

QUESTION No. 1
Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question by Councillor Walsh
of the Deputy Mayor

Question

Would the Mayor like to give his assessment on the Bakerloo Line Extension proposals and his thoughts about the limited extension that terminates at Lewisham Train Station?

Reply

LB Lewisham welcomes the current proposals to bring the Tube to Lewisham. The Bakerloo Line Extension will provide a major investment in the Borough's transport infrastructure, which is required to cater for a growing population.

The Council will continue to press the case to extend the Bakerloo Line or alternative solution beyond Lewisham and throughout the Borough towards Hayes.

QUESTION No. 2
Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question by Councillor Hall
of the Mayor

Question

As the Government has confirmed the funding available for the Council 2016/17 will the Mayor make a statement on implications for this?

Reply

The settlement taken together with the earlier CSR has changed the timescale we are working on and slightly eased the overall budget situation for the next four years. There are, of course, many other factors that will need to be taken into account as we go forward including inflation, pay settlements, service pressures arising from changes in demand and legislative change.

I believe that it will now be possible to complete the 16/17 budget without considering a further round of new cuts proposals. This will involve making some changes to the way the budget is structured and further use of New Homes Bonus funding as well as drawing on reserves. This latter point does take on additional significance now that Government has explicitly asked Councils to do so.

Once the budget is closed out, we will need to look at the longer term issues and there will be some strategic decisions that we need to take before the summer recess so that work can begin on the 17/18 budget and subsequent years.

Possibly the most significant parts of the recent announcements relates to Council Tax. The Government has announced that Councils are to be allowed to increase Council tax by 2% a year for the next four years specifically to support spending on Adult Social Care. This has been described as a "Precept" although the term "Osborne Tax" may be more appropriate. The grants paid to Councils which froze the general rate of Council Tax on previous years have been withdrawn.

There is provision for Councils to request a four year settlement from the Secretary of State which will provide some certainty about funding in future years but will also require the submission of an "Efficiency Plan".

Rate Support Grant will be removed entirely over these four years and replaced by the entirety of Business Rates which Councils collect. As yet no information is available on what redistribution mechanisms will be put in place to deal with the wildly different abilities of Councils to raise Business Rates.

QUESTION No. 3
Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question by Councillor Jacq Paschoud
of the Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing and Older People

Question

What was the total number of people funded by Lewisham whose placement was ended when the John Townsend Trust went into administration?

Numerically, what destinations were used for accommodation, education and daytime occupation for these people?

If any of the arrangements were of an emergency or temporary nature, how many are yet to be resolved in a permanent way, and what efforts are being made to endure the arrangements which are made are equivalent to those previously provided by the trust?

If family carers have stepped in what support is being offered to them so that they are able to sustain employment or other occupation?

Reply

The John Townsend Trust provided a range of residential, supported living and educational facilities. The CQC made us aware that there would need to be alternative provision in place as a matter of urgency for the 8 people who have been funded by the Council. Social care officers have worked closely with family carers to agree the arrangements for the individuals concerned.

All the arrangements are on a temporary basis to give more time to work with the families to find the right choice of provision. The support being provided enables carers to sustain their employment arrangements. Officers are continuing to work closely with families to identify how needs and longer term support for the future will be provided.

QUESTION No. 4
Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question by Councillor Ibitson
of the Cabinet Member for the Public Realm/ Deputy Mayor

Question

Thank you for the substantive response to the petition from residents of Meadowview Road, Meadow Close and Worsley Bridge Road which I presented at the last council meeting. In the response several mentions were made of proposals to install speed humps alongside new double yellow lines in Meadowview Road. While it is the case that speeding has been an issue in this street in the past (speeding is currently being impeded by the parking issues) it is my understanding that speed humps have previously been vetoed by Bromley Council. I have previously been assured that the forthcoming borough wide 20mph zone will be sufficient to deal with any future speeding in Meadowview Road. I am anxious that arguments with Bromley regarding speed humps do not over-complicate, impede or delay measures to improve the parking situation for Meadowview residents. Please can you reassure me in this regard and explain why the issue of speed humps is seemingly suddenly being reconsidered?

Reply

The parking issues on Meadowview Road will be considered during 2016/17 as part of the established programmes to implement parking restrictions and to conduct CPZ consultations. Issues related to speeding will be considered as part of the borough-wide implementation and review of the borough-wide 20mph limit. It is therefore not envisaged that the consideration of speeding will have any impact on the consideration of parking issues, unless positive action is confirmed from both aspects, in which case we would consider the co-ordination of works.

QUESTION No. 5
Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question by Councillor Elliott
of the Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing and Older People

Question

There has been some concern that since the introduction of the new Care Act, due regard has not been given to prevention strategies/services that 'prevent, reduce or delay carers developing a need for support'. Moreover, a recent Freedom of Information request by the Carers Trust found that out of 132 local authorities, less than 10% indicated having a prevention strategy. Can you advise me as to how we are meeting this obligation to carers in Lewisham?

