

**COUNCIL MEETING: MONDAY 1 DECEMBER 2014****WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS**

<b>Question Number</b>	<b>Question asked by Councillor:</b>	<b>Subject</b>
<b>LEADER OF THE COUNCIL – Councillor Tony Newman</b>		
CQ502	Thomas	ERF
CQ503	Neal	Mansion Tax
CQ565	Rendle	Young people community involvement
CQ566	Audsley	Work experience placements
CQ573	Khan S	Austerity measures
<b>CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND PEOPLE – Councillor Louisa Woodley</b>		
CQ516	Hopley	Cabinet Member contact
CQ523	Winborn	Meals on wheels
CQ528	Bennett	Epilepsy figures
CQ536	Mead M	Free health checks
CQ538	Mead M	Social care number
CQ539	Stranack	NHS -lost records
CQ569	Clouder	Cost of obesity
CQ571	Clouder	Obesity in children
CQ594	Prince	Wet rooms for street drinkers
<b>CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT &amp; ENVIRONMENT – Councillor Kathy Bee</b>		
CQ501	Thomas	Flood defence funds
CQ512	Speakman	Drain clearance
CQ520	Mohan	20mph
CQ532	O'Connell	Flooding risk
CQ544	Mohan	Play streets
CQ550	Hale	Flood prevention
CQ578	Lawlor	Norwood Junction
CQ579	Lawlor	Tram extension
CQ581	Scott	Street lighting
CQ585	Ryan G	Removal of trees
CQ590	Henson	Flooding in Spring Lane
CQ591	Mann	Transport improvements
CQ595	Prince	Fiveways junction

Question Number	Question asked by Councillor:	Subject
<b>CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND LEARNING – Councillor Alisa Flemming</b>		
CQ495	Bird	Victims of Domestic Violence (children)
CQ496	Bird	School travel costs
CQ497	Bird	School governors
CQ509	Gatland	School playing fields
CQ510	Gatland	Children's mental health services
CQ511	Gatland	Missing children
CQ517	Brew	School leavers - employment
CQ537	Mead M	Waiting times -CAMHS
CQ540	Stranack	SATS results
CQ541	Stranack	John Ruskin College
CQ570	Clouder	Care leavers accommodation
CQ575	Kyeremeh	Care leavers
CQ588	Canning	Children in B&B
<b>CABINET MEMBER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT Councillor Tony Letts</b>		
CQ542	Winborn	JSA
CQ543	Winborn	JSA – 18-24
CQ554	Clancy	Business rates
CQ555	Clancy	Gatwick expansion
CQ561	Perry	Whitgift redevelopment
CQ563	Rendle	Autism employment
CQ568	Audsley	Employment opportunities
CQ592	Mann	Surrey StrEatery
<b>CABINET MEMBER FOR SAFETY AND JUSTICE - Councillor Mark Watson</b>		
CQ519	Mohan	BWH Community space
CQ533	O'Connell	Violent crime levels
CQ534	O'Connell	Community safety budget
CQ559	Creatura	White Ribbon Campaign
CQ584	Ryan G	Exclusion zones
<b>CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE AND SPORT Councillor Timothy Godfrey</b>		
CQ504	Pollard H	Garden funding
CQ505	Pollard H	Park Hill Park
CQ507	Neal	Fairfield Halls
CQ548	Hale	Change of use of green spaces
CQ549	Hale	WW1 commemorative legacies
CQ577	Kyeremeh	Festivals

Question Number	Question asked by Councillor:	Subject
CQ582	Scott	Ashburton library sale
<b>DEPUTY LEADER (STATUTORY) AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOMES AND REGENERATION – Councillor Alison Butler</b>		
CQ506	Pollard H	Park Hill Park
CQ518	Neal	Council new build
CQ521	Wright	Families in B&B
CQ522	Wright	Green belt
CQ529	Mead D	Regent's House Hotel
CQ535	Bennett	Private sector properties
CQ557	Creatura	Housing supply
CQ562	Perry	Masterplans
CQ574	Khan S	Housing borrowing cap
CQ580	Lawlor	Housing crisis
CQ587	Canning	Pub Protection policy
CQ593	Mann	Pub conversions
CQ596	Pollard T	Selective Licencing scheme
<b>DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR CLEAN GREEN CROYDON – Councillor Stuart Collins</b>		
CQ500	Thomas	Dirty streets
CQ515	Speakman	Garden Waste collection
CQ524	Hollands	Litter on footpath
CQ526	Buttinger	Street cleaning - Kenley
CQ527	Buttinger	Kenley - drains
CQ531	Mead D	Street cleaning - Addington Rd
CQ551	Fisher	Green waste
CQ552	Fisher	Fly tipping
CQ564	Rendle	Fly tipping FPNs
CQ567	Audsley	Clean and green
CQ572	Khan S	Fixed penalties
CQ576	Kyeremeh	Recycling and street cleaning
CQ583	Scott	Street cleaning
CQ597	Pollard T	Green waste
<b>CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND TREASURY – Councillor Simon Hall</b>		
CQ498	Bashford	Finance accountability
CQ499	Bashford	Part B papers at Cabinet
CQ508	Bashford	School playing fields
CQ513	Hopley	Pension governance
CQ514	Hopley	Audit fines
CQ530	Mead D	Pension Fund value

<b>Question Number</b>	<b>Question asked by Councillor:</b>	<b>Subject</b>
CQ545	Cummings	Unions
CQ546	Cummings	Asset strategy
CQ547	Cummings	Asset strategy - golf courses
CQ553	Fisher	BWH press release
CQ556	Clancy	Pension fund
CQ558	Creatura	Pension advisors
CQ560	Perry	Playing Fields
CQ586	Canning	Correspondence addressee
CQ589	Henson	Governance
CQ598	Pollard T	Asset Strategy

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**CQ502-14**      **from Councillor Phil Thomas**

**Councillor Tony Newman**

Do you welcome the High Court's decision to approve the plans for a new Energy Recovery Facility (ERF) in Beddington and will you condemn the appeal lodged by the opponents of the ERF?

**Reply**

The Councillor should be well aware that it isn't appropriate for the Council to comment on matters in a public forum whilst they are still the subject of judicial processes. I will therefore not be drawn into commenting upon this matter whilst proceedings are ongoing and they remain sub judice.

Whatever the outcome of the appeal, unlike the previous Conservative administration, we will do our utmost to achieve the best possible outcome for the people of Croydon.

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**CQ503-14**      **from Councillor Michael Neal**

**Councillor Tony Newman**

Do you support Ed Milliband's Mansion tax? If so, why?

**Reply**

The current Council Tax bands are based on property valuations dating back to April 1991, since when there has been a dramatic increase in property values. In order to help the poorest and most vulnerable in society, it is fair that those with the greatest ability to pay are asked to make a bigger financial contribution towards the provision of essential public services such as healthcare, which will benefit from revenue raised through the mansion tax proposed by the Labour Party.

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**CQ565-14**      **from Councillor Andrew Rendle**

**Councillor Tony Newman**

In the near future I will be talking to pupils in Ashburton about local democracy, community involvement and politics. Part of that will be showing children around the Town Hall; after all it is "The People's Town Hall". Do you think he can find time in his busy schedule to meet with the pupils to talk about his role as council leader & answer a few questions?

**Reply**

It is great to see young people taking more interest and becoming involved in politics. I will be delighted to meet and converse with the pupils about my role and the business of the council.

I thank Councillor Rendle for the excellent work he's doing and would ask that he contacts me, so we can agree a mutually convenient appointment.

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**CQ566-14**      **from Councillor Jamie Audsley**

**Councillor Tony Newman**

Cllr Newman on 16th July 2014 you committed Croydon Council to providing 50 work experience placements during the academic year 2014-2015. Please can you provide an update on the Council's preparation and organisation of these placements?

**Reply**

This administration is fully committed to the successful delivery of work experience placements to help prepare Croydon's young people for future employment. Councillors Hall and Audsley are championing this commitment on behalf of the Leadership. Executive Directors are doing the same within their respective departments, in order to promote participation across all service areas. Work has been undertaken to streamline processes, including improving web based information and access. Liaison arrangements with partner organisations, such as Capital South and local schools and colleges have also been strengthened.

To date the council has agreed a total of 21 placements across various timeslots, commencing in February 2015. I myself will be offering a work experience placement in my office.

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**CQ573-14**      **from Councillor Shafi Khan**

**Councillor Tony Newman**

Would the leader agree with me that the politics of austerity has been undermining the whole viability of local government?

**Reply**

It is no secret that the government's austerity measures disproportionately targets local government services for cuts. A major challenge facing many London local authorities over the period 2014-17 is how to deliver balanced budgets whilst maintaining services to meet increasing needs of growing populations.

This administration refuses to fall victim to this prolonged attack on local services. We are working with partners to develop innovative solutions to local issues, in addition to helping shape the agenda for devolution of powers to local areas, for the greater benefit of local people.

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**CQ516-14**      **from Councillor Yvette Hopley**

**Councillor Louisa Woodley**

A number of health related organisations have asked how they can get in touch with the cabinet member since the usual forms of communication don't seem to be available to her. Some of those organisations support the most vulnerable in our borough and it is only common courtesy to respond even if the answer is in the negative. Please could the cabinet member offer some mode of contact for residents?

**Reply**

The normal method of communication with Members is via e mail:

[Louisa.Woodley@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:Louisa.Woodley@croydon.gov.uk)

In more urgent situations contact the Leader's Office who will ensure that a message is passed on.

The other method is to write to me c/o Croydon Town Hall.

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**CQ523-14**      **from Councillor Susan Winborn**

**Councillor Louisa Woodley**

How many meals on wheels are delivered on a weekly basis to residents in the borough and could you list the range of specialist meals available.

**Reply**

Weekly we provide approximately. 2,200 meals to residents in their own homes. In addition, a further 165 meals on average are provided weekly to residents in lunch clubs.

In addition to the 'British Standard' meal, the range of specialist meals is:

- Vegetarian
- Kosher
- Afro-caribbean
- Asian Halal meal
- Asian vegetarian
- Pureed
- Soft diet

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**CQ528-14**      **from Councillor Sue Bennett**

**Councillor Louisa Woodley**

Around five people in every 100 will have an epileptic seizure at some time in their life and out of those five around four will go on to develop epilepsy. Can you tell me how many people in Croydon suffer from epilepsy?

**Reply**

1,986 adults (aged 18 and over) had been diagnosed with epilepsy and were receiving treatment at Croydon general practices at 31 March 2014. This is equivalent to 0.66% of people aged over 18, compared to 0.57% in London as a whole and 0.78% in England. (Source: Quality and Outcomes Framework, Health and Social Care Information Centre).

Recent data is not available for the number of children with epilepsy, but in March 2012, there were approximately 170 children (aged under 18) diagnosed with epilepsy and receiving treatment at Croydon general practices (Source: Croydon general practice data, March 2012).

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence estimate the prevalence of active epilepsy in the UK to be 0.5-1.0%. The statistic of 4% of people developing epilepsy at some point in their lifetime is commonly quoted on the Internet, however we are unable to verify this and research papers suggests lifetime prevalence of epilepsy is likely to be lower than this statistic. We would need further time to investigate to provide a reliable figure.

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**CQ536-14**      **from Councillor Margaret Mead**

**Councillor Louisa Woodley**

A second campaign to encourage 40 – 74 year olds to have a free health check was held last month. What was the initial assessment of this campaign and can you state how many people took up this offer?

**Reply**

Croydon Council's campaign to encourage 40-74 year olds to have a free NHS health check ran for four weeks in October to November 2014.. This included adverts in local papers, on poster boards around the borough, in Your Croydon and on Croydon Radio.as well as messages on Twitter and Facebook.

Every month Croydon Council is helping 400-500 residents discover whether they have an increased risk of heart disease, stroke or other vascular disease. Picking up these problems early gives Croydon residents a better chance of preventing more serious illness at a later date. This may be by starting the right treatment or making lifestyle changes to lose weight, stop smoking or become more active.

It is too early to see the full effect of the campaign on the uptake of health checks. We know that the campaign reached many of our residents. For example, the radio advert alone was listened to by over 15,000 residents. Tens of thousands of residents read the newspapers and magazines advertising NHS health checks this month.

We will monitor the impact of the campaign over the next few months, but at this very early stage are already seeing an increase of 3% on our normal rates of checks.

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**CQ538-14**      **from Councillor Margaret Mead**

**Councillor Louisa Woodley**

Please state the average number of cases adult social workers are currently managing and the average number social workers are currently managing for mental health cases?

**Reply**

Average caseload for Approved Mental Health Professionals (AMHPs) = 20  
(They both care coordinate clients and staff the rota for MHA Assessments one week in three)

Average caseload for Mental Health Social Workers who are not AMHPs = 26

The average number of cases being managed by adult social workers is 27.

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**CQ539-14**      **from Councillor Andy Stranack**

**Councillor Louisa Woodley**

A constituent who has attended a local GP practice for a number of years has been asked to re-register with her GP because the NHS has lost 300 patient records. This means that the GP practice now has to undertake the expensive task of re-registering these patients. Surely the cost of this exercise should be picked up by the NHS and not the local GP practice?

**Reply**

Thank you for your question, however this is not something that we can reply to, you will need to take this up with the Croydon Clinical Commissioning Group. (CCG)

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**CQ569-14** from Councillor Pat Clouder**Councillor Louisa Woodley**

Could the Cabinet Member tell me what is the cost to Croydon taxpayers of tackling obesity in Croydon for 2011, 2012 & 2013?

**Reply**

Councillor Clouder asked a similar question to Councillor Alisa Flemming and therefore this answer will cover both this question and CQ571-14.

Tackling obesity is complex and requires action both for individuals and at population level. Local authorities are ideally placed to develop co-ordinated action to tackle obesity across all departments, services and partner organisations. This whole system approach was endorsed by the recent Healthy Weight Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. Obesity is a health inequality issue, which is strongly related to social disadvantage among adults and children.

A summary of expenditure from the ring-fenced Public Health Grant for 2014/15 is as follows:

**Child Healthy Weight Services – Total PH Budget £310k (2014/15)**

Description of Commissioned Service	Contractual provider	Budget (2014/15)	Date Service Started
Heart Town Community Grants programme (tier 1)	Contract with CVA to administer funds	£45k	Application form released April 2014
Healthy Lifestyles Programme for Early Years, and Primary Schools (targeted tier 1)	Purely Nutrition Ltd to deliver Phunkyfoods	£54,975	Contract started 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2014 and residents will benefit from September 2014 (coincide with new school term)
Child Weight Management services (tier 2)	Weight Management Centre Ltd to deliver Alive n' Kicking	£180,030	Contract started 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2014 and first programme will start in the next month
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£280,005</b>	

**Adult Healthy Weight Services – Total PH Budget £179k**

Description of Commissioned Service	Contractual provider	Budget (2014/15)	Date Service Started
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Weight Watchers (tier 2)	Weight Watchers Ltd	£115k	Contract started 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2014
Healthy Eating Lifestyles Management (tier 2)	Croydon University Hospital, NHS		Contract started 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2014
Exercise on Referral (Tier 1)	Sports and Activity Team, Croydon Council	£64k	Ongoing
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£179k</b>	

### **Non-recurrent PH Budget £25k**

Description of Commissioned Service	Contractual provider	Budget (2014/15)	Date Service Started
Eat Well (Healthy Catering project with fast food businesses)	Deborah Norman (Freelance Dietitian)	£25k	Contract started 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2014

### **National Child Measurement Programme**

Within the school nursing service, there is a mandatory budget allocation of £40K to support the delivery of the national child measurement programme at age 4-5years and age 10-11.

