



LIST OF PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Public questions and answers for the Council Meeting of the London Borough of Lewisham to be held on Wednesday 28 September 2022.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 1

Priority 1

Question asked by: Andrew Brown

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration & Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

Can you share the results of the traffic counts/speeds from the recent monitoring in Lee Green and whether the traffic reductions from the revised 'LTN' scheme seen back in 2021 are still working now traffic has returned to pre-pandemic levels?

And if some roads e.g. Leahurst Road are shown to not be seeing benefits from the LTN what your next actions are for making these roads safer to walk and cycle.

Reply

The review of the LTN has taken place and was reported to Mayor & Cabinet in January 2022. The committee asked for further monitoring to be undertaken and the results of these can be found within a report on the relevant website, as below:
<https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=139&MId=7912&Ver=4>

This report was presented to the Mayor & Cabinet on 21 September 2022.

The Council is committed to continuing to monitor the LTN and report the results. A series of School Streets are also expected to be implemented, including on Leahurst Road, over the next few weeks.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 2

Priority 1

Question asked by: Mark Morris

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration & Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

On the 12th August 2022 Transport for London announced that there will be new docking stations for the Santander cycle hire scheme located at Burgess Park Albany Road, South Bermondsey station, Clements Road, Harris Academy, Brandon Street, Crimscott Street and The Blue. It was further stated that the new docking stations will be built with funding from Southwark Council.

With the final Evelyn Street section of Cycleway 4 set to be fully completed this Summer, creating a clearer and safer route for cycling on roads in Bermondsey, Rotherhithe, Deptford and Greenwich will Lewisham Council follow the initiative of Southwark Council and many other London Boroughs and fund through CIL and/or Section 106 money the provision of Santander docking stations in this borough, enabling the benefits for Cycleway 4 and the provision of Santander cycles (including e- bikes) to be available to Lewisham residents?

Reply

Lewisham have engaged with TfL to seek an expansion to the Santander cycle hire scheme. Meetings are due to take place with TfL this autumn where this issue will be further discussed. Any decision between TfL and Lewisham will be dependent on many factors including available funding.

The cost of living crisis and strains on local authority and TfL budgets means there will need to be a careful assessment on any future funding commitments and allocations, including Council priorities.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 3

Priority 1

Question asked by: Phil Bridger

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration & Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

Further to my question in July, around Sunday Parking enforcement in Albion Way and the surrounding area:

Cllr Krupski stated that "The Council does deploy parking enforcement teams on Sundays and bank holidays except on Easter Sunday and Christmas Day, to minimise the cost to the Council considering controls are not in place. On these days enforcement does take place for contraventions to double yellow lines, disabled bays and dropped kerbs, as examples.

How many times, this year, has a parking enforcement team been active in Albion Way / Clarendon Rise Car park on a Sunday?

Reply

Since the beginning of the year, 11 enforcement visits were made out of 35 Sundays by Sunday attending enforcement officers to Albion way and other adjoining streets surrounding Clarendon Rise Car Park.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 4

Priority 1

Question asked by: Kraig Donald

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration & Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

When was the last time Chalsey Road in Brockley was cleaned or had weeds and grass removed from the pavements? The weeds are now high and there is grass growing in the pavement in large clumps all down the street. I haven't seen a street cleaner or anyone to take care of the weeds and grass and general condition of the pavement this year. When will this be addressed?

Reply

A borough wide weed eradication spray has been recently completed, including Chalsey Road. The weeds will be removed once the spray has taken effect, which normally takes up to 3 weeks. Officers will monitor the progress in Chalsey Road to ensure the service is completed successfully.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 5

Priority 1

Question asked by: Kate Richardson

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration & Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

Discriminatory Parking in Lewisham car parks? It seems that you need to be digital savvy. Not everyone has a smart phone and not everyone wants to clutter up their phone with what they consider unnecessary apps. For the less technology savvy and some of the older generation it does feel discriminatory and to say you can ring up a certain number to find out where the nearest pay point is just adds to the frustration! I do not think this was well thought out. It appears designed for the convenience of the council not for the residents. At a time when more people are choosing to use cash in order for them to keep a better check on their finances, I would have thought it better to have a machine that offers an alternative to cashless payment other boroughs do, why can't Lewisham? It would be helpful to many if Lewisham would reconsider this policy.

