

COUNCIL MEETING: TUESDAY 15 JULY 2014**WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Question Number	Question asked by Councillor:	Subject
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL – COUNCILLOR TONY NEWMAN		
CQ301	Creatura	Fairness Commission
CQ302	Creatura	Cane Hill
CQ310	Pollard H	Fairness Commission
CQ315	Speakman	Purley pool
CQ317	Hollands	South Norwood Police Station
CQ334	Fisher	East Croydon rave
CQ336	Fisher	Fairfield Halls
CQ340	Thomas	Council Tax
CQ345	Brew	Fairness Commission
CQ349	O'Connell	Budget
CQ350	O'Connell	Ashburton Library
CQ359	Canning	Recording signs
CQ361	Chowdhury	BWH space
CQ365	Rendle	Autism Champion
CQ377	Khan S	Ambitious for Croydon
CQ385	Ryan G	First 100 days
CQ387	Ryan G	Fairness Commission
DEPUTY LEADER (STATUTORY) – CABINET MEMBER FOR HOMES & REGENERATION – COUNCILLOR ALISON BUTLER		
CQ290	Neal	Rent arrears
CQ306	Wright	Lion Green Road
CQ307	Wright	Green belt
CQ308	Winborn	Strategic Planning Committee
CQ309	Winborn	Taberner House
CQ311	Pollard H	Selective Licencing Scheme
CQ326	Perry	Planning Sub Committee
CQ343	Bains	Affordable housing level
CQ348	Bennett	Railway Building
CQ362	Chowdhury	Social housing
CQ375	Prince	Sea Cadets Site
CQ381	Kyeremeh	Housing
DEPUTY LEADER – CLEAN GREEN CROYDON – COUNCILLOR STUART COLLINS		
CQ283	Neal	Green waste

Question Number	Question asked by Councillor:	Subject
CQ288	Bains	Waste collections
CQ297	Bird	Recycling
CQ312	Pollard, H	Selbourn Road
CQ313	Buttinger	Rats
CQ314	Speakman	Clean Croydon
CQ319	Hale	Street cleaning
CQ328	Jewitt	Street cleaning
CQ329	Jewitt	Fly posting
CQ335	Fisher	Green waste
CQ341	Thomas	Energy recovery facility
CQ342	Thomas	Slogan
CQ354	Stranack	Falconwood Meadow
CQ360	Canning	Incinerator
CQ364	Rendle	Clean Croydon
CQ373	Henson	Clean Croydon
CQ378	Khan S	Clean Croydon
CQ379	Kyeremeh	fly tipping
CQ383	Lawlor	Clean Croydon
CQ386	Ryan G	Don't mess with Croydon
CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE & TREASURY – COUNCILLOR SIMON HALL		
CQ287	Hopley	Pension Fund
CQ325	Clancy	Budget
CQ351	O'Connell	Budget
CQ352	Brew	ICT issues
CQ355	Stranack	Council contracts
CQ366	Pelling	Election Count venue
CQ368	Pelling	Council finances
CABINET MEMBER FOR PEOPLE & COMMUNITIES – COUNCILLOR LOUISA WOODLEY		
CQ320	Hale	Purley Hospital
CQ332	Mansell	Director of Public Health report
CQ356	Hopley	Heart Town
CQ357	Hopley	Small grants for health
CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT & ENVIRONMENT – COUNCILLOR KATHY BEE		
CQ279	Mohan	20mph
CQ281	Mohan	Spring Lane bridge
CQ282	Hollands	Flood prevention work
CQ291	Buttinger	Flood prevention work
CQ304	Clancy	Flood prevention work

Question Number	Question asked by Councillor:	Subject
CQ331	Mansell	Street lighting
CQ384	Lawlor	20mph
CQ371	Mann	Spring Lane Road Bridge
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CQ293	Gatland	Free schools
CQ294	Gatland	Education performance
CQ295	Neal	Safeguarding Board
CQ299	Bird	CCFP
CQ321	Hale	Corporate Parent
CQ347	Bennett	Academies
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CQ380	Kyeremeh	Education
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CABINET MEMBER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT– COUNCILLOR TONI LETTS		
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CQ300	Thompson	JSA
CQ327	Perry	Westfield / Hammerson
CQ333	Mansell	Poverty in Croydon
CQ344	Bains	Westfield/Hammerson
CQ346	Brew	Tech City
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CABINET MEMBER FOR SAFETY & JUSTICE - COUNCILLOR MARK WATSON		
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CQ284	Bashford	Voluntary sector
CQ286	Bashford	Small grant Fund
CQ318	Chatterjee	CCTV Central parade
CQ322	Cummings	East Croydon rave
CQ323	Cummings	East Croydon rave
CQ324	Cummings	Safer Neighbourhood board
CQ367	Pelling	Empty property security
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CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE & SPORT- COUNCILLOR TIMOTHY GODFREY		
CQ285	Bashford	London Youth Games
CQ289	Chatterjee	Mela
CQ298	Bird	Sports academy

Question Number	Question asked by Councillor:	Subject
CQ289	Chatterjee	Mela
CQ303	Creatura	Ashburton library
CQ305	Clancy	Library services
CQ316	Speakman	South Croydon Recreation Ground
CQ330	Jewitt	South Norwood Recreation Ground
CQ337	Pollard T	Upper Norwood Library
CQ338	Pollard T	Fairfield Halls
CQ353	Stranack	Monks Hill
CQ369	Mann	Ashburton Park
CQ370	Mann	Ashburton library building
CQ372	Henson	Ashburton library building
CQ389	Ryan P	Upper Norwood Library

CQ301-14 from Councillor Mario Creatura

To Councillor Tony Newman

In a press release dated 24th June 2014, the Council announced the launch of a 'Fairness Commission'. The release says:

'The council acknowledges that the current economic climate... have led to an increase in inequality and poverty.'

A recent report called "The Effect of Taxes and Benefits on Household Income" by the independent Office for National Statistics states that disposable income was more equally distributed in the UK in 2011/12 than at any time since the late 80s. Income inequality is, therefore, at its lowest since 1986.

In light of this easily Googled news, will Cllr Newman retract his statement that the current improving economic climate is increasing inequality? If not, when can the council expect to see him publicly challenge the ONS's much respected data?"

Reply

There is growing independent evidence that poverty and inequality has increased during the last few years. In June 2014, the largest study of poverty and deprivation in the UK funded by the Economic and Social Research Council [ESRC], under the Poverty and Social Exclusion (PSE) project reported a stark finding that "The percentage of households who fall below society's minimum standard of living has increased from 14 per cent to 33 per cent over the last 30 years, despite the size of the economy doubling"

The independent research project led by Researchers from the University of Bristol, Heriot-Watt University, the Open University, Queen's University Belfast, University of Glasgow, University of Oxford, University of Birmingham, University of York, the National Centre for Social Research and Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency found that:

- One in four adults has incomes below what they consider is needed to avoid poverty;
- almost 18 million people cannot afford adequate housing conditions;
- 12 million people are too poor to engage in common social activities;
- one in three people cannot afford to heat their homes adequately in the winter, and
- four million children and adults aren't properly fed by today's standards;
- About 5.5 million adults go without essential clothing;
- Around 2.5 million children live in homes that are damp;
- Around 1.5 million children live in households that cannot afford to heat their home;
- One in every six (17 per cent) adults in paid work are poor.
- More than one in five adults had to borrow in the last year to pay for day to day needs.

The Poverty and Social Exclusion standard of living survey results show that more than one in every five (22 per cent) children and adults were poor at the end of 2012. They had both a low income and were also 'multiply deprived' - suffering from three or more deprivations such as lack of food, heating and clothing due to a lack of money. Far more households are in arrears on their household bills in 2012 (21 per cent) than in 1999 (14 per cent). The most common bills in arrears now are utility bills, council tax and mortgage/rent.

Professor David Gordon, from the Townsend Centre for International Poverty Research at the University of Bristol, launching the findings of the research said:

"The Coalition Government aimed to eradicate poverty by tackling the causes of poverty. Their strategy has clearly failed. The available high quality scientific evidence shows that poverty and deprivation have increased since 2010, the poor are suffering from deeper poverty and the gap between the rich and poor is widening."

In Croydon, we are aware that the current economic climate, coupled with the impact of wide reaching welfare reforms and reductions in public sector funding have led to an increase in inequality and poverty in the borough, in particular in wards in the north.

From April 2013 the government introduced four major changes as part of its radical overhaul of welfare. The changes below have affected 16,000 Croydon residents:

- 833 Croydon households have been affected by the benefit cap since it was introduced in May 2013. In May 2014, 398 were still subject to the cap;
- 2,037 social housing tenants of working age in Croydon have had their housing benefit (HB) reduced due to under-occupation, including 975 council tenants;
- A local council tax support scheme to replace the national scheme, with a 10% cut in government grant Under our local council tax support scheme (CTS); 14,280 claimants pay extra contributions of £4.50 per week on average.

(Source - RADAR Welfare Reform Article 27-06-14)

The Fairness Commission for Croydon has been set up to work with a diverse range of community partners and residents in the borough to develop local and sustainable solutions to address inequality such as socio-economic inequalities, health and well-being, education and employment, housing and the environment, community safety etc. and poverty that our residents are experiencing

The Commission will produce evidence based policy recommendations and promote fairness and address the specific service needs of residents. These recommendations will inform and influence budgetary decisions proposed by the Council and LSP partners to address local challenges related to inequality and fairness in the borough.

CQ302-14 **from Councillor Mario Creatura**

To Councillor Tony Newman

During the election campaign, Cllr Newman said that an access road coming down from the Cane Hill site on to the Coulsdon bypass 'is clearly essential' - the previous Conservative administration had pledged to pay an estimated £2m to fund it. Will he now honour that pledge?

If not, will he explain how he intends to fund the 'clearly essential' new exit?"

Reply

I agree that construction of an access road is important. The view of this Labour administration is that the cost of this road should be funded by the developer or Transport for London.

CQ310-14 **from Councillor Helen Pollard**

To Councillor Tony Newman

In the light of the new administration's commitment to transparency can the Leader tell me whether the meetings of the new Fairness Commission will be held in public? Can he also confirm the remuneration that will be provided to the members of the Commission?

Reply

The role of the Commissioners will be voluntary. They will not be provided any remuneration. But travel costs and incidental expenses will be reimbursed.

The introductory meeting of the Fairness Commission will be organised in September. This meeting will be used to plan and agree the work of the Fairness Commission, review information on key equality and fairness challenges for the borough and agree proposed themes to review in detail at the formal launch of the Fairness Commission at the Croydon Congress meeting in November 2014.

The Fairness Commission will work in a transparent and inclusive way and will proactively engage with local residents. After the launch in November, as a part of the year-long engagement exercise public meetings will be held in different parts of the borough to discuss inequality and fairness challenges that residents experience and seek consensus on issues that are most critical;

Public meetings will also be organised to hold discussions and seek feedback from a wide range of community groups / groups that share "protected characteristics" and to collate personal experience stories / testimony from local residents.

CQ315-14 **from Councillor Donald Speakman**

To Councillor Tony Newman

Councillor Newman, prior to the May election you pledged to retain the swimming pool in Purley. Could I ask that you meet with Purley Ward Councillors and Pool users to discuss your plans for renovating this much loved facility?

Reply

I thank Councillor Speakman for his question.

I would be delighted to meet with Purley Ward Councillors to discuss plans for Purley swimming pool along with any other issues. I look forward to a meeting in the near future.

CQ317-14 **from Councillor Steve Hollands**

To Councillor Tony Newman

Bearing in mind the lack of school places in the North of the Borough do you unequivocally support the conversion of the former S Norwood Police Station into a school?

Reply

I thank Councillor Hollands for his question.

Whilst I regret the closure of South Norwood police station, we clearly have an ongoing need for additional school places and we will examine all available options in order to deliver them for the people of Croydon.

CQ334-14 **from Councillor Mike Fisher**

To Councillor Tony Newman

What advice have you given to local commercial landowners in the aftermath of the recent rave at East Croydon?

Reply

I thank Councillor Fisher for his question.

I refer you to the answer given by Councillor Mark Watson in response to CQ322-14.

CQ336-14 **from Councillor Mike Fisher**

To Councillor Tony Newman

Will the Leader of the Council please confirm that the entire proceeds from the sale of part of the Riesco collection will be spent on refurbishing the Fairfield Halls?

Reply

I thank Councillor Fisher for his question.

I am delighted that within weeks of taking office, this Labour administration has unpicked years of deadlock and will commence much needed work on Fairfield Halls this summer.

Planned initial expenditure from the £33.75m project budget will go to fund early wins such as provision of digital cinema equipment in the Concert Hall, overhaul of the Arnhem Gallery and provision of studio performance facilities in the Green Room. These works will be followed by delivery of the major modernisation project, details of which are being finalised.

CQ340-14 **from Councillor Phil Thomas**

To Councillor Tony Newman

What is your Policy on Council tax rises for the next 4 years?

Reply

I thank Councillor Thomas for his question.

This Labour administration's policy is to freeze Council Tax for the first 2 years and ensure any increase in the following 2 years, is either equal to, or below the rate of inflation.

CQ345-14 **from Councillor Simon Brew**

To Councillor Tony Newman

Exactly how do you arrive at a figure of £200k to fund your Fairness Commission?"

Reply

The Council is in the process of setting out the costs associated with supporting the work of a Fairness Commission. The indicative earmarked budget is based of benchmarking information collated from other Councils who have set up similar Commissions. At this early stage the potential costs of an independent Fairness Commission are likely to include a small team to support the work of the commission; the possible procurement of the services of an independent subject matter expert / research institution to support the Chair of the Fairness Commission and commissioners to produce the report and the recommendations; and costs associated with hosting public meetings, producing communication material, reimbursement of travel costs for Commissioners.

CQ349-14 **from Councillor Steve O'Connell**

To Councillor Tony Newman

Where is your Emergency Budget?

Reply

I thank Councillor O'Connell for his question.

In light of the £100 million black hole we've inherited from Councillor Fisher by his own admission, our strategic plans were set out in the July Financial Review report to the July Cabinet meeting. You will already be aware of the decisions made in the June Cabinet meeting which was also transparently reported in the July Financial Review report.

CQ350-14 **from Councillor Steve O'Connell**

To Councillor Tony Newman

Why did you break the Council's promise to the Community to allow them to take over the former Ashburton library?

Reply

I thank Councillor O'Connell for his question.

I would refer you to the answer given in my response to PQ047-14.

CQ359-14 **from Councillor Robert Canning**

To Councillor Tony Newman

Will the Leader of the Council arrange for the removal of the signs in the public gallery of the council chamber that state that the use of recording equipment is prohibited?

Reply

Thank you for your question.

I can confirm that the signs have been removed.

CQ361-14 **from Councillor Sherwan Chowdhury**

To Councillor Tony Newman

Could the leader of the council let me know if there is any vacant space in BWH and how it could be utilised?

Reply

Thank you for your question.

I'm determined to deliver better value for taxpayers than the previous Conservative administration.

The new administration has recognised the opportunity to maximise the utilisation of BWH. This is under review as a consideration of how we can better use our broader property portfolio. There is already interest from a number of parties regarding renting space in BWH.

CQ365-14 **from Councillor Andrew Rendle**

To Councillor Tony Newman

Will the leader agree with me that officers have been very supportive to all of us new councillors and will he also support me in my role of Champion for Autism to make Croydon the best it can for supporting people on the spectrum.

Reply

I thank Councillor Rendle for his question.

I am indeed pleased with the support we have received from officers, for which I extend thanks on behalf of this administration.

On the very important issue of supporting people with autism, Councillor Rendle's appointment as Champion for Autism demonstrates our commitment to ensuring that effective support is provided to people with autism. I will take this opportunity to publicly thank Councillor Rendle for undertaking this work and assure him of the full backing of this administration in his role as Champion for Autism.

CQ377-14 from Councillor Shafi Khan

To Councillor Tony Newman

Can the Leader share his views and update us about the short term plans and future visions of “Ambitious for Croydon”?