### **Early years and School Aged Prevention**

Lifestyle choices, including food preferences and physical activity have their roots in the very early years. Children spend a significant amount of time in the school setting, hence this is an ideal environment to develop positive health behaviours for life.

### **Healthy Schools Programme and School Food Improvement**

Croydon has successfully been awarded external grant funding (DfE; Mayor's Fund for London) by becoming one of two Flagship Food Boroughs in London. As a Flagship Food Borough, Croydon will implement a whole system change programme to transform the food landscape and improve the population's eating habits. The programme is initially funded for two years with a total of £530,000 from GLA/DfE and £150,000 from the Public Health Grant.

As part of the Food Flagship Programme Croydon has developed a local School Food Plan which will be delivered by a newly created School Food Improvement Officer. Working in conjunction with the Healthy Schools Improvement Officer, this new post will further enhance Croydon's strong Healthy Schools Programme and offer some schools a unique opportunity to become flagship food schools. These schools will become beacons of innovative practice in relation to growing and cooking and in so doing increase school meal take up and increase pupil's understanding of nutritious food and its role in their health.

In addition to the school food initiatives a number of other projects will be delivered. Community gardening capacity will developed with new growing areas being established where appropriate. The Community food learning centre in new Addington

offers the communities of New Addington and Fieldway an integrated growing and cooking programme with a number of projects being delivered from this site to provide learning opportunities for NEET young people interested in horticulture and catering to growing clubs that will seek to reduce social isolation. Building on the Surrey Streatery new food businesses will be developed, particularly those offering healthy options and opportunities for local people to showcase their healthy products or innovative approaches to growing in an urban environment.

A new Croydon Food Partnership Board will be established to ensure that the innovative work of the flagship has a robust governance framework that also seeks to optimise further external funding opportunities. The Food Partnership Board will also be responsible for Community Grants that will be awarded for innovative approaches to growing and cooking and improving health and wellbeing.

#### Food Flagship Budget

Deliverables	Resources		Resources		Resources
	Year One		Year Two		Total
	GLA	Match (PHG)	GLA	Match (PHG)	
<b>Project Team</b>					
Food Flagship Senior Programme Manager (inclusive of on-costs and programme budget)	£75,000		£75,000		£150,000
<b>School Food Plan</b>					
School Food Plan Co-ordinator		£55,000		£55,000	£110,000
School Food Plan - Flagship Schools	£30,000		£30,000		£60,000
<b>Food Growing</b>					
Community Gardening Capacity Building	£40,000		£40,000		£80,000
<b>Regeneration</b>					
Community Food Learning Centre	£87,500	£12,500	£87,500	£12,500	£200,000
Developing Food Businesses	£15,000		£15,000		£30,000
<b>Food Partnership Board Communications and Events</b>					
Food Partnership Board, Communicatons and Events	£10,000		£5,000		£15,000
Community Grants			£20,000	£15,000	£35,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£257,500</b>	<b>£67,500</b>	<b>£272,500</b>	<b>£82,500</b>	<b>£680,000</b>

Contact:

Dr Sarah Nicholls,

Consultant in Public Health,

[Sarah.Nicholls2@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:Sarah.Nicholls2@croydon.gov.uk) 020 8726 6000 X844112

Anna Kitt

Public Health Principal,

[Anna.Kitt@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:Anna.Kitt@croydon.gov.uk) 020 8726 X61842

John Currie

Food Flagship ProgrammeManager

[John.Currie@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:John.Currie@croydon.gov.uk) 020 8726 6000 X88751

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**CQ571-14 from Councillor Pat Clouder****Councillor Louisa Woodley**

We have seen obesity levels rise sharply over the last 20 years. It is an epidemic which could see as many as half of the population being obese by 2050. Recent figures show that almost 30% of 2-15 year-olds is overweight, with the UK having the highest obesity levels in Western Europe.

While I understand Croydon is doing what it can with limited recourses left by the previous Tory administration, would the Cabinet Member tell me what resources from Government does she consider would be a significant injection that would be needed to help find ways to ensure we avoid an even worse situation for our children over the next thirty years?

**Reply**

Councillor Clouder asked a similar question to Councillor Louisa Woodley and therefore this answer will cover both this question and CQ569-14.

Tackling obesity is complex and requires action both for individuals and at population level. Local authorities are ideally placed to develop co-ordinated action to tackle obesity across all departments, services and partner organisations. This whole system approach was endorsed by the recent Healthy Weight Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. Obesity is a health inequality issue, which is strongly related to social disadvantage among adults and children.

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<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£280,005</b>	

## Adult Healthy Weight Services – Total PH Budget £179k

Description of Commissioned Service	Contractual provider	Budget (2014/15)	Date Service Started
Weight Watchers (tier 2)	Weight Watchers Ltd	£115k	Contract started 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2014
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Exercise on Referral (Tier 1)	Sports and Activity Team, Croydon Council	£64k	Ongoing
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£179k</b>	

## Non-recurrent PH Budget £25k

Description of Commissioned Service	Contractual provider	Budget (2014/15)	Date Service Started
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## National Child Measurement Programme

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## Early years and School Aged Prevention

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Contact: Dr Sarah Nicholls,  
 Consultant in Public Health,  
[Sarah.Nicholls2@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:Sarah.Nicholls2@croydon.gov.uk) 020 8726 6000 X844112

Anna Kitt  
 Public Health Principal,  
[Anna.Kitt@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:Anna.Kitt@croydon.gov.uk) 020 8726 X61842

John Currie  
 Food Flagship ProgrammeManager  
[John.Currie@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:John.Currie@croydon.gov.uk) 020 8726 6000 X88751

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**CQ594-14**      **from Councillor Joy Prince**

**Councillor Louisa Woodley**

What consideration has the Council given to introducing 'wet rooms' for street drinkers?

**Reply**

The Council has given careful consideration to this concept on a number of occasions over recent years. On each occasion it has been concluded that "wet rooms" would not be appropriate to Croydon's circumstances. The idea has been discussed with other agencies including the Police, voluntary sector organisations and representatives of local businesses. These discussions have been held in the context of the development of alcohol treatment services and in the context of improving Croydon's environment.

The Council has recently re-commissioned its drug and alcohol treatment services to include an outreach service. Part of the role of outreach is to engage street drinkers, encourage them to recognise their problems and seek treatment. The Drug & Alcohol Action Team Partnership is seeking improved outcomes around recovery from drug and alcohol misuse and the redesign of the service by the new provider, Turning Point, will focus on activity to achieve this outcome.

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**CQ501-14            from Councillor Phil Thomas**

**Councillor Kathy Bee**

Why are funds not being made available for flood defences in Kenley & Purley? Why are residents having to wait 2 years and having to worry about their homes being flooded?

**Reply**

The Department of Environment Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) have provided funding for flood defence grant in aid projects, this funding stream is open to the whole of the UK. There is a strict criteria and cost benefit appraisal process we have to meet in order to compete for the funding. Following the flooding in February 2014, Croydon made a joint bid with Surrey County Council for £1M funding to the Environment Agency (EA) to investigate and implement long term measures that would alleviate or minimise the impact of any future flooding as a result of the Bourne rising.

The funding is not available until 2016 / 2017 ,however the EA recognising the impact caused by the recent flooding events have made an initial funding of £100K available to undertake a study to investigate and understand the flooding mechanism with the Bourne catchment , potential mitigation options for managing these and to develop a Project Appraisal Report (PAR) for the preferred cost beneficial mitigation option(s). The report would then be used to present a business case for further funding. The study is being undertaken by Atkins Ltd and is programmed to be completed by May 2015.

In the meantime, at a Cabinet meeting held on 20 October 2014, members approved funding up to £841,000 to support the short/ medium term flood resilience work in the Kenley/ Purley area. This is more funding in 8months than the Tories did in 8 years.

The funding is being used to implement measures to better manage and minimise the impact of any flooding in the coming winter periods prior to the long term measures being implemented. These measures are mainly maintenance and involve clearing out the ditches, cleaning the trash screens, cleaning the culvert, cutting back vegetation, checking / cleaning soakaways. We have also installed temporary pumps in the event we need to pump water and have in place equipment which can be installed to create temporary flood storage areas should these be required.

Furthermore, residents in Purley and Kenley that experienced internal flooding between December 2013 and March 2014 are being encouraged to apply for the £5,000 government Repair & Renew Grant to install flood resilience and / or resistance measures in their property to minimise the risk or impact of any future flooding. The scheme is being administered by the Council on behalf of the government and residents / businesses who wish to find out about the scheme should contact 020 8726 6000 or email [floodandwater@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:floodandwater@croydon.gov.uk) .

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**CQ512-14            from Councillor Donald Speakman**

**Councillor Kathy Bee**

'Dale Road Purley flooded to pavement level on 9 October and 2 November 2014 as a result of water running down from Godstone Road and Downs Court Road because the Dale Road gullies are not being cleared sufficiently frequently; disaster was only averted because some public-spirited residents took the initiative themselves to remove the leaves etc. which were causing the blockage. Will the Cabinet member please take steps to ensure that these gullies are cleared sufficiently frequently to prevent a recurrence of this problem?'

Will the Cabinet member also take steps to improve drainage and increase the number and size of drainage gullies in Dale Road? '

**Reply**

The current administration approved funding up to £841,000 to support the short/medium term flood resilience work in the Kenley/ Purley area.

Over the past 8 months the Council has undertaken a large number of mitigation measures along the Bourne catchment area. These measures aim to better manage and minimise the impact of flooding during this winter and beyond.

This is more funding in 8 months than the Tories did in 8 years.

In addition to these measures we have intensively cleaned the surface water drainage system in the area, including the roads to the north of Godstone Road (Downscourt Road, Warren Road and Friends Road).

The recent localised flooding in Dale Road was as a result of the autumn leaf fall which covered over the road gullies and once cleared the water flowed away. I have arranged for our street cleansing team to attend Dale Road regularly to ensure the leaves are cleared over the coming weeks.

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**CQ520-14**            **from Councillor Vidhi Mohan**

**Councillor Kathy Bee**

I understand that the Council is planning to set up a working group to take forward the introduction of 20mph zones across the Borough. Could the Cabinet Member please let me know the composition of this working group?

**Reply**

The 20mph limit working group includes myself as chair, Council officers from highways and our accessibility officer, representatives from the Metropolitan Police and local action groups such as the Croydon Cycling Campaign and Living Streets.

This working group aims to provide general guidance on the introduction of the area wide 20mph speed limits, which are expected to benefit road safety, improve the local environment, and encourage more sustainable travel choices, such as walking and cycling. Any proposals would of course be the subject of local consultation and the Council's committee processes.

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**CQ532-14**

**from Councillor Steve O'Connell**

**Councillor Kathy Bee**

A previous Cabinet Paper detailed a work programme designed to alleviate flooding risk in Kenley and Purley. What progress has actually been made and when may we expect completion on the various schemes?

**Reply**

The flood alleviation measures in Purley and Kenley are progressing and most of the essential works are programmed to be completed as planned by the end of November.

The following works have been completed:

- Ø Cleaning out the balancing pond in Purley Oaks Depot
- Ø Clearing the ditches and trash screens in the Harris Academy, Kenley Cricket Club, Bourne View and Bourne Park Close
- Ø Clearing the culvert between Bourne Park Close and Bourne View
- Ø Replacing the damaged section of culvert under the carriageway in Old Barn Lane
- Ø Cleaning of the soakaways in Bourne View and Godstone Road
- Ø CCTV surveying and cleansing of the culvert in Dale Road.
- Ø Temporary equipment, pumps, sand bags and flood defence barriers are available should the need arise
- Ø A joint cooperation agreement has been established between Surrey County Council, Tandridge, Sutton and East Surrey Water and the Environment Agency to monitor and manage the Bourne flow.

The following works are in progress:

- Ø Cutting of the tree roots in Dale Road which have entered the culvert are in progress and will be completed by week ending 14<sup>th</sup> December 14.
- Ø The installation of a new pump and accessories at the recycling centre next to Purley Oaks Depot. The new pump is scheduled to be delivered late December/early January and the work to install should be completed by the end of January 2015. However, we have installed temporary pumps on standby in the event we need to pump water from the balancing pond
- Ø Cleaning / CCTV surveying the culvert between Bourne View and Sutton & East Surrey Water premises. The work is programmed to commence on 26/11/14 and should take no longer than a week.

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**CQ544-14**      **from Councillor Vidhi Mohan**

**Councillor Kathy Bee**

Could the Cabinet Member please update me on the progress of the play streets policy announced in June. Has this been implemented in any streets in Croydon, and if so what has been the response from residents?

**Reply**

The Council is currently supporting residents in 9 roads who have expressed an interest in having a Play Street. Play Streets are resident led initiatives and so it is for them, following consultation with their neighbours, to decide whether to go ahead with the application for a Play Street and when to hold it.

The Council have prepared a guide for residents which explains what they need to do to arrange a Play Street as well as lots of useful documents that they can adapt for use in their own road. This is on the Council website at:

<http://www.croydon.gov.uk/healthsocial/families/ccfpartnership/playstreets>

A meeting was held on 20 October for residents who are interested in organising a Play Streets and discussions have been held with some others who were unable to attend. The indication from residents is that they are proposing to start their Play Streets from Spring 2015.

Where the Council agrees a road closures it will initially be for three sessions. This will allow organisers and those residents that have reservations the opportunity to try out a Play Street and identify problems before a longer term arrangement is put in place.

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**CQ550-14**      **from Councillor Lynne Hale**

**Councillor Kathy Bee**

Please confirm what measures are being taken to prevent further episodes of flooding in Audley Drive, Kingswood Avenue and Harewood Gardens?

**Reply**

The flooding in Audley Drive, Kingswood Avenue and Harewood Gardens is a result of surface water draining off a sports field in Tandridge District Council which is owned by the Post Office.

Croydon officers have been working with colleagues at Surrey County Council (SCC) to find a solution to this problem. Officers from SCC are currently reviewing the flood alleviation measures installed following the flooding in 2007 and will be implementing additional measures as necessary. In the meantime, Croydon have cleaned all their gullies in the area to ensure these are operating efficiently.

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**CQ578-14**      **from Councillor Wayne Lawlor**

**Councillor Kathy Bee**

As the Cabinet Member is aware; South Norwood councillors have long supported and indeed campaigned for improved access to Norwood Junction Station. I am heart-warmed to see that the local press are also campaigning for this important issue to be tackled. Many of those who use Norwood Junction and have difficulties with their mobility have to use the Woodside entrance to Norwood Junction because of the lack of a lift facility to take them to other platforms from Station Road.

What can this administration do to ensure that TfL in partnership with Network Rail deliver the improvements that Norwood Junction urgently needs?

**Reply**

The Councillor is right about the urgency. In terms of passengers entering the station, Norwood Junction is as busy as each of Bradford's city centre terminal stations. In terms of passengers interchanging between trains, it is in the nation's top fifty busiest. Making the station accessible however is not easy, and step-free access schemes on the National Rail network are funded by the Department for Transport. We will be urging TfL and Network Rail to work to find a solution, cost that solution and then support an approach to the Department for Transport for funding to deliver it. Network Rail is currently consulting on its Sussex Route Study report (principally a report setting out options for improvement to central government). I will ensure that our response highlights the urgency of making Norwood Junction station accessible.

