagship borough, in particular for areas like New Addington? How will initiatives like "Edible Playgrounds" at Fairchildes primary and Meridian High contribute to the project?

## **Reply**

Croydon's residents currently have a healthy life expectancy of 63 years for women and 65 for men. Lifestyle is the underlying cause of much of the poor health as well premature and preventable deaths in Croydon, and causes significant health and social care costs. This is particularly acute in our most disadvantaged communities such as New Addington. The Food Flagship Programme is extremely important in helping tackle the high levels of obesity and type 2 diabetes here in Croydon with the vision of a transformational approach to the food environment in Croydon. Obesity rates in Croydon for children and adults are higher than the London average and residents living in poorer areas are more than twice as likely to be overweight as people living in prosperous areas. The causes for obesity are multi-factorial with a key element being the greater consumption and access of processed food and changes in employment and family norms. The Food Flagship Programme therefore has a range of projects that will help tackle these elements. For example, the Community Food Learning Centre based in New Addington offers free cooking and growing workshops to children and adults to encourage residents to cook at home and grow at home. 'Eat Well Croydon' works with small food businesses to encourage them to offer healthier options and there is also an opportunity for residents to apply for small grants to support their own food project. There is a vast amount of working taking place in the schools in Croydon, from improving breakfast clubs to creating edible playgrounds.

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Fairchildes and Meridian High School are collaborating throughout their roles as Food Flagship Schools and see the value of strengthening relationships between pupils, staff and families at both sites. They are working hard to explore how the local community can also be engaged in their Edible Playground and wider Food Flagship work.



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**CQ366-15**

**from Councillor Margaret Mead**

**To Councillor Simon Hall**

Prior to the introduction of the new award and career path recruitment scheme before May 2014, what percentage of staff were from agencies? Since May 2014 what is the percentage of agency staff for the year to May 2015 and currently?

**Reply**

<b>Month</b>	<b>% Of Agency FTE against Total FTE</b>	<b>Agency FTE</b>	<b>Permanent FTE</b>
April 2014	12.74%	414.44	2838.00
May 2014	12.73%	417.29	2861.75
June 2014	12.83%	420.65	2856.93
July 2014	12.49%	405.88	2843.16
August 2014	11.65%	374.14	2837.36
September 2014	11.70%	375.26	2832.63
October 2014	11.94%	373.72	2756.80
November 2014	12.14%	374.53	2711.05
December 2014	11.03%	334.50	2697.29
January 2015	10.99%	334.08	2706.17
February 2015	11.95%	367.76	2710.05
March 2015	12.00%	371.03	2721.61
April 2015	11.81%	353.74	2641.52
May 2015	12.65%	383.24	2645.57
June 2015	13.40%	406.70	2627.56
July 2015	13.88%	419.00	2600.47
August 2015	13.41%	403.78	2607.23
September 2015	12.39%	373.59	2641.29

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**CQ376-15**

**from Councillor Susan Winborn**

**To Councillor Simon Hall**

Can you give a breakdown of cost savings to the H.R.A and General Fund due to the reorganisation of the Housing Dept into Places, People and Resources? Can you also include any staff reductions/redundancies within the Housing Department and how this has affected current services?

**Reply**

There was no direct saving to the HRA as a result of the tier one restructure. The General Fund saving was £550K from the tier one restructure.

Attached is a link to the report that was considered by the GPAC earlier this year [file:///lbcbau/userdata/documents/481670/My%20Documents/Downloads/GPA20150325\\_07\\_01\\_report.pdf](file:///lbcbau/userdata/documents/481670/My%20Documents/Downloads/GPA20150325_07_01_report.pdf)

1. Two previous Director posts were deleted (and the post holders were made redundant):
  - Director of Croydon Landlord Services
  - Director of Housing Need and Strategy
  
2. One new Director post was created (Director of Housing Need) - and Mark Meehan starts in this post on 19 October 2015. He will review the Housing Service and it is possible therefore that there will be a restructure to ensure effective delivery and structure

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**CQ390-15**

**from Councillor Badsha Quadir**

**To Councillor Simon Hall**

“Please could you advise what annual revenue the Council receives from:

- The Council car park adjacent to Purley pool?
- the masts on top of the car park? and
- the NHS in respect of their use of part of the car park?”

**Reply**

Purley Multi Storey Car Park in the 2014/2015 financial year brought in the following revenue:

1)	Pay and Display Income (cash)	£ 87,538
2)	Pay and Display income (cashless pay by phone)	£ 74,148
3)	Season Tickets (including NHS Contract)	£ 80,477
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£ 242,000</b>

The 3 communication masts currently situated on Purley Multi Storey Car Park brought revenue into the council to the amount of £34,000 in 2014/2015.

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**CQ409-15**      **from Councillor Andrew Pelling**

**To Councillor Simon Hall**

With, according to GLA 2015 dataset figures, Fairfield ward's population (21,750) being 78 % larger than Selsdon & Ballards' population (12,200), a Croydon South ward with three councillors but a population only 350 larger than Fieldway's two member ward (11,850) and with Labour held wards representing a population 16 % larger per councillor than Conservative held wards do you agree that there is an urgent need for the 1999 review of London Borough of Croydon ward boundaries to be subject to an updated review by the Local Government Boundary Commission to reflect the major changes of population since 1999 as distributed within the Borough ?

### **Reply**

Yes I do agree. It is clear that there is a democratic imbalance. It cannot be right, for example, that wards that already have some 13,000 local government electors and where the electorate is increasing and set to increase continue to have the same representation as wards with less than 10,000 electors where the electorate is stable.

We will be seeking to bring this to the attention of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

**CQ436-15 from Councillor Hamida Ali**

**To Councillor Simon Hall**

The central government grant to Croydon Council per head is £337.63. What is the equivalent grant per head of the population in the other London boroughs?

