



CROYDON COUNCIL MEETING: MONDAY 7 DECEMBER 2015
PUBLIC QUESTION TIME
WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

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

WE WOULD ASK THAT YOU COLLECT THE PRINTED QUESTIONS/RESPONSES AND THEN MOVE INTO ROOM F4 ON THE FIRST FLOOR, RATHER THAN GO STRAIGHT TO THE PUBLIC GALLERY. A MEMBER OF STAFF WILL REGISTER YOUR NAME WHEN YOU ARRIVE IN THE ROOM SHOULD YOU WISH TO ASK A SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION AND THEN ASK YOU TO PROCEED TO THE PUBLIC GALLERY.

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

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

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

Question Number	Question to Cabinet Member	Question From	Subject
PQ54-15	Cllr Hall	Mrs T Hague	Council contracts
PQ55-15	Cllr Collins	Mr S Khan	Waste sites
PQ56-15	Cllr Watson	Mr A Corline	Noise patrols
PQ57-15	Cllr Bee	Mrs S Santosh Expedith	Fiveways junction
PQ58-15	Cllr Hall	Mrs J Marshall	Mayoral number plate
PQ59-15	Cllr Hall	Mr P Collier	Section 106 monies

PQ60-15	Cllr Woodley	Mrs J Collier	Meals on Wheels
PQ61-15	Cllr Bee	Mr J Cope	CIL Money
PQ62-15	Cllr Bee	Dr J Ginn	20 mph
PQ63-15	Cllr Godfrey	Ms G Bush	Fairfield Halls
PQ64-15	Cllr Godfrey	Mr J Rogers	Fairfield Halls
PQ65-15	Cllr Hall	Mr S Samuel	Directly elected Mayor
PQ66-15	Cllr Watson	Mr C Weaving	Cyclists, skateboarders in North End
PQ67-15	Cllr Butler	Mr A Kennedy	College Green
PQ68-15	Cllr Bee	Mr R Pywell	Fiveways junction
PQ69-15	Cllr Collins	Mr A Stewart	New bins
PQ70-15	Cllr Godfrey	Mr R Skelly	Fairfield Halls
PQ71-15	Cllr Godfrey	Mr N Drain	Fairfield Halls
PQ72-15	Cllr Godfrey	Mr S Roche	Upper Norwood Library
PQ73-15	Cllr Newman	Mr S Creighton	Correspondence to Cabinet

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

From Mrs. Tracey Hague

Councillor Simon Hall

Cabinet Member for Finance and Treasury

Question No.

PQ054-15

Council contracts waste money binning resources from public projects. Cutting lampposts prevents heritage reuse. Is scrap income returned to the lamps' owner (the Council)? Architectural salvage generates more income. Plants could go to parks friends groups. East Croydon's railings could have been reused. Why is reuse not standard in all contracts?

Reply

Procurement decisions must comply with the Council's Green Commitment to promote environmental sustainability through its purchasing decisions and will involve an assessment of environmental impact to ensure that these are appropriately managed through the development and design of the contract. Issues which are considered include waste minimisation, resource efficiency (including water), reducing carbon emissions, improving environmental quality/biodiversity, and reducing/preventing pollution (including air pollution from vehicles). Dependent upon the nature of the contract, environmental requirements will be included within the specification and will form part of the assessment of tenders in terms of cost and quality. Environmental requirements will then be monitored throughout the contract term, including monitoring the waste management action proposed for each waste type, comprising re-use, recycling, recovery and disposal.

Within the Street Lighting PFI Contract we transfer ALL the street lighting infrastructure to Skanska. The street lighting stock within Croydon is reaching the end of its reasonable life and therefore the reason for replacing all of this stock within the first five years of the contract. Skanska's approach to dispose of these is recycling them. The contract is for 25 years and all expenditure relating to the core investment programme and operating costs for the duration of the contract are contained within the contract value.

When the Council has not otherwise specified, materials that are removed from site become the property for the construction company that is undertaking the work. When those materials have a residual value (eg steel, copper), contractors will take that into account when they price for the work. This means that the Council pays less than would be the case if it retained ownership of all material. In respect of the major works currently underway as part of the Connected Croydon programme, each location has been carefully assessed to maximise sustainability and

to minimise waste. How these objectives translate into action varies according to the works involved but examples are:

- Re-using excavated material to create the foundation for new footway
- Seating we replaced in North End being then installed in the borough's parks
- Recycling asphalt when we replace it with paving flags
- Giving planting that we removed from George Street to a volunteer group to replant elsewhere in the borough

From Mr Shasha Khan

Councillor Stuart Collins

Cabinet Member for Clean, Green Croydon

Question No.

PQ055-15

The Viridor landfill site at Beddington Farmlands has a license that ends in 2023. The South London Waste Partnership was formed to deal with its waste locally, within Croydon, Sutton, Kingston and Merton. Why therefore will all the SLWP waste, including Croydon's, be sent to a site near Heathrow?

