

**COUNCIL MEETING: MONDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2014****WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS**

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**CQ115-14            from Councillor Terry Lenton**

**To Councillor Mike Fisher**

How has the need for £1,398,000 of additional funding for people with no recourse to public funds arisen?

**Reply**

Cllr Lenton, thank you for reminding us of the previous Labour government's complete disregard for the importance of restraining illegal entry into this country which led to our present immigration situation. Between 1997 and 2002, Labour allowed illegal immigration to increase by 61% and to the highest rate recorded since 1984.

The recent economic downturn has meant that many of those with no recourse to public funds who had previously been residing unknown to council services in the homes of others have since been forced to turn to the local authority for housing and welfare support. This has been supplemented by a number of both domestic and European judgements that have extended the range of people to which the Council is obliged to support. Similarly, more rigorous checks for eligibility within the NHS have seen local authorities required to fund more care for people with no recourse to public funds.

Croydon has done much to minimise these costs through the provision of highly efficient services. We have also taken a number of steps with partners across public services to manage the volume of people requiring services. In December 2013, we co-ordinated an operation to deport people who arrived in the UK using passports shown to be forged. We are also in the early stages of discussion with the Home Office about the design of a possible voluntary returns programme and a strategic solution to the issue of funding and, in partnership with a number of other local authorities, are now using a shared data-based with the Home Office to process NRPF cases which enables much more efficient case management.

Our sound relationship with the government has led to Croydon playing a leading role in a round table event with both the DCLG and the Home Office. That event has helped to give a fresh drive to how no recourse to public funds issues are managed and Croydon is playing a key role in the co-ordination of this.

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**CQ155-14            from Councillor Toni Letts**

**To Councillor Mike Fisher**

Local Government Minister Brandon Lewis, recently claimed that the 2014/15 settlement was a 'good day for Councils' whilst Sir Merrick Cocknell, Chair of the LGA stated that the settlement was the 'toughest yet' which of these two statements does the Leader of the Council agree with?

**Reply**

Thank you for your question.

The important thing to remember is that it is always a good day for the hard working people of Croydon when the Labour group isn't setting the budget.

The whole nation is working hard to recover from the disaster that was the previous Labour government's economic policy. Across the country we are facing difficult choices and Conservative Croydon is rising to the challenge. We have delivered over £100m in efficiencies so that we can protect front line services for the people who need them most. Our financial prudence has helped us to reduce council tax in real terms over the past four years and this fantastic achievement is to the benefit of everyone across the Borough.

Of course, the Labour Party, full of financial whizz kids and efficiency experts, would only have one answer - the only answer they ever have - fleece the tax payers by hiking up council tax.

That is why it is always a good day for the people of Croydon when the Labour group isn't setting the budget.

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**CQ157-14**      **from Councillor Toni Letts**

**To Councillor Mike Fisher**

Can the leader advise me how much funding, new jobs and start-ups has the Borough obtained from the Coast to Capital LEP over the past three years?

**Reply**

Since the creation of LEPs in 2010, partnerships were given the opportunity to secure a number of funding and investment initiatives launched by DCLG and BIS. This includes:

**Current initiatives**

- **£23m Growing Places Investment Fund** awarded to C2C in May 2012. To date, approximately £10m has been committed to stalled infrastructure and development projects in the C2C region. The remaining **£13m** is available for businesses in the region (including Croydon) to apply.
- **£3m High Growth and Innovation Funding** awarded to C2C and launched in November 2013 under the Regional Growth Fund. This programme will provide direct funding to high growth and innovative businesses that have developed new ideas and products with a view to creating employment and up-skilling the workforce. Croydon businesses that are demonstrating growth will have the opportunity to apply for grants of up to **£100,000**. **To date, 4 bids were submitted by Croydon businesses.**

**Future initiatives**

The Coast to Capital LEP and its partners are currently developing (at the invitation of Government) a new Strategic Economic Plan which will include proposals for the new **Single Local Growth Fund (SLGF)**, and also for the new **European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF)**

The allocation of funding from the SLGF is on a competitive basis between all 39 LEPs, but the draft Plan submitted on 18th December by Coast to Capital indicated a bid of around **£500m over six years** to support major investment and intervention programmes in transport infrastructure, digital connectivity, housing, flood defences and support for businesses and the workforce.

A final version of the Strategic Economic Plan is to be submitted by the 31st March. The LEP is working closely with London Borough of Croydon to determine the level of investment required in the borough.

ESIF will be available from 2014 to individual projects across the Coast to Capital area. **£56m will be available over a period of 7 years.**

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**CQ158-14**      **from Councillor Tony Newman**

**To Councillor Mike Fisher**

How much have you set aside from the borough reserves to help support residents and businesses following the recent floods crisis in the borough?

**Reply**

Thank you for your question. I'd like to take this opportunity to express my sympathy to the people and businesses in Croydon that have been affected by the flooding and also to say how pleasing it has been to see the community and officers across a range of public services working together to protect life and property. The innovative and compassionate response to the flooding in Croydon has helped limit its impact and has drawn praise from the Secretary of State and the Mayor of London.

Unfortunately your question yet again gives away the Labour group's lack of financial understanding. Just because we face a challenge doesn't mean that we have to go straight to spending the reserves. Did you learn nothing from the days when you nearly bankrupted Croydon?

I'm pleased to say that the Prime Minister has made it clear that the level of costs that the Council can recover in fighting the floods has been increased to 100%. This means that there is a neutral impact on the Council's budget once the costs have been recovered.

David Cameron has also announced a package of measures to support those affected. Grants of up to £5000 will be made available to homeowners and business to pay for future flood defences; anyone who has had to evacuate their home will also be exempt from council tax; £10m of support is available to waterlogged farms; and other businesses will receive 100% tax relief on business rates as well as the option to defer their tax payments. Elsewhere, £31m is being made available to protect the transport network.

We will of course continue to work with other agencies in the affected areas to make sure that people can get back to normal life as quickly as possible. We are working with both the DCLG and Government ministers to ensure that the resources we need are available for Croydon businesses and residents that have been impacted by the floods.

Over the next week we will be announcing full details of how businesses and residents can make claims under:

- The business rate relief scheme;
- The Council tax discount scheme;
- The business support scheme; and
- The repair and renewal grant scheme.

We will, of course, share these details with people and businesses that we know to have been affected and ensure that the money gets where it needs to be as fast as possible.

All without raising council tax or emptying the reserves.

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**CQ159-14**      **from Councillor Tony Newman**

**To Councillor Mike Fisher**

The Independent Street Commission has found many failings with your Administrations inability to clean our streets; do you believe these failings are down to a lack of investment in our Street Cleaning service or the political incompetence of Cllr Thomas?

**Reply**

Please see the answer to CQ160-14 for the answer to this question.

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**CQ160-14            from Councillor Tony Newman**

**To Councillor Mike Fisher**

You have now belatedly welcomed the Independent Streets Commission, whilst Cllr Pollard was still attacking it on Croydon Radio, is this split in your Cabinet an explanation as to why you have failed to invest sufficient funds into tackling Croydon's fly tipping crisis?

**Reply**

Thank you for your question.

I would counsel Councillor Newman that his time would be better spent focussing on the split between what goes on in his head and what is happening in reality, rather than spend his hours daydreaming about life in the Cabinet.

Like that old adage of only being a few metres away from a rat when in London, we are only ever seconds away from having to listen to Councillor Newman talk rubbish when he is in the room. We all know that there has not been an independent streets commission. What there has been is a 'commission' established, funded and staffed by the Labour MP for Croydon North, Steve Reed.

A quick look at his own website and you will see headlines such as "Residents slam Croydon Tories over filthy streets". Before the group's work had even begun, Steve Reed had proclaimed that "Fly tipping has reached crisis levels" and that the report would "tell the council what needs to change to sort out Croydon's litter crisis". Independent and open minded review indeed?

Oh and of course, we must remember that Labour does not give two hoots about residents and businesses in the centre or the South of the Borough. That is why they have limited their so called 'independent' review to the North, not the entire Borough.

If Councillor Newman could get past the split between his imagination and the real world, he might be able to start reporting some of the flytipping that he finds to council officers, which is the quickest way to get it cleared up. When I raised this with him at the last Council meeting, Councillor Newman and his party wanted to hide behind the data protection act to conceal how few reports he and a number of his colleagues had made. Residents of Croydon have noted that the Labour commitment to transparency doesn't apply when it doesn't suit the Labour group.

To address his specific point, I would advise Councillor Newman that I very much welcome the views of all residents who take the time to get involved in helping to keep their communities clean.

They have given some very useful suggestions for us to consider, and I am pleased to see that they were really focused on helping the Council, and coming up with solutions.

We spend millions of pounds every year on sweeping the borough's streets, removing litter and picking up rubbish that has been dumped illegally, and I can assure you that we are equally as focused as you on keeping Croydon clean.

I am pleased to tell you that many of the initiatives suggested by the residents in the report referred to are already taking place.

Councillor Newman already knows that, over the past few months, the council has invested an extra £300,000 to tackle the problem of fly-tipping, and to keep the borough clean.

We have put extra enforcement patrols on the streets, and we are working with local residents, businesses and landlords to help them clean up their areas and install security measures, such as gates and fencing.

We have also stepped up CCTV patrols and invested a further £40,000 in new cameras and covert equipment to target a number of fly-tip hotspots across the borough, where there have been ongoing problems.

This has seen a three-fold increase in the number of fixed penalty notices handed out to perpetrators – and we have a number of prosecutions currently going through the courts.

Councillor Newman also knows that we have been trialling a new enforcement project to target those who wilfully drop litter, or refuse to pick up after their pets, which has been helping to keep the streets cleaner.

All public waste bins are emptied on a daily basis, and dozens more have been installed where needed.

And, last year, we employed a Safer Cleaner officer who works specifically with local communities along the London Road.

Councillor Newman also knows that Conservative Croydon has invested in the services that have made us one of the best recycling boroughs in the capital. It pains Councillor Newman to admit this because he knows how badly he and his Labour colleagues failed at improving recycling rates.

As you can see, we are really determined to keep Croydon clean. Of course, there is still work to do but we are making sure we continue to focus our efforts on the things that matter to residents.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind residents to let us know about any environmental problems in their areas and we will make sure we deal with them. You can now also do this via your smart phone by downloading our new My Croydon app, which supports the council's Keep it Clean campaign.

Unlike Councillor Newman and the Labour party, I care about residents right across the Borough. That is why I have referred the report to the Scrutiny and Overview Committee so that a proper cross-party review can take place rather than a Labour sponsored election gimmick that further exploits our residents in the North of the Borough.

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**CQ166-14**      **from Councillor Pat Ryan**

**To Councillor Mike Fisher**

Was the income from the selling off of Highbury playing fields included in the 2013/14 budget and how much was it for?

**Reply**

Dear oh dear. Yet more scaremongering from the Labour party and once again you couldn't be more wrong. Highbury playing fields have not been sold. We are in discussion with the Education Funding Agency about using part of the playing fields for a school site but this will of course be subject to planning. If the school development does proceed, a 125 year lease will be granted to the school at a peppercorn rent.

We all know why the Labour group can never find anything positive to say about Croydon, it's because you are too busy making up stories about how bad you think it is.

We have discussed this many times in the Council Chamber and Councillor Ryan knows full well what is planned. It is clear from his question that he does not want a school in this area, demonstrating on behalf of the Labour party that they do not see the provision of school places in the North of the Borough a priority.

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**CQ170-14            from Councillor Manju Shahul-Hameed**

**To Councillor Mike Fisher**

Can the Leader confirm the amount of money allocated for street cleaning services including fly tipping for Croydon North, South and Central separately and will he also give the same information for the past three years?

**Reply**

Thank you for your question.

The answer is that we are investing more than twice as much in services to remove fly-tips than Labour did.

The fly tipping costs for the last 3 years are as follows:

2010/11	£112k
2011/12	£91k
2012/13	£231k

Over the last 2 years Conservative Croydon has spent a total of £322k on fly tipping. In the final 2 years (2004/5 and 2005/6) of the last Labour administration, spending on fly tipping amounted to a total of £156k. Less than half! That's before we even start to add in the additional £300k of further investment into tackling fly-tipping and keeping the streets clean that we have made this financial year.

We all know that the Labour group struggles with finance, numbers and their memories, so I'll put that into an easy to understand picture. In the chart below, the bigger the number, the better it is, and guess what, the Conservative number is twice as big as the Labour number. So I would suggest that Councillor Shahul-Hameed, Councillor Newman and all of their Labour colleagues thank this Conservative administration for more than doubling the investment in tackling fly-tipping and apologise to the whole Borough for their poor record while in office..

## Labour investment in tackling fly tipping 04/06 vs Conservative investment 11/13



Finally, in terms of street cleaning, there are 128 street cleaners with a budget of £5m per annum. We do not aggregate spending data into the areas that you have asked for, but it is nice to see the Labour group finally showing an interest in Central and South Croydon.

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**CQ172-14**      **from Councillor Manju Shahul-Hameed**

**To Councillor Mike Fisher**

Can the Leader confirm the total cost on the consultants for helping the businesses in London Road since the riots in August 2011?

**Reply**

Since the riots in August 2011, a small amount of funding has been spent on consultants as most of the work has been carried out by staff and through contracted delivery partners. The proportion of spend on consultants compared to the overall amount spent post-riot is less than 1%.

Spend on consultants representing the highest amount includes:

£21,841 – two independent facilitators with specific surveying and architectural qualifications were taken on to work with the businesses and residents of the Royal Mansion block on London Road to advise on the site rebuild. These roles worked directly with businesses and residents to maintain independence and support their planning and insurance needs.

£29,286 – external architects to design building front improvements for 45 retail premises in London Road. Work is still on-going and further payments will be made until spring 2015.

Further spend is anticipated to fulfil the completion of the public realm work on London Road as well as the business support and capacity building element of the Mayor's Regeneration Fund projects.

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CQ176-14

from Councillor Louisa Woodley

To Councillor Mike Fisher

Could the Leader of the Council justify NOT undertaking an equalities impact assessment before making cuts to services to the most vulnerable people? Could he outline the details of 'better use' of personal budgets that allows him to make cuts to personal support?

### Reply

In regards to your comment regarding an equalities impact assessment (EQIA); I recall that you originally queried this during the Cabinet meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2014, at which point I referred you to page 46 paragraph 24.1 of the [Cabinet budget report](#).

