



**CROYDON COUNCIL MEETING: MONDAY 27 JANUARY 2014**  
**PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**  
**WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

Welcome to a meeting of Croydon Council. Attached are the questions from the public and the replies which will be taken at this meeting.

IF YOU HAVE ASKED A QUESTION, PLEASE MAKE YOURSELF KNOWN TO THE MEMBER OF STAFF WHO IS PRESENT IN THE PUBLIC GALLERY, THEN READ THE REPLY TO YOUR QUESTION AND INDICATE WHETHER YOU INTEND TO ASK A SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION - a roving microphone will be available for that purpose.

Public Question time is usually towards the beginning on the meeting and the process for this item is as follows:

- ◆ The questions will be taken in the order in which they were received by the Council;
- ◆ The question and the reply will be taken as read;
- ◆ The person who asked the question, if present, will then be invited to ask a supplementary question, (if they wish) to clarify a point related to the reply they have been given in the written answer. The **length and detail of such a question should be brief** and at the discretion of the Mayor, allowing for the time available and the number of other questions which need to be dealt with;
- ◆ Public question time is limited strictly to **15 minutes** - if all the questions and answers have not been reached at the end of that time, the other replies will be taken as read and there will be no further opportunity for asking supplementary questions at that meeting; and
- ◆ Questions will not be carried over to the following meeting, but it is of course in order for questioners to ask another question on the same or another topic before the next meeting.

After the public question time you are very welcome to stay for the rest of the meeting

Question Number	Question to Cabinet Member	Question From	Subject
PQ001	Councillor D Mead	Mr C Weaving	Mitcham Road
PQ002	Councillor P Thomas	Mr P Collier	Town Centre Urinals
PQ003	Councillor M Mead	Mrs J Collier	Independent Living Allowance
PQ004	Councillor J Perry	Mr R Canning	Incinerator
PQ005	Councillor P Thomas	Mr D Marshall	Parking Charges
PQ006	Councillor S O'Connell	Mr A Crawley	Lea Valley Regional Park

			Authority
PQ007	Councillor M Fisher	Mr J Cartwright	Bullying
PQ008	Councillor S Hoar	Mr O Lewis	Central Parade
PQ009	Councillor J Perry	Mr A Pelling	Whitgift Development
PQ010	Councillor P Thomas	Ms J Prince	Street lights
PQ011	Councillor M Mead	Mr L Springthorpe	Heart Town
PQ012	Councillor M Fisher	Mr M Samuel	Traffic Management
PQ013	Councillor S O'Connell	Ms S Glinska	Council Tax collection
PQ014	Councillor P Thomas	Mr A Stevesen	Flytipping report
PQ015	Councillor V Mohan	Ms S Khan	BWH Community Space
PQ016	Councillor S Bashford	Mr S Downes	Workforce Director

The attached replies are subject to oral amendment by the Cabinet Member or Committee Chair.

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**From Mr Colin Weaving**

**Councillor Dudley Mead**

**Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing**

**Question No.**

**PQ001-14**

At the last PQT the deputy leader said he was unaware of problems relating to property in Mitcham Road. Can he tell us what he is aware of, and what budgetary controls he has over his department?

**Reply**

I thank Mr Weaving for confirming the address of the property in Mitcham Road.

Council officers are fully aware of the position regarding this property and have taken appropriate action to resolve the particular issues at this address.

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**From Mr Peter Collier**

**Councillor Phil Thomas**

**Cabinet Member for Highways and Environmental Services**

**Question No.**

**PQ002-14**

Sutton Council have installed some night time urinals in its town centre for its drinkers, on which reading an article in the Surrey Comet seems to be a success. Therefore will Croydon Council on examination follows their example, what seems to be a good idea in keeping our town centre clean

**Reply**

We currently have a contract with JC Decaux for the provision of on street urinals in various parts of the borough and we have no intention to add to that at this stage.