Reply

As you would expect, Croydon and the South London Waste Partnership work to manage our waste as sustainably as possible. In the first instance this means that we reduce, reuse and recycle as much as possible. For waste that remains, landfill is the least sustainable option for disposal. While the local landfill option is available at Beddington Lane, the boroughs continue to deliver waste here and at the same time construction has started on the Beddington Lane Energy Recovery Facility. Through the Partnership's contract with Viridor, residual waste has consistently been diverted from landfill where possible and in 2014/15, 20% of the Partnership's waste went to the Lakeside ERF. The Partnership is exploring options for waste disposal for residual waste during the construction period for the ERF as, now that the facility will be completed later than initially anticipated, it may be necessary to have an alternative provision in place; this could include sending more waste to an alternative ERF for a brief period.

From Mr Alan Corline

Councillor Mark Watson

Cabinet Member for Communities, Safety & Justice

Question No.

PQ056-15

I have been informed that the night environmental noise patrols do not have access to enter the Council's own residential blocks, how can the council claim that they regulate their own blocks without this facility.

Surely this is prejudicial to private residencies whom they can speak to directly.

Reply

There is no difference in the service that residents in council or private accommodation receive. The Night Time Noise service responds to calls rather than proactively patrolling around the Borough. The Pollution Team do not have keys for any blocks of flats including council properties. In most cases the complainant lives in the block so they are able give us access when we are responding to a call and it is extremely rare that this is not the case. If the team were dealing with a persistent issue the team would aim to obtain a key but in most circumstances this is not necessary.

From Mrs. Sara Santosh Expedith

Councillor Kathy Bee

Cabinet Member for Transport & Environment

Question No.

PQ057-15

The results for the road modernisation scheme at Fiveways showed a mixed response. Why are the local residents' responses being diluted by other parties who will not be directly affected by the scheme and as a result TfL are promoting an overall favourable outcome?

Reply

The question picks up on something we are very aware of. The number of people travelling through the Fiveways junction on the A23 and A232, will be far greater than the numbers of people living close to the area of proposed improvement. I would expect those who drive through Fiveways and responded to the consultation to want whatever scheme makes their journey quicker and easier. Those living by the proposals probably have very different concerns. This is why we are pressing TfL to develop and deliver the second of the two proposals it consulted on. Whilst Proposal 2 is not predicted to perform quite as well as Proposal 1 in traffic terms, we believe it to be the better one for Waddon and its environment.

From Mrs Janet Marshall

Councillor Simon Hall

Cabinet Member for Treasury and Finance

Question No.

PQ058-15

Part of the Council economies has been to sell one of the Mayoral cars. This had the number plate 1VB. I understand for some years there has been interest in acquiring it. Was this valuable number plate sold with the vehicle or separately?

Reply

1 VB is still in the possession of the Council, even though we ended the lease of the car it was previously on and we are continuing to market it so as to get the best possible capital receipt.

From Mr Peter Collier

Councillor Simon Hall

Cabinet Member for Finance and Treasury

Question No.

PQ059-15

Concerning banked section 106 monies , please can you advise me how much this council has received so far and what does it expect to receive for the rest of the year, and what projects has it been used for, quoting how much each project and proposed projects are costing.

Reply

The Section 106 Balance Account at 15th November 2015 stands at £10.7m; a summary by theme is set out here (table 1).

It is difficult to accurately forecast future payments as S106 is collected based on the detailed wording of each specific planning agreement; since 2013 CIL has largely replaced S106 as a mechanism for infrastructure (capital) financing so income expectations will be lower than in previous years.

£4.28m has been allocated to projects between 2012 and 2015 as set out here (table 2). Funding will be allocated to new projects where they are considered to be in line with the specific requirements of the planning agreements and support delivery of the Council's capital programme / investment priorities.

This administration is committed to using this money for the purposes it was intended, for the benefit of the residents of the borough, rather than the previous administration's tendency to just accumulate the money.

Table 1

S106 held by the Council 15th November 2015

S106 on account by theme	Total £m
Housing	3.09
Sustainable transport	2.23
Recreational open space	1.65
Education	0.97
Health	0.79
Public realm improvements	0.45
S106 bus improvement contribution	0.33
Highways works	0.19
Vision 2020	0.18
Renewable energy contributions	0.15
Misc.	0.14
Management costs	0.11
Public art	0.09
Parking	0.08
East Croydon station	0.08
Environmental improvement	0.07
Footways and pedestrian environment	0.07
Tfl tramlink	0.06
Culture	0.04
Air quality	0.03
S106 equality programme	0.02
Wettern tree gdns - signage vandalism	0.02
Skyline project	0.01
Tree planting and maintenance	0.00
Libraries	0.13
Total	10.70

