

**MEMBER QUESTION NO. 1**  
**27 September 2023**

Question asked by: Councillor Johnston-Franklin

Relevant Directorate: Children and Young People

Member to reply: Councillor Chris Barnham

**Question**

Based on the recent Early Years announcement on the expansion of free child care for working parents from April 2024, Can an update be provided outlining the details around Lewishams sufficiency to offer free places for 2 year olds from April 2024 and babies from 9 months from September 2024.

**Reply**

Additional funding for early years education and childcare is obviously welcome, although the Government's announcement falls short of the ambition we would expect to see from a future Labour government. Under Labour, childcare will be more than just a facility that allows parents to work more hours. It is crucial in providing every child with the best start in life; an early years education which sets them up for school and supports child development. Extensive evidence shows the positive impact of high-quality early education on long-term educational, behavioural and social outcomes, and on closing the gap for children in low-income households.

Turning to the Government's proposed new funding, the initial phase of the new two-year-old offer for working parents in April 2024 is likely to be the conversion of existing places that are paid for into part-funded places. Those children are already in a place and we are confident that we will have sufficient places for those transferring from a paid-for place to a funded place in April.

Looking further ahead, there is undoubtedly a workforce challenge for providers: recruitment and retention of high-quality staff is difficult. We are looking at initiatives to tackle this, including a supported apprenticeship programme to help providers recruit and retain apprentices and improve training; developing an online bank of staff that providers and employees can access to mitigate high agency staff costs; and a promotional campaign to encourage people into the early years sector. We are also working closely with our childminding sector to raise awareness of the extended entitlements and to help them consider how providing funded as opposed to just paid for places can benefit their business. This is likely to be most valuable for the implementation of the entitlements in September 2024 for babies from nine months.

**MEMBER QUESTION NO. 2**  
**27 September 2023**

Question asked by: Councillor James Royston

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Brenda Dacres

**Question**

What feasibility studies or other preparatory work needs to be done by LBL or others in order to make the Bakerloo Line Extension a reality? What has already been carried out and what is planned, and what is the expected timeframe for that?

**Reply**

The studies considered to be needed at present are:

- Updated Impact Assessment – being undertaken by Hatch – being led by Central London Forward with LB Southwark with LB Lewisham. Expected to be completed by November 2023.
- Funding and Financing study Led by LB Southwark with LB Lewisham and TfL – brief currently being prepared.
- Station feasibility studies – Led by TfL in partnership with LB Lewisham and LB Southwark. Expression of interest to be sent out before end of September with tenders going out in October 2023.

Studies required in the near future:

- Bell Green / Lower Sydenham Area Framework – Further, detailed masterplanning work building on the visioning study and community masterplan.

Studies undertaken:

- Economic Impact Assessment – being undertaken by Hatch Regeneris – being led by LB Lewisham LB Southwark and TfL.
- Funding and Financing study Led by LB Southwark with LB Lewisham and TfL – undertaken by KPMG.
- New Cross Area Framework led by LB Lewisham
- Bell Green Vision Study led by LB Lewisham
- Bermondsey Dive Under Study – jointly led by LB Lewisham, LB Southwark and Network Rail
- Lacing Lewisham (Station study) – Joint commission with LB Lewisham, TFL and Network Rail

We are in a Growth Partnership with LB Southwark and meet regularly with them and the GLA at the Old Kent Road, New Cross and Lewisham Growth Partnership Board.

The Council's webpages show an updated timeline for the Bakerloo Extension:

Lewisham Council - Accommodating the Bakerloo line extension (Direction of Travel document).

The Back the Bakerloo website has also been updated:

Back the Bakerloo Line - Help bring the Bakerloo line to south east London

**MEMBER QUESTION NO. 3**  
**27 September 2023**

Question asked by: Councillor Luke Sorba

Relevant Directorate: Children and Young People

Member to reply: Councillor Chris Barnham

**Question**

How many schools in Lewisham are affected by RAAC (Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete)?

**Reply**

One school in Lewisham is known to contain RAAC, Myatt Garden Primary School. Officers have been working with the school leadership and the Department for Education to ensure that the school is safe for staff and pupils, and teaching and learning has not been disrupted.

Following changes to DfE guidance, we are working with schools, surveyors and a structural engineer to re-check the school estate.

**MEMBER QUESTION NO. 4**  
**27 September 2023**

Question asked by: Councillor Hilary Moore

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

What is the Council doing to increase active travel within the Borough?

**Reply**

The Council remains committed to encouraging active travel and creating an environment where sustainable modes will be the most pleasant, reliable and attractive form of travel.

In support of this the Council has recently unveiled proposals as part of our Sustainable Streets Programme to reimagine the borough's roads in order to reduce air pollution, improve road safety and encourage more people to walk, cycle or use public transport. As part of this programme we will be installing more trees, secure cycle storage hangars and electric vehicle charging points, as well as improving road safety at junctions to make walking and cycling safer and more attractive.

The Council has also just announced a new partnership with Lime to significantly expand the operation of dockless hire bikes around the borough, which will support more people in Lewisham to make journeys using active travel.

Other initiatives the Council is pursuing include the on-going roll-out of school streets and bike hangar programmes across the borough along with plans for more segregated cycle ways, including in Deptford Church Street. We have also recently made permanent a number of modal filters and cycle contra-flow measures across the borough to reduce through traffic and prioritise active travel.

To ensure the Council's plans remain robust and forward looking, we are also updating Lewisham's cycling strategy as part of a new Integrated Active Travel Strategy. This will help guide and facilitate future investment in Lewisham's walking and cycling network in line with the Council's wider Transport Strategy.

**MEMBER QUESTION NO. 5**  
**27 September 2023**

Question asked by: Councillor Liam Curran

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

Following my questions in July and November 2022 relating to the severe flooding that occurs in areas around Wells Park and at the bottom of Kirkdale, during heavy rainfall, can the Cabinet member confirm that all of the blocked gullies/drains in Wells Park Road have been unblocked, cleared and repaired and inform us of the results of any related camera surveys?

**Reply**

Yes, all the gullies along Wells Park Road were cleared and jetted earlier this year. The surveys showed that several of the gullies required some remedial repairs. The remedial work has all been completed except for one gulley, which is due to be repaired next month.

**MEMBER QUESTION NO. 6**  
**27 September 2023**

Question asked by: Councillor Liam Curran

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Brenda Dacres

**Question**

What plans are there to renew Lewisham's pubs protection policies both in planning and licensing?

**Reply**

The existing Development Management Local Plan at DM Policy 20 gives protection to public houses. The Council's new Local Plan will continue to protect public houses across the borough via Policy EC19. This places a presumption in favour of the retention of public houses. The Local Plan is due for submission with to the Secretary of State later this year when it will start to gain weight in decision making.