Reply

We understand and sympathise with the concern raised. However, please be advised the intention of the policy is partly to remove any additional fees associated with cashless payment and as a means of encouraging more sustainable methods of transport. Normalising cashless payment is a step towards ensuring that public money is not inefficiently spent, investing in new pay and display machines, which may prove to be a misallocation of funds at a time when cashless payments are already preferred and dominant.

The Council has introduced 'PayPoint' outlet usage, which will enable cash user groups without access to telephones or smartphone devices as a mitigation against the cashless payment method. We are periodically reviewing the outlet availability with the supplier to ensure that each outlet is within close proximity of parking bays for the convenience of elderly residents and will look to install additional signposts (car parks only) to indicate nearest available PayPoint outlets.

Additionally there is a customer service telephone number which is provided on the customer facing signage to provide further guidance and support for customers wishing to use web, app, telephone payment or looking for the nearest PayPoint outlet.

Due to rising costs and budget constraints in the Council, there is no immediate plan of action to re-introduce Pay and Display machines in the Borough.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 6

Priority 1

Question asked by: Mark Bennett

Relevant Directorate: Corporate Resources

Member to reply: Councillor Amanda De Ryk

Question

How does the Council plan to reduce its energy consumption this winter from current levels? What contingency plans are there for Council services over the winter in the event of extended power cuts or power rationing? When was the last exercise carried out to test how Council services would function in the event of power rationing?

Reply

We are engaging an energy engineer to look at options in reducing energy consumption. Immediate actions we can take are from optimising our equipment such as the Building Management Systems (BMS). BMS systems are currently set to adapt to the changing seasons and personnel presence within the buildings. We can adjust them as and when consumption patterns change, thereby optimising our use of heating and lighting.

In addition to this we are in the process of reviewing our opening hours of our office buildings. This in turn will reduce the energy consumption of Council owned buildings.

Hybrid working has been maintained so staff are able to work flexibly either at home or in the office. Therefore, all services can continue without any disruption in the event of extended power cuts or power rationing.

All the teams in the Council have business continuity plans that set out how they will continue to operate should an event like an extended power cut occur.

Across London we have capabilities and frameworks we abide to, ensuring scenarios such as these are considered and planned for. In addition to this, power rationing/usage/failure has been tested on a pan-London level by Emergency Planning teams and are incorporated into risk registers. It should be noted that public service buildings have not attracted government support, yet are facing massively increased bills at a time when we want to open our buildings more to provide warm centres.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 7

Priority 1

Question asked by: Mark De-Laurey

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration & Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

Can the council info Lee Road residents as to when the traffic monitor on Lee Rd will be installed? In the Lewisham Life magazine published in Sept 2022, the council state that 75 new monitors will be rolled out across Lewisham. However, the Lee Rd monitor was promised by the council back in Nov 2021, and agreed to, with location, in May 2022,.But we are yet to see any evidence that it has been installed, despite a number of requests, and despite the previous Head of Highway Strategy stating it was installed in July 2022.

Reply

I believe you are referring to an air quality monitor that was agreed to be installed. A Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) diffusion tube monitor was installed in July 2022 on a Lampost near the vicinity of 129 Lee Road.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 8

Priority 1

Question asked by: Patricia Richardson

Relevant Directorate: Community Services

Member to reply: Councillor James-J Walsh

Question

Where does the council currently keep the Local History Archive collection and the Local Studies material that were available in Lewisham Central Library? Are the collections accessible to the public, if so, when and where?

Recently the Central Library was temporarily closed according to a notice pinned to the front doors. What was the reason for this and does the council have plans to restore fully the functions of Lewisham Central Library? Are plans under consideration for other plans for the future of what was Lewisham's main library?