**Reply**

Local Authority	SFA / head	Local Authority	SFA / head
	15/16 Original		15/16 Original
England	381.45	England	381.45
<b>London area (Boroughs + GLA)</b>	<b>541.75</b>	<b>Outer London</b>	<b>344.98</b>
London boroughs	435.67	Barking and Dagenham	483.05
GLA - Mayor (excl Fire)	106.09	Barnet	271.74
<b>Inner London</b>	<b>598.77</b>	Bexley	267.07
City of London	3,277.97	Brent	465.31
Camden	654.00	Bromley	209.60
Greenwich	524.25	<b>Croydon</b>	<b>337.63</b>
Hackney	704.08	Ealing	376.21
Hammersmith and Fulham	577.41	Enfield	382.01
Islington	643.49	Haringey	513.63
Kensington and Chelsea	572.76	Harrow	271.31
Lambeth	586.38	Havering	250.23
Lewisham	544.46	Hillingdon	278.55
Southwark	636.90	Hounslow	313.91
Tower Hamlets	656.24	Kingston upon Thames	223.69
Wandsworth	391.49	Merton	299.87
Westminster	653.79	Newham	566.11
		Redbridge	304.32
		Richmond upon Thames	214.11
		Sutton	331.76
		Waltham Forest	439.95

This illustrates the extent to which Croydon is underfunded, bearing in mind the needs of Croydon and that, through demographic changes; it could be argued that much of the borough has the needs characteristics more akin to Inner London than Outer London. For example, if we were funded to the level of the Inner London average, we would have an additional £99 million per annum to deliver services for the residents of Croydon and even if we were funded to the lowest Inner London borough, we would have an additional £20million per annum. In addition, there is always a lag in the population estimate and as Croydon has a very fast growing population, the actual funding per head is lower than shown in the above official table.

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**CQ451-15**      **from Councillor Paul Scott**

**To Councillor Simon Hall**

Is there an estimate of the number of families in Croydon which will be adversely affected by the government's decision to cut tax credits announced in their emergency budget in July?

**Reply**

From our actual housing benefit caseload, we have estimated that 10,105 families will be affected by the decision to reduce tax credits. Each family will lose a minimum of £23.63 in tax credit income per week. I have also looked at other sources and, based on these external sources, there is an indication that there could be some 18,000 families affected.

It should be noted that there are other changes in the emergency budget that will affect Croydon families. For instance, nearly 1,000 families will be affected by the benefit cap, in this case households will lose on average £60 per week. .

The Gateway and welfare services will be offering affected families a range of options dependent on their circumstances but as with previous welfare reforms we will work with individual customers to ensure financial stability by supporting them with budgeting effectively to reduce any debts, maximising their income through enhancing employment opportunities or identification of unclaimed benefits and ensure that their home is suitable and affordable.

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**CQ361-15**

**from Councillor Margaret Bird**

**To Councillor Stuart Collins**

Green waste collections in Coulsdon East continue to be a problem.

Can the cabinet member assure me that with the proposed changes to charging for green waste that, especially the elderly population in my ward who may live in their own property but are cash poor, and do not have their own transport, will still be able to access an assisted free green waste?

**Reply**

There will be no free green waste service provided in 2016. Residents who subscribe to the new paid green waste service in 2016 and who are currently registered for assisted collections will still receive assisted collection support for this if they sign up to the new scheme. Residents who choose to continue, or begin home composting of their green garden waste will be able to find some helpful advice on the council's web page, and residents who do not use the chargeable service will be able to continue to take their green garden waste free of charge to any of the council's three Household Reuse & Recycling Centres at Factory Lane, Purley Oaks or Fishers Farm.

There will also be an ad hoc green waste collection that residents can order of £15 for 15 bags.

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**CQ362-15**

**from Councillor Michael Neal**

**To Councillor Stuart Collins**

When the garden waste collection service ceases and charges are brought in 2016 what allowances are being made for people on low incomes and benefits who won't be able to afford the charges?

**Reply**

Thanks to Central Governments cuts on this Council and the in year budget issues their decisions have caused there will be no allowances or discounts for residents subscribing to the paid green waste service other than for those who qualify for the 'early bird' discount by registering for the service before 31 January 2016. Details of how and where to subscribe for the paid green waste service and to qualify for the early bird discount will be contained within letters which will be sent to all residents in November 2015. Residents who choose to continue, or begin home composting of their green garden waste will be able to find some helpful advice on the Council's web page, and residents who do not use the chargeable service will be able to continue to take their green garden waste free of charge to any of the Council's three Household Reuse & Recycling Centres at Factory Lane, Purley Oaks or Fishers Farm.



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**CQ385-15**

**from Councillor Sara Bashford**

### **To Councillor Stuart Collins**

At the Cabinet Meeting on 21st September Cllr Collins proudly announced that green waste collection would be charged for from next year. Can he please explain why he believes this will provide a better service for those residents who can afford the additional cost which is in essence and increase in Council Tax? Can he also provide details of any resident groups such as those who are disabled or on low incomes who will benefit from a free services?

### **Reply**

I did not “proudly” announce this charge for the green waste service, I quite rightly explained that the decision was made because the current Government had cut our budget by 41% since 2010 and you were told that night of the in year saving forced upon Croydon, so we had no choice. It would be a refreshing change if you proudly stood up for your Governments policy of cutting local government funding, rather than deflecting the blame.

With these continued Austerity Measures, reduced central government grants and financial challenges experienced by all local authorities, we are no longer able to provide a free green waste collection service. Croydon is one of the last boroughs to introduce a paid service for its green waste.

Charging for a green waste service allows those who wish to subscribe to be able to do so and a service to be maintained, the alternative being no green waste service. Residents who choose to continue, or begin home composting of their green garden waste will be able to find some helpful advice on the council’s web page, and residents who do not use the chargeable service will be able to continue to take their green garden waste free of charge to any of the council’s three Household Reuse & Recycling Centres at Factory Lane, Purley Oaks or Fishers Farm.

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**CQ386-15**

**from Councillor Jan Buttinger**

**To Councillor Stuart Collins**

We have on-going concerns with blocked drains and flooding in Kenley.

What measures are being taken to reduce the problems with the build-up of leaves and so on, especially at this time of the year, in Kenley?

**Reply**

The council's highways team has a cyclical gully cleansing programme in place where all the gullies in the borough are inspected and cleaned once a year (4 times a year in the critical drainage areas). The objective is to maintain this part of the highway drainage system in an effective and working condition so as to prevent the accumulation of surface water and minimise local flooding.

The gullies in Kenley ward are programmed to be inspected and cleaned every November and any reported defects are repaired immediately. Our street cleansing service undertakes the annual clearance of leaves; the "Leaf Fall Period" is normally mid-October to the end of December where additional operatives to support the street cleansing teams are brought in. Key areas such as Kenley and those streets populated with high numbers of trees will be targeted for more frequent sweeping.

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**CQ389-15**

**from Councillor Helen Pollard**

**To Councillor Stuart Collins**

Can the Cabinet Member let me know how frequently Selbourne Road in Fairfield Ward has been cleaned each month over the last 12 months? Are there plans to change the frequency for cleaning this road?

**Reply**

As part of the council's street cleansing arrangements Selborne Road receives a weekly mechanical sweep on a Friday and a manual sweep on the last Thursday of the month.

