



CROYDON COUNCIL MEETING: MONDAY 6 OCTOBER 2014
PUBLIC QUESTION TIME
WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

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

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

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

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

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

Question Number	Question to Cabinet Member	Question From	Subject
PQ050	Cllr Collins	Mr Kuttappan	West Croydon Area
PQ052	Cllr Collins	Mr Sivadasan	Broad Green Area
PQ053	Cllr Watson	Mr Martin	Political meetings
PQ055	Cllr Watson	Mr Gopinadhan	Crime levels
PQ057	Cllr Watson	Mr Jeyam	Crime levels

PQ058	Cllr Butler	Mr Khan	Development in Broad Green
PQ059	Cllr Godfrey	Mr Collier	Croydon in Bloom
PQ060	Cllr Hall	Mr Cartwright	Council Elections
PQ062	Cllr Newman	Mr Downes	Public spending
PQ064	Cllr Godfrey	Mr Paterson	Foxley Woods
PQ065	Cllr Godfrey	Mrs Ask	Cultural Quarter
PQ066	Cllr Butler	Mr Creighton	Housing room sizes
PQ067	Cllr Butler	Mr Hunter	Taberner House site
PQ068	Cllr Collins	Dr Ginn	recycling
PQ069	Cllr Hall	Mr Rajendran	Members Allowances
PQ070	Cllr Butler	Dr Latham	MIPIM
PQ071	Cllr Hall	Ms Davies	Membership of Charity groups
PQ073	Cllr Newman	Mr Samuel	Local radio
PQ075	Cllr Godfrey	Miss Kiss	Cultural Quarter
PQ076	Cllr Bee	Mrs Arunakiri	Parking restrictions
PQ077	Cllr Flemming	Mr Elliott	Care leavers
PQ078	Cllr Bee	Mr Shanmugaratnam	Crossing - Thornton Heath Station
PQ079	Cllr Hall	Mr Pirintji	Budget overspend

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

From Mr. Sudarsanan Kuttappan

Councillor Stuart Collins

Cabinet Member Clean, Green Croydon

Question No.

PQ050-14

Could the Council please state clearly and fully what can and will the Council do, within the next one year, to make West Croydon a better, safer and cleaner place for everyone to live, work and visit?

Reply

Working closely with the Police and other agencies we have delivered four Anti-Robbery campaigns in and around the Broad Green area with the most recent operation taking place earlier this month resulting in a 35% reduction of robbery incidents compared to the same time in the previous year. This means that Broad Green is becoming a safer place and to address the concerns of Traders we also visited and spoke to them resulting in the Police being made fully aware of the need to increase public confidence in the safety of the area. For full details of what we are doing to tackle crime and safety please refer to the Community Safety Strategy, which is available on the Council's website www.croydon.gov.uk

There is also the Council's Don't Mess with Croydon campaign, which is making significant progress in cleaning up our Borough and Broad Green. We have made it easier for people to report issues, we have speeded up our response to clear up waste and fly tips and are seeing significantly more enforcement activity against those residents and business that are blighting our streets. Full details about Don't Mess with Croydon can also be found on the Council's website.

We are also smartening up Broad Green with a significant programme of public realm works to improve the layout and look of the roads and pavements around West Croydon. This is all part of £1.4m of funding being invested for the West Croydon Investment Programme which includes a dedicated Cleaner and Greener Co-ordinator that has helped local businesses and residents to tackle environmental issues such as litter and fly-tipping. The project has provided 38 Safer Croydon Radios to retailers in the area, all of whom have said in a recent survey that being part of the scheme makes them feel safer.

From Mr. Subhash Sivadasan

Councillor Stuart Collins

Cabinet Member for Clean, Green Croydon

Question No.

PQ052-14

Can you please state fully and in detail what exactly the Labour led Council is doing in Broad Green ward to make it better and safer for the residents?

Reply

Working closely with the Police and other agencies we have delivered four Anti-Robbery campaigns in and around the Broad Green area with the most recent operation taking place earlier this month resulting in a 35% reduction of robbery incidents compared to the same time in the previous year. This means that Broad Green is becoming a safer place and to address the concerns of Traders we also visited and spoke to them resulting in the Police being made fully aware of the need to increase public confidence in the safety of the area. For full details of what we are doing to tackle crime and safety please refer to the Community Safety Strategy, which is available on the Council's website www.croydon.gov.uk

There is also the Council's Don't Mess with Croydon campaign, which is making significant progress in cleaning up our Borough and Broad Green. We have made it easier for people to report issues, we have speeded up our response to clear up waste and fly tips and are seeing significantly more enforcement activity against those residents and business that are blighting our streets. Full details about Don't Mess with Croydon can also be found on the Council's website.

