

**QUESTION No. 1**

**Priority 1**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**22 JANUARY 2014**

**Question by Councillor Johnson  
of the Deputy Mayor**

**Question**

Given the environmental benefits that trees bring to the borough and given how spending cuts have drastically reduced the money available for new and replacement tree planting, can the Council investigate the scope for ensuring tree planting is included as a condition for smaller scale planning applications as well as larger developments (where tree planting and landscaping is often included as a condition anyway)?

**Reply**

Trees and landscaping are an integral part of the application and development process regardless of the scale of development. The overall aim is to ensure that high quality development is delivered. Policy 25 of the Council's Development Management Local Plan requires applicants of all major development and where appropriate smaller schemes to provide and retain trees and other landscape features. Where possible trees are provided as this is integral to the quality of the development being proposed.

**QUESTION No. 2**

**Priority 1**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**22 JANUARY 2014**

**Question by Councillor Feakes  
of the Cabinet Member for Customer Services**

**Question**

What work has been done by the council to reduce energy wastage from external vents in boilers, central heating systems and drainage systems in social housing units?

**Reply**

The Council is working with Lewisham Homes to modernise its housing stock in ways that will minimise residents' heating bills.

As a result Lewisham Homes has installed approximately 6500 high efficiency central heating boilers that recover heat from the waste gases before they are vented through the external flue.

Additionally the Council has set up a scheme that will allow Lewisham Homes to access "Eco Funding" through the Energy Supply Companies. Initially the funding will be used to reduce energy consumption by installing cavity wall insulation. We are, however, looking to expand the programme over time to include the replacement of aging boiler plant.

Currently there is no provision for the recovery of heat from drainage water within the Lewisham Homes stock although that may be considered in future, most probably in connection with the construction of new dwellings.

**QUESTION No. 3**

**Priority 1**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**22 JANUARY 2014**

**Question by Councillor Brooks  
of the Cabinet Member for Customer Services**

**Question**

How many betting shops are there in Lewisham? Please give a break down by wards.

**Reply**

66 Live Premises Licenses for Betting shops (this does not necessarily mean all are currently trading)

New Cross	9
Telegraph Hill	2
Evelyn	4
Forest Hill	3
Crofton Park	3
Perry Vale	3
Rushey Green	6
Lewisham Central	10
Downham	3
Bellingham	3
Sydenham	5
Ladywell	2
Whitefoot	2
Catford South	3
Grove Park	0
Lee Green	4
Blackheath	1
Brockley	3

**QUESTION No. 4**

**Priority 1**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**22 JANUARY 2014**

**Question by Councillor Maines  
of the Cabinet Member for Customer Services**

**Question**

How many empty properties are there currently in Lewisham? How many of these empty properties are in the ownership of the Council or a Registered Social Landlords (RSL) ? How many are in private ownership? What is the council doing to bring these properties back into use?

**Reply**

Our latest Council Tax return to government (CTB1) in October 2013 reported that we have 2,214 empty dwellings, which represents approximately 2% of our overall housing stock.

The total number of empty dwellings reported, are a snap shot of empty dwellings in October 2013 and the vast majority do not require any action as they are not long term empty dwellings. The total number will include all social housing sector empty properties largely due to awaiting demolition or refurbishment, or in the private sector include properties awaiting probate, repossessed dwellings, owners going into care or moving out of the area/country and those where repairs and refurbishment is being undertaken. In addition it will include properties awaiting letting, occupation, newly built dwellings and properties developed from conversions which still need to be let.

The focus of the Council's efforts is on the 737 dwellings across all tenures which have been empty for 6 months or more giving rise to nuisance and complaints and also specifically to the 80 properties in the private sector that have been empty for over 2 years.

**Social housing:** Less than 15% or just over 300 of these empty properties are Council or registered provider dwellings in the social sector. With a social stock of over 30,000 homes this only represents a turnover of social housing units of 1%, which is low. This causes difficulties in terms of availability of sufficient numbers of properties for letting and is a problem that we are facing currently, leading to an increase in numbers in temporary accommodation. Long term empties in this sector are small in number and include properties awaiting demolition as a result of regeneration schemes or dilapidated properties awaiting refurbishment or disposal.