Considering my clarity, I can only assume that you were unable to either find or comprehend this document. Whether the former or the latter, I find such ineptitude in your position rather worrying. To assist you, I shall clarify once again. The relevant section of the Cabinet report states the following:

***'An equalities impact assessment is not undertaken on the budget as a whole. Each service is expected to undertake equality analysis on these proposals before they are implemented to ensure opportunities to advance equality, promote good community relation and eliminate unlawful discrimination have not been missed. The options set out in the report have been subject to a high level analysis and further actions within individual services are being taken to mitigate any impact of the proposals.'***

In regards to your query regarding personal support, I find it even more worrying, though not remotely surprising, that as a Shadow Cabinet member you have failed to understand the budget documentation surrounding personal support in adult social care.

Most people assessed as eligible for support from the council due to their social care needs and receive this support in the form of a personal budget, with which social care services can be purchased to meet those identified, eligible needs. The exact amount of money required by people to meet their eligible needs will vary depending on the types of services arranged to meet those needs and the costs of those services. Effective procurement arrangements and the imaginative use of universal services as part of someone's care and support plan can reduce the amount of money required in the personal budget to meet eligible needs, hence individual vulnerable people are not adversely affected by any such reduction in personal budgets.

Conservative Croydon has invested in services that work to ensure that personal budgets are used in the best possible way for the individual and are in fact being increased where necessary.

Cllr Woodley, may I suggest that your time could be put to 'better use' if you were to support rather than unnecessarily contest this administration's efforts to support vulnerable people in Croydon.

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**CQ177-14            from Councillor Louisa Woodley**

**To Councillor Mike Fisher**

Could the Leader of the Council tell me what percentage of the young men who access mental health services in Croydon are of Afro- Caribbean origin; Could he explain what provision is being made to mitigate against the cuts to services to this group?

**Reply**

A recent report from the local secondary mental health service, the South London and the Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust (SLaM) shows that there were 50 Black Caribbean males, aged 16 and 35 years, using adult mental health services in the period April to December 2013. This represents c. 5% of the young male population in the service, and includes clients making use of inpatient and community mental health services provided by the trust.

In recent years, Croydon Council and Croydon Clinical Commissioning Group (the CCG) have worked in concert to minimise reductions in financial resource going to local mental health services. Keeping service closures to a minimum, efficiency savings have been sought through targeted projects, such as the more efficient use of the placements budget. In this example officers have negotiated better contract prices for individual placements, minimised the use of residential care, and improved the rates at which recovering mental health service users are moved on to lower, and less costly settings of care.

The Council and the CCG recognise that there is a growing and increasingly diverse population in Croydon, many of whom will require mental health services in greater numbers than has hitherto been the case. To this end the two agencies are drafting a joint mental health strategy which will, over five years from April 2014, improve the depth and choice of mental health supports for the people of Croydon. It is envisaged that during the lifetime of the strategy, greater use will be made of Personal Budgets which will allow service users and Council customers to define and purchase their own packages of care. In addition, commissioners will procure services from a wider range of providers by purchasing more services from the voluntary sector to deliver sufficiently varied and culturally sensitive services for Croydon's diverse community, including young men of African-Caribbean origin.

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**CQ119-14 from Councillor Jane Avis****To Councillor Margaret Mead**

With reference to the Draft Revenue budget and Capital Programme 2014/15 Appendix F page 2.6 where it refers to the Supporting People framework agreement, would the Cabinet Member please give details of the existing hourly costs and what they refer to specifically, and the cost the department has or will negotiate to make a saving of £125,000?

**Reply**

The current hourly cost of services procured through the Supporting People Framework Agreement is commercially sensitive information. The hourly costs are in a range between £11.33 and £21.81.

The saving of £125,000 will be achieved as set out in this table:

<b>Time frame</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Provider name</b>	<b>Value</b>
Achieved, to be realised from 1.4.14	Learning Disability services contract end	Welmede HA	£39k
Achieved, to be realised from 1.4.14	Mental Health services recommissioning	SL YMCA	£30k
Achieved, to be realised from 1.4.14	Young Person & Care Leavers services recommissioning	Caysh	£29k
Achieved, to be realised from 1.4.14	Domestic Violence services recommissioning	Casa Support	£9k
Pipeline, currently subject to tendering	Recommissioning of mental health, learning disability & physical disability supported housing services	Various providers	At least £18k

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**CQ120-14 from Councillor Jane Avis**

**To Councillor Margaret Mead**

Would the Cabinet Member please give the percentage reduction to the Mental Health budget achieved through savings, efficiencies and cuts over the past 3 years?

**Reply**

2013/14 – 7.51 %

2012/13 – 5.44 %

2011/12 – 6.17%

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**CQ121-14**      **from Councillor Jane Avis**

**To Councillor Margaret Mead**

Would the Cabinet Member please give the percentage reduction to the Learning Disability budget achieved through savings, efficiencies and cuts over the past 3 years?

**Reply**

2011/12 – 5.70%

2012/13 – 6.64%

2013/14 – 5.80%

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**CQ178-14**      **from Councillor Maggie Mansell**

**To Councillor Margaret Mead**

Recognising that there are additional monies and additional responsibilities in the Public Health budget, what is the like for like 2014-15 budget for the services provided in 2013-14 in Public Health?

**Reply**

The Public Health Grant for 2013-14 was £18.312m. For 2014-15 the grant is £18.825m, an increase of £0.513m.

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**CQ179-14**      **from Councillor Maggie Mansell**

**To Councillor Margaret Mead**

What are the budgets for HIV/AIDs and Heart Town projects?

**Reply**

HIV AIDS budgets 13-14

Adult Care Commissioning

Voluntary Sector = £92,509

Staffing (LBC) = 72,068

Care Packages (LBC) = £126,510

Public Health

2013/14 at £246,797

Heart Town

The Heart Town investment from the public allocation for 2013/14 is £1.771 million. This was set out in the paper on Heart Town which went to cabinet on 18 November 2013.

**CQ123-14 from Councillor George Ayres**

**To Councillor Steve O’Connell**

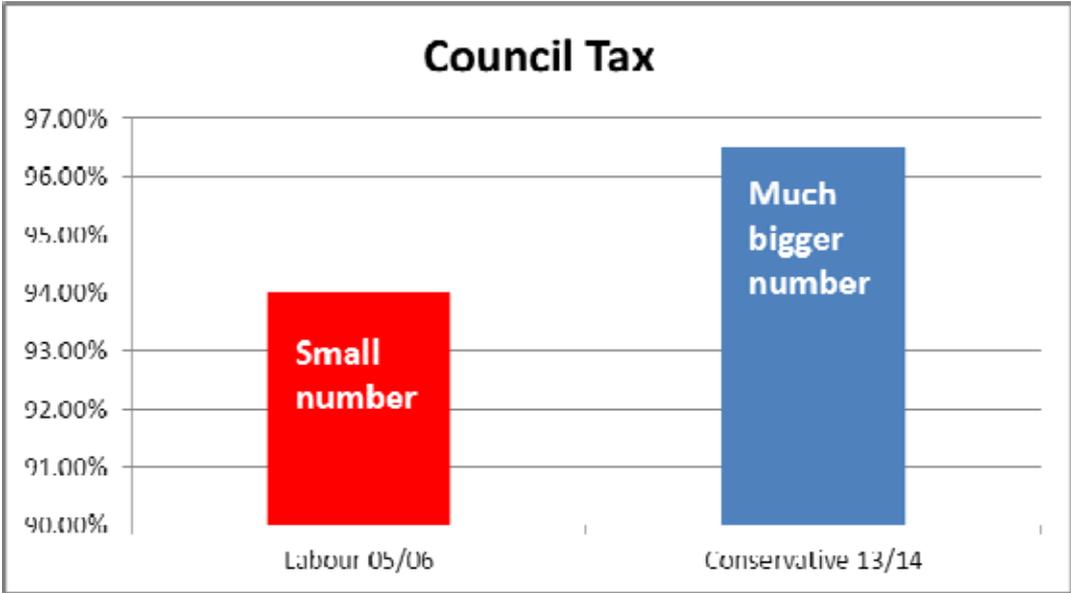
Can the Cabinet Member please tell me the in-year budgeted collection rate for council tax and business rates for 2013/14 and how this compares with the figures in each of the last four years?

**Reply**

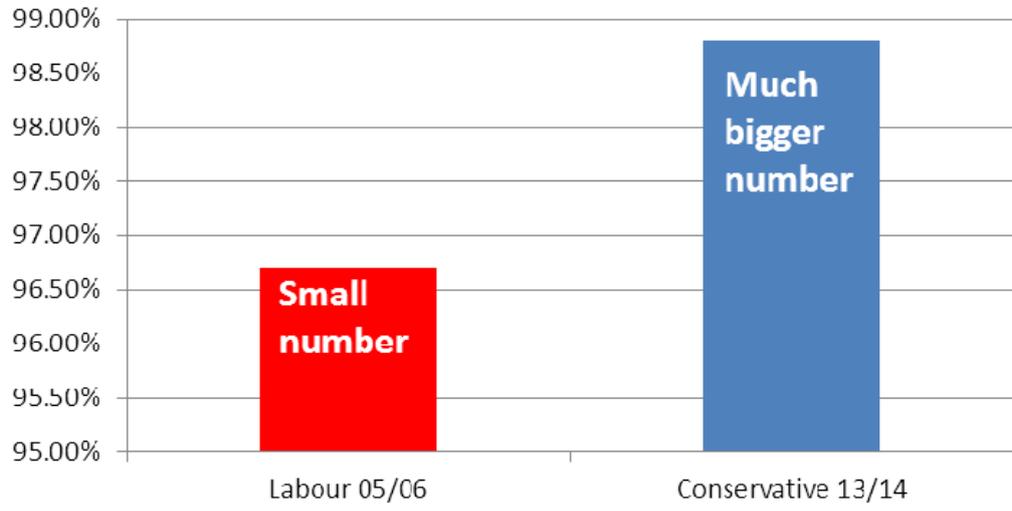
The historic collection rates and targets for this year are detailed below. Council tax performance has continued to improve year on year, while also increasing the amount to collect (therefore collecting more cash year on year); business rates had the best performance for the last 5 years in 2012/13, but has been severely affected by the current economic position and it has been important to balance collection with allowing local business to survive this period (business rates income is passed to central government and collection levels have previously had no impact on local funding).

	2005-6	2006-7	2007-8	2008-9	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14 Target
Council Tax	94.0%	93.0%	94.4%	95.4%	95.6%	95.9%	96.1%	96.2%	96.5%
Business Rates	96.7%	97.9%	98.5%	97.3%	96.5%	97.2%	97.4%	98.2%	98.8%

Just so that it is perfectly clear, under this Conservative Council collection rates have increased. I would also refer you to my reply to Councillor Clouder CQ134-14 that further illustrates just how bad the previous Labour Administration was at collecting Council Tax.



## Business rates



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**CQ134-14                      from Councillor Pat Clouder**

**To Councillor Steve O'Connell**

In January this year it was reported that this Tory Council had failed to collect £40 million worth of Council Tax and that Croydon was the third worst authority in the country on uncollected Council Tax.

Could the Cabinet Member explain how this was allowed to happen, how much is still outstanding and what strategy has been implemented to ensure this does not get worse?

**Reply**

Thank you for your questions Councillor Clouder. You have had three goes at it and still haven't got it right. The real story here is how embarrassingly bad the Labour administration was at collecting Council Tax and what a good job Conservative Croydon has done in putting this right.

The Labour group is desperate to erase their record of fleecing Council Tax payers while they were in office. While we all know that they doubled Council Tax while in office, Councillor Clouder would like to remind us all that they appalling at collecting Council Tax as well. The table below highlights Labour's poor performance while in office and shows that Conservative Croydon has dramatically improved collections:

	<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

So let's be clear, if Labour were still in office collecting Council Tax at the poor rate they achieved, this Council would be £4.4m worse off. I would say that would equate to a further 3.4% on the Council Tax but we know Labour wouldn't be very good at collecting it.

Furthermore, Conservative Croydon worked hard to ensure we collect as much as possible of unpaid Council Tax bills and invested in services to make sure that everyone who should pay, does pay. To that end we have collected an additional £13.4m of aged debt over the past three years.

So let's be quite clear Councillor Clouder, Croydon would be a total of £17.8m worse off if Labour were in charge of collecting Council Tax and you would have yet another excuse for trying to fleece our residents.

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**CQ135-14**      **from Councillor Pat Clouder**

**To Councillor Steve O'Connell**

As someone who pays my Council Tax could the Cabinet Member tell me how much subsidy I have to pay for those people who fail to pay their Council Tax?

**Reply**

See reply to CQ134-14

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**CQ136-14**      **from Councillor Pat Clouder**

**To Councillor Steve O'Connell**

Would the Cabinet Member not agree with me that being fifth in the league for uncollected Council Tax in 2012 and now being third in 2014 is an embarrassment to this Tory Council and begs the question on their competence to manage the Councils finances?

**Reply**

See reply to CQ134-14

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**CQ145-14            from Councillor Simon Hall****To Councillor Steve O'Connell**

Please provide details of the estimated balances and provisions, split between, for the General Fund between: General Fund, CCURV Earmarked Reserves, Other Earmarked Reserves, Schools Funds, Provisions and, for the HRA, main balance, other balances and provisions All as at 31 March 2014 and budgeted as at 31 March 2015, with comparisons as at 31 March 2013 and 31 March 2010.

**Reply**

The table below shows the estimated balances split between the different reserves and provisions.

	<b>General Fund Reserve (£000)</b>	<b>CCURV Affordability Reserve (£000)</b>	<b>Other Earmarked Reserves (£000)</b>	<b>Schools Reserve (£000)</b>	<b>HRA Reserve (£000)</b>	<b>Insurance Fund Provisions (£000)</b>	<b>Other Provisions (£000)</b>
<b>As at 31/03/2010</b>	11,597	4,441	33,557	14,916	4,481	7,842	292
<b>As at 31/03/2013</b>	11,597	18,173	41,873	13,789	9,834	8,272	1,282
<b>As at 31/03/2014 (projected)</b>	11,597	19,174	37,686	12,410	10,406	8,271	1,268
<b>As at 31/03/2015 (projected)</b>	11,597	15,077	31,037	11,169	10,095	8,271	1,268

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**CQ146-14            from Councillor Simon Hall**

**To Councillor Steve O'Connell**

What are the budgeted (i) income and expenditure items, (ii) movements on reserves and (iii) cash flows relating to Bernard Weatherill House, notably what interest and principal payments will be made, be it to the Special Purpose Vehicle or on PWLB?

**Reply**

The forecast transactions relating to Bernard Wetherill House for 2014/15 are shown in the table below :-

	£
<b>BWH reserve expected balance 31/03/2014</b>	19,174,189.70
<b>2014/15 Budgeted Cash Flows</b>	
Contractual Payment Deed payment to DevCo	-10,090,548.00
Bank of Croydon Loan repayment from DevCo	8,686,961.26
Interest Due on PWLB borrowing	-4,864,775.05
Asset Rationalisation contribution from savings	2,171,000.00
<b>BWH reserve expected balance 31/03/2015</b>	<b>15,076,827.91</b>

As shown above the reserve is expected to reduce in 2014/15. Significant CCCURV developments are expected over the next 3 years such as Taberner House, Lion Green Car Park and Rees House which are expected to increase the reserve.

