



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 17
May 2023

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 1
17 MAY 2023

Question asked by: Yael Biran

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration and Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

The Manwood-Ewhurst junction's vehicle and pedestrian count falls well within the national guidelines for an SCP site as well as within the guidelines for Crossing facilities with recommended light controlled crossing. How come the site has remained unmanned and in the new Road Safety Service Review has not been recommended for light controlled crossing?

Reply

In common with many school crossing patrol locations across the borough, the site has been vacant for some time due to the difficulties in recruiting people for this type of role. To address this and find a long-term solution, the Council is currently carrying out design work on the options available for improving pedestrian crossing facilities at the junction. Options to be considered will include light controlled crossings. Once the options have been developed, we will share the designs with residents and other interested parties for comment.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 2
17 MAY 2023

Question asked by: Yael Biran

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration and Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

Is a death or a serious injury a condition for the council spending money on safe crossing points?

Reply

The Council is committed to improving road safety across the borough, with a particular focus on vulnerable road users such as pedestrians and cyclists. With the resources available to the Council for road safety improvements, we prioritise those locations that are worst affected, including taking account of the number of killed and seriously injured road casualties at a given location as a key part of the decision-making process.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 3
17 MAY 2023

Question asked by: Phil Bridger

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration and Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

What was the total cost of the new high security gates installed in Clarendon rise car park towards the end of 2022 and how has the cost been justified given that they don't appear to have ever been used?

Reply

The Council carried out work in December 2022 to repair the damaged fencing surrounding the Clarendon Rise Car Park. This did not include upgrading the security gate. The cost of the work was approximately £2,700.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 4
17 MAY 2023

Question asked by: Lisa Peace

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration and Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

When are you going to stop speeding cut through traffic in Longhurst Road near Leahurst?

Reply

The speed and level of through traffic on Longhurst Road is reviewed as part of the agreed monitoring strategy for the Lewisham and Lee Green LTN. According to the data presented to the Council's Mayor and Cabinet in September 2022, speeds and volume of traffic on Longhurst Road have both reduced when compared to those before the LTN was introduced. A further monitoring report with updated figures is due to be presented to Mayor and Cabinet later this year.

Further details can be found in the links below to the Mayor & Cabinet reports of January 2022 and September 2022:

<https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=31225#mgDocuments>

<https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=139&MId=7912&Ver=4>

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 5
17 MAY 2023

Question asked by: Natalie Berg

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration and Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

It's great to see that speed limits are set to be reduced to 20mph on parts of Lee High Road and the South Circular. Please can you give an update on timings for this change and how it will be both communicated and enforced?

Reply

The Council welcomes this move from Transport for London (TfL), which will create safer streets for road users in Lewisham and complements the earlier introduction by the Council of 20 mph speed limits on borough roads in 2016.

TfL are leading on these latest plans and further information on timings, consultation and enforcement can be found on their website through the following links:

<https://haveyoursay.tfl.gov.uk/lowering-speed-limits?tool=qanda>

<https://tfl.gov.uk/info-for/media/press-releases/2023/march/roads-across-london-to-be-made-safer-with-28km-of-new-20mph-speed-limits-on-tfl-roads>

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 6
17 MAY 2023

Question asked by: Natalie Berg

Relevant Directorate: Community Services

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

Are there opportunities for a further greening of Lee High Road and the South Circular, for example with more street trees?

Reply

Lee High Road and the south circular are TFL Red routes, and they are responsible for established trees and new tree planting on their network. I have been in contact with Len Duvall, who is the Lewisham representative on the GLA, in partnership with Street Trees for Living to ask them to be part of this partnership and work with us to develop tree planting schemes on TFL roads. He has agreed to look into this and I am awaiting his response.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 7
17 MAY 2023

Question asked by: Sue Williams

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration and Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Sophie Davis

Question

I see most nights on the news the severe shortage of social homes.

I know of a couple who both work and live in a 3 bed council house in Forest Hill. Surely with the shortages for family homes, there should be some sort of needs led allocation

I appreciate they have lived there for a while but at the end of the day, it is social housing and needy people need homes.

Please could you give information on your policy regarding the eligibility of Council houses.

Reply

Lewisham's Housing Allocation Policy determines who is eligible for social housing in Lewisham and the priority they receive. Social housing aims to provide more affordable, secure and long-term tenancies. Once you become a secure tenant, you will remain in your home unless you are in breach of any tenancy conditions, or you choose to move-on. If your social housing property is too big for your needs, you can get help moving to a smaller property via Lewisham under-occupation called Trading Places. (In 2022/23 sixty households have downsized to smaller homes.) Lewisham Council is committed to continuing to deliver new social homes.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 8
17 MAY 2023

Question asked by: Richard Elliott

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration and Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

What will be the social and economic impact of the new proposed CPZ schemes with regard to how it will affect visitors to vulnerable residents (eg elderly, ill, disabled) and businesses. CPZ will discourage casual visitors and many carers are not officially registered as such, but family and friends helping out. It should also be noted that not everybody can use the IT permit system

Reply

In December 2022, the Council's Mayor and Cabinet agreed the approach and policies the Council would use to engage with residents on the introduction of the proposed sustainable transport and parking improvements. As part of these proposals, a full Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) was carried out, which is to be reviewed and amended following the recent consultation exercise.

The results of the recent consultation are currently being analysed and a further report will be presented to Mayor and Cabinet later this year recommending how to proceed with the proposals, including measures to address any impacts on vulnerable residents, visitors and businesses.

For further information, links to the December 2022 report along with the Council's Sustainable Streets webpage are shown below:

<https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s105243/Sustainable%20Transport%20and%20Parking%20Improvements%20report.pdf>

<https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/parking/sustainable-streets-programme>

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 9
17 MAY 2023

Question asked by: Richard Elliott

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration and Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

In relation to the proposed CPZ scheme, can the Council provide data on the estimated income to be generated from parking permits and (separately) visitor permits

Reply

The results of the recent Sustainable Streets consultation are currently being analysed and the proposals reviewed in response to the feedback. Until this review is complete it is not possible to provide an accurate estimate of the permit income. Following this review, a further report will be presented to the Council's Mayor and Cabinet later this year recommending how to proceed with the proposals. For further information, links to the December 2022 report to Mayor and Cabinet along with the Council's Sustainable Streets webpage are shown below:

<https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s105243/Sustainable%20Transport%20and%20Parking%20Improvements%20report.pdf>

<https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/parking/sustainable-streets-programme>

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 10
17 MAY 2023

Question asked by: Margo Sheridan

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration and Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

In the absence of an explicit political mandate I.e. a manifesto commitment, what criteria will the council use to decide on whether to go ahead with the proposed CPZ

- Residents' views as expressed in the consultation or by a future vote
- A cost benefit analysis of scheme options informing a decision
- A political decision based on the views of the Council decision makers?