**Private Sector** - The largest amount of empty properties are in the private sector at over 85%.

The Council Tax section have written to all owners of long term empty properties offering advice, help and support and grants to assist owners to bring them back into occupation. In addition the Empty Homes Officer has invited empty property owners to a market place event at the Civic Suite to introduce owners to property guardians, social enterprises and other partners to help offer solutions to bring back into use their empty properties.

44 empty homes have been brought back into use during last year, many providing homes for those in housing need. One example being a property in Further Green Road which was given an empty homes grant and housed an over-crowded family of 5 living in one room in a house in multi occupation.

The Council has been successful in bidding for an allocation of £240k from the GLA to tackle empty properties. The first of these dwellings – two long term derelict flats above shops in Rushey Green are nearing completion. In addition a further £500k to support owners to tackle their problematic empty dwellings has been awarded to the borough from the GLA. All empty properties now receiving the help of a grant are leased to the authority and made available to those in acute housing need.

Since 2010 the borough has seen a fall of more than 200 in the number of long term empties.

As a last resort, where a property has been left empty for no good reason, enforcement action is considered to focus the mind of empty property owners –namely the use of empty dwelling management orders. We have to date served over 100 Empty Dwelling Management Notices.

**QUESTION No. 5**

**Priority 1**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**22 JANUARY 2014**

**Question by Councillor Fletcher  
of the Cabinet Member for Resources**

**Question**

Please provide the total amount in allowances paid to members of the Mayor and Cabinet over each of the last five financial years.

**Reply**

The combined Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances paid to the Mayor and Cabinet Members

2008/09	Mayor and 7 Cabinet Members	£278,794
2009/10	Mayor and 7 Cabinet Members	£278,794
2010/11	Mayor and 9 Cabinet Members	£329,014
2011/12	Mayor and 9 Cabinet Members	£329,014
2012/13	Mayor and 9 Cabinet Members	£329,014

**QUESTION No. 6**

**Priority 2**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**22 JANUARY 2014**

**Question by Councillor Feakes  
of the Cabinet Member for Customer Services**

**Question**

How many trees have been lost or damaged in public spaces and roads in the recent stormy weather? Please break this information down by ward. What plans are there to replace or substitute fallen or damaged trees?

**Reply**

As of Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January a total of 231 trees have been recorded as lost due to the severe weather conditions, this includes the 171 trees lost as a result of the St Jude's Day Storm of 28<sup>th</sup> October 2013.

Losses by location :

Streets and Roads - 131  
Parks and Open Spaces - 48  
Housing Estate Grounds - 52

Losses by Ward:

Bellingham - 5  
Blackheath -19  
Brockley -19  
Catford South -17  
Crofton Park - 9  
Downham - 5  
Evelyn – 20  
Forest Hill – 5  
Grove Park – 22  
Ladywell – 31  
Lee Green – 8  
Lewisham Central – 8

Perry Vale – 7  
New Cross – 16  
Rushey Green – 3  
Sydenham – 14  
Telegraph Hill – 9  
Whitefoot – 13

The cost of replacing all the lost trees is estimated to be in the region of £82k  
Although there is currently no identified budget to make good these losses  
Officers will continue to work with residents groups to secure funding to  
replace as many of the trees as possible.



**QUESTION No. 7**

**Priority 2**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**22 JANUARY 2014**

**Question by Councillor Brooks  
of the Deputy Mayor**

**Question**

Lewisham is one of the worst boroughs in London for low pay and 5% are paid minimum wage or less – what is the Council's strategy for encouraging businesses across the borough to pay the London Living Wage?

**Reply**

Lewisham has supported the payment of the London Living Wage (LLW) since 2009, and the approach with regard to the LLW has three strands, which mirrors the Living Wage Foundation's accreditation scheme, to which Lewisham was an early signee.

The first strand was to ensure that all employees, whether permanent or temporary are paid the LLW; permanent staff have always been paid above this amount and temporary staff since Autumn 2011.

The second strand related to staff indirectly employed by the borough on contracts and a Mayor & Cabinet report recommendation on the 10th June 2009 was agreed, it stated "That the Mayor determines to implement the London Living Wage such that in letting all future contracts (excluding those where tenders have already been invited as at the date of this decision) due consideration, to the limit legally allowed, will be given to whether or not a contractor proposes to pay its staff the London Living Wage".