Reply

Firstly thank you Mrs Richardson for the work both yourself and your husband do as part of the Friends of Manor House Library and the wider Lewisham Libraries Family. From our previous correspondence you will be aware that the Library in Lewisham's Town Centre requires capital investment to it. As such the Lewisham Archives and Local History Service which was housed in it is now being delivered differently as an interim measure. All physical collections that can be made freely available to the public have been moved to the open shelves of the Reference Collection of the library, for the majority of resources however we have had to take a different approach in the interim to protect these historical assets for the long-term. Lewisham Council takes its responsibility as an archive seriously and while the Council is developing an investment and works programme – a decision was rightly taken to safeguard the collections which the Council is responsible for, that met the standards set out by the National Archives. As such a skilled contractor was identified in Harrow Green Restore that would satisfy these standards and would pack, transport, and store the collections until we are ready to accept them back into adequate premises.

It is important to note our Archivists and Local History team remain on hand curating and producing accessible and engaging content that unlocks our hidden history and celebrates our heritage and past. One way we are doing this is through StoryTrails – an engaging virtual and augmented reality 'step back in time' into our rich past, based on resources from the archive.

Additionally, Lewisham's Library Service is now offering staff supported free premium access to popular family history research databases, Ancestry.com and FindMyPast.co.uk Between them, they cover all UK Census material, Military

records, Births, Marriages and Deaths from 1837 onwards, UK Parish Records from 1754, British Phone Books, local directories and emigration and immigration records. These new facilities are helping library users answer the vast majority of their queries from the Library and have been a good addition to the offering.

Meanwhile, you or any library user are welcome to get in touch with us by emailing local.studies@lewisham.gov.uk or leaving a message on 020 8314 8501. We will be very happy to talk to you about what you need and how we can help.

With regard to the recent temporary closure at Lewisham Library this was due to a technical fault with the fire alarm system which has now been rectified.

To your final point, yes Lewisham Council is exploring options for the redevelopment of Lewisham Library, including funding through the central government Levelling Up Fund and possible Council capital expenditure. Investment of this nature however after 12 years of real terms cuts from Central Government to Local Government funding (to which Lewisham Council has not been immune) becomes increasingly more challenging.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 9

Priority 1

Question asked by: Peter Richardson

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration & Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

The lamp post on Manor Lane Terrace, west side, south end, last one, seems to have had a camera installed, very high up.

Can the council say what is the purpose of this installation? Will residents be informed as to its purpose? Will extra street furniture be required and where will that be installed?

Reply

As a part of several measures, including traffic enforcement cameras, this camera was installed to support the traffic restriction in Lee Green Low Traffic Neighbourhood (LTN) in 2020. Traffic signs are installed in this area highlighting the use of the enforcement camera.

A wide and thorough consultation with residents on the future of this LTN was undertaken in the summer of 2021 and the Mayor & Cabinet committee agreed to retain this scheme in January 2022, including this measure.

For more information on this, please visit:

<https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/roads-and-transport/lewisham-and-lee-green-low-traffic-neighbourhood>

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 10

Priority 1

Question asked by: Alan Hall

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration & Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

Will the Cabinet Member publish Lewisham Council's response to the recent London City Airport consultation on their Statement of Community Involvement and plans to meet an increase in passenger demand?

Reply

The response can be found on the Council's website:
<https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/environment/air-pollution/consultation-responses-and-other-reports>

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 11

Priority 1

Question asked by: Jacquie Utley

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration & Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Sophie Davis

Question

Are Lewisham council or any housing associations you are associated with using any commercial letting agencies to let out any homes in the borough of Lewisham and if so why?

Reply

The Council works with commercial letting agencies to access properties to use as temporary accommodation for homeless households. The Council also uses commercial letting agencies to help households find homes to rent.

The Council does not use commercial letting agencies to let out any council owned homes.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 12

Priority 1

Question asked by: Rick Hebditch

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration & Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

Lewisham's 2020 Climate Emergency Action Plan is for the whole borough to be carbon neutral by 2030. The plan says that emissions from the council made up only 3% of the borough's total emissions. The 2022 manifesto from the Mayor does not mention the plan nor pledges for the borough to be carbon neutral by 2030. It does though pledge "to make the Council net-zero by 2030". Does the commitment for the Council itself to be net zero by 2030 now have greater priority than the 2020 commitment and plan for the borough as a whole to be carbon neutral by 2030?