Reply

Details of the decision-making process for the proposed Sustainable Streets programme were agreed by the Council's Mayor and Cabinet in December 2022. In summary, it was agreed to update the Parking Policy (2014) to align it with other more recent policies. Since the 2014 policy was published, the Council has declared a Climate Emergency, set out an ambitious Air Quality Action Plan and the population in the borough has grown to exceed 300,000 people. The Parking Policy required updating to reflect the needs of Lewisham residents and contemporary policy guidance.

The consultation with residents and businesses for the first phase of the Council's Sustainable Streets programme closed in March 2023. The report in December detailed that, going forward, the decision whether to implement sustainable transport and parking improvements should be based on recommendations which consider consultation responses in conjunction with data on parking pressure, road safety, air quality, and walking and cycling needs. This information would be looked at over a wider area to decide whether to include individual streets, taking into consideration factors such as the risk of displacement. Knowing the level of support and collating local knowledge from residents and businesses will inform the final design of any improvements.

Following the consultation, feedback is being analysed and the recommendations for any improvements will be reported to Mayor and Cabinet for a decision on whether to proceed with statutory consultation for the making of the Traffic Orders for any scheme, which will provide residents with a further opportunity to comment or raise any concerns should they have them.

A link to the December 2022 Mayor and Cabinet report on the Council website is as follows:

<https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s105243/Sustainable%20Transport%20and%20Parking%20Improvements%20report.pdf>

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 11
17 MAY 2023

Question asked by: Anna-Maria Cahalane

Relevant Directorate: Children and Young People

Member to reply: Councillor Chris Barnham

Question

The Council lost or conceded 30 out of 46 EHCP appeals made against LBL's decision not to assess for or issue an Education Health and Care Plan to children with SEND between Jan 2020 and Dec 2021.

How much did the 30 appeals cost the Council in staff salaried time & tribunal fees & having lost 65% of EHCP appeals have the Council improved the process to reduce this percentage that leaves children without the support they need & distresses parents unnecessarily who already struggle with caring for children with disabilities/difficulties?

Reply

The Council and our schools are committed to supporting all our children and young people to reach their potential. We continue to work with families of children with special educational needs or disability (SEND), to find the right solutions for their children's needs. This includes reviewing disputes and disagreements via formal and informal mediation, and also having regard to additional evidence presented by parents/carers and education settings, following the original decision to not undertake an EHC Needs Assessment for individual children. Decision making is always evidence-based and within the Law.

The costs for working through formal mediations and Tribunal appeals related to refusals to assess and other appeals are limited to the cost of a Tribunal Officer. (around £76,000 a year with oncosts).

The processes with regards to Tribunal appeals are robust and evidence based. It is unfortunately not always possible to agree. However no child with SEND is left without support: our education settings support children with SEND who are below the EHCP threshold from within their available resources through an SEN Support Plan, without an EHCP.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 12
17 MAY 2023

QUESTION WITHDRAWN

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 13
17 MAY 2023

Question asked by: Mark Bennett

Relevant Directorate: Chief Executive

Member to reply: The Mayor, Damien Egan

Question

One of the current Mayor's 2018 personal pledges to the people of Lewisham was to "be accessible and hold regular public question times throughout the borough that everyone can attend." How many public question sessions were held by the Mayor in each year since 2018 and what are the dates for this year's sessions?

Reply

There were 36 sessions held at local assembly meetings between 2018 and 2022. Each of the 18 ward assembly meetings held two sessions each. The next scheduled Meet the Mayor session is 20 June at Perry Vale. Further dates for Meet the Mayor sessions at local ward assembly meetings will be announced shortly.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 14
17 MAY 2023

Question asked by: Mark Bennett

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration and Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

The Council's consultation process for its proposed Controlled Parking Zones across the entire borough included door-to-door surveys in the affected areas. On what dates were door-to-door surveys carried out in the phase one areas and in which roads?

Reply

As part of the Sustainable Streets consultation process, additional engagement took place to encourage participation.

During week commencing 23rd January 2023, visits were undertaken to businesses in the Phase one areas to check if leaflets had been received and to encourage owners to complete the 'business' section of the survey. In the Catford and Crofton Park area, 20 businesses on Brockley Road and Stanstead Road were visited. In the Deptford area, 27 businesses on Deptford High Street were visited.

Survey responses were monitored throughout the consultation period to observe response rates and encourage participation, including areas with little or no response. As such, door-to-door visits were carried out on 28th February in the Catford and Crofton Park in the following roads:

- Ballina Street, Beaumaris Mews, Blythe Close, Blythe Hill Lane, Gabriel Street, Grierson Road, Honor Oak Park and Sienna Place.

On 1st March door to door visits in the Deptford area took place on the following roads:

- Bronze Street, Beach Close, Baildon Street, Creekside, Czar Street, Dacca Street, Diana Close, Edward Street, Grinling Place, Mornington Rd, Napier Close, Reginald Rd, Stanley St, Staunton Road, Turnpike Close, Walnut Close and Watson Street.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 15
17 MAY 2023

Question asked by: Kate Richardson

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration and Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

Having been made aware of just how much Lewisham council has collected in fines from the LTN's and the school Streets scheme through answers from this body, could the council say what percentage of this money is being given towards mending the roads in the borough?

Reply

Legislation requires that any surplus funds generated through fines from Penalty Charge Notices must be reinvested for highway and transport related purposes. The Council uses the surplus to cover the cost of concessionary fares, which allows Lewisham's older and eligible disabled residents free travel on public transport in London. The surplus to date has been insufficient to cover the total cost of concessionary fares so none is currently spent on repairing roads. Road repairs are funded separately.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 16
17 MAY 2023

Question asked by: Kate Richardson

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration and Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Sophie Davis

Question

Given the recent Panorama programme on problems with social housing, which did put Lewisham as an example. Is the council looking at ways of holding some Housing Associations to account for failing to look after the welfare of their tenants, some of whom were Lewisham tenants before there was a stock transfer some years ago?

Reply

The issues highlighted by the Panorama programme are appalling. Unfortunately, Lewisham is not alone in facing these issues; they reflect a national housing crisis. The council does not have any power to hold Registered Providers (RPs, Housing Associations) to account where the stock is owned and managed by the RP, even where the stock was transferred from the council to the RP through a stock transfer. The responsibility for regulating and holding RPs to account is held by the Regulator of Social Housing (RSH). The RSH registers RPs and undertakes economic regulation, focusing on governance, financial viability and value for money. They also set consumer standards and may take action if these standards are breached and there is a significant risk of serious detriment to tenants or potential tenants. The RSH have introduced Tenant Satisfaction Measures from 1st April 2023, to be collected by RPs through tenant surveys during the 2023/24 financial year. The results will be published by mid-2024, and will provide a basis on which to compare performance of RPs.

