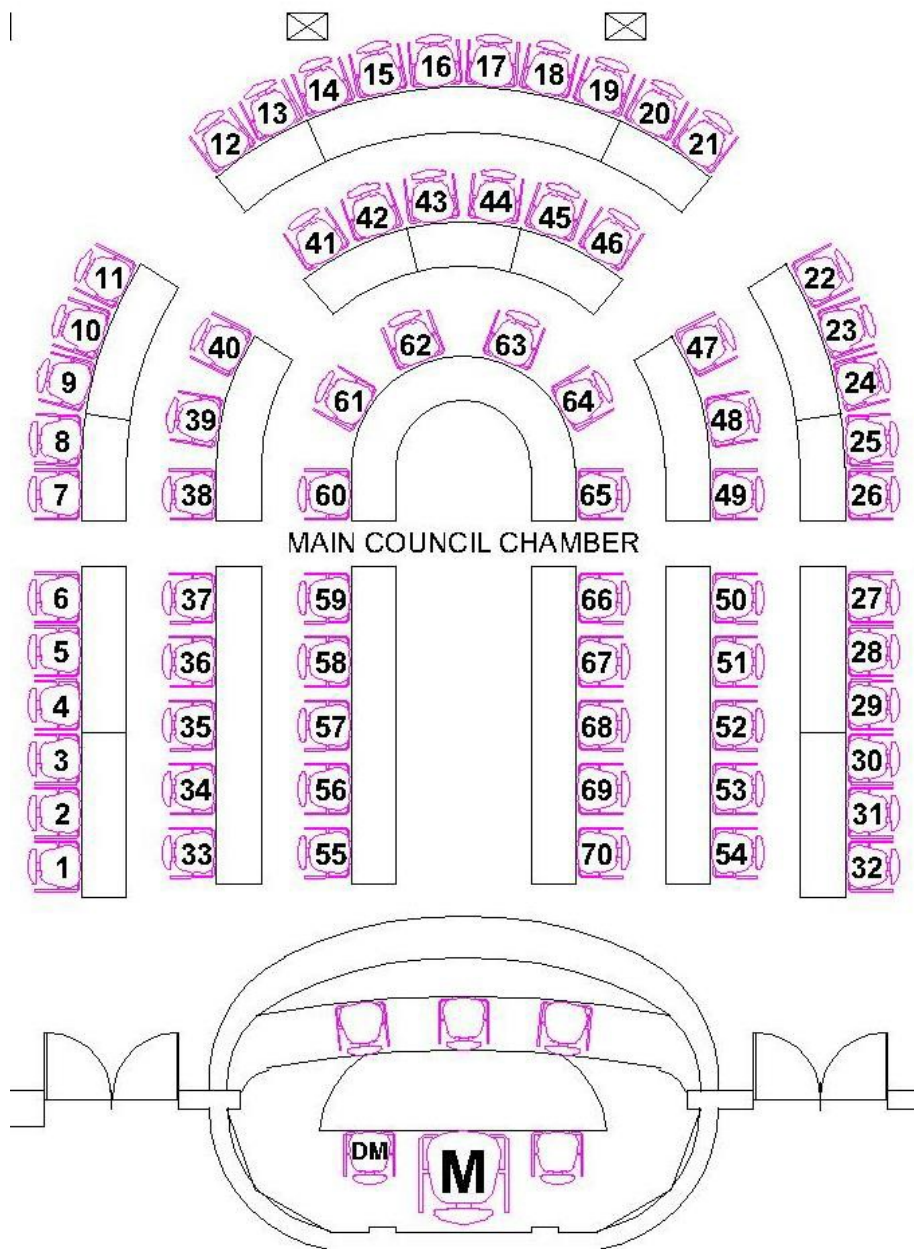




**COUNCIL  
AGENDA**  
for the meeting  
on  
7 October 2019 at  
6.30 pm

1. Callton Young
2. Joy Prince
3. Stephen Mann
4. Toni Letts
5. Andrew Pelling
6. Pat Clouder
7. Pat Ryan
8. Felicity Flynn
9. Mary Croos
10. Robert Canning
11. Leila Ben-Hassel
12. Bernadette Khan
13. Sherwin Chowdhury
14. Jerry Fitzpatrick
15.
16.
17. Oni Ovir
18. Steve Hollands
19. Ian Parker
20. Michael Neal
21. Luke Clancy
22. Jan Buttinger
23. Sue Bennett
24. Jeet Bains
25. Stuart Millson
26. Andy Stranack
27. Helen Redfern
28. Simon Brew
29. Gareth Streeter
30. Margaret Bird
31. Scott Roche
32. Richard Chatterjee
33. Shafi Khan
34. David Wood
35. Nina Degrad
36. Patricia Hay-Justice
37. Louisa Woodley
38. Clive Fraser
39. Patsy Cummings
40. Sean Fitzsimons
41.
42. Janet Campbell
43. Karen Jewitt
44. Chris Clark
45. Jamie Audsley
46. Mohammed Ali
47. Badsha Quadir
48. Robert Ward
49. Steve O'Connell
50. Helen Pollard
51. Yvette Hopley
52. Mario Creatura
53. Vidhi Mohan
54. Simon Hoar
55. Alisa Flemming



56. Hamida Ali
57. Stuart Collins
58. Alison Butler
59. Tony Newman
60. Simon Hall
61. Oliver Lewis
62. Jane Avis
63. Manju Shahul-Hameed
64. Paul Scott
65. Stuart King
66. Tim Pollard
67. Jason Cummings
68. Lynne Hale
69. Maria Gatland
70. Jason Perry
Notes etc.....
<b>M</b> – Mayor Councillor Humayun Kabir
<b>DM</b> – Deputy Mayor – Councillor Maddie Henson
Please note that the numbers relate to microphone numbers.
May 2019

To: To All Members of the Council

Date: 27 September 2019

A meeting of the **COUNCIL** which you are hereby summoned to attend, will be held on **Monday, 7 October 2019** at **6.30 pm** in **Town Hall**

JACQUELINE HARRIS BAKER  
Council Solicitor and Monitoring Officer  
London Borough of Croydon  
Bernard Weatherill House  
8 Mint Walk, Croydon CR0 1EA

Annette Wiles 020 872 6000 x64877  
annette.wiles@croydon.gov.uk  
[www.croydon.gov.uk/meetings](http://www.croydon.gov.uk/meetings)  
27 September 2019

Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting. If you require any assistance, please contact officer as detailed above.

The meeting webcast can be viewed here: <http://webcasting.croydon.gov.uk>

The agenda papers are available on the Council website  
[www.croydon.gov.uk/meetings](http://www.croydon.gov.uk/meetings)

## **AGENDA – PART A**

**1. Apologies for Absence**

To receive any apologies for absence from any Members.

**2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (Pages 7 - 34)**

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 15 July 2019 as an accurate record.

**3. Disclosure of Interests**

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct and the statutory provisions of the Localism Act, Members and co-opted Members of the Council are reminded that it is a requirement to register disclosable pecuniary interests (DPIs) and gifts and hospitality to the value of which exceeds £50 or multiple gifts and/or instances of hospitality with a cumulative value of £50 or more when received from a single donor within a rolling twelve month period. In addition, Members and co-opted Members are reminded that unless their disclosable pecuniary interest is registered on the register of interests or is the subject of a pending notification to the Monitoring Officer, they are required to disclose those disclosable pecuniary interests at the meeting. This should be done by completing the Disclosure of Interest form and handing it to the Democratic Services representative at the start of the meeting. The Chair will then invite Members to make their disclosure orally at the commencement of Agenda item 3. Completed disclosure forms will be provided to the Monitoring Officer for inclusion on the Register of Members' Interests.

**4. Urgent Business (if any)**

To receive notice of any business not on the agenda which in the opinion of the Chair, by reason of special circumstances, be considered as a matter of urgency.

**5. Announcements**

To receive Announcements, if any, from the Mayor, the Leader, Head of Paid Service and Returning Officer.

**6. Croydon Question Time (Pages 35 - 118)**

**a) Public Questions (30 minutes)**

To receive questions from the public gallery and questions



submitted by residents in advance of the meeting.

**b) Leader and Cabinet Member Questions (105 minutes)**

To receive questions from Councillors.

**7. Member Petitions (Pages 119 - 122)**

To receive notice of petitions presented by Members on behalf of local residents.

**8. Council Debate Motions**

To debate any motions submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rules.

**9. Recommendations of Cabinet to Council for decision (Pages 123 - 150)**

To consider the recommendations made by Cabinet since the last ordinary Council meeting relating to the following matters:

1. Cabinet: Quarter 1 Financial Performance 2019/20.

**10. Exclusion of the Press and Public**

The following motion is to be moved and seconded where it is proposed to exclude the press and public from the remainder of a meeting:

“That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information falling within those paragraphs indicated in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended.”

**PART B**

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## Council

Meeting held on Monday, 15 July 2019 at 6.30 pm in Council Chamber, Town Hall, Katharine Street, Croydon CR0 1NX

## MINUTES

**Present:** Councillor Humayun Kabir (Chair);  
Councillor Maddie Henson (Vice-Chair);  
Councillors Hamida Ali, Muhammad Ali, Jane Avis, Jeet Bains, Leila Ben-Hassel, Sue Bennett, Margaret Bird, Simon Brew, Alison Butler, Jan Buttinger, Janet Campbell, Robert Canning, Richard Chatterjee, Sherwan Chowdhury, Luke Clancy, Chris Clark, Pat Clouder, Stuart Collins, Mary Croos, Jason Cummings, Patsy Cummings, Mario Creatura, Nina Degrad, Jerry Fitzpatrick, Sean Fitzsimons, Alisa Flemming, Felicity Flynn, Clive Fraser, Maria Gatland, Lynne Hale, Simon Hall, Patricia Hay-Justice, Simon Hoar, Steve Hollands, Yvette Hopley, Karen Jewitt, Stuart King, Toni Letts, Oliver Lewis, Stephen Mann, Vidhi Mohan, Tony Newman, Steve O'Connell, Oni Oviri, Ian Parker, Andrew Pelling, Jason Perry, Helen Pollard, Tim Pollard, Joy Prince, Badsha Quadir, Helen Redfern, Scott Roche, Paul Scott, Manju Shahul-Hameed, Niroshan Sirisena, Andy Stranack, Gareth Streeter, Robert Ward, David Wood, Louisa Woodley and Callton Young

**Apologies:** Councillor Jamie Audsley, Bernadette Khan, Shafi Khan, Stuart Millson, Michael Neal and Pat Ryan

## PART A

### 41/19 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 May 2019 were agreed as an accurate record.

### 42/19 Disclosure of Interests

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interests. Members confirmed their disclosure of interest forms were accurate and up-to-date.

### 43/19 Urgent Business (if any)

The Leader, Councillor Newman, provided the Council with an urgent update regarding those services for which there was no recourse to public funds, specifically citing the example of the lack of funding for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children which left a £17m hole in the Council's budget. It was reported that London Councils, comprising all parties across all London boroughs, was supportive of Croydon's approach in taking a tough position with the Government. This was to continue as part of the anticipated local government spending review and reflected the Council's determination to ensure fair funding for Croydon and its vulnerable children and young people.

#### 44/19      **Announcements**

The Mayor, Councillor Kabir, provided Council with his announcements. It was noted that he had undertaken 93 Mayoral events during the preceding seven weeks including a multi faith remembrance event with the Croydon Sri Lankan Society for the victims and families of the Easter Sunday terror attacks. The Mayor had also hosted an international business delegation and was hopeful of successful working relationships as a result. Members were encouraged to participate in the Mayor's forthcoming fundraising activities and a Mayoral newsletter providing more information on his activities was anticipated.

The Mayor then took the opportunity to acknowledge Colonel McRobbie who had recently retired after 23 years of service as Croydon's Deputy Lieutenant. The Colonel was warmly thanked for the invaluable support and guidance he had given to Councillors and Council officers on many areas of civic life. His role in establishing the Military Community Covenant in Croydon and involvement in the organisation of the borough's Remembrance and Armistice commemorations was noted along with his work with a number of Croydon charities including Home-Start Croydon, of which he was the Chair.

The Mayor invited the Leader, Councillor Newman, to make his own tribute to Colonel McRobbie. The Leader ascribed the many attendances at events in Croydon by members of the Royal Family to the Colonel's success as Deputy Lieutenant along with his achievement in raising £1.5m for local charities. The Colonel was described as part of the fabric of Croydon who would be very much missed.

Councillor Tim Pollard, the Leader of the Opposition Group, was also asked by the Mayor to make a speech in honour of the Colonel. In this, Councillor Pollard noted that the Colonel had worked with 26 Mayors and would be particularly remembered for his contribution to the Remembrance Day parade. He was described as having made an immense contribution to Croydon and was wished a long and happy retirement.

The Mayor provided the Colonel with a gift in thanks and invited him to make a speech in response. The Colonel apologised for not being able to attend Annual Council and offered his thanks for the kind words that had been

spoken. He noted how much he had enjoyed the honour of working with Croydon and that it had been wonderful to work with all 26 Mayors. The Colonel described how he had reached out to many Councillors and officers and had always been provided with support, particularly in connection with the honours process. He reiterated his thanks for having received the Freedom of Borough and stated that he would maintain his links with the borough.

## 45/19     **The Croydon Debate**

The Mayor informed Council that a Borough Petition had been received for Debate. As required by the Constitution in order to be valid, this had been reviewed in accordance with the provisions in Part 4A of the Constitution. As a result it was determined that some wording of the original petition was invalid due to a lack of material accuracy and it having been debated by Council in the previous six months.

The Mayor asked the Chief Executive to read out the permitted wording of the petition: *"We the undersigned call on Croydon Council to pursue a brownfield First policy"*.

The Mayor invited the Lead Petitioner, Mr Sony Nair, to address Council. Mr Nair explained that whilst the need for more housing was understood across the borough it was asked that this be developed in a tasteful and appropriate way in order to preserve Croydon for the future. It was stressed that by law Croydon was required to have a brownfield land register and that this should be given the priority for development. It was asked that those making planning decisions listen to local people who felt planning permission was being given disproportionality for intensification of Croydon's suburbs. Croydon was described as wonderful and the Council was called on to act to ensure this remained the case for future generations.

The Mayor called on Councillor Scott, Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport and Regeneration (Job Share) to respond. The Cabinet Member highlighted the housing crisis that was affecting Croydon meaning that there simply was not enough housing to meet needs with extra homes urgently needed. It was noted that all those attending the meeting were Croydon residents and were at the Council meeting because they cared about their local area. However, providing for the accommodation needs of all of Croydon's residents meant the provision of new homes and consequently that every Croydon neighbourhood needed to change and grow. Councillor Scott described how thousands of new homes were being built in the town centre. Conversely, Croydon's Brownfield register was full of open retail and employment sites. Croydon did not have lots of derelict sites that could be used for building the new homes needed. Technically, Croydon did have a Brownfield first policy as the definition of Brownfield includes sites which have been subject to any previous development including residential homes. A Brownfield only policy would actually mean all development would be in the

suburbs. However, the Administration felt that a gradual change would be much more preferable enabling planning policy to respect and enhance the local character of Croydon's communities. It was highlighted that work was happening to look at schemes to avoid intensification.

Councillor Perry, who was called by the Mayor to speak on the motion, expressed his disappointment that the motion had been amended using constitutional rules. The Administration was described as not listening or caring and that Croydon residents were suffering as a result of planning policy that was determined locally rather than nationally. Councillor Perry noted that planning policy was in contrast to that in neighbouring boroughs which did concentrate on Brownfield first. He called for local planning policies to be amended accordingly to stop the attack on daily life and to listen to the concerns and voices of residents. Councillor Perry noted his support for residents and the Borough Petition.

The Mayor called on Councillor Muhammad Ali to provide a further response on behalf of the Administration. Councillor Ali highlighted that the then Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government had also acknowledged the housing crisis and agreed that the only way for this to be addressed was by building more homes. It was described how these would be spread fairly across the borough with a third to be located in the town centre, a third on brownfield sites and a third in the suburbs. It was noted that the focus of growth was in the town centre whilst brownfield sites were mainly used for retail and employment. Councillor Ali stressed that there was not enough previously used sites available to accommodate all the new homes that needed to be built and that intensification was not a new phenomenon. Councillor Ali noted that growth in southern wards in the Borough had been lower than in other areas but that every neighbourhood would need to grow and change in a sustainable manner.

Councillor Roche, who was called by the Mayor to speak on the motion, noted that residents felt ignored and had not been listened to for too long. This was reflected in the submission of petition after petition reflecting that their concerns were continually being pushed aside by the Planning Committee and that there was a preference in favour of intensification rather than brownfield development. Councillor Roche reported that this had led to huge anger and frustration with residents feeling the granting of planning permission was leading to inappropriate effects on their neighbourhoods. It was described how residents felt the granting of planning permission was now a rubber stamping exercise in Croydon with residents having lost faith in the process. Councillor Roche stated that strategic aims and objectives should not be prioritised over local concerns; a Brownfield First policy should be adopted as this was needed to retain the wonderful character of the local area. It was stated that it was necessary to bring the community along with planning development as opposed to fighting with residents. Councillor Roche expressed his support for the Borough Petition.

The Mayor invited the Lead Petitioner, Mr Sony Nair, to further address the Members of Council. Mr Nair summarised that whilst it was understood that

there were huge housing targets, building flats costing £300K each would not solve the problem; the new schemes that were coming forward in Croydon were not even providing sufficient parking and would not help provide affordable housing. Mr Nair stressed that home ownership was not the result of luck and that he and others had worked hard to own their own homes. He called on the Council to work with Transport for London to develop its brownfield land which was often derelict and an eye sore. Mr Nail also called for the Council to explain how funding realised from the Community Infrastructure Levy had been used to benefit infrastructure in Shirley. Lastly, Mr Nail called on the Council to act to protect existing communities.

The Mayor called on Councillor Scott, Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport and Regeneration (Job Share) to provide a final response to the Borough Petition and then to summarise the Administration's next steps. Councillor Scott emphasised that the Administration was still listening and that the review of the local plan was in its early stages and was focused on delivering family homes in a sustainable way within the confines of planning laws. The Cabinet Member stressed that a range of solutions were being explored. For example, a housing development on the Purley Way. Capping the level of growth in each neighbourhood to where it is acceptable was being explored. Councillor Scott called on everyone to work together to meet this challenge within the system and used his final comments to stress that the Administration will deliver the homes needed.

#### 46/19 **Croydon Question Time**

The Mayor explained that Croydon Question Time would commence with thirty minutes of public questions to the Leader and Cabinet Members with preference being given to those who had questions who were in attendance at the meeting.

Croydon resident, Mr Bernard Mickelburgh asked the Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport and Regeneration (Job Share) about the ambiguity of the parking signage at the Surrey Street Pedestrian Zone. Councillor King responded that he would be brief given that he had previously answered the same question at a recent Council meeting. It was stressed that the signage was correct, legal and this had been checked a number of times with officers.

In his supplementary question, Mr Mickelburgh asked why 22,000 Penalty Charge Notices had therefore been issued for this area. In response, the Cabinet Member noted that the use of Automated Number Plate Recognition technology to enforce the parking policy and restrictions had enabled enforcement to be more effective. It was also noted that changes to the parking restrictions in the area had been introduced to prevent parking by those using night clubs in the area affecting market traders from setting up in the early morning. It was also explained that adjudications had found in favour of the Council almost 80% of the time.



Mr Peter Underwood asked the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources by when the Croydon Pension fund would achieve its objective of completely divesting of its investments linked to carbon. In response, Councillor Hall promised to provide precise details outside of the meeting but noted that a clear commitment had been made. It was noted that the Pension Committee was working with the London CIV, the pool through which investments had to be made, to identify suitable products whilst also providing the returns to which pensioners were entitled.

In his supplementary question, Mr Underwood stated that the Council would be judged by its deeds and not words. He suggest that no real progress had been made in achieving the object of carbon divestment. In response, Councillor Hall emphasised that the instruction had been given to divest and that this was clearly stated in the investment strategy. However, given the size of the Pension Fund (£1.2billion) this would take some time to implement. The Cabinet Member stated that he would be happy to provide regular updates on achieving this objective at every full Council meeting.

Croydon resident, Mr Kosta Dexiades asked the Cabinet Member for Clean Green Croydon by when fly tipping was going to be cleared in the borough. He highlighted the issue of rubbish being dumped by the borough's trees and called for prosecutions to be used. In response, Councillor Collins noted that he had previously met with Mr Dexiades to discuss fly tipping in Ampere Way. It was described how an enforcement exercise had recently been conducted in that area leading to a Penalty Charge Notice being issued. The Cabinet Member stressed that whilst previously there had been no prosecutions for littering there had recently been 232 prosecutions with two people in prison as a result. Councillor Collins called on the Government to undertake a nationwide campaign against fly tipping equivalent to that which had change attitudes to drink driving.

In his supplementary question, Mr Dexiade called for there to be more enforcement officers and CCTV used to address fly tipping. Councillor Collins explained that there were 30 enforcement posts with 26 of these filled. It was indicated that work was ongoing to potentially increase this number and an explanation provided that the visibility of enforcement officers was poor as much of their work was covert and happened at night necessitating extra shifts. The Cabinet Member agreed with the need to encourage greater use of the Factory Lane Reuse and Recycling Centre.

Croydon resident, Mr Michael Taylor asked the Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport about tree roots lifting memorial stones at the Greenlawns Cemetery and what would be done to address this before more damage was done. Councillor Lewis expressed regret for the upset caused. It was explained that the tree causing the issue had been in situ for many years and that this was the first complaint received of this nature. The Cabinet Member acknowledged that plaques had been disturbed. It was explained that the level of disturbance being caused would be investigated and rectified over the summer but that it wasn't the policy to remove healthy trees and that given its

maturity the tree shouldn't cause more disruption. The situation would be kept under review.

Croydon Resident, Ms Suzy Stoyel asked the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources about the awarding of Croydon's accessible transport contract to a new provider putting the future of 65 local charities at risk. In response, Councillor Hall emphasised that the awarding of the contract had been subject to all the required public procurement rules. This had been reviewed and found to be in line with all requirements following queries raised by those that had been unsuccessful in bidding for the contract. The Cabinet Member acknowledged the service provided by Croydon Accessible Transport (CAT) and encouraged it to bid for funding from the Croydon Community Fund. Councillor Hall described additional efforts that were being made to offer support through meetings being held with CAT.

In her supplementary question, Ms Stoyel described how she worked with a local charity and had been concerned by reports of what had occurred with the accessible transport contract. Councillor Hall stressed the Council's commitment to the sector and that it would continue to work with CAT.

Croydon resident, Duncan McKane asked the Leader if, in the light of the declaration of a climate emergency, the Council would withdraw its support for the Gatwick expansion. In response, Councillor Newman acknowledged that this was a valid point and agreed that there was a need to fly less. The commitment was made to look very closely at this policy going forward and added that there was a need to also consider the investment in local jobs that would result from any expansion. The Leader highlighted the aspiration to make Croydon and Gatwick a centre for the green economy.

In his supplementary question, Mr McKane asked if the Council would be challenging the Government's 2030 emissions target for this to be achieved sooner. The Leader described how this was being considered by London Councils with the 2030 target being deemed realistic and potentially possible by 2025. It was explained that there was a desire to ensure targets were not set that are immediately unachievable. The 2030 target was determined based on best advice but acknowledged accelerating policy positions would be key.

Croydon resident, Mr Rob Elliot asked the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Learning if she would do everything possible to teach children and young people in Croydon to be proud of who they are and accepting of difference. In response, Councillor Alisa Flemming noted that children were the future and should be encouraged to show tolerance and love which was already part of the Personal, Social, Health and Economics curriculum. The Cabinet Member highlighted Croydon had recently successfully hosted both the Pride and Mela events which gave a clear indication of the culture of the borough.

In his supplementary question, Mr Elliot asked what the Council would do to prevent demonstrations outside of schools. The Cabinet Member explained

that she was unable to speak to individual cases. However, it was stressed that for the Borough of Croydon, across both sides of the Council Chamber, there was a commitment to tolerance and diversity. Once it was possible to look at the Government's programme in more detail, the Cabinet Member would be able to provide a more in-depth response.

The thirty minute time allocation for public questions having concluded, the Mayor notified those who had submitted a question via email that they would receive a response within three weeks and that these would also be published on the Council's website.

At this point in the proceedings of the meeting, the Leader, Councillor Newman, requested to move a procedural motion to vary the order of business. This was to bring forward in the following order: item 14 (4), Climate Change Recommendations to Council and a deferral debate on those recommendations; item 13, the Council Debate Motions; and item 10, Annual Reports, before returning to the business as stated. The procedural motion was seconded by Councillor Butler.

Speaking on behalf of the Opposition Group, Councillor Redfern informed Council that it was her impression that the Majority Group Chief Whip had agreed to vary the order of business to also bring forward for debate item 14 (1), Recommendation to Council on the adoption of the Croydon Libraries Plan alongside the Climate Change Recommendations.

The Leader's motion was put to the vote and carried.

Councillor Redfern's requested procedural motion was seconded by Councillor Tim Pollard. The motion was put to the vote and fell.

*The business of the meeting was reordered in accordance with the agreed procedural motion. However, the business of the meeting is reported in these minutes in accordance with the order as published in the original agenda.*

### **Questions to the Leader**

The Mayor invited the Leader, Councillor Newman to make his announcements. The opportunity was taken to thank all the staff who worked so hard to plan and deliver the recent Pride and Mela events. Over 22,000 people had attended the events which were a peaceful celebration of diversity.

**Councillor Tim Pollard** asked the Leader to provide clarification on the Council's performance in response to Freedom of Information requests given that Croydon had been reported as one of the worst performing authorities with only two thirds of requests being fulfilled on time. This was compared to other authorities which were achieving the targets on more than 90% of occasions.

In response, the Leader highlighted the comparison with what happened under the last Conservative Administration. It was noted that there had been no cameras allowed in Council meetings with decisions being made in secret. The Leader stressed that the focus was on openness and transparency with Freedom of Information requests being responded to when received.

In his supplementary question, Councillor Pollard asked who had approved the increase in the costs for the Fairfield Halls development. In response, the Leader described how the new Fairfield Halls would provide a cultural venue for the next 50 years with regular briefings being provided on the project. Decisions on the project were taken at an appropriate level and it was not for Councillors to sign-off every decision. The Leader stated that he would not apologise for the funding being provided for the development of a leading cultural venue.

**Councillor Pelling** asked about the Opposition's focus on no development outside of brownfield sites and how this aligned with the Secretary of State for Housing's stated objective of wanting an easier process of planning approvals and an increase in housing.

The Leader stated that the Opposition had no ideas or policies to address housing need in the borough.

In his supplementary question, Councillor Pelling asked if it was wrong for the Opposition to mislead local people by telling them one story about planning which was different from national policy. The Leader described how residents were having their anxiety exaggerated and driven up through fear. This was illustrated with the example of the claims being made about closures to Croydon's libraries all of which were to remain open.

**Councillor Hopley** asked about the quality of care in Croydon's care homes.

The Leader responded by stating the Council was addressing issues in care homes. That many of these issues were the result of outsourcing and that these were now being returned to Council ownership.

In her supplementary question, Councillor Hopley stated she had been telephoned by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) which had been desperate to get hold of officers and Councillors. However, not being able to do so, she had been called instead. Councillor Hopley emphasised that responsibility for care home buildings was with the Council and it had, in the words of the CQC, failed to address issues such as the lack of hot water, bed bugs and overgrown gardens. Councillor Hopley asked if this represented a complete failure in care homes.

In response, the Leader said that he would be taking this up with the Chief Executive of the CQC and questioned the appropriateness of this having been addressed in a private conversation with a Councillor rather than officers. Councillor Newman looked forward to receiving the details.

The Mayor announced the start of Councillor questions to Councillors Butler, Hamida Ali and Shahul-Hameed and invited them to make their announcements.

**Councillor Butler, the Cabinet Member for Homes and Gateway Services,** took the opportunity during her announcements to highlight the MJ Achievement Award received by Gateway Staff. This was won based on the better outcomes Gateway staff were achieving for residents who have been affected by the worst of austerity and Government cuts. The Cabinet Member stressed the work of the Gateway team which went above and beyond.

**Councillor Hamida Ali, the Cabinet Member for Safer Croydon and Communities,** with great sadness, referred to the three murders that had recently occurred in the borough; Kye Manning in addition to Kelly Mary Fauvrelle and her baby Riley, born by caesarean who died four days later. The Cabinet Member led the Members of Council in paying deepest respects to the families in mourning. It was explained that a Gold Group meeting had been held with families to share all details possible with a further meeting planned to discuss the community impact. The Council had offered any and all resources possible. Patrols by Neighbourhood Safety Officers had been increased. The Cabinet Member welcomed future prosecutions in both cases.

**Councillor Shahul-Hameed, the Cabinet Member for Economy and Jobs,** took the opportunity of her announcements to highlight the Best All-Round Small Business Friendly Borough award won by the Council, supported by the London region of the Federation of Small Businesses and London Councils. She gave her congratulations to all the staff involved and thanks to those working in partnership with the Council. The Cabinet Member also spoke about the employment fair held in the borough that brought together a range of employers from a variety of sectors including health, social care and retail. A further economic summit was to be held on 24 September 2019 with Councillors encouraged to put this in their diaries.

