



Leader of the Council Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Tony Newman January 2017

Latest news

With a great Christmas and New Year in Croydon behind us, there is a lot to look forward to in 2017. We've been working hard to deliver on our manifesto promises and on the issues that matter to you the most. We're seeing more and more businesses, jobs and culture coming into our borough. It's been long overdue and it's bringing growth to residents right across the borough. There's more to do, we're not complacent, but it's an exciting time to be in Croydon and it's a privilege to lead the council.

As we know, the Croydon community is strong and caring. And the £90,000 raised to help the families and those injured by the **tram derailment** is testament to that. Direct donations and the crowd-funding page set up by the council has provided £90,000 to help those who need it most. Thank you for your kindness. It's been a really difficult time for Croydon and our heart goes out to those who lost loved ones. In December the families of the victims gave a moving tribute and held a minutes silence at the memorial site. I'll keep you updated with plans for other memorials and tributes.

We were really disappointed to hear the Chancellor's proposed **funding settlement for Croydon**. The government are intending to reduce our funding by £1.9 million and to use money earmarked for housing to fund adult social care instead. Funding adult social care couldn't be more important, but it needs to be done properly and not at the detriment of providing affordable housing to residents. We've set up our own development company, Brick by Brick, to deliver affordable housing right across the borough, but we still need government to recognise the importance of providing funding for housing – supply is not meeting demand.

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I've written to the minister for local government demanding a fair funding deal for Croydon. We are underfunded compared to other boroughs and that underfunding has a real impact on our ambitious plans for Croydon. Importantly, not properly funding **adult social care** has a profoundly negative impact on our more vulnerable and in-need residents - our disabled residents and our elderly residents are hit hard. We need to treat these residents with the care and dignity they deserve and we are fighting for the government to recognise the very real need here.

We've continued to campaign hard on behalf of the residents and commuters of Croydon in the face of a shambolic **Southern Rail service**.

Transport is vital not only for the growth of Croydon and London, but for those everyday journeys, like getting home in time to put the kids to bed or making it on time for an appointment. It's been those everyday journeys that have so regularly been disrupted and have proven so unreliable for so many people. Residents have been talking to me about frustrated and angry they feel and I've been demanding government to finally end this farce. We've called for the government to sack southern and instead have TfL run the services. Commuters are facing months of misery and we feel enough is enough.

In more positive news, did you hear about the nominations for **the BBC 'Sound of 2017'**? Three of the top five artists have strong local connections to Croydon.

Winner Ray BLK was raised in nearby Catford, but teamed up with collaborator Stormzy at a Croydon talent show. Rapper Nadia Rose and pop singer Raye were just behind at numbers 5 and 3 in the annual industry list of who to look out for over the next 12 months. Both are local Croydon residents, with Raye having spent time

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at the BRIT School. I think we've known for some time that there's something very special happening in south London right now and there is some exceptional home grown talent. We have so many of the top names in the business with their roots in Croydon that I'm starting to lose count. It's great to see local talent being recognised and I look forward to hearing them at the new Fairfield Halls soon. And on that, the new Fairfield Halls is on track for its refurbishment. It will be bigger and better, a venue truly fitting for one of the most exciting and cultural places in the country.

I'm a member of the **Coast to Capital** group. It's a group that aims to bring positive growth and opportunities from the south coast, through Croydon into London. It's such an important part of the country, with untapped potential and some outdated transport routes – it's time for improvement. I am pleased to report that national government are supporting the decision of Coast to Capital to make a significant financial contribution to our Fairfield Halls / College Green regeneration project. As a board member of Coast to Capital I very much welcome their support for one of our key projects, which will help towards the transformation of our town.

Councillor Tony Newman
Leader of the Council



Culture, Leisure and Sport Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Timothy Godfrey January 2017

Latest News

Central Library

Great to see so many "love it" from the 708 responses from our user feedback survey in the first couple of weeks. The more visible books stock comments we've taken on board and are doing something about.

I think the sharing of ideas and working together in new partnerships will make best use of the space we've created - we are on to a winner.

It is the model for future library layouts. Enhancing the traditional offer with something more flexible and activity focused.



The central children's library refit is now almost complete – we are in the process of adding the finishing touches. These include more shelves to increase the book offer and some minor changes to the layout. - We've taken on board the initial feedback from users and staff.

The first event to use the new flexibility that has been created was on the 17th December. It included a performance from the Croydon Young Musicians string orchestra. I'm keen that the performance potential of the bright light space is maximised and for music, storytelling and family activities to be regular occurrences.

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A further event is planned for the 12th January and will include a performance from the Croydon Young Musicians choir.

The Art wall project will be developed over the next few months and I am also keen to see this become a regular exhibition space for displaying the creativity of our young people.



Motivate East

Croydon has applied for and been one of two successful boroughs to gain support from the expanded Olympic legacy programme Motivate East. Initially intended for seven East London boroughs. Motivate East is a partnership project being delivered by the Legacy Corporation following London 2012 Olympic Games. This is an exciting opportunity as a borough to enhance our existing sporting provision for children and young people with disabilities and enable us to engage with a wider audience.

Motivate East comprises of:

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Paralympic Legacy Agents - ensuring a diverse range of disabled people access the project.

Multi-sport participation events - offering many opportunities for disabled people to try and take part in sport and physical exercise.

New equipment including a throw down activity surface - which can be used to transform any open space into a platform for sporting and physical exercise activities.

A programme development project - designed to make sport and physical activity opportunities in the chosen boroughs more inclusive and accessible for disabled people.

Paralympic Anniversary Festival - community events taking part in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, celebrating the Paralympics and encouraging disabled people to participate in sport and incorporate physical activity into their lifestyle.



Just Be/ Live Well

On the 8th November, 'Just Be Croydon' launched; an exciting digital behaviour change website that will provide information, interventions and advice on all lifestyle services. Over sixty partners attended the launch in the Council Community Space and the website is now 'live' and available to all residents. Visit <https://www.justbecroydon.org/> for more information.

The platform (funded by public health) will be managed by District Centres and Regeneration. An online health check-up hosted within the website will be a single access point to MI Live Well, a holistic, integrated face-to-face lifestyle service, addressing smoking cessation, alcohol, weight management and physical activity (launching in April 2017).



40 locals turn out for seasonal wreath making workshop in Wandle Park on December 4th

An annual free workshop in Wandle Park attracted 40 residents to make their own seasonal wreath for a gift or for their own home. Materials were collected in advance from local parks and the park itself.