We are also smartening up Broad Green with a significant programme of public realm works to improve the layout and look of the roads and pavements around West Croydon. This is all part of £1.4m of funding being invested for the West Croydon Investment Programme which includes a dedicated Cleaner and Greener Co-ordinator that has helped local businesses and residents to tackle environmental issues such as litter and fly-tipping. The project has provided 38 Safer Croydon Radios to retailers in the area, all of whom have said in a recent survey that being part of the scheme makes them feel safer.

We have also just launched the Croydon Promise , a growth plan that includes the need to support and develop our district centres, this report specifically mentions Broad Green and I was the pleased to hear the commitment of all the partners to improve the London Road area. You can watch the web cast on the Council site under Cabinet 29/9/2014

From Mr Tony Martin

Councillor Mark Watson

Cabinet Member Safety and Justice

Question No.

PQ053-14

Why did the council stop a meeting about a mosque from taking place at the ACA, New Addington, due to its political nature but not stop Labour, the Conservatives and the Croydon Advertiser from holding political meetings there in recent years?
Do other council buildings have similar rules?

Reply

This decision was entirely in keeping with the Council's policy.

From Mr. Jayakumar Gopinadhan

Councillor Mark Watson

Cabinet Member for Safety and Justice

Question No.

PQ055-14

What is the Labour Council doing to reduce the crime level in each ward in Croydon and to make every ward a better and safer place to live and work?

Reply

Across the borough the number of reported crime and anti-social behaviour incidents continues to reduce year on year with crime rates 5% less than those in the previous year. Anti-Social behaviour is also down by 10% with 1883 fewer incidents compared with the year before.

There is a whole raft of activity that we are undertaking in partnership with the police and a range of other agencies to continue to drive down crime. Some examples of this include:

An Integrated Offender Management model to provide a single coherent structure for the management of repeat offenders

Implemented the Croydon Connected gangs model to further strengthen early identification, prevention and enforcement opportunities across partnership organisation

A Stop and Search plan is now in place and a Stop and Search community monitoring group was established, which is made up of young people and local community representatives

Youth Support services have been focused on responding to local needs and building strong relationship with local communities

We have also run 4 anti-robbery campaigns resulting in a 35% reduction in robberies during the first two weeks in September when comparing the same period for the previous year

For full details of what we are doing to tackle crime and safety please refer to the Community Safety Strategy, which is available on the Council's website

www.croydon.gov.uk

From Mr. Joseph David Paul Jeyam

Councillor Mark Watson

Cabinet Member for safety and Justice

Question No.

PQ057-14

Why is the Labour Council not doing anything at all or adequately to reduce the crime level and fear of crime during the late evenings / night time in London Road between West Croydon train station and Croydon University hospital?

Reply

We are. Over the past year we have seen nearly 3,000 fewer offences reported, burglary is down 7% and robbery is down 26% when comparing end of year figures with the previous year. Anti Social behaviour is also down by 10% with 1883 fewer incidents compared with the year before.

There has been a raft of activity in the specific location you mention. Working closely with the Police and other agencies we have delivered four Anti-Robbery campaigns in and around the Broad Green area with the most recent operation taking place in September resulting in a 35% reduction of robbery incidents compared to the same time in the previous year. In addition, the environment has a significant influence on how people feel and with this in mind the West Croydon Improvement (WIP) project is seeing major improvements to the environment as well as providing practical support to residents and businesses including a dedicated Cleaner and Greener Co-ordinator to help tackle local environmental issues.

However despite all of this, the fear of crime remains a significant concern for residents and I accept that there is more that we can do. That is why addressing public confidence and the fear of crime is one of my top priorities as the Cabinet Member responsible for this area of work. We are continuing to look at ways to drive down crime but also understand the need to communicate this with people so that understand just how safe Croydon is.

For full details of what we are doing to tackle crime and safety please refer to the Community Safety Strategy, which is available on the Council's website www.croydon.gov.uk

From Mr Shasha Khan

Councillor Alison Butler

Cabinet Member for Homes and Regeneration

Question No.