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**CQ156-14 from Councillor Toni Letts****To Councillor Steve O'Connell**

How much funding has been cut from Croydon Council budget in the past three years, department by department? And which department has been most effected by the Governments cuts?

**Reply**

The table below gives details of all the efficiencies and cuts since 2011/12 to 2014/15. Out of the £71m, 80% has come from efficiencies.

**Departmental Cuts and Efficiencies 2011/12 - 2014/15**

Department	2011/12		2012/13		2013/14		2014/15		2011/15 Total £m
	Efficiencies £m	Cuts £m	Efficiencies £m	Cuts £m	Efficiencies £m	Cuts £m	Efficiencies £m	Cuts £m	
DASHH	(4.245)	(0.733)	(5.498)	(0.359)	(4.843)	(0.493)	(5.903)	(0.197)	(22.271)
CFL	(1.633)	(2.993)	(3.319)	(0.055)	(2.361)	(1.741)	(2.146)	(0.950)	(15.198)
D&E	(3.111)	(2.834)	(1.707)	(0.554)	(0.909)	(0.473)	(3.859)	(0.177)	(13.624)
CED	(5.277)	(0.503)	(3.161)	(0.726)	(2.778)	(0.251)	(6.175)	(1.153)	(20.024)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>(14.266)</b>	<b>(7.063)</b>	<b>(13.685)</b>	<b>(1.694)</b>	<b>(10.891)</b>	<b>(2.958)</b>	<b>(18.083)</b>	<b>(2.477)</b>	<b>(71.117)</b>

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**CQ130-14**            **from Councillor Carole Bonner**

**To Councillor Phil Thomas**

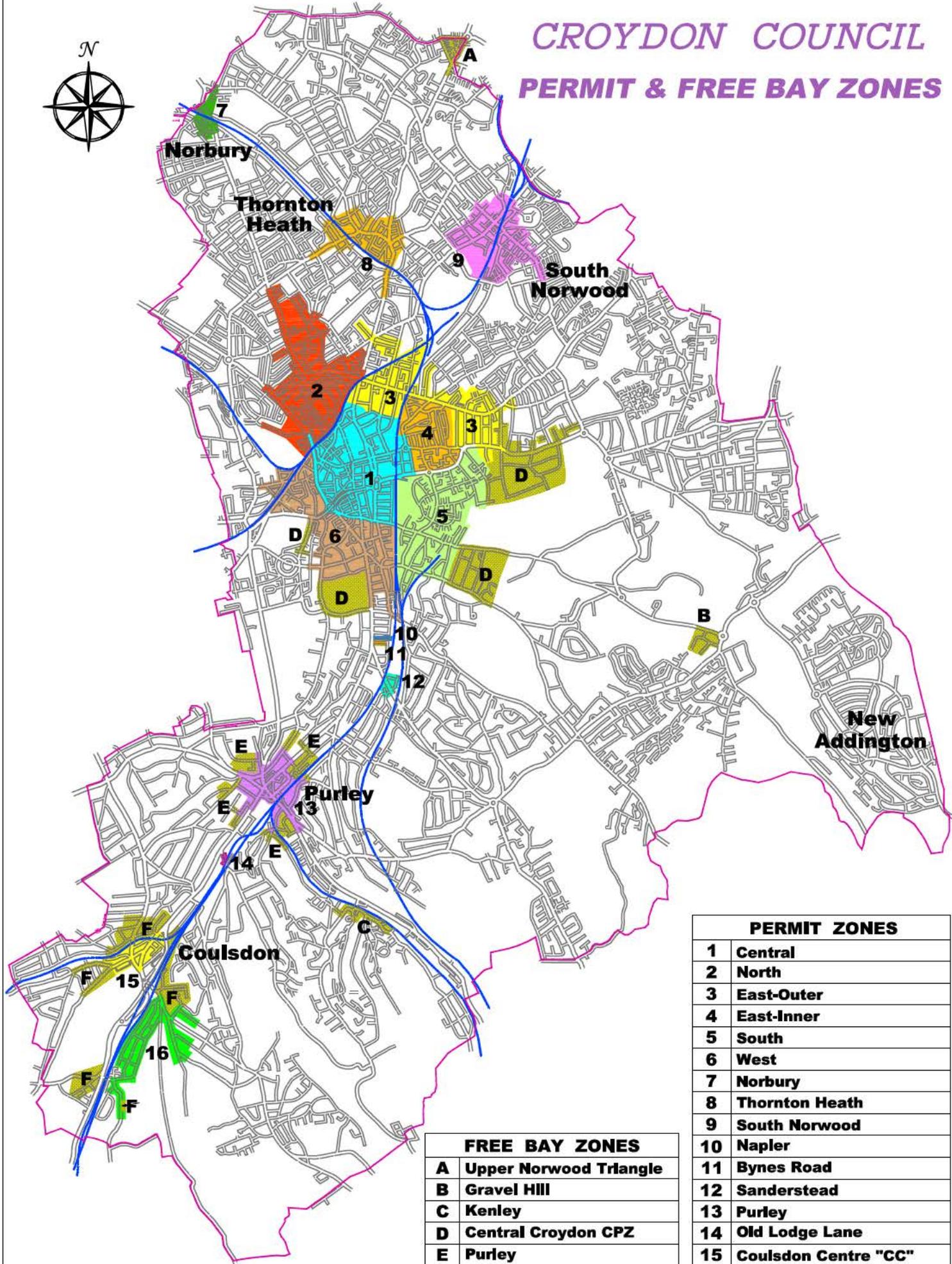
What is the estimated cost (as against budget) if free parking in our struggling district Centre's were to be increased from the current 30 minutes to one hour, split by district Centre?

**Reply**

The total cost to extend current free parking in the district centres of the Borough from the current 30 minutes to a full hour of free parking is £76,657.23 as broken down below:-

<b>Area</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Addington	£ 20,576.84
Coulsdon	£ 2,791.02
East Inner	£ 3,676.59
North	£ 13,662.93
Norwood	£ 2,157.49
Purley	£ 5,791.99
Sanderstead	£ 1,050.46
South	£ 834.19
Thornton Heath	£ 1,749.78
West Central Zone	£ 24,365.95
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>£ 76,657.23</b>

# CROYDON COUNCIL PERMIT & FREE BAY ZONES



PERMIT ZONES	
1	Central
2	North
3	East-Outer
4	East-Inner
5	South
6	West
7	Norbury
8	Thornton Heath
9	South Norwood
10	Napler
11	Bynes Road
12	Sanderstead
13	Purley
14	Old Lodge Lane
15	Coulsdon Centre "CC"
16	Coulsdon Residents "CR"

FREE BAY ZONES	
A	Upper Norwood Triangle
B	Gravel Hill
C	Kenley
D	Central Croydon CPZ
E	Purley
F	Coulsdon

April 2010

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**CQ137-14            from Councillor Stuart Collins**

**To Councillor Phil Thomas**

Not including any TFL money or cycle lanes, how much does the Council spend per year on designation of yellow lines, parking bays and general changes to existing traffic control & signage etc? Figures for the last four years would be helpful.

**Reply**

The spend on parking schemes (mainly yellow line restrictions, disabled bays, other bays such as loading bays and small P&D schemes, footway parking, miscellaneous markings such as Access Protection Markings) is as follows:

Year	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013
<b>Expenditure (Not inc Support Service Recharges)</b>	<b>£92,923.39</b>	<b>£102,212.17</b>	<b>£93,119.34</b>	<b>£107,444.37</b>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£92,923.39</b>	<b>£102,212.17</b>	<b>£93,119.34</b>	<b>£107,444.37</b>

*Note \**

*This does not include wages costs and is purely spend that is associated with implementation of specific activities. The Parking Implementation schemes wages costs cover various activities within parking and traffic management and are not specific to the items requested above.*

*This does not include Capital expenditure that is funded through TFL for specific Controlled Parking Zone Schemes.*

*This does not include any new expenditure that is part of specific new capital schemes*

*This does not include Support Service Recharges or depreciation.*

All spend on non-parking related work such as traffic control and signage is via TfL Local Implementation Plan funding.

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**CQ139-14            from Councillor Sean Fitzsimons**

**To Councillor Phil Thomas**

Please state the budget the Council will spend on road safety improvement across Croydon in 2014/15?

**Reply**

We do not have a single road safety improvement budget but do have a major public realm enhancement programme, which will continue to be delivered next year through Council Capital funding, funding from the London Mayor and Local Implementation Plan funding provided by TfL.

In implementing these improvements, we are seeking to make our streets safer for all, which includes the objective of improving road safety.

We have chosen to allocate a significant amount of funding to a variety of programmes more directly aimed at improving road safety. In 2014/15 these include:

- |   |          |
|---|----------|
| • Accident Prevention Schemes                                 | £150,000 |
| • Road Safety Education and Publicity                         | £116,000 |
| • Speed Management  | £50,000  |
| • Speed Management / 20 mph limits in the vicinity of schools | £200,000 |
| • Cycle Training  | £150,000 |
| • Local Safety Measures                                       | £40,000  |
| • Safety Scheme preparation/advanced programme                | £40,000  |
| • Pedestrian facilities                                       | £80,000  |
| • General Junction Improvements                               | £220,000 |
| • Safer routes to schools                                     | £230,000 |
| • Cycle Routes implementation and improvement                 | £100,000 |

We are also awaiting the outcome of a number of significant bids to TfL with which to make further improvements to help make cycling in the borough safer.

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**CQ143-14**      **from Councillor Timothy Godfrey**

**To Councillor Phil Thomas**

How much has been borrowed in each financial year since 2006 for road maintenance / replacement and what is the annual revenue cost for servicing this?

**Reply**  
The table below shows the amount of borrowing for road maintenance along with the annual revenue cost of this borrowing, broken down by interest paid and Minimum Revenue Provision.

Highways Road Maintenance / Replacement	2005/06 Actual £'000s	2006/07 Actual £'000s	2007/08 Actual £'000s	2008/09 Actual £'000s	2009/10 Actual £'000s	2010/11 Actual £'000s	2011/12 Actual £'000s	2012/13 Actual £'000s	2013/14 Projected £'000s	2014/15 Projected £'000s
Amount Spent/Projected	2516	3950	2000	2402	2424	7114	3950	7301	7825	7500
Interest Payable	120	188	283	113	101	307	171	316	329	319
Minimum Revenue Provision		84	132	67	80	81	237	132	243	261
Annual Revenue Costs	120	272	415	180	181	388	409	448	572	580

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**CQ144-14**      **from Councillor Timothy Godfrey**

**To Councillor Phil Thomas**

How much do companies that dig up our borough roads contribute to repairs and replacement following works which have not reinstated to the same quality as the road was previously in? Please provide a figure for each financial year since 2006.

**Reply**

Utilities are charged for defective works, where utility companies do not reinstate the roads to our satisfaction, which we are able to identify through our inspection regime.

The amount charged from defect inspections from 2007 to present day is £762,500.

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**CQ163-14**      **from Councillor Gerry Ryan**

**To Councillor Phil Thomas**

How much finance is allocated to Selhurst Ward for street cleaning and is this level of funding equal across the Borough?

**Reply**

The street cleaning costs charged by Veolia Environmental Services Limited are not allocated on a ward basis, but as a borough-wide service.

The level of funding is equal across the Borough. Cllr Ryan knows that whilst he was the Cabinet member he cut the street cleaning frequencies in the Centre and South, whilst making no cuts to street cleaning in the North of the Borough.

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**CQ180-14**      **from Councillor Maggie Mansell**

**To Councillor Phil Thomas**

What is the estimated cost of repair to the wall, now lying flat at the edge of the Norbury Hall Park? (Adjacent to the car park of Anderson Court, London Road) When will it be replaced?

**Reply**

This wall collapsed in the storms immediately prior to Christmas 2013.

Parks officers met representatives from the management company for Radnor House on 23rd January, who according to our records own the wall and agreed the extent of the works and access requirements needed to assist in its replacement.

As the wall is not ours, it is not possible for the Council to insist on the means by which the wall is replaced and a formal response is awaited from the management company, who it is envisaged will meet all costs.

The estimated cost of the wall repairs are in the region of £41k.

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**CQ184-14            from Councillor Donald Speakman**

**To Councillor Phil Thomas**

Could the Cabinet Member Cllr. Thomas, please provide sufficient funds to ensure roads outside Croydon's schools are safe for pupils?

How does your safety policy differ from that of Cllr. Fitzsimons and the Labour Party?

**Reply**

Cllr Fitzsimons' should see from the amount we are spending on road safety next year illustrates our approach road safety and indicates the broad spectrum of activities we are committed to.

We have chosen to allocate a significant amount of funding to a variety of programmes more directly aimed at improving road safety. In 2014/15 these include:

• Accident Prevention Schemes	£150,000
• Road Safety Education and Publicity	£116,000
• Speed Management	£50,000
• Speed Management / 20 mph limits in the vicinity of schools	£200,000
• Cycle Training	£150,000
• Local Safety Measures	£40,000
• Safety Scheme preparation/advanced programme	£40,000
• Pedestrian facilities	£80,000
• General Junction Improvements	£220,000
• Safer routes to schools	£230,000
• Cycle Routes implementation and improvement	£100,000

Child safety is a prime focus for us. As well as our approach in directing accident prevention funds to identified problem locations, we work with schools, parents and carers through the development of school travel plans to identify issues and locations of concern and then address these through our £230,000 annual programme implementing measures in support of safer routes to school.

In the next financial year we will be going much further, spending a further £200,000 piloting 20 mph speed limits by seven schools. These 20 mph limits will be tightly focused near to the school and operate around school arrival and departure times. Hence all will understand the purpose of and need for the speed controls. Such measures will of course continue to be backed up by our borough-wide programme of in school road safety education, training and publicity.

I would suggest that implementing road safety measures at identified problem locations (be it data led or through a programme of engagement with schools and the parents and carers), plus implementing new 20 mph limits close to schools at the times most needed, contrasts with Cllr Fitzsimons very broad brush approach which would inconvenience many and be difficult for all to understand what safety benefit is being achieved.

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**CQ108-14**      **from Councillor Tony Pearson**

**To Councillor Sara Bashford**

Can the Cabinet Member please confirm that Voluntary Sector funding will not be cut and the Small Grants Fund will be maintained at its current level in the 2014/15 financial year, even though Council Tax has not been increased?