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There were several 'professional' efforts and many families and couples came along to enjoy the community spirit and be creative. Some people were visiting the park for the first time. One lady mentioned that a similar workshop in BoxPark Shoreditch costs £50! Great fun was had by all.



Restoration of Community Orchard

After suffering considerable damage though vandalism during last summer, the community orchard at Beaulieu Heights will be restored and all lost trees replanted on Saturday 21 January 2017.

Members from the 1st Crystal Palace Scout Group who in partnership with the council planted the original orchard 4 years ago will send scouts and cubs to the event to restore this community asset. Members of the community are welcome to assist. The planting of the 11 replacement trees –apple, pear and plum will take place from 10am till 12noon.



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TCV Croydon



Our partners at TCV Croydon have an active volunteer work programme supporting community stewardship across the many parks and open spaces. For up to date details on past and future work sites please visit [TCV Croydon on Facebook](#)



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Lloyd Park Parklife Café



Parklife café opened its doors to members of the public on 2nd December 2016 and in just a few weeks became a phenomenal success, far exceeding the expectations of the new proprietor Clair Murphy.

The café attracts not only regular park users (including dogs) and caters for sporting clubs and their social events but also brings in park visitors from the Croydon community and beyond.

The cafe worked closely with the parks development officer to transform this vacant pavilion into the central hub of the park. The café seems to be a great success and have already taken on more staff.



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Registrars Service

Citizenship Ceremonies:

Braithwaite Hall is being used for Citizenship Ceremonies from January 2017 on a trial basis. This will allow for larger ceremonies to be undertaken fortnightly, making it more of a significant event for those attending and minimising costs by improving efficiency.

Bereavement Services

Events

Over 130 people attended the Christmas Memorial Service on Sunday 4th December with over £250 being raised for charity

A new programme of events for 2017 is currently being finalised and will be distributed in January.

Tram Crash

The Disaster Mortuary protocol was instigated for the victims of the tram crash. The Mortuary was in a position to receive bodies from 11.00 am on the day with several members of the team working well together to erect a nutwell cube temporary body storage unit to receive the deceased.

Both John Carver Mortuary Manager and Lisa Domala worked both professionally and tirelessly to ensure the post mortems completed in a timely manner. Many compliments for their work and professionalism have been received from British transport Police and HM Coroner amongst others.

Five of the seven funerals were subsequently held at Croydon Crematorium

New Burial Land:

Work has recommenced on the new burial land project. The initial phase involves revisiting previous sites to confirm that they are still unfit for purpose, or otherwise. Also to identify if any new Council sites have become available that may be suitable

The feedback from the Planning Inspector is also being reviewed with a view to addressing any issues prior to submitting any further planning applications.

It is scheduled to have a site identified and to be in the initial stages of drafting a planning application by early February 2017



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Delivering our Ambitions

Museum & Archive

Archives Service Accreditation

The Museum of Croydon have finalised and submitted our application for accreditation for the London Borough of Croydon Archives. Archives Service Accreditation is administered by The National Archives (TNA) and is the benchmark standard for the sector. Throughout 2016, the Museum of Croydon team have re-boxed and catalogued a large number of core collections and developed the policy and procedural framework required to comply with the standards. The decision of the Accreditation Panel will be in March 2017.

Heritage trainee placement, 2017:

The Museum of Croydon are working in partnership with 'Culture&', to provide a Heritage trainee placement from January 2017 – 18. The placement is part of the Heritage Lottery Fund's Skills for the Future programme, which aims to diversify the heritage workforce, one of the key aims of the Museum of Croydon. During the 12 month placement, our trainee will be working with schools and local community groups to develop and deliver projects supporting the First World War Centenary Partnership, led by the Imperial War Museum.

Working Together

Museum & Fairfield Halls

Fairfield Collection Project update:

The Museum of Croydon are continuing to support FAB Croydon's HLF funded 'Fairfield Collections' project. The archives strand has been running weekly workshops to sort the material that was transferred from the Fairfield Halls in July. Starting in October with a taster session, volunteers from the Corps of Stewards have been focussing on the signature books, planning ledgers, signed photographs and monthly diaries. This has involved re-boxing and ordering the monthly diaries and starting to record information about the signatures and signed photographs.



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Recently we focussed on listing the yearly Pantomimes, recording details of the show and its stars and sharing stories of our favourites and how the casting has changed over more than 50 years. We have also looked at 'Friday night is Music Night' which was regularly hosted and recorded in the Concert Hall.

At the beginning of November, volunteers and project staff received training from the Oral History Society and new recorders were purchased to record some of the amazing stories that stewards, staff, performers and members of the public want to tell as part of the project.

After Christmas, we will be continuing with weekly workshops as well as planning to share our findings with residents of several care homes in Croydon and identifying themes for an exhibition during Croydon Heritage Festival.

Support for local community projects:

The Museum of Croydon are supporting Subrang Arts' successful HLF application for their 'Gujarati Yatra: journey of a people' project. The £72k grant awarded will fund an oral history and research project with this under-represented community group, culminating in an exhibition at Croydon Clocktower from autumn 2017.

The Museum of Croydon are also providing support to the whole Council's work following the tram incident in November 2016, by permanently archiving of the books of condolence and memorial sites. This is with a view to providing a lasting archive for local people to remember this tragic incident and the lives lost.



Children, Young People and Learning Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Alisa Flemming January 2017

LATEST NEWS

The Queen's New Year's Honours List

I am delighted to pass on the news that Dr Jonty Clark, Executive Head Teacher of the Beckmead Family of Schools has been recognised by the Queen in her New Year Honours List of January 2017 and been appointed an 'Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire' (OBE) for 'Services to Children with Disabilities and Special Educational Needs'.

Jonty has worked in a voluntary and professional capacity with children, young people and adults with Special Educational Needs for 39 years informed by an imperative belief in equality and inclusion. The OBE embraces his contributions locally, nationally and internationally.

I know Jonty has always made a point of constantly reviewing the school's curriculum and he works tremendously closely with the parents and families of his pupils. The work he has done has led to many other teachers and heads coming to Beckmead to learn how his methods can be replicated elsewhere.

He has always worked closely with the council, and has shown commitment to the wider community throughout his time in Croydon. Under his leadership Beckmead has provided outreach support to other schools to help them deal with children's emotional and behavioural difficulties and ASD, and he has been central to re-organising and strengthening the borough's pupil referral units.

His reputation spreads far beyond Croydon, and he is a true credit to the borough. We're lucky and proud to have him working here.

