

QUESTION No. 1
Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

23 NOVEMBER 2016

Question by Councillor Hall
of the Mayor

Question

Does the Mayor have a view on the Government's Autumn Statement?

Reply

The Mayor certainly has views on what should be in the Autumn Statement, not least a very significant increase in support for Adult Social Care and resources for increasing the amount of Affordable Housing we can build in London over the next few years. As the statement will be delivered after this is printed I shall be happy to let members know tonight whether the Chancellor has listened.

QUESTION No. 2
Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

23 NOVEMBER 2016

Question by Councillor Coughlin
of the Deputy Mayor

Question

Will Lewisham Council oppose the decision to expand Heathrow, bearing in mind the findings of the Council's own air pollution monitoring and that of Lewisham Green Party, that the air quality in much of Lewisham falls below acceptable EU safety standards?

Reply

Although the expansion of Heathrow raises concerns in relation to continued Nitrogen Dioxide exceedances of the European limit levels around Heathrow, as it is not anticipated to affect the road network within Lewisham there is unlikely to be an impact on the borough's air quality.

The air quality levels within London are primarily affected by road traffic. Within Lewisham the air quality exceedances are located near busy roads and are not therefore widespread across the whole of the borough. The Council however is looking to tackle air quality and is presenting to the Mayor and Cabinet next month a new draft of the Air Quality Action Plan. The Council is also looking to support the London Mayoral expansion of the Ultra-Low Emission Zone (ULEZ), to include the area north of the South Circular. Both of these initiatives will help to bring Lewisham within European limit levels at the earliest opportunity.

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

23 NOVEMBER 2016

Question by Councillor Walsh
of the Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing and Older Residents

Question

Last year, this Council pledged its support to reduce the transmission of HIV as part of the THT Halve it Campaign. Currently the percentage of people living in London with HIV is 50% of the UK total; of that 50% (25% of all people living with HIV in the UK) live in Lewisham Lambeth & Southwark.

Could the Mayor identify how the Council is getting along with this key Public Health work and his action plan for the year ahead?

Reply

The prevalence rate of HIV infection among adults aged 15-59 in Lewisham in 2015 was about 8.26 per 1,000 (2.26 per 1,000 for England). Around 38% of new diagnosis of HIV in Lewisham are “late”¹, for which long-term health outcomes are often poor.

Historically, new HIV infections in Lewisham were predominantly heterosexually acquired but now arise mainly among men who have sex with men (MSM). Late diagnosis is a particular concern among Black African communities for whom stigma can be a strong deterrent to testing.

Lewisham Council’s approach to HIV is underpinned by a commitment to early testing and treatment to reduce onward transmission, outlined in the Lewisham Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the LSL Sexual Health Strategy for 2014-17 across Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham. LSL have taken a joint approach to commissioning sexual health services within an agreement to support this objective.

Achievements to date

¹ “Late” diagnosis is defined based on laboratory blood testing rather than clinical assessment.

Prevalence in adults has declined from a peak of 8.36 per 1,000 in 2014 to 8.26 per 1,000 in 2015 – the first annual decline seen since at least 2010 and possibly for the first time since the infection was identified.

The proportion of new, late diagnoses has reduced by 28% since 2009-11. The reduction between 2012 and 2014 in late diagnoses was 8% which suggests that early testing continues to be effective. There is however a need for continued action.

The Council will continue to commission the following existing services:

Prevention and sexual health promotion

- The Council commissions the RISE Partnership which targets MSM and people engaging in “Chemsex”² in particular, together with people with the highest rates of late diagnoses of HIV (e.g. Black African).
- The Council supports the national HIV testing service led by Public Health England.
- The Council contributes to the London HIV Prevention Programme and its media campaign *Do-It London*, which has a strong focus on improving late diagnosis among black African communities.

Testing

- The Council funds HIV testing in sexual and reproductive health services and in local GP practices.
- Online HIV testing support services such as the HIV.test website offering targeted testing to MSM and black African communities across the borough.

Training

- The Council’s Public Health team deliver Sexual Health In Practice (SHIP) training for clinical staff working in GP surgeries.

New activity includes a pilot of HIV testing as part of the new patient health check, with 16 practices so far involved. There are plans to extend community HIV testing on a pilot basis to pharmacies in the borough from early 2017, a few of which will be supported to provide point-of-care testing for the infection.

² “Chemsex” describes the practice of using drugs – often illegal ones – to increase pleasure during sex, and is a common practice among some groups at particular risk of HIV.

