

QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS

Question Number	Question asked by Councillor:	Subject
CABINET MEMBER FOR HOMES, REGENERATION AND PLANNING Councillor Alison Butler		
CQ023-17	Clancy, L	Place Review Panel
CQ029-17	Clancy, L	Community Infrastructure Levy
CABINET MEMBER FOR CLEAN GREEN CROYDON Councillor Stuart Collins		
CQ028-17	Clancy, L	Waste Collection Savings
CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND TREASURY Councillor Simon Hall		
CQ026-17	Clancy, L	Adult Social Care Precept
CABINET MEMBER FOR FAMILIES, HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE Councillor Louisa Woodley		
CQ024-17	Bird, M	Co-Production Process
CQ025-17	Bird, M	Public Health department
CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT Councillor Stuart King		
CQ022-17	Creatura, M	Free Car Parking

CQ023-17 **from Councillor Luke Clancy**

Councillor Alison Butler

What is the annual cost of funding the Place Review panel? How much are members of the Panel compensated for their attendance?

Reply

The Place Review Panel does not have a Council budget to fund its operation. The Place Review Panel is a fully paid for Council Service, payment includes Council officer support. The Panel Chair Fee is £500/day or £250/half day. A Panellist Fee is £350/day or £175/half day.

CQ029-17 **from Councillor Luke Clancy**

Councillor Alison Butler

The CIL Local Meaningful Proportion is £1 million as of end 2016. Given that since May 2014 the Council has received around £3 million of Community Infrastructure Levy from developments in Coulsdon alone, how much of the Local Meaningful Proportion will be spent in Coulsdon?

Reply

The Council approved the General Fund and HRA budget 2017/20 on the 27th February. The associated Council report correctly identified the Council's Community Infrastructure Levy Local Meaningful Proportion as £1m in December 2016. The Council report at Table 22 allocates the Council's Community Infrastructure Levy Local Meaningful Proportion to the Council's Capital Programme for the 2017/18. The final mechanism and approach for the assignment of the Local Meaningful Proportion is to be finalised in the coming months to ensure the assignment in the 2017/18 year. As is the case with the borough's Community Infrastructure Levy, the assignment can happen on a borough wide basis regardless of the location of the development that made the Community Infrastructure Levy payment. However, the assignment will occur in consultation with community representatives and / or organisations.

Furthermore, at Council on 27th February Councillor Hall (Cabinet Member for Finance & Treasury) announced that Ward Budgets are to be doubled from £12,000 to £24,000 for 2017/18. This increase is to be funded through the borough's CIL Local Meaningful Proportion. An increase of £288,000 in Ward investment. This represents investment in all Wards and is a significant continued commitment to investment in projects and infrastructure that our communities want to see delivered in their wards.

CQ028-17 **from Councillor Luke Clancy**

Councillor Stuart Collins

Waste collection and street cleansing head the list of areas in which the current Administration expects to make £6 million of savings in the next 3 years. Will you commit to pledging that the frequency of bin collections and street cleansing will not be reduced beyond their current frequencies?

Reply

The savings achieved (£4m) through the South London Waste Partnership procurement of environmental services are reflective of the efficiencies achieved through joint procurement of four boroughs and harmonisation of waste and street cleansing services.

The waste and recycling collections model will mirror the existing arrangements in Croydon, with the only difference being that residents will now benefit from additional capacity for paper and card thus maximise recycling income. Frequencies of collection will not change.

For street cleansing, the service will move from a frequency based service, to an outcome based service. The Service Performance Indicator will be that streets are swept to Grade A standard and that at no time shall any street fall below the NI195 Grade B. This has an advantage over the frequency based model as it ensures a consistent standard of cleansing across the borough at all times, where there is flexibility to concentrate resource where it is most needed, rather than sticking to a rigid frequency based approach.

CQ026-17 **from Councillor Luke Clancy**

Councillor Simon Hall

When and where will you publish the description of your plans to spend the adult social care precept?

Reply

The DCLG requires all Local Authorities to publish their plans on their website.

Initially the requirement from DCLG was to publish this information within 21 days of setting the Authorities Council Tax.

This requirement has since changed and we are now required to publish details in line with our RA (Revenue Budget Return) to DCLG which is the 19th April 2017.

CQ024-17 from Councillor Margaret Bird

Councillor Louisa Woodley

Have CASSUP and Councillors been consulted in the so called co-production process particularly in respect of services such as respite?

