

PUBLIC QUESTION NO 1.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question asked by: Mike Keogh

Member to reply: Deputy Mayor

Question

1) In the light of the BBC Newsnight exposure of the exam rigging of firms issuing Construction Skills Certification Scheme cards - (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-34575170>) - can the council ask the developers/builders on the many construction schemes in Lewisham investigate if all the workers and supervisors are fully qualified and have not been involved in the fraudulent behaviour of training and testing centres? If they are then can we trust that the very high buildings that are built will not have construction problems and be liable to having deficiencies in energy inefficiency or at worst may fall down? Other staff may also be exposed to bad practice which may result in close shaves at least or death at most. Could the Council or Government's HSE stop development if workers are found not to be fully qualified?

Reply

Referring specifically to the type of fraudulent behaviour reported in the BBC Newsnight programme, it is not possible for developers/contractors to identify individuals who have obtained CSCS cards by cheating or through bribery as described.

The Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) which is responsible for administering the CSCS card scheme is investigating and working towards eradicating fraudulent behaviour, they suspect that the problem is focused in a minority of the 544 centres across the country. A number of centres have already been closed or contracts suspended.

It is important to appreciate that the Construction Skills Certification Scheme is only one of a number of checks and measures put in place by principle contractors designed to maintain high standards of health and safety and working practices.

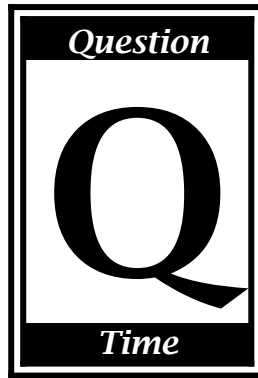
The council has consulted with a number of the developers/contractors on some of the schemes in Lewisham and some of the additional procedures in place are as follows;

- Prior to being permitted to work on the project all individuals are required to attend and complete a site induction, where the CSCS card is submitted for visual and/or electronic inspection. Card chip readers and/or online verification systems are used to check validity of all cards. Induction attendees are required to complete a questionnaire which is design to test understanding of health and safety rules and general competency. If the individual does not complete a satisfactory induction they are not permitted to work on the project.
- Health and safety audits are carried out regularly by health and safety advisors.
- Where principle contractors appoint subcontractors, the subcontractors are required to submit health and safety plans which are checked and continuously reviewed.
- Health and safety plans, risk assessments and method statement are review during daily, weekly, fortnightly and monthly meetings held by the principle contractors.
- In addition to the above visual inspections are carried out several times on a daily basis to ensure that the installation is carried in accordance with the design.

The Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 require that health and safety matters are taken into account throughout all stages of the construction project – from the original conception and design through to the long term maintenance and upkeep of the finished building.

Serious breaches of health and safety legislation on a project could result in construction work being stopped by the Health and Safety Executive.

Where defects do occur after completion of the project, the principle contractor has an obligation through contract and/or through a home building warranty organisation to rectify defects during the defined liability period.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 2.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question asked by: Yvonne Peart

Member to reply: Councillor Millbank

Question

Could the Mayor look into the matter of the effectiveness of the council's consultation regarding the Honor Oak Community Centre and Youth Club with residents and outline details of the consultation that was undertaken with residents prior to your decision of 11 November 2015.

Could your response please include the following issues:

- which properties on Honor Oak Estate were notified by the council that they were undertaking consultation with residents;
- the date the council notified residents of the consultation process;
- how the council notified the residents;
- what format did the consultation take;
- what information were residents on the estate told about the consultation process; and
- deadlines by which the residents were told that they would need to respond to the consultation
- what was the residents' response to the consultation
- what was the outcome of the consultation and what regard did the council have to the residents' response

· what regard did the council have to the community centre's registration as an asset of community value when making its recommendations to the Mayor and Cabinet.

Reply

The Council's consultation process on the future of community centres is included in the Mayor and Cabinet report on Voluntary Sector Accommodation Implementation Plan Update presented on 11 November 2015. This includes the approach take in regard the Honor Oak Community and Youth Centres. This report can be found via the link below:

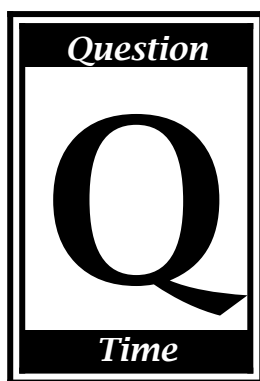
<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=12694#mgDocuments>

This was the second stage of a longer process. A framework for this approach was agreed at Mayor and Cabinet in April 2015 and then an initial implementation plan was presented to Mayor and Cabinet in July 2015. This included proposals around 24 community centres and suggested that where it was proposed to close or redevelop a community centre further consultation should be undertaken. There were 16 assets where further consultation has been undertaken. Meetings were held with the management committees and users of these centres. A list of these meetings is contained at appendix A of the above report. Management committees and users were invited to make written submissions to the consultation and these are summarised in section 6 of the report and provided in full in appendix B.

From January 2015 there have been numerous meetings arranged by the Council on the future of community buildings which have been attended variously by residents, representatives of residents and centre user groups, senior officers and members.

Honor Oak Community Association (previously known as HOCCA now called HOCA), which acts as the premises management organisation for the Honor Oak Community Centre, attended at least 7 of the consultation meetings convened to date by the Council to discuss proposals and put forward views on the future of community buildings, including making representation to Safer and Stronger Select, and Mayor and Cabinet. HOCA helpfully organised a public meeting on September 4th which officers and members attended. Ward councillors prepared and delivered a letter to estate residents setting out the proposals for the Honor Oak estate and encouraging them to attend the public meeting on September 4th. A Telegraph Hill ward councillor has attended each of these 7 meetings bar one. Ward councillors have also meet with the Honor Oak Tenants and Residents Association, the Honor Oak Youth Club, and have spoken to many estate residents and households about the proposed redevelopment over the past weeks.

The Council's consideration to community centres which have been registered as assets of community value is also covered in section 9 of the same report.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 3.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question asked by: Mrs Patricia Richardson

Member to reply: Councillor Best

Question

What are the business rates for the Manor House, Lee? Who pays them?

What are the fuel costs?

What are the water rates?

What are the cleaning costs?

What insurance costs are incurred for the building, and also the contents?

Are any security costs incurred?

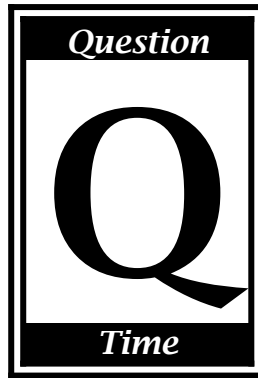
Reply

The table below shows fuel, water, cleaning and security costs for the last financial year.

	2014/15 (£s)	Comments
Electricity	8,561	
Gas	4,265	
Water	1,895	Investigating – 2014/15 water costs were higher than expected
Cleaning	3,613	
Security	7,051	

The business rates for Manor House are recharged internally and paid by the Council.

Manor House is insured through the Council's general policy. The building is currently insured for £5 million.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 4.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question asked by: Raymond Woolford,

Member to reply: Councillor Egan

Question

In light of the £40 Million Mitie Contract being ended for appalling level of work as exposed in New Statesman, what measures are in place to check the terrible quality of work carried out on Estates such as Winslade New Cross Ward which has caused huge misery to tenants with flooding, dangerous electrics and shoddy workmanship?

What action is the Council taking against Mitie to address the poor quality of works that will need to be corrected?

Can Lewisham Council assure us that Lewisham Council tax payers will not foot the bill for Mitie errors?

What compensation is the Council seeking to recover from Mitie?

In light of constant problems and failings in Project assessment, will the Council agree to calls to review the present failed system to ensure Council tax payers' money is more carefully monitored.

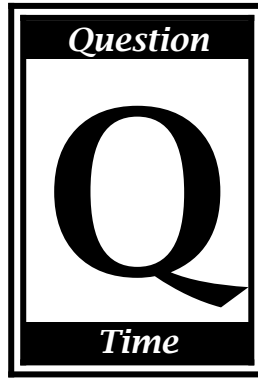
Reply

Lewisham Homes entered into a contract with MITIE Property Services Ltd in order for them to undertake major refurbishment works to the Council's housing stock in the North of the borough. Lewisham Homes engaged a firm of Chartered Surveyors, Baily Garner LLP, to act as the Client Representative. The contract ended because Lewisham Homes decided not to grant an extension when the term expired in September 2015. MITIE are still on site completing works that were ordered before the contract came to an end.

MITIE have to undertake the works in accordance with the quality standards set out in the specification to the satisfaction of Baily Garner. Lewisham Homes employs a team of Clerks of Works who inspect the work in progress and report their findings to Baily Garner. Residents can be involved in the final completion inspections for external works and Baily Garner will take account of their comments when deciding whether to accept the works as complete.

If defective work is discovered Baily Garner make an appropriate deduction from the amount of money due to MITIE until remedial works have been completed. Consequently the Council will not pay for poor quality work. Compensation has been paid by MITIE to residents affected by service failures in accordance with the Lewisham Homes Compensation Policy. The works at Winslade Estate were completed around 12 months ago and Lewisham Homes is not aware of any defects or poor quality works that remain outstanding.

Lewisham Homes has conducted an exercise to identify lessons that can be learned from the major works contracts and the results have been reported to its Board. In future all internal refurbishment works (e.g. kitchens, bathrooms and rewiring) will be undertaken by the in-house Repairs Service and measures have been identified that can help to strengthen the management of projects that are procured through external companies.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 5.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question asked by: Moira Kerrane, Evelyn Ward Parents Forum

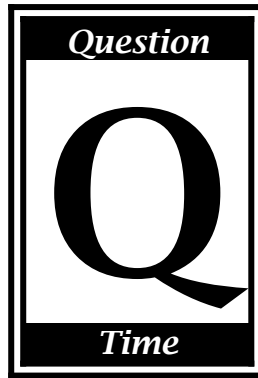
Member to reply: Councillor Maslin

Question

Lewisham said in June 2014 it had calculated 50 primary school places were needed for the Deptford area has this need now been fulfilled by the opening of 60 Reception places at Invicta Deptford?

Reply

Invicta is a Greenwich school and was re-opened by Greenwich to meet the projected pupil needs in the locality. Some children resident in Lewisham but close to Invicta may benefit on a distance criterion for admission into the school, but this will not be a sufficient number to meet overall demand in the New Cross and Deptford Planning area.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 6.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question asked by: Dermot Mckibbin

Member to reply: Councillor Egan

Question

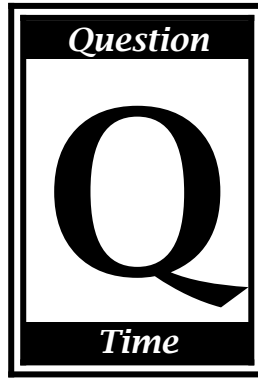
Will the council produce a table by ward for each parliamentary constituency in the borough that shows the estimated number of leasehold properties in the borough prior to and after the Government's technical paper on revising the number of leasehold properties in the borough that was published in August 2014. For further information [/www.gov.uk/government/publications/residential-leasehold-dwellings-in-england-technical-paper](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/residential-leasehold-dwellings-in-england-technical-paper).

Reply

This information is not available by Parliamentary Constituency or at a ward level, and was last recorded at Local Authority level in the 2011 Census. The figures for the London Borough of Lewisham are provided below. The tenure type of Leaseholder is not recorded in the Census and as such is not available.

All categories: Tenure	116,091
Owned: Owned outright	17,273
Owned: Owned with a mortgage or loan	31,955
Shared ownership (part owned and part rented)	1,436
Social rented: Rented from council (Local Authority)	18,084
Social rented: Other	17,968
Private rented: Private landlord or letting agency	26,665
Private rented: Other	1,551
Living rent free	1,159

The document referenced in the question is produced by the Department for Communities and Local Government regarding statistics produced by them.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 7.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question asked by: Keme Nzerem

Member to reply: Councillor Maslin

Question

Will Lewisham guarantee that before any consultation begins on the proposed expansion of Edmund Waller, the data we've been requesting since last July (via FOI, and personal correspondence) will be placed in the public domain? And when will this data be placed into the public domain? To be clear, this is specifically data for primary school place demand projections in Edmund Waller's pre bulge catchment of 774 metres - not the current bulge catchment of 3km+, nor the wider 'planning area 3' referred to in other correspondence. In the interests of accountability, public scrutiny, and good decision making - will Lewisham share the raw data you used to calculate your projections, and methodology used?

Reply

The Council is aware of the concerns of parents at Edmund Waller primary school following the decision by the governing body to share with them early information on a feasibility study examining the potential for the school to be expanded.

It is important to state at an early stage that no decision has been taken to progress this option.

The feasibility study is one component of an ongoing programme to meet the demand for school places. A presentation was made to the Children and Young People Select Committee on January 12th 2016 including projections that by 2021 the LA will face a shortage of up to 9FE in the Primary phase (the equivalent of 4 schools) and an increasing pressure in secondary and special school provision. The shortage is will be most evident in Lewisham Brockley & Telegraph Hill where Edmund Waller is located.

<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=134&MId=3734&Ver=4>.)

In essence, the projections underlying this estimate of demand for primary places are based on the number of births (using postcode level analysis published by the Office for National Statistics) and analysis of the school rolls, again using the post-codes of pupils on roll. The methodology is submitted annually to the DfE for scrutiny and has never been queried.

Questioners challenge whether sufficient demand will be generated by the post-codes immediately adjacent to Edmund Waller. *For the purpose of planning primary places the borough is divided into 6 areas, derived from a study of the pupil post-codes and the schools they attend. In order to reflect parental preference this means that a number of post-codes are combined rather than assume that all residents in one post-code will chose the same school. Feasibility studies have been done on all school sites to establish which sites have the potential for expansion.*

Edmund Waller is in the Central Lewisham, Brockley and Telegraph Hill planning area which is forecast to have a shortage of 3.6 forms of entry by 2020.

In order to meet demand over the coming decade, the LA has undertaken a desk-top study of all school sites to assess their potential for further expansion and further feasibility studies on a smaller number of schools in areas of projected high demand. The LA continues to examine the potential for the inclusion of new schools in forthcoming developments through regular cross-department internal review.. The LA is also working closely with neighbouring boroughs, including Southwark, to understand their proposals and the possible impact on Lewisham.

It is expected that proposals for schemes to be taken further will be presented during 2016/17. The scope of the programme will be subject to the amount of capital funding available.

In response to questions about the use of Section 106: *funding has been drawn down as developers' payments are made to the Council and have benefitted a large number of schemes, but to date no single payment has been sufficient to fund an entire school even if a site had been available.*

In addition to scepticism about the actual demand for places, those asking Council Questions are concerned about a number of issues.

