

## QUESTIONS FOR CABINET MEMBERS

Question Number	Question asked by Councillor:	Subject
<b>CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES, SAFETY AND JUSTICE</b> <b>Councillor Hamida Ali</b>		
CQ071-18	Creatura, M	CCTV Cameras
<b>CABINET MEMBER FOR HOMES, REGENERATION AND PLANNING</b> <b>Councillor Alison Butler</b>		
CQ049-18	Quadir, B	Council Homes
<b>CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND TREASURY</b> <b>Councillor Simon Hall</b>		
CQ067-18	Pelling, A	Budget Management

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**from Councillor Mario Creatura**

**Councillor Hamida Ali**

**Question No. CQ071-18**

The Croydon Advertiser on 20th April revealed that only 91 CCTV cameras are operating in Croydon - the fourth lowest in London.

As London's most populated borough, we have 120,000 more residents than Hackney but 2,809 fewer cameras.

What is the administration's policy on the introduction of new CCTV cameras? How many CCTV cameras does it feel is appropriate to keep our town safe? Does it believe they will aid police and Council officers in keeping our residents safe?'

**Reply**

Croydon's CCTV network provides significant coverage of the town centre and other high footfall and high traffic areas in the borough with over 98 fixed public CCTV cameras across the borough including TfL cameras (although this number doesn't include those in our housing estates).

Moreover, Croydon Council still provides a monitoring service around the clock in our control centre— which is not the case in other London boroughs some of which have long since cut this provision – for example Brent where there are periods in the day where there are no staff present. Our control room has a police radio and the local police have access to images from the cameras so we can quickly notify them if there's an incident.

The article in the Croydon Advertiser didn't compare like with like. According to Hackney Council's website, the actual number of public CCTV cameras in Hackney is a much smaller number than reported - 320. The larger number quoted includes cameras in their housing estates and other locations which the CCTV team is contracted to manage on behalf of other organisations.

It wouldn't be possible – or proportionate – to install CCTV in every street. The Council is required by law to consider very carefully the

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privacy implications of introducing new cameras. We have to act in accordance with the Surveillance Camera Commissioner's statutory code of practice which requires privacy impact assessments to be completed which set out how we have balanced the need for surveillance with the impact on people's privacy.

This administration has added 10 new redeployable cameras to our stock CCTV in Croydon. These cameras can be moved around the borough and so can respond to changing crime patterns and community safety concerns. They are currently deployed to areas including Green Lane, Shrublands the town centre and West Croydon.

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### **CQ049-18 from Councillor Badsha Quadir**

#### **Councillor Alison Butler**

We will provide new council homes and seek to replace the worst of the borough's housing stock'. Other than the projects started under Cllr Mead's tenure, how many council houses have you commissioned and completed and how many unfit homes replaced?

#### **Reply**

Thank you for your enquiry regarding the provision of new council homes and the replacement of the worst housing stock.

To date, eighty two new council owned Housing Revenue Account (HRA) properties have been built since 2014. In addition, the council has continually maintained the council owned HRA properties at above 99% decency against the government's Decent Homes standard to avoid properties becoming unfit and requiring replacement. No properties have been sold because they are unfit, and we have a programme of major works to ensure this does not happen. We have also brought 379 long-term empty properties back into use. The council has also to date completed the purchase of 16 temporary accommodation properties out of a 250 property purchase scheme approved by Cabinet in July 2017. The council has acquired long term leases on 3 blocks of flats (Concord, Sycamore and Windsor House) which provide a total of 338 units of self-contained accommodation. The ownership of these block convert to the council at the end of the leases.

Given our constant requests to government to raise the borrowing cap on the HRA in order that the council can build new homes, has fallen on deaf ears, we have had to be proactive in the setting up of Brick by Brick to ensure there are new affordable homes for Croydon people. Brick by Brick's Affordable Rent numbers are shown below:

	Shared Ownership Homes	Affordable Rent Homes	Total
Brick by Brick sites with planning approval	277	101	378
Brick by Brick sites in planning	104	48	152

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**from Councillor Andrew Pelling**

**Councillor Simon Hall**

**Question No. CQ067-18**

The Leader has kindly provided an answer to my council question that sets out the 72 top achievements of this Labour council.

None of these achievements would have been possible without the solid foundation of a well-managed budget.

How has it been possible to manage a prudent budget year in year out whilst delivering so well for Croydon?

### **Reply**

Managing a prudent budget whilst delivering for Croydon has not been an easy task and is down to the hard work of officer, members and partners.

In the 4 years of this administration we have undertaken a number of difficult decisions to manage the budget, including increasing Council tax and applying the Adult Social Care Levy.

We have made budget savings of over £72m and invested £45m in priority areas including Adult Social Care, Children's social care, waste management and housing.

We have invested in the capital programme to deliver new schools, leisure facilities, housing and improvements to the public realm and highways.