Table 2

S106 Approved Expenditure Tracker**July 2012 - September 2015**

Yr	Month	S106 Agreement Number	S106 Agreement Address	Project Name	S106 Purpose	Total Funding Approved
2015	September	04/03937/P	11 and Land R/O 9-33 Keston Avenue	Grange Park Play Facilities	Open Space	£7,586.35
2015	September	09/02708/P	Waddon Development Scheme	Waddon Ponds	Open Space	£10,900.00
2015	September	09/02856/P	Waddon Development Scheme	Waddon Ponds	Open Space	£52,438.00
2015	September	Various	Various	Connected Croydon - West Croydon Interchange	Skyline	£5,000.00
2015	September	Various	Various	Tollgate School Child Development Centre	Health	£743,528.67
2015	June	08/03318/P	The Cunningham Public Hse, 1 Parkway (Lidl, New Addington)	New Addington Public Realm Improvements - Phase 2	Open Space	£7,851.00
2015	June	08/03318/P	The Cunningham Public Hse, 1 Parkway (Lidl, New Addington)	New Addington Public Realm Improvements - Phase 2		£26,810.00
2015	June	08/03318/P	The Cunningham Public Hse, 1 Parkway (Lidl, New Addington)	New Addington Public Realm Improvements - Phase 2	Public Realm	£11,220.00
2015	June	10/02354/P	Hadleigh Garage, Marlpit Lane, Coulsdon	Real Time Countdown Bus Signs at 2 x Bus Stops	Sustainable Transport	£16,600.00
2015	June	07/01386/P	Impact House, 2 Edridge Road	Fairfield Forcourt Improvements	Public Realm	£11,751.46
2015	June	04/04685/P	Altitude 25	Fairfield Forcourt Improvements	Public Realm	£23,373.96
2015	June	11/00975/P	Philip House, 6 Lansdowne Road	Fairfield Forcourt Improvements	Public Realm	£19,200.00
2015	June	99/03033/P	Prudential House (Jury's Inn)	Fairfield Forcourt Improvements	Public Realm	£26,000.00
2015	June	07/01387/P	Altitude 25	Lennard Lodge	Affordable Housing	£308,050.00
2015	March	Various	Various	Connected Croydon	Sustainable Transport/Open Space	£630,470.41
2015	March	Various	Various	Connected Croydon	Croydon Metropolitan Centre/Vision 2020	£185,606.93
2015	March	Various	Various	Access to Wandle Park Project	Sustainable Transport	£137,850.00
2015	March	03/03111/P	2 Bedford Park	Connected Croydon - Wellesley Road	Highways	£20,000.00
2015	March	Various	Various	Children & Families - Libraries display & community space upgrade programme	Libraries	£17,354.09
2015	March	04/03575/P	Lenning House, 2 Masons Avenue	Connected Croydon	Environmental	£18,763.00

					Improvements	
2015	March	10/02957/P	Bedford House, 380 London Road	Biking Borough - East Croydon Cycle Hub	Sustainable Transport	£40,000.00
2015	March	Various	Various	Croydon Libraries Creative Hub	Libraries	£11,670.87
2015	January	04/04686/P	Bridge House	Air Quality Action Plan	Air Quality	£1,000.00
2015	January	04/04971/P	New Gate Roundabout	Air Quality Action Plan	Air Quality	£6,000.00
2014	November	10/00433/P	Former British Gas Site, Purley Way	Children & Families - Helping Up by Reaching Out	Libraries	£380.00
2014	November	09/02856/P	Former Propeller Public House	Children & Families - Helping Up by Reaching Out	Libraries	£2,503.00
2014	November	06/02105/P	City House, 450 London Road	Children & Families - Helping Up by Helping Out	Libraries	£5,300.00
2014	October	07/00346/P	14-40 Sanderstead Road	Wettern Tree Garden	Open Space	£25,900.00
2014	October	05/02200/P	1 Broomhall Road	Wettern Tree Garden	Open Space	£7,050.00
2014	October	06/01047/P	Beeches Nursery	Wettern Tree Garden	Open Space	£12,106.00
2014	October	08/01370/P	423-425 Streatham High Street	Norbury Park Pavillion & Greenspace Community Project	Open Space	£10,339.09
2014	October	09/02856/P	Waddon Development Scheme	Waddon Ponds	Open Space	£52,438.00
2014	October	09/02708/P	Waddon Development Scheme	Waddon Ponds	Open Space	£10,900.00
2014	October	05/04841/P	399-401 London Road	Norbury Park Pavillion & Greenspace Community Project	Open Space	
2014	October	05/00492/P	468-472 London Road	Norbury Park Pavillion Sports & Community Hall	Open Space	£11,800.00
2014	October	06/01556/P	187-195 London Road	Norbury Park BMX Track	Open Space	£99,000.00
2014	September	04/05091/P	16-22 Moreton Road	Park Hill Recreation Ground	Open Space	£7,820.00
2014	September	04/04685/P	Altitude 25	Park Hill Recreation Ground	Open Space	£14,885.00
2014	September	05/02968/P	40-42 Normanton Road	Park Hill Recreation Ground	Open Space	£14,400.00
2014	September	05/04827/P	3-5 Normanton Road	Park Hill Recreation Ground	Open Space	£16,887.00
2014	September	04/03937/P	Development at 11, and land R/O, 9-33 Keston Avenue	Grange Park Play Facilities	Open Space	£7,586.35
2014	September	06/00316/P	Philpots Yard, Epsom Road	Wandle Park	Open Space	£11,692.00
2014	July	07/01387/P	Altitude 25	Re-development of Lennard Lodge Affordable Housing	Affordable Housing	£333,300.00
2014	May	07/01387/P	Altitude 25	Park Hill Recreation Ground 'Toddler'Play Area	Open Space	£99,950.00
2014	March	10/02354/P	Hadleigh Garage, Marlpit Lane, Coulsdon	Coulsdon Bus Stops x 2	Sustainable Transport	£20,000.00
2014	March	09/01729/P	Cumberlow Lodge 24 Chalfont Rd, South Norwood	New Air Quality Monitoring Station (Norbury Manor School)	Air Quality	£10,023.77
2014	March	-	Park Place	Town Centre Contstruction Logistics Plan for	Project Management	£112,329.64