They state that the school is "Under-subscribed" which, to them, indicates that there is no local demand. *Whilst Edmund Waller has recently been undersubscribed in*

terms of first preference choices at Reception, its occupancy levels are high (January 2015 School census - Key Stage 1 99%. Key Stage 2 92%). Current levels of occupancy and distance travelled can be influenced by many factors and cannot be taken as an indicator for future demand. The feasibility study has looked at ways of improving Key Stage 1 facilities which the school themselves judge to be poor quality. It is hoped that this will help to improve the numbers of first preferences and improve local uptake and retention.

They ask what studies have been done to determine the impact on traffic and the transport infrastructure locally. Traffic flows would be considered as part of the development of a Planning Application for any accommodation required. The DfE considers that it is reasonable for a primary-age child to travel up to 2 miles to school. The LA endeavours to offer a place within 1 mile of a child's home-address. The current demand for school places means that in some parts of the borough the distance is far less than this.

They query the impact on school standards and are concerned that a larger school is more likely to have poor results. There are 18 3FE schools in the borough which include some of the highest performing schools. Lewisham Primary schools are now the 4th highest performing primary schools in the country. This has been achieved during a period when 75% have either been expanded permanently or have taken a bulge class. The first permanent expansions took effect in 2012. The schools which have been expanded to date are: Adams Hill, Coopers Lane, Dalmatian, Forster Park, Haberdashers' Aske's Knights Temple Grove, Colebatch, John Ball, John Steiner, Kelvin Grove, Kilmorie, Beecroft Gardens, Gordonbrock, Rushey Green, Sandhurst Infant, Sandhurst Juniors, St George's, Kender and St Bartholomews

*The school Governing Body is responsible for ensuring continued high standards in its school. **Their Key Stage results for the last 6 years can be accessed through the Department for Education School and college performance tables:***
<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/performance/index.html>

They ask why Edmund Waller has been chosen for expansion and if other under-subscribed schools have been considered. As is set out in the presentation to the Children & Young People Select Committee, there are no significant areas of under-occupancy in the borough. Those areas where pressure is less intense are at too great a distance to be realistic options for families resident in Lewisham and Brockley to choose. The LA will continue to work in partnership with the Education Funding Agency to identify opportunities for Free Schools but in the absence of other available sites it will be necessary to continue to consider the expansion of existing schools.

They ask if Edmund Waller has been chosen because it will be the cheapest and easiest option? Value for money and ease of construction, meaning less disruption for the school, are factors which will always be taken into account together with the local demand for places. This should not be equated with poor quality.

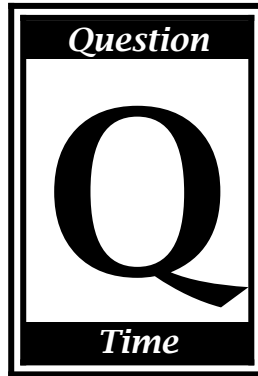
They assert that the LA is blocking St. James Hatcham from expansion. This is not the case. Discussions are in hand as part of the longer-term master planning for the area. The St. James Hatcham school site is owned by Southwark Diocese Board of Education and is surrounded by land owned by Goldsmiths College so there are a number of stakeholder interests to consider.

As stated above no firm proposal has yet been made to enlarge Edmund Waller. A proposal to enlarge the school would require a separate consultation with a number of stages. If the Mayor agrees that there should be a consultation on a proposal to enlarge Edmund Waller there would be a consultation over a period of 6 weeks which would include a consideration of expanding to either 3 or 4 Forms of Entry.

In addition to inviting responses to proposals in writing (email or letter), it would gather the views of stakeholders, families whose children attend the school and local residents, face-to-face. All responses would be included verbatim within appendices to a report and the main report would present an analysis of these and would make recommendations to the Mayor. Any subsequent public notice period would be over 4 weeks and would enable further written representations, followed by a Mayor with recommendations. The full process, including any Planning consultation, would take approximately six months. The consultation would be supported by architect's design proposals which would be placed in the public domain.

The Lewisham website includes information on how to make a request under Freedom of Information legislation. It can be accessed via the following link

<http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/mayorandcouncil/aboutthecouncil/access-to-information/freedom-of-information-act/Pages/default.aspx>



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 8.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question asked by: Stephanie Flower

Member to reply: Councillor Maslin

Question

Can you show me research and reason behind the expansion of Edmund Waller?

Can you show me what research you have done to find new sites for development?

Can you show me what research you have done locating which schools are over or under subscribed.

What analysis and research has been conducted to identify fallow, unused, underused, or derelict sites (not including existing Primary Schools) that could potentially be used to develop additional Primary School places in the borough? Which sites in the borough currently privately owned but undeveloped, or in the process of development, would be suitable for potential development of additional Primary School provision?

If money / politics / planning / private ownership were no impediment, where are the currently undeveloped or derelict sites where Lewisham could potentially develop additional primary schools?

Why was a 2FE or 3FE entry school not included in the recent Central Lewisham

development?

Where has s106 money for additional Primary School provision been spent in Lewisham over the last 5 years?

Will Lewisham guarantee that before any consultation begins on the proposed expansion of Edmund Waller, the data we've been requesting since last July will be placed in the public domain? And when will this data be placed into the public domain? Specifically data for primary school place demand projections in Edmund Waller's pre bulge catchment of 774 metres – not the current bulge catchment of 3km+, not the wider 'planning area 3' referred to in other correspondence. In the interests of accountability, public scrutiny and good decisions making – till Lewisham share the raw data you used to calculate your projections, and methodology used?

Are you expanding Waller because you believe it to be the cheapest and easiest option?

Why are you blocking St James Hatcham from expansion?

Which Lewisham schools have expanded over last 5 years? What are their KS1 and 2 results for the last 6, including the very latest data from this academic year?

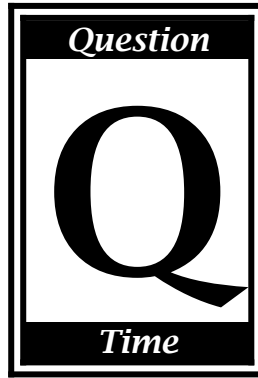
What are the KS1 and KS2 results over the last 6 years for Holbeach?

What are the KS1 and KS2 results over the last 6 years for Forster park?

Holbeach results appear to have gone down since expansion. Why is this? What legally binding guarantees can you provide that expanding Edmund Waller will improve KS1 and KS2 results in both the short and long term? Consistently, year on year, over the next 2, and 10 years?

Reply

See answer to Question 7.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 9.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question asked by: Sue Amaradivakara

Member to reply: Councillor Maslin

Question

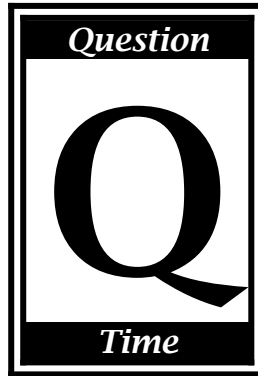
The proposed plan to expand Edmund Waller school to 4FE directly impacts on our school community and families with hugely negative consequences in my opinion.

Why is Lewisham blocking St James Hatcham from expansion?

Reply

The LA has not blocked St. James Hatcham Primary school from expansion. Discussions are in hand as part of the longer-term master planning for the area. The St. James Hatcham school site is owned by Southwark Diocese Board of Education and is surrounded by land owned by Goldsmiths College so there are a number of stakeholder interests to consider.

No firm proposal has yet been made to enlarge Edmund Waller. A feasibility study has been undertaken examining the potential for the school to be expanded. Should this taken further it would be supported by a consultation process involving local stakeholders and neighbouring schools.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 10.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question asked by: Phil Dawson

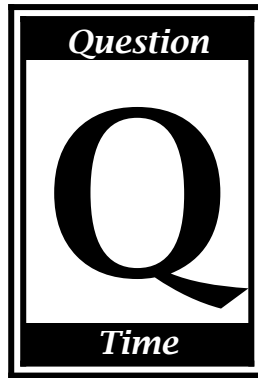
Member to reply: Councillor Maslin

Question

Will Lewisham guarantee that before any consultation begins on the proposed expansion of Edmund Waller, the data we've been requesting since last July will be placed in the public domain? And when will this data be placed into the public domain? Specifically data for primary school place demand projections in Edmund Waller's pre bulge catchment of 774 metres – not the current bulge catchment of 3km+, not the wider 'planning area 3' referred to in other correspondence. In the interests of accountability, public scrutiny and good decisions making – till Lewisham share the raw data you used to calculate your projections, and methodology used?

Reply

See answer to Question 7.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 11.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question asked by: Matt Lewis

Member to reply: Councillor Maslin

Question

In which postcodes does the forecasted increase in demand for primary school places arise? What feasibility studies have been done on why schools in these areas cannot be expanded to meet the increase in demand?

What proportion of the forecast increase in demand is in the current Edmund Waller catchment area?

Why has Edmund Waller been selected for expansion? Is it solely down to available land and cost? The school is already undersubscribed so this doesn't suggest that it is due to a demand for places. Is it cheaper to build one mega school than expand each school where additional places are required for children who live in those catchment areas?

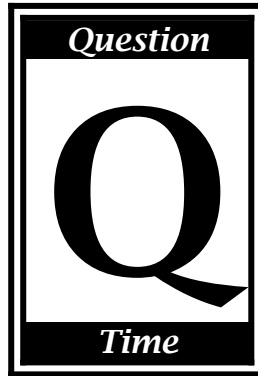
What studies have provided evidence that travelling greater distances to primary schools that have 3/4 forms per year is beneficial to children? How does this rate against studies of children who travel a short distance to smaller sized primary schools of 2 forms per year?

What studies have been conducted on the consequences of the inevitable increase in traffic on Waller Road and the surrounding area? Will the road barrier have to be

removed from outside the school as a result?

Reply

See answer to Question 7.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 12.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question asked by: Karen Staples

Member to reply: Councillor Maslin

Question

Can you please explain why a great, local, community primary school like Edmund Waller is being targeted for expansion when there isn't a need for school places in this area?

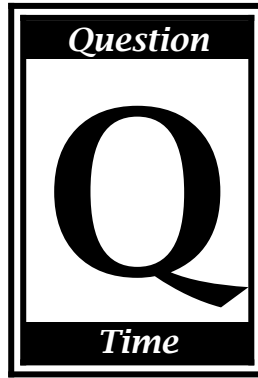
Also, why was St James' Hatcham school turned down for expansion when they wanted to expand?

Reply

The LA has not blocked St. James Hatcham Primary school from expansion. Discussions are in hand as part of the longer-term master planning for the area. The St. James Hatcham school site is owned by Southwark Diocese Board of Education and is surrounded by land owned by Goldsmiths College so there are a number of stakeholder interests to consider.

No firm proposal has yet been made to enlarge Edmund Waller. A feasibility study has been undertaken examining the potential for the school to be expanded. Should

this taken further it would be supported by a consultation process involving local stakeholders and neighbouring schools.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 13.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question asked by: Roger Francomb

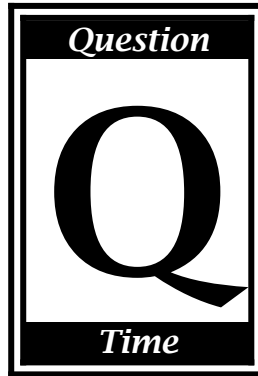
Member to reply: Councillor Maslin

Question

I would like to know on what grounds you feel it is credible policy to double the size of Edmund Waller primary school when it is already a large school, and when the demand for primary school places is highest in other parts of the borough.

Reply

See answer to Question 7.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 14.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question asked by: Carol Spurling

Member to reply: Councillor Bonavia

Question

How much New Homes Bonus Money was paid to the council in the financial year 2014/2015 and the financial year 1/4/2015-30/9/2015?

Were any sums from these amounts paid to support local communities? If so, how much was used on each occasion and for what?

Is any of the money still held by the council? If so, what plans does the council have for its use?

Reply

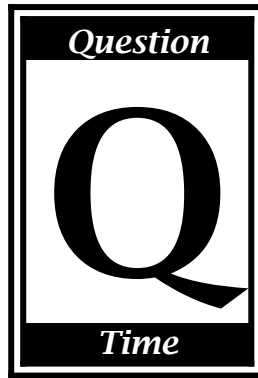
The Council receives New Homes Bonus (NHB) for each fiscal year (i.e. from April to March). It is calculated as an amount per new residential property completed and paid for the first six years for which Council Tax on that property is due. The value of NHB received for each of the last two years was:

2014/15	£6.4m
2015/16	£5.6m

Since 2013/14 for ten years each year £0.65m is committed to support work on developing plans and schemes to meet the housing and infrastructure needs that arise from the current strong demographic growth in the Borough that is impacting communities.

In addition £5.0m of the money received in 2015/16 was used as a one off measure to support the Council's General Fund budget. The balance is held in reserves for use in supporting the Council to provide services to its residents. The call on the Council's General Fund covers expenditure for social care, refuse collection, highways, homelessness, planning and enforcement, leisure and community (including local assemblies) services.

Consideration of the best way to apply any further NHB monies will take place during the budget setting process.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 15.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question asked by: Roxy Walsh

Member to reply: Councillor Maslin

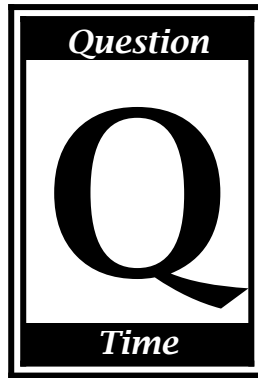
Question

Why is Lewisham council blocking St James Hatcham from expansion? They are only 1FE and unlike at Edmund Waller, the parents there WANT to expand. Doing so would alleviate some of the demand Lewisham claim exists in Waller's catchment. And reduce the need to expand Waller.

Reply

The LA has not blocked St. James Hatcham Primary school from expansion. Discussions are in hand as part of the longer-term master planning for the area. The St. James Hatcham school site is owned by Southwark Diocese Board of Education and is surrounded by land owned by Goldsmiths College so there are a number of stakeholder interests to consider.

No firm proposal has yet been made to enlarge Edmund Waller. A feasibility study has been undertaken examining the potential for the school to be expanded. Should this taken further it would be supported by a consultation process involving local stakeholders and neighbouring schools.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 16.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question asked by: Katherine Perry

Member to reply: Councillor Maslin

Question

Which Lewisham schools have expanded over last 5 years? What are their pupil attendance percentages and their KS1 and 2 results for the last 6 years, including the very latest data from this academic year?