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**CQ579-14**            **from Councillor Wayne Lawlor**

**Councillor Kathy Bee**

The Mayor of London has reneged on his promise to extend the tram to Crystal Palace for an unprecedented third time. The tram extension would have brought additional opportunity for regeneration for South Norwood. How do you think Mr Johnson's decision will impact on residents in Croydon; and do you think that Croydon Conservatives could have done any more to hold the Conservative Mayor to account

**Reply**

It is highly regrettable that the previous Tory administration did not challenge Boris Johnson on his failure to deliver his commitment to deliver the Crystal Palace tram extension and hold him to account for his promises to residents in this part of the borough. It is a failure that has implications for both for the locations on the proposed route and Croydon more generally. In my view the previous administration could, and should, have actively campaigned in support of this project.

Croydon Council officers have spent a considerable amount of time working with TfL to develop the business case for the Crystal Palace extension. It is not just the regeneration of Upper and South Norwood that would be affected by not pursuing the Crystal Palace extension, but potentially growth and regeneration in the Croydon Metropolitan Centre, one of the Mayor of London's Opportunity Areas. As well as new tram stops at Crystal Palace, the route proposed would create new stops in South Norwood, but would also provide much needed additional capacity between Croydon Arena and the Croydon Town Centre (one of the most congested parts of the network). Without this extension, the growing population within the Croydon Town centre will have difficulty reaching the green space and other attractions of Crystal Palace; residents of Upper and South Norwood will be denied high quality access to the growing job and improving retail offer in the Croydon Town Centre; and unless and until another means of improving capacity between the Town Centre and Arena is delivered, existing users will experience increasing congestion.

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**CQ581-14            from Councillor Paul Scott**

**Councillor Kathy Bee**

Given the appalling performance of the previous administration in delivering the replacement street lighting across the borough, which was delayed for years, poorly procured through a weak, contractor biased contract and let to a contractor who failed to understand the scope or complexity of the project and is now many months in delay, what steps are Labour administration taking to sort out yet another Tory mess?

**Reply**

This administration is ensuring that the contract is being administered correctly. The service provider is only paid for the replacement of street lights on satisfactory completion on a street by street basis, therefore the delays have financial implications for the contractor. In terms of the maintenance of all our street lights, if the service provider is not achieving the required standard, adjustments are being made to their payments as allowed for in the contract.

As we all know, the replacement programme has experienced a number of engineering difficulties with different types of cables, particularly in Croydon. Croydon and Lewisham Councils have been working with the service provider to develop an improvement plan which does go some way to recover the programme but at this stage the programme is running some 6 months late. This plan is reviewed monthly and where improvements are made this will be communicated.

The council entered into the Street Lighting PFI contract in April 2011 following a long procurement process. The PFI is a Department of Transport (DfT) funding contract and the contract is based on a model form therefore derogating from contract was subject to DfT approval.

The underground cable network is complex and in some respect unique to Croydon. The scope of the project was to decommission the existing street lighting cable network, which is a switched network and has reached the end of its useful life. The cable is owned by UKPN and the contractor is working with UKPN to ensure the integrity of the network is maintained whilst it is being decommissioned.

It is worth noting that when a fault occurs on the network a number lights and in some cases whole streets can go out of light so as the network is being decommissioned it is necessary to retain some stump columns as these act as feeder pillars to allow access to the system to minimise outage time. It is imperative the network integrity is maintained otherwise getting lights turned back on could take longer.

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**CQ585-14**      **from Councillor Gerry Ryan**

**Councillor Kathy Bee**

Last Sunday Contractors Cleared the embankment of a row of trees which provided screening between the railway junction and our estate. Which was vandalism on a disused railway line what do they intend to do with the open land. These trees were about 20 feet tall, and have been there about 15 years and we had no knowledge of this work taken place. What can we do now?

**Reply**

The land in question is not owned by the council and would appear to be owned and managed by Network Rail. We were not aware of the works being carried out as you describe and would advise that if there is anyone that is concerned about the tree felling they should contact Network Rail direct.

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**CQ590-14**            **from Councillor Maddie Henson**

**Councillor Kathy Bee**

After another flooding incident in Spring Lane can the cabinet member confirm how essential it is to do some work in the area especially in Ashburton Park to alleviate the problem?

**Reply**

Officers are investigating reports of flooding in the area to gain a full understanding of the problem and will be arranging for necessary repair works to be carried out. We are also in discussion with riparian owners(the owner of the property for which the watercourse runs through) regarding maintenance of the watercourse within their demise.

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**CQ591-14**      **from Councillor Stephen Mann**

**Councillor Kathy Bee**

Can the Cabinet Member please list all scheduled public transport improvements that will benefit Ashburton Ward?

**Reply**

TfL has principal responsibility for public transport in Croydon being responsible for bus services, Tramlink and London Overground. Other heavy rail falls to the DfT, Network Rail and the train operating companies. A key 'scheduled' improvement benefiting Ashburton Ward that springs to mind is TfL's proposal for a second tram loop line in the Croydon town centre using Dingwall Road. This is intended to facilitate an increase in both capacity and resilience on the routes into the town centre from the east, including those from Beckenham Junction and Elmers End. I would be pleased to raise with TfL any further suggestions the Councillor may have for public transport improvement that might benefit his ward.

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**CQ595-14**      **from Councillor Joy Prince**

**Councillor Kathy Bee**

How many accidents have there been at Fiveways junction, and how many people killed and injured, in the last year?

**Reply**

Fiveways is recognised as a problematic junction, it is a major barrier to pedestrians wishing to cross the A23 and a cause of traffic congestion. We are working with TFL on proposals to improve the junction and will take the opportunity to improve it for pedestrians.

There have been 9 accidents in the period January to December 2013 (full year). These 9 accidents resulted in 16 slight injuries. There were no serious injuries and no fatal injuries. Fiveways junction is part of the Transport for London Road Network and Croydon is not the highway authority for it but we are working together to deliver improvements.

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**CQ495-14**      **from Councillor Margaret Bird**

**Councillor Alisa Flemming**

Can the cabinet member tell me how many children in Croydon in the last year were known victims of domestic violence?

**Reply**

27 young victims of domestic violence (aged 16-18) were supported through the Family Justice Centre.

Of the 881 adults that reported domestic violence at the Family Justice Centre 694 had children within the home.

Data Source: Family Justice Centre from March 2014 to October 2014

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**CQ496-14**      **from Councillor Margaret Bird**

**Councillor Alisa Flemming**

Can the Cabinet Member tell me how many children is Croydon Council committed to paying for travel to school and what was the cost in the last year?

**Reply**

In the last academic year (September 2013 – July 2014), the number of students receiving transport was 1044 and 79 pupils received the personal transport budget. The current number of students receiving transport to the end of October 2014 (for this academic year September 2014-July 2015) is 1077 plus 66 pupils receiving a personal transport budget- this number is the total applications received to date. The actual spend for the financial year 2013/14 on SEN Transport was £6,694,323.96. (this figure includes £214,720 for the personal transport budgets)

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**CQ497-14**      **from Councillor Margaret Bird**

**Councillor Alisa Flemming**

How many school governors accessed training from Governor Services in the last year and what percentage is this of the number of governors in Croydon and do Academies use Governor Services by buying into their SLA?

**Reply**

According to our database, which is reliant on governing bodies and governing body clerks informing us of resignations and new governor details, we have 1,219 governors in Croydon. This does not include governor / director numbers in some academies, as we are not given this information.

From January 2014 to mid-November 2014, Governor Services Croydon have run 67 courses for Governors and clerks through the Local Authority Governor and Clerk training and development programme, with a total of 851 governors and clerks attending. Based on the above figures, this is 70% of Governors and clerks in Croydon.

In addition to the Local Authority Governor Training Programme, Governor Services Croydon has also delivered 48 whole governing body training sessions in this period.

20 Academies in Croydon buy into Governor Services Croydon Service Level Agreement.

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**CQ509-14**      **from Councillor Maria Gatland**

**Councillor Alisa Flemming**

Does Cllr Flemming support selling off school playing fields?

**Reply**

No.

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**CQ510-14            from Councillor Maria Gatland**

**Councillor Alisa Flemming**

Could the Cabinet Member Cllr Flemming comment on mental health services available to children and young people in Croydon?

**Reply**

There are a range of direct services available to support the emotional wellbeing and mental health of children and young people in Croydon, be they commissioned through schools, delivered through voluntary sector agencies or commissioned by the NHS through specialist services at the South London and Maudsley (SLaM) or other health providers. A valuable contribution is also made to this important agenda through the work of Health Visitors, Children's Centres, and other professionals including Speech and Language Therapists and Educational Psychologists. Schools also contribute, for example, through the use made of the Pupil Premium.

A detailed needs analysis on emotional wellbeing was completed in 2013, and this identified rising need for young people in the borough. As a result, the Children and Families Partnership agreed to make improving the emotional wellbeing and mental health of children and young people a key priority for 2014-15. An Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health strategy was agreed to guide this process in March 2014.

Since this point, a multi-agency Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Board has been established as part of the Children and Families Partnership to draw together the contributions of all relevant agencies and organisations in the borough.

This work continues, with the aim of achieving the following key objectives: strengthening universal support available through schools and community health services; providing a strong platform for voluntary sector services to offer early help; improving waiting times to assessment, in particular for diagnoses of Autism Spectrum Disorders; and ensuring all young people get the right therapeutic support.

The Integrated Commissioning Unit, working on behalf of the Council and the Clinical Commissioning Group, is working with Clinical Commissioning Group Clinical Commissioners to jointly improve the commissioning of mental health services. Only by making best use of all the resources and services available across partner agencies will we be able to ensure there is timely and effective support for all children and young people in Croydon.

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**CQ511-14**      **from Councillor Maria Gatland**

**Councillor Alisa Flemming**

Could the Cabinet Member update me on the three children who were missing from Croydon's care? Are any further children missing either from Croydon's care or placed in Croydon from other boroughs?

**Reply**

The three young people who were missing from our care have been found. Two have returned to their care placements and one has been remanded to secure detention.

Two different young people are missing from our care at this time, both are in telephone contact with their social workers and care placements and we are working closely with the police to return them. Their placements are not in LB Croydon. These children are aged 16 and 17 respectively.

At any one date there will be a number of children missing from home or from placements provided for children looked after by other authorities and placed within LB Croydon. The Police provide Children's Social Care with a daily report on children that have been reported missing from addresses within the local authority. These will be separated into two categories namely, those missing for more than 48 hours and those missing for less than 48 hours.

This picture changes daily. As an example, on 25<sup>th</sup> November, there were three children missing reported to Children's Social Care.

Two of those children are looked after by other local authorities. This will be reported by the Police to the placing authority who will have the primary responsibility for liaison with Croydon Police. One of these children is aged 15 and the other is aged 17.

The third child is missing from home. She is 17 years old.

All missing children, including children looked after by Croydon but placed in another authority will be risk assessed based on their level of vulnerability.

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**CQ517-14            from Councillor Simon Brew**

**Councillor Alisa Flemming**

How many young people from the Borough who form the year 11 cohort of school leavers are not currently in education or work?

**Reply**

We are currently in a period of intensive tracking of all our residents (approximately 13000 young people aged 16-19) to ascertain whether they are in employment, education or training.

This tracking process takes place from September to January annually in accordance with DfE requirements. The rates of recorded participation fluctuate daily, as we receive information on young people leaving and joining provision or we trace those young people whose status was previously not known.

Approximately 50% of our student cohort study in Croydon institutions, whilst the remaining 50% study out of borough. This means we gather enrolment data pertaining to our residents from 100+ education institutions. Additionally we trace those young people who are in employment, volunteering, on gap years, in higher education or not in education employment or training directly (about 25%-30% of the total cohort).

As at the 20<sup>th</sup> November 2014, we have confirmed that within our current year 12 cohort (those who completed year 11 in summer 2014) of 4277 young people:

- 27 (0.6%) are not in education, employment or training (NEET).
- 3342 (78.1%) have been confirmed as participating in education, employment and/or training (EET)
- 908 (21.2%) are yet to be traced (not known).

As at the 24<sup>th</sup> November, we have received enrolment data from all (except one) Croydon institutions, which is much earlier than in previous years. We have also received data from most of the popular out of borough institutions. This has resulted in much lower not known rates compared to the same period (end of Nov) in 2013 (35%), 2012 (49%) and 2011 (47%).

The current focuss is on tracking those young people aged 16-19, whose participation status is not known, via letters and phone calls. It will be possible to provide you with a more accurate picture once contact has been made with these remaining young people.

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**CQ537-14**      **from Councillor Margaret Mead**

**Councillor Alisa Flemming**

Please state the current waiting times for those needing an appointment with CAMHS.

**Reply**

Specialist Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) in Croydon are provided by the South London and Maudsley (SLaM). The primary commissioner for these services is Croydon Clinical Commissioning Group. NHS England are responsible for commissioning Tier 4 specialist services for the highest level of need. The council does not receive this monitoring information as accountability and responsibility sits with our NHS partners.

However, and as presented in the response to Cllr Gatland's earlier Council Question (CQ510-14), a range of work is currently being carried out with our CCG colleagues to improve our local arrangements as part of the Children and Families Partnership Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health strategy. This seeks to ensure that all children and young people in Croydon have access to the right mental health care at the right time.

The Council does commission a number of voluntary sector organisations to provide both advocacy and counselling for young people. These services offer flexible, solution focused counselling and support; The waiting time to access these services is normally 2-3 weeks. However if a young person is distressed, they will make arrangements to see them the same week.

For specialist or acute mental health services, the published data on average waiting time from referral to assessment is 18 weeks. However, this masks disparities between urgent and routine assessments, for which it is difficult to give a precise indication. Those with acute needs, for example those experiencing early onset psychosis, will be assessed within 48 hours, whilst those waiting for an ASD diagnosis are currently waiting between 24-30 weeks. Waiting times for the Looked After Children and Youth Offending services provided by SLaM respectively are 3.9 and 3.6 weeks.

The Integrated Commissioning Unit, working on behalf of the Council and Clinical Commissioning Group, are working in conjunction with Clinical Commissioning Group Clinical Commissioners, the Trust and NHS England colleagues to consider how specialist treatment can better meet the needs of children and young people with mental health needs. I hope that a focus within these discussions shall centre around waiting times.

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**CQ540-14**      **from Councillor Andy Stranack**

**Councillor Alisa Flemming**

What impact has the delayed publication of the Selsdon Primary and Heavers Farm year six SATS results had on pupils from the schools that have now started their new Secondary Schools?

**Reply**

When pupils transfer to secondary school they usually have two sets of results: their teacher assessments and their SATS paper results. All pupils were given teacher assessment levels which should have been taken into account by their new school. In addition, secondary schools will also be undertaking their own assessments of children's ability through ongoing teacher assessment and assessment on entry. Whilst it is unfortunate that the publication of the results has been delayed I can assure you that we continue to press for a speedy resolution to this matter.

Pupils at Selsdon Primary School received their SATS results and these have been passed to their secondary schools.

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**CQ541-14**      **from Councillor Andy Stranack**

**Councillor Alisa Flemming**

As the principal of John Ruskin College Tim Eyton-Jones has worked tirelessly to turn the colleges fortunes around. With the news that Tim is now moving on, what can the Council do to help support the college and ensure its future success?

**Reply**

I have visited the College along with the Leader of the Council and it is a stunning example of an establishment that delivers fantastic opportunities for young people in Croydon. I am proud of all that the College has been able to achieve thus far.

We will continue to provide the College with the level of support provided over the last 5 years, during which the College has made rapid progress improving from Ofsted rated 'inadequate' in 2010 to 'outstanding' in 2013, under Tim Eyton-Jones' inspirational leadership.

We are confident that Tim is leaving a robust structure and management team, which will ensure the College's continuing success.

