

QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS

Question Number	Question asked by Councillor:	Subject
CABINET MEMBER FOR ECONOMY AND JOBS Councillor Mark Watson		
CQ097-17	Creatura, M	Mini Cabs
CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & LEARNING Councillor Alisa Flemming		
CQ099-17	Hale, L	Looked After Children
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL Councillor Tony Newman		
CQ105-17	Creatura, M	Boxpark

CQ097-17 from Councillor Mario Creatura**Councillor Mark Watson**

Many thanks for your response to CQ 086-17.

In it you say that you 'believe mini cabs should be regulated' and they 'should pay their fair share of tax'.

On 15th September, Transport for London's Finance Committee issued a report on taxi license fees revealing the following licensee tax increases:

Number of Vehicles	Number of Operators	Old Charge	New Charge	% increase
0-10	704	£1,488	£2,000	34.41%
11-20	511	£2,826	£6,000	112.31%
21-50	686	£2,826	£19,000	572.33%
51-100	190	£2,826	£30,000	961.57%

Transport for London is controlled by the Labour Mayor of London. As such, do you believe this massive increase in tax on local small businesses is 'fair' as you stated in your previous answer?

In your earlier response you mention that you have 'met with local mini cab companies and continue to support local, Croydon based companies'. On this basis, will you write to the Mayor of London opposing a nearly 1000% increase in tax for a mini cab company with just 51 cars?

Reply

Transport for London is controlled by the Labour Mayor of London. As such, do you believe this massive increase in tax on local small businesses is 'fair' as you stated in your previous answer?

Yes

In your earlier response you mention that you have 'met with local mini cab companies and continue to support local, Croydon based companies'. On this basis, will you write to the Mayor of London opposing a nearly 1000% increase in tax for a mini cab company with just 51 cars?

No

CQ099-17 **from Councillor Lynne Hale**

Councillor Alisa Flemming

Please advise what arrangements are in place to ensure that our Looked After Children:

1. Are registered with a GP
2. Receive the vaccinations that they should
3. Get regular dental check-ups?

What information does the Council get about this?

Is there a system in place to chase up any cases where our Looked After Children are not getting these basic health services?

If so, are you confident that the information is sound and can be evidenced.

Reply

There are statutory guidelines covering how the health needs of Looked after Children should be met and we take these most seriously.

The Clinical Commissioning Group are responsible for ensuring that Looked After Children have regular health checks, including dental checks and immunisations and to that end they have a group of nurses focussing on that work. These nurses work alongside the children's social work teams.

The social care management structure has processes for having oversight of this work to ensure that gaps in service to children are followed up quickly.

The Corporate Parenting Panel, chaired by the Lead Member for Children, has political oversight of this work. The Terms of Reference has been reviewed at the last Panel (November 2017). Reports about the Health of Looked After Children have been discussed at the last two Corporate Parenting Panels in July 2017 and November 2017. The November report is attached. The panel will continue to oversee this work.'

CQ105-17 from Councillor Mario Creatura

Councillor Tony Newman

At last night's Council meeting (4th December 2017), a member of the public asked the Leader to confirm that he will do all he can to keep BoxPark at its current location by East Croydon station.

In the answer he said that the future of BoxPark was in Croydon, whether on that site or a larger one.

Could the Leader please answer:

1. Is he aware of or has he been privy to any discussions about BoxPark moving from its current site next to East Croydon to an alternative location?
2. If so, could the Leader please detail the content of these discussions including why it is being considered that it might move?
3. When the Leader referred to 'a larger site', could he please detail where in the borough he had in mind?
4. Is the Council involved in or aware of any talks at this stage to find an alternative location for BoxPark? If yes, please detail.
5. At what stage are the discussions about the renewal of the lease for BoxPark, and to what extent are he or Council Officers involved?
6. Would the Leader rather see BoxPark move from its current site, or kept at its current site?
7. Will the Leader use his authority to do all he can to keep BoxPark at its current location?

Reply

There has been no discussion of Boxpark Croydon moving from East Croydon to an alternative location. Boxpark has a 5 year lease with Stanhope Schroders, the site owner, with an option to extend the lease for a further 2 years; lease negotiations take place between Boxpark Croydon and Stanhope Schroders – the council has no involvement in this commercial transaction. The station approach at East Croydon has been transformed by Boxpark, activating a very underused and tired space, and until the Stanhope Schroeder development phasing requires the Boxpark site I hope that Boxpark remains in its current location.

There is no specific “larger site” that has been identified for Boxpark Croydon; as and when required the council will support Boxpark to identify alternative Croydon sites. Boxpark has had a significant and positive impact on the town centre providing an

alternative and complementary offer to existing restaurants, clubs and bars both during the day and at weekend; we are committed to working with Boypark and tenants to ensure continued success.