There are no plans to change the frequency of sweeps, the last change in street cleaning frequencies happened when cuts were made by the previous administration in 2012.

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**CQ404-15            from Councillor Phil Thomas**

**To Councillor   Stuart Collins**

Please confirm when letters will be going out to individual residents informing them that they will have to pay a stealth tax from next January for the collection of the green garden waste which at the present time is paid for from their Council tax. Can you confirm that all properties will get a letter to inform them of the new charges?

**Reply**

Letters will be issued to all residents in November advising that the current seasonal 'green waste collection service' will no longer be continued, and that a paid seasonal service will be introduced in April 2016 subject to sufficient numbers of subscribers signing up for the new service. The letters will request that subscribers sign up to the service and will outline how and when this can be done, together with a number of wheelie bin options and costs available to them. A discount will be offered to 'early bird' subscribers for those registering before 31 January 2016.

Residents who choose to continue, or begin home composting of their green garden waste will be able to find some helpful advice on the council's web page, and residents who do not use the chargeable service will be able to continue to take their green garden waste free of charge to any of the council's three Household Reuse & Recycling Centres at Factory Lane, Purley Oaks or Fishers Farm. There will also be an ad hoc collection service of £15 for 15 bags.

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**CQ405-15            from Councillor Phil Thomas**

**To Councillor   Stuart Collins**

Your title is cabinet member for clean and green. Are you not ashamed that on your watch Croydon has the 7th worst fly tipping [ 2014 / 15 ] in the Country and that your legacy will be that you were the Cabinet Member responsible for cutting the green garden waste collection for our residents. In its place you intend to introduce a charge for people who can afford it?

**Reply**

As Cabinet Member for Clean and Green I am proud of the fact that under my watch we are making some significant improvements to the borough with the introduction of more communication channels available to residents such as MY Account and the Croydon App in addition to the Councils Contact Centre, it is now easier for residents to report issues to the council such as fly-tipping. It is therefore inevitable that a greater number of reports will be captured and recorded, and that fly tips are dealt with to keep our streets clean. The clearance rate in 48 hours under your watch was embarrassingly low.

It is fair to say however that there has been an increase in the number of fly-tips and in particular the incidences of larger loads of fly-tips such as rubble and builders materials being collected, Croydon is not alone with this increase.

While these generally take longer to remove than we would wish due to the specialist equipment needed to lift and remove, the council is still removing these with existing resources therefore another example of driving efficiency through the service. Officers and contractors are working hard to improve the service and working with the enforcement teams to enforce and prosecute offenders, this year we have secured 45 prosecutions with a further 3 pending. Again the low level of prosecutions under your administration was an embarrassment.

The fly tipping crisis the UK faces is a consequence of the government's continued approach of reducing public expenditure, we like every other borough continue to face significant reductions in our grant funding. Just like you had to cut the weekly landfill collection service to two weekly and you cut street cleaning frequencies that led to the increase in fly tipping.

As a result of this Government cut we took the decision to delete the discretionary Garden Waste service that residents pay for through their council tax, whether they use it or not.

Over the coming months residents will be encouraged to express an interest in being part of a new chargeable green garden waste service, which is expected to cost approximately £1.15 per week. Residents who choose to continue, or begin home composting of their green garden waste will be able to find some helpful advice on the council's web page, and residents who do not use the chargeable service will be able to continue to take their green garden waste free of charge to any of the council's three Household Reuse & Recycling Centres at Factory Lane, Purley Oaks or Fishers Farm. There will also be an ad hoc £15 for 15 bags collection.

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**CQ413-15**      **from Councillor Stephen Mann**

**To Councillor Stuart Collins**

Last year following illegal encampments that led to fly tips you put in place prevention measures. Can you explain these measures and inform us of any cost savings regarding flytip clearances in relation to last year

## **Reply**

Preventative measures have been put in place at numerous locations around the Borough to protect parts of the highway, parks and green spaces from unauthorised encampments. The types of preventative measures include height barriers, bollards, gates, soil bunds, tree trunks and concrete blocks.

When we identify a group of travellers illegally encamped on LBC land and where we suspect that they may be involved in fly tipping or other anti-social behaviour we now deploy 24 hour security to watch and report any offending that takes place. Whilst this is an additional cost, it has saved us money over the course of the year as it has led to a quicker eviction process and deterred the same groups from continuing to inhabit LBC land. It is impossible to put an exact figure on expenditure as much of the costs are sunk within general budgets such as the waste contract for example. However, this strategy has prevented the large scale fly tips that we saw in a few locations last year and as a result we have estimated is that it has saved the council up to £30,000 when compared to last year.

The Council is also addressing the issue of a lack of appropriate sites and I also attended a conference on travellers issues speaking on the importance of a good relationship between Council's, Police, other agencies and the traveller community.

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**CQ423-15**      **from Councillor Robert Canning**

**To Councillor Stuart Collins**

How many street champions have been recruited so far as part of Croydon Council's "Don't Mess with Croydon" initiative and how many of these live in Waddon ward?

**Reply**

We have 261 named street champions registered to the scheme. 8 of these street champions are registered as living in Waddon. I also get contacted by Waddon residents and this has resulted in action re clean ups and fly tip removal.

Waddon residents clearly Take Pride in their community.

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**CQ429-15**      **from Councillor Stuart King**

**To Councillor Stuart Collins**

How frequently and on what days are the following roads in my ward scheduled to be swept?

- Frant Road
- Meadow View Avenue

### **Reply**

Thanks for your question; I am of course aware of the hard work you and your Ward colleagues are doing in your Ward with your residents,

As part of the Council's street cleansing arrangements:-

- Frant Road is scheduled to be swept twice a week on a Monday and Thursday.
- Meadow View Road is a weekly cleanse and scheduled to be swept on a Thursday.



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**CQ439-15**      **from Councillor Joy Prince**

**To Councillor Stuart Collins**

What feedback has been received on the use so far of the new recycling bins for flats over shops; and when are they likely to be on offer to other parts of the borough?

**Reply**

Thanks for your question, Streets Recycling bins have recently been introduced to Portland Road, Crystal Palace Triangle and High Street Thornton Heath. The next phase is scheduled for next weekend when the containers are being introduced to London Road, Norbury.

Feedback from local residents using the containers has been in the main positive and Veolia report that contamination levels of the recycling is fairly low. Collections of the bins are made daily and usage continues to be regularly monitored, one of the challenges is making sure traders don't abuse these facilities so following the installation we back up the placement with visits to the traders.

A review of the scheme is due to take place at the end of October when a decision will be made on possible expansion of the service, I will bear in mind that areas of Waddon could benefit from their introduction.

