



Leader of the Council Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Tony Newman July 2020

LATEST NEWS

Croydon Council Covid-19 Response

Over the past four months we have been through unprecedented times and I am proud of how Croydon Council staff, elected members, Croydon NHS, the Voluntary Sector and all our other partners have responded to the Pandemic. Together we have ensured that Croydon's most vulnerable residents, businesses and communities have been supported through these difficult times.

However it remains important that we remember all those that have lost their lives due to the pandemic and our thoughts remain with families who have lost loved ones.



Croydon has faced significant pressure, both in terms of the new demands placed on our services and financial pressures.

The Council's Cabinet has been meeting informally on a daily basis throughout the pandemic and Cabinet Members continue to work closely with officers to inform the Council's recovery plan for the future.

The LSP has met on a weekly basis, using technology to support virtual meetings. These meetings have provided an excellent opportunity for all partners to receive the latest updates, ask questions and coordinate actions.

Like other local authorities across the country Croydon has spent millions on supporting our community through Covid-19 – from swiftly setting up hubs to deliver food and essential supplies to thousands, to providing welfare support to many, many more.

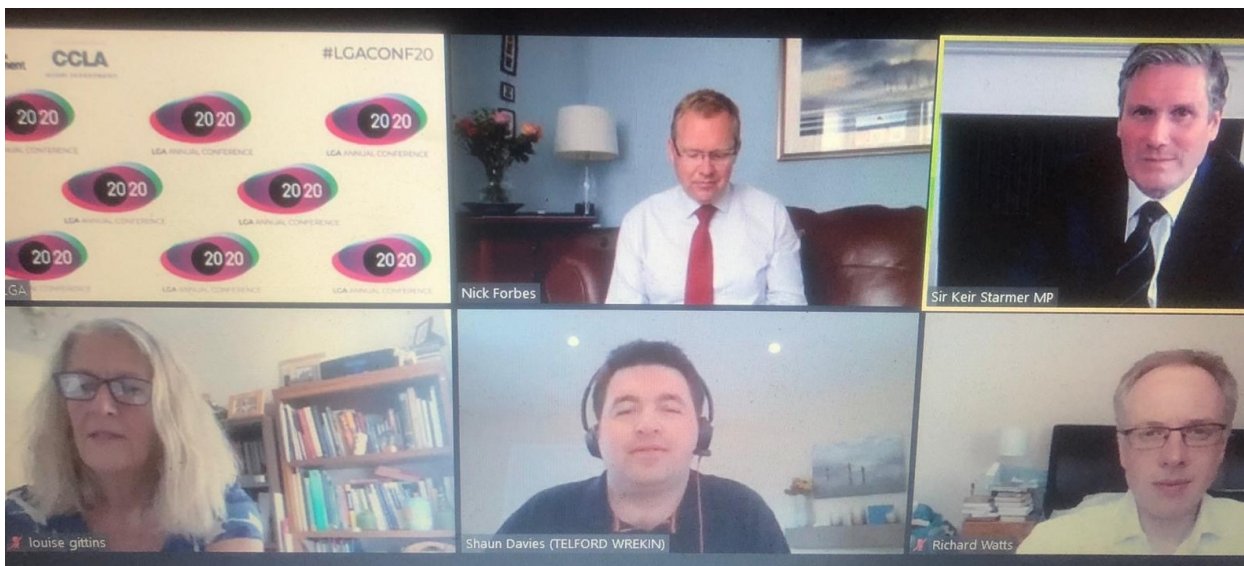
AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON



Leader of the Council Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Tony Newman July 2020

Yet despite assurances from the Government at the start of this pandemic, that we would be fairly funded for this work, to date councils have only received a fraction of what they have spent. We have been tirelessly lobbying central government by writing to Ministers, meeting with the Mayor of London and attending cross party meetings with other boroughs through the LGA and London Councils.

We are also working closely with the newly appointed Leader of the Opposition, Sir Kier Starmer, and have already begun meeting with him to work on issues that are being faced nationally through this crisis.



More positively Central Government has announced that Croydon Council is to receive an additional £4m on top of the council's existing funding for UASC. With support from cross-party colleagues, the council has pushed the government for fairer funding for our UASC for a number of years.



Leader of the Council Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Tony Newman July 2020

Black Lives Matter

Here in Croydon we have rightly stood in solidarity with our black community and have been lighting up our Town Hall in purple at night in remembrance of George Floyd.

Black Lives Matter. Words and expressions of solidarity matter, but what matters most are actions and recognising the need for change.