Timewise Accreditation for Croydon's Flexible Working Plans



Croydon is now a 'Timewise accredited Flexible Working Borough', meaning better working conditions for staff, reducing costs, and greater opportunities for services to meet the needs of individual customers.

This recognition from the Timewise Foundation is thanks to the council's adoption of a range of flexible working options for staff. It also recognises the plans the authority has put in place to develop these options still further and work with partners and other employers in the borough to follow suit.

The Foundation promotes the goal of people being able to progress their careers whilst finding the time they need to meet other commitments in their personal lives. By offering greater options beyond the standard nine-to-five the foundation has also found that employers typically attract and retain more talented staff.

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In a letter confirming the accreditation, **Emma Stuart**, joint CEO of Timewise, said: *“The Timewise Council award signifies that a local authority is taking in driving change in flexible working practices. Starting with their own workforce the ambition is to support innovation in shaping future public service delivery and through work with residents and employers to stimulate local labour market flexibility.”*

Croydon has been increasingly encouraging staff to work at times that suit them and has been providing technological solutions to support this wherever practical. These include greater use of laptops and tablets with video-conferencing capability and full



remote access to office files and systems. This not only benefits staff, but it also works out to be extremely cost effective, reducing pressures on council tax payers. Office costs are able to be reduced thanks to people being able to regularly work from home or stay out on the road without having to regularly return to base, and other efficiencies can also be found thanks to improved productivity.

Customers see advantages because the flexibility provided to staff means services can be equally flexible to meet their needs.

An additional bonus is that people with all the right skills, but who had previously struggled to fit work around the rest of their lives due to childcare commitments or living a long way from office locations, are now able to take up opportunities previously closed to them. Part time and job-share solutions are the kinds of options actively encouraged and promoted to help these people back into employment.

Contact Officer: maria.nawrocka@croydon.gov.uk

Education Estates Report - January 2017

This report will go to Cabinet in January and will provide an update on the plans to ensure the sufficient supply of school places to meet future demand. The report will also include an update on the school maintenance plan and the proposed Admission Arrangements for 2018/19. A draft accessibility strategy will also be set out and Cabinet will be asked for their approval to consult on the document will parents/carers, pupils and school stakeholders.

Contact Officer: Jenny.duxbury@croydon.gov.uk



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Reception and Junior Admissions 2017

As a final reminder, the admissions process is now live and the application deadline closed on **15 January 2017**.

We recommend that parents and carers apply online at www.croydon.gov.uk/admissions. The webpage contains all the information needed to apply for a place. Offers will be made on 18 April 2017.

Contact Officer: jenny.duxbury@croydon.gov.uk

Mayor of Croydon's Christmas Card Competition

A talented eight-year-old girl celebrated this Christmas having her festive design printed on the Mayor of Croydon's Christmas cards.

Nishika Mali, from Park Hill Junior School, was selected from among 80 children from 26 primary schools who entered this year's competition.



Christmas Project

The Christmas star appeal from Apollo House donated 363 presents for the Care planning service, London Ambulance service donated 50 presents and Purley Reformed Church donated around 30 presents. All the presents were bought brand new to gift to children in need for Christmas.

We also had food parcel for families who would not have had any food over the Christmas period. This food was donated from Council staff at BWH and local churches in the area.

The presents were distributed to our social workers who then took the gifts and food parcels to the children and families before Christmas.

Without the generosity of all the people who donated, Christmas might have been very different for some of these families during the Christmas period.

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DELIVERING OUR AMBITIONS

E-Learning

During 2016 almost 4000 professionals and residents registered for the Children and Families Partnership's free e-learning. The learners come from a range of backgrounds including social workers, teachers, GPs and their staff, foster carers, local businesses, parents and young people.

They were able to choose from a range of courses 30 courses on offer including equality and diversity, e-safety, safeguarding, autism awareness and domestic abuse. By far the most popular course is safeguarding children which was completed by 1,400 learners including over 400 mini cab drivers.

The Autism Awareness course was developed by the Autism Service in Croydon with Croydon parents and carers: although only launched in April it has already been completed by almost 700 on-line learners and a further 180 students at Norbury Manor Business and Enterprise College in their PSHE lessons.

All the courses receive very positive feedback with 99% of those completing the Autism course saying they will 'be able to apply the knowledge gained from these courses'.

The e-learning is available free to anyone who lives or works in Croydon by registering at: https://croydon.melearning.university/course_centre.



Families, Health and Social Care Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Louisa Woodley JANUARY 2017

LATEST NEWS

Following a joint scheme between the Council's Empty Property Service and the Housing Initiatives Team we have recently been able to bring 14 properties back into use in the private sector to move families out of expensive emergency accommodation.

Just before Christmas we signed up 14 families who will move into new high quality homes in the private rented sector in the New Year.

The council provided a grant for 11 of the units, to allow the conversion and refurbishment of an existing vacant building in Croydon.

I wish the tenants a very Happy New Year as they move in to their new homes.

Contact officers: corinne.masters@croydon.gov.uk - Head of Housing Renewal
Sharron.smail@croydon.gov.uk - Housing Initiatives Manager

Christmas appeal for the homeless people in Croydon

The Sustainable Communities team in Housing Needs requested donations to help the homeless people in Croydon this Christmas. Working with Turning Point who would distribute the goods; the donation scheme ran between 28 November and the 16 December 2016. The scheme requested support of staff and colleagues to make a difference to the lives of homeless people living in Croydon.

As part of the appeal, donations of hats, scarves, blankets, coats, jumpers, children's toys and food were requested. During the three weeks in which the donation scheme was held we were inundated with offers of items from colleagues in BWH and other council sites and offices. I would like to give a special "thanks" to Alistair Sherington (Grounds Manager, Bereavement Services) and his team, who were exceptionally generous and donated 8 black sacks; 4 sacks of toys and 4 of clothes to the scheme.



I would like to say a very big thank you to everyone who donated to the scheme and helped with the sorting and distribution of the goods in time for Christmas.

Contact Officer: sian.foley@croydon.gov.uk

Housing need

In November the council worked on 2 bids to the DCLG in regards to additional financial support in preventing homelessness and just before Christmas we found both have been successful, securing £1.4m in funding.

The first bid focuses on building on its gateway service where we are engaging with residents earlier in preventing homelessness offering a wide range of support that promotes independence. The second bid concentrates on reducing street homelessness where we increase work with partners, segment customer groups understanding and resolving some of the deeper issues that have led to this point of crisis. Work on both will start early into the New Year.