**Councillor Hale** gave her congratulations to the Gateway staff who she described as a passionate and hugely committed team. The Councillor asked what was considered more important - green spaces or housing.

**Councillor Butler** emphasised that the borough needs housing growth for which a balanced approach was needed. The Cabinet Member described how the borough was lucky to have 127 parks and open spaces. However, the need for green spaces couldn't always be a barrier to building because housing was so important. It was stressed that there were 2,000 people in Temporary Accommodation in Croydon including hundreds of children who slept in emergency housing. These were children who did not want to stay where they were living and desperately wanted somewhere they could call home. Again the need for balance was stressed and it was described how many areas of Croydon were once something different but over time these had to change with more areas being developed. The Cabinet Member described how she felt passionately on this issue and that it was not possible to simply say to children that it wasn't possible to do anything about their

housing needs. Councillor Butler expressed her willingness to visit Monks Hill to view the area with the Councillor.

In her supplementary question, Councillor Hale highlighted how the policy on intensification had a critical role in taking away trees and grass which played a role in the reduction of dust, pollution and particulates in the air and was linked to children having breathing difficulties. The Councillor asked who would be making the decisions to protect green spaces. In her response, Councillor Butler stressed it was important that building works were correctly undertaken to lessen the effect on air quality but that it was also necessary to look at the effect of vehicles on air quality. The Cabinet Member stressed how campaigns against low cost housing can be a campaign against those living on benefits based on the assumption of how demographic changes will mean local areas won't be the same. It was shared that Councillor O'Connell had supported a campaign framed in these terms.

**Councillor Flynn** expressed her support for Brick By Brick's schemes and affordable housing. The Councillor asked for clarification on the methods used to consult the local community and gain its input to the final schemes for development.

Councillor Butler described the focus on being open and transparent with lists of proposed sites being published before moving forward. These sites were being surveyed to assess their suitability. They were in all different parts of the borough reflecting that there is demand for housing right across Croydon. A letter had gone out to residents explaining this and that an initial analysis would be undertaken to determine suitability for new homes to be developed. Some sites had already been determined not to be suitable. Those coming through the surveying process would result in resident engagement to discuss the design of the resulting development. The Cabinet Member stressed that it was the commitment of Brick by Brick that any resulting properties put up for sale would be offered first to local residents with any resulting profits used for affordable housing. Properties that were to be made available through shared ownership and affordable rent schemes would go to those in housing need in Croydon.

**Councillor Chatterjee** asked if the Brick By Brick model was unsustainable and failing at every level.

Councillor Butler disagreed and stated that Brick By Brick was delivering Council built homes right across the borough. Those for sale would generate income to be used to support the development of shared ownership and affordable rent homes. The Cabinet Member stressed how the Government had ceased funding house building whilst the *Right to Buy* policy had taken other homes out of Council stock. Brick by Brick was delivering homes for Croydon residents.

In his supplementary question, Councillor Chatterjee stated Brick by Brick was struggling to find buyers for its developments, that there was slippage in its delivery dates and therefore it should be subject to a thorough review. In

response, Councillor Butler stated that the Opposition was opposed to any new development with objections raised whomever brings forward developments. The Cabinet Member described how she had empathy for those who want the world to stay as it but that Croydon was a London borough that was continually changing with growing demand for homes. It was reiterated that Brick by Brick remained sustainable and was delivering homes in the borough.

**Councillor Degrads** raised the issue of knife crime in the borough, acknowledging the Public Health approach being taken to tackle the issue and asked what were the next steps to be taken.

Councillor Hamida Ali acknowledged that the Public Health approach to knife crime had been a manifesto pledge but that this needed to be properly funded by the Government. The comments by the Mayor of London that addressing knife crime should be made a national priority were referenced. The Council had established a Violence Reduction Unit with the next steps to talk to colleagues across the Council. The Cabinet Member stressed the importance of the Violence Reduction Network and how this was helping to change the approach right across the Council. It was acknowledged that the Public Health approach was long term, about creating volume and that it would take some time to interrupt and change behaviours. It was described that cultural change was beginning to happen and that the trauma of incidents was leading to a social care response happening earlier.

**Councillor Creatura** asked if it was believed that crime in London was getting better or worse.

Councillor Hamida Ali explained that a reduction was starting to be seen. But that this was against a backdrop of youth crime being much higher in Croydon than in the rest of London. This meant drops in Croydon appeared bigger than elsewhere in the rest of London.

In his supplementary question, Councillor Creatura stated crime was getting significantly worse in Croydon; there had been increases in knife crime and gun crime. In response, Councillor Hamida Ali called on the Opposition to be clearer; that when Boris Johnson had been Mayor of London, he had signalled his complacency of crime by cutting youth services and funding for London's police leading to a reduction by 20,000 in police numbers. The Cabinet Member shared that the Director of Public Health had highlighted the importance of the early years in terms of changing behaviours and called on the reduction in crime to be a key national policy area.

**Councillor Canning** described how small to medium sized business were vital and asked what steps were being taken for their promotion?

Councillor Shahul-Hameed described how there were 15,000 small to medium sized businesses (SMEs) in the borough and that efforts to support them demonstrated how Croydon meant business. The Cabinet Member highlighted how hundreds of SMEs were being supported by the Council,



resulting in employment for thousands of residents. Support for SMEs included business rate relief, an increased emphasis on local commissioning and the delivery of business networking events.

*Following the reordering of business, at this point the meeting reached the time specified in the Constitution for its conclusion (10pm). The Leader proposed a procedural motion for the suspension of standing orders for the meeting to continue for not more than 20 minutes to enable outstanding announcements to be made by Cabinet Members as part of agenda item 7b, Leader and Cabinet Member Questions prior to the 'Guillotine Procedure' taking effect. The motion was seconded by Councillor Butler, put to the vote and agreed.*

**Councillor Collins, the Cabinet Member for Clean Green Croydon**, took the opportunity to share that as a result of the South London Waste Partnership, 12,000 tonnes of residual waste had been avoided with the rate of recycling now hitting 47%. The Cabinet Member shared that the Council had won a Keep Britain Tidy Award. It was also highlighted that the Cabinet Member had been in touch with the Secretary of State for the Environment to request a nationwide campaign to address the issue of fly tipping.

**Councillor Scott, the Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport and Regeneration (Job Share)**, gave his congratulations to the Council's Planning Department that had won two prestigious national Planning Awards: Croydon's spatial planning team was recognised for the suburban design guide's supplementary planning design document known as SPD2 and the Planning Permission of the Year award went to Croydon's development management team's role in approving 101 George Street, which would be Europe's tallest modular, prefabricated building.

The Cabinet Member also revealed, in advance of publication, that as part of the work of the Governance Review Panel, the independent adviser from the Planning Advisory Service had advised that area planning committees would have to reflect the political balance of the Council. Councillor Scott also anticipated further training being provided for Members of Planning.

**Councillor Hall, the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources**, gave his thanks to Officers including those in the Democratic Services team which the Cabinet Member stated had unfairly been subject to criticism during the Council meeting. The Cabinet Member announced that all the Council's apprentices would receive the London Living Wage, exceeding the requirements of the London Living Wage Foundation. It was also described how the London Living Wage was being extended to more Council employees as a result of insourcing services, making Croydon a London Living Wage exemplar borough. The Cabinet Member also described how capital spend was being used to acquire hundreds of new Council owned homes. Whilst not sitting in the revenue account they did provide additional affordable homes in the borough.

**Councillor Lewis, the Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport,** started his announcements by associating himself with the previous comments made about the Pride and Mela events. These were noted for their celebration of diversity and how well these had gone. The Cabinet Member also took the opportunity to congratulate the organisers and participants in the London Youth Games which saw Croydon placed tenth overall. Disappointment was expressed that the Council meeting didn't get the opportunity to discuss the issue of Libraries but the Cabinet Member noted this would be addressed by scrutiny providing the opportunity for a full debate. The Cabinet Member took the opportunity to congratulate the England Women's Cricket Team; pride was expressed in the team's achievement and it was noted that this success demonstrated diversity at its best which it was hoped would inspire young people.

**Councillor Flemming, the Cabinet Member for Young People and Learning,** explained how the Children in Care Council was now called EMPIRE, as chosen by those in care. It was described how, through this body, children in care were shaping and influencing corporate parenting at every level. It was highlighted that the Children and Young People's Pledge was being reviewed and would be sent to all Members of Council to seek their signature and commit to the pledge. The Cabinet Member shared how a full programme of events for children and young people would be offered during the summer. It was announced that the Legacy Youth Zone would have its official launch in September 2019 with a number of soft launches beforehand. Members were invited to participate. Finally, the Cabinet Member noted that the Local Government Association had chosen the *Choose Your Future* campaign to highlight as a good practice case study.

**Councillor Avis, the Cabinet Member for Families, Health and Social Care,** congratulated the schools that had participated in the market place event held in July 2019; the Council was leading the way in this form of school engagement. The Cabinet Member touched on the fight against obesity and how she would be working with Councillors Campbell and Flemming to tackle this issue. The Cabinet Member also noted her pride in supporting the Health and Wellbeing Board Strategy and Care Plan.

#### 47/19 **Governance Review Panel**

The recommendations contained in the Governance Review Panel were subject to the Guillotine procedure as detailed in para 3.3 of Part 4A of the Council's Constitution, put immediately to the vote and were approved.

**RESOLVED:** Council **AGREED** the recommendations in the report to:

1. Note the work undertaken to date and activities planned by the Panel; and

2. Agree to extend the completion date of the Panel's review, to report their recommendations to all Members in December 2019 and note the Panel's increased membership as detailed in paragraph 3 of the report.

## **48/19 Member Petitions**

The Member petitions from Councillors Bains, Fitzsimons and Ryan were subject to the Guillotine procedure as detailed in para 3.3 of Part 4A of the Council's Constitution. These were noted by the Mayor who stated that he would ensure that the Members would receive written responses within three weeks which would also be published on the Council's website.

## **49/19 Annual Reports**

### Scrutiny and Overview Committee

The Mayor invited the Chairs of each of those bodies presenting Annual Reports to introduce these to Council initially asking Councillor Fitzsimons in his capacity as Chair of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee and Health and Social Care Scrutiny Sub-Committee to speak. Councillor Fitzsimons highlighted key achievements were that scrutiny was being conducted on a cross party basis, there was adherence to the principles of good scrutiny to hold the executive and senior officers to account. In total, 24 meetings had been held with all Cabinet Members being subject to a dedicated question time and the Leader being subject to two question times. There had been one call-in during the year on the subject of the purchase of the freehold of Croydon Park Hotel. Scrutiny had been used effectively to undertake pre-decision scrutiny of the policy on the night time economy and violence reduction. Overall, scrutiny had generated 118 recommendations all of which had been accepted. Twenty six residents had actively participated in the scrutiny process. Croydon was actively participating in the Joint Health Committees and had taken an active and detailed involvement following the Children's Services Ofsted inspection. Councillor Fitzsimons described how new national scrutiny guidance had finally been released in May 2019 which was well timed with Croydon's own Governance Review. The Councillor went on to anticipate a focus for scrutiny on timely access to information, undertaking more pre-decision scrutiny and developing a more transparent decision-making structure. He was pleased to commend the report.

Councillor Ward was invited to speak by the Mayor in his capacity as Chair of the Children and Young People Sub-Committee. It was described how the preceding year had been busy, with a new team delivering a major change programme resulting in additional meetings and visits to different settings including schools and Pupil Referral Units. It was described how users had attended Sub-Committee meetings with a positive impact. It was highlighted that scrutiny of Children's Services had been a priority and as such was

covered in detail in the Annual Report. A task and finish group was undertaking in-depth scrutiny on children coming off the school roll. Thanks was given to the scrutiny team in addition to those Councillors and officers who had appeared before the Sub-Committee with specific mention being given to Councillor Fitzsimons for his support. Councillor Ward closed by appealing to more Councillors to come to meetings and to participate in visits.

Councillor Ben-Hassel was invited by the Mayor to speak in her capacity as the Chair of the Streets, Environment and Homes Sub-Committee. The Councillor stressed that she was new in the role, having been elected shortly before the start of the municipal year. She expressed her commitment to bring as many members of the public into the scrutiny process as possible and that she had already found it enlightening when residents had the opportunity to talk to rail operators. It was planned to build on the work of Councillor Fitzsimons and to continue the work of scrutiny on a cross departmental basis to look at policy across Cabinet portfolios and to work collaboratively.

There were no Councillor questions on the Scrutiny Annual Report.

#### Corporate Parenting Panel

Councillor Alisa Flemming was invited to speak by the Mayor in her capacity as the Chair of the Corporate Parenting Panel. The Councillor highlighted her pleasure in presenting the Panel's first Annual Report to Council and noted how this brought together lots of information about looked after children and young people in Croydon. It was noted that the Panel had been formed in 2007 and subject to changes with the number of meetings having increased to six a year. Councillor Flemming described how the Panel comprised a combination of Members on a cross party basis in addition to co-opted members, such as foster carers, and young people themselves. It was described how the Panel had been focused on the *Staying Put* policy and encouraging young people to stay with foster carers for longer. It was stressed that the Panel was directly influenced by the voice of young people who attended the Panel and who spoke eloquently on the reasons why they needed more support. It was noted that the Panel was also focused on missing incidents with Councillor Gatland acknowledged as a strong voice on supporting young people and the reduction of missing episodes. It was also described how it was the intention for the Panel to focus on the Youth Offending Service and the over-representation of black young people in care which the Panel aimed to reduce.

There were no Councillor questions on the Corporate Parenting Panel Annual Report.

#### General Purposes and Audit Committee

Councillor Jewitt was invited to speak by the Mayor in her capacity as Chair of the General Purposes and Audit Committee. The Councillor noted that the Annual Report covered the period from 2018 to 2019 and that she had just re-joined the Committee following the conclusion of this period. However,

Councillor Jewitt noted the report covered a successful year under Councillor Mann as Chair and that she had quickly got up to speed on the audit process to ensure it was achieved appropriately. The audit process was due to be presented again to the Committee following the Council meeting. Councillor Jewitt noted that social care and Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children were some of the areas putting increased stress on the Council's budget. It was noted that the Committee worked well across the political divide to address and look at these issues. It was also highlighted that a second co-opted member had joined the Committee during the past year, expanding the expertise available with the Councillor giving her thanks to both. The Anti-Fraud Team was specifically mentioned; it was described as continuing to excel with a focus on fraud prevention and Croydon being a founding member of the counter-fraud hub. Councillor Jewitt thanked the Members of the Committee, Councillor Mann, the vice chair and officers for the past year and the year to come.

There were no Councillor questions on the General Purposes and Audit Committee Annual Report.

#### Health and Wellbeing Board

Councillor Woodley was invited to speak by the Mayor in her capacity as the Chair of the Health and Well Board. It was highlighted that the Annual Report summarised the work done during the 2018 – 2019 municipal year with the main focus on the development of the health and wellbeing strategy, inequalities, prevention and youth inequalities. The report was described as capturing the considerable work that was being undertaken and the truly joined-up approach to the delivery of health services in Croydon. Councillor Woodley described how pupils of the Tudor Academy had participated in the development of the strategy through an engagement event. Pupils from three local schools had also participated in a mental health workshop resulting in areas for improvement being outlined. £4.3m of funding had been allocated for school based mental health services. However, Councillor Woodley noted that the aim was for all core mental health services to be adequately funded.

The Mayor invited Councillor Hopley to put her question to Councillor Woodley. Councillor Hopley expressed her full support for the Health and Wellbeing Board, its strategy and welcomed the funding being made available by Central Government to support its work. However, she also expressed her concern regarding the cancellation of meetings of the Board especially where this meant as a consequence key organisations, such as Croydon University Hospitals, then not being available to attend the reorganised meeting.

Councillor Woodley responded by stressing that whilst meetings had been moved, all the required meetings had been held during the last municipal year. It was also highlighted that meetings had been moved for legitimate reasons which were beyond the control of the Chair such as a meeting clashing with a Public Health England conference and the sad passing of Councillor Mansell. It was also noted that meetings had been added to the cycle such as the workshop held in December 2018.

In her supplementary question, Councillor Hopley stated that health partners were finding it difficult to sustain their engagement with the Board without there being a clear plan for the year. Encouragement was given to get dates in the diary for the year which would then be sustained. Councillor Hopley asked if Councillor Woodley would welcome Dr Agnelo Fernandes, the current Vice-Chair and a representative of the NHS Croydon Clinical Commissioning Group, taking over the role of Chair of the Board.

Councillor Woodley responded that she and the Vice-Chair were working well together and that it was misleading to say meetings had been cancelled when these had, for a variety of circumstances, had been reorganised with none missed.

Councillor Pelling asked Councillor Woodley about working with the Clinical Commissioning Group when the Government was intent on its destruction. Councillor Pelling also asked Councillor Woodley about the importance of keeping structures in place for the benefit of residents' health.

Councillor Woodley described how Croydon was a role model for partnership approaches to health provision and that the borough's successes were a testament to joint working.

#### 50/19      **Constitution Report**

The recommendations contained in the Constitution Amendments report were subject to the Guillotine procedure as detailed in para 3.3 of Part 4A of the Council's Constitution, put immediately to the vote and were approved.

**RESOLVED:** Council **AGREED** the recommendations in the report to:

1. Approve the amendments to the Constitution detailed in sections 3 and 4 of the report and detailed more specifically in Appendices 1 and 2; and
2. To note the updated Corporate Parenting Panel terms of reference in Appendix 3 and that these will be appended to the Constitution for Members' ease of reference.

#### 51/19      **Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Care Plan**

The recommendations contained in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Care Plan report were subject to the Guillotine procedure as detailed in para 3.3 of Part 4A of the Council's Constitution, put immediately to the vote and were approved.

**RESOLVED:** Council **AGREED** the recommendations in the report to:

1. Agree the Health and Wellbeing Strategy (“the Strategy”) for the Borough (Appendix 1);
2. Agree Croydon’s Health and Care Transformation Plan (“the Plan”) which is the delivery plan of the Strategy (Appendix 2);
3. Delegate authority to the Health and Wellbeing Board, once Full Council has approved the Health and Wellbeing strategy for the relevant period, to agree the delivery plans of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy;
4. Delegate to the Health and Wellbeing Board the authority to and responsibility for monitoring the delivery plans in fulfilment of the Strategy, the outcome of which shall be reported back to full Council as part of the annual report of the Board;
5. Authorise the Monitoring Officer to make consequential changes to the Constitution, Part 4 L, contingent upon the delegations in recommendation 1.4 and 1.5 above;

## 52/19 Council Debate Motions

The Mayor requested that the Chief Executive read out the first Council Debate Motion made on behalf of the Administration: *“This Council fully recognises the importance of all our residents living in the Private Rented Sector and their right to healthy, safe and secure accommodation. We also note the rise in the numbers of families, older people and those living on lower incomes in this sector. Nothing can be more important than the place you call home and given the support from landlords, tenants and other residents, the Council recommends that all necessary steps are taken to ensure there is a renewed landlords’ licensing scheme beyond 2020”.*

The Mayor invited Councillor Butler, the Cabinet Member for Home and Gateway Services, to propose the motion. The Cabinet Member stressed that there was nothing more important than having a home. Councillor Butler described the increase in numbers in privately rented homes and how there were landlords who took pride in their business and those who didn’t. The importance of the Council holding landlords to account was stressed; those in the private rented sector should be open to the same scrutiny as social landlords. The importance of allowing concerns with how properties were managed to be raised was noted and that this was about ensuring housing was safe. The Cabinet Member explained that the majority of landlords pay £350 for a five year registration to the Landlords’ Licensing Scheme. This allowed important advice to be given to some landlords whilst others had been banned from renting their properties and some homes had been judged too small for renting.

The Cabinet Member detailed how the Landlords’ Licensing Scheme provided powers of entry and the ability to tackle issues at a time of considerable cuts. The scheme allowed macro information on the scale of the private rented



sector to be collected on which basis it could be determined where intervention was needed. It also allowed the Council to work in partnership with the private rented sector to address issues such as anti-social behaviour, demonstrating the Council was listening to landlords and on their side. The Cabinet Member recommended the motion to the Members of Council.

Councillor Clark seconded the motion and reserved the right to speak.

The Mayor invited Councillor Hale to speak on the motion who noted that the scheme had been based on a selected consultation conducted in 2015 and had subsequently failed to drive up quality or to address anti-social behaviour effectively. Councillor Hale noted that the 36,000 registrations had raised £15m but that thus far the scheme had not been evaluated and so it was not possible to demonstrate the positives of the scheme. The call to make the scheme robust and targeted based on an evaluation was made. Councillor Hale described how 20% of those in housing covered by the scheme had raised issues but that only 19 financial penalties had been imposed as a result of the scheme and just two licenses revoked. Whilst this was evidence of the improved quality of housing there was no evidence that anti-social behaviour had been addressed. As a result the Councillor said she was unable to support the motion and would be abstaining because whilst residents had a right to good quality housing, the motion did nothing to demonstrate this would be achieved as a result of the scheme.

The Mayor invited Councillor Tim Pollard to speak on the motion who questioned the basis of the motion and suggested that it was seeking to gain endorsement of a way that Labour Councils were raising revenue. Councillor Pollard stressed that the Council already had the powers it needed to address issues with private rented accommodation and that the costs of the scheme were set against a backdrop of rents and landlord costs rising sharply. It was highlighted that there was no evidence of improvement in the quality of accommodation in the private rented sector as a result of the scheme with its voluntary status meaning the worst landlords were failing to register altogether. Councillor Pollard recommended that a lower cost scheme should be used so that landlords didn't feel the need to pass the charge onto residents. He called on the scheme to be more focused on effectiveness and not just a way of raising funds. It was emphasised that it is a role of the Council to drive up the quality of accommodation on the basis of which he would be abstaining from the vote as he did not want to give the Administration any form of blank cheque.

Councillor Clark was invited to speak in support of the motion by the Mayor. The Councillor described the Landlords' Licensing Scheme as a significant success having achieved 35,000 registrations but that its continuation would require the approval of the Secretary of State. Councillor Clark recommended talking to Fairfield residents about their housing issues where not one of them was against the scheme. Through the scheme they had raised issues such as the length of tenancies and the safety of their accommodation, which were very real issues. Councillor Clark noted that the Government had shown where its priorities lay by not taking action and that the Permitted

Development Scheme allowed housing issues to be circumvented. Councillor Clark expressed his disappointment but that he was not surprised that the Opposition was abstaining from the motion.

The Mayor put the motion to the vote which was passed.

The Mayor requested that the Chief Executive read out the second Council Debate Motion made on behalf of the Opposition: *“This Council recognises the vital role that green spaces, trees and gardens play in providing a sustainable and healthy borough and is committed to protecting Croydon’s green spaces that do so much for our environment, our health and our well-being.*

*This Council will use the Local Plan partial review as a means of protecting these vital spaces by changing policy to ensure their protection. This will include measures such as protecting garden space from encroaching backland development, and a greater protection for trees and biodiversity.*

*This Council will also use its development company, Brick by Brick, to lead the way and cease developing on green spaces. This Council will, therefore, remove its proposals to rip up and develop on valued land like the grass and trees on Shepherds Way where the community of Monks Hill holds its fun day, the green heart of the estate at Farnborough Avenue which was central to its original design and the green space at Covington Way in Upper Norwood that local residents are fighting to protect.*

*This Council also recognises that it was wrong to develop over green spaces and play areas in Montpelier Road, Heathfield Gardens, Longheath Gardens and Tollers Estate to name but a few.*

*Green spaces should not be destroyed as they provide a vital lung in our suburban environment and once they are destroyed they are lost forever”.*

Councillor Helen Pollard, invited to propose the motion by the Mayor, opened by stressing the seriousness with which she takes the views of residents who regard the Administration’s approach to the protection of green spaces as shambolic and disingenuous. Councillor Pollard described how, during the process of adoption of the local plan, green spaces in the borough had been left vulnerable. The Administration had only started to address this in June 2019 with the implication being that they were fair game for developers. It was highlighted that green spaces were being sold to the Council’s developer Brick by Brick and that these sales had been agreed with great speed. Shock was expressed at the list of sites identified and the implication that sites at the heart of communities were to be concreted over. Having raised awareness of this development amongst residents, Councillor Pollard described how she had collected over 1,000 signatures in order to conduct a Local Petition Debate at Council. However, this had not been allowed to progress given it had been judged that it was not possible to determine that a significant number of signatures had been provided by those resident, working or studying in the Borough. Councillor Pollard stated that she would welcome a

meeting with Councillor Butler and described how letters had been sent out saying work was about to start to develop the sites sold to Brick By Brick.

Councillor Butler interjected with a point of personal information. It was clarified that the letters did not state that work was about to start. Rather the letters were about being open and transparent and gave residents notification that initial work surveying sites to assess suitability for development was about to begin.

During this exchange, Councillor Butler used unbecoming language in reference to Councillor Pollard for which the Cabinet Member gave an apology to Council.

Councillor Helen Pollard concluded in proposing the motion by stressing that residents were fed-up with being ignored by a Council that does not care.

Councillor Gatland seconded the motion and reserved the right to speak.

The Mayor invited Councillor Avis to speak on the motion who highlighted that the Opposition was not providing any solutions to housing need in the borough and that the portrayal of the surveying of sites as the start of development was misleading. Councillor Avis emphasised that Councillor Butler had been trying to explain the protection that the Council was trying to give to the borough's green spaces and called on the Opposition to stop scaring residents. At a time when the Opposition was claiming not enough was being done to protect green spaces, the Council had achieved national nature reserve status for a fourth site in the borough. The Councillor emphasised that the aim was simply to build homes for young people using Council land but that the Opposition was doing its best to thwart this in every way. This was described as a shame and pulling the ladder up on those yet to have a home.

During her comments, Councillor Avis used unbecoming language in reference to Councillor Helen Pollard for which the Cabinet Member gave an apology to Council following the interjection of the Mayor.

The Mayor invited Councillor Wood to speak on the motion who acknowledged the importance of green spaces in addition to protecting the environment and planet. It was noted that most were gardens already protected from building that required planning permission. However, this had to be balanced with the duty to act, a duty based on a belief in society. Councillor Wood emphasised that 46,000 homes were needed over the next three years meaning that the limited open space would need to be used for development but that this was just one part of the plan to strike the right balance. It was reiterated that the Opposition was providing no alternatives and that the Administration needed to make difficult decisions.

The Mayor invited Councillor Gatland to speak to the motion. She described how she had listened with great interest to the debate and commended the environmental activists who were present in the Chamber. However,

Councillor Gatland noted that the Administration would be judged on its actions and not its words. Allowing grass verges to grow was welcomed but it was wondered why the same approach wasn't being applied to those green spaces that had been identified for potential development by Brick By Brick. Councillor Gatland highlighted that these spaces were community gardens and were often the only green spaces available to those living in the surrounding area. The link to retaining green spaces and trees with action to address climate change, improving air quality and protecting health outcomes for residents was emphasised. The Administration was clearing nature rather than working with it and prioritising its relationships with developers. Councillor Gatland called for a more balanced approach similar to that taken in Sutton. This was described as standing up for residents and listening to their representations as well as planning for future need rather than rushing to implement the dictates of the Mayor of London. The Administration was called on to work alongside nature and for its Members to be brave and vote for the motion.

The Mayor put the motion to the vote and fell.

#### **53/19      Recommendations of Cabinet or Committees to Council for decision**

The Mayor invited the Leader, Councillor Newman, to move the recommendations contained in the Climate Change report. The Leader moved the recommendations stating that these were needed to respond to the public health and ecological emergency being caused by climate change and would ensure action to address climate change would be embedded straight into the policy making process. It was emphasised that this wasn't about charging more for parking permits for larger vehicles but rather about the young and elderly being admitted to hospital with breathing related difficulties and other health concerns linked to air quality.

The Leader emphasised that the purpose of the recommendations wasn't just about addressing the effects of climate change in Croydon but about acknowledging what happened locally could also affect communities around the world with reference being made to flooding in places such as Bangladesh. It was stressed that the recommendations would allow the needs of future generations to be put before shareholder gains and that it was time for action in Croydon, on which basis the Leader stated that he was proud to move the recommendations.

The recommendations in the report were seconded by Councillor King, the Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport and Regeneration (Job-Share).

The Mayor informed the Members of Council that in accordance with Part 4A of the Constitution, notification had been received from the Majority Group of its request for the Climate Change recommendations to be deferred for debate. The Chief Executive read the referral request: "We move the

amendment of recommendation 1.5 to reflect the declaration of a climate change and ecological emergency”.

The Mayor invited Councillor Sirisena to move the amendment to the recommendations contained in the report. Councillor Sirisena explained how it was the action that would be taken immediately that would ensure the survival of the planet and was an intergenerational mission. It was highlighted that there was a need to do locally what must be done nationally. A Green New Deal for Croydon was described and it was stressed how this couldn't be imposed from above but rather needed to be developed in partnership with local residents. Councillor Sirisena envisioned workers, employers, unions and residents working together to develop a Green Deal that would also deliver well paid jobs and bring Green Industry and pride to Croydon. It was noted that this would see a move away from the domination of the carbon industry with congratulations being given to the administrators of the Croydon Pension Fund who had already signalled their intention to make this change. It was suggested that Croydon could set-up its own green energy firm as had been done by Islington Council. Councillor Sirisena called for a borough-wide consensus to prioritise spending on green energy and to build solidarity across all communities. It was noted that it was black communities who were suffering most from the effects of poor air quality and therefore how those communities should be front and centre of a Green New Deal which was required to achieve racial equality in the borough. Councillor Sirisena also noted how what was happening in Croydon affected communities around the world. It was described how national Government Policy, such as increasing taxes on solar panels, was hindering action to tackle climate change with the call for a Labour Government to work alongside a Labour Council. In conclusion, the Councillor quoted that we don't inherit the Earth from our ancestors that we borrow it from our children.