As you know we have conducted a number of masterplan proposals in Croydon and this is not something that we have factored in to any of our town centre proposals. This is because the masterplans focus more on permanent interventions and partly because the town centre offer and the night time offer are moving towards a broader based restaurant, leisure and family orientated destination rather than solely a drinking destination for young people.

I will of course ask that officers monitor the approach in Sutton to see if this is something that we may want to consider at a later stage but in the end it will come down to need and affordability.

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**From Mrs Josie Collier**

**Councillor Margaret Mead**

**Cabinet Member for Adult Services and Health**

**Question No.**

**PQ003-14**

Can I be advised please, how much did this Council received in government funding for the last financial year for its Independent Living Allowance scheme, also showing how much was allocated in total to its clients, not including administration costs.

**Reply**

For the last financial year 75 Croydon residents received £1,249,818.76 from the Independent Living Fund (ILF).

All of this money goes to the individuals to fund the care they choose, providing of course it meets policy guidelines. Nothing is taken away by Croydon for administration purposes but of course individuals often use payroll services in order to pay their personal assistant's tax, NI etc.

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**From Mr Robert Canning**

**Councillor Jason Perry**

**Cabinet Member for Planning, Regeneration and Transport.**

**Question No.**

**PQ004-14**

Various studies have concluded that it is not possible to rule out adverse health effects from modern, well-run incinerators. In light of this, does the Council think that it is acceptable to build an incinerator at Beddington Lane, so close to where so many people live, and put the health of the people of Waddon at risk?

**Reply**

Is it because Waddon is the closest marginal ward that Labour are interested in this issue? Which is interesting, because the Labour government were in favour as was the late Malcolm Wicks, while the ruling Labour group in Merton also support the facility.

As a statutory consultee, it was the responsibility of the then Health Protection Agency (now Public Health England), to comment on the health effects from the Beddington Energy Recovery Facility (ERF). It is the responsibility of the Environment Agency to ensure the process is safe for the environment and health.

A Health Impact Assessment which considered the potential long-term impact from dioxins and furans looked at both direct (inhalation) and indirect (ingestion of contaminated food and water). It also looked at residential receptors and 5 farm receptors. The assessment included the physical and chemical properties of dioxins and plant and animal uptake rates.

The results showed that even in a worst case scenario dioxin and furans would be below the health criteria value. It was therefore concluded that emissions will not pose an unacceptable risk to the residential or farm receptors identified in the vicinity of the ERF.

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**From Mr David Marshall**

**Councillor Phil Thomas**

**Cabinet Member Highways and Environmental Services**

**Question No.**

**PQ005-14**

In 2013, how much revenue did the council get from

- a) all vehicle penalty tickets,
- b) vehicles parked on pavements.

Show above figures separately for 2013, 2012, 2011, and 2010.

**Reply**

Our financial information is based on the financial year rather than calendar year so:

**For 2012-13**

- Total PCN revenue was £6,411,320 (this is inclusive of On and Off Street PCN's and PCN Removal Income)
- Code 62 (a) revenue was £756,309
- Code 61 (b) revenue was £3,687

**For 2011-12**

- Total PCN revenue was £6,447,735
- Code 62 (a) revenue was £930,409 &
- code 61 (b) revenue was £12,330

**For 2010-11**

- Total PCN revenue was £6,029,930
- Code 62 (a) revenue was £898,998 &
- Code 61 (b) revenue was £9,080

**Code 62 is footway parking & Code 61 is HGVs parked on footway**

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**From Mr Alan Crawley**

**Councillor Steve O'Connell**

**Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance Management**

**Question No.**

**PQ006-14**

Lee Valley Regional Park Authority

What were the amounts of the annual levies paid to the Authority for each of the years of 1999 to 2013 and how were those amounts calculated; and has the Council made or going to make an attempt to end those payments?