Reply

I’m delighted that we’ve hit the ground running and have made an excellent start on delivering our manifesto commitments outlined in “Ambitious for Croydon”. Since taking office we have:

- Launched “Don’t Mess With Croydon” campaign which includes action to deal with fly-tipping and a crackdown on rogue and criminal landlords. By introducing a new licensing scheme for private sector landlords we are helping to improve the number of decent homes available for private tenants and giving accreditation to the vast majority of landlords that do a good job for their tenants.
- Commenced discussions with representatives of Croydon Tech City to identify how the Council can help small tech business to rapidly grow in the heart of our city.
- Launched a Fairness Commission for Croydon that will look at how our local policies in areas such as health and well-being, community safety, social care, employment, housing and investment can all be improved to give greater equality of opportunity to all residents.
- As part of our Community Safety Strategy we have launched a campaign to raise awareness about and prevent domestic violence. We are seeking to hold urgent talks with the Home Secretary on how public agencies can work together better to prevent domestic violence.
- Increased openness and transparency in conducting the business of the council
- Commenced work on developing “Playstreet” schemes to provide safer play areas for children and young people.
- Commenced the review of services that are commissioned for some of Croydon’s most vulnerable people. Recent work has been focussed on the new provision for Drug and Alcohol Engagement, Treatment and Recovery Service for Adults and Young People and I am pleased to report that this contract will now be London Living Wage compliant.

Reports addressing the following issues were presented to Cabinet on 14 July:-

- Openess and Transparency for the people of Croydon
- Living Wage for Croydon
- Growth Plan and district centre investment
- Targeting empty properties
- Investing in the future of young people: School Places and Admissions
- Annual Public Health Report
- July Financial Review
- Provision of new temporary housing
- Treatment and recovery service for young people

A report recommending initial plans for how we refresh Fairfield Halls will be ready for September Cabinet.

You will note that we have wasted no time in setting about cleaning up the borough, increasing transparency and accountability, and delivering decent jobs and homes for our residents.

CQ385-14 **from Councillor Gerry Ryan**

To Councillor Tony Newman

Can the Leader update me on how well this a Labour administration is doing with its first 100 days initiative.

Reply

I thank Councillor Ryan for his question.

I would refer you to the answer given in my response to CQ377-14.

CQ387-14 **from Councillor Gerry Ryan**

To Councillor Tony Newman

Can the Leader update me on how well the Fairness Commission initiative is doing.

Reply

I thank Councillor Ryan for his question.

Work is underway on Phase 1 (the setting up stage) of the Fairness Commission. We are in the process of:

- Contacting independent experts and inviting them to take on the role of the Chair of the Fairness Commission.
- Contacting potential Commissioners – experts will who will be broadly represent the public, private and voluntary sector as members of the Fairness Commission.
- Setting up a project team to support the planning and delivery work of the Fairness Commission.
- Agreeing arrangements to share information on the work of the Fairness Commission and seek feedback from local residents and other stakeholders through the use of tools such as a dedicated Fairness Commission web page, a twitter account, Facebook account etc.
- Organising the first meeting of the Fairness Commission in September 2014. This includes research and collation of background information on the key inequality and fairness issues that are a challenge for the borough.

CQ290-14 from Councillor Michael Neal

To Councillor Alison Butler

Could you outline the performance of rent arrears from May / June last year to May / June this year in all districts? Could you also indicate the rent collection percentage rate for May 2014 against the target?

Reply

The table below sets out the performance on current secure and non-secure rent arrears for council tenants for the periods requested. Overall there has been a reduction in rent arrears for 2014 compared to 2013 and this is partially due to the rent free weeks that were applied in weeks 1 and 2 of this financial year.

Week	North £	South/Central £	East £	Borough £
1 (1 April 2013)	532,909	492,966	570,834	1,596,709
7 (13 May 2013)	572,435	541,183	685,838	1,994,748
11 (10 June 2013)	602,856	604,588	606,982	1,814,426
1 (31 March 2014)	567,669	403,530	477,409	1,448,608
7 (12 May 2014)	510,085	307,770	380,440	1,198,295
11 (9 June 2014)	540,815	335,874	405,300	1,281,989

The rent collection rate for May 2014 was 102.6% against a target of 98.5%. Again this exceptionally high performance is largely attributed to the rent free weeks mentioned above.

CQ306-14 **from Councillor Chris Wright**

To Councillor Alison Butler

Following a discussion at the East Coulsdon Residents public meeting, could the cabinet member please tell me of her intentions regarding the future development of the Lion Green Road Parking Area?

Reply

As Councillor Wright is aware the site has been declared surplus and CCURV is pursuing a redevelopment of it for a supermarket along with a community use and car parking. That remains the position.

CQ307-14 **from Councillor Chris Wright**

To Councillor Alison Butler

Could the Cabinet Member please confirm that the Green Belt areas in Croydon will continue to be completely free from any development?

Reply

Green Belt policy is set out in the NPPF, the London Plan and the Croydon Local Plan. It sets a strong level of protection to such land and only certain specified development that is necessary can be permitted. In other circumstances other material considerations must amount to very special circumstances sufficient to outweigh the strong presumption against development in the Green Belt.

This Council will continue to apply this policy protection to land identified as the Metropolitan Green Belt.

CQ308-14 **from Councillor Sue Winborn**

To Councillor Alison Butler

Would the Cabinet Member please explain what has happened to the Strategic Planning Committee?

Reply

The Strategic Planning Committee functions will not be lost but will be discharged through a different distribution of agenda items through the following committees:

Planning Committee will consider:

- All applications for determination except minor ones
- All developer presentations of strategic applications
- Any other planning matters for committee consideration

Planning Sub Committee will consider:

- All minor applications for determination

It is intended that the Planning Committee will meet separately for determining applications and hearing presentations. Planning Sub Committee will be a much smaller committee (3 members) held in a meeting room rather than the council chambers so it is more customer friendly.

These changes to the way we operate our planning committees are designed to improve their effectiveness, and increase openness and transparency for the people of Croydon.

CQ309-14 **from Councillor Sue Winborn**

To Councillor Alison Butler

Would the Cabinet Member please provide a timetable for the Taberner House Development?

Reply

The start of construction of the scheme on the Taberner House site is scheduled for early 2015.

However, we are concerned about the level of affordable housing currently being provided on the Taberner House scheme. We are therefore exploring a range of options to increase the number of affordable homes on this site.

Providing affordable homes is an absolute priority for this Administration, so it is crucial that we explore all opportunities for increasing the delivery of affordable homes.

CQ311-14 from Councillor Helen Pollard

To Councillor Alison Butler

Can the Cabinet Member for Homes and Regeneration explain how the proposed 'Selective Licensing Scheme' will alleviate homelessness and pressure on housing when an inevitable result will be that landlords pass the additional cost onto tenants, putting rents out of the reach of more people?

Reply

The purpose of consulting on selective licensing is to hear the views of those "likely to be affected" by it including tenants, landlords, businesses and residents of Croydon. Selective licencing's prime purpose in Croydon is to help drive up standards for tenants and enable the council to take firm action against criminal landlords where required.

It is the lack of supply - the cost of living crisis and the benefits cap that has put rents out of each of many people. I do not accept that it is inevitable that landlords will pass the additional cost of licencing on to tenants. In any event the "additional financial burden" for a landlord letting a 2 bedroom property in Croydon (based on current market rents and assuming they took advantage of the proposed early bird discount of £300) would be small at £140 per year or £2.70 per week) and would likely be absorbed by the vast majority of landlords within their overall costs.

In addition landlords have seen rents increase in recent years. In Croydon the median private sector rent for a 2 bedroom property has increased by £18 per week (8.4%) between 2011/12 and July 2014, over £900 per year.

CQ326-14 **from Councillor Jason Perry**

To Councillor Alison Butler

When will the newly formed Planning Sub Committee sit and what is its remit?"

Reply

Planning Sub Committee will start to sit in September. Its remit will be applications involving a single small building, including a new building as well as an extension to or change of use of an existing building. Therefore it will typically deal with house extensions, infill developments and small commercial developments. It will operate as the current planning committee with 2 crucial changes:

- Only 3 members
- Held in a meeting room

These changes are designed to make it more customer friendly, improve their effectiveness and increase openness and transparency for the people of Croydon.

CQ343-14 **from Councillor Jeet Bains**

To Councillor Alison Butler

What level of affordable housing will this Labour Council be imposing on developers?

Reply

The Council's policy on affordable housing is contained in the Croydon local Plan and currently has a 15% minimum level. The policy has within it a facility to review this in response to market changes (land values, house prices and build costs) and I will be bringing a report to Cabinet shortly to do that. Changes in market factors points to 30% now being a more realistic figure. The Council will therefore continue to seek 50% affordable housing in line with the London Plan, but viability considerations will often reduce what can be achieved to 30%.

CQ348-14 **from Councillor Sue Bennett**

To Councillor Alison Butler

What action did the Cabinet Member take to stop the unauthorised partial demolition of Railway Buildings in South Norwood?

Reply

Planning permission was granted for the redevelopment of this site. Conditions should have been discharged before the developer commenced implementing the development. As this didn't happen there was a breach of planning control.

Before taking enforcement action the Council has to consider whether it is expedient to do so. At the time we had applications to discharge the relevant conditions. The buildings in question did not contribute positively to the appearance of the conservation area. Given those considerations a decision was taken that it was not expedient to take enforcement action.

I am aware that many residents have raised serious concerns about the shabby condition of the area and the urgent need for regeneration.

CQ362-14 **from Councillor Sherwan Chowdhury**

To Councillor Alison Butler

Would the Cabinet Member agree with me that there is not enough social housing in Croydon and that Boris Johnson has not supported the need to build enough affordable social housing in London?

Reply

I thank Cllr Chowdhury for his question and his support in tackling housing issues in Croydon. I would certainly agree that Mr Johnson has not supported the need for affordable housing and allowing affordable rents to be set up to 80% of the market rent has been positively damaging for all Londoners.

CQ375-14 **from Councillor Joy Prince**

To Councillor Alison Butler

Waddon ward's Labour councillors are concerned about the former Sea Cadets site at the junction of The Waldrons and Davenant Road. Its dereliction needs to be tackled especially after the tragic death of Polish rough sleeper Sylwester Mendzelewski on the site. Please could the Cabinet Member provide a brief history of the work to date by the authority to help in bringing an end to this prominent site's dereliction?

Reply

Conservation Area Consent was granted for demolition of the building on 02/12/2013. We understand that a developer has secured an option (subject to planning) with the current owner and they are preparing to bring forward a pre-planning application with the council in August. The death of the young man is regretted and our condolences are with his family, however responsibility for the demolition and security of the site sits with the current owners.

The Council has been active on advising owners of empty sites of their responsibilities in respect of security.

CQ381-14 **from Councillor Matthew Kyeremeh**

To Councillor Alison Butler

One in three residents who attend my surgery complain about housing issues. In the Cabinet Member's plan for housing is there any hope for public housing at all in the immediate future?

Reply

Croydon and London are facing a housing crisis. One of our top priorities is to create more housing of all tenures, in the borough. I am pleased to say that Labour in Croydon has increased the level of affordable housing it would expect to see on new developments and will go to consultation to introduce a Licencing Scheme to drive up standards in the private rented sector.

A new campaign is also soon to be launched to target empty properties in the borough and bring them back into use. This will not only tackle the blight and environmental nuisance that often comes with a property lying empty, but will bring additional housing back into supply. .

In the long-term we must increase the supply of housing and we look forward to working with a Labour Government to ensure this happens.

CQ283-14 **from Councillor Michael Neal**

To Councillor Stuart Collins

Can residents of Croham Ward be assured that their green garden waste collections are safe under Labour, will remain as a fortnightly collection and be free to all residents during the next 4 years?

Reply

As part of the 'Don't Mess with Croydon: Take Pride' campaign the Council will be undertaking reviews of all current service offers in the coming months to determine what future arrangements may look like.

Our aim is to improve the overall service for the whole Borough and ensure fairness of provision when looking at our priorities.

CQ288-14 from Councillor Jeet Bains

To Councillor Stuart Collins

Please provide figures for each ward in Croydon the following info on bulky waste collections in the last 2 years.....

1. Nos of homes requesting bulky waste collections
2. Money collected from each Ward

How much does the Council subsidise each home collection including the cost of removal and landfill costs?

Reply

The number of requests received for the removal of unwanted bulky household waste was 11,600 in 2012/2013 and 14,200 in 2013/2014.

Information is not available to show the funding received from each ward in respect of this service.

The bulky collection charge of £10 does not fully cover the costs of collection and the cost of landfilling the waste has to be added, hence the average cost of subsidy per collection is £18.

CQ297-14 **from Councillor Margaret Bird**

To Councillor Stuart Collins

Recycling was a top priority to the Conservative controlled Council. What are you planning to do to improve the recycling figures and give examples of what new recycling initiatives the residents of Coulsdon can expect from you ?

Reply

One of the first service priorities is to reduce the amount of illegally deposited waste having to be collected from the streets across the borough.

Tonnage collected from fly tips has an adverse effect on the borough's overall recycling rate with more waste having to be sent for landfill as opposed to recycling.

During the forthcoming months all services will be reviewed to determine what the new service offer may look like going forward for all residents within Croydon.

CQ312-14 **from Councillor Helen Pollard**

To Councillor Stuart Collins

Can the Cabinet Member for Clean and Green let me know how frequently Selbourne Road in Fairfield ward has been cleaned each month over the last 12 months?

Reply

Selbourne Road is scheduled to be cleaned Thursday every fortnight. Please report any dissatisfaction with the service through the Council's 'My Account' and it will be considered in our review of street cleaning services.

CQ313-14 from Councillor Jan Buttinger

To Councillor Stuart Collins

In the light of the latest fear about giant rats and rats resistant to bait, could the Cabinet member let me know the latest Council policy on dealing with rats, in property, rats in gardens and rats in other places?

Reply

We have a pest control contract which covers residential properties and also our own council houses, flats and any gardens to these properties. In relation to that contract, which in the last financial year dealt with almost 550 requests for service relating to rats, we have not found any giant rats, although they are in general appearing to be growing slightly larger than in the past. We have put this down to an increase in amount and quality of available food.

To ensure that the rodents we treat do not become immune to rodenticides we always ensure that we change which rodenticide we use as others are developed and work closely with suppliers to ensure that we are using the latest available.

Residents are not required to use our pest control service but to encourage this the cost to private residents for treatment for rats inside houses is significantly subsidised by us as we pay around 60% of the cost and the resident pays around 40%. Treatments are free to council tenants.

If we are aware of a problem with rats in private property, or on private land and there is a public health issue such as an accumulation of food waste or soft furnishings which can attract or harbour rodents, we take enforcement action to ensure that the rubbish is cleared and pest control treatment is carried out. This includes carrying out works in default of the owner, and recovering costs, if they do not respond to us.

If the rat infestation relates to a commercial premises then it is the business owner's responsibility to eradicate that infestation at their own cost.

CQ314-14 **from Councillor Donald Speakman**

To Councillor Stuart Collins

Whilst we all want to see a Clean Croydon, have you not grossly underestimated the cost of your new environmental approach? Please detail the actual year on year cost over the next 4 years?

Reply

The 'Don't Mess with Croydon: Take Pride' campaign is an integral part of our new approach to make Croydon the cleanest and greenest borough in London. This will be achieved through the introduction of a new approach, which will tackle the issues of fly tipping, recycling, street cleanliness and environmental enforcement, which are areas that have been highlighted by Croydon's communities as those that need urgent attention.

Some of the actions can be delivered within existing budget resources and some will require additional funding which for the period of the pilot phases are being met by using earmarked reserves.

The reason for the 100 day pilot is to examine what other interventions we need to do to get on top of the issues. Any longer term commitment to these options, following the pilot phase, will be considered alongside the 2015/16 budget requirement.

CQ319-14 **from Councillor Lynne Hale**

To Councillor Stuart Collins

Before the election you distributed a booklet entitled "Ambitious for Croydon" where you promised to increase the frequency of street cleansing.

Please could you let me know when street cleaning frequencies will be increased in Sanderstead Ward?

Reply

Our new Clean and Green approach is designed to make Croydon the cleanest and greenest borough in London, which will be achieved through our new campaign, 'Don't mess with Croydon: Take Pride'. The approach, which will be supported by a new publicity campaign, is based on the following:- educating and informing Croydon residents of the full range of services available, catching offenders and encouraging residents to report offenders and making it easy for residents to use our services.

As part of this approach the Council will be undertaking a review of the current street cleaning service and will determine how the street cleaning resources will be most effectively deployed going forward i.e. where needed most.

I am currently visiting Wards and of course would be interested to know if there are any isolated spots in Sanderstead where the current street cleaning frequencies aren't delivering a good service.