PQ058-14

At the Broad Green hustings, for the 2014 council elections, Labour panellist, Councillor Stuart Collins, said that he had been calling for a moratorium on new development in the London Road/Broad Green area. Now that Labour control the council, is a moratorium on new development in place in this area?

Reply

The new administration is committed to the regeneration of the London Road/Broad Green area. As local planning authority the Council are required in law to consider any scheme on its individual merits in line with the London Plan and the Croydon Local Plan and any other material planning considerations.

From Mr Peter Collins

Councillor Timothy Godfrey

Cabinet Member Culture, Leisure and Sport

Question No.

PQ059-14

Please can I be advised if this new council will bring back the Croydon in Bloom Scheme which scrapped by the previous administration because of funding problems.

Reply

I very much welcome your question as it highlights something that is very important to a great number of people and improved what the borough looked like.

As you make clear, the decision was made by the previous Cabinet Member in November 2010 that the council would not enter future London in Bloom competitions as part of the budget discussions at that time. A result of this decision was that the council ceased to run the Croydon in Bloom competition.

I regret that I am not able to bring this competition back due to the considerable government cuts to the Council budget over the last 4 years. If the government recognises the importance of funding councils properly, and giving Croydon a fair share of available resources, I would fully support this competition being run by our Council in the future.

I am pleased though that seven individual parks were entered in London in Bloom this year resulting in 5 gold awards and 2 silver-gilts.

Local groups are encouraged to enter 'It's your Neighbourhood' run by London in Bloom on behalf of the RHS. This year three awards went to local groups, which is encouraging.

I would be pleased to support a voluntary sector initiative if this came forward, but as the council gets smaller, it is harder and harder to support such initiatives with staff time or money.

From Mr John Cartwright

Councillor Simon Hall

Cabinet Member Finance and Treasury

Question No.

PQ060-14

Will Croydon Council elections continue to happen once every four years?

Reply

Yes.

From Mr Steven Downes

Councillor Tony Newman

Leader of the Council

Question No.

PQ062-14

Cllr Newman's keenness for an open and transparent council is noted in the calling of a public inquiry over £11,000 of Cllr Fisher's back-pay.

When will he call a public inquiry into the £140m spent on building new council offices, or into the £450m CCURV scheme?

Reply

We have [published details](#) in the July 2014 financial review about the cost to date of Bernard Weatherill House (BWH). It is now clear that the previous Conservative administration were not as open and transparent with the public about the costs, as they should have been. Indeed at one point Councillor Pollard claimed that the offices were "free".

In light of the information we now have, I believe we should do all we can to deliver the best deal for Croydon taxpayers from the building, rather than waste more money on a public enquiry. We will be reporting further information about BWH to Cabinet later this year.

We are currently in discussions with a number of potential partners from a range of sectors, private, public and educational, with a view to them leasing space in Bernard Weatherill House, which if successful, will generate income and provide better value for money for the people of Croydon. Use of BWH by partners will also help deliver the added benefit of a more cohesive mix and increase opportunities for joint working.

From Mr John Paterson

Councillor Timothy Godfrey

Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport

Question No.

PQ064-14

Further to the council answer in December and the subsequent decision to defer and review the programme of woodland clearance can we know what conclusions the council reached concerning the destruction of the trees and undergrowth and fencing of enclosures in Foxley Woods?

Reply

I visited these woods to inspect the work that has already been carried out, and works that could be carried out in the future.

The principle that I expect all work to be carried out to is based on an ecological or environmental or Health and Safety need.

We do not consider there has been any destruction of Foxley Wood. What there has been is the provision of woodland management works that are aimed to improve the structure of the wood, increase bio diversity and reduce the risk of trees falling into private properties.

It is intended that further works will be carried out this winter following communication with nearby residents together with the offer of meetings on site to explain the process.

We appreciate that some people have had concerns as to the effect on the wood, following these works, which resulted in a meeting last year with residents and woodland users. I can confirm that we will be working to guidelines from among others, the Forestry Commission, RSPB, Bat Conservation Trust and Bringing England's woodlands back to life"

This work will see a change from what is currently a dark wood with little regeneration or understory and declining trees to one where the works will provide healthy regrowth which have benefits to the fauna and flora of the wood and with better management the regrowth will be more stable.