We wish Tim every success in his new role as CEO and Principal of Barnfield College and we look forward to continuing our positive relationship with John Ruskin's new principal.

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**CQ570-14            from Councillor Pat Clouder**

**Councillor Alisa Flemming**

Would the Cabinet Member look to support Barnardo’s new campaign which aims to make sure care leavers are living in accommodation suitable for their needs, and not living in poor quality temporary accommodation like B&Bs.

Could the cabinet member please let me what her position is on this being aware of the financial constraints we have inherited from the previous Tory administration.

**Reply**

Barnardo’s has launched an excellent campaign based, as they say, on new data showing that “young people who leave care are being placed in B&B accommodation repeatedly and for long periods of time by the majority of Local Authorities, contrary to Government guidance.” I fully endorse this campaign. The council’s Corporate Parenting Panel received a report on the accommodation of care leavers on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2014, at which it was reported that of the 814 care leavers aged 18-20 years for whom we are responsible, 95% were judged to be in suitable accommodation. With specific reference to Bed & Breakfast (B&B) the report states: “Emergency accommodation is the last resort when the care leaver’s current accommodation has broken down and an eviction has been served for varied reasons. This accommodation might be a hostel provided by the Council’s Housing Department or an emergency Homeless Shelter provided by CAYSH. It could be a B&B for one night but this is very rarely the case and at time of writing this report that are no care leavers in overnight B&B.”

Of the 5% of care leavers not judged to be in suitable accommodation, 15 are detained in custody, 3 are placed in emergency accommodation, 3 are intentionally homeless and 4 are living with friends and without tenancies of their own.

The data for care leaver accommodation is collected nationally for the ages, 19, 20 and 21 years. The performance in Croydon against the national average is shown in this table:

	19 years	20 years	21 years
Croydon	89%	84%	78%
National Average	83%	79%	71%

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**CQ575-14**      **from Councillor Matthew Kyeremeh**

**Councillor Alisa Flemming**

Could the Cabinet Member inform me how well the new administration is doing in general with care leavers, if there are any living in the Thornton Heath ward, how many, length of time there and if they are in education, employment or training?

**Reply**

The Leaving Care Service provides help and support to 572 care leavers aged between 18 and 20 years and 790 care leavers in total, inclusive of those aged up to 25 years. The Education, Employment and Training performance of care leavers is improving year on year from 62% last year to 74% at the present time. The total number of care leavers aged up to 24 years who were in university last term was 124, indicating that Croydon supports the largest number of care leavers of any council in higher education. The Corporate Parenting Panel received a report on this performance in January 2014 and again in June 2014 on the more specific performance of accommodation.

Measures to improve education, employment and training performance include the commissioning of Blue Touch, our independent youth training for work provider, to engage with 35 of our indigenous long term unemployed care leavers this year, and the embedding of a DWP member of staff from the Job Centre Plus within the Turnaround Centre.

We have progressed a partnership with KPMG to provide apprenticeships to 2-4 care leavers each year (2 are now in place), and within the council we are progressing apprenticeships, work experience opportunities and a scheme for managers to mentor care leavers.

The Corporate Parenting Panel received a detailed report on the accommodation of care leavers in July 2014. 95% of care leavers are judged to be in suitable accommodation. The quality of accommodation has improved notably since summer 2012 and our performance in this area is good.

Data for care leavers is not tagged on a ward basis.

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**CQ588-14**      **from Councillor Robert Canning**

**Councillor Alisa Flemming**

What steps does Croydon Council take to minimise the disruption to children's educations when homeless families find themselves in B&B accommodation?

**Reply**

The Council recognises that in any time of difficulty a stable and supportive education placement makes a significant contribution to the well-being of children and their parents / carers.

Where a child is moving into the Borough, or where their new accommodation makes continued attendance at their existing school unsustainable, the school admissions team endeavour to place a child into a suitable school within 20 days.

Croydon schools provide a range of services to support vulnerable families. These include breakfast and after school clubs, counselling, 1:1 tuition, family liaison workers and education welfare officers.

In a joint piece of work between Children's Services and Housing Solutions, January / February 2014, Officers met with a sample of 10 families who had recently experienced living in temporary accommodation, to understand how the Council can better respond to the needs of children who are placed in temporary accommodation with their family. This led to a series of actions which continue to be implemented. These include the improved provision of information about various services and improved follow-up and support.

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**CQ542-14            from Councillor Sue Winborn****Councillor Toni Letts**

Would the Cabinet Member please detail the total JSA count for the London Borough of Croydon, on a month to month basis, from May 2010 - October 2014, and detail the percentage change over that period.

**Reply**

The Total JSA claimant count for the London Borough of Croydon in May 2010 stood at 9,445. The figure for October 2014 was 5,285, a reduction of 44% on May 2010. You will see from the attached spread sheet detailing individual months over that period that the count rate was highest during the first quarter of 2012. From that point there was a gradual reduction through the year. A more strident rate reduction began to kick in during 2013. 2014 saw a continuation of this trend.

This improving situation in Croydon is affirmation of the success of the Councils Pathways to Employment Partnership Programme which enables the Council and its stakeholder partners to work collaboratively to maximise the number of local people secure jobs. In particular, the close collaboration between the Croydon Council and Jobcentre Plus underpinned by a Service Level Agreement has created an effective partnership in reducing the JSA claimant count.

month /year	number
<b>2010</b>	
May	9,445
June	9,195
july	9,235
August	9,530
September	9,515
October	9,515
November	9,320
December	9,335
<b>2011</b>	
January	9,540
February	9,765
March	9,795
April	10,030
May	9,945
June	9,995
July	10,305
August	10,760
September	10,935
October	10,820
November	10,775
December	10,800
<b>2012</b>	
January	10,920

February	11,045
March	10,935
April	10,865
May	10,715
June	10,685
July	10,640
August	10,340
September	10,235
October	10,295
November	10,090
December	9,915
<b>2013</b>	
January	9,970
February	10,130
March	9,910
April	9,715
May	9,460
June	9,100
July	8,875
August	8,620
September	8,240
October	7,840
November	7,495
December	7,210
<b>2014</b>	
January	7,295
February	7,275
March	7,085
April	6,805
May	6,615
June	6,150
July	5,975
August	5,810
September	5,635
October	5,285

<b>% change over the period May 2010 to October 2014</b>			
	<u>2010</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>% change</u>
	May	October	
	9,445	5,285	-44%

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**CQ543-14**      **from Councillor Sue Winborn****Councillor Toni Letts**

Would the Cabinet Member please detail the JSA claimant count for 18 - 24 year olds, for the London Borough of Croydon, on a month by month basis from May 2010 to Oct 2014 and detail the percentage change over that period.

**Reply**

The JSA claimant count for 18 - 24 year olds, for the London Borough of Croydon in May 2010 stood at 2,280. The figure for October 2014 was 1,200, a reduction of 47.3% on May 2010.

You will see from the table below, detailing individual months over that period, that the count rate was highest in September/October 2011. The level was more or less constant throughout 2012 beginning to show signs of reduction in December 2012. A marked rate reduction began to kick in during 2013. 2014 saw a continuation of this trend.

This improving situation in Croydon is affirmation of the success of the Councils Pathways to Employment Partnership Programme which enables the Council and its stakeholder partners to work collaboratively to maximise the number of local people secure jobs. In particular, the close collaboration between the Croydon Council and Jobcentre Plus underpinned by a Service Level Agreement has created an effective partnership in reducing the JSA claimant count.

month /year	number
<b>2010</b>	
May	2,280
June	2,270
July	2,400
August	2,665
September	2,715
October	2,610
November	2,450
December	2,350
<b>2011</b>	
January	2,370
February	2,375
March	2,360
April	2,350
May	2,225
June	2,230
July	2,495
August	2,770
September	2,930
October	2,910
November	2,880

December	2,850
<b>2012</b>	
January	2,770
February	2,880
March	2,825
April	2,795
May	2,670
June	2,655
July	2,760
August	2,715
September	2,705
October	2,655
November	2,515
December	2,370
<b>2013</b>	
January	2,345
February	2,390
March	2,300
April	2,140
May	2,015
June	1,910
July	1,875
August	1,845
September	1,815
October	1,705
November	1,615
December	1,505
<b>2014</b>	
January	1,485
February	1,575
March	1,520
April	1,440
May	1,420
June	1,280
July	1,280
August	1,335
September	1,310
October	1,200

<b>% change over the period May 2010 to October 2014</b>			
	<b>2010</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>% change</b>
	May	October	
	2,280	1,200	-47.30%

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**CQ554-14**            **from Councillor Luke Clancy**

**Councillor Toni Letts**

What plans do you have to use business rates to encourage investment?

**Reply**

We recently extended our “Free for a Year” campaign for Business Rates Relief Scheme to March 2016 to encourage inward investment, primarily focusing on attracting fast growing Creative and Technology companies.

We are also exploring options to make Business Rate Relief available to at least three of our district centres and Tier 1 industrial areas, in accordance with the our Croydon Promise.

In addition, Croydon Council has been working with some independent business owners in order to assist them in the process of actively looking for alternative premises from which to operate their business, as a result of the proposed redevelopment of the Whitgift Centre. We have highlighted a number of existing business rates schemes that may be able to assist them, in particular the occupied rates relief that could provide 50% discount on business rates for up to 18 months if they occupy a premise that was previously empty for 12 months.

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**CQ555-14**            **from Councillor Luke Clancy**

**Councillor Toni Letts**

Please provide an update on Gatwick Airport's expansion proposals.

**Reply**

The aviation debate in the UK has now reached an important phase. Sir Howard Davies of the Airports Commission, appointed by the Government to come up with a solution for more runway capacity in the South East, has launched a national public consultation into the remaining options for airport expansion – it is a straight choice between Gatwick and Heathrow for one new runway by 2030.

Sir Howard makes it clear that the future should include all types of aviation, short haul, medium haul and long haul. It should include charter flights as well as low cost flights. And it should include all London airports, not just one 'mega hub', as part of a joint solution for delivering the capacity the UK needs.

More information on Gatwick's proposal for expansion can be found on the following link

<http://www.gatwickobviously.com>

The Council is in on-going discussions with Gatwick for collaborating on our growth plans to ensure that the borough's residents and businesses benefit from Gatwick's growth and Gatwick benefits from Croydon's skilled workforce and connections to London.

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**CQ561-14            from Councillor Jason Perry**

**Councillor Toni Letts**

Following recent reports that the Croydon Partnership's development of the Whitgift Centre has been delayed by a year, would you please provide the latest timeline for this scheme?

**Reply**

There continues to be significant progress on the redevelopment of the Whitgift shopping Centre. This progress can be seen across a number of key work streams. Crucially, the National Planning Casework Unit (NPCU) has now written to all Objectors to notify them that the conjoined Inquiry (Compulsory Purchase Order and Dingwall Stopping Up Order) will be held from the 3rd February 2015 to the 11<sup>th</sup> March 2015. The Inquiry will be held in the council's Community Space. The Whitgift CPO Pre Inquiry Meeting will be held on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2014. To briefly update you on progress:-

- The Croydon Limited Partnership (CLP) are currently progressing the design of the centre.
- The Planning Judicial Review was held on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> October 2014. The case was dismissed on the second day.
- The Chapel Walk planning application is in the final stage of determination. It is envisaged that a delegated decision will be reached very shortly.
- Discussions over the proposed stopping up of Dingwall Avenue are progressing well.
- Negotiations to acquire via agreement are continuing apace alongside proactive work to resolve as many objections as possible.

The earliest start on site is envisaged to be some time in 2016, with an expected completion in time for Christmas trading in 2019. This timetable for a such a large and complex project has a huge number of variables and is also dependent on matters outside the control of the Council and Croydon Limited Partnership, such as the length of time taken to obtain a decision from the CPO Inquiry. All parties will continue to work hard to deliver this crucial investment in Croydon.

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**CQ563-14**      **from Councillor Andrew Rendle**

**Councillor Toni Letts**

I thank the cabinet member for her support in my role as Autism Champion and with that in mind will she agree with me that adults with autism can make fabulous employees. And will she help me in my plans to get adults with ASD who want to work, into work.

**Reply**

I agree that adults with autism will become reliable and valuable employees to any business free of stigma and prejudice towards ASD. I am committed to support my colleague in his plans to support this particular group of people into employment. Council officers have worked in the past with a partner who specialises in this area of work and I will be more than happy to make introductions. The partner's web-site is <http://www.hao2.eu/>

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**CQ568-14**            **from Councillor Jamie Audsley**

**Councillor Toni Letts**

Cllr Letts please can you outline how you are working to enable employers in Croydon to build relationships with education organisations across the town in order to provide high quality learning opportunities for Croydon students

**Reply**

Engaging with Croydon employers is one of my priorities as I am a firm believer that people prepare for work during their time at school. I also believe that employers have an important role to play when schools and other educational organisations educate their learners about the skills required to get a job and also hold it. Our 'Pathways to employment' partnership programme will continue to enable this engagement to create more high quality opportunities for Croydon students. The Council as an employer has offered 50 work placements for the year ahead, which will bring young people to our different teams and support them develop a range of employability skills.

I am lobbying our large employers who are part of the Occupiers forum to make themselves available to local schools when they are planning how to embed employability skills in the curriculum. I also support initiatives such as 'Corporate open door day' organised by Croydon Commitment, which allows young people to see for themselves how organisations operate and learn different workplace skills first hand.

The forthcoming opportunities in the town centre will require skilled and knowledgeable workforce and how we are educating our young people now will have a huge impact on their ability to secure these opportunities in the years to come. I am committed to ensuring that most of these opportunities are taken by our local residents.

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**CQ592-14**      **from Councillor Stephen Mann**

**Councillor Toni Letts**

How is the Council planning on growing the Surrey Streatory project?

**Reply**

The Surrey StrEatery forms part of the £490k Retail Support Programme funded by Mayor's Regeneration Fund and LB Croydon. The seven traders have each been given grants of up to £3,000 towards the cost of their stall and running a demo area for teaching, cooking demonstrations and workshops. They will be given six months' support to help them build their businesses. This includes a tailored package of free space to trade, with no rent, rates or utility bills. Training and mentoring is also included, as well as a professional marketing campaign to help promote the area as a destination for lovers of quality street food.

The aims of Surrey StrEatery to create jobs and support food retail businesses; this fits within our long term plans for growth in Croydon contained within The Promise, in particular our exciting chapter of growth planned in the cultural quarter of Central Croydon.

The Surrey StrEatery's healthy food options also aligns to Croydon Food Flagship Programme - to promote healthy eating, cook better food and reduce obesity in schools and communities. We aim to join-up a number of workstreams with mutual outcomes, including healthy cooking workshops and set-up of new food businesses.

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**CQ519-14**            **from Councillor Vidhi Mohan**

**Councillor Mark Watson**

Could the Cabinet Member for Communities please tell us the process/procedure Voluntary and Community Groups have to follow to book rooms and the Community Space in BWH. Where is this procedure available and what efforts have been made to inform community groups of this process?

**Reply**

At present it is possible for Community Groups to contact the Room Booking Team by e mail on: [RS.administrator@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:RS.administrator@croydon.gov.uk). to ask to book Meeting Rooms and the Community Space within our Civic Hub.

Work is being completed on a Website which will allow Community Groups to see pictures of the rooms and spaces and to make bookings online directly. The resource to co-ordinate this service is being identified and as soon as it is ready we will be launching this service and communicating to groups within the borough.

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**CQ533-14**

**from Councillor Steve O'Connell**

**Councillor Mark Watson**

Neighbourhood crimes in Croydon are generally heading in the right direction. However Violence with Injury is increasing which is a major concern. What plans are being made with the Police to address this?