CQ328-14 **from Councillor Karen Jewitt**

To Councillor Stuart Collins

I would like the Cabinet Member to look at the routes the street cleaners are following and the days they do them so we can co-ordinate with the refuse collection. It would be useful if they could be after the bin pick up and not the day before.

Reply

This is a very good point you make and one that I have asked officers within the Environmental & Leisure team to work with Veolia to review the existing street cleaning schedules. They will explore if it is possible to reschedule street cleaning activities to be undertaken the day after the recycling & landfill collections have taken place in roads where it is practicable it will be implemented.

CQ329-14 **from Councillor Karen Jewitt**

To Councillor Stuart Collins

Can the Cabinet Member please look at the fly posting around the borough especially at junctions that have barriers and traffic lights; these seem to be used constantly by illegal postings. Man and a Van stuck to telephone/television boxes are scruffy looking. Can we hold concert venues responsible for where their adverts are put? Our new lampposts around the football ground have recently been defaced by stickers put there by football fan groups, can we ask the club to get involved to stop this happening.

Reply

Thank you for bringing this to my attention.

As a service we are in the process of reviewing our approach to dealing with these cases and as we move forward our approach will be to

- Photograph the offending posters for evidential purposes
- Remove all posters upon attendance immediately or upon report (ensuring action above has been completed).
- This will be undertaken by all street based teams, AEOs, EEOs included

The only posters that may be allowed to remain in situ will be the ones where we have a clear and realistic chance of prosecution (i.e. local venues clearly advertised) or we are actively looking at a specific poster/promoter and have instructed all parties to leave these specific sites for prosecution purposes.

It is key that posters are removed at the earliest opportunity as leaving posters in place without intervention for more than 72 hours provided the Fly post offenders with the advertising they need and would potentially encourage repeat offences.

CQ335-14 from Councillor Mike Fisher

To Councillor Stuart Collins

Can the Cabinet Member tell me how much Green waste was collected during the financial years 2013/14 and 2012/13 by electoral Ward?

Reply

	2012/13	2013/14
Kerbside	9,249.12	9,255.06
Household Reuse & Recycling Centre	4,229.62	4,654.72

Unfortunately the Council does not hold green waste tonnages on a ward basis as the collection rounds are work across various wards on specific collection days.

Hope my answer helps in terms of the overall tonnage.

CQ341-14 from Councillor Phil Thomas

To Councillor Stuart Collins

Please clarify your position on the planned Energy recovery facility in Beddington Lane ?

Reply

This administration is committed to improving our local environment and making Croydon a more pleasant place in which to live, work, shop and visit.

It is our view that the previous Conservative council ignored the views of local people by supporting the energy recovery facility at Beddington Lane and that a truly green council would not support such a facility so close to residential areas.

It is our priority to continue to reduce the amount of rubbish sent to landfill sites by doing more to reduce waste, encourage re-use and increase recycling.

Our Don't Mess With Croydon; Take Pride campaign is a step to help make that happen.

We have been clear that we do not agree with the technological solution being proposed for the new facility. We also understand that not only did your Administration put us in a contractual position with Viridor, but also that there is an ongoing judicial review. We are committed to reviewing the facility when we know what the result of that judicial review is.

CQ342-14 from Councillor Phil Thomas

To Councillor Stuart Collins

At your first Cabinet meeting you failed to answer any of the questions I asked you on flytipping and the associated costs. Can you tell me when the new extra Enforcement Officers will be recruited and how much you intend to spend on new mobile CCTV to catch the people who are fly tipping ? What is the cost and what are you cutting to fund it ?

Why did you copy the State of Texas sloganDon't mess with Texas ? Is that the best you could dream up ?

Reply

I have been extremely impressed with the Enforcement Officers we have, on several visits to fly tip hot spots I have seen them in action liberated by the Don't Mess with Croydon, Take Pride campaign which has created a real buzz. I intend to see how we get on and if we need to recruit more enforcement officers I'll discuss costs at that point. With regard to spending on CCTV enforcement I did say at Cabinet we will be discussing and investigating innovative systems out on the market, when that's done I will again look at budget options.

Don't Mess with Croydon is a great slogan, it's already got residents talking and I am certainly not adverse to copying great ideas whether they be from Texas or Waltham Forest. The Take Pride part was our idea and I have really enjoyed working with Officers in creating the marketing. If we are to change the culture and educate communities about looking after Croydon we need to use every medium possible to put out that message, so look out for more Don't Mess with Croydon, Take Pride marketing throughout this four year administration.

CQ354-14 from Councillor Andy Stranack

To Councillor Stuart Collins

"Residents have been in touch with me to express concern over the maintenance arrangement for Falconwood Meadow. A number of dog walkers use this facility and are complaining that the pathways cut into the grassland are narrow and do not allow two dog owners to pass safely. A number of dogs have caught ticks and other parasites after using the Meadow. Could Officers meet with a small delegation of park users to discuss current maintenance arrangements for the area and agree a way forward for the future?"

Reply

The grass cutting regime was amended a few years ago as part of a number of changes to improve the efficiency and costs of the contract regarding grass cutting, which involved returning the meadow to a conservation cut on a yearly cycle (autumn cut and collect).

The council has offered to increase the width of the path network cut, in order to help with the issues raised regarding confrontation from other dogs and allow greater passing distance.

In addition officers from the Environmental & Leisure Team are happy to meet a delegation of park users to discuss this matter.

CQ360-14 **from Councillor Robert Canning**

To Councillor Stuart Collins

What scope is there for Croydon's new administration to stop the proposed Beddington Lane incinerator?

Reply

The decision to grant planning permission is ultimately a Sutton decision as they are the planning authority and Croydon were a consultee.

It is our view that the previous Conservative council ignored the views of local people by supporting the energy recovery facility at Beddington Lane and that a truly green council would not support such a facility so close to residential areas.

We have been clear that we do not agree with the technological solution being proposed for the new facility but also understand that we are not only in a contractual position with Viriodr but also that there is an ongoing judicial review.

We are committed to reviewing the facility when we know what the result of that review is. I recognise the role of local Cllr's and residents taking part in any reconsideration and will involve you all depending on the result of the judicial review.

CQ364-14 from Councillor Andrew Rendle

To Councillor Stuart Collins

Will the Cabinet Member for Clean Green Croydon please tell me how he has, and will continue to make things better for my constituents in Ashburton?

Reply

I would be pleased to visit Ashburton ward with you and invite our enforcement officers so we can review any problem locations in your area. Please let me know so that we can add these to the schedule for future visits.

We have already cleared several fly tips in Ashburton and a visit will help us establish where to put up signs and explore CCTV opportunities to catch the offenders.

I have covered the Don't Mess with Croydon, Take Pride Campaign in other written answers but I feel the following actions we are taking will play a part in making things better for Ashburton residents.

. Actions include:

- The launch of the Don't Mess With Croydon media campaign
- 3 rapid reaction removal teams so that fly tips are now cleared within 48 hours, 7 days a week
- Site visits to problem areas with ward Councillors and officers agreeing long term solutions to problem locations
- New telephone number hotline and email address – flytip@croydon.gov.uk
- All staff and contractors reporting
- Eyesore garden project to tackle waste on private land
- FPN penalties up from £75 to £80
- The rollout of community champions to take ownership and pride in their area and assist the Council in keeping the Borough clean

The approach will be very much a partnership between the Council; its staff, partners and residents with the aim of keeping our Borough clean and for everyone to Take Pride in Croydon.

This approach applies to the whole of Croydon but there will be a particular emphasis on the worst affected areas. I will be regularly reviewing performance data to determine which roads and wards require specific attention and will be arranging site visits to find long term solutions.

CQ373-14 **from Councillor Maddie Henson**

To Councillor Stuart Collins

Will the cabinet member confirm how the plans for a cleaner, greener Croydon will improve both the image and accessibility of Croydon?

Reply

When people see a marked improvement I sure they will feel better about the place in which they live and this in turn will help the image of Croydon. When people travel through Croydon to shop or work or to get around they will notice the Council cleaning up and taking action against those not taking pride. Set out below is how we intend to make a difference:

The new Clean and Green approach is designed to make Croydon the cleanest and greenest borough in London, which will be achieved through the development of a new strategic and operational approach to tackle the issues of fly-tipping, recycling, street cleanliness and environmental enforcement supported by a new publicity campaign, '**Don't mess with Croydon: Take Pride**'.

The campaign has three objectives.

- **Education** – Informing residents and businesses of how they should be disposing of their waste and how they can support the Council in keeping Croydon clean
- **Enforcement** – Use of CCTV and other means to prosecute
- **Easy** – Make it simpler for residents to report and recycle

This will require new approaches and solutions to issues that have been an ongoing problem, together with the continuation of those interventions that have proved successful here and elsewhere. Actions will be developed and delivered over the first 100 days of the new administration. Actions include:

- The launch of the Don't Mess With Croydon media campaign
- 3 rapid reaction removal teams so that fly tips are now cleared within 48 hours, 7 days a week
- Site visits to problem areas with ward Councillors and officers agreeing long term solutions to problem locations
- New telephone number hotline and email address – flytip@croydon.gov.uk
- All staff and contractors reporting
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- The rollout of community champions to take ownership and pride in their area and assist the Council in keeping the Borough clean

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CQ378-14 **from Councillor Shafi Khan**

To Councillor Stuart Collins

Can the Cabinet member assure us, that the Council is well prepared to clean up the borough and be tough on the perpetrators who “Mess with Croydon”?

Reply

Thank you for the enquiry. I can assure you that the Don't Mess with Croydon: Take Pride campaign we have recently launched has put us in a very good position to be able to tackle the blight of fly tipping and prosecute offenders.

We have already undertaken a number of ward visits where enforcement officers have met with ward Councillors who have identified persistent fly tip locations.

I have covered the Don't Mess with Croydon, Take Pride Campaign in other written answers but I feel the following actions we are taking will play a part in making things better for residents.

Actions include:

- The launch of the Don't Mess With Croydon media campaign
- 3 rapid reaction removal teams so that fly tips are now cleared within 48 hours, 7 days a week
- Site visits to problem areas with ward Councillors and officers agreeing long term solutions to problem locations
- New telephone number hotline and email address – flytip@croydon.gov.uk
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This approach applies to the whole of Croydon but there will be a particular emphasis on the worst affected areas. I will be regularly reviewing performance data to determine which roads and wards require specific attention and will be arranging site visits to find long term solutions.

CQ379-14 from Councillor Matthew Kyeremeh

To Councillor Stuart Collins

Can the Cabinet Member let us know what bottlenecks there are at present with respect to fly-tipping and general rubbish in my ward and what he is doing about such problems?

Reply

Thornton Heath has been one of the areas that suffered most from fly tipping and it is correct to say the Council would not be able to give those sort of detailed stats on a road by roads basis. To address this we have just put in place a system that logs fly tips by street so will soon be in a position to give this sort of detail to Councillors or residents taking pride in their communities.

For the record this is our view and the actions we intend to take: Croydon has suffered from significant increases in fly tipping in recent years. It has taken too long for fly tips to be cleared, there has not been sufficient emphasis on enforcement, the community have not been sufficiently been involved and the message to residents has not been clear enough. That is why I have launched the ambitious Clean and Green project.

The new Clean and Green approach is designed to make Croydon the cleanest and greenest borough in London, which will be achieved through the development of a new strategic and operational approach to tackle the issues of fly-tipping, recycling, street cleanliness and environmental enforcement supported by a new publicity campaign, '**Don't mess with Croydon: Take Pride**'.

The campaign has three objectives.

- **Education** – Informing residents and businesses of how they should be disposing of their waste and how they can support the Council in keeping Croydon clean
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This will require new approaches and solutions to issues that have been an ongoing problem, together with the continuation of those interventions that have proved successful here and elsewhere. Actions will be developed and delivered over the first 100 days of the new administration. Actions include:

- The launch of the 'Don't Mess With Croydon' media campaign
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The approach will be very much a partnership between the Council; its staff, partners and residents with the aim of keeping our Borough clean and for everyone to 'Take Pride' in Croydon.

This approach applies to the whole of Croydon but there will be a particular emphasis on the worst affected areas. I will be regularly reviewing performance data to determine which roads and wards require specific attention and will be arranging site visits to find long term solutions. If there are problem locations in your area please let me know so that we can add these to the schedule for future visits.

CQ383-14 **from Councillor Wayne Lawlor**

To Councillor Stuart Collins

Can the Cabinet Member for Clean Green Croydon provide an update on progress being made in cleaning up South Norwood?

Reply

I have taken the Clean and Green project to South Norwood within the first week of its launch. I met with ward Councillors and officers on 3rd July to review a number of hotspot areas and agree some long term solutions to the problems that residents are experiencing. It was a pleasure to work with you that evening discussing with local residents some long term solutions. This approach will continue to be rolled out across the whole of Croydon but with a particular emphasis on the worst affected areas.

The new Clean and Green approach is designed to make Croydon the cleanest and greenest borough in London, which will be achieved through the development of a new strategic and operational approach to tackle the issues of fly-tipping, recycling, street cleanliness and environmental enforcement supported by a new publicity campaign, **'Don't mess with Croydon: Take Pride'** which I have detailed in **several other written answers..**

CQ386-14 **from Councillor Gerry Ryan**

To Councillor Stuart Collins

Can the Cabinet Member advise me how well he is doing with his Don't Mess With Croydon initiative.

Reply

Good to see you back in the Council Chamber Gerry. The launch of the Don't Mess with Croydon Take Pride campaign and our early interventions in a number of Wards have really gone down well with the public, who have been impressed with the speedy clean ups and the enforcement action taken.

Actions taken so far include:

- The launch of the Don't Mess With Croydon media campaign
- 3 rapid reaction removal teams so that fly tips are now cleared within 48 hours, 7 days a week
- Site visits to problem areas with ward Councillors and officers agreeing long term solutions to problem locations
- New telephone number hotline 0208 604 7000 and email address – flytip@croydon.gov.uk
- All staff and contractors reporting
- Eyesore garden project to tackle waste on private land
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- The rollout of community champions to take ownership and pride in their area and assist the Council in keeping the Borough clean

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This approach applies to the whole of Croydon but there will be a particular emphasis on the worst affected areas. I will be regularly reviewing performance data to determine which roads and wards require specific attention and will be arranging site visits to find long term solutions. If there are problem locations in your area please let me know so that we can add these to the schedule for future visits

CQ287-14 from Councillor Yvette Hopley

To Councillor Simon Hall

In the eight years of Tory control the fund improved from being in a position of 48% funded to approximately 66% funded as of the period ending 31st March 2014 which in terms of investment is a figure of @£436m to £705m. What has the chairman set as the target for 2018 and will he be able to increase the position to 75% funded with a figure of £840 m?

Reply

I am unclear as to where Councillor Hopley has got all her figures from so I have set out the performance of the fund as formally measured by the previous four triennial valuations in the table below

Date	Funding Level	Asset Value	Deficit
31 March 2004	57%	£341M	£254M
31 March 2007	68%	£545M	£261M
31 March 2010	66%	£583M	£301M
31 March 2013	66%	£705M	£359M

Although asset performance has been relatively good over this period, liabilities have also increased; hence the deficit is now greater than it was 10 years ago.

In my role as Vice-Chair supporting the new Chair of the committee, we will, rather than focusing on achieving a particular asset value, aim to close the funding gap over a 22 year period (as per the 2013 triennial valuation) to meet future benefit obligations payable to fund members, whilst seeking to minimise the burden on local taxpayers, which is currently some £13 million per year for past obligations.

CQ325-14 **from Councillor Luke Clancy**

To Councillor Simon Hall

You inherited a balanced and healthy budget. When will we see, in detail, your new budget?

Reply

It is obviously a statutory responsibility for all local authorities to set a balanced budget and that requires the sign off of the Director of Finance therefore as you say we have a balanced budget for 2014/15 and that is the least I would have expected. I do not accept it is healthy for the people of Croydon and neither did the electorate on the 22nd May. That is why we put forward an alternative budget in February, created an Earmarked Reserve for New Administration Priorities and have been making major policy decisions and resource decisions at Cabinet last month and last night. You will see much more of this over the next 6 months and we put in place a radical review of how this council spends its money in advance of the budget in February.

CQ351-14 **from Councillor Steve O'Connell**

To Councillor Simon Hall

You inherited a balanced and healthy budget. When will we see your new Budget?