Councillor Degrad's seconded the motion to amend the recommendations in the report and reserved the right to speak.

Councillor King, as the responsible Cabinet Member, was invited to speak by the Mayor on the motion to amend the recommendations in the report. The Cabinet Member described how the Administration had set out its plans on how to address climate change in its 2018 manifesto including stopping use of herbicides, increasing tree planting, taking tough action on vehicle emissions, prioritising the Council's walking and cycling programme, divesting in carbon from the Croydon Pension Fund and installing electric charging points. However, Councillor King acknowledged that the growing climate change emergency had helped create focus and generated a re-evaluation of policy with the emphasis on acting as quick and forcibly as the powers of the Council would allow. It was described how Croydon would be joining other Councils to go carbon neutral by no later than 2030. The Cabinet Member though was sanguine and acknowledged that targets do not in themselves achieve climate change. This would be the product of action. It was described how his personal passion was to get Croydon walking more and driving less but that personal endeavours will not do enough; it was for the state to act. The Cabinet Member stressed that climate change was as much a call to those in

local government as much as those in national government and that there was no free pass based on lack of funding. It was highlighted that the hope was to be able to agree the recommendations as amended on a cross party basis as political leadership was necessary and the call made to show the determination and courage needed.

Councillor Perry was invited by the Mayor to respond on the recommendations as amended. The Councillor welcomed the discussion on climate change but noted that the Opposition had not been afforded the same opportunity to debate the hidden library closures which was described as an affront to democracy.

The Leader, Councillor Newman, interjected to provide a note of personal explanation and to state there were no library closures being proposed or planned.

Councillor Perry resumed and noted that the Climate Change report had been taken to the Cabinet meeting as an urgent item and that a procedural motion had been used to debate the report rather than using the Council Debate Motion. It was questioned if this had been an appropriate action. It was stressed that addressing climate change was about actions and not words and that at the same time as the amended recommendations were being moved, Brick By Brick was building on green spaces and destroying natural ecology. Councillor Perry described how no differentiation was being made in parking charges for hybrid as opposed to diesel vehicles. Whilst the recommendations were perceived as well meaning, Councillor Perry noted the devil being in the detail.

Councillor Creatura was invited by the Mayor to respond on the recommendations as amended. The Councillor noted the Conservative Party had been a global leader since the Thatcher era on the issue of the environment; the Government was cutting emissions at a faster rate than other Governments and was now bringing in a national target to achieve zero emissions. Councillor Creatura noted the two thirds drop in coal use achieved by the Government and the growth in renewables that had been achieved. Two million green jobs had also been achieved. However, Councillor Creatura noted that the Conservative Party was not complacent. It was described how a Labour Government and its renationalisation policy would disrupt this progress with private sector investment in green technology being lost. It was recorded that the Confederation of British Industry had described how much needed investment was drying up under Labour threats. It was noted that under the previous Labour Government the UK had been at the bottom of G20 ranking for green investment. Councillor Creatura stated that it was good that the Labour Administration was seeking to change its track records on climate change. The promise to work with communities was welcomed but it was again stressed that it was deeds not words that were important. Councillor Creatura described how the Opposition would work with the Administration on action to address climate change but also continue to hold it to account. It was stressed that failure was not an option.

Councillor Tim Pollard was invited by the Mayor to respond on the recommendations as amended. It was described how the Government had set impressive targets for a reduction in emissions but that the challenge had to be grasped. Councillor Pollard highlighted how the report had been subject to little discussion or debate when introduced at Cabinet and that the deferral debate had been cynically achieved by changing very few words in the recommendations. It was noted that local authority established Climate Commissions had been talking shops but hadn't achieved a great deal. Councillor Pollard raised the issue of air quality in schools and questioned the Administration's decision to build a school on the Purley Way. In conclusion, Councillor Pollard noted that in a spirit of cross party working he was happy to support the recommendations as amended.

Councillor Degrads was invited by the Mayor to speak to the recommendations as amended. It was noted that this was not just a motion but would be embedded in policy. This was being done on behalf of the one in five households in the borough with asthma - the highest level of incidence of asthma in London. Councillor Degrads also highlighted the link between air quality and mental health. It was explained that the Administration was advocating for children in the borough which was reflected in existing policy. Hence the focus on not having to travel too far to a good school, reduction in single use plastics, increasing doorstep recycling, increasing plants in the borough, backing bees and the Croydon Pension Fund divesting in carbon. This showed how the Administration was already putting a green focus at the heart of its policy. Councillor Degrads explained how the NHS could not afford the impact of air quality on health, that therefore a collective approach was required and that the Administration was embracing the challenge. Councillor Degrads noted that Croydon was showing it was listening and would empower all to do their bit in the fight against climate change.

The Mayor put the recommendations as amended to the vote which were agreed.

*The remaining recommendations from Cabinet and Committees for decision, namely Croydon's Culture and Libraries Plans, Protocol on Staff-Member relations and revised Tenders and Contracts Regulations were subject to the Guillotine motion and were immediately put to the vote with all being approved.*

**RESOLVED:** Council **AGREED** the recommendations in the reports to:

1. Croydon's Culture and Libraries Plans:
  - 1.1. Adoption of the Croydon Libraries Plan 2019 – 20, Appendix 1A.
2. Ethics Committee and the Protocol on Staff-Member relations:
  - 2.1. The Protocol on Staff-Member relations, Part 5B of the Constitution, be updated to include, as detailed in the paper, a definition of bullying and harassment.
3. Delivering for Residents through Sustainable and Ethical Commissioning – revised Tenders and Contracts Regulations:



3.1. Adoption of the revised Tenders and Contracts Regulations, Part 4 of the Constitution (Appendix 3A).

54/19      **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

The motion was not required.

The meeting ended at 10.13 pm

**Signed:**

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**Date:**

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<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>COUNCIL</b> <b>7 OCTOBER 2019</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>CROYDON QUESTION TIME:</b> <b>A) PUBLIC QUESTIONS</b> <b>B) LEADER AND CABINET QUESTIONS</b>
<b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>	<b>Jacqueline Harris Baker,</b> <b>Executive Director Resources and Monitoring Officer</b>
<b>WARDS:</b>	<b>ALL</b>
<b>CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT:</b> The business reports of the Leader and Cabinet are prepared in accordance with the Council Procedure Rules at Part 4A of the Constitution.	

## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report outlines the process for:
- a) public questions; and
  - b) questions to the Leader and Cabinet from Councillors.

## 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Part 4A of the Constitution details the process that allows for the Leader and Cabinet Members to take oral questions. Question Time is split into two part; public questions and Councillors' questions to the Leader and Cabinet.

### Public Questions

- 2.2 Public questions can be asked of the Leader or Cabinet Members on issues of policy at the Meeting as set out within the Constitution Part 4A, Sections 3.16 – 3.20. Any questions of a purely factual or of a detailed nature that cannot be answered on the evening shall be noted and shall receive a written response within three weeks following the meeting. The responses shall be published on the Council's website.
- 2.3 Public Questions shall only be taken at Ordinary Council meetings and shall be allocated a total time of 30 minutes. This timeframe shall include both the questions and responses by the relevant Cabinet Members or Leader.
- 2.4 The Mayor has absolute discretion to decline to allow any question to be dealt with under this procedure on the grounds that it addresses matters that would be inappropriate to consider at the meeting, including where the questions being asked are repetitive or have already been addressed.

- 2.5 Questions shall be dealt with in the order in which members of the public seated in the public gallery are invited by the Mayor to address the Leader or Cabinet Member. Members of the public invited to put their questions will also be permitted to ask a single supplementary question but shall do so only if called upon by the Mayor to do so as this may be subject to time constraints.
- 2.6 The Mayor may also accept questions from Members of the Public submitted by email to the designated email address by 12noon on the Friday prior to an ordinary Council meeting. The Mayor will put questions received by email to the relevant Cabinet Member and, where a number of questions are received on the same subject, the Mayor may put a summary of those questions instead.

### **Leader and Cabinet Questions:**

- 2.7 This item is to enable Members to ask questions of the Leader and Cabinet on issues of policy. Any questions of a purely factual or of a detailed nature that cannot be answered on the evening shall be noted and shall receive a written response within three weeks following the meeting. The responses shall be published on the Council's website.
- 2.8 Questions which relate to a current planning or licensing matter or any matter relating to an individual or entity in respect of which that individual or entity has a right of recourse to a review or right of appeal conferred by or under any enactment shall not be permitted. In addition, questions shall not be received or responded to where they pertain to anticipated or ongoing litigation, conciliation or mediation or any employment or personnel related issues or disputes.
- 2.9 The Leader shall be the first to respond to questions under this item and the total time allocated to questions by Members to, and responses from the Leader, shall be 15 minutes. The first two minutes of the Leader's 15 minute slot may be used by the Leader to make any announcements.
- 2.10 Cabinet Members, divided up into three 'pools' of three Members each, shall thereafter respond to questions by other Members of the Council. The total time allocated to each 'pool' of Cabinet Members shall be 30 minutes. The three Cabinet Members shall each be permitted to use two minutes of this 30 minute slot to make announcements.
- 2.11 The 'pools' for this meeting will be as follows:

#### **Pool 1**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Portfolio</b>
Stuart Collins	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Clean, Green Croydon
Stuart King/Paul Scott (job share)	Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport & Regeneration
Simon Hall	Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources

## Pool 2

Name	Portfolio
Oliver Lewis	Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure & Sport
Alisa Flemming	Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Learning
Jane Avis	Cabinet Member for Families, Health & Social Care

## Pool 3

Name	Portfolio
Alison Butler	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Homes & Gateway Services
Hamida Ali	Cabinet Member for Safer Croydon & Communities
Manju Shahul-Hameed	Cabinet Member for Economy & Jobs

2.12 Representatives of political groups may give advance notice to the Council Solicitor by 12noon on the Friday preceding an ordinary Council Meeting, the names of the first two Members of their respective political group that they wish the Mayor to call to ask a question of each Member of the Cabinet, including the Leader of the Council.

2.13 After those Members have been called, the Mayor will call Members that indicate they have a question, with a presumption of inviting questions from as many different Members as possible. Each Member asking a question will also be allowed to ask a supplementary question.

## 3. Cabinet Member Bulletins

3.1 The Leader of the Council and Cabinet Members may submit bulletins to be included in the Council agenda papers for this item. Bulletins may summarise the business undertaken by a Cabinet Member since the last ordinary meeting of the Council. The bulletins can be found at Appendix 1.

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**CONTACT OFFICER:** Annette Wiles  
Senior Democratic Services and Governance Officer  
Council & Regulatory  
Ext 64877

**APPENDICES:** Leader and Cabinet Member Bulletins

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# Leader of the Council Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Tony Newman October 2019

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## News

I continue to be excited for the future of Croydon as the many projects in the borough unfold. The re-opening of Fairfield Halls, the development of College Green, Essex House, Taberner House and the Nestle Building as well as upgrades to the Fiveways junction and Norwood Junction and East Croydon stations are just a few to name.

### Fairfield Halls

We were delighted to welcome Dame Judi Dench and the Mayor of London Sadiq Khan to the formal reopening of Fairfield Halls, last month. The reopening of Croydon's iconic venue, following a multi-million pound council-led refurbishment, was both a cause for celebration and a major milestone in the ongoing regeneration of the town centre. Delivered by Brick By Brick, the development company established by the council, the refurbishment has restored this magnificent modernist building to its former glory, while our investment has transformed the venue's cultural offer, ensuring that it is truly reflective of diverse 21<sup>st</sup> century Croydon.

This is just the first phase in one of the largest regeneration projects Croydon town centre has ever seen. The new cultural quarter development will also bring new a £10million world-class public space, the Fair Field; hundreds of new homes, many of them affordable; jobs and opportunities and vastly improved links with the rest of the town centre. The economic benefit, for Croydon and beyond, cannot be over-estimated.





## Leader of the Council Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Tony Newman October 2019

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### Legacy youth Zone



The opening of Legacy Youth Zone took place on Saturday 7th September and was a massive success. Attended by our young people and their families as well as key members of the local community it was an opportunity to showcase this fantastic resource. There was a great energy and buzz about the youth zone and a real celebration of the partnership working between our council and Onside.

Our young people and their families were able to have tours of the zone as well as participate in all of the activities on offer and it was clear from their responses that this is a much needed resource for all Croydon children and young people.

I was delighted to not only be part of this opening but involved from the start of the project and as I said on the day this showcases 'Croydon at our very best'





# **Leader of the Council Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Tony Newman October 2019**

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## **Croydon supports EU citizens right to stay in UK**

On Monday 23 September, Croydon Council hosted an information event for EEA and Swiss citizens that will need to apply for settled status as a result of Brexit.

The event was organised by the European Commission, with support from the Mayor of London.

Around 33,000 people living in Croydon are citizens of other EU countries, and we are providing support to ensure they remain valued residents of Croydon.

As well as the event, we:

- Established a document checking service within the Registrars to assist people with their applications
- Are working with South West London Law Centre to support the most vulnerable residents with the settled status process
- Are using a range of communication channels to raise awareness and signpost individuals and businesses to key information

## **Climate and Ecological Emergency – Next Steps**

I am delighted that after declaring a Climate and Ecological Emergency at July Council, we have now moved on to what our next steps will be to tackle this global challenge and become carbon neutral as an organisation by 2030.

A report will be going to our October Cabinet to propose a Citizen's Assembly on Climate Change and a Commission aimed at making Croydon a sustainable city. It's of the utmost importance that we work together as a community in Croydon to make our borough a more sustainable place and both of these projects are aimed at ensuring that every person living, working and playing in our borough is part of the conversation.

A citizens' assembly is a group of people who are brought together to discuss an issue or issues and reach a conclusion about what they think should happen. Using this method would ensure that the actions the Council takes in regards to climate change would be heavily influenced by the voice of residents. The outcome of the Citizen's Assembly will be both reported to a future Cabinet and help inform the work of the commission.

The independent commission on sustainability is proposed to gather evidence, assess the current situation in Croydon and make recommendations back to Cabinet. By giving evidence to the commission, young people, residents, voluntary and community sector



# **Leader of the Council Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Tony Newman October 2019**

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organisations and businesses will have the opportunity to directly affect the recommendations to Council on what actions to take.

We have a lot to lose if we don't work towards lowering our carbon emissions as quickly as possible and I'm proud to say that Croydon, at least, is well on its way to becoming a sustainable city in partnership with its local people.

## **Local Government Settlement**

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sajid Javid, has delivered his statement on the 2020/21 Spending Review, announcing the end of Austerity. Total departmental spending will increase in real terms with local Government having access to £3.5bn in the coming financial year.

Overall this is positive news for Croydon's budget, with additional funding for Adults and Children's social care, Education - SEND, Homelessness and Public Health. The details of how this additional funding will be allocated will be announced later in the year. London and Croydon are disappointed in the decision not to continue the London 75% Business Rates Pilot and London Councils and The Society of London Treasurers have written to Ministers asking that they reconsider this decision.

## **Leader's Diary for August – September**

Meeting with Chris Philp MP re UASC funding

London Councils

Legacy Youth Zone opening

LGA Resources Board

Civic opening of the Fairfield Halls

Inaugural Arts Ball at the Fairfield Halls

Labour Party Conference

Legacy Youth Zone VIP dinner

SLP Leaders Board

All about me - Opening Celebration

Cabinet Member budget away day

**Cllr Tony Newman**

**Leader of the Council**

**AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON**

# Homes & Gateway Services

## Cabinet Member Bulletin

### Councillor Alison Butler

#### October 2019

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#### LATEST NEWS

##### **Fairfield's Hall**

Brick by Brick are delighted to have handed over the first spaces at Fairfield Halls to enable the first performances organised by the new operator BH Live. The refurbishment of Fairfield Halls is the largest and most complex project Brick By Brick has undertaken since being set up by the council in 2016 and is a perfect example of what can be achieved by local authorities if they are prepared to be bold and do things differently.

The aim of Brick By Brick has always been to lead development within Croydon for the council so that value is retained by the public sector. The borough has not necessarily been served well in the past by the operation of the property market, with land trading often preventing actual development. And when development actually happened, particularly with the housing market, it often meant homes that were unaffordable for local people. Brick By Brick have been working to change that and they now have a pipeline of over 1,200 homes across the borough, of which around half will be affordable.

Brick By Brick work across all kinds of sites – from small underused areas of public land where they create schemes with just a handful of units, to large developments on car parks or other sites that can accommodate hundreds of homes. Brick By Brick aim to be flexible and pragmatic, creating high quality, beautifully designed homes for all kinds of people.

And the refurbishment of Fairfield Halls demonstrates their flexibility. As development manager on the project they delivered the project for the council, bringing not only their development expertise to bear but also their local knowledge and understanding of Croydon. Importantly, Fairfield Halls is not just a much-loved cultural venue, it is also the jewel in the crown of Croydon's emerging cultural quarter. Adjacent to the site Brick By Brick are bringing forward a large-scale mixed use development called Fairfield Homes which will provide 421 new homes above flexible office, retail and leisure space, as well as new public realm bringing the neighbourhood together.

# Homes & Gateway Services

## Cabinet Member Bulletin

### Councillor Alison Butler

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As an independent development company wholly owned by the council, the value created through these developments goes back to the council, not only paying for the refurbishment of Fairfield Halls (alongside contributions from the Coast to Capital LEP and the Mayor of London's Creative Enterprise Zones scheme), but also providing revenue for the council to spend on public services as we see fit. Rather than working to create profit, Brick By Brick aims to create value, which is retained by the public sector and put to work for the people of Croydon.

#### **Stonebridge Lodge**

In August, the council was informed that the Home Office had taken a 10-year lease on Stonebridge Lodge, a building used as emergency accommodation for up to around 80 Croydon families at any one time.

For over 20 years this building in Thornton Heath has allowed the council to keep local homeless families close to their support networks, schools and jobs while a longer-term home is found.

Now, without giving advance warning, the Home Office has offered more money to take over the lease, meaning these homeless families have had to move out.

# Homes & Gateway Services

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The council has written to the Home Secretary to complain – not about the decision to move asylum-seekers into Stonebridge Lodge, as Croydon has a long history of welcoming asylum seekers and we will continue to do so, our concern is about the lack of notice and squeeze on local housing supply.

Croydon Council already looks after around 2,000 local families in temporary accommodation, and last year alone there were 50% more homeless applicants. The Home Office's move means less local supply and more costs and also shows their contempt for working in partnership with local communities.

To date, the council has yet to receive a response from the Home Secretary, but will continue to press for this decision to be reversed.

#### **Full-fibre broadband deal for council tenants**

I am pleased to announce that thousands of our tenants and leaseholders will be able to receive full-fibre internet access direct to their home following an agreement between the council and two providers.

Community Fibre will start work in the coming weeks on providing full-fibre broadband to 11,000 council properties across the borough. Another agreement has been signed with Openreach, whose coverage covers social and private residences in Thornton Heath, with plans being discussed to extend coverage. The installation comes at no cost to the council or residents, with residents only paying if they decide to sign up for the faster broadband. Once it is installed, residents will be able to choose between different price packages depending on the relevant provider's offer.

Under the agreement with the council, free wi-fi will also be provided by Community Fibre in communal areas of sheltered housing and council-owned community buildings. Apprenticeships and job opportunities for Croydon residents are also being discussed and encouraged to be part of the council's 100 apprenticeships in 100 days campaign.

As the network infrastructure improves across the borough, businesses and those living in private properties will also be able to benefit and have the ability to sign up and access the faster internet speeds. At the moment most properties only have copper cables from the cabinet in the street to the building, which limits internet speeds. Within the new agreement, fibre cables will be installed to the customer's router. These agreements will ensure our council tenants and leaseholders have the option to get a high-speed internet service, which will reduce digital exclusion in the borough.

# Homes & Gateway Services

## Cabinet Member Bulletin

### Councillor Alison Butler

#### October 2019

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#### **Improved help for those leaving prison**

To improve support for people coming out of prison with nowhere to call home, the council have awarded a grant of £45,000 to Evolve Housing + Support

The £45,000 funding for a prison discharge navigator is part of a £622,000 grant given to Croydon Council's Gateway service to offer vulnerable homeless people a bed, wraparound support and help into settled, permanent accommodation through a 24-hour, 365-day hub opening this winter.

The council's Gateway service already works closely with partners such as Evolve to not just tackle homelessness but also prevent it. Last year alone our outreach services helped 70 rough sleepers with a history of being in prison, so this £45,000 funding will allow Evolve to give vulnerable prison leavers more support and from an earlier stage.

The Prison Discharge Navigator will provide a fast track assessment service for people whom have potentially complex housing needs and are at risk of rough sleeping. The service will deliver a combination of practical, emotional & ongoing support to help make the transition to independent living for those whom prison discharge may be a challenging time. They will help to implement early interventions and action the housing needs, acting as an advocate for people leaving Prison with statutory and voluntary services. The role will involve leading on engagement between various services that are involved in various stages of prison discharge ensuring best practice is in place reconciling gaps in services as needed.

#### **Council chooses winning community housing bid**

The council has chosen a community group from Crystal Palace to be the first to develop its own affordable community led homes.

Crystal Palace Community Land Trust (CLT) has been selected for its commitment to turn a piece of council land at The Lawns in Upper Norwood into high-quality, low-carbon affordable homes by working with local residents to provide a scheme that best fits the local area.

A panel chose the winning community-led homes bid out of four shortlisted applicants from across the borough, considering factors including viability and design. The winning group, formed of local residents with professional specialisms including architecture, transport, housing management, planning and sustainability, submitted a bid that aims to:



# Homes & Gateway Services

## Cabinet Member Bulletin

### Councillor Alison Butler

#### October 2019

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- Meet low-carbon Passivhaus building standards
- Build a community food garden available to site residents and their neighbours
- Explore volunteering and job opportunities

Crystal Palace CLT's proposals are outline and will become more detailed as the scheme progresses. Issues such as design, layout, whether the homes are flats or houses, the number of homes and the number of bedrooms will be considered before a planning application is submitted.

It was clear that the passion and expertise in our communities for developing high-quality homes for local people has shone through our bidding process, and we had great submissions from all applicants. Crystal Palace CLT was the outstanding applicant. They impressed me with their commitment to not just design sustainable homes but also work with neighbours at every stage of the process so the proposal is the best it can be.

Council and Brick by Brick staff will offer help and guidance at every stage of the process, and I look forward to Crystal Palace CLT working with the community to turn their ideas into full proposals that boost the supply of much-needed affordable homes for local people.

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# **Clean Green Croydon**

## **Cabinet Member Bulletin**

### **Councillor Stuart Collins**

#### **October 2019**

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#### **LATEST NEWS**

##### **New Recycling**

I'm delighted to announce that Croydon is on track to meet its target of recycling over 50% of its household waste by 2020. It is now one year on from when we introduced the new bins. This followed the bold decision to increase the capacity for recycling and reduce the capacity for the residual (landfill) bins and it is great to see that this has already had a big impact on increasing recycling and reducing residual waste. I would like to say a big thank you to all our residents for getting behind the new system and for their continued efforts to recycle all they can. This has raised our recycling rate to 48%, from around 38% and is a fantastic achievement. Croydon want to achieve 50% recycling by 2020 and we are almost there. I'd also like to thank officers and our contractor for their hard work in ensuring such a major change took place with as little disruption to the service as possible.

##### **Recycling Week**

To help us reach this ambitious target of 50% recycling by 2020 Croydon recently supported National Recycling Week, which ran from 23-29 September. There were adverts in the trams as well as a short film entitled 'Recycling the Journey' which shows where all our recycling goes once it has been collected. The short film is now available on the Croydon website.



# Clean Green Croydon

## Cabinet Member Bulletin

### Councillor Stuart Collins

#### October 2019

**WHAT YOU CAN AND CAN'T RECYCLE**

Category	Collected Frequency	YES PLEASE (Accepted)	NO THANKS (Not Accepted)
FOOD WASTE	every week	All cooked and uncooked food Dairy products: cheese and eggs Fruit and vegetable peelings Tea bags and coffee grounds Meat and fish bones	Plastic bags Packaging Oil or liquids
PAPER & CARD	every 2 weeks	Newspapers and magazines Card and cardboard Toilet and kitchen roll tubes Egg boxes Junk mail and catalogues <i>Flatten down large cardboard boxes before putting them in the bin.</i>	Food-soiled pizza boxes Shredded paper (unless in an envelope or paper bag) Tissue paper Food & drink cartons
Plastics, glass, cans and cartons	every 2 weeks	Plastic bottles Plastic packaging (tubs, trays etc.) Glass jars and bottles Cans, tins, aerosols and tin foil Liquid food and drink cartons <i>Empty and rinse all containers. Squash plastic bottles. Remove film lids from plastic pots, tubs and trays.</i>	Plastic bags Plastic film Crisp packets Hard plastics (toys etc) Polystyrene
General waste	every 2 weeks	Non-recyclable rubbish Food-soiled cardboard Plastic bags and film Polystyrene Nappies <i>Only general waste placed in this bin (with the lid shut) will be collected.</i>	Anything recyclable Electrical items Hazardous waste DIY waste

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[www.croydon.gov.uk](http://www.croydon.gov.uk)

## Letter to Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

I am disappointed to report that since writing to the Secretary of State about fly-tipping in July I have still not had a reply. I sent letters to both Theresa Villiers MP and Michael Gove MP, who was in the post previously. I wrote to express my concerns about the increasing number of fly tips being seen on a national scale, the costs to local authorities in dealing with these and to suggest new ways in which this issue could be tackled.

Despite the lack of any response or any new initiatives from the Secretary of State Croydon will continue to tackle these issues locally. We will soon be introducing an initiative that rewards residents who supply information about fly tippers which leads to a successful prosecution.

Finally, a reminder to please report any fly tips you see via the Don't Mess with Croydon App which will create an instruction for our contractor to clear within one working day.



# Finance and Resources

## Cabinet Member Bulletin

### Councillor Simon Hall

October 2019

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## Current Year Financial Performance

As reported to Cabinet in September, the forecast for the current year indicates that the Council is broadly in line with budget, prior to exceptional items.

Clearly, there are many key services to vulnerable residents where the Council is seeing significant demand pressures and significant service transformation and work on prevention and early help so as to improve the lives of residents and limit the cost impact to the Council.

The Council is forecasting an exceptional item for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children and Appeals Right Exhausted in excess of £9 million. Repeated refusals by the Home Office to recognise the inequity of the situation and the burden on Croydon council tax payers is truly shocking. Cross-party lobbying continues on this but the Home Office and the Treasury are turning deaf ears.

## Commissioning Framework

The new Tender and Contract Regulations, Social Value and Commissioning Framework were adopted at full Council in July 2019.

The Tender and Contract Regulations reflects the Council's commitment to support its local businesses and to keep the £ within Croydon. The new Buying Team focuses on spend from £10k to £100K with spend in this area circa £100 million per annum. The new team will ensure that at least two local companies are invited to quote wherever possible. A programme of business engagement events for local Micro and SME businesses will support this. We are already seeing the benefit in terms of increased use of local businesses and cost savings.

The revised Commissioning Framework encompasses an overarching commitment to 'Ethical and Sustainable Commissioning' that maximises on social value, fosters local employment, promotes fair pay, encourages local business growth and supports community priorities.

The Council for the first time published its Social Value Policy and is one of the first to do so. This policy clearly defines social value and its importance to the Borough and includes a change in the Council's procurement rules. Social Value will now contribute to a minimum of 10% of the quality evaluation assessment for all relevant procurements.

These important changes shows the continued focus on ethical and sustainable commissioning in support of residents and Croydon's businesses.



# Finance and Resources

## Cabinet Member Bulletin

Councillor Simon Hall

October 2019

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## Croydon Digital Strategy

Three months since publishing the digital strategy, now close to completing the setup of CDS with new governance, new capability in user centred design, agile delivery, and reshaping the team into multidisciplinary delivery teams, so it is ready to deliver on the commitments in the strategy. This blog post gives a really useful insight into the changes <https://croydon.digital/2019/09/04/introducing-multidisciplinary-teams-at-the-croydon-digital-service/>

Council staff are enjoying a radically better service than in previous years for their core ICT support. Performance and user satisfaction for our new ICT partner, Littlefish, continues to be excellent, with a peak in August of a Net Promoter Score of 70.77, rated as “world class”.

Redevelopment of the council’s website, to replace it with one that is designed around meeting residents’ needs more effectively, is now underway. We are currently testing the new content and designs for all of the Adult Social Care content on the site, with actual users of those services, to validate that the new site is an improvement. From mid-October we expect to begin putting new pages live and redirecting old pages to the new pages – and the new site will replace the old site incrementally as the project progresses.

CDS supported the go-live of the new Selsdon library with tablets and computers for staff, library users and children, networking, telephony, printers and secure access to applications used in the library. This was a huge undertaking and delivered on time.