Reply

The first permanent expansions of primary schools took effect in 2012. Data on pupil attendance and Key Stage 2 results is published by the DfE. There is no standardised assessment of Key Stage 1. The following tables set out the pupil attendance percentages and Key Stage 2 results for the relevant schools as published by the DfE on their web-site

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/performance/index.html>

KS2: Percentage achieving Level 4 or above in reading, writing and mathematics

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Adamsrill Primary School	45%	63%	58%	84%	68%	76%	76%
Cooper's Lane Primary School	48%	51%	80%	89%	86%	83%	75%
Dalmain Primary School	74%	69%	62%	87%	82%	98%	90%
Forster Park Primary School	54%	52%	48%	67%	78%	0%	71%
Haberdashers Aske's Knights Temple Grove	-	-	39%	64%	75%	80%	85%
Holbeach Primary School	56%	68%	57%	88%	86%	83%	77%
John Ball Primary School	75%	71%	71%	66%	93%	90%	98%
John Stainer Community Primary School	61%	78%	87%	89%	83%	93%	89%
Kelvin Grove Primary School	49%	41%	53%	68%	69%	82%	75%
Kilmorrie Primary School	31%	50%	75%	75%	95%	96%	95%
Brockley Primary School	15%	33%	85%	83%	85%	82%	93%
Gordonbrock Primary School	49%	73%	62%	82%	95%	93%	94%
Rushey Green Primary School	81%	71%	71%	79%	77%	63%	85%
Sandhurst Infant and Nursery School	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Sandhurst Junior School	61%	79%	78%	80%	92%	82%	90%
St George's CofE Primary School (Formerly Christ Church CofE Primary School)	40%	83%	76%	75%	85%	78%	92%
Kender Primary School	43%	62%	63%	68%	85%	90%	93%
St Bartholomews's Church of England Primary School	74%	61%	79%	74%	86%	93%	91%

Source: Department for Education School and college performance tables:

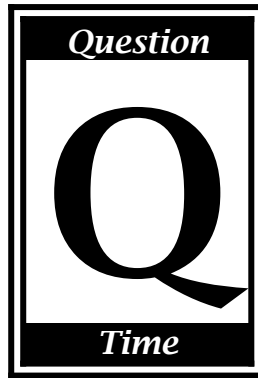
Absence

	2009/10			
	Overall Absence	Authorised Absence	Unauthorised Absence	Persistent Absence
Adamsrill Primary School	5.6	4.2	1.3	1.5
Cooper's Lane Primary School	5.6	4.8	0.7	2.0
Dalmain Primary School	4.2	3.5	0.8	-
Forster Park Primary School	6.9	4.7	2.3	3.2
Haberdashers' Aske's Knights Academy	6.5	4.6	1.9	4.7
Holbeach Primary School	4.6	2.9	1.6	1.0
John Ball Primary School	5.3	5.2	0.1	0.8

John Stainer Community Primary School	3.0	2.8	0.2	0.0
Kelvin Grove Primary School	6.5	4.1	2.4	4.4
Kilmorie Primary School	5.8	3.7	2.1	1.4
Brockley Primary School	8.1	5.0	3.2	6.8
Gordonbrock Primary School	5.4	4.9	0.6	1.4
Rushey Green Primary School	5.3	4.4	0.9	-
Sandhurst Infant and Nursery School	4.4	3.6	0.8	0.0
Sandhurst Junior School	4.1	3.9	0.2	-
Christ Church CofE Primary School	5.2	4.7	0.5	0.0
Kender Primary School	4.6	4.3	0.3	0.0
St Bartholomews's Church of England Primary School	6.0	4.4	1.6	3.6
	2010/11			
	Overall Absence	Authorised Absence	Unauthorised Absence	Persistent Absence
Adamsrill Primary School	3.6	1.9	5.5	4.3
Cooper's Lane Primary School	3.8	0.7	4.5	3.6
Dalmain Primary School	3.2	1	4.2	2.5
Forster Park Primary School	4.4	3.8	8.1	13.5
Haberdashers' Aske's Knights Academy	3.8	2.2	6	7.1
Holbeach Primary School	2.9	1.5	4.4	2.6
John Ball Primary School	4	0.2	4.1	0.8
John Stainer Community Primary School	2.7	0.5	3.2	1.5
Kelvin Grove Primary School	3.7	2.9	6.5	8.0
Kilmorie Primary School	4.2	1.8	6	5.7
Brockley Primary School	3.5	2.6	6.2	5.0
Gordonbrock Primary School	4.3	1	5.3	3.1
Rushey Green Primary School	3.8	1.1	4.9	2.7
Sandhurst Infant and Nursery School	4	0.7	4.7	1.8
Sandhurst Junior School	3.5	0.2	3.7	1.7
Christ Church CofE Primary School	3.9	0.4	4.3	1.8
Kender Primary School	4.4	0.8	5.2	4.9
St Bartholomews's Church of England Primary School	3.7	1.5	5.2	3.0
	2011/12			
	Overall Absence	Authorised Absence	Unauthorised Absence	Persistent Absence
Adamsrill Primary School	5.2	3.4	1.8	3.7
Cooper's Lane Primary School	4.5	3.6	0.9	4.1
Dalmain Primary School	3.7	3.1	0.5	1.7
Forster Park Primary School	6.6	3.5	3.1	10.7
Haberdashers' Aske's Knights Academy	6.3	4.1	2.2	10.2

Holbeach Primary School	3.7	2.2	1.5	1.4
John Ball Primary School	3.3	3	0.3	-
John Stainer Community Primary School	2.6	2.3	0.3	-
Kelvin Grove Primary School	5.3	3	2.3	7.7
Kilmorie Primary School	4.7	3.7	1	2.9
Brockley Primary School	4.8	3.1	1.7	3.7
Gordonbrock Primary School	4.3	3.3	1.1	3.3
Rushey Green Primary School	5.1	4	1.1	5.3
Sandhurst Infant and Nursery School	4.7	3.4	1.3	2.6
Sandhurst Junior School	3.3	3.2	0.1	2.0
Christ Church CofE Primary School	4.2	4.1	0.2	1.6
Kender Primary School	4.1	3.9	0.3	5.5
St Bartholomews's Church of England Primary School	4.0	3	1	1.5
	2012/13			
	Overall Absence	Authorised Absence	Unauthorised Absence	Persistent Absence
Adamsrill Primary School	5.0	3.6	1.4	2.9
Cooper's Lane Primary School	4.7	3.7	0.9	2.8
Dalmain Primary School	3.3	3.0	0.3	-
Forster Park Primary School	6.4	3.9	2.5	8.8
Haberdashers' Aske's Knights Academy	6.1	4.1	2.0	6.6
Holbeach Primary School	3.6	2.4	1.2	1.2
John Ball Primary School	2.9	2.6	0.4	0.7
John Stainer Community Primary School	2.7	2.2	0.5	-
Kelvin Grove Primary School	4.9	3.0	1.9	5.4
Kilmorie Primary School	5.2	4.0	1.2	6.0
Beecroft Garden Primary	4.6	3.1	1.5	4.3
Gordonbrock Primary School	4.2	2.9	1.2	2.2
Rushey Green Primary School	5.0	4.0	1.0	3.7
Sandhurst Infant and Nursery School	5.7	4.0	1.7	4.3
Sandhurst Junior School	3.2	3.0	0.3	-
Christ Church CofE Primary School	4.3	3.9	0.3	2.7
Kender Primary School	4.1	3.4	0.7	3.1
St Bartholomews's Church of England Primary School	3.9	3.0	0.9	3.6
	2013/14			
	Overall Absence	Authorised Absence	Unauthorised Absence	Persistent Absence
Adamsrill Primary School	4.4	2.8	1.6	3.0
Cooper's Lane Primary School	4.2	3.2	0.9	2.6
Dalmain Primary School	2.6	2.3	0.3	-
Forster Park Primary School	4.9	2.8	2.1	4.0

Haberdashers' Aske's Knights Academy	5.3	3.3	2.0	5.5
Holbeach Primary School	3.0	1.7	1.3	-
John Ball Primary School	2.8	2.2	0.7	0.9
John Stainer Community Primary School	3.5	2.7	0.8	1.6
Kelvin Grove Primary School	4.6	3.0	1.6	3.1
Kilmorie Primary School	4.5	3.1	1.4	2.4
Beecroft Garden Primary	4.8	3.2	1.5	3.0
Gordonbrock Primary School	3.5	2.4	1.0	1.0
Rushey Green Primary School	4.6	3.4	1.2	4.3
Sandhurst Infant and Nursery School	4.3	2.8	1.4	4.3
Sandhurst Junior School	3.0	2.6	0.4	1.2
St George's CofE Primary School	4.2	3.3	0.8	1.6
Kender Primary School	4.5	3.2	1.3	4.4
St Bartholomews's Church of England Primary School	3.4	2.7	0.7	1.4
Source: Department for Education Full Year Release https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-pupil-absence				



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 17.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question asked by: Mark Fairington

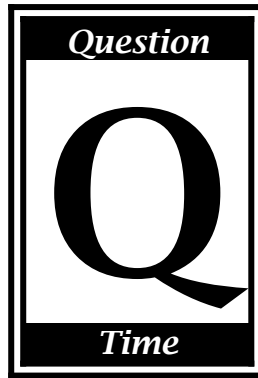
Member to reply: Councillor Maslin

Question

Holbeach Primary School results appear to have gone down since expansion. We at Edmund Waller share leadership with Holbeach and would like to know what investigations have been made into this decline, and what measures will be put in place to ensure that the same does not happen in our school if an expansion is undertaken?

Reply

The permanent expansion of Holbeach Primary School took effect in September 2015 when they admitted 90 children to Reception. The school admitted "bulge" classes in 2008 and 2009. The pupils admitted in 2008 took KS2 SATs in 2015. The pupils admitted in 2009 will take their KS2 SATs in 2016. It is unlikely that any variations in performance in earlier groups can be attributed to expansion. Achievement and Attainment is closely monitored by the Local Authority and support provided as necessary. It should be noted that Lewisham Primary schools are the fourth highest performing schools across the country and this improvement has taken place at a time of rapid expansion of pupil numbers.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 18.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question asked by: Brian Turpin

Member to reply: Deputy Mayor

Question

Given that the proposed new junction for the Lewisham Gateway seems unlikely to be improved in line with modern cycling safety standards, can we be assured that the Council are having further discussions with Transport for London and the developer to offer alternative off-carriageway routes around the new junction? Lewisham Cyclists are aware of outline plans for such routes but so far have not been shown any detailed designs showing how these will work in practice, and address the major issue of a safe and convenient east – west crossing of the town centre and direct linkages to all existing off-carriageway cycle routes in the surrounding area. Given this scheme is scheduled to be introduced in 2016 can we see immediately the current state of the designs so we can assess their viability.

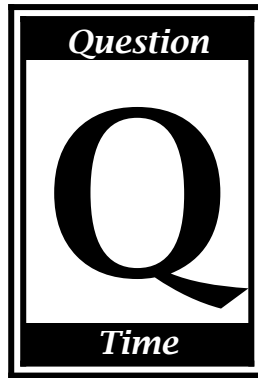
Reply

Lewisham Council has worked with the GLA, TfL and developers, Muse, to deliver the Lewisham Gateway development in the heart of the town centre. The main aim of the scheme is to remove the large roundabout, which acts as a barrier to both

pedestrians and cyclists, and replace it with a new area of pedestrianised public realm and related development.

Although the physical constraints of the site do not allow for segregated routes throughout the town centre, a number of additional provisions have been made for cycling at the Council's request, including safe cycle crossing points and east-west cycle access through the pedestrianised areas.

The current scheme design has been shared with Lewisham Cyclists, and there are currently no further designs in progress for new alternative routes. However, the Council continues to work with TfL to promote improvements to cycling infrastructure, including the implementation of Cycling Quietways.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 19.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question asked by: Natalie Morrice

Member to reply: Councillor Maslin

Question

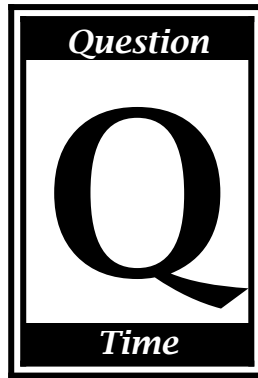
I understand that the area around Edmund Waller is currently well served for Primary Places and EW is currently undersubscribed.

Would it not therefore make more sense to bolster places where they are most needed. The routes by car to Edmund Waller are already heavily congested and would unlikely cope with increased peak time traffic of parents ferrying their children from the likes of SE4 to SE14.

Please reconsider dramatically increasing the size of Edmund Waller which would very much spoil what is so special about this school.

Reply

See answer to Question 7.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 20.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question asked by: Lucy Masters

Member to reply: Councillor Deputy Mayor

Question

Where has s106 money for additional Primary School provision been spent in Lewisham over the last 5 years?

If none has been released, why has none been released - given the spate of recent developments and projected increased Primary School demand.

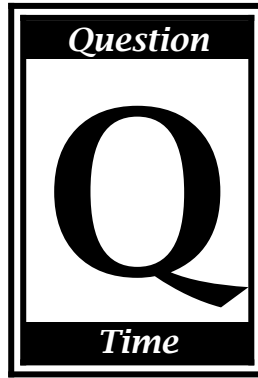
Reply

Planning obligations are legal agreements made under section 106 of the Town and Country Planning ACT 1990 between local authorities and developers to make acceptable development which would otherwise be unacceptable in planning terms. These obligations can be financial or non-financial and are used to prescribe the nature of development; compensate for the loss or damage created by a development; or mitigate a development's impact. Planning obligations must be directly related to the proposed development and fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development.

Obligations are triggered by specific 'milestones' being reached by a development, such as commencement or first occupation of a development. When financial obligations are received by the Council they are allocated to the relevant service to which the obligation relates, for the funds to be used on projects that meet the requirements stipulated within the legal agreements.

S106 education funds have been used to assist in a number of school enlargement projects over the past 5 years, namely:

- John Stainer School Enlargement
- Rushey Green School Enlargement
- Resourcing the School Expansion Programme
- Grinling Gibbons Temporary Enlargements Improvements
- Adamsrill School Enlargement
- Coopers Lane School Expansion and Relocation of Grove Park CEL
- Haseltine Primary School Improvements to enable the school to accommodate a further temporary enlargement in 2014



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 21.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question asked by: John Hamilton,

Member to reply: Councillor Millbank

Question

I was at the Mayor and Cabinet meeting on November 11th which heard representations from many community centre users against the plans to demolish their centres.

It was not clear to me from the Mayor's remarks as he accepted the council officers' recommendations whether he had agreed to a delay and further discussion and consultation with users of some of the centres.

Could the Mayor give a simple table listing each of the community centres under discussion with a short statement of the decision and giving the planned date for closure where demolition or sale is planned.