Reply

No the commitment for the Council itself to be net zero by 2030 does not have greater priority than the 2020 commitment and plan for the borough as a whole to be carbon neutral by 2030.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 13

Priority 1

Question asked by: Helen Kinsey

Relevant Directorate: Community Services

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

Does the Mayor recognise that Sydenham Hill has a diverse and important habitat for London's wildlife?

Reply

Yes, the Mayor recognises the importance of biodiversity across the whole of the borough and is proud of the work that the Council do to protect this. This work is set out in the Borough's Biodiversity Action Plan:

<https://lewisham.gov.uk/articles/news/creating-a-greener-lewisham-new-biodiversity-action-plan-endorsed>

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 14

Priority 1

Question asked by: Heather Gilmore

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration & Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Sophie Davis

Question

When will those eligible on the council waiting list for a social/council rented property be able to move into the 107 flats promised to them on the granting of planning permission for the Frankham Street development in Deptford?

Reply

The new homes on the Frankham Street scheme are being delivered in partnership with Peabody. The first phases are currently in construction and will deliver 144 new homes, with 79 of these being for social rent to be offered to residents on the Council's Housing Register. The current programme is for all homes to be completed in August 2023. Properties will be ready in phases, with the social rented homes being made available first.

Following completion of the first phases, work will commence on the final phase. This will deliver at least another 65 new homes, with at least 38 of these being available for social rent to residents on the Council's Housing Register. Programmes are constantly under review and may change. Residents will be informed of any confirmed changes to programme dates.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 15

Priority 2

Question asked by: Kate Richardson

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration & Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

Does Lewisham have the use of a mechanical street cleaning machine? The pavements in and around Catford are very stained and sticky. If the borough does have a machine(s) how often is it used in our key Centres? If the borough does not possess one will they consider purchasing one? Some of the pavements in the borough do not show a "Borough of Culture" in the best Light.

Reply

The Council has one pressure washing vehicle to remove graffiti/fly posting and for cleaning pavements. It is also used for pavement washing in Town Centres. The aim is to wash Town Centres every 4 to 6 weeks and the Council is reviewing the equipment needed to increase the capacity for this service.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 16

Priority 2

Question asked by: Mark Bennett

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration & Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Brenda Dacres

Question

Once the flats currently being built as part of the latest phase of Lewisham Gateway have been completed and occupied, how many of them does the Council estimate would be habitable without air-conditioning when the heat waves we experienced this summer are repeated?

Reply

The Lewisham Gateway scheme is compliant with the planning policies in place in 2009 when it was approved and is subject to Building Regulations.

The Council does not hold the information necessary to undertake the assessment being sought but is satisfied that the development meets all relevant requirements relating to heating, cooling and ventilation.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 17

Priority 2

Question asked by: Mark De-Laurey

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration & Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

Can the Council and the Mayor inform residents of Lee Road as to when the traffic evaporation that we were told would come about due to the introduction of the LTN (by Cllr Codd and the Mayor) will happen? We are now 9 months into the LTN being retained and yet traffic levels on Lee Road remain the same, with unusually long queues of idling traffic during both rush hours. The Mayor stated there would be a 6 month review of the impact of the LTN, has this review taken place? if so what was the outcome? Also, what data was used to influence the outcome?

Reply

The review of the LTN has taken place and was reported to Mayor & Cabinet in January 2022. The committee asked for further monitoring to be undertaken and the results of these can be found within a report on the relevant website, as below:
<https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=139&MId=7912&Ver=4>

This report was presented to the Mayor & Cabinet session on 21 September 2022. The Council is committed to continuing to monitor the LTN and report the results.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 18

Priority 2

Question asked by: Patricia Richardson

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration & Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

Recently there were many Lime bikes parked in all sorts of various public places in the Lee/Blackheath area, obstructing pavements, obstructing access to various places/public space and causing problems for the infirm, elderly etc. There seem to be fewer at present. If they reappear will users be asked to be mindful of where they are left and where did they come from?"