We continue to progress improvements to internal technology, including the People Systems Programme, moving applications to the cloud for improve performance and resilience, and refreshing the council’s telephony systems including improvements to the system used by the contact centre, which will enable significant improvement for residents. Improvements have gone live to the complaints system, FOI and SAR management systems.

We have won £20k in grant funding from the LGA for work on digital inclusion

A few progress reports to highlight on the Croydon Digital blog:

- [We are collaborating with 4 councils on user research to improve digital services](https://croydon.digital/2019/08/30/croydon-teams-up-with-4-other-councils-on-user-research/)  
<https://croydon.digital/2019/08/30/croydon-teams-up-with-4-other-councils-on-user-research/>
- [We have written up the improvements we made to the SEND local Offer site](https://croydon.digital/2019/09/13/making-information-easier-to-find-for-families-of-children-with-send/)  
<https://croydon.digital/2019/09/13/making-information-easier-to-find-for-families-of-children-with-send/>



# Finance and Resources

## Cabinet Member Bulletin

Councillor Simon Hall

October 2019

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- [We solved a problem in a week, using Google's Design Sprint methodology](https://croydon.digital/2019/07/24/one-week-to-solve-a-problem-cds-first-digital-design-sprint/)  
<https://croydon.digital/2019/07/24/one-week-to-solve-a-problem-cds-first-digital-design-sprint/>

## Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2019

As I reported at last Council. The draft accounts were completed on time, by 31 May. The audit was completed by the 31 July deadline. These deadlines are incredibly tight and I want to thank Lisa Taylor, Ian Geary and all the Finance function for their professionalism and dedication, which enabled this to happen.

## Asset investment strategy

The asset investment strategy approved last year continues to deliver. We have recently completed on Phase 2 of the Colonnades. The Colonnades will generate some £1.4m (after interest costs) for frontline services.

We are actively looking for appropriate assets and that is why Cabinet is recommending to Council that the fund be increased from £100m to £200m.

## Recruitment – Early Help & Social Care Division

The Recruitment Team have processed 101 new starters since April 2019 to October 2019 for the Early Help and Children Social Care Division.

From the 101 new starters, 71 of these are Qualified Social Workers, which also includes 18 in management roles, and 30 are other professionally qualified staff working to support Social Care Teams.

This recruitment is making a significant contribution to the improvement journey.

## Workforce Strategy

The first draft of the workforce strategy has been developed with input from staff across the council. The strategy sets out our key priorities over the next few years to become a high performing organisation. It also defines our success factors and what it will take from the workforce to fulfilling our vision of becoming a high performing organisation that is collaborative, inclusive and innovative, that allows talent to flourish and builds our workforce capability to meet our ambitions and reflect our community - where everyone can speak up, speak out and have a voice in the future direction of the organisation - where fairness and justice feel real, and where bullying, harassment and discrimination are not tolerated.

The workforce strategy will sit alongside the corporate plan, community strategy and service delivery plans and the medium and long term financial planning cycle which will enable us to be fit for and to be the right kind of organisation to deliver the best outcomes for our residents. It is intended to go to Cabinet on the 18<sup>th</sup> of November

**AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON – DELIVERING FOR CROYDON**





## **Equalities – Disclosure**

Non-disclosure campaign was run during June with both intranet presence and push e-mails to Directors to encourage disclosure. A reminder of importance and endorsement from staff networks and unions was prepared and communicated.

An Updated report on staff profile is being prepared and should be available in October.

## **Pension Scheme Communications**

Annual Benefit Statements made available to over 16000 members of the pension scheme by the deadline of 31 August.

## **Data Sharing and Schools**

Our legal services division has drafted a comprehensive Information Sharing Agreement between the Council and all schools in the borough to strengthen information sharing arrangements in relation to children's information. It protects pupils and ensures the sharing is GDPR compliant.

## **Insourcing**

This administration is committed to insourcing, as a preferred route, i.e. there need to be reasons to not insource. This is an ongoing process and will continue as services are reviewed and contracts come up for renewal.

Earlier this year, we insourced the grounds maintenance service and we have seen considerable improvement in the service since then. In addition, the third of staff who were not paid the London Living Wage by the previous contractor, are, of course, paid the London Living Wage.

Also, as part of the new ICT arrangements, significant services have been brought in-house, notably application management. Again, and as detailed elsewhere in this bulletin, this is showing real benefits.

In September, we brought a further part of our Special Education Needs Transport in-house. Again, this has happened seamlessly and we are delivering an excellent service.

At the end of this year, we will be bringing back in-house the operations of our special sheltered accommodation, thus providing improved services for vulnerable frail residents and ensuring the staff delivering those services are paid the London Living Wage and are given opportunities to flourish.

I look forward to providing details of services insourced at future meetings.



**Councillor Paul Scott (Job Share)**  
Lead for Planning and Regeneration

## **Environment, Transport and Regeneration October 2019**



**Councillor Stuart King (Job Share)**  
Lead for Environment and Transport

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## LATEST NEWS

### Winterbourne School Junior Road Watch

Winterbourne Boys and Girls School took part in Croydon's first Junior Road Watch scheme on Wednesday 10 July. The programme sees council staff and police work with small groups of pupils to educate motorists of the importance of road safety, especially near schools.

The children were equipped with safety equipment and speed cameras set up near their school. They monitored speeds around Melfort Road in the Thornton Heath area. When stopped for speeding, offenders were asked by the children if they realise the consequences of speeding as well as other questions to highlight the danger of speeding.

Kaleem Warren, Year 5, Winterbourne Boys Academy said: "we're here to tell people about road safety and to help to keep local school children safe"

Shania Falaiye, Year 4 from Winterbourne Junior Girls' School said "we are here to ask questions to the drivers like why they are speeding near our school"

If a pedestrian is hit by a car at 20 miles per hour they are about five times more likely to survive than if they're hit at 30 miles per hour. Over the two days, 28 drivers were stopped for speeding and all of them chose to speak to the children instead of other enforcement activity. The average speed for both days was around 30mph yet the limit on the road is 20mph.

Croydon Council will be talking to schools across the borough over the next academic year to see if they would like to take part in the scheme.





### **Bedford Park Cycle Lane**

Two new cycle lanes are being built to make it easier for cyclists to access and move around central Croydon. They form part of the planned Town Centre 'ring route' into which cycle routes to the Town centre will connect.

The segregated cycleway in Bedford Park will allow cyclists to safely travel against the one way traffic, from Sydenham Road to Poplar Walk and on to West Croydon and North End. It links into the surface level crossing on Wellesley Road (implemented in 2015 to make it easier to cross this main road 'barrier'). The most disruptive section of works took place during the school holidays including improvements to the traffic signals at the junction with Sydenham Road.

The delineated cycle track being introduced at the Fairfield Halls / College Green frontage along Park Lane will allow cyclists to travel safely in both directions. It links to the Connect2 cycle route (a new part of the National Cycle Network from Wandle Park through Croydon town centre and on to Lloyd Park). The new cycle track is temporary, and will be replaced as part of the permanent scheme for the Halls' frontage.

Creating joined up and easy-to-use cycle routes is key to helping our residents and commuters make more sustainable and healthy travel choices.

### **London Road Corridor**

Building on earlier investment, which delivered improvements to the highway, public realm and shop and retail units on London Road, the council is now planning ways to deliver the next phase of transformation for this key route into the town centre. We commissioned a study to analyse London Road (from the Croydon borough boundary at Norbury to West Croydon station) using TfL's Healthy Streets indicators alongside an assessment of the current performance of the transport network. The Healthy Streets assessment builds an evidence-based framework to assess whether public spaces and streets are healthy, safe, inclusive and appealing for everyone to enjoy, prioritising walking, cycling and public transport. This reflects the Mayor of London's Transport Strategy which has a target of 80% of all journeys being by public transport, walking or cycling by 2041. The analysis will help us to prioritise regeneration and transport investment priorities for the area under Croydon's town centre Growth Zone programme. Our objectives for future investment along the London Road are to:

- Reduce or mitigate traffic dominance
- Improve active and sustainable travel (public transport, walking and cycling)
- Improve personal safety and road safety
- Improve air quality
- Improve the public realm

- Create a sense of place and local identity

Over the next few months, the council will be commissioning some further traffic and parking surveys in the area, and working with TfL to confirm the timescale for reviewing options for longer term improvements to their major road infrastructure, principally for the Thornton Heath Pond gyratory.

### **New School Streets**

In September the Council introduced new School Street safety schemes, to coincide with the start of the school year. The first 3 of the new schemes cover 4 schools - Norbury Manor Primary School, Downsvie Primary School, Harris Academy Purley and Regina Coeli Primary School. The latter 2 neighbouring schools are covered by a single scheme in Kendra Hall Road. A further 5 new schemes will be installed in the next few months. The 8 new schemes have received strong support from residents in their areas, with 69% responding in favour to the consultations.

A School Street restricts the road to use by pedestrians and cyclists, with most motor vehicle traffic prohibited, between the hours of 08:00 to 09:30 and 14:00 to 16:00 on school days. Children, parents and residents with special access needs are eligible for an exemption to the restrictions. The 8 new schemes being introduced this year means a total of 16 Croydon schools will have School Streets safety schemes in place.

Croydon's Parking Policy 2019-2022 has as an aim that at least 30% of primary schools and 20% of secondary schools will have a School Street by 2022. According to a national survey published this week, ahead of a Parliamentary Group discussing the planned Environment Bill, Croydon's 2022 aim will represent 10% of all School Streets in the UK. Croydon is recognised as a benchmark for other authorities seeking to improve conditions around their schools. The Council has been approached by many local authorities, including from as far as Australia, with requests for information and guidance on how to introduce School Streets.

Government figures estimate that about one-quarter of traffic at rush hour is linked to the school run. The official statistics shows that nearly half (45%) of all primary school children are driven in a car or van and the figure is continually growing. Ironically, the fear of traffic is the biggest barrier to more children walking and cycling. At the same time, pollution from vehicles can cause long term damage to children's lungs and reduces life expectancy in general. The level of air pollution inside a car in congested traffic can tend to be higher than on the pavement. In Croydon, 205 deaths each year are attributed to air pollution.

Walking and cycling to school also benefit children's health and wellbeing, not just in terms of tackling overweightness but it is suggested that children who walk or cycle

arrive at school more alert, happier and ready to work. Head teachers at schools within the original 3 pilot schemes report improved punctuality and an uptake in their breakfast clubs. The School Streets thereby contributes to better learning opportunities and outcomes for the children.

The School Street restrictions are normally enforced by penalty charges. However, the new schemes are issuing fair warning notices to drivers for the first month. There are also additional parking enforcement patrols in the neighbouring roads during school run times, to prevent these other residents being unduly impacted by a development of further bad parking practices. The Council's road safety and travel team is in contact with the school to arrange safe travel training for the children.

As the street near the school entrance gradually clears of threatening traffic conditions, it gives the parent increased confidence that the child can safely walk or cycle to school. The recently introduced 20mph zones in many school neighbourhoods, further help making the journey to and from school a cleaner, calmer and safer walk. This is important in encouraging parents not to drive the school run.

The Council's contact address regarding the scheme is [schoolparking@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:schoolparking@croydon.gov.uk).

### **Emission Based Permit Charges**

The Council has after an extensive public consultation decided to introduce emission-based parking permit charges from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019. The differential charges are a response to surveys, in which significant majorities of Croydon residents have said they are concerned about air quality and that there are too many cars on the roads.

The Council has duties under various national, regional and local community policies, to actively address air pollution. This includes a duty under the Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984 to exercise its power to secure the expeditious, convenient and safe movement of traffic and parking, having regard to the requirements from the national air quality strategy. In Croydon an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) has been declared for the whole of the borough, for failing to meet the EU annual average limit for air pollutants.

The new scheme is designed to help encourage a switch to lesser polluting cars and influence the choices of those who are able to give up a non-essential car. The new charges will be introduced in a phased approach, starting with resident permits and being applied at the point when the annual permit is next up for renewal. Other permit types will follow in April 2020, again on a renewal basis.

The Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) represents the most parking congested roads and are disproportionally located in the most polluted areas of the borough. The CPZ also

disproportionally coincide with areas where there is high health deprivation and a significantly higher density in the population of 0 to 4-year old.

The new scheme has carefully considered the potential impact on the most vulnerable residents in the borough. The difficulty in accessing homes due to high parking demand, and public health concerns affects all residents, but disproportionately so those who are vulnerable, including the disabled, people with ill-health, the unborn, young and elderly. NHS data confirms that Croydon has the worst rate of childhood asthma admissions to hospital in London. Air pollution is currently contributing to 205 deaths each year in Croydon.

Influencing the overall number of cars parked on the roads in the borough, and in parking congested CPZs in particular, can help improve access for residents with essential car needs. This is particularly important in enabling the participation of disabled residents in public life. The holders of 11,459 individual and 71 organisational blue badges, and their associated companion badges and care charity permits, are therefore exempted from the permit charges.

An analysis and evaluation of the positive and negative impacts from the new charges concludes that the benefits of introducing emissions-based parking charges outweigh the disadvantages of doing so. Any surplus from the new parking charges are ring-fenced and would, for example, contribute to sustaining public transport fare concessions such as the Freedom Pass.

Private car transport is just one aspect of local air pollution and parking charges represents just one of a raft of measures the council is taking to tackle this public health emergency. In combination, the Council is currently in the process of rolling out 400 electric vehicle charging points (EVCP) for public use. It further has an ongoing programme of works with the Mayor, Transport for London busses, Network Rail and Train Operating Companies to improve public transport links to our local high streets, including introducing new routes to better connect Croydon's places and to increase capacity. The local cycling strategy is developing additional cycling routes. The Council's tree planting programme is planting 700 street trees each year and this year alone it is expected to deliver 1,200 trees.

### **Changes to Dockless bike scheme**

Following a review of operations including usage figures, and with Autumn coming and the likely weather and daylight changes, Lime have decided to suspend their e-bike trials in South London in October with the possibility to return afresh later in the New Year. This will be across all south London operations including Bromley, Sutton and Croydon.

From an operational perspective Lime will begin to remove bikes from Friday 11th October and hope to have this completed by the 14th October which will be the suspension date of the trial.

I am obviously disappointed but understand Lime's rationale. I am pleased to report though that council officials have met with Jump, a new entrant into the e-bike market and we welcome their potential interest in our borough.

### **Climate Emergency – Next Steps**

Croydon declared a Climate and Ecological Emergency at July meeting of the Council. As a result of this the Council is drawing up important plans to tackle this urgent priority. The council is showing the leadership required to tackle this emergency. However, we want to work with all our residents to make this happen. As such we are establishing a Citizens' Assembly on Climate Change and a Commission aimed at making Croydon a sustainable city. A report will go to Cabinet later this month setting out how this vitally important agenda will be taken forward.

A citizens' assembly is a group of residents who are brought together to discuss an issue or issues and reach a conclusion about what they think should happen. Using this method would ensure that the actions the Council takes in regards to climate change would be heavily influenced by the voice of Croydon residents. The outcome of the Citizens' Assembly will be both reported to a future Cabinet and help inform the work of the Commission.

The report to Cabinet in October will also be proposing an independent Commission on sustainability to gather evidence, assess the current situation in Croydon and make recommendations back to Cabinet. This method will be supported by an independent advisors to ensure that the Commission is independent and appropriately supported to fulfil its purpose.

By giving evidence to the Commission, young people, residents, voluntary and community sector organisations and businesses will have the opportunity to directly affect the recommendations to Council on what actions to take.

As Croydon continues to work towards a more sustainable future, the Council recognises that the task ahead is monumental and requires the whole borough to work together as a community to bring about lasting change. The above options that will be proposed are geared towards ensuring that local residents, businesses and young people will be a part of the journey every step of the way.

### Residential Approval and Refusal Rates

The Council receives unfounded and ill-informed criticisms that it grants planning permission for new homes regardless of other issues and ignores the view of local residents and objectors to such proposals. Whilst there is a development plan focus on housing delivery for which I make no apology and which is closely aligned to the National Planning Policy Framework, it is clear that the evidence does not support such criticisms.

We have interrogated planning decisions taken between 1<sup>st</sup> August 2018 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019 for minor and major residential development (in other words all applications which seek to deliver new homes).

Between 1<sup>st</sup> August 2018 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019, the Council determined 510 residentially focussed planning applications (in other words, planning applications which sought to deliver new homes). 137 of these planning applications (around 27%) were refused planning permission. The vast majority of these cases (419 planning applications) were determined by officers under delegated authority and of the 91 cases determined by Planning Committee/Planning Sub Committee, 4 planning applications were refused (4%). The reason why the majority of cases determined by Planning Committee were approved was due to the fact that the vast majority of schemes referred to Planning Committee are supported by our professional planning officers – all with a positive officer recommendation. Planning applications recommended for refusal are usually refused without coming before the Planning Committee. In other local boroughs, applications like these are decided in public giving a false impression that they are more cautious about where new homes are built.'

The graphs outlined below help illustrate the refusal and approval rates (for Planning Committee, Officer Delegated and Overall).

In terms of housing numbers, during that same period, the Council granted planning permission for 2,285 new homes. Out of the total residential homes determined, 475 units (17.2%) were refused planning permission. This again helps to dispel any myth that the Council only grants planning permission for new homes. Incidentally, if one excludes three of the large scale major housing schemes granted planning permission during the period from the overall figure (Menta Morello, Dingwall Road and Pocket Living – which collectively proposed 763 residential units) the rate of refusal of housing units increases to around 30%.

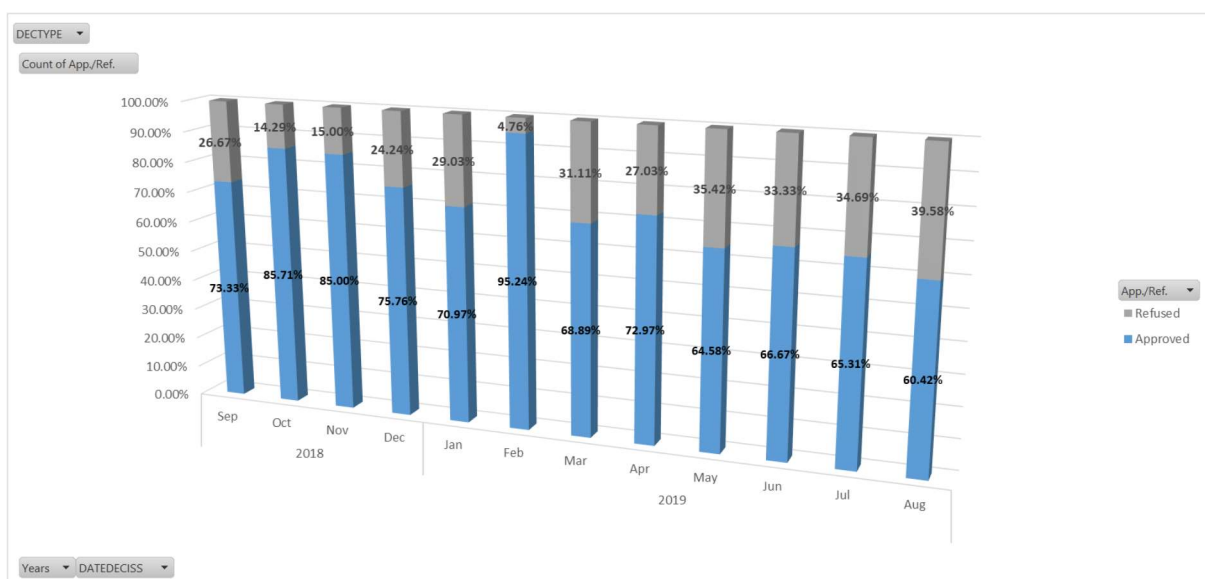
Moreover, where refusals of planning permission for new homes are challenged on appeal, the Council is very successful at defending its position. At the time of writing, out of the 137 planning applications refused, 17 of the cases have been the subject of appeals to the Secretary of State with 14 of the appeals being dismissed (82%). This



is well in excess of average appeal success rates across the Country and gives a firm indication that where we refuse planning permission for new homes, our decisions are suitably sound and robust.

It is therefore critical to see the bigger picture and to fully understand and validate the evidence before reaching ill-informed conclusions on the form and scale of development activity taking place within the borough and the associated decisions being taken by planning officers as well as the Planning Committee.

### The decisions



### **Funding boost for South Norwood's heritage**

Work is set to begin next year on a Croydon Council plan to revitalise South Norwood's High Street after it successfully bid for major funding from Historic England.

As part of its £1.7m bid, the council plans to restore dilapidated Victorian buildings, improve public open spaces, back community education projects and encourage specialist heritage-related apprenticeships.

The proposals include creating an arts and heritage trail through South Norwood and setting up a planning workshop to encourage better-quality development in the area.

Pop-up exhibitions run by the Museum of Croydon are also part of the plans to teach locals about South Norwood's heritage past and present. In addition, the project aims to encourage young people to explore apprenticeships in the construction and conservation industries and work with community groups to create more public art in South Norwood.

The council will now work on a detailed plan with Historic England to finalise the project, and the exact amount of funding - part of a £95m pot for 69 high streets across the country - will be confirmed in January.

The funding will build on the work of the [Good Growth Fund](#) which is providing £2.3m of investment, with £1.16m from the Greater London Authority being match funded by the council. The initiative, announced last December, involves working with community group We Love SE25 and local residents, businesses and landlords to bring empty premises back into use as retail and workspaces for creative and social enterprises.

South Norwood boomed in the 19th century with the arrival of the railway, and its centre is predominantly composed of original buildings, dating from the 1840s to 1910, many of which retain their original features. The project's heritage action zone focuses on upgrading South Norwood's conservation area which is on Historic England's At Risk Register.

Councillor Paul Scott, Croydon Council's cabinet lead for planning and regeneration, said: "This announcement is really exciting for South Norwood and Croydon. The council is committed to supporting our important and historic local centres.

"South Norwood's High Street retains most of its Victorian and Edwardian buildings, with an abundance of character and fine architecture. However it has suffered economically over recent years and really needs a boost to return it to its former glory.

"We look forward to working with Historic England to finalise plans for the Heritage Action Zone so the area can celebrate its past as it grows and thrives for future generations. In addition to the economic development plans already being developed using funding from the Mayor for London and the council, South Norwood will continue to be regenerated for the benefit of the whole community."

Emily Gee, Historic England's Regional Director for London and the South East, said: "This is fantastic news for the residents and businesses of South Norwood. Historic England is looking forward to working with the local community and stakeholders on this exciting project to help revitalise the historic high street, in turn supporting regeneration of the area."

### **Croydon Local Plan Review - Local Green Spaces and Call for Sites - Update**

As part of the Croydon Local Plan Review, to be eligible for Local Green Space designation, a site must meet certain criteria as set by the National Planning Policy Framework, the most critical of which is understood to be that the site must be 'demonstrably special to the community it serves'. In line with current Croydon Local Plan Planning Inspector's comments, the speciality of the site must go beyond the everyday use of the space. The designation is not designed to be used to protect every space nor discuss the open space needs of an area.



Two online surveys were held in June and July to capture data from the community that could be used as evidence in demonstrating the particular importance of green space to the community. The Council received considerable input from the community with over 7000 responses received, which is welcomed. The data is being analysed in line with the NPPF criteria to determine which sites could be taken forward in the Local Plan Review for Local Green Space designation and also given the Croydon Local Plan Planning Inspector's comments. Those sites that do not meet the NPPF criteria will be considered for a local open space policy designation. The outcome of this work will be available for public consultation during our first period of community engagement on the Local Plan Review in the autumn 2019.

Similarly, in June and July Council invited suggestions on sites that would be suitable for development within the plan period. All suggestions are being analysed for their suitability against local planning policy, the NPPF and deliverability within the plan period. Those sites deemed to be potentially capable of delivering development of all types to meet the borough's needs (from 2019 to 2039) will be consulted on during our first period of community engagement on the Local Plan Review in the autumn 2019.

### **Count down to Croydon Local Plan Review Issues and Options Consultation**

The Council is undertaking a review of the Croydon Local Plan 2018 for the following three key reasons.

1. To plan proactively and have an up to date Local Plan for the borough that plans for the emerging development and policy requirements of the new London Plan, particularly the considerable increase in the borough's housing target.
2. Ensure the borough's Local Plan is reviewed every five years in accordance with government legislation.
3. To review policies in the current Local Plan that are not operating as anticipated as identified by the Council's monitoring.

The Issues and Options consultation (the first stage in the Local Plan Review) period is due to commence shortly after the Issues and Options Local Plan has been considered by Cabinet in the autumn. This consultation period is the first of two statutory community engagement periods and is designed to capture feedback from the community on the big issues and options prior to the drafting of any policies. The information captured and representations received from the consultation will be used to review the Local Plan policies.

This period of consultation has therefore been designed to maximise engagement for all, including those who do not often participate in Planning. The Council will operate an Urban Room pilot within the Whitgift Centre where the Local Plan documents, including interactive exhibition material, will be available Wednesdays – Saturdays. Ahead of the consultation period, a programme of events and activities (both within and outside of the Urban Room pilot) is being finalised. This will allow the community

and stakeholders to be involved. The programme will include exhibitions and a presence on the High Streets of some the borough's 16 Places.

Further detail regarding the Local Plan Review consultation programme and the review itself can be viewed via the link below.

<https://www.croydon.gov.uk/planningandregeneration/framework/localplan/croydon-local-plan---partial-review>

### Update on major projects in the metropolitan centre inc Queens Square in particular –

#### 30-38 Addiscombe Road

Planning permission has been granted for L&Q to deliver 137 homes across a building between 8 and 18 storeys in height. The permission secured 50% affordable housing and was given the green light by the GLA, with the permission issued in August. Since



that time we have heard from L&Q that they are converting 21 additional homes within the scheme to shared ownership, thus resulting in a scheme delivering 65% affordable housing, which is fabulous news for the Borough and its residents.

#### Ruskin Square (R02 and R03)



The reserved matters for the next two residential phases of Stanhope and Schroder's Ruskin Square development, adjacent to East Croydon Station and to the north of Caithness Walk, were approved in August. The next two phases would provide 172 homes across a part two part 21 storey building in R02 and 155 homes across a part 10 part 17 storey building with B1 at part ground, first, second and third floors in R03.

## Queens Square



Demolition of the Queens Square site (opposite the Town Hall) is well underway. A planning application for the redevelopment of the site is expected to be submitted by the end of the year. The new planning application will include, a significant

amount of residential accommodation, ground floor retail uses, make and sell spaces, bring Segas House (a listed building) back into use and deliver a new Town Square

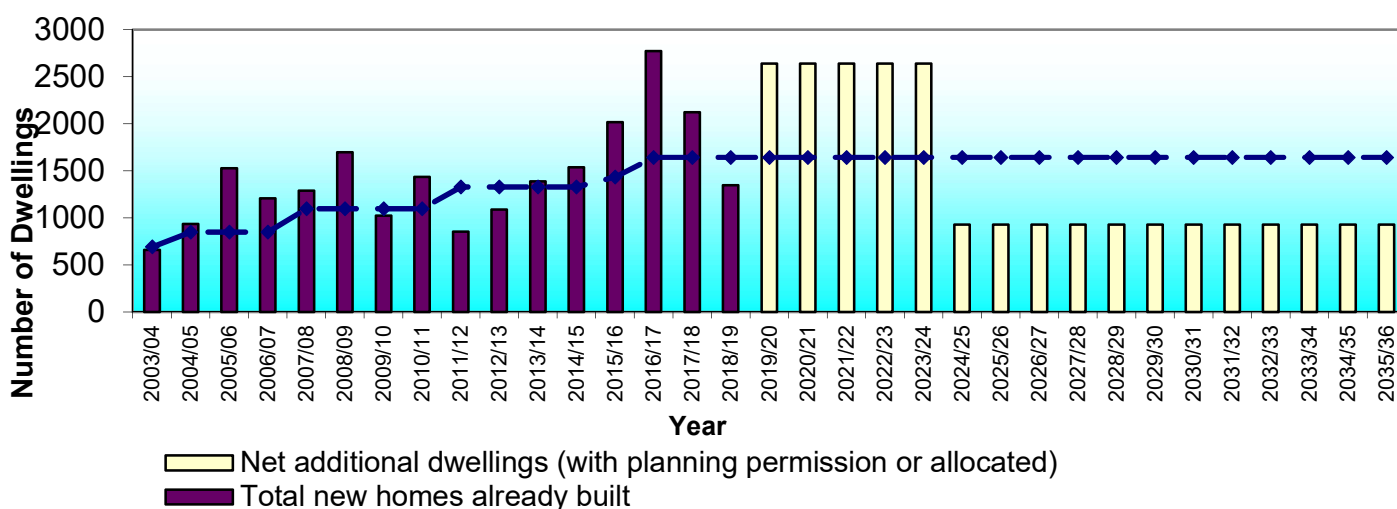
The Croydon Authority's Monitoring Report (AMR) 2017/18, which assesses whether the policies and targets in the Croydon Local Plan 2018 are being met, was prepared and published on the Council's website in August.

The full AMR can be viewed via the link below.

