



# **Leader of the Council**

## **Cabinet Member Bulletin**

### **Councillor Tony Newman**

#### **January 2020**

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#### **LATEST NEWS**

##### **Budget 2020**

This is without doubt the toughest year in local government history in terms of managing long term uncertainty, ongoing pressures on key frontline services such as Adult & Children's and ongoing austerity as real time funding cuts continue. Alongside that in Croydon we have the ongoing injustice of continuing to fund UASC to the tune of 10m annually.

However thanks to prudent financial management and continuing to drive VFM we are on course to deliver a budget that will both protect key frontline services and seriously start to rebuild our balances over the next three years, balances that have been used to protect the most vulnerable from the worse impacts of government imposed austerity.

##### **General Election / PM**

As the political dust has settled for now, I have ensured we continue to maintain a strong professional relationship with all three of our local MPs, and will seek their support where appropriate on issues such as UASC funding in making Croydon's case for a fair share of national funding.

I have also written to Prime Minister Boris Johnson reminding him of his previous support for Croydon's Growth Zone, and seeking his and his offices support for both the Westfield project our annual 10 million pound UASC shortfall and the urgent need for work to begin on upgrading major infrastructure projects such as the Brighton Mainline.

##### **New Addington Community & Sports Centre**

It was with great pride that on January 16th we officially opened this fantastic facility for New Addington. To see our Administration deliver on another manifesto commitment is great, but the real reward is knowing that we listened to what local people told us regarding what was important to them locally and delivered it, great sports facilities, a brand new community centre and a real boost to the local economy in terms of jobs.



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I was honoured to meet two UK and Croydon athlete's Sidus Eslami (Wrestling) and Solaire Raye (Athletics) along with Peter Bunday from the GLL who are proud partners with Croydon in this development.



**AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON**



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### Borough of Culture 20/23

In 2014 we launched our Ambitious for Croydon Manifesto with a clear commitment to “put culture at the heart of regeneration” so I was particularly pleased to join Cllr Lewis and his team for Croydon’s 2023 presentation at the Guildhall, making our case to be the Borough of Culture for 2023.



We eagerly anticipate the London Borough of Culture Announcement Event on the 11<sup>th</sup> February at City Hall where the Mayor of London will announce the winner of the title.

### Climate Emergency

Ahead of launching our Climate Emergency Commission we are holding through January and February a series of Citizens Assemblies to give a representative group of local people, the chance to tell us what they believe we should be doing both as a local council and local communities to ensure we are all playing our part in tackling the climate Emergency, the results will be fascinating and I look forward to updating you all in due course.