Since that time, an assessment was carried out at the start of the tendering process to identify where staff employed on Council services would potentially be paid below the LLW. If this is identified as likely, tenderers are asked to submit two pricing schedules (with/without LLW). All contracts except one have been awarded, including paying LLW to staff providing services to Lewisham via a contract. The one contract where it was not legally possible to procure the service to include the LLW was Residential & Nursing Care Homes. The Educational catering contract is the last major contract where this requirement will be included in the contract requirements, and this is being tendered in March 2014.

The last element relates to third party sub-contractors and local businesses, and the borough is starting on this final element. It is planned to include this requirement for sub-contractors as part of the 'Social Value' Act within our major contracts upon renewal. In terms of other businesses within the borough, we will use our influence to push for their adoption of paying the LLW.

Regarding independent businesses, the borough tends to have smaller businesses and ones that would be considered by the Low Pay Commission to be in low-paying occupations such as hospitality, retail and security. These types of businesses are less likely to sign up to London Living Wage and this is reflected in the larger businesses that have already made the LLW Mayor of London pledge.

As part of the Council's communications with business sectors the benefits of LLW will be promoted through the e-newsletter and appropriate events such as the Lewisham Means Business event in February.

**QUESTION No. 8**

**Priority 2**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**22 JANUARY 2014**

**Question by Councillor Maines  
of the Cabinet Member for Resources**

**Question**

How does Lewisham use the New Homes Bonus?

**Reply**

The New Homes Bonus (NHB) sits alongside our planning system and is designed to create a fiscal incentive to encourage housing growth. The Department for Communities and Local Government is paying the NHB as an un-ringfenced grant to enable local authorities to decide how to spend the funding. The scheme design sets some guidance about the priorities that spend should be focussed on, in that it is being provided to 'help deliver the vision and objectives of the community and the spatial strategy for the area and in line with local community wishes.'

Officers are currently considering various options as to how the NHB might be distributed, which other than the increase in the supply of affordable housing, includes options around planning, community involvement, the capital programme and the general fund revenue budget.

**QUESTION No. 9**

**Priority 2**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**22 JANUARY 2014**

**Question by Councillor Fletcher  
of the Cabinet Member for Resources**

**Question**

How is the Council performing in terms of its own recycling practices within the Council itself? How does the Council encourage staff to recycle paper?

**Reply**

Recycling facilities in Council offices offer the same recycling service delivered to the rest of the borough, including recycling of:

- Plastic food containers and bottles
- Food and drink cartons
- Glass bottles and jars
- Papers and card
- Metal tins and cans
- Aerosol cans

These recycling facilities extend across corporate office-based buildings as well as in libraries.

Approximately 80% of the Council's office-based staff are now located in Laurence House. As part of the closure of the Town Hall building and extended use of Laurence House the recycling facilities in this building have been improved, with an expansion of the number of desk-side recycling containers and recycling bins, a reduction in the number of waste bins and targeted communications to encourage use of facilities by staff.

The Council records and publishes annual data on the use of natural resources

<http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/getinvolved/environment/energyefficiency/Documents/Annual%20Use%20of%20Resources%202012-13.pdf>

The following table on paper is taken from the most recently published data:

<b>PAPER AND RECYCLING</b>				
	<b>2010/11</b>	<b>2011/12</b>	<b>2012/13</b>	<b>annual change</b>
Paper purchased (tonnes)	144	138	102	-26%
Paper recycled (tonnes)	316	257	367	+30%

Figures for recycling paper are variable. This is likely to be the result of a number of factors particularly office moves and reduced storage space which result in disposal of large amounts of paper.

Reducing consumption is the most effective way of minimising the environmental impact and cost of paper. Measures in place to reduce paper consumption include:

- Implementing default settings for Lewisham Council printers and multi-functional devices to print double-sided and black and white.
- Providing practical advice on use of paper through the intranet <http://ls/C12/Save%20Paper/default.aspx> and posters near printing stations
- Using technology to support paperless working alongside reduced storage space and flexible working, with shared desks the standard in Laurence House

Paper purchased through the corporate contract is 100% recycled and unbleached.

**QUESTION No. 10**

**Priority 3**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**22 JANUARY 2014**

**Question by Councillor Feakes  
of the Deputy Mayor**

**Question**

Why was the Windmill Pub in Sydenham refused Asset of Community Value status when other public houses in the borough, such as the Honor Oak Pub, have been granted this status?

