

PUBLIC QUESTION NO 1.
Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

28 NOVEMBER 2018

Question asked by: Mark Morris

Member to reply: Councillor Bell

Question

A question recently asked by the Labour Assembly Member Andrew Dismore of the Mayor of London revealed that only two landlords or agents from Lewisham were listed on the London wide rogue Landlord and Agent checker created by the Mayor of London. In addition, only two offences were listed for Lewisham. Why does Lewisham have such low figures compared to comparative boroughs such as Brent, Camden, Greenwich, Islington, Southwark, Tower Hamlets, Waltham Forest and especially Newham? What action is Lewisham Council taking to become more effective at protecting tenants by taking greater enforcement activity against rogue landlords and agents, so ensuring its enforcement activity matches the actions of other London boroughs?

Reply

Lewisham currently have less cases than some other London boroughs on the Rogue Landlord and Agent checker, however they were an active partner in the GLA project to establish this tool and were one of the first Boroughs to join. Numbers are variable across the capital and reflect variations in approach, resources and the spread of licensing schemes in those areas. Lewisham have also historically taken a more co-operative approach and work, through collaboration and partnership, with

landlords to resolve outstanding works or unsatisfactory management arrangements. However where these cannot be resolved housing enforcement action is taken.

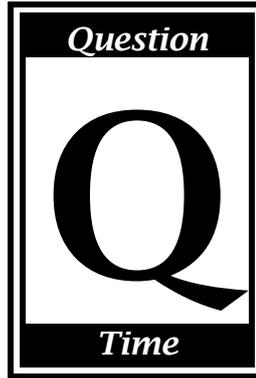
Lewisham established the current rogue landlord team of two officers (one ex police officer and one lawyer) in June 2017 and have focused on tackling the worst rogue landlord cases across the borough since that time.

Legal services have seen an increase in prosecution requests submitted for consideration since the establishment of this team. Between July 2017 to March 2018, 7 cases were referred and 4 cases have been prosecuted to date. A further 22 cases have been referred since April 2018.

Lewisham currently have two cases recorded on the rogue landlord/agent database that have been prosecuted in the last 12 months. There are two further cases that are being recorded now following recent prosecutions and a further two cases in court pending trial. Twenty three cases are being processed by our central legal team and they are working to bring these cases to prosecution where there is enough supporting evidence to proceed.

In addition to criminal prosecution approval was given in August 2018 by Mayor and Cabinet to adopt the introduction of Civil Penalty Notices (CPN) as a further housing enforcement tool. To date there are three cases being pursued with six pending. Other cases are being worked on by officers and are likely to result in further Notices being issued. If landlords have two CPNs they then qualify to be placed on the register.

The new administration has begun work to enable a new Private Renters' Union to give a voice to tenants living in the private rented sector. We've also started the work on gathering data to seek to deliver a full borough-wide landlord licence to crack down on rogue landlords.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 2.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

28 NOVEMBER 2018

Question asked by: Keme Nzerem

Member to reply: Councillor Dacres

Question

Please could I have a breakdown of funding for school and district level boys and girls football, and funding intentions and timetable for 2018/19/20.

Could it be broken down by number of teams, age groups, and gender?

Please include available info on related youth football funding awards, for example kit and equipment.

And please explain the personnel and organisational structure for delivering and overseeing council funded school and district level football projects.

Reply

In responding to this question it is necessary to provide some background in that the Council does not directly fund or have any organisational responsibility for schools and district level girls or boys football.

Four years ago the decision was made to provide Council funding through a Lewisham football network, facilitated by the London FA. The network was set up so that a strategic approach and more flexible response could be taken to football development in the borough as well as disperse small amounts of funding to clubs and teams. The network has proved to be an effective means of increasing participation, beyond the sports traditional young male reach as well as providing important pathways for residents to train as coaches and referees.

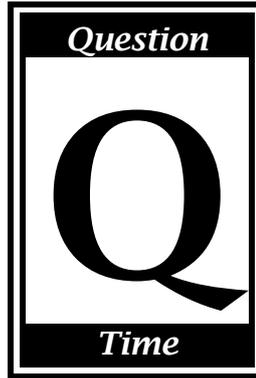
Earlier this year we were notified by the London FA that it could no longer facilitate the network because of a staff restructure and it would no longer be claiming the grant provided. At this point officers approached Millwall Community Trust to explore whether it would be possible for the organisation to take over this work. An agreement was reached and transfer of funding has recently been formally approved. However, this has led to a temporary interruption in funding which means that funding for activity in 2018/19 and 2019/20 has not yet been agreed. This will now take place as a matter of urgency

During the 2017/18 season, funding was provided to one girls district team and one boys district team. £700 was provided to the Boys Under 11 Team to support 25 matches and 26 training sessions. £500 was provided to the Girls Under 11 Team to support 10 matches and 19 training sessions. A further £1,500 was provided to the boys' team by the Mayor's office to cover the cost of transport to the National Finals in Coventry.

No funding was provided by the Council to either the girls or boys team for kit or equipment.

The district level football teams (both girls and boys) are facilitated in a very informal way with very little infrastructure, supported by paid coaches and volunteers.

We will ensure that Lewisham Football Network are made aware of the concerns that have been raised.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 3.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

28 NOVEMBER 2018

Question asked by: Mrs Richardson

Member to reply: Councillor Slater

Question

The Library and Information Service management will be aware that the DCMS is conducting a consultation on the Public Lending Right. It has come to light that certain library volunteers do not always release a loaned book correctly. There is also the question of self-issue/return machines that do not always work correctly. Are there concerns that this may mean the author of the non-registered, loaned book will deprive authors of income as this PLR will be avoided? In addition does this contribute to the loss/theft of stock and are any records of same available? Does the Library service make sure volunteers are correctly trained to ensure they understand the importance of correctly logging books, out and in? What does this training entail?

Reply

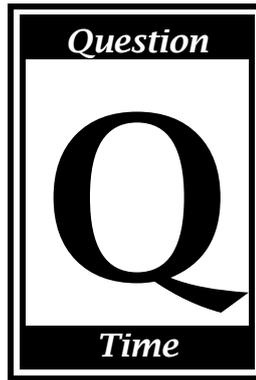
Public Lending Right is the legal right to payment from government each time that a registered title is borrowed from public libraries.

PLR monitor the issues of library books through a sample of library authorities, rather than through collecting information on every individual book issued across all library services.

The sample for 2018-2019 for London includes Greenwich, Hounslow, Lambeth, and Luton. Therefore, any malfunction in equipment in Lewisham would have no effect on the authors, as Lewisham's issues are not currently being sampled.

The Library and Information Service supports the partner organisations in the Community Libraries providing training to their staff and volunteers. The training covers the activities in the library, e.g. joining new library users, issuing and returning books, supporting library activities and promoting the love of books and reading.

The library catalogue includes items that have not been seen for a specific amount of time – e.g. not returned, lost. Usually, the library catalogue would be searchable to return specific data. Now, however, the service is implementing a new library management system, undertaking this search now would be difficult to perform. The new library catalogue should go live in March 2019 and then it will be possible to ascertain loss of stock again.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 4.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

28 NOVEMBER 2018

Question asked by: John Hamilton

Member to reply: The Mayor

Question

Could the mayor tell me what the total payments will be for the coming financial year for the various PFI contracts entered into by the previous mayor?

In a period of financial constraint such as we are currently experiencing, does the Mayor think the council owes a duty primarily to fund the public services which we need to make life in Lewisham a fulfilling experience and to give, in particular, our young people hope, a good education and opportunities to develop their potential through under 5s play clubs, youth clubs, libraries, sports facilities, careers advice - the very services which have been completely axed or had severe financial cuts in the period since he became a councillor.

Or does he think his primary duty is to hand over millions of pounds to vulture capitalists who ran rings round the Mayor and our officers when these PFI contracts were agreed.

Does the Mayor agree with me, with the chancellor Phillip Hammond and with the House of Commons Select Committee on PFI which reported in 2011 that PFI has never been the most cost-efficient method of financing public works?

Will he take a stand and unilaterally annul Lewisham's PFI contracts in all cases where the payments to date equal or exceed the initial contract value (the outlay by the construction consortium) so that the legality of this institutionalised loan-sharking can be tested in the courts?

Reply

The Council is contracted to make a total of £53.3m of payments for its PFI contracts in 2018/19, for which it will receive £39m of credits from the government.

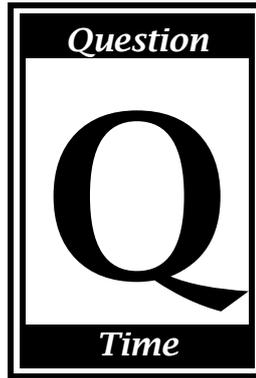
Yes, I do think that the Council owes a duty to its residents to fund those public services for which it is responsible to assist those most in need and which support the Council and Community work together to build Lewisham as a strong and thriving place.

As made clear in the Lewisham Labour 2018 election manifesto, when considering whether to commission services, we will have an assumption that the Council is our preferred provider, in-sourcing our contracts.

Consistent with long standing Labour policy, I welcome the Chancellor's commitment on the 29 October 2018 in his Autumn Budget confirming the government will not enter into any new PFI contracts.

If the Council unilaterally annulled its PFI contracts it would face significant costs that would hugely disadvantage residents and greatly limit our ability to invest in services that residents rely on. These costs include:

- cost of continuing to fund the outstanding capital and debt costs;
- the annual service costs of maintaining these assets and running the services ;
- potential loss of the PFI credits from government; and
- significant penalties for breach of contract.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 5.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

28 NOVEMBER 2018

Question asked by: Anna Strutt

Member to reply: Councillor Dacres

Question

I am shocked to hear as yet, no funding has been allocated for the Lewisham girls under 11 team, but the boys' team has already been funded. Surely this is unfair?

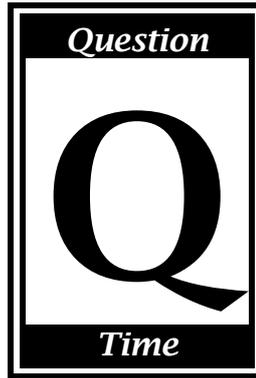
My older daughter played for Lewisham girls' football team in 2016 and I feel that it was an amazing experience for all those young girls, one that they will carry with them forever. Now her younger sibling is following in her footsteps, practising football every day, developing her skills and was picked for the team, only to be told that actually maybe all funding has been dropped. Do you accept it is completely disgusting if boys' teams get funded and not girls' teams?

Reply

A certain amount of misinformation has been circulated on the subject of funding to girls and boys football. The truth is that funding has not been allocated to either team.

Four years ago the decision was made to provide Council funding through a Lewisham football network, facilitated by the London FA. The network was set up so that a strategic approach and more flexible response could be taken to football development in the borough as well as disperse small amounts of funding to clubs and teams. The network has proved to be an effective means of increasing participation, beyond the sports traditional young male reach as well as providing important pathways for residents to train as coaches and referees.

Earlier this year we were notified by the London FA that it could no longer facilitate the network because of a staff restructure and it would no longer be claiming the grant provided. At this point officers approached Millwall Community Trust to explore whether it would be possible for the organisation to take over this work. An agreement was reached and transfer of funding has recently been formally approved. However, this has led to a temporary interruption in funding which has been beyond the Council's control and with the result that funding for activity in 2018/19 has not yet been agreed. This will now take place as a matter of urgency and decisions will be made without any gender bias.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 6.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

28 NOVEMBER 2018

Question asked by: Dina Daley

Member to reply: The Mayor

Question

Can you accept residents in the Evelyn Ward were delighted to hear about the investment made by Lewisham Council into 'Team Catford'? Evelyn residents are currently setting up 'Team Evelyn' and we too would like the same level of support afforded to 'Team Catford' which includes dedicated officers, a range of community events and a fantastic website all supported by council funding. Approximately 10,000 homes will be built in Evelyn Ward alone, almost half Lewisham's target of 20,500. Will the council commit to investing the same level of resources into the Evelyn Ward as it has elsewhere in the borough via Team Catford?

Reply

The Catford Town Centre Regeneration project is suggested to be one of the largest of its kind across the country and is currently the biggest scheme in the borough, representing approximately £1billion worth of investment over the course of its delivery. It is one of the most significant development sites in the Borough; redeveloped Council land alone will see over 1,000 new homes, the re-routing of the South Circular A205, new and improved civic and cultural facilities, a bigger and better selection of new shops and leisure, an improved and safer night time economy and

place and better public spaces in general. Significantly, this will provide a catalyst for the redevelopment of other major sites in the town centre, providing more homes and employment opportunities for local people. Alongside its 1,000 Council home programme, Catford represents the Council's biggest development project for many years.