Reply

The following recommendations were agreed by Mayor and Cabinet on 11 November 2015

<p>Barnes Wallis community centre - Site be included within the wider development of housing on the Somerville Estate, subject to detailed design work to include the provision of community space that complements other facilities in the locality. Barnes Wallis community centre to be retained until such time as any housing development is agreed.</p>
<p>Brandram Rd Community Hall - The council to commence negotiations with Brandram Rd Management Association for a short-term lease in order to support community use while further consideration is given to development needs.</p>
<p>Champion Hall - Short term lease to be negotiated with current management association to allow for continued community use and safeguard childcare provision whilst further consideration is given to development needs.</p>
<p>Clare Hall - To be designated as a nursery on a lease with Little Gems nursery on similar terms to other nurseries in council buildings.</p>
<p>Evelyn Community Centre - To be retained as a community centre but the site be earmarked for potential housing development with community space as part of a wider scheme should development opportunities arise in the future.</p>
<p>Ewart Rd Club Room - To be transferred to the Housing Co-op either as a freehold transfer or on a full repairing lease for community use.</p>
<p>Goldsmiths Community Centre - To be retained and future use of the site revisited dependent on progress on raising the capital from other sources required for the works to the building.</p>
<p>Honor Oak Youth and Community Centres - Site to be earmarked for housing development with youth and community space re-provided once further consultation and detailed design work is undertaken.</p>
<p>Lethbridge Club Room - The planned closure of Lethbridge Club Room to take place once the new centre on Heathside and Lethbridge is ready for occupation and the site to be earmarked as part of the estate redevelopment.</p>
<p>Saville Centre - To close and site to be released for redevelopment, with users assisted to relocate to alternative premises where possible. Planned date for closure April 2016</p>
<p>Scotney Hall - Site to be designated for future housing development but retained in the meantime subject to the affordability of necessary repairs. Consideration to be given to re-providing some community space as part of any future housing scheme.</p>
<p>Sedgehill Community Centre - Site to be earmarked for potential school places subject to a detailed feasibility study, school expansion consultation and planning permission. Consideration to be given to different ways to use the site in order to provide for school expansion and the different impact options would have on community uses.</p>
<p>Silverdale Hall - To close and site to be released for redevelopment, with users assisted to relocate to other local provision where possible. Planned date for closure September 2016</p>
<p>Venner Road Hall - Short term lease to be negotiated with current management association to allow for continued community use and safeguard childcare provision whilst further consideration is given to development needs.</p>
<p>Wesley Halls - to be retained whilst further discussions take place with the Downham Community Association about the best way to provide both housing and community space on the site and adjoining land.</p>
<p>Woodpecker Community Centre - To close and site to be designated for housing development as part of a wider scheme on the Milton Court Estate. Current main user to remain in the centre in the interim period subject to suitable terms being agreed. Planned date for closure January 2018</p>



Time

PUBLIC QUESTION NO 22.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question asked by: Debbie Knowles

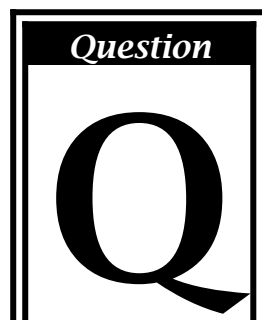
Member to reply: Councillor Maslin

Question

To what extent has Lewisham Council approached sponsors to run new schools elsewhere in Lewisham, in areas where there is a desperate need for school places and it may have been feasible to build a new school?

Reply

Since the inception of the government's Free School policy, officers have had discussions with around 30 potential Free School providers. The local authority supported the proposal from the Haberdashers' Aske's Federation to open a Free School in 2013. However, no other Council owned sites have so far been identified as suitable for other Free Schools.



Time

PUBLIC QUESTION NO 23.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question asked by: Martin Allen

Member to reply: Councillor Egan

Question

I see from the New Cross Gate website that Lewisham is preparing to select a partner to develop the site which did once provide a home for many Lewisham Council tenants. It has now lain dormant for years. If the plan is not to build predominantly Council houses or flats at Council rents, can you please explain why not. Will the plans prioritise building genuinely affordable rented housing with secure rented status for occupants to fit with Lewisham's stated objective to build 500 new council homes.

Reply

London is experiencing a housing crisis across all tenures, and as we set out in our housing strategy last year, this Council is committed to taking decisive action across a range of partnerships to respond to that crisis and improve the housing options available to Lewisham residents.

This Council is investing in new emergency accommodation for homeless households, is building at least 500 new Council homes on our land in partnership with Lewisham Homes, and is working across a very wide range of partnerships to see a further 1,500 new genuinely affordable new homes built in Lewisham by 2018.

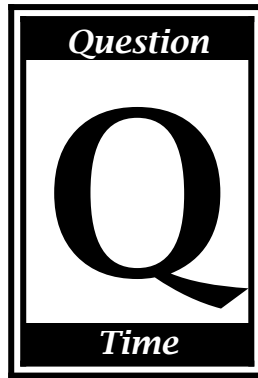
Our innovative work includes using new technologies to develop reusable homes which will open this spring, and which will provide a hugely improved environment for families in housing crisis. We are also proud to have enabled this country's first urban self-build development to come forward as Community Land Trust in which all homes will be secured as affordable for local residents in perpetuity.

The Besson Street project expands on this work, and is part of a new programme of action in line with our Housing Strategy to respond to the wide range of structural problems in the private rented sector. Through these projects we will use public land

to leverage institutional finance, supported by the highest quality of professional landlords. We will be enabling new homes to rent at a range of rents, providing renters in the sector with the hugely improved security of tenure that comes from five year tenancies and capped rent increases.

For a third of the homes rents will be set at a level that is genuinely affordable to local people earning average incomes, thereby creating a new intermediate tenure type which will help a different group of residents – those unable to buy but equally unable to access traditional social housing. There will be no poor doors, no division of the block by tenure, so that the only difference is the rent that tenants pay. In this way we will provide a genuinely innovative and high quality housing option for people who currently have few or no options to live locally, enabling low to medium income local residents to be able to live and work locally if they choose to do so.

This is a new and innovative approach which complements rather than replaces all of the more traditional development work that will continue and on which progress will continue to accelerate this year. London's housing crisis demands a broad range of responses to meet a range of housing needs, and this Council is proud to have been acting broadly and innovatively to meet the challenges that we and our residents face.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 24.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question asked by: Dr Almuth McDowall

Member to reply: Councillor Maslin

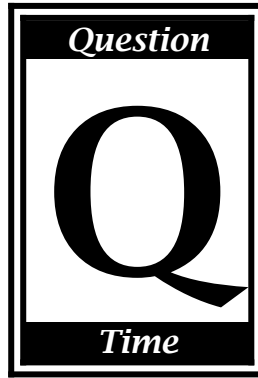
Question

Can you please answer the following honestly and transparently:

- a) which feasibility analyses have been conducted which compare the potential expansion of Edmund Waller against other options such as building additional primary schools, or expanding other alternative schools?
- b) which data would indicate that additional spaces would actually serve a local need, given that the school is currently undersubscribed?
- c) what projections has the council undertaken to gauge the impact of potential expansion of Edmund Waller on scholastic achievement, the local infrastructure and other aspects?
- d) more specifically, can you let me know who I could turn to with a freedom of information request regarding the above?

Reply

See answer to Question 7.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 25.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question asked by: Kate Franklin

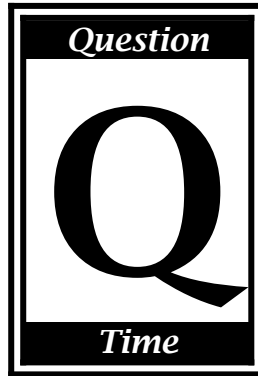
Member to reply: Councillor Maslin

Question

My children go to Edmund Waller primary school, which is currently undersubscribed. What is the justification for expanding Waller, when the need for places in the borough is kilometres away? Expanding Waller appears to make little strategic sense. Are you proposing to expand Waller simply because you believe it to be the cheapest and easiest option?

Reply

See answer to Question 7.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 26.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question asked by: Adrian Bradbury

Member to reply: Councillor Smith

Question

Will the Council name all fallow, unused, underused, or derelict sites (not including existing primary schools) that are or have been under consideration for conversion into buildings for the provision of Primary Schooling? Will they publish any discussions, research and/or feasibility studies related to each of these sites? Are the Ladywell Baths included in this list?

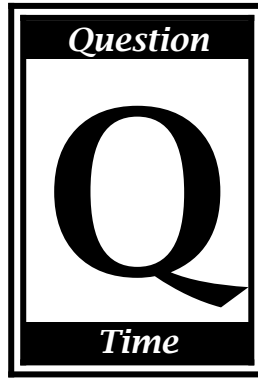
Reply

Only one site has been under consideration for conversion into primary school use. The Council has been exploring a range of possible uses for the Grade II listed Ladywell Playtower Victorian baths which require significant investment. However, identifying a long term use which would justify the necessary investment is challenging and it may be necessary to approach potential funders like the Heritage Lottery Fund to support the conservation deficit on the restoration. Through our discussions with potential users we have been asked for our views on the adaptation of the site for school use and we have carried out some rudimentary investigations on this option. The site presents several challenges in terms of school use, but principally these are:

- suitability for adaptation without damaging historic fabric or detracting from key features
- efficiency of internal space created given the above constraints
- sensitive context for the new build extension that would be necessary on adjoining land to give the necessary space. The site is adjacent to other listed buildings and sits in the Ladywell Village conservation area.
- sufficiency of play space
- value for money of capital investment
- ongoing maintenance and running costs
- location and access

No option for the Playtower has yet been discounted and we will continue to explore the most appropriate route for its restoration and re-use this year.

Officers continue to look at all options for the expansion of the primary estate.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 27.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question asked by: Ken Wakeman

Member to reply: Councillor Millbank

Question

Can you confirm that no building works will be carried out on green areas at Barnes Wallis Community Centre?

Do you agree that users of the Barnes Wallis should use Somerville Adventure Play area new building.

Will the Fire Brigade, Police and Ambulance Services be consulted on the question of parking, as the estate will not be able to cope with the expected build of 70 plus new homes.

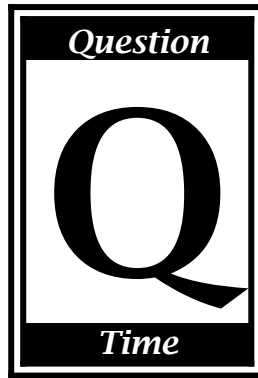
Reply

The Council is not clear which green areas the question is referring to but the detailed design for development will be subject to further consultation as part of the requirement to obtain planning permission.

The Council understands that the new building at Somerville Adventure playground owned and run by Somerville Young People's Project (SYPP) will have space

available for use by other groups and for other community activities. Individual organisations will be considered if they wish to use SYPP facilities. If requested, the Council will add the SYPP building onto the list of community venues available in the borough.

As part of the design and planning process, the Council will consult with Secured by Design (SBD) which is an official police security initiative focusing on the design and security for new and refurbished homes, commercial premises and car parks, as well as highways and building control, to ensure that the number of new homes being developed on site is not in breach of any regulations.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 28.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question asked by: Dr Emma Grant

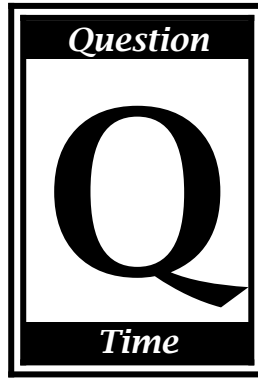
Member to reply: Councillor Maslin

Question

Does Lewisham Council plan to ride roughshod over the views and preferences of the vast majority of parents and children at Edmund Waller school with regard to the proposed expansion? Have the council considered the implications of that decision in terms of local democratic rights, and indeed the basis of their own elected status?

Reply

No decision has been taken to expand Edmund Waller Primary School. The school has been included in a series of feasibility studies of sites across the borough which will identify options to meet the increased demand for places resulting from a growing population. Any proposal will be fully consulted on with local stakeholders through the statutory processes governing changes to school organisation and the development of the site.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 29.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question asked by: Penelope Prodger

Member to reply: Councillor Maslin

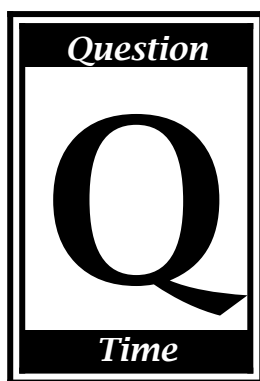
Question

Why is St James Hatcham Primary School being denied expansion? It is a single form entry school and unlike Waller, the parents there are keen to expand which would alleviate some of the demand Lewisham claim exists in Waller's catchment.

I would also like to know whether Waller is to be expanded because it is thought to be the cheapest and easiest option?

Reply

The LA has not blocked St. James Hatcham Primary school from expansion. Discussions are in hand as part of the longer-term master planning for the area. The St. James Hatcham school site is owned by Southwark Diocese Board of Education and is surrounded by land owned by Goldsmiths College so there are a number of stakeholder interests to consider.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 30.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question asked by: Peter Richardson

Member to reply: Councillor Best

Question

With reference to the plans to offer the management of Manor House, Torridon Road and Forest Hill library buildings to a third party Host, it is clear that the Host organisation will be responsible for Public and Third Party Insurance cover on taking over the management responsibilities.

However, this is currently the responsibility of the Council.

Once the changes have taken place, the provision and operation of the Library spaces are to remain the responsibility of Lewisham's Library Service, so will that department not be required to retain or obtain cover for those spaces which will remain in essence within the public realm?

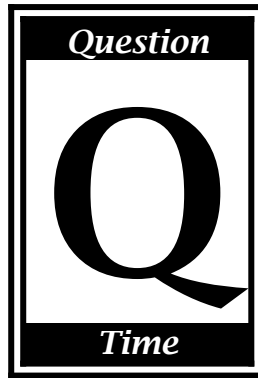
Can the Council extrapolate the costs of insuring the buildings to be transferred to a third party from the current costs for which they are responsible?

Reply

In the Community Library Model, the responsibility for the provision of library services from community venues is the responsibility of the Council. Insurance, however, is the responsibility of the organisation hosting the library and other services in the building they are responsible for.

Council staff working in a library or working peripatetically as part of their outreach duties (e.g. in a community library) are covered by the Council's public liability insurance.

Similar costs have been identified and agreed in the current community library buildings.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 31.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question asked by: Joanna McMahon

Member to reply: Councillor Smith

Question

1) If existing barriers that have been sighted such as money/politics/planning/private ownership were no impediment to providing more primary places, where are the current undeveloped or derelict sites where Lewisham could potentially develop additional primary schools.

2) Why was a 2FE or 3FE school not included in the plans for Central Lewisham development?

Reply

1) There is currently only one undeveloped or derelict site in the borough under consideration for an additional Primary School, which is the Grade II listed Ladywell Playtower building. The building needs significant investment, and identifying a long term use which would justify the necessary investment is challenging and it may be necessary to approach potential funders like the Heritage Lottery Fund to support the conservation deficit on the restoration. Through our discussions with potential users we have been asked for our views on the adaptation of the site for school use and

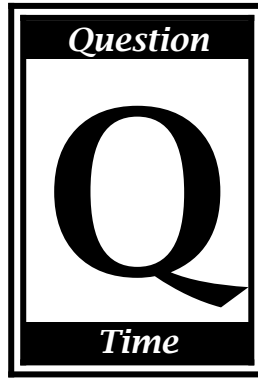
we have carried out some rudimentary investigations on this option. The site presents several challenges in terms of school use, but principally these are:

- suitability for adaptation without damaging historic fabric or detracting from key features
- efficiency of internal space created given the above constraints
- sensitive context for the new build extension that would be necessary on adjoining land to give the necessary space. The site is adjacent to other listed buildings and sits in the Ladywell Village conservation area.
- sufficiency of play space
- value for money of capital investment
- ongoing maintenance and running costs
- location and access

No option for the Playtower has yet been discounted and we will continue to explore the most appropriate route for its restoration and re-use this year.