**Reply**

Applications to list assets of community value are judged, using the information and evidence provided by the applicant and otherwise available to officers, against 2 tests. In the case of The Windmill pub the relevant tests were:

The legislation provides that an asset satisfies the definition of an asset of community value if:

- the local authority decides that the actual main, current use of the building or land is to further the social wellbeing or social interests of the local community **and** it is realistic to think that there can continue to be a main use of the building or land which will further the social wellbeing or social interests of the local community.

Although an earlier application did not persuade the Council that The Windmill should be listed as an asset of community value, a subsequent application to list The Windmill pub was received by CAMRA on 23 November 2013, and after careful consideration of this new application it was felt that it did show that the pub met the relevant tests, and so on 20 December 2013 The Windmill pub was added to the Council's Register of Assets of Community Value.

**QUESTION No. 11**

**Priority 3**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**22 JANUARY 2014**

**Question by Councillor Brooks  
of the Deputy Mayor**

**Question**

There are currently only 90 construction companies listed on Lewisham's business directory, and there are approximately 650 in the borough. How is the Council building this list? What steps are being taken to ensure it is up to date ?

**Reply**

Businesses can register or update their details at any time by going to <http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/business/Pages/Business-directory.aspx>. The directory is promoted through the business e-newsletter at networking events and through the Council's business advisory service and the directory is updated on an annual basis.

Over the past six months the Council's Economic Development Service has been developing a local procurement directory for construction businesses. The directory helps construction businesses compete for local business opportunities, by providing information on procurement opportunities. Business which register on the directory can access advice and support from the Business Advisory Service on how to compete for these opportunities. The directory has been developed over the past six months. 454 Construction Businesses have been contacted over this time and 140 have registered on the directory to date.

**QUESTION No. 12**

**Priority 3**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**22 JANUARY 2014**

**Question by Councillor Maines  
of the Deputy Mayor**

**Question**

Could I please be provided with an update on the future of the former Ladywell Leisure Centre site? Has there been any loss of service to users or previous tenants of the centre ?

**Reply**

In June 2013, the new Glass Mill Leisure Centre in Lewisham town centre opened and the former Ladywell Leisure Centre closed. A decision was taken to demolish the existing building in order to optimise the development potential of the Lewisham Central site, and Officers were instructed to undertake feasibility studies to investigate potential future development options.

Options are currently being reviewed corporately in order that a plan for the area be developed over the next few months, and the relevant feasibility studies commissioned. This plan will be developed in line with the site's designation as a mixed use development (retail and housing) as set out in the Lewisham town centre local plan (2012), and within the context of the Authority's broader 'place-shaping' aspirations for the area.

The services and timetabling at Ladywell Leisure Centre were replicated as far as was possible at the new Glass Mill Leisure Centre. The pool and class timetable was developed at Glass Mill Leisure Centre to mirror or exceed what was on offer previously at Ladywell Leisure Centre. For example, 17



schools now use Glass Mill compared to 14 at Ladywell; and there are 63 classes on offer at Glass Mill compared to 27 at Ladywell.

A number of community and sports groups used Ladywell Leisure Centre and where possible these were re-accommodated at the new centre. The borough's swimming club, Saxon Crown, now use Glass Mill as its base with a new club office, club night on a Monday and extensive use of the pool for training. The South East London Ju Jitsu Club (SELJJC) were unable to use the same time slot at Glass Mill that they had had at Ladywell Leisure Centre and felt that the alternatives offered were not suitable. The club were offered alternative premises at the Bridge Leisure Centre along with marketing support which they used for a short period.

**QUESTION No. 13**

**Priority 3**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**22 JANUARY 2014**

**Question by Councillor Fletcher  
of the Deputy Mayor**

**Question**

The borough has a very small amount of commercial space available compared with neighbouring boroughs – does the Council intend to take targeted action to increase this in the medium term?

**Reply**

Lewisham has a small amount of industrial space and land is not available to increase this<sup>1</sup>. The Council adopted the Core Strategy in June 2011 as the principal statutory planning document for the borough. The Core Strategy sets out a number of objectives and policies to promote economic development in Lewisham over the next 15 years. The approach set out in the strategy recognises that, firstly, the majority of physical growth will be concentrated in the regeneration and growth areas of Lewisham and Catford town centres, Deptford and the New Cross/New Cross Gate area. This area is defined as Lewisham's 'growth corridor'. And, secondly that development is driven by the ability of investors and developers to realise the residential value of land in the borough.