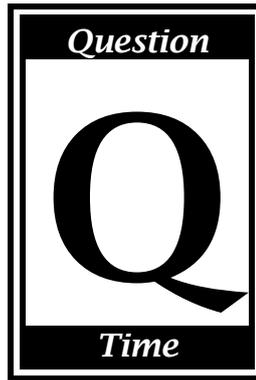
Team Catford:

The size and scale of the project means that engagement is key. Not only with the local residential and business community, but with other major landowners in the town centre and other key partners that the Council will need to work with in order to deliver this major investment, in particular Transport for London.

The Council has also been keen to see activity in the town centre ahead of any physical development, and has worked hard to bring new events such as the Catford Beer, Gin and Vegan Festivals, bring back old ones like the Catford Food Market, as well as bringing new businesses in the form of Supersets and the pop up cinema being delivered by Arthouse.

Given this, and the scale of change that will come to Catford specifically, the Council set up Team Catford, a group of specialists leading on the major community engagement and place-making on behalf of the Council.

The Council would like to support any similar initiatives across the Borough in any way that is possible, including in Evelyn Ward. However, the development that will be delivered in Evelyn, whilst hugely significant, sits across a wider geographical and more disaggregated spread of sites, compared with Catford which is being delivered in a much more focused and specific area. The Council's strategy for development such as this is, through engagement and planning policy, to use things like the emerging Neighbourhood Plan to ensure developments link up properly, in spatial and connectivity terms, with existing communities. In the current challenging economic climate, the Council needs to decide how limited resources are focussed and used most appropriately. For at this stage and for this type of development, the Council is therefore not in a position to offer the same level of direct financial support in the same way that it does in Catford.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 7.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

28 NOVEMBER 2018

Question asked by: Mr Da Silva Pereira

Member to reply: Councillor Dacres

Question

What is the Council doing about the improving the quality of the cycle paths in the Evelyn Ward?

Reply

Much of the work to improve the cycle network in the Evelyn Ward in the coming years will be to raise the standard to that seen on the Superhighway and Quietways networks. Cycle Superhighways are usually on busier roads and tend to include fully segregated cycle paths. Quietways are a network of cycle routes across London using backstreets, parks and minor roads aimed at attracting new cyclists. Such changes will represent a huge step-change in the quality of provision, which in turn will go a long way to encourage more cycling.

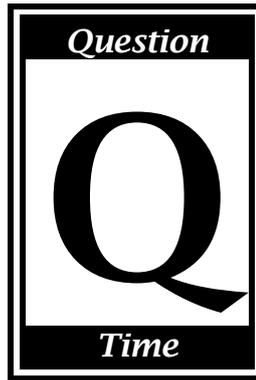
Quietway 1, introduced in 2016 as part of the first phase of the Quietway scheme, runs between Greenwich and Waterloo via Childers Street. This saw a range of

improvements implemented including new crossing points, a number of sections of segregated cycling facilities and resurfacing, and improved signage. We are now working with TfL to implement the next phase of Quietways (phase 2). Within Evelyn Ward this includes a route to Canada Water (along the Thames) via Grove Street.

Feasibility and design work on Cycle Superhighway 4 (CS4) from London Bridge to Greenwich along Evelyn Street has begun in collaboration with colleagues from TfL, Southwark and Greenwich. (<https://tfl.gov.uk/travel-information/improvements-and-projects/cycle-superhighway-4>). This route has a relatively poor collision history for cyclists, but the scheme would see segregated cycle facilities introduced along much of the route.

We also have started work on the TfL funded Deptford Parks Liveable Neighbourhood project which seeks to improve conditions for walkers and cyclists – for more information visit <https://deptfordparks.commonplace.is>.

Lastly, Lewisham has dozens of one way roads, some of which already allow cycling in both directions. Some London local authorities have, over time, changed almost all of their one way streets to legally facilitate cycling in both directions. This has provided huge benefits to people on cycles to allow them to avoid as many busy streets as possible and to make their journeys quicker. Many of them can be changed at little cost, particularly if they have low traffic volumes. Lewisham Council is working on identifying all the one way streets in Lewisham and converting appropriate streets to two-way for cycling.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 8.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

28 NOVEMBER 2018

Question asked by: Moira Kerrane

Member to reply: The Mayor

Question

Are you aware that 'Team Catford' is funded by Lewisham Council to strengthen the community spirit in Catford? This includes a monthly Catford Food Market; pop-up shop stocking Catford merchandise; free cinema screenings; children's arts and craft activities; evenings of music and performance for young people; the Catford Beer Festival; the Catford Gin Festival; Catford Arts Trail and the Catford Free Film Festival. There is also a programme of meanwhile use to ensure best use of vacant spaces. The significant role of the council is downplayed, for example, there is no Lewisham Council logo on the 'Team Catford' Website.

How much Council funding has been given to 'Team Catford' to date, including 4 council officers, web design and operating budget? What is the source of the funding?

Reply

The Catford Town Centre Regeneration project is suggested to be one of the largest of its kind across the country and is currently the biggest scheme in the borough, representing approximately £1 billion worth of investment over the course of its delivery. It is one of the most significant development sites in the Borough.

As the land is owned by the council, we have the ability to reshape it so that it best suits the needs of local residents. This includes delivering 1,000 new homes, the re-routing of the South Circular A205, new and improved civic and cultural facilities, a bigger and better selection of new shops and leisure, an improved and safer night time economy and place and better public spaces in general. Significantly, this will provide a catalyst for the redevelopment of other major sites in the town centre, providing more homes and employment opportunities for local people. Alongside its 1,000 Council home programme, Catford represents the Council's biggest development project for many years.

Team Catford:

The size and scale of the project means that engagement is key. Not only with the local residential and business community, but with other major landowners in the town centre and other key partners that the Council will need to work with in order to deliver this major investment, in particular Transport for London.

The Council has also been keen to see activity in the town centre ahead of any physical development, and has worked hard to bring new events such as the Catford Beer, Gin and Vegan Festivals, bring back old ones like the Catford Food Market, as well as bringing new businesses in the form of Supersets and the pop up cinema being delivered by Arthouse.

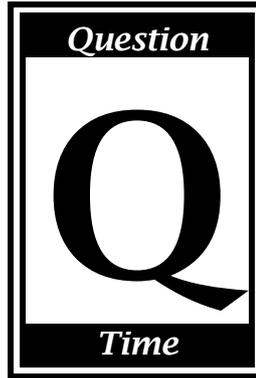
Given this, and the scale of change that will come to Catford specifically, the Council set up Team Catford, a group of specialists leading on the major community engagement and place-making on behalf of the Council.

It is project managed by one full-time project manager that sits within the Regeneration and Place Division of the Council and is supported by a small team of part-time specialists in social media, web design, film making and community engagement. All of the events mentioned are organised by the project manager.

All members of Team Catford live in the borough - mostly Catford, and are committed to ensuring that anyone who lives, works, shops or runs a business in the town centre has their say in helping shape the Town Centre. They have gathered almost 2,000 comments from local people all of which will inform the emerging design of the masterplan. Through a range of events they have raised the profile of the town centre and strengthened the sense of community pride.

Funding:

Team Catford's budget was approximately £150k per year over the past two years and is funded through the Council's capital programme and budget specifically for the Catford Town Centre Regeneration project. This is supplemented by income from Catford merchandise and events with all profits going back into the place-making activities.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 9.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

28 NOVEMBER 2018

Question asked by: Kevin Howarth

Member to reply: Councillor Best

Question

When are Lewisham Council going to take responsibility for the upkeep, cleansing and safety of Bolina Road?

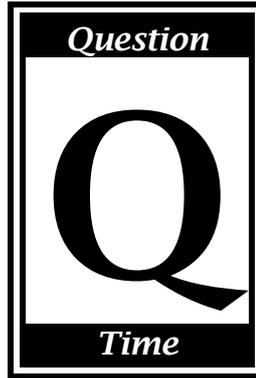
Reply

The Cleansing Enforcement Team (formerly Clean Streets Enforcement) proactively and reactively deal with the issues within the team's remit on a regular basis at Bolina Road. Formal action is regularly taken in relation to vehicle abandonment. This includes serving of enforcement notices and removal of vehicles deemed abandoned by the Council. This location benefits from pre-planned enforcement operations and one such operation will be taking place shortly.

Officers from the Crime, Enforcement & Regulation Service have been in contact with Kevin Howarth, Chair of The Bermondsey South Homeowners Association, since June 2015. Over the past three years these officers have supported Mr Howarth and other members of the Homeowners Association on a range of issues raised, which have included investigating fly tipping issues alongside Southwark Council Officers to exploring ways to tackle anti-social behaviour and moped related crime in the area by engaging the Police and appropriate officers from both L&Q and

Notting Hill Housing Associations. Crime Enforcement & Regulation Service Officers have also supported these residents by putting them in touch with the appropriate services to tackle specific instances of nuisance parking and dog fouling.

The Crime, Enforcement & Regulation Service is happy to conduct another meeting and walkabout with residents of Bolina Road, Reculver Road, Sketcheley Gardens, and Silwood Street, along with other council departments, local Police colleagues and representatives of both L&Q and Notting Hill Housing Associations to ensure that we have an up to date profile of the issues in this area, in order to put a plan in place to tackle these issues.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 10.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

28 NOVEMBER 2018

Question asked by: Dette Wolfgang

Member to reply: Councillor Best

Question

My question is in regards to why the Council have blatantly ignored the issues, raised elsewhere by Kevin Howarth, for years. All of these have been raised to death by not only me but numerous residents. There is zero accountability from the Council. So my question is, explain how these would be addressed finally? And why the council is ignoring the residents?

Reply

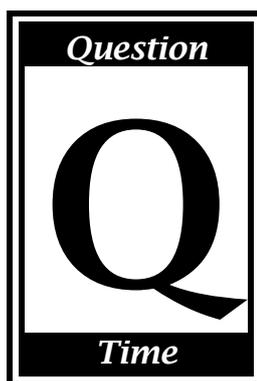
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The Cleansing Enforcement Team does not ignore residents that report abandoned vehicles. When a resident requests an update or if we need to speak to them we always will make contact. Reports made through registered users on the Council's

website benefit from automatic e-mail updates. Many reports are anonymous from non-registered users and therefore we are unable to update the complainant.

Officers from the Crime, Enforcement & Regulation Service have been in contact with Kevin Howarth, Chair of The Bermondsey South Homeowners Association, since June 2015. Over the past three years these officers have supported Mr Howarth and other members of the Homeowners Association on a range of issues raised, which have included investigating fly tipping issues alongside Southwark Council Officers to exploring ways to tackle anti-social behaviour and moped related crime in the area by engaging the Police and appropriate officers from both L&Q and Notting Hill Housing Associations. Crime Enforcement & Regulation Service Officers have also supported these residents by putting them in touch with the appropriate services to tackle specific instances of nuisance parking and dog fouling.

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PUBLIC QUESTION NO 11.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

28 NOVEMBER 2018

Question asked by: Trina Lynsky

Member to reply: The Mayor

Question

A large proportion of Lewisham's 20,500 homebuilding target will be achieved in The Evelyn Ward. Do you accept that this is a prime source of future of Section 106 (S106) and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)? There is no Masterplan in place and little attention is being given to transport infrastructure. The Mayor of London funded £2.9m resident led 'Deptford Park Liveable Neighbourhood' project in Evelyn Ward's rapidly changing landscape. Lewisham has started a New Cross Gate masterplan in advance of the Bakerloo Line extension. Extensive masterplanning is underway in Catford with a range of community engagement exercises hosted by Team Catford. Prior to the publication of the local plan in 2020 will the council:

Secure third-party agreement for the Convoys Wharf Thames Clipper and allocate S106/CIL funding to open Surrey Canal (NOT New Bermondsey) London Overground station?

Commit to funding and resourcing a masterplan for the Evelyn Ward equal to what is in place for residents elsewhere in the borough?

Reply

Firstly, Yes it is agreed that the quantum of development currently planned within Evelyn Ward means that it will draw down substantial s106 and CIL contributions

Commit to funding and resourcing a masterplan for the Evelyn Ward equal to what is in place for residents elsewhere in the borough.

The Council has undertaken a number of studies within the area:

- The north Lewisham Links
- The New Cross Gate Area Framework – whilst predominantly within New Cross Ward covers part of Evelyn
- Transport Strategy
- Character Study

In addition Masterplans have been approved via the development management process for two of the biggest development sites at New Bermondsey and Convoys Wharf.