We will be leaving trees that we feel are stable and where possible will leave as much screening as possible. I do appreciate people concerns and that some people do not like change but feel that it is important to carry on these works for the long term future of the woodland.

I am very impressed with the work undertaken by the council tree section and hope that we can showcase more of their excellent work in the future.

From Mrs Elizabeth Ask

Councillor Timothy Godfrey

Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport

Question No.

PQ065-14

Which key cultural stakeholders were consulted on the vision of the Cultural Quarter, and what are the dates for the proposed engagement of communities on the development of the Cultural Quarter project?

Reply

The vision for the “Cultural Quarter” has been discussed with key cultural stakeholders at a high level, at our ‘Ambitious for Culture’ seminar on 8 July. This seminar was attended by over 80 people from many different cultural organisations in Croydon.

Further consultation will take place as part of the development of the Cultural Quarter and the borough’s Growth Plan, with a comprehensive consultation and engagement being undertaken to ensure the area and development is meeting the needs of communities in Croydon. As soon as dates are in place for any engagement they will be announced by the Council.

The Cultural Quarter is part of a wider conversation with residents and cultural groups in Croydon to shape the cultural offer in the borough.

I have had many meetings with stakeholders and continue to do so. Any cultural groups or interested parties can come and see me at any time by emailing me timothy.godfrey@Croydon.gov.uk or telephoning 020 8726 6000 ext 62738

From Mr Sean Creighton

Councillor Alison Butler

Cabinet Member for Homes and Regeneration

Question No.

PQ066-14

In view of the equalities statement in the affordable housing report (15 September Cabinet) are the Officers analysing bedroom size needs of those on Council transfer/waiting lists and in temporary homelessness accommodation, and how the affordable homes being built by developers match these in terms of unit size and location?

Reply

The council records and reports on the size of accommodation required by applicant households on the housing register (the "housing waiting list"). This includes households that have been accepted as homeless and are waiting for permanent rehousing. The information is published as part of the "Local Authority Housing Statistics Data Returns" on the www.gov.uk website. Returns for 2013/14 have not been published yet. In 2012/13 Croydon Council reported 8848 applicants on the housing register, of which 4427 required 1 bedroom accommodation, 2271 required 2 bedroom accommodation, 1458 required 3 bedroom accommodation and 692 required accommodation with more than 3 bedrooms.

The borough's housing requirement and is based on [Croydon's Strategic Housing Market Assessment](#) which analyses the housing stock, housing market trends, drivers of housing demand and provides estimates of future households requiring market and affordable housing. This assessment informed [Croydon's Local Plan: Strategic Policies](#). Policy SP2: Homes includes detail on the quantities and location of new housing, the proportion of affordable homes required on housing developments, the mix of homes required by size, quality and standards.

From Mr Ian Hunter

Councillor Alison Butler

Cabinet Member for Homes and Regeneration

Question No.

PQ067-14

When requesting the re-design of the Taberner House site to conform to the original curtilage, please request a shadow-cast of Block A, repositioned on the SW corner of the site, with Block E fronting Fell Road opposite BWH, be produced to show that more light will benefit the new courtyard.

Reply

The sunlight and daylight impacts of the development will be fully assessed in the planning process.

From Dr Jay Ginn

Councillor Stuart Collins

Cabinet Member for Clean, Green Croydon

Question No.

PQ068-14

Will you consider the possibilities of job creation in increasing waste recycling, including through collecting commercial waste in ways that enables recycling, and of support and guidance being offered to businesses on how they can recycle themselves, collectively or through the establishment of social or community enterprises?

Reply

The Council currently offers a comprehensive commercial recycling and landfill service and this service already includes the offer of support and advice to businesses.

We would be keen to hear ideas that could lead to either job creation through collecting and dealing with recycling and landfill waste, including the involvement of social or community enterprises in line with our current contractual arrangements.

We have a contract with Veolia until 2017, however we are working via 'Don't Mess' with local communities, identifying how we can better work in future with groups that would actively like to take part and take pride!

If you would like me to visit your local community to share ideas please let me know.

From Mr Raj Rajendran

Councillor Simon Hall

Cabinet Member for Finance and Treasury

Question No.