Contact Officer: mark.meehan@croydon.gov.uk

DELIVERING OUR AMBITIONS

Growing our own

Over the last twelve months we have recruited 33 Newly Qualified Social workers into Adult Social Care – these new workers reduce our need to take on locums. A number of them come to us having already been with us in some capacity, often as students, meaning that they are already familiar with many of our systems and resources and thereby increasing their efficiency on arrival.

Contact Officer: caroline.baxter@croydon.gov.uk

Cherry Orchard Day Centre move to Addington Heights and Peter Sylvester Centre

In September 2016 people using Cherry Orchard day centre moved to Addington Heights day unit and the Peter Sylvester unit, to facilitate work to be carried out on the Cherry Orchard building to allow White Horse Youth Centre to share the building.

The residents of New Addington have been very welcoming, enabling the users of our day centre to feel a part of their community. Especially as the day centre is within extremely easy reach of the community facilities on the village green including the leisure centre, the library, CALAT, the shops, the market, the church and the accessible transport facilities like the tram. The day centre building was previously under used so the clean décor, furnishings and the facilities like the warm adapted bathrooms, the quiet spaces including the lovely garden and the meals (people have found the food a particular delight) and the community have made the move positive for most people. Added to this the security of the building and its location away from a busy road has made carers and staff feel that people are safe in New Addington. Work had to be done at the Peter Sylvester Centre to update the building; this has resulted in comfortable bright accommodation where the clients have settled in well and are making use of all local facilities.

The clients and carers have been engaged with our coproduction partners to start work on what is needed going forward for learning disability. This will include what and how the current Cherry Orchard building will be used.

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Review of Croydon's Mental Health Strategy

There are significant local and national challenges in adult mental health services: growing demand; over reliance on inpatient provision; a challenging financial environment; and a need for greater integration. Because of these issues, I have launched a review of Croydon's five year Mental Health Strategy (2014 to 2019). The review has a particular focus on the experience of, and outcomes for, Black and Minority Ethnic communities.

A reference group has been set up with membership from across the borough including social care, CCG, clinicians and the voluntary sector. National expertise from PHE (Public Health England) will input into, and inform, the review.

The review will report findings in Spring 2017.

Contact Officer: steve.morton@croydon.gov.uk

Improving air quality

Air pollution is a major public health issue across London. The most vulnerable groups like children, older people and those with heart and respiratory conditions are most affected. People living in deprived areas are also more affected by poor air quality, partly because these areas are often near busy roads. In Croydon, it is estimated that 155 deaths each year are caused by long term exposure to air pollution. The Croydon Air Quality Action Plan is being updated to address local causes of air pollution and to mitigate its impacts. This is a joint project with the cabinet member for Transport and Environment.

Croydon is already leading the way with projects to tackle the impact of air pollution. The borough's innovative air quality forecasting service - airTEXT – has been rolled out across London. Currently around 10,000 people across the city use the airTEXT service through text, Twitter or the website.

Contact Officer: steve.morton@croydon.gov.uk

Clr Alison Butler - Homes and Regeneration

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Latest News – Regeneration

Fairfield Halls update

Following the resubmission of the College Green planning application, the Council's Planning Committee will consider the scheme in February 2017. The planning application can be viewed at:

<http://publicaccess.croydon.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=CROYD DCAPR 151185>

In the meantime work will continue on site, including the strip out and removal of asbestos from the Halls and the demolition of the multi-storey car park.

The scheme is being delivered by developers Brick by Brick, and the plans include a new, high-quality landscaped public space, a new college facility, a stunning new art gallery, new retail and office space as well as around 2,000 much-needed homes – all with the new Fairfield Halls at its heart.

Work is also underway to procure a new operator for Fairfield Halls when it opens post refurbishment and this should be complete by summer.

Place Review Panel

Croydon's Place Review Panel is now up and running. The first successful Place Review day took place on the 21st November 2016 and the next review is scheduled for January 24th 2017.

Briefing days for the panel members on Croydon will take place on January 31st and February 1st which will enable the panellists to gain a thorough understand of Croydon's local context and complexities which will be crucial to them when they assess development proposals for the Borough. They will include bus tours of the borough, a range of presentations from Councillors & senior officers, and be followed by a Launch Reception at Yumn Brasserie in Boxpark on the evening of February 1st.

As you will be aware, there is lots of important development coming forward in Croydon and the Place Review Panel has been set up to help facilitate excellence in its design and high quality placemaking across all types of projects that influence quality of place. The panel is made up of 25 highly regarded, independent built environment experts with a variety of specialisms including planning, landscape architecture, urban design, architecture, conservation, engineering, placemaking and culture.

Five panellists and a chair will be drawn from the wider panel once a month to assess emerging proposals and provide independent feedback on them through discussion with design teams and a written report. We are delighted to have attracted a brilliant group of 22

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expert panellists and 3 chairs to draw from, depending on the specialisms required on the day.

Projects that will be eligible for Place Reviews and would benefit from the Panel's expert input include, but are not limited to, emerging proposals for major development schemes, infrastructure and highways schemes, public realm, street furniture, civic spaces and other large urban development schemes.

The briefing days and launch reception were originally scheduled to take place in November but were postponed due to the tragic tram derailment at Sandilands.

Taberner House

Developers Hub Residential are preparing designs for the redevelopment of the Taberner House site and improvements to Queens Gardens and will be holding a public exhibition event on January 19th to share the proposed designs with the community, and get feedback on them.

This event is part of a wider engagement process which has been happening over several months where more than 1000 members of the local community have been interviewed to help understand community needs, aspirations and desires for the development.

The details for the event on the 19th are as follows:

Date: January 19th 2017

Time: 6pm to 8.30pm

Location: Friends Meeting House, 60 Park Lane, CRO 1JE

If community members are unable to attend on the 19th there are other ways to give your views. There is an online survey [here](#) and if anyone has any questions they should call 0203 887 3663 or email queensgardens@squarestonehub.com.

Thornton Heath

Over the past couple of months the tender to appoint a contractor to construct the Building Frontage Improvement project which includes works to 37 units along the high street and four pieces of flank wall art has been sent out to the market and the Council will shortly be appointing the successful contractor. Works are then anticipated to start on site in February 2017 and every effort will be made to minimise disruption to residents and businesses during this time, however, we hope you will agree that the outcome at the end will be worthwhile.

The public realm proposals to the area outside of Thornton Heath Train Station, TESCO and the Parchmore Road Junction are now available to view on the Council website at www.croydon.gov.uk/thorntonheath. These revised proposals have taken on board a

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number of really positive comments that were raised at previous community events and the new proposals will make an even more significant improvement.