Whilst the emerging Local plan will also provide a high level strategy for development and investment within the area.

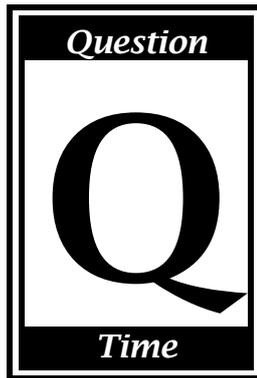
It is fair to say that there has not been a comprehensive masterplan/framework undertaking that pulls all of these strategies together with the major development sites to create a coherent development strategy for the ward.

The area does have a designated neighbourhood forum and area which should provide the opportunity for a more localized and detailed development plan to be adopted.

Commitments to Thames Clipper and Surrey Canal Station

The Convoys Wharf scheme does make commitment for a new river bus service. The design and location of the jetty to serve the clipper service currently forms part of the live planning application for plot 22 within the Convoys Wharf site.

The Surrey Canal Triangle scheme for the Overground station will be subject to similar financial support from s106, CIL and other sources linked to planning applications in its vicinity. Other developments have and will make added contribution to transport enhancement.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 12.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

28 NOVEMBER 2018

Question asked by: Mark Morris

Member to reply: Councillor Bonavia

Question

I was concerned that Lewisham Council received in September 2018 an Enforcement Notice from the Information Commission's Office relating to outstanding access requests. Please set out the reasons why Lewisham Council did not eliminate by 31st July 2018 the data backlog of 113 subject access from individuals across four directorates, the oldest of which at the time dated back to 2013? Please also state what is Lewisham Council's position in clearing the backlog of subject access requests?

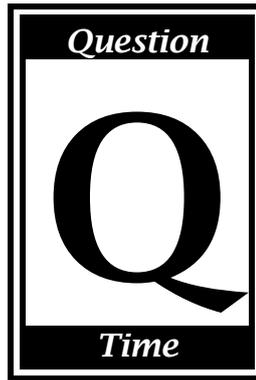
Reply

Despite best efforts and increased resourcing we were unable to meet the initial deadline of 31 July 2018. In the main this was as a result of a number of cases relating to very historic data which took a very long time to collate (with data coming from multiple services, archives and locations) and then redact appropriately.

There were 19 unresolved cases mentioned in the Information Commission's Office enforcement notice, and all of these were cleared by the 15 October 2018 deadline.

Further work has since been carried out to ensure any short term backlog is cleared and that we are dealing with subsequent requests in a timely manner.

The ICO continues to monitor our performance.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 13.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

28 NOVEMBER 2018

Question asked by: Mr Richardson

Member to reply: Councillor Slater

Question

In view of the swingeing financial cuts which must be made in order to deliver a balanced budget for 2019/20 and possibly 2020/21 is it not possible to seek alternative financial arrangements to limit the effects on community services such as Lewisham's Library and Information Service?

The Regeneration of Manor House in 2009 was made with aid of Prudential Borrowing at a fixed rate of 6% for 40 years. This approximates to £122,500 p.a. until 2049.

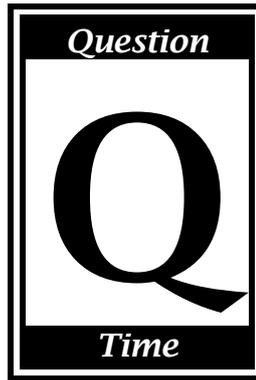
Has anyone considered the possibility of negotiating with the lender to re-set the terms of the loan under current (lower) interest rates so that any savings might be utilised to off-set the savings required in the Library Budget as currently proposed?

Reply

Yes, the Council's Treasury Strategy is set annually by Council as part of the budget and all loans are kept under regular review to ensure the Council is not overpaying for its cost of borrowing.

The Council rarely takes out hypothecated loans and did not do so for the Manor House restoration. The capital costs for the Manor House project would therefore have been part of the wider capital financing plans at the time, again as approved in the budget. The 6% interest rate in 2009 reflects the Consolidated Rate of Return (CRR) the Council was paying on its portfolio of debt at that time. This was not an inappropriate level in 2009. The most recent and audited CRR for the Council, at the 31 March 2018, was 3.8%.

Were the Council to seek to refinance the equivalent of the 'Manor House' loan within its debt portfolio with the Public Works Loan Board (PWL) for the remaining 30 years to 2049 it would have to pay the PWLB early repayment charge estimated at 1.9% and borrow the principal again at the current rate for this period which is 3.0%. These two costs combined are likely to be more than the CRR currently being paid and would therefore be a cost rather than saving to the Council.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 14.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

28 NOVEMBER 2018

Question asked by: Loredana Minini

Member to reply: The Mayor

Question

Many new housing developments in Evelyn Ward, in particular North Deptford, built in the last few years have made substantial S106 and CIL contributions to the Council. Many local residents from EVEREST (Evelyn Residents Steering Forum) and other local active groups with a track record of successful community work have made a Masterplan of regeneration projects in widespread consultation with the community. We know that the Mayor has taken the Regeneration portfolio himself. Can we have reassurances from the Mayor and the Council that they will fulfil the principle of *vicinity* which states that, when needed, the S106 and CIL contributions should be spent in local infrastructure in the proximity of the developments that made the contributions?

Reply

The use of S106 and CIL is governed by separate regulations.

S106

S106 of the Town and Country Planning Act (1990)(as amended)(‘the Act’) allows the Council to enter into a planning obligation with a developer/land owner by way of legal agreement. S106 agreements bind future land owners, and are registered as a local land charge, maintained on a public register.

Each S106 covenant defines how the individual contribution must be spent, and may include:

- a defined set of works in a specific location
- a defined/limited category of infrastructure
- a defined location where the works must be undertaken
- a time limitation by when the contribution must be spent

In each case the Council is legally obliged to spend the contribution within these definitions. Where a S106 contribution does not have specific covenants and is an “open” contribution the council is expected to use this contribution within the vicinity of the development that made the contribution.

CIL

The regulations restrict CIL spending to “funding the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure to support the development of its area”.

There is currently no definition within the regulations of what constitutes “*its area*”.

The Regulations also require the Council to define “a list of infrastructure projects or types of infrastructure that it intends will be, or may be, wholly or partly funded by CIL”.

Lewisham’s current published list includes:

- State education facilities
- Public health care facilities
- Strategic transport enhancements
- Strategic flood management infrastructure
- Publicly owned leisure facilities
- Local community facilities
- Public Emergency Services

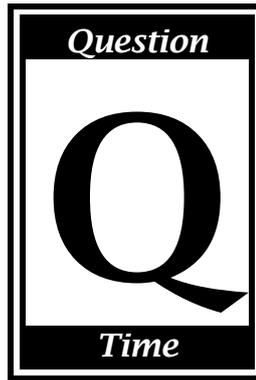
These types of infrastructure projects are inherently strategic in their nature and could cover/benefit a number of wards within the borough in its entirety. Bakerloo Line Extension for example or new Secondary school.

Neighbourhood CIL (NCIL)

The Regulations require the Council to allocate a portion of CIL receipts to be spent on local priorities, with spending of this portion subject to a wider definition of “the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure; or anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area”.

Again there is currently no definition within the regulations of what constitutes “*an area*”. There is also no prescribed process within the regulations for how to allocate or distribute NCIL.

Officers have developed an NCIL strategy which Mayor and Cabinet is due to consider on the 21st November 2018.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 15.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

28 NOVEMBER 2018

Question asked by: Amina Ismail

Member to reply: Councillor Best

Question

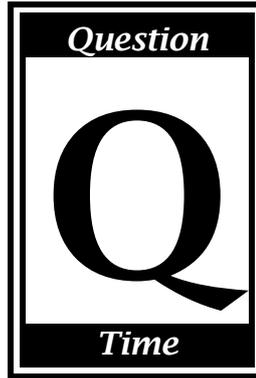
The GLA funded a consultation conducted by Public Works for and use of The Sayes Court Garden Community Internet Company. The consultation is about the use of Sayes Court Public Park by the Sayes Court Garden Company for a project part funded by GLA. What is the outcome of this consultation, who contributed and how is Lewisham Council involved?

Reply

Officers from the Council's Green Scene Department have met with members of Sayes Court Community Interest Company (CIC) on a number of occasions to discuss the CIC's aspirations for 'Sayes Court Garden' which is located on the former Convoys Wharf site.

The CIC have informed officers that they aspire to extend the current scope of the project to include 'Sayes Court Park' a public park which is located adjacent to their site on Grove Street Deptford. No formal agreement has been reached in relation to this proposal.

Officers are aware of the support provided to the CIC by the GLA in relation to their public consultation. However, we have not received any information in relation to the outcome of the consultation and are therefore unable to comment at this time.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 16.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

28 NOVEMBER 2018

Question asked by: Lucy Salek

Member to reply: Councillor Barnham

Question

Please can you provide information regarding the services available or supported through local authority funding to support children who are deaf or with hearing impairment?

In your answer, please include services provided for the council, by the council, and funding available to other organisations to provide services or support to children who are deaf or with a hearing impairment.

Can you also indicate what funding is available for the support of children who are deaf or hearing impaired that has not yet been allocated or awarded, and why this has not been allocated or awarded?

Reply

Lewisham Council employs a **Sensory Teachers Team** 3.3 full time equivalent Qualified Teachers of the Deaf who work peripatetically supporting deaf hearing impaired children & young people (CYP) from diagnosis. The age range covered is 0

– 25. The Sensory Teachers Team works with all CYP with diagnosis of permanent hearing loss (by an audiologist).

In the early years the service provides a fortnightly pre-school teaching group at Kaleidoscope for parents and children as well as home visits and nursery visits. The service also offers the National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS) Family Sign programme (currently being delivered to two families with a baby/toddler with profound Hearing Impairment).

Children and young people in mainstream schools and Colleges are supported by the Teachers of the Deaf through assessment, listening device management (e.g. hearing aids and radio aids), training for staff and direct teaching as appropriate. Mental health and social support is offered through a variety of activities including delivery of NDCS Healthy Minds programme and "Keep in Touch" Days which offer children & young people a chance to meet up with other deaf/Deaf/Hearing Impaired young people (the latter is supported by funding from Lewisham Children First charity). The level of support offered is informed by the nationally accepted Eligibility Framework.

Children and young people in generic special schools in Lewisham are supported in a similar way as those in mainstream but there is more emphasis on training and empowering classroom staff rather than direct teaching. The service offers half a day input from a Teacher of the Deaf weekly to Watergate and Greenvale Schools, due to the numbers of deaf/Deaf/Hearing Impairment pupils attending.

Specialist equipment such as radio aids are funded and managed by the service.

There are three **specialist Resource Bases** (Deaf Education Centres) in Lewisham at Coopers Lane (primary), Rushey Green (primary) and Sedgemoor (secondary). All Deaf Education Centres have a qualified Teacher of the Deaf who, along with their specialist staff, support the pupils in achieving the outcomes within their Education Health and Care Plan.

Out of Borough Specialist Provision

The Council currently funds 6 young people to attend secondary specialist schools for the Deaf outside of the borough (Oak Lodge and Mary Hare). There are no primary children placed in specialist schools for the Deaf which reflects our increasing capacity to meet need within Lewisham.

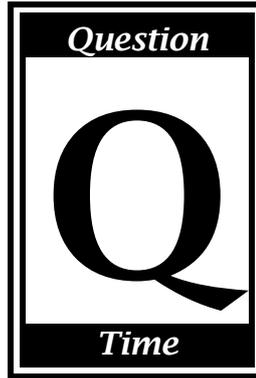
Health Services

In addition to those provided by the local authority, Lewisham Clinical Commissioning Group commissions a number of services helping to manage sensory impairment. These Services are the Paediatric Audiology and Newborn Hearing Screening Programme, the Community Medical Paediatric Service and the Speech and Language Therapy Service.

The Paediatric Audiology Service offers a specialist audiology service Lewisham children and young people between the ages of 0 to 19 years old. Clinics take place at Kaleidoscope (Rushey Green) providing assessments for pre-school and school-age children to determine the nature and severity of any hearing disorders, including those which may have a more serious disorder which requires further investigation in a specialist clinic. Following the introduction of the National Newborn hearing screening Programme, the Paediatric Audiology Service also provides the diagnostic assessment for children who are shown by the screening to have a potential issue.