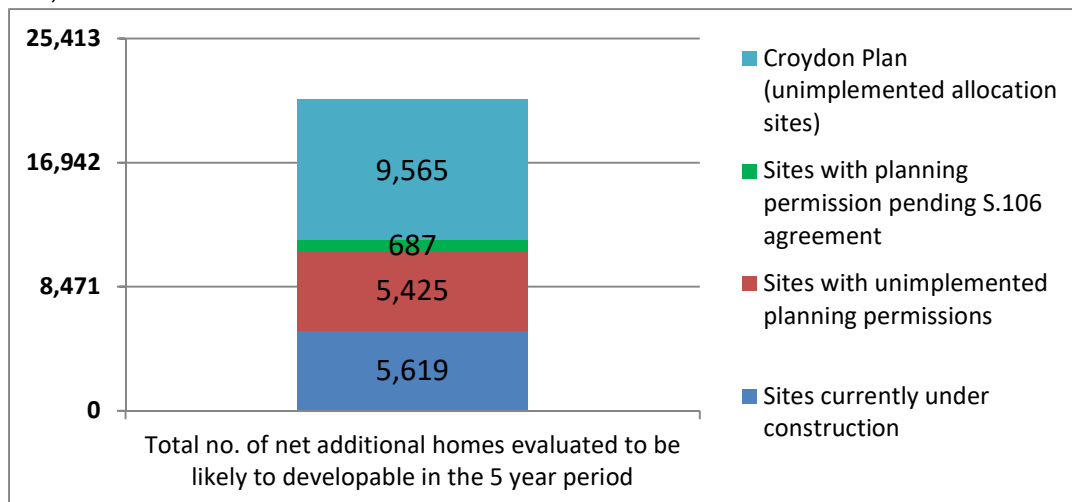
<https://www.croydon.gov.uk/planningandregeneration/framework/localplan/monitoringreports>

The key highlights of the report are as follows:

- In 2017/18 Croydon as a borough exceeded its housing targets of an annual average of 1,645 homes between 2016 and 2036 with 2,123 homes built (as shown in the graph below).



- Croydon currently has a five year supply of housing land so has enough homes with planning permission, allocated in the Local Plan or under construction to meet the current Local Plan target until 2023. The graph below identifies that Croydon currently has a pipeline of 21,296 new homes, which is above the target of 8,471 new homes.





- In relation to affordable housing, for major permissions (10 or more units), 22% of completions were affordable rent, social rent or intermediate homes. However, overall, due to minor residential permissions and permitted development rights (office to residential) have no affordable housing element, just 5% of completions were for affordable rented homes and 5% were for intermediate homes.
- The Council has also collected a total of £244,500 in commuted sums for affordable housing contributions in 2017/18.
- Croydon Metropolitan Centre retail vacancy rate is now 12%, which is slightly up from 11% in the previous year. This is seen as stable year on year.
- The District Centres are generally resilient with stable or falling levels of vacancy. Two centres (Purley and South Norwood) have had consistently high vacancy rates (above 10%) from 2008 through to 2018 with South Norwoods vacancy rate being the highest of any centre in the borough (25%). This year, Purley's vacancy rate has fallen to 8%.
- Office vacancy rates in Croydon Metropolitan Centre have fallen to 28% (largely as a result of permitted development conversions to residential use of some office buildings) after being above 50% for much of the period since 2011.
- Development has continued to provide financial contributions through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). Croydon's CIL was introduced on 1st April 2013 and by 4<sup>th</sup> December 2018 had raised £23.4 million.
- The Council's Infrastructure Finance Group determines which projects will be funded in whole or in part from planning obligations and ensures that the allocated money is in accordance with the terms of the s106 agreement. By December 2018 a total of £7.3 million of funding has been agreed to support necessary infrastructure identified in the Croydon Infrastructure Delivery Plan and the Council's Capital Programme.

### **Growth Zone update – September 2019**

Croydon town centre continues to see rapid change with new buildings under construction and plans for further developments in the pipeline. The Council are working to deliver improvements to the transport network, to upgrade the streets and to provide more facilities for new and existing residents.

The following provides a short update on some of the major projects underway:

### **Brighton Mainline/East Croydon station**

The first stage of public consultation completed and results distributed to local residents in June 2019. Over 90% of people agreed with the concept of unblocking the railway bottleneck at Croydon. The overwhelming support for improvements means that work continues by Network Rail and the Council on developing the project. Further public consultation on the plans is scheduled for early/mid 2020. Detailed consultation regarding Norwood Junction began in June 2019 raising public awareness on potential improvements, these findings will be presented when available.

Network Rail has bought the former Royal Mail sorting office for inclusion in the East Croydon redevelopment. They are proposing to demolish the building as soon as possible. Ideas are being considered for the meanwhile use of the empty site before it becomes a construction works site and ultimately part of the enabling development to help fund the new station.

### **West Croydon station**

Initial ideas and designs have been discussed with Network Rail and TfL and these are being progressed. Network Rail are working through options for future track alignment through the West Croydon area, taking account of possible future options relating to train services and tram capacity enhancements. The next stage of design work is in the process of being commissioned.

The developers for the St Michaels Square scheme have announced that they intend to commence construction in the New Year on the two towers and the extensive public realm works that will help to transform this currently run down area.

### **Trams**

The immediate focus is on East Croydon station to maximise platform space and improve pedestrian crossings and safety, better passenger information and wayfinding. Technical work will need to be undertaken to bring the centre platform in to regular service for turning trams back east and west.

### **High Street**

The street live programme of events and activities is coming to a close, Music City is looking to us this space from Oct – Dec to show case some new entertainment opportunities promoting the CEZ.

### **Minster Green**

Designs for the area around the Minster have progressed, further dialog continues to be worked through with the diocese and appropriate permissions will be sought. Works are due to start in early 2020.

### **Walking & Cycling**

Bedford Park to Poplar Walk cycle route construction starting late July 2019, this scheme is due to complete before Christmas 2019

Ampere Way cycle track detailed design progressing, works scheduled to start early 2020.

## Parking

The Council has almost completed its review of the Controlled Parking Zones surrounding the town centre and will consider if any changes are to be made, consulting residents on any proposed changes. Technology solutions are being investigated to improve on the parking experience for drivers

## Fair Field

Temporary works are now completed in time for the official opening, public reaction to these temporary works are highly supportive.

The Council has appointed a world class designer MICA to change the area outside Fairfield Halls and the College to create a space where people will want to come to

relax, play and be entertained. The first inception meeting is scheduled for early October. Design work will start later this year and more information will be available on the emerging designs in Q3/4.



## All the fun at the fair – Fair Field

A world-class public space in the heart of Croydon's new cultural quarter will provide a stunning setting for the newly-refurbished Fairfield Halls and improve links with the rest of the town centre, this ambitious £10m scheme, will be the next phase of the development surrounding the iconic Croydon venue

The new public space – Fair Field – will encompass the area known as College Green between Fairfield Halls and Croydon College, the Fairfield Halls forecourt and Park Lane frontage, along with pedestrian routes linking it to East Croydon and other spaces in the town centre. Historically known as the Fair Field, the site was Croydon's venue for entertainment and social activity, hosting fairs, markets and performances until the arrival of the railways in the 1860. The scheme will restore the site to its former name, and its use as a valued civic space for the community and visitors to enjoy.

The winning team includes MICA Architects, OOZE, Charles Holland Architects, Adam Nathaniel Furman, eHRW, and DHA Design Services Ltd, Gardiner & Theobald and Wasser Werkstatt.

The project will also link up Croydon's new cultural quarter with the rest of the town centre, enhancing the route to East Croydon Station and Wellesley Road, making it more accessible and attractive. Together with new landscaping linking to The Queen's Gardens, it will help to join up the town centre's network of public spaces.

The team will now start work on creating a final design, and it is anticipated work will start on site in 2021. In the meantime, a range of temporary measures including light installations, greenery and seating will ensure visitors still enjoy the space. For those wanting to be active, table tennis tables are installed next to the college and a new cycle path is in place providing a shared use. Wayfinding pavement vinyl's are in place to also help people make their way from East Croydon Station to Fairfield Halls. When the final project is delivered, the materials for these temporary activities will be reused and recycled across the borough.

### **Purley Way – Local Plan Review and Masterplan**

Croydon Council has been awarded funding from the Mayor of London's Homebuilding Capacity Fund to develop a comprehensive design-led masterplan and delivery strategy for the Purley Way area. The project will be part of the review of the Croydon Local Plan 2018 using support in expert fields to deliver a Local Plan Chapter for the future of Purley Way, followed by a masterplan and delivery strategy for realising the ambitions for the Purley Way. The project will facilitate redevelopment along the Purley Way to create a coherent place with at least one successful local centre, and a rich mix of uses that do not prejudice the amenity and operation of each other. The project will help facilitate a step change in housing delivery (including a significant amount of affordable housing) to support the borough's housing need, whilst also ensuring the growth of employment spaces and community facilities are protected and supported. The project and masterplan will also address critical issues around improving the quality of walking and cycling routes and connectivity to public transport and key areas within the borough, such as Wandle Park, Croydon Opportunity Area and Purley District Centre.

The Council will commission a multi-disciplinary consultant team including architects, urban designers, planners, transport engineers, surveyors and socio-economic consultants to develop the Local Plan chapter, masterplan and delivery strategy. At various stages of the project the appointed team will facilitate engagement with a range of stakeholders including local businesses, residents, community groups and landowners. This engagement will directly inform the evidence and the development of the proposals.



The project team will initially develop a comprehensive and well-researched evidence base which will assess the current built environment, the socio-economic needs of local residents and businesses, and current trends for mixed use development and intensification of industrial sites. The Local Plan Chapter will set out a strategic framework for shaping the future of the Purley Way, including planning policy, site allocations, design guidance for new development and public realm design. The masterplan will add further definition to the guidance included in the Local Plan Chapter and will provide an illustrative indication of how new development will come forward. The delivery strategy will ensure proposed redevelopment is co-ordinated and phased appropriately and will be directly informed by partners and conversations with key stakeholders.

### **Kenley Community Plan**

With support from the Mayor of London's Good Growth Fund, the Council has been engaging with residents across Kenley since February 2019. Following five successful engagement events, an online survey that attracted over 200 respondents, c.150 face-to-face interviews, focus groups and a business survey that engaged with over a third of businesses operating in the area; the Community Plan for Kenley is currently being finalised to reflect all the community voices heard over the lifetime of the engagement work so far.

Aiming for publication by the end of the year, the Community Plan will set out the community's priorities for investment to support housing growth as shaped through the consultation process and the programme of possible activities and interventions that will help to underpin that.

Key priorities identified, which will be reflected in the Plan, include:

- Transport connectivity – looking for opportunities to improve public transport accessibility as well as walking and cycling
- Finding ways to improve the offer across the two key community hubs of Kenley Memorial Hall and Old Lodge Lane Baptist Church
- Building a better business network and trading environment and to link the local employment offer with the skills base in the community
- Exploring opportunities to improve the public realm, including the gateways into Kenley and looking potential ways of activating the empty shop units.

In addition, the Kenley Transport Study was commissioned to inform and support the Community Plan, it included a review of the current issues with regards to highways, parking and transport in the Kenley area, as well as assessing the potential impacts of current and future development. The study resulted in a number of recommended interventions that could help to address current challenges in the area and go some

way to mitigating against the impacts of future development. Funding is currently being sought to realise some of the recommendations, including through the Local Implementation Plan.

Based on the emerging priorities identified in the Community Plan, officers are also currently preparing a bid to the Mayor's Good Growth Fund which will be submitted in October.

### **Works commence on the new Fieldway community hub**

Works are about to commence on the construction of a new community building to accommodate the Fieldway Family Centre and Timebridge community centre in Fieldway. The community centre will be located in Fieldway on the location of the existing Fieldway Family Centre. The new proposed Community Centre to replace the existing Timebridge Community Centre and Fieldway Family Centre, has been designed to offer a central community gateway services hub in Fieldway and New Addington where education, health, career and social support services can be accessed.

The centre will be the base for a diverse range of community uses including a nursery, Fieldway food stop, youth and family service and a community café. The family centre in collaboration with the Council's Gateway division will support the residents and help prevent homelessness and build community resilience through providing a range of services such as job club, health wellbeing, benefits advice and personal budgeting support. In addition, the building includes other flexible hire spaces such as a multi-purpose hall, two studio spaces, conference and meeting rooms and social and work space. The community centre will enable the Council and the voluntary and community sector to connect and collaborate to tackle challenges including unemployment, crime and anti-social behaviour, deprivation, poverty and homelessness.

The new centre will replace the existing Timebridge centre which will enable development of a new Special Education Needs school to be built on the site for Sept 2021. This investment into community facilities is part of a wider programme of public infrastructure projects funded by the Council in the New Addington area which includes a new leisure centre, new school and the community and family centre



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### LATEST NEWS

#### Fairfield Halls Reopening

A star-studded ceremony celebrated the reopening of Fairfield Halls following a multi-million pound council-led restoration of the iconic Croydon venue. Special guests included Dame Judi Dench, who reopened the Ashcroft Playhouse in honour of her friend and Croydon-born actress the late Dame Peggy Ashcroft, and Mayor of London Sadiq Khan, who formally opened the building.

During a tour of the new and restored spaces, the Mayor described the revamped venue as 'amazing', praising its accessibility with a year-round programme of free entertainment, and new cultural offer which reflects the borough's rich diversity.

At the civic ceremony the Mayor of London formally opened the main venue and unveiled a plaque in his name. The audience enjoyed performances from Silvestone with LMP, and Shaniqua Benjamin, spoken word artist and Founder of Young People's Insight. Shaniqua performed a special commission, A Palace of Magic and Memories, dedicated to Fairfield Halls.

The refurbishment is the first phase in the development of a new cultural quarter in Croydon's town centre – a major milestone in the town's ongoing regeneration.





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#### **Borough of Culture**

At the civic ceremony Cllr Lewis announced that Croydon would be bidding to be London Borough of Culture in 2023. "This is just the start." He said, "Our cultural ambition does not stop here. Croydon will be bidding to be London Borough of Culture in 2023."

We are already developing a place where creativity is at the heart of our regeneration and our economy, as we evolve as Croydon Music City and one of the Mayor of London's Creative Enterprise Zones. At the same time we are creating thousands of new opportunities for young people in theatre, after successfully bidding to become one of only five Youth Performance Partnerships in England. This is a time of rapid change in Croydon, as with new partnerships, new platforms and new places, and we look forward to working with the many talented artists and arts organisations across our community as our cultural scene continues to flourish and grow.







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#### **Creative Enterprise Zone / Music City**

Since June, the CEZ has expanded a number of its projects from their initial pilot phases. The CEZ has delivered its first round of Creative Industries Internships, which offer valuable hands-on experience while paying the London Living Wage. As a result it has expanded and now has five additional providers added to the roster, including Boxpark (Event Management). The Young Persons 40% Workspace Discount scheme has supported 20 young creative entrepreneurs into artist's studios (Conditions and ASC Art House), hot desk office hubs (Nexus, Matthews Yard), and retail spaces (FMM Popup, Made in Croydon).

The Creative Enterprise Zone now has a brand identity and the process of developing the CEZ website is well underway, with a developer recently being appointed. A number of CEZ consortium members have collaborated on the site's structure, content and development process over the last three months and it is due to go live for a soft launch in October.

Through the "Croydon Music City" strand of the CEZ this summer we have created opportunities for Croydon's musicians at "The Ends" festival, The South Norwood Festival, Croydon Pride and The Croydon Mela.

Going forward, we have our first CEZ Careers Roadshow taking place this week. The BRIT school will open its doors to school pupils, who will learn about the wide range of careers available within the music and creative industries. We are also pleased to announce that our first live music series "Croydon Calling" will be taking place throughout November at various venues in the area in an effort to stimulate the Evening and Night Time Economy.



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#### **Museum of Croydon**

Museum of Croydon had a fantastic summer with a variety of exhibitions and events for all the family including the continuation of the highly successful Windrush exhibition. We had 490 people participate in the Space Chase Time Travel Trail co-hosted with the library giving families to chance to explore the Clocktower and the museum whilst earning a certificate at the end. We also celebrated 80 years since evacuation with reminiscence sessions for over 40 evacuees. It was also a chance for us to showcase our significant archive collections which highlighted the journey of evacuees in the Borough with a lovely spot on the Evacuee Special of Countryfile featuring our very own Borough Archivist, Lindsay Ould!

Our exhibition programming included the opening of Bold, an artist group show led by Mark Goldby as part of our Artist in Residence programme which explored the perception of homosexuality throughout history as part of our Pride season. This was followed by the chance to explore 100 years of social housing, a joint exhibition with the Museum of Croydon and housing teams to highlight this significant movement of social housing in the Borough. This varied exhibition featuring objects and photographs depicting how social housing has evolved in the Borough culminated in a fun interactive mural by Thornton Heath artist, Pins. The exhibition boards will now embark on a tour of local libraries.

We now have the beautiful Saree Reinvented exhibition on display in the Clocktower atrium until 2 November with an array of colours as a project led by Apsara Arts which explored the history of the saree and the related stories of South Asian women in how and why the saree plays an important part in connecting to their heritage and cultural identity. Following the highly successful Coming Home project with the National Portrait Gallery celebrating the portrait of Stormzy and his mother we will be welcoming our next Artist in Residence, with 'What a Waste' in the exhibition gallery from 18<sup>th</sup> October until 9<sup>th</sup> November. Home-grown artist Tina Crawford uses non-biodegradable waste to produce pieces based on her identity and health issues. We



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then conclude our exhibition programme with the Croydon Arts Society displaying their works for sale from 18<sup>th</sup> November until 7<sup>th</sup> December.





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### Libraries

Croydon Libraries are undertaking an exciting transformation programme to make all libraries modern, welcoming spaces. Selsdon Library was the first to be refurbished and opened on 10th August with the new look including improved IT, new lighting and furniture and a flexible open space. Norbury Library closed on 2nd September and will reopen in Spring 2020, with South Norwood next on the list. We are rolling out a new network to all libraries this quarter, offering new equipment and much improved access speeds to the free internet and Wi-Fi which will be available in all libraries by the end of 2019.

Libraries Week is taking place from 7th to 12th October featuring a Start-up Roadshow in Central Library on 11th October. Throughout October the Instapoetry campaign will run to encourage young people to write poetry and Croydon Libraries are encouraging creative young people to produce Black History Month inspired poetry. As part of Black History Month, Banu Arts African Drumming will perform between 11am-noon 21st October at Broad Green Library and 2pm-3pm 24th October at New Addington Library. All of the libraries are supporting the Public Health England Every Mind Matters campaign.







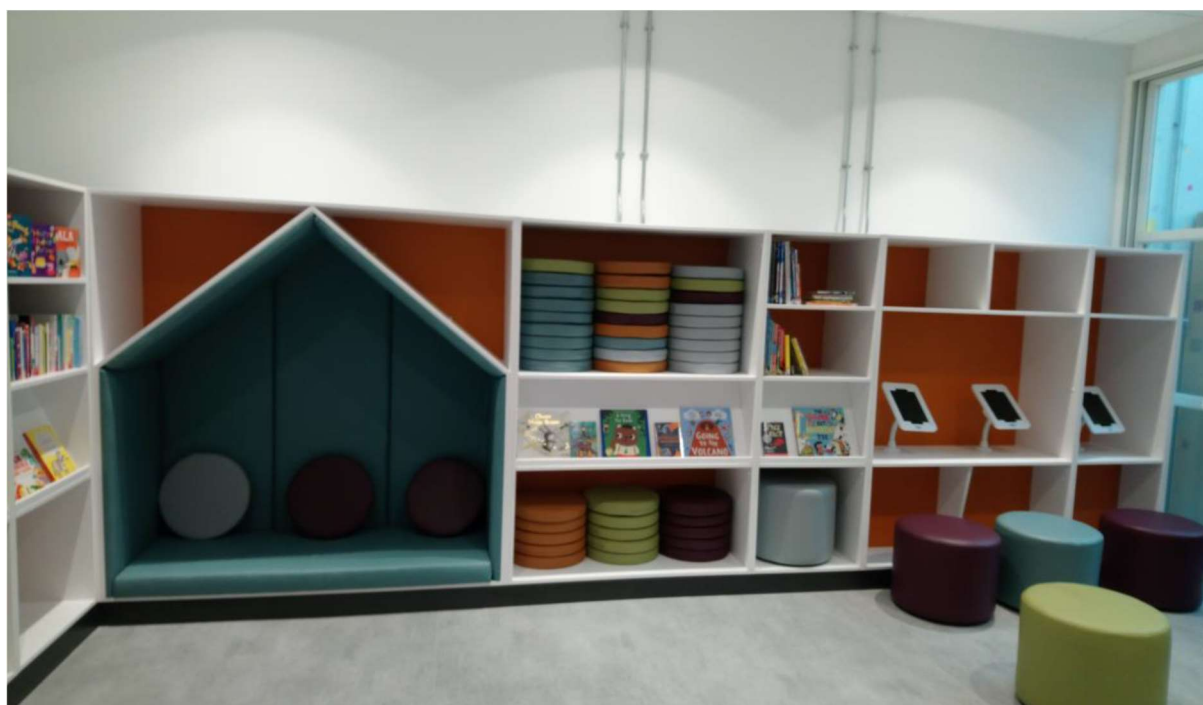
# Culture, Leisure and Sport

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### Croydon Pride 2019 and Croydon Mela

This year's pride event saw a significant growth in terms of attendance on the parade (almost 1,000) and in the park (10,000 across the day). Thanks to some new strategic partnerships and excellent programming the overall audience was more diverse than in previous years. The numbers were also up for the Croydon Mela with an estimated 12,000 in attendance at the event which was programmed this year by an all-female local artistic team.





# Culture, Leisure and Sport

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### **Registrars Service**

#### **Locality Working**

Registrars continue to work from Croydon University Hospital four mornings per week.

Appointments are made directly by the hospitals Bereavement Services when a death occurs, which has led to a more joined up service for those at an extremely difficult period of their lives.

#### **EU Settlement Scheme**

To support residents who are EU Citizens in making applications under the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) the OISC and Home Office have worked together to create a scheme which allows Local Authorities to give residents assistance to make face to face applications

Based on the information available on Croydon Observatory there are an estimated 22,000 EU citizens living in the borough.

The majority will make their application online but it is estimated there may be up to 3000 residents that will require our assistance until it closes in 2021.

Here at Croydon we are offering a free appointment based service to any residents requiring assistance. Demand has been steady but a significant increase has been noted over recent weeks as the Brexit deadline of 31 October draws ever closer.

#### **Marriage Schedule System**

The Civil Partnerships, Marriages and Deaths (Registration Etc.) Act successfully completed its passage through Parliament on 15 March 2019 and attained Royal Assent on 26 March 2019.





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The Act will modernise how marriages are registered for the first time since 1837, through issue of a marriage schedule system and registration in an electronic register. It will move away from the current paper register creating a more secure system for keeping marriage records, that is also more efficient and far simpler to administer and amend, if necessary, in the future. The electronic register will also allow for the names of parents of the couple (mother / father / parent) to be included in the marriage entry and on marriage certificates, instead of only their fathers' names as is currently the case.

The change will result in a considerable amount of work for the service prior to and post introduction. The date for implementation has not yet been agreed but is likely to be early 2020.

### **Bereavement Services**

#### **Replacement Cremators**

The first of our 2 new cremators is in and operational, this has been well received by the Crematorium Team. The new cremator has a larger chamber enabling it accommodate larger coffins that are becoming increasingly more common place than the one replaced. In addition to this the new refractory and more efficient burners will reduce gas usage.

The project remains on schedule with installation of the second cremator is about to commence with the completion date being early November.

#### **Cremation Metals Recycling Scheme**

We are again in a new period for nominations. This is a national scheme that distribute and surplus monies from the recycling of cremation to bereavement related charities. The scheme has now been extended to include pacemakers which should see the amount donated to charities increase even further. To date over £8million pounds has been distributed across the UK!



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If you know of any local charities that work with the bereaved and would benefit from this scheme please contact Kevin Pilkington [kevin.pilkington@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:kevin.pilkington@croydon.gov.uk) or Eddie Ranger [edward.ranger@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:edward.ranger@croydon.gov.uk) to discuss further

### **The Green Flag Award**

We are proud to confirm that the Croydon Crematorium and Mitcham Road Cemetery site has again been awarded the prestigious Green Flag Award in July 2019.

This award provides superb recognition for all of those working in and alongside Bereavement Services to provide the highest standards of service for the residents of Croydon

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# Families, Health and Social Care

## Cabinet Member Bulletin

### Councillor Jane Avis

#### October 2019

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Welcome to my October Bulletin,

### Council taking back care in special sheltered housing



In my February Bulletin I talked about the facilities and arrangements for our supported and sheltered accommodation not meeting all of the standards we would expect for our residents living in these buildings.

Things have moved on a lot since then and now the decision has been made for the care of 237 older tenants in six special sheltered schemes to be managed directly by the council. They are:

- Frylands Court in New Addington
- Southsea Court in Broad Green
- Toldene Court in Old Coulsdon
- Brookhurst Court in South Norwood
- Freeman Court in Norbury
- Truscott House in West Croydon

This decision fulfils a manifesto promise and has been taken following thorough consideration and a decision to end the contract with the existing private provider. The original 10-year contract was signed in 2011 with Care UK and subsequently subcontracted to Mears and now London Care Ltd. The Council's preferred service model is for the scheme managers and the care staff to all work for the Council.

It is essential that we provide tenant centered homes for life. We have taken the opportunity to talk and listen to tenants views on many aspects of the schemes and we know we can make improvements in important areas including activities available at the schemes, meals, use of the outdoor space / gardens and the overall co-ordination of day to day arrangements.

We have written to all tenants about the changeover and will ensure that residents, their families, friends and carers are listened to during this transfer. We have had a first meeting at all blocks, and have a plan to visit regularly to keep people up to date and listen to any concerns. This is in addition to regular visits from tenancy officers and visits about future redecorations, as we have already been told that regular clear communications are essential.

To ensure a safe and smooth transfer of the care provision from London Care to Croydon Council a project team has been set up which includes social care, housing, HR and facilities management teams. This team is working on a joint exit plan with London Care and Care UK to meet the deadline of change-over of care by January 2020 (6 months after Care UK gave London Care notice)

I will keep you updated, but if you have any initial queries, please contact [Annette.McPartland@Croydon.gov.uk](mailto:Annette.McPartland@Croydon.gov.uk) or [Hannah.Balzaretti@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:Hannah.Balzaretti@croydon.gov.uk) (Extra Care Housing Service Manager)

## **Blood pressure: Do you know your numbers?**

The council teamed up with the Stroke Association and local pharmacies to offer free blood pressure checks to residents during Know Your Numbers! Week, 9-15 September.

Supporting residents to improve their health and wellbeing, and reduce their risk of strokes and heart attacks, is a top priority for us. We want people to know their blood pressure numbers in the same way as their height and weight.



Those who had their blood pressure checked, also known as hypertension, received information and advice on what they can do to keep blood pressure under control like losing weight, reducing salt intake, eating fruit and vegetables, drinking less alcohol and being more active.

Read more here <http://news.croydon.gov.uk/blood-pressure-do-you-know-your-numbers/>



## Local partnership delivers new homes for adults with disabilities

I had a really interesting visit recently to Henderson House in South Norwood. This once derelict building, that was previously used to prepare films such as Superman, some of the James Bond films and the Pink Panther, has been converted into 10 flats for adults with disabilities.

Local property developer and a housing charity, Zetetic Housing, have converted the building and specialist care and support will be provided by Frontier Support. Our social care teams will be able to work with people, their families and carers to place adults with either physical or learning disabilities into their own home.

There are seven one-bed and three two-bed self-contained flats and all are partially furnished so people can move from residential care or family homes. The block includes two flats that are wheelchair-adapted and have wet rooms and adjustable-height kitchen units. On-site support staff are available 24 hours a day and there is a communal hub for the all-important social interaction.

I am looking forward to the opening of this excellent, much needed supported housing which is a key part of our strategy to support people to live healthy, happy and independent lives in Croydon.

## Chinese delegation informed about Croydon's health plans



In the summer, we hosted a meeting with a delegation from China, who are members of the Chinese Primary Healthcare Foundation. They stopped in Croydon during their European tour.

We spoke to the group about our plans to help improve the health and wellbeing of our

residents. After the meeting, they told us they had learnt important lessons and they were impressed by the council's efforts to stamp out smoking, reduce air and noise pollution and tackle the health inequalities that can be caused by unemployment, inadequate housing, poor diet and a lack of exercise.

We also updated them about our plans to create healthier streets by having more accessible, car-free areas for people to enjoy.

Read more about the visit here <http://news.croydon.gov.uk/chinese-visitors-praise-croydons-plans-to-improve-residents-health/>

## New mental health funding for schools and colleges

We are pleased to have received new NHS funding for mental health support in schools and colleges.

Thousands of schoolchildren and students will benefit from a share of a £4.3 million joint funding boost to improve mental health services in south west London.



We will use the funding for specialist teams in 40 Croydon primary, secondary and SEN schools and further education colleges, who will lead mental health programmes and training for children and young people, their families and teachers.

This kind of early intervention and the focus on prevention are vital for children and their families to maintain good mental health in the long term, as well as helping to ease the demand on health and wellbeing services in the future.

Find out more about how this funding will be used - <http://news.croydon.gov.uk/major-funding-boost-for-mental-health-support-in-croydon-schools/>

## Schools marketplace



Croydon's schoolchildren were thrilled to see their fruit, veg, jams and herbs being snapped up by hundreds of keen shoppers at the annual one-day schools' marketplace in July.