QUESTION No. 4
Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

23 NOVEMBER 2016

Question by Councillor John Paschoud
of the Mayor

Question

Are you aware Groups styling themselves as 'political parties' have staged several stunts in Lewisham, such as 'building social housing' (a small wooden shed) on sites cleared ready for planned regeneration projects including much-needed housing?

The latest such exercise to generate (albeit just local) news was the 'occupation' of the Manor House and cafe in Beckenham Place Park, apparently as a protest against the move by this Council to enable wider use of the park by local people, rather than exclusive use of much of it as an 18-hole golf course, subsidised at significant public expense.

Can the Mayor estimate the approximate costs to Lewisham Council Taxpayers of 'clearing up' after any of these demonstrations?

Has any action been taken to recover such costs from any of the organisations or individuals known to have been involved - some of whom may have significant assets?

Have any of these costs been successfully recovered, from those responsible?

Reply

There have been several incidents in recent years including the destruction of hoarding securing a site on Besson Street which was then used to build a 'house', protests at the town hall over cuts, the New Cross library 'read-in' and occupation of uneconomic housing stock to prevent disposal.

In the main the costs associated with clearing up after these acts typically cost £500 to £1,000. However the costs associated with occupation of the housing

stock was much more significant, with lost rent estimated to be in excess of £15,000.

These costs do not include the sometimes significant amount of officer time spent dealing with the incidents themselves.

To date, no attempts have been made to recover these costs from those responsible as there is a risk of incurring further costs in doing so. However, in light of the continuing financial difficulties the council faces, this is a matter that will be kept under review.

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

23 NOVEMBER 2016

Question by Councillor Curran
of the Deputy Mayor

Question

Will the Cabinet Member give an update on the progress of the Housing Action Zones in New Bermondsey and Catford?

Reply

New Bermondsey:

The New Bermondsey Regeneration programme is one of the first regeneration scheme to be awarded housing zone status by the Mayor of London and the Chancellor of the Exchequer in February 2015. The designation is aimed at helping fast track the delivery of homes and key infrastructure across some of the capital's key development opportunity sites.

Following the Housing Zone designation, the GLA has allocated in principle funding of £20 million towards delivery of key infrastructure associated with the Scheme, including the new Overground Station at Surrey Canal Road. The GLA initially proposed that the allocated sum would be advanced to Renewal (the developer) as loan funding. In a revised approach, however, the GLA now proposes that a grant agreement (known as a Borough Intervention Agreement) is entered into between the Council and the GLA whereby the GLA will provide grant funding of c. £12 million which will be passed by the Council to TfL with a requirement that TfL deliver the new Overground Station at Surrey Canal Road and open it within a set period. The balance of the £20 million allocation will remain available for Renewal to take up through a second intervention. A clear benefit of this approach is that as the new station will now be grant funded, this enables the sum which would otherwise be paid by Renewal towards the new station to be applied to the provision of additional affordable housing within the Scheme.

Thus, not only will the GLA's current funding approach allow early delivery of the station and development of the first two phases of the Scheme (Phases 1A and 2) to proceed ahead of schedule delivering 532 new homes, it will also secure delivery of

more additional affordable homes than were originally to be provided within the Scheme. The exact quantum of additional affordable housing to be delivered as a result of this approach will form part of revised S106 for the scheme the details of which are currently being worked through.

Catford:

In March 2016 the GLA announced that Catford had been awarded an indicative allocation of £30 million made up of £27.2m affordable housing grant, £1.3m for rail station arrival space and £1.5m for flood alleviation. This followed an application for Housing Zone funding to help support the delivery of the scheme. Whilst the grant was lower than requested it is a sizeable contribution towards delivery of the regeneration programme and will have a marked effect on what can be delivered.

Following agreement at Mayor and Cabinet on 28th September that the Council should enter into formal agreement with the GLA to establish the Catford Housing Zone, officers have prepared the necessary background papers and are finalising the legal agreement with the aim of completing this by the end of November. The next phase of work will involve the preparation of outline plans for early interventions to improve the train station arrival experience and flood resilience.

A significant part of the Housing Zone grant for Catford is aimed at supporting the scheme to deliver a greater percentage of affordable housing. However, certainty on specific housing outputs from the redevelopment of key sites in the town centre will not be known until the design is sufficiently advanced. It is likely that subsequent Borough Intervention Agreements for affordable housing will not be entered into until planning approval for each development phase has been achieved.

Discussions on the form of affordable housing to be delivered through the grant support will however be continued with the GLA as plans for redevelopment are advanced and as the housing priorities of the new Mayor of London become clear. The Council will continue to seek that new affordable housing clearly meets the housing needs identified by the borough.

