

QUESTION No. 1
Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

24 February 2016

Question by Councillor Hall
of the Mayor

Question

The Mayor of London and the Greater London Authority are key to the London Borough of Lewisham's future. What work does the Mayor undertake with them?

Reply

The relationships between the Mayor, GLA and London Boroughs are complex but divide into two broad aspects. The London Boroughs collectively work with the Mayor primarily through the Congress of Leaders with more detailed work being undertaken through a variety of formal and informal channels on particular issues. For the Boroughs, this work is led by the relevant Executive member. For example as the London Councils Executive lead for Housing, I meet formally with the Deputy Mayor for Housing through the Homes for London Board. However there are many informal meetings and exchanges between myself, London Councils officials and GLA officials on Housing matters, sometimes on a daily basis.

Turning to the second aspect of the relationship this is between individual boroughs and the Mayor and GLA. This can range from the political, for example letters written by myself to the Mayor informing him of the views on the Council, to the routine where information is provided on a regular basis by the boroughs for monitoring purposes.

Most day to day communication takes place at officer level but from time to time there will be a need to hold member level meetings. This includes the Mayor and his deputies but also extends to those bodies that are accountable to the Mayor such as the Metropolitan Police and Transport for London. I have not researched this but it is likely that the most frequent contacts are with the Metropolitan Police with whom the Council works in close partnership.

The occasions when it is appropriate for me to take part personally depend on judgements about the significance of the particular engagement, although as a matter of courtesy I would always try to meet the Mayor of London in person when he visits Lewisham. Examples of the issues where I would expect to be directly involved would include matters on which there is a strong Lewisham lobbying position e.g. the Bakerloo line extension or where we feel that an intervention by City Hall is unhelpful such as was the case with the call in of the Convoys Wharf planning application.

A brief look at my diary revealed that I alone have had to visit City Hall on 7 occasions since the turn of the year and additional meetings involving colleagues from City Hall have taken place at other locations. I look forward to increasing the frequency of my visits after the election of a new London Mayor in May who I hope and believe will be Sadiq Khan.

QUESTION No. 2
Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

24 February 2016

Question by Councillor Barnham
of the Deputy Mayor

Question

Some time ago, the local community was consulted on proposals to improve the 'Brockley Corridor' (B218) in order to address concerns about air quality, traffic, and streetscape. Crofton Park was identified as a priority for action. Could the Deputy Mayor please provide an update on progress and a timescale for decision and action?

Reply

Following the consultation in April and May 2015, the Council allocated Local Implementation Plans (LIP) funding in September 2015 to develop the Crofton Park scheme in 2016/17. We have just commissioned the next stage of design (preliminary design) and this will include another public consultation. The design stage will take place over the next 6 months, following which we will finalise the detailed design and deliver the works. We expect the scheme to be on site during 2017/18.

QUESTION No. 3
Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

24 February 2016

Question by Councillor Milne
of the Cabinet Member for Housing

Question

Can the cabinet member for housing confirm that the UK's first pop-up village will be ready for occupation by May this year?

Reply

Yes, I can confirm that the UK's first pop-village will be ready by May in Ladywell. This will provide high quality temporary accommodation for 24 homeless families alongside community space and work space.

Last month I visited the factory in Derbyshire where the residential units were being finished off and saw the homes we are building for myself. I think this is an exciting development and something as a borough we are going to be very proud of.

QUESTION No. 4
Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

24 February 2016

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

Question

What independent advocacy provisions are there in Lewisham for parents and pupils facing challenges with impending or confirmed school exclusions, especially in cases where communication may have broken down with the head teacher/ school, parent and pupil concerned?

Reply

Parents of children who are issued with a fixed term or permanent exclusion are signposted to the following independent agencies for advice in relation to exclusions:

- Government statutory guidance on exclusions
<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/behaviour/exclusion/g00210521/statutory-guidance-regs-2012>
- Coram Children's Legal Centre Tel: 08088 020 008 or on
<http://www.childrenslegalcentre.com/> They aim to provide free legal advice and information to parents on state education matters. The advice line is open from 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday.
- Advisory Centre for Education
<http://www.ace.ed.org.uk/>
Provide free and independent advice to parents in relation to school exclusions.

The above organisations are identified on letters sent to parents in the event of a fixed term or permanent exclusion as well as on the Lewisham website under advice on exclusions.

- Communities Empowerment Network

<http://www.cenlive.org>

CEN provides advice and advocacy for parents in respect of exclusions and in particular where the relationship between the school and the parent has broken down. CEN also provides a representative at Governor Discipline Committee (GDC) and Independent Review Panel (IRP) in respect of a permanent exclusion.

In the event of the exclusion or issue relating to a child with special needs the parents are advised to contact:

- First-tier Tribunal (Special Educational Needs and Disability), Mowden Hall, Staindrop Road, Darlington DL3 9BG. Tel: 0870 606 5750 (should you consider the exclusion relates to a disability).

Parents are signposted to CEN by the LA Inclusion & Reintegration Officer or through other contacts, such as 'word of mouth' or the internet.

Council officers work with schools to try to prevent permanent exclusions and to ensure that schools are meeting all legal requirements.

The CYP Directorate is undertaking, with school input, a review of alternative education provision which aims to improve preventative pathways and reduce the level of pupil exclusion in Lewisham. This will make recommendation for change in April 2016.