Croydon is one of London's most diverse boroughs and that is something we have always celebrated and are all proud of. At times of crisis we have always stood together. That is as important now as it's ever been.

But we need to be clear - all political parties in Croydon need to up their game so that we see a greater elected representation from all our black and minority ethnic communities.





Leader of the Council Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Tony Newman July 2020

Windrush

On Monday 22nd June outside the town hall we raised Croydon's specially-commissioned flag to celebrate the borough's Windrush community, their descendants and the diversity that British Commonwealth citizens bring to the borough. We are proud to celebrate this special day, which remembers the arrival of migrants from the Caribbean who helped rebuild post-war Britain over 70 years ago, and honours the modern-day communities in Croydon who are their incredible legacy.





Leader of the Council Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Tony Newman July 2020

Global Pride

On Friday 26 June the rainbow flag was raised to take part in Global Pride, an international celebration that brings the LGBT community together across the world. We've been very active in celebrating Pride in recent years, and while Covid-19 prevents us from hosting PrideFest this year, marking this celebration and a show of equality and diversity remains incredibly important.





Leader of the Council Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Tony Newman July 2020

NHS Flag Raising

Sunday the 5th July marks the 72nd Anniversary of the NHS.

Saturday 4th July, the day before the birthday, will be a moment of remembrance and reflection for those we have lost during the pandemic. This is a chance for the nation to come together and pay our respects. Croydon Town Hall will be lit up blue and flying the NHS flag to mark the occasion.



I am sure that everyone across the borough we agree that this is a more important time than ever to celebrate our National Health Service - **We are so proud of our team here in Croydon, who have all given everything they've got for our community.**





Leader of the Council Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Tony Newman July 2020

A Truly Sustainable Croydon

It has been a long standing ambition for Croydon to be a truly sustainable borough and I'm pleased with work we're doing and progress we're making on this with the launch of the Croydon Climate Crisis Commission and Sustainable Economic Renewal Board being just two of this ongoing programme of work in spite of the Covid-19 outbreak.

After a unanimous decision at July Cabinet 2019, Croydon declared a Climate and Ecological Emergency. Working with the Campaign Company and the New Economics Foundation respectively, the Council has held a Citizen's Assembly on Climate Change and launched the Croydon Climate Crisis Commission to make Croydon carbon neutral by 2030.

On the 12th March 2020, I was delighted to attend the launch of the commission with climate change action groups, residents, pupils and businesses attending Croydon College to hear from Miatta Fahnbulleh, CEO of New Economics Foundation, who was appointed as the commission's independent chair at the beginning of this year. She was joined by myself with speakers Caireen Mitchell, principal of Croydon College, and Lucy Hill, from Croydon's newly-established Citizens' Assembly.

Launched at the start of the year, the Citizens' Assembly was a representative group of 40 people from across the borough brought in to make independent recommendations on the climate crisis to make Croydon more sustainable. The Commission will be picking up the recommendations from the Citizens' Assembly, driving practical 'decarbonisation' action, and providing independent scrutiny to ensure Croydon reaches its goal of becoming a carbon neutral borough by 2030.

The Sustainable Economic Renewal Board held its first meeting this month uniting the public, private and voluntary sector at a local and regional level to drive the borough's post-Covid economic revival and ensure a fairer, sustainable future with strong partnership working to care for and protect our most vulnerable, and support residents and businesses in their time of need.

Stakeholders for this board include the Greater London Authority (GLA), Coast to Capital Local Economic Partnership, Croydon Health Services NHS Trust, Croydon Business Improvement District (BID), London South bank University, Croydon BME Forum and a major developer and contractor.

Together we will be co-ordinating plans for the sustainable revival of the borough's economy, business and employment; housing; planning and development; regeneration, social infrastructure and culture; travel and transport; community safety; and third sector and volunteering.

AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON



Leader of the Council Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Tony Newman July 2020

Supporting local business has been a priority throughout the pandemic, the council has administered government grants to more than 4,000, while providing essential advice and guidance to help them build resilience and deliver their services in new ways.

And as lockdown restrictions eased, planning was already underway to begin to support the reopening of the town and district centres and to begin to revive the local economy safely, with new measures to help residents and visitors follow social distancing.

This board aims to build on this co-ordinated partnership work as it develops Croydon's strategic approach to the long-term impact of the pandemic and the needs of the community, particularly those who have been hardest hit by the crisis.

The consequences of Covid-19 will be far-reaching and long-term for communities across the country – it has exacerbated every existing inequality, from health to housing need. We will need to continue to work with our partners to support our residents and ensure Croydon recovers in a sustainable way.