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**CQ443-15**      **from Councillor Oliver Lewis**

**To Councillor Stuart Collins**

Can the cabinet member update the council on how many fixed penalty notices for fly tipping have been issued in New Addington since the start of the Don't Mess with Croydon Take Pride campaign? How does performance compare to that of the previous administration?

**Reply**

I can confirm that since May 2014 we have issued 109 FPN's for flytipping in New Addington. I do not have an exact increase rate for New Addington as the statistics were not collected by ward under the previous administration. However, the Council was issuing around 100 FPN's per year for the whole of Croydon for all littering and fly tipping offences for most of this period and saw an increase to 523 (or 44 per month) during 2013/14.

For this financial year so far (Apr-Sept 2015) 534 FPNs have been issued across the whole of Croydon at an average of 76 per month.

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**CQ450-15**      **from Councillor Paul Scott**

**To Councillor Stuart Collins**

How many Fixed Penalty Notices have been issued in Woodside as a result of fly tipping?

**Reply**

Since May 2014 73 FPN's have been issued in Woodside for fly tipping. This is a significant increase compared to the previous administration. The Council was issuing around 100 FPN's per year for the whole of Croydon for all littering and fly tipping offences for most of the Conservative's administration and briefly saw an increase to 523 (or 44 per month) during 2013/14 in the lead up to the election.

For this financial year so far (Apr-Sept 2015) 534 FPNs have been issued across the whole of Croydon at an average of 76 per month, which demonstrates the success of our campaign.'

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**CQ363-15**

**from Councillor Dudley Mead**

**To Councillor Alison Butler**

How many landlords and how many properties, excluding HMOs have been licensed under the new scheme by the 30th September 2015?

**Reply**

We received 23,347 applications for property licences from 10,797 landlords prior to the early bird discounted fee period ending on 30 September, although as the licensing scheme was not implemented until 1 October these properties were not actually licenced at that time.

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**CQ377-15**

**from Councillor Michael Neal**

**To Councillor Alison Butler**

Under the proposed Pay to Stay scheme, do you have an estimate of how many Social Housing tenants (households) will be affected through being asked to pay market rate rents instead of a subsidized rent met by hardworking taxpayers of this Borough?

**Reply**

In his summer budget, the Chancellor announced a mandatory social housing "Pay to stay" at market rent scheme in order to reduce the Housing Benefit Bill. Social housing tenants with a combined household income of £40,000 and above in London will be required to "Pay to stay" by paying a market rent or near market rent for their accommodation. The scheme is expected to be introduced in 2017/18.

It is unclear at this point in time how many social housing tenants in Croydon are likely to be affected, however, we expect this to be smaller than the national average given the average low levels of income in the borough and the recognition that many council tenants are supported with their rent through Housing Benefit. Indeed, for all new permanent tenancy signings so far this financial year none had income above the proposed threshold.

Councillor Neal implies in his question that only social housing tenants attract tax payer subsidy. It is of course worth noting that for example that owner occupation tenure attracts considerable subsidy, not to mention tax-payer subsidy for the Right to buy, central government help to buy and other affordable homeownership equity share schemes. Indeed, the Prime minister's announcement recently that section 106 resources are to be directed into starter homes is another example of subsidy to homeownership at the expense of provision of affordable rented accommodation

It can also be said that the introduction of HRA self-financing in 2012 marked the end of subsidised council housing. Also, in the past, during periods of when the HRA has been in surplus these have been paid to the Treasury, a contribution made by our Council tenants towards the economy, which I am sure Councillor Neal will wish to thank them for.

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**CQ378-15**

**from Councillor Michael Neal**

**To Councillor Alison Butler**

At the recent Tenants and Leaseholders meeting proposals were given on the new Neighbourhood wardens restructuring process.

Can you outline how many officers / wardens will be in each area / district and how they will develop links with the particular housing estates? Can you outline the split costs between the HRA and General fund for this new service Can you detail the consultation process with Tenants and Leaseholders?

**Reply**

There are 5 street-based teams comprising in total 42 Neighbourhood Safety Officers and 5 Neighbourhood Safety Managers covering 5 areas. Each team is dedicated to the following areas of Croydon:

- NSO Central
- NSO North West
- NSO North East
- NSO South East
- NSO South West

To build links with the particular housing estates the officers will engage & work with a variety of groups both within the community and within the Council, e.g. resident associations, local groups, Tenancy Officers, Housing Caretakers, Police / SNT; and they will also acquire links as they patrol their areas. Also, the Croydon Clean & green street champion scheme will be extended to cover housing estates so that local people can work alongside the council to reduce instances of environmental crime.

The split between the HRA and general fund will broadly remain the same because although the neighbourhood warden service has been restructured, there have been no staff reductions made from the original number of Neighbourhood wardens, but rather they have been absorbed into 3 different service areas that will each deliver a specific stream of work – enforcement against anti-social behaviour & environmental crime, play and youth outreach and community outreach. So that proportion of HRA used to fund the ex-neighbourhood warden service will now be directed to the 3 different service areas.

Senior council officers had discussed their intentions for the restructuring of services and staff at a Tenants & Leaseholders panel & this was followed by a presentation of the proposal at the 20-05-2015 meeting with a request for feedback by end June. Subsequently an informal Q&A session specifically about the restructuring was held on 17-06-2015 and officers attended the formal panel meeting of 07-07-2015.

The new service and staff structures were implemented on 01-09- 2015 and the new operational team management met with the Chair & Vice-chair of the T&LH panel on 09-09-2015 to discuss future engagement with the T&LH. As a result the Neighbourhood Safety Management team will meet with the Chair & Vice-chair on a regular basis to gather & discuss feedback, concerns and possible improvements regarding the service.



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**CQ384-15**

**from Councillor Sara Bashford**

**To Councillor Alison Butler**

Can Cllr Butler please advise if VAT was added to the Landlord Licensing Fee. If it was will it be refunded automatically to those who paid it or does a claim have to be made for it to be refunded.

**Reply**

VAT was not added to the fee for property licences. The fee during the early bird discount period was £350, as indicated on our web page, which was not subject to VAT. Unfortunately, the receipts that were automatically generated when people submitted their payments for the property licences initially did break down the £350 fee to show an element of VAT.

This is because the same payment system was used for the licences as was already used for other services which do attract VAT. This has now been rectified and these receipts no longer indicate that the fee includes VAT, and all applicants will be emailed to explain that the fee did not include an element of VAT. The Council has apologised for any concerns this may have caused.