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

23 NOVEMBER 2016

Question by Councillor Upex
of the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

Question

Is the Mayor able to outline when the London Borough of Lewisham decide to pilot their Lift project through National Star and how was the decision made? Also given that LBL grant funded VSL to provide a Travel Training project, what was LBL rationale for piloting the Lift project through National Star, how was the decision made and was there any consideration on LBL's part around the potential impact on VSL's travel training service and/or grant funding? Was there a consultation period/tendering process, if so why were VSL not included in this consultation process and finally why wasn't VSL informed of the new project once LBL had engaged National Star, and why wasn't there a discussion on how the two projects could work together to provide a synergistic approach?

Reply

The contract with National Star will begin on the 21st November 2016 to provide Independent Travel Training through their nationally recognised LIFT programme as part of our offer of Travel Assistance for Children and Young People with SEND who are eligible for assistance. As a result of consulting the market National Star were the only provider that could provide the desired outcomes and scale of the service within the timescales required, and were therefore awarded the contract directly.

As part of identifying what service was needed officers contacted other organisations to understand what they offered and the services provided, including VSL. Some organisations did not respond, including VSL.

The award to National Star does not impact on VSL service or funding. We are still signposting families to VSL travel training service and we see both schemes working alongside each other. Officers will facilitate discussions with VSL and National Star to support both organisations working together.

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

23 NOVEMBER 2016

Question by Councillor Upex
of the Deputy Mayor

Question

Would the Deputy Mayor please outline his thoughts and what action could be taken with regards to the banning of HGV along Honor Oak Road as requested by local residents and parents?

Reply

Honor Oak Road is a classified District Distributor (the B2142), and has been since the inception of the road classification system in the 1920s. This is because it provides an important link on the network, between the south circular and the Honor Oak Park / Forest Hill Road corridor, and is expected to carry a significant amount of both local and through traffic. The road is also part of the Emergency Services Priority Route Network

The main concern with banning HGV traffic would be the redistribution of heavy vehicles onto other routes. Any scheme to cut out traffic on Honor Oak Road would have a significant impact on other roads, particularly Devonshire Road, which itself is narrow and residential in nature, and which is similarly subject of requests to reduce traffic. A ban on either of these roads would also have a significant on Brockley Rise, which also has schools and known road safety and air quality issues.

The Council recognises the impact of traffic on local residents, and has recently implemented a 20mph limit on all borough roads in order to reduce this impact and improve road safety. The Council continues to work with local schools on road safety issues and is working closely with the Police in encouraging increasing compliance with the new 20mph speed limit.

In the longer term, the Council is working with TfL on the consideration of a wider Ultra-Low Emission Zone which would greatly improve air quality within the north and south circular roads.

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

23 NOVEMBER 2016

Question by Councillor Upex
of the Cabinet Member for the Public Realm

Question

Is the Cabinet Member able to outline what are the levels of air quality outside of each of the primary schools located within Forest Hill Ward and what action Lewisham Council is able to take (working with the Mayor of London's office) in order to improve these levels?

Reply

The Primary Schools within the Forest Hill ward are:

- Kelvin Grove Primary School, Kelvin Grove, SE26
- Elliot Bank Primary School, Thorpewood Ave, SE26
- Horniman Primary School, Horniman Drive, SE23
- Fairlawn Primary School, Honor Oak Road, SE23
- Holy Trinity Church of England School, Dartmouth Road, SE23

The GLA issued a report this year listing all the primary schools that exceeded the Nitrogen Dioxide annual mean European limit levels, based on prediction modelling, for years 2010 and then forecasted for 2020. None of the above schools were listed on the table.

The Environmental Protection team has a network of over 30 nitrogen dioxide tubes in the borough which record nitrogen dioxide levels. None of these are located outside Forest Hill primary schools. However, there is a nitrogen dioxide tube outside 8 Stanstead Road which is likely to reflect similar annual traffic conditions to those at the other school locations and the annual mean in 2015 for this location was again below the European limit level. All of the Council's air monitoring details and results can be found on the following link:

<https://www.lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/environment/air-pollution/Pages/air-quality-monitoring.aspx>

The Council has produced a new draft Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP), which is going to Mayor and Cabinet next month for approval. This AQAP will continue to

look at measures around schools to reduce the impacts on air quality. This includes encouraging schools to join the TfL STARS accredited travel planning programme, offering an air quality / sustainability play for year 6 pupils at 28 schools around the borough and running an 'anti idling' poster competition at 15 priority schools.