Reply

Lime Bikes are used and enjoyed by many members of the public, which is helping to reduce traffic in the borough. However, they need to be used and left with due consideration to pedestrians, including people with mobility impairments. The Council is currently in discussions with Lime to address these issues and seek improvements for the benefit of all road users.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 19
Priority 2

Question asked by: Alan Hall

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration & Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Brenda Dacres

Question

Please outline plans to reform Lewisham Council's Statement of Community Involvement in relation to planning matters?

Reply

Following the Council's Local Democracy Review, the Planning Service propose to update the SCI to bring it up to date with current legislation and good practice. Initial discussions and thoughts on future proposals will be discussed at Sustainable Development Select Committee in October 2022 (rearranged from September), the report for which is already published online (<https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=136&MId=7771&Ver=4>) and provides information on the currently anticipated next steps and future proposals.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 20

Priority 2

Question asked by: Mark Morris

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration & Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

I understand that Councillor Paul Dimoldenberg, the Cabinet Member for City Management and Air Quality at Westminster City Council has recently declared that his council will soon start to seize dockless bikes that are found to be blocking pavements and roads in Westminster.

I further understand the council has contacted the major dockless bike operators and made it clear that if they do not remove their bikes from the pavement the council will - and then charge them for doing so, with any money raised going towards improving cycling infrastructure on their streets.

Will Lewisham Council adopt a similar approach to the commercial operators of dockless bikes who fail to ensure that their bikes are left in locations that do not hinder pedestrians?

Reply

Dockless bikes are used and enjoyed by many members of the public, which is helping to reduce traffic in the borough. As such, the Council is actively exploring options for establishing a more formalised arrangement with a dockless bike operator next year to expand their use across Lewisham and also establish a self-enforcing system to address the problem of abandoned bikes.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 21

Priority 2

Question asked by: Peter Richardson

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration & Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Brenda Dacres

Question

What are Lewisham Council's plans for development in Lee Green in general and Leegate in particular?

In view of the new proposals in the draft local plan concerning the heights of new build plans for the East sub-area of the borough how will the council gain public approval? How does it plan to inform residents of such proposals? As the new Local Plan may last for another 20 years how does the council consider this to be a democratic procedure?

Reply

The strategic policy direction for Lee Green is outlined in the draft Local Plan which is progressing through its statutory stages. This includes Development Management policies which development within Lee Green will be assessed against, Site allocations within the area deemed appropriate for development and infrastructure requirements to accommodate growth. These include requirements for improved access and permeability, active ground floor frontages, new and improved public realm and a new health facility along with a series of design guidelines.

A regulation 18 consultation was carried out on the draft plan during January to April 2021 in accordance with our Statement of Community Involvement. We received feedback from over 1400 local residents, community groups, businesses, government bodies and other organisations. The thousands of comments received have all been reviewed, considered and responded to by officers and have helped inform the next stage of the Local Plan process.

A Regulation 19 draft of the Local Plan is due to be considered by Mayor and Cabinet and by Council over the coming months.. This document proposes changes informed in part by the Regulation 18 consultation and further evidence work undertaken. Subject to approval, public consultation on the Regulation 19 draft Local Plan will take place after the Mayor and Cabinet and Council decisions.

Whilst the draft Local Plan has a 20 year duration the National Planning Policy Framework requires Local Authorities to update them every 5 years with any changes subject to public consultation at that time.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 22

Priority 3

Question asked by: Mark Bennett

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration & Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Brenda Dacres

Question

Leaving aside the Council's role as planning authority and focusing entirely on its role as freeholder and potential owner of a number of leaseholds in the proposed Kitewood Creekside development, what influence does Council have on the design of the flats, their environmental impact and sustainability?