Many of the schools sold more than £100 worth of goods each, which they will reinvest in their food growing projects.

The market day and the schools' food growing projects are supported by Croydon Council's Food Flagship programme, which aims to tackle obesity among children and young people. The projects help schoolchildren to better understand where their food comes from and they also learn how to cook nutritious meals from the fresh produce.

Read more here about this fantastic event <http://news.croydon.gov.uk/market-day-reaps-healthy-rewards-for-schools/>

## Save the date – free event "Digital Health & Care Innovation"



A date for your diaries is Wednesday 27th November, 10:00am - 3:00pm at the Fairfield Halls Park Lane where Croydon Council is holding our first MarketPlace event in partnership with UKTelehealthcare. The aim of the event is to raise awareness

and encourage the use of Technology Enabled Care Services (TECS).

This free event is for all health and care professionals, carers, residents and local services to pop in and see the benefit digital health and care technology can have.

At the Croydon MarketPlace, you'll find:

- Major suppliers from across Europe and the UK exhibiting the latest health technology products and services
- Informative workshops and presentations
- An opportunity to network, share discussion and understand the future of TECS
- Information about local services focused at maintaining independence, enabling early intervention and preventing health decline

A full programme and registration details will be published closer to the event.

Any queries please contact [Matthew.Catchpole@Croydon.gov.uk](mailto:Matthew.Catchpole@Croydon.gov.uk)

## Wraparound support for breastfeeding mums in Croydon

We are proud to offer breastfeeding support services in Croydon, which can be a lifeline to many new parents and can prevent them feeling isolated and worried.



A new peer support group started in New Addington to coincide with Breastfeeding Celebration Week in June. The New Addington Mum2Mum breastfeeding peer support programme is funded by Croydon Council and run by Croydon Health Services, they train volunteer mums to help other parents with breastfeeding.

The volunteers offer mothers and families practical and emotional advice around infant feeding and weaning.

New mums and mums-to-be can also get support at two Croydon Baby Cafés in Woodside and Selsdon. The cafés complement a range of other breastfeeding services offered across the borough.

Find out more - <http://news.croydon.gov.uk/wraparound-support-for-breastfeeding-mums-in-croydon/>

## Target set to achieve zero new HIV infections in Croydon



Croydon Council is backing the Do It London campaign to achieve the ambitious target of zero new HIV infections in the capital by 2030.

The campaign, which is funded by London boroughs, runs until the end of autumn to support residents to make safer and healthier lifestyle choices by increasing condom use and getting more people to regularly test for HIV.

Croydon's C-Card scheme offers free condoms to residents under 25, as well as adults who are considered to be vulnerable and those groups more at risk of contracting HIV.

Read more about the campaign - <http://news.croydon.gov.uk/new-campaign-sets-target-to-achieve-zero-new-hiv-infections-in-croydon/>

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I hope you find this bulletin interesting, if you would like to contact me about anything, please do so on:

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# **Safer Croydon and Communities**

## **Cabinet Member Bulletin**

### **Councillor Hamida Ali**

#### **October 2019**

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## **Safer Croydon**

### **Funding Secured for Croydon's Violence Reduction Agenda**

The Mayor's Office for Police and Crime has allocated Croydon £400,000 across both 2019-20 and 2020-21 to support our public health approach to tackling violence in the borough. MOPAC have asked that this funding is used to support 3 priorities – all of which are relevant to work in Croydon:

- Tackling drug related crime
- Tackling youth offending
- Minimising school exclusion

This is important recognition of Croydon's work and the challenges we face. We are currently looking at how we best utilise this funding – but it will support work set out in our public health approach policy, agreed by Cabinet in June - for example establishing a network of 'community navigators' who can work with us to ensure those most at risk are able to access support, raising awareness of the impact of trauma and ensure our services respond with that in mind and developing a common understanding of risk which can be used by both community and statutory services.

### **Croydon leading the way on prosecutions of online sales of knives to children**

Croydon is leading a national pilot focused on illegal online knife sales to children has led to two more successful prosecutions.

At Croydon Magistrates' Court representatives of two companies – Tool Supplies UK Limited of Heswell, Wirral, and Inifer Potter and Son Ltd of Hockley in Essex – pleaded guilty to separate offences of selling a knife online to a Croydon child.

Both companies were fined £8,000 and each was ordered to pay costs of more than £2,000, which brought Tool Supplies UK Limited's total penalty to £10,627 and Inifer Potter and Son Ltd's to £10,398.40.

The prosecutions come as part of Croydon Council trading standards team's lead role in a nationwide pilot against online knife sales to children that is backed by National Trading Standards and the Home Office. The first company to be successfully prosecuted under this operation was SD International Trading Ltd in June.





# Safer Croydon and Communities

## Cabinet Member Bulletin

### Councillor Hamida Ali

#### October 2019

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#### Victoria Atkins Ministerial Visit to the Drive



Victoria Atkins MP visited Croydon's FJC to hear more about the borough's Drive programme.

The Parliamentary Under Secretary for Safeguarding and Vulnerability and Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Women), was keen to hear more about the intensive intervention plan that aims to ensure the safety of survivors and their families by reducing and preventing high-harm perpetrators of domestic abuse reoffending.

Croydon is the only London council to pilot Drive – and the minister met with front line workers, programme leads and partners, and gave her support to the multi-agency approach

Bromley & Croydon Women's Aid (BCWA) has been commissioned to provide a specialist service to help keep young people safe from domestic abuse. The service, for six- to 12-year-olds, will be offered to the children of those participating in the borough's perpetrator programme, Drive.

The council and the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) commissioned the service, with Home Office funding.



# Safer Croydon and Communities

## Cabinet Member Bulletin

### Councillor Hamida Ali

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#### **Croydon's continuing record in tackling Female Genital Mutilation**

##### **Specialist Social Worker**

Significant work is continuing in the borough to tackle female genital mutilation (FGM). Croydon has appointed its first specialist social worker to lead its preventative work against Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

The new post will be based in Croydon's Early Help team and will also support social workers in responding appropriately to cases. It is jointly funded by the council and the National FGM Centre – a joint partnership between Barnardo's and the Local Government Association.

Their work will also focus on helping those who have undergone FGM, and supporting those living in fear of this crime. They will also engage with residents, providing guidance and advice by working closely with community groups across the borough.

We estimate that there are around 3,500 women and girls who are living with FGM. The social worker will also help to develop preventative work in cases involving other harmful practices including breast flattening and child abuse linked to faith and belief and will also work with the African Youth Development Association, who have led the community on FGM awareness for many years, FORWARD, a national African-women-led organisation working to end FGM and the Croydon BME Forum.

##### **FGM Conference – Let's Talk About it – 26 November 2019**

Croydon's FGM Steering Group, which is accountable to the 'Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence (DASV) Programme Board' and that in turn to the Safer Croydon Board – is organising a conference on Tuesday 26 November to raise awareness, to promote protection against FGM for women and girls and to tackle stigmatisation and improve understanding among professionals

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/fgm-lets-talk-about-it-tickets-64166250984>

##### **FGM Clinic in Croydon**

Croydon now has one of 8 FGM clinics in the country – designed for non pregnant women aged 18yrs to 25 years as well as those women who might have long-standing and chronic health concerns outside of pregnancy. The community-based clinic will offer a range of support services delivered by a multi-disciplinary team including; physical assessments and treatment (including deinfibulation if required), counselling, safeguarding information and access to an FGM Health Advocate.



# Safer Croydon and Communities

## Cabinet Member Bulletin

### Councillor Hamida Ali

#### October 2019

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#### Sign up to Croydon's Anti Hate Crime Pledge



National Hate Crime Awareness Week takes starts on 12 October. We're calling on everyone to take action to demonstrate their opposition to any form of hate crime and support a zero tolerance for hate crime in Croydon by signing up to our anti-hate crime pledge.

Over 350 individuals have already signed up alongside over 30 organisations in Croydon representing over 7,000 members of staff.

National Hate Crime Awareness Week itself will feature a series of events – look out for further details.





# Safer Croydon and Communities

## Cabinet Member Bulletin

### Councillor Hamida Ali

#### October 2019

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#### Temporary cameras put fresh eyes on crime hot spots



Ten temporary CCTV cameras have been deployed around the borough as part of the Safer Croydon Partnership's (SCP) work to tackle antisocial behaviour, fraud, fly-tipping and theft.

The cameras are in Frensham Drive, Hathaway Road, Headley Drive, London Road, North End (by McDonalds), Nursery Road, Poplar Walk, Portland Road and The Queen's Gardens.

The locations were selected after residents highlighted them as areas often affected by these types of crime.

#### Report Modern Day Slavery – via the Safe Car Wash App

Croydon Council's proactive approach to tackle modern day slavery has been highlighted as good practice recently within guidance on the topic issued by the Local Government Association. One example is an app that enables residents to alert the council about possible signs at a car wash business and which could help someone escape modern day slavery.

Signs to look out for include whether there are any child workers at the premises, if there is evidence of workers living on site and if the body language of workers appears fearful or withdrawn.

Anyone visiting or passing hand car washes is asked to look out for signs of this crime and to report it anonymously via the Safe Car Wash app, which can be downloaded through the App Store and GooglePlay.



# Safer Croydon and Communities

## Cabinet Member Bulletin

### Councillor Hamida Ali

#### October 2019

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## Communities

### Community Fund – bids are in. Consultation opens on other support for the sector

This Administration has reaffirmed its commitment and investment in the voluntary sector through renewing the Community Fund – making more than £3m available to the sector over the next three years – which was also a manifesto pledge. Plans for the Community Fund were also set out in the council's Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy. Applications for the provision of a whole range of services from advice to infrastructure and which will also contribute to five of the council's key priorities have been open for a number of weeks and closed on 1 October. The next step will be for council officers to evaluate the applications. The outcomes will be announced at Cabinet in December and new funding agreements will begin on 1 April 2020.

Bids for smaller grants (less than £15,000) also closed on 1 October with news of successful applicants due in January. However, applications will remain open for the smaller grants with further decisions made at three points next year in March, July and November.

Another commitment in the Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy was to review how the council grants other forms of support for the voluntary and community sector including access to council properties, rent subsidy and discretionary rate relief. The council's resources in these areas are fully committed year on year and have not been reviewed for many years. We're keen to ensure we're maximising the use of our resources in this area and establish a clear policy on how we use those resources. Organisations are encouraged to give us their views through a consultation which will be open until mid-November.



# Safer Croydon and Communities

## Cabinet Member Bulletin

### Councillor Hamida Ali

#### October 2019

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#### **Croydon celebrates Black History Month – RID the Stigma: Representation, Identity, Diversity**

Croydon is marking Black History Month with a borough-wide programme of events with contributions from the local community as well as Council services.

This year's theme is ***“RID THE STIGMA” Representation, Identity, Diversity***

This year's launch event will be held on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019 and is organised by Croydon BME Forum in partnership with Croydon Council and Croydon Black History Month Committee. Tickets to attend this event is available via Eventbrite.

The programme for the month will feature a range of events including historical events through performance, music, discussion & employability panels, storytelling and songs. Such as Black Poppy Rose exhibition and talks, Young Business Entrepreneurs Event, BME Education Group (Raising the education achievement of young BAME people in Croydon), Intergenerational Care just to mention a few. Many events are free and the majority take place in Croydon.

This year we also have a range of events that will be held in the recently re-opened Fairfield Halls. Details of events to be staged during October can be found at:

[www.croydon.gov.uk/ccbh](http://www.croydon.gov.uk/ccbh) or at the Croydon BME Forum website:  
<http://www.cbmeforum.org/>

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# Children, Young People and Learning

## Cabinet Member Bulletin

### Councillor Alisa Flemming

#### October 2019

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#### LATEST NEWS

##### Croydon's Legacy Youth Zone

I was delighted to participate in the opening of the Croydon's Legacy Youth Zone on Saturday 7 September 2019. This is a fantastic resources offering young people between 8 and 19 (or 25 for those with additional needs) the chance to enjoy more than 20 different activities.

On Saturday the young people were encouraged to try out the indoor climbing wall, fully equipped gym, music room with recording studio, training kitchen and much more.

I am so pleased that more than 2000 young people have already registered to become members of the Youth Zone following a string of successful launch events.

By investing in this stunning new Youth Zone, and working with On-Side and all the young people who have worked so hard to make this happen, we are helping them to reach their full potential, by giving them access to new opportunities, new experiences and a truly amazing place to have fun and make friends.

A dream has been turned into reality giving young people in Croydon somewhere to go, something to do and someone to talk to.

Contact Officer: [clive.seall@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:clive.seall@croydon.gov.uk)







# Children, Young People and Learning

## Cabinet Member Bulletin

### Councillor Alisa Flemming

#### October 2019

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#### Practice Learning Week – Direct Work

In early September Early Help and Children's Social Care held the very first Practice Learning Week for direct work which was a huge success. It was lovely to see so many practitioners showcasing the creative tools they use to engage with children, young people and families.



Practice Learning week was put together as a way to spread best practice between practitioners to ensure that Social Workers and Family Workers learn in more practical ways from their colleagues. In the last Ofsted Monitoring visit, direct work was mentioned as something that is sometimes carried out well in Croydon but could be improved. Therefore, the week was a chance for experienced practitioners who are passionate about using direct work in their practice to spread knowledge, techniques and resources across Early Help and Children's Social Care.

In order to cover all areas of the service, each day of the week focused on a different theme. This included using direct work to build relationships, to work with parents, to engage with children with disabilities and to work with adolescents. It was a great reminder to staff that direct work tools come in many forms, from writing letters to using conversation cubes and many left feeling excited and ready to try out some of their new ideas learnt from the week.

There will be many more direct learning weeks like this in the future.



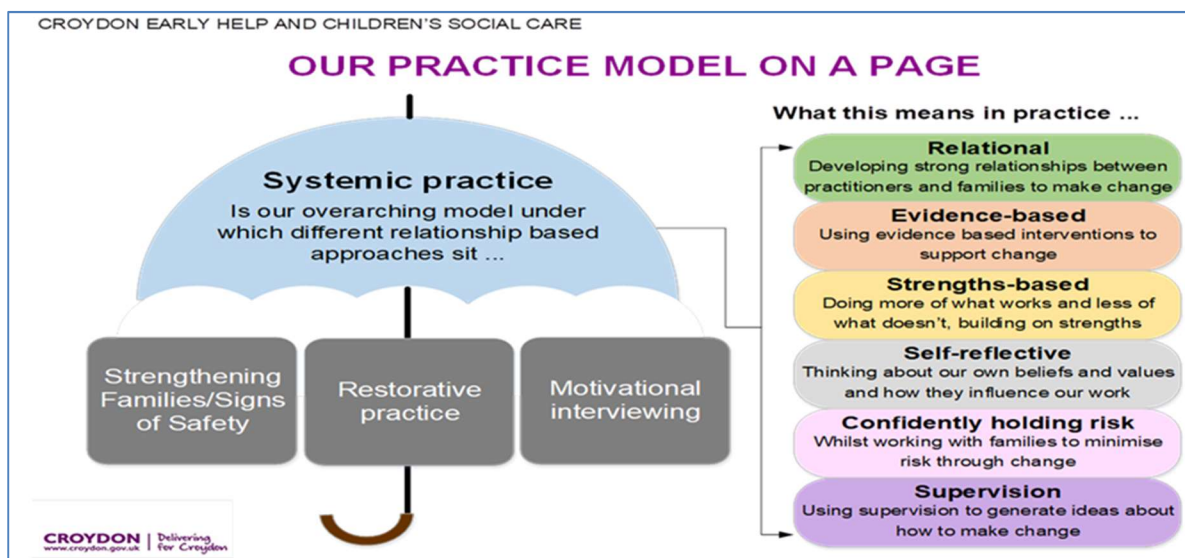
Contact Officer: [Shaun.hanks@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:Shaun.hanks@croydon.gov.uk)



# Children, Young People and Learning Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Alisa Flemming October 2019

## Early Help and Children's Social Care Staff Conference

Another hugely successful half day staff conference took place at the beginning of September. This was an opportunity for Nana Bonsu our systemic practice lead to launch our evidence based practice framework. This was well attended, with over 200 seated delegates and more standing. Social workers and practitioners were informed about the practice framework, the training roll out and the expected impact on practice. This is an incredibly exciting opportunity to embed a whole systems approach to practice, ensuring children, young people and families experience a workforce that is skilled and confident in their practice methodologies.



Contact Officer: [nana.bonsu@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:nana.bonsu@croydon.gov.uk)

## Youth Bus offers Safety Advice

Croydon's Choose your future campaign came to Croydon North End in September. The Youth Bus offered young people a flexible space of their own to get help, advice and access support on a range of topics from personal safety to health and wellbeing.



With hundreds of young people across Croydon heading back to school at the beginning of September this initiative helps to give them the best start to the new term.



# Children, Young People and Learning

## Cabinet Member Bulletin

### Councillor Alisa Flemming

#### October 2019

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#### Star Awards 2019

After the successful inaugural event last year – nominations have been taking place for the STAR awards 2019 as Croydon prepares to celebrate the many talents and achievements of its young people and care leavers. This year's awards are open to all young people aged 8-18 who are in the care of Croydon Council and to care-leavers up to the age of 25.

The ceremony takes place at the Fairfield Halls on 8 November 2019 and I am really looking forward to a fantastic evening celebrating their achievements with them.

Contact Officer: [Emily.collinsbeare@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:Emily.collinsbeare@croydon.gov.uk)

#### Brightspots

An innovative programme is going to be delivered to all Children Looked After aged 4-17. We have agreed to work with Coram Voice to distribute a survey to improve the care experience and well-being of children looked after, called 'Your Life, Your Care'. The survey asks children and young people aged between 4 and 17 years old age-appropriate questions about their placements, the people they know, their well-being, their carers and social worker, their rights and the chances/opportunities they get.

The surveys will be completed between 30/09/19 and 31/01/20 and I believe this is an exciting opportunity for us to understand and improve our practice in relation to the well-being of our looked after children.

Contact Officer [clive.seall@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:clive.seall@croydon.gov.uk)

#### Summer Activities for Children and Young People

The Youth Engagement Team summer offer was 72 sessions over the summer for young people 8-18 covering locality detached & outreach across the borough and bookable projects and activities from 1-3 days duration. We had really strong communication and publicity this year through the Young Croydon website and social media. I was delighted with the take up from colleagues in Children's Social Care and Early Help supporting young people they are working with to book onto activities.

The Young Mayors careers event on 21 August at BoxPark had 79 attendees; young people who wanted to consider their education, training and career options felt supported and inspired by providers and a range of bespoke speakers (who were picked by the Young Mayor and Deputy).





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The Youth Engagement Team also offered 9 additional targeted sessions over the summer for looked after young people, children and young people living in temporary accommodation along London Road and those vulnerable to having a poor transition from primary to secondary school.

Contact Officer: [Emily.collinsbeare@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:Emily.collinsbeare@croydon.gov.uk)

#### SummerMix

SummerMix summer school ran a wide range of accredited educational and vocational courses over the summer to support more than 100 refugee young people and unaccompanied asylum seeking children to support their integration into UK life. This is the 2nd year SummerMix has taken place in Croydon and about 70 young people attended each day. I am so pleased that it returned this summer to support these young people and teach them a range of skills to enable them to thrive in their new surroundings while also having fun and meeting other young people in similar circumstances.

#### The Takeover Challenge

The Takeover Challenge is happening again in November after the success of previous years. This is an opportunity for us to aim to increase the placement opportunities for young people in the council, through businesses and with community organisations. Young people get a chance to 'take over' director roles/jobs and work with heads of services and other senior leaders to consult and plan for work that may have an impact on young people.

Contact Officer [Emily.collinsbeare@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:Emily.collinsbeare@croydon.gov.uk)

#### Successful grant application for Croydon teaching staff

Croydon schools, Octavo Partnership and Croydon Council's Education Department have been successful in their collaborative bid for Erasmus+ funding via the British Council for School Exchange Partnerships during the 2019/20 academic year. This follows a successful Croydon Erasmus+ programme in the 2018/19 academic year.

€31million was made available to UK school partnerships for international opportunities to work with schools in other Erasmus+ countries on projects of shared interest, including: curriculum development, developing innovative practice and professional skills development.

Programmes running over the next academic year will include:



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- Teaching and Learning in Special Education (Iceland)
- Outdoor Learning (Sweden)
- Creative approaches in early years education (Italy)

As well as a number of other programmes with partners in Spain, Italy, Sweden and Finland.

Contact Officer: [Julie.ralphs@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:Julie.ralphs@croydon.gov.uk)

#### Croydon Young Musicians

50 years after their first concert at Fairfield Halls, Croydon Young Musicians presented their Showcase 2019 on 27 September in a celebration of Croydon's musical heritage. All 400 young musicians, from their innovative beginner Star Classes through to their advanced bands and orchestras, performed together for the opening and closing pieces.

Contact Officer: [Graeme.smith@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:Graeme.smith@croydon.gov.uk)

#### Successful grant application for Croydon teaching staff

Croydon schools, Octavo Partnership and Croydon Council's Education Department have been successful in their collaborative bid for Erasmus+ funding via the British Council for School Exchange Partnerships during the 2019/20 academic year. This follows a successful Croydon Erasmus+ programme in the 2018/19 academic year.

€31million was made available to UK school partnerships for international opportunities to work with schools in other Erasmus+ countries on projects of shared interest, including: curriculum development, developing innovative practice and professional skills development. Croydon's bid, led by the Octavo Partnership (a services for schools company jointly owned by Croydon Head Teachers Association, Croydon Council and Octavo employees), successfully applied for €550k enabling over 200 staff from 39 Croydon schools to directly participate in the programme. Learning will be shared with other staff and schools to maximise the impact and benefits of the programme across the borough's schools.

Programmes running over the next academic year will include:

- Teaching and Learning in Special Education (Iceland)
- Outdoor Learning (Sweden)
- Creative approaches in early years education (Italy)



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As well as a number of other programmes with partners in Spain, Italy, Sweden and Finland.

For more information contact:

Christine Lonsdale (Octavo Partnership) [christine.lonsdale@octavopartnership.org](mailto:christine.lonsdale@octavopartnership.org)

Julie Ralphs (Croydon LA – Education Department) [Julie.ralphs@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:Julie.ralphs@croydon.gov.uk)





# Children, Young People and Learning

## Cabinet Member Bulletin

### Councillor Alisa Flemming

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#### SEN 0-25

- Croydon has been recognised as the regional hub for the Early Years Autism Education Trust. The Council's Early Years Inclusion and Intervention team has been trained in this evidence-based approach and will be providing a programme of autism awareness raising and other skill based training for our early years settings during the coming year. The Autism Education Trust provides practical resources for those working with children in the early years and is delivered by local trainers with experience in the field of autism education and understanding of the local context. We are confident this will help practitioners and families meet the needs of children with autism from an early age. For more information please contact: [SENenquiries@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:SENenquiries@croydon.gov.uk) – with Autism Education Trust – early years in the subject line.
- The Council is working in partnership with mainstream school head teachers to establish an approach to the inclusion of children with special educational needs, so that schools have resources to meet children's needs early. From January the Council and locality based groups of schools will pilot an approach which includes the appointment of area special educational needs co-ordinators and inclusion funding to support mainstream schools in working collaboratively to meet children's needs. We expect this approach to lead to the sharing of good practice and increased confidence for practitioners and parents in the provision for children with SEN in our mainstream schools.
- **SEND Strategy 2019-2022:** The launch of the SEND Strategy 2019-2022 is scheduled for October 2nd 12.00-14.00 at the Legacy Youth Zone. Young people from Bensham Manor and The Priory Special Schools will perform and the young people that worked with us on the SEND Strategy have been invited to attend.
- **SEN Post-16 Provision:** Croydon College Coulsdon has opened the 19-25 specialist SEND Pathways Provision with 24 students attending from this September. This has been fully funded through the council and offers our young adults with SEND a local college option.





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- **Croydon's Post 19 'Community Pathway to Adulthood Programme at Waddon Youth Centre, 2018 / 2019**



The Post 19 Project/Community Pathway to Adulthood Programme at Waddon offers a person centred service, designed to support the transition of young people with special educational needs and disabilities from special education into a community-based programme of activity with local adult services.

In 2017 / 2018, staff at Croydon's Community Pathway Programme worked with five young people with a complex range of learning, physical and sensory needs. These five young people have continued to attend the Programme for a second year, and seven new young people joined in 2018/19.

This year the Programme is running for four days a week (Monday to Thursday), with two groups of young people attending for two days a week.

- The programme has supported the transition from special school to a new environment and the changed expectations of greater independence and engagement with activities that will lay the foundation for the young person's adult life in the community.



- All the young people have developed their independent living skills, participating in regular activities such as cooking, sorting laundry, making beds and ironing. All our young people are expected to help wash up after they have eaten, and to make simple drinks for themselves and others (with support) on a daily basis.

**AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON**



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#### A parents has said...

*"I love love love Waddon and the staff, my daughter absolutely loves it and if she's happy then of course I'm happy. M has come on in leaps and bounds, very confident and learning new skills every day. The staff are excellent, they show a huge respect and care for all the students and go above and beyond their responsibilities.*

*I would highly recommend this placement for anybody. Huge admiration to all the staff who are doing and absolute excellent job."* TW

#### **Outcomes for our Year 11 and 13 young people**

Members of the Education Directorate visited schools this year for exam results days. It was great to see so many young people gaining the fruits of their long labours. The Directorate also supported schools and pupils in finding the right pathway to follow following those results, this included a few drop-in sessions in the Town Centre.

The team took the opportunity to speak to both pupils and their parents and to hear some individual stories of success.

GCSE outcomes this year for combined English and maths grade 9 – 5 have improved by 2%. Overall the majority of schools were in line with or better than their 2018 results.

Post-16 top grade passes (A\*-A grades) increased by 3% National figures have yet to be released. Croydon achieved our best high grades % against an unconfirmed reporting of a national 12- year low. Grades A\*-B also increased by 3% and A\*-C grades have remained stable.

**AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON**



# Children, Young People and Learning

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#### Admissions to primary schools and transfers to junior and secondary schools in September 2020

The admissions site for parents to apply for a Reception place, a junior school place or a secondary school place to start in September 2020 opened on 1 September 2019.

The school admissions team have started the work of promoting the closing dates of application – 31 October 2019 (secondary schools), 15 January 2020 (Primary schools and transfer to junior schools) - and are determined to cut down on the number of late applications submitted every year.

The school admissions team are very committed to the Council's new approach to delivering services to residents by working closely with schools and communities in order to meet the needs of customers as early as possible 'at the right time and in the right place'. By using local knowledge and intelligence, we will be targeting our support in the areas that need it the most and bringing our services closer to the community through 'locality working'. A few drop-in sessions have been planned throughout the month of October in New Addington (8 and 15/10), Thornton Heath library (9 October), the Parchmore centre (14 October) and the central library (16 and 18 October) where parents will benefit from the support of experienced admission officers with completing their school application.

We are also very keen to collect feedback from our residents regarding their experience of applying for a primary or secondary school place so we can make further improvements to our service delivery. The school admissions survey went live on Friday 13 September and can be accessed through the following URL link: <https://getinvolved.croydon.gov.uk/survey/891>



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## For General Release

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>COUNCIL</b> <b>7 OCTOBER 2019</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>MEMBER PETITIONS</b>
<b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>	<b>Stephen Rowan, Head of Democratic Services and Scrutiny</b>
<b>WARDS:</b>	<b>ALL</b>
<b>CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT:</b> This report is prepared in keeping with paragraphs 3.26 to 3.31 of the Council Procedure Rules at Part 4A of the Constitution.	

### **1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1.1 The Council is asked to note the petitions presented by Councillors at the meeting as listed in paragraph four of the report.

### **2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 2.1 In accordance with Part 4A of the Council's Constitution up to three Members of the Council can present petitions to any ordinary meeting of the Council, with the exception of any meeting of the Council reserved for the setting of Council Tax.

### **3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Part 4A of the Constitution allows up to three Councillors to present petitions to meetings of the Full Council.
- 3.2 The Constitution requires that a petition must contain "the signatures of at least 100 local people or 50% of the local people affected by the subject" in order to be presented at a Council meeting.
- 3.3 The full petition wording of each of the three Member petitions to be received will be included in the Council agenda (see paragraph four below). The Member petitions will be received but shall not be the subject of a debate or questions at that or a subsequent Council meeting.
- 3.4 Where possible, the Cabinet Member shall provide a response at the Council meeting at which the Member's petition is received. Where a response is not

provided at the meeting, a written response shall be provided within three weeks of the meeting.

