

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.1**

**17 July 2024**

Question asked by: Mark Del-Laurey

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

Reference question 16 of last month's public questions, Cllr Krupski stated "Overall traffic levels on roads within and surrounding the LTN continue to decrease". However, we now know that some 15+ surrounding roads are omitted from the councils' reports, and these tend to show an increase in traffic. For instance, traffic on Eltham Rd A20 shows an increase of 13.8% since 2019 (DfT Data). Why are these roads and so many others cherry picked out of the councils LTN reports? Also, why does the council rely on flawed bus data for a number of A Rd, rather than traffic counting?

**Reply**

Lee Road and Eltham Road are not within the Lewisham and Lee Green low traffic neighbourhood. Future LTN monitoring will only take place on roads that have previously been monitored as there is previous data which can be used to make comparisons. The bus data provided by TfL is considered appropriate and not flawed.

## **PUBLIC QUESTION NO.2**

**17 July 2024**

Question asked by: Mark Del-Laurey

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

### **Question**

Can the council explain why Dermody Road has a traffic restriction place on it that prevents efficient and effective flow toward Lewisham hospital for those living in East Lewisham? With this restriction and the increase of traffic in the local area, the council are putting lives at risk due to the increase journey time for people in East Lewisham, when it comes to get to the hospital. It can now take during busy periods 40mins to an 1hr to travel what used to take 20mins.

### **Reply**

All restrictions within the LTN are designed to reduce direct through traffic, and this includes Dermody Road. However, all destinations continue to be accessible and all those wishing to drive to their destinations are advised to build appropriate time into their journeys. Alternate modes of travel are also encouraged. While we accept that some journey times to certain destinations have been extended due to the changes in routes in and out of the LTN area, this has been weighed against the overall net benefits shown in the monitoring below.

The LTN was thoroughly reviewed, and the Council engaged with all relevant stakeholders, including the emergency services, with amendments made based on feedback.

As well as reducing traffic, the scheme has also promoted better air quality and encourage more journeys to be made by walking and cycling.

The LTN has been continually monitored since its implementation, and the latest data monitoring has shown that:

- Overall traffic levels on roads within and surrounding the LTN continue to decrease
- Vehicle speeds have reduced by an average of 1.5mph on roads within and surrounding the LTN, and are below 20mph speed limit in the majority of cases
- Air quality has continued to remain below the 40ug/m<sup>3</sup> EU/UK legal limit across the area and has shown improvements on most roads monitored
- Bus journey times have continued to operate within a comparable time prior to the LTN being implemented
- The number of collisions resulting in fatalities or serious injuries have reduced by 18% since before the LTN was implemented.

- The latest monitoring update report can be found on the Council's website here:  
<https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=139&MIId=8056>

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.3**

**17 July 2024**

Question asked by: Tim Osh

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councilor Edison Huynh

**Question**

Could you confirm the years when the Whitefoot Lane football club used the whitefoot lane playing field, BR1 5SQ as their home football ground?

**Reply**

Council officers are not aware of a Whitefoot Lane Football Club and we are not aware of any records of their using of Whitefoot Lane playing fields.

Please share any further information you have on this matter with me and I'll be happy to ask council officers to look into this – [Edison.Huynh@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:Edison.Huynh@lewisham.gov.uk)

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.4**

**17 July 2024**

Question asked by: Tim Osh

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councilor Edison Huynh

**Question**

Could you provide the documents which set out the use arrangements with Whitefoot Lane Football club such as rent, how many pitches, use of changing rooms etc?

**Reply**

Council officers are not aware of a Whitefoot Lane Football Club. They do not currently rent or use any space in the borough as far as we are aware.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.5**

**17 July 2024**

Question asked by: Sophi Tranchell

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councilor Edison Huynh

**Question**

Can you disclose how much money London Borough of Lewisham has paid in loans, interest, fees etc. for the PFI construction of Downham Leisure Centre & Glenbow Road Changing rooms in Downham Playing Fields.

**Reply**

The total cost for the project up to March-24 is £39,657,103.

This gross cost is offset on an annual basis by PFI grant and rental income so the cost to the Council to date is £17,400,743.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.6**

**17 July 2024**

Question asked by: Sophi Tranchell

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councilor Edison Huynh

**Question**

Can you confirm the start and end date of the Downham Leisure Centre & Glenbow Road Changing rooms PFI agreement.

**Reply**

The PFI started in 06/07 (12/03/2007) and ends 38/39 (11/03/2039).

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.7**

**17 July 2024**

Question asked by: Joanne King

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

Can the Council confirm there is no conflict of interest in the sustainable streets consultation as the company running the consultation and presumably collating the answers and making the recommendations is Project Centre Ltd an arm of Marston Holdings which among its many services offers parking enforcement. Residents need to be assured their responses will be independently and fairly evaluated so there is not a repeat of the fiasco of the Low Traffic Neighbourhood so called consultation.

**Reply**

The Sustainable Streets consultation and parking enforcement are supported by organisations, procured under the Council's procurement policies. All deliverables, decisions and committee reports are signed off by Council officers. These organisations serve a resource function required to allow for the progress of the Sustainable Streets policy, however this is led by Council Officers who make recommendations to the Mayor & Cabinet Committee.

Project Centre provide professional services and assist with the consultation under the management of Council officers, and they are obliged to follow the Council's governance processes. The Council decide on the consultation questions asked, and review and scrutinise the consultation outcomes (both raw data and consultation analysis). Council officers are responsible for communications, consultation, design review and reporting in accordance with the rules, regulations and governance procedures of the Council.

Enforcement carried out through the Council's parking enforcement contractor, NSL, is under the contract management and direction of Council officers.



**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.8**

**17 July 2024**

Question asked by: Joanne King

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

In the interests of complete transparency, will the Council give an undertaking to residents that prior to any introduction of a new or revised Controlled Parking Zone recommended as a result of the Sustainable Street Consultation -

i. It will publish street by street within each zone, the actual number ( not percentage) of households that responded to the survey and the number of households that were in favour/ against.

If not, on what basis does the Council refuse to publish this data which could eventually be obtained through a Freedom of Information request.

**Reply**

This information is available within the consultation analysis report, which is published on the Council's website along with the reports to Mayor and Cabinet. Links to the two previous Mayor and Cabinet reports are included below for your information.