				Croydon		
2014	February	04/04686/P	Bridge House	Memorial Gardens	Open Space	£50,000.00
2013	December	04/02333/P	115 Sydenham Road	Little Road Children Playground	Open Space	£14,829.00
2013	December	09/02442/P	44-46 Sydenham Road, Croydon	Little Road Children Playground	Open Space	£10,900.00
2013	December	06/04420/P	54-60 Sydenham Rd & Tripod Hse, Lansdowne Road	Little Road Children Playground	Open Space	£50,000.00
2013	December	04/04971/P	10,112,128 Wellesley Ave, & H Wallace &co Ltd, 172 St James Road	Little Road Children Playground	Open Space	£30,000.00
2013	November	09/01729/P	Cumberlow Lodge 24 Chalfont Rd, South Norwood	Stanley Halls Essential Works	Community	£261,517.73
2013	October	05/5166/P	408 Downsview Road, SE19	Bigign Wood, Sport Facility Improvements	Recreational Open Space	£28,238.00
2013	October	04/0914/P	2-4 Parchmore Road	Whitehorse Meadow Entrance Improvements	Recreational Open Space	£10,000.00
2013	October	09/03444/P	1-9 South Norwood Hill, South Norwood, SE25 6AA	Whitehorse Meadow Entrance Improvements	Recreational Open Space	£6,500.00
2013	September	07/01386/P	Impact House, 2 Edridge Road	College Green Paving Project	Public Improvements	Realm £15,178.21
2013	September	99/03033/P	Jury's Inn - Vision 2020	College Green Paving Project	Public Improvements	Realm £26,000.00
2013	September	03/00311/P	Trafalgar House, 2 Bedford Park	College Green Paving Project	Public Improvements	Realm £20,234.41
2013	September	04/04685/P	Altitude 25	College Green Paving Project	Public Improvements	Realm £23,373.96
2013	September	11/00975/P	Philip House, 6 Lansdowne Road	College Green Paving Project	Public Improvements	Realm £19,200.00
2013	July	10/03778/P	277-281 Church Road	Church Road - Bus Stop Accessibility	Sustainable Transport	£6,500.00
2013	July	10/00898/P	9 Woodside Green	Woodside Green - Cycling	Sustainable Transport	£7,000.00
2013	July	05/02161/P	42-44 Brighton Road	Brighton Road Cycling Improvements at Junction with hailing park	Sustainable Transport	£9,400.00
2013	June	10/02407/P	New South Quarter, Purley Way	Wandle Park	Open Space	£27,000.00
2013	June	08/01594/P	51-59 Westow Street	Westow Street - Church Road Link	Sustainable Transport	£9,800.00
2013	April	06/01556/P	185-187 London Road	Wilford Road Recreation Ground	Open Space	£8,662.77
2013	April	08/03318/P	The Cunningham Public Hse, 1 Parkway (Lidl, New Addington)	Purchase of PM2.5's Analyser for an established air quality monitoring station.	Air Quality	£7,348.00
2013	April	04/03499/P	Queens Hospital, Queens Road	Purchase of PM2.5's Analyser for an established air quality monitoring station.	Air Quality	£12,600.00
2013	March	10/02354/P	Hadleigh, Marlpit Lane, Coulsdon, CR5 2HA	Coulsdon Memorial Ground	Open Space	£10,000.00
2013	January	05/04099/P	Land R/O 144-190 Harrington Road SE25	Norwood Junction Station Access Scheme	Sustainable Transport	£9,800.00