Reply

Please see my reply to CQ325-14

CQ352-14 from Councillor Simon Brew

To Councillor Simon Hall

It is unacceptable that the ICT department appears to be incapable of providing a viable online public access Planning register for use by constituents and councillors alike, yet the timeframe for registration of comments on planning applications has not been amended. On what actual date will an effective solution to this problem be found, or if this is not known, on what date will it be known? This is not rocket science; it's extraordinary that the ICT dept has sleep-walked into this disaster.

Reply

I agree that ICT and availability of information is a key duty of the Council. The ICT system at present has been struggling to fulfil some of these objectives.

Since the end of May the Council has been transitioning its IT provision from its previous supplier, Cap Gemini, to its new supplier, Capita. This is a once in a decade move of high complexity with multiple systems being moved and outdated systems being renewed. The new contract is due to generate in the order of £40m savings for the residents of Croydon over the next 9 years. In the main the majority of systems were moved safely within an acceptable timescale. However, where there are problems, officers are engaging in robust contract management, including the potential to exercise our rights over payments due under the contract, to ensure the supplier resolves these problems as soon as possible and to ensure that these do not recur.

Turning to your specific point. Unfortunately, there were some technical issues with the online Public Planning Register which meant it was unavailable between 2rd June & 30th June 2014. This problem is now fixed. During this period, the existing Register of Planning Applications was published on the Planning web site to help minimise the impact on constituents and councillors. Any comments raised during the Planning Register Application outage, have been dealt with on a case by case basis, even after the final dates for comments.

CQ355-14 from Councillor Andy Stranack

To Councillor Simon Hall

Can the Cabinet Member for Finance and Treasury inform me of the total number of Outputs and Outcomes included as part of the Council's contracts with its voluntary and private sector partners?"

Reply

The Council spends over £370m with third party suppliers including voluntary sector organisations. This relates to over 5,000 services with numerous contracts that contain supporting key performance indicators that are a mixture of outputs and outcomes, some of which are contractual and some for information purposes. The Council has over 280 contracts with a value over £100,000.

As part of our manifesto commitments, we have indicated that we will be reviewing the former administration's approach to commissioning and procurement because of our concerns regarding the policy direction taken by the then Cabinet Members.

This review will include contract management and key performance indicators we agree with providers. We will ensure we have an approach that is proportionate to the size and nature of the contracts and the risks and complexity of services delivered, thus providing the best deal for Croydon residents whilst getting the best services from our providers.

CQ366-14 **from Councillor Andrew Pelling**

To Councillor Simon Hall

For those who are less ambulant or disabled the parking in a muddy field at Sandilands playing field and the walk to Trinity School for the local authority count on May 22 was an unfortunate experience. Could the Cabinet ask the Returning Officer to consider locating future election counts at a location close to plentiful public parking and major transport hubs as is available in central Croydon?

Reply

I thank Councillor Pelling for his question.

The arrangements for the counting of votes are, by law, the responsibility of the Returning Officer. He has a duty to make decisions based on delivering an effective and accurate verification and count.

I have already had conversations with the Electoral Services staff regarding lessons that can be learnt from the May 22 elections, in terms of future elections. I will take your point to the Returning Officer and his staff.

CQ368-14

from Councillor Andrew Pelling

To Councillor Simon Hall

With the Coalition government's plans to wind down the main local government grant to Croydon to £0 could the Cabinet member provide an estimate, in general terms, of the net addition or reduction to the total financial entitlement of the authority to the New Homes Bonus and stepped up affordable homes bonus and the retained 30 % of the business rate since the introduction of these reforms to local government funding as these net changes in funds arise from net changes in housing development and net business creation?

Reply

The Coalition Government began Incentive based funding with the introduction of the New Homes Bonus Grant in 2011/12. This was extended in 2013/14 when Settlement Funding Assessments (SFA) replaced a needs based Formula Grant as the means of delivering the Government 's mainstream grant funding. The tables below show that for Croydon Incentive based funding is estimated grow to provide £47.526m of Croydon's grants by 2016/17 whilst Need based funding is estimated to be reduced by £53.934m (over a shorter period).

Incentive Based Funding Stream	2011/12 £m	2012/13 £m	2013/14 £m	2014/15 £m	2015/16 £m	2016/17 £m
<i>Additional New Homes</i>	1.981	3.509	4.590	5.840	7.300	8.760
<i>Empty homes brought back into use</i>	0.221	0.452	0.385	1.913	2.391	2.870
<i>Affordable Housing</i>	-	0.264	0.466	0.561	0.748	0.935
Total New Homes Bonus	2.202	4.225	5.441	8.314	10.439	12.565
Retained Business Rates			33.172	33.604	34.276	34.962
Total Incentive Based Funding	2.202	4.225	38.613	41.918	44.715	47.526

Needs Based Funding Stream	2011/12 £m	2012/13 £m	2013/14 £m	2014/15 £m	2015/16 £m	2016/17 £m
Revenue Support Grant			97.229	80.485	59.516	41.371
Business Rates Top-up			31.722	32.340	32.987	33.647
Total Needs Based Funding			128.951	112.825	92.503	75.017

CQ320-14 from Councillor Lynne Hale

To Councillor Louisa Woodley

Whilst on the whole those who are treated at Purley Hospital are delighted with the care they receive, residents are:

- thoroughly confused about what ailments they can attend with
- disappointed that the urgent care facilities have been downgraded
- disappointed that the promised X-ray facilities are not always available
- wondering why they cannot see their Diabetic Specialist Nurse there
- And are very unhappy about the reduced opening hours

What plans do you have to address these concerns?

Reply

The following response has been provided by NHS Croydon CCG, the organisation responsible for commissioning the minor injuries service at Purley Hospital.

Changes to the Minor Injuries Service at Purley Hospital

There has not been a downgrade of the minor injuries service at Purley. The nurse-led minor injury and minor ailments service at Purley Hospital has been replaced with a GP-led minor injury service. The new service does provide an improved mix of healthcare staff including both GPs and nurses. Having GPs on site means that the new services would be able to see and treat children of all ages including babies. The previous service could not see children less than 1 years of age.

It is important to note that the service that has been replaced was a 'Minor Injuries and Minor Illness/Ailments' service (although it was locally 'badged' as an urgent care centre) from which we have now removed the minor illness/ailments element. People should be reassured that the majority of treatments provided for minor injuries at Purley have not changed, although the opening hours have been reduced.

It might be helpful, therefore, for us to confirm that the service still offers treatment for the following **minor injuries**, as it did previously:

Minor injuries treated at Purley

Lacerations capable of closure by simple techniques (stripping, gluing, suturing); excluding injuries involving broken glass in which case x-ray may be required to look for fragments	Bruises	foreign bodies, e.g. children sticking beads, etc. in noses or ears, in which case a quick assessment needs to be made to determine whether these can be removed or whether the child needs to be referred for ENT, or things like splinters/other foreign bodies stuck in wounds which could be removed with tweezers
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non-penetrating superficial ocular foreign bodies	recent injury of a severity not amenable to simple domestic first aid	recent injury where it is suspected stitches may be required
blows to the head where there has been no loss of consciousness or vomiting	recent eye injury where there is no loss of vision, chemical or blunt injury	partial thickness thermal burns or scalds involving broken skin: not over 1 inch diameter, not involving the hands, feet, face, neck, genital areas
foreign bodies superficially embedded in tissues	minor trauma to hands, limbs or feet	

However, we have been very clear that the new service will no longer treat the following **minor ailments**. We hope that local people will support the referral of people with these types of ailments to local pharmacy, or for self-treatment, rather than providing treatment at the Minor Injuries Unit.

Minor ailments no longer treated at Purley

Colds	Hay fever	Minor fungal infections of the skin
Headache and fever	Head lice	Mouth ulcers
Conjunctivitis	Constipation	Sore throat
Coughs	Heartburn and indigestion	Teething
Diarrhoea	Insect bites and stings	Threadworm
Earache	Mild eczema and dermatitis	Thrush

People with serious injuries and emergencies - like bleeding you can't stop, broken bones, black outs, severe chest pain, and stroke - will need to carry on going to the Emergency Department at Croydon University Hospital as they always have done.

As you can see, therefore, the changes at Purley are part of the system-wide work done by local clinicians to put in place a much more clearly defined, easier to understand, more robust and efficient urgent care system in Croydon. If the NHS is to be sustainable then we must make sure that people are treated at the appropriate place that offers the best quality and best value for money service. That means ensuring people with very serious injuries are treated at the Emergency Department (which is best suited to take care of them), as much as it does ensuring people with coughs and colds treat themselves at home.

As part of this system-wide review of the urgent care services in the Borough we looked very carefully at usage of the minor injuries services and Purley. The new opening hours reflect this analysis of the service over two years, which showed that there was very limited demand for services in the morning, with much larger demand in the afternoon, and evening. For that reason clinicians decided to shift resources to provide greater access in the evening – the new service will see patients on opening at 14.00 and assess people arriving up until 19.59hrs (note that the previous service would often stop booking people in after 19.30 so that it could close its doors at 20.00hrs).

Improving awareness of the Minor Injuries Service at Purley

Before the commencement of the new service we worked with local GPs, NHS 111, London Ambulance Service and NHS Choices to make sure that they were aware of the changes to the service so that they could appropriately sign-post. We also

advertised the service through the NHS Choices website, and through the recent 'Not Always A&E' campaign where 45,000 leaflets advertising the service at Purley were distributed around Croydon including about 10,000 leaflets which were delivered to households in the CR8 postcode area. As part of our ongoing communication plan we are also organising a further door to door delivery of leaflets across Croydon. We have also seen improvements to signage at Purley and additional work is planned.

X-ray facilities at Purley War Memorial Hospital

It is important to note that there continues to be routine access to X-ray and diagnostic services at Purley Hospital which people can access through their GP, or outpatient clinics.

There has never been regular access to this X-ray service for the minor injuries unit as it was only ever available previously for part of the service's opening hours. This inconsistency of service caused problems and made it impossible to be clear to patients about what the minor injuries service was for. We were therefore faced with a choice between providing full-time X-ray for the minor injuries unit, or not at all. Unfortunately, there just aren't enough people in Croydon presenting with suspected breakages to justify a full time X-ray at the minor injuries unit in Purley.

Diabetic specialist nurse

The diabetes service is entirely separate to issues around the Minor Injuries Unit at Purley. Please note, however, that the way we deliver diabetes services in Croydon has recently been improved to ensure more patients are seen in community settings rather than in hospitals. This means that diabetes services are now provided at GP practices in the Purley area – at Woodcote, Selsdon, Old Coulsdon, and Parkside practices – rather than at Purley War Memorial Hospital. Patients are referred to these services through their own GP. These changes were made to bring the service in line with diabetic patient's consistently requested desire to be able to access services closer to home, and diabetes patients from across Croydon were involved in designing the new service.

Finally, we would like to make it clear that the newly refurbished Purley War Memorial Hospital continues to offer a whole range of services that continue to be expanded and improved. This included various outpatient clinics including physiotherapy and rehabilitation, diabetic retinal screening, new cardiology services, phlebotomy, colorectal, orthopaedics, spine team, ENT, X-ray, diagnostics, and GP services. The minor injuries unit is just one of the many services available at the hospital, and the opening hours of other services at Purley are unaffected by the recent changes.

CQ332-14 **from Councillor Maggie Mansell**

To Louisa Woodley

What can we learn from the Director of Public Health's report to apply across Croydon?

Reply

There is potentially much to learn from the 2014 report from the Director of Public Health. The report shows that areas facing high levels of deprivation, such as New Addington and Fieldway, are nonetheless pulling together in areas that are beneficial to the health of individuals and the community as a whole. There is also potential learning to be had about the approach taken. The report took an asset based approach, moving away from traditional approaches which identify problems and needs to focus on positives. This approach has been gaining interest in the UK in recent years. The advantage of this approach in terms of effecting long lasting changes is that it starts by identifying the 'movers and shakers' in the community and make partnership working to deliver (for example) healthy lifestyle projects more effective.

CVA have been taking this approach further in New Addington and have recruited 40 local people to speak with others in New Addington, to find out what interests them, make connections and help them set up new activities. Over 38 new community-led projects have been initiated.

CQ356-14 **from Councillor Yvette Hopley**

To Councillor Louisa Woodley

Cllr Margaret Mead and I signed a pledge to make Croydon a heart town. I would like ask whether you support that pledge?

Reply

I do support that pledge.

Croydon Heart Town will be celebrating its first anniversary on July 15th 2014. To mark the occasion, in conjunction with the London Ambulance Service and CCG we are launching the 'Shockingly Easy' defibrillator campaign to encourage local businesses to either, fundraise towards, or finance the purchase of a defibrillator with the aim of mapping a further 50 defibrillators across the borough. This is part of a London wide campaign with the aim of placing 1000 defibrillators across the capital. LAS will be hosting an event at the Whitgift centre throughout the day on Wednesday 16th July 2014 to inspire the public of Croydon to encourage their employer to consider purchasing a defibrillator, there will be demonstrations and interactive classes aimed at informing the public what to do if they find someone that has suffered from a cardiac arrest. I will be present at part of the event to support the campaign, with the Chairman of LAS, Dr Mike Robinson and a representative from the CCG.

In addition to launching this campaign, we will be celebrating the success of Croydon's first year as a Heart Town with nearly £30,000 raised for the British Heart Foundation by the generous public of Croydon, and the message of 'loving our town, loving your heart' being spread throughout the borough. As we look towards the next 4 years of this initiative, there are many opportunities ahead to spread the message wider and raise more money to further the invaluable research that British Heart Foundation undertake.

CQ357-14 **from Councillor Yvette Hopley**

To Councillor Louisa Woodley

I would also ask the cabinet member to inform me whether there are any small grants available to take forward future health projects and could they be listed?

Reply

The council's Small Grants Fund provides opportunities for local people and communities to come together, get organised and get things done. It focuses on getting small and innovative projects off the ground, projects which are designed to improve the quality of life for local people and their communities. This includes projects which are intended to improve local people's health and wellbeing.

The Small Grants Fund was launched in 2011 and there are new rounds of funding every April and October. The next funding round (8) begins in October 2014. The total fund is £100,000 per year. The maximum grant is £5,000 for an individual group and £15,000 where three or more groups come together in a partnership to run similar services in different areas of Croydon. As the Small Grants Fund is intended to pump prime new initiatives, projects are funded for a maximum of two years. The council normally provides only one grant per group at any one time.

Information about how to apply, eligibility criteria and lists of the groups and projects supported by the Small Grants Fund in previous rounds can be found on the council website at www.croydon.gov.uk/community/advice/tsfunding/funding/sgrantspast

Public Health Croydon also fund a small grants scheme as part of the Heart Town programme. There is a total of £50,000 in 2014/15 to fund voluntary organisations to deliver innovative projects or activities that make it easier for children, families and local communities in Croydon to be more active and eat healthier foods. The programme is currently administered by Croydon Voluntary Action. The maximum grant is £2,000 per annum. More information on how organisations can apply can be obtained by emailing healthygrants@cvalive.org.uk. From 2015/16 this funding stream will be administered through the council's Small Grants Fund.

CQ279-14 **from Councillor Vidhi Mohan**

To Councillor Kathy Bee

The Mayor of Labour-controlled Lewisham has said that he plans to make all Council-controlled roads in the Borough a 20 mph zone. Can the Cabinet Member clarify whether or not the new administration has any such plans for Croydon's roads, as this was the stated intent of one of your senior members prior to the elections?

Reply

This administration is committed to implementing 20 mph in Croydon where residents support it. The Council is currently investigating how 20mph zones and speed limits would best be applied to meet this commitment. At this time we are not looking to introduce a borough wide 20mph limit, as clearly there are some roads where such a limit is inappropriate and could lead to particular congestion issues.

However we will be looking critically at those areas where such a limit would be most appropriate and will be introducing both local and area wide 20mph limits where these can be expected to benefit road safety, improve the local environment, and encourage more sustainable travel choices, such as walking and cycling.

CQ281-14 from Councillor Vidhi Mohan

To Councillor Kathy Bee

The delayed opening of the Spring Lane Bridge caused huge inconvenience to residents and road users. Could the Cabinet Member list what measures were put in place to mitigate this impact? Further, will the Council be taking a tough line with the contractors, to ensure that penalties are applied to compensate those residents and businesses affected?