Reply

The Council appointed the Public Office Ltd to undertake a co-production process a Co-Production Partner for Croydon's Learning Disability Adult Social Care transformation programme in September of 2016. A briefing regarding the scope of the review was provided to the lead member for Adult Social Care in October 2016.

The aim of the co-production work was to listen to the views of People With a Learning Disability (PWLD) and their carer's primarily regarding the future of services and their aspirations.

Council Officers facilitated the Public Office with a stakeholder list including, PWLD, carers, providers, social workers, operational managers, VCS partners, health practitioners, and integrated commissioners.

Whilst the co-production process was primarily aimed at PWLD and their carers, regular verbal updates regarding the process were given at different partnership boards and other events where members would be in attendance.

CQ025-17 **from Councillor Margaret Bird**

Councillor Louisa Woodley

1. The Public Health Department had 50 posts under the previous Director and I understand this has now been cut to 35 with a further reduction of 14 according to the budget papers.
How will you be able to deliver this service with only 21 staff?
2. Please list which public health contracts are to be reduced and give an idea of the current value versus the projected value.

Reply

Since responsibility for most public health functions transferred from Croydon Primary Care Trust to Croydon Council in April 2013 we have considered how best to discharge those functions. This includes staff posts funded through the public health grant. 38 staff members transferred from the PCT to the council on 1 April 2013. These included business support staff for the public health team as well as specialist public health practitioners.

On the advice of the Director of Public Health we have decided that the council can most effectively deliver improved public health outcomes with a combination of a specialist public health team reporting to the Director of Public Health and a range of other posts across the council either supporting or delivering public health outcomes but accountable to other directors. For example, public health commissioners and public health intelligence posts now sit within Commissioning and Improvement, business support staff are now based within the council's business support function, finance officers within the finance division and work as 'one team'.

At this point in time the core specialist public health team reporting to the Director of Public Health comprises 24 posts (21 full time equivalents).

There are also 15 posts delivering public health outcomes reporting to other council directors within the People and Place departments.

There are a further 20 posts wholly or partly supporting delivery of public health outcomes including commissioners, public health intelligence, communications, finance and business support posts. These are now located in the Resources department.

The 2017/18 public health budget has been completely rebased. This makes direct comparison with the 2016/17 budget shown in the budget book difficult. Movement in the 2017/18 budget reflects a number of factors including adjustments to reflect actual levels of spending in 2016/17 (either higher or lower than original budget), service efficiencies, reconfigurations and service redesign. The overall reduction in the public health budget between 2016/17 and 2017/18 totals £724,000 (a 3% overall reduction - in line with reductions in government grant funding).

All public health contracts are currently subject to a review. This review will provide a clear

strategic view and enable us to direct our public health grant to achieve the best health outcomes for the population of Croydon.

CQ022-17 **from Councillor Mario Creatura**

Councillor Stuart King, Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment

In the response to CQ011-17, the Cabinet Member said: 'The original decision to put in 30 mins free parking was based on sound evidence.'

Could the Council please supply this evidence?

If the evidence has changed since the original decision was taken last year, could the Council please also supply that new data?

Reply

A one hour free pilot study took place in New Addington Central Parade between 1 December 2014 and 1 February 2016. Information obtained by Parking Services from the Pay & Display machines along the Central Parade show the following information for the periods February to May 15 compared to February to May 16:

Payment Type	Transactions		Transactions Variance	Amount Paid		Amount Paid Variance
	February 15 - May 15	February 16 - May 16		February 15 - May 15	February 16 - May 16	
Coins	5	1,429	1,424	£4.10	£1,465.25	£1,461.15
Free	38,750	39,942	1,192	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Total	38,755	41,371	2,616	£4.10	£1,465.25	£1,461.15

As can be seen, during the period where free parking was reduced from 1 hour to 30 minutes there were 2,616 additional parking events. This demonstrates a higher turnover of spaces meaning greater availability of parking for visitors - as well as potentially more visitors to the area overall - when free parking was available for 30 minutes rather than one hour.

However, as set out in my reply to CQ011-17 my Cabinet colleagues and I have been visiting district centres around the borough and talking to businesses to find out how we can support them. Having listened to businesses across the borough we recognise that they believe one hour free parking will bring greater benefits to them than a more frequent turnover of vehicles arising from the outgoing policy. This is a listening council so we have acted on what our businesses have told us will be in their best interests.