**Reply**

I can confirm that the very successful Small Grants Fund will be maintained during 2014/15 and the Council will maintain the current level of funding to the key voluntary sector organisations supported through the Stronger Communities Fund.

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**CQ109-14**            **from Councillor Janet Marshall**

**To Councillor Sara Bashford**

The budget shows a large saving on ICT provision. Can the Cabinet Member confirm when the new contract begins and if these efficiencies will result in any loss of service to residents

**Reply**

Capita takes over our adult social care systems from Northgate in April 2014 and all of our other ICT systems from Capgemini in May 2014. The Capita team is already on board working with the Council's ICT team to prepare for a smooth hand over of these services.

The new contract will save £40m over the nine year life of the new contracts. These savings come from a better deal for the Council from the new contracts, along with a more flexible and innovative approach to providing ICT services, rather than from any reduction in services.

Further benefits are expected to come from new technology supporting teams to work more flexibly, improving services to residents.

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**CQ111-14            from Councillor Terry Lenton**

**To Councillor Sara Bashford**

What benefits will Capita Secure Information Solutions Ltd bring to the Council's ICT services?

**Reply**

In addition to saving £40m over the nine year life of the contract, Capita will bring a range of benefits to the council's ICT services.

Our customers will have improved access to more online services and, as a result of new technology supporting teams in working more flexibly, there will more face-to-face support for customers who need it the most.

The contract with Capita includes providing apprenticeships which offer structured skills training and work experience for 16-18 year olds, as well as a community investment programme aimed at tackling social exclusion and a programme of work within schools to support young entrepreneurs.

There will be a provision of 50 laptop computers that have the capability to access the internet, provide email and Office functionality for children in care. This improved provision will enable children to undertake their school and college studies, where historically the facilities have been unavailable.

For the council as whole, the contract represents value for money, striking the right balance between improving services and delivering efficiency savings.

Through a more flexible and innovative approach to delivering ICT services, Capita will be able to support the changing needs of the council and help teams to work more flexibly, anytime anywhere.

Capita will also provide a local, Croydon-based service desk which will mean a big improvement in terms of the support staff receive in resolving ICT issues.

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**CQ124-14**      **from Councillor George Ayres**

**To Councillor Sara Bashford**

What funding has been budgeted for community groups and events, specifically serving Fieldway and New Addington?

**Reply**

There are a number of voluntary and community organisations working across the borough whose services will be used by residents of New Addington and Fieldway even though the service may not be based in the area. The list below give details of those services which are actually based in the area. This list shows those services which are already agreed and budgeted for but there will continue to be the opportunity for local groups to bid for commissioned services and to the Small Grants Fund during 2014/15.

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Service</b>	<b>Amount</b>
New Addington Good Samaritans (Pop In)	Day Centre for older people	£40,000
Play Place	Various services for young people	£60,000
Fieldway Family Centre	Family support and early intervention	Premises costs £9,500

In addition to direct funding, the Council has supported a number of community groups through providing premises in the former library and district offices, accommodation is provided for the Pathfinders and the Council has brought back into use the former scout hut off Salcot Crescent for use as a food bank by the Salvation Army and its Food Network partners.

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## **CQ141-14            from Councillor Alisa Flemming**

### **To Councillor Sara Bashford**

Please confirm the amount of money that Croydon Council has spent of consultants in the period from 2010 to date?

### **Reply**

The table below sets out the Council's spend on Consultancy and professional services from 2010 to date. This has been split into revenue and Capital spend.

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Revenue (£m)	5.65	1.59	4.26	8.16	5.93
Capital (£m)	1.22	1.06	3.75	4.53	4.44

In delivering the level of efficiencies, savings and service transformation at the fast pace required in the public sector necessitates additional short-term capacity and specialist project and consultancy support bringing learning and innovation from experience of working in other sectors and organisations. This support includes business process re-engineering and key technical and professional skills that would not be available in the Council and where it would be uneconomical to develop an in-house expertise.

The Councillor is well aware of the financial challenge the Council has faced over the past four years and should also know that Croydon has delivered unprecedented level of savings and efficiencies that have kept the impact on crucial frontline services to a minimum. Therefore in order to assess the true cost of these types of services to the Council it is important to also look at the levels of savings delivered over the same period.

- ✓ RELEASE and DELIVER – **£25m** in cashable savings over 3 years
- ✓ Step Change Croydon – **£26m** of savings and efficiencies
- ✓ The Procurement Taskforce – an additional **£13m** of total savings already recognised and a further **£2m** to be delivered in the next year

Furthermore it is important to note that many of the Council's consultancy agreements are based on innovative risk and reward models that mean that the Council does not pay for the services until the financial benefit has been derived. This assures that we derive maximum benefit from our consultancy and professional services and at the same time ensure value for money for Croydon's tax payers. Built into these arrangements are also important capacity building and skills transfer programmes that ensure that Croydon officers are able to learn and develop their own skills working alongside these consultants and ultimately develop the Council's ability to deliver these types of services internally in the future.

In regards to our Capital spend on these services; the Councillor is well aware of our ambitious and much needed Capital programme that will deliver new schools and homes for our communities. I'm sure the Councillor would agree that it is crucial to ensure that we deliver homes and educational establishments that are of the highest quality, delivered at the best price, again for Croydon taxpayers. That is why it is

essential that we get the right level of professional support bringing in very specialist skills that help ensure we get it right.

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**CQ147-14**      **from Councillor Simon Hall**

**To Councillor Sara Bashford**

What is the budget assumption for the number of permanent staff, number of temporary/ agency staff and number of consultants?

**Reply**

The 2014/15 budget assumes that there will be 2,803.5 FTE's.

The Council aims to have a maximum of 10% of the establishment filled by agency staff.

There is no specific number of consultants. Consultants are employed for specific projects and funded from the specific project budget.

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**CQ164-14**      **from Councillor Gerry Ryan**

**To Councillor Sara Bashford**

How much finance has been allocated to consultancy fees and how many FTE jobs will be lost in this budget?

**Reply**

The consultancy budget for 2013/14 is £1.248m. The table below gives a breakdown by department of the redundancies/posts being deleted for 2014/15.

<b>INDICATIVE REDUNDANCY NUMBERS</b>	<b>FTE</b>
Children, Families and Learning	13
Adult Social Care, Health and Housing	1
Development and Environment	4
Chief Executive's	13
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>31</b>

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**CQ167-14**      **from Councillor Mike Selva**

**To Councillor Sara Bashford**

I understand that a significant amount of money has been spent on a replacement tap in Bernard Weatherill House. Are you aware of the incident, how much was the cost to fit and supply the replacement tap, and was the scrap value of the old tap redeemed?

**Reply**

Based on user feedback there is a replacement tap in BWH. The cost to fit and supply a replacement tap is £272.69.

The old tap will be retained and reutilised throughout the council's property estate as and when required.

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**CQ168-14**      **from Councillor Mike Selva**

**To Councillors Sara Bashford**

Please provide the full cost of the 'soft fit-out' for Bernard Weatherill House?

**Reply**

Costs incurred by LBC for the soft fit out of BWH totalled £3,958,254, this was 28% less than the budget approved by Cabinet in February 2011.

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**CQ169-14**      **from Councillor Mike Selva**

**To Councillor Sara Bashford**

How much was spent on the umbrella wrapping machine in corporate reception, and please give detailed costs on maintenance of the machine?

**Reply**

Slips, trips and falls are the main cause of accidents in the workplace. In the event of wet weather conditions the Council invested £410.46 in the umbrella wrapping machine in the corporate reception for staff and visitors to reduce the risks of slips from wet floor surfaces. There are no associated on-going maintenance costs.

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**CQ183-14**      **from Councillor Jason Cummings**

**To Councillor Sara Bashford**

Can the Cabinet Member for Corporate and Voluntary Services explain why there is a revenue investment amount of £981K for Freedom Passes and why there is an efficiency shown of £20k, stated as - reassess eligibility for the schemes. Do either of these lead to a loss of service to the users?

**Reply**

The budgeted increase of £981k relating to the cost of the Freedom Pass and Blue Badge schemes from 2013/14 to 2014/15 covers above inflation cost increases, and therefore will not lead to a loss of service to the users of the scheme.

The £20k efficiency relates to a saving in the Council's internal administration costs which has been realised at the end of a statutory process to review card holders entitlement. This will not lead to a loss of service to users of the Freedom Pass or the Taxi card schemes.

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**CQ181-14            from Councillor Richard Chatterjee**

**To Councillor Vidhi Mohan**

'Could the Cabinet Member please outline how the budget will help deliver jobs for the people of Croydon?'

**Reply**

This Council is committed to doing everything it can to ensure that employment opportunities for Croydon residents are created from every development and regeneration activity in the borough. At the same time our support to local businesses through a number of projects and initiatives is helping them sustain the existing jobs and create more local opportunities. All this is reflected in the budget.

The council and our partners are delivering the partnership programme 'Pathways to employment' which was formally approved by Cabinet in November 2013. This new partnership approach provides our residents with a wide range of support to ensure that everyone seeking employment has the skills and knowledge to compete successfully and get into the labour market. As part of the initiative we have signed a Service Level Agreement with Job Centre Plus, particularly to support those residents affected by the Welfare reforms and JCP advisers are part of the Council team working with this particular group.

We forecast that over 16,000 new jobs are being created in the borough over the next five years and the 'Pathways to Employment' programme, reviewed and managed by the Employment & Skills strategy board is aimed at ensuring these jobs go to local people.

The outcomes of the partnership work can be seen from the latest employment statistics. Croydon is in the top three London boroughs for the fall in the number of unemployed people over the past months, with 7,210 claiming Job Seeker's Allowance (JSA), compared to 9,915 in December 2012 (a decrease of -27.3%).

The number of JSA claimants aged 18 to 24 dropped 36.5% in December 2013 as compared to the previous year.

The following projects specific projects are supporting the above partnership approach:

- Local Employment Creation project will create 90 new jobs for 18-24 year olds, 10 achieved to date
- Enterprise Hub will create 60 new jobs, 16 achieved to date
- Built to Compete will create 35 new jobs, 5 achieved to date
- Meet the Employers jobs fair on 25th February, offers job matching and interviews for 18-30 years with local employers. October 2013 jobs fair resulted in roughly 50 job offers.
- Croydon Enterprise Loan Fund target for 2013-14 is to create 20 new jobs, 24 achieved to date
- The Business Rates Relief programme will safeguard/create 1237 jobs, 204 to date.

In addition, the London Borough of Croydon is working with the national

apprenticeships programme and local programmes, such as the Crystal Palace FC Aspire and Engage programme and Backr, a programme by JC+ and Participle, to develop new employment opportunities, as well as securing new funding from GLA/LEPs to deliver additional programmes.

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## **CQ182-14            from Councillor Sue Winborn**

### **To Councillor Vidhi Mohan**

Could the Cabinet Member please outline the proposals in the budget that will help and support businesses in Croydon, especially SME'S?

### **Reply**

The London Borough of Croydon continues to be an excellent place for businesses to grow. In 2012/13, according to the ONS, business growth in Croydon was almost three times the UK average, with a net growth of 275 businesses within the borough. The wider Croydon regeneration programme, including bringing forward major new office and retail schemes, will have a transformative impact on how business perceive Croydon and will create substantial new business and employment opportunities. In terms of specific schemes, Croydon is delivering

- The West Croydon Enterprise Hub, which will support 100 SMEs with business advice - 13 supported to date
- The Entrepreneurs of the Future programme, delivered by Croydon in partnership with the Princes Trust, will create 84 self-employment or direct employment opportunities - 6 achieved to date
- Built to Compete, a programme which assists small to medium sized businesses based in Croydon to become better, more successful, and go on to win more public and private sector business with large organisations will support 112 SMEs - 50 supported to date
- Croydon Enterprise Loan Fund, which provides support for Croydon businesses who cannot obtain funding from other sources, aims to issue £355,000 in loans to SMEs in 2013/14 - to date £231,500 has been approved for 19 SMEs
- Croydon Enterprise Loan Fund, which provides support for Croydon businesses who cannot obtain funding from other sources, aims to issue £45,000 in loans to SMEs in 2013/14 - to date £34,500 approved for 8 start-ups
- Business rates relief scheme, which provides rates relief for businesses expanding in Croydon and has helped 14 businesses so far, supporting 146 jobs and creating another 48
- The Broadband upgrade support package, which will provide 200 businesses with up to £3k towards upgrading their business broadband supply
- The High streets Improvement and Retail support package, which will directly support up to 25 businesses on London Road and will provide support to more than 50 entrepreneurs looking to set up businesses through pop up shops and meanwhile projects

In addition, the Council is working with partners at both the Coast to Capital and London LEPs to access substantial funding towards these programmes and new business growth support measures for Croydon businesses

Recently officers have already been working closely with businesses affected by the flooding and have already visited 24 businesses along Godstone Road and will continue to work closely with them to support them to recover.

See full programme of support at [www.croydon.gov.uk/business/support/](http://www.croydon.gov.uk/business/support/)

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**CQ128-14**            **from Councillor Carole Bonner**

**To Councillor Simon Hoar**

Can the Cabinet Member tell me what spend has been included in the budget (revenue or capital) for upgrades to permanent CCTV in Fieldway and New Addington wards and how this compares to spend in each of the last four years – and, in all cases, which locations?

**Reply**

It is not possible to breakdown the CCTV budget by ward. The CCTV Team provide services across the whole Borough and the budget is set accordingly. There is no set programme for upgrades in particular locations. Replacements and upgrades are managed as and when cameras become faulty or obsolete regardless of where they are situated. This ensures that the whole system keeps working rather than prioritising one location over another. This has always been the case and will remain so.

You should be aware that the Council has invested heavily into a new CCTV Control Room, providing state of the art equipment that will provide many more years of reliable coverage for the Borough. The Council have recently done a deal to take on more TfL cameras, providing greater coverage across the Borough. The Council has also invested £40k in new redeployable cameras that can be used anywhere depending on where the need arises. So, the CCTV service is in better shape now than it has ever been.

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**CQ133-14**      **from Councillor Alison Butler**

**To Councillor Simon Hoar**

Will the reduction in funding to support the Night-time Noise Service / Summer Party Patrol lead to more anti-social behaviour and distress to residents?

**Reply**

The £30k is a reduction in the general fund costs however the cost of this service is now partially funded from the HRA to reflect the time spent by the service in dealing with housing noise complaints. Council wide there will be no reduction in the current service provision.

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**CQ140-14            from Councillor Alisa Flemming**

**To Councillor Simon Hoar**

How much has the council saved since it cut street scene officers jobs, and how has this helped with prosecuting those responsible for fly-tipping, please also provide costs for clearing up fly tipping for financial years since 2010 and the projected financial year 2014-2015?