Reply

The bedroom numbers in the Copperas Street development are prescribed in the contract with Kitewood. In terms of environmental impact and sustainability, each of the units will be built in accordance with the new national technical standards (which replaces code for sustainable homes). It will also be in accordance with London Plan design standards that include standards required on property sizes, security, accessibility, energy use etc. Therefore the Council's influence and remit is to ensure planning policies and design quality is adhered to.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 23

Priority 3

Question asked by: Mark De-Laurey

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration & Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

The council installed traffic counts (ATCs) as part of a process of gathering data for the impact of the LTN in April 2022, and took counts from Friday 22nd April through to Thursday 28th April 2022. Can the council tell us why these traffic counter were installed at the end of a school holiday when private school such as Colfes (one of the biggest school inside the LTN) were still on holiday? Surely such data gathering is inaccurate of normal conditions, and weights heavily data in favour of a positive affect for the LTN.

Reply

It is normal to install survey equipment in advance of their use. Colfes School returned from Easter holidays on the 25th April. The survey equipment collected data from 25th April to at least the 29th April.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 24

Priority 3

Question asked by: Patricia Richardson

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration & Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Brenda Dacres

Question

In the past questions have been put to council concerning the structure in place at the front of Pentland House (Grade II listed, in the Lee Manor Conservation area, Old Road, Lewisham SE13.)

It is next to the entrance, next to the front wall, is visible from the road and it was understood an enforcement notice would be issued due to the lack of a planning application.

Would the council please update the position as the structure is still there?

Reply

The Council opened an investigation in to the unauthorised structure following reports but determined that enforcement action was not appropriate. The case has therefore been closed. This structure serves as a security kiosk and had been erected in response to a legal agreement between Lewisham Council and the owners of the site. This was following reports of anti-social behaviour and various other issues arising from the property's authorised use as a hostel.

As a result, the kiosk will remain in place to facilitate the security services in and around the property to ensure there is no detrimental impact on surrounding amenity, as a result of the use of the premises. This is considered to be a more favourable outcome for the surrounding residents than attempting to have the structure removed due to the relatively minor visual impact.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 25

Priority 3

Question asked by: Alan Hall

Relevant Directorate: Community Services

Member to reply: Councillor Paul Bell

Question

Will the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board make a statement on Lewisham Council's actions to tackle monkey pox and will he release the last three monthly figures for infections within the London Borough of Lewisham?

Reply

The last meeting of the Lewisham Health and Wellbeing Board on 7th September 2022 received an update about the response to monkey pox in Lewisham as part of the Local COVID-19 Outbreak and Engagement Board report that can be found here:

<https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=315&MId=7825&Ver=4>

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) is leading the national response to the monkey pox outbreak and the UKHSA London Co-ordination Response Cell (LCRC) is leading the response in London. The LCRC keeps the Lewisham Public Health team based in Lewisham Council informed of actions being taken for Lewisham including any support required from Lewisham Council. The NHS is leading the delivery of smallpox vaccination to people who are most likely to be exposed to monkeypox and local NHS services will contact those eligible to offer them a vaccine if they are at risk of exposure. For Lewisham, our sexual health services have been working with the tripartite commissioners and regional teams to get the prevention messaging out to the local population. The local sexual health service has stocks of vaccine and is able to vaccinate eligible residents. Lewisham residents are able to attend any of the vaccination clinics in London including GSTT.

Epidemiological data for monkey pox cases is publicly available from UKHSA at the following website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/monkeypox-outbreak-epidemiological-overview/monkeypox-outbreak-epidemiological-overview-13-september-2022>.

The number of confirmed and highly probable monkeypox cases between 6th May and 12th September in England is 3,383, of which 2,335 live in London and 81 of whom are Lewisham resident. After the local elections and over the summer, I've been working with the South East London ICS to highlight the need for faster and prolonged action to tackle monkeypox through the vaccination of at risk residents. I've also made the request for a Lewisham clinic to administer the vaccine.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 26

Priority 4

Question asked by: Mark Bennett

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration & Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Brenda Dacres

Question

What is the Council's role as a planning authority in making sure there are adequate services in place (e.g. schools, GPs and water) before agreeing major developments such as Lewisham Gateway or as proposed for Catford and Leegate? What is the Council's assessment of the power grid around the last two projects and how does it keep such things under review?

Reply

The Council has an Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) which identifies what infrastructure is needed to sustainably support future population growth and housing delivery in Lewisham.

