

## QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS

Question Number	Question asked by Councillor:	Subject
<b>LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</b> Councillor Tony Newman		
CQ083-17	Thomas, P	Ofsted Report
<b>CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND LEARNING</b> Councillor Alisa Flemming		
CQ082-17	Thomas, P	Ofsted Report
<b>CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE AND SPORT</b> Councillor Timothy Godfrey		
CQ079-17	Pollard, H	Ashburton Library
<b>CABINET MEMBER FOR ECONOMY AND JOBS</b> Councillor Mark Watson		
CQ085-17	Creatura, M	Uber

---

**CQ083-17            from Councillor Phil Thomas**

**Councillor Tony Newman**

In this weeks interview on the Radio you admitted that you did not have a clue what was happening in Childrens Services and that Officers had hidden things from you? Why have you not resigned as you are clearly not up to the job?

Was the Chief Executive one of the Officers who hid things from you? When there is a problem Cllr Newman you always blame someone else to try to cover your back. Do the honourable thing and resign?

**Reply**

Councillor Alisa Flemming and I are committed to improving Croydon's children services. We have an improvement board in place and have the absolute determination to bring about positive and sustainable change.

---

**CQ082-17            from Councillor Phil Thomas**

**Councillor Alisa Flemming**

After this weeks Ofsted report was published why have you not resigned as you are not clearly up to the job of being responsible for young people in the Councils care?

**Reply**

I am committed to providing leadership to the vital improvement work we need to do for children and young people in Croydon.

---

**CQ079-17            from Councillor Helen Pollard**

**Councillor Timothy Godfrey**

- Can you tell me when the renovation work on Ashburton Library building will be completed?
- Will the promised community space and education base open as planned at the start of the Autumn Term in early September?
- I understand that Nisai, who had the contract for running the centre have pulled out? How will the services for young people and adult training courses be provided going forward?
- When will the café be open to the public?
- If the centre does not open in September, there will be a consequent loss of provision for young people and adult learners. How will these groups receive the services that would have been provided at Ashburton Library?

## **Reply**

**Can you tell me when the renovation work on Ashburton Library building will be completed?**

The renovation work to the former library building is complete. The construction works for the extension are scheduled to be complete in November 2017.

**Will the promised community space and education base open as planned at the start of the Autumn Term in early September?**

The refurbished former library is scheduled to open ahead of the extension later in 2017.

**I understand that Nisai, who had the contract for running the centre have pulled out? How will the services for young people and adult training courses be provided going forward?**

Nisai have withdrawn from the process by mutual agreement. This was a new rather than replacement service that had not yet secured clients and will not be provided elsewhere.

**When will the café be open to the public?**

The café is housed within the former library extension and it is anticipated that it will be open later in 2017, post construction.

**If the centre does not open in September, there will be a consequent loss of provision for young people and adult learners. How will these groups receive the services that would have been provided at Ashburton Library?**

There will be no loss of provision for young people and adults. This was a new rather than replacement service that had not yet secured clients. It will not be provided elsewhere.

---

**CQ085-17**      **from Councillor Mario Creatura**

**Councillor Mark Watson**

On 22nd September the Mayor of London chaired a committee that revoked the license of Uber in London.

Across the city this has sacked 40,000 drivers and will prevent 3.5 million Londoners from taking journeys.

Can the Cabinet Member please answer the following questions:

1. How many Uber drivers are working in Croydon?
2. How many Uber trips are taken in Croydon each year?
3. What is the average cost of an average Uber trip from central London to central Croydon on a Saturday evening; and what is the average cost of the same using a Black Cab?
4. Does Croydon Council's Labour administration support the Mayor of London's decision to revoke Uber's license? And if so, what message does the Council have to say to the thousands of now unemployed drivers who serve Croydon's residents?

**Reply**

London Local Authorities do not licence taxis, this is a Transport for London (TfL) function. The council therefore does not keep data on how many Uber drivers there are in Croydon, how many trips are made in Croydon or how much an average journey would cost etc. However there are other cab services that also use an app similar to Uber – a quick comparison with one such Croydon cab company, Road Runners, suggests that the fares are almost identical.

TfL have decided not to not renew the licence to Uber, citing concerns over public safety and security. TfL concluded that Uber London Limited is not fit and proper to hold a private hire operator licence. TfL believed that Uber's approach and conduct demonstrate a lack of corporate responsibility in relation to a number of issues which have potential public safety and security implications. These include:

- Its approach to reporting serious criminal offences.
- Its approach to how medical certificates are obtained.
- Its approach to how Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks are obtained.
- Its approach to explaining the use of Greyball in London - software that could be used to block regulatory bodies from gaining full access to the app and prevent officials from undertaking regulatory or law enforcement duties.

My understanding is that Uber's current licence expires on 30 September and that Uber have a right of appeal concerning the decision made by TfL.

This administration believes that cabs should be licenced and regulated and that if TfL believes that a company is not a 'fit and proper' company to have a licence then it shouldn't be issued. It would be unacceptable if the regulator ignored those concerns – concerns shared by our Local Assembly Members, who were apparently appalled at some of Uber's working practices, when, just a few weeks ago they voted unanimously for the Mayor not to renew Uber's licence.

Uber has gone to court to try to prove that the company does not employ their drivers, who they consider self-employed contractors. As such many Uber drivers also work for local cab companies, who will, I am sure, use them to meet the increased demand if Uber are unsuccessful at appeal.