**Reply**

The assault with injury (AWI) crime classification includes grievous bodily harm and assault with injury. The response below details activity at a local level that is in place to tackle non-domestic violence incidents. For details regarding activity to tackle domestic violence please see CQ559. The definition of Violence With Injury (VWI) includes crimes of violence that can occur in all settings, on the street and in the home such as domestic abuse. I believe your question is related to street based violence.

The latest police data shows that there has been an increase in the number of violence with injury offences when compared to the previous year. Research carried out on the figures indicates that the rise may be attributable to improved recording practices and reporting rather than a rise in violence per se although we are taking this issue seriously and are supporting the police in tackling this issue.

With regard to street based violence. The Borough is fully engaged in Operation Equinox, which is the Metropolitan Police response to an increase in VWI. Operation Equinox aims to protect victims and bring to justice those who commit violence by working in partnership with agencies across London. Boroughs across London will join forces over the coming months in a coordinated crackdown to target activity against a number of licensed venues, geographic areas and fast food outlets where violent offending disproportionately occurs.

A high proportion of these crimes typically occurs between the times of 6pm and 6am and is often focused around licensed venues such as pubs, nightclubs and fast food outlets.

Operation Equinox will deploy resources across a wide variety of activities - from problem-solving and crime prevention initiatives within wards/boroughs to an intensified focus on forensic retrieval and partnership work with licensed venue operators. It will include licensing inspections, enforcement of no drinking zones, and rigorous spot checks carried out in high profile venues in collaboration with Local Authority licensing officers.

There will also be intelligence-led operations by specialist units to track down outstanding offenders who are alleged to have committed violence or who are wanted by the courts and it will also continue to focus on gang activity associated with violence.

With regard to domestic abuse, only the other week we launched the first meeting of a new Local Strategic Partnership Board the Stronger Communities Partnership Board, this will focus on this most challenging of issues facing our communities. At Cabinet we launched the White Ribbon Campaign for the borough which will act as a focal point for raising awareness of DASV in the borough.

I am keen to improve the level of information and data analysis so we know that progress is being made and will work with the Home Office on legislative change.

In summary, we have a range of coordinated enforcement aimed at reducing violence.

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**CQ534-14**      **from Councillor Steve O'Connell**

**Councillor Mark Watson**

The Council is facing substantial cuts. The Community Safety budget is often vulnerable to attack. What services are at risk and can you commit to protect this vital front line area?

**Reply**

We are facing an extremely challenging time with reductions in funding to the Council over the next three years. It is right that all service areas contribute to finding efficiencies and savings whilst maintaining front line services as much as possible. And that is exactly what I will be ensuring with this important service area. There will be a budget paper coming to the next Cabinet meeting, which sets out all of the budget savings agreed so far, so you will see what our plans are there. However, I can confirm that for Community Safety there are no plans for any front line cuts or reductions in service provision in Community Safety for 15/16.

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**CQ559-14**

**from Councillor Mario Creatura**

**Councillor Mark Watson**

It is very welcome news that the Council has signed up to the White Ribbon campaign, could the Cabinet Member please detail what else the administration plans on proactively doing to help reduce domestic violence and sexual abuse in Croydon?

**Reply**

A robust work-programme is being developed and delivered; set out below are the key highlights covering 20 issues.

**Governance**

Key areas of achievement include the establishment of robust governance processes. Domestic abuse and sexual violence is a priority for this administration and the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) and a strategic executive group has been established to drive this work forward. This executive group is chaired by me and reports to the LSP Board chaired by the Leader of the Council.

Domestic abuse and sexual violence is a cross-cutting priority for the all the partnership boards with Safer Croydon Partnership being accountable for delivering improvements in line with the strategic plan. Croydon's adults and children's safeguarding boards ensure that domestic abuse is within their oversight and that each partner is accountable for ensuring domestic abuse is highlighted within safeguarding plans.

**Partnership working**

A much strengthened partnership now exists with a Champion's Group challenging and supporting each partner's action plans. A multi-agency Partnership Forum of 40-50 members meets twice annually ensuring the new Strategic Plan is fully reflective of their ambitions. A voluntary sector forum also meets.

**Marketing**

An extensive joint media/marketing and communication campaign has been raising awareness across the borough bringing together police and council resources. The impact of this has been evidenced by the increasing contact with the Family Justice Centre and the work of local newspapers in highlighting key issues. This forms a strong platform for the next phase of development which will include a more concerted approach with employers including sign-up to the White Ribbon campaign but also greater focus on workplace policies. Research and workplace materials are available on the website of the Equality and Human Rights Commission. The important message to employers is that work is often the safest place for people experiencing domestic abuse and sexual violence.

**Workforce**

Workforce development has included a multi-agency training package through the local Safeguarding Children's Board and regular multi-agency support and advice sessions at the Family Justice Centre, with the team also offering workshops for teams across the borough. This greater awareness has

supported improved multi agency pathways that have been agreed by champions and agencies. Ongoing training and guidance is required to further develop practitioner confidence and competence in identifying and assessing needs.

### **Young people**

With the national change in definition of domestic abuse in 2013, a Young Persons Violence Advocate role has been developed in is now in place in the Family Justice Centre. This work is aligned with key strands of work including sexual exploitation, gangs and peer on peer work.

### **Independent Domestic Abuse Advisors**

2014 has seen the Family Justice Centre, police and Croydon Health Service piloting two Independent Domestic Abuse Advisors, one based in the police station and another at A & E. These posts will be reviewed in 2015 to test their impact and in order to seek sustainable funding by relevant partners. The lessons from these pilots can be used in the development of the proposed hub and spoke model.

### **Family Justice Centre**

Since 2012 significant improvements in the work of the Family Justice Centre have been achieved. There are strong relationships between the centre, police, housing etc that enables a more rapid and holistic support, particularly for more complex victims. The identification of high-risk victims continues to strengthen, however some partners still have low referral rates indicating the need for on-going work.

The FJC has enabled a more preventative approach to start to develop with a new focus on the safeguarding of children and more of a whole family approach where the victim is a parent. A successful bid for funding will enable a two year pilot of two mental health workers for victims and children of victims that will start in place in 2015. It is proposed to develop a virtual and locality based team of Domestic Abuse Advisors team as part of the hub and spoke approach to build the capacity of universal services as well as ensuring greater reach to all communities by a more flexible and accessible advice and support service. This team will play a key role in the Croydon Best Start programme which focusses on early intervention for families with babies and children under 5.

### **Victim support groups**

The Freedom programme, funded by Early Intervention Support Service and children's centres, provides group support for victims of domestic abuse. The borough wide coverage has provided support for more than 100 victims of domestic abuse, there has been a high retention rate and very positive user feedback.

### **Sexual violence and Rape Crisis Centre**

The Rape Crisis Centre (RASAC) has developed a specialised therapeutic model for working with survivors of sexual violence called the empowerment model. RASAC is funded by MOPAC and is the local lead agency for sexual violence. They are a highly regarded partner in Croydon and a specialist Independent Sexual Violence Advocate is seconded into the Family Justice Centre from RASAC.

## **Croydon Domestic Homicide Reviews**

Two Domestic Homicide reviews have been undertaken in Croydon over the past 18 months. Although only one of the reviews has been published, partners have already worked developed their action plans and progress made. There are a number of issues raised that have informed the proposed 2015-18 strategy such as

- The “Think Family” approach has to be highlighted and explained so that practitioners, professionals and clinicians understand the concept and their roles and responsibilities regarding safeguarding children.
- Training need for both GPs and A&E to recognise the risks of domestic abuse and conduct clinical enquires for DA and to be aware of their role and responsibilities.

There was a lack of information sharing between agencies within the health service and between other agencies such as the police and council and between these agencies and NHS agencies. The Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub has a significant role around improving information sharing as we move forward.

In October 2014 Croydon’s newly developed domestic abuse toolkit, including information on pathways/referrals, was made available on-line. This is an innovative approach that will enable greater access across all professional groups, and the wider community, to help them identify domestic abuse and sexual violence and understand the actions and steps they can take to help protect victims.

## **Mobilising Communities**

A Croydon domestic abuse and sexual violence Kitemark is in the early stages of development. The Kitemark will take groups through a process of support and validation so that they can be recognised for their contribution to the prevention and early intervention of domestic abuse and sexual violence. It is particularly focused on mobilizing community resources by supporting community, voluntary and faith groups in developing their understanding of domestic abuse and sexual violence and their understanding of how to be proactive in tackling this in their community. The Council’s recently launched Active Communities Fund has a priority specifically aimed at developing a community response to domestic abuse and sexual violence.

## **Innovation**

In its very early stage of development is the technological platform for an interactive web based / virtual support system where individuals can access advice on-line and a more flexible range of times. The team will be experienced and knowledgeable independent Domestic Abuse Advisors. Croydon is still well below the recommended number of Advisors and this approach will provide a more effective use of scarce advisory resources.

## **Sexual violence and gender inequality**

The Violence against Girls and Women (VAWG) strategy is embedded in the 2012-2015 strategy and the 2015-2018 plan needs to have a stronger focus on this issue. The work of RASAC is strong and provides expertise in helping drive forward the strategy to address the sexual violence against women and girls (VAWG) in Croydon. The issue of gender inequality and sexual violence needs to be addressed so that the high rate of sexual violence in Croydon can be

tackled by all partners. The strategic plan will reflect specific priorities and actions relating to VAWG and strengthen the partnership response.

### **Harmful practices**

Recent work has been undertaken on developing borough wide strategy to FGM/Forced Marriage and Honour based violence in order to better tackle this issue and protect women and girls at risk of harmful practice. Croydon Safeguarding Children's Board is leading this work and it will be important to make sure there are strong links between the strategies. Clear pathways to the Safeguarding Children's Board's work on sexual exploitation will be made.

### **Healthy relationships and prevention**

Work has been done to set up prevention programmes in primary schools with a successful pilot. Further engagement with schools to promote work programmes such as Values versus Violence is needed.

### **Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Leadership**

Earlier in 2014 there was consideration that named Child Protection leads in all organisations are also Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence leads so that regular communication and support can be provided as a single point of contact. Continuing workforce development for universal services, in particular GP practices and schools, needs to be a focus for 2015-2018 so that these agencies can better identify domestic abuse and sexual violence as early as possible and have conversations with victims including children who experience this within their family. Increasing referrals to MARAC of high risk victims needs to continue and there are a few partners from whom the level of referral remains lower than expected.

### **Safeguarding**

Croydon has established a Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) that ensures a multi-agency response to concerns. In the next phase of development it will be important to better identify where domestic abuse is an issue in MASH referrals so that progress can be tracked and successful interventions mapped.

### **Perpetrators**

The need to have in place an evidence-based perpetrator programme has been highlighted by all partners. Work with organization Respect will be undertaken to identify best practice in this area, funding will need to be identified to take this forward. The opportunity to increase the use Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (Claire's law) should be considered as a way of reducing serial perpetrators but also to give more control to women and offer better protection. The need for support for applicants will be required to ensure that Work with the Home Office to improve the reporting of domestic abuse and sexual violence and the responsibilities of all professionals.

### **Think Family**

The need for a 'think family approach' should be built into the 'troubled families' programme with the widening of the criteria of phase II of the scheme. This would reduce the impact on children as well as build resilience and independence in families. Caring Dads programme as well as parenting programmes will help rebuild parenting capacity that is often reduced as a result of domestic abuse and sexual abuse.

### **Hub and spoke**

Finally, the current building for the Family Justice Centre has proved the need for an anonymous central place where victims can seek support. However in order to move towards a more preventative approach where the resources of communities and faith groups can be harnessed, the need for more localized support and advice is crucial. With the Family Justice Centre lease ending in 2015 there is an opportunity to move to a hub and spoke model based on existing good practice at the Family Justice Centre but also building the capacity of local partners, in particular through the team of Advisors. Partners are clear that the hub and spoke model will deliver a more preventative approach that encourages independence within the community.

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**CQ584-14**      **from Councillor Gerry Ryan**

**Councillor Mark Watson**

What plans are there to extend the central exclusion zone to alleviate the problem drinking that is taking place around Bridge House in Selhurst. Are there also plans that take into account other areas around the edge of the zone where this is or may become a problem?

**Reply**

New anti-social behaviour legislation (The Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014) came into force on the 20<sup>th</sup> October 2014, and included in that legislation are public space protection orders (PSPOs), which have replaced controlled drinking zones (CDZ) although any existing ones will remain in place until the implementation of a new PSPO. PSPO's can also include a range of other behaviour that may be occurring in area so provide a more flexible power to deal with a range of behaviours.

There are plans to have a PSPO that covers the area of the town centre that will include the whole area covered by the current town centre controlled drinking zone, and it is anticipated that it include others areas of concern. This is likely to include Bridge Place and other areas around the edge of the current controlled drinking zone where there is evidence of anti-social behaviour.

Before making a PSPO the council must consult with the police and other community representatives that the council thinks appropriate. For example this could include councillors, residents, residents associations, businesses or partner agencies. This is so that the Council is satisfied that the measures being proposed are reasonable and proportionate to the behaviour occurring.

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**CQ504-14**      **from Councillor Helen Pollard**

**Councillor Timothy Godfrey**

Can the Cabinet Member for Culture Leisure and Sport please tell me why the walled garden in Park Hill Park does not receive the same level of council gardening resource as Purley Oaks Park rose garden and Coombe Wood park gardens? Will the cabinet member commit to regular council-funded gardening for the walled garden in Park Hill?

**Reply**

The Councillor will be aware that government cuts to Croydon has meant that public services by all councils are under sustained attack and the parks budget was significantly cut under the previous council administration.

I very much value all of our parks and I seek higher standards and more detailed gardening across our parks and open spaces. However it is not realistic to expect the standard of our Parks to be maintained, even at current levels, if the government continues its relentless and unfair reductions on local government in general and relatively vs other councils on Croydon Council.

We are therefore in the position that if we were to spend more on Park Hill Recreation Ground, we would obviously have to take this from elsewhere. This would be a difficult proposal to implement, however if you have a specific suggestion, I would fully consider it.

I am pleased however that council staff working with the friends group is in the process of developing the walled garden as a 'Community Garden' with both Friends of Park Hill Recreation Ground and MIND being the main project partners. Funding of £7,800 has been sourced to develop this garden with a view to demonstrate 'food growing' therefore linking it to the 'Capital Growth' initiative and also to the 'Food Flagship' project. The Friends of Park Hill are in the process of designing a layout for the garden which will include raised beds to accommodate the less able user. It is anticipated that garden preparation works including planting will commence Spring 2015.

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**CQ505-14**      **from Councillor Helen Pollard**

**Councillor Timothy Godfrey**

Can the Cabinet Member for Culture Leisure and Sport tell me what plans he had to maintain and upgrade the pavilion in Park Hill Park? It currently has no windows, resident homeless people and lots of graffiti.

**Reply**

There are no plans or funding streams to upgrade the pavilion. The park is currently being patrolled by the Area Enforcement Teams who are currently dealing with the resident homeless situation in the park. Graffiti is regularly reported and dealt with by the Park Rangers and the councils graffiti team with offensive graffiti being removed within 24 hours. A winter deep clean has also been planned and all graffiti will be removed or painted out over the next few months.