2012	December	05/04366/P	4A- 6 & R/O 8 Harewood Road	Lloyd Park Access Improvements	Open Space	£32,800.00
2012	December	06/02499/P	27-29 Imperial Way, Croydon	Apprenticeship Accord	Training	£6,400.00
2012	December	02/2701/P	76-78 Purley Way (Mercedes Showroom)	Connect 2	Highways Works	£51,528.60
2012	October	03/02116/P	Garage 111-115 Addiscombe Road	Addiscombe Recreation Ground Playground	Open Space	£59,690.00
2012	October	05/04699/P	291-293 Beaulah Hill, Upper Norwood, SE19	Westow Park	Open Space	£13,537.00
2012	October	03/00041/P	152-160 Thornton Road	Mayfield Road Playground	Open Space	£2,949.46
2012	October	06/01171/P	793-795 London Road	Mayfield Road Playground	Open Space	£3,007.33
2012	October	06/00456/P	Pavement Square, Lwr Addiscombe Rd & 19, 21 & 23 Teevan Rd, Croydon	Addiscombe Public realm Project	Highways	£30,400.98
2012	September	07/01387/P	Land Adj to Croydon Park Hotel, Altyre Road, Croydon.	East Croydon link Bridge	Sustainable Transport	£110,000.00
2012	August	04/02957/P	335 lower Addiscombe Road	Addiscombe Public Art	Public Arts	£22,500.00
2012	July	04/04685/P	Land Adj to Croydon Park Hotel, Altyre Road, Croydon.	Old Town Masterplan	Public Realm Improvements	£50,000.00
					TOTAL Allocation	£4,282,510.04

From Mrs Josie Collier

Councillor Louisa Woodley

Cabinet Member for Families, Health & Social Care

Question No.

PQ060-15

With the financial cuts taking place, within this Council, is the Meals on Wheels service safe from these cuts?

Reply

The council will continue to support the Meals on Wheels service which provides a valuable service to older and other vulnerable people. In light of the substantial budget pressures the council is facing (from Central Government) we will also need to review the charges to Meals on Wheels customers and the subsidy element of the cost of a meal.

From Mr Jonny Cope

Councillor Kathy Bee

Cabinet Member for Transport & Environment

Question No.

PQ061-15

The Ship on High Street SE25 is to be reopened as a pub with additional residential units and a much smaller pub. Can Councillor Bee outline the work that she has undertaken, both as Cabinet Member for Transport and local ward councillor, to address the matter of CIL money for public transport?

Reply

The Borough's community infrastructure levy (CIL) is collected to fund in whole, or in part infrastructure projects and types. The infrastructure projects and types that can be funded in full, or in part from CIL are included on the Council's regulation 123 list. The Council's current Regulation 123 list does not include sustainable transport (including public transport). Therefore, sustainable transport that is needed to mitigate the impact of a development is secured through a section 106 agreement associated to the planning consent. The development is a small one, retaining the pub use and providing 3 one bed flats and 2 two bed flats. Placing flats within the district centre ensures that the residents have a wide range of services within ready walking distance. With a development of this scale, it is difficult to demonstrate harm arising to public transport requiring mitigation via a S106 funding contribution. Such a funding requirement is generally found at much larger scale development.

From Ms Jay Ginn

Councillor Kathy Bee

Cabinet Member for Transport & Environment

Question No.

PQ062-15

Can we have an update on progress towards 20mph limits in Croydon zones? In particular when will S Croydon be surveyed?

Reply

The informal consultation on the 20mph speed limit for area 1 has now been completed and the Council is currently moving forward to the formal public notice stage. Any objections to the public notice and full details on the outcomes from the public consultation exercise will be reported to the Traffic Management Advisory Committee (TMAC) in February 2016.

Assuming this scheme is approved by TMAC, implementation of the 20mph speed limit for area 1 is programmed to take place during the early part of 2016.

Running in parallel, the Council will also be developing its plans for area 2 and I would hope that we will be consulting with local people in this area before the end of this financial year. Areas 3, 4 and 5 will follow in due course and all should have received their informal consultation by the end of 2018. South Croydon is in area 4 so informal consultation is likely to start in early 2017.

If Ms Ginn has any further queries about this matter she can contact Mike Barton, Highways Improvement Manager at mike.barton@croydon.gov.uk.

From Miss Gabriella Bush

Councillor Timothy Godfrey

Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure & Sport

Question No.

PQ063-15

The figure of an "extra £4.8 million" is being used as an excuse to close Fairfield Halls during refurbishment. Can it be explained how this figure was calculated?

Reply

Thank you for your question.

It is important to put this decision into context.

The council has had schemes for the last 10 years to refurbish the Fairfield Halls. Indeed the previous Conservative administration cancelled a full refurbishment 9 years ago that had been a key part of the then Labour administrations plans.