The planning policy to protect employment land is set out in the Core Strategy. This involves designating strategic industrial locations, local employment locations and other employment locations. Planning permission

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<sup>1</sup> The borough has 958,000 sqm of commercial space representing 1.48 per cent of the capital's commercial space. This is a smaller share than neighbouring boroughs. Greenwich has 1.83 per cent, Southwark 3.8 per cent and Bromley 2.14 per cent. (London Borough of Lewisham Employment Land Survey, Roger Tyms and Partners, 2008).

will not generally be granted for uses other than employment uses in the first two categories and there is criteria set out for the release of land in the third category. In addition mixed use employment areas have been designated.

Much of the industrial floorspace in the borough has suffered from years of underinvestment and employment land studies have shown that there are low levels of employment on much of the employment land in the growth corridor outside of the town centres. Our approach has therefore been to select the better performing areas and retain them as protected employment land and redesignate poorly performing sites for mixed use, whereby residential development can support investment in commercial floorspace. The borough will then be able to support more intensive commercial uses and provide floorspace which is much more in line with demand from SMEs in the borough.

Development in Lewisham and Catford Town Centres will also provide employment opportunities in retail and other forms of commercial accommodation. Over the next seven years it is forecast that the development of major strategic sites will create 134,000 sq m of new space for businesses creating up to 3,000 new jobs.

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**22 JANUARY 2014**

**Question by Councillor Feakes  
of the Cabinet Member for Resources**

**Question**

Would the cabinet member be tempted to make disinvestment in tobacco companies a political priority, in the same way as the Leader of Southwark council has?

**Reply**

The pension fund's investment in equities, is done as part of pooled funds. These funds are not managed on an active basis, which would be when stocks are selected because they are expected to make a good return. Instead, their selection is made on a passive basis, whereby the aim is to achieve returns in line with the index.

The purpose of the funds in which the pension fund invests, is that they replicate and track their respective indices. By their nature, these funds will need to hold a stock if it is included in the index. Therefore, if tobacco companies are in the FTSE All Share index, then in order for the fund to achieve its goal of closely tracking the index and matching the index return, they must also invest in the tobacco stocks, in the same weights as the index.

In line with the current strategy, it is not possible to exclude any particular industry, such as tobacco, from the pension fund, or have any direct influence to change the portfolio of stocks through exercising our voting rights. Such exclusions can only be made with a segregated portfolio, which would need to be managed on an active basis. This would incur significantly higher administration fees and would go against the current investment strategy, as the pension fund has a duty to its members to maximise financial returns over the long term within acceptable risk parameters.

Officers will ensure that there is a discussion of these issues at the next Pensions Investment Committee on 20 February 2014. This discussion will

signify the start of the wider review of the pension fund investment strategy, which will include our Statement of Investment Principles and makes reference to our policy on ethical investments. Officers are expected to report back to Members on the progress and outcome of this review later this year.

**QUESTION No. 15**

**Priority 4**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**22 JANUARY 2014**

**Question by Councillor Brooks  
of the Deputy Mayor**

**Question**

When will the Council produce it's Public Register of Assets?

**Reply**

A process is underway to create a single property register and map of the Council's assets to assist in strategic decision making and in ensuring effective and efficient use of assets to support day-to-day service delivery.

Given the ongoing work and the linkages described above, officers expect to have a complete asset register during the first quarter of 2014/15 financial year.

**ED Res & Regen**

**QUESTION No. 16**

**Priority 4**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**22 JANUARY 2014**

**Question by Councillor Maines  
of The Mayor**

**Question**

What plans exist in Lewisham to mark the centenary of the outbreak of the 1st World War. How many public war memorials are there in the borough and are any in need of restoring ? How many Lewisham recipients of the Victoria Cross will be commemorated with paving stones as part of the national initiative.?

**Reply**

The Council has set up a working group of officers to take forward this Council's commemorations over the next four years. It is intended to stage various events through to 2018 culminating in a special Remembrance Sunday service on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

For this year, at Armed Forces Day on 28 June the event will reflect on the relevance of this date in 1914 and the subsequent WW1. Also the Council's Annual Memorial Service that takes place every year on the first Sunday of July at Hither Green crematorium will reflect the sacrifices of Lewisham people in WW1.