As part of the ongoing Business Support Programme happening in Thornton Heath, a local recruitment fair was held at Crystal Palace Football Club, Selhurst Park, which aimed at matching local vacancies with local candidates mainly focused on the retail and services sector. There were more than 50 vacancies available. A total of 38 local candidates attended the event.

Latest News - Homes

£15m Investment to tackle homelessness - Real Lettings

The Council has previously invested £30m in the Real Lettings Fund, a joint scheme with charity St Mungo's that manages good-quality, long-term housing for 151 households who would otherwise be in short-term, emergency accommodation.

By funding these properties, ranging from studio flats to three-bedroom homes, the scheme also cuts the amount of money the council needs to spend on emergency bed and breakfast and there are better outcomes for families.

So far, the Real Lettings Fund has enabled Croydon Council to:

- House 169 people in total
- Cut its annual B&B bill by over £1 million

Cabinet has now taken the decision to invest a further £15m into the fund, which will provide a further 47 two-bedroom properties. This is in response to rising demand for affordable private sector rented accommodation, and to offer low-income households access to a market that they would struggle to access on their own.

The Real Lettings Fund provides the accommodation through the council identifying those needing help and then passing them to St Mungo's, who find a property to sub-let on a renewable 12-month tenancy. Families remain at these properties for three years on average. St Mungo's also gives extra support to improve the householders' job prospects and signposts them to other organisations if needed.

Benefit Cap

In November we have seen the first phase of benefit cap reductions. This is where households are limited to a maximum of £23,000 per annum in payment from welfare benefits, this includes assistance with housing costs/rent.

In the first phase households that have already been capped at £26,000 per annum have seen a further reduction to £23,000 a loss of at least £60 we have 340 households affected in the first phase. The second phase is due to be rolled starting on 19 December 2016 with

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precise timings and numbers are to be confirmed. In the second phase this will include households that receive less than £26,000 per annum in welfare support, they will be capped at the new £23,000 amount.

This will without doubt put residents under greater financial pressure and owing to this the council has already been working with those affected in helping people find work, budget and debt management and moving to alternative accommodation where appropriate. To date we have assisted over 120 households and with the second phase pending ongoing support in this area is critical in assisting others to avoid crisis.

Bids for additional support on homelessness

In November the council has been working on 2 bids to the DCLG in regards to additional financial support in preventing homelessness and just before Christmas we found both have been successful, securing £1.4m in funding.

The first bid focuses on building on its gateway service where we are engaging with residents earlier in preventing homelessness offering a wide of support that promotes independence. The second bid concentrates on reducing street homelessness where we increase work with partners, segment customer groups understanding and resolving some of the deeper issues that have led to this point of crisis. Work on both will start early into the New Year.



Communities, Safety and Justice

Cabinet Member Bulletin

Councillor Hamida Ali

January 2017

Latest News

Policing and Crime Plan 2017-21 consultation

The Mayor of London and the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime are currently consulting on their proposed priorities for policing and the criminal justice system for the next 4 years.

The draft plan reflects a shift away from the previous regime - which was applied rigidly regardless of community and geography and focused largely on acquisitive crime - with a more flexible approach, responsive to local communities and with harm and risk to Londoners at its heart.

The draft plan addresses five priority areas:

- Neighbourhood policing – including extra investment in Safer Neighbourhood Teams to deliver two police officers and one police community support officer in every ward
- Keeping children and young people safe
- Tackling violence against women and girls
- Standing together against extremism, hatred and intolerance
- Putting victims at the heart of the criminal justice system

As part of the consultation, the Deputy Mayor for Policing will be visiting Croydon on 27 January to discuss the draft plan with representatives from the Council and the police and also to visit St. Mary's school where MOPAC is working with Croydon Council to pilot a whole school approach to crime prevention.

The Safer Croydon Partnership will be responding to the consultation which closes on 23 February and residents are also welcome to put forward their views:

<https://londonvoice.org.uk/policeandcrimeplan>

Greater local support against domestic abuse

Croydon now has three domestic abuse advisers based in the local community. The trained advisers are part of the Family Justice Centre team, and are located in the north, centre and south of the borough.

The aim of this locally based service is to help the earlier identification of victims, to make access to support services easier, and to boost community confidence to help those who are impacted by domestic abuse and sexual violence.

AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON



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<http://news.croydon.gov.uk/greater-local-support-against-domestic-abuse/>

The Council also continued its work as a White Ribbon borough over the Christmas and New Year period by highlighting messages across the borough about domestic violence support services within the Family Justice Centre, targeting friends and family who may be looked to for support and advice.

Croydon work in prevent Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) recognised by FBI

Representatives from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the domestic intelligence and security service of the United States, have been learning from the experiences and successes of a Croydon-based project in protecting girls who are risk of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and improving psychological and physical health outcomes for those who have been affected.

Beth Kelly, FGM Project Consultant, spoke about the project which has seen her bring together professionals from across the public and charity sectors in Croydon to provide a unified body to identify and support those who are at risk of and who have experienced FGM. She spoke about the challenges of creating a unified overarching strategy across many different partners and emphasised the essential role community members and service users have played in the setup of the project and in its continual outreach activity and improvement. Other speakers included the FGM Prevention Programme Manager from the Department of Health and the National FGM Lead from NHS England.

In Croydon, there are estimated to be 3,480 females who have been affected by FGM at some point in their lives, equivalent to 1 in 104 females. It is estimated that 3% of maternities in Croydon are to women affected by FGM, this equates to around 200 births per year. The project has already seen a high increase in referrals for children assessed as at risk of FGM, mostly from one of the over 1,500 professionals from Health, Local Authority, Police and the Voluntary Sector who have already been trained in FGM, risk assessment, identification and management of FGM, local referral pathways and procedures.

I'm delighted to see the hard work we have put in to build the cross-agency network recognised in this way. Hopefully our learning can support American efforts to protect and support women and girls at risk of FGM.

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Delivering Our Ambitions

Second conviction earns trader jail sentence

A Norbury-based trader has become the borough's first store owner to be handed a prison sentence for selling knives to underage customers.

Shakeb Hakime, of Norbury Discount Store, London Road, was sentenced to 10 weeks' jail, suspended for 12 months, after admitting the offence at Croydon Magistrates' Court. He was ordered to perform 100 hours' community service, to pay costs of £7,144.00, and a victim surcharge of £80.

<http://news.croydon.gov.uk/second-conviction-earns-trader-jail-sentence/>

ASB leads to closure of New Addington property

Illegal drug use, fights and arguments night and day have led to Croydon's antisocial behaviour (ASB) team being granted a three-month Premises Closure Order for a council property at 6 Mickleham Way.