Reply

Spring Lane bridge replacement scheme is the responsibility of Transport for London (TfL) and they have been project managing the works. TfL has sent over 6500 letters to the local residents and additionally supplemented this with a public Information meeting on the 26th June 2014 for local residents and Councillors at the local school hall in Spring Lane. The traffic signal junction timings have also been reviewed and amended to assist/mitigate congestion to the road network in the surrounding areas and that has helped to reduce the impact. A timing review was undertaken at both Penge Road junction with Portland Road and Shirley Road junction with Long Lane. Further the junctions along Addiscombe Road are already linked and operated under SCOOT (Split Cycle Offset Optimisation Technique) which enables the automated signal controller to amend the green time for any arm by up to 10% and will continue update the cycle time to meet demand, as far as possible. SCOOT and linked traffic signals have been progressively introduced across London over the last 10 years to reduce congestion and ensure timings are automatically updated to deal with changes to flow. This is part of the Mayor for London's commitment to reducing congestion.

In order to have the whole road bridge open by 28th July, Contractors appointed by Transport for London are working 24hrs a day where practical to get the bridge works completed. We also have full co-operation from the Utility companies in ensuring their works are completed on time.

As this contract to replace Spring Lane bridge is wholly funded and controlled by Transport for London, Croydon Council have only been able to register objections in the strongest possible terms with TfL and not their contractors. Regrettably, Transport for London does not have, or support a policy, in terms of penalties and compensation to residents and local businesses as these works are betterment of the public highway and therefore no compensation is payable although TfL have and continue to provide significant investment in road infrastructure within the borough.

CQ282-14 from Councillor Steve Hollands

To Councillor Kathy Bee

Further to the floods earlier this year in Kenley and Purley wards would the Cabinet Member please provide an update on flood prevention works and the position with regards to bids for external funding and also include the relevant time scales.

Reply

Following the flooding in Kenley / Purley, the Council has a duty under Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act *“to the extent that it considers it necessary or appropriate, investigate*

- a) *Which risk management authorities have relevant flood risk management functions, and*
- b) *Whether each of those risk management authorities has exercised, or is proposing to exercise, those functions in response to the flood.”*

URS consultancy has been commissioned to carry out this task on behalf of the Council. The consultant is currently carrying out a data gathering exercise by writing to all the Risk Management Authorities involved with the flooding and will produce a report once the information has been received and reviewed. The aim is to complete the report by September 2014.

During the flood relief works in February 2014, the Council made a joint £1M bid funding with Surrey County Council to the Environment Agency to investigate and implement long term measures to alleviate flooding as a result of the Caterham Bourne rising. The funding is available and is being drawn down over a 5yr period with £150k for 14/15 & 15/16 to undertake detailed feasibility works along the entire catchment area and the remaining £920k from 2016 – 19.

The project is being led by Croydon Council with support from the Environment Agency and the group is currently preparing a project brief which would be sent out to consultants with a view to tender for the works.

In addition to this, the Council is working on medium term measures to alleviate flooding or minimise the impact during the winter periods of 2014, 2015 and 2016 prior to long term measures being put in place. The medium term measures being considered are shown below and we currently waiting for our contractor to provide a programme of works. All the proposed works are planned to be completed **before the winter period of 2014.**

LOCATION	PROPOSED MEASURE
Dale Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Carry out CCTV survey of the culvert to check for any structural damages <p><i>This has been completed and awaiting result of the survey</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">· Review options to increase the culvert size (currently 450mm)· Review options to bolt down manhole covers
Bourne View	<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Re-profile the existing bund in order to increase its holding capacity and carry out associated works i.e. raising existing manhole covers etc

Purley Oaks Depot Balancing Pond	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Renew / upgrade the existing pumps and electrical wirings · Clean out the pond (approx. 4500m³), assess all pipe works and repair/replace any that are damaged, cut back vegetation
Bourne Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Create temporary banks / landscaped areas along the railway line and other areas to form a dam which could be used to hold water
Bourne Park Close	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Review options to prevent groundwater causing flooding to properties (i.e. constructing a retaining wall), re-profile the open ditch, cut back vegetation
Harris Academy & Kenley Cricket Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Re-profile the open ditch either by increasing the width or raising the level of the banks, cut back vegetation restricting flow
Godstone Road (by Tesco Car Park)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Review options to reinforce the open ditch so it is able to handle high volumes of water being pumped into it

CQ291-14 from Councillor Jan Buttinger

To Councillor Kathy Bee

Residents of Kenley have been asking, "How can we prevent flooding like we have experienced here in Kenley, ever happening again?"

Could the Cabinet Member please inform us when the additional new reservoirs / balancing ponds will be completed and how many there will be?

When will the blue water pipes be buried or removed, the sand-bags removed and everything neat and tidy?

What protection measures will be permanently installed and when will the work all be finished?

Reply

Residents of Kenley have been asking, "How can we prevent flooding like we have experienced here in Kenley, ever happening again?"

The flooding experienced in Kenley / Purley in February 2014 was as a result of the groundwater level rising. It is impossible preventing this from happening but the Council is working on medium and long term measures which would minimise the impact of such flooding in the future. In addition, Central Government has made funding available in the form of a "Repair and Renew Grant Scheme" which residents and businesses that were affected can apply for in order to implement measure which would make their properties more resilient to flooding. The scheme has been widely publicised by the Council and applications sent out to residents and businesses that may have been affected.

Could the Cabinet Member please inform us when the additional new reservoirs / balancing ponds will be completed and how many there will be?

During the flood relief works in February 2014, the Council made a joint £1M bid funding with Surrey County Council to the Environment Agency to investigate and implement long term measures to alleviate flooding as a result of the Caterham Bourne rising. The funding is not available until 2017 however, £50K has been made available this financial year to allow some initial investigation works to be carried out. Currently, the project group is preparing a brief which would be sent out to consultants with a view to tender for the investigation works. The result of the investigation would determine exactly what long term measures are implemented and where.

In the meantime, the Council is working on the medium term measures below to alleviate flooding in the **winter periods of 2014, 2015 and 2016.**

LOCATION	PROPOSED MEASURE
Dale Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Carry out CCTV survey of the culvert to check for any structural damages <i>This has been completed and awaiting result of the survey</i>Review options to increase the culvert size (currently 450mm)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review options to bolt down manhole covers
Bourne View	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-profile the existing bund in order to increase its holding capacity and carry out associated works i.e. raising existing manhole covers etc
Purley Oaks Depot Balancing Pond	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Renew / upgrade the existing pumps and electrical wirings Clean out the pond (approx. 4500m³), assess all pipe works and repair/replace any that are damaged, cut back vegetation
Bourne Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create temporary banks / landscaped areas along the railway line and other areas to form a dam which could be used to hold water
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Harris Academy & Kenley Cricket Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-profile the open ditch either by increasing the width or raising the level of the banks, cut back vegetation restricting flow
Godstone Road (by Tesco Car Park)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review options to reinforce the open ditch so it is able to handle high volumes of water being pumped into it

When will the blue water pipes be buried or removed, the sand-bags removed and everything neat and tidy?

The blue pipes belongs to Sutton & East Surrey Water (SESW) and there is plan in place to remove them by the end of this month. SESW is currently liaising with Transport for London to arrange the necessary traffic management and once this has been approved, would submit a works permit and carry out the works when the permit has been granted. The Council has removed all sandbags it has been made aware of and would arrange for others to be removed immediately it becomes aware of them. Some residents have decided to hold on to sandbags and this may explain why there are some still lying around. All temporary measures implemented by the Council has been removed apart from the sandbags in Dale Road which are due to be removed shortly.

What protection measures will be permanently installed and when will the work all be finished?

The medium term measures being considered by the Council are listed above and Surrey County Council / Tandridge have also been implementing some medium term measures. In addition, the Council is working jointly with Surrey County Council / Tandridge and the Environment Agency to implement long term measures. The exact measures will be known following a full investigation of the Caterham Bourne.

CQ304-14 from Councillor Luke Clancy

To Councillor Kathy Bee

As you know the south of the Borough experienced flooding at Christmas. Can you clarify what Croydon Council is doing to tackle the problem going forward? Are you seeking funding to alleviate the problem and from where? At Purley & Woodcote Resident's Association's AGM in June a theory put forward was that the root of the problem is a build up of water from the River Bourne just over the border in Surrey during periods of heavy rainfall. What are you doing to work with Surrey County Council and Thames Water to ensure future flooding is minimised in Croydon?

Reply

Following the flooding in Kenley / Purley, the Council has a duty under Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act *“to the extent that it considers it necessary or appropriate, investigate*

- a) Which risk management authorities have relevant flood risk management functions, and*
- b) Whether each of those risk management authorities has exercised, or is proposing to exercise, those functions in response to the flood.”*

URS consultants have been commissioned to carry out this task on behalf of the Council. The consultant is currently carrying out a data gathering exercise by writing to all the Risk Management Authorities involved with the flooding and would produce a report once the information has been received and reviewed. The aim is to complete the report by September 2014.

During the flood relief works in February 2014, the Council made a joint £1M bid funding with Surrey County Council to the Environment Agency to investigate and implement long term measures to alleviate flooding as a result of the Caterham Bourne rising. The funding is not available until 2017 however, £50K has been made available this financial year to allow some initial investigation works to be carried out. Currently, the project group is preparing a brief which would be sent out to consultants with a view to tender for the investigation works. The result of the investigation would determine exactly what long term measures are implemented and where.

In addition to this, the Council is working on medium term measures to alleviate flooding or minimise the impact during the winter periods of 2014, 2015 and 2016 prior to long term measures being put in place. The medium term measures being considered are shown below and we currently waiting for our contractor to provide a programme of works. All the proposed works are planned to be completed **before the winter period of 2014.**

LOCATION	PROPOSED MEASURE
Dale Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Carry out CCTV survey of the culvert to check for any structural damages <i>This has been completed and awaiting result of the survey</i>· Review options to increase the culvert size (currently 450mm)· Review options to bolt down manhole covers

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CQ331-14 from Councillor Maggie Mansell

To Councillor Kathy Bee

The roll out of the new street lighting is taking a very long time. I appreciate the efforts of the officer who monitors the contract to meet the concerns of local people when they see the configuration for their street. However there are streets such as Green Lane in Norbury that have had the lamp standards for over an extensive period of time, as yet they remain unconnected. Please can you say when you expect the system to be complete and what are the barriers?

Reply

The street lighting Core Investment Programme is a 5yr programme across both Croydon & Lewisham boroughs, which will see a transformation to the quality of lighting in the boroughs. This programme has been extremely challenging and not without complication particularly around the complexity of the underground cable network and connecting the new lights to it. Some tasks have to be carried out by UK Power Networks rather than Skanska, because of the complexities with the system, and scheduling these tasks is one cause of the delays that you have identified.

Unfortunately there are ongoing UK Power Network issues with regards to the UKPN cables which will supply these lamp columns in Green Lane. At present Skanska have not received a programme date for these connections as this cable network requires a shutdown, which will see local businesses and residents lose their supply whilst this work is carried out however they have said these works will be completed by November 2014. UKPN will carry out a letter drop to all parties once a programme date is confirmed for works to progress”

The council is working with Skanska and UKPN to ensure sites are left safe and where possible reducing the time from erection of the street light to completion of the scheme.

CQ371-14 from Councillor Stephen Mann

To Councillor Kathy Bee

What has caused the delay to the reopening of Spring Lane Road Bridge and what is the council doing to reduce the impact for the local community'

Reply

Spring Lane bridge replacement scheme is the responsibility of Transport for London (TfL) and they have been project managing the works. Transport for London (TfL) has apologised for the delay in re-opening Spring Lane. Unexpected ground conditions and associated challenges mean that the Spring Lane bridge will remain closed for longer than previously anticipated. The revised timetable sees the bridge, which crosses Tramlink lines, reopening on Monday 28 July. The principal reason for the delay has been the need to redesign the bridge foundations together with a redesign of ducting carrying essential BT cabling across the bridge which added additional delay.

Transport for London (TfL) has sent over 6500 letters to the local residents and additionally supplemented this with a public Information meeting on the 26th June 2014 for local residents and Councillors at the local school hall in Spring Lane. The traffic signal junction timings have also been reviewed and amended to assist/mitigate congestion to the road network in the surrounding areas and that has helped to reduce the impact. A timing review was undertaken at both Penge Road junction with Portland Road and Shirley Road junction with Long Lane. Further the junctions along Addiscombe Road are already linked and operated under SCOOT (Split Cycle Offset Optimisation Technique) which enables the automated signal controller to amend the green time for any arm by up to 10% and will continue update the cycle time to meet demand, as far as possible. SCOOT and linked traffic signals have been progressively introduced across London over the last 10 years to reduce congestion and ensure timings are automatically updated to deal with changes to flow. This is part of the Mayor for London's commitment to reducing congestion.

In order to have the whole road bridge open by 28th July, Contractors appointed by Transport for London are working 24hrs a day where practical to get the bridge works completed. We also have full co-operation from the Utility companies in ensuring their works are completed on time.

The Cabinet Member and ward councillors are disappointed that the obvious risk of impact to the road network and residents on an overrun of works were under estimated by the TfL's project team. The cabinet member has insisted that the lessons learnt from this project are taken on board to prevent a further occurrence within the borough.

CQ384-14 **from Councillor Wayne Lawlor**

To Councillor Kathy Bee

Can the Cabinet Member for Highways update me on progress being made with the "20 is plenty" policy across Croydon, and please update me on any issues arising from that.

Reply

'20 is plenty' is a national campaign to promote the introduction of 20mph zones / speed limits in residential areas. The Council supports this view and will be developing our own policy on the introduction of both local and area wide 20mph limits, where these can be expected to benefit road safety, improve the local environment, and encourage more sustainable travel choices, such as walking and cycling.

CQ388-14 from Councillor Pat Ryan

To Councillor Kathy Bee

Would the Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways agree, that this Council should remind Boris Johnson the Mayor of London of the 'Gold Plated Promises' which he made to the people of Croydon prior to the Mayoral Elections in 2008 and 2012 'That the Tram Line would be extended to Crystal Palace during his time in office'? Therefore do the Council intend to hold him to account so that this promise is kept.

Reply

This administration is committed to fighting for extensions to the Tram network and to holding Boris Johnson to account for delivery on his promise to bring in the Crystal Palace extension. The Council has been working with the South London Partnership and other South London authorities to lobby TfL for extensions to the Tramlink network as they will bring Transport, Social and Economic benefits both to Croydon and the sub region.

Unfortunately, TfL have not identified funding in their current business plan for any Tramlink extensions, and they are still considering the feasibility and merits of the respective scheme options. Therefore we will continue to lobby for TfL to develop, allocate funding for and progress the work towards implementation of extensions.

I know that we are supported by Croydon and Sutton's Greater London Assembly member Steve O'Connell who is also putting pressure on Boris Johnson to make sure the tram line is extended to Crystal Palace.

In the interim Croydon and the other Boroughs in the South London Partnership are working with TfL to investigate possible funding mechanisms to deliver extensions to Crystal Palace and Sutton.

CQ292-14 from Councillor Maria Gatland

To Councillor Alisa Flemming

Could Cllr Fleming tell me if the proposals for a school on the Arena site are being taken forward?

Reply

The new Administration has taken account of the need for school places and also the concerns of the local community in respect of the volume of young people planned to be passing through a tight, residential area. I have reviewed the proposal, and had direct discussions with Chief Executive of the provider, Oasis Community Trust. Through these discussions a slight amendment of the scheme has been agreed with the provider, which the provider is happy with.

We have agreed that the scheme for the Arena will continue to be a six form of entry provision, and continue to cater for both key stages 3 and 4. However, the provider has agreed that the sixth form provision is not necessary on this site, and may well be more coherently provided through growing the sixth form at Oasis Shirley Park.

This new variant of the scheme is a win-win: it reduces the pressure on the local community, provides for much needed places for key stages 3 and 4, and a more coherent approach to post-16 provision.

CQ293-14 from Councillor Maria Gatland

To Councillor Alisa Flemming

What are the views of the Cabinet Member on Free Schools?

Reply

Nelson Mandela said “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”.

This is an ideal which I hold close to my heart and as such I am supportive of all types of educational establishments providing that they deliver real and positive change to individual’s lives. Education changes lives. It transforms not just our minds, but it can steer ones moral compass and change an entire family’s future. I am for any establishment that can truly deliver these ideals. Free schools are a potentially helpful addition to local capacity; my concerns however lay around the consistency and quality of some of the providers.