A week later, at People's Day, there will be an information stall about WW1 and invite people to trace their family tree, plus share any WWI documents or stories/mementoes which will be collated into an on-line history.

On Sunday 3 August on the eve of the outbreak of war 100 years ago, there are plans to hold a multi faith service at St .Mary's church, Lewisham High Street.

At Remembrance Sunday this year it was envisaged that some civic representatives from the church in Ghent, Belgium, (the sister church of St. Mary's), would participate in the service.

At Christmas there is the possibility of re-enacting the impromptu football match that took place between the British and German soldiers in 1914 by playing a match between a Lewisham team and a team from our twin partner Charlottenburg from Berlin.

Lewisham has five V.C. recipients and the possibility of a sixth person who was born in Sydenham, although due to changes in the borough boundary, the address may have been in a neighbouring borough in 1914. They will all be honoured locally with paving stones supplied through the Government initiative.

There was an original total of 187 war memorials throughout the borough some in our cemeteries and others in schools, churches, and commercial and private sites. This figure is now 148 as some were destroyed by WW2 bombing and others removed through new developments on the original sites. An examination of each memorial would need to take place to ascertain if any require restoration work.

There will also be an expansion of war memorial information on the Wiki information site.

Over the four year period the Council will also take advantage of the Government's initiative and arrange for two students and a teacher from every Lewisham secondary school to visit Flanders.



**QUESTION No. 17**

**Priority 4**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**22 JANUARY 2014**

**Question by Councillor Fletcher  
of the Cabinet Member for Resources**

**Question**

How much has sickness absence cost the council over the last three years?

**Reply**

The total estimated cost of sickness absence, excluding schools, to the Council over the last three years was:

2010-11	£2.4M
2011-12	£2.8M
2012-13	£2.5M

This represents approximately 2.8 % of the current payroll costs and is at the median level compared to all London councils.

**QUESTION No. 18**

**Priority 5**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**22 JANUARY 2014**

**Question by Councillor Feakes  
of the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People**

**Question**

How many young people in Lewisham benefitted from the 16 – 19 Bursary in the year 2012-13?

**Reply**

Lewisham post -16 providers directly received the 16-19 bursary fund allocations for 2012-13. Providers are free to determine the assessment criteria for discretionary bursaries but £298,537 was allocated for up to 1,578 learners in Lewisham post -16 providers.

**QUESTION No. 19**

**Priority 5**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**22 JANUARY 2014**

**Question by Councillor Brooks  
of Cabinet Member for Customer Services**

**Question**

Now the works on Deptford High Street are completed, there seems to be a mismatch with parking enforcement signs and markings on the road. What is the proposed date to start parking restrictions enforcement ? Will the mismatch of signs and road markings be rectified first ?

**Reply**

Traffic orders for both the one-way status between Giffin Street and Deptford Broadway and the new parking arrangements have been made. Although most signage is in place, we have delayed enforcing the new regime until the final signs have been installed and illuminated. This is being done by Skanska, the Council's Lighting PFI contractor, who manage illuminated signs and the installation of signs on lamp columns.

Once we believe the signs are all in place, we will carry out a further inspection just to ensure everything is correctly placed to enable enforcement to commence. For the first two or so weeks, the enforcement team will just be issuing warnings, to give users of the street time to fully understand the new arrangements.

A factsheet about the changes has been produced, and copies will be left with each shopkeeper on the High Street and side streets – both for themselves and for them to hand them out to their customers, delivery drivers etc. Copies of the factsheet will also be left in the Albany Theatre and Deptford Lounge.

Information has been prepared for the Council website and will be uploaded once the exact date for the start of enforcement is known.

**QUESTION No. 20**

**Priority 5**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**22 JANUARY 2014**

**Question by Councillor Maines  
of the Cabinet Member for Customer Services**

**Question**

Has the Council been approached to register premises in respect of marriages of same sex couples. What work has the Council's Register Office undertaken to prepare same sex marriages from 29th March 2014?

**Reply**

The Council received an enquiry in October 2013 from the Lewisham Unitarian Meeting House about registering for civil partnerships and same sex marriages. However, they have not applied yet because of delays to building works on their premises. All existing approved premises are automatically approved for the marriage of same sex couples.