#### **4. PETITIONS TO BE PRESENTED TO COUNCIL AT THIS MEETING**

4.1 The Monitoring Officer has received notice of the following petitions to be presented to this meeting of the Council:

a) Petition presented by **Councillor Fitzpatrick** on behalf of residents:

*“In order to prevent the further misuse of the parking bays on the northern side of Gordon Crescent and to ensure their use by residents as is intended, we the affected residents, would like to recommend a gate be installed across the car park entrance to prohibit entry which would put us in the same position as residents on the southern side of Gordon Crescent who already have the benefit of a parking gate.”*

b) Petition presented by **Councillor Perry** on behalf of residents:

*“Please introduce traffic calming measure into St Peter’s Street, South Croydon, in order to reduce speeding vehicles which are causing accidents and could lead to the loss of life”.*

c) Petition presented by **Councillor Khan** on behalf of residents:

*“We, the residents of Oakhill Road, Norbury (SW16 5RG), call on Croydon Council to:*

- 1. implement a trial one way traffic scheme for Oakhill Road (southwards from Croindene Road to Stanford Road);*
- 2. erect two large 20 mph speed limit signs at the northern entrance of Oakhill Road; and*
- 3. create a narrowing of the exit of Oakhill Road into Stanford Road with a large ‘No entry’ sign and a 10 yard wide ‘Keep Clear’ boxed area painted onto the surface of Stanford Road next to the exit of Oakhill Road. This would allow cars exiting Oakhill Road to turn right when there is queuing traffic in Stanford Road towards the London Road.*

*These measures are to reduce congestion and bad tempered incidents which are now happening on a daily basis due to vehicles being unable to pass each other resulting from parking on both sides of the road. During week day rush hour periods over 1,200 vehicles use Oakhill Road with many of them speeding. These measures will help protect our elderly residents and the children attending Norbury Manor School. Oakhill Road had a temporary one way system during 2015 which was shown to greatly improve traffic flow.”*

## **5. NEXT STEPS**

- 5.1 Where possible the Cabinet Member will respond to the petition at the meeting.
- 5.2 Where a more detailed response is required, a written response shall be provided within three weeks of the meeting.

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**CONTACT OFFICER:** Tom Downs  
Trainee Democratic Services and  
Governance Officer  
Ext 86166

**BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:** None

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<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>COUNCIL</b> <b>7 OCTOBER 2019</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATIONS OF CABINET AND COMMITTEES REFERRED TO COUNCIL FOR DECISION</b>
<b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>	<b>Jacqueline Harris Baker, Executive Director of Resources and Monitoring Officer</b>
<b>WARDS:</b>	<b>ALL</b>
<b>CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT:</b> <p>The Recommendations of Cabinet and Committees referred to the Council for decision report is prepared in accordance with the Council Procedure Rules at Part 4A of the Constitution.</p>	

## 1. **RECOMMENDATION FROM CABINET HELD ON 19 September 2019**

Council is asked to approve the following recommendations from the Cabinet Meeting held on 19 September 2019:

### **Quarter 1 Financial Performance 2019/20**

- 1.1. The approval to increase the capital programme by **£112.816m** as set out in Table 6 of the covering report (Appendix 1 to this report).
- 1.2. The approval of an increase in the Operational Boundary for borrowing and Authorised Borrowing Limit of **£219.296m** set out in Table 7 of the covering report (Appendix 1 to this report).

## 2. **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 2.1. The recommendations of Cabinet referred to the Council for decision report comprises of matters of business formally undertaken by the Leader and Cabinet as well as Committees since the last ordinary meeting of the Council that require Full Council approval.

## 3. **BACKGROUND**

- 3.1. Part 4A of the Constitution requires that Cabinet and Committees include any recommendations that it has made to Council within this report.
- 3.2. These rules do not apply to any recommendations contained in the Annual Report of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee.
- 3.3. The Leader or Chair of the Committee making the recommendation may exercise a right to introduce the recommendation; in so doing the Leader or Chair of the Committee shall speak for a maximum of 3 minutes.
- 3.4. The recommendation shall be seconded without any further speakers and if not



deferred for debate shall immediately be put to the vote.

- 3.5. Any Member supported by a seconder, may ask that a recommendation be deferred for debate and the recommendation shall immediately stand deferred.
- 3.6. In the event that any Cabinet or Committee recommendations have not been reached when the time limit for the meeting has expired, those recommendations shall immediately be put to the vote without further debate.
- 3.7. Attached at **Appendix 1** is the **covering report** containing the recommendation from the **Cabinet** meeting held on 19 September 2019 regarding the **Quarter 1 Financial Performance 2019/20**. The relevant appendices to this report are also included. These are **Appendix 1A** (Revenue Variations over £100K with explanation which is referred to as Appendix 1 in the Cabinet covering report) and **Appendix 1B** (2019/20 Q1 Capital Outturn Forecast which is referred to as Appendix 2 in the Cabinet covering report).

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<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	Annette Wiles, Senior Democratic Services and Governance Officer – Council & Regulatory Ext. 64877
<b>APPENDIX 1:</b>	Cabinet covering report: Quarter 1 Financial Performance 2019/20
<b>APPENDIX 1A:</b>	Appendix to the Cabinet Covering Report: Revenue Variations over £100K with explanation (referred to as Appendix 1 in the Cabinet covering report)
<b>APPENDIX 1B:</b>	Appendix to the Cabinet Covering Report: 2019/20 Q1 Capital Outturn Forecast (referred to as Appendix 2 in the Cabinet covering report)

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>CABINET 19 September 2019</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>QUARTER 1 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE 2019/20</b>
<b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>	<b>Jacqueline Harris Baker, Executive Director Resources</b> <b>Lisa Taylor Director of Finance, Investment And Risk</b> <b>(Interim Section 151 Officer)</b>
<b>CABINET MEMBER:</b>	<b>Cllr Tony Newman, Leader Of The Council</b> <b>Cllr Simon Hall, Cabinet Member For Finance And Resources</b>
<b>WARDS:</b>	<b>ALL</b>

#### **CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT:**

The recommendations in the report will help to ensure effective management, governance and delivery of the Council's medium term financial strategy and ensure a sound financial delivery of the 2019/20 in-year budget. This will enable the ambitions for the borough for the remainder of this financial year to be developed, programmed and achieved for the residents of our borough.

#### **AMBITIONS FOR CROYDON & WHY WE ARE DOING THIS:**

Strong financial governance and stewardship ensures that the Council's resources are aligned to enable the priorities, as set out in the Corporate Plan, to be achieved for the residents of our borough and further enables medium to long term strategic planning considerations based on this strong financial foundation and stewardship.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

The reduced financial settlement and ongoing demand pressures on a range of statutory services is resulting in pressures to the Council's budget, and resulting in a forecast overspend at Quarter 1.

#### **FORWARD PLAN KEY DECISION REFERENCE NO. N/A**

The Leader of the Council has delegated to the Cabinet the power to make the decisions set out in the recommendations below

### **1 RECOMMENDATIONS**

Cabinet is recommended to :

- i) Note the current revenue outturn forecast at the end of the first quarter of 2019/20 of **£0.025m**, this is before exceptional items of **£9.415m**, resulting in a total overspend of **£9.440m**;
- ii) Note that the exceptional items of £9.4m relate to costs incurred by Croydon Council for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) and No Recourse To Public Funds (NRPF), due to insufficient funding from the Home Office.
- iii) Note the ongoing engagement with and lobbying of Government by the Council for additional funding for Croydon, both in general terms and specifically Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children given Croydon's gateway status.

- iv) Note the HRA position of a **£0.213m** forecast underspend against budget;
- v) Note the capital outturn projection of **£341.3m**, forecast to be an underspend of **£95.4m** against budget;
- vi) Agree that an additional four new pipeline sites are disposed of to Brick by Brick Croydon Ltd, as detailed in paragraph 7.8 of this report.
- vii) Note the recommendation to Full Council to increase the Capital Programme, this includes an additional £100m for asset investment.

### **RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL**

- viii) The approval to increase to the capital programme by **£112.816m** as set out in Table 6.
- ix) The approval of an increase to the Operational Boundary for borrowing, and Authorised Borrowing Limit of **£219.296m** set out in Table 7.

## **2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 2.1 This report updates the Council's financial outlook at the end of the first quarter of 2019/20, which remains against a context of a series of adverse national funding changes affecting Local Government finance. This includes an ongoing chronic underfunding of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC).
- 2.2 The budget set in February 2019 for 2019/20 assumed grant reductions of £7.8m (8.2%) in the financial year. To manage this reduction there were a number of savings totalling **£27.9m** built in to the budget. Alongside these savings there was growth of **£28.8m** for areas where demand and costs have increased with a continued shift of resources into Children, Families and Education. A sum of **£5.4m** will also be added to revenue reserves in 2019/20, replacing the amount drawn down at the end of 2018/19. This sum represents the surplus available from the collection fund during 2018/19, which was not available until after 1 April 2019.
- 2.3 Croydon Council continues to remain under huge financial pressures, deriving notably from:
- Historic underfunding of Croydon over the last 15-20 years,
  - Cumulative cuts of more than 75% of government funding between 2010/11 and 2019/20,
  - Failure to recognise the inflationary pressures the Council is subject to,
  - The Local Government Association (LGA) have predicted that there is a funding shortfall of £8bn across the Public Sector by 2025. This is as a result of growing demand for services and increases in population particularly in social care services where the gap for adult social care is predicted to be £3.6bn by 2025 and £3.1bn in children's services.
  - There are also predicted funding shortfalls in a number of other areas, with key ones being, Homelessness at £421m and Public Health £655m
  - Substantial population increase,
  - Significant growth in demand for services, both from demographic pressures, such as an aging population and changes to the make-up of the Croydon population
  - Impact of welfare reform, notably the benefits cap, freezing of in-work benefits, local housing allowance, universal credit,

- Underfunding of new duties, such as Health Visiting, Deprivation of Liberty assessments and the Homelessness Reduction Act,
- Continued Failure to properly fund the direct and indirect costs of Croydon's status as the gateway authority for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC), even in the face of increased funding for other authorities,
- Impact of the underfunding of the health economy,
- Failure to fund the cost of High Needs via Dedicated Schools Grant adequately
- Restrictions on council housing, including rent restrictions and rules on right-to-buy receipts.
- Delivering improvement as a result of the recent Ofsted inspection findings in Children's Social Care.

2.4 The financial monitoring process has identified a number of pressures across the council with the most significant being within the Health, Wellbeing and Adults department. The Council's overall forecast revenue over spend of **£9.440m** is made up of Departmental over spends of **£7.309m**, non-departmental under-spends of **£7.284m** and exceptional items of **£9.415m**. These exceptional costs relate to additional costs associated with UASC. Without these exceptional items the forecast overspend would be **£25k**, as shown in Table 1 below.

**Table 1 – Summary of forecast revenue outturn position at Quarter 1**

Department	Quarter 1 Forecast Variance £'000s
Children, Families and Education	100
Health, Wellbeing and Adults	4,959
Place	0
Residents and Gateway Services	1,255
Resources	995
<b>Departmental Overspend</b>	<b>7,309</b>
Corporate Items	-7,284
<b>Sub Total - Before Exceptional Items</b>	<b>25</b>
Exceptional Items - Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers (UASC)	9,415
<b>Total Projected Over-spend</b>	<b>9,440</b>

2.5 If the **£9.440m** forecast overspend is not reduced by the end of the year then the £5.4m contribution to reserves identified in paragraph 2.2 will be reduced to zero, and amounts would have to be drawn out of either earmarked reserves or general balances.

2.6 Based on the significant demand pressures and challenges that still continue to impact the council work is underway to look at how these pressures can be reduced, these include:

- Review of Adult Social Care to ensure services are delivered efficiently and effectively
- Review of fees and charges.
- Review of licensing and other fees.
- Review of SEN travel provision.
- Establishment of a High Needs Cost Panel to review all out of borough placements and bringing them in house
- Optimisation of use of in-house foster carers and in sourcing of our fostering recruitment from Coram to provide more and higher quality local placements

- Implementation of the High Needs strategy which sets out a five year plan to address the current overspend and supports delivery of improvements and planning for resources to meet identified needs
- Review of service provision for Appeal Rights Exhausted individuals and families.
- Review of services provided by external contractors.
- Continued lobbying of government to fund Croydon adequately for services provided including High Needs DSG and UASC costs.
- Increased controls on recruitment and use of agency staff.

- 2.7 The Council is continuing to make a concerted drive for fairer funding for Croydon. Discussions continue with the Home Office to increase our funding for UASC. The recent UASC Funding Review did not result in any uplift in the tariff rates which Croydon can claim for supporting UASC, whereas all other local authorities did receive an uplift.
- 2.8 Details of major variances are provided in Table 2, Section 3 of this report, with further information about all projected outturn variances in Appendix 1 to this report.
- 2.9 The Council is continuing with its planned insourcing programme, with SEN transport, Special Sheltered Housing and School Improvement and Education Psychology delivered by Octavo Partnership all being insourced. Insourcing of vital services ensures better control and outcomes for some of our most vulnerable residents. It ensures we are better placed to focus on improving outcomes with the resident at the forefront of the delivery model whilst also ensuring that staff are paid the London Living Wage and benefit from Council terms and conditions.

### 3. GENERAL FUND 2019/20 REVENUE SUMMARY

- 3.1 The projected outturn position at the first quarter of 2019/20 is showing the effect of anticipated saving and recovery plans that are being implemented.
- 3.2 The 2019/20 budget was set with the inclusion of growth to help manage previously identified pressures and ambitious savings targets. Despite this growth there continues to be increasing demand for the services in relation to adult and children's social care.

**Table 2 – 2019/20 significant forecast variances**

Department	Major Variances over £500k	Quarter 1 £'000	2018/19 Outturn £'000
<b>CHILDREN, FAMILIES &amp; EDUCATION</b>			
<b>Social Care with Children Looked After</b>	Children, Families and Education Variances below £500k	100	9,532
<b>CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND EDUCATION TOTAL</b>		<b>100</b>	<b>9,532</b>

HEALTH, WELLBEING AND ADULTS			
<b>Adults Social Care and All-Age Disability Directorate</b>	Savings not achieved relating to ICT transformation project	0	622
	Improved Better Care funding	0	-2,000
<b>25-65 Disability Service</b>	Overspend on residential Care - increase in client numbers and increase in placement costs.	575	2,848
	Over spend on Domiciliary Care associated with increased client numbers and increased supported living costs	929	0
<b>Over 65s</b>	Overspend on Nursing Care - increase in client numbers and increase in placement costs.	1,662	2,790
	Overspend on Domiciliary Care associated with continued increase in clients and hours provided.	2,161	0
	Staff Savings to fund move to locality working	0	-1,250
	Overspend on residential care primarily due to increase in client numbers	0	624
	Risk Share contribution from CCG	0	-500
<b>Transformation and Clienting</b>	Use of Transformation funding to deliver the Out of Hospital program	0	-5,250
	Use of transformation funding to fund ADAPT programme	-1,000	-1,529
	Variances below £500k	632	3,057
<b>HEALTH, WELLBEING AND ADULTS TOTAL</b>		<b>4,959</b>	<b>-588</b>
<b>PLACE</b>			
<b>Public Realm</b>	Street lighting – increased energy costs	0	784
	Savings due to reduced unit cost of landfill during the Energy Recovery Facility commissioning phase	0	-1,205
	Additional Pay and Display and PCN income	0	-3,819
	Capitalisation of Highways and Road enhancement costs	0	-580
	Variances below 500k	0	-590
<b>PLACE TOTAL</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>-5,410</b>
<b>Gateway Services:</b>			
<b>Gateway Improvement</b>	Potential non-delivery of savings relating to Children and Adult Social Care, partly offset by some service savings	400	0
<b>Housing Assessment &amp; Solutions:</b>			

<b>Housing Need</b>	Increase in the number of households being placed in the Private Sector Rental Sector, and an increase in costs associated with voids, repairs and agency staff	0	659
	Residents and Gateway Services Variances below £500	855	-683
<b>RESIDENTS AND GATEWAY SERVICES TOTAL</b>		<b>1,255</b>	<b>-24</b>
<b>RESOURCES</b>			
<b>Facilities Management &amp; Support Services</b>	Unfunded establishment growth and restructure costs , as well as unachievable income targets on savings, FM sales and recharge income	0	-1,953
<b>Commissioning and Procurement</b>	Private Finance Initiative cost increases offset by agency savings. <i>Note:</i> Independent Travel Service has moved to Place department in 2019/20. £2,089k of 2018-19 variance related to this service	0	2,082
<b>Finance, Investment and Risk</b>	Shortfall identified in relation to bailiff fee income. The previous financial year related to an overspend on Housing Benefits.	105	1,510
<b>Croydon Digital Services</b>	Unachievable Digital Advertising Income	368	-561
	Variances below £500k	522	91
<b>RESOURCES TOTAL</b>		<b>995</b>	<b>1,169</b>
<b>TOTAL DEPARTMENT OVERSPEND</b>		<b>7,309</b>	<b>4,703</b>
<b>CORPORATE ITEMS</b>			
	Use of contingency budget	-2,000	
	Revolving Investment Fund earnings	-1,724	
	Recruitment Control savings	-1,000	
	Transformation funding	-2,000	
	Allocate S106/ CIL/ Growth Zone funding	-1,000	
	Capitalisation	-1,000	
	Corporate items - Variances below £500k	1,440	
<b>CORPORATE ITEMS TOTAL</b>		<b>-7,284</b>	
<b>SUB TOTAL BEFORE EXCEPTIONAL ITEMS</b>		<b>25</b>	
<b>Exceptional Items</b>	Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers Grant lower than associated costs (UASC)	9,036	3,071
	No Recourse to Public Funds costs for UASC	379	2,050
<b>Exceptional Items Total</b>		<b>9,415</b>	<b>5,121</b>
<b>TOTAL VARIANCE</b>		<b>9,440</b>	<b>9,824</b>



- 3.3 The main areas of pressure are similar to last year and continue to be within Health, Wellbeing and Adults as well as Children, Families and Education. These are also the areas that local authorities across the country are grappling with and are typically showing much larger percentage overspends.
- 3.4 As a result of the Ofsted inspection in the summer of 2017 £10.784m was added to the budgets for Children's Services in 2018/19, and a further £12.0m added in 2019/20 to cover costs associated with additional placements, additional staff resources for social work and legal costs.
- 3.5 Children's Services is still continuing to see pressures due to the number of cases that are being dealt with but also as a result of the transition whilst the new teams are being put into place and recruitment to roles continues. Funding for transformation will continue to be utilised where appropriate to fund Children's Services.
- 3.6 The exceptional item reported at quarter 1 relates to UASC which the Council is continuing to lobby the government to fund adequately. The UASC pressure continues to be as a result of the Home Office only funding a fixed rate per child, which does not accurately reflect our costs for looking after those children, nor the costs of acting as a 'gateway' authority. The fall in the number of UASC has exacerbated this issue. While our numbers of UASC are decreasing from a height of 428 in 2016 to 261 at June 2019, direct and indirect service provision costs are not decreasing at the same rate. Options to reduce this funding gap through the reduction of costs and maximising Home Office income are still continuing to be explored.
- 3.7 The Home Office have said that they are committed to reviewing funding rates and in May 2019, they announced an additional £30m of funding. This announcement increased the rates paid to all Upper Tier and Unitary Local Authorities to £114 per UASC per night. Croydon was already in receipt of this rate and, as such, received no further increase. Representations continue to be made to central government, making a case for the extraordinary circumstances experienced in Croydon of supporting a large cohort of UASC and former UASC care leavers.
- 3.8 The Improved Better Care Funding (IBCF) is for a three year period and was allocated in two tranches. Tranche 1 was allocated in spending review 2015 and formed part of adult social care core funding to mitigate the reduction in core grant funding. This allocation was built in to base budgets and enabled protection from cuts. Tranche 2 was allocated in the spring 2017 budget. This money will be spent across the health and social care sector to ensure the criteria of the funding of Meeting Adult Social Care Needs, Supporting Hospital Discharge and Stabilising the Social Care provider Market are met.
- 3.9 The Local Government Association has launched a nationwide consultation to start a desperately-needed debate on how to pay for adult social care and rescue the services caring for older and disabled people from collapse.
- 3.10 Years of significant underfunding of councils, coupled with rising demand and costs for care and support, have combined to push adult social care services to breaking point.
- 3.11 Since 2010 councils have had to bridge a £6 billion funding shortfall just to keep the adult social care system going. In addition the LGA estimates that adult social care services face a £3.6 billion funding gap by 2025, just to maintain existing standards of care, while latest figures show that councils in England receive 1.8 million new requests for adult social care a year – the equivalent of nearly 5,000 a day.

- 3.12 Decades of failures to find a sustainable solution to how to pay for adult social care for the long-term, and the Government's recent decision to delay its long-awaited green paper on the issue until the autumn, has prompted council leaders to take action.
- 3.13 Short-term cash injections have not prevented care providers reluctantly closing their operations or returning contracts to councils and less choice and availability to a rising number of people with care needs. This is increasing the strain on an already-overstretched workforce and unpaid carers, and leading to more people not having their care needs met.
- 3.14 Increased spending on adult social care – which now accounts for nearly 40 per cent of total council budgets – is threatening the future of other vital council services, such as parks, leisure centres and libraries, which help to keep people well and reducing the need for care and support and hospital treatment.
- 3.15 The LGA consultation sets out options for how the system could be improved and the radical measures that need to be considered given the scale of this funding crisis. Possible solutions to paying for adult social care in the long-term outlined in the consultation include:
- Increasing income tax for taxpayers of all ages: a 1p rise on the basic rate could raise £4.4 billion in 2024/25
  - Increasing national insurance: a 1p rise could raise £10.4 billion in 2024/25
  - A Social Care Premium – charging the over-40s and working pensioners an earmarked contribution (such as an addition to National Insurance or another mechanism). If it was assumed everyone over 40 was able to pay the same amount (not the case under National Insurance), raising £1 billion would mean a cost of £33.40 for each person aged 40+ in 2024/25.
  - Means testing universal benefits, such as winter fuel allowance and free TV licenses, could raise £1.9 billion in 2024/25
  - Allowing councils to increase council tax – a one per cent rise would generate £285 million in 2024/25
- 3.16 The consultation - the biggest launched by the LGA – is seeking the views of people and organisations from across society on how best to pay for care and support for adults of all ages and their unpaid carers, and aims to make the public a central part of the debate. The LGA will respond to the findings in the autumn to inform and influence the Government's green paper and spending plans.
- 3.17 The LGA green paper – alongside funding issues – also seeks to start a much-needed debate about how to shift the overall emphasis of our care and health system so that it focuses far more on preventative, community-based personalised care, which helps maximise people's health, wellbeing and independence and alleviates pressure on the NHS.
- 3.18 The pressure on children's social care is now becoming apparent. Research conducted by the Local Government Association (LGA) has revealed children's services are at breaking point with 75% of councils overspending to keep vital protections in place. There are calls on the government to introduce a fairer funding system based on demand for services.
- 3.19 Overall, councils are facing a £3.1 billion funding gap for children's services by 2025. In 2017/18, councils across England were forced to spend £816 million more on children's social care than they had budgeted for. In addition, government funding for the Early Intervention Grant has been cut by almost £600 million since 2013, and it is projected to drop by almost a £100 million more by 2020.
- 3.20 Over the past 10 years demand the number of child protection enquiries has increased 158 per cent and the number of children on child protection plans increased by more than 25,000. The total number of looked after children reached a new high of 75,420 in

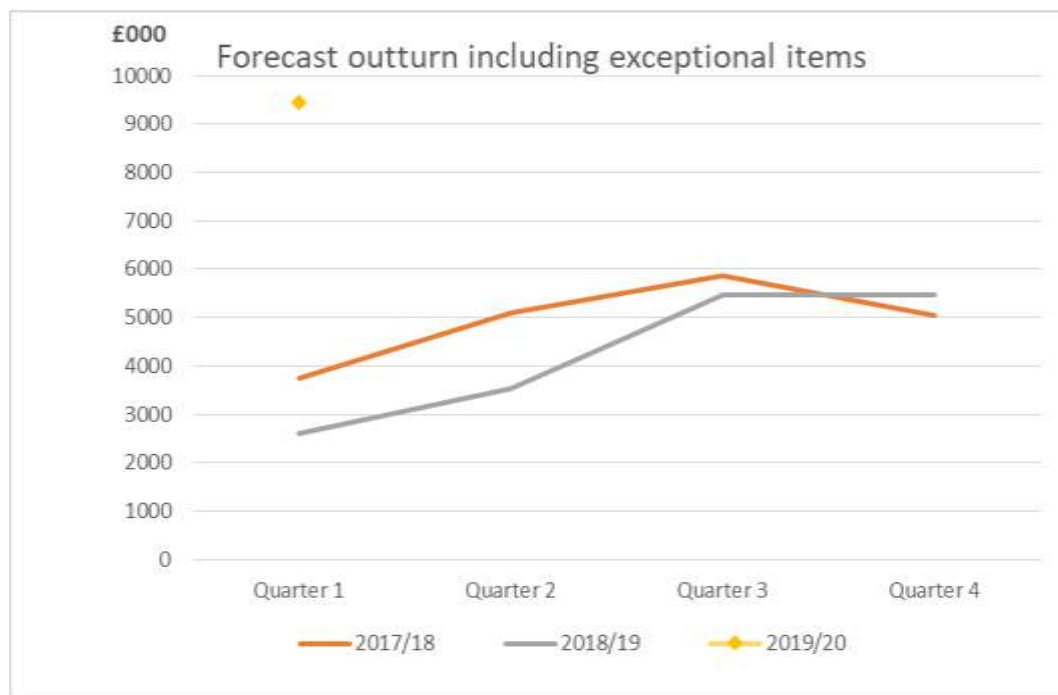
2017/18, representing the biggest annual rise of children in care in eight years. An average of 88 children are now coming into care every day. As detailed in this report we are continuing to experience rising demand and costs.

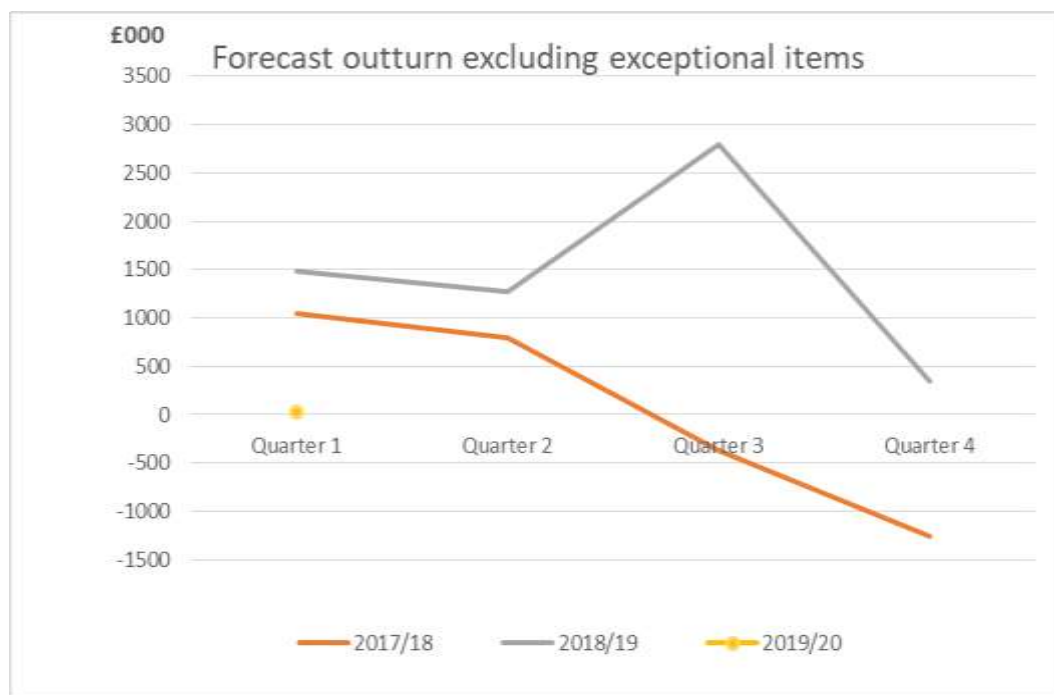
- 3.21 This year to date, Children's Social Care residential assessments have increased by 33%, and the number of children with a Child Protection Plan has also increased by 66%, contributing towards the reported overspend. In Q1 Children in care increased to its highest number with 849 in placements at the end of June 2019, this is an additional 21 Children Looked After (CLA) on the previous quarter. 45 children were in residential settings at the end of Q1 representing 5.3% of the CLA population with 47.7% (405 children) CLA in private independent foster care setting

#### 4 GENERAL FUND REVENUE SUMMARY POSITION 2019/20

- 4.1 Graph 1 below shows the forecast variance for 2019/20 compared to previous years. The graphs show the position both inclusive of exceptional items, and excluding exception items (explained in paragraph 3.6 above). The Council continues to manage its finances through the rigorous monitoring and control of spending within the framework of the Financial Strategy.

**Graph 1 – Forecast Variances**





## 5 VIREMENTS OVER £500K REQUIRING CABINET APPROVAL

5.1 There are no virements requiring approval.

## 6. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA)

6.1 The current forecast for the HRA is for an estimated underspend of **£0.213m**. The key variances being reported at Quarter 1 are summarised in Table 3 below:

**Table 3 – 2019/20 Main variances within the HRA**

Department	Major Variances	Quarter 1 £'000	2018/19 Outturn £'000
HRA – DISTRICT CENTRES AND REGENERATION	Underspends on staff costs	(213)	(736)
<b>TOTAL HRA PROJECTED VARIANCE</b>		<b>(213)</b>	<b>(736)</b>

6.2 Longer term budget planning for the HRA is continuing to take place and includes reviewing the impact of the Housing and Planning Act 2016 to understand the likely impact pending the outcome of recent government consultations on use of retained Right to Buy capital receipts. In addition, to build a sustainable budget for revenue and capital spend within the HRA.