**Reply**

**Lee Valley Regional Park Authority**

The Lee Valley Regional Park Authority (LVRPA) is an independent statutory public authority established by an Act of Parliament (The Lee Valley Regional Park Act 1966) with the Authority coming into being in January 1967. A copy of the Act can be viewed on the Lee Valley website by following the link:

[http://www.leevalleypark.org.uk/media/viewfile.ashx?filetype=4&filepath=/Park%20plan/Lee\\_Valley\\_Regional\\_Park\\_Act\\_1966.pdf](http://www.leevalleypark.org.uk/media/viewfile.ashx?filetype=4&filepath=/Park%20plan/Lee_Valley_Regional_Park_Act_1966.pdf)

The Authority is financed from a statutory levy calculated from the combined council tax base of Hertfordshire, Essex (including Thurrock) and all Boroughs within Greater London. The ceiling for the levy is determined by a formula prescribed in 'The Levying Bodies (General) Regulations 1992 which is adjusted annually to account for inflation

The levy is calculated using the equivalent Council Tax Band D tax bases of all contributing councils. The total levy for 2013/14 is £11.514m, of which Croydon's share is 3.1% (rounded). Variations in Croydon's payment are due to the overall levy set by LVRPA and by changes in Croydon's relative tax base.

The Authority has an appointed board of 28 who are elected and nominated to the board by their own constituent authorities:-

- 20 of the Members are from the riparian authorities (those whose borders are crossed by the Lee Valley Regional Park boundaries) including 6 London Boroughs.
- 8 are appointed by London Councils to represent the remaining 27 non-bordering London Boroughs (including Croydon) and the City of London.
- In addition, the board also has two co-opted representatives, one from British Waterways and one from the Environment Agency.



Croydon's contributions since 1999 are shown in the table below;-

<b>Year</b>	<b>Croydon's contribution £'000</b>
2013/14	353
2012/13	371
2011/12	378
2010/11	386
2009/10	387
2008/09	385
2007/08	377
2006/07	368
2005/06	362
2004/05	343
2003/04	336
2002/03	329
2001/02	322
2000/01	314
1999/2000	307
1998/99	303

The Council recognises the mismatch between the costs and benefits and is looking for the opportunity to seek to change the legislation in order to divert part of the LVRPA levy to fund the Wandle Valley Regional Park.

Wandle Valley Regional Park has had discussions with relevant parties regarding extending the support services of the existing Lee Valley Regional Park Authority to the Wandle Valley Regional Park. This would include allowing access to shared back-office functions within the existing precept arrangement and would require either services to be paid for or legislation.

The percentage of the LVRPA contribution that is levied on Croydon, and on the other councils, is shown in Annex 1 below.

## Annex 1

### Lee Valley Regional Park Authority Levy 2013/14

<b>Authority</b>	<b>Council Tax Base 2013/14</b>	<b>Levy 2013/14 £</b>	<b>Levy 2013/14 %</b>
<b><u>Inner London</u></b>			
City of London	5,974	19,605	0.2%
Camden	82,117	269,483	2.3%
Greenwich	66,503	218,244	1.9%
Hackney	58,704	192,648	1.7%
Hammersmith & Fulham	67,895	222,810	1.9%
Islington	68,837	225,902	2.0%
Kensington & Chelsea	90,831	298,079	2.6%
Lambeth	88,024	288,868	2.5%
Lewisham	72,199	236,933	2.1%
Southwark	81,421	267,199	2.3%
Tower Hamlets	71,531	234,743	2.0%
Wandsworth	114,871	376,971	3.3%
Westminster	118,197	387,886	3.4%
<b><u>Outer London</u></b>			
Barking & Dagenham	39,956	131,122	1.1%
Barnet	125,294	411,176	3.6%
Bexley	73,296	240,535	2.1%
Brent	77,191	253,317	2.2%
Bromley	122,140	400,826	3.5%
Croydon	107,618	353,169	3.1%
Ealing	99,621	326,924	2.8%
Enfield	87,557	287,335	2.5%
Haringey	63,530	208,486	1.8%
Harrow	76,874	252,277	2.2%
Havering	79,401	260,570	2.3%
Hillingdon	87,446	286,971	2.5%
Hounslow	74,632	244,919	2.1%
Kingston upon Thames	57,775	189,600	1.6%
Merton	66,981	219,812	1.9%
Newham	59,321	194,673	1.7%
Redbridge	77,622	254,731	2.2%
Richmond upon Thames	83,504	274,036	2.4%
Sutton	65,526	215,037	1.9%
Waltham Forest	61,928	203,229	1.8%
	2,574,317	8,448,116	73%
Hertfordshire CC	412,066	1,352,272	11.7%
Essex CC	476,730	1,564,480	13.6%
Thurrock	45,539	149,445	1.3%
	3,508,652	11,514,313	100%