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**CQ391-15**

**from Councillor Donald Speakman**

**To Councillor Alison Butler**

'You publicly advertise housing projects as building homes for Croydon People'

Can you please advise as to how you personally ensure that this policy is carried out by officers and what is the criteria for determining 'Croydon People'?

**Reply**

The Council has adopted a firm approach to maximise the level of affordable homes within new housing projects in the borough, both in Council-led projects and those brought forward by other developers. Most of these homes will be targeted at Croydon households in housing need. This is achieved through the housing allocations scheme and through nomination and sales agreements with housing association partners. We are therefore particularly disappointed by the Government's recent moves to restrict the supply of affordable housing for rent.

The Council, in common with other local housing authorities, is required to publish a housing allocations scheme setting out how it selects someone to be offered the tenancy of a council home, or to be nominated to become the tenant of a housing association home. As things stand, the Council only allocates a council home or nominates to a housing association, someone who is deemed eligible for housing under housing law. The Council cannot allocate social housing to applicants that are subject to immigration control (with limited exceptions), and others who are to be treated as persons from abroad. The Council revised its housing allocations policy in 2012 to introduce a qualification criterion based on the length of time an applicant has lived in the borough. A housing applicant must have lived in the borough of Croydon for at least 12 months before they qualify for an allocation of social housing. Consideration is currently being given to extending this period of time.

Most affordable rented homes developed by housing associations in the borough are made available to the Council to allocate through its housing allocations policy, and are therefore subject to the same local residency criteria as above. Croydon introduced a nominations agreement in 2007 that requires housing associations to provide 100% nominations to the Council on first letting (and 90% on subsequent lettings). However, homes funded by the GLA (and before that, the HCA) were also subject to sub-regional nomination agreements which required some of these homes to be made available to other boroughs in the sub-region.

For shared ownership homes a different system operates. The Council asks housing associations to focus their marketing and sales to local residents for an initial period of three months, in order to maximise sales to Croydon people. If after this period there remain unsold homes due to a lack of demand from local residents, then housing associations are able to market these homes more widely across London. From past experience, the majority of shared ownership homes built in the borough are sold to Croydon residents or to non-residents who are employed in the borough, e.g. as teachers and nurses.

Our planning policies require that the types of new housing projects built reflect the local need and demand for housing. This will be particularly true of housing projects

that the Council itself, and in future the development company, bring forward. Although Croydon is part of a much wider housing market, which means that there is frequent movement of households into and out of the borough, we believe that maximising the development of new housing projects provides a very clear benefit to Croydon people. Certainly, when we bring forward estate regeneration we would expect those already living in an area and their children to benefit first, freeing up their homes for those in housing need.

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**CQ395-15**      **from Councillor Luke Clancy****To Councillor Alison Butler**

Please give a breakdown of planning applications decided under delegated powers and by planning committee per month from 2010 to date?

**Reply**

The titles of the planning committees held to determine planning applications has changed over the time period covered by the question. The breakdown of decisions taken under delegated powers and by committee is set out in the table below.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Month</b>	<b>Delegated</b>	<b>Committee</b>
2010	January	231	13
	February	218	7
	March	294	8
	April	313	7
	May	322	7
	June	335	1
	July	288	12
	August	376	1
	September	270	13
	October	286	11
	November	291	5
	December	210	8
	<b>Total 2010</b>	<b>3,434</b>	<b>93</b>
2011	January	358	2
	February	280	2
	March	230	5
	April	220	5
	May	281	1
	June	273	5
	July	252	5
	August	378	0
	September	213	10
	October	314	3
	November	240	8
	December	266	4
	<b>Total 2011</b>	<b>3,305</b>	<b>50</b>
2012	January	270	3
	February	200	3
	March	221	9
	April	266	0
	May	244	4
	June	226	3
	July	327	4

	August	250	5
	September	243	5
	October	287	9
	November	273	6
	December	241	5
	<b>Total 2012</b>	<b>3,048</b>	<b>56</b>
2013	January	279	10
	February	202	5
	March	231	12
	April	330	3
	May	231	3
	June	328	4
	July	399	17
	August	354	0
	September	367	11
	October	304	16
	November	260	5
	December	363	6
	<b>Total 2013</b>	<b>3,648</b>	<b>92</b>
2014	January	293	2
	February	250	7
	March	330	5
	April	341	7
	May	334	1
	June	436	4
	July	357	11
	August	367	0
	September	391	3
	October	317	1
	November	389	5
	December	358	3
	<b>Total 2014</b>	<b>4,163</b>	<b>49</b>
2015	January	353	4
	February	268	3
	March	376	7
	April	347	3
	May	326	5
	June	525	11
	July	375	11
	August	466	0
	September	367	6
	<b>¾ Total 2015</b>	<b>3,403</b>	<b>50</b>



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**CQ396-15**            **from Councillor Luke Clancy**

**To Councillor Alison Butler**

The London Plan views back garden development as inappropriate. How will you ensure that back gardens are protected in Croydon?

**Reply**

The draft Croydon Local Plan: Detailed Policies and Proposals (Preferred and Alternative Options) CLP2 preferred option for a policy on development on garden land is contained within Policy DM2. The policy proposes that new development will be permitted within the curtilage or garden of a dwelling where it complements the local character and biodiversity is protected. Proposals for any development on garden land would need to also take into account the other strategic and detailed policies of the Croydon Local Plan, the London Plan and National Planning Policy Framework to ensure the development is appropriate.

The adopted Croydon Local Plan places an emphasis on high quality development with consideration of the local character. The Croydon Local Plan: Strategic Policies, Policy SP4 'Urban Design and Local Character' (that is in conformity with the London Plan) requires all development to be of a high quality which respects and enhances Croydon's varied local character and contributes positively to public realm, landscape and townscape to create sustainable communities. This includes any proposals for development on garden land.

In summary any proposal for development on garden land will need to ensure that it does not have adverse impacts on local character, the amenity of neighbours, biodiversity and trees and is of high quality design. This provides the protection of gardens from inappropriate and / or poorly designed development.

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**CQ400-15**      **from Councillor Chris Wright**

**To Councillor Alison Butler**

Will the Cabinet Member condemn the new leader of the Labour Party who at the recent Labour Party Conference would not give assurance that the Green Belt was safe from development and will she confirm that she will protect Croydon's Green Belt. Will she also strengthen the resistance to any Traveller Development in our Green Belt?

**Reply**

The Council's Development Plan aligns with the National Planning Policy Framework in terms of Green Belt policy. The Development Plan is clear that inappropriate development in the Green Belt will be resisted. Residential development in the Green Belt not in accordance with the Development Plan, including Traveller development, is inappropriate development in the Green Belt and will be considered in this context.