Deafness and hearing impairment are conditions seen by the **Speech and Language therapist** who are also based in Kaleidoscope, where they offer assessment, differential diagnosis, intervention and management of children and young people with various speech, language and communication difficulties. The impairments may be a primary difficulty or may be secondary to another condition such as autism or learning disability. The Speech and Language service work as part of a multi-disciplinary team with Community Medical Paediatrics, who also run clinics managing sensorineural hearing loss, conductive hearing loss and developmental low vision.

Funding for these services, both in health and in education, is not ring-fenced to support specific groups. It is prioritised within wider budgets to meet the needs of this group of young people.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 17.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

28 NOVEMBER 2018

Question asked by: Ruel Ru

Member to reply: The Mayor

Question

When was the manifesto created?

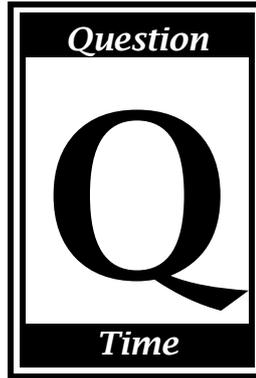
Reply

Lewisham Labour launched its manifesto for the May local elections in April 2018. This followed months of close consultation with local community and voluntary groups and residents.

I am grateful to the people of Lewisham for voting for the 54 Labour candidates who stood on our bold and radical platform. The election result gave us a clear mandate to make life better for residents in Lewisham.

The manifesto set out our vision for how we will achieve this; ensuring an Open Lewisham, tackling the housing crisis, giving children and young people the best start in life, building an economy for the many, protecting our NHS and social care, making Lewisham greener and building safer communities.

The visions of that manifesto are now being taken forward and set out a new direction for this Council, as we look to the future and build on our strong foundations.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 18.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

28 NOVEMBER 2018

Question asked by: Martin Cox

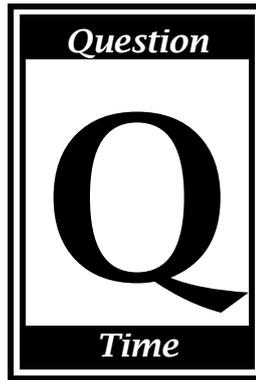
Member to reply: Councillor Bell

Question

Despite the reply to my question at the Council meeting on 21 February 2018 the house at 105 Burnt Ash Hill is still empty. What action will the Council now take?

Reply

Officers from the Private Sector Housing Agency met with the owner of this development during the summer and offered the developer a range of partnership options. Internal works to the 3 flats is almost complete, including the installation of new windows which had to be specially manufactured. Landscaping to the rear of the building is complete. Works to the front garden are pending. The owner has been contacted and he has informed the Council that all of the flats are being marketed by Cockburn's estate agent based in Mottingham and he hopes to have tenants in the near future.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 19.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

28 NOVEMBER 2018

Question asked by: Mark Rochell

Member to reply: Cllr de Ryk

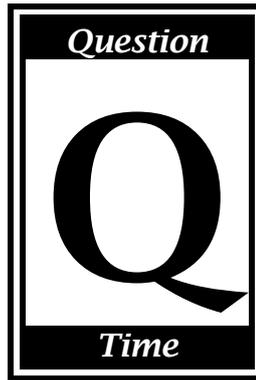
Question

Could the Council disclose the full amounts paid to Ian Thomas in his role as Chief Executive of Lewisham Council, including any payment made (or committed to pay) in settlement of his contract?

Reply

The salary band of the Chief Executive is £175,000-£185,000.

As with any member of the Council's staff, from senior management to junior officers, the Council does not comment on individual employment matters. This is to protect the privacy and confidentiality of individuals and is in line with a best practice employer approach.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 20.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

28 NOVEMBER 2018

Question asked by: Clare Lorraine Phipps

Member to reply: Councillor Best.

Question

Can the Council confirm that, in light of the IPCC findings, it will be putting in place an emergency strategy to reduce the borough's emissions within the 12 years necessary to avoid the worse impacts of climate change?

Reply

The Council recognises the threat of climate change and the importance of taking action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate against the impacts that changes to climate are likely to have.

In 2013 Lewisham Council set the current target for reducing carbon emissions in the borough of a 44% reduction in emissions by 2020 against a baseline of 2005.

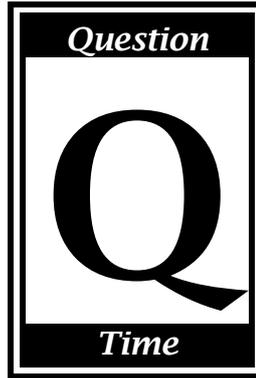
Based on the most recent government CO2 emissions dataset (2005-2016) <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics-2005-2016>, published in 2018, total carbon emissions in Lewisham were 764.50 tonnes. This is a reduction of 35% over the 11 years this data has been collected, or four-fifths of the way to the overall target of 44% in just under three-quarters of the timeframe.

Lewisham's Mayor was elected on a manifesto that included the following commitments relevant to carbon reduction and energy efficiency in the borough:

- *Lewisham Council will maximise opportunities for energy efficiency in all council buildings and new developments*
- *We will explore working with publicly owned not-for-profit energy suppliers that do not penalise poorer residents using pre-pay meters*

The Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 (HECA) included provisions to require reports from local authorities with responsibility for housing. In 2012 the Department of Energy and Climate Change published a requirement under HECA for all local authorities in England to report on the energy efficiency measures for housing in their area. This is the document used to communicate the Council's plans on carbon reduction and energy efficiency and delivery of the relevant Mayor's manifesto commitments.

Lewisham Council is next due to publish a report in accordance with the HECA regulations in March 2019.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 21.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

28 NOVEMBER 2018

Question asked by: Anthony Crowther

Member to reply: Councillor Bell

Question

Lewisham Council has recently employed a security firm to evict protesters from the Old Tidemill gardens site in Deptford and to provide continued security on the site.

How much has been spent on this operation so far and how much more is the Council projecting it will spend?

Was this spending budgeted for?

Will any of the costs be shared by the developer(s) of the site?

Reply

The cost of the eviction was £105,188. The ongoing security costs have not yet been issued to the Council and due to the ever changing number of guards on the site at any one time, we cannot give an accurate projected spend. This scheme is about 56% social housing. The human cost to the individuals and families that are homeless or without a suitable, secure home is far greater than the costs forced upon the council by the occupiers of the garden.

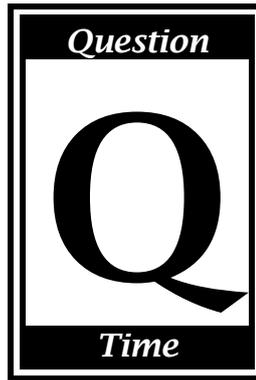
This money was spent because the garden group reneged on their original agreement that the site would be handed back when requested by the Council and illegally occupied the site. The original budget for security did not include for the enforcement action and ongoing security costs for the site.

The Council are keen to reduce the numbers of security on the site as quickly as possible. However, this has not been possible due to the continued attempts to force entry on to the site by the illegal occupiers as well as violence towards the security staff. The completion of the hoarding works will mean that the security numbers can be reviewed and reduced if possible.

The Council is disappointed that the actions of illegal occupiers has forced the Council to spend this large sum of money which should have been much better used elsewhere for those in real housing need.

Whilst the land is in ownership of the Council, we are responsible for the costs of the security. We have been unable to hand the site over to the developers due to the ongoing judicial review that is being led by the group that illegally occupied the site. Their challenge has already been rejected by the courts twice, but unfortunately they have decided to appeal the court's decision.

While we fully support the legal process evaluating the Council's decision for the third time, it is the actions of the occupiers that have caused these costs. The people suffering the day-to-day consequences of the occupation against new social homes are the local residents. The Council is committed to enabling them to live their lives in peace. Once the court proceedings are exhausted, we can move forward in housing 104 additional people and families into decent, social homes.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 22.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

28 NOVEMBER 2018

Question asked by: Harriet Vickers

Member to reply: Councillor Bell

Question

Why hasn't work started on the Amersham Vale development site, and when is it expected to? This site has been grouped through planning with the Tidemill development site, together they have been referred to as 'Deptford Southern Housing sites'. Amersham Vale will deliver 24 social homes (20% of the development). The Council has stressed these are desperately needed and it wants to see social homes built as soon as possible. And given the continued opposition to the current development plans at Tidemill, was it ever considered to densify Amersham Vale, or to shift more of the social homes to this site, to avoid demolition of current Council homes and Tidemill Garden? If not, why not?

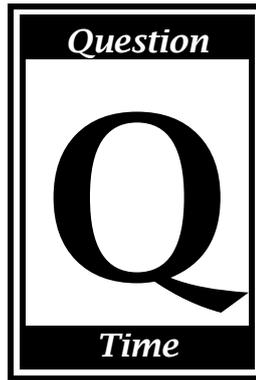
Reply

The proposal for 120 new homes at the Amersham Vale site, including 24 for social rent and 15 for shared ownership (33% affordable housing in total) was approved by Planning Committee in 2016.

However, although there are two separate planning approvals for Amersham Vale and Tidemill, the two schemes are contractually linked and unfortunately the construction at Amersham Vale has been delayed by the ongoing judicial review on

the Tidemill site. As soon as this concludes, the construction process for both sites, which together will deliver 128 new social homes and 53 for shared ownership, will get started.

The Tidemill development comprises 76% affordable properties, and the Amersham Vale development has 33% affordable properties.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 23.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

28 NOVEMBER 2018

Question asked by: Heather Gilmore

Member to reply: Councillor Bell

Question

Please state why the spending of £50k for a community led collaborative design process to redraw the plans for the Tidemill Development (requested by the campaigners for the last 4 years) was not initiated and approved by Mayor and Cabinet yet the spending of the still rising figure of over £600k as of 13th November – 16 days after the eviction) has been approved, to seize and retain this publicly owned land, to push through a plan that is extremely unpopular with the local community?

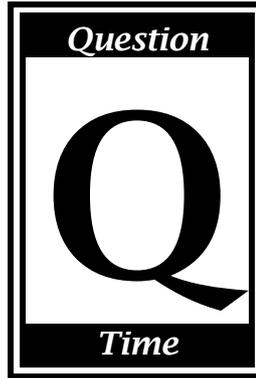
Reply

The Council does not accept that £50k is a realistic cost to get an alternative scheme to the point that we are currently at now. We believe that all options have been explored and that the current proposals will deliver the highest number of affordable housing that the Borough needs. We reviewed an alternative proposal at the request of the garden group. The architect team on the project spent a considerable amount of time discussing the proposal in detail with its author. Whilst an interesting proposal, it fell short on a number of critical urban design accessibility and quality-of-housing aspects and would therefore have been impossible to deliver.

The proposals that have been approved by the planning committee have been developed in line with an overall design masterplan for Deptford, ensuring connectivity, ease of access and maximising the number of homes that can acceptably be delivered on site whilst maintaining high-quality living standards for residents including the new proposed green spaces. These plans have been developed through extensive consultation over a decade, with the community, local stakeholders, planners and the Lewisham Design Review Panel.

The Tidemill site will deliver a net increase of 104 new social homes for Lewisham families in housing need. The provisions of these new social homes has been delayed by the illegal occupation of the site, and through challenges in the courts. The Council is doing everything it can to accelerate the delivery of these new homes, and will keep striving to provide genuinely affordable homes for the families on our Housing Register.

Finally, there are residents who live locally who support the scheme.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 24.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

28 NOVEMBER 2018

Question asked by: Rosalind Huish

Member to reply: Councillor Bonavia

Question

Please can you advise why the 'latest council performance reports' available online end in March 2018 when an even more democratic, open and transparent council is one of the strategic goals of the current administration?

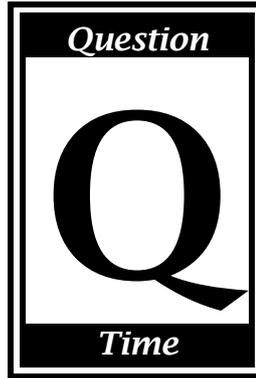
Reply

The Council is currently reviewing its performance management arrangements including the reports published online.

The aim of the review is twofold. First, future reporting will be aligned to the Council's new Corporate Strategy which will be based on the priorities set out in the manifesto on which the current administration was elected in May of this year.

Second, the format of presentation of the performance data is being redesigned to make it more accessible to the public in line with the general principle of openness and transparency.

Work on both the Council's new Corporate Strategy and online performance reports is nearing completion and I expect these to be in place in the New Year.