Officers continue to look at all options for the expansion of the Primary estate.

2) The central Lewisham area was identified as a locality for significant new housing, and this has been taken into account in pupil place projections. As part of the regeneration of Lewisham Town Centre, additional secondary school places were provided through the expansion of Lewisham Bridge Primary School to create the new, all-age Prendergast Vale College. Work is ongoing to investigate opportunities for expansions at various other schools, and any potential new sites which would be available to serve those areas.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 32.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question asked by: Cesar Gimeno Lavin

Member to reply: Councillor Smith

Question

Where has s106 money for additional Primary School provision been spent in Lewisham over the last 5 years? If none has been released, why has none been released given the spate of recent and significant housing developments to the area coupled with the projected increase in Primary demand?

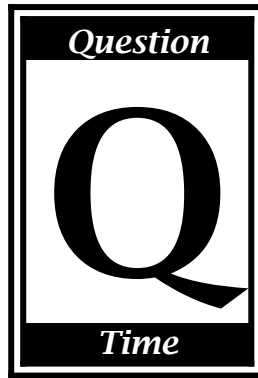
Reply

Planning obligations are legal agreements made under section 106 of the Town and Country Planning ACT 1990 between local authorities and developers to make acceptable development which would otherwise be unacceptable in planning terms. These obligations can be financial or non-financial and are used to prescribe the nature of development; compensate for the loss or damage created by a development; or mitigate a development's impact. Planning obligations must be directly related to the proposed development and fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development.

Obligations are triggered by specific 'milestones' being reached by a development, such as commencement or first occupation of a development. When financial obligations are received by the Council they are allocated to the relevant service to which the obligation relates, for the funds to be used on projects that meet the requirements stipulated within the legal agreements.

S106 education funds have been used to assist in a number of school enlargement projects over the past 5 years, namely:

- John Stainer School Enlargement
- Rushey Green School Enlargement
- Resourcing the School Expansion Programme
- Grinling Gibbons Temporary Enlargements Improvements
- Adamsrill School Enlargement
- Coopers Lane School Expansion and Relocation of Grove Park CEL
- Haseltine Primary School Improvements to enable the school to accommodate a further temporary enlargement in 2014



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 33.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question asked by: Maryam Moarefvand

Member to reply: Councillor Maslin

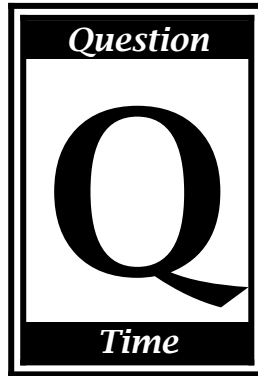
Question

I am the parent of a student at Edmund Waller Primary, and believe that early education is the key to success for any child's future. I understand there are plans to expand the school and, as a parent, I am very conscious that this may affect my son's education and so would like to know more about what's being planned and when it will take effect.

Would you please share in the public domain any provisional architects' plans that already exist, or will be, drawn up for the expansion of Edmund Waller Primary School? I cannot find any information about the expansion in public domain which leaves me and many more parents worried and anxious about my child's education.

Reply

See answer to Question 7.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 34.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question asked by: Rebekah Fox

Member to reply: Councillor Maslin

Question

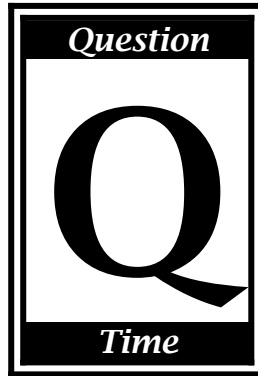
Why is Waller being considered when its current bulge class is not full (my son is in this class with currently 25 pupils) and with the bulge class the catchment area is now over 3km, when there are 1FE / 2FE entry schools in areas with much higher demand e.g. Brockley, Ladywell, Lewisham with very small catchment areas? Children in my son's class currently have to travel from these areas by car each morning. Why not build new schools in these areas e.g. the site of the old Ladywell baths?

There are also a substantial number of children in my son's class from Southwark which is much closer to Waller than many areas of Lewisham. Therefore expanding Waller is more likely to alleviate primary school shortages in Nunhead, Peckham Rye and East Dulwich than in Lewisham. Surely a more centrally located site for areas of shortage would make more sense?

If Waller is to be considered for expansion why has 3 form entry not been considered which would have much less impact on the school than the proposed 4 form entry?

Reply

See answer to Question 7.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 35.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question asked by: Julie Davies

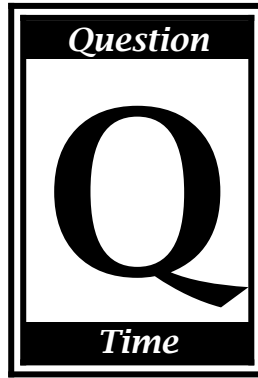
Member to reply: Councillor Maslin

Question

Why expand Edmund Waller when clearly there isn't a specific need in the local area as it is not over-subscribed as 2FE? Wouldn't it be better to expand a school such as St James Hatcham which wants to expand and is also not on the Southwark border so all places would be taken from the Lewisham borough which is what you are concerned with?

Reply

See answer to Question 7.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 36.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question asked by: Lucy Large

Member to reply: Councillor Maslin

Question

Regarding the current plans for the expansion of Edmund Waller School:
How can Lewisham council justify expanding a school which is currently not served efficiently by public transport for the many families who are unable to gain school places nearer to their homes (e.g. the conservation area around Breakspears Road)?

If the council continues with this plan what provisions are being made to improve public transport for those outside the 774m catchment area?
How does this encourage sustainable transport as described on your website and the "walk to school" campaigns?

Reply

The Council is aware of the concerns of parents at Edmund Waller primary school following the decision by the governing body to share with them early information on a feasibility study examining the potential for the school to be expanded.

It is important to state at an early stage that no decision has been taken to progress this option.

The feasibility study is one component of an ongoing programme to meet the demand for school places. A presentation was made to the Children and Young People Select Committee on January 12th 2016 including projections that by 2021 the LA will face a shortage of up to 9FE in the Primary phase (the equivalent of 4 schools) and an increasing pressure in secondary and special school provision. The shortage is will be most evident in Lewisham Brockley & Telegraph Hill where Edmund Waller is located.

<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=134&MId=3734&Ver=4>.)

In essence, the projections underlying this estimate of demand for primary places are based on the number of births (using postcode level analysis published by the Office for National Statistics) and analysis of the school rolls, again using the post-codes of pupils on roll. The methodology is submitted annually to the DfE for scrutiny and has never been queried.

Questioners challenge whether sufficient demand will be generated by the post-codes immediately adjacent to Edmund Waller. *For the purpose of planning primary places the borough is divided into 6 areas, derived from a study of the pupil post-codes and the schools they attend. In order to reflect parental preference this means that a number of post-codes are combined rather than assume that all residents in one post-code will chose the same school. Feasibility studies have been done on all school sites to establish which sites have the potential for expansion.*

Edmund Waller is in the Central Lewisham, Brockley and Telegraph Hill planning area which is forecast to have a shortage of 3.6 forms of entry by 2020.

In order to meet demand over the coming decade, the LA has undertaken a desk-top study of all school sites to assess their potential for further expansion and further feasibility studies on a smaller number of schools in areas of projected high demand. The LA continues to examine the potential for the inclusion of new schools in forthcoming developments through regular cross-department internal review.. The LA is also working closely with neighbouring boroughs, including Southwark, to understand their proposals and the possible impact on Lewisham.

It is expected that proposals for schemes to be taken further will be presented during 2016/17. The scope of the programme will be subject to the amount of capital funding available.

In response to questions about the use of Section 106: *funding has been drawn down as developers' payments are made to the Council and have benefitted a large number of schemes, but to date no single payment has been sufficient to fund an entire school even if a site had been available.*

In addition to scepticism about the actual demand for places, those asking Council Questions are concerned about a number of issues.

They state that the school is "Under-subscribed" which, to them, indicates that there is no local demand. *Whilst Edmund Waller has recently been undersubscribed in*

terms of first preference choices at Reception, its occupancy levels are high (January 2015 School census - Key Stage 1 99%. Key Stage 2 92%). Current levels of occupancy and distance travelled can be influenced by many factors and cannot be taken as an indicator for future demand. The feasibility study has looked at ways of improving Key Stage 1 facilities which the school themselves judge to be poor quality. It is hoped that this will help to improve the numbers of first preferences and improve local uptake and retention.

They ask what studies have been done to determine the impact on traffic and the transport infrastructure locally. Traffic flows would be considered as part of the development of a Planning Application for any accommodation required. The DfE considers that it is reasonable for a primary-age child to travel up to 2 miles to school. The LA endeavours to offer a place within 1 mile of a child's home-address. The current demand for school places means that in some parts of the borough the distance is far less than this.

They query the impact on school standards and are concerned that a larger school is more likely to have poor results. There are 18 3FE schools in the borough which include some of the highest performing schools. Lewisham Primary schools are now the 4th highest performing primary schools in the country. This has been achieved during a period when 75% have either been expanded permanently or have taken a bulge class. The first permanent expansions took effect in 2012. The schools which have been expanded to date are: Adams Hill, Coopers Lane, Dalmatian, Forster Park, Haberdashers' Aske's Knights Temple Grove, Colebatch, John Ball, John Steiner, Kelvin Grove, Kilmorie, Beecroft Gardens, Gordonbrock, Rushey Green, Sandhurst Infant, Sandhurst Juniors, St George's, Kender and St Bartholomews

*The school Governing Body is responsible for ensuring continued high standards in its school. **Their Key Stage results for the last 6 years can be accessed through the Department for Education School and college performance tables:***
<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/performance/index.html>

They ask why Edmund Waller has been chosen for expansion and if other under-subscribed schools have been considered. As is set out in the presentation to the Children & Young People Select Committee, there are no significant areas of under-occupancy in the borough. Those areas where pressure is less intense are at too great a distance to be realistic options for families resident in Lewisham and Brockley to choose. The LA will continue to work in partnership with the Education Funding Agency to identify opportunities for Free Schools but in the absence of other available sites it will be necessary to continue to consider the expansion of existing schools.

They ask if Edmund Waller has been chosen because it will be the cheapest and easiest option? Value for money and ease of construction, meaning less disruption for the school, are factors which will always be taken into account together with the local demand for places. This should not be equated with poor quality

They assert that the LA is blocking St. James Hatcham from expansion. This is not the case. Discussions are in hand as part of the longer-term master planning for the area. The St. James Hatcham school site is owned by Southwark Diocese Board of

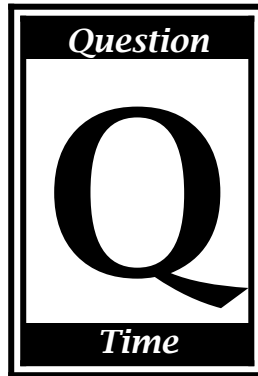
Education and is surrounded by land owned by Goldsmiths College so there are a number of stakeholder interests to consider.

As stated above no firm proposal has yet been made to enlarge Edmund Waller. A proposal to enlarge the school would require a separate consultation with a number of stages. If the Mayor agrees that there should be a consultation on a proposal to enlarge Edmund Waller there would be a consultation over a period of 6 weeks which would include a consideration of expanding to either 3 or 4 Forms of Entry.

In addition to inviting responses to proposals in writing (email or letter), it would gather the views of stakeholders, families whose children attend the school and local residents, face-to-face. All responses would be included verbatim within appendices to a report and the main report would present an analysis of these and would make recommendations to the Mayor. Any subsequent public notice period would be over 4 weeks and would enable further written representations, followed by a Mayor with recommendations. The full process, including any Planning consultation, would take approximately six months. The consultation would be supported by architect's design proposals which would be placed in the public domain.

The Lewisham website includes information on how to make a request under Freedom of Information legislation. It can be accessed via the following link

<http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/mayorandcouncil/aboutthecouncil/access-to-information/freedom-of-information-act/Pages/default.aspx>



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 37.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question asked by: Matthew Mayes

Member to reply: Councillor Maslin

Question

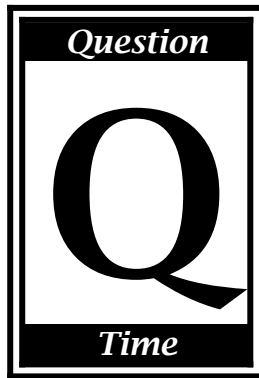
Does the Council accept that there are effectively 'dead zones' within the Borough for primary school places?

Based on our analysis of previous admissions data (see attached presentation) there is clearly a 'dead zone' within Brockley for parents being given offers from their local primary schools and having any degree of choice in which school they are given

Reply

The Council does not accept the concept of so-called 'dead zones' for primary school places. It accepts that there continues to be a continuing need to increase the number of available places, and that in some parts of the borough, the exercise of parental preference is limited. This is largely because these localities have few if

any options for the creation of extra places. The DfE considers that it is reasonable for a primary age child to travel up to 2 miles to school. Lewisham local authority will continue to endeavour to offer a place within 1 mile of a child's home address. At a time of high demand for Reception places, the advice from the local authority is that parents choose their nearest schools in exercising their 6 preferences under the PAN London admissions protocol. Recent experience shows that there are extremely few parents who do not receive an initial offer of one of their 6 preferences if they have followed this advice and that they are made an offer acceptable to them during the summer term prior to the start of school. In terms of the constraints on the exercise of preferences, it should be remembered that Lewisham schools are amongst the highest performing groups in the country, so parents can feel confident that their children will receive a good quality education throughout the borough.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 38.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question asked by: Sarah Carter

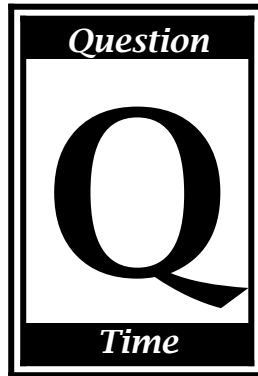
Member to reply: Councillor Maslin

Question

If Edmund Waller Primary School becomes 4-form entry, what percentage of children will live within ten minutes walking distance according to Council predictions?

Reply

See answer to Question 7.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 39.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question asked by: Andy Carter

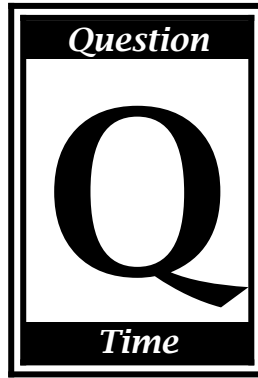
Member to reply: Councillor Smith

Question

What consideration has been given to the increased traffic flows in Waller Road and surrounding areas which will be the result of plans to hugely expand the school's intake? What consultation has been, and will be, undertaken to assess the views of local residents?