The RSH does not resolve individual complaints and cannot mediate in disputes between landlords and tenants. This role is held by the Housing Ombudsman. The Ombudsman may inform the RSH of any systemic issues relating to particular RPs that it becomes aware of.

Despite powers not being available to the council, we continue to work closely with RPs who own and manage stock in the borough. This is through partnership working meetings, where information is shared and key issues are discussed, and through contact with individual RPs to discuss specific issues.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 17
17 MAY 2023

Question asked by: Mark Morris

Relevant Directorate: Children and Young People

Member to reply: Councillor Chris Barnham

Question

How is the statement “On the government’s own measure of progress, Lewisham secondary schools are doing better than most across the country” which was made in the council press release on 21.4.2023 compatible with statistics published in Report on 2022 pupil achievement in Lewisham CYP Select Committee data set March 2023, such as the headline finding for Key Stage 4 that “At 47.8, Lewisham’s average Attainment 8 score was below England and London averages..” (page 14) and the finding that “Lewisham ranked second lowest among London boroughs [A-levels] and in the bottom quartile of all England local authorities.” (page 22)

Reply

The Government publishes a measure of progress called Progress 8. It measures the progress made by secondary pupils across a range of subjects, from their achievement at age 11 to GCSEs at 16. Since this measures average attainment at each school adjusted for differences in prior attainment, it is arguably a fairer picture than an unadjusted average attainment that does not take into account differences in school intakes.

In 2022, Lewisham schools collectively had a Progress 8 score above the national average, which indicates that pupils in Lewisham secondary schools made more progress, on average, than pupils with similar levels of attainment at the end of primary education.

This is entirely in keeping with the judgements Ofsted has been making on our secondary schools: 86% are rated Good or Outstanding, well above the national average.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 18
17 MAY 2023

Question asked by: Mark Morris

Relevant Directorate: Community Services

Member to reply: Councillor James-J Walsh

Question

Please state how many paid ticketed performances took place in the main Broadway theatre during the 2019 calendar year and what is the expected number of paid ticketed performances that are already confirmed, and expected to take place, during the calendar year of 2023.

Reply

Post-pandemic, and after a yearlong refurbishment the theatre is ready for it's next 90 years serving our community. There are bookings and enquiries still coming in for this year, as production companies and event organisers learn about the significant improvements and upgrades to our space.

2019 – 86 ticketed events

2023 - There are 95 events currently planned in the schedule, 76 of the 95 are ticketed events.

NB: The Theatre did not re-open on January 1st, so this year is shortened in operational length than 2019.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 19
17 MAY 2023

Question asked by: Margaret Clarke

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration and Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

In response to Question 49 of Jan 2022 the Council said there would be “carbon footprint evaluation of its waste services in the near future.” When does the Council intend undertaking that evaluation?

Reply

The evaluation work is being undertaken as part of a fleet strategy, which is currently getting underway. The Council hope to publish this strategy by the end of this year.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 20
17 MAY 2023

Question asked by: Margaret Clarke

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration and Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

How will the Council assess whether collecting food waste separately from garden waste has been a success?

Reply

The separation of food waste and garden waste by the Council started in April 2022 as part of an ongoing programme of work. This allows the food waste and garden waste to be separately recycled. This new more sustainable approach has led to an increase of 48% in food waste recycling since April last year, which is a key measure of success.

More details on the Council's approach to food waste collections can be found in the Reduction and Recycling Plan 2023-25, which was approved by Mayor and Cabinet in March this year. A link to the report is as follows:

<https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=139&MId=7964&Ver=4>

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 21
17 MAY 2023

Question asked by: Marcus Myers

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration and Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Sophie Davis

Question

With reference to Q6 of 18.01.23, in addition to damp and mould what other types of repair / hazard are classified as “red”?

Reply

Red hazards are a Lewisham Homes categorisation of emergency repairs. These are repairs that remove immediate danger to people, avoid flooding or major damage to the property; make the property secure; restore total failure of sanitation; water or electrical supply, or total loss of heating in winter. We will complete the repair at the time if possible. For buildings where we are a leaseholder but do not have responsibility for the common parts, we will liaise with the relevant building manager when required. We will make the situation safe and carry out any follow up work as an urgent or routine repair in normal working hours.

The following are considered repairs emergencies:

- No drinking water or loss of mains water
- Communal door entry phones not working
- Communal heating not working
- Lift breakdowns
- Total loss of electrical supply
- Make an area safe after criminal damage
- Major blockages, surging drains, stacks, toilets
- Dangerous structures and ceilings
- Major water penetration and flooding

And these are dealt within 24 hours

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 22
17 MAY 2023

Question asked by: Marcus Myers

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration and Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Sophie Davis

Question

What is the Council's target for rectifying Category 1 or 2 hazards that are given a red classification?

Reply

Anything classed as 'red' will receive a mould wash within 2 working days to remove the risk to health from mould spores. This will then be followed up with an appointment to diagnose the cause of the mould growth either by a Lewisham Homes surveyor or a specialist contractor – we aim to do this within 10 working days.

Other hazards that fall into these categories will be classed as an emergency or urgent repair. Emergency repairs are attended within 24 hours and urgent repairs are attended to within 3 working days.

Lewisham Homes classifies the following as emergency repairs:

- No drinking water or loss of mains water
- Communal door entry phones not working
- Communal heating not working
- Lift breakdowns
- Total loss of electrical supply
- Make an area safe after criminal damage
- Major blockages, surging drains, stacks, toilets
- Dangerous structures and ceilings
- Major water penetration and flooding

Alongside this, we operate the right to repair for other repairs:

Repair type	Response time(working days)
Total loss of electric power	1
Partial loss of electric power	3
Unsafe power or lighting socket or electrical fitting	1
Total loss of water supply	1
Partial loss of water supply	3
Total or partial loss of gas supply	1
Blocked flue to open fire or boiler	1

Heating or hot water not working between 31 October and 1 May	1
Heating or hot water not working between 1 May and 31 October	3
Blocked/leaking foul drain, soil stack or toilet	1
Toilet not flushing (if there is only one toilet in the property)	1
Blocked sink, bath or basin	3
Tap cannot be turned	3
Leak from a water pipe, tank or cistern	1
Leaking roof	7
Insecure external window, door or lock	1
Loose or detached banister or hand rail	3
Rotten timber flooring or stair tread	3
Door entry phone not working	7
Mechanical extractor fan not working	7

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 23
17 MAY 2023

Question asked by: Peter George

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration and Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

The Council's climate action plan states that Lewisham will achieve net zero emissions by 2030 i.e. 20 years before the rest of the country. As the Council has no plans for Carbon Capture & Sequestration, achieving the target would require there to be no petrol cars or gas boilers in the borough. When will the Council publish a realistic plan?