None of those schemes ever got funded or past the stage of pretty pictures. In this time, the Halls have deteriorated as a lack of basic maintenance and long term planning has adversely affected the building and the programme.

Following a piece of work by the multi-disciplinary team undertaking the design of the Fairfield Halls, which looked at phased and full closure of the Halls during the construction period, they advised that it would cost an additional £4.8m to undertake a phased approach. This is based on a £30m scheme and accounts for:

- A longer programme incurring significant additional costs around site set up costs, prelims, insurances, construction cost inflation and diseconomies of scale.
- Significant period of out of hours working in order to minimise impact on the operation which would incur additional cost.
- Providing temporary works especially mechanical and electrical related, in order to enable completion of the areas in a phased manner.

Fairfield (Croydon) Ltd would also require substantial revenue support throughout the period of refurbishment. This would be in addition to the £4.8m.

From Mr Jacob Rogers

Councillor Timothy Godfrey

Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure & Sport

Question No.

PQ064-15

Will you be issuing a public apology for the disgraceful way in which you, the 'Labour' party, have handled the human resources implications involved in closing Fairfield Halls?

Reply

Thank you for your question. The Cabinet paper and its recommendations deal with development related issues, not just for the Fairfield Halls but also the wider development. They do not relate to the management and operation of the building and meetings have taken place and will continue to take place between the Council and Fairfield (Croydon) Ltd in this regard.

This is why the report did not include any human resources impact at this stage. However, I do understand your concerns regarding the operation and the potential impact on jobs. Officers are working with Fairfield (Croydon) Ltd regarding business and transition planning.

I am confident that the £30m refurbishment in the buildings will secure the buildings future, and therefore future employment opportunities.

Given the history of the Councils inability to deliver the refurbishment of the Fairfield Halls, promised now for 10 years, I can understand how this new 'season of delivery' is taking people by surprise. As an administration we are ambitious for Culture, and we are setting a fast pace to make sure that we break the previous Conservative Councils record of doing nothing for 8 years apart from fine words.

From Mr Mark Samuel

Councillor Simon Hall

Cabinet Member for Finance & Treasury

Question No.

PQ065-15

Could the leader please outline the procedure by which Croydon electors can call for a referendum on a directly-elected mayor?

Reply

The detailed legislation on a referendum for a directly-elected mayor is the Local Authority (Referendums) (Petitions & Directions) (England) Regulations 2000.

The introduction of a directly elected mayor is a significant constitutional change and so a vote is held to give all voters in the area the chance to choose if they would want this to happen.

In order to call a referendum for a directly elected mayor, a petition must be compiled which is signed by 5% of the number of local government electors that are shown in the current Register of Electors. This 5% figure is called the 'verification figure' and is published annually as a formal notice.

This notice appears at Croydon Council's electoral services web-pages and can be found at: <https://www.croydon.gov.uk/democracy/dande/elections/petitions>

In accordance with Regulation 4(1) of the above regulations the number that is equal to 5% of the number of local government electors shown in the revised register of electors having effect on the 15th February 2015 is: **12527**

This figure will have effect for the purposes of determining the validity of Petitions presented from 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016.

From Mr Colin Weaving

Councillor Mark Watson

Cabinet Member for Communities, Safety & Justice

Question No.

PQ066-15

What do the council intend to do about reckless cycling, skateboarding and scootering in North End, Croydon, during busy periods?

Reply

The council are currently in the process of considering a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) to be implemented in the Town Centre and surrounding areas which may well address these types of behaviours. Part of the process includes a public consultation exercise which must run for a minimum of 6 weeks and as this has not commenced yet we are not able to confirm what the outcome may be.

Any decision taken by the council and/or the police would have to be supported with evidence that this behaviour is detrimental to people's quality of life. At present neither the police nor the council have enough evidence to suggest that it is. Furthermore in a recent engagement exercise only 4 out of 238 residents identified careless and inconsiderate cycling as a behaviour they would like to see included in the proposed PSPO.

We would recommend the public engage in the PSPO consultation process to ensure their views are heard and also report any incidents they see them either to the police or the council as anti-social behaviour and we will publicising the consultation widely when it goes live in the next few weeks.

From Mr A.J Kennedy

Councillor Alison Butler

**Cabinet Member for Homes, Regeneration & Planning
Question No.**

PQ067-15

College Green is designated Local Green Space in the draft Local Plan. What area of College Green is to be built on by Croydon College and has Council been involved in a needs assessment and comparison of other locations which might afford greater space for future expansion of the College?

Reply

The existing Saved UDP Local Open Land provision on College Green comprises 5,750sqm. The draft Local Plan (consultation concludes on 18th December) identifies College Green as a possible Local Green Space. The emerging Local Plan is anticipated to be adopted in late 2017 and should the designation be carried forward, it would not receive full development plan weight until this stage.