Reply

See answer to Question 7.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 40.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question asked by: Ursula Llewellyn

Member to reply: Councillor Maslin

Question

I am very concerned about the possible expansion of my child's community school Edmund Waller into a 4FE super-size school. Although I understand that as a whole borough Lewisham is in need of more school places, the current catchment area for Edmund Waller with 3FE was 3.18 km. Meaning the 2015/16 intake was undersubscribed. Have you considered and made projections of what the exact catchment area of a 4FE, would be? Could you make this public?

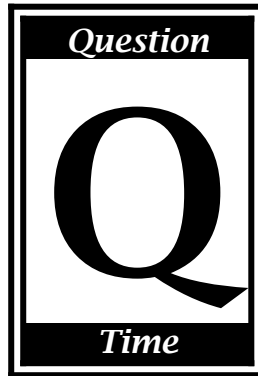
Have you considered how the catchment area would be increased by the already agreed expansion of popular oversubscribed nearby Southwark primaries such as Ivydale and John Donne Free School, which traditionally share the same catchment areas and therefore will reduce the need in Edmund Waller's catchment area further.

Have you considered the economic hardship and environmental impact expecting classrooms of children to travel a 50 minutes' walk into school each morning, which is what some children are doing at the moment?

Have you factored in the long term costs creating spaces so far from where people need them? In particular the problem of in year transfers to other schools as parents remove their child to schools closer to where they live as places become available, (especially in light of the transient nature of London) Leaving already undersubscribed school such as Edmund Waller seriously underfunded.

Reply

See answer to Question 7.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 41.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question asked by: Andrew Ford Lyons

Member to reply: Councillor Maslin

Question

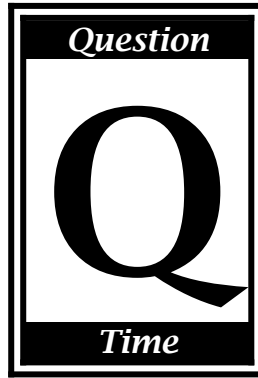
I'm a parent of a student at Edmund Waller Primary School, and have been following with a good amount of interest the discussion around expanding the school's capacity for students and increasing the sheer number of students attending the school. There's a good amount of evidence in existence that smaller schools with better teacher-to-student ratios are generally better for student progress. That said, there are obviously more children in the area and the need for more school places is very real.

But I'd like to ask why you're blocking St. James Hatcham Primary School from expanding? Located nearby, the school is only 1FE. Unlike those at Edmund Waller, the parents of students at St. James Hatcham actually want the school to be expanded. Doing so would alleviate the demand Lewisham claims exists in the Edmund Waller catchment. And thus reduce the supposed need to expand that school. It would also be a great example of local led decision making that actually encourages participation in local affairs.

Reply

The LA has not blocked St. James Hatcham Primary school from expansion. Discussions are in hand as part of the longer-term master planning for the area. The St. James Hatcham school site is owned by Southwark Diocese Board of Education and is surrounded by land owned by Goldsmiths College so there are a number of stakeholder interests to consider.

No firm proposal has yet been made to enlarge Edmund Waller. A feasibility study has been undertaken examining the potential for the school to be expanded. Should this taken further it would be supported by a consultation process involving local stakeholders and neighbouring schools.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 42.

Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question asked by: Mike Keogh

Member to reply: Councillor Daby

Question

In the light of the helicopter disaster in Vauxhall (16/1/13) and Glasgow (29/11/13) can the Council ask the Police Authority or Air Ambulance Services (or any other helicopter operators in the Borough) if their helicopters have black boxes installed if there were to be an accident. Lewisham is seeing a lot of high rise development and tall cranes. If there are no black boxes installed in Police helicopters then can alternative tracking of criminal activity (such as drones) be promoted?

Reply

The National Police Air Service (NPAS) currently operate two types of aircraft, both Airbus, previously named Eurocopter (EC), the EC135 and the EC145.

The EC135 is a small twin engine helicopter, under 3175 kg, capable of carry four persons, and due to its size and number of passengers carried, i.e. under 9, is not required to have a Data Recorder fitted. These aircraft are operated from all NPAS bases with the exception of NPAS Exeter and NPAS London (Lippitts Hill).

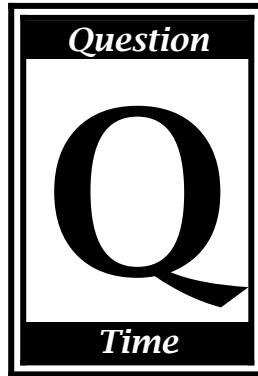
NPAS Exeter and NPAS London operate EC145 helicopters, a medium twin engine helicopter. These are fitted with a Black Box Flight Data recorder. NPAS

London, formerly the MPS Air Support Unit, still operate three EC145 helicopters from Lippitts Hill.

The Flight Data Recorder records all voice communications in the aircraft, and also flight information such as height, heading, speed, altitude, fuel levels, engine performance, and position of switches and warning light illumination.

In respect of Drones, Commander Bray currently heads the MPS Unmanned Aerial Systems working group. This group is looking into the future use of a UAS (UAV/Drone) by different MPS departments. The operation of unmanned aircraft in Controlled Airspace, and a congested area, is extremely complex, and subject to very restrictive legislation.

London's Air Ambulance operates 2 MD902 helicopters. As regulation currently stands, these helicopters are not required to carry Black Boxes. Having said that, the on-board computer records a significant amount of data that is downloaded every 50hrs of flight time and can be interrogated post-crash. This computer does not record voice.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 43.

Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question asked by: Yvonne Peart

Member to reply: Councillor Millbank

Question

Could the Mayor urgently look into unsatisfactory engagement that the councillors and officers have had with Honor Oak residents on the overall proposals for Honor Oak Community Centre and Youth Club.

Reply

The Council's consultation process to date has been referred to earlier and was included in the Mayor and Cabinet report presented on 11 November 2015. This report can be found via the link below:

<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=12694#mgDocuments>

This was the second stage of a longer process. A framework for this approach was agreed at Mayor and Cabinet in April 2015 and then an initial implementation plan was presented to Mayor and Cabinet in July 2015.

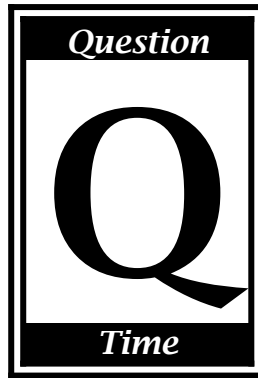
To repeat information provided in question 3 above, from January 2015 there have been numerous meetings arranged by the Council on the future of community

buildings which have been attended variously by residents, representatives of residents and centre user groups, senior officers and members.

Honor Oak Community Association (previously known as HOCCA now called HOCA), which acts as the premises management organisation for the Honor Oak Community Centre, attended at least 7 of the consultation meetings convened to date by the Council to discuss proposals and put forward views on the future of community buildings, including making representation to Safer and Stronger Select, and Mayor and Cabinet. HOCA helpfully organised a public meeting on September 4th which officers and members attended. Ward councillors prepared and delivered a letter to estate residents setting out the proposals for the Honor Oak estate and encouraging them to attend the public meeting on September 4th.

A Telegraph Hill ward councillor has attended each of these 7 meetings bar one. Ward councillors have also met with the Honor Oak Tenants and Residents Association, the Honor Oak Youth Club, spoken to many estate residents and households about the proposed redevelopment over the past weeks, and asked the Council to consider a deferral of up to one year for local reasons.

Further consultation will take place at the design and prior to the planning stages, and the Council will work with the centre users groups to secure alternative meeting space before physical work starts. Community engagement remains pivotal to the successful implementation of the community centre strategy.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 44.

Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question asked by: Mrs Patricia Richardson

Member to reply: Councillor Bonavia

Question

Certain categories of organisation e.g charities, community groups receive the 20% discount on the business rate.

Does the council allow any lower discount on business rate for such organisations? If so, what is the discount and who are the organisations?

When the Business Rate is put back in to the hands of the local authorities will this discounting policy be continued?

Reply

There are a range of Business Rate reductions available. Summary details are set out below.

Mandatory Rate Relief – This relief is available on application with awards of 80% off the business rates bill. The reduction is funded by central government and available to charities/friendly societies or the trustees of a charity, Community Amateur Sports Club or organisations which are specifically exempted from registration with the Charity Commission, where the property is being wholly or mainly used for charitable purposes.

Discretionary Rate Relief – This relief is available on application with awards of up to 20% off the business rates bill. The reduction is funded by the Council which has a limited budget and restricts eligibility to only those organisations in receipt of Mandatory Rate Relief. However, there are organisations in receipt of Mandatory Rate Relief that would not be eligible. For example charity shops, housing associations, buildings used mainly for worship and bodies operating a restrictive membership policy.

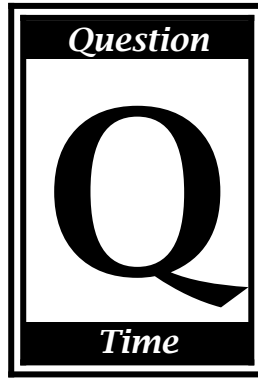
There are no plans to amend the existing Discretionary Rate Relief policy which was agreed by Mayor and Cabinet in October 2013.

Small Business Rates Relief - This relief supports small businesses who generally occupy only one property. Currently the relief is available at 100% for eligible properties with a rateable value of up to £6,000. The relief decreases at a rate of around 2% per hundred pounds of rateable value up to 0% at £12,000.

Hardship Relief - This discretionary relief can be granted by the Council if a business / organisation is experiencing severe hardship and is considered to be important to the local community.

London Living Wage discount – The Council will be offering a London Living Wage discount to employers who pay the London Living Wage and are accredited in 2016/17.

The Council does not offer any other local discounts for business rates. When business rates are put back into local authority control the existing arrangements will require review.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 45.

Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question asked by: Raymond Woolford

Member to reply: Councillor Onikosi

Question

Following questions about poor tree care last Spring, 2 trees have been felled due to poor maintenance in St John's, Brockley Ward , Over the Summer tree surgeons seem to have a hit and miss approach to tree care carrying out work in some roads but not others ignoring issues raised by local residents, does the Council agree that Tree care in the Borough is not delivering the quality service residents expect and what will the Council be doing in 2016 to protect and give proper care and protection to the borough's trees?

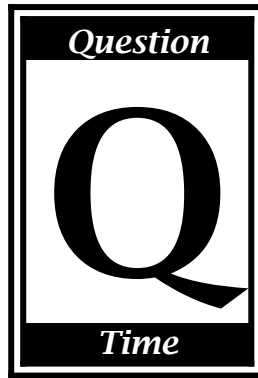
Reply

The Councils approach to the management of the boroughs street trees is not hit and miss. The Council has a borough wide 3 year cyclical maintenance program for street trees.

The programme targets roads in the borough where the species or age and condition of the trees have been identified as requiring regular maintenance to help prevent them causing damage to property or becoming a risk to public safety.

In 2016 the Council will carry out the maintenance works scheduled for completion this year and will continue to work with local community groups to help preserve and enhance the boroughs street tree stock.

If residents have any concerns about the condition or maintenance of street trees they should contact the Councils Tree Services Team via Call Point on 0208 314 7171.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 46.

Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question asked by: Moira Kerrane, Evelyn Parents Forum

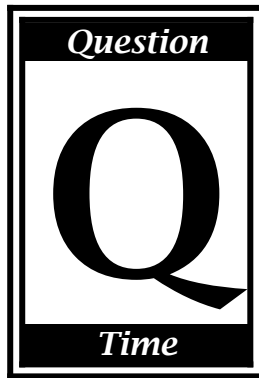
Member to reply: Councillor Maslin

Question

Can the council please detail how the OSEBP report (dated 29 July 2014) for Sir Francis Drake Primary School was actioned and in light of point 2.3 is there a record of the further report to Mayor and Cabinet, the Scrutiny Committee and detailed reports showing close working with parents and neighbouring boroughs in the finalisation of detailed proposals as agreed by the Mayor June 2014.

Reply

A report will be presented to the meeting of the Mayor & Cabinet on February 17th which will address these points. The report will be available to the public on the Lewisham website.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 47.

Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question asked by: Dermot Mckibbin

Member to reply: Councillor Egan

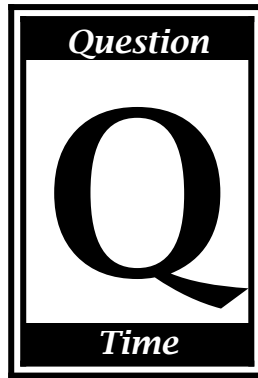
Question

How many leasehold properties does the council think are in the borough now and by how many has the number of leasehold properties increased by?

Reply

The figures for the London Borough of Lewisham are provided below. The tenure type of Leaseholder is not recorded in the Census and as such is not available.

All categories: Tenure	116,091
Owned: Owned outright	17,273
Owned: Owned with a mortgage or loan	31,955
Shared ownership (part owned and part rented)	1,436
Social rented: Rented from council (Local Authority)	18,084
Social rented: Other	17,968
Private rented: Private landlord or letting agency	26,665
Private rented: Other	1,551
Living rent free	1,159



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 48.

Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question asked by: Carol Spurling

Member to reply: Councillor Bonavia

Question

How much money is held by the council in its reserve account? Does it hold any other money on deposit in other accounts?

Reply

The term reserves can refer to funds held only for a number of different reasons. Multiyear capital programmes involve sums of money which are in actuality committed being held in earlier years as 'reserves'. The amount of money which is genuinely uncommitted, and therefore available for spending, is limited.

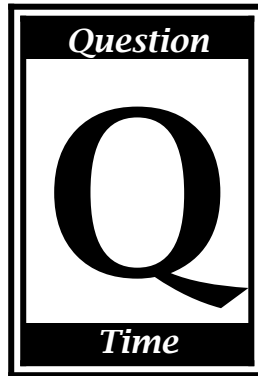
A general fund balances reserve of £13m is held for unforeseen circumstances. It should be noted however, that this is a low figure by London standards already, and once spent, the Council would lack a safety net if things went wrong.

As at 31 March 2015, total reserves (excluding various notional amounts that exist only for accounting purposes) were £278m. This is set out at page 14 of the Council annual statement of accounts for the year 2014-15, the web link to which is:

<https://www.lewisham.gov.uk/mayorandcouncil/aboutthecouncil/finances/Documents/Statement%20of%20Accounts%2014-15%20-%20Audited2.pdf>

The reserves form part of our annual accounts and are reviewed as part of the closing of accounts process by the external auditor who would comment on the reserves if they were seen to be inadequate or too excessive for the purposes for which they are held.

As at 31 March 2015, reserves were held for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), funding for the Council's capital programme and for schools, which includes sums set aside for PFI schemes and the BSF programme. There are also reserves for self-insurance, which if we did not have, would mean that the Council would have to pay more in insurance premiums.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 49.

Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question asked by: John Hamilton

Member to reply: Councillor Bonavia

Question

Could you please show in a table the pay levels of those now earning over £80,000 pa along with how much people in those posts were earning in May 2010 when the Conservatives came to power and the assault on local government funding started?