Catford / Crofton Park and Deptford (item 12):

<https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=139&MIId=8054>

Evelyn (item 6):

<https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=139&MIId=8057>

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.9**

**17 July 2024**

Question asked by: Gillian Leach

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

Does the Council understand the impact to mental health and feelings of isolation that it's policy of imposing CPZs across the borough will have on more elderly or infirm residents who rely on car journeys to get them to medical/social appointments or do not wish to burden family members with additional costs for visiting?

**Reply**

An Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) was carried out as a part of the Sustainable Streets programme. Lewisham-issued Blue Badge holders are eligible to apply for a resident permit free of charge and the parking controls may enable them to park closer to their destination. The EqIA led to the Parking Policy being updated to amend the blue badge policy, enabling Lewisham Blue Badge holders to also park within any CPZ in the borough, mitigating the impact of the implementation of these measures further.

Lewisham Blue Badge holders who rely on regular visits to receive constant help and care may apply for a free carer permit. This is offered to residents who meet the criteria and the permit entitles the parking of carer's vehicles for those residents living within a CPZ. The permit is not vehicle specific, and is issued to the resident who in turn may pass to their carer when visiting. The permit allows the carer to park nearby in the same manner as a resident, but does not guarantee a parking space.

All those who feel they need to use vehicles to access and park in these CPZs may do so through the provision of short stay parking facilities, such as pay & display bays.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.10**

**17 July 2024**

Question asked by: Gillian Leach

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

Does the Council agree that encouraging less polluting vehicles will have more impact on air quality than forcing through measures to reduce car ownership when those who either prefer using a car for local journeys or who cannot access public transport would simply switch to car-club/taxi journeys or even more home deliveries?

**Reply**

Encouraging the use of less polluting vehicles can contribute to improving air quality, however it does not address the broader issue of reducing overall traffic congestion and promoting more sustainable transport habits.

Supporting the improvement of public transport and expanding cycling infrastructure, for example, can encourage a reduction in car ownership and targets a large causes of pollution and congestion encourages residents to consider whether owning a car is necessary and targets the main cause of pollution and congestion. It also fosters a behavioural shift towards more environmentally friendly and healthier modes of transportation. This can assist in creating a sustainable and healthy urban environment.

In addition, the Council's progressive emissions parking permits policy actively encourages residents to swap to lower polluting vehicles, including electric vehicles. To enable the latter, the Council is adding to the existing 211 electric charging units with another 50 this year, with an ambition to significantly increase by another 200 over the next 2 years.

Supporting the improvement of public transport and expanding cycling infrastructure, for example, can encourage a reduction in car ownership and targets a large causes of pollution and congestion. It also fosters a behavioural shift towards more environmentally friendly and healthier modes of transportation. This can assist in creating a sustainable and healthy urban environment.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.11**

**17 July 2024**

Question asked by: Angelina Minto

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

How does the Council ensure the transparency and impartiality of the resident consultation process when it involves a parking enforcement company, and what measures are in place to guarantee that residents' input is accurately collected, protected, and openly reported?

**Reply**

The Sustainable Streets consultation and parking enforcement are supported by organisations, procured under the Council's procurement policies. All deliverables, decisions and committee reports are signed off by Council officers. These organisations serve a resource function required to allow for the progress of the Sustainable Streets policy, however this is led by Council Officers who make recommendations to the Mayor & Cabinet Committee.

Project Centre provide professional services and assist with the consultation under the management of Council officers, and they are obliged to follow the Council's governance processes. The Council decide on the consultation questions asked, and review and scrutinise the consultation outcomes (both raw data and consultation analysis). Council officers are responsible for communications, consultation, design review and reporting in accordance with the rules, regulations and governance procedures of the Council.

Enforcement carried out through the Council's parking enforcement contractor, NSL, is under the contract management and direction of Council officers.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.12**

**17 July 2024**

Question asked by: Angelina Minto

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

How does the council justify proceeding with the Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) implementation if the consultation results indicate that the majority of residents oppose the scheme, as was the case with the Low Traffic Neighbourhood (LTN) consultation?

**Reply**

The Sustainable Streets programme is consulting the borough in a phased approach over the introduction of a package of measures. In two previous consultations, across the Catford / Crofton Park and Evelyn areas, some streets responded largely that they did not think that the whole package of measures would improve their streets. The streets within the zones recommended for implementation reflect the levels of support for the package of measures.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.13**

**17 July 2024**

Question asked by: Pauline Campbell

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

How does the Council justify proceeding with the Controlled Parking Zone if the consultation results indicate the majority of residents are opposed?

**Reply**

The Sustainable Streets programme is consulting the borough in a phased approach over the introduction of a package of measures. In two previous consultations, across the Catford / Crofton Park and Evelyn areas, some streets responded largely that they did not think that the whole package of measures would improve their streets. The streets within the zones recommended for implementation reflect the levels of support for the package of measures.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.14**

**17 July 2024**

Question asked by: Pauline Campbell

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

Will the Council publish the data obtained from the consultation through a Freedom of Information request?

**Reply**

This information is publicly available online within the consultation analysis report, which is published on the Council's website along with the reports to Mayor and Cabinet. Links to the two previous Mayor and Cabinet reports are included below for your information.

Catford / Crofton Park and Deptford (item 12):

<https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=139&MId=8054>

Evelyn (item 6):

<https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=139&MId=8057>

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.15**

**17 July 2024**

Question asked by: Frank Tarrant

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

What were the outcomes of the consultation exercise on the Ark in Staplehurst Road conducted about two years ago?

**Reply**

The Council carried out a four-week consultation from 14 November to 11 December 2022. This consultation engaged with businesses and residents within the Staplehurst Road area to assess public opinion on the Staplehurst Road Parklet and the potential to upgrade or replace it.

Surveys were sent out to 887 addresses in the area and there was also an online survey available for people to send their feedback. In-person business engagement was carried out along Staplehurst road, delivering surveys and discussing the scheme. A total of 595 survey responses were received via online and hardcopy. 82% of the respondents were supportive of replacing the temporary parklet structure, 13% not supportive, and 4% neutral. Replacement will be based on attaining the funding required, which is not currently identified.



**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.16**

**17 July 2024**

Question asked by: Frank Tarrant

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

Is it true that the Council has plans to redevelop/ repair the Ark in Staplehurst Road?

