

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**20 SEPTEMBER 2017**

**Question by Councillor Barnham**  
**of the Cabinet Member for the Public Realm**

**Question**

Residents in homes at the southern end of Manwood Road are facing acute parking pressures, owing to a combination of recent local developments. They were promised a parking stress survey earlier this year, but that did not happen. It is now promised for September. The problems here affect a relatively small area, but they are causing a lot of difficulty for residents affected. Please can we be assured that serious consideration will be given soon to resolving the local problems?

**Reply**

We can confirm that a parking stress survey has been commissioned for the Manwood Road area in mid-late September. The results of the survey, alongside surveys from other potential CPZ areas, will help to inform the appraisal of CPZ requests and the prioritisation of resources for the CPZ programme, in line with the Council's Parking Policy.

**QUESTION No. 2**  
**Priority 1**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**20 September 2017**

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

**Question**

What is the break-down of spending or/and the planned projects for cycling or cycling friendly schemes within the current funds for the (TfL) Local Implementation Plan?

**Reply**

**Quietways**

During the 2017/18 financial year, the Borough is working with TfL to develop and deliver a number of specific cycling projects as part of the Quietway Programme. Some of these projects are still in the very early stages of development, and project budgets, which may be delivered during the next financial year. As such, the following figures are early estimates and are subject to change.

Waterlink way: £1.3 million

Southend Lane/Worsley Bridge Road: £300k

Catford to Burgess Park: £65k

Blackheath – currently uncoded circa £100k

Thames Path – currently uncoded circa £150k

**Cycle Superhighways**

During the 2017/18 financial year, the Borough has also been working with TfL to develop Cycle Superhighway 4 (CS4). This is a cycling project of London-wide significance, and is expected to provide investment in cycling infrastructure of approximately £3million in the Lewisham section of the route.

**Corridors and Neighbourhoods**

In the Corridors and Neighbourhoods section of the LIP Programme, there is an allocation of £100k for Local Cycling Improvements, which has been introduced to support the proposed Cycling Strategy, which is due out to public consultation this month.

There are also currently four large corridors projects which are not designed with dedicated cycling provision, but which are cycling friendly, including Crofton Park (£1.6m), Dartmouth Road (£1.5m), Manor Lane (£700k), Sangley Road (£650k), as well as our current Major Scheme, Deptford High Street (£3m).

In addition, the LIP programme supports free cycle training to anyone in the Borough, with an allocation of £153k

**QUESTION No. 3**  
**Priority 2**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**  
**20 SEPTEMBER 2017**

**Question by Councillor Barnham**  
**of the Mayor**  
**Question**

The Mayor indicated earlier this year that he was sympathetic to the idea of exempting Care Leavers from Council Tax until they are 25, and would look at the issue in this year's budget-making process. Please could we know how this consideration is going?

**Reply**

In January Cllr Stamirowski drew to my attention the Children's Society's work around this issue and I indicated in my speech at the AGM I would be asking for a report to come forward as part of our budget making that examines the cost and benefits of doing this. That report is now nearing completion and it will be considered by Mayor and Cabinet and propose the introduction of a local discount which would exempt Care Leavers from paying Council Tax until they are 25 years old. As this is a budget proposal it will be necessary to put it to Council for final decision and I expect members to view it positively.

**QUESTION No. 4**  
**Priority 2**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**  
**20 SEPTEMBER 2017**

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

**Question**

Under what circumstances and at what stage are residents whose Council Tax assessment is under question or in arrears, are referred to debt collectors or credit companies? Does the Council refer its residents to Credit companies in these circumstances?

**Reply**

The Council does not refer its residents to credit reference companies or external debt collectors. The Council has its own internal Enforcement Agent Team (formerly known as Bailiffs) who are responsible for collecting Council Tax and Business Rates arrears.

Cases are referred to the Enforcement Agent Team after a debtor has failed to pay in line with the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and the Council Tax (Administration and Enforcement) Regulations 1992.

The Council does use credit reference agency information to trace debtors who have moved without telling the Council and to check on the validity of claims being made for reductions.

**QUESTION No. 5**  
**Priority 3**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**  
**20 SEPTEMBER 2017**

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

**Question**

Does the Council provides links to Bereavement counselling? Can it also provide access to suitably trained officers within Council Tax collections and Blue Badge provision who can sensitively work through bills and accounts with the recently bereaved, similar to that specific service provided by most utility companies?

**Reply**

All front-line staff, including those dealing with council tax collection and blue badge applications, are trained to identify vulnerable customers and provide the help they need. Officers will explain documents and help with applications for reductions and reliefs. If necessary, they can also cancel enforcement action and make special collection arrangements.

If a resident is in need of bereavement counselling, a service is available which front-line staff are aware of and will refer to when needed.

If a resident's needs are greater, front-line staff may refer the resident on to other Council services, such as the Social Care Advice and Information Team, or the Council's web site which contains a lot of useful information.