The closure, which lasts until March 2017, follows a nine-month investigation into complaints of ASB and nuisance.

Working Together

Recycling computers with the community

Following on from the successful Go ON Croydon programme which reduced the number of people in Croydon without digital skills by almost one third, we have started to equip community organisations across the borough with computers at no cost to the council.

During 2016 the council updated its IT equipment and we have developed a partnership with the charity Computer Recyclers to bring that equipment back into Croydon communities. Hundreds of laptops and desktops which are no longer suitable for our business environment are being recycled and returned to Croydon.

They are used by community organisations across the borough who have committed to offer access to IT equipment and to support their members gain digital skills. We are then linking up with other council services to ensure digital skills are integrated into a range of support for groups and individuals.



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We believe this exciting initiative is the first of its kind in the country and will reach those individuals and communities that can benefit most from digital skills to ensure that no one in Croydon gets left behind.

Community organisations should contact is GoCroydon@croydon.gov.uk to see if they are eligible for the programme.



Economy and Jobs Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Mark Watson January 2017

Latest News

Small Business Commission

SME's are consistently described as the backbone of the UK economy and with over 99% of businesses in Croydon being small businesses, London Borough of Croydon are pleased to announce the launch of our new Small Business Commission.

Working with Commissioners from local SME's and business support agencies, London Borough of Croydon will explore the opportunities for, and barriers to, business growth for Croydon's Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SME's). The commission will use a variety of workshops, interview visits and a survey to ask hundreds of companies across the borough for their feedback on what helps and hinders their economic growth.

Understanding the growth potential of our business community and being able to support businesses in their drive to new markets and innovation is essential if we are to achieve our ambitious vision of growth. These companies are critical to developing our economy, the findings of our Small Business Commission will help us to understand their needs and will inform our strategy and work going forwards.

The commission's research will result in a report detailing recommendations for action, which will be published by summer.

Access to Finance

Working with the Croydon Business Network, London Borough of Croydon are delighted to host Coast to Capitals exciting Access to Finance event for local businesses being held at Braithwaite Hall on Friday 10th February from 9.30am until 1.30pm.

With an ever increasing array of finance opportunities available businesses often face confusion on what options are best for their circumstances. Access to finance still remains one of the most talked about perceived barriers to business growth.

Coast to Capital will bring together an array of financial providers to help dispel the myths and provide facts to Croydon's business community, this access to finance event will provide expert information and opportunity to explore the many options to finance available. To book or find out further information contact

JLeggatt@wlcreative.org.uk



Economy and Jobs Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Mark Watson January 2017

South Norwood Pop-up shop is open for business

After working with the owner of three empty shops on Portland Road, South Norwood we are now bringing the premises back into use as pop-up shops. Pop-up shops are based on affordable short-term lease agreements that allow entrepreneurs to market test their products or services before making longer term commitments.

The first of the Portland Road shops opened with a well-attended launch on the 7th December. Elizabeth James has already taken bookings from local primary schools for art workshops and in addition to selling original works of art and homewares she will be holding regular live art sessions where members of the public can come to the shop to see an artist at work and have the opportunity to engage with them.



The two remaining shops at 14 and 16 Portland Road are due for completion and will be open for trading in the early New Year.



Economy and Jobs Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Mark Watson January 2017

Thornton Heath – Business Support Programme

As part of the ongoing New Homes Bonus funded Business Support Programme in Thornton Heath a range of interventions to either create jobs or support businesses is taking place until spring 2017.

On Friday 2nd December a local recruitment fair was held at Crystal Palace Football Club, Selhurst Park aimed at matching local vacancies with local candidates mainly focused on the retail and services sector. There were more than 50 vacancies available. A total of 38 local candidates attended the event. This included their support workers and helpers for the informal interviews.



Employers at the event included **Sainsbury's, Subway, Delly's and CPFC** and CVA representing the smaller high street businesses. Training opportunities and work placements were also available for those who have been out of work, but want to gain more experience and build up their CV.

“Special thanks goes to **Job Centre Plus** who have opened their doors to us and have helped us get access to suitable candidates at very short notice and for embracing the partnership.”

Councillor Mark Watson, cabinet member for economy and jobs, said: *“We received excellent feedback from both employers and candidates who attended the jobs and training fair and I’m delighted that local employers saw the benefits of prioritising the engagement of local people in their vacancies.”*

CVA will be following up with candidates and employers to find out the number of vacancies filled and to continue to deliver support to match candidates with vacancies and vice versa and to support new and existing businesses in Thornton Heath



Economy and Jobs Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Mark Watson January 2017

Business Rates Relief Scheme

The Council is set to boost local companies with money off their business rates; local businesses could save thousands on their business rates in the borough - with up to 100 percent discount available in some cases.

The scheme is intended to support the growth of existing Croydon companies as well as attract new businesses to the borough. Applications for rates relief will be considered on a case-by-case basis where applicants can demonstrate the application will safeguard existing jobs or create new jobs in the borough.

Croydon Works

Another Boxpark recruitment event was held in November from which a further 4 residents gained work – more recruitment events will be held with Boxpark tenants in the New Year. Work with some of the Council's Tier 1 contractors to find local apprentices has also been successful in the last few weeks - 10 apprentices are expected to start in January 2017.

Surrey Street

Carriageway improvements

We held a packed information event on 12th January to provide an update to traders, businesses and residents. Despite the snow over 50 people attended and the response was positive with a lot of support for the levelling of the highway, de-cluttering the street and architectural lighting. Other items that came up included:

- We agreed the need to communicate regularly with the market traders regarding start dates and future disruption (including whether they will need to move while the works are taking place or whether the work can be done in phased approach)
- The importance of the signage and wayfinding, both at the market and across the town centre, including the possibility of an archway at the entrances
- A clear need for barriers or intervention needed to reduce vehicles entering Surrey Street unlawfully
- A need to protect the cultural heritage of the market, whilst creating a unique and interesting space.
- Seating – whether it be temporary or permanent – essential
- An option to improve the market stalls to be reviewed.
- Option to provide toilet facilities to be reviewed

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The architects are now completing design amendments, which are due imminently, and then will be sent to the contractors to continue with their detailed design. We will then get an update on their programme to confirm start on site/completion dates.

- The contractors have already surveyed the site and trial holes were completed this week. We are awaiting the outcome of the site survey to determine possibility of providing underground power feeders
- Electricity design and lighting design to be completed by Skanska in parallel
- The scheme is going to Place Review Panel on 24th Jan.