**Reply**

The Council is currently exploring funding opportunities to be able to carry out potential improvements to the parklet at Staplehurst Road.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.17**

**17 July 2024**

Question asked by: Alexandra Saj

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor James-J Walsh

**Question**

If the local residents pay for their own expert to attend to the land behind Northbrook park, owned by aim limited, where the old stables were, and assess the damage, would we have permission to do so/for him to enter the site? The developer will say no but is there any basis upon which this permission could be granted by the council given the observed damage? An environmental expert going in now to assess the damage could help any case before the Planning Inspectorate in the future.

**Reply**

The Council is currently in the process of a comprehensive enforcement investigation, which has included multiple site visits from Council officers. As part of this process we are working with a specialist to ascertain if a breach of planning or illegal felling of trees has taken place.

The land is privately owned and access has been granted via agreement with the land owner and via the Councils right of entry under the Town and Country Act 1990 Sections 214B, 214C and 214D that allow Council officers to enter land to ascertain whether an offence has been committed. This can only be used where there are reasonable grounds for entering.

Any resident access into the site would need to be given permission via the landowner and the Council cannot grant third party access.

As the Council is currently undertaking its own investigation, it is not considered necessary that residents pay for their own reports.

## **PUBLIC QUESTION NO.18**

**17 July 2024**

Question asked by: Mohamed Salim-said

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

### **Question**

I am looking for some clarity regarding the use of drones in Lewisham Borough. I would be grateful if you could supply a copy of any local by-law/s which limit or restrict the use of drones (unmanned aerial vehicles) within the borough of Lewisham, outside of parks (which I understand have their own set of by-laws and where these are not permitted?).

For clarity, I am particularly interested in any rules they relate to a sub 250g, battery operated, camera drone.

If there are no such by-laws or rules for use of drones in Lewisham outside of parks, please disclose that this is the case.

### **Reply**

In England, the use of drones in public spaces is governed by several laws and regulations, primarily under the Air Navigation Order (ANO) and the Air Traffic Management and Unmanned Aircraft Act 2021 (ATMCAA 2021). The ANO outlines specific offences and penalties related to unsafe or unauthorized drone operations, such as flying in restricted airspace or near other aircraft. Violations can result in significant fines and imprisonment. The ATMCAA 2021 further enhances police powers regarding drones, allowing officers to require landing, seize drones, and manage drone-related offences more effectively.

The question specifically refers to a sub 250g battery operated camera drone. For a drone of this sort, the operator must register for an Operator ID with the Civil Aviation Authority and a person must be 18 or over to obtain that.

Further details can be found at: Drones: how to fly them safely and legally - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.19**

**17 July 2024**

Question asked by: Carole Hicks

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

The Ark on Staplehurst Road was erected during the COVID pandemic, and its base requires repair and litter cleared from underneath.

Does Lewisham Council own the Ark and is Lewisham Council responsible for the maintenance of the Ark?

**Reply**

Yes, and any refuse will be cleared. The council currently does not have the funding to replace the structure. Should funding not be available, the Council will review the future of the structure.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.20**

**17 July 2024**

Question asked by: Ben Brill

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

Please provide an update on plans for Newlands Park road repairs?

**Reply**

The whole section of Newlands Park in the Borough, from Tredown Road to Sydenham Road, will form part of the present resurfacing programme. Currently it is expected the programme to be on site from late October and into November. Residents will receive a letter informing them of the exact date nearer the time.

## **PUBLIC QUESTION NO.21**

**17 July 2024**

Question asked by: Paul Maslin

Relevant Directorate: Adult Social Care and Health

Member to reply: Councillor Paul Bell

### **Question**

Does the Council believe that the findings and recommendations of the Cass Review are consistent with the position it expressed in the Motion entitled Standing with the Trans Community, that it passed at the Full Council Meeting held on 24th July 2019, where it described 'legitimate concerns' about how self-identification could impact women-only spaces', as, 'moral panic'?

<https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=138&MIId=5640&Ver=4>

### **Reply**

The Independent Review of Gender Identity Services for Children and Young People (The Cass Review) was commissioned by NHS England and NHS Improvement in Autumn 2020 to make recommendations about the services provided by the NHS to children and young people who are questioning their gender identity or experiencing gender incongruence. The review findings and recommendations are being considered by NHS England at present. This service provision falls outside of the remit of the Council; however, the review findings and NHS England considerations will be cited in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) topic assessment that is currently being completed for LGBTQ+ residents. As part of this JSNA, we will be liaising with our local NHS colleagues about any implications for the Council and residents, once the NHS England considerations of the review are made available to local areas.

On your point relating to the Council motion passed on 24th July 2019, I remain committed to what the motion resolved to do which is to step up and be visible in challenging transphobia in our community, and to support the principle of legal gender self-definition for trans people living in the UK. It is worth noting that there are a number of recommendations in the Case Review but the media has chosen not to see the individual but stigmatised part of our community through fear mongering and division.

Fundamentally, no one has the right to tell a person what to do with their body. What is important is that all trans and gender-diverse people of whatever age get the quality healthcare and support they need and deserve.

Finally, any legitimate concerns should be aired in a way that brings people together not pushes them apart. The trans community is small yet faces constant media

attacks. It is more important than ever that we commit ourselves to social justice and equality for everyone.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.22**

**17 July 2024**

Question asked by: Amarjit

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

Can Lewisham council issue small brown bin for elderly people at an affordable fee.

People who only use bin after once in three months.

Elderly people can not afford £93.50 a year.

**Reply**

Lewisham residents within the borough have the option to subscribe to our garden waste disposal service. The Council have worked hard to keep costs down for an optional service and the price equates to approximately £1.79 per week.

To assist with the spread of costs over a year, the Council has transitioned to quarterly payments and will be introducing monthly payments next year.

The collection service allows for the disposal of garden waste including grass cuttings, weeds, twigs, and small branches, and includes the provision of a 240-litre brown garden waste bin. However, the Council will consider the feasibility of providing and collecting from smaller bins.

There are also alternatives available to residents for disposing of garden waste, including taking it to the refuse and recycling centre and composting, as well as using an appropriate private, registered waste carrier.



**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.23**

**17 July 2024**

Question asked by: Stephen Locke

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

What progress has the Council made in arranging suitable parking sites for Lime Bikes and enforcing the use of such sites?