PQ069-14

Can the Council please update 'Appendix B' of Part 06A of the Constitution of London Borough of Croydon (Councillors' Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances (SRAs)) from May 2014 and provide SRAs awarded each month to Leader of the Council, Deputy Leader(s) and Cabinet Members from June to September 2014?

Reply

I thank Mr Rajendran for his question.

This information can be found on the Council website at <http://www.croydon.gov.uk/democracy/dande/councilconstitution>

This open and transparent Council have published the monthly payments, up to August 2014, of all Councillors on the Council website and can be found here <http://www.croydon.gov.uk/democracy/elected/allowances>. These figures will be published on a monthly basis.

From Dr Peter Latham

Councillor Alison Butler

Cabinet Member for Homes and Regeneration

Question No.

PQ070-14

Which Councillors and Officers are booked to attend the MIPIM UK Conference at Olympia on 15-17 October, has display space been booked, and what are the costs of the delegates and the display space?

Reply

Develop Croydon; the private sector developer partnership representing 50 developers active in Croydon has booked a display space for MIPIM UK

The total budget for Develop Croydon's attendance at MIPIM UK is £15, 850 + VAT

The London Borough of Croydon's contribution was £1,500 + VAT (which includes x 6 complimentary delegates passes for LB Croydon attendees).

The rest of the income generated to cover the total cost is made up of private sector sponsorship and the remaining being picked up by the Develop Croydon Forum annual budget.

The following staff are scheduled to attend:

Jo Negrini
Colm Lacey
Mike Kiely
Matthew McMillan
Janet Davies

The following Councillors are due to attend the breakfast event:

Councillor Tony Newman, myself and Councillor Steve O'Connell.

It is vitally important that we make the strongest case for investment in the regeneration for the borough and for homes and jobs for Croydon people.

From Ms Charlotte Davies

Councillor Simon Hall

Cabinet Member Finance and Treasury

Question No.

PQ071-14

Even though they have no financial interest, will you seek the Charity Commission's advice as to whether or not Council members on charities like the Whitgift Foundation and Fairfield (Croydon) should absent themselves from participating in debates on any matters involving those charities discussed at Council full and Committee meetings?

Reply

I thank you for this question. The responsibility of the Charity Commission does not include what goes on in the Council. Under the Council's Code of Conduct for Members it is the responsibility of individual Members to ensure that they act in accordance with the seven principles of public life.

From Mr Mark Samuel

Councillor Tony Newman

Leader of the Council

Question No.

PQ073-14

Would the leader kindly support Croydon's radio amateurs, in putting on the airwaves, next year, Special Event Station, GB50LBC, in order to mark our Borough's 50th birthday?

Reply

The Council is committed to supporting as many community events as possible, in connection with the borough's 50th anniversary. Our plans are yet to be finalised and I would recommend that organisers submit information about their plans to the council, so we have a clearer picture of their proposal.

From Ms Josi Kiss

Councillor Timothy Godfrey

Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport

Question No.

PQ075-14

Why was the idea of the Cultural Quarter not consulted on through organising a second seminar prior to the submission of the paper to the Cabinet meeting on 15 September, and why does it not include Park Hill Park?

Reply

Creating a new Cultural Quarter in the town centre is one of the first steps in delivering our programme 'Ambitious for culture' in Croydon, to be at the heart of regeneration in the borough. We want to involve and connect communities to new activities and experiences, revitalise our district and local centres and improve people's health and wellbeing.

This will join up a number of key stakeholders, developments and activities in the town centre to form a significant coherent cultural offer and destination and complement the significant new developments around East Croydon and the retail centre.

The concept of the Cultural Quarter is at an early stage in development and further consultation will take place as part of its development and the borough's Growth Plan, with consultation and engagement being undertaken to ensure the area is meeting the needs of communities in Croydon. As soon as dates are in place for any engagement they will be announced by the Council.

We have and will continue to work with users and groups around Park Hill on their aspirations for Park Hill Park and we are looking at ways to improve not only this park but parks around the borough. This is why I am very pleased that an Under 5s Childrens Playground will be upgraded in the next few months.

I am very encouraged by the ideas that the friends group has for the development and support of the park, and I am sure that we will be able to work together to make many of the improvements that have so far been suggested.

From Mrs. Sobana Arunakiri

Councillor Kathy Bee

Cabinet Member Transport and environment

Question No.

