

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO 1.**

**Priority 1**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**21 FEBRUARY 2018**

Question asked by: Martin Cox

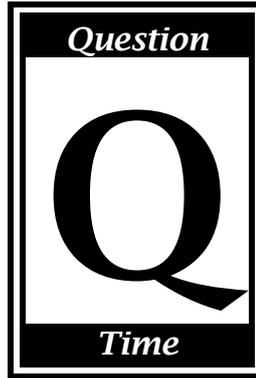
Member to reply: Councillor Egan

**Question**

What action is the Council taking to bring into use the large house at 105 Bunt Ash Hill which has been unoccupied for several years?

**Reply**

105 Burnt Ash Hill is a property divided into three large flats. The Empty Homes Officer served an Empty Dwelling Management Order notice on the owners in 2016 and a premium Council Tax charge has been made on all three flats. A follow up site visit in August 2017 found that work was on site to start renovations. A further site visit was made on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2018 and the work is near completion. The remaining repairs relate to the installation of windows to the front. It is estimated that this property could be occupied by the end of this financial year.



**PUBLIC QUESTION NO 2.**

**Priority 1**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**21 FEBRUARY 2018**

Question asked by: Mrs Richardson

Member to reply: Cllr Bonavia

**Question**

Contracts with the Council for out-sourced services such as community libraries (with several different providers), street lighting, parks and gardens, leisure etc have reviews conducted by the council officers which are presented to members. When are the listed services due to have their contracts reviewed and when will these reviews be presented to the council members?

In view of the change in council representation due to the forthcoming local and mayoral election how is elected accountability regarded when the newly elected Mayor will not have been responsible for the decisions of his predecessor, especially when some contracts can run over 25 or even 30 years?

**Reply**

The current parks contract ends in February 2020. A final review of the current contract will take place as part of the options appraisal on the future provision of the service. The outcome of the review and the options for future provision will be presented to the Mayor and Cabinet in early 2019.

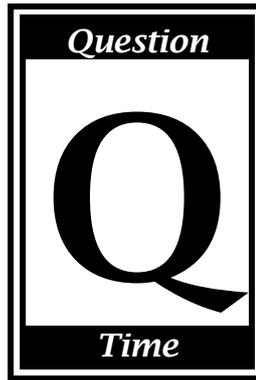
Street Lighting is provided under a 25 year joint Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contract with the London Borough of Croydon which commenced in April 2011. There is a Joint Committee established which has four members, two elected

members of each Council which meets twice a year. This provides for Member scrutiny of the operations and performance of the Street Lighting PFI.

The borough's leisure facilities are managed on behalf of the Council by two contractors, Fusion Lifestyle and 1Life (formerly Leisure Connection). The Fusion contract is for 15 years and commenced in 2011. The 1Life contract is a 32 year PFI contract for the Downham Health & Leisure Centre which opened in 2007. These contracts are reviewed on an ongoing basis with both monthly and quarterly meetings with the providers. In addition to this an annual review is presented to the Healthier Communities Select Committee.

The libraries services continue to be provided by the Council directly in partnership with voluntary organisations who have taken on the management of a number of library buildings. These arrangements form no part of any out-sourced contract but are instead a partnership arrangement governed by a service level agreement. There are no ongoing contract payments between the Council and the host voluntary organisations in relation to these agreements. The performance of the library service including the community libraries is reviewed annually by the Safer Stronger Select Committee.

The overriding principle when procuring and managing contracts is of ensuring transparency and value for money for the public sector. This principle is encapsulated into the agreed contract terms and therefore continues to be delivered throughout the contract term. Concurrently, it is essential for elected members to have the opportunity to review these contract arrangements over the lifetime of the contract.



**PUBLIC QUESTION NO 3.**

**Priority 1**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**21 FEBRUARY 2018**

Question asked by: Mr Richardson

Member to reply: Councillor Best

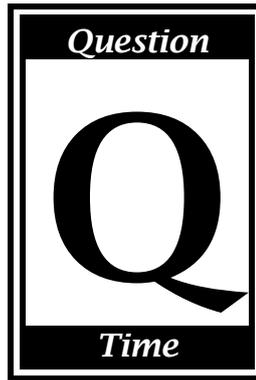
**Question**

What were the numbers of e-books issued by Lewisham Library Service via all library branches in the Borough, be they Hub Libraries or Community Libraries, for the following dates:

1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016  
1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017  
1st April 2017 to 31st January 2018

**Reply**

1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016	7,311
1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017	14,608
1st April 2017 to 31st January 2018	An interim figure is not available



**PUBLIC QUESTION NO 4.**

**Priority 2**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**21 FEBRUARY 2018**

Question asked by: Mr Richardson

Member to reply: Councillor Best

**Question**

What are the latest visits and issues figures for Lewisham's hub and community libraries from 1st April 2017 through to 31st January 2018?

**Reply**

As in previous years, the Library and Information Service will publish its annual figures for visits and issues within the Annual Report to the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee in June or July 2018.

This is when the figures are ready for submission to the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accounting (CIPFA) and available for public scrutiny and comparison with library services across the country. This is standard practice and ensures robust, good quality data is available.