In order to prepare for same sex marriages from 29<sup>th</sup> March 2014, the Register Office has made a resource available to take notices of intent to form a same sex marriage from 13<sup>th</sup> March (the earliest date such a notice may be given). Staff have been briefed and also provided with written guidance to assist with queries. Further training material will be provided later by the General Register Office. The Council's website is being updated to reflect the new service and the call centre script is being amended to include same sex marriages.

**QUESTION No. 21**

**Priority 6**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**22 JANUARY 2014**

**Question by Councillor Feakes  
of the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People**

**Question**

Taking into account that Lewisham has been a pilot authority for two-year-old free childcare since 2009, how does the Council account for the fact that it is now unprepared and cannot meet parent demand?

**Reply**

We are prepared for the two year old offer and are meeting the demand despite the challenging numbers involved. The initial DfE target for Lewisham from September 2013 for two-year-old children that may be eligible for the Early Learning Entitlement was 1,132. The data received from the DfE in November 2013 extracted from the DWP database then identified a possible 1,208 families that may have eligible children.

All 1,208 families have been contacted by Lewisham informing them that they may be eligible. Of these 622, which represents 52%, have responded and have received a Letter of Eligibility which confirms that they meet the criteria. There are sufficient places for these parents and more are being created to meet future demand.

There is no evidence that parental demand is not being met. Childcare providers are responsive to the market. However, they cannot sustain vacancies in childcare provision, and are therefore keen to fill their current vacancies before additional provision is developed.

**QUESTION No. 22**

**Priority 7**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**22 JANUARY 2014**

**Question by Councillor Feakes  
of the Cabinet Member for Customer Services**

**Question**

What is the current status of the Universal Credit pilot?

**Reply**

In September 2012, Lewisham was selected as one of 12 national pilots to test the role that local authorities could play in supporting the transition to Universal Credit, particularly in regards to supporting non-standard claimants.

The pilot team designed a model that assesses the ability of individual residents to manage the transition to UC via a triage process, then provides those who were likely to be more vulnerable with face-to-face advice and support planning, focusing on housing, employment, financial and digital issues (including referrals to other organisations, such as the Credit Union or Family Budgets project). The model was later extended to provide those residents, within the remit of the pilot, with more complex needs on-going and intensive support. The model has been tested with a group of families that were due/have been affected by the benefit cap.

Face to face appointment came to a close at the end of December and an evaluation of the pilot is currently being prepared. The report is due to be submitted to the DWP at the end of January 2014.

**QUESTION No. 23**

**Priority 8**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**22 JANUARY 2014**

**Question by Councillor Feakes  
of the Deputy Mayor**

**Question**

Given the recent deaths of cyclists across London, can the Council comment on its strategy to ensure cycle safety in the borough? How many serious cycling accidents/deaths have been recorded in Lewisham since 2008?

**Reply**

Since 2008 there has been two cycle fatalities in Lewisham at the following locations – 2012, Deptford Church Street, SE8, and 2013, Loampit Vale, Lewisham.

In the same time period an increase in serious cycle traffic collisions was recorded, there has also been a significant increase in cycle journeys. This year up to September 2013, there has been 8 collisions resulting in serious injuries to the cyclist. (Please see chart below.)

## LRSU ACCSTATS System

### Title: **Lewisham Cyclist KSI by road type 2008 - September 2013** **(provisional)**

Conditions: KSI CASUALTIES, ADATES YEAR BETWEEN '2008' AND '2013',

Parameters:

	0	No. of Casualties						
	Casualty Severity	1 Fatal			2 Serious			Sum
	Highway	1 TLRN	3 Bor	Sum	1 TLRN	3 Bor	Sum	
Year								
2008		0	0	0	4	5	9	9
2009		0	0	0	5	6	11	11
2010		0	0	0	9	3	12	12
2011		0	0	0	13	6	19	19
2012		0	1	1	15	10	25	26
2013		1	0	1	4	4	8	9

Lewisham strategy is multi faceted, exploring all opportunities to improve cycling safety with a comprehensive approach from its procurement policies, working with partners and through engineering, education and training programme aimed at new and returning cyclists.

The Exchanging Places programme is carried out with the Police throughout the year to highlight the dangers of riding near to HGV's, this offers an opportunity to interact with more experienced cyclists who may not feel the need to take up the offer of a lesson.