Art and wayfinding

- We are finalising images for the Planning department before for the bridge light installation
- We will be painting the air-condition units in the next two weeks
- Planning drawings complete ready to submit advertisement consent application for x2 wayfinding installations, now subject to landowner consent.
- We are installing a LED lighting unit in the vacant unit in Bridge House. Likely to be 6-8 weeks to be manufactured and delivered
- New street lighting will enable us to provide artistic lighting (lanterns, festoon lighting etc.. as needed).

Working Together

At an event on 1st December at Croydon's TMRW Hub, we celebrated the success of the year's Go ON Croydon programme by showcasing some of the work that has happened and thanking the many partners who've supported the initiative. Attendees spoke to some of the people who have been helped and some became Digital Champions for an hour in a pop up Digital Zone.

There are now 28 Digital Zones open across the borough, with many more set to open across Croydon in 2017 thanks to an innovative recycling scheme. During 2016 the council updated its computer equipment and in partnership with a recycling charity are data cleansing and refurbishing the equipment. Hundreds of laptops and desktops are coming back into Croydon and are being used by community organisations to help their clients and communities to access equipment and gain the skills they need to benefit from the digital world.

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Economy and Jobs Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Mark Watson January 2017

This exciting initiative, which we understand is the first of its kind in the country will enable digital skills support to reach deep into the communities that can benefit most, to make sure that no-one in Croydon gets left behind.

The results of independent research carried out on behalf of one of the Go ON Croydon key partners, Lloyds Banking Group, were announced at the celebration event and I'm pleased to report that the number of people with Basic Digital Skills in Croydon has risen over the year from 70% to 79%, so almost of third of the people who didn't have digital skills have gained them during the year. This is a real success and thanks are due to all the partners and digital champions who have worked on the Go ON Croydon programme. We're now ensuring that the legacy of this lives on and continues to improve lives in Croydon.

If you want to know where the digital zones are located, or if you want to share the benefits of the digital world with others by becoming a Digital Champion, visit https://www.croydon.gov.uk/community/go-on-croydon-/go-on-croydon_. If you want to know more about setting up a digital zone in your community organisation, email GoCroydon@croydon.gov.uk where staff will be able to give advice and support.



Clean Green Croydon Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Stuart Collins January 2017

Procurement of New Equipment

In order to continue to improve services and ensure Veolia make the transition from the current contract and it's level of service and performance indicators to the new tougher more robust service performance indicators in the SLWP Contract, bringing forward capital investment is essential. £1.28M will be spent on:

- Bringing in 4 compact mechanical sweepers split North/Central & South, these vehicles will focus on high use high impact areas.
- Two additional Refuse Collection Vehicles to focus on the collection of the orange bags left over night following the previous administrations 2012 cuts, this provides greater capacity and reduces down time running to tip to empty.
- 3 x 3.5 tonne cage tippers Narrow access vehicles for the street cleansing service Ideal for housing sites, alleyways and access to 'hard to reach fly tips'
- Initial rollout of 25 x electric hoovers for street cleansing operatives with an intention to rollout across the borough.
- Introduction of deep cleaning jet wash equipment for the council's environmental response team to target localised deep cleaning on high footfall areas.



Following a successful trial, the installation of approximately 50 x solar powered bins placed in district centres and high footfall area such as approaches to transport interchanges and high use public parks to replace the existing bins. Like nearly all Council's we empty our bins once a day, so following the local government austerity cuts, we like other Council's can't afford to double the annual revenue cost by increasing that frequency.

These bins compress waste thus giving an 8x greater capacity and they send a message when they need emptying thus creating a saving in annual revenue costs, that will be reinvested in the service. After listening to public feedback they'll be opened by foot pedal and lid handle and officers will seek best possible value for money by either bulk purchase discount or leasing, whichever presents best value.

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Clean Green Croydon

Cabinet Member Bulletin

Councillor Stuart Collins

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The council is also currently investing in various items through its existing capital programme. These are already accounted for and not part of the expenditure relating to this report. These include:-

- The replacement of the old 'paladin' bins from blocks of flats with 'Chamberlain' bins which are more visually pleasing, sturdier, easier to manoeuvre and can be lifted without the need for a specialist vehicle.

Street Cleansing Schedules

As members will be aware all street cleansing schedules are now online.

This enables residents to access information about how frequently their street is swept and when their street is next due to be swept. This gives residents a greater understanding of when they can expect to see street sweepers. The current service is frequency-based, meaning it is of utmost importance that the scheduled sweep is carried out well, and we have been working extensively with our contractor Veolia to ensure this is the case.

To this effect, council officers are currently undertaking over 200 inspections each month to make certain that the standards of street sweeping are to the levels specified in the contract, and that any issues are addressed immediately. Several areas have been or were identified and I am pleased to say Veolia have responded as I'd expect, making improvements, motivating their staff and this has resulted in a number of positive feedbacks from local residents.

Prosecution Update

On Tuesday 4th January George Smith was found guilty of several fly tipping waste offences at Camberwell Magistrates Court, in both South Croydon and Thornton Heath areas. He is likely to receive a custodial sentence on 25th of January. Our Enforcement Staff did a fantastic job, catching him then gathering the evidence needed.

In the last month they have also seized a further 3 vehicles taking the total vehicles involved in fly tipping incidents up to 21, hitting fly tippers in their pockets.

Well done to all those involved.

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Transport and Environment Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Stuart King January 2017

Government reneges on agreement to transfer rail services to TfL

A year ago, TfL and the DfT jointly published their Rail Prospectus extolling the virtues of devolving London's suburban railways to TfL. The Prospectus stated that suburban services operated by Southern, Southeastern and South West Trains could be devolved to TfL in 2020 or 2021 when the current franchises end. More recently Mayor Sadiq Khan has called for the failing Southern franchise to be passed to TfL straight away, a policy this administration supports.

However, Transport Secretary Chris Grayling has now said that he only wants TfL to be "closely involved" in developing services for now, effectively ruling out devolution to London until the mid-2020s at the earliest.

We agree with the Mayor that 'the only proven way of improving services for passengers is giving control of suburban rail lines to TfL'. When London Overground took over services train delays lowered by 42% in the three years after it launched. We are therefore continuing to strongly support the Mayor in his call for devolution of the Southern franchise to TfL.

Response to Govia Thameslink Railway (GTR) Timetable Consultation

We responded to the recent consultation conducted by Southern franchise holder GTR on its proposed timetable changes. This was a first round of consultation with a further round to follow.