**Reply**

The Street Based Service Review merged Street Scene officers with Neighbourhood Enforcement officers to create Area Enforcement officers. This was successful in both reducing costs and giving greater capacity and flexibility for individual officers to tackle street based issues such as flytipping and its enforcement.

The savings attributable since the first Street Based Services reviews are:

2010 / 11 : - Street Based Service Review	= £84k
2011 / 12 : - Street Based Service Review	= £632k
2012 / 13 : - Additional SBSR savings identified	= £297k
2013 / 14 : - Community Safety Restructure	= £205k
- investment into Enviro Enforcement	= +£200k
2014 / 15 : - Restructure of Community Safety Team	= £50k

Costs for clearing up fly tipping since 2010 are:

2010 / 11 : £120,163
2011 / 12 : £91,591
2012 / 13 : £231,074
2013 / 14 : £279,000 (projected)
2014 / 15 : £79,000 (budget)

The new service operates a range of preventative and enforcement approaches including:

- Use of CCTV
- Surveillance and targeted patrols
- Alley gate schemes
- Recycling/waste advice and information
- Assessments of bin provisions

Since the new service we have seen a significant increase in the use of enforcement options such as Fixed Penalty Notices and fly tip prosecutions.

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**CQ151-14**      **from Councillor Matthew Kyeremeh**

**To Councillor Simon Hoar**

In the wake of the recent scandal when 900 sample tests by councils in West Yorkshire found 38% of foods were mislabeled or not what they claimed to be, does the Cabinet Member for Food Safety (Public Protection) not think that a 12% budget cut in the Regulatory Services that provide food safety in Croydon a dangerous decision and a threat to public health?

**Reply**

Your premise is incorrect. The 12% efficiency savings associated with Croydon's participation in the Shared Regulatory Services Project with the London Boroughs of Merton and Richmond are based around a restructure of the existing management tiers and not front line posts, so I do not expect performance in food safety to drop or for public health to be threatened in any way.

As well as achieving efficiencies, I believe that our participation in the project will provide greater resilience and enable Croydon's Regulatory Services to better withstand future challenges associated with the Government's on-going commitment to tackling the public sector deficit caused by the previous Labour Government's miss management of the UK economy.

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**CQ152-14**            **from Councillor Wayne Lawlor**

**To Councillor Simon Hoar**

How much money was spent on successfully prosecuting those responsible for fly-tipping in Croydon between 2006 and 2013, and what is the projected spend for 2014-15?

**Reply**

When the Streetscene service merged with the Community Safety team there were only 2 posts dedicated to managing fly tip prosecutions. These Environmental Enforcement posts are also responsible for a number of other enforcement activities including the removal of illegal traveller encampments and other highways and environmental offences. The total cost of these posts is c£100k per year and has been at this level for many years.

Following the rollout of the Street Based Services Review it became clear that the number of officers was not adequate to manage the increase in enforcement activity being generated through the creation of the Area Enforcement Team. Although the AEO's can dispense with some minor fly tipping offences through FPNs the amount of evidence generated from serious fly tips was increasing as the new service developed.

This is why for 2013/14 the Council increased the amount of funding for environmental enforcement by £200k. Three extra officers have been created to take on this work along with some back office support and a legal budget so that more cases can be taken to court. So, the budget has increased to £300k and will remain so for 2014/15.

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**CQ171-14**      **from Councillor Manju Shahul-Hameed**

**To Councillor Simon Hoar**

The Broad Green councillors have repeatedly requested to have a police station in the London Road. Recently we asked for a Police Office at a shop on Zodiac Court as a base for the local Safer Neighbourhood Team. Has the Leader considered our request and found out the cost for setting up the police office? If you haven't yet, will you consider it in the next financial year?

**Reply**

As has been stated many times already, the responsibility for the cost and provision of police bases and police offices is one for the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC). It is worth noting once again that Croydon is in the process of receiving an extra 117 police officers to the borough.

The police have set out their plans for the provision of police bases and public contact points in Croydon and these have been extremely well communicated. These plans do not currently include London Road. The rationale for reducing the number of bases has also been well made and ensures that police officers are deployed on the streets rather than in buildings. I think we would all support that having police officers out on the street where they are of most use.

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**CQ173-14**      **from Councillor Mark Watson**

**To Councillor Simon Hoar**

Please list the full one year cost of employing an additional four enforcement officers to tackle littering, dog mess and fly tipping in residential areas and how much income would arise from an increase in fines?

**Reply**

Our current enforcement officers carry out a range of activities including dealing with anti-social behaviour and not just environmental enforcement.

If we employed officers to focus only on littering, dog mess and fly tipping, they would require a level of supervision and back office support to enable them to function properly.

If the service were brought in house, which is being considered as an option, the cost would be in the region of £175,000 based on one supervisor, three enforcement officers and one business support officer.

The income we would require from fines would be in the region of £14,600 per month. The level of income would be dependent on the level of fine, currently £80 per Penalty Charge Notice and the number of such notices issued.

This would require 280 fixed penalty notices per month at an £80 penalty with a 65% payment rate = £14,560.

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**CQ174-13**      **from Councillor Mark Watson**

**To Councillor Simon Hoar**

Based on the number of fines issues by Kingdom Security how much extra income would the council generate if these teams were brought in house?

**Reply**

If the service were brought in house, which is being considered as an option, the cost to do so would be in the region of £175,000; based on one supervisor, three enforcement officers and one business support officer.

To date (14<sup>th</sup> February) over 2,000 tickets have been issued, which amounts to approximately £170,000 income.

The income required to support such a team would be in the region of £14,600 per month.

This would mean in the region of 280 fixed penalty notices per month at an £80 penalty with a 65% payment rate = £14,560.

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**CQ175-14            from Councillor John Wentworth**

**To Councillor Simon Hoar**

How much has the council saved since it cut street scene officers jobs, and how has this helped with prosecuting those responsible for fly-tipping, please also provide costs for clearing up fly tipping for financial years since 2010 and the projected financial year 2014-2015?

**Reply**

The Street Based Service Review merged Street Scene officers with Neighbourhood Enforcement officers to create Area Enforcement officers. This was successful in both reducing costs and giving greater capacity and flexibility for individual officers to tackle street based issues such as flytipping and its enforcement.

The savings attributable since the first Street Based Services reviews are:

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The new service operates a range of preventative and enforcement approaches including:

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- Alley gate schemes
- Recycling/waste advice and information
- Assessments of bin provisions

Since the new service we have seen a significant increase in the use of enforcement options such as Fixed Penalty Notices and fly tip prosecutions.

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**CQ112-14**      **from Councillor Adam Kellett**

**To Councillor Dudley Mead**

It is proposed that the two weeks rental holiday is to be financed from the Housing Revenue Account. Can the Cabinet Member advise me as to whether the remaining balance in that account will be at a healthy level?

**Reply**

The estimated balance of HRA reserves at the end of March 2015 is £10.095m. (This takes into account the 2 week rent free period). This is a prudent level which enables the HRA to meet its future obligations over the 30 year life of its business plan.

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**CQ113-14**      **from Councillor Adam Kellett**

**To Councillor Dudley Mead**

Is the Cabinet Member aware of any other local authorities offering a two week rental holiday, either this year or in previous years?

**Reply**

As far as I am aware, no other local authority has ever offered a two week rental holiday.

This forward thinking by a Conservative Council recognises that through prudent management we are able to offer greater support when and where it is needed.

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**CQ114-14**      **from Councillor Adam Kellett**

**To Councillor Dudley Mead**

Could the Cabinet Member tell me how much of the capital programme will be used to increase the housing supply?

**Reply**

The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) capital programme allows for continued investment in new council homes of £6m per annum from 2014/15 to 2018/19. This will deliver approximately 30 new homes each year.

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**CQ116-14            from Councillor Paul Scott**

**To Councillor Dudley Mead**

Please schedule the level of council borrowing and the interest payments for each of the last ten financial years and the anticipated levels for the coming financial year.

**Reply**

The level of council borrowing and interest payments is shown in the table below, with interest repayments split to show both the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and General fund separately as well as in total.

The significant increase in debt in 2011/12 shown in the table is principally relates to the HRA and results from the replacement of the national Housing Revenue Account (HRA) subsidy system with a system of self-financing from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012. The new system gives local authorities the freedom to finance and operate their council housing stock without annual government decisions on HRA subsidy.

With the introduction of the new system from 1 April 2012, this Council was required to make a one off payment of £223.126m to the Communities and Local Government (CLG) Office. This removed the Council from the national HRA subsidy system and discharged all of the Council's future liabilities under the system.

The cash settlement amount of £223.126m was financed by loans borrowed from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) at preferential rates over fixed periods to ensure that the requirements of the HRA business plan and the overall requirements of the Council were met.

The main drivers for moving towards the newly independent HRA have been the certainty of, and control over, costs and income streams.'

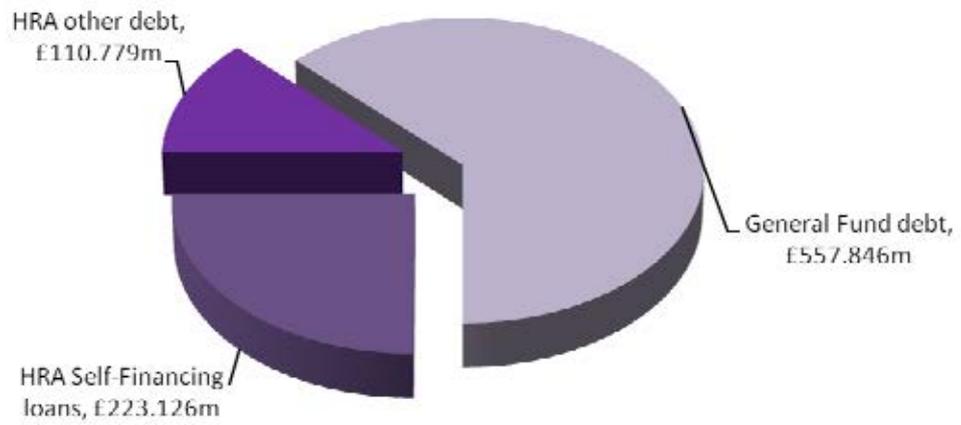
The General Fund debt has risen steadily as a result of significant investment in the infrastructure and assets of the borough. This has principally been around Highways, Public realm and new facilities such as Waddon Leisure Centre. In recent years our requirement to provide school places has also meant that debt has had to be taken out to ensure all children in Croydon have access to a place.

<b><u>Debt Outstanding and Interest Repayments - 2003/04 to 2014/15</u></b>						
				HRA	General Fund	Total
		Debt o/s		Interest Repayments	Interest Repayments	Interest Repayments
		<u>£m</u>		<u>£m</u>	<u>£m</u>	<u>£m</u>
2003/04	Actuals	95.337		4.242	3.158	7.400
2004/05	Actuals	124.337		2.980	3.437	6.417
2005/06	Actuals	169.337		2.667	5.231	7.898
2006/07	Actuals	205.137		2.645	6.205	8.850
2007/08	Actuals	217.137		2.818	7.207	10.025
2008/09	Actuals	257.137		3.006	8.439	11.445
2009/10	Actuals	278.737		2.949	6.867	9.816
2010/11	Actuals	326.137		3.457	8.794	12.251
2011/12	Actuals	619.264		3.824	10.141	13.965
2012/13	Actuals	690.264		11.720	10.307	22.027
2013/14	Estimates	819.964		11.762	12.002	23.764
2014/15	Estimates	891.751		12.600	15.900	28.500

This table excludes interest payments in relation to BWH as this relates to a loan where the repayments exceed the interest payments.

The chart below shows the level of estimated general fund and HRA debt as at the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015.

## Debt @ 31/03/15



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**CQ117-14**      **from Councillor Paul Scott**

**To Councillor Dudley Mead**

What disposals are assumed in the 14/15 capital budget or what the impact of property disposals has had on the capital/revenue budget for 2014/5 and what building and land assets are now retained by and are under the sole control of the council?

**Reply**

The 2014/15 capital budget assumes the disposal of land at Waddon. The achievement of capital receipts supports the council's capital programme and reduces the need for borrowing. Capital receipts can only be used to fund capital expenditure.

Please see attached list of all buildings and land assets retained by and under the sole control of the Council.

Please note that the attached list excludes: housing, highways, ancillary park buildings, buildings/land let to community groups, commercial lettings of Council property, and property where the Council is a tenant.

## Portfolio 24.1.14

<u>Description/Address</u>	<u>Site Type</u>
Addington Area Office (Social Services Centre)	Office/Admin
Addington Heights Resource Centre	Res Home/Day Centre
Addington Park	Parks
Addington Road/Old Farleigh Road Site	Amenity Land
Addington Vale	Parks
Addington Village (3 Parcels Of Land)	Amenity Land
Addington Village Road (Land Fronting 77)	Amenity Land
Addington Village Road (Adj. No.100)	Amenity Land
Addington Village Road (Land Adj. 52/54)	Amenity Land
Addington Village Road Soakage Field	Parks
Addington Village Road/Spout Hill	Amenity Land
Addiscombe Recreation Ground	Parks
Alfred Road (Land at Jctn. Of Holland Road)	Ex substation
Altyre Road Land At Junction Fairfield Road	Amenity Land
Alverston Gardens, 75, childrens home	Childrens Home
Ann's Place Car Park	Car Park
Apsley Road Playground	Parks
Ashburton Park	Parks
Ashburton Playing Fields	Playing Fields
Ashburton Road, 58	Res Home/Day Centre
Auckland Road Playing Fields	Playing Fields
Bandon Hill Cemetery	Cemetery/Crematorium
Beauchamp Road, Land Adj. 2	Amenity Land
Beaulieu Heights Park	Parks
Beaumont Primary School	Community Primary School
Beckmead School	Special School
Bensham Day Centre	Res Home/Day Centre
Bensham Manor School	Special School
Betts Mead Recreation Ground	Parks
Beulah Hill Pond	Parks
Beulah Junior School	Community Junior School
Beulah Nursery & Infant School	Community Infant School
Biggin Wood	Parks
Birchwood/Castle Hill Ruffs	Parks
Bleakfield Shaw, Coulsdon Woods	Nature Reserve
Boulogne Road - Depot (Whitehorse Resource Base)	Depot
Boulogne Road Playground	Parks
Boundary Woods	Parks
Bourne Park	Parks
Bradmore Green	Parks
Bramley Bank Nature Reserve	Nature Reserve
Brickfield Meadow	Parks
Bridle Road Woods	Parks
Brighton Road, Coulsdon Public Conveniences	Public Conveniences
Brigstock Manor	School (under construction)
Broadcoombe, Adj.Selsdon High School	Amenity Land
Buffer Bear Nursery School	Day Nursery (vacant)
Cairo New Road Public Car Park	Car Park
Calleydown Crescent, 47a	Childrens Home
Canterbury Road Recreation Ground	Parks