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**From Mr John Cartwright**

**Councillor Mike Fisher**

**Leader of the Council**

**Question No.**

**PQ007-14**

What remedies are available to innocent members of the public who are bullied, insulted, or subjected to impertinent or ultra-vires demands by members or officers or staff of the Council?

## **Reply**

Thank you for your question.

It's worth remembering that Croydon provides a wide range of services to just short of 370,000 residents. It is only natural that sometimes there will be disagreements or disputes and that is why we have well established procedures to protect both residents and staff. These procedures cover complaints against Members, complaints against officers and processes for dealing with abusive or dangerous customers.

Just to answer your specific question, the council has a formal complaints procedure that can be found either on the council's website, [www.croydon.gov.uk](http://www.croydon.gov.uk), by calling the contact centre on 020 8726 6000 or by visiting any of the Council front desks in person.

If your complaint relates to the conduct of a councillor, details on how to make a complaint can be found on the Council's website at the following address: <http://www.croydon.gov.uk/democracy/dande/ethics-committee/complaints>.

In many cases, if you have exhausted the Council's complaints procedures, you can complain to the Local Government Ombudsman. Details on how and when you can complain to the ombudsman can be found on their website, <http://www.lgo.org.uk>.

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**From Mr Oliver Lewis**

**Councillor Simon Hoar**

**Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Public Protection**

**Question No.**

**PQ008-14**

Given the problems on Central Parade, New Addington, what plans are there to improve and extend the now dated CCTV on Central Parade (both infrastructure and clearing lines of sight), so as to make local residents feel safer?

**Reply**

The Council has recently invested heavily in the CCTV infrastructure whereby we now have a new control room with modern equipment prolonging the life of our CCTV provision for many years to come. We will continue to upgrade the existing cameras as well as investing in better re-deployable CCTV and covert equipment. For example, the Council has recently invested £34,000 in new CCTV equipment that can be deployed anywhere in the Borough as the need arises. Much of this equipment can now link directly to the new control room so can be closely monitored and the fact that it can be moved to different locations provides a much more flexible response to meet changing needs. These redeployable units are used in New Addington frequently to supplement the existing fixed cameras and will continue to be used as needs are identified.

The cameras located on Central Parade are on 24 hour record and I know Cllr Pearson, Councillor for New Addington and Deputy Cabinet Member for Community Safety, was keen to look at the CCTV coverage for Central Parade whilst on a recent visit to the new Control Room and spoke with operators about the current situation. Cllr Pearson takes a very keen interest in this matter not only as a Councillor but also as a resident of New Addington.

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**From Mr Andrew Pelling**

**Councillor Jason Perry**

**Cabinet Member for Planning, Regeneration and Transport**

**Question No.**

**PQ009-14**

Please detail the different types of private and public funding flows that will come from the Westfield development for road, pedestrian and public transport and estimates of the amounts forthcoming, along with the expected date of the signing of relevant section 106 agreements.

**Reply**

The funding available for the Westfield/Hammerson development for highway and transport purposes was clearly set out in the 25<sup>th</sup> November 2013 Strategic Planning Committee Report. This report is available on the council's website and the information is mainly towards the end under the 'CIL and Section 106 Agreement' Section. The S106 Agreement is expected to be signed in the next few weeks.