A draft IDP is being prepared alongside the draft Local Plan 2020–2040. The Regulation 19 draft Local Plan and draft IDP can be viewed [here](#). These are due to be considered by Mayor and Cabinet and by Council later this year.

The IDP is prepared by the Planning team with input from all infrastructure providers including UK Power Networks. The IDP notes that while no current new projects are identified, projects will be required to accommodate future growth, and the electricity operator, UKPN, will be required to respond to individual requests for connections. As the statutory undertaker they are required to oversee the delivery and maintenance of the network and system of distribution. The identification process for developing new projects associated with electrical infrastructure will be led by the operator. Separately, the National Power Grid are already investing in electrical capacity via the London Power Tunnels project which will run through the borough from Southwark, via New Cross and into Greenwich.

The Planning team consult Lewisham Departments and infrastructure providers when planning applications are received, and necessary infrastructure is secured through planning conditions, S106 legal agreements and the collection of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) payments. There are currently no known electricity capacity issues for Catford or Leegate.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 27

Priority 4

Question asked by: Mark De-Laurey

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration & Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

Lee Road residents have been informed by the metropolitan police that the 20mph speed limit on Lee Road is unenforceable due to the current signage and road layout. What do the council intend to do about this to prevent speeding and potential accidents from occurring?

Reply

The Council have not received this feedback directly from the Police. The issue is to be raised at the regular liaison meeting with the Police and other emergency services to clarify their position

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 28

Priority 4

Question asked by: Patricia Richardson

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration & Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Brenda Dacres

Question

Can the Council explain why all the maximum heights for new build in the Local Plan Addendum have been confirmed? For Leegate the increase is from 12 storeys in the Addendum to 15 storeys in the revised Local Draft Plan?

Will the Council publish a review setting out the comments received on the Tall Buildings Study Addendum and the officers' responses?

Were most comments from all quarters arguing for a decrease in maximum height? If so, were they considered and how does the Draft Local Plan take account of such comments?

The revised policy is QD4 Buildings Heights and in particular Section C, also relevant is the background paper's discussion of the east sub-area, comprising Blackheath, Lee and Grove Park. Despite the increase in maximum height for Lee Green why does the supporting paper suggest the approach to growth and density in the East sub-area is being held constant?

Do local residents have any say at all in what happens in their environment and surroundings?

As each ward has a borough boundary what is the impact on adjacent boroughs and their residents i.e. RBG and Bromley?

Reply

The Regulation 19 draft Local Plan Policy QD4 Building Heights sets out a range of maximum building heights drawn from the tall building evidence base work. This includes maximum heights of "32.8 meters (10 storeys) to 48.8 meters (15 storeys) in other centres identified – such as Bellingham, Ladywell, Lee Green, New Cross and New Cross Gate". These are officer recommendations that have yet to go through M&C.

The approach to grouping locations identified and providing a broader range of maximum heights for each grouping was as a direct response to comments received from all parties on the Tall Building Addendum. We believe that this approach will allow for a more robust assessment of 'appropriate' scale at the development management stage, where all detailed information such as impact on views,

microclimate analysis etc can be scrutinised. It is also through this Development Management process that residents have opportunities to express their views in detail on any development schemes being prepared through any pre-application consultation held by the developer and then statutory consultation at application stage held by the Council.

Public consultation on the draft Local Plan is open to all residents and stakeholders of other boroughs.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 29

Priority 5

Question asked by: Mark Bennett

Relevant Directorate: Community Services

Member to reply: Councillor Chris Barnham

Question

Less than 3% of police officers and staff reported for domestic abuse in the last four years have been dismissed. Only 9% of those reported were professionally disciplined. In his meetings with the Met's borough commander, has the Mayor raised either of these concerns? Will the Mayor ask the borough commander how many such people are based in Lewisham?