You answered my question in December by giving the figures for savings which would be made if all council employees pay were capped at £80,000. This showed that such a move would have enabled all the under 5's playclubs to be kept open with council employees running them and all the libraries.

Do you agree with me that keeping those services running and keeping those usefully employed staff in jobs would have been far more beneficial to the people of Lewisham than paying people already earning three times the average pay for Lewisham even more than £80,000?

Could you give me the global figure for savings which would be made if council salaries were capped at £50,000 p.a. taking into account employer's pension and N.I. contributions?

Reply

As a result of the huge budget reductions forced on the Council, ie approximately £120 million cut from Government since 2010, local public services have faced substantial reductions; however, in Lewisham the impact on the community has been mitigated wherever possible, in the case of libraries and play clubs by devolving these to the community or joining them with other services.

Most of the positions in question manage such services and are responsible for ensuring the impact of the cuts on the community are reduced or mitigated. I would pay tribute to all Council staff, whatever their level of pay, for managing difficult changes in services as best they can.

The table below sets out separately the number of schools and non-schools employees earning over £80k in £5k bands.

Salary Range (£)	Schools	Non Schools	Total
80,000 - 85,000	11	1	12
85,000 - 90,000	10	4	14
90,000 - 95,000	4	9	13
95,000 - 100,000	3		3
100,000 - 105,000	4	3	7
105,000 - 110,000	4	1	5
110,000 - 115,000		1	1
115,000 - 120,000			0
120,000 - 125,000			0
125,000 - 130,000			0
130,000 - 135,000	1		1
135,000 - 140,000		1	1
140,000 - 145,000		3	3
Totals	37	23	60

Since 2010 pay for those earning *over* £100k has increased by 0% for Local Authority staff and 3% for schools. For those earning *less* than £100k pay has increased by 3% in total over the five year period.

These positions account for less than 1% of staff costs. Since 2010 these positions have reduced by 1/5th and will continue to do so.

The Council remunerates roles by reference to job evaluation and the need to recruit and retain staff, in many cases senior managers have had to widen their responsibilities, as in the case of head teachers managing more than one school.

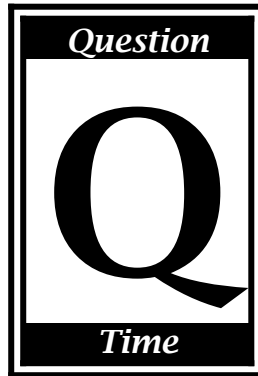
The total saving if salaries were capped at £50K (taking into account employers NI and pension contributions) is £8,327,765.

This is made up of:

129 LBL staff £2,782,128

394 school staff £5,545,636

It should be noted that in addition to the severe impact of removing such a large number of senior and experienced staff, many of whom have professional qualifications, there would be a very considerable redundancy cost involved.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 50.

Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question asked by: Peter Richardson

Member to reply: Councillor Millbank

Question

Now that the Local Assemblies have been running successfully for quite a time are their operations, management, memberships and admin governed by a written constitution of rules? Have these rules been amended over the years and where may this information be viewed? Matters of local interest appear first to be assessed by Local Assembly Co-ordinators before being presented at an Assembly Meeting, but how are the Co-ordinators chosen? Do they have to be elected or are they selected? If the former, are they obliged to serve a specific term and then be obliged to stand again if permitted to do so? If the latter, who selects them and on what criteria? Is a code of conduct in force, governing all these participants? Public money is clearly involved, so are there specific criteria on how funds may be divided within the Community served and are accounts necessarily scrutinised by the Council? Are projects receiving money monitored to assess successful outcomes?

Reply

The proposals for local assemblies emerged from the Mayor's Commission on Empowering Communities and Neighbourhoods. Changes to the Council's

constitution required to implement the proposals were agreed by the Constitution Working Party on 7 June 2007 and full Council on 27 June and the implementation plan endorsed by Mayor and Cabinet on 17 July 2007.

The approach has always been to adopt flexible arrangements that can be adapted to suit different circumstances, minimise bureaucracy and create opportunities for innovation with each assembly being devolved and community led. Therefore as the Assembly Programme has evolved each of the 18 Lewisham Ward Assemblies is different.

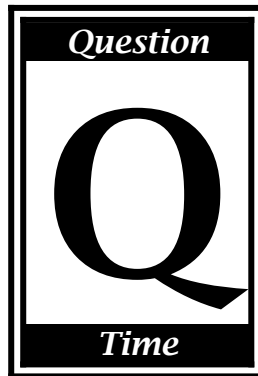
Initially each Local Assembly had its own Charter. This was a voluntary agreement between the Council, local residents, community associations and other key stakeholders and set out the aims of the individual assembly along with an action plan. Over time most assemblies found this to be over cumbersome, bureaucratic and rather toothless and now most assemblies will only have an action plan and / or ward priorities in place. Each year the assembly will review its priorities. These are the issues that attendees feel are the most important for the individual ward. Within these priorities there will be specific actions. The assembly will review its priorities with a voting exercise and in addition the Assembly Coordinator will work with groups outside of the assembly such as young people to establish their issues and feed this information into the assembly.

The Assembly is open to anyone who lives, works or learns in the ward. It has a sub-group, known as a Coordinating Group, which is chaired by a Ward Councillor and people from the community are encouraged to join. This group will help to plan the assembly meetings, including looking at the meeting structure, scrutinising funding applications, deciding upon meeting dates and evaluating data from previous meetings to see how the assembly can be improved. A typical Coordinating Group will have between 8-15 volunteers, all of whom are local or have an interest in the ward and members of the Coordinating Group are expected to adhere to the 'Guidelines to Coordinating Group Volunteers.' Each Coordinating Group is different, but as a rule, new members are always welcome with no need for people to serve a set term.

The Assembly Coordinator / Development Officer will support the work of the assembly and the Coordinating Group, providing guidance and support when necessary and working with other local groups and organisations to ensure that the assembly is representative of the ward profile. The Assembly Coordinator is a paid member of Lewisham staff, unlike the Ward Councillor who is an elected member. Any 'assessment' carried out by the Assembly Coordinator will be within the remit of what has been decided by the Coordinating Group and / or other Council guidelines and best practice.

All assembly meetings are evaluated using feedback forms and each year a Local Assembly Annual Report is written and disseminated to members. Each Assembly is allocated £12,500 Assembly Fund. In addition to this the Ward Councillors are allocated £2,500 Councillor Discretionary Fund. In some wards the Councillors choose to add this sum to the £12,500 to make a larger sum of £15,000 available towards local projects. Each Assembly differs as to how it allocates its funding; however all of them comply with mechanisms that the Council has in place for

administering funds. These include: not paying individuals, insisting upon a Terms of Reference, a signed Terms of Agreement, Public Liability Insurance, Risk Assessments and DBS certificates if applicable. All projects are monitored by the Assembly Coordinator and they are required to produce documentation such as receipts (if requested) as well as a full evaluation form upon completion of the project. Often they will be asked to attend a later assembly meeting to 'report back' on the project and in many wards members of the Coordinating Group will play an active part in monitoring projects.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 51.

Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question asked by: Matthew Mayes

Member to reply: Councillor Maslin

Question

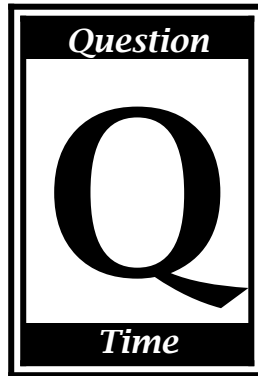
Does the council accept that it is now offering us no choice if we want to get a local primary school?

The advice from Lewisham admissions officials is that we must now list schools in their exact order of proximity to our addresses if we want any hope of getting a local school.

Reply

Parents are invited to state 6 preferences when applying for a Reception place at a primary school. In the event of over-subscription, places are offered after the application of over-subscription criteria which meet the requirements of the statutory code for school admissions.

At a time of high demand for Reception places, the advice from the local authority is that parents choose their nearest schools in exercising their 6 preferences under the PAN-London Admissions protocol. It should be remembered that Lewisham schools are amongst the highest performing groups in the country, so parents can feel confident that their children will receive a good quality education throughout the borough.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 52.

Priority 3

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question asked by: Mike Keogh

Member to reply: Councillor Best

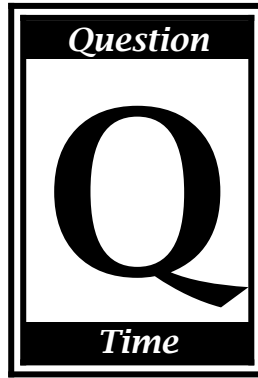
Question

In the light of pressure on Library budgets could the Council seek to reduce heating costs (in Lewisham's Central Library in particular) by allowing staff to operate radiators to suit the weather and usage conditions.

Reply

Council staff have control of the radiators and operate heating controls to maintain a comfortable temperature while minimising costs.

The library service will verify that the temperatures are not too high in Lewisham Library in particular.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 53.

Priority 3

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question asked by: Yvonne Peart

Member to reply: Councillor Millbank

Question

Both the community facilities put in place in the 1980's to provide quality of life benefits to the residents of Honor Oak Estate are currently under threat. This neighbourhood has a predominantly deprived population. Two young people were recently murdered on the estate in separate incidents.

Has the Mayor considered the social impact of the proposals for redevelopment of the community centre. Particularly, the reduced community space and the inevitable provision of less community facilities and more housing leading to an increased population in this already deprived and isolated neighbourhood.

What equality impact assessment has been made on the effect of the proposals on this predominantly BME neighbourhood.

What consideration did the council give to the status of the building as an asset of community value when taking the decision on 11 November.

What are the legal arrangements of the lease agreement with Network Rail and what assurances can you give that the adventure playground will still be open 5 to 10 years from now.

Reply

The Council recognises the need to ensure that community and youth activities are able to continue on the Honor Oak Estate. The Council will ensure that redevelopment of the site makes provision for youth and community space. Detailed design work and further consultation about what youth and community space is needed will be undertaken before the development is taken through the planning process.

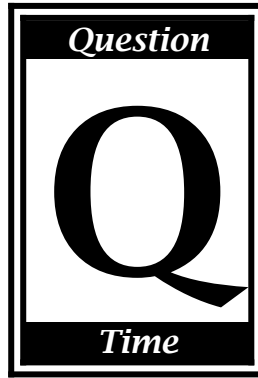
Although the Council recognises that development would cause some disruption, the benefits of more social housing and new community facilities outweigh the short-term disruption that would be caused.

The equality impact has been addressed in section 12 of the Mayor and Cabinet report presented on 11 November 2015. This report can be found via the link below:

<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=12694#mgDocuments>

As clarified in public question 3 the Council's consideration to community centres which have been registered as assets of community value is also covered in section 9 of the same report.

We are unable to confirm any arrangements with Network Rail at this stage. The adventure playground remains open and there are no proposals to close it.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 54.

Priority 3

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question asked by: Raymond Woolford

Member to reply: Councillor Onikosi

Question

In 2014 concerns were raised that Park notice boards had no contact details for community groups to access to put up public notices. PB4P and other political groups within the Borough have constantly been told that Political literature is not acceptable on Park notice boards. Can the Council explain and state which Councillor informed Glendale to put the (Enclosed) Labour Party Fund raising event on the Boroughs park notice boards in clear breach of Councils own Regulations and Guidelines during the month of December?

Can the Council confirm that all public notice boards will display the contact details for residents and community groups to contact with public notices and the conditions of Display?

Reply

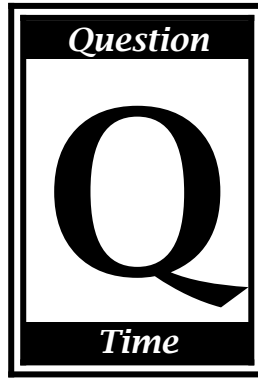
I have been informed that the neither Council Officers nor Glendale staff had any involvement in placing the event information mentioned on any of the Councils park notice boards.

The notice board referred to is not one of the Councils parks notice boards and may be one managed by one of our user groups to promote their activities.

If I could be informed of the location I will ask Officers to speak to the user group concerned.

The Councils park notice boards are used to advertise or promote events and activities in our parks and occasionally to raise awareness of issues that may affect all our open spaces or users. These include such issues as new legislation, local and national biodiversity and ecology issues and, more rarely, incidents of anti-social behaviour. Information on Ward Councillors and Local Assemblies may also be displayed.

If community groups wish to display similar information on these board they should, in the first instance, contact Glendale using the contact details displayed on the boards.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 55.

Priority 3

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question asked by: Dermot Mckibbin

Member to reply: Councillor Egan

Question

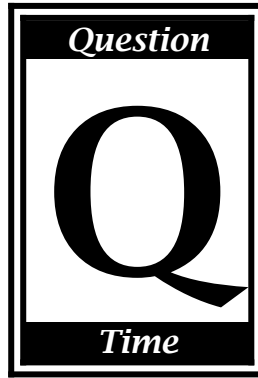
Can the council now produce figures for each parliamentary constituency in the borough that shows the number of leasehold properties, the number of properties owned outright, the number owned subject to a mortgage, the number rented privately, the number rented from a housing association and any other properties not in the previous categories?

Reply

This information is not available by Parliamentary Constituency, and was last recorded at Local Authority level in the 2011 Census. The figures for the London Borough of Lewisham are provided below. The tenure type of Leaseholder is not recorded in the Census and as such is not available.

All categories: Tenure	116,091
Owned: Owned outright	17,273
Owned: Owned with a mortgage or loan	31,955

Shared ownership (part owned and part rented)	1,436
Social rented: Rented from council (Local Authority)	18,084
Social rented: Other	17,968
Private rented: Private landlord or letting agency	26,665
Private rented: Other	1,551
Living rent free	1,159



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 56.

Priority 3

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question asked by: John Hamilton,

Member to reply: Councillor Egan

Question

I welcome the Mayor's decision to build 500 council homes by 2018, but the desperate search for suitable sites owned by the council has led to plans to demolish two community centres in my ward, Telegraph Hill, even though there is a large vacant site, owned by the council, bounded by Besson St, Briant St and the New Cross Road in the ward.

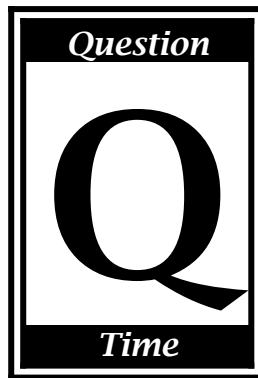
Why have you decided to allow this site to be used for the construction of 250 privately rented homes, with 35% of them at affordable rents, when this site could provide space to build half of your target for new council homes?

Reply

These 250 purpose-built rented homes that this Council will enable on the Besson Street site will be in addition to the 500 new Council homes, let with secure tenancies and on social rents that this Council will build by 2018. In October of 2015 Mayor and Cabinet reviewed progress in delivering those 500 homes, and I am confident that the speed and scale of the programme will continue to increase this year in the lead up to us hitting our targets in 2018.