Further detail on Park Hill Recreation Ground can be found in Council Answer: CQ504-14

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**CQ507-14            from Councillor Michael Neal**

**Councillor Timothy Godfrey**

You recently made a statement to the Advertiser that all the money for Fairfield Halls is in the budget, but you hope that not all the money will be spent if you can help it. In Labours new era of openness and transparency can you answer the following questions;

- Are you spending £33 million on Fairfield Halls as directed by the previous Conservative Administration?
- If not; how much of the budget do you anticipate to spend on Fairfield Halls? And where do you plan to spend the surplus?
- Can you ensure me that all essential repairs will be carried out so that Fairfield Halls is fit for the 21st Century?
- Can you list the essential maintenance that is required to be done over the next 2 / 3 years and itemise the projected costs?

**Reply**

I am very disappointed that you chose to make up information and scaremonger about the Fairfield Halls Health and Safety in an attempt to score a cheap political point at a community meeting.

The Fairfield is too important to be treated so badly, even in the name of poisoned politics.

Back to reality, I have to admit, that even your administration provided the basic capital funding to ensure that the Health and Safety issues of the Fairfield were well looked after. What the Conservative Council failed to do over 8 long years was to push the button on the much needed refurbishment of the Fairfield Halls.

The £33.73m project was not funded and as outlined in the November 2013 Cabinet paper the approval under the previous administration was only up to the design stage of the project. It is easy to publish grand plans and conjure up big spending pledges ahead of an election, but this administration will be spending real money every single year of this term on the Fairfield Project. We look forward to being judged on a record of delivery.

In contrast to the Conservative record, I am very keen to ensure the Fairfield gets what it needs to be a modern, vibrant arts centre, including back of house. We announced at the Cabinet meeting on 15 September that we are changing the approach of the council to this project to ensure that the full refurbishment of the Fairfield Halls takes place in a timely fashion.

The 15 September Cabinet agreed the new vision for the College Green area including the Fairfield Halls as a key part of the boroughs new "Cultural Quarter" and agreed to integrate the College Green and Fairfield Halls Modernisation projects to form one comprehensive approach to realise this vision for the area.

The new approach has already enabled 3 early win projects to be delivered over the summer including a new cinema offer, the studio, a new entertainment space in what was the green room and improvements to the Arnhem Gallery. These have now been

completed with the cinema being launched in November and the new studio and revitalised Arnhem Gallery being launched in the New Year.

The overall approach to the delivery will be flexible and seek to enable the redevelopment of the different component parts of Fairfield Halls in a timely fashion with clear timelines for when different elements of the work will take place over the next three years. We are working with the Fairfield Halls to outline the works to be undertaken over the next 3 years. This will of course address any essential maintenance items. As soon as the workplan is finalised we will announce the timeline and elements of work to be delivered.

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**CQ548-14**      **from Councillor Lynne Hale**

**Councillor Timothy Godfrey**

Please can you confirm that you have no plans to change the classification of or the use of any green fields, recreation areas, or playing fields in the Borough?

**Reply**

There are no plans to change the classification of or the use of any green fields, recreation areas, or playing fields in the Borough.

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**CQ549-14**      **from Councillor Lynne Hale**

**Councillor Timothy Godfrey**

Please could you let me know what WW1 Commemorative legacies are being planned for our Borough's parks?

**Reply**

Planting of 'Flanders Poppy' seeds took place this year at the following sites, Coulsdon Memorial Park, Purley Way Playing Fields, Lloyd Park, Woodside Green and Grange Park. In addition the service is committed to planting more seeds in the following parks: Lloyd Park, Woodside Green, Purley Way, Grange Park and Coulsdon Memorial Ground over the next 3 years, and 4 trees for Armistice in 2018.

We remain committed to supporting residents in organising events and activities across the borough that go some way to remember the tens of millions who were killed or wounded.

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**CQ577-14**      **from Councillor Matthew Kyeremeh**

**Councillor Timothy Godfrey**

I welcome with much joy the decision by this administration to revive and organise the 3-days' Croydon Summer Festival next year. Will the Cabinet Member also outline his plans to encourage such events such as the Thornton Heath Festival in our districts centres and neighbourhoods?

**Reply**

The loss of the annual Summer Festival (World Party and Mela) was a significant milestone in the sustained attack on the Arts and culture of our diverse borough by the now Leader of the Conservative Opposition and his leadership team. I am delighted that we see Culture in all of its forms as a key driver of regeneration, jobs and careers in the borough as a whole and have started the process of change to rebuild our Cultural offer.

The new festival will be held in the heart of the town centre and be designed to attract a broad spectrum of residents and communities in the borough.

Alongside this the council sets great store by the value of the many community-run festivals and carnivals which take place in Croydon every year. Their continued success is important to us all and we are in the process of talking to their organisers, as well as to anyone proposing new events, to find what assistance the council can give which will help them to thrive. This may include things such as help with advertising and marketing. Whilst we will have to operate within existing resources we will seek creative and imaginative ways of offering whatever support we can.

In addition if they meet the qualifying criteria, financial support may also be available through the Council's Active Communities Fund. Council officers are able to provide signposting support to groups/people interested in pursuing this opportunity.

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**CQ582-14**      **from Councillor Paul Scott**

**Councillor Timothy Godfrey**

Please confirm who exactly the previous Tory administration intended to sell the former Ashburton library building to?

**Reply**

The lease was going to be granted to Bola and Kayode Thomas

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**CQ506-14**      **from Councillor Helen Pollard**

**Councillor Alison Butler**

There are many big residential developments planned for the centre of Croydon. Can the Cabinet Member for Planning tell me what plans he has for using S106 / CIL money to invest in Park Hill Park which will be an increasingly important amenity for town centre residents?

**Reply**

We are pleased to confirm that S106 funding has been secured for several projects within Park Hill Recreation Ground which are due to be delivered in 2015

- Enhance play facilities for toddlers - £99,950
- Toilet refurbishment including DDA provision - £46,172
- Community Garden, including raised beds - £7,800

A master plan for the site is also being developed to identify other needs within the park such as upgrading the sport facilities, installation of an outdoor gym, play facilities for older children, new uses for the existing buildings etc., enhancing wildlife habitats and reviewing the existing shrub beds and borders.

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**CQ518-14**      **from Councillor Michael Neal**

**Councillor Alison Butler**

When Cllr Dudley Mead left office as cabinet member there were 41 council new build properties under construction, what is the latest schedule for their completion, are any of them late and by how much?

**Reply**

In May 2014, 41 Council new build homes were under construction. Of these, 29 have been delayed by 7-9 months due to a poor performance by the contractor. The Council is monitoring progress closely and maintaining pressure on the contractor to remedy the previous poor performance and ensure our homes are completed to the required high quality.

These actions by the contractor and the Council have resulted in an improvement in the resources put in and the work being completed on site, and all 41 homes will now be completed by the Mayor's deadline of March 2015.

I am aware that as Cabinet Member, Cllr Mead had strong reservations regarding the process for delivery on these sites, nevertheless they went ahead as planned. The new administration is committed to a review of procurement processes to ensure that poor quality contractors are not appointed in the future and crucially needed homes are delivered on time.

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**CQ521-14**      **from Councillor Chris Wright**

**Councillor Alison Butler**

How many families have been in Bed and Breakfast for more than 6 weeks as at 31st October 2014?

**Reply**

As of the 31<sup>st</sup> October there were 7 families over six weeks in shared bed and breakfast.

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**CQ522-14**      **from Councillor Chris Wright**

**Councillor Alison Butler**

The Cabinet Member will know that the October guidelines from the Secretary of State set out stronger protection for the Green Belt and that he is concerned that councils could sacrifice protected land for housing requirements. Yet the leader of the Labour Party says " not all green belt land is of high environmental or amenity value" and " will shift pressure for homes to the other side of the Green Belt". Can the Cabinet Member confirm that she will abide by Government policy and not Labour Party policy?

**Reply**

The borough faces a housing crisis which is in part a result of your previous administration and the government's failure to deliver. We are working constructively with the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and the GLA to deliver new homes, none of which are on green belt land.

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**CQ529-14**      **from Councillor Dudley Mead**

**Councillor Alison Butler**

Can the cabinet member tell me if she is happy that the Regent's House Hotel is a satisfactory place for homeless families to stay?

**Reply**

I am not happy that any homeless family has to stay in hostel accommodation and I am sure Cllr Mead will join me in calling on the government to invest in affordable homes and review how its benefit cap and Local Housing Allowances are affecting families in Croydon.

As you are aware, the Regents House Hotel is located in Friends Road and has been used as a homeless hostel for the past two years by Croydon Council which has exclusive occupation. This is a large hostel which has an HMO licence for 43 persons, sharing amenities. It is suitable for use for housing homeless households in temporary accommodation. The hostel has self-contained family rooms with washing machine facilities and was newly refurbished at the time it was leased by the council.

The property was last inspected on 10th November 2014, there were 3 minor disrepair issues that were picked up and the manager was notified. This property was being inspected every 3 months during 2013 and moved to 6 monthly inspections in 2014. It is generally well managed and any issues that arise are dealt with by the manager.

All hostels that are used as temporary accommodation are inspected on a regular basis at least once each year but depending on the size and risk some hostels are inspected monthly, quarterly or half yearly.

If there are any specific concerns being raised regarding this property please let me know so that I can raise them with the manager and owner.

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**CQ535-14**      **from Councillor Susan Bennett**

**Councillor Alison Butler**

How many private sector properties have been offered to the Council since the Cabinet Member announced the tax on landlords?

**Reply**

Cllr Bennett must be confused as I have not announced a tax on landlords nor have I any intention to do so. However, since the beginning of June the Council has procured 86 private rented sector properties and is continuing to be offered a steady number of properties.

The situation in Croydon for tenants and those seeking housing is made all the more difficult due to a lack of investment in affordable housing by central government, with housing completions at their lowest peacetime level since the 1920s. Many more working families are struggling to pay their rents and having to resort to Local Housing Allowance to assist. A combination of the slashing of money for affordable housing, the inadequacy of the LHA, the benefits cap (unfit for London), the real terms fall in wages under this ConDem government, the failure of the previous Conservative administration to ensure a fair share of affordable housing for new developments have all sadly led, to a housing crisis in Croydon.

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**CQ557-14**            **from Councillor Mario Creatura**

**Councillor Alison Butler**

Would you please confirm that Croydon has a five year housing supply?

**Reply**

I presume the Councillor means a five year housing land supply. Croydon does have a five year housing land supply. It is published as part of the Croydon Monitoring Report annually and the most recent version was reported to Cabinet in January 2014 and is available on the Council's website at [www.croydon.gov.uk/monitoringreport](http://www.croydon.gov.uk/monitoringreport).

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**CQ562-14**            **from Councillor Jason Perry**

**Councillor Alison Butler**

Do you intend to commence work on any new master plans?

**Reply**

The Old Town Masterplan, which is recommended for adoption by the Council in December, will be the fifth masterplan produced for Croydon Metropolitan Centre, following on from the masterplans produced for East Croydon, West Croydon, Mid Croydon and the Fair Field Area.

It is not in the current Spatial Planning work programme to commence work on any new masterplans, however Croydon's award winning masterplanning methodology remains available as a tool for any area that may arise as requiring a masterplan approach in the future. The Croydon Plan: Strategic Policies and the Draft Croydon Local Plan: Detailed Policies and Proposals, sets out areas that may require a masterplan approach in the future, and it is conceivable that other areas may present themselves as suitable for a masterplanning approach.

This administration is now committed to delivering our Growth Plan right across the borough bringing homes, infrastructure, jobs and regeneration that will make the difference to the people of Croydon.

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**CQ574-14**      **from Councillor Shafi Khan**

**Councillor Alison Butler**

Would the Cabinet Member agree that, the housing borrowing cap is fundamentally flawed and places unnecessary restrictions on the amount of money council can invest in housing thus hampering efforts to provide the homes residents need?

**Reply**

Croydon has not yet reached its HRA borrowing cap, although it is expected that we will by 2017/18. I agree that we would welcome the flexibility to borrow additional monies to invest in more affordable housing, although this would need to be considered on a case by case basis to ensure that the HRA business plan is able to support any additional debt. However, I welcome the suggestions made in The Lyons Housing Review, which look at this issue and future opportunities.

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**CQ580-14**      **from Councillor Wayne Lawlor**

**Councillor Alison Butler**

How does the housing crisis bequeathed to this administration by the Conservatives impact on our own plans to tackle housing in Croydon?

**Reply**

In May 2014 the most prominent, and heart breaking, symptom of Croydon's housing crisis was growing homelessness, with 2,563 households in temporary accommodation, including bed and breakfast; homelessness applications in the borough having risen 46% between 2009/10 and 2013/14.

Croydon also had 5,440 households on its Housing Register with many more people in need of housing not on the Register, following the previous Administration's tightening of qualification rules and the assessment of housing need reducing it by 38% from 8,848 households in 2013.

Many tenants renting in the private rented sector also have to face poor conditions, with some landlords prepared to wilfully provide substandard accommodation to tenants who tend to be the most vulnerable and carry out illegal practices including harassment and intimidation. In the last 5 months alone Croydon's Tenancy Relation Team dealt with 104 cases of illegal eviction and of harassment from landlords. The most common reason for homelessness is the loss of a private sector tenancy, and only 23% of private landlords are prepared to let to benefit claimants.

There is also a crisis of affordability with rising sales prices, mortgage restrictions and limited income leading to many Croydon households being unable to afford to purchase a home in the borough.

To address this crisis, the shortage of homes, the lack of affordability and poor conditions in the private rented sector, the new Administration is bringing forward an innovative and interventionist package of measures that aim to make a real impact on the supply of new housing. Some of the key initiatives we are introducing include:

- 1) Launching **The Croydon Promise: Growth for All** - our commitment to deliver real change over the next 5 years: with 9,500 housing starts in that period, double the housing supply achieved in recent years and 16,000 new jobs, to ensure the hopes are sustainable. This Growth Plan contains borough Place Plans which sets out the where, when and how the growth of these sustainable homes will be delivered;
- 2) Undertaken a **strategic sites review**, which involved the review of over 400 sites across the borough with the identification of 50 we will focus on to deliver 8,600 homes and over 10,000 new jobs;
- 3) Building on the Strategic Sites Review, a new **Revolving Investment Fund** will be set up to ensure that the sites identified as able to deliver the greatest benefits in housing numbers and new jobs, are prioritised for financial support. This fund will be constantly recycled, ensuring the benefits are spread across a range of projects and there is no overall cost to the Council;

- 4) Setting up a **Development Company** to significantly increase the supply of new housing, deliver economic regeneration and key infrastructure projects. The Development Company will provide a vehicle for the Council to take control of and deliver new housing projects and to increase the supply of affordable housing considerably;
- 5) **Supporting Registered Providers** (housing associations) by encouraging those with the ambition and commitment to work with us develop new large mixed housing and regeneration projects, whilst continuing to support the development of smaller affordable housing schemes;
- 6) Introducing a **new minimum affordable housing requirement of 30%** on all new residential schemes outside of the Croydon Opportunity Area. We are also strongly encouraging an increase in the provision of affordable housing on all sites coming forward in central Croydon to ensure that improving market conditions provide wider benefits in the form of increased affordable housing;
- 7) Bringing forward new, improved plans for the development of **Taberner House, which will see the number of affordable homes double from 60 to 120**, in line with our new affordable housing policy and saves Queen's Garden's for the use by our local communities;
- 8) Consulting on a scheme for Selective Licensing for landlords in order to drive up standards in the private rented sector;
- 9) Continuing to **expand Temporary Accommodation** with new initiatives such as securing leasing agreements for homeless households with private owners on 190 homes at **Concord House and Sycamore House**;
- 10) **Making the case for Croydon** to relevant ministers, explaining the situation in Croydon and making a strong case for additional resources (e.g. Leaders letter to Lord Freud about homelessness and LHA rates).