**Reply**

The Council is introducing marked designated bays for cycle hire bikes to be parked in, helping to reduce issues caused by inconsiderate parking. This is being introduced in a phased approach. The first phase has been completed, with bays introduced in Evelyn, Deptford, Telegraph Hill, New Cross Gate and Brockley. Designs are currently being made for Phase 2 wards and are expected to be advertised via a Notice of Proposal in the summer. These wards are Blackheath, Lewisham Central, Crofton Park, Ladywell and Forest Hill.

More information about the Council's partnership with Lime can be found here: <https://lewisham.gov.uk/articles/news/lewisham-agrees-new-dockless-bike-partnership-with-lime>

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.24**

**17 July 2024**

Question asked by: Stephen Locke

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

How many PCNs and other enforcement actions were initiated by Lewisham Council for dog fouling in each of the last three years? Please provide figures for each year.

**Reply**

The Council discourages dog fouling through warning signs, leaflet distribution, patrols and engagement with dog walkers at locations where reports of dog fouling have been received.

No FPN's (Fixed Penalty Notices) have been issued for dog fouling so far, however Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO) includes a provision for issuing FPN's for failing to clear dog mess, with the first being recently approved in the Catford area. This will allow the Council to undertake enforcement. It is important to know that clear evidence is required of a person in charge of their dog failing to clear dog mess.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.25**

**17 July 2024**

Question asked by: Chris Maines

Relevant Directorate: Children and Young People

Member to reply: Councillor Chris Barnham

**Question**

The youth service questionnaire closed on 15.12.23. When will the raw, anonymised data be published and a report from that data be available?

**Reply**

The Lewisham Youth Offer Review Questionnaire was originally scheduled to close on 15.12.2023 and was extended to Easter 2024. It received 415 responses from young people across the borough. The raw anonymised data and report have been finalised but have not yet been published due to the recent pre-election periods. We are about to re-engage with the Youth service sector in Lewisham and will finalise the publication process and announce the release date in September.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.26**

**17 July 2024**

Question asked by: Chris Maines

Relevant Directorate: Housing

Member to reply: Councillor Will Cooper

**Question**

Between 2021 and 2023 how many civil penalties were issued by the Council against private sector landlords and how many have been paid?

**Reply**

73 penalties have been issued in the time period identified, of which 30 have been paid, one has been withdrawn, and a further 42 are with the housing enforcement team to pursue for payment or further enforcement action. For example, 3 notices that were subject to appeal at the first tier tribunal have recently been settled by the team with the landlord agreeing to pay all three.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.27**

**17 July 2024**

Question asked by: Janet Hurst

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Kim Powell

**Question**

How many times in each of the last three years has the Council tested for PCBs in fish sold in shops within the borough?

**Reply**

There were none. The Council does not routinely test for PCBs as most fish caught outside of British waters and legally imported would have a health certificate checked at the port of import and were there concerns around PCBs would have required such checks to be made. British, farmed fish such as salmon have checks made before they are released onto the market.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.28**

**17 July 2024**

Question asked by: Janet Hurst

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

What was the total cost of the 422 residential trees referred to in PQ18 of May 2024 and how much of that cost was paid by the Council?

**Reply**

The total cost of the 422 residential trees is £221,550.

The tree service budget allocation towards residential planting was £20,000.

Please note that these costs do not account for project management, officer time, utility checks or non-viable planting pits.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.29**

**17 July 2024**

Question asked by: Kate Richardson

Relevant Directorate: Housing

Member to reply: Councillor Will Cooper

**Question**

On the 15th May question session the question (Q29) was asked about the publication of the HMO register. The answer was, relevant data would be migrated to the system by mid-May. The register despite being updated appears to be experiencing discrepancies with the planning team informing the inquirer that a property was an HMO and licensed but the register not having it on their list? This is happening on more than one property. Can the council explain what the problem is. Residents feel that there is insufficient rigour being applied when looking into these cases.

**Reply**

As you have noted, the HMO register has been updated but the team are still resolving some technical issues publishing information onto the public register. In the meantime residents can contact the private sector housing team directly on [pshe@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:pshe@lewisham.gov.uk) to enquire about the status of individual properties.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.30**

**17 July 2024**

Question asked by: Kate Richardson

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

What redress does the Council apply to developers/householder's when work clearly caused by their workman has resulted in significant damage to street trees outside the property being redeveloped? In a council that is actively promoting the benefits of street trees this does not send a good message either to residents or developers.

**Reply**

If an allegation is made to the Council that a developer has damaged a street tree during their development activities, Planning Enforcement have no remit in investigating.

However, the Tree Services Department would investigate the allegations and where possible pursue the Developer for the costs of the remedial works or replacement planting.

If a tree was in private ownership i.e. on private land, then Planning Enforcement could potentially take action and request that a Developer replace the tree.

Residents who have concerns should email [trees@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:trees@lewisham.gov.uk) and [planningenforcement@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:planningenforcement@lewisham.gov.uk) and Council Officers will determine the best way to address the concern.



**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.31**

**17 July 2024**

Question asked by: Mark Bennett

Relevant Directorate: Chief Executive

Member to reply: Mayor Dacres

**Question**

Has the Mayor had a meeting with the Met Commander since May 2024 and what issues were discussed in addition to concerns about the use of facial recognition technology?

**Reply**

The Mayor has not met with the Met Commander due to pre-election period restrictions which have been in place due to the GLA and General Elections. Council officers are currently liaising with the Met Police to arrange the next meeting to happen before the summer recess.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.32**

**17 July 2024**

Question asked by: Mark Bennett

Relevant Directorate: Chief Executive

Member to reply: Councillor Amanda De Ryk

**Question**

Members of the public who submit written questions to the Council are invited to voluntarily give the Council their oral supplementary question in advance of the meeting. Does doing so prevent the questioner asking a different question at the meeting?

**Reply**

No. Questioners are free to ask any supplementary question at the meeting, provided it arises directly from the original answer. Having advance notice of the supplementary question assists the Mayor/Cabinet Member to provide a full response.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.33**

**17 July 2024**

Question asked by: Jean Branch

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

How many sites in Lewisham were used for dumping polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) and how many times in the last five has the Council tested land within the borough for traces of PCB?

**Reply**

Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's) are classified as hazardous waste, so would need to be disposed of at a licensed facility. The Lewisham Reuse and Recycling Centre does not accept hazardous waste. The local authority does not hold information regarding sites which have been used for the disposal of PCB's, the Environment Agency are the regulator for these facilities and may hold records of historical landfill sites within the borough and the waste classes which were received at these sites. Please contact the Environment Agency.

