

Cabinet Member for Communities, Safety and Justice

Scrutiny Question Time

Councillor Hamida Ali

6 March 2018

Cabinet Portfolio

- Community safety (substantive agenda item)
- Regulatory services (including licensing, trading standards and food safety)
- Community and voluntary sector
- Community empowerment and devolution
- Equality and diversity
- Local Strategic Partnership – voice of the community
- Croydon Opportunity and Fairness Commission (implementation)
- Social security reform
- Financial inclusion
- Contact Centre and Access Croydon

Community Safety

- Serious Youth Violence (including knife crime)
- Police borough mergers
- Community Safety Strategy 2017-20
- Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy 2018-21
- Prevent & Countering Extremism
- Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO)
- Licensing Policy and operating protocol
- Upgrading CCTV

Tackling Serious Youth Violence

- Local Strategic Partnership focus on young people
- Safety of children and young people a continuing priority in Community Safety Strategy 2017-20
- Multi agency Serious Youth Violence Plan
- Holistic approach – as focused on community engagement as enforcement
- Oversight of delivery through Safer Croydon Board (Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership)
- Community engagement – a real feature of Croydon's response
- External funding – supporting activity to secure any additional resource into the borough

Community Fund

- 3-year programme of strategic funding of voluntary sector
- £6.2m over three years (currently in year 2) March cabinet will receive a report on activity in year 1
- Includes a micro-grant (up to £5K) scheme - £300K in total over three years
- 35 organisations and projects which vary in scale from Citizens Advice Croydon (just under £800K) to the Sir Philip Game Centre (just under £15K)
- Currently funds the three 'infrastructure' organisations to support the wider voluntary sector through building capacity
- Programme of visits to Community Fund projects and organisations
- Approach established through the Community Fund being followed by the commissioning by One Croydon Alliance (integrated health and social care partnership)

Community Devolution and Empowerment

- Manifesto commitment to take decision-making out of the town hall and closer to communities – for example, Community Ward Budgets (now £24K per year)
- Opportunity and Fairness Commission also highlighted opportunities to involve communities more
- Project exploring different ways to involve communities more underway in three areas :
 - *New Addington and Fieldway* – “Active Addington” established with a health and wellbeing focus
 - *South Norwood and Woodside* - “We Love SE25” Town Team established to deliver a Community Economic Development Plan developed by local people
 - *Purley* – focused on activation of local assets – e.g. Rotary Field
- Key principles established including the importance of community leadership by ward councillors
- Access to funding identified through the ‘meaningful proportion’ of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) (£20K per area and guidance produced)

Equality and Diversity

- Process for accreditation to LGA Equality Framework for Local Government underway
- Leading corporate working group in place - monitoring equality action plan integrating consideration of equality and diversity across the organisation
- Equality objectives integral part of corporate performance framework – annual report on March Cabinet agenda
- Culture Board drives workforce diversity:
 - Mandatory unconscious bias training
 - New appraisal process
 - Addressing recruitment processes to address under representation in the organisation

Local Strategic Partnership

- Substantial review of Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) - structures, governance, membership and strategy
- New structure and governance agreed – with work to develop a Community Forum to ensure dialogue with and accountability to the public
- New structures totally focused on the interests and opportunities for the borough's young people

Gateway Service – Response to Social Security Reform

- Gateway Service has supported more than 18,500 households in 2017-18, including ensuring entitlement to support (£9.5m), discretionary support (£2.8m) and supporting more than 270 people into work
- Community Connect – taking the Gateway Service closer to the community. Pilot response developed with the Family Centre and a number of other community organisations in New Addington. New community shop, The Community Foodstop developed through this partnership. \
- Influential voice nationally based on our experience of the largest Universal Credit caseload in the country – successfully lobbied to exclude Emergency and Temporary accommodation and bring back under Housing Benefit administration

Financial Inclusion – Croydon Plus

- Provided access to Croydon Plus a loan of £100K in 2016 to support expansion and re-launch of the credit union
- Membership has increased by almost 50% to almost 5,000 members
- Loans are up by 25%
- The credit union is back in profit
- Reserves are - also junior members
- Loans are up by 25%
- Reserves now stand at £112K – up from only £6K in 2015