This Administration will continue to explore every avenue and take every opportunity to intervene constructively in the housing market to increase the delivery of new affordable homes, reduce homelessness and improve conditions in the private rented sector.

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**CQ587-14**      **from Councillor Robert Canning**

**Councillor Alison Butler**

Many popular community pubs in Croydon have closed in recent years. Does Croydon Council have a Pub Protection Policy and, if so, what are its objectives?

**Reply**

The policies in the Croydon Local Plan: Strategic Policies do not include public houses as a protected use .However there has been some concern regarding changes of use and loss of pubs that may have been a community asset. As a result, as part of the Croydon Local Plan – Strategic Policies partial review this will now be reviewed and an evidence base assembled to see if a case can be made for a policy aimed at the retention of public houses in appropriate circumstances.

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**CQ593-14**      **from Councillor Stephen Mann**

**Councillor Alison Butler**

What is the Council doing to prevent the conversion of pubs to supermarkets through the planning system?

**Reply**

The policies in the Croydon Local Plan: Strategic Policies do not include public houses as a protected use .However there has been some concern regarding changes of use and loss of pubs that may have been a community asset. As part of the Croydon Local Plan – Strategic Policies partial review we will look at the case for a policy aimed at the retention of public houses in appropriate circumstances.

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**CQ596-14            from Councillor Tim Pollard****Councillor Alison Butler**

Please provide the Council's estimates of the cost per application of administering the 'selective licensing scheme' it is currently consulting on, broken down into the headings on the attached selective licensing cost matrix, as used by other councils. Where you believe the headings do not apply to Croydon, please explain why. Where you believe there are costs not recognised by this matrix, please explain why and itemise them on the same 'cost, time and grade per application' basis.

**Reply**

The proposal to introduce selective licensing is currently out to public consultation. The estimated costs of administering a full scheme over the 5 years of the licence are set out in the table below which is also publicly available on the Council's website as part of the consultation.

Estimate of costs and licence fees

As the licence fee covers a five year period, an estimate of the projected costs of administering the scheme together with the corresponding fee income is shown in the following table:

Expenditure type	Estimated total for 5 years	Annualised costs
Staff costs – enforcement and inspection	£6.610m	£1.322m
Staff costs - administration	£3.450m	£0.690m
ASB/Noise team costs	£2.570m	£0.514m
IT costs	£0.650m	£0.130m
Corporate overheads	£2.100m	£0.420m
Legal costs	£0.260m	£0.052m
<b>Total</b>	<b>£15.640m</b>	<b>£3.128m</b>

The total licence fee is estimated as follows and assumes the same level of compliance as experienced by another London authority. It is estimated that there are 30,000 properties within Croydon that would be licenced under this scheme.

		Properties	5 year total	Annualised income
Discounted fee	£350	22,500	£7.875m	£1.575m
Full fee	£750	6,900	£5.175m	£1.035m
Full fee paid annually	£750	600	£2.250m	£0.450
<b>Total</b>		<b>30,000</b>	<b>£15.300m</b>	<b>£3.060m</b>

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**CQ500-14            from Councillor Phil Thomas**

**Councillor Stuart Collins**

Why have our streets become dirtier in the last 5 months?

**Reply**

There is no evidence to suggest that the streets of Croydon have become dirtier over the last 5 months and plenty of evidence to show that for once we have got on top of the problems of fly tipping and street cleansing.

We are now removing fly tips within 48 hours at over 80% of the time which is significantly better than 5 months ago and the last Administrations 3%. We are beginning to see the community getting together to come out and help make their streets clean, such as in Thornton Heath recently.

In addition the Council working in partnership with Veolia have reviewed the existing street cleaning resources which led to Veolia at their own expense providing four additional members of staff to undertake street cleaning within District Centres during the hours of 2 to 10pm. This will make a real difference to those streets.

Councillor Thomas is fully aware of the many ways that dirty streets and fly tipping can be reported and if he has an incident to report he should use one of these; email to [Flytip@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:Flytip@croydon.gov.uk) , telephone 020 8604 7000 or use the Croydon App.

Since Don't Mess with Croydon campaign was launched we now have;

- Over 60 environmental enforcement cases being investigated
- 25 PACE Interviews since June – most of which we are expecting to progress to formal prosecution. For the last few years up until June 14 we were doing about 1 per month. We are now doing about 5 per month
- 2 prosecution files recently submitted to legal for Fly tipping and awaiting Court dates
- 6 applications warrants agreed by the court requesting the seizure of fly tipping vehicles.
- Over 200 duty of care visits in the last couple of months checking the waste arrangements of shops and businesses
- Overt and covert CCTV is being deployed to hotspot locations along with early morning multi-agency operations with new evidence being recovered all the time.

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**CQ515-14**      **from Councillor Donald Speakman**

**Councillor Stuart Collins**

Veolia Staff have told residents in Purley Ward that there will not be a Green Garden Waste Collection next year. Is this true?

**Reply**

The Council have no plans at present to change the seasonal kerbside green garden waste collection service in 2015. For residents their last collection this year is taking place between Monday 17 to Friday 28 November 2014.

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**CQ524-14**      **from Councillor Steve Hollands**

**Councillor Stuart Collins**

Over the past few years and until May 2014 the Council has cleared litter from the footpath and bank at the back of Purley Station on a regular basis. After numerous emails and requests from October this year I have now been advised by Highways Officers that the Council will no longer clear the litter as it is not the Council's responsibility. As you will understand residents are very unhappy that this well used foot path is becoming an eyesore and a blight at the entrance into Purley town centre. Most local people believe the land is owned by the Council so it is the Council receiving the 'bad press'.

Under the banner of 'Don't Mess With Croydon' would the Cabinet Member outline what action he intends to take against the private land owner to ensure that the litter is cleared from the bank and footpath on a regular basis?

**Reply**

Thanks for bringing this to my attention the Council's Area Environment Enforcement Team will now be serving an appropriate enforcement notice on the land owner reminding them of their responsibility to keep their land free of litter and waste.

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**CQ526-14**      **from Councillor Jan Buttinger**

**Councillor Stuart Collins**

Could Kenley Ward residents please be reassured that there will be regular sweepings and collections of leaves from the streets and roads here in Kenley until they are all cleared. Some sweeping has taken place but then piles of leaves are left, often not collected and they then scatter all over.

**Reply**

Through the integrated contract with Veolia Environmental Services Ltd there is a requirement for Veolia to provide additional street cleaning resources between October to December each year specifically to undertake leaf clearance from roads throughout the borough.

Additional street cleaning resources have been undertaking leaf clearance from the agreed roads within Kenley since early October, and will be continuing until the end of December.

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**CQ527-14**      **from Councillor Jan Buttinger**

**Councillor Stuart Collins**

How frequently are the drains here in Kenley cleared?

Residents are especially concerned at this time of the year when huge volumes of leaves fall and cover over the drains in the roads.

**Reply**

The street cleaning teams undertake cleaning of the footways and kerb channels including areas around the highway gully grates in line with the agreed street cleaning frequency. In addition between October and December each year additional street cleaning teams are engaged specifically to undertake removal of fallen leaves from specific locations throughout the borough, including Kenley, which is dependent on the amount of leaf fall in particular roads.

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**CQ531-14**      **from Councillor Dudley Mead**

**Councillor Stuart Collins**

The Addington Road Selsdon between the Selsdon Park Hotel and the Sanderstead roundabout was not swept from Thursday October 9th until Thursday November 6th 2014.

What went wrong as this road has been cleaned weekly on a Thursday since before 2006, or have you changed the frequency without informing the ward members?

**Reply**

The street cleaning standard provided by Veolia Environmental Services Ltd at this location following the scheduled clean on Thursday 9 October was not to the required standard, and once this matter was brought to the Council's attention, Veolia were sent back on 15 October to undertake a thorough clean of this section of footway and kerb channels. An officer from the Council's Environment & Leisure team inspected this section of footways following the street cleaning and agreed that the footways had been cleaned to the required standard.

The regular street cleaner was not at work and was replaced by an agency member of staff who unfortunately did not complete the street cleaning to the required standard.

The frequency of street cleaning has not been changed.

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**CQ551-14**      **from Councillor Mike Fisher**

**Councillor Stuart Collins**

How many tons of green garden waste was recycled in 2013/14? How much money was saved in landfill charges as a result?

**Reply**

In 2013/14 the following services collected green waste for composting:

Domestic green waste collection – 9,250 tonnes

Household reuse and recycling - 4,650 tonnes

The net savings of composting green waste compared to landfill is circa £780,000 per annum in 2013/14.

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**CQ552-14            from Councillor Mike Fisher**

**Councillor Stuart Collins**

Can the cabinet member tell me how many flytips per month have been reported since he took over as cabinet member in June? Could he also show the corresponding figures for the same months last year (2013).

**Reply**

Please see table below illustrating comparisons of Fly-tip reports for June to October 2013 and 2014

<b>Jun-13</b>	<b>Jul-13</b>	<b>Aug-13</b>	<b>Sep-13</b>	<b>Oct-13</b>	<b>Total</b>
1063	1217	1212	1369	1198	<b>6059</b>
<b>Jun-14</b>	<b>Jul-14</b>	<b>Aug-14</b>	<b>Sep-14</b>	<b>Oct-14</b>	<b>Total</b>
1778	1828	1348	1586	1416	<b>7956</b>

The number of reported fly tips in 14-15 has increased on levels in previous years although there have been reductions in the volume of fly tips in August, September and October following a peak in July 2014. Part of this increase is because of changes in reporting processes. Up until 2013 many fly tips went unreported and were passed on for clearance directly with no record kept. All fly tips are now recorded so these current figures represent a more accurate reflection of the problem. We have also made it easier for people to report fly tips through the further development of the Report it App, dedicated email address and Fly tip hotline, which has increased the number of reports received. And, despite the increase in reports coming through we are cleaning up the fly tips quicker than ever with over 80% now cleared within 48 hrs. It is therefore very encouraging that after a peak in the number of monthly fly tips in July 2014 this has reduced for the following three months, which implies that the measures put in through the Clean and Green initiative are starting to take effect.

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**CQ564-14            from Councillor Andrew Rendle**

**Councillor Stuart Collins**

Can the cabinet member tell me how many FPNs have been issued for fly tipping in the last three months? And is he happy to know that the vast majority of people in Ashburton tell us they have seen a real difference in the cleanliness of the streets and are happy with the work done to make Ashburton Playing Fields more secure after the last traveler camp left.

**Reply**

100 FPN's have been issued specifically for fly tipping in the last three months. Our enforcement work is not about the number of FPN's although I am pleased to tell that the average number of FPNs for fly tips has increased significantly since June 14 when the Don't Mess with Croydon campaign was launched.

In addition:

- Over 60 environmental enforcement cases being investigated
- 25 PACE Interviews since June – most of which we are expecting to progress to formal prosecution. For the last few years up until June 14 we were doing about 1 per month. We are now doing about 5 per month
- 2 prosecution files recently submitted to legal for Fly tipping and awaiting Court dates
- 6 applications warrants agreed by the court requesting the seizure of fly tipping vehicles.
- Over 200 duty of care visits in the last couple of months checking the waste arrangements of shops and businesses
- Overt and covert CCTV is being deployed to hotspot locations along with early morning multi-agency operations with new evidence being recovered all the time.

I am delighted with the feedback from the residents of Ashburton. You can see the progress that we are making with some of the statistics above so it is really pleasing that this is making a real difference to people's lives and that they appreciate what we are doing.

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**CQ567-14**      **from Councillor Jamie Audsley**

**Councillor Stuart Collins**

Cllr Collins please can outline your ambitions for the role of clean and green street champions across the borough?

**Reply**

The Clean & Green Champions are a network of people who have volunteered to improve the environment and take pride in their local area. They are local people who work alongside Croydon Council and its partners to encourage residents and businesses to recycle more, manage their waste responsibly and reduce instances of environmental crime. This includes activities such as:

- Being the link between the local residents and the Council
- Organising community cleanups and litter picks
- Supporting neighbours to keep their front gardens tidy
- Identifying areas that need improvement
- Identifying local businesses that need educating on their duty of care to dispose of waste and recycling
- Arranging letter drops with information on community cleanups, recycling and waste management
- Attending meetings with local residents and council representatives

The scheme has got off to a great start with over 130 champions across the borough now registered and activities in parts of the Borough already started. This includes the fantastic event improving look and feel of Thornton Heath High Street on 25<sup>th</sup> October. We want events like this all over Croydon where local people come together supported by the Council to take pride in their area.

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**CQ572-14**      **from Councillor Shafi Khan**

**Councillor Stuart Collins**

Would the Cabinet Member agree with me that the Council should be given the power to issue fixed penalties on the spot to fly-tippers rather than taking them to court?

**Reply**

The Council already has the power to issue fixed penalty notices for fly tipping and it is used to good effect. Since June there has been a significant increase in fly tipping FPN's from an average of 20 per month in 2013/14 to an average of 46 per month since June 14. These FPN's are generally issued for smaller scale fly tips involving household waste that has been illegally dumped. For any evidence secured of fly tipping of a serious nature there are number of options available to the Council. We can and do take all reasonable steps to prosecute offenders through the courts but we also have the ability to apply for warrants so that we can seize any vehicles used for fly tipping.

This Council takes fly tipping very seriously and I am sure you would agree that although prosecutions can take some time it is important that we throw the full weight of the law at the criminals that are blighting our Borough through fly tipping.

I am pleased to tell that this week we caught someone fly –tipping in the Granville Road car park in Norbury and they will be named and shamed when the legal process is completed..

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**CQ576-14**      **from Councillor Matthew Kyeremeh**

**Councillor Stuart Collins**

Could the Cabinet Member outline efforts to improve expectations and better outcomes of current or any future contractors with respect to keeping all parts of the borough clean while encouraging recycling at the doorstep?

**Reply**

The Council continues to work in partnership with its current service provider in respect of street cleaning, landfill & recycling collections that being Veolia Environmental Services Ltd.

Since the introduction of the new environmental initiative “Don’t Mess with Croydon” there has been a significant increase in the response times for removing illegally deposited waste on public footways throughout the borough. Over 83.5% of all reported incidents are now being cleared within 48 hours of being reported.

In addition Veolia have provided, at their own expense, additional street cleaning resources in selected district centres (between 2pm to 10pm) and this is already having a positive environmental impact on those district centres.

I am pleased to report that the Council has received some external funding to promote, as part of a national campaign, recycling of plastics. As part of this initiative roadshow events will be held throughout the borough to promote recycling.

In addition, the Council will be undertaking a trial of a new style dual recycling/litter street bin. This will be in an agreed area of the borough where residents living in flats above shops currently have no storage areas for their landfill waste & recyclables.

And finally I can confirm that the popular seasonal kerbside collection of green garden waste will continue during 2015.

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**CQ583-14**            **from Councillor Paul Scott**

**Councillor Stuart Collins**

Under the previous Tory administration Woodside's streets were filthy, strewn with rubbish and blighted with fly tipping. The situation has improved considerably over the last 6 months although further improvement is still needed. Could the Cabinet Member please outline what changes he has made to date and what his plans are for improving the street cleaning over the coming months?

**Reply**

The council continues to work in partnership with its current service provider in respect of street cleaning, landfill & recycling collections that being Veolia Environmental Services Ltd.

Since the introduction of the new environmental initiative "Don't Mess with Croydon" there has been a significant increase in the response times for removing illegally deposited waste on public footways throughout the borough with over 83.5% of all reported incidents now being cleared within 48 hours from being reported.

In addition Veolia have provided at their own expense additional street cleaning resources within selected district centres within the borough between 2 to 10pm undertaking street cleaning duties, and this already is having a positive environmental impact on those district centres.