The Council have not undertaken any testing for PCB's in the last 5 years within the borough because there has been no statutory reason for this type of testing to be undertaken. However, as part of the planning regime, if the use of a site has the potential to have given rise to contamination, an assessment to identify potential sources of contamination would be undertaken and then soil samples would be tested for the potential contaminants. The findings of these reports would be reviewed, and a remediation strategy would be agreed to ensure that the development is suitable for its proposed end use.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.34**

**17 July 2024**

Question asked by: Jean Branch

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor James-J Walsh

**Question**

What is happening about the Ladywell Playtower? After over 20 years - when will it be restored and put into use again?

**Reply**

The Council selected a partner, Guildmore, to develop the land around the Playtower for residential and to restore and renovate the Playtower building itself to provide a local multi-screen cinema and community space. The proposal received planning permission in the Autumn of 2022.

Over the past three and a half years, cost inflation in the building sector has challenged the viability of development, including the Playtower scheme. However, the Council and Guildmore are working together to identify ways to bridge the funding gap and work towards delivery of the agreed scheme over the coming years.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.35**

**17 July 2024**

Question asked by: Marcus Mayers

Relevant Directorate: Housing

Member to reply: Councillor Will Cooper

**Question**

Has the phase 1 of the work at Milford Towers scheduled for completion in May /June been completed and phase 2 begun?

**Reply**

The majority of Phase 1 works have been completed with ongoing work to the lifts and Fire Risk Assessment (FRA) actions being carried out. Phase 2 works are well underway with the new door entry system now installed and receiving positive feedback. Works to lateral mains, water mains, CCTV and communal windows are progressing well.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.36**

**17 July 2024**

Question asked by: Marcus Mayers

Relevant Directorate: Housing

Member to reply: Councillor Will Cooper

**Question**

What objective criteria does the Council use to measure that the quality of the homes covered by the Brockley PFI have improved and that residents are getting value for money?

**Reply**

Services under the Brockley PFI contract are delivered in accordance with an 'Output Specification'. This specification sets out the requirements and standards that the PFI Contractor must achieve including the repairs and maintenance service. During the initial refurbishment period extensive works were undertaken to bring the properties within the PFI area up to a certified and pre-determined standard known as the 'availability standard'. This contractual standard must be maintained by the contractor for the duration of the contract and failure to do so results in financial penalties being levied on the Contractor by the Council. The Council and Regenter B3 our contractor monitor compliance with these standards through a variety of meetings and exchange of information.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.37**

**17 July 2024**

Question asked by: Margaret Clarke

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

Does the Council run or support a loan scheme to provided bikes specifically designed for disabled people?

**Reply**

Adapted bikes are available through the Peddle my wheels bike scheme.  
For more details contact Peddle my Wheels - Accessible Cycles | PeddleMyWheels  
<https://www.peddlemywheels.com/accessible-cycles>

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.38**

**17 July 2024**

Question asked by: Margaret Clarke

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

How many Penalty charge notices for engine idling were issued during the financial year ending in March 2024?

**Reply**

20 PCNs issued from 1st April 23 – 31st March 2024



**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.39**  
**17 July 2024**

Question asked by: Alan Hall

Relevant Directorate: Corporate Resources

Member to reply: Councillor Amanda De Ryk

**Question**

Can the Cabinet Member provide an outline of spending to date against the agreed Lewisham Council Budget by department both revenue & capital for the current fiscal year?

**Reply**

Revenue: The table below shows expenditure at period 2 against the full year budget.

<b>Directorate</b>	<b>Period 2 Actuals</b>	<b>Budget</b>
E0100B: DIRECTORATE OF CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE (without Schools)	27,640,970	91,739,861
E0200B: DIRECTORATE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES	21,219,916	77,152,483
E0300B: DIRECTORATE OF PLACE	5,106,724	35,803,806
E0400B: DIRECTORATE OF CORPORATE RESOURCES (without Provisions)	13,141,389	42,700,661
E0700B: DIRECTORATE OF HOUSING	12,959,419	16,249,386
E0900B: DIRECTORATE OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE	1,487,996	13,090,466
<b>Totals</b>	<b>81,556,414</b>	<b>276,645,873</b>

Capital: Table 16 in the period 2 monitoring reports shows the capital budget and spend to date.

<b>Directorate</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>24/25 Budget</b>	<b>Spend as at P2</b>
<b>General Fund</b>		<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>
Resources	ICT - Tech Refresh	0.5	0
Community	Safer Communities	0.1	0
Community	Parks, Sports, and Leisure	0.2	0.1
Community	Beckenham Place Park (Inc. Eastern Part)	1.7	0.8
Community	LUF Programme - Cultural Hub	0.6	0.1
CYP	CYP - Other	0	0
CYP	Education Services - School Places Programme	2.2	0

CYP	Education Services - School Minor Works Programme	5.3	0.1
CYP	Children's Social Care	1.4	0.2
CYP	Families, Quality and Commissioning - Youth Service	1.2	0.1
CYP	Myatt Garden RAAC	0.2	0
Place	Highways & Bridges – TfL	1.9	0
Place	Highways & Bridges – LBL	4.3	0.4
Place	Asset Management Programme	1.9	0.1
Place	Corporate Estates Maintenance Programme	4.6	0.5
Place	Strategic Regeneration - Lewisham Gateway	3.4	0
Place	Strategic Regeneration - Catford Programme	7.8	0.2
Place	Planning	0.3	0
Place	Public Realm	0.1	0
Place	Climate Resilience	0	0
Place	LUF Programme - Public Realm	8.7	0.1
Housing	General Fund Housing	60.6	3.8
Housing	Housing Services	2	0.2
<b>Total General Fund</b>		<b>108.9</b>	<b>6.8</b>
<b>HRA</b>		<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>
Building for Lewisham Programme - HRA	Building for Lewisham Programme - HRA	11.3	1.7
HRA Capital Programme (Inc. Decent Homes)	HRA Capital Programme (Inc. Decent Homes)	82.5	2.9
Housing Management System - HRA	Housing Management System - HRA	0.6	0
Aids & Adaptations	Aids & Adaptations	0.5	0.1
<b>Total HRA</b>		<b>94.9</b>	<b>4.6</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>203.8</b>	<b>11.4</b>

Also included is the link to the published M&C report:

<https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s115528/Period%202%20Monitoring%20Report.dotx>

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.40**

**17 July 2024**

Question asked by: Alan Hall

Relevant Directorate: Chief Executive

Member to reply: Councilor Edison Huynh

**Question**

Can the Cabinet Member provide details of any Lewisham Council spending in relation to LGBT Pride Month and associated activities?