We welcomed GTR responding to our repeated calls for Thameslink to serve Norwood Junction. However we objected in the strongest terms to the apparent suggestion that the Norwood Junction to London Bridge semi-fast service be cut from 6 trains per hour (tph) to 4tph in the peak period. We also voiced our strong objection to the suggested cut in the Selhurst, Thornton Heath and Norbury to Victoria off-peak frequency. At the same time we called for the opening of the second entrance at Norbury Station during the peaks.

We objected to the proposal that the stopping services from London Bridge to East Croydon be diverted to and terminated at West Croydon. In the light of the apparent increased interchange role the proposed timetable would place on Norwood Junction, we called on GTR to help us fund Network Rail to undertake detailed feasibility and costing for making the station accessible to people who use wheelchairs.

Whilst Gatwick Express was not part of the consultation, we again made the case for it serving East Croydon.

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Transport and Environment Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Stuart King January 2017

ULEZ Consultation Response

We are very concerned about the effects vehicle emissions are having on the health of Croydon's residents. Therefore we were pleased to respond to TfL's recent consultation on proposals to tackle vehicle related air pollution. We particularly welcomed the proposal to extend the planned Ultra-Low Emissions Zone (ULEZ) from central London to London wide for heavy goods vehicles (HGVs), buses and coaches, as early as 2019.

However, were expansion of the ULEZ to be much later than 2019, then we called on TfL to introduce Low Emission Bus Zones at the more polluted locations in the Borough, including along the London Road and at Croydon Town Centre. We also made the point that the ultimate low emission bus is a tram, making the case for expansion of the Tramlink network, a longstanding administration objective.

Strategic Bus services

I recently met with senior representatives of TfL to discuss bus strategy issues in our borough. We agreed to work together to take forward proposals for bus lanes and other types of bus priority measures focussed on the Town Centre. We agreed to work together to look at innovative ways public transport might serve areas traditionally poorly served, particularly in the south of the borough, including Tollers Lane in Coulsdon. We similarly agreed to look at the case for new or extended routes in the north of the borough, with capacity issues in Norbury specifically in mind.

Whilst this was a bus focussed meeting I made the point that we need to consider whether trams will be a cleaner and more efficient way of moving people along certain corridors rather than relying on more and more buses.

Completion of Core Investment Programme

The 25 year joint Croydon & Lewisham Street Lighting PFI Contract commenced in August 2011 with an initial five year Core Investment Programme which resulted in the replacement of the boroughs street lighting columns, illuminated signs and bollards.

There were a total of 46,665 old street light and illuminated signs removed across both boroughs, which in Croydon there were 25,223 new columns and 2,870 new signs and bollards installed.



Transport and Environment Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Stuart King January 2017

As a result of the replacement of these assets the old Croydon Public Lighting Cable Network System has been de-energised. This will now eliminate any UK Power Networks “Section Faults” where many streets could be out of light at the same time, as each individual street light is now fed separately off the Low Voltage Mains Cable.

Built into the Contract is a Central Management System which is a web base system with the capability to monitor all street lights to ensure these are in light at all times. Any faults are reported via this electronic system with jobs raised the next day and to be repaired within four business days.

Overall the programme has delivered its objectives with the borough now being lit to the requirements of the current British Standards and the streets are now brighter and safer to use by all.

20mph consultation – next steps

In December Cabinet agreed a revised consultation process for the introduction of 20mph speed limits in the remaining areas of the borough. The report on this decision can be found

<https://secure.croydon.gov.uk/akscroydon/users/public/admin/kab14.pl?operation=SUBMIT&meet=53&cmte=CAB&grpId=public&arc=1>

The consultation runs from 18 January to 15 February, and all properties in the areas being consulted will receive a leaflet about the council’s proposals, including details of how they can participate in the consultation process. More detail can be found on the council website at www.croydon.gov.uk/20mph

The results of the consultation will be reported to the Traffic Management Advisory Committee at its meeting in May 2017.

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Finance and Treasury

Cabinet Member Bulletin

Councillor Simon Hall

January 2017

Local Government Funding Settlement

In December, the government announced its draft local government settlement. In the Autumn, the Council submitted its efficiency strategy as part of a four year settlement. However, the announcements in December changed a number of the anticipated items of council spending.

Generally, this saw a reduction in New Homes Bonus, with the use of this reduction in 17/18 for a one-year Adult Social Care support grant. There was also increased flexibility given on the timing of the adult social care precept. However, all of this meant that there was no new money from central government for adult social care, even when the Tory leader of the Local Government Association and authorities across the political spectrum had been unanimous in calling for additional funding for adult social care, given the scale of shortfall nationally.

The net effect of the changes in New Homes Bonus and support grant is that Croydon will lose £1.9m. more than we were originally told in 17/18 and £1m. more than originally anticipated in each of 18/19 and 19/20/

The Government is, in all of its calculations, assuming that councils will apply its precept at the maximum level (6% over the next three years) and increase council tax by the maximum allowed without a referendum (1.99% each year).

Overall, we are seeing the Government's core funding to the Council fall by some 40% in real terms over a four year period. The Government's own measure of councils' ability to spend, 'Core Spending Power', shows a 13% drop in real-terms funding per resident over the same four year period, even assuming that Adult Social Care precept and Council tax increases are at their maximum. All of this at a time of massive increase in demand for services, notably with an aging population.

In addition, we are seeing significant reductions either confirmed or proposed in other areas, such as:

- Public Health grant being cut by 2.5% in cash terms (5% in real terms)
- Reduction in Education Services Grant by £1.4m.
- Reduction in the per-pupil funding in schools
- Failure to fund education estates expansion

The Leader has written to the Secretary of State and the Council has responded to these decisions and proposals, which continue to have such a dramatic impact on our funding.

In the face of this onslaught on local government, this Administration remains steadfast in implementing its plans, so that it is delivering for the people of Croydon.

Budget preparation

The work on the 17/20 Budget is progressing well, despite all the funding pressures and the demands on services.

In December, I attended the Scrutiny and Overview Committee to go through budget options.

I want to pay tribute to the tireless work of officers in preparing the budget. Because of the pressures the Council is under, this becomes a more and more challenging process each year. And the way they have responded will enable us to present a balanced budget for 17/18 and, indeed, for the first time, provide a balanced three year budget.

Local Government Boundary Review

The Boundary Commission has announced that there will be a one month delay in their publishing their draft proposals for Croydon. However, this will not affect our borough having new boundaries in place for the local elections in 2018, thus ensuring fair representation at those elections.