## Portfolio 24.1.14

Central Nursery, Coombe Lodge	Parks
Central Parade CALAT Centre	Adult Education
Central Parade Market Site	Market
Central Parade, 120, The Octagon Building	Office/Admin
Chaldon Way	Parks
Chatsworth Hall	Office/Admin
Cheriton House	Vacant ex Res Home/Day Centre
Cherry Orchard Day Centre LATC	Res Home/Day Centre
Chertsey Crescent (111) Probation Office	Office/Admin
Chichester Rd & Park Hill Rd Land at Junction	Amenity Land
Church Street (Land at Jctn. Church Road)	Amenity Land
Church Street, Adj to Croydon Parish Church	Amenity Land
Civic Offices Complex	Office/Admin
Clifford Road Car Park	Car Park
Clifton Rd - Land between 106/108	Access Land
Coningsby Centre	Pupil Referral Unit
Coombe Farm Playing Fields, Oaks Lane	Playing Fields
Coombe Farm, John Ruskin Playing Field,	Playing Fields
Coombe Lodge Playing Fields	Playing Fields
Coombe Road, 102	Vacant, dilapidated ex residential
Coombe Road/Edridge Road Green	Amenity Land
Coombe Wood	Parks
Copse Hill Spinney	Nature Reserve
Cotelands Open Space	Parks
Coulsdon Memorial Ground	Parks
Coulsdon Nursery School	Community Nursery School
Coulsdon Road (Land Adj. No 171)	Amenity Land
Coulsdon Road, Lacey Green,	Amenity Land
Courtwood Playground	Parks
Courtwood Primary School	Community Primary School
Croham Hurst	Parks
Croham Manor Road (Green At Bankside)	Amenity Land
Croham Road - Strip of land 7' wide	Amenity Land
Croham Valley Road/Ballards Farm Road	Amenity Land
Crosfield Nursery School and Childrens Centre	Community Nursery School
Croydon Cemetery & Crematorium	Cemetery/Crematorium
Croydon Sports Arena	Recreation
Cypress Infant School	Community Infant School
Cypress Junior School	Community Junior School
Dartnall Road Playspace	Parks
Davidson Primary School	Community Primary School
Deepdene Avenue (Adj. Little Croham)	Amenity Land
Downsview Primary And Nursery School	Community Primary School
Drayton Road Social Club	Clubhouse
Drovers Road (Car Park To North Side)	Car Park
Duppas Hill Recreation Ground	Parks
Duppas Hill Road (Jctn. Epsom Road)	Amenity Land
Edgecombe Community Centre	Vacant ex community centre
Elmwood Junior & Infant School	Community Junior School
Factory Lane - Refuse Transfer Station	Depot
Factory Lane Highway Maintenance Depot	Depot

## Portfolio 24.1.14

Factory Lane, Disinfecting Station	Depot
Fairfield Gardens/College Gardens	Parks
Falconwood Meadow	Parks
Farthing Down Tree Belt	Parks
Forestdale Primary School	Community Primary School
Fox Shaw	Parks
Foxearth Spinney	Parks
Foxes Wood	Parks
Foxley Wood & Sherwood Oaks	Parks
Fullers Wood (Land At End Of Road)	Amenity Land
Garnet Road Car Park	Car Park
George Street, Footpath r/o Norfolk Hse	Private Road
George Street. Land at Essex House	Amenity Land
Gilbert Scott Primary School	Community Primary School
Glade Wood	Nature Reserve
Glazier House	Res Home/DC
Goat Road, (Stream Bed & Land) .	River
Godstone Road, Land Fronting 52	Amenity Land
Godstone Road, Land Fronting 54	Amenity Land
Godstone Road,50	Amenity Land
Godstone Road/Hayes Lane	Amenity Land
Goldcrest Way Youth & Community Centre	Youth Centre
Grange Park	Parks
Grangewood Park	Parks
Grangewood Park Heath Lodge	Vacant ex service tenancy
Granville Gardens Car Park	Car Park
Greenlawn Memorial Park	Cemetery/Crematorium
Greenvale Primary School	Community Primary School
Gresham Primary School	Community Primary School
Haling Grove Park	Parks
Haling Road Site	Community Primary School
Hamsey Green Pond	Parks
Happy Valley Park	Parks
Hartley Down Allotments	Allotments
Hartley Old Road (Adj. No 2)	Amenity Land
Hawkhurst	Parks
Heather Way, 11	Res Home/DC
Heathfield Estate	Parks
Heathfield Open Space	Parks
Heathfield Road, 14	Res Home/DC
Heavers Farm (Resource Centre)	Res Home/DC
Heavers Farm Primary School	Community Primary School
Heavers Meadow	Parks
Herondale (Land Adj. No. 5)	Garden Licence
Highbury Avenue Sports Ground/ Pavilion	Parks
Higher Drive Recreation Ground	Parks
Homefield House	Vacant ex Res Home/Day Centre
Honister Heights/Dalegarth Road Sites	Amenity Land
Howard Primary School	Community Primary School
Imperial Way NO. 3	Storage
Innes Yard (R/o 110 High Street)	Amenity Land

## Portfolio 24.1.14

Inwood	Nature Reserve
Jewels Wood	Parks
John Ruskin College Pru	Pupil Referral Unit
Jubilee Bridge Car Park (Pitlake/Cuthbert Road)	Car Park
Keepers Kennels(Kingswood)	Kennels
Kempfield	Vacant ex Res Home/Day Centre
Kenley Primary School	Community Primary School
Kensington Ave School Playing Field	Playing Fields
Kensington Avenue Primary School	Community Primary School
Kent Gateway (the Paddock Site 1)	Grazing
Kent Gateway (the Paddock Site 2)	Grazing
Kent Gateway, 3 South Lodge	Vacant ex service tenancy
Keston Avenue, Land adj. no. 3	Amenity Land
Keston Primary School	Community Primary School
King Georges Field	Parks
King Henrys Drive Car Park	Car Park
Kings Wood	Parks
Kingsdown Avenue Viewpoint	Parks
Kingsley Primary School	Community Primary School
Ladygrove Play Area	Parks
Langley Oaks	Res Home/Day Centre
Lantern Hall	Res Home/Day Centre
Lathams (Wasteland to North of Gypsy Site)	Amenity Land
Lathams Way, Beddington	Private Road
Lathams Way, Gypsy Site	Residential
Lennard Road, 24	Res Home/Day Centre
Lennard Road, 28	Res Home/Day Centre
Lion Green Road Car Park	Car Park
Little Road Playground	Parks
Littleheath Wood	Parks
Lloyd Park	Parks
London Road School Site (former hospital site)	Community Secondary School (planned)
London Road, Hackbridge (Ditch)	Other
Long Lane Woods	Parks
Lower Addiscombe Road A.P.C.Site	Public Conveniences
Lower Barn Road (Land Adj.91/93)	Amenity Land
Malcolm Road (Land Adj. No. 52)	Amenity Land
Mapledale Avenue Pond	Amenity Land
Marlpit Lane (fronting St. Johns Church)	Amenity Land
Marlpit Lane (Jctn. Ullswater Crescent)	Amenity Land
Mayfield Road Recreation Ground	Parks
Mead Way Green	Amenity Land
Merstham Quarry & Percolate Tank Site	Other (quarry)
Mickleham Way Allotments	Allotments
Middle Street (No 10) P.C.	Public Conveniences
Millers Pond Park	Parks
Millstock	Grazing
Milne Park	Parks
Mitchley Ave/ingleborough Drive - Green	Amenity Land
Mitchley Avenue "The Green" adj St Edmunds Church	Amenity Land
Monks Hill Leisure Sports Centre	Sports & Leisure

## Portfolio 24.1.14

Monks Orchard Primary and Nursery School	Community Primary School
Morland Road - Rees House/Morland Lodge	Office/Admin
New Addington Area Housing Office	Office/Admin
New Addington Car Park	Car Park
New Addington Family Support Centre	Res Home/DC
New Addington Swimming Pools	Sports & Leisure
Newgate (2 Parcels Of Land)	Amenity Land
Norbury Avenue (Adj. 245)	Amenity Land
Norbury Hall Park	Parks
Norbury Manor Primary School	Community Primary School
Norbury Park	Parks
Normanton Meadow	Parks
North Downs Recreation Ground	Parks
North Downs Road Fishers Farm Depot	Depot
Northborough Road Playground	Parks
Northbrook Road Depot	Depot
Northbrook Road Playground	Parks
Northwood Road Playground	Parks
Norwood Grove	Parks
Norwood Grove Mansion (excluding flats)	Community/nursery
Oakland Wood	Parks
Oaks Road (Fronting 1/21), kenley	Amenity Land
Old Ashburton Library	Former Public Library
Old Lodge Lane (Land Adj. Wattenden School Amenity	Amenity Land
Old Lodge Lane (Land Adj. Wattenden School) Parks	Parks
Old Lodge Lane -Land adj Railway Cottages	Car Park
Old Lodge Lane(site Of Garston Hall)	Amenity Land
Orchard Avenue Allotments	Allotments
Orchard Way Primary School	Community Primary School
Overtons Yard (pt) / Adj. Surrey St. Car Park	Access Land
Pampisford Road Allotments	Allotments
Park Hill Infant School	Community Infant School
Park Hill Recreation Ground	Parks
Park Lane/College Rd Unadopted Paths/College	Private Road
Parkfields	Parks
Peter Sylvester Centre	Res Home/Day Centre
Phil Edwards Centre	Pupil Referral Unit
Pinewoods	Parks
Pollards Hill	Parks
Pondfield Road, Land At	Parks
Portland Road, 44b	Clubhouse
Priory School	Special School
Promenade De Verdun	Parks
Purley Beeches	Parks
Purley Car Park	Car Park
Purley Leisure Centre	Sports & Leisure
Purley Nursery School	Community Nursery School
Purley Oaks Primary School	Community Primary School
Purley Way (Land fronting 320)	Amenity Land
Purley Way Pavilion Public Conveniences	Public Conveniences
Purley Way Playing Fields	Parks

## Portfolio 24.1.14

Purley Way West Open Space	Parks
Purley Way West Sports Ground	Playing Fields
Queenhill Road Playspace	Parks
Queens Gardens	Parks
Queens Road Cemetery	Cemetery/Crematorium
Radcliffe Road (Adj. No. 32)	Amenity Land
Ragged Grove	Parks
Red Gates School	Special School
Reedham Drive Playing Fields & Pavilion	Playing Fields
Reedham Station Car Park	Car Park
Regina Road Centre	Childrens Centre
Rickman Hill	Parks
Riddlesdown Extension	Parks
Ridgeway County Primary School	Community Primary School
Rockmount Primary School	Community Primary School
Roke Lodge Road Open Space	Parks
Roman Way (Land At Jctn. Rectory Grove)	Amenity Land
Rotary Fields	Parks
Rowdown Fields	Parks
Rowdown Woods	Parks
Russell Hill Place Car Park	Car Park
Samuel Coleridge Taylor Youth Centre	Youth
Sanderstead Plantation	Parks
Sanderstead Pond	Parks
Sanderstead Recreation Ground	Parks
Sanderstead Road Car Park & residential development	Car Park
Sanderstead Road, 170 (Hazelglen)	Special School (under construction)
Selhurst Childrens Centre	Community Nursery School
Selhurst Mathematics & Computing Specialist School	Community Secondary School
Selsdon Park Road, Forestdale Land fronting	Amenity Land
Selsdon Park Road, land Front. Forestdale	Amenity Land
Selsdon Recreation Ground	Parks
Selsdon Woods Nature Reserve	Parks
Shirley Avenue (Land between Nos. 37/39)	Amenity Land
Shirley Church Recreation	Parks
Shirley Church Windmill	Landmarks & Memorials
Shirley Heath	Parks
Shirley Park Estate	Parks
Shrubland Depot, Broom Road	Depot
Smitham CALAT Centre	Adult Education
Smitham Primary School	Community Primary School
South Croydon Recreation Ground	Parks
South Norwood Country Park	Parks
South Norwood Lake & Grounds	Parks
South Norwood Leisure Centre	Sports & Leisure
South Norwood Primary School	Community Primary School
South Norwood Recreation Ground	Parks
Spices Yard Car Park	Car Park
Spring Park Wood	Parks
St. Augustines Ave. (Land R/o Vicarage)	Amenity Land
St. Davids, Coulsdon Woods	Amenity Land

## Portfolio 24.1.14

St. Giles School	Special School
St. James's Church Rest Garden	Parks
St. Johns Memorial Garden	Landmarks & Memorials
St. Nicholas School	Special School
St. Peter's Primary School	Community Primary School
Stambourne Woodland Walk	Parks
Stanley Halls	Community Halls
Strand House	Adult Education Centre
Stroud Green Well	Parks
Stubbs Mead Depot	Depot
Temple Avenue Copse	Parks
The Avenue Open Space	Parks
The Crescent Primary School	Foundation Primary School
The Hayes Primary School	Community Primary School
The Lawns Open Space	Parks
The Ruffet	Parks
Therapia Lane (Southern Part)	Amenity Land
Thornton Heath Children's Centre	Community Nursery School
Thornton Heath Leisure Centre	Sports & Leisure
Thornton Road Mortuary	Cemetery/Crematorium
Three Corner Grove	Parks
Threehalfpenny Wood, Bridle Way	Parks
Timebridge Centre	Youth Centre
Trumble Gardens	Parks
Turnardound Centre, South Croydon	Youth
Tunstall Nursery and Childrens Centre	Community Nursery School
Upper Norwood Recreation Ground	Parks
Valley Park Healthy Living Centre	Community
Victoria House	Pupil Referral Unit
Waddington Ave, Land adj 22	Amenity Land
Waddon New Road (Site Of 94/95)	Amenity Land
Waddon Ponds	Parks
Waddon Road (Jctn. Epsom Road)	Other
Waddon Youth Centre	Youth
Wandle Park	Parks
Wandle Road - Staff Car Park	Car Park
Wandle Street Car Park	Car Park
Warlingham Court Farm	Parks
Welcare Day Centre, Mitcham Road 56a	Community
Wellesley Road Land Fronting Woburn Court	Amenity Land
Wellington Road, 18	Res Home/DC
West Croydon Car Park	Car Park
Westow Park	Parks
Westow Street Memorial	Landmarks & Memorials
Westow Street P.C.'s (Phoenix Centre)	Public Conveniences
Wettern Tree Gardens	Parks
Whitehorse Lane Allotments (former)	Allotments
Whitehorse Meadow	Parks
Whitehorse Rd Community Resource Centre	Community
Whitehorse Road Recreation Ground	Parks
Wilford Road Recreation Ground	Parks

Portfolio 24.1.14

Windmill Road Land adj 145/7	Amenity Land
Wingate Crescent, Land adj.149	Amenity Land
Winterbourne Infant & Nursery School	Community Infant School
Winterbourne Nursery (formerly Acorn House)	Day Nursery
Winterbourne Youth Centre	Youth
Wontford Road /Haydn Avenue Woods	Parks
Wontford Road Green	Amenity Land
Woodcote Grove Recreation Ground	Parks
Woodcote Primary School	Community Primary School
Woodcote Village Green	Parks
Woodland Way, Land to South side	Amenity Land
Woodside Green	Parks
Woodside Primary School and Children's Centre (Infan	Community Infant School
Woodside Primary School and Children's Centre (Junio	Community Junior School

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**CQ122-14**      **from Councillor George Ayres**

**To Councillor Dudley Mead**

Can the Cabinet Member tell me how many council properties are currently surveyed as needing new kitchens and how many as needing new bathrooms, and out of each of these figures, how many of these are budgeted to be completed in 2014/15?