**Reply**

The Council spent £1,484.30 in total for activities associated with Pride Month 2024. Please note that these costs do not account for project management, officer time and the use of Council space to promote Pride month and hold cost neutral activities.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.41**

**17 July 2024**

Question asked by: Martin Mckay

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

I understand that the rollout of Lime Bike Parking bays is currently in progress across Lewisham and should be in place by the end of the year and I now know that Sydenham is in phase 4 – the last phase. Sydenham has a long boundary with Bromley, as a result there are many residential roads that have Service Zone Boundaries. Will the parking bay roll out take note of this and ensure that rides can only be terminated at parking bays away from these boundaries so protecting residential road residents from excessive parking at boundaries?

**Reply**

The Council will take service zone boundaries into account when identifying and designing new locations for marked designated bays for cycle hire schemes. The density of the network will be considered so that there are adequate parking bays to reduce excessive parking in particular locations.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.42**

**17 July 2024**

Question asked by: Martin Mckay

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

Lime Bike parking is a real problem to the local community. Will parking bays apply to residential roads as well as main roads and will there be resident consultation on their location? Once the parking bays are active how will they be enforced?

**Reply**

The Council has a partnership with Lime to expand and improve the operation of dockless hire bikes around the borough. As part of the partnership, dockless e-bikes operated by Lime will need to be parked in designated bays around the borough, helping to reduce issues caused by inconsiderate parking.

The Council is introducing marked designated bays in a phased approach. Phase 1 was completed in Autumn/Winter 2023, and Phase 2 bays are currently being designed. These wards are Blackheath, Lewisham Central, Crofton Park, Ladywell and Forest Hill. The Council intends to go out to statutory consultation on Phase 2 bays in Summer 2024, which residents will be able to engage with.

Once parking bays are active, the Council will regularly meet with Lime to discuss parking compliance and address engagement with Lime bike riders to ensure that compliance is met.

More information about the Council's partnership with Lime can be found here:  
<https://lewisham.gov.uk/articles/news/lewisham-agrees-new-dockless-bike-partnership-with-lime>

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.43**

**17 July 2024**

Question asked by: Patricia Richardson

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

It is noticeable that council care, maintenance, treatment etc of street trees in the borough can be erratic, not done at appropriate times for the environment or for the benefit of pedestrians and road users.

Will you please state what are council policies for the maintenance, health and good order for Lewisham's street trees?

**Reply**

The Council takes a risk-based approach to the management of trees so that they improve our environment and the quality of life for residents.

The approach is based on frequent inspections and standard industry maintenance regimes.

The Council's tree risk management policy that is currently being updated to reflect changes in the law brought in by the Environment Act.

The current policy isn't currently published on the Council's website however there is other information that the resident might find helpful:

<https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/environment/trees>

Although it can appear excessive, pollarding tree species such as London Plane and Lime reduces transpiration (trees releasing water vapour through their leaves) and soil elasticity (soil expanding and contracting due to moisture content), pollarding ultimately mitigates potential impacts on surrounding buildings and infrastructure. Pollarding trees serves as a practical solution to balance tree growth, transpiration, and soil stability in urban environments. It helps protect both natural and built elements and reduces the risk of a tree being implicated in an insurance claim for property damage and therefore reduces the risk that we have to remove a tree.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.44**

**17 July 2024**

Question asked by: Patricia Richardson

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

Thames Water has notified road users, pedestrians and local residents that it will be working on the Lee High Road, the A20, a red route and main artery into central London from 1/7/2024 until December 2024. Traffic congestion is already building, and affecting the local area. In the past the council had said it would look at the restrictions of the Lee Green LTN in order to reduce the impact of the congestion and consequent pollution. Is this still the case and if so, what is planned?

**Reply**

The experience for utility and other highways works show traffic patterns adjust after an initial period of disruption. As such the Council will not be reviewing established restrictions, including the restrictions in the LTN, and this is consistent for planned works.

Circumstances that could result in restrictions being reviewed on a temporary basis involve emergency, non-planned works, such as major water main bursts, road subsidence etc, that may result in the complete closure of main roads, for which there are no appropriate diversions.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.45**

**17 July 2024**

Question asked by: Peter Richardson

Relevant Directorate: Chief Executive

Member to reply: Councillor Amanda De Ryk

**Question**

Now that British subjects living overseas may register to vote when did Lewisham council send out the relevant postal paperwork to enable this to be done, after the closure of the nominations list for the July 4th 2024 general election?

**Reply**

Postal votes to overseas electors were dispatched on 3 issue dates:

- Run 1. 574 postal votes. Dispatched on Monday 17 June. This included all postal applications received by 6 June
- Run 2. 194 postal votes. Dispatched on Saturday 22 June. This included all postal applications received between 7 June and 11 June
- Run 3. 215 postal votes. Dispatched on Monday 24 June. This included all postal applications received between 12 June and the deadline of 5pm on 19 June



**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.46**

**17 July 2024**

Question asked by: Oliver Webb-Carter

Relevant Directorate: Housing

Member to reply: Councillor Will Cooper

**Question**

I understand the last Registered Provider Partnership meeting was held in April. When is the subsequent meeting scheduled (or has it already happened) and what is / was on the agenda?

**Reply**

The next partnership meeting with Registered Providers is scheduled for 18th July. The agenda will cover Lewisham Council's experience of engaging with the Regulator of Social Housing (RSH) over our regulatory notice, what is involved in the rollout of the RSH's inspections of large social landlords, recycling on estates and partner updates on experiences of implementing the Building Safety Act 2022.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.47**

**17 July 2024**

Question asked by: Oliver Webb-Carter

Relevant Directorate: Housing

Member to reply: Councillor Will Cooper

**Question**

What is the Council's advice to Councillors about how to deal with requests for help from residents who are tenants of a housing association that is failing to deal with problems the tenant raised with their landlord?

