



Leader of the Council Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Tony Newman December 2019

News

Third Anniversary of the Croydon Tram Incident

The third year anniversary of the Croydon tram incident at New Addington took place on the 9th November. Myself, The Mayor of Croydon, Council Officers and many members of the community came together to stand with the families of those who died, those who were on the tram who continue to recover from their experience and everyone so sadly affected by this tragic incident. We shared a minute's silence before laying flowers and taking time to remember and reflect.



Three years on, the dreadful morning of the 9th of November is so deeply felt by so many; the Council will continue to stand in solidarity with the families and survivors, particularly through the upcoming inquests which are now being planned for by the Coroner and follows the Crown Prosecution Service charging decision published on the 31st October.

Equalities – rising to the challenge!

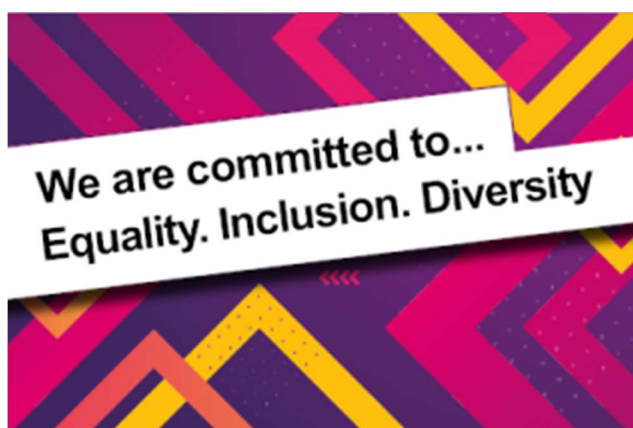
The Council took part in the LGA's Equality Framework for Local Government (EFLG) peer review to demonstrate that equalities and inclusion really are at the heart of how we do our jobs and deliver services.

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The EFLG is an important performance improvement and benchmarking tool that local authorities in England use to map their organisation's practice in terms of equality and inclusion and is an opportunity to examine whether our policies, processes and leadership are developing better equality and inclusion outcomes for our staff, residents and communities.



We're very happy to announce that, following last week's three day visit by the peer review challenge team and a formal assessment, the feedback was very positive and all the signs are indicating that we are on track to be awarded '**Achieving Level**' – the level at which we agreed to be assessed.

UASC Underfunding/ Cross Party Lobbying

The Council continues to lobby government with local cross-party support for the shortfall in funding for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. Last year Croydon had to make up a £10m shortfall, with a further £9m expected this year, to ensure these children are properly supported.

This position has now become an unsustainable and government has a responsibility to help. As part of our lobbying we have started to work with colleagues from Westminster, Camden and Hillingdon who are experiencing similar financial pressures from UASC under funding.



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Croydon in ambitious bid to boost late-night economy

It was great to welcome Amy Lamé back to Croydon as a special guest at Croydon Council's Cabinet meeting in November. Croydon's plans to boost its late night economy were praised by London Night Czar Amy Lamé whose role is to champion London's nightlife and ensure the capital thrives as a 24-hour city, Amy Lamé told members she hoped to see other boroughs follow in Croydon's footsteps

Our night-time economy is changing and developing, with the revival of our live music scene and increasing numbers of new venues and events coming to the borough. We want to nurture this, and build on it as our town centre regenerates and grows, working with all our local partners to ensure Croydon is the destination for South London and an exciting, safe and attractive place to visit at night"



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Croydon / Sussex innovation centre visit

On Thursday 14th November I was pleased to be able to visit the Sussex Innovation Centre and meet some of our exciting enterprising Tech businesses.

Located in the iconic No.1 Croydon opposite East Croydon Station, Sussex Innovation Centre are a business incubation network, who support entrepreneurs, start-ups and scale-ups across Croydon. Their business community is comprised of ambitious companies who are innovators in their field - solving important problems in new ways.



The companies I visited were delivering enterprising innovation that focused on parking solutions, to employment and education. A mixed community that were passionate about their companies and were keen to grow their business in Croydon an inspirational group that showed how Croydon is developing a vibrant tech community.

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If you are interested in knowing more about the support business support and employment opportunities offered in our borough why not talk to our Economic Growth Team who are always happy to help (carol.squires@croydon.gov.uk).

Sustainable Croydon

After a unanimous decision, Croydon declared a Climate and Ecological Emergency at July Council. As a result of this, we're taking action to ensure that sustainability is at the heart of everything we do which includes a Citizen's Assembly on Climate Change and a Commission aimed at making Croydon a sustainable city.

A citizens' assembly is a group of people who are brought together to discuss an issue or issues and reach a conclusion about what they think should happen. Using this method would ensure that the actions the Council takes in regards to climate change would be heavily influenced by the voice of residents. The outcome of the Citizen's Assembly will be both reported to a future Cabinet and help inform the work of the commission.

The Citizen's Assembly sessions will be taking place in the January – February 2020.

A report to Cabinet in the New Year will detail the independent commission announced at previous Council meetings. It will provide information on the Terms of Reference for how the Sustainable Croydon Commission will aim to tackle making Croydon a more sustainable place and who the commissioners will be. This method will be supported by the New Economics Foundation, independent advisors that have experience in this subject area, to ensure that the commission is independent and appropriately supported to fulfil its purpose.

By giving evidence to the commission, young people, residents, voluntary and community sector organisations and businesses will have the opportunity to directly affect the recommendations to Council on what actions to take.

As we continue to work towards a more sustainable future, we recognise that the task ahead is monumental and requires the whole borough to work together as a community to bring about lasting change. I'm proud to say that we are taking action on such an important matter by ensuring that local residents, businesses and young people will be a part of the journey every step of the way.

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Leader's Diary

Savvy Theatre Opening – Fairfield's

Mayors Diwali Event

Welcoming Talawa Theatre to Croydon

10th Develop Croydon Conference

Croydon Council Staff Awards

London Councils Leaders Committee

LGA finance & Resourcing Board

Meeting with Borough Commander

Economic Development Conference

Business Network Launch – Boxpark

Meeting with the New Economic Foundation

Cllr Tony Newman

Leader of the Council