ED R & R
PUBLIC QUESTION NO 25.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

28 NOVEMBER 2018

Question asked by: Gurpreet Kaur

Member to reply: The Mayor

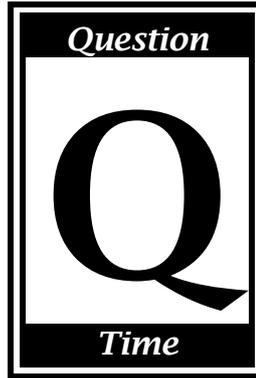
Question

Does a plan exist, which we believe was written by Ian Thomas, which sets out the future?

Reply

The Chief Executive has not presented any formal plans for the future to any of the Council's decision making bodies.

The Council's future vision and direction will be set out in our Corporate Strategy, which will be presented to Mayor & Cabinet in December 2018.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 26.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

28 NOVEMBER 2018

Question asked by: Carole Hope

Member to reply: Councillor Best

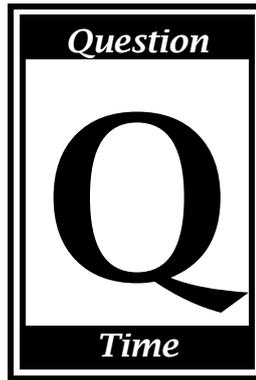
Question

On 9th October the Beckenham Place Park Twitter account, run by a volunteer known to the Council's project team, tweeted that they had met with the Royal National Lifeboat Institute and Royal Life Saving Society UK. Please advise the safety measures to be implemented for wild swimming and other water sports to take place in the park.

Reply

The Beckenham Place Park Twitter account is not run by the Council and Council officers were not party to the meetings mentioned.

Council officers will be meeting with relevant organisations to develop appropriate safety measures for any water activities permitted in the park. These policies will be developed before swimming or any other water sport use is permitted in the newly created lake. Officers are also working with relevant organisations to promote water safety awareness through local schools. Safety notices and buoyancy aids will also be provided in the park as part of the restoration programme.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 27.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

28 NOVEMBER 2018

Question asked by: Luciana Duailibe

Member to reply: The Mayor

Question

Do you remember a young person in the New Cross assembly asked you “what can you provide for young people in the community?” Which you didn’t answer making the community very angry about that. As our new Mayor you just authorised the demolition of Tidemill Garden, a wildlife play area for children and young people, listed by the Mayor of London as one of safe environments for children and young people to play. Researchers have confirmed that wildlife environments helps young people to be less violent and tackles crimes. Why are you destroying a wildlife in Deptford that could be used as an educational site for children, young people and schools around our area?

Reply

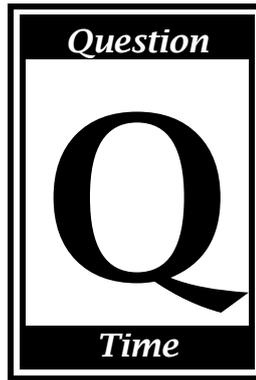
Lewisham Council is firmly committed to giving children and young people in Lewisham the best start in life.

We have protected our youth services, and created Youth First to work in partnership with the Council to sustain and grow youth work in the borough. We are continuing to support our primary and secondary schools to maintain their high quality and ensure

standards continue to improve. We will also support an extra 250 apprentices through the Lewisham Mayor's Apprenticeship Service.

We understand that the garden is popular amongst local people however this was gifted to the community as a meanwhile use in 2014 on the agreement that this would be handed back to the Council once the development of the site was ready to begin. The new development will provide new open spaces including a linear park, a pocket park and private communal gardens available to residents of the new homes and those who live in Frankham House. Peabody have established a working group made up of local residents to assist in advising on the detailed design and function of the public open spaces. These new spaces would be open to the public at all times, maximising access for children, from wider community.

A new public park, Charlottenburg Park, has also been provided by Peabody at their own financial risk on the Amersham Vale site as part of the wider scheme and was opened in September 2016.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 28.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

28 NOVEMBER 2018

Question asked by: Will Miles

Member to reply: Councillor Slater

Question

Given the circumstances of overall council budget cuts by government this year, do you believe there is the risk that the knock on effect of library cuts will both discriminate against the wellbeing and opportunities of the most vulnerable people of the borough, and leave a massive drain on council reserves? Reading the facts suggests that costs rise as reduced library services are proven to mean increased visits to GPs, and also an increase in public disorder and leaving people to struggle without utility and become more reliant on intensive speciality council services. It could conceivably mean that by 2020, assuming the Tories remain in power, these cuts will have bought us no further from the danger of setting a reckless illegal budget and sacrificed our library service for no discernible benefit.

To help council avoid such a mistake, I ask how, without an impact equalities assessment, do you know these cuts represent a good economy for Lewisham and why in such extreme circumstances hasn't council done the research to know the impact and to look before it leaps?

Reply

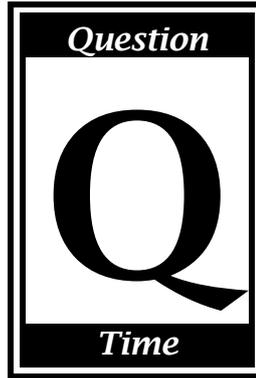
Any proposed library cuts would come into effect on 1 April 2020 and have no direct implications on reserves.

As a statutory service to all residents, any cut to libraries affects all the residents, although, their effect may be more acute on the vulnerable, the young, and the poor.

The Library Service will produce a full EIA to be presented to Mayor and Cabinet when a final decision on library cuts proposals is taken.

We undertake the Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) alongside the consultation on proposals themselves. Residents are often able to provide good insight into the impact of proposals which can then be added to the equalities data that we hold.

The Mayor and Cabinet will not make any decision about the impact of these cuts without the results of the consultation and EIA.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 29.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

28 NOVEMBER 2018

Question asked by: Leila Thomas

Member to reply: Councillor Reid

Question

Are you aware of the following statistics?

Lewisham:

- Victims of serious youth violence: April 2017: 284 - April 2016: 222
- Injuries in knife crime: April 2017: 87 – April 2016: 70

Can I remind you that in the Mayors manifesto it states:

Giving children and young people the best start in life

'Work with parents and schools to reduce exclusions as they impact disproportionately on black pupils'

Regarding working with parents of black pupils to reduce exclusions in Lewisham - Please can you advise what the plan is and target implementation dates?

Reply

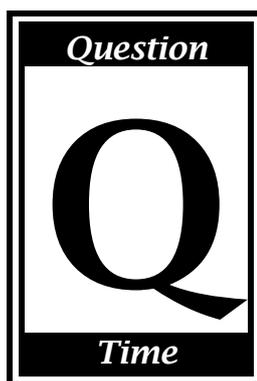
Lewisham primary schools had zero permanent exclusions last academic year. In Lewisham secondary schools there were 43 permanent exclusions. This is part of a downward trend, being 32% less than in 2016/17 and 45% less than in 2015/16. But this is still too high, hence the focus in our plans on reducing the numbers of permanent exclusions, particularly among overrepresented groups. Analysis by ethnicity shows that black Caribbean pupils were over represented in those excluded.

To reduce the number of permanent exclusions we are:

- Working with schools to make sure that they are identifying early those at risk of exclusion and are accessing the support services available to offer early intervention
- Research to understand the child's journey - risks and protective factors
- Approaching out of borough schools where exclusions of Lewisham young people are a concern
- Development of the offer at Abbey Manor College to include an Assessment Hub from September 2018 so that there is a holistic assessment of young people's needs and a personalised programme of study and support
- Improving the Behaviour Outreach Service which supports children to stay in their mainstream setting
- Close working with mental health services to improve young people's access to support

In addition, the Children and Young People's Select Committee is doing an In Depth Review to look at how exclusions can be further reduced, in particular looking at examples of good practice in other local authorities and other countries.

Part of the action plan will also include a parent's forum to actively engage them with the development of the Inclusion Strategy



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 30.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

28 NOVEMBER 2018

Question asked by: Ruby Radburn

Member to reply: Councillor Bell

Question

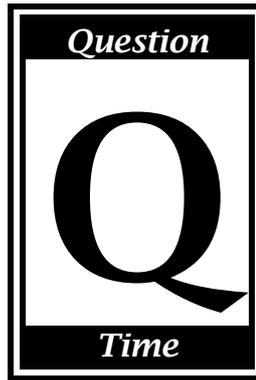
What impact assessment was done in preparation for the eviction of Old Tidemill Garden and the ongoing security operation, in terms of how it would affect local residents on a practical, emotional and psychological level?

Reply

A full risk assessment was carried out by County Enforcement and reviewed by the Council prior to the eviction. This risk assessment took into consideration the health and safety of both the members of the public as well as enforcement agents and guards. Council Officers do appreciate that the presence of the security team has made some feel uneasy at times and are keen to scale back the security currently on site. Unfortunately, due to repeated attempts to illegally force entry to the garden by some protestors, this will not be possible until the hoarding to the site has been completed.

The Council is disappointed that it was forced to evict the group illegally occupying the site, but we cannot allow a small group of people acting illegally to further delay the building of 104 additional social homes for people in desperate need of safe, secure and affordable housing.

However, this is little comfort when local residents have had their lives affected by the occupation, protests and then eviction followed by more protests. The Council is working as hard and as quickly as it can to reduce the impact on local residents.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 31.

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

28 NOVEMBER 2018

Question asked by: Anne Delion

Member to reply: Councillor Bell

Question

Do you accept that if the current Tidemill scheme goes ahead there will be a net loss of 124 trees, as the 45 trees felled at the Tideway site on Deptford Church St will not be replaced until 2021? 14 roadside trees will be felled at No.1 Creekside, and the environmental report for that development states that residents will need to close their windows at peak traffic times. Building work is planned for Sun Wharf, Creekside Village East and Convoys Wharf, with an increase in construction traffic on surrounding roads. Tideway has closed two lanes of Deptford Church Street for 3 years, causing traffic congestion, stationary buses, HGVs and emergency vehicles. Pollution levels on Deptford Church Street were shown in 2017 to be already 6 times higher than World Health Organisation safe levels. Demolition and building works increase pollution levels by an average of 6%. Increases in asthma, heart disease and dementia can all be attributed to high pollution levels.

What is Lewisham Council doing to protect the health of residents in this part of Deptford and to mitigate these appalling pollutions levels?

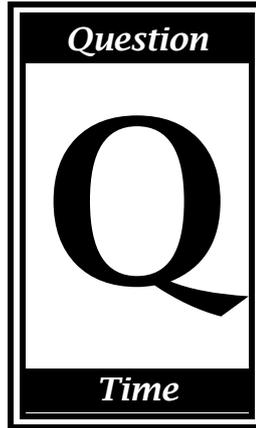
Reply

In the Landscaping plans for the Frankham Street Development we can confirm that the original plan allowed for the retention of a total of 9 of the existing trees within the Tidemill Garden. Through the community consultation workshops, with input from the residents and further survey work, our Landscape Architect has successfully been able to increase this. Aligned to the new proposal, the number of trees to be retained has now more than doubled to a total of 21.

Further, as requested, we have had a specialist tree surgeon consultancy survey the remaining trees to assess their viability to be removed and replanted in the new design, or at another site. The conclusion was that there is very low possibility to guarantee their long term growth and survival. This is due to the size, current locations and existing tree condition.

The emerging Landscape design for the gardens at Frankham currently includes 52 new trees to be planted, bringing number to 83 in total. Importantly, this is a higher number of trees than there are at the site currently. These new trees will be a mixture of species and size maturities, including Indian Bean trees as requested. This will have good ecological benefits to the gardens overall, an aspect that has been carefully considered in the emerging new designs.

It is also essential to consider the health impacts of not having safe, secure and affordable housing, a situation that is an unfortunate reality for the almost 10,000 families on the Council's Housing Register. The Tidemill site will deliver 104 new social homes to help address this crisis, which will have massive and positive impact on the families that will be able to live there in perpetuity.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 32.

Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

28 November 2018

Question asked by: Keme Nzerem

Member to reply: Councillor Dacres

Question

Why at the time of writing, on Monday 5th November, with the football season now underway, and several competitions entered for, has there still not to, my knowledge, been a decision made regarding funding the Lewisham district under 11s girls football team, whereas the equivalent boys team has had its funding confirmed and in place for some weeks now.

The girls team are scheduled to play their first competitive fixture on Sat 10th Nov, and at the time of writing do not know whether they will have any council funding in place for training, or even a kit - and transport. The boys have has theirs for some time.

Please explain reasons for the failure to decide on funding for the girls' team, and provide an undertaking that the girls' team will have the necessary funding confirmed before or by the time of the next council meeting of 21st Nov.