We are also waiting for the funding outcomes for the Transport for London cycling programme. This will involve looking at suitable routes for the Quietways in the borough and additional support for cycle improvements.

Our procurement policies require that those tendering contracts with us have the latest industry training for drivers and that their vehicles are designed taking into account the safety needs of cyclists.



**QUESTION No. 24**

**Written Reply**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**22 JANUARY 2014**

**Question by Councillor Brooks  
of the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People**

**Question**

How many Looked After Children are placed out of Borough as of January 2014? What type of placement is the child in?

Of these, how many have an assigned social worker? What are the average placement costs?

If an average cost is not possible then please supply the range ie £50 - £100 a week

**Reply**

293 out of our 502 Looked After Children are placed out of borough but the large majority of these are placed within a 20 mile radius.

194 of these Looked After Children are placed in foster care, 32 are in residential care and 67 are in other provision such as placed with a relative or friend, placed for adoption or in a young offenders institute.

All of our children placed out of borough have an allocated social worker.

Average placement costs:-

Foster care (In-house)	£ 438
Agency Fostering (IFA)	£ 969
Residential care	£2,654

**QUESTION No. 25**

**Written Reply**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**22 JANUARY 2014**

**Question by Councillor Brooks  
of the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People**

**Question**

How many visits have been made to each child by their corporate parents (a Lewisham Council worker) since April 2013?

**Reply**

The statutory guidelines are that every Looked After Child must be visited within the first weekend then at a minimum of every 6 weeks for the first year, and then every 3 months after that time.

In Lewisham we have a higher standard in that we expect children to be visited once every 6 weeks, even after the first year.

Since April 2013 the average number of visits to each Looked After Child is 10.66 visits.

**QUESTION No. 26**

**Written Reply**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**22 JANUARY 2014**

**Question by Councillor Brooks  
of the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People**

**Question**

On average how many visits per months will a child receive from their corporate parent over their entire placement ?

**Reply**

The statutory guidelines are that every Looked After Child must be visited within the first weekend then at a minimum of every 6 weeks for the first year, and then every 3 months after that time.

In Lewisham we have a higher standard in that we expect children to be visited once every 6 weeks, even after the first year.

Performance in this area is closely monitored. Lewisham Children's Safeguarding Board received a report in this area at its meeting in December 2013.

It is difficult to give an average figure over the length of placement as placement lengths vary and some children will require more visits than others. Placement lengths vary significantly from days to many years. However, we are confident that all children receive their minimum statutory visits and most receive more than this.

**QUESTION No. 27**

**Written Reply**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**22 JANUARY 2014**

**Question by Councillor Brooks  
of the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People**

**Question**

How many care proceedings have been issued over the past 5 years. Please give year on year figures.

**Reply**

The number of care proceedings issued over the past 5 years were:-

<b>2008-09</b>	<b>2009-10</b>	<b>2010-11</b>	<b>2011-12</b>	<b>2012-13</b>
79	83	71	82	70

**QUESTION No. 28**

**Written Reply**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**22 JANUARY 2014**

**Question by Councillor Brooks  
of the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People**

**Question**

How many care proceedings have been issued after parents have:

1. made a complaint regarding education, CAMHS or social care?
2. Parents have requested s20 placement?

Please give year on year figures

**Reply**

The Local Authority does not collect the information requested. However, most care proceedings are in respect of younger children where there are concerns that they are suffering significant harm. Section 20 cases tend to be teenagers where agreement is reached between parents and Children's Social Care about looking after the child, meaning the need for a court order is not required.

**QUESTION No. 29**

**Written Reply**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**22 JANUARY 2014**

**Question by Councillor Brooks  
of the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People**

**Question**

How many Looked after Children have a statement of SEN? Do each of these children have a nominated worker who coordinates multi-agency support? If not, how is this done ?

**Reply**

There are currently 115 Looked After Children with Statements of Special Educational Needs.

All of these children and young people have an allocated a social worker who co-ordinates the multi-agency support they require. This is then reviewed by an Independent Reviewing Officer in line with the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review Regulations 2010.

Each Looked After Child with a Statement of Special Educational Needs is also allocated a case officer from within the Special Educational Needs Team who has responsibility for monitoring and reviewing the Statement in line with the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice.

In addition, officers from the Looked After Education Team also offer support to Looked After Children as well as the professionals and schools working with them.