Reply

The Council declared a climate emergency in 2019 and published the Climate Emergency Action Plan in 2020 in support of the ambition for the borough to be net zero carbon by 2030. This Action Plan was informed by a detailed and costed analysis of the actions needed to get to net zero which is published here <https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s72556/Annex%20C%20Routes%20to%20Carbon%20Neutral%20Report.pdf>

This analysis and the Action Plan was clear that delivery of the ambition for Lewisham to be net zero requires significant and sustained action at national and regional levels and participation from all sectors of society including government and business. The Action Plan is intended to demonstrate the Council's commitment to showing leadership and taking action, but also includes a series of lobbying points which underline that this cannot be delivered by the Council unilaterally. The Council continues to work with others across the sector and elsewhere to press for the investment and the legal and financial levers that are needed to accelerate the transition to net zero.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 24
17 MAY 2023

Question asked by: Peter George

Relevant Directorate: Children and Young People

Member to reply: Councillor Chris Barnham

Question

According to the Council's own data at Key Stage 2 White pupils in Lewisham schools are at the mid-point of the table of comparable boroughs. For Black & Mixed-Race pupils, Lewisham is the bottom borough. How do you explain this and what does the Council plan to do about it?

Reply

It is undeniably true that there are historic, systemic inequalities in educational outcomes – not just in Lewisham, but in London and the UK- particularly for Black Caribbean and dual heritage (White/Black Caribbean) pupils. We are determined to tackle those inequalities and we believe that the diversity of our population is one of our greatest strengths.

Through our school improvement partnership, Lewisham Learning, schools and the council are working together on a programme to tackle race inequality. All Lewisham Schools and the council are signed up through a pledge to actively engage in this work. You can find out more about the programme at <https://schoolsservices.lewisham.gov.uk/Services/6150> and a report made to the Childrens and Young people's select committee <https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s94054/05%20Tackling%20Race%20Inequality%20CYP%20260122.pdf>

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 25
17 MAY 2023

Question asked by: Josue Lucus Mitte

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration and Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Juliet Campbell

Question

Why has Lewisham Council not agreed to support the Equal Pavement Pledge proposed by the disability organisation Transport for All?

Reply

The Council supports measures to promote inclusive access to our streets, especially for those residents who are blind or partially sighted, wheelchair users or have mobility issues. There were a series of recommendations from the Lewisham Disabled People's Commission report around borough access which we are carefully considering – a Council response to this report is being currently drafted.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 26
17 MAY 2023

Question asked by: Josue Lucus Mitte

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration and Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Brenda Dacres

Question

What progress has been made on the delayed improvements to the area around Catford and Catford Bridge stations, which involve safer walking and cycling routes with a double-width pavement along a stretch of Catford Road, a wider underpass under the South Circular Road and two river decks across the River Ravensbourne.

Reply

The project has been delayed while we explore the detailed feasibility of delivering the public realm improvements desired. This has required extensive engagement with stakeholders including the Environment Agency, Network Rail, South-eastern Rail, Barratts and Transport for London.

Design work is anticipated being finalised in this year and subject to Planning consent being granted, procurement will be prioritised as early as is feasible in 2023-24, with construction to begin on site soon after.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 27
17 MAY 2023

Question asked by: Maria Lorena Lucas Mitte

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration and Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Sophie Davis

Question

A mother whose family recently became homeless had her letter's credibility questioned, implying she was lying when she was already in a distressed situation. What training is given to council staff to ensure they don't discriminate against people in vulnerable situations?

Reply

When an applicant approaches for housing assistance, our staff must take a consistent approach and check the validity of documents provided by clients and make reasonable enquiries as part of a Homelessness application or Housing Register application. Our Officers are under a duty to protect the public funds Lewisham Council administers, and we may use the information provided to match against other information held by the Council and share with other public bodies or agencies for the purpose of the prevention or detection of fraud. We also use this information to ensure that we provide the right advice and level of support to clients. All our staff receive training as part of an induction and training is available to staff as a refresher if required. Training needs are also monitored regularly in 1-2-1s and team meetings to ensure staff are kept up to date.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 28
17 MAY 2023

Question asked by: Geoffrey Dolamore

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration and Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

How much does the Council expect to raise from parking permits and visitor permits for each of the areas included in phase one of the Council's proposal to cover the entire borough with Controlled Parking Zones? Please show the totals for each type of permit separately.

Reply

The results of the recent Sustainable Streets consultation for the phase one areas are currently being analysed and the proposals reviewed in response to the feedback. Until this review is completed and decisions made, it is not possible to provide an accurate estimate of the permit income from these areas.

Following this review, a further report will be presented to the Council's Mayor and Cabinet later this year recommending how to proceed with the proposals. For further information, links to the December 2022 report to Mayor and Cabinet along with the Council's Sustainable Streets webpage are shown below:

<https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s105243/Sustainable%20Transport%20and%20Parking%20Improvements%20report.pdf>

<https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/parking/sustainable-streets-programme>

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 29
17 MAY 2023

Question asked by: Geoffrey Dolamore

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration and Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Brenda Dacres

Question

What is the exact location of each tree that will be removed as part of the Catford Town Centre changes to the South Circular Road that were recently announced by TfL?

Reply

Both TfL and Lewisham Council recognise the value of trees in the town centre and the contribution they make to an area. Trees are only removed where necessary, such as when the scheme could not operate correctly without removing them. Unfortunately, in this case it will be necessary to remove some existing trees to deliver the scheme. TfL current analysis indicates that this will include four mature trees and a number of smaller trees, several of which are in poor health.

The project is still at feasibility stage and the drawings and plans are prepared for early stakeholder engagement and traffic modelling purposes. The final scheme will be subject to more detailed design, through which every effort will be made to minimise the impact on trees.

Any trees that are lost because of the scheme will result in a CAVAT value being paid to the Council by TfL and used to improve greening and provide replacement tree planting in the Town Centre.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 30
17 MAY 2023

Question asked by: Andrew Brown

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration and Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

Since the one-way contra flow was introduced for Leahurst Road, as a resident I can see traffic is increasing as each week passes to the point sometimes I can't cross the road because there's no break in the traffic. When will the latest monitoring report be shared and will the council explore options of reducing rat running traffic on Leahurst road?

Reply

In line with the decision of the Council's Mayor and Cabinet in January 2022, a further monitoring exercise is currently underway and the results and findings, including on through traffic levels, will be reported to Mayor and Cabinet in the next few months.