PQ076-14

Why doesn't Croydon Council restrict the loading and unloading bay in Elmwood Road West Croydon 7am-7pm Monday to Saturday rather than 24 hours Monday to Sunday?

Reply

This loading bay was introduced at a similar time as the loading bays in nearby Hathaway Road and Nova Road, which operate 7am to 7pm, Monday to Saturday and were introduced around 10 years ago. The section of London Road between Elmwood Road and St James's Road can be very busy, which is why we have traffic signal operated junctions in both directions.

Encouraging loading on the side road reduces the incidence of goods vehicles parking on the main road (where there are 24 hour waiting restrictions) for these businesses, therefore lessening the chance of disruption to traffic flow and the bus services along this important transport corridor.

From Mr Robert Elliott

Councillor Alisa Flemming

Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Learning

Question No.

PQ077-14

For each of the last four financial years and forecast for the current year, how many care leavers were there and how many were placed in each type of accommodation - foster carers, own flat, B&B or other emergency accommodation, supported accommodation, other?

Reply

Care Leavers aged between 18 and 21 years are the age group for which we have the statutory responsibility to ensure suitability of accommodation, and we have duties to advise and assist for care leavers aged up to 25 years in higher education. There are 202 care leavers aged 21+ and 540 care leavers aged between 18-21 years at this time.

Care Leavers aged between 18 and 21 years

2010/11 = 717

2011/12 = 641

2012/13 = 612

2013/14 = 572

2014 to date = 540

Data is not submitted for the annual return to government based on type of accommodation, but on the suitability of the accommodation, and until this year the Leaving Care Team did not collate data about the types of accommodation for care leavers. For past years this would require manual retrieval from each care leaver's personal file. Hence the information requested about types of accommodation relates to collated data for this year, shown below.

As a result of recent changes to our Social Care electronic recording system, from this month onwards the data for accommodation will be collected on a monthly basis and refined to include type of tenancy arrangement, HMO, private landlord, social housing etc.

Type of Residence	Number of care leavers aged between 18-21
Independent accommodation (tenancy arrangement)	409
Residence not known because care leaver not engaging with service	36
With parents or relatives	20
Supported lodgings	19
Semi-independent, transitional accommodation	14
Staying Put arrangements with former foster carers	13
In custody	11
Other accommodation (friends, temporary accommodation pending re-housing etc.)	11
Foyers and similar supported accommodation	4
Bed and breakfast	1
Adult Community home or other adult residential care	2

From Mr. Ratnarajah Shanmugaratnam

Councillor Kathy Bee

Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment

Question No.

PQ078-14

Why can't Croydon Council set up a pelican crossing and remove the pedestrian crossing / zebra crossing in front of Thornton Heath train station, as it is dangerous to pedestrians and causing difficulty to drivers during peak time when the trains arrive and about to depart?

Reply

I would like to thank Mr Shanmugaratnam for bringing this particular issue to my attention. I have asked officers within the highways team to investigate this proposal and if found to be practicable will add this to a future work programme. This will involve traffic and pedestrian surveys and some assessment of the engineering difficulties associated with laying signal cables in the bridge deck. A signalised crossing will also require the agreement of Transport for London who control and maintain all such installations. If you have further enquiries about this please do not hesitate to contact Mike Barton at mike.barton@croydon.gov.uk .

From Mr George Pirintji

Councillor Simon Hall

Cabinet Member for Finance and Treasury

Question No.

PQ079-14

"How much of each component of the overspend in Quarter 1 was incurred in the period:

- (a) 1 April to the day before the new administration officially took office, and
- (b) from the day the new administration took office to 30 June?"

Reply

The Financial Performance Quarter 1 report that went to the Cabinet meeting in the 15th September set out a forecast of our expenditure against budget up the end of March 2015. Our projection for the year is an overspend forecast of £2.864m.

The key areas of overspend are set out below. The equivalent overspend for 2013/14 is set out in brackets. It is clear that in all areas there have been problems in managing demand against the budget for a significant amount of time and that these are not new problems that miraculously emerged after June this year.

- Placement costs for looked after children - £2.2m (£1.9m)
- SEN transport - £1.5m (0.5m)
- Care packages for adults - £1.5m (£2.5m)
- Temporary accommodation for homeless - £1.2m (£0.7m)

Work is ongoing to bring the overspend back to a balanced position and the latest position will be reported back to Cabinet in November.