Reply

Domestic abuse and wider violence against women and girls is on the agenda for the next meeting between with Mayor and the Borough Commander and the findings of the Report on the Centre for Women's Justice super complaint regarding this issue will be raised then.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 30

Priority 6

Question asked by: Mark Bennett

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration & Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Brenda Dacres

Question

In light of Peabody's painfully slow progress in developing land in Thamesmead is the Council confident the Trust is still a suitable partner for the Tidemill development? When did the Council last re-assess the position?

Reply

Conditions for development have been challenging over recent years. A range of factors have made a significant impact across the sector, causing delays. The Council works closely with Peabody on the progression of the development at the former Tidemill School site as well as other developments in the Borough and we are confident and trust that they have and continue to manage the various challenges.

The current programme is for all 144 homes in phases 1 and 2 to be completed by August 2023. Properties will be ready in phases, with the 79 social rented homes being made available first.

Following completion of the first phases, work will commence on the final phase. This will deliver at least another 65 new homes, with at least 38 of these being available for social rent to residents on the Council's Housing Register.

Programmes are constantly under review and may change. Residents will be informed of any confirmed changes to programme dates.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 31

Priority 7

Question asked by: Mark Bennett

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration & Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

When the Council collects surplus green/brown /black wheelie bins from residents, are they allocated to other residents? How long does it normally take to collect such bins? On average, how long can people expect to wait for the Council to provide a new / refurbished wheelie bin requested via the Council's website?

Reply

The Council utilises used/repaired wheelie bins to ensure a sufficient stock of wheelie bins is available. This reduces waste, cost and negative effects to the environment.

The current lead in time, the time a resident can expect to wait from the point of ordering to delivery is up to 5 weeks. A service review is underway to reduce the time taken to deliver bins.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 32

Priority 8

Question asked by: Mark Bennett

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration & Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Brenda Dacres

Question

When does the Council expect to demolish Reginald House in Deptford? Why did the Council serve eviction notices on residents telling them to leave by July 26th?

Reply

The building at 2-30A Reginald Road forms part of Phase 3 of the development of the former Tidemill School site. The Council has been working with permanent residents to assist them to find and move to new homes including the new homes built at the linked site at Amersham Vale and new homes being built in Phases 1 and 2 on the Tidemill site. This was one of the commitments made to residents at the outset of the scheme. The building will not be demolished until the new homes are ready on Phases 1 and 2 for those permanent residents who wish to move into the new build homes.

The majority of original residents have already moved. The Council has been using the vacated properties for temporary accommodation for homeless households. The Council has started the formal possession process for temporary residents, which has included the service of notices. This is a necessary process to ensure that the Council can achieve vacant possession when needed for the development of the new homes. Officers have had contact with all households to assure them that the serving of a notice is part of the lengthy possession process and that they were not required to physically leave on 26 July.

Officers are working with households to offer them alternative homes.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 33

Priority 1

Question asked by: Diana Cashin

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration & Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

What are the performance targets and level of attainment for maintenance of clean and tidy streets in the central of Catford? Given the current poor state of Catford Centre what plans does the council have to rectify this and make the centre more attractive for people to use?

Reply

The Lewisham service standards for street cleansing is aligned with the Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse, which sets out the standard that streets should be in, immediately after cleansing and the condition they should be maintained at throughout the day and into the evening / overnight.

Following a review, an improvement plan for street cleanliness across Lewisham is being developed to improve the cleanliness of the borough.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 34

Priority 2

Question asked by: Diana Cashin

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration & Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

What are the plans and aims of the council to improve the pedestrian experience in Lewisham given the current state of pavements?

Reply

The Council sees pavements as vital to allow people to walk and move about safely within the borough. Lewisham has an annual footway repair programme that aims to ensure that defects are identified and attended to. Should you feel there are specific areas that the Council should investigate, please forward your queries to highways@lewisham.gov.uk.

Please be aware that not all the pavements or roads within Lewisham are maintained by the Council. Strategic roads, which are mostly identified with the red road markings, are maintained by Transport for London (TfL) as the Highways Authority. Should you have any concerns on these routes, please contact TfL via the following web link:

<https://tfl.gov.uk/help-and-contact/contact-us-about-streets-and-other-road-issues#:~:text=If%20you%27d%20like%20to,or%20use%20this%20contact%20form>