**Reply**

Depending on the nature of the concern the Housing directorate can take the following actions:

- 1) Use our partnership working with housing associations to escalate the issue to the relevant contact in the housing association, for early resolution.
- 2) Signpost the tenant to the Housing Ombudsman Service (HOS). The tenant may be able to direct the complaint about their landlord to the HOS.
- 3) Where the complaint is about hazards in the home we may be able to help through our Private Sector Housing (Standards) team.

Housing Associations have their own complaints procedures that tenants should use in the first instance and we would advise Councillors to signpost housing association tenants to those procedures. But where that fails to resolve the matter the Housing directorate can advise Councillors as above.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.48**

**17 July 2024**

Question asked by: Peter Richardson

Relevant Directorate: Chief Executive

Member to reply: Councillor Amanda De Ryk

**Question**

The London Mayoral Election 2024 had a turnout of 40.50%. The winning candidate achieved 43.8%, about 18% of the total electorate of London.

The Mayoral by-election in Lewisham 7/3/2024 attracted an even worse outcome. The turnout was 21% and as the winning candidate achieved 52%, this was about 11% of the total electorate of the London Borough of Lewisham. When first introduced we were persuaded that turnouts would increase by focussing on an individual with specific powers. Do the politicians at the council have any way of remedying such a parlous state of interest?

**Reply**

Faith in politics is at an all time low after 14 years of a Conservative government where we have seen endless chaos and division.

The country has now spoken and our new Prime Minister Keir Starmer has been clear that change begins now, with a strong mandate to do politics differently, to set high standards in public office and to deliver on our promises.

## **PUBLIC QUESTION NO.49**

**17 July 2024**

Question asked by: Julia Webb

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor James-J Walsh

### **Question**

We're told that Phase 2 of the Bakerloo Line Extension will bring a huge uplift in Bell Green's PTAL (Public Transport Access Level) rating, maximising its potential for new homes. However, Lower Sydenham station is remote, inaccessible, and buses can't interchange there. Bakerloo trains won't improve the area's PTAL rating unless the station is upgraded.

Please can you list the transport improvements needed to upgrade Bell Green's PTAL, so we can maximise the delivery of much-needed new homes? Give the uncertain schedule for BLE 2, addressing issues such as the bus stops would be a useful incremental step towards connectivity.

### **Reply**

The area around the Bell Green retail park has relatively low access to public transport with a Public Transport Accessibility Level (PTAL) of 2. However, the PTAL outputs also show that there are twenty-five buses per hour within a three-minute walk from the retail park. Bell Green also has extensive range of shops, services and community facilities to support residents provided within the immediate area or within a relatively short distance of the site.

As new major development comes forward as part of the planning process Transport for London are likely to take the opportunity to request financial contributions from developers to enhance local public transport infrastructure and services. This includes contributions for improving bus capacity, enhancement to walking and cycling routes, including cycling infrastructure such as docking stations.

## **PUBLIC QUESTION NO.50**

**17 July 2024**

Question asked by: Julia Webb

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor James-J Walsh

### **Question**

The Lewisham Local Plan examination heard officers say Bell Green's masterplan wasn't urgent, as many developments won't come forward until the second half of the plan period. Despite this, Barratt London's application for the gasholders site, the most heritage- and culturally-sensitive part of the area, is being propelled through despite being not fully prepared.

- a. Why is Barratt privileged with premature approval?
- b. Why isn't Lewisham pressing them to protect the Livesey Memorial Hall under the Agent of Change principle?
- c. Why is Lewisham claiming that the site is deliverable within five years, before establishing its actual need for decontamination?

### **Reply**

1. Bell Green / Lower Sydenham is identified within the emerging Local Plan as a future Opportunity Area. Within this context the council acknowledges the importance of developing a wider masterplan or development framework for the area. This was acknowledged by officers within the Local Plan Examination in Public and is stated within the plan itself. Officers also noted that the principal landowners within the area who own the majority of the land have stated that they have no intention of developing the site in the short to medium term. These timescales are reflected in the Local Plan. Officers consider this advantageous as it will allow the area to be formally adopted within the emerging Local Plan, allow time for the Council to secure funding for any future masterplan and also allow an appropriate period to undertake the master planning exercise with adequate public consultation.

2. With regard to the Bell Green Gas Holders site, the Council received a planning application from Barratt London in November 2023 following pre-application discussions with the Council. The National Planning Policy Framework is clear that planning authorities proactively engage with developers through the pre-app process and through determining applications when they are submitted. As such this application will be considered by officers with regard to adopted planning policies including the Agent of Change policy within the 2021 London Plan. The Officer

recommendation for the application will be considered by Members at the re-scheduled Strategic Planning Committee when the date of it is confirmed.

3. The emerging Local Plan has indicated that the scheme could be delivered in the first 5 years of the plan being adopted. This is based on intelligence from the developers. This will be tested through the Examination in Public and discussed on the 11th July at the EIP Matter 20 - Lewisham's South Area, Spatial Objectives and Site Allocations.

### *NOISE (AGENT OF CHANGE)*

1. Barratt submitted a Noise Assessment report which details potential impacts of noise and vibration sources upon future occupiers of the proposed development and this includes from the Livesey Memorial Hall (LMH). Noise monitoring was undertaken over a two-week period and the noise levels and patron activity associated with the LMH during events that were confirmed by the occupier/operator to be representative of the typical worst-case noise from events on the site. The results presented demonstrate that the internal criteria for noise can be met across the site with windows closed except for windows on the western facing side of Block E, which requires a slightly higher noise standard. All of the proposed dwellings will be mechanically ventilated which addresses both ventilation and overheating requirements. Therefore, with regard to noise impacting on windows it is considered that no additional mitigation is required with regards to ventilation or overheating, however a condition would be used to ensure sound levels are achieved for the relevant windows of Block E on its western facing side.

2. In the case of the balconies of the flats nearest to the western side of the site (where noise could emanate from activity at the Livesey Memorial Hall), there is limited practical noise mitigation that can be incorporated into the design save for the total enclosure which would alter the aesthetic of the proposed buildings to its overall detriment. The Council will seek the submission of further soundproofing details via planning condition to ensure balcony use would be safeguarded from any noise and disturbance as far as reasonably practical arising from existing nearby noise generating circumstances.

3. The applicant will be required to submit details setting out how future residents would be made aware of the neighbouring uses at an early stage, for example by producing a welcome pack that informs them of the nature of operations, including the commercial units within the application site and surrounding area, and their hours of operation.