Further details can be found in the links below to the Mayor & Cabinet reports of January 2022 and September 2022:

<https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=31225#mgDocuments>

<https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=139&MIId=7912&Ver=4>

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 31
17 MAY 2023

Question asked by: Will Kirby

Relevant Directorate: Chief Executive

Member to reply: Councillor James-J Walsh

Question

Does the council take records of the subjects raised and questions asked on social media? If so, please provide the amount of LTN-related tags and direct tweets Lewisham council (@lewishamcouncil) received on Twitter in 2021, 2022 & so far in 2023 (up to end April).

Reply

No, we do not record tags and direct tweets by subject area.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 32
17 MAY 2023

Question asked by: Will Kirby

Relevant Directorate: Chief Executive

Member to reply: Councillor James-J Walsh

Question

To my knowledge, the council does not respond to negative tweets or direct questions relating to the LTN on Twitter. Is this council policy not to respond? Do they get passed onto anyone, and if so, who?

Reply

The Council's Twitter account is tagged into a large number of tweets that include opinion, comment and discussion. It would not be possible to respond to them all. Our social media accounts are monitored and any new or emerging issues are raised with the relevant services.

Customer service questions and routine requests for information are responded to directly by our customer service team.

There are many routes to ask questions or get information from the Council – more information can be found on our website:

<https://lewisham.gov.uk/mayorandcouncil/complaints-and-feedback>

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 33
17 MAY 2023

Question asked by: Annie Kirby

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration and Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

Since the installation of cctv cameras in set locations across the Lee Green Ward, for the purpose moving traffic enforcement, I have yet to find any that operate according to the "transparency principle".

In short, surveillance cameras must have signage to inform the public which body is operating them; for how long footage is kept, who can view it and for what purpose they are recording.

There is no mention of ANPR and / or AI use on your privacy notice on your website either.

Why don't you have these signs when they are a requirement of UK GDPR?

Reply

The Council's understanding is that "Surveillance camera systems" has the meaning given by Section 29(6) of Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 and is taken to exclude any camera system with relevant type approval of a prescribed device under Section 20 of the Road Traffic Offenders Act 1988 used exclusively for enforcement purposes, which captures and retains an image only when the relevant offence is detected and with no capability to be used for any surveillance purpose.

However, the Council carries out a DPIA for its ANPR cameras to assess and identify any risks arising out of the processing of personal data and to minimise these risks. At present, we do not use AI technology for parking or traffic enforcement.

Further information about how the Council processes personal information related to ANPR enforcement cameras is available on our website. A link is as follows:
<https://lewisham.gov.uk/about-this-site/privacy/customer-services/privacy-notice---parking-penalty-charge-notices--permits-and-suspensions>

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 34
17 MAY 2023

Question asked by: Annie Kirby

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration and Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

A Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) is recognised as a live and fluid process, so should be reviewed periodically. The law requires you to at least conduct a DPIA and consider the fundamental principles of the UK GDPR.

Q: Did Lewisham Council conduct a DPIA for any ANPR cameras within the Lee Green LTN that have been installed, for the purposes of generating PCNs, since July 2020?

Reply

The Council completes a DPIA for all ANPR CCTV operations for the purpose of enforcing moving traffic offences, which includes the Lee Green LTN locations. Any new location introduced through various traffic restriction measures are added to the DPIA in order to satisfy the DPIA requirements.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 35
17 MAY 2023

Question asked by: Dan Kirby

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration and Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

When my wife met with the Lewisham Mayor in June 2021, he seemed genuinely upset at the amount of people struggling to pay for PCNs generated from the camera enforced filters. At that time, Lewisham Council was top of the table for revenue across the London Boroughs. Not something he was proud of.

Dermody Road, a direct route to Lewisham Hospital, brings in huge amounts more than any other filter in the LTN, at one point 21 times more than it's neighbouring filter.

Q: Does the Lewisham Mayor, Damien Egan, receive reports on the PCNs generated by the Lee Green LTN?

Reply

Since the LTN was implemented, the Council has been undertaking monitoring to understand how it is operating, its impact and whether it is achieving its aims to encourage active travel, improve air quality and public health and make roads safer. Monitoring reports are presented to the Council's Mayor and Cabinet, which at the meeting in January 2022 agreed to convert the physical model filters to automatic number plate recognition camera enforcement.

The latest round of monitoring is currently underway and the results and finding will be reported to Mayor and Cabinet in the next few months, which will include an assessment of the overall level of Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) generated. Further details can be found in the following links below of reports of the Mayor & Cabinet sessions of January 2022 and September 2022:

<https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=31225#mgDocuments>
<https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=139&MIId=7912&Ver=4>

In addition, the Council also publishes the total number of PCNs issued against moving traffic contravention annually. This report can be found on the Council's website through the following link:

<https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/parking/parking-reports-and-policies>

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 36
17 MAY 2023

Question asked by: Dan Kirby

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration and Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

There was a diversion put in place at Leahurst Road, SE1, for Highways maintenance last month. The diversion signs were poorly placed, and inadequately demonstrated any clear instruction.

Please provide the number of PCNs generated and the revenue received for the Dermody Road ANPR Filter for the period from:

January 22nd to February 22nd

February 23rd to March 23rd

March 24th to April 24th

Reply

The temporary road closure on Leahurst Road was required to improve pedestrian crossing facilities in connection with delivery of the complementary measures agreed by the Council's Mayor and Cabinet in January 2022 as part of the decision to retain the Lewisham and Lee Green LTN.

A signed diversion route for motorists was in place for the duration of the closure via Eastdown Park, A20 and Burnt Ash Road so avoiding any LTN restrictions.

The number of Penalty Charge Notices generated and revenue received for the Dermody Road ANPR Filter at the junction of Pascoe Road and Wisteria Road during the specified period was as follows:

Period	No of PCNs issued	£ PCN Income
22/01/23 – 22/02/23	1952	£88,026
23/02/23 – 23/03/23	1769	£71,045
24/03/23 – 24/04/23	2884	£88,465
Total	6605	£247,536

Legislation requires that any surplus funds generated through fines from Penalty Charge Notices is reinvested for highway and transport related purposes.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 37
17 MAY 2023

Question asked by: Sian Hill

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration and Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

Councillor Krupski stated in her response to Public Question 27, 01/03/23 Council Meeting, that Lee Road is not a residential road as it is a B road. Please can the Council explain why they are trying to draw such a distinction? With the exception of Blackheath Concert Halls, a church, a doctors' surgery, a children's nursery and small Pilates studio, Lee Road has only houses or flats along its length (the shops in the last 60-70m of the road have flats above them) and so is "residential" in the usual meaning of that word.