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**CQ401-15            from Councillor Chris Wright**

**To Councillor Alison Butler**

You anticipate budget pressures based on savings within the HRA budget for 2017/18 and suggesting that work needs to start now. What cuts are you making in Housing Services which will directly affect tenants and leaseholders?

Can you also estimate the underspend from the HRA account for 2016/17?

**Reply**

Modelling of the reduction in rents of 1% indicates that the council will need to make savings of £9.4m in 2017/18, an amount increasing to £11m (the cumulative total) by 2020/21. Officers will be undertaking a fundamental review of HRA budgets and examining a comprehensive range of options for savings across the housing service in order to develop a programme of spending reductions. We will assess the relative impact of these options and undertake consultation with tenants and leaseholders in deciding which reductions will have the least impact on high-priority services and on services most valued by residents.

The budget for 2016/17 has not yet been set, but it is currently expected that the HRA will have a balanced position for its outturn in that year.



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**CQ406-15 from Councillor Jason Perry****To Councillor Alison Butler**

Please detail the % of major planning applications determined within 13 weeks and the % of minor planning applications determined within 8 weeks, on a monthly basis from Jan 2010 to date.

**Reply**

The data requested relates to the statutory time period for determining Major and Minor planning applications. The percentages of applications determined within these target time periods are set out in the table below.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Month</b>	<b>% Major Applications determined within 13 weeks</b>	<b>% Minor applications determined within 8 weeks</b>
2010	January	66.67% - (2 from 3)	81.48% - (44 from 54)
	February	80.00% - (4 from 5)	69.49% - (41 from 59)
	March	88.89% - (8 from 9)	82.14% - (46 from 56)
	April	66.67% - (2 from 3)	74.60% - (47 from 63)
	May	66.67% - (2 from 3)	79.25% - (42 from 53)
	June	25.00% - (1 from 4)	77.22% - (61 from 79)
	July	33.33% - (1 from 3)	68.06% - (49 from 72)
	August	33.33% - (1 from 3)	58.49% - (31 from 53)
	September	60.00% - (3 from 5)	80.30% - (53 from 66)
	October	75.00% - (3 from 4)	60.78% - (31 from 51)
	November	80.00% - (4 from 5)	57.58% - (38 from 66)
	December	37.50% - (3 from 8)	84.31% - (43 from 51)
	<b>Total 2010</b>	<b>61.40% - (35 from 57)</b>	<b>72.75% - (526 from 723)</b>
2011	January	50.00% - (3 from 6)	87.76% - (43 from 49)
	February	60.00% - (6 from 10)	55.56% - (35 from 63)
	March	25.00% - (2 from 8)	84.00% - (42 from 50)
	April	0% - (0 from 2)	82.35% - (28 from 34)
	May	75.00% - (3 from 4)	67.92% - (36 from 53)
	June	50.00% - (2 from 4)	62.67% - (47 from 75)
	July	25.00% - (1 from 4)	68.97% - (40 from 58)
	August	50.00% - (3 from 6)	71.23% - (52 from 73)
	September	0% - (0 from 1)	57.14% - (28 from 49)
	October	0% - (0 from 0)	73.08% - (38 from 52)
	November	50.00% - (2 from 4)	82.46% - (47 from 57)
	December	0% - (0 from 3)	77.63% - (59 from 76)
	<b>Total 2011</b>	<b>42.31% - (22 from 52)</b>	<b>71.84% - (495 from 689)</b>
2012	January	0% - (0 from 1)	75.86% - (44 from 58)
	February	50.00% - (3 from 6)	68.75% - (33 from 48)
	March	40.00% - (4 from 10)	71.11% - (32 from 45)
	April	100% - (2 from 2)	74.29% - (26 from 35)
	May	0% - (0 from 0)	72.00% - (36 from 50)
	June	0% - (0 from 3)	60.00% - (39 from 65)

	July	100% - (1 from 1)	56.92% - (37 from 65)
	August	0% - (0 from 1)	37.04% - (20 from 54)
	September	25.00% - (1 from 4)	58.49% - (31 from 53)
	October	100% - (1 from 1)	51.43% - (36 from 70)
	November	25.00% - (1 from 4)	63.51% - (47 from 74)
	December	66.67% - (4 from 6)	68.85% - (42 from 61)
	<b>Total 2012</b>	<b>43.59% - (17 from 39)</b>	<b>62.39% - (423 from 678)</b>
2013	January	33.33% - (1 from 3)	50.63% - (40 from 79)
	February	27.57% - (2 from 7)	52.83% - (28 from 53)
	March	42.86% - (3 from 10)	60.00% - (39 from 65)
	April	0% - (0 from 1)	65.96% - (31 from 47)
	May	100% - (1 from 1)	69.39% - (34 from 49)
	June	60.00% - (3 from 5)	65.57% - (40 from 61)
	July	60.00% - (3 from 5)	66.15% - (43 from 65)
	August	40.00% - (2 from 5)*1	71.05% - (54 from 76)
	September	90.00% - (9 from 10)*3	56.82% - (75 from 132)
	October	50.00% - (1 from 2)*3	57.50% - (46 from 80)
	November	66.67% - (2 from 3)	75.41% - (46 from 61)
	December	100% - (3 from 3)	83.33% - (60 from 72)
	<b>Total 2013</b>	<b>58.00% - (29 from 50)*7</b>	<b>64.47% - (490 from 760)</b>
2014	January	0% - (0 from 0)	63.77% - (44 from 69)
	February	100% - (1 from 1)*3	49.02% - (25 from 51)
	March	100% - (4 from 4)*2	68.09% - (32 from 47)
	April	0% - (0 from 0)	74.19% - (46 from 62)
	May	0% - (0 from 1)	78.67% - (59 from 75)
	June	66.67% - (2 from 3)	60.78% - (31 from 51)
	July	50.00% - (3 from 6)*1	66.27% - (55 from 83)
	August	50.00% - (1 from 2)	78.79% - (52 from 66)
	September	100% - (2 from 2)	65.63% - (42 from 64)
	October	100% - (2 from 2)*1	47.83% - (33 from 69)
	November	100% - (2 from 2)	64.56% - (51 from 79)
	December	85.71% - (6 from 7)*1	65.12% - (28 from 43)
	<b>Total 2014</b>	<b>76.67% - (23 from 30)*8</b>	<b>65.61% - (498 from 759)</b>
2015	January	50.00% - (1 from 2)	65.22% - (45 from 69)
	February	66.67% - (2 from 3)	52.46% - (32 from 61)
	March	100% - (1 from 1)	65.57% - (40 from 61)
	April	40.00% - (2 from 5)	52.63% - (30 from 57)
	May	50.00% - (1 from 2)*2	55.38% - (36 from 65)
	June	75.00% - (3 from 4)*4	57.14% - (56 from 98)
	July	50.00% - (2 from 4)*4	56.67% - (51 from 90)
	August	0% - (0 from 2)	67.74% - (42 from 62)
	September	100% - (2 from 2)*7	67.74% - (42 from 62)
	<b>¾ Total 2015</b>	<b>56.00% - (14 from 25)*17</b>	<b>59.84% - (374 from 625)</b>

