



# Leader of the Council Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Tony Newman February - March 2018

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## Latest News

### Young Mayor

My personal congratulations to William Awomoyi, Croydon's first Young Mayor, and Shea Williams, our first Deputy Young Mayor, both of whom I really look forward to working with.



The election has been a great success and I'm delighted to say that we are committed to making this an annual event. Thank you to all the young people who voted and to all those who put themselves forward as candidates. They did a great job and every one of them is a winner.

### Croydon Health Summit

I was really pleased to see how many came to join us on 7 March for Croydon's very first Health Summit. It was a fantastic build upon the conversation on Health between our local community groups, practitioners and officers.

We had some brilliant guest speakers from health experts from KPMG, Stephen Dorrell - a former Secretary of State for Health - and Steve Reed MP to name a few. Thank you to Cllr Maggie Mansell for chairing the event.



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Overall, a brilliant event with a fantastic turnout. This is the start of a very exciting time for Croydon.

## UASC

I am absolutely astonished and very disappointed by Croydon's allocation from the Government. We look after almost 10 per cent of the unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in the UK, yet are getting less than two per cent of funding. The funding formula they have applied appears to be very basic and in no way does it represent a fair way of reflecting the burden faced by local authorities.

Croydon is extremely proud of its long track record in welcoming and caring for these vulnerable young people. But if like us, the Government truly wants them to integrate and thrive in our local communities, it needs to step up and provide the funding for councils to support them. Croydon taxpayers simply cannot be expected to foot the bill for over £3m annually in direct costs of being a gateway borough when this is a national issue.

We welcome the Government's decision to make this funding available for these young people but Croydon's allocation is completely unacceptable. As these allocations are at draft stage we are asking them to re-consider.

## Network Rail

I am pleased the government has listened to Croydon and progress is now being made to deliver the improvements desperately needed to the Brighton Main Line, and specifically to the railway through Croydon.

Our borough is undergoing significant regeneration and it is essential we have the rail infrastructure to support this. We welcome the news vital upgrades to train lines are a step closer to fruition.

**AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON**



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We have been lobbying government for urgent improvements to the Brighton Main Line, specifically in the East Croydon area, to increase the number of trains into central London per hour and reduce over-crowding on services.

And now, Network Rail has announced that they have received funding from the Department for Transport, which will enable them to work up detailed designs for the track and station work in the Croydon area.

Their initial proposals would see a new, expanded East Croydon station, with additional tracks and flyover junctions, increasing the number of platforms from six to eight.

### Thornton Heath Walkabout

It was great to be able to join Cllr Alison Butler, ward councillor for Bensham Manor, and have the opportunity to thank the staff who have been working hard with the local community to deliver the regeneration and transformation of Thornton Heath.



It was also a brilliant opportunity to visit the Thornton Heath library which, along with all of the libraries in the borough, is now back under public ownership and safe under this administration.

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## **Communities and Local Government (CLG) Committee**

I had the opportunity to give evidence at the CLG Committee on behalf of the LGA with particular focus on Croydon's success on Landlord Licencing at the end of January. I was pleased to inform the committee that more than 30,000 properties had signed on and the scheme was and is still very well supported by both landlords and tenants.

**Councillor Tony Newman**

**Leader of the Council**