Reply

In line with statutory guidance issued by the Department for Transport all adopted roads in the UK (except motorways) fall into 4 main categories; A roads, B roads, classified unnumbered and unclassified. The purpose of the roads classification system is to help direct motorists towards the most suitable routes for reaching their destination.

Lee Road is classified as a B road, which is defined as a road intended to connect different areas, and to feed traffic between A roads and smaller roads on the network. For further information, a list of all adopted streets in the borough and their road classification is included in the Council's Highway Register, a link to which is as follows: <https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/roads-and-transport/roads-and-pavements/highway-register>

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 38
17 MAY 2023

Question asked by: Patricia Richardson

Relevant Directorate: Community Services

Member to reply: Councillor Juliet Campbell

Question

The council announced in the past that it would deal with issues raised by the history of slavery affecting Lewisham borough. What were the conclusions of its approach?

Reply

In June 2020 the Council committed to a review of landmarks and street names as part of the Mayor of London's Commission for Diversity in the Public Realm initiative. This work was paused during COVID-19 but is now being picked up as part of the wider work going on at the Council on equalities as part of our commitment to work with partners to follow an anti-racist and intersectional approach to prevent identity-based discrimination.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 39
17 MAY 2023

Question asked by: Patricia Richardson

Relevant Directorate: Community Services

Member to reply: Councillor James-J Walsh

Question

The Francis Baring plaque on the front wall, east side, of the Manor House, Lee, has been covered since then. What is the decision of the council on the future of the plaque?

Reply

Thank you Mr & Mrs Richardson for your continued championing of the library in role as leading volunteers of the Friends Group.

V22 are currently working with the council to implement a long-term solution for the plaque, signage, and information regarding the history of Manor House. A report will be ready by September 2023, which will clarify the position of the council in relation to the plaque, will propose an approach to its preservation and the presence of ancillary information, and suggest timescales. The report will be presented and signed off by senior council officers before implementation.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 40
17 MAY 2023

Question asked by: Peter Richardson

Relevant Directorate: Community Services

Member to reply: Councillor James-J Walsh

Question

The drive at the Manor House, Lee has been in a bad state of repair for some time due to many pot holes.

Recently some of these were filled. Who paid for this repair?

Reply

Minor repairs have been made to the driveway in 2023 and in 2019, with major interventions carried out in 2021.

The same contractor repaired the driveway on each occasion, with costs being met by V22 as per agreements/lease. (please see your additional question for further information)

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 41
17 MAY 2023

Question asked by: Peter Richardson

Relevant Directorate: Community Services

Member to reply: Councillor James-J Walsh

Question

With regard to the drive at Manor House, does the council regularly monitor issues of damage, repair and maintenance with companies who take over the management of its buildings and are these included in the conditions of the lease for the Manor House?

Reply

The lease for Manor House includes a repairs matrix which identifies some items as being the responsibility of the council, some being the responsibility of the leaseholder.

The Council is responsible for the landlord's compliance checks. But these do not include the driveway at Manor House. This is monitored and maintained by the tenant as part of their repair and maintenance provisions in the lease.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 42
17 MAY 2023

Question asked by: Alan Hall

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration and Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Sophie Davis

Question

Will the cabinet member please update on progress to dissolve Lewisham Homes?

Reply

In December 2022, Mayor & Cabinet decided to bring the housing services back under direct management of the Council.

Formal consultation is now closed for all transferring staff, with a total of 56 staff now transferred to the Council. The Development function returned on 1st February 2023 and ICT, Technology, Data and Digital, Finance, Temporary Accommodation and Tenancy Management Organisations services on 1st May 2023.

Service Level Agreements are in place and the Council will provide both finance and ICT services back to Lewisham Homes until the remaining services transfer on 1st October 2023.

A robust reporting and monitoring programme structure is in place with closer working and joint workstreams across both organisations. The programme will now concentrate on the final transfer target date of 1st October 2023, involving around 500 staff, whilst ensuring minimal impact on services to residents.

Recruitment of a new Executive Director of Housing to lead the new housing directorate within the Council is underway.

A report updating on progress of the Housing Futures programme is due to be presented to the Mayor and Cabinet in June.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 43
17 MAY 2023

Question asked by: Alan Hall

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration and Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Brenda Dacres

Question

How much is the budget for re-routing the A205 South Circular Road in Catford?
Please give indicative amounts if no firm costings are available.

Reply

The total project costs are estimated to be in the range of £55M to £60M. The majority sum is anticipated will be secured via the Department of Transport's Major Road Network Fund. Funding for the scheme also includes contributions from Transport for London and London Borough of Lewisham.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 44
17 MAY 2023

Question asked by: Michael Bachmann

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration and Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

Pavement parking is banned throughout London under the Greater London (General Purposes) Act 1974 unless there is a sign that specifically permits it. How many parking tickets for pavement parking were issued in Lewisham in the calendar years 2019 and 2022? Please show the total for each year separately.

Reply

Please see below a table showing the number of Penalty Charge Notice (PCNs) issued for pavement parking between the years specified.

Calendar Year	No. PCN issued
2019	2284
2020	4578
2021	3289
2022	3520

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 45
17 MAY 2023

Question asked by: Michael Bachmann

Relevant Directorate: Chief Executive

Member to reply: Councillor Amanda De Ryk

Question

What progress has the Council made in addressing the enforcement notice from the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) relating to Lewisham Council's failure to respond to hundreds of overdue requests made under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000 and its attempts to cover up the problem?

Reply

Thank you for your question.

The Council has been in dialogue with the ICO since October 2022 regarding our FOI performance. On receiving the Enforcement Notice from the ICO dated 17th March 2023 the Council acknowledged that its FOI performance was below the expected standard. The Council has taken the following steps: -

1. The Freedom of Information team has moved under the direction of the Council's Director of Law & Corporate Governance, Jeremy Chambers – who is also the Council's statutory Monitoring Officer with effect from 1st April 2023. In advance of the team moving under him, the Director of Law & Governance set up a task group, including director-level representatives and senior officers from across the Council. Additional dedicated resources are to be made available in each department and will remain available until the backlog is cleared. Regular updates will be provided to the Council's Chief Executive, councillors and the Information Commissioner's Office.
2. The Director of Law & Corporate Governance and Cllr Amanda de Ryk met with representatives from the ICO on Thursday 30th March 2023. The conversation was positive and the Council's actions since the service of the Enforcement Notice and Improvement Plan were welcomed. Further calls will take place at 2 months and 4 months from the date of the Enforcement Notice.
3. The Council's Improvement Plan was published in accordance with the Enforcement Notice and is available on the Council's website. Of the 195 oldest FOIs, only 24 remain outstanding. Good progress is being made and the Council will meet all the requirements of the Enforcement Notice. The Council's Executive Management Team are treating this matter as a priority and will have the backlog dealt with as rapidly as possible. There has been no "cover up of the problem" and the ICO has welcomed the Council's positive response.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 46
17 MAY 2023

Question asked by: Eric Kentley

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration and Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

What is the plan for the old lorry park behind Laurence House? It was briefly an extension to the Council's car park, then closed but now marked out for just three Zip cars

Reply

The overflow car park at Laurence House has been closed since April 2023 to facilitate a Zipcar trial as part of the Council's Staff Travel Plan, which aims to encourage sustainable travel by staff for their commutes and work-related trips. For the initial phase of the Zipcar trial, three round-trip vehicles have been made available for use by Council staff Monday-Friday 9am-6pm. The vehicles can be used by residents and visitors outside of those times. We will review the operation of the initial phase to consider whether more Zipcar vehicles should be made available later as part of the trial.