The problem with the policy put in place by the coalition government is that quality cannot be guaranteed. Because the Department for Education has not taken sufficient notice of local views and intelligence, this causes problems. For example, the primary free school allocated to Advance, which was initially due to open in Sept 2014, and then deferred by the DfE to 2015, has, in the last few weeks, been withdrawn by the DfE. This leaves the local authority to pick up the pieces in relation to its statutory duty to find sufficient school places. In this respect local Councils are left to respond to the fragmentation of policy caused by the coalition government.

Where we can be confident of the quality of provision, we welcome free schools to Croydon, because they add to the quality and diversity of provision and they help with our response to meeting the growth in demand for school places. I hold the same view in relation to academies.

I will ensure that we have a proactive approach to free schools and academies, ensuring that we work proactively with potential providers who we are confident will provide schools of choice for parents, encouraging such providers to work with us, and to bid to the DfE in line with our requirements to meet demand.

It is our goal to make every school a school of choice – meaning that wherever you live there will be a school nearby which you will be happy for your child to attend. I welcome your support in moving us forward in this aim and indeed in supporting parents and children’s desires to obtain the best education possible.

CQ294-14

from Councillor Maria Gatland

To Councillor Alisa Flemming

What plans are being put in place to improve the performance of white working class boys in education?

Reply

We are working to further improve the performance of white working class boys in a number of ways:

- **Advisory teacher project:** Over the past year the school improvement team has run project specifically to address the achievement of White British pupils eligible for pupil premium, led by an advisory teacher with responsibility for the achievement of vulnerable pupils. The core focus of this role is to work with schools to develop whole school strategies for accelerating the progress and achievement of WBFSM pupils, particularly with literacy and numeracy.
- **Use of pupil premium grant:** The advisory teacher referred to above also leads in supporting schools with the government additional funding to schools called the pupil premium grant (PPG). The grant provides additional funding to schools so they can support their disadvantaged pupils and close the attainment gap between them and their peers.
- **Link adviser work:** The school improvement team has worked to raise the profile of this group of learners in schools, both in regular link adviser meetings and through research projects and conferences. All schools in Croydon, regardless of their status, are provided with a Link Adviser who has an allocated number of days depending on the strengths and vulnerabilities of the school and whether they are maintained schools or academies. Schools are asked to set challenging targets for their pupils, including those in defined vulnerable groups, of which children in receipt of the pupil premium grant and white boys are examples. These targets, and progress towards them, are then challenged and reviewed by the link adviser. Our expectation is that our children will be set targets in line with, or better than, the top 25% of pupils nationally in terms of the progress they will make. Where they are not, additional challenge and support is offered to ensure appropriate intervention programmes are in place. Where there are significant concerns the Local Authority will conduct a Pupil Premium Review which will result in strengths and areas for development being highlighted and an action plan for improvement.
- **Sharing best practice:** Part of the role of Link Advisers is also to identify best practice in our schools. Best practice is shared, with the Link Adviser acting as broker for school to school support. Examples of particularly effective practice are also shared at, for example, head teacher briefing meetings, held twice per term. In 2013 one of the conferences for head teachers gave specific attention to the issue of improving outcomes for the WWCB group.
- **Traded services:** All schools are able to purchase traded services from the school improvement team. We offer both a central professional development programme, which includes courses on raising the attainment of vulnerable groups and the effective use of pupil premium; and a bespoke consultancy offer for individual schools based on their specific needs and pupil outcomes, so that schools where the achievement of WWCB is a particular issue can purchase additional tailored support.

CQ295-14 from Councillor Maria Gatland

To Councillor Alisa Flemming

What is the role of the local Safeguarding Children Board in safeguarding and protecting children and young people in Croydon?

Reply

Croydon's Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) was created under the *Children Act 2004*.

The core objectives of the CSCB as set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013: to co-ordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area of the authority; and to ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for that purpose.

'Working Together to Safeguard Children' 2013 replaces the 2010 version and sets out the legislative requirements and expectations on individual services to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and a clear framework for Local Safeguarding Childrens Boards (LSCBs) to monitor the effectiveness of local services.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as

- protecting children from maltreatment
- preventing impairment of children's health or development.
- ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care and
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcome

The Croydon Safeguarding Children's Board coordinates the oversight of safeguarding activities, identifies specific local themes affecting children (for example; missing children, sexual exploitation) as well as ensures the services are compliant with the national agenda surrounding safeguarding. The Board holds all agencies to account for their safeguarding practice whilst promotes the priority to safeguard children across the Borough.

Following the forthcoming retirement of the Independent Chair, the Council has recently appointed a new Independent Chair, who will begin her work from the end of this month. Not only am I appropriately engaged in the work of the board, but the new Administration has already made arrangements for myself, the Leader, the Chief Executive and the relevant Executive Director to meet with the new Independent Chair on a regular basis. We are ensuring that we give strong political leadership to keeping children safe in Croydon.

CQ299-14 **from Councillor Margaret Bird**

To Councillor Alisa Flemming

What plans has the Cabinet Member to encourage more active participation from partners at Croydon Children & Families Partnership meetings?

Reply

The Children and Families Partnership has representation from a wide range of organisations. It's important that partners have the opportunity to hear about practice on the front line and the impact of innovative programmes. It's also important for partners to hear how the partnership's plans for the year are progressing, and have the opportunity to discuss this and work together to resolve any issues that are getting in the way of progress.

There is always a balance to be struck on partnership boards and we'll be doing a number of things to generate lively debate, including running sections of the board meetings in more of a workshop style, so that everyone gets a chance to participate, give their views and so that the whole partnership can benefit from this.

CQ321--14 from Councillor Lynne Hale

To Councillor Alisa Flemming

How does the Cabinet Member view the role of Corporate Parent?

Reply

The role of the Corporate Parent is very important in helping to improve outcomes for our looked after children and young people. All Councillors are Corporate Parents. The term Corporate Parenting is used to describe the role of the Local Authority towards looked after children and young people as well as those young people who have left care.

Corporate Parenting is particularly important for looked after children, as, nationally, outcomes for looked after children are generally worse than for the general population of children. The role of corporate parenting is vital in ensuring that their needs are appropriately met. This is significant for our population of 804 looked after children and a further 814 young people who are owed a statutory duty under the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000.

There is a particular role for Local Authority members in discharging this duty. Council members have a key role in ensuring that services across the Council and partner agencies within the authority work together to improve outcomes. All Council members have a duty to:

- Find out information about the outcomes for the children and young people for whom they are responsible. Always ask the question – ‘would this be good enough for my child?’
- Make decisions about a range of services that will affect these children and young people.
- Listen to children and young people about their experiences.
- To be a champion for looked after children and care leavers, including celebrating their successes

The Council’s Corporate Parenting Panel provides Council members with an opportunity to oversee the services that looked after children and care leavers receive. I would like Croydon’s Corporate Parenting Panel to encourage members to become more actively engaged in meeting their responsibilities. So I will ask the Panel to look at further ways in which we can develop opportunities for Council members to have direct contact with children and young people and ensure that we understand their wishes and opinions. I also want to make sure the Panel hears regularly from looked after children and monitors the Council’s fulfilment of our Pledge to Looked After Children.

CQ347-14 **from Councillor Sue Bennett**

To Alisa Flemming

Does the Cabinet Member agree that the expansion of Academies across Croydon has played a part in raising standards in Croydon's Schools?

Reply

The most important factor in improving schools rapidly is the quality and capacity of leadership in a school rather than their designation.

There are many examples of schools within Croydon which have been able to demonstrate their ability to add additional capacity, whether through school to school support or through the Academy process. Academies within Croydon have demonstrated their ability to achieve improved outcomes both in the primary and secondary phases. Croydon has been proactive in seeking strong partners for struggling schools. Sometimes this has involved seeking appropriate academy sponsors, sometimes brokering support from National or Local Leaders of Education, and sometimes encouraging outstanding local schools to seek academy status in order to be enabled, under current DfE guidelines, to support leadership in schools we have judged to be vulnerable.

Through this proactive and flexible approach Croydon has been able to improve the percentage of schools judged by Ofsted to be good or better, from 63% two years ago to 81% currently, and has also ensured there is greater capacity locally to ensure school to school support which has positive impact.

It is important that we continue to place the educational attainment of our children at the forefront of any decisions we make. I am committed to supporting all schools and indeed all forms of delivery, providing that they are delivering the best service possible for our children.

CQ358-14 **from Councillor Robert Canning**

To Councillor Alisa Flemming

What events are being organised during the school summer holidays for young people in Waddon?

Reply

Waddon Youth Centre is currently used six days and four evenings a week. Most of this provision will continue through the summer holidays including the services offered by The National Autistic Society and Phab Croydon. The weekday group works with the alternative education provider in term time so that will not run over the summer. I'm also delighted to announce that we have arranged for children and young people to have access to fee swimming during the school holidays

There are three weeks of Learning Disability and Difficulty (LDD) summer activities provision at Waddon. Two of these weeks will mirror previous year's provision and be inclusive of local young people from the Waddon area. The centre is the West locality youth hub and is fully accessible for wheelchairs and young people with additional mobility needs, it also has a fully serviced disabled toilet and wet room, making it an ideal venue for this provision.

The building also has a small caged sports area that opens straight from the indoor sports hall in the main building. The centre also has direct access to the park next door (Purley Way playing fields) which is a brilliant resource especially during the summer.

In addition there are many partners' providing summer activities some of which are listed on www.croydonYPS.org.uk or www.familyspacecroydon.co.uk

CQ380-14

from Councillor Matthew Kyeremeh

To Councillor Alisa Flemming

What does the Cabinet Member see as the three most important challenges that education in Croydon faces and what initiatives she is taking to address the challenges?

Reply

The three most important challenges we face in education in Croydon are as follows:

1. Firstly, given the continuing growth in demand, which will, over the next few years, become increasingly acute in the secondary phase, we continue to face enormous challenges in securing sufficient school places. As set out in our manifesto, we will deliver the necessary additional places to meet the borough's needs. As you will be aware from the 14 July Cabinet, we have already planned our programme for the next three years, and we are working to push this to a five year plan. In addition, we all need to be mindful that, not only is the child population in Croydon growing, but it is becoming more deprived. So we need to do all we can to make early help services available to deprived families, and ensure that we build up services for children with special needs and disabilities.
2. Secondly, also as set out in our manifesto, we will work to make sure that all schools are schools of choice in Croydon. At the moment 81% of schools are judged good or outstanding by OFSTED. We will work hard to ensure that as many schools as possible are judged good or outstanding. I have approved a new initiative which is a leadership challenge package for our school leaders, which we will be rolling out from September, to ensure that all school leaders are focussed on achieving the highest possible standards for all pupils.
3. Thirdly, again as set out in our manifesto, we want to improve post-16 academic, vocational and employability options for our young people. We are working with our school sixth forms, colleges and work-based learning providers to develop our offer for young people, and supporting collaboration between our providers to ensure our local offer provides a breadth of provision to match local needs. We are already undertaking new initiatives with partners such as Job Centre Plus and employers, to enable young people to strengthen their understanding of the working world and to be more work ready.

CQ390-14 from Councillor Mike Selva

To Councillor Alisa Flemming

The Central government has recently been systematically taking away all school intervention powers from the local education authorities, creating a two tier system of accountability. Would the cabinet member agree that all school intervention powers should be returned to LEA to bring stability to the system?

Reply

The focus of the Government over the last decade has been on giving increasing autonomy to schools. They earn this autonomy through successful outcomes in Ofsted which focuses on both attainment and progress and in attainment at KS2, 4 and 5 which is published nationally. As part of this autonomy some schools have become Academies. However the Local Authority retains a statutory responsibility for all schools and the outcomes of all children. The general duty for local authorities to promote high standards of education is set out under section 13A of the Education Act 1996, as follows:

‘Duty to promote high standards and fulfilment of potential

(1) A [Local Authority] in England must ensure that their relevant education functions and their relevant training functions are (so far as they are capable of being so exercised) exercised by the authority with a view to—

- (a) promoting high standards,
- (b) ensuring fair access to opportunity for education and training, and
- (c) promoting the fulfilment of learning potential by every person to whom this subsection applies.

In this more autonomous school system, local authorities have an indispensable role to play as champions of children and parents, ensuring that the school system works for every family and using their democratic mandate to challenge every school to do the best for their population. The LA takes action where necessary to improve schools.

The powers of intervention open to a Local Authority include sending warning letters, a copy of which goes to Ofsted and may trigger an inspection, removal of financial delegation, removal of governing body – usually replaced by an Interim Executive Board, and school closure. None of these powers apply to Academies however the Local Authority can make its concerns known to the Education Funding Agency. The appointment of Regional Commissioners for Academies by the EFA is intended to sharpen the monitoring and intervention of Academies.

Croydon has a good track record of challenging its schools and increasing the numbers of schools that are good or outstanding using its current intervention powers.

CQ296-14 from Councillor Richard Chatterjee

To Councillor Toni Letts

'Please state how many apprenticeships were started in Croydon in the years 2008/09, 2009/10, 2010/11, 2011/12, 2012/13 and 2013/14 and how many apprenticeships does the Cabinet Member believe will be created over the next four years?'

Reply

This Council strongly believes that Apprenticeships are a proven route into sustainable employment. Here in Croydon we have developed an Apprenticeship Accord, which sets out the commitment from the Council and our partners to support businesses to create Apprenticeships and at the same time made people aware that those Apprenticeships are available.

We have also created an Apprenticeship Training Agency for the construction sector to enable SMEs with short-term contracts participate in the scheme. We are also planning to hold an Apprenticeship graduation ceremony for Croydon Apprentices during Apprenticeship week in March 2015.

Detailed apprenticeship starts data has only been published by the National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) since 2010/11. Data is supplied on an academic year basis. The post-16 academic year runs from 1st August to 31st July annually.

Please note that data supplied by NAS (and its predecessor agency) is learner driven and therefore relates to Croydon residents starting apprenticeships, irrespective of their employment location. i.e. NAS does not provide information on the volume of apprenticeships actually started/undertaken in a borough.

	APPRENTICESHIP STARTS BY CROYDON RESIDENTS BY AGE: 2010/11 TO 2013/14					
AGE	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14*
16-18	N/A	N/A	576	575	521	N/A
19-24	N/A	N/A	792	795	781	N/A
25+	N/A	N/A	902	1368	1381	N/A
Total	1040	1240	2270	2738	2683	N/A

*2013/14 data not yet available: Annual data is normally received approximately sixth months after the end of the academic year.

It is unrealistic to predict the exact number of Apprenticeships which will be created over the next four years, but if the trend continues we will expect more than 10,000 starts. Our ambition is to increase that number and we will be exploring all forthcoming regeneration activities to boost these opportunities for our residents.

CQ300-14 from Councillor James Thompson

To Councillor Toni Letts

Would the Cabinet Member please detail the total JSA claimant count for the London Borough of Croydon, on a month by month basis, from May 2013 – May 2014, and detail the percentage change over that period. Could she also do the same for 18-24 year olds?

Reply

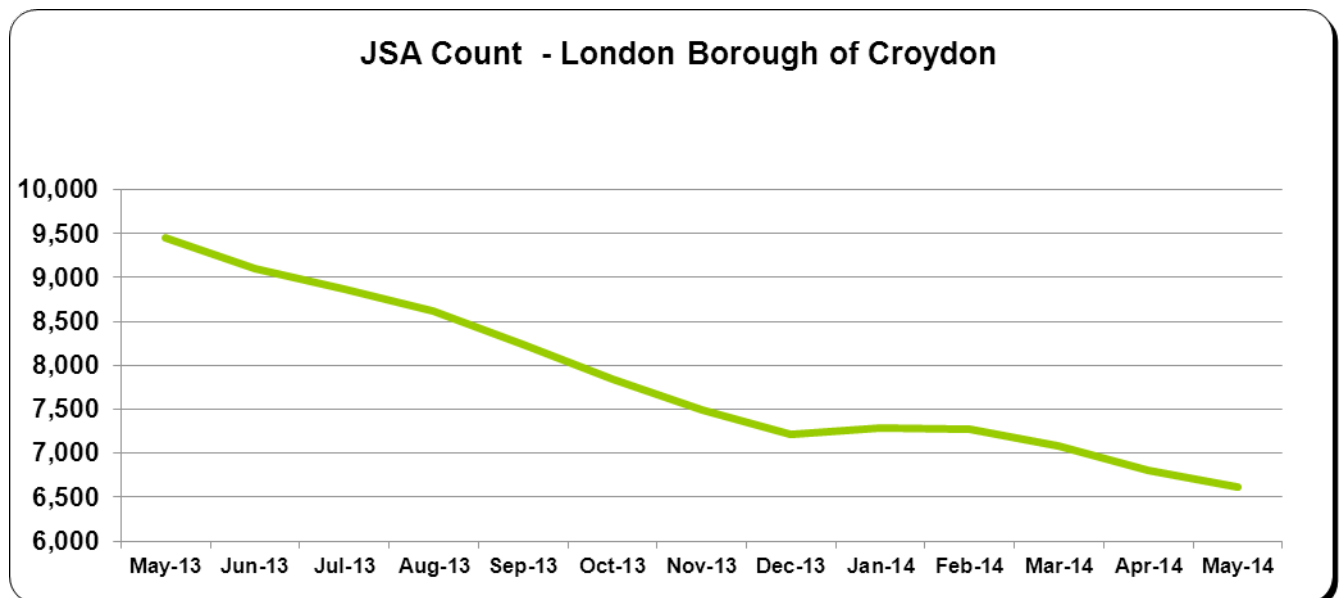
The Council is developing an ambitious Growth Plan for the next five years to create new employment opportunities for our residents, build new homes, improve infrastructure and make investment to support our employers.