Given that the excellent work that Lewisham Homes has completed shows that the 500 homes can be delivered on other sites, the Besson Street development will bring forward 250 high quality rented homes which will be targeted at a different group of residents experiencing housing need – residents who are unable to buy their own homes but equally have no prospect of qualifying for social housing.

The response to question 24 provides more detail on the specifics of the Besson Street project and the ways in which it will provide a much needed new type of tenure for Lewisham residents.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 57.

Priority 3

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question asked by: Matthew Mayes

Member to reply: Councillor Maslin

Question

Why are there no bulge classes currently planned in our community for 2016 and why are there no more places available in our community in 2016 than there were in 2008?

Do you accept these are the combined primary place totals for Ashmead, Myatt Garden, Lucas Vale, St Stephens CE since 2008.

Admission year	Places	Reception forms
2008/09	180	6
2009/10	180	6
2010/11	210	7
2011/12	240	8
2012/13	210	7
2013/14	180	6
2014/15	210	7
2015/16	180	6

Reply

Ashmead, Myatt Garden, Lucas Vale, St Stephens CE primary schools are included in the Primary Place Planning Locality 3, (Brockley, Lewisham, Telegraph Hill). This area also includes 12 other schools, one of which (Brindishe Green) will offer a 4th Reception class in 2016.

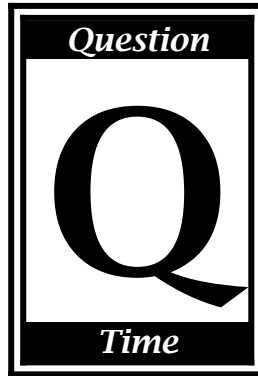
The localities were developed following a study of pupil post-codes to establish the communities served by schools.

The LA has responded to the increased demand for places in the area through a programme of bulge classes, permanent expansions and new provision.

	Bulge	Expansion	New Provision
Ashmead	2010, 2012)		
Beecroft Gardens	2014	2012	
Edmund Waller	2010, 2015		
Gordonbrock	2011	2012	
Holbeach	2008, 2009	2015	
John Stainer	2009, 2012, 2013	2014	
Lucas Vale	2011, 2014		
Myatt Garden	2011		
Prendergast Primary			2014
Prendergast Vale	2013		
St Stephen's	2012		
Turnham	2011, 2012, 2014	2015	

The only schools which have not offered additional places are those whose sites are too small for further development.

The building programme is kept under close review to ensure that sufficient places are available to meet the projected demand for places each year.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 58.

Priority 4

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question asked by: Raymond Woolford

Member to reply: Councillor Onikosi

Question

Council is presently seeking planning consent to take up much of Deptford Park to install a flood lit sports area in a Conservation area, Can the Council state who thought up this idea opposed by Local residents? And does the Council see charging residents for use of public parks as the way forward?

Reply

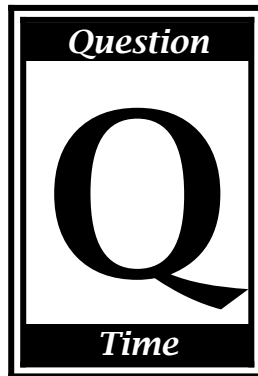
The Council is currently considering whether Deptford Park is a suitable site to build a 3G All Weather Football pitch, and have run a consultation process to understand residents' views.

The background to the need within the Borough for additional all weather pitches was outlined in the Lewisham Leisure and Open Space Study, which recommends that due to the expected population growth in the borough the Council needs to look to site a number of new all-weather football pitches across the Borough in the next 10 years, especially in the North. It is expected that to ensure that these facilities are truly able to be used all year round that they are therefore floodlit to allow evening usage in the autumn and winter months.

Through the Council's continued work with the Football Association it became clear that their facility aims aligned with those of the Council to provide more and better sports facilities, and as such the Football Association and funding partner Football Foundation have been involved in the assessment of a variety of potential sites across the Borough.

Additionally one of the reasons we are considering this area is that in spring 2015 young people from the Evelyn Ward, including the Silwood Estate, Pepys Estate and attendees of the Deptford Adventure playground gave their opinions on what activities young people in Deptford were interested in. Football and the building of astro-turf pitches was cited as a priority across the consultation which included an event, an online survey and visits to various local groups and organisations in the area .

If the proposal is taken forward, as part of the planning process, a business plan would be created, which would include a football development plan to ensure the running of the pitch is sustainable. As part of that plan subsidised and possibly free football would be included to ensure all community groups can access the pitch. The entry to the park remains free of charge.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 59.

Priority 4

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question asked by: Dermot Mckibbin

Member to reply: Councillor Egan

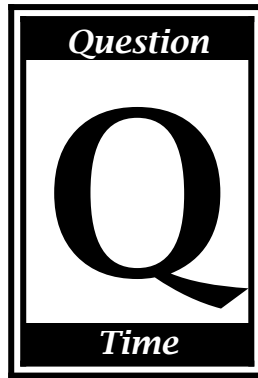
Question

Does the council support the commonhold form of tenure and what will the council to encourage more commonhold tenure in the borough?

Reply

In relation to residential properties owned by the Council, we would consider requests for conversion to commonhold tenure. For this to be appropriate, certain factors would need to be considered, such as whether the request relates to a standalone block and whether all the flats have been sold to leaseholders. Additionally, all of the leaseholders would need to be in agreement that they wished to proceed with an application to convert to commonhold. There is no statutory right to convert an existing building to commonhold, so all requests would be considered on a case by case basis.

The Council has no control over whether private developers in the borough use commonhold as the form of tenure on new developments.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 60.

Priority 4

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question asked by: Matthew Mayes

Member to reply: Councillor Maslin

Question

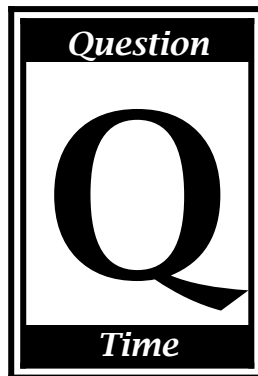
Does the Council accept that the policy of putting bulge years without any permanent infrastructure into our community schools has taken away places that would otherwise be offered to our children to siblings who live outside the Brockley 'Dead Zone' in communities that are much further away?

In 2015, Ashmead School had 21 out of 30 places given to siblings with only 9 places for new local families. This compares with an average of 12 siblings per class of 30 in Lewisham primaries. According to heat map data, significant pockets of Ashmead families live in communities such as Ladywell and Lee High Road as a result of the bulge years in 2010 and 2012. Lewisham policy on bulge years in place of expansion has effectively closed a local school to many of us.

Reply

In the absence of new sites for development the Council has met the substantial increase in demand for primary school places through a programme of bulge classes, permanent expansions and new provision achieved through the creation of all-through schools. A large number of these schemes serve the Brockley area. The

Council appreciates that permanent enlargements offer greater stability to the local community and feasibility studies have been prepared for schemes to serve the area which can be delivered as further capital funding becomes available.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 61.

Priority 5

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question asked by: Dermot Mckibbin

Member to reply: Councillor Egan

Question

Has the first tier upper tribunal determined that service charges levied by Lewisham homes are unlawful as they reflect stock wide charges and what has Lewisham council done to change their policy regarding stock wide charges?

Reply

No, the First Tier tribunal has not determined that service charges (including management charges) levied by Lewisham Homes are unlawful.

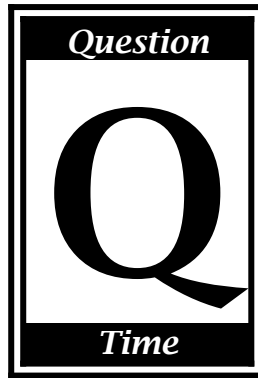
First Tier Tribunal decisions apply on a case by case basis and there have been two tribunal decisions regarding the recoverability of charges levied by Lewisham Homes with conflicting outcomes.

In the first case the tribunal determined that the lessee was not liable to pay the resident involvement or anti- social behaviour charge. The tribunal found that whilst the overall management charge was recoverable under the lease, the costs relating to the resident involvement and anti-social behaviour charge were not.

In the second case the tribunal determined that the management charge, including the resident involvement and anti-social behaviour charge, was recoverable.

In response to the determination of the first tribunal Lewisham Homes have refunded the resident involvement and anti-social behaviour charge to the leaseholder, however it will not reimburse all leaseholders as the decision only applied to that particular case.

One of Lewisham Homes' core aims is to provide improved services to tenants that are affordable without compromising on quality. Both tenants and leaseholders are consulted regarding any proposed changes to service charges.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 62.

Priority 5

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question asked by: Matthew Mayes

Member to reply: Councillor Maslin

Question

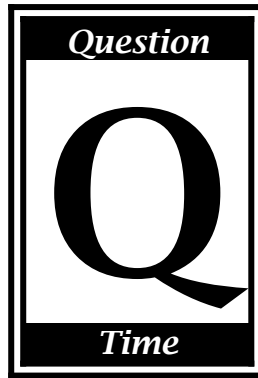
Is Ashmead School being considered for permanent expansion and if not, why is Lewisham failing to work with schools in our community to create extra classes so that there is a place for every child who needs one?

Making Ashmead School two from entry form September 2016 would immediately give many more parents their first choice, instead of giving them no choice at all and free up cut off zones for other local schools. This would start to improve some of Lewisham's poor national statistics for offering parents choice.

Reply

A feasibility study has been prepared on the potential to expand Ashmead Primary School from 1 to 2 forms of entry.

This would be a difficult scheme to deliver on a relatively small site and taking into account likely planning constraints, if agreed, an expansion scheme could not be delivered in time for 2016 and the addition of a temporary building at that time would compromise the site for future developments.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 63.

Priority 6

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question asked by: Dermot Mckibbin

Member to reply: Councillor Egan

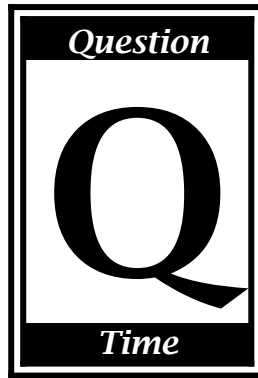
Question

How many freeholds does the council own in residential properties that are not occupied by weekly secure tenants? How can leaseholders in such properties buy the freehold from the council?

Reply

The Council owns 219 properties where all units in the property have been sold on a leasehold basis.

Leaseholders of council properties where the buildings are occupied solely by leaseholders who wish to purchase the freehold from the Council should contact the Council's housing management partners Lewisham Homes or Regenter B3 in the first instance.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 64.

Priority 6

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question asked by: Matthew Mayes

Member to reply: Councillor Maslin

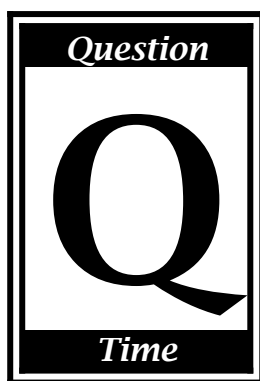
Question

Is Lewisham's strategy for 'super primaries' in other communities in breach of its own core strategy, as described below:

6.170 Walking and cycling will be the priority to improve connections and access within this strategy area. The existing walking and cycling connections, particularly those connected with the Green Chain and Waterlink Way, will be enhanced and maintained. Routes to schools, town centres and rail stations will be improved to function in a more integrated manner. Schools will need to encourage cycling and walking as the primary means of access.

Reply

The Council does not have a strategy which includes "super primaries". Currently the large majority of schools are 2FE, with some 3FE. All proposals to develop educational sites take into account local planning policy and are supported by a School Travel Plan demonstrating how the school will encourage cycling and walking as primary means of access.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 65.

Priority 7

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question asked by: Matthew Mayes

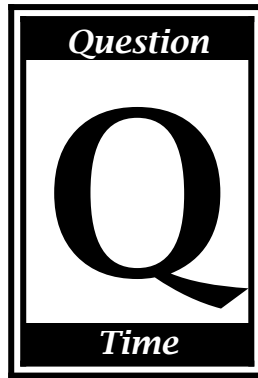
Member to reply: Councillor Maslin

Question

Why has All Saints been designated as a bulge school when it will continue to use selective criteria for its bulge class?

Reply

A bulge class will be offered at All Saints in 2016 in recognition of the fact that it is an over-subscribed school, judged by Ofsted to be Outstanding and in an area of high demand. The Governing Body, which is the Admissions Authority for the school has agreed with the School Adjudicator that the 30 additional places in 2016 will be offered as "Open" places on the basis purely of distance from the school. This will ensure that they meet the needs of the local community. All Saints is not a 'selective' school but is a voluntary aided school. Its admission policy is determined by the governing body and is compliant with the Admissions Code of Practice.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 66.

Priority 8

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question asked by: Matthew Mayes

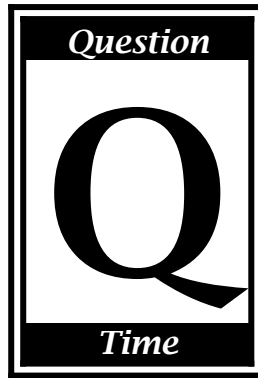
Member to reply: Councillor Maslin

Question

What concrete efforts has Lewisham made to support the development of free schools in the borough?

Reply

The Council supported the Haberdasher's Aske's Federation in setting up its Temple Grove Free School in 2013. Since the inception of the Free School policy, the local authority has had discussions with around 30 other prospective providers, but none has resulted in a school being opened. The large majority either did not undertake the application process with the Department for Education, or, having done so, failed to meet its thresholds. The lack of suitable Council owned sites in the borough has also been a barrier to the development of Free schools. However, officers continue to be in discussion with the Education Funding Agency, which is charged with promoting the Free School policy, concerning possible future opportunities.



ED CYP
PUBLIC QUESTION NO 67.

Priority 9

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question asked by: Matthew Mayes

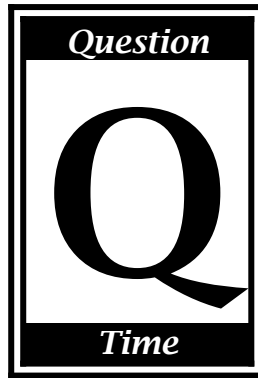
Member to reply: Councillor Maslin

Question

What has happened to the proposed Citizens school and why will it not be ready in time for 2016?

Reply

The Council continues to work with the Education Funding Agency and the promoters of this proposed Free School. The Education Funding Agency is leading on the work to find premises for the school. Once these are identified, the proposers will be able to confirm the timeline for the school to open.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 68.

Priority 10

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question asked by: Matthew Mayes

Member to reply: Councillor Maslin

Question

What contingency plans has Lewisham made to cover the shortfall of school places?

Reply

Lewisham continues to meet its statutory requirement to offer a place to every child whose family requires one. During a period of rapid growth in demand, Lewisham schools have risen to this challenge and since 2008 have worked with the Council to deliver a programme of permanent expansions, new provision and bulge classes.

More permanent places will be required to cater for Lewisham's growing population. The Council will look to meet this demand through collaboration with the Education Funding Agency's Free School programme, supplemented by expansions on existing school sites. Part of the strategy for new provision will be the development of mixed-use schemes.