Please could the Council confirm whether an equality assessment has been conducted regarding the failure to confirm funding of the girls team, and if so what the outcome was.

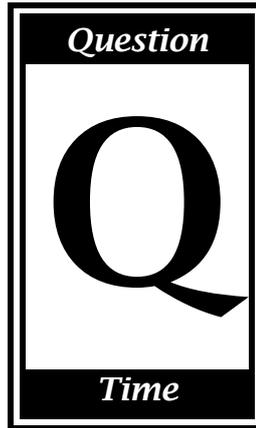
Reply

As has been explained in other questions, the Council does not directly fund girls or boys football teams.

Four years ago the decision was made to provide Council funding through a Lewisham football network, facilitated by the London FA. The network was set up so that a strategic approach and more flexible response could be taken to football development in the borough as well as disperse small amounts of funding to clubs and teams. The network has proved to be an effective means of increasing participation, beyond the sports traditional young male reach as well as providing important pathways for residents to train as coaches and referees.

Earlier this year we were notified by the London FA that it could no longer facilitate the network because of a staff restructure and it would no longer be claiming the grant provided. At this point officers approached Millwall Community Trust to explore whether it would be possible for the organisation to take over this work. An agreement was reached and transfer of funding has recently been formally approved. However, this has led to a temporary interruption in funding which has been beyond the Council's control and with the result that funding for activity in 2018/19 has not yet been agreed. This will now take place as a matter of urgency and decisions will be made without any gender bias.

No equality assessment has taken place because no decision to cease funding was taken.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 33.

Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

28 NOVEMBER 2018

Question asked by: John Hamilton

Member to reply: The Mayor

Question

Are you aware in March 2017, CTIL erected 4 masts on the roof of a council building, Forsythia House, without planning permission, any consultation or even informing the residents of the building. A petition of 350 signatures was submitted to the council opposing the installation. In February this year, in granting a judicial review, a high court judge ruled that the council had acted irrationally in failing to enforce against the installation. In March, at a televised demonstration, direct action decommissioned the installation. In October the Information Commissioners Office decided that the council was illegally withholding information about its decision to allow the installation to be constructed on its property. Yet the masts are still in place and the council has still taken no action.

Does the council believe that council buildings in Lewisham are exempt from planning laws?

If not, how long does it take the council to take enforcement action against unlawful developments in Lewisham?

Is the council still earning rent from the lease over the roof? How much is that rent?

How many other unlawful installations has CTIL constructed in Lewisham on council buildings?

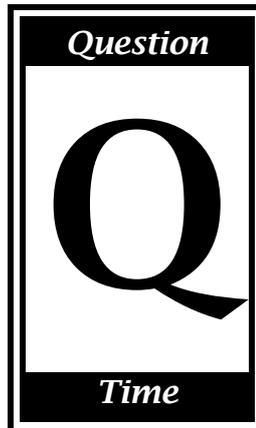
Reply

This case is currently being dealt with in a formal appeal that will be heard in the courts next year. The Council will not be taking any action until the outcome of the appeal.

Council buildings are not exempt from planning laws. As a responsible public body it is expected that the Council will operate in a responsible way in respect of planning law.

As a responsible public body, the Council would not take enforcement action against itself. In a case where development has taken place on one of its own buildings it would be expected to take action on the landowner to resolve the matter.

The Council currently receives £15,000 per annum from the lease. There are no other unlawful installations of this nature on Council buildings.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 34.

Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

28 NOVEMBER 2018

Question asked by: Mrs Richardson

Member to reply: The Mayor

Question

Will you accept after 7 months the public has been told that its recently appointed CEO, its chief public servant, is standing down due to change in direction of the Council.

Barry Quirk, the long-standing CEO, was on secondment from about mid 2017, and then resigned. The Council then took considerable time and trouble in short-listing, interviewing and appraising candidates. All this was done in the knowledge that an election was due 3rd May 2018. Was it not apparent that a change of direction might be on the horizon and should not the new administration have been in charge of the selection and appointment procedure? What is the point of a CEO if the history of the last 18 months of the post is allowed?

Has this been a costly exercise for the public, plus re-running it again? What are the costs involved? Has there been a considerable package awarded to Mr Thomas, for

wasting his time and possible career prospects? Have both parties to this agreement signed non-disclosure agreements?

Reply

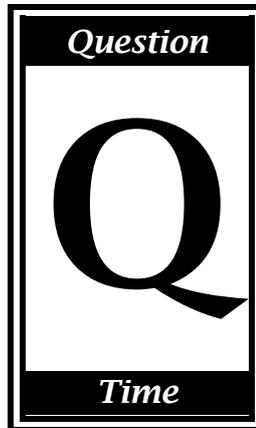
At the election in May 2018, Lewisham Labour set out a bold and radical manifesto for Lewisham. I was elected alongside 54 Labour councillors to carry out the manifesto the local Labour party created in partnership with the community.

The Council's future vision and direction will be set out in our Corporate Strategy, which will be presented to Mayor & Cabinet in December 2018. Our new Corporate Strategy will be based on the manifesto that councillors and myself were elected to deliver.

The Corporate Strategy will recommend that the Council adopts these priorities for our borough:

- **Open Lewisham** - Lewisham is a welcoming place of safety for all where we celebrate the diversity that strengthens us.
- **Tackling the housing crisis** - Everyone has a decent home that is secure and affordable.
- **Giving children and young people the best start in life** - Every child has access to an outstanding and inspiring education and is given the support they need to keep them safe, well and able to achieve their full potential.
- **Building an inclusive local economy** - Everyone can access high quality job opportunities, with decent pay and security in our thriving and inclusive local economy.
- **Delivering & defending: health, social care and support** - Ensuring everyone receives the health, mental health, social care and support services they need.
- **Making Lewisham greener** - Everyone enjoys our green spaces and benefits from a healthy environment as we work to protect and improve our local environment.
- **Building safer communities** - Every resident feels safe and secure living here as we work together towards a borough free from the fear of crime.

As with any member of the Council's staff, from senior management to junior officers, the Council does not comment on individual employment matters. This is to protect the privacy and confidentiality of individuals and is in line with a best practice employer approach.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 35.

Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

28 NOVEMBER 2018

Question asked by: Mr Da Silva Pereira

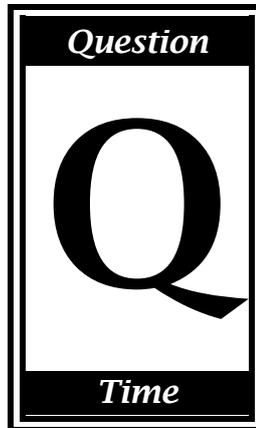
Member to reply: Councillor Bell

Question

Please could the Council provide a map of the Silwood Estate?

Reply

The Council has a Licence Agreement with the Ordnance Survey regarding the supply of maps to third parties. However, subject to compliance with the terms of the Licence Agreement the Council is happy to provide a map. If Mr Da Silva Pereira would like to contact the Head of Planning he will make arrangements to facilitate this if possible.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 36.

Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

28 NOVEMBER 2018

Question asked by: Kevin Howarth

Member to reply: Councillor Reid

Question

What are Lewisham Council going to do about the blatant criminal activities and lack of security taking place along Bolina Road? e.g: Fire setting under railway arches, stolen mopeds being abandoned and burnt, cars being abandoned and vandalised, drug dealing, graffiti, vandalism, major littering, etc.!

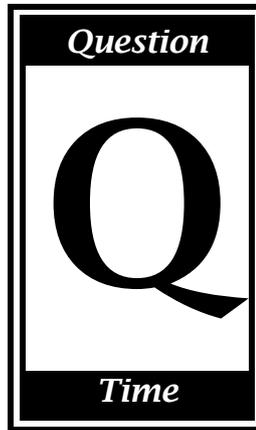
Reply

The Cleansing Enforcement Team (formerly Clean Streets Enforcement) proactively and reactively deal with the issues within the team's remit on a regular basis at Bolina Road. Formal action is regularly taken in relation to vehicle abandonment. This includes serving of enforcement notices and removal of vehicles deemed

abandoned by the Council. This location benefits from pre-planned enforcement operations and one such operation will be taking place shortly.

Officers from the Crime, Enforcement & Regulation Service have been in contact with Kevin Howarth, Chair of The Bermondsey South Homeowners Association, since June 2015. Over the past three years these officers have supported Mr Howarth and other members of the Homeowners Association on a range of issues raised, which have included investigating fly tipping issues alongside Southwark Council officers to exploring ways to tackle anti-social behaviour and moped related crime in the area by engaging the Police and appropriate officers from both L&Q and Notting Hill Housing Associations. Crime Enforcement & Regulation Service officers have also supported these residents by putting them in touch with the appropriate services to tackle specific instances of nuisance parking and dog fouling.

The Crime, Enforcement & Regulation Service is happy to conduct another meeting and walkabout with residents of Bolina Road, Reculver Road, Sketcheley Gardens, and Silwood Street, along with other council departments, local Police colleagues and representatives of both L&Q and Notting Hill Housing Associations to ensure that we have an up to date profile of the issues in this area, in order to put a plan in place to tackle these issues.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 37.

Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

28 NOVEMBER 2018

Question asked by: Mark Morris

Member to reply: The Mayor

Question

Further to the answer given by the Mayor on 18th July 2018 (Public Question 9) it was stated that 'an additional budgetary resource will be required to enable the Council to deliver the footbridge'. The Mayor's answer also suggested other transport improvements would be considered if the pedestrian bridge does not go ahead, with consultation taking place in January and February 2019. Can I ask that Lewisham Council does not overlook the case of ensuring step free access is delivered to Catford Station and that full consideration is given to the timescale and decision making process of Network Rail in funding step free projects under the Access for All scheme. In particular that funding decisions for Control Period 6 require nominations to have been made by Friday 16 November, and with bids being

favoured which have a third party source of funding. Having failed to deliver a pedestrian bridge, will Lewisham Council not lose the opportunity to deliver step free access to this station?

Reply

The previous response provided to question 9 of the Council meeting of 18 July advised that the Council had received a letter sent on behalf of Barratt's in June 2018 that they now wish to pay the footbridge contribution to Lewisham in accordance with the provisions of the S106 Agreement rather than construct the footbridge themselves.

The response further verified under the terms of the Section 106 Agreement the Council then has to either apply the footbridge contribution for the purposes of delivering the footbridge itself or for either Station Improvement Purposes (as defined in the Section 106 Agreement) and/or such other infrastructure improvements in the vicinity of and relating to the development as are notified to Barratt's and which in the Council's opinion meet certain legal tests.

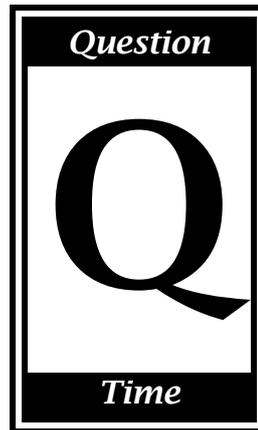
Lewisham have responded in writing to the representatives for Barratt's and are in the process of awaiting further feedback from them.

The response to Question. 9 also referred to the current Catford Masterplan being in progress by the Council's team of architects and urban designers, the outcome of which will help formulate future proposals for the town centre.

The Masterplan will not be complete until next year and will require Council approval before any outputs from the Masterplan could be further developed. Furthermore the matter of S106 funding for the Catford footbridge and any consideration to re-direct this towards station improvements is also still not decided, public consultation due to be undertaken as part of the Masterplan process in February next year may also inform whether a footbridge is still required .

The Council is therefore not currently in a position to make a direct funding application to Network Rail for Catford under the Access for All scheme. However, the train operating companies have been running their own public engagement process to identify stations in need of improvements to step free access. During this process the Council highlighted the need for accessibility enhancements at a number of the boroughs stations, including Catford. Residents and stakeholders will also have also have put forward their own nominations. It is understood that GTR, who are the train operating company for Catford station, has included it in their wider submission to Network Rail, but without any commitment to third party funding from the Council. This submission also includes a number of other stations on their network, and it is possible that GTR may consider other stations on their network more of a priority than Catford when scored against the DfT (Department for Transport) assessment criteria.

Any future partnering interventions between the Council and Network Rail must be considered in conjunction with an agreed approach to Catford's future blueprint that will be influenced through stakeholder consultation. However step free access to the borough's stations is something that the Council wish to achieve for its community and will certainly form part of future objectives for transport infrastructure within Catford town centre.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 38.

Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

28 NOVEMBER 2018

Question asked by: Loredana Minini

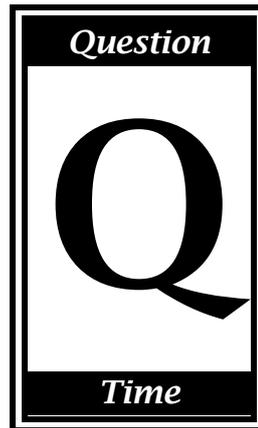
Member to reply: The Mayor

Question

In relation to my previous question asking reassurances that S106 and CIL contributions coming from the Evelyn Ward will be spent in local infrastructure, does the Council agree that there is a need for regenerating several aspects of the public infrastructure in the Evelyn Ward and in particular in North Deptford.

Reply

The Council does routinely review public infrastructure, and is keen to receive suggestions where local communities consider infrastructure is lacking. When required infrastructure projects are included for improvement in redevelopment schemes.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 39.

Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

28 NOVEMBER 2018

Question asked by: Mr Richardson

Member to reply: Councillor Slater

Question

I recently attended a Safer Stronger Select Committee meeting (Monday 5th November 2018) which was considering swingeing cuts to the Council's budget in order to produce a balanced budget for the next financial year. Included was a further devastating cut to the Library Budget which focuses on staff cuts in order to achieve the required saving. Only Lewisham Central is proposing to be manned by library staff.

Do you accept this may have severe effects on the existing Community Library portfolio because the cuts will surely limit the numbers of peripatetic staff available to support volunteer-manned community libraries?

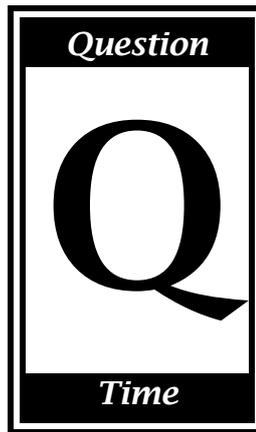
Will this fail to meet the terms of contracts already agreed by the management company providers with the Council, who are delivering community libraries and operating in Council library buildings?

Will these contracts therefore be required to be re-negotiated?

Reply

Mayor and Cabinet on 21 November decided not to agree the library savings proposals as they stand and asked officers to undertake a feasibility study for the redevelopment of Lewisham Library. It is hoped that a redeveloped Central Library could provide a more efficient building and potential for income generation. Mayor and Cabinet will reconsider the libraries savings once the outcome of this feasibility study is known.

No change to the agreements with Community Library Partners are anticipated.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 40.

Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

28 NOVEMBER 2018

Question asked by: Moira Kerrane

Member to reply: The Mayor

Question

Given the increase in Stop and Search and the increased activity of the Violent Task Force in Evelyn Ward can the Mayor review the local Youth services offer in terms of extending opening hours and service days of Riverside and Wood Pecker youth Clubs, from 3 times a week for three hours?

On the days clubs are closed the offer is the very popular XLP travelling bus, parks outside closed youth buildings; Young people are having to travel cross ward to access youth services - its dark and obviously not a safe time for our young people.

Silwood young people seem to have no Lewisham youth service operating and have to travel to Riverside and Woodpecker - What is the situation with Lewisham led Silwood Youth services?

Reply

Given the increase in Stop and Search and the increased activity of the Violent Task Force in Evelyn Ward can the Mayor review the local Youth services offer in terms of extending opening hours and service days of Riverside and Wood Pecker youth Clubs, from 3 times a week for three hours?

Youth First is currently contracted by LBL to provide borough wide youth services to a total of 8,200 hours per annum. This is not specified by site although we do expect at least the 10 council owned sites to have some provision all year round including summer holidays. We also ask they use resources to best reach those who would benefit the most from attending provision and to do so with a good geographical spread based on known needs. It is unfortunately not possible, given current resource pressures to deliver provision in all estates.

In 2017/18 Youth First provided 10,161 hours directly and a total of 13,931 hours including commissioned services (but not including non-contracted partnerships such as XLP which when included would increase this total further). This is increased activity within a budget envelope 5% less than the previous internal service and at present Youth First over deliver with the funding available.

In the North of the borough (area 1) Youth First currently ensures six days a week of provision from Monday to Friday core 3:15 to 9pm and Saturday from 12-6pm. This is spread across four sites and we and Youth First accepts that for some young people travelling can be difficult or unappealing.

Within this offer, Riverside currently provides nine hours of direct youth worker led provision at the site during term time. This includes various activities including some purchased from partners such as football training and a performing arts program with the Albany. Alongside this Youth First also ensures the site is available for partners - including XLP and Steel pan classes in partnership with 'Heart of Steel', both of which see the centre open and offering activities for more than three hours per day.

Similarly Woodpecker offers nine hours of direct term time delivery alongside some workshops with partners such as PYE who delivered workshops on knife crime.

Sites may not always be open as open access, but they are also used to provide targeted activities to benefit the community. At Riverside this includes a partnership with the Youth Offending Team to use the new gym with targeted young people and providing space for early intervention panels and other targeted support meetings.

Ideally we would like to develop provision available further – increasing hours at all sites, and to expand into more sites/areas. However there is unfortunately only a limited financial resource available to deliver and support youth provision and so London Borough Lewisham will continue to work with Youth First and our partners to strengthen and develop provision for young people in the borough.

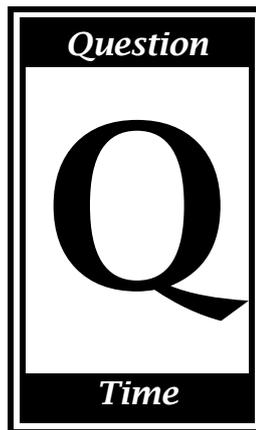
Youth First continues to seek ways to deliver an increase in opening hours at Riverside and Woodpecker at no further cost to the council. In the last few months they have piloted a new seniors group at Riverside, this will take the opening hours up to 12 hours a week with no additional income from the council.

Youth First are always looking for additional funding and partnerships to further extend hours. One of the ways this would be enabled is for residents to volunteer either to support youth workers as trusted adults and/or to support fund raising. We would therefore urge you to support and encourage others to support this community focused scheme, not least during a period when the council's own finances are under immense pressure. If you would like any more information about this scheme please do contact Mervyn.Kaye@youthfirst.org.uk

On the days clubs are closed the offer is the very popular XLP travelling bus, parks outside closed youth buildings; Young people are having to travel cross ward to access youth services - its dark and obviously not a safe time for our young people.

Silwood young people seem to have no Lewisham youth service operating and have to travel to Riverside and Woodpecker - What is the situation with Lewisham led Silwood Youth services?

Unfortunately it is not possible or practical for all areas to have youth provision sited in them. We can however ask Youth First to look at a walking bus arrangement for Silwood, which is c.1 mile from Woodpecker (20min walk) and also ensure that provision is marketed to the estate. We can also ask them to look at applying for grant funding for the estate. These are again things that I would ask residents to support Youth First with through volunteering.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 41.

Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

28 NOVEMBER 2018

Question asked by: Ruel Ru

Member to reply: Councillor Reid

Question

Do you see tackling youth violence as a high priority for the Council?

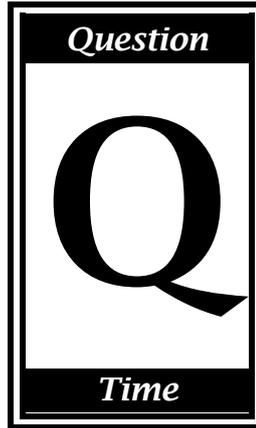
Reply

Tackling violence is one of the 3 areas of focus set out in the annual plan 'A Safe Lewisham' (link: [A Safe Lewisham: Annual Plan](#)). The issues of youth violence are

clearly of significant focus for London as well as for Lewisham. Enforcement will continue to play an important part in tackling and removing those dangerous individuals who are causing harm and involved in organised criminality.

However, we are also adopting a new approach to tackling youth violence known as the public health approach to violence. In essence, this approach seeks to understand why this kind of crime is happening, what drives it and how new approaches can be developed to tackle it. We know that we need to impact on children's lives from a very early age to prevent them from being drawn into violence later in life.

I want us to come together as a community to tackle these issues and improve our understanding. I will be setting up a series of community conversations to take this forward and I look forward to this dialogue.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 42.

Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

28 NOVEMBER 2018

Question asked by: Martin Cox

Member to reply: Councillor Dacres

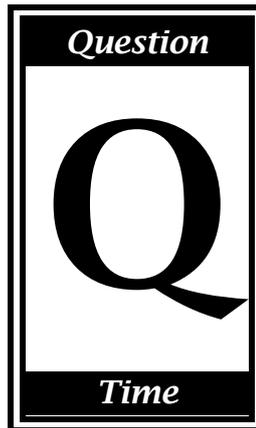
Question

What action is the Council taking to stop traffic using Winn Road, Guibal Road, and other nearby roads as short cuts (or “rat runs”) between the A20, South Circular (Westhorne Avenue), and Burnt Ash Hill? The through traffic creates unnecessary noise, pollution, and hazards in what should be a quiet residential environment.

Reply

Lewisham is currently developing its “Transport Strategy and Local Implementation Plan” that describes how it will implement the policies contained in Mayor of London’s Transport Strategy (MTS) in the borough. An important element of the MTS is “Healthy Streets” where streets in “residential” areas are made more attractive places to walk, cycle and spend time in, with the fear of danger reduced. To achieve this in Lewisham we are currently developing a “Healthy Neighbourhood” programme. This programme will promote works to alleviate problems associated with through traffic diverting off the main and classified roads onto residential streets creating a fear of danger, reduced air quality, noise and discouraging people from walking or cycling. Measures proposed are likely to include “filters” that will prevent vehicles but allow free passage for walkers and cyclists, and other controls designed to stop or severely deter traffic from using “unsuitable routes”. At the same time other environmental improvements will be proposed including the introduction of greenery, trees, benches and other interventions designed to make streets more attractive places to be and promote the use of active travel (walking & cycling).

In order to allow this to happen the borough has been split into 18 ‘neighbourhoods’ that are currently being prioritised for treatment based on a number of factors including collision data, vehicle speeds, air quality levels, levels of deprivation, school travel planning input, and walking/cycling potential to name a few. The residential roads referred to in the above question are situated in the “Grove Park Neighbourhood” on the Healthy Neighbourhoods map. The prioritisation process will be completed by early 2019, with the programme gradually rolled out across the borough, subject to funding allocation.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 43.

Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

28 NOVEMBER 2018

Question asked by: Mark Rochell

Member to reply: Councillor Bonavia

Question

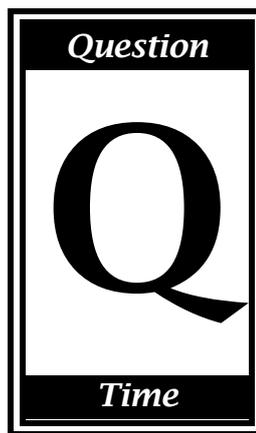
Do you accept the contention that the residents of Whitefoot have been without three full-time councillors for over 6 months now. Can the council give an indication if a by-election will take place in Whitefoot to elect a new councillor who will be able to replace the MP for Lewisham East, leaving her free to concentrate on her Westminster role?

Reply

I do not accept your contention. Councillor roles are not full time – most councillors carry out their council duties in tandem with their individual employment responsibilities.

Nor do I accept any implied assumption that any of the Whitefoot councillors are not carrying out their expected duties. I understand that all three are working as hard as ever, attending their advice surgeries, dealing with residents' casework and participating in community activities, most recently including the fifth anniversary of the Whitefoot & Downham Community Project, the Goldsmith Community Centre, the Excalibur Steering Group and Phoenix Community Housing.

Finally, the Council cannot give any indication of a by-election until a vacancy occurs. There are currently no councillor vacancies in the Whitefoot ward. If and when a vacancy occurs the Council will follow the normal procedures to fill the vacancy.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 44.

Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

28 NOVEMBER 2018

Question asked by: Clare Lorraine Phipps

Member to reply: Councillor Bell

Question

Forest Hill has seen shocking reports of individuals sleeping rough having their tents and bedding removed, just when temperatures got lower. Can the Council confirm that neither it nor its contractors have been involved in such actions, and provide

details of how it will be supporting those who are homeless and/or sleeping rough during the cold weather this winter?

