

## QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS

Question Number	Question asked by Councillor:	Subject
<b>LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</b> <b>Councillor Tony Newman</b>		
CQ092-17	Thomas, P	Ofsted report
<b>CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT</b> <b>Councillor Stuart King</b>		
CQ089-17	Creatura, M	Tram Strike
<b>CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE AND SPORT</b> <b>Councillor Timothy Godfrey</b>		
CQ090-17	Pollard, H	Ashburton Library

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**CQ092-17**      **from Councillor Phil Thomas**

**Councillor Tony Newman**

After the shock of the recent Ofsted report I wrote to the Chief Executive on September 3rd to ask why she had not written to Elected Members to inform them about the published report. Unfortunately, I found out by reading the news on the Croydon Advertiser web site. As of today the Chief Executive has still not answered my question?

As a Public Servant who is supposed to treat both Political groups the same can you as the Leader of the Council explain why the Chief Executive failed to inform ALL MEMBERS and why she refuses to answer the question posed?

**Reply**

Thank you for your question. The report into our children's services was embargoed until Monday 4 September. The Chief Executive briefed the Leader of the Opposition and the shadow cabinet member for Children's services the week before release due to the importance of the issues involved.

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**CQ089-17**      **from Councillor Mario Creatura**

**Councillor Stuart King**

Tram drivers in Croydon recently voted overwhelmingly for strike action over what the ASLEF union calls a "failure to consult" over a new safety device which would help detect when drivers are fatigued or distracted.

In total, 94.7% of ASLEF members working on the tram network who voted said they were prepared to take part in strike action, with the remaining 5.3% voting no. The turnout in the ballot was 61.5%.

Chris Philp, Conservative MP for Croydon South, has publicly condemned the strikes calling them 'selfish'. To date, the other two Labour MPs for Croydon (Sarah Jones and Steve Reed) have made no comment on the strike. Neither has the Council Leader, you as Cabinet Member or the administration as a collective.

The Croydon Advertiser have reported that Marilyn Logan, whose husband Philip was tragically killed in last year's terrible crash, said she was "absolutely disgusted" and that the vote to strike was a "kick to the stomach".

- Could the Cabinet Member please outline whether he and Croydon's Labour administration support or oppose this strike?
- Is the Cabinet Member willing to use the influence he has with his Labour Members of Parliament to encourage them to issue public statements on whether they support or oppose this strike?
- Whatever his views, what message does the Cabinet Member feel this strike vote sends to those linked to this tragedy?

**Reply**

I am disappointed at the prospect of possible industrial action, and can entirely understand and sympathise with how Marilyn Logan feels about that possibility.

However, I note that Aslef is reported as having "no current plans" to implement the vote on industrial action, and as such there is currently no strike to support or oppose in the terms the councillor requests.

I note that Councillor Creatura's senior (and more experienced) colleague Councillor Steve O'Connell has stated that "their [Aslef] members feel strongly about it and that's to be respected". He goes on to say "I would have thought the union and TFL could perhaps have a conversation to avoid anything". I tend to agree with that: the best scenario for all concerned is that both sides are engaged in dialogue and negotiation.

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**CQ090-17            from Councillor Helen Pollard**

**Councillor Timothy Godfrey**

Do you have a date when the old Ashburton Library building will be opening?  
What community facilities will be available in the old Ashburton library when it opens? Which organisations will be providing these services. What hours will it be open? Which residents will be able to access these services and at what cost?

**Reply**

**Do you have a date when the old Ashburton Library building will be opening?**

The building is scheduled to open for hire and events in November 2017.

**What community facilities will be available in the old Ashburton library when it opens?**

The various spaces within the hall will be available for hire by the general public, in addition to charitable and commercial organisations, to run regular activities or hold events.

**Which organisations will be providing these services.**

The activities and services will be provided by a range of organisations who have made the decision to hire space within the venue.

**What hours will it be open?**

Initial opening hours will be set to meet the needs of the community.

**Which residents will be able to access these services and at what cost?**

Activities will be open to residents to which the various activities are aimed. The flexible nature of the Ashburton Hall room hire provision means there is considerable flexibility in terms of the services that can be offered.