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**From Ms Joy Prince**

**Councillor Phil Thomas**

**Cabinet Member for Highways and Environmental Services**

**Question No.**

**PQ010-14**

How many street lamp stumps have been removed, and how many are left, in Waddon ward?

**Reply**

The old street lighting infrastructure in Waddon is connected to a dedicated street lighting cable network, this network is owned and maintained by UK PowerNetwork (UKPN). The stumps are acting as feeder pillars supplying electricity to other streets and it's important to maintain the network integrity in the area to ensure the streets which haven't received the new lighting as yet remain in working order.

UKPN are working closely with Skanska to ensure as soon as practically possible UKPN can disconnect each of the stumps and remove them. At this present time it is not possible to remove any of the feeder pillars so in answer to the question none of the been removed and there are 109 to be removed. It is envisaged that over the coming months UKPN will be working in and around the Waddon area and will remove these.

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**From Mr Luke Springthorpe**

**Councillor Margaret Mead**

**Cabinet Member Adult Services and Health**

**Question No.**

**PQ011-14**

I was pleased to hear that Croydon is in the process of becoming a Heart Town and raising awareness of heart health. Does the Council have any plans to engage more with businesses and schools about it?

**Reply**

The Council has made a 5 year commitment to the Heart Town programme to deliver key elements of its new public health responsibilities. Heart and circulatory diseases cause one in three deaths in Croydon. They are also a major cause of early death, ill health and disability. Around 215 individuals die early every year in Croydon from heart and circulatory diseases. It is estimated that, of these, around 133 deaths could have been prevented. This is why our Heart Town is so important.

Croydon's Heart Town aims to reduce the number of people who smoke, help people achieve and maintain a healthy weight and increase the number of people who are physically active. We also want to identify and support people who are at higher risk of heart disease through NHS Health Checks.

Schools and workplaces are two of our priority settings for delivery of the Heart Town. Individual schools anywhere in the borough can sign up for the British Heart Foundation's Jump Rope and Dodgeball challenges. We have also begun to work with schools in Selsdon to organise a major event in the summer term. The Heart Town schools work forms part of our broader Healthy Schools support package to help schools across the borough to improve the health of their pupils. 76 of 115 are signed up for Healthy Schools support and we aim to increase this number during the year.

The council was accredited by the GLA through London Healthy Workplace Charter in October 2013. We are now offering support to other employers to achieve Healthy Workplace Charter status. Elements of the programme that employers can sign up to include stop smoking support, Weight Watchers at Work, active travel planning, and the Cycle to Work scheme. We are planning to promote NHS Health Checks through a new community outreach pilot, including the town's major employers. We will also be working with schools and businesses to support them to improve the quality of food on offer through developing an 'Eat Well' scheme and a bid to become one of the national healthy school food pilot areas.

National Heart Month in February 2014 is a major opportunity for the town to come together to promote heart health. More information about the local programme of events can be found here [www.croydon.gov.uk/heart-town](http://www.croydon.gov.uk/heart-town). For information about national events and to sign up for a fundraising pack visit the British Heart Foundation website at <http://www.rampupthered.org.uk>



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**From Mr Mark Samuel**

**Councillor Mike Fisher**

**Leader of the Council**

**Question No.**

**PQ012-14**

Why was the leader absent (again) from the last T.M.C.C.?

Shameful, because he would have seen me proudly halt the expenditure of £17,850 of taxpayer's money on renaming the car park at Spices Yard to Restaurant Quarter.

Not even the opposition bothered to raise this!

Where's Croydon's political control gone?

## **Reply**

Thank you for your question and giving me the chance to promote this good news for businesses and customers visiting the restaurant quarter.

As you may be aware, we are undertaking a programme of regeneration works along Selsdon Road and South End to improve the street scene around the restaurants and other businesses in the area. We are keen to promote business and the many fantastic restaurants in the restaurant quarter and the wider regeneration works are designed to help do exactly that – in this instance by making it easier and cheaper for customers to park.