In future years, the site has been earmarked for potential development as part of the Catford Town Centre Framework. For more information please see the link below to the Council's webpage: <https://lewisham.gov.uk/inmyarea/regeneration/catford-regeneration/catford-town-centre-framework>

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 47
17 MAY 2023

Question asked by: Eric Kentley

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration and Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

The Transport for London plans for alterations to the road layout in Catford mean that there will be no car park for Council employees. Will the Council commit to a CPZ consultation in the streets to the south of Catford centre (where parking is currently free) before the car park is closed?

Reply

The Council has launched the Sustainable Streets programme which will involve consultation and engagement on a package of measures, including parking permits. Subject to approval by the Council's Mayor and Cabinet, the programme will be delivered in phases and the Catford area is currently in Phase 3 of the programme. The re routing of the road is important to enabling the regeneration of Catford Town Centre; creating new public realm and civic spaces, supporting new homes to be delivered and creating new jobs.

To reduce the number of car journeys taking place by Council employees and encourage more journeys by sustainable travel such as cycling, walking and public transport the Council is launching a staff travel plan. This will ensure we are prepared for the potential loss of the Lawrence House car park in the coming years and will reduce any likely impact of parking displacement, however we will continue to work collaboratively with Transport for London on their plans to ensure the phasing of the Sustainable Streets consultation is aligned where necessary.

A report recommending the way forward on Phase 1 of the Sustainable Streets programme will be presented to Mayor and Cabinet this summer. In the meantime, more information can be found in the December 2022 Mayor and Cabinet report through the following link:

<https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s105243/Sustainable%20Transport%20and%20Parking%20Improvements%20report.pdf>

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 48
17 MAY 2023

Question asked by: Diana Cashin

Relevant Directorate: Community Services

Member to reply: Councillor Sophie Davis

Question

Lewisham's web site states that 'Lewisham has always been proud to be an accredited White Ribbon borough' but Lewisham is not listed on the White Ribbon UK accredited organisations.

Can the council confirm that is an accredited White Ribbon organisation?

Reply

Lewisham Council is proud to support White Ribbon Day, including 16 days of activism against gender-based violence which took place in November and December last year.

<https://lewisham.gov.uk/articles/news/white-ribbon-day-raising-awareness-of-gender-based-violence>

However, the Council's formal White Ribbon accreditation has recently lapsed and we are in the process of renewing this.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 49
17 MAY 2023

Question asked by: Diana Cashin

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration and Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

If more than 50% of respondents to a CPZ consultation do not wish to have a CPZ in their area will the council agree to not impose a CPZ?

Reply

As detailed in the Sustainable Transport and Parking Improvements Programme report, which was approved by Mayor and Cabinet in December 2022, engagement exercises as part of the Sustainable Streets programme will be considered as consultation and not referendums.

Further information can be found in section 8 of the December 2022 report, available through the following link:

<https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s105243/Sustainable%20Transport%20and%20Parking%20Improvements%20report.pdf>

The Council intends to produce a full breakdown of the results of the consultation, including public consultation meetings. The results will be presented in a further report to the Council's Mayor and Cabinet in the summer.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 50
17 MAY 2023

Question asked by: Julia Webb

Relevant Directorate: Community Services

Member to reply: Councillor Andre Bourne

Question

Please can you tell us when the updated Playing Pitches Strategy, and the Physical Activity and Healthy Lifestyles Strategy will be published? Sport England says that these documents will provide a robust evidence database to support sports infrastructure calculations in the Lewisham Local Plan. Will the Local Plan be revised in response to the strategy documents' publication?

Reply

Lewisham Councils Playing Pitch Strategy and Action Plan was compiled and published in 2019. There are no current plans to update the strategy however an update on progress against the action plan was provided at the Sustainable Development Select Committee meeting on Monday 24th April. The report for this update is published on the Council website.

The Lewisham Physical Activity Strategy is currently in the final stages of it's development and will be presented to Mayor and Cabinet for approval in July. The Regulation 19 plan is the plan that the Council intends to submit for Examination in Public. If there are fundamental changes that need to be made to the plan based on new evidence, that could be addressed at Examination in Public. However, the Infrastructure Delivery Plan is a live document which is the most appropriate way to address this type of provision. Services are in regular discussion with the Planning team to keep that up to date.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 51
17 MAY 2023

Question asked by: Julia Webb

Relevant Directorate: Community Services

Member to reply: Councillor Andre Bourne

Question

Please may I have an update on the future of sports infrastructure at Bell Green? What is the future of the Bridge Leisure Centre, closed since Covid-19 lockdown, and the sports ground, the size of five doubles tennis courts, at the Livesey Memorial Hall?

Reply

The Council agreed to commission a detailed feasibility study to explore the delivery of a new leisure centre in the south of the borough to compensate for the loss of sports facilities at the Bridge Leisure site. Council Officers attended the Bellingham Assembly on the 28th March to provide an update on the process of the feasibility study, with the results of the study due to be published very soon.

The Council are arranging for the grass playing pitches at the site to be brought back in to use for weekend football provision. The 3G football pitches across the road from the site are currently available for use/hire and the indoor bowls centre is also currently in use.

The Tennis courts grounds at Livesey Memorial Hall are under private ownership, therefore the Council have no authority in the sports provision at the site. However, the Regulation 19 Local Plan seeks to ensure that the open spaces in the curtilage of the Livesey Memorial Hall to the north (bowling green) and south (tennis courts) are retained as open space, ancillary to the use of the hall.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 52
17 MAY 2023

Question asked by: Joan Sakkas

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration and Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

According to the Air quality model, London Atmospheric Emissions Inventory (LAEI) 2019, the Blackheath ward is the 3rd most polluted ward of the London Borough of Lewisham with 30-40 micrograms μg per cubic metre of air in a large section of the ward (1 New Cross, 2 Lewisham Central, 3 Blackheath).