The Council has already introduced a 20 mph speed limit on all their managed roads, which will reduce congestion on the roads and associated pollution levels. Also the Council is expanding the electric vehicle charging points and along with encouragement for cycling and walking, is working to improve the infrastructure for less polluting, sustainable modes of transport.

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

23 NOVEMBER 2016

**Question by Councillor Upex
of the Cabinet Member for Housing**

Question

Please give an update on the opening of Hamilton Lodge, also outline how many Lewisham families will benefit and what is the potential saving made in not paying landlords for temporary accommodation?

Reply

I was pleased to attend the opening of Hamilton Lodge last week, and can confirm that Hamilton Lodge is now fully let.

The first households moved in on 28th October. The 21 households now living in Hamilton Lodge all previously lived in expensive nightly paid accommodation.

As well as providing higher quality in-borough accommodation for these households, Hamilton Lodge will also save the Council just under £100,000 a year by not paying for nightly paid accommodation. All the rents are set at the Local Housing Allowance, which means that housing benefit will cover the full amount. The rents paid will also generate an income for the Council.

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

23 NOVEMBER 2016

Question by Councillor Upex
of the Cabinet Member for Housing

Question

Please give an update with regards to the proposals for development on the site of Forest Hill Estate/ Eliot Bank?

Reply

Lewisham Homes and BPTW Architects have recently carried out studies of the Forest Estate on behalf of the Council in order to inform our proposals for new homes on the estate. These studies included site constraints, the quality of the existing estate and public realm, and the number of new homes that could be provided.

The result is that priority will be given to progressing the two Knapdale Close sites. This work will take a fresh look at the design of the new block and will also propose improvements to the estate to complement the housing development.

The proposed development of the Eliot Bank site will not be taken any further at this time.

This will be communicated to local residents and there will be further consultation exercises in the New Year to discuss the Knapdale Close scheme with residents.

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

23 NOVEMBER 2016

Question by Councillor Upex
of the Deputy Mayor

Question

Please could the Mayor give an outline of what proposals are being developed for the site of the old Fairlawn Nursery in Forest Hill?

Reply

We are currently looking at a range of options for this site, all of which involve housing and may also include a range of alternative uses.

We expect to start consulting with the community on these options early in the New Year.

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

23 NOVEMBER 2016

Question by Councillor Upex
of the Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing and Older People

Question

Would the Mayor write to all existing Group Practices that border Forest Hill ward including those in neighbouring boroughs encouraging them to look at opportunities to provide a GP service actually within Forest Hill Ward?

Reply

Responsibility for GP services in Lewisham sits with NHS England and NHS Lewisham Clinical Commissioning Group. I have asked them to provide a response to your question which I will forward to you in due course.

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

23 NOVEMBER 2016

Question by Councillor Upex
of the Deputy Mayor

Question

Would the Deputy Mayor be able to work with highways to ensure that the existing street clutter outside WH Smiths in Forest Hill (old lamppost and signage) is removed as soon as possible?

Reply

The A205 South Circular is part of the Transport for London Road Network, and so TfL have responsibility for all signs and street furniture at this location.

The Council has raised this issue with TfL in the past and there is a project in their 2016/17 programme to improve the "A205 Devonshire Road j/w London Road Outside Forest Hill Station". The proposal is looking at junction improvements to improve pedestrian crossing just outside WH Smith. The scheme is currently with TfL designers and one of the scheme's elements is to remove the de-clutter the area outside WHSmiths and to introduce Legible London signs so all the signs on the lamp post will no longer be needed. Confirmation of the scheme is subject to detailed design and finalised cost estimates, but the Council will continue to press for the works to be committed.

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

23 NOVEMBER 2016

Question by Councillor Upex
of the Cabinet Member for the Public Realm

Question

Please explain the rationale behind not providing a discount for pensioners/low income/disabled Lewisham residents who have signed up to the Garden Waste collection scheme. Also would she ensure that the scale of charges is considered in any reviews that takes place following the implementation of the scheme this year?

Reply

In arriving at the cost for the subscription charge, the Council asked residents their thoughts on what level the charge should be in the Let's Talk Rubbish consultation. Of those that answered, 87% were willing to pay £80 per year. In addition, officers also looked at what other local authorities were charging: of those that offer a wheelie bin garden waste service, eleven authorities charge for the service, the majority are £60+ a year.

Mayor & Cabinet agreed the charge of £60 per year, which was reduced from the £80 per year proposed in the consultation and it is believed that the costs of the garden waste service are consistent with that of other local authorities.

There has been an introductory charge of £45 for the garden waste service this year, and next year the charge has been set at £60. The scale of charges will be reviewed in subsequent years once the service has bedded in.