**Key:** \*numeral = number of applications subject to a Planning Performance Agreement (PPA) in which the decision notice is issued within the time frame of the PPA. These cases are therefore deducted from overall performance percentage. (\*17 = 17 applications completed within PPA timescales and therefore excluded from performance status)



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**CQ407-15**      **from Councillor Jason Perry**

**To Councillor Alison Butler**

What is the latest position on the removal of members' referral rights to the planning committee?

**Reply**

I am sure that Cllr Perry will be pleased to know that following detailed consideration, we are not proceeding with the proposed change to referrals described in last year's budget

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**CQ412-15            from Councillor Maggie Mansell**

**To Councillor   Alison Butler**

Applications were received for A3 planning status for 1347 and 1363 London Road Norbury which were allowed. At the time both premises were operating as Shisha bars, without planning permission for frontage changes and flouting the advice of the Director of Public Health that Shisha is significantly more harmful than tobacco. The owner claimed that one would become an ice cream parlour and the other a restaurant. The word "Shisha" was required to be removed from their external advertising.

On 2nd October 1347 London Road had a range of Ice creams and a choice of Shisha pipes. 1363 London Road has a "Shisha Menu" displayed readable across the pavement. The only noticeable change is that "Shisha" has been removed from both awnings.

What enforcement action is being taken to achieve planning compliance?

**Reply**

Planning applications relating to 1347 and 1363 London Road were presented to Plans Sub-Committee in June 2015. Both applications proposed continued use within use class A3 (restaurants & cafes) with alterations to the shop fronts and were approved. Both applications arose from planning enforcement investigations and included measures to overcome concerns with the shop fronts present at the time. As such both permissions included planning conditions to require the proposed measures to the shop fronts to be implemented within 4 months of the date of the permission.

The planning enforcement service has reminded the applicant's agent of the time period afforded to comply with the planning conditions and received an assurance that the requirements will be adhered to before the expiry date (18 October 2015). Enforcement officers will continue to monitor the site for compliance with requirements by this date.

Planning legislation relates to buildings and uses; it does not provide jurisdiction on shisha smoking. Smoking is subject to the Health Act 2006 which prohibits smoking inside work and public premises. Planning powers cannot therefore directly control shisha smoking. Nonetheless both planning permissions included a planning condition to preclude the use of the rear yards by customers at any time. The use of the rear yards by customers for shisha smoking had previously caused some nuisance for local residents. The inclusion of this planning condition on both permissions helps to control the impact of activity on residents' amenity.

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**CQ425-15            from Councillor Robert Canning**

**To Councillor   Alison Butler**

It has been suggested by more than one resident in Waddon that other councils in London may be deliberately choosing to house their problem tenants in Croydon rather than in their own boroughs. Is there any evidence to substantiate this and, if so, what steps can be taken to stop this practice?

## **Reply**

I am unsure what the Councillor means by 'problem' tenants but we have no evidence to show that boroughs are deliberately placing any particular types of households in Croydon rather than in their own area.

However, we recognise that with the growing levels of homelessness in London, fuelled by welfare cuts, rising rents and dwindling social housing pressure is placed on London authorities to find cheaper accommodation outside borough boundaries, if there is no suitable accommodation locally.

There is an agreed London-wide protocol - Inter-Borough Temporary Accommodation Agreement (IBTAA) - on the use of properties as temporary accommodation in one borough for discharge of homelessness duty by another London borough. The agreement among others; aims to ensure local markets are not unduly inflated (prevents boroughs acting in competition with each other, a situation which could lead to price escalation), and, to assist receiving boroughs, in which households previously living in other local authorities are housed in accommodation placements by ensuring boroughs will be informed of every placement made in their area. This is to ensure that information is shared between the placing and receiving boroughs each time an accommodation placement is made.

Additionally, there is legislative guidance to housing authorities requiring them, if they have to place applicants in accommodation elsewhere, to notify the host authority. Here, there is recognition that it may sometimes be necessary for a household or applicant to be relocated for safety, for example, fleeing domestic violence.

At the London level, Directors of housing meet regularly, as indeed, Cabinet members with housing portfolios. These meetings present opportunities to address any issues of concern, such as, suggested in the question.

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**CQ428-15**      **from Councillor Shafi Khan**

**To Councillor Alison Butler**

Can the cabinet member tell us how many landlords have registered their rented properties so far?

**Reply**

The number of landlords registered between 1 July & 30 September is 10,797.

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**CQ434-15**            **from Councillor Hamida Ali**

**To Councillor Alison Butler**

What are the section 106 (under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990) obligations agreed with the Westfield-Hammerson partnership in association with the development in the town centre?

**Reply**

The summary of S106 headings as agreed between the Council, under the previous administration, and Westfield and Hammerson is as follows and is expressed in the standard format:-

**Cost of monitoring section 106** – This is a financial obligation on the developer to contribute to the Council's reasonable costs of monitoring the observance and performance of the obligations in the section 106 agreement.

**TV Mitigation** – This is to ensure that the development has no detrimental impact on TV signals in the vicinity of the site and that the TV signal is retained at its current level. Three surveys would (1) establish a base case; (2) establish the impact of the development on television signals and to mitigate any impact; and (3) following completion of mitigation measures, an assessment of success. In addition, the developer is required to set up a 'hotline' to deal with any complaints from members of the public regarding the quality of their TV signal.

**Public Art** – This is to secure a strategy for the provision of public art within the scheme in the form of physical provision and/or performance art by way of a programme of artistic/cultural events. This will assist in enhancing the visual amenity and cultural appeal of the development. A financial contribution of £150,000 has been agreed.

**Restriction on parking permits** – This is to ensure that the residential element of the development does not have a detrimental impact on the availability of car parking spaces in the vicinity of the site. It requires the developer to notify future residents of the restrictions on their ability to obtain 'on street' parking permits.