The above is supported by London Borough of Lewisham Air Quality Annual Status Report for 2020 which (ignoring 2020 when the country was in lockdown) shows monitoring station (L27) Montpelier Vale, B212 39.5 μg per m^3 , (DEFRA maximum of 40 μg per m^3) (Joan Sakkas)

In view of the above what is London Borough of Lewisham doing, or proposing to do, to reduce traffic flows and pollution on the B212, including Montpelier Vale, where residents of the area are noting increased traffic flows. Particularly heavy vehicles (including vehicles exceeding 40,000 kg). What measurement and in which precise locations is monitoring taking place since 2020?

Reply

The work that the Council is doing to improve air quality across the borough is set out in our Air Quality Action Plan. This includes a number of measures to reduce the impact of vehicular traffic on the environment and encourage greater use of active and sustainable modes of travel. We will continue to work with Transport for London and other partners to achieve this and deliver improvements across the transport network in the borough, including in Blackheath.

This includes ongoing dialogue with TfL to encourage them to lift the HGV restriction on the bridge at Kidbrooke Park Road, which would hopefully reduce the number of HGV's using Blackheath Village. TfL have stated they need to undertake some modelling work and design checks before they are able to make a decision. In the meantime, the Council will continue to actively engage TfL on this matter.

We have an extensive network of air quality monitoring stations monitoring sites covering the whole borough, the data from which helps inform decisions about where further preventative measures are required. In terms of Blackheath ward, the precise locations and monitoring that has taken place since 2020 is shown in the table below:

Site ID	Blackheath Ward Monitoring Sites	Coordinates	Annual NO2 conc. (ug/m3)		
			2020	2021	2022
L5	Lee High Road	51.4572, 0.00904	21.8	22.7	20.7
L11	Sparta Street	51.47079, -0.01442	23.6	26	25.8
L14	Boyne Road	51.46416, -0.00787	21.4	20	18.3
L15	Lewisham Road	51.467, -0.01127	26.9	24.1	26.2
L16	Loampit Vale	51.46558, -0.01849	29.5	31.6	28
L27	Montpelier Vale	51.46656, 0.00838	31.2	N/A	28.8
L41	Ashmead Primary School	51.4695, -0.02529	17.6	17.2	16.3
L42	Lucas Vale Primary School	51.47118, -0.02844	20.6	20.1	18.4
L46	St Margaret Lee Primary School	51.45964, 0.00537	18.8	17.9	16.5
L55	Addey and Stanhope School	51.47511, -0.02765	N/A	N/A	33.9
L57	Heath House Preparatory School	51.467, 0.00937	N/A	N/A	19.1
L58	The Blackheath Hospital Outpatient Centre	51.46366, 0.00592	N/A	N/A	26.4
L65	St Stephen's CofE Primary School	51.47067, -0.02433	N/A	N/A	17.5
L71	St Margaret's Lee CofE Primary School	51.45946, 0.00449	N/A	N/A	16.5
L73	LeSoCo	51.46823, -0.02531	N/A	N/A	30.3
L81	129 Lee Road	51.45781, 0.01104	N/A	N/A	23.1
L91	Hare and Billet Road/Lewisham Hill	51.46961, -0.00126	N/A	N/A	21.2
SSDT_2	58 Friendly Street	51.47166, -0.02528	N/A	20	18.9
SSDT_3	1 Lind Street	51.47047, -0.02124	21.5	22.6	20.8
SSDT_4	Goffers Road	51.4717, -0.00034	24.4	25.5	23.8
SSDT_7	41 South Row	51.46959, 0.01078	24.6	24.5	23.9
SSDT_8	1 Belmont Park	51.45958, -0.00356	25.5	24.5	23.6
SSDT_49	72 Tyrwhitt Road	51.46468, 0.02457	19	17.4	16.5
SSDT_50	53 Tressillian Road	51.46366, 0.02785	N/A	17.9	16

For further information, a link to the Council's Air Quality Action Plan 2022-2027 is as follows:

<https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/environment/air-pollution/read-our-air-quality-action-plan-and-other-reports>

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 53
17 MAY 2023

Question asked by: Mark De-Laurey

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration and Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

Now that it's been highlighted by the Times newspaper on 11th March that MetroCount automatic roadside counters (used by Lewisham council) are inaccurate when counting traffic in congested periods (slow moving or idling), by between 5% and 30%. This calls in to question the accuracy of the data gathered to measure the impact of the LTN. What is the council proposing to do going forward to gather more accurate data? Also, how does this impact the data gathered so far? (Mark De Laurey)

Reply

Since the LTN was introduced, the Council has been undertaking monitoring to understand how it is operating, its impact and whether it is achieving its aims to encourage sustainable travel, improve air quality and public health and make roads safer.

To assist with the regular monitoring exercises the Council has used automatic traffic counting equipment, which has been positioned in the same location for both pre and post LTN surveys to ensure the data gained provides the best comparison. Where possible the counting equipment is placed in locations away from junctions, in straight stretches of road and away from bends where the traffic is most likely to reflect natural conditions, so minimising any inaccuracies or inconsistencies in the data.

From the information known about the article, the authority in which it suggests the under reporting occurred had applied different collection profile conditions to the pre and post monitoring. This is not the case in Lewisham. Also, as part of the decision to make the LTN traffic orders permanent the Council carefully considered an extensive range of other data including air quality monitoring, bus journey times, traffic flow data from Transport for London, collision statistics and listened to residents' thoughts and experiences since the LTN was introduced. Therefore, the Council considers the monitoring data to be an accurate representation of the impact of the LTN.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 54
17 MAY 2023

Question asked by: Sian Hill

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration and Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

.The Council has approved (Item 596 of 12/01/22 meeting) the continued monitoring of traffic in the Lee Green area. Metrocount traffic counters have been installed periodically on Lee Road although I have not seen the results. Metrocount recently told The Times that the counters are “not designed to work” in stop-start traffic and are recommended to be used in “free-flowing conditions” (Low-traffic zone success ‘based on inaccurate data’ (thetimes.co.uk)). As the traffic on Lee Road is often “stop-start” at the place where the counters were installed, does the Council consider that the count results are accurate?

Reply

Since the LTN was introduced, the Council has been undertaking monitoring in the Lee Green area to understand how it is operating, its impact and whether it is achieving its aims to encourage sustainable travel, improve air quality and public health and make roads safer.

To assist with the regular monitoring exercises the Council has used automatic traffic counting equipment, which has been positioned in the same location for both pre and post LTN surveys to ensure the data gained provides the best comparison. Where possible the counting equipment is placed in locations away from junctions, in straight stretches of road and away from bends where the traffic is most likely to reflect natural conditions, so minimising any inaccuracies or inconsistencies in the data.

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