**Reply**

2,595 properties have been surveyed and identifying as needing kitchen and bathrooms refurbished to meet the Decent Homes standard over time. The budget for 14/15 is £6.1m which should refurbish approximately 500 properties with new kitchens and bathrooms.

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**CQ127-14**      **from Councillor Kathy Bee**

**To Councillor Dudley Mead**

Will the reductions in the Supporting People costs result in reduced charges for people in sheltered housing who seem to be paying a lot to receive very little?

**Reply**

The proposed reduction in the Supporting People programme will be achieved through the recommissioning of a number of supported housing schemes in the independent sector utilising the Supporting People framework to achieve more cost effective prices. It will not impact on the Council's sheltered housing schemes.

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**CQ129-14**            **from Councillor Carole Bonner**

**To Councillor Dudley Mead**

Given the healthy nature of the Housing Revenue Account and the decision that £1.5 million could be found to give rebates to those that pay rent, why has the budget for improvements, such as kitchens and bathrooms not been increased, in particular when tenants are living with kitchens and bathrooms that are in an appalling state and being told they have to wait due to lack of funds?

**Reply**

The capital programme for replacement kitchens and bathrooms for 2013/14 was £4.8m. The programme for 2014/15 is £6.6m, an increase of £1.8m. It is not possible to deal with all kitchens and bathrooms in one year and that is why there is an ongoing annual planned programme of replacements which is based on the future affordability of the HRA bearing in mind the need to set aside sufficient funds to repay the self-financing debts of £223.126m which was borrowed on a maturity basis. One of the benefits of self-financing was the end of having to pay, at its peak, nearly £18m in negative subsidy each year back to the government. Whilst it was possible to predict that there would be a saving in cash flow of £6m per year by having a mortgage and not paying the tenants' tax it is only when the money is in the bank could I be sure of the prudence of having more resources. Such lack of prudence was demonstrated by the Labour party around 2008 when they brought the country to the brink of bankruptcy.

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**CQ131-14            from Councillor Alison Butler**

**To Councillor Dudley Mead**

Can the Cabinet Member please advise what the New Homes Bonus was spent on for 2013/14 and what it is proposed to be spent on for 2014/15?

**Reply**

In 2013/14 Croydon will receive £5.440m New Homes Bonus, of that;-

- £4.700m will support the Capital Programme by offsetting the cost of borrowing on the General Fund
- £0.740m was allocated to the Council's Transformation Reserve

For 2014/15 Croydon is due to receive £8.312m New Homes Bonus, of that;-

- £6.700m will support the Capital Programme's impact on the General Fund by offsetting the cost of borrowing.
- £1.612m has been earmarked for organisational transformation and economic development as one of the key assumptions in the Council's 2013/17 Financial Strategy.

Only an appropriate proportion of the 2014/15 allocation has been built into the General Fund Budget due to the Government's proposal for 2015/16 whereby London's New Homes Bonus Grant will be top-sliced in order to provide a £70m contribution to be pooled within the London Local Enterprise Partnership. This would effectively reduce the Council's annual NHB grant by £2.984m (36%) based on Croydon's share of London's 2014/15 NHB grant (paragraph 13.56 of the General Fund & HRA Budget Report to Council refers).

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**CQ132-14**      **from Councillor Alison Butler**

**To Councillor Dudley Mead**

Rents are set to rise in Croydon at a rate of 4.9% adding to the cost of living crisis. Although there will be a small percentage of tenants receiving rent two rent free weeks, the rents for everyone will be increased for the rest of the year. This will only add to the Cost of Living Crisis. Given that it is the tenants who have paid in to reserves would money have been better spent setting a lower rent or increasing repairs and improvements to homes?

**Reply**

The rents for 2014/15 have been set in accordance with the Government guidelines on rent restructuring. Croydon has followed this guidance, which was established by a Labour Government. since 2003. The two rent free weeks substantially offsets the impact of the rent increase whilst maintaining the rent base going forward. We are continuing to increase expenditure on repairs and improvements to homes, with a further increase of £2m in 2014/15 over 2013/14. In 2014/15 we will be spending £29.771m investing in our stock, an increase of £15.551m since 2011/12.

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**CQ148-14**            **from Councillor Patricia Hay-Justice**

**To Councillor Dudley Mead**

Incorporated in the rent paid by those who reside in sheltered housing blocks is the fee for a warden service. In practical terms this translates in the form of a capable person, whose role before their cessation, was to support their residents in living a full and quality life. This Tory administration argued that the new remote service would save money – cost less more people would benefit and no dedicated wardens would be required. Why then has this saving not been transferred to those who used to pay and still do, for their dedicated sheltered housing wardens?

**Reply**

The support service for retirement / sheltered housing tenants underwent service transformation to ensure that vulnerable tenants would continue to receive a 24/7 response. The current service is available to all tenants who wish to avail themselves of this support and it thus provides reassurance to those tenants who are currently independent.

This service was renamed the CarelinePlus Response team and provides a comprehensive 24/7 support service to tenants in the Council's retirement / sheltered housing schemes. This includes five former sheltered housing officers being allocated as Response workers in the transformed service to the above schemes. Such response workers provide support across a wide range of services including telephone calls, face to face visits, responding to emergency calls and weekly checks on tenants. In addition Centra, formerly Invicta undertake weekly telephone checks on nominated tenants and which CarelinePlus also follow up on as needs be with individual tenants.

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**CQ149-14**      **from Councillor Patricia Hay-Justice**

**To Councillor Dudley Mead**

Over the last year an additional £5m surplus has been added to the Housing Revenue Budget, now in excess of £10m. Would the Cabinet Member justify the logic for such high reserves when this money could be used to build new homes and improve the living conditions of our tenants?

**Reply**

As part of the self-financing settlement at the end of March 2012, the HRA borrowed £223.126m on a maturity basis. Money needs to be set aside each year to ensure that sufficient balances are built up over the coming years to allow the loan to be repaid. One of the benefits of self-financing was the end of having to pay, at its peak, nearly £18m in negative subsidy each year back to the government. Whilst it was possible to predict that there would be a saving in cash flow of £6m per year by having a mortgage and not paying the tenants' tax it is only when the money is in the bank could I be sure of the prudence of having more resources. Such lack of prudence was demonstrated by the labour party around 2008 when they brought the country to the brink of bankruptcy.

We are continuing to invest in the building of new council homes, with £30m allocated over the next 5 years. We are also continuing to increase our investment in our existing stock to ensure that standards are maintained over time. Our investment in planned maintenance and improvements for 2014-15 has increased by £2m over 2013-14 to £29.771m. This is an annual increase of £15.551m since 2011-12.

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**CQ150-14            from Councillor Patricia Hay-Justice**

**To Councillor Dudley Mead**

It is understood that the Housing Capital Budget is expected to benefit from an injection of funds from the anticipated savings from the new maintenance contract due to commence 1st April 2014. Please confirm the projected sum and the risks to the council in actually receiving this money in full. For example, does the contractor have the right to renegotiate more money for works if they are able to illustrate previous maintenance was poor thus requiring corrective action on their part in addition to current requirements?

**Reply**

The Housing capital budget will increase by £2m in 2014/15 from £27.77m to £29.77m thereby reinvesting savings into housing stock resulting from the recently procured responsive repairs contract which will go live on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014. As part of the tender documentation all bidders were provided with a substantial amount of information regarding the housing stock and the competitive dialogue process provided further opportunity to ask for and receive clarification on any aspect of the tender. The 'price per property' submitted and contractual terms entered into therefore provide budget certainty for the Council.

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## **CQ110-14            from Councillor Terry Lenton**

### **To Councillor Tim Pollard**

How will the commitment for future investment of over £10 million for Special Educational Needs provision affect Croydon's children who have special needs and their parents/carers?

### **Reply**

This expenditure in the next financial year is part of the Council's commitment to invest £35.5 million agreed in July 2011 to create additional high quality local specialist places within the borough, to enable more young people to be educated locally. It creates a continuum of provision from mainstream to specialist by adding 10 enhanced learning provisions (learning resource bases) in mainstream primary and secondary schools, where additional support from a range of professionals enables pupils to benefit both from accessing the school curriculum and to remain within a specialist learning environment where needed. There has already been success this year in moving some pupils out of special schools and into enhanced learning provision in primary schools, with evidence of them making rapid progress in learning goals. While the school population has increased since this investment programme commenced in September 2011, expenditure on out of borough independent special schools (funded through the Dedicated Schools Grant) has remained stable as a result of the additional places and greater choice for families.

A table showing the scope of the whole programme is provided as an appendix. The figure of £10 million reflects the projected spend in the next financial year and relates to projects nearing completion and to some in the initial planning stage.

#### Projects nearing completion

- The new building for Priory school, which caters for pupils aged 11-19 with severe learning difficulties, will open to sixth form students after Easter and to the 11-16 cohort after the May half term break. The school will offer a stimulating, high quality learning environment including outdoor learning areas and will enable an expansion in the number of places.
- An enhanced learning provision will open at Courtwood School in September 2014 for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD).
- Victoria House Pupil Referral Unit will be moving to a new site in Sanderstead in May to enable its current site to be used for the development of a primary school and the new development will also provide a location for the Springboard tuition service, which provides flexible learning for pupils temporarily unable to attend school, largely for medical reasons.

#### Projects in development

- A new school will be built for September 2015 on the site currently occupied by Priory School in Tennison Road. This will be developed as part of the Beckmead family of schools to provide progression to secondary school for pupils with ASD exhibiting challenging behaviour who are currently attending the primary provision, Coleby Court, which opened at the beginning of the current academic year. The new school will also offer post 16 vocational opportunities for pupils with a range of special educational needs.

- A further enhanced learning provision is in development at the new arena secondary school to cater for pupils with ASD.

## NEW / ADDITIONAL PROVISION RESULTING FROM THE SEN CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME

### 1. ENHANCED LEARNING PROVISION IN MAINSTREAM SCHOOLS

School Name	Designation	Additional places	Opening date
<b>Primary</b>			
Chipstead Primary	PD / Medical Needs	14	Sept 2013
Courtwood Primary	ASD / Aspergers	14	Sept 2014
Fairchildes Primary	Range of Needs	14	Sept 2013
Kensington Avenue Primary	ASD	14	Sept 2013
The Aerodrome	SLCN	14	Sept 2012
<b>Secondary</b>			
Oasis Arena	ASD	14	Sept 2015
Edenham High School	SLCN	14	Sept 2013
Woodcote High	PD/Medical Needs	14	Sept 2013
School on General Hospital site	ASD	14	TBA
School to be identified	MLD	14	TBA
<b>Total</b>		<b>140</b>	

### 2. EXPANSION OF EXISTING SPECIAL SCHOOLS

School Name	Designation	Additional places	Opening
Red Gates (Primary)	SLD	32	Sept 2012
Bensham Manor (11-19)	ASD / Complex Needs	20	Sept 2012

### 3. NEW SCHOOL BUILDINGS PROVIDING IMPROVED FACILITIES AND ADDITIONAL PLACES

School	Designation	Additional places	Opening
Chaffinch Brook (primary)	ASD / Challenging behaviour	30	Sept 2013
Priory School (11-19)	SLD / ASD	52	April 2014
Secondary provision in development as part of Beckmead	ASD / Challenging Behaviour	50	Sept 2015

#### 4. IMPROVED FACILITIES TO MEET MORE COMPLEX NEEDS

<b>School</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Nature of change</b>	<b>Opening</b>
Victoria House Primary PRU	Primary Nurture provision (part of Beckmead)	Refurbished building on new site	Sept 2013
St Giles (Primary and secondary)	PMLD	Reconfiguration of existing premises	Sept 2013
Applegarth Academy (primary)	SLCN	Reconfiguration of existing premises	April 2014

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**CQ125-14**      **from Councillor Kathy Bee**

**To Councillor Tim Pollard**

Croydon's DfE basic need capital allocation is 96.018m for the period 2014/17. How does this compare with projected capital spend over this period?

**Reply**

The current education capital programme for the expansion of school places for the period 2014/17 is £221m.

This is shown by programme in the table below.

<b>Improving our Assets</b>	<b>2014/15 £</b>	<b>2015/16 £</b>	<b>2016/17 £</b>	<b>Total £</b>
Education - Primary Fixed term expansion	5,155,000	2,950,000	-	8,105,000
Education - Primary Permanent Expansion	51,227,399	57,745,000	22,100,000	131,072,399
Education - Secondary School	31,438,226	36,555,000	14,550,000	82,543,226
	<b>87,820,625</b>	<b>97,250,000</b>	<b>36,650,000</b>	<b>221,720,625</b>

Croydon is allocated so-called basic need capital funding to the same formula as other authorities. We have minimised the impact on the Council's budget by:

- Ensuring that our contracting arrangements secure value for money, which is the case, compared with other London Authorities;
- Working with the Education Funding Agency to maximise the number of free schools in Croydon, which are funded by central government. Three free schools are due to open in Croydon in September 2014. (Two primary and one secondary).

The administration has a meeting arranged with the Schools Minister David Laws MP, to make the case for improved funding by central government.

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**CQ126-14**

**from Councillor Kathy Bee**

## **To Councillor Tim Pollard**

Both SEN transport and fostering placements were over budget in December 2013. Both are listed as areas for efficiency savings in 2014, what makes you think that your forecasting is more accurate this year?

## **Reply**

### SEN Transport

All aspects of SEN Transport are being actively managed.