6.3 As previously reported to this Cabinet, Croydon Affordable Homes LLP is responsible for managing a number of affordable rented properties working alongside Brick by Brick and The Hub to deliver these additional properties in 2019. This is in addition to the 263 street properties that were purchased under the ETA (Emergency Temporary Accommodation) programme that have been transferred to two LLPs, one for 96 and the other 167. Furthermore, there are 83 additional street properties that are currently being purchased for transfer to the LLPs. These properties are all being managed by the team that manages the HRA properties.

- 6.4 Ongoing fire safety works are continuing and will continue to be funded from the HRA as a result of the government failing to provide funding for these essential works. Currently for 2019/20 the investment is £10m for the Fire Safety programme and £1.5m for larger homes.

## 7. FORECAST CAPITAL OUTTURN POSITION

- 7.1 The high level Capital programme for 2019/20 is shown in Table 4 below, full details of all projects are shown in appendix 2. A forecast under spend of **£95.4m** is projected for 2019/20.

**Table 4 – 2019/20 Capital Programme**

Original 2019/20 Budget  £'000s	Department	Carry forward from 2018/19  £'000s	Re- profiling / Increases in Schemes  £'000s	Revised Budget 2019/20  £'000s	Actuals April- June 2019  £'000s	Forecast Outturn  £'000s	Forecast Variance  £'000s
0	HEALTH, WELLBEING AND ADULTS	334	0	334	1	334	0
35,638	CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND EDUCATION	14,022	200	49,860	1,979	35,641	(14,219)
9,673	GATEWAY, STRATEGY & ENGAGEMENT	29,571	0	39,244	6,170	31,025	(8,219)
77,790	PLACE	34,410	14,199	126,399	11,645	103,230	(23,169)
60,373	RESOURCES	14,264	100,699	175,336	7,571	127,375	(47,961)
<b>183,474</b>	<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<b>92,601</b>	<b>115,898</b>	<b>391,173</b>	<b>27,366</b>	<b>297,605</b>	<b>(93,568)</b>
<b>38,451</b>	<b>HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT</b>	<b>4,715</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>45,493</b>	<b>4,129</b>	<b>43,656</b>	<b>(1,837)</b>
<b>221,925</b>	<b>CAPITAL PROGRAME TOTAL</b>	<b>99,643</b>	<b>115,098</b>	<b>436,666</b>	<b>31,495</b>	<b>341,261</b>	<b>(95,405)</b>

- 7.2 The main reported variances on projects within the Council's capital programme are as follows:
- 7.2.1 **Park Life** (£12.151m) – This scheme is currently delayed, pending a review by the funding body.
- 7.2.2 **Affordable Housing** (£6.308m) – This under-spend is a result of savings on the anticipated purchase cost of the property acquisition programme
- 7.2.3 **Schools Expansion** (£14.219m) – Reprofiling of construction costs against the build programme for Addington Valley Academy and for Croydon College SEND as well as delays in the Fire Safety Works.
- 7.2.4 **Fiveways junction** (£3m) – This underspend is due to Transport for London delaying the start of these works.
- 7.3 The capital programme continues to be funded from a number of different funding streams and makes use of capital receipts to support the delivery of the financial strategy. Table 5 below details the funding for the original 2019/20 budget, the revised programme and the forecast outturn.

**Table 5 – Sources of capital funding**

<b>Funding</b>	<b>Original 2019/20 budget £000s</b>	<b>Revised 2019/20 budget £000s</b>	<b>Forecast 2019/20 Outturn £000s</b>
Capital receipts	2,500	2,500	2,500
Education & Skills Funding Agency	10,000	10,000	10,000
School Condition Funding (Education)	2,000	2,000	2,000
Basic Needs (Education)	6,833	6,833	6,833
EFA Invest to Save (Education)	969	969	969
Transport for London funding	2,462	4,129	4,129
Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)	6,800	6,800	6,800
CIL local meaningful proportion	576	1,272	1,272
Disabled Facilities Grants	2,400	4,379	4,379
Borrowing	49,570	104,147	81,011
Borrowing - (Revolving Investment Fund payments)	37,273	76,709	67,732
Borrowing - Asset Acquisition Fund	45,000	50,893	100,893
Borrowing - Growth Zone	8,000	9,782	8,000
Section 106 receipts	1,800	3,269	1,087
Football foundation	7,291	7,291	-
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>183,474</b>	<b>391,173</b>	<b>297,605</b>
HRA - Borrowing	7,677	14,719	12,882
HRA - Revenue Contribution	10,000	10,000	10,000
HRA - Use Of Capital Receipts	20,774	20,774	20,774
<b>HRA FUNDING</b>	<b>38,451</b>	<b>45,493</b>	<b>43,656</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDING</b>	<b>221,925</b>	<b>436,666</b>	<b>341,261</b>

7.4

The majority of the general fund borrowing detailed excluding that specifically identified for the Revolving Investment Fund and items in table 6 is to fund the education programme due to the inadequate level of funding received from Government and the essential need to provide school places in the borough.

- 7.5 The revised budget has been updated to include new in year schemes. Details of these schemes can be found in Table 6 below.

**Table 6 – Additions to the Capital Programme**

<b>Additions and Amendments to the Capital Programme</b>	<b>£000s</b>	<b>2019/20 £000s</b>
<b>2019/20 Original Budget</b>		221,925
2018/19 Carry Forward		99,643
Adjustments at July Review (GPAC July 2019):		
CALAT - Creative Campus / University for Croydon	660	
Timebridge Community Centre (Fieldway Cluster)	1,168	
Crosfield CES	454	
<b>Sub-total of changes in July Review</b>		<b>2,282</b>
New additions and amendments at Quarter 1		
New Addington Leisure Centre – late slippage from 2018-19 not previously reported	12,230	

TfL LIP – additional funding has now been confirmed by TfL London	1,667	
Finance and HR system – further works identified to optimise performance	245	
Asset Acquisition Fund	100,000	
Early Help Centres	200	
Section 106 expenditure - funding for West Thornton withdrawn	-650	
Walking and Cycling strategy – profiled down to match planned activity	-626	
Play equipment – this activity will be funded by Section 106	-250	
<b>Sub-total Quarter 1 adjustments</b>		<b>112,816</b>
<b>LBC CAPITAL PROGRAMME TOTAL</b>		<b>436,666</b>

- 7.6 In light of the revision to capital budgets in 2019/20 set out in Table 6, slippage brought from 2018/19 and a review of future expenditure plans, it is necessary to amend the Authorised Borrowing Limit and Operational Boundary. Table 7 below sets out the requested change in these amounts. The Authorised Borrowing limit is set £50m above the operational boundary to include a margin for cash flow contingency.

**Table 7 – requested change to the Authorised Borrowing Limit and operational boundary**

	<b>2019-20 £m</b>	<b>2020-21 £m</b>	<b>2021-22 £m</b>
Current operational boundary	1,436.049	1,500.298	1,565.395
Requested operational boundary	1,655.345	1,719.594	1,784.691
<b>Increase requested</b>	<b>219.296</b>	<b>219.296</b>	<b>219.296</b>
Existing Authorised Borrowing Limit	1,486.049	1,550.298	1,615.395
Requested Authorised Borrowing Limit	1,705.345	1,769.594	1,834.691
<b>Increase requested</b>	<b>219.296</b>	<b>219.296</b>	<b>219.296</b>

## Capital Assets

- 7.7 Full Council in October 2018 approved the establishment of an asset acquisition fund as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy. The initial fund was £100m, and to date £55k has been invested. This is addition to the investment in the Croydon Park Hotel prior to the fund being established. Income earned from investments to date is over £2.5m per annum. Given the level of income generated for these assets it is recommended that Cabinet recommend to Full Council a £100m increase in the asset acquisition fund, which can be used to invest in assets that are expected to generate over £3m per annum to help fund essential council services.
- 7.8 Cabinet in June 2019 approved the potential disposal of 60 pipeline sites to Brick by Brick Croydon Ltd, which would generate a capital receipt for the council. Following further due diligence work several sites have been removed from the list and four additional sites have been substituted in order to maintain the two year pipeline supply. The new sites will also generate a capital receipt and are :-
- Former Social Club to the rear of 39 Tamworth Road Croydon (8 units)
  - Arkell Grove, Upper Norwood SE19 – garage site (8 units)
  - Kennelwood Crescent, New Addington CR0 – garage site (6 units)
  - Bedwardine Road, Upper Norwood – garage site (15 units)
- 7.9 These sites will all be subject to the same disposal process regarding due diligence, entering in to an option agreement and the disposal if a viable scheme can be demonstrated as outlined in the June Cabinet report.



## 8. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

- 8.1 Council Tax and Business Rates are two key income streams for the Council. Collection rates for the current year are shown in Table 8 below:

**Table 8 - Council Tax and Business Rates collection**

	Target collection – year to date %	Actual collection – year to date %	Variance to target – year to date %	Variance - last year - at Q1 %
Council Tax	28.73	28.70	(0.03)	0.03
Business Rates	31.33	32.14	0.81	0.06

### Council Tax

- 8.2 At the end of quarter 1 Council Tax collection is under target by 0.03%. The Council remains on course to achieve its in-year collection target of 97.50%, which is the highest target level set by the Council's revenues team. The Council achieved its highest ever collection performance in 2018/19 of 97.25%.

### Business Rates

- 8.3 At the end of quarter 1 Business Rates collection is 0.81% above the target. This is a result of a reduction in the Business Rates base compared to last year, meaning that cash collection at the same rate increases the collection rate. Reductions in the Business Rates base will be built into the budget planning for 2020/21.

## 9. CONSULTATION

- 9.1 All departments have been consulted during the preparation of this report.

## 10. FINANCIAL AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 10.1 This report sets out the current financial position of the Council, and actions being taken to address the projected overspend.

The report is submitted by Lisa Taylor – Director of Finance Investment & Risk and Interim Section 151 officer

## 11. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 11.1 The Head of Law and Litigation on behalf of the Director of Law and Governance comments that the Council is under a duty to ensure that it maintains a balanced budget and to take any remedial action as required in year.
- 11.2 The Local Government Act 1972 Section 151 states that each local authority has a statutory duty to make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs. In addition, the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 impose an explicit duty on the Council to ensure that financial management is adequate and effective and that they have a sound system of internal control, including arrangements for the management of risk.

- 11.3 “Proper administration” is not statutorily defined; however, there is guidance, issued by CIPFA on the responsibilities of the Chief Finance Officer (CFO). This states that local authorities have a corporate responsibility to operate within available resources and the CFO should support the effective governance of the authority through development of corporate governance arrangements, risk management and reporting framework. Regular monitoring of the Council’s actual expenditure to budget and forecasting of the expenditure for the full year is part of the proper administration and governance of the Council.
- 11.4 Part 4 of the Constitution Budget and Policy Framework provides in paragraph 4 (a) that any decision, on the advice of the CFO, which is contrary to or not wholly in line with the budget approved by Full Council may only be taken by the Council, save in cases of urgency.

Approved by: Sandra Herbert Head of Litigation and Corporate Law for and on behalf of Sean Murphy Director of Law and Governance and Deputy Monitoring Officer.

## **12 HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT**

- 12.1 The items from the savings packages and action plans included in the report or those that need to be developed in response to the report are likely to have a significant HR impact. These can vary from posts not being re-filled or deleted through restructures proposals leading to possible redundancies. Where that is the case, the Council’s existing policies and procedures must be observed and HR advice must be sought.
- 12.2 HR will continue to work closely with service areas on any in year proposals for savings or service redesign that affect the workforce. All proposals will be managed within the council HR procedures and policies and be subject to formal consultation with the trades unions.

Approved by: Sue Moorman, Director of Human Resources

## **13 EQUALITIES IMPACT**

- 13.1 The key service areas that currently have over spend in budgets are Children’s Social Care and Adults Social Care. These are areas that provide services to customers from equality groups that share protected characteristics; such as younger people (Looked after Children), people with a disability (Children with special educational needs), older people and BME groups. There are a number of known equality and inclusion issues in the above mentioned service areas such as an over-representation of BME young people in looked after children, over-representation of BME groups and other vulnerable groups, young children with a disability who have a special educational needs and their carers, vulnerable older people with complex needs etc. The mitigating actions, on these specific services are unlikely to affect these groups more than the population as a whole. In fact, a number of those will affect these groups less.
- 13.2 In addition, there are policy changes made by Government that will impact on the in-year budget, in particular the delay in the implementation of the Immigration Act. The Council will work to ensure key services to Croydon residents are protected wherever possible. However, it is likely that some of the areas affected will be a reduction in Home Office funding for UASC, a cut to the Public Health Grant and the Youth Justice Board grant and changes to the Welfare and Housing Bill. There is a likelihood that these cuts will have a more significant adverse impact on some groups that share a protected characteristic such as age, race and disability. Changes to the Welfare and Housing Bill are also likely to have an adverse negative impact on the more vulnerable customers.

13.3 In order to ensure that our vulnerable customers that share a “protected characteristic” are not disproportionately affected by the actions proposed to reduce in year budget over spend we will ensure that the delivery of the cost reduction initiatives are informed by a robust equality analysis of the likely detrimental impact it could have on all services users and in particular those that share a “protected characteristic”.

13.4 If the equality analysis suggests that the cost reductions initiatives are likely to disproportionately impact on particular group of customers, appropriate mitigating actions will be considered. This will enable the Council to ensure that it delivers the following objectives that are set out in our Equality and Inclusion Policy:

- To increase the rate of employment for disabled people, young people, over 50s and lone parents who are furthest away from the job market
- To increase the support offered to people who find themselves in a position where they are accepted as homeless especially those from BME backgrounds and women
- To reduce the rate of child poverty especially in the six most deprived wards
- To improve attainment levels for white working class and Black Caribbean heritages, those in receipt of Free School Meals and Looked After Children, particularly at Key Stage 2 including those living in six most deprived wards
- To increase the percentage of domestic violence sanctions
- To increase the reporting and detection of the child sexual offences monitored
- To reduce the number of young people who enter the youth justice system
- To reduce social isolation among disabled people and older people
- To improve the proportion of people from different backgrounds who get on well together
- To reduce differences in life expectancy between communities

## **14 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

14.1 There are no direct implications contained in this report.

## **15 CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPACT**

15.1 There are no direct implications contained in this report.

## **16. DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS**

### **16.1 WILL THE SUBJECT OF THE REPORT INVOLVE THE PROCESSING OF ‘PERSONAL DATA’?**

No.

## **17 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION /PROPOSED DECISION**

17.1 Given the current in year-position Executive Leadership Team have been tasked to identify options to achieve a balanced year-end position.

## 18 OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- 18.1 Given the current in year-position Executive Leadership Team have been tasked to identify options to achieve a balanced year-end position. The alternative would be to over-spend and draw down on balances, which would not be prudent.
- 

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Lisa Taylor - Director of Finance, Investment & Risk and Interim Section 151 Officer. Tel number 020 8726 6000 ext. 61438

**BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:** None

**APPENDICES:** Appendix 1 – Revenue Variations over £100k with explanation  
Appendix 2 – 2019/20 Q1 Capital Outturn Forecast

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**REVENUE VARIATIONS OVER £100K WITH EXPLANATION****CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND EDUCATION**

Division	Explanation of variance	Qtr 1 Amount (£000)
Quality Assurance and Safeguarding	Other Minor Variances < £100k	-21
	<b>Sub-total Quality Assurance and Safeguarding</b>	<b>-21</b>
Early Help and CSC Directorate	Other Minor Variances < £100k	17
	<b>Sub-total Early Help and CSC Directorate</b>	<b>17</b>
Social Work with Children Looked After	Increase in the number of external placements	204
	Other Minor Variances < £100k	-30
	<b>Sub Total Social Work with Children Looked After</b>	<b>174</b>
SPOC and Assessments	Other Minor Variances < £100k	9
	<b>Sub-total SPOC and Assessments</b>	<b>9</b>
0-25 CWD Service	Alignment of early intervention	-14
	Other Minor Variances > £100k	67
	<b>Sub Total 0-25 CWD Service</b>	<b>53</b>
Early Help	Staff vacancies across the service	-136
	Other Minor Variances < £100k	57
	<b>Sub-total Early Help</b>	<b>-79</b>
Adolescent Services	Other Minor Variances < £100k	-53
	<b>Sub-total Adolescent Services</b>	<b>-53</b>
<b>Total Forecast Variance – CHILDREN,FAMILIES AND EDUCATION</b>		<b>100</b>

**HEALTH, WELLBEING AND ADULTS**

Division	Explanation of variance	Qtr 1 Amount (£000)
25-65 Disability Service	Overspend on Care Placements - increase in client numbers and increase in placement costs.	575
	Over spend on Domiciliary Care associated with increased client numbers and increased supported living costs	929
	Additional Staffing costs	150
	Other Minor Variances < £100k	12
	<b>Sub Total - 25-65 Disability Service</b>	<b>1,666</b>
Mental Health	Increase in costs of placements	210
	Additional Staffing costs	111
	Other Minor Variances < £100k	0
	<b>Sub Total - Mental Health</b>	<b>321</b>
Over 65 Commissioning	Contract Costs –Payments to Voluntary organisation higher than anticipated	166

	Contract cost on Fellows court , including A&E Liaison	281
	Overspend on Care UK PFI Care homes contract	464
	Additional Income from residential homes	-264
	Savings from Special sheltered units	-201
	Other Minor Variances < £100k	-108
	<b>Sub Total - Over 65 Commissioning</b>	<b>338</b>
<b>Over 65 providers</b>	Overspend on Nursing Care - increase in client numbers and increase in placement costs	1,662
	Overspend on Domiciliary Care associated with continued increase in clients and hours provided.	2,161
	Additional Expenditure on In House Day Care Services	150
	Other Minor Variances < £100k	-342
	<b>Sub Total - Over 65 Providers</b>	<b>3,631</b>
<b>Day and Employment Services</b>	Other Minor Variances < £100k	19
	<b>Sub – Total Day and Employment Services</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Disability Commissioning and Brokerage</b>	Other Minor Variances < £100k	-16
	<b>Sub – Total Disability Commissioning and Brokerage</b>	<b>-16</b>
<b>Transformation and Clienting</b>	Use of transformation funding to fund ADAPT programme	-1,000
	Other Minor Variances < £100k	0
	<b>Sub – Total Transformation and Clienting</b>	<b>-1,000</b>
<b>Total Forecast Variance – HEALTH, WELLBEING AND ADULTS</b>		<b>4,959</b>

## PLACE DEPARTMENT

Division	Explanation of variance	Qtr 1 Amount £'000
<b>Total Forecast Variance – PLACE DEPARTMENT</b>		<b>0</b>

## GATEWAY, STRATEGY &amp; ENGAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

Division	Explanation of variance	Qtr 1 Amount £'000
<b>Gateway Services:</b>		
<b>Enablement &amp; Welfare</b>	No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) care and support. Anticipated reduction in caseloads and delay in staff recruitment. The team no longer have the support of an embedded Home Office worker.	-294
<b>Gateway Improvement</b>	Staffing vacancies	-200
	Potential non-delivery of savings relating to Children and Adult Social Care	1,100
	Resulting reduction in spend due to potential non-delivery of savings	-700
	Social letting team - no funding 2019/20	117



<b>Bereavement &amp; Registrars</b>	Shortfall in bereavement income	152
	Shortfall in Registrars income	200
<b>Housing Assessment &amp; Solutions:</b>		0
<b>Temporary Accommodation</b>	CroyLease - Primarily costs of repairs at end of lease, work is ongoing to reduce this.	184
	PLA - Based on 255 units with an additional 7 units per month	287
	Grant income	-200
	Extended TA scheme (ETA) under recovery of income due to reduced number of property acquisitions forecast for transfer to Croydon Affordable Tenures (CAT)	366
	Other Minor variances < £100k	243
<b>Total Forecast Variance – RESIDENTS AND GATEWAY SERVICES</b>		<b>1,255</b>

## RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

<b>Division</b>	<b>Explanation of variance</b>	<b>Qtr. 1 Amount £'000</b>
<b>Facilities Management and Support Services</b>	Other Minor Variances < £100k	0
	<b>Sub-total Facilities Management and Support Services</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Digital and Smart Cities</b>	Unachievable Income target in relation to digital advertising	368
	Other Minor Variances < £100k	0
	<b>Sub-total Digital and Smart Cities Services</b>	<b>368</b>
<b>Commissioning and Procurement</b>	£400k over-spend in relation to Adult Social Care Private Finance Initiative increased costs, offset by savings anticipated on the agency contract (£250k)	0
	Other Minor Variances < £100k	0
	<b>Sub-total Commissioning and Improvement</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Finance, Investment and Risk</b>	Shortfall identified in relation to bailiff fee income, court fee income and unachievable savings on former tenant arrears collection offset by staffing savings	105
	Other Minor Variances < £100k	-20
	<b>Sub-total Finance Investment and Risk</b>	<b>85</b>
<b>Law and Governance</b>	Anticipated pressure in relation to Legal & Electoral Services costs	631
	Other Minor Variances < £100k	-89
	<b>Sub-total Law and Governance</b>	<b>542</b>
<b>Total Forecast Variance - RESOURCES</b>		<b>995</b>

## CORPORATE ITEMS

Division	Explanation of variance	Qtr. 1 Amount £'000
Corporate Items	Use of contingency budget	-2,000
	Revolving Investment Fund earnings	-1,724
	Recruitment Controls	-1,000
	Transformation funding	-2,000
	Allocate S106/CL/ Growth Zone Funding	-1,000
	Capitalisation	-1,000
	Other Minor Variances < £100k each	1,440
	<b>Total Forecast Variance – Corporate</b>	<b>-7,284</b>
	<b>Total Overspend before Exceptional Items</b>	<b>25</b>

## EXCEPTIONAL ITEMS

Division	Explanation of variance	Qtr. 1 Amount £'000
	Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers Grant lower than associated costs	9,036
	No Recourse to Public Funds costs for UASC	379
	<b>Total Forecast Variance – Exceptional</b>	<b>9,415</b>
	<b>Total Overspend after Exceptional Items</b>	<b>9,440</b>

**2019/20 Q1 Capital Outturn Forecast**

Category	2019/20 Original Budget	2018/19 carry forward	July Review Adjusts	Q1 In Year Budget Adjusts	2019/20 Revised Budget	2019/20 Q1 Actual	2019/20 Outturn Forecast	Forecast Variance
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Adults ICT	0	334	0	0	334	1	334	0
<b>Health, Wellbeing and Adults</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>0</b>
Education - Fixed term expansion	900	1,380	0	0	2,280	15	670	(1,610)
Education - Major Maintenance and Fire Safety	3,000	2,644	0	0	5,644		4,634	(1,010)
Education - Miscellaneous	4,935	1,059	0	0	5,994	0	635	(5,359)
Education - Permanent Expansion	719	3,625	0	0	4,344	94	5,450	1,106
Education - Secondary Schools Estate	0	0	0	0	0	6	150	150
Education - Special Educational Needs	24,534	3,167	0	0	27,701	1,862	23,305	(4,396)
Education - SEN Centre of Excellence	1,550	1,750	0	0	3,300	0	200	(3,100)
Early Help Centres	0	0	0	200	200	0	200	0
Onside Youth Zone	0	397	0	0	397	2	397	0
<b>Children, Families and Education Sub-Total</b>	<b>35,638</b>	<b>14,022</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>49,860</b>	<b>1,979</b>	<b>35,641</b>	<b>(14,219)</b>
Bereavement Services	0	2,575	0	0	2,575	142	664	(1,911)
Disabled Facilities Grants	2,400	1,979	0	0	4,379	310	4,379	0
Affordable Housing Programmes	7,273	25,017	0	0	32,290	5,718	25,982	(6,308)
<b>Gateway Strategy &amp; Engagement Sub Total</b>	<b>9,673</b>	<b>29,571</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>39,244</b>	<b>6,170</b>	<b>31,025</b>	<b>(8,219)</b>
Allotments	341	12	0	0	353	0	353	0
Blackhorse Lane Bridge	0	2,824	0	0	2,824	223	2,824	0
Brick by Brick programme	30,000	14,419	0	0	44,419	0	41,750	(2,669)
Community Ward Budgets	576	696	0	0	1,272	0	1,272	0
CALAT	0	0	660	0	660	0	660	0
Devolution initiatives	912	782	0	0	1,694	0	0	(1,694)
Empty Homes Grants	1,000	409	0	0	1,409	35	1,182	(227)
Fairfield Halls - Council	0	226	0	0	226	20	1,700	1,474
Feasibility Fund	330	218	0	0	548	23	548	0
Fieldway Cluster	1,413	3,298	1,168	0	5,879	368	5,809	(70)
Fiveways Junction	3,000	0	0	0	3,000	0	0	(3,000)
Growth Zone	8,000	1,782	0	0	9,782	408	8,000	(1,782)
Highways	5,000	0	0	0	5,000	967	5,000	0
Highways - flood water management	414	249	0	0	663	299	663	0

## Appendix 2

Highways - bridges and highways structures	223	200	0	0	423	188	423	0
Highways - Tree works	179	34	0	0	213	13	145	(68)
Measures to mitigate travellers in parks and open spaces	0	73	0	0	73	0	20	(53)
Leisure centres equipment upgrade	1,004	1,521	0	0	2,525	0	1,004	(1,521)
Libraries investment - general	2,000	162	0	0	2,162	157	2,162	0
Libraries investment - South Norwood library	0	539	0	0	539	11	539	0
New Addington Leisure Centre	5,796	334	0	12,230	18,360	8,546	18,360	0
New Addington wellbeing centre	0	162	0	0	162	0	162	0
New waste contract - vehicles	0	2,779	-2,779	0	0	0	0	0
P&D Machine Replacement Programme	0	20	-20	0	0	0	0	0
Parking	153	0	20	0	173	51	173	0
Park Life	12,151	0	0	0	12,151	0	0	(12,151)
Play Equipment	985	0	0	(250)	735	0	735	0
Public Realm	0	49	0	0	49	0	49	0
Safety - digital upgrade of CCTV	500	458	0	0	958	0	958	0
Section 106 Schemes	0	2,119	0	(650)	1,469	58	487	(982)
Signage	0	25	0	0	25	0	0	(25)
South Norwood regeneration	0	500	0	0	500	34	500	0
Surrey Street Market	0	92	0	0	92	0	92	0
Thornton Heath Public Realm	0	0	0	0	0	162	0	0
TFL LIP	2,462	0	0	1,667	4,129	28	4,129	0
Unsuitable Housing Fund	0	157	0	0	157	0	157	0
Walking and cycling strategy	750	271	0	(626)	395	54	395	0
Waste and Recycling Investment	0	0	2,779	0	2,779	0	2,779	0
Waste and Recycling - Don't Mess with Croydon	601	0	0	0	601	0	200	(401)
<b>Place Sub-Total</b>	<b>77,790</b>	<b>34,410</b>	<b>1,828</b>	<b>12,371</b>	<b>126,399</b>	<b>11,645</b>	<b>103,230</b>	<b>(23,169)</b>
Asset strategy - Cavendish House	0	100	0	0	100	0	100	0
Asset strategy - Stubbs Mead	0	1,796	0	0	1,796	2	1,796	0
Asset strategy - BWH	0	100	0	0	100	0	100	0
Asset strategy - Family Justice Centre	0	0	0	0	0	92	92	92
Asset strategy - Capita Davis House relocation	0	100	0	0	100	0	100	0
Asset strategy - Heathfield House	0	160	0	0	160	0	160	0
Asset Acquisition Fund	45,000	5,893	0	100,000	150,893	6,531	100,893	(50,000)

## Appendix 2

Corporate Property Programme	2,000	0	0	0	2,000	299	2,000	0
Crossfield (relocation of CES)	0	2,365	454	0	2,819	17	2,819	0
Emergency Generator (Data Centre)	0	1,200	0	0	1,200	0	0	(1,200)
Finance and HR system	412	444	0	245	1,101	498	4248	3,147
ICT Refresh & Transformation	5,500	0	0	0	5,500	132	5,500	0
People ICT system	6,927	2,106	0	0	9,033	0	9,033	0
Uniform ICT Upgrade	534	0	0	0	534	0	534	0
<b>Resources Sub-Total</b>	<b>60,373</b>	<b>14,264</b>	<b>454</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>175,336</b>	<b>7,571</b>	<b>127,375</b>	<b>(47,961)</b>
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<b>183,474</b>	<b>92,601</b>	<b>2,282</b>	<b>112,816</b>	<b>391,173</b>	<b>27,366</b>	<b>346,226</b>	<b>(44,947)</b>
<b>HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT</b>								
Asset management ICT database	0	434	0	0	434	0	434	0
Fire safety programme	10,000	761	0	0	10,761	220	10,761	0
Larger Homes	1,500	62	0	0	1,562	0	1,562	0
Major Repairs and Improvements Programme	26,771	5,114	0	0	31,885	3,785	30,048	(1,837)
Special Transfer Payments	180	671	0	0	8,51	124	851	0
<b>HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT TOTAL</b>	<b>38,451</b>	<b>7,042</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>45,493</b>	<b>4,129</b>	<b>43,656</b>	<b>(1,837)</b>
<b>LBC CAPITAL PROGRAMME TOTAL</b>	<b>221,925</b>	<b>99,643</b>	<b>2,282</b>	<b>112,816</b>	<b>436,666</b>	<b>31,495</b>	<b>341,261</b>	<b>(95,405)</b>

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