We have designed these proposals in direct response to customers and businesses raising the problems with car parking in the area. The proposals considered and agreed at TMCC centre around reducing parking tariffs both at this car park and across the restaurant quarter.

The good news is, that subject to statutory consultation, we will significantly reduce and simplify parking charges and extend the time to which cars can be left overnight. This is good news for customers and businesses in the area and forms part of our approach to simplify and reduce parking costs across the whole area covered by the regeneration scheme.

Just to address the figure that you have mentioned, £17,850, I should clarify that this covers all of the costs of the proposed changes to parking across the regeneration area and not just the car park. The majority of the cost will be the reprogramming of the five ticket machines in the area to reflect the reduced parking charges.

I should also point out that Croydon has successfully bid for a grant from the DCLG to fund the entire cost of these works. Any reduction in car parking receipts as a result of the reduced tariffs is being underwritten by the GLA and DCLG – so there is no direct cost to Croydon tax payers for this scheme at all, making the good news even better.

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**From Ms S Glinska**

**Councillor Steve O'Connell**

**Cabinet Member Finance and Performance Management**

**Question No.**

**PQ013-14**

The amount of Council Tax that goes uncollected by our borough council continues to mount up.

2005-2006: £7.2 million.

2006-2007: £7.1 million

2007-2008: £6.2 million

2008-2009: £6.8 million

2009-2010: £6.9 million

Please provide figures for the amount uncollected in 2010-2011, 2011-2012 and 2012-2013.

What is the total amount of arrears uncollected in Croydon?

## **Reply**

Since taking over from the Labour administration in 2006, Croydon's record on Council Tax has significantly improved. The table below shows that while the amount of uncollected Council Tax has grown in terms of £s, it has reduced significantly in the context of the growing size of the tax base that the Council collects.

	<b>Liability</b>	<b>Receipts</b>	<b>% Collected</b>	<b>Amount uncollected</b>
<b>2005</b>	£133,841,148.56	£125,149,273.66	93.51%	£8,691,874.90
<b>2006</b>	£141,821,178.47	£134,091,188.48	94.55%	£7,729,989.99
<b>2007</b>	£148,754,844.09	£142,563,469.29	95.84%	£6,191,374.80
<b>2008</b>	£154,454,126.83	£147,267,909.99	95.35%	£7,186,216.84
<b>2009</b>	£157,715,983.15	£150,741,149.97	95.58%	£6,974,833.18
<b>2010</b>	£158,887,387.68	£152,397,303.99	95.92%	£6,490,083.69
<b>2011</b>	£159,990,272.68	£153,778,978.71	96.12%	£6,211,293.97
<b>2012</b>	£161,136,388.59	£155,043,819.81	96.22%	£6,092,568.78

The total value of debt outstanding (not including the current year) is currently £25.2m

We understand how important it is that everyone pays their fair share and work hard to manage discounts and exemptions to ensure all residents contribute appropriately to local services. The result of this is last year's best ever collection level.

We are now collecting nearly £30m more per year than under the previous Labour administration and the amount uncollected is over £2.5m less than Labour's poor efforts.

Rather than just writing-off debts to make statistics look better, we actively pursue all debts whilst it remains financially viable to do so in order to best ensure all our residents contribute appropriately and to maximise the revenue available to run critical local services. This means that the amount of outstanding debt looks higher in the short term, but means that we collect more aged debt in the longer term. Over the last 3 years a total of £13.4 million has been collected in aged debt. This equates to an average of £4.5 million per year which is also the best on record. This work has ensured that, of the total debt raised since 2000 (£1.72 billion), 98% has been collected.

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**From Mr Andrew Stevensen**

**Councillor Phil Thomas**

**Cabinet Member for Highways and Environmental Services**

**Question No.**

**PQ014-14**

Since the last council meeting have Councillors Newman and Collins reported any flytipping?