Work is being undertaken to manage “demand” through providing greater clarity for applicants and ensuring there is a robust process for application. Plans are in place to review the travel arrangements for a higher proportion of children with SEN, thereby permitting the Council to identify those who may be suitable for Independent Travel Training, alternative forms of travel assistance (see below) or those who may actually no longer be eligible to receive travel assistance because of a change of circumstance (e.g. change of address). Work is also planned to ensure that the Council does not exceed, its statutory requirements in regards to post-16 transport. The recent appointment of the Transport Commissioner will also add greater detailed management capacity and capability.

The Council has a strategy for alternative travel, identifying (where possible) more cost-effective alternatives to the provision of taxis or minibuses. This will include the utilisation of Personal Transport Budgets where these are demonstrated to be more cost effective; the development and enlargement of Independent Travel Training, and exploring other alternative forms of travel assistance to include:

- Parental / Peer Group Travel Support - Payment to parent/carer/sibling or provision of travel cards to enable parent/carer/ sibling to escort client to/from school/college/care provision.
- “Maximising” school travel plans - Reviewing existing school travel plans and identifying opportunities to make changes that might enable pupils to travel more independently.
- Use of Assistive Technology - Identify opportunities for the use of assistive technology, e.g. GPS watches, to support independent travel.
- Concessionary Travel - Use of Taxicard, Freedom Pass, Dial-A-Ride for adult clients to access care provision
- Other Alternative Transport Options -Use of Community Transport and other Third Sector transport providers (as available) as alternatives to Council-provided transport.

Work will continue in relation to route optimisation, ensuring the minimum amount of vehicles are utilised whilst ensuring the safety and wellbeing of the children and staff on board. This work will also focus on any particularly high cost provision and exploring any budget/funding initiatives. This work will be led by the Council’s Transport Commissioning Board working in partnership with Croydon Transport Services, which arranges the transport. There will be a dedicated project looking at

post-16 transport and how this can be delivered in a more cost-effective manner, whilst still meeting the Council's obligations.

In summary, both the supply and demand elements of SEN Transport will be actively managed to deliver as much efficiency savings as possible. Added to this, work will take place to ensure that, to those who require it, the most cost-effective form of travel assistance is delivered, whilst at the same time, ensuring that their (often significant physical and learning) needs are met.

## **Fostering Budget**

Two work streams are in place to reduce costs:

### 1. Reducing costs of the fostering service itself:

- The Fostering Service is currently undertaking a significant project that will address the following areas which will:
  - Continue to improve the number of in-house foster-carers.
  - Expand the use of in-house foster-carers for some types of children with high level needs, by strengthening support provided.
  - Continuing to reduce the cost of Independent Fostering Agencies through improvements in commissioning these services.

### 2. Reducing the demand for foster-care places:

- The service is strengthening its plans to reduce the numbers of looked after children. Examples of developments include:
  - The appointment of a dedicated case manager to manage the Public Law Outline timescales will ultimately increase Adoption Orders and Special Guardianship Orders in a timelier manner. The service is also working on improving 'throughput' of Looked After Children by strengthening its arrangements to facilitate appropriate returns home to families.
  - The Rapid Response Service and the impact on the Family Group Conferencing process will support the diversion of children entering care and strengthen family resilience.

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**CQ138-14 from Councillor Sean Fitzsimons**

**To Councillor Tim Pollard**

How many Social Workers and Managers positions are vacant in Children's Social Care; What is the cost of agency staff in 2013/14; and the estimated cost in 2014/15?

**Reply**

The market for social workers is difficult across London and nationally: local authorities typically have high levels of agency staff. For example a neighbouring authority graded outstanding by Ofsted has a 25% agency staffing rate.

The number of posts in Croydon that are currently covered by agency staff is as follows:

	Children in Need	Looked After Children
Managers	9	1
Social workers	44	28

The above figures for social workers include 9 that are vacancies.

The estimated cost of agency staff in Children's Social care in 2013/14 is £7.4m. The total staffing budget in 2013-14 is £16m and for 2014/15 the total staffing budget is £15.7m.

Currently there is a major recruitment and retention campaign underway to shift the position on agency staff. This includes the identification of key posts that are difficult to recruit to, which have been designated 'key worker' posts. Additional incentives have been built into the terms for these posts. There is a strategy underway to recruit in the following ways:

- Conversion of agency staff to permanent: the incentives for this workstream have been designed after discussion with staff on the ground so that we are maximising the appeal to staff who currently working for us. At the time of writing some staff have already converted and others are registering an interest to take advantage of this opportunity.
- We have put in place a national recruitment campaign, with national advertising, about which we have received positive feedback from the market. At the time of writing we are encouraged by the amount of interest being shown in the opportunities that exist as a result of our new package.

The social care market is currently difficult to recruit to across the country and significant levels of agency staff are a commonplace feature of current provision. In this context we do not expect our Recruitment and Retention campaign to totally resolve this issue, but we are hopeful that it will make a significant contribution to improving it.

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**CQ142-14**      **from Councillor Timothy Godfrey**

**To Councillor Tim Pollard**

How much is contract management for a) libraries contract b) parks and open spaces?

**Reply**

- a) The contract management for the library service in the financial year 2014-15 is £81,000. Given the savings achieved on the libraries contract, even with these contract management costs, there are considerable savings to the Council, and the service is also delivering a service that has improved in terms of opening hours and ICT.
- b) The contract management costs for the integrated grounds maintenance park rangers and countryside wardens contract is £152k.

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**CQ153-14**      **from Councillor Wayne Lawlor**

**To Councillor Tim Pollard**

How much money was spent on the outsourcing process for Croydon libraries, including the period when JLIS withdrew from the process over the pension's issue; Please also confirm if Carillion have taken over financial responsibility for pensions and maintenance of library buildings?

**Reply**

The total projected expenditure on the outsourcing of the library service is £284,880. These costs still result in a considerable level of savings even in the first year of the new arrangements. Over the eight-year period of the contract, these set up costs are, in comparison to the expenditure on the service, negligible.

Carillion Integrated Services (CIS) has taken over financial responsibility for staff pensions. Under admitted body status existing staff will remain members of the Local Government Pension Scheme.

CIS is responsible for the maintenance of the "stand alone" libraries for which they have full leases. They are responsible for all aspects of facilities management in these building including reactive and planned maintenance. They are responsible for capital expenditure on planned maintenance up to £5000.

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**CQ154-14**      **from Councillor Wayne Lawlor**

**To Councillor Tim Pollard**

Please confirm the total amount of money spent on insuring the entire Riesco China collection in the financial years from 2006 to date. Please also confirm the amount of money that will need to be spent on insuring those items that remain in the care of Croydon Council?

**Reply**

The Council considered that the collection was covered by our excess in our general insurance. However, when the collection was valued it was found to be of greater value than had been appreciated.

Arrangements for the physical security of the collection were enhanced in 2013.

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**CQ161-14**            **from Councillor Raj Rajendran**

**To Councillor Tim Pollard**

Croydon North has a higher rate of youth unemployment and very high levels of poverty and disadvantage than any neighboring constituency. Government's planned cuts for further education funding for 18 years olds are particularly acute – 22% nationally. Compared to Croydon College the impact will be 35% where many younger constituents attend to make them more employable.

Can the Cabinet Member please explain what provisions have been included in the Budget for the financial year 2014-15 to tackle the impact of further education funding cuts for 18 years olds who are already disadvantaged in the Borough?

**Reply**

Croydon's rate of youth unemployment has fallen markedly over the last year – from 7.5% in February 2013 to 4.7% in January 2014, which is better than the national average.

Funding for the education students of academic age 16, 17 and 18 (i.e. those in academic year groups 12, 13 & 14) is calculated and funded by the Education Funding Agency (EFA), an agency of the Department for Education. This funding is made in accordance with national funding policy and formula to the full range of post-16 providers, including maintained school sixth forms, academy sixth forms, further education colleges and sixth form colleges, and to whom funding is made directly.

Local Authorities do not receive funding for the education and training of this cohort, with the exception of some 'top up' funding for high needs learners (learners with disabilities and/or difficulties) aged 16-24 who require additional funding of specialist provision which is above the standard post-16 funding rate.

A reduction in the funding of academic age 18 year olds (i.e. those in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of post-16 education) was recently announced by the EFA, and will be implemented for the 2014/15 academic year. The rationale given for this change was that the Spending Review for financial year 2015/16 means that that some savings are required from the 16 to 19 participation budget to contribute to reducing the overall public sector budget deficit. In order to achieve the savings in 2015/16, it has been deemed necessary by Central Government to start make savings in the 2014/15 academic year.

Ministers have decided that their policy priorities for the 16-19 budget are to support the increased participation age for 16- and 17-year-olds arising from Raising the Participation Age (students of academic age 18 are not within RPA scope), to maintain additional funding for disadvantaged students, and as far as possible, to maintain the national funding rate per student.

Ministers have therefore decided to make the savings required in 2014/15 by reducing the participation requirements for full-time 18-year-olds, as defined by their age at the start of the academic year. From 2014/15, 18 year olds will be funded at a maximum programme size band size of 450-539 hours per annum. This means the funding rate for full-time 18-year-old students in 2014/15 will be 17.5% below the rate for full-time 16- and 17-year-olds (who are funded at a rate of 540+ hours per annum). Students

with a learning difficulty assessment or a statement of special educational needs will not be affected by this change.

The EFA's expectation is that this change will not reduce the number of academic age 18 students (unless an institution elects to restrict its volumes) as funding of student numbers will continue to be based upon the actual number of students enrolled. Institutions will be funded at a lower rate (-17.5%) for full-time 18 year olds than for full-time 16 and 17 year olds, as 18 year olds are/will be undertaking slightly smaller programmes of study.

Currently the funding of the training element for 18 year olds undertaking apprenticeships remains at the same rate as for 16 and 17 year olds.

For those 18-year olds who are not participating in education, employment or training there is a range of support available including: Job Centre Plus provides a variety of employability support and training programmes. The Skills Funding Agency has recently launched a number of specifications for European Social Fund support programmes to develop employability skills for both those out of work and to enable low skilled working people to sustain and progress within employment.

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**CQ162-14**      **from Councillor Raj Rajendran**

**To Councillor Tim Pollard**

Would the Cabinet Member provide the following information on Fairfield Halls?

i. What is the current length of lease with Fairfield (Croydon) Limited and when will the lease lapse?

ii. Is the lease renewable?

iii. If renewable, how many more years have been included in the current contract?

What provisions have been included in the Budget for the financial year 2014-15 for Fairfield Halls?

**Reply**

- i. The length of the current lease with Fairfield (Croydon) Ltd is 75 years. The date of termination is 31 March 2068.
- ii. The lease has no provision for a reversionary term and as it has been contracted out of the Landlord and Tenant Act provisions there is no automatic right to a new lease at the end of the term.
- iii. There are 54 years remaining on the current lease.
- iv. £950k revenue has been included in the council's budget for the financial year 2014-15.

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**CQ165-14**            **from Councillor Pat Ryan**

**To Councillor Tim Pollard**

Can the Cabinet Member Tim Pollard with responsibilities for Libraries, please provide me with the following information regarding the funding of the Upper Norwood Library.

1) How much funding did Croydon Council provide in the running of the UNJL in 2013/4? And

2) The projected amount of funding that Croydon Council intends to provide in the funding of the UNJL for 2014/5.

**Reply**

The Council provided £75,000 funding for the Upper Norwood Library in 2013/14 plus the additional resource of £2,500 for capacity building.

The Council will provide £75,000 funding in 2014/15.

This represents considerable better value for the Council than the previous arrangement, whilst also giving the new arrangements a strong opportunity to secure good, sustainable services.

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**CQ118-14 from Councillor Paul Scott****To Councillor Jason Perry**

Please schedule the capital expenditure on public realm environmental improvements for each of the last 8 years in each of the wards in the borough. This should include all expenditure designed specifically to enhance the quality of the environment such as landscaping, paving, seating, lighting and planting. Please state the full scope of the works included within the figures given and break down the figures to identify whether the funding came directly from the Council, GLA or Central Government.

**Reply**

Please find below a table setting out major public realm projects delivered - or in the process of being delivered - in Croydon over the past 8 years. The table sets out spend in previous years and spend so far in 2013/14. These projects are primarily funded through a combination of LIP, MRF, HLF, Sustrans, Croydon Capital and some S106 funding.

A wide range of other public realm environmental improvements are delivered through the use of S106 funding (such as the provision of new or enhanced public open space), through direct provision within developments (such as the new square in Saffron Place) or through smaller scale highways improvements. These projects are too numerous and disparate to be able to provide the information requested for them.

<b>Project</b>	<b>Previous Years' Total Outturn (up to 31/3/13)</b>	<b>2013/14 Spend to date</b>
<b>Purley</b>	<b>£2,334,219</b>	<b>£0</b>
<b>New Addington - Ph1 (OLF)</b>	<b>695,482</b>	<b>10,937</b>
<b>Legible London</b>	<b>£499,387</b>	<b>14,334</b>
<b>Addiscombe District Centre</b>	<b>£1,583,177</b>	<b>£0</b>
<b>Parks to be Proud of</b>	<b>£903,350</b>	<b>336,063</b>
<b>Connect 2</b>	<b>£2,315,638</b>	<b>£171,709</b>
<b>Wandle Park and Ph.1 Pavilion</b>	<b>£2,668,815</b>	<b>755,762</b>

<b>East Croydon Station Cross-Platform Bridge</b>	<b>£250,665</b>	<b>£6,192</b>
<b>Wellesley Rd Ph2 - Lansdowne Rd &amp; Lansdowne/Dingwall RB</b>	<b>£123,491</b>	<b>1,295,873</b>
<b>Wellesley Road Ph.1 inc Crossings at Lansdowne &amp; Bedford Pk</b>	<b>£1,238,568</b>	<b>£230,307</b>
<b>Fair Field - Quick wins (College Green paving)</b>	<b>£26,738</b>	<b>130,869</b>
<b>West Croydon Public Realm</b>	<b>£124,868</b>	<b>£287,194</b>
<b>East Croydon Public Realm</b>	<b>£199,216</b>	<b>340,265</b>
<b>Wellesley Road Ph.2 - George Street roundabout</b>	<b>£17,313</b>	<b>£85,058</b>
<b>High Streets - South End</b>	<b>£40,101</b>	<b>176,728</b>
<b>High Streets - London Rd, Central &amp; Old Town</b>	<b>£71,734</b>	<b>£450,507</b>
<b>High Streets - George Street Tram</b>	<b>£793</b>	<b>34,634</b>
<b>New Addington - Central Parade Ph.2 (MRF)</b>	<b>£22,132</b>	<b>30,875</b>
<b>East Croydon / Billington Hill Link Bridge</b>	<b>£51</b>	<b>£7,172</b>
<b>Coulsdon Phase 2 (Mayors 100 Spaces)</b>	<b>£2.9m</b>	