The College Green and Fairfield Halls scheme is currently at pre-application and was presented to Croydon's Planning Committee in July and November of this year, to provide an update on progress. One of the principle aims of the scheme is to improve the quality of the College Green space so as to create a destination for people to come to and enjoy. The emerging scheme proposes a high quality reconfigured multi-functional area comprising raised green with trees, hard public realm, sculptural timber decking that could be used for outdoor shows and lighting and new seating. The current proposals also propose the area be surrounded by active frontages looking onto the Green.

The emerging proposal is to reconfigure the existing Green to compensate for the losses that would result from the above development by extending the Green to

- (a) the north, once the Fairfield Campus building is demolished (effectively making use of space which is currently a void between the basement car park and the building),
- (b) to the west towards Park Lane and
- (c) to the south to Barclay Road, between the proposed new College buildings and proposed new housing, with this part of the space also providing a pedestrian/cycle route.

Whilst the scheme is subject to change as it is still in the pre application stage, subject to planning, this proposal would result in a space that would comprise approximately 6,345sqm (a net gain of approximately 595sqm).

The Council have been working with Croydon College on the best location for their new College building and the aspiration is to continue to have a town centre presence on the existing College Green location. The building will be designed to meet their future requirements.

From Mr Richard Pywell

Councillor Kathy Bee

**Cabinet Member for Transport & Environment
Question No.**

PQ068-15

As fewer than 6% of existing bus movements through Fiveways junctions could use the proposed flyover/widened Epsom Road, how can the proposals comply with the Council's own Strategic Policy SP8.3 in the Croydon Local Plan which requires it to plan development to obtain the fullest use of public transport?

Reply

The part of the policy referred to relates to focusing new development in areas with higher public transport accessibility levels. This is something we are actively and successfully doing, particularly in attracting new development to the highly accessible Croydon town centre.

Whilst the Fiveways project is not principally a public transport project, it is predicted to deliver considerable bus journey time benefits. We are also working with TfL looking at how the walk across Fiveways to and between bus stops might be improved, and to encourage Network Rail to make parallel improvements to Waddon Station.

We are working with partners on public transport projects much larger than the Fiveways scheme, in particular with Network Rail on its proposals for a new and larger East Croydon Station with much improved capacity on the Brighton Mainline as it passes through the Station

From Mr Alasdair Stewart

Councillor Stuart Collins

Cabinet Member for Clean, Green Croydon

Question No.

PQ069-15

"EIGHTY NEW DUAL BINS INTRODUCED TO CRACK DOWN ON LITTER" - Why are all of the bins in the north of the borough and the south neglected? Are south Croydon taxpayers paying for northern benefits - first with Coulsdon Calat, now bins?

Reply

The issue of placing resources where they are needed most is not a north v south issue, some of these dual bins have been issued in Portland road which is in the Croydon Central constituency.

As a result of the central government budget cuts and to help the council to reduce the costs of running some front line service, officers and I as cabinet member have been working on transforming our services to become more efficient and prioritising and providing services to where they are most needed.

The new dual recycling/landfill bins are designed to assist where residents living in flats above shops have no access to either recycling bins or a landfill storage area, and extra dual bins have been put out and continue to be installed following an assessment. This is not limited to the north of the borough more recently ward councillors in Sanderstead and Coulsdon have requested these bins and officers are reviewing each location for suitability.

If there are locations in the south of the borough you believe could benefit from these dual use bins please let me know and I will arrange for officers to assess. Please remember there needs to be a problem there and all areas with these bins are kept under review to see if they are resolving the issue.

Following central government's recent announcement that it is to cut more than £600,000 from Croydon's budget for the CALAT service, the council has been forced to make some tough decisions about the proposal to close the Coulsdon Calat centre.

Again the issue remains that Central Government make cuts and have attempted to pass the blame onto local Councils rather than admit these cuts are of their making .

From Mr Ryan Skelly

Councillor Timothy Godfrey

Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure & Sport

Question No.

PQ070-15

Fairfield has been nurturing young talent with various apprenticeship schemes, including involvement in a new apprenticeship trailblazer to create a new technical theatre apprenticeship standard, if forced to close this will be lost for two years. Will any new operator be required to commit to continuing such schemes on reopening?

Reply

Thank you for your question. We are working with Fairfield (Croydon) Ltd on a transition plan for the organisation. I would expect Fairfield (Croydon) Ltd to continue to use apprentices in the future, as they have shown significant value to the organisation as you have outlined.

The Council is committed to ensuring that young talent is nurtured in the borough and we encourage businesses and employers to run apprenticeship schemes and work programmes to ensure this happens. We also use our own commissioning strategies and procurement processes to ask organisations to commit to these types of schemes to attract and keep local talent and young people in jobs created as part of the process.