**Reply**

No. Despite repeatedly reminding Councillors of the importance of reporting incidents we are still to receive a single report from Cllr Newman. Cllr Collins has reported one incident but our contractors had already removed the rubbish a week before he replied.

It is clear that they are not supporting their constituents in tackling this issue despite all of the rhetoric and accusations they are placing on the current administration for not dealing with it effectively.

This is in spite of making it easier to report such issues. The Council have a mobile application called 'My Croydon' , full details of this are on the Croydon website at [www.croydon.gov.uk/democracy/communications/app](http://www.croydon.gov.uk/democracy/communications/app)

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**From Ms Sophie Khan**

**Councillor Vidhi Mohan**

**Cabinet Member for Communities and Economic Development**

**Question No.**

**PQ015-14**

Can the Council let us know how community groups can access the new Community Space at Bernard Weatherill House?

Is it open to everyone?

**Reply**

The Community Space within the Civic Quarter is open to a range of organisations; its primary focus is for local Voluntary, Community Groups and Charitable Bodies within the borough.

Community groups now have a wide range of facilities for meetings, events, exercise classes, exhibitions, adult learning and social occasions. These spaces within the Civic Quarter, include Bernard Weatherill House (BWH) Annexe ground floor, BWH 1st floor meeting rooms, the Braithwaite Hall, the Cinema / Auditorium, the Bar area and the Library atrium lobby area.

The vision for the use of these spaces is that they are; accessible, available, and fit for purpose in supporting local community and cultural development.

Features of some of the BWH meeting rooms include Interactive Whiteboards (encrypted USB), specialist Audio visual facilities, Video and Audio Conferencing, Video capture / streamlining facilities, Induction loop, Lectern / PA system and WIFI services via the LBC Network and a Guest WIFI from BT Openzone.

The BWH Annex (Ground Floor) has capacity for 125 people theatre style and 60 cabaret style, when the room is not divided into two.

Further details will be provided via my newsletter next month. In addition, a web page detailing all of the rooms, layouts, menus and services will be published early March 2014.

However, Community Groups can now make Room enquiries and bookings for space, refreshments, catering and concierge services by emailing:

[Community.Space@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:Community.Space@croydon.gov.uk)  
or by calling 0208 726 6000 (ext 60886).

Room hire charges will be waived only for local Voluntary, Community Groups and Charitable Bodies within the borough. All other charges incurred, as a direct result of the booking, will be made, such as catering and refreshments.

The Community Space is also open for formal meetings of Croydon Council; public agencies, external organisations, commercial organisations, but not for political or campaigning organisations (without written permission).

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**From Mr Steven Downes**

**Councillor Sara Bashford**

**Cabinet Member Corporate & Voluntary Services**

**Question No.**

**PQ016-12**

How, and when, was the position of deputy director of workforce advertised?

How, and when, was the position of the councils Human Resources Director advertised following the departure of Pam Parkes last March?

Please provide details of how the vacancy of HR director has been filled.

**Reply**

**How, and when, was the position of deputy director of workforce advertised?**

This post was created in 2012 as part of the 2012 review of the Workforce and Community Relations division. Gatenby Sanderson was engaged to recruit to this post and it was advertised externally in People Management and Personnel Today and via the PPMA website.

**How, and when, was the position of the councils Human Resources Director advertised following the departure of Pam Parkes last March?**

The post of Director of Workforce and Community Relations was deleted in March/April 2013; and so there was no such post to advertise externally.

**Please provide details of how the vacancy of HR director has been filled.**

The work and responsibilities of the Deputy Director of Workforce post are continuing on a permanent basis; and in the new structure from January 2014, will also have additional responsibilities including learning and organisational development. The job description for the Deputy Director of Workforce has therefore been amended and retitled and the existing postholder will be continuing his/her employment with the Council in this capacity. The post has not been advertised externally because it has been filled internally in accordance with the Council reorganisation policies.