



Leader of the Council Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Tony Newman October 2019

News

I continue to be excited for the future of Croydon as the many projects in the borough unfold. The re-opening of Fairfield Halls, the development of College Green, Essex House, Taberner House and the Nestle Building as well as upgrades to the Fiveways junction and Norwood Junction and East Croydon stations are just a few to name.

Fairfield Halls

We were delighted to welcome Dame Judi Dench and the Mayor of London Sadiq Khan to the formal reopening of Fairfield Halls, last month. The reopening of Croydon's iconic venue, following a multi-million pound council-led refurbishment, was both a cause for celebration and a major milestone in the ongoing regeneration of the town centre. Delivered by Brick By Brick, the development company established by the council, the refurbishment has restored this magnificent modernist building to its former glory, while our investment has transformed the venue's cultural offer, ensuring that it is truly reflective of diverse 21st century Croydon.

This is just the first phase in one of the largest regeneration projects Croydon town centre has ever seen. The new cultural quarter development will also bring new a £10million world-class public space, the Fair Field; hundreds of new homes, many of them affordable; jobs and opportunities and vastly improved links with the rest of the town centre. The economic benefit, for Croydon and beyond, cannot be over-estimated.



AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON



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Legacy youth Zone



The opening of Legacy Youth Zone took place on Saturday 7th September and was a massive success. Attended by our young people and their families as well as key members of the local community it was an opportunity to showcase this fantastic resource. There was a great energy and buzz about the youth zone and a real celebration of the partnership working between our council and Onside.

Our young people and their families were able to have tours of the zone as well as participate in all of the activities on offer and it was clear from their responses that this is a much needed resource for all Croydon children and young people.

I was delighted to not only be part of this opening but involved from the start of the project and as I said on the day this showcases 'Croydon at our very best'



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Croydon supports EU citizens right to stay in UK

On Monday 23 September, Croydon Council hosted an information event for EEA and Swiss citizens that will need to apply for settled status as a result of Brexit.

The event was organised by the European Commission, with support from the Mayor of London.

Around 33,000 people living in Croydon are citizens of other EU countries, and we are providing support to ensure they remain valued residents of Croydon.

As well as the event, we:

- Established a document checking service within the Registrars to assist people with their applications
- Are working with South West London Law Centre to support the most vulnerable residents with the settled status process
- Are using a range of communication channels to raise awareness and signpost individuals and businesses to key information

Climate and Ecological Emergency – Next Steps

I am delighted that after declaring a Climate and Ecological Emergency at July Council, we have now moved on to what our next steps will be to tackle this global challenge and become carbon neutral as an organisation by 2030.

A report will be going to our October Cabinet to propose a Citizen's Assembly on Climate Change and a Commission aimed at making Croydon a sustainable city. It's of the utmost importance that we work together as a community in Croydon to make our borough a more sustainable place and both of these projects are aimed at ensuring that every person living, working and playing in our borough is part of the conversation.

A citizens' assembly is a group of people who are brought together to discuss an issue or issues and reach a conclusion about what they think should happen. Using this method would ensure that the actions the Council takes in regards to climate change would be heavily influenced by the voice of residents. The outcome of the Citizen's Assembly will be both reported to a future Cabinet and help inform the work of the commission.

The independent commission on sustainability is proposed to gather evidence, assess the current situation in Croydon and make recommendations back to Cabinet. By giving evidence to the commission, young people, residents, voluntary and community sector



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organisations and businesses will have the opportunity to directly affect the recommendations to Council on what actions to take.

We have a lot to lose if we don't work towards lowering our carbon emissions as quickly as possible and I'm proud to say that Croydon, at least, is well on its way to becoming a sustainable city in partnership with its local people.

Local Government Settlement

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sajid Javid, has delivered his statement on the 2020/21 Spending Review, announcing the end of Austerity. Total departmental spending will increase in real terms with local Government having access to £3.5bn in the coming financial year.

Overall this is positive news for Croydon's budget, with additional funding for Adults and Children's social care, Education - SEND, Homelessness and Public Health. The details of how this additional funding will be allocated will be announced later in the year. London and Croydon are disappointed in the decision not to continue the London 75% Business Rates Pilot and London Councils and The Society of London Treasurers have written to Ministers asking that they reconsider this decision.

Leader's Diary for August – September

Meeting with Chris Philp MP re UASC funding

London Councils

Legacy Youth Zone opening

LGA Resources Board

Civic opening of the Fairfield Halls

Inaugural Arts Ball at the Fairfield Halls

Labour Party Conference

Legacy Youth Zone VIP dinner

SLP Leaders Board

All about me - Opening Celebration

Cabinet Member budget away day

Cllr Tony Newman

Leader of the Council

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