We run a highly regarded volunteering programme at the Museum of Croydon and we will also be employing apprentices in the next financial year.

From Mr Nicky Drain

Councillor Timothy Godfrey

Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure & Sport

Question No.

PQ071-15

If the council intends to ignore advice from industry experts that a phased refurb is best, will it accept responsibility for costs incurred by the forced closing of the charity/venue, including staff redundancies, equipment removal/storage, losses in lead-up to closure, cost of re-opening from scratch etc?

Reply

It is important to put this decision into context.

The council has had schemes for the last 10 years to refurbish the Fairfield Halls. Indeed the previous Conservative administration cancelled a full refurbishment 9 years ago that had been a key part of the then Labour administrations plans.

None of those schemes ever got funded or past the stage of pretty pictures. In this time, the Halls have deteriorated as a lack of basic maintenance and long term planning has adversely affected the building and the programme.

I would like to reassure you that this is not a decision we have taken lightly. The building is in real need of investment, however the Council needs to make a number of tough decisions over the coming years and the wider College Green and Fairfield development offers an opportunity to invest in the Fairfield Halls to a level that will ensure the survival of the building into the future. The option of closing the building, which we are recommending, is the most cost effective for the construction and development to ensure we get a building that can survive in the future.

We have worked with the multi-disciplinary team working on the planning application for the scheme. They have advised that a phased closure cost of circa £4.8m including:

- A longer programme incurring significant additional costs around site set up costs, prelims, insurances, construction cost inflation and diseconomies of scale.
- Significant period of out of hours working in order to minimise impact on the operation which would incur additional cost.
- Providing temporary works especially mechanical and electrical related, in order to enable completion of the areas in a phased manner.

A phased approach has a number of key risks including:

- A phased approach would take longer, potentially adding at least a year to the

construction programme (from c24 months to c36 months). This additional time has a cost implication.

- Working in phases adds a significant degree of complexity to both the works themselves and the associated contractual arrangements. This is likely to limit the number of contractors willing to bid for this work and creates a significant procurement risk.
- Delivering major construction works within a publicly accessible building creates risks around safety.
- Delivering major construction works within a working cultural building creates risks around customer experience which could lead to negative public and performer perceptions of the building.

The Council has been and will continue to work with Fairfield (Croydon) Ltd regarding business and transition planning including staffing and equipment related issues. There is no need for the Charity to close.

We are also working with them and other partners including Boxpark on a programme of activity over the 2 year closure period to ensure there is continuity in cultural programming and offer in the borough. This includes bringing Croydon Clocktower back into use as a cultural venue and building on the successful Ambition Festival which was held in July 2015. We are confident that with the right offer and programme and beyond over the next 2 years, we can re-open the venue with to attract both existing and new audiences.

From Mr Scott Roche

Councillor Timothy Godfrey

Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure & Sport

Question No.

PQ072-15

My family have lived in Crystal Palace since the 1880s; the Upper Norwood Library has been a vital part of our community throughout this time. Why after the original pledge of saving this wonderful library and matching the conservatives commitment, have now withdrawn their financial pledge, and putting the library under threat of closure!

Reply

Mr Roche has clearly misunderstood some of the facts on this matter.

The Croydon Labour Manifesto promised to 'match fund' Lambeth Council in our 2014 manifesto. We have kept that promised.

It was the previous Conservative administration that worked to dismantle the relationship with Lambeth Council regarding the Library.

What Croydon and Lambeth Council are reacting to is the instruction from the Conservative Government to cut our Library budgets, along with every other budget in the council.

This is what we have been trying to do, at the same time as mitigating the impact on the front line Service.

Both councils are working closely with the Upper Norwood Library Trust to make their community based plans work. This will enable a library service to continue from the building.

The Upper Norwood Joint Library has served a community across 5 London boroughs for 115 years. At present Croydon and Lambeth provide equal funding to run the library service.

In addition to the neighbourhood library Lambeth has proposed that the building be made available for alternative community use. We are in discussion with Lambeth about how this would work, but in principle support the concept. The Upper Norwood Joint Library Trust has been developing a varied programme of activities in the building to test how a sustainable model of community use could be put in place. The outcome of their work will inform the decisions about how the building can be used by

the community in the future.

I regret the Conservative Governments requirement that we cut our budgets and ask that all residents to support initiatives including the Upper Norwood Library Trust to ensure we keep a valued service and a valued building in the service of the local community

From Mr Sean Creighton

Councillor Tony Newman

Leader of the Council

Question No.

PQ073-15

When will replies be sent to letters and emails to you, some of your Cabinet colleagues and to Councillors re-Cabinet and Committee business, the details of which have been supplied to you?

Reply

Thank you for your question and the emails that you have also sent through. As you are aware, there is quite a lot of information requested in your correspondence which will take some time to collate. This is being actioned and a full response will be sent to you in due course.