### *CONTAMINATION*

1. The Council's Environmental Protection Officer has reviewed the planning application and has no objections subject to planning conditions securing a Detailed Quantitative Risk Assessment (DQRA), ground assessment details including unexploded ordnance (UXO), topsoil/subsoil, gas and vapours, and drinking water supply pipes. Further bespoke conditions are recommended with regard to: a monitoring regime for the bentonite wall; additional gas monitoring at the site; a

verification and closure report for the required remediation works at the site; and a condition to deal with unexpected conditions at the site.

2. Professional advice is it is unlikely that contamination issues would severely hamper the delivery of the development within the identified five-year timescale set out in the draft Local Plan site allocation, particularly as the development would be “phased” one which could allow the developer to build on one part of the site and remediate contamination on other parts of the site as necessary in the meantime and in a sequenced order.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.51**

**17 July 2024**

Question asked by: Mark Morris

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councilor Edison Huynh

**Question**

Please provide an update on the progress of building work relating to Lewisham library, including details of the current expected opening date?

**Reply**

We are nearing the end of the 'Developed Design' stage of the project. This means that the preferred option for the external façade design has been identified and the configuration of the different services and floorplans within the building agreed. This follows an extensive period of stakeholder engagement, design iteration and soft market testing with potential operators of the café and business hub. We are also concluding our pre-construction investigations which have looked at things like drainage, fire safety, asbestos and the structural integrity of the existing building frame. The next step is to submit our formal planning application in July, and to start a 9-week technical design process. We anticipate the tender process for the Main Works construction to be undertaken later this year, with construction on-site for most of 2025 through to spring 2026. The expected opening date of the new building is summer 2026.



**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.52**

**17 July 2024**

Question asked by: Mark Morris

Relevant Directorate: Chief Executive

Member to reply: Councillor Amanda De Ryk

**Question**

Lewisham Council appear to now have a Freedom of Information disclosure log, however the information published appears to merely include the subject of the freedom of information and not the actual response provided by Lewisham Council, Will Lewisham Council take steps to ensure its disclosure log meets best practice standards and guidance from the Information Commissioner's Office and actually publish in full its responses to freedom of information requests?

**Reply**

The Council has had a disclosure log for many years which is a feature of our case management system (CMS) and is automatically generated and published to the Council's website. Since taking over the FOI function, the Head of Service for Information Security and Governance has recognised that the quality of publication is below accepted best practice and is working with the CMS vendor to align the FOI workstreams so that the CMS can better publish responses following the ICO's best practice.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.53**

**17 July 2024**

Question asked by: Diana Cashin

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

The incidence and reach of Lime bikes sprawled cross Lewisham pavement appears to be increasing causing difficulties for the partially sighted, people with poor mobility and small children/push chairs and does not support encouraging pedestrians to walk more. It is contributing to the denigration of the streetscape. Is the council monitoring this and if so taking any action to address this problem?

**Reply**

The Council is introducing marked designated bays in the Borough where riders will have to park the bikes at the end of their journeys. This parking model is designed to help reduce inconsiderate parking which affects pedestrians, including wheelchair users.

The Council is working as quickly as possible to introduce marked designated bays to effectively manage cycle hire schemes in the Borough and reduce issues relating to bikes being parked obstructively.

If you find a Lime bike inconsiderately parked, you can file a report via the Love Clean Streets app or by completing a form, at the link below.

<https://help.li.me/hc/en-us/requests/new>

You can also report this directly to Lime by emailing support@li.me or ringing 0800 808 5223.

The Council also meet with Lime to review how the service is being delivered, which includes parking compliance.

## **PUBLIC QUESTION NO.54**

**17 July 2024**

Question asked by: Diana Cashin

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councilor Edison Huynh

### **Question**

Lewisham Centre Library closed on 16 September 2023 and is not planned to re-open till early 2026. Could you explain why this refurbishment is a two and a half year project? The new build Peckham Library took two years.

### **Reply**

This is a complex £8m renovation project. The ambition is to take a building designed as a 1960s telephone exchange and reimagine it as a vibrant, civic space, delivering an enhanced range of services. It is challenging to achieve this within a relatively small budget, and it also takes time to optimise the design for a multi-use space when working within the constraints of an existing building frame.

Following the closure of the library in September, there have been several months of pre-construction investigations on-site looking at things like the structural integrity of the building, fire safety, underground drainage, the presence of asbestos etc. These are activities that could not be undertaken with the library service still operating out of the building. Whilst the building has been closed, residents have been able to access library services through other community libraries in the borough as well as a pick-up service available at Glassmill Leisure Centre.

Running in parallel with the pre-constructive investigations has been 9 months of iterative design work, collaborating extensively with stakeholders and taking on board views via a residents survey to ensure that the external façade and internal layout meets a diverse set of requirements and enhances the space through careful design interventions. This process is concluding with the formal submission of our planning application in July, after which several weeks of technical design work will be required.

Following planning approval we anticipate that the 3 month tender process for the Main Works construction will be completed by December, with construction work starting on-site early next year. This will take 12-15 months to complete (including contingency), after which the library service will need to return to the building, alongside operators of the café and the business hub. It is anticipated that this state of the art building, with enhanced library and civic spaces, will re-open to the public in the summer of 2026.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.55**

**17 July 2024**

Question asked by: James Evans

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

I am a resident, parent of two primary school children and Governor of a local Primary Federation. I have been collecting litter daily, often multiple times, for 17 months, in Bell Green. I have done this at my own cost, without any support from the council whatsoever. Recently, I asked if some support could be offered and I was told I could have some bags if I walked three miles to collect them. Why is the council failing to fulfill its legal duty to keep the streets regularly clear of litter?

**Reply**

The Council recognises the issues in the Bell Green area and there has been a concerted effort to address the issues of littering and poor behaviour by some people.

In April, the council undertook a coordinated clean up that involved bulky waste removal in Holmshaw Close, removal of some bins in Dilwyn Close, removal of grit box from Fambridge close. There is also regular sweeping and litter picking alongside monitoring of the Leisure centre to swiftly remove fly tipping. The council are also working with Sainsbury's and Metropolitan Housing Trust to encourage them to maintain their areas. All of this has led to an improvement in the area with less fly tipping.

Further intervention will be undertaken as required to improve the area and reduce litter.

Lewisham has a policy to deliver bags to all residents that wish to litter pick, please email [recycling@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:recycling@lewisham.gov.uk) and the Council will deliver these to you.