



LIST OF MEMBER QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Member questions and answers for the
Council Meeting of the London Borough of
Lewisham to be held on Wednesday 17
May 2023

MEMBER QUESTION NO. 1
17 MAY 2023

Question asked by: Councillor Harding

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration and Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

Please can you provide a breakdown of the number of council procured or funded cycle hangars by ward as of May 2023?

Reply

The ongoing roll out of cycle hangars across Lewisham is prioritised in areas where there is the greatest number of requests received to ensure the Council makes the most efficient use of available funding. The table below indicates how many cycle hangars are currently in place in each ward. Another batch are expected to be installed this summer, subject to consultation, as part of our ongoing programme.

Ward	No. of cycle hangars
Bellingham	2
Blackheath	3
Brockley	19
Catford South	0
Crofton Park	13
Deptford	24
Downham	0
Evelyn	18
Forest Hill	5
Grove Park	2
Hither Green	5
Ladywell	6
Lee Green	12
Lewisham Central	4
New Cross Gate	5
Perry Vale	1
Rushey Green	4
Sydenham	5
Telegraph Hill	27

If a resident would like to make a request for a cycle hangar near their home, they can apply on the Council's website via the following link:

<https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/roads-and-transport/cycling/cycle-storage-for-hire>

MEMBER QUESTION NO. 2
17 MAY 2023

Question asked by: Councillor Kestner

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration and Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

Please could provide an update on the current food waste collection rates for the borough?

Reply

The Council currently offers a food waste collection service to about 80,000 kerbside properties, which amounts to 60% of household collections. As part of our plans to increase food waste collections across Lewisham we are also carrying out trials of food waste collections from flats and have begun dedicated food waste collections from primary schools, with 36 schools across the borough already taking part. 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>

MEMBER QUESTION NO. 3
17 MAY 2023

Question asked by: Councillor Curran

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration and Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

Will the Cabinet consider developing a comprehensive policy on re front gardens, drives and other surfaces to ensure they can play an optimum role in flood prevention and the sustainability of biodiversity?

Reply

Officers are currently reviewing the impact of hardstandings in front gardens to develop evidence to demonstrate the impact this is having on flooding and biodiversity. This is a necessary step to inform a review of our policy approach. In the interim, the Council's Planning and Highways Services are looking at existing guidance which already applies to those hardstandings and front gardens where permission is needed to form them and consider what can be enhanced to promote best practice.

MEMBER QUESTION NO. 4
17 MAY 2023

Question asked by: Councillor Curran

Relevant Directorate: Community Services

Member to reply: Councillor James-J Walsh

Question

When will there be a comprehensive building survey of Sydenham Library?

Reply

A survey will be completed before the end of FY23/24.

MEMBER QUESTION NO. 5
17 MAY 2023

Question asked by: Councillor Aliya Sheikh

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration and Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Kim Powell

Question

Following on from our manifesto commitment of a much needed and developing night-time economy, how is Lewisham Council working to support a night-time economy that is safe and accessible to all?

This is particularly important to residents in the Lewisham Central ward, who are keen to see a vibrant town centre.

Reply

A thriving evening and night time economy is a vital element of a flourishing local economy. Lewisham Council adopted an Evening and Night Time Economy vision in 2019. A range of activities are underway to support the delivery of this vision. In Catford, the council has invested in the refurbishment of the Broadway Theatre which re-opened in February. This will attract more visitors to the town centre and support the local economy, along with other investments including the Catford Constitutional Club. In Lewisham town centre, the council has recently been successful in securing £19m from the Government's Levelling Up Fund to support improvements in the market and high street, plus transforming Lewisham Library in to a cultural and business hub. These will all contribute to further developing the evening economy in the town centre, alongside other planned developments such as the new cinema and restaurants in the Lewisham Gateway development. To encourage more businesses to take advantage of outdoor seating in the summer, the council's business and licensing teams are currently promoting pavement licences including through an event which took place at the Broadway Theatre in early May.

MEMBER QUESTION NO. 6
17 MAY 2023

Question asked by: Councillor Aliya Sheikh

Relevant Directorate: Community Services

Member to reply: Councillor Sophie Davis

Question

What steps we are taking to ensure that our public spaces are safer for women and girls, both during the day and night-time.

Although this question is more focused on Lewisham Central ward, due to it being a transport hub and due to the large-scale developments in the coming years, it is also relevant to other centres of economic activity across the whole borough.

Reply

The Council, in partnership with the police, has supported and promoted Walk and Talk events, most recently in Lewisham Central. These events are for women who live, work, or socialise in Lewisham to discuss their concerns about safety in the area. Participants receive tips and advice for personal safety. This work is part of the Council and the Police's ongoing commitment to address women's safety in Lewisham.

In 2021 we published our Domestic Abuse and Violence against Women and Girls Strategy in which we recognise that an overwhelming proportion of gender-based violence is perpetrated by men against women and girls. Many of the actions in the strategy seek to address this; focused awareness raising, and behaviour change amongst men and boys will be an intrinsic part of our preventative work. In addition, our ground-breaking work on promoting women's safety in parks has recently led to the formation of Parks for London Women Safety Group which is now a pan London partnership exploring opportunities to improve safety in parks for women and girls. The Council continues to explore opportunities and effective mechanisms promoting ways to report incidents and promote a 24 hour helpline in the borough via Stop Hate UK.

Finally, the Council has consulted with residents, businesses and visitor on a proposal for a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) to address a range of behaviours across our public spaces, including antisocial behaviour, including that of a intimidatory nature.

MEMBER QUESTION NO. 7
17 MAY 2023

Question asked by: Councillor Sakina Sheikh

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration and Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Sophie Davis

Question

Which areas of the borough will be covered by Lewisham's new landlord licensing scheme

Reply

The council's new proposed selective licensing scheme if approved by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities will be split into three designations, will cover 16 out of 18 of the pre-May 2022 wards in the borough. The two excluded wards were Blackheath and Telegraph Hill, and have been excluded due to data around such as ASB and overcrowding not supporting their introduction. Since the ward boundaries have changed, when the scheme is launched there will be a postcode search tool to allow landlords and tenants to check whether properties fall within the boundaries of the scheme. A map of the designations will also be available on the council website.

MEMBER QUESTION NO. 8
17 MAY 2023

Question asked by: Councillor Anifowose

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration and Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

How many homes does Lewisham Council expect to retrofit in the next 12 months

Reply

Lewisham Council was awarded £2.9m under Wave 2.1 of the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund to retrofit 159 Lewisham Homes properties from April 2023 to March 2025. This work is being surveyed and specified and will be batched up over the 2-year grant delivery period. The Council and Lewisham Homes will look to retrofit further homes over the next 12 months as opportunities arise.

The Council will continue to enable residents to benefit from grant funding available through the Government's Local Authority Delivery and Home Upgrade Grant and we are working with the Greater London Authority's Warmer Homes programme to make use of these funds as well as through the Energy Company Obligation.