We are creating 16,000 new jobs in the borough including our district centres, which will provide much needed employment for those who are currently claiming JSA. The 'Pathways to employment' approach will ensure that they get the appropriate support to secure those opportunities. We are also committed to tackling unemployment in our district centres and will be working with our partners to make them thriving business and community activity hubs.

The current statistics on JSA claimants are detailed below.

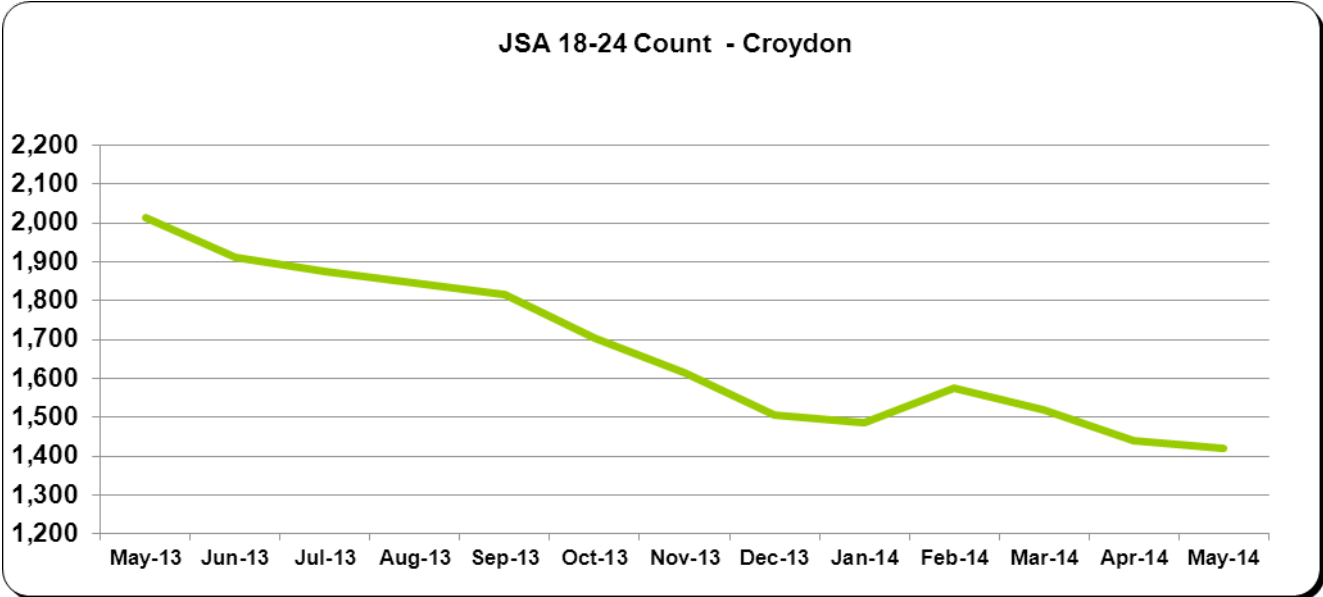
JSA Claimant Count – London Borough of Croydon

- The May 2014 JSA Count is 6,615.
- A decrease of 190 (-2.8%) on last month.
- A decrease of 2,845 (-30.1%) on a year earlier.
- The JSA claimant count is 2.7% of the working age population.



JSA Claimant Count - 18 to 24 year olds

- The May 2014 JSA Count of 18 -24 year olds is 1,420
- A decrease of 20 (-1.4%) on last month.
- A decrease of 595 (-29.5%) on a year earlier.



CQ327-14 from Councillor Jason Perry

To Councillor Toni Letts

How will the Cabinet Member ensure that the Westfield/Hammerson development provides real benefit for the people of Croydon and how many new jobs do you believe your policies will help to create during the next four years?"

Reply

This scheme will make a significant contribution to the economic, social and environmental well-being of Croydon, both directly and by acting as a catalyst for further investment in and regeneration of Croydon. It will represent a step-change, reversing the decline of Croydon Metropolitan Centre through a comprehensive approach to rejuvenating a key part of the Retail Core. It will help to achieve the vision of the Community Strategy of creating a "better borough" by delivering sustainable economic growth and development. The scheme will help to create a strong sense of place in Croydon Town Centre.

In terms of the economic well-being of the borough, the scheme represents in excess of £1 billion investment in Croydon. It will provide a substantially improved high quality retail offer that will transform the status of Croydon town centre as a major retail destination and reverse the decline of Croydon Metropolitan Centre. It will involve the provision of a range and critical mass of new high quality retail facilities, including a new full range quality department store and a range of other modern retail units to meet the requirements of national and independent retailers. It will improve the variety and diversity of shopping in the town centre. The new leisure and food and drink facilities will help to create a more diverse town centre and improve its viability and vitality, including the currently underperforming evening economy. The creation of strong pedestrian routes, including improved links to East Croydon Station, West Croydon transport interchange and the wider town centre will help to attract visitors both to the new development and to the surrounding areas. The introduction of a residential community will not only enliven the town centre but bring additional footfall and expenditure.

In terms of employment opportunities, the scheme will generate the creation of up to 5,000 additional jobs in the town centre (approximately 3,320 full time equivalents) with potentially a further 330 indirect jobs, such as in new supply chains. In addition, approximately 4,300 "person years" of employment will be created during construction. The Section 106 Agreement provides for investment in targeted training and employment support initiatives during the construction and retail phases, with specific programmes to support and engage local young people. Officers are currently working with CLP and other partners on the practical delivery of these opportunities to local residents.

This Council is determined to work with Westfield/Hammerson to ensure that all obligations taken by the developers as part of the planning process are delivered on time and Croydon's residents benefit as much as possible in terms of employment opportunities. The socio-economic benefits targets agreed with the developers are clear and stretching and detail percentages of local employment, particular target groups, job brokerage and associated other deliverables. We are also determined to support local businesses to access the supply chains of the developers and win

contracts so local SMEs grow and provide additional employment opportunities to local people.

The Council has already set-up a Steering group chaired by the Chief Executive to oversee the delivery of this area of work. The Group has in place a robust business plan and collaboration with the developers is progressing well.

The Council has set up an ambition overall borough target of 16,000 new jobs over the next five years and I am confident that these opportunities will be delivered.

CQ333-14 **from Councillor Maggie Mansell**

To Councillor Toni Letts

What can be done to reduce poverty in Croydon?

Reply

It is unacceptable that poverty still exists in our borough particularly affecting our vulnerable communities and concentrated in areas that we all know and have ambitions to improve. It is also a known fact that poverty has a huge negative impact on children and people over 50 and we cannot allow this to continue.

This Council is determined to eradicate the routes of poverty in our borough and provide opportunities to those affected by it to better their lives. I believe that working and earning a decent wage is the best way for people to get out of poverty and be able to manage their own and their family lives to ensure our communities become more sustainable and equitable.

The Council and our partners from all sectors are delivering 'Pathways to employment', an innovative approach to provide support to people along their journey into employment. We are confident that 16,000 new jobs will be created in Croydon over the next five years and 'Pathways to employment' will give Croydon residents the tools to be competitive and secure a large proportion of these jobs.

The Council is also determined to make Croydon a living-wage borough, so we encourage people to take that step into employment and improve their lives. We are also supporting those residents affected by the Welfare reform changes to ensure that they get into the labour market as the only solution for meeting these new challenges.

We are setting up a Fairness Commission and reducing inequality and poverty across our communities will be among the commission's top priorities.

These are the steps we are taking to tackle poverty and make our borough the best borough in London to live, work and visit.

CQ344-14 from Councillor Jeet Bains

To Councillor Toni Letts

How will the Cabinet Member ensure that the Westfield/Hammerson development provides real benefit for the people of Croydon and how many new jobs do you believe your policies will help to create during the next four years?

Reply

This scheme will make a significant contribution to the economic, social and environmental well-being of Croydon, both directly and by acting as a catalyst for further investment in and regeneration of Croydon. It will represent a step-change, reversing the decline of Croydon Metropolitan Centre through a comprehensive approach to rejuvenating a key part of the Retail Core. It will help to achieve the vision of the Community Strategy of creating a "better borough" by delivering sustainable economic growth and development. The scheme will help to create a strong sense of place in Croydon Town Centre.

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The Council has set up an ambition overall borough target of 16,000 new jobs over the next five years and I am confident that these opportunities will be delivered.

CQ346-14 **from Councillor Simon Brew**

To Councillor Toni Letts

How much money will the Council pledge to support the growth of Tech City in Croydon and how will this be directly allocated to the organisers of the group?

Reply

This Council is excited about the progress made so far by Croydon Tech City. I see this network of highly innovative businesses as a great opportunity not only for those involved but for the whole borough to boost Croydon's economic performance and potential and raise the borough's profile as the best London borough to nurture talent and creativity.

The Council has pledged its support to Croydon Tech City and I will ensure that this pledge is delivered. At this stage it is not possible to determine the level of financial support needed and we are awaiting Croydon Tech City to provide us with a proposal about the way forward and the potential support they will require from the Council, including the provision of some space in Davis House.

CQ363-14

from Councillor Andrew Rendle

To Councillor Toni Letts

We are all excited by the plans for central Croydon. However does The Cabinet Member for Economic Development agree with me that it's vital our district centres, such as Lower Addiscombe Road in my constituency, not just survive but thrive?

Reply

We all agree that the developments in Croydon Metropolitan Centre are a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for our residents and businesses. A development of such a scale inevitable spills out benefits to the satellite areas and particularly to business locations such as our district centres. I agree that it is short-sighted to stand aside and let these centres fight for survival, which in effect means that they will be slowing down as the economy and competition grow.

Our district centres provide vital services and goods to the local residents living in their proximity and we must ensure they thrive in economic terms. We will ensure that the businesses in those centres are supported to grow and get on the Westfield and Hammerson supply chains if they wish to do so. We will also provide support if the business communities in those centres want to set-up local traders associations or BIDs in order to tackle issues like crime, waste, environmental improvements and low levels of footfall.

At the same time 'Pathways to employment', an innovative partnership approach is available to all residents to get the right support to secure employment and have disposable income to spend within the local economy.

The Council is employing a Director of Regeneration to oversee the growth and prosperity of our district centres as a result of one of the first decisions made by this Council.

CQ376-14 from Councillor Jamie Audsley

To Councillor Toni Letts

Developing high quality employer engagement in education is a key priority for the new administration to ensure effective pathways to work for our young. How will you intervene to ensure social disadvantage isn't replicated in this work and ensure all our young people have fair access to opportunities such as work experience; careers sessions; interview preparation and mentoring?

Reply

All schools are legally bound to provide impartial careers guidance to all pupils in years 8 to 13. This has recently been strengthened so that schools should help every pupil develop high aspirations and consider a broad and ambitious range of careers, so that they can make good informed choices about their qualifications and options open to them in regards to progression to further education, HE and skilled work.

Following the removal of the statutory requirement to deliver work related learning in key stage 4 (although many of our schools continue to do so), post-16 funding reforms introduced in September 2013 placed a greater emphasis on employability skills and work experience in 16-19 education and training. All students aged 16-19, whether doing academic or vocational studies or a mix of both, are now expected to follow a study programme tailored to their prior attainment by age 16 and future career aspirations. This includes the requirement to undertake meaningful work experience and preparation for work.

The Council provides an audit, support and challenge function (e.g. facilitating a networks for careers and post-16 leads) to ensure that schools are meeting their statutory duties and implementing best practice.

Schools receive pupil premium funding which is used to support the most disadvantaged pupils to have additional experiences, such as visits to universities, mentoring, additional subject support and other enrichment activities. The Council monitors all schools and governing bodies to ensure that schools are utilising pupil premium effectively and that under achieving groups are making best possible progress. This is also an area of focus for Ofsted.

In Croydon we have very high numbers of looked after children and asylum seekers. The Council has ensured that the virtual school team can be as effective as possible by providing appropriate human resources. This team draw on a range of resources, including the Aim Higher programme, to raise the aspirations of this very vulnerable group.

The Council supports the traded work of Capital South – Croydon's Education Business Partnership. This service provides work experience, interviewing preparation and a range of employability opportunities to local schools.

The new administration is already undertaking new initiatives with partners such as Job Centre Plus and employers, to enable young people to strengthen their understanding of the working world and to be more work ready.

CQ280-14 **from Councillor Vidhi Mohan**

To Councillor Mark Watson

Next year marks 800 years of the signing of the Magna Carta. Can the Cabinet Member for Communities let us know whether anything is being planned in Croydon to mark this historic occasion, especially in schools? As the Prime Minister recently said, it is important we use this occasion to promote British values and institutions amongst all our communities.

Reply

The Council's Museum & Archives Team are considering the possibility of scheduling an event for schools/families as part of Parliament Week, which runs from 14-20 November 2014, as this will enable them to relate the 800th anniversary of the signing of the Magna Carta to our local museum & archive collections.

In terms of commemorating historic events, the focus for schools is the centenary of the First World War and the associated national programme. The anniversary of key events will continue to take priority throughout the next few years and certainly in 2015 & 2016 when many Croydon men, as well as many from the Commonwealth, were heavily engaged in the key battles.

CQ284-14 **from Councillor Sara Bashford**

To Councillor Mark Watson

Will the Labour administration please confirm that won't cut the budget to the voluntary sector infrastructure groups such as CVA and the BME Forum? Can you please confirm the 14/15 budget for this area and what they intend for the 15/16?

Reply

The total budget for supporting voluntary sector infrastructure organisations remains at £380,000 with a further £293,000 for advice services provided by Croydon CAB.

The new administration has decided to maintain the budget at this level and extend the current arrangements until the Fairness Commission has delivered its final report so that the new commissioning is carried out in the context of the implementation of the Commission's recommendations. The new programme will be commissioned from 1 October 2016.

CQ286-14 **from Councillor Sara Bashford**

To Councillor Mark Watson

Can the new Labour Administration confirm that the very successful Small Grants Fund will continue to be funded to allow voluntary sector groups the opportunity to apply for funding to run very worthwhile projects, which benefit the community? Can they please confirm the budget won't be slashed?

Reply

The new administration will continue the Small Grants programme and is looking for opportunities to increase the funds available in 2015/16 and beyond, expanding the scope to include, for instance, a greater focus on health and wellbeing

The priorities for Round 8 will be published in October.

CQ318-14 **from Councillor Richard Chatterjee**

To Councillor Mark Watson

In the run-up to the council elections, Labour promised to provide two extra police office dedicated to work in New Addington and for CCTV in Central Parade. Could the Cabinet Member please state when this will happen and how this will be funded?

Reply

We are committed to helping residents feel safer and will work with the Police to achieve a more visible police presence on our streets, especially in areas such as New Addington and along the London Road. The CCTV is currently being reviewed to define exactly where improvements will be made. I will however be meeting with the new Borough Commander shortly to discuss an increased dedicated local police team for Fieldway / New Addington. The exact make up is yet to be determined but we stand by our manifesto commitment. In terms of funding, if the money cannot be found in other budgets, we will use part of New Administration Priorities Earmarked Reserve.