**Retain Architects from agreed list** – This is to ensure a high quality of development in keeping with the Design Guidelines and consistency (by retaining the involvement of an Executive Architect, from a list of architects agreed between the Developer and the Local Planning Authority), from outline stage to completion of final reserved matters, only allowing a change of architect with the agreement of the Local Planning Authority.

**District Heating** – This is to enable a mechanism for providing a link to the town centre district energy scheme if it comes into existence before or during construction.

**Local Employment and Training Strategy** – This is required to ensure that the development provides a benefit to the local economy and community through the establishment of an Employment and Training Steering Group to deliver an Employment and Training Strategy during both the construction and operational phases of the development. The strategy will include, forecasting labour



requirements, recruitment and training initiatives, targeted recruitment towards local residents (particularly towards targeted wards) and vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, monitoring of targets, job brokerage, apprenticeships/internships, education support, sourcing local contractors/sub-contractors/suppliers where reasonable, and having a flexible approach to respond to new initiatives. It also includes provision for a Job Brokerage and Skills Training Hub, a support strategy for local businesses and a test trading space for local business start-ups within the development.

**Wellesley Road and Park Lane Works** – This requires the developer to enter into the S278 agreements in relation to the highways works required within the vicinity of the site prior to the commencement of development and to complete the works, prior to occupation of the development.

**Closure of subways** – this would require the developer to complete of the removal of the pedestrian subway in Landsdowne Road (subsequent to completion of the Council's works) to the satisfaction of the Local Planning Authority, if this is agreed to be required.

**Local highway network improvements** – This would require the developer to provide a £2.5 million financial contribution towards highway works and traffic measures to junctions affected by the impact of the development, subject to monitoring and review of the impacts.

**Bus network enhancements** – The development will result in additional visitors to the Metropolitan Centre who will travel by bus and this will result in a requirement for additional bus services to cater for the increased demand. A financial contribution of £10 million is required for additional bus services needed as a result of increased passenger use resulting from the development. The provision of additional bus services will be done in conjunction with TfL.

**Bus stop/stand enhancements** – This allows for (from within the £10 million overall contribution) the developer to provide a financial contribution to bring all relevant bus stops to Equality Act 2010 compliance standards and to make a financial contribution towards additional bus standing required as a result of additional services required resulting from the development.

**Tram network enhancements** – The development will result in additional visitors to the Metropolitan Centre who will travel by tram and this will result in a requirement for additional capacity in the tram network to cater for the increased demand. A financial contribution of £15 million towards additional tram services and stabling is required. Changes to the layout of the tram network within the town centre are also required. The provision of additional capacity will be done in conjunction with TfL. There may also be a requirement for additional capacity at existing tram stops in the Metropolitan Centre to cater for increased passenger demand and to prevent passenger congestion at tram stops.

**Sustainable Transport Fund** – This requires an obligation of £1.625 million to deliver the travel plan. This figure may increase if funds elsewhere are not fully utilised and can be drawn into this obligation. This requires the provision of a travel plan for the development (required by condition) and the employment of a travel plan co-ordinator to monitor the effectiveness of the travel plan on an annual basis for a specified period. It would also include the cycle strategy and facilities, taxi improvements, messaging and signage and rail station improvements. The Council, with agreement with TfL, would determine how and where this money is spent.

**Public realm** – this is to secure a maximum financial contribution in order to fund public realm improvements to North End, a reasonable endeavours obligation to acquire all necessary rights in order to carry out public realm works to the space outside Green Park House and an obligation to provide lighting, signage and treatment of service yard entrances at Drummond Road.

In addition, the developer has given a financial commitment equating to £4million indexed for public realm works enhancement in the event that the development does not proceed within a reasonable timescale following either substantial closure of the shopping centre due to demolition works associated with the development or demolition of the shopping centre itself. This commitment would provide some mitigation of impacts in this scenario.

**Delivery of residential** – Obligations in order to use reasonable endeavours for the delivery of the housing component of the scheme.

Delivery of affordable housing within the context of the residential being delivered – this is to secure a minimum of 15 % of all residential GIA to be provided as affordable housing, with a specified tenure, a proportion of this to be provided on site, with the remainder provided offsite or through a commuted sum.

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**CQ435-15 from Councillor Hamida Ali**

**To Councillor Alison Butler**

What is the Local Housing Allowance for Croydon compared with the average cost of private rented housing in the borough?

**Reply**

**Local Housing Allowance (LHA)**

There are two different rates of Local Housing Allowance in Croydon. The vast majority of the Borough is in the area classified as 'Outer South'. However, parts of Norbury and Upper Norwood are in the 'Inner South' area. The current LHA Weekly Rates for the two areas are as follows:

Area	No. Bedrooms			
	1	2	3	4
Outer South	167.22	210.57	279.14	344.38
Inner South	204.08	265.29	330.72	417.02

**Table 1: LHA in Croydon, £/Week**

**Market Rents**

There are a number of sources of information regarding Market Rents, including the GLA Rents Map which shows the following:

Area	No. Bedrooms			
	1	2	3	4
Outer South	190	249	304	376
Inner South	228	278	356	457

**Table 2: Market Rents in Croydon, £/Week (Source: GLA Rents Map)**

The GLA estimates of market rent tend to fall at the low end of the spectrum and information from the website [Home.co.uk](http://Home.co.uk) may be more representative, this shows the following:

Area	No. Bedrooms			
	1	2	3	4
Outer South	199	278	338	442
Inner South	248	312	386	463

**Table 3: Market Rents in Croydon, £/Week (Source: [Home.co.uk](http://Home.co.uk))**

Note: Broadly speaking, there is around a 10% difference between the two sources of market rent information. Also, it should be noted that the data for 4 bedroom properties, in particular, is less reliable due to the limited number of larger properties being offered for private rent.

Croydon also has the further challenge that in certain wards we have a higher proportion of lower paid workers such as manual labour & retail when compared to the London average 13.4% and comparably to national average 18.6%. This is a particular pressure in Selhurst where we have 17% of residents on a low working income of approximately £251 per week with local housing allowance rents in this ward at £265 per week for a 2 bed property or £330 for a 3 bedroom property.

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**CQ446-15**      **from Councillor Susan Winborn**

**To Councillor Alison Butler**

Following the confirmation of the CPO for the Westfield Hammerson development, please provide the latest timetable for the scheme and its completion.

**Reply**

It is currently envisaged that Westfield and Hammerson will request that the council uses its CPO powers to draw down land in 2016 and that Westfield and Hammerson will start on site in 2017. The centre would re-open in 2020. This programme would enable retailers to trade for two further Christmas's in the centre and is allied to proactive management of the centre to ensure ongoing vitality as the process moves forward.