Reply

The Council and local NHS are working very closely with our partner provider, Carers Lewisham, to develop a 2016/2017 specification, in which Carers Lewisham will offer a range of information and advice options for carers. In particular:

- carers needs will be supported through excellent signposting to universal services (reducing carer need for specialist support)
- carers needs will be identified and recognised through offering the use of tools to track the "journey travelled" as well as pre-assessment for statutory support (understanding and delaying carer's potential need for statutory support) and
- carers confidence, capability and resilience will be strengthened, as necessary, through signposting to existing community services and short-term support (preventing carer's expressed need for more longer-term support)

The Council and its Health partners do have a prevention programme and have embedded this in the integration work between Adult Social Care and Health. The prevention work encompasses both children and adults as it impacts on the whole population health and wellbeing as well as targeted prevention work for carers or those with long term conditions.

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

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

Question

Has the Council held any LGBT specific Adoption/ Fostering information events since March 2015? Will the Council be getting involved with LGBT Adoption Foster Week 2016 (www.lgbtadoptionfoster.org.uk)?

Reply

As part of the South London Adoption Consortium, Lewisham attended one LGBT event with LGBT Adoption and Fostering Forum 2015. There were no matches remitting from this. Nonetheless we are attending their February event as part of our work within the Adoption Consortium of which Lewisham is a member.

The link to Adoption and Placement Link, a site founded by LGBT adopters, is given to all prospective and approved adopters and foster carers. Carers can access this service for support and search for placements. Lewisham uses this on a regular basis to advertise.

Lewisham has also used New Family Social, which has offered support to LGBT adopters since its inception in 2007.

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question by Councillor Ibitson
of the Deputy Mayor

Question

Please could we have an update on the proposal to name a street in the borough after our late comrade, Councillor Stockbridge?

Reply

A 28 day public notice for the naming of a road in Bell Green (as Ron Stockbridge Close) was issued at the beginning of December 2015. The road name will be registered with the Royal Mail week commencing 11th January.

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2016

Question by Councillor Walsh
of the Cabinet Member for the Third Sector & Community

Question

LGBT History Month is in February. Please can you detail the civic-led/ supported programme of activity that will be undertaken during this month?

Reply

The following events will take place during February for LGBT History Month:

Events

- Forest Hill Library (date tbc): Go Tell It On the Mountain - Sandra Agard talks about James Baldwin, activist and author of Giovanni's Room (1956) which was one of the first novels to introduce concepts of bisexuality and being gay.
- 16/02/16, from 7:30pm, Broadway Bar: Comedy from VG Lee and musical entertainment from The Fabulettes. Also Tom Dingley #Outcome event in exhibition space
- 20/02/16, New Cross Learning: poetry and prose readings by LGBT authors, in association with Paradise Press.
- 24/2/16, LGBT Hate Crime and Domestic Violence Training – open to all front line staff in Voluntary and Community organisations. Civic Suite. Delivered by Metro Centre. Contact peter@metrocharity.org.uk
- 24/02/16, Lewisham Library, 6:30 onwards: Cherry Potts (Arachne Press), will launch and read from her new novel The Dowry Blade (pub. 25/02/16). May also be books for sale and signing tbc.
- 27/02/16, 12-5, Deptford Lounge: Health & Wellbeing organisations and charities will unite to give information and advice related to LGBT community

including Susan Hailes, LGBT Hate crime Met Police liason for Lewisham and Metro Centre.

- Other local events at branches tbc, including Under 5s sessions themed around diversity

All month

- The LGBT flag is to be flown from the Town Hall
- Lewisham Library will be hosting 1967 And All That, an exhibition about the Sexual Offences Act of 1967 and decriminalisation of homosexuality using archives from the LSE-based Hall-Carpenter Archives and the Lesbian and Gay Newsmedia Archive.
- Tom Dingley #Outcome exhibition in exhibition space at Broadway Theatre (access tbc but available during intervals of shows and at LGBT event on 16 Feb) <http://tomdingleyphoto.com/>
- New Cross Learning LGBT film program – titles to be confirmed
- Promotion of Lewisham Voices site where people will be encouraged to upload their experiences and reminiscences of being LGBT in Lewisham in their lifetime.
- Stock Displays in libraries.
- Film showings – 5 core films chosen centrally will tour during the month, at library branches with screens and licences to show films, plus others films chosen locally. Core films are: Pride, Heavenly Creatures, My Beautiful Launderette, Legend and Behind The Candelabra. Due to licence restrictions we cannot promote the name of the film outside of the library so publicity has to say film showings, check local branch for details.
- Books of the month – we have bought sets of The Savage Years: Paul O’Grady (a fantastic first hand account of being gay in 1980’s Britain) and Miss Carter’s War: Sheila Hancock (a highly recommended novel about a teacher in post war Britain finding that outside of the classroom Britain is changing fast including the advent of gay rights). 3 reading groups will be involved and discussing the books and these titles will be pushed in branches and social media as the ones to read in February. We have also spent money on new titles across all stock types.
- Promotion of online magazine collections – Zinio/Press Display have free access to specific LGBT magazines as well as many other titles of interest.
- **Press Reader** – GT, Pride Life, Diva + titles from around the world, e.g. DNA (Australia)
Zinio – The Advocate, Attitude, Diva, Out, GT