CQ322-14 from Councillor Jason Cummings

To Councillor Mark Watson

The recent illegal rave took place in an empty building that had not been sufficiently secured. How is the council going to ensure that any other similar empty buildings owners have adequate security in place to prevent this type of event and its appalling effects recurring?

Reply

The building that this illegal rave took place is owned by Royal Mail and was subject to occupation by squatters. The building owners and police were taking steps to evict them but the rave occurred before that could happen.

The incident was subject to a Gold Group review following the event where the council was represented.

We took the responsibility from that meeting to take steps to identify any similar large un-occupied buildings that could be used for a similar event.

Having done that we have identified owners and written to them, advising them of the recent incident, that their building could be susceptible to a similar event and to take steps to review and improve security.

We wrote to over 50 such building owners.

In addition, council officers have been briefed to be aware of any such buildings whilst on patrol and to forward to police any that they feel may be a concern. The council have no powers to make sure that owners have adequate security.

On the issue of the Royal Mail site specifically, the Leader has written to the Chairman of the Royal Mail Group, Donald Brydon, to request a meeting to discuss when they intend to implement their existing planning consent for the site.

CQ323-14 from Councillor Jason Cummings

To Councillor Mark Watson

Rod Davies of the East Croydon Community Group wrote to the local newspapers regarding the Council having 'left the streets in chaos' with the events surrounding the illegal rave. He rightly points out that the local authority has a responsibility to respond to civil disturbance as well as the police. What response does the cabinet member have to his assertion that there was an 'absence of local authority officers' and that this resulted in 'a lack of overall traffic management around the junction and incoherent strategic response to the incident; high volumes of traffic being diverted into adjacent narrow residential roads, with no road signs directing them to the most appropriate routes; Addiscombe Grove being kept open resulting in high volumes of traffic entering a congested area where pedestrians were being directed around the NLA tower; No alternative provision for cars to pick-up/drop off East Croydon rail passengers; No information for pedestrians about locations of displaced bus routes; No information signage for pedestrians seeking to access East Croydon station from the Addiscombe area; No attempt to ameliorate the impact of high volumes of diverted traffic from Cherry Orchard Road, Addiscombe Road and Addiscombe Grove up Colson Road' and what steps are being taken to ensure that the Councils response in any future incident is improved?

Reply

The first thing to remember is that this was an extremely serious incident that was controlled by the police from start to finish. The police declared this a critical incident and put in cordons to control the scene and they quite rightly had primacy for command and control, with the area within the inner cordon being a crime scene

The council Duty Resilience Officer was notified of the event at 8am that Sunday morning although the council CCTV control room was maintaining a watching brief and assisting police where they could.

The report from our CCTV Control indicated that the police at the scene had put road closures in place and were allowing the rave to continue until 09.30 hours before commencing an eviction. The only request that came into the council was for the service of a dangerous structure engineer to attend the scene and for a streets scene crew to clean up the streets. At no point was the council approached and requested for signage or for support in providing officers to assist with traffic management.

I attended the scene on the Sunday morning and whilst there was some disruption, especially on the trams and buses, the police were advising people on what had happened and directing traffic to alternative roads. East Croydon station remained open and pedestrians were being directed to use an alternative route to the station by the police.

In this type of incident, the police have primacy with the council to support where required. The local authority was on standby and would have activated emergency procedures had there been a request to provide additional support such as; opening an emergency rest centre and sending a Local Authority Liaison Officer (LALO) to the Joint Emergency Services Coordination Centre (JESSC), but the response was managed by the council services as part of business as usual. The council was not

given advanced warning of this rave in terms of coordinating a multi-agency response, which would have incorporated TFL and National Rail. We were not called to provide any services over and above those we provide as part of our standard response.

The council has robust emergency procedures in place as was recently demonstrated during our major incident response to the protracted flooding and potential loss of Kenley Water Treatment works. We continually review our approach and debrief incidents to ensure we pick up any learning to improve procedures going forward.

This event was subject to a police Gold Group review, which the council attended. The purpose of the Gold Group is to review the incident and put in place any measures to manage the incident and its aftermath. None of these issues were highlighted by the police as problems that were encountered during the event.

It is not unusual for their to be disruption when such an incident takes place.

CQ324-14 **from Councillor Jason Cummings**

To Councillor Mark Watson

How does the new administration view the role of the Safer Neighbourhood Board and how important is it in helping continue the current downward trend in Croydon's crime figures?

Reply

I welcome the introduction of the Croydon Safer Neighbourhood Board (SNB).

The SNB will play an important role in tackling crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) by monitoring police performance by enabling neighbourhoods to set policing priorities, as a way of ensuring the police focus on the priorities of local communities. As you say, the performance against crime and ASB has seen some significant reductions that the SNB is expected to help maintain.

The SNB will be the primary borough-level mechanism for local engagement and will have the following key aims:

- Monitoring crime performance and community confidence, to enable them to challenge the police and the Community Safety Partnership.
- To ensure communities are more closely involved in problem solving and crime prevention;
- Giving a voice to local people who know best what is needed at the local level;
- To have greater reach and ensure a more frequent refresh of ideas and views;
- Improve the work relationship between ward panels, Independent Advisory Groups, Neighbourhood Watch and Stop and Search monitoring groups;

As Croydon's SNB members are taken from the local community and include representation from a range of organisations and agencies such as; disability groups, victim/ vulnerable groups, young people, faith groups, BME Forum, Probation, CVA as well as the Safer Croydon Partnership and the Police, this will ensure a wider cohort of people charged with helping the police to further reduce crime.

Croydon's SNB board had their first meeting on 25th June 2014, which we well attended and bodes well for the future.

CQ367-14 from Councillor Andrew Pelling

To Councillor Mark Watson

For councillors who represent wards with empty warehouses on industrial estates the prospect of future raves in the Borough is a matter of especial concern. What work has the authority been doing recently with property owners, the police, schools and public agencies to attempt to deter future raves?

Reply

The building that this illegal rave took place is owned by Royal Mail and was subject to occupation by squatters. The building owners and police were taking steps to evict them but the rave occurred before that could happen.

The incident was subject to a Gold Group review following the event where the council was represented.

We took the responsibility from that meeting to take steps to identify any similar large un-occupied buildings that could be used for a similar event.

Having done that we have identified owners and written to them, advising them of the recent incident, that their building could be susceptible to a similar event and to take steps to review and improve security.

We wrote to over 50 such building owners.

In addition, council officers have been briefed to be aware of any such buildings whilst on patrol and to forward to police any that they feel may be a concern.

The police have been similarly engaged in identifying any such properties and in addition have been scanning the various social media outlets that are often used to indicate future raves of this sort. That is a difficult process as the notification of such an event is often only made on the night and through email contact to subscribers.

Communication with schools has taken place but has focussed primarily on the dangers of substance misuse in connection with these events.

CQ374-14 from Councillor Stuart King

To Councillor Mark Watson

Will the Cabinet Member join me in congratulating the action of council staff who dealt so promptly with the recent trespass by travellers on the land by Mayfield Road in West Thornton ward; What further action is the council considering to protect this area from further trespass, given that this recent incident is the fourth in the space of twelve months?

Reply

The Council recognise that Mayfield Road is a recurrent target for trespass by travellers. Since the last incursion in 2013 we have installed further reinforced locks on both gates and height barriers, and also height adjustable bollards as extra security for the site. The Council are satisfied that, as far as possible these are adequate deterrents. Unfortunately the most recent incident occurred whilst contractors were present on the adjacent Croydon Athletic site and, due to the movement of vehicles the site may not have been fully secured at all times. We have re-affirmed to the contractors that the site must be fully secured at all times.

CQ285-14 **from Councillor Sara Bashford**

To Councillor Timothy Godfrey

Can the Cabinet Member with responsibility for sport please confirm that the new Labour Administration will continue to fund the London Youth Games for the next four years, as this important event has given a massive number of Croydon young people the opportunity to take part in competitive sport? As you are aware Croydon has been very successful in the past and I hope this can continue.

Reply

Croydon is committed to the London Youth Games as this gives an excellent opportunity for young people within Croydon to take part in a variety of sports with young people of their own age from other London Boroughs.

This project is an integral part of the Sports and Physical Activity Team's diverse range of development projects. The revenue budget available for the entry fee, t-shirts and associated costs is £15k but this does not include the officers time spent delivering this project which impacts on around 2,000 young people.

Croydon has been successful with winning various competitions in a variety of the sports activities during the life of the London Youth Games which started in 1977.

The Jubilee Trophy has been won three times by Croydon in 1985, 1994 & 2012 and last year Croydon came runners up just missing out on retaining the trophy.

Similarly our young people with disabilities have won the Disability Trophy four times in 2010, 2012, 2013 and for a third consecutive year 2014.

Croydon is proud of the achievements of every young person who has represented Croydon in the London Youth Games.

CQ289-14 **from Councillor Richard Chatterjee**

To Councillor Timothy Godfrey

In the run up to the last election you announced that you intend to reintroduce a Mela for Croydon. How much will this cost and how will it be funded, please?

Reply

This administration is Ambitious for Culture. We are exploring options as to how we can celebrate the diverse cultural offer in Croydon and of course, will be talking to communities about how we might do this.

A formal decision has not yet been taken on the re-introduction of the Croydon Mela which was part of the summer festival. Therefore, anticipated costs are not known. However, the last summer festival of which the Mela was a part cost of £150K.

CQ298-14 **from Councillor Margaret Bird**

To Councillor Timothy Godfrey

In your capacity as the cabinet member responsible for sport, do you support the opening of the specialist sports academy on the former Ryelands Primary site?

Reply

The Council is currently considering its proposals for secondary provision in the borough, including the proposed Sports and Science secondary Academy at the Arena Site. The primary driver of the secondary academy at Arena is the need to provide school places. However, I will be pleased to support enhancements to local sports facilities for the community that are developed as a consequence of this project.

CQ303-14 **from Councillor Mario Creatura**

To Councillor Timothy Godfrey

It is reported in the press that the Council has reneged on the previous decision of the Corporate Services Committee to lease the former Ashburton Library site to a church group, for them to refurbish it and bring it back into community use. You say that the council will instead refurbish the site itself and 'bring it back into community use'.

Have you costed this and if so, what is the cost of refurbishment? What essential projects will be stopped in the capital programme to enable this unexpected expenditure?

Reply

The original budget figures obtained for the Corporate Services Committee report estimated refurbishment costs of between £500-800,000.

We are currently developing proposals which will ensure that this important site reaches its true potential as a hub for the community. This will include a review of all financial analysis done to date.

CQ305-14 **from Councillor Luke Clancy**

To Councillor Timothy Godfrey

What changes, if any, does the new administration propose to make to the operation of the outsourced Library service, contracted with Carillion? What will be the cost implications of any changes?

Reply

We are committed to exploring options for the future delivery of library services. The priority at the moment is to ensure that Carillion Integrated Services deliver what they are contracted to do.

I can confirm that the current contract with Carillion Integrated Services is being well managed by the Council to ensure that it is meeting contractual obligations.

CQ316-14 **from Councillor Donald Speakman**

To Councillor Timothy Godfrey

In order to help young people exercise and enjoy playing football during the summer months, will you please instruct that a football pitch be marked out at the South Croydon Recreation Ground?

Reply

The Council has already made arrangements for a football pitch to be marked out all year at South Croydon Recreation Ground.

The location of the marked out pitch is moved several times during the year so as to allow damaged grassed areas to be repaired.

CQ330-14 **from Councillor Karen Jewitt**

To Councillor Timothy Godfrey

Can the cabinet member co-ordinate with the local schools that use South Norwood Recreation ground to ask them to get the pupils to take their rubbish home. The field is always left full of plastic bottles after a sports session. There have also been complaints about swearing by the boys using the all-weather sports facility by parents of small children.

Reply

Officers from the Environmental & Leisure Team will arrange to make contact with local schools which use the South Norwood Recreation Ground to remind them of the importance of taking their litter back with them, and through this approach the young people will be able to support the Council's environmental campaign "Don't Mess With Croydon Take Pride".

CQ337-14 from Councillor Tim Pollard

To Councillor Timothy Godfrey

According to the press you have recently promised to increase Croydon's contribution to Upper Norwood Library and to set up a new steering group with Lambeth. How is that compatible with Lambeth's desire to make it a community-run library, by what amount do you propose to increase the funding and on what justification (other than the fact that Steve Reed told you to)?

Reply

No decisions have yet been taken with regard to a new steering group for Upper Norwood Library.

It is our intention to commit to match fund Lambeth's contribution to the Upper Norwood Library from October 2014.

We are in dialogue with Lambeth about making it a community managed library and funding levels for the coming years. However, no decisions have yet been taken.

I met with my opposite number in Lambeth (Cllr Jane Edbrooke) at Upper Norwood Library and we established a good working relationship together in order to support the Trust over the next four years.

CQ338-14 **from Councillor Tim Pollard**

To Councillor Timothy Godfrey

The previous Conservative administration in Croydon pledged to invest £33 million in the refurbishment of Fairfield Halls and made substantial progress in delivering this. Will you commit to spending this sum and to carrying out the refurbishment specified in the cabinet report of November 2013 in full?

Reply

I can assure you that this administration is committed to securing the future of the Fairfield Halls and sees the creation of a high quality, flexible use facility as fundamental to the enhancement of the borough's cultural provision and regeneration of the heart of the town.

Within the space of a few weeks we have already made considerable strides to support Fairfield widen their cultural offer – we have already committed funds for a state of the art digital projection system that will enable live streaming of live sporting and cultural events as well as big screen film offering and intend to commit over the summer months to the renovation of the Arnhem Gallery and the creation of a new studio space for performance and events.

In terms of the funding commitment, we are currently reviewing the overall project to ensure the much needed improvements are carried out in the most cost effective way and are optimally integrated with plans for the College Green site.

CQ353-14 **from Councillor Andy Stranack**

To Councillor Timothy Godfrey

Residents on Monks Hill raised a considerable amount of money to make sure that a dedicated community space was built as part of the Quest Academy rebuild. Can the Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport give an update on when the community facilities will be open and what plans are in place to make sure the community space is managed by local residents?"

Reply

The Council are delighted that practical completion of the Community Space and new Monks Hill Sports Centre is set for October 2014. Council officers are liaising with the Edgecombe Community Centre Association and local Councillors to ensure that the community space is managed by and for local residents. The Council pledged and spent £200,000 to build the Community space on Monks Hill; any monies raised by local residents are separate to this and would be overseen and managed by the Edgecombe Association.

CQ369-14 **from Councillor Stephen Mann**

To Councillor Timothy Godfrey

Could the cabinet member confirm what plans he has for Ashburton Park?

Reply

We listened to local people who wanted to keep the former library and park together. Local Councillors will actively work with the Friends of Ashburton Park, local community groups and local residents to revitalise Ashburton Park and the buildings within it to encourage community use of this beautiful Park and its facilities.

We are currently developing proposals which will ensure that this important site reaches its true potential as a hub for the community. This will include a review of all financial analysis done to date.

CQ370-14 **from Councillor Stephen Mann**

To Councillor Timothy Godfrey

Could the cabinet member confirm what local community groups will be involved in determining the future of the Ashburton Park Library Building?

Reply

Whilst we are at an early stage in our plans to revitalise the former Library and wider Park, Councillors will be working closely with the Friends of Ashburton Park, local community groups and local residents to ensure a bright future for this lovely building.

CQ372-14 **from Councillor Maddie Henson**

To Councillor Timothy Godfrey

Will the Cabinet Member confirm if they believe that a community building run by the council in Ashburton Park would be beneficial to residents in the surrounding area?

Reply

There is a clear mandate from the people of Ashburton to retain the former Library in Council ownership to ensure a bright future for this building. We will work closely with the Friends of Ashburton Park, local community groups and local residents to revitalise Ashburton Park and the buildings within to encourage wider community use of this beautiful Park and its facilities.

CQ389-14 **from Councillor Pat Ryan**

To Councillor Timothy Godfrey

Can the Cabinet Member for Culture provide me with an up to date on the re-establishing of UNJL?

Reply

We are committed to continued support for Upper Norwood Library and are in dialogue with Lambeth about making it a community managed library.

I do not have further information at this point. However, I can confirm that it is our intention to commit to match fund Lambeth's contribution to the Upper Norwood Library from October 2014.

I met with my opposite number in Lambeth (Cllr Jane Edbrooke) at Upper Norwood Library and we established a good working relationship together in order to support the Trust over the next four years.