The council working in partnership with Veolia are committed to improving the overall street cleaning standard throughout the borough, this includes reviewing how street cleaning services will be provided in 2015.

In addition the Council will be undertaking a trial of a new style dual recycling/litter street bin in an agreed area of the borough where residents living in flats above shops currently have no storage areas for their landfill waste & recyclables, this will reduce the amount of bags of household waste being placed on public footways, and also for the first time give residents living in flats above shops the opportunities to recycle.

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**CQ597-14            from Councillor Tim Pollard**

**Councillor Stuart Collins**

Please outline the tonnage of Green Garden Waste collected per ward in the last two years, itemised by ward. Should this data not be held by the council, please itemise the tonnage by the smallest available zone, such as by area or round, and outline which wards this corresponds to. Please also outline what percentage of the total recycled tonnage Green Garden waste has accounted for in the same period.

**Reply**

The type of analysis that Cllr Pollard has requested is not collated.

However an analysis of green waste tonnages collected in April – July 2013 shows the following:

	<b>Tonnage</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Monday</b>	1116.66	30
<b>Tuesday</b>	938.46	25
<b>Wednesday</b>	814.3	22
<b>Thursday</b>	517.06	14
<b>Friday</b>	359.16	10

**By Ward**

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
Coulsdon East	New Addington	Addiscombe	Norbury	Waddon
Coulsdon West	Fieldway	Fairfield	Upper Norwood	Broad Green
Kenley	Heathfield	Ashburton	South Norwood	West Thornton
Purley	Selsdon and Ballards	Part of Croham	Thornton Heath	Part of Selhurst
Part of Croham	Part of Shirley	Part of Shirley	Part of Woodside	Part of Bensham Manor
Coulsdon East	Part of Sanderstead	Part of Sanderstead	Part of Bensham Manor	
		Part of Woodside		
		Part of Selhurst		

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**CQ498-14            from Councillor Sara Bashford**

**Councillor Simon Hall**

Could Cllr Hall please confirm the he and Cllr Newman have full powers to spend or sell-off assets between £500k and £5M, with only a paper for 'noting' provided to Cabinet. This effectively means that the Cabinet Member for Finance and the Leader have complete freedom to use up to £5m of public money without any accountability to any elected Member or the public. How does this fit with the claim that this Labour Administration are transparent and open?

**Reply**

Contractual matters, including those relating to the disposal or acquisition of assets are, as they have been since the Local Government Act 2000, executive matters which therefore at first instance vest in the Leader of the Council.

The Leader of the Council's Scheme of Delegation made in June 2014 does provide for the Cabinet Member for Finance and Treasury, in consultation with the Leader, to take such decisions where the contract value in question is between £500k to £5m.

This is an entirely open and transparent approach with proper accountability:-

- The Leader's Scheme of Delegations detailing the above arrangements is at Part 6C of the Council's Constitution which is readily available to be viewed on the Council's website;
- Where the value of such contracts is over £1m it is a key decision and the usual requirements in respect of access to information notices and call-in apply;
- Cabinet are regularly notified at each meeting of the contracts anticipated to be awarded under this delegation; and
- A Part A report to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Treasury in respect of the individual contract decision is available at the same time that the Cabinet Agenda in question is published. Details of the final quantum and parties are detailed on the Council's website once concluded.

In the previous Administration the Cabinet Members made individual decisions without their reports being made public and so placed undue reliance on the Corporate Services Committee when in fact it was only an advisory committee.

Our process has the security of a double lock as no one Cabinet Member takes a decision without first consulting me or, in my portfolio area, the Leader. We have introduced far greater transparency, with information coming to Cabinet rather than an advisory committee and, indeed, we publish much more information than was the case under the old administration.

Furthermore the Leader, in extending the openness and transparency of this Labour Administration has announced that all Members may receive part B reports on request.

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**CQ499-14            from Councillor Sara Bashford**

**Councillor Simon Hall**

Can Cllr Hall please explain why at the Cabinet Meeting on 20th October, there was a part B paper that was neither referred to on the agenda or taken at the meeting, but the decision to allow a long lease of 999 years on a public asset was awarded for an undisclosed sum without any questions from his Cabinet Colleagues? Can he also confirm whether or not the Part B paper that wasn't discussed at the meeting and therefore not noted or approved was actually circulated to his cabinet colleagues. If it was did they ask any questions about it. If they did can he please confirm who asked what and provide details of the reply provided?

### **Reply**

In line with our new policy, the Cabinet see details of acquisitions and disposals over £500,000, something that did not happen previously. This was referred to in the report to Cabinet on the 20th October and the part A report was available on line. I can confirm that the disposal was discussed at the meeting of the informal cabinet where the disposal price and protections that were put in place were discussed.

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**CQ508-14**      **from Councillor Sara Bashford**

**Councillor Simon Hall**

On page 4 of Friday 14th November's Croydon Advertiser Cllr Hall states there is a list of school playing fields which are at risk of being developed. Can he please provide full details of this list so that parents and head teachers know whether their children's school is one of those earmarked for housing?

**Reply**

There are no plans to build on school playing fields. The asset strategy will look at all council property and assets, including the school estate, to identify any potential future opportunities. This work is currently at the review stage, however this administration has already made it clear that it will not sell or build on school playing fields.

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**CQ513-14**      **from Councillor Yvette Hopley**

**Councillor Simon Hall**

I have now attended a number of pension related courses and the advice has been as follows:

- do not put all your equity in one basket
- ensure that you have a panel that appoints and examines independent advice on your committee such as co-opted members and financial specialists
- take on board active management to assure growth.

The pension committee's governance arrangements do not exhibit best practice and as such an urgent review is required of the asset allocation and those represented on the pension committee itself (such as non-councillor members). Please advise when this will take place?

**Reply**

You are factually wrong that we do not meet best practice.

Having said that, the Chair of the Pension Committee and myself do feel that it would be timely for the asset allocation to be reviewed. In order to assist this, we are ensuring that training is provided in the areas of asset classes, liabilities, governance and portfolio construction. The training has been timetabled to take place before the committee meeting on the 10th of March 2015 where an asset allocation strategy will be tabled for consideration.

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**CQ514-14**            **from Councillor Yvette Hopley**

**Councillor Simon Hall**

When Grant Thornton presented their reports at the audit committee meeting they stated that they showed "an increase in misstatements, deterioration in quality and timeliness of working papers, delays in the provision of comprehensive responses" and as a result this has cost us an additional £37,172 in fees. When audit fees should be coming down ours are going up due to sloppy workings. Not the Audit Commission's "Best Practice" awards achieved under the Conservative leadership. Please can I have your assurance that there will be a return to best practice and all these matters will be addressed and monitored and full details will be presented throughout the audit committee meetings so we can ensure that this never happens again?

**Reply**

First of all, I find your political attack on hard-working officers of the Council disgraceful and unwarranted. It fails to recognise the high performance delivered by our Director of Finance and Assets and his team, at a time when that team has been considerably reduced in size in order to assist with the Council's financial challenge. Secondly, there is what really matters: The council received an unqualified opinion on our accounts and on our value for money.

Thirdly, the amount referred to in your question is the request and we do not anticipate the final sum being anything like that.

Fourthly, the director explained the issues associated with the accounts at audit committee which include an implementation of a new Finance and HR system in the middle of the audit period.

Finally, the audit fees are going down by 25% in 2015/16.

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**CQ530-14**      **from Councillor Dudley Mead**

**Councillor Simon Hall**

As I recall the value of the pension fund as at 30th June was £754m, what was its value as at 30th September 2014?

**Reply**

The value of the pension fund's investments as at 30 September 2014 was £769.3m, an increase of £16.2m since the 30th of June 2014.

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**CQ545-14**      **from Councillor Jason Cummings**

**Councillor Simon Hall**

What is the anticipated spend this financial year on Union Reps. Are the Unions they represent charged for the use of office space and equipment supplied by the council?

**Reply**

The budgeted expenditure for the corporately funded trade unions is £142,703. The trade unions are not currently charged for their office space or any equipment supplied by the Council.

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**CQ546-14**            **from Councillor Jason Cummings**

**Councillor Simon Hall**

The new asset strategy makes clear that the council will be in receipt of significant capital when assets are sold. How will you ensure visibility and transparency of how these receipts are handled, where they end up and any costs associated with them?

**Reply**

The asset strategy makes clear that we are going to 'sweat' the Council's assets. That does not automatically mean disposal.

Any disposal of a council asset is subject to a report prepared by the asset team which details the proposed terms and any capital receipt and disposals the anticipated costs. This report is then approved in line with the Council's adopted governance process.

Capital receipts from the sale of General Fund properties will be used to fund the Council's capital programme.

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**CQ547-14            from Councillor Jason Cummings**

**Councillor Simon Hall**

Much has been made in the local press and media of the future use of school playing fields but this is not the only type of council land under threat of change. The Asset Strategy on Page 8 under Project 1 lists golf courses and then mentions 'capital receipts' in the next paragraph, indeed one golf course has already been sold. Are any other golf courses in Croydon being considered for sale and if so which one? Can you also supply a list of all council owned golf courses in the borough?

**Reply**

A full consideration of all Council assets is being undertaken as part of the new 2015-2019 asset strategy.

A 4 year option agreement is already in place for the extension of the lease at Addington Court for a further 122 years which is due to expire in 2016.

No other disposals or leases have been identified.

The Council currently owns the freehold of 4 golf courses, all of which are subject to leases:

- Addington Palace Golf Course (Private members)
- Addington Court (Public Course)
- Coulsdon Manor (Public Course)
- Shirley Park (Private Members)

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**CQ553-14**            **from Councillor Mike Fisher**

**Councillor Simon Hall**

Can the Cabinet member tell me if the quotes from him in Press Release 5573 in relation to Bernard Weatherill House were his own words, if so, can he tell me when he tell me when he came to this view ?

**Reply**

These quotes were indeed my own words. This was a press release about Bernard Weatherill House winning an architecture award, and it is without doubt, in the context of architecture, design and construction, a fantastic building.

My issues were never about the building per se, but the cost to Croydon Council tax payers, now established at some £145million and your administration's attempts to conceal the true cost from the people of Croydon.

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**CQ556-14**      **from Councillor Luke Clancy**

**Councillor Simon Hall**

Why was a temporary decision taken to divest the pension fund's active equity portfolio and invest the entire allocation into an index pot whilst awaiting a more diversified solution to investing these funds? Does this not ultimately incur twice the cost, including transition management costs? Is moving this money between managers twice in such a short period of time good value for the pension fund's members? If the aim was ultimately to achieve diversification with these funds, why not just wait until managers have been found who can implement this approach without the need to put all the funds temporarily in one index pot first?

**Reply**

On the 8th of July 2014 the Pension Committee made a decision to move away from global active equities to global passive equities as all the Fund's active equity managers had failed to meet their performance targets since inception. This was after a year of discussion at Pension Committee and inertia on the part of the previous administration.

Only one of the three active managers outperformed the benchmark since inception. In addition, the Pension Fund has incurred substantial active management fees. Conversely passive equities track the benchmark for a fraction of the investment management fees. Global passive equities track a benchmark which is diversified across countries and sectors. Hence passive equities portfolios tend to have a greater number of holdings and are therefore more diversified than the average activity equity portfolio which tends to be more concentrated.

Any transaction costs will be offset by the significant reduction in management fees.

The Pension Committee will undertake an asset allocation review as part of good governance to ensure the fund is invested in the right proportion across a number of asset classes to ensure it strikes the correct balance between risk and return to close the funding gap over the deficit recovery period.

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**CQ558-14**      **from Councillor Mario Creatura**

**Councillor Simon Hall**

In response to my last council question regarding your decision to fire of all equity managers, the pension advisor and co-opted members, I would like to ask why you didn't undertake a full assessment of the position of the fund before taking this costly decision.

**Reply**

At a meeting on the 10th of July, the Pension Committee decided to disinvest from its active equity managers due to poor performance. All three managers had failed to meet their performance targets since inception. Further, two of the three managers underperformed the benchmark since inception whilst charging active management fees. If the fund had been invested in passive equities over the same period, it would have incurred 1/3 of the management fees and obtained a higher return. Hence I cannot agree that this was a costly decision, but rather one that will result in lower management fees and a higher return.

In accordance with regulations the Committee has regularly reviewed the Fund's performance and carefully monitored fund managers' performance.

The Pension Committee has access to appropriate professional advice from the Fund's investment advisors and actuary. Going forward, there will be an emphasis on sound governance processes backed by professional advisors that operate within a regulated, statutory framework.

The role of co-optees is being reviewed corporately, including the Pensions Committee.

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**CQ560-14**      **from Councillor Jason Perry**

**Councillor Simon Hall**

Please detail which playing fields you intend to develop in Croham Ward?

**Reply**

Please see my reply to CQ508-14

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**CQ586-14            from Councillor Robert Canning**

**Councillor Simon Hall**

What steps are taken to ensure that bereaved families in Croydon do not receive correspondence from the Council addressed to the deceased?

**Reply**

Once the council is notified each service has its own internal process where accounts and future documents are amended reflecting that the customer has deceased. Such information is then shared across a number of services to make the process as easy as possible for the residents family.

An example of such a process is for council tax and business rates. Once they have been advised that a customer has passed away, the account name is updated to "The Executors of" the deceased and an indicator placed on the account so that they are not included in the usual recovery runs should the account be in arrears. An exemption is placed on the account from the date of death so that no further council tax or rates are due while the next of kin is contacted to confirm the current circumstances at the property.

All documents addressed in such a way as described for each of the services are returned to the council rather than being issued direct allowing for additional checks to take place.

Because the Revenues and Benefits processing system is generic, when a name is updated in Revenues or Benefits as described above, it is updated in both service areas. Whichever service area is notified that someone has passed away first will change the name into "The Executors of" and if a council tenant they will also advise Croydon landlord services.

The process for benefits is the claim is then automatically suspended or cancelled. The case is passed to a visiting officer who will make contact with either the partner of the deceased person, or the executors of the deceased person. Due to sensitivity the visiting officer will arrange to visit the partner/executor and either assist the partner to make a new claim in their own right, or provide an update of the suspended/cancelled claim to the executor.

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**CQ589-14**            **from Councillor Maddie Henson**

**Councillor Simon Hall**

What lessons can be learned from the PWC report on Tower Hamlets and can any correlations be made with any of the attempted sales by the previous administration?

**Reply**

The Council has a strong governance process for the disposal of all assets which ensures a set of process is followed and includes sign off by both Legal and Finance Departments. When entering into contracts, acquisitions or disposals, there is a sign-off by the relevant Cabinet Member and me or, where the relevant Cabinet Member is me, myself and the Leader. This then goes to the Public Cabinet meeting.

Any disposal will consider all elements of an offer, not just the financial consideration, but also the Council's ambitions and strategy, the bona fides of the potential purchaser and the potential purchaser's ability to meet their obligations.

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**CQ598-14**      **from Councillor Tim Pollard**

**Councillor Simon Hall**

In your asset Strategy 2014-2019 document you say "A number of school sites have very large playing fields and ancillary land that may be considered excessive for the number of students that attend the school. Where this may be the case the schools will be identified and opportunities considered for development of affordable housing". Where in Labour's pre-election manifesto did you warn the electorate that a vote for Labour was a vote for selling off school playing fields?

**Reply**

There are no plans to build on school playing fields. The asset strategy will look at all council property and assets, including the school estate, to identify any potential future opportunities. This work is currently at the review stage, however this administration has already made it clear that it will not sell or build on school playing fields.