Reply

There were reports of serious anti-social behaviour emanating from a group of individuals known to police and the council's Crime, Enforcement & Regulation Service in Albion Millennium Gardens. The anti-social behaviour was such that it was seen as a public safety issue, especially in an area where children would be expected to be present. On this occasion, due to complaints and requests from the Friends of Albion Millennium Gardens, the council's contractors for public spaces, Glendale, were involved in assisting with the clearance of the site to address the public safety concerns. The council would like to clarify that it is not its policy to take such action against rough sleepers, and the action was targeted at behaviour and not the mere presence of individuals on the site.

Lewisham has successfully bid for funding from Central Government's Rough Sleeping Initiative for 4 areas of work that will enhance the way in which we work with rough sleepers in an effort to reduce the number of people sleeping rough to as near to zero as we can.

The four areas, all of which are operational are:

1. The creation of a specific Rough Sleeper Coordinator post within the Housing Needs department. We have seconded the postholder of this role from Thames Reach where they built up a wealth of experience in working with rough sleepers. Their role is to ensure that each rough sleeper has an action plan that will lead to them achieving accommodation, and to then coordinate all the services in the borough that work with rough sleepers to ensure that each are playing their part in achieving this outcome. We work very closely in partnership with London Street Rescue, The Jericho Road Project, 999 Club, Bench Outreach and Deptford Reach alongside our own commissioned supported housing pathways to ensure that there is wraparound support for rough sleepers and that they are prioritised for accommodation options.
2. The post also comes with some "personalisation funds". A pot of money that can be used for unlocking any issues that a rough sleeper may find are barriers to accommodation. These may range from providing a mobile phone for contact, to paying rent in advance and deposit on actual accommodation options. The fund awarded from central government is approximately £30,000 and will be used as creatively as possible to help secure accommodation.
3. A 365 day per year Night Shelter within the borough that anyone rough sleeping or at risk of rough sleeping can access as a safe place to stay, and via which access to services and accommodation can be arranged. The night shelter in this form has been open since September this year and can sleep up to 30 people per night. This has been of particular significance since the existing South London No Second Night Out hub (a hub for rough sleepers on a similar basis) has been temporarily relocated to North London for development works to be carried out to its substantive premises; a works program that also includes the creation in Lewisham of a staging post for rough sleepers (a temporary accommodation project for rough sleepers

waiting for resettlement) and a new modern supported housing project within our vulnerable adults supported housing pathway.

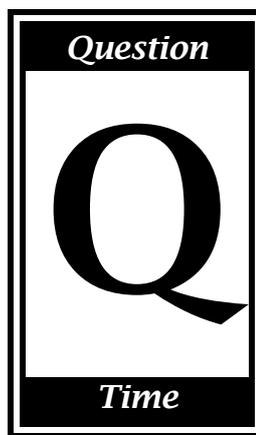
4. An extension to the existing Housing First scheme that operates in Lewisham enabling us to give direct and immediate housing offers to rough sleepers and the most vulnerable clients in our pathway with long term support to enable them to manage their tenancies and their lives. The extension extends this scheme from 15 placements per year to 35 and is being supported by many of the social landlords in the borough with more coming on board week by week following direct contact from our Executive Director for Customer Services which oversees the Strategic Housing Dept.

As part of the same Rough Sleeper Initiative, the GLA successfully applied for funding to extend the London Wide Outreach Service provided by Thames Reach (London Street Rescue) and the bid specifically included additional resources for Lewisham, however these are not yet in place but expected soon.

We have also placed a bid to be early adopters of a rapid rehousing pathway for rough sleepers to provide additional support for them to navigate their route out of homelessness and to get additional support when housed. We are currently awaiting an outcome to this bid. Additionally we are looking at ways of addressing our cohort of rough sleepers that are not eligible for a housing offer due to their economic or migrant status (mainly EU nationals not exercising their treaty rights within the UK).

In terms of additional support in winter, Lewisham have adopted the GLA's protocol that Severe Weather Emergency Beds will be opened on any night that the temperature falls below zero degrees, along with an undertaking to continue working with any individual that needs this provision to secure them an accommodation option.

The Lewisham wide Street Count, coinciding with the national street count will take place on the night of the 29th – 30th November. However Lewisham have undertaken to carry out full street counts every two months to address the rising numbers of rough sleepers in the borough that we have seen since 2010. The council is also opening an additional high support project within the Vulnerable Adult Supported Housing Pathway to increase access to high supported bed spaces for this vulnerable client group.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 45.

Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

28 NOVEMBER 2018

Question asked by: Anthony Crowther

Member to reply: Councillor Slater

Question

Each local assembly receives £15,000 of funding to allocate to valuable local community initiatives each year.

For the last financial year:

What evaluation and impact analysis had been carried out on the projects that received local assembly funding and the allocation processes?

Could you provide the figures for how many people voted for projects last year, broken down by ward?

Reply

The Assembly Fund is devolved and therefore each Ward Assembly will have its own process for the allocation of its funding.

Of the £15,000 available £2,500 is Councillor Discretionary Fund and in the majority of wards this sum is retained by the Councillors to use to support local projects as identified by them.

Each year the ward assembly will review its priorities, some assemblies will then go deeper and use the fund to target specific areas or issues identified by the assembly as needing attention. The applicants must address what they will do to tackle the specific issues and work closely with the Coordinating Group to create a project. This is a commissioning approach and the projects will be presented to the assembly for final approval.

Other wards allocate funding via a small grants process. The fund is advertised locally and on the website with specific criteria varying ward to ward. The Coordinating Group will assess all the applications to ensure that they:

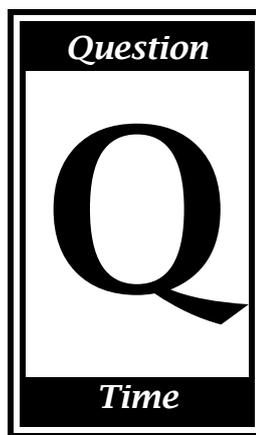
- are value for money
- benefit the ward
- are needed in the ward
- not duplicating existing provision
- meet the assembly priorities

If these criteria are satisfied then the bid can go to the assembly for decision. However, often the Development Officer will need to work with the applicant to make improvements to the application to ensure that the bid contains as much relevant information as possible to ensure the assembly can make an informed choice.

The process at the assembly can vary, typically the funding will be decided by a marketplace event with the projects that receive the most votes being funded.

The voting process has evolved and at most assembly meetings people will be required to vote for at least half of the projects seeking funding, rather than just the one. This helps to negate tactical voting.

Once funded the Development Officer is responsible for monitoring the project and often the organisation will be asked to come along to an assembly meeting to update attendees as to how the project is progressing. Once complete they need to submit a monitoring report and retain expenditure records.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 46.

Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

28 NOVEMBER 2018

Question asked by: Rosalind Huish

Member to reply: Councillor Bonavia

Question

With regards to the democracy review please can you advise:

- how is the success of the 'ladder of engagement' methodology being measured?

- has the council considered using resident journey mapping for the participation process?
- who are the expert witnesses (as per appendix C initial draft timetable) and has engagement with them now been planned?
- why have webcasts open to the public for council meetings been stopped?

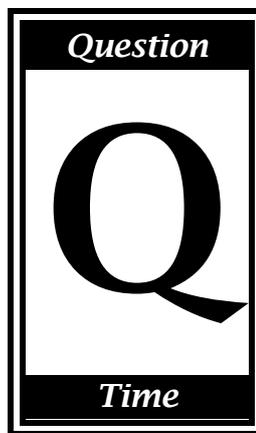
Reply

The 'Ladder of Engagement' is a recognised model for understanding different types and levels of public involvement (under the headings of 'informing'; 'consulting'; 'involving'; 'collaborating' and 'devolving') – although every step on the ladder is valuable, participation becomes more meaningful (and resource-intensive) at the top of the ladder. It was used in the Local Democracy Review Working Group's introductory report (26th September 2018) <http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s59507/Introductory%20Report%20260918.pdf> as a way of categorising the Council's current decision-making and involvement mechanisms. Any opportunities to improve the current mechanisms or introduce new approaches to participation identified during the review will be explored by the Working Group and reported on in the report of the Working Group in the Spring.

The Working Group are currently engaging with a wide range of residents, community groups and other stakeholders in order to seek their views and gather evidence. The key elements of the methodology for the review were agreed by Full Council in July 2018 (<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s58396/Local%20Democracy%20Review.pdf>), but members are able to utilise other investigative approaches (including resident journey mapping) as appropriate.

The Working Group has been exploring how expertise in the field of democratic engagement can inform the work of the review and the development of effective recommendations for change. Initial discussions have taken place with a number of expert organisations including the LGiU, LGA, CfPS, Democratic Society, De Montfort University, the Kirklees Democracy commission and NESTA and members are currently developing a schedule of requirements to set out how this advice and support will be provided.

Webcasting Council meetings has been trialled in the past but an evaluation of the trial found a relatively low level of engagement balanced against the cost requirements to implement webcasting Council meetings as a matter of course. Therefore webcasting Council meetings was not identified as a priority for additional ongoing expenditure at that time. All methods of enhancing openness and engagement are being considered by the Local Democracy Review and we would welcome people's views on webcasting as part of their responses to the review.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 47.

Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

28 NOVEMBER 2018

Question asked by: Carole Hope

Member to reply: Councillor Best

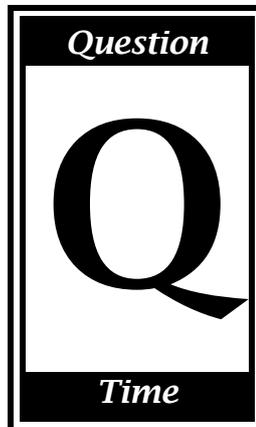
Question

Please confirm that the asbestos contaminated soil excavated from the site of the lake in Beckenham Place Park, and reburied at the site of whips planted alongside

the railway line, has been contained within a chemical cap and what was the cost of this unplanned for procedure?

Reply

Contaminated soil discovered during excavation of the lake is being dealt with in line with the remediation report agreed by Lewisham's Planning Department. This involves the removal by hand picking of all identified contamination for disposal off site. Although the contamination of the soil has been reduced through this process the remaining material will be encapsulated on site with appropriate membranes as recommended in the remediation report. The costs related to this additional work are not yet finalised.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 48.

Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

28 NOVEMBER 2018

Question asked by: Leila Thomas

Member to reply: Councillor Amanda De Ryk

Question

Regarding access up to employment opportunities - Lewisham Council Graduate / Graduate management programme please can you advise if this programme is diverse including BME students? Please can you confirm the ethnicity breakdown of this programme including the BME representation over the last 3 years?

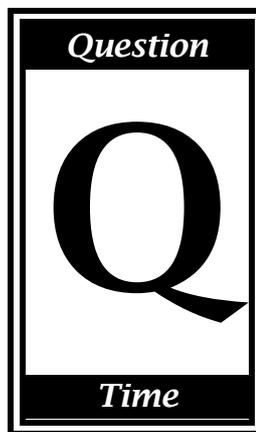
Reply

We are disappointed by the lack of diversity offered by the LGA scheme, and as part of the cuts proposals we are considering for 2018/19 and 2020/21 there are proposals to exit the scheme and implement our own graduate recruitment programme that focuses on local residents.

In the three years, 2016/17 – 2017/18 there have been no BAME graduates on the programme due to none being submitted to Lewisham by the LGA. We have raised this issue with the LGA. (on the last three recorded years BAME make up of the LGA Graduate program nationally has only been 11%, 12% and 22%)

The [National Graduate Development Programme](#) is a two year graduate management development program, run by the [Local Government Association](#) (LGA). The LGA carry out an initial assessment of applicants and successful candidates are then asked to shortlist 3 local authorities they are interested in working for. The Local Authority then interview and select from this group.

Since 2009/10 there have been 4 BAME graduates taken on the programme at Lewisham.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 49.

Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

28 NOVEMBER 2018

Question asked by: Trina Lynsky

Member to reply: The Mayor

Question

Will you accept the application to Lewisham Council to convert the ground floor employment floor space at The Arches, Childers Street (Evelyn Ward) has been ongoing for many months? To allow this proposal to proceed when local businesses have asked to rent/buy these units in the New Cross & Deptford Creative Employment Zone will eventually be discussed at planning committee.

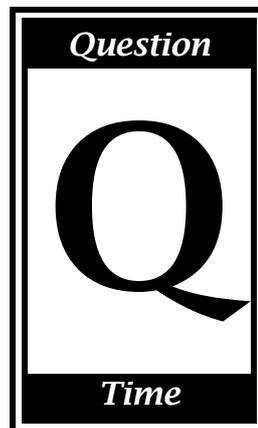
Is there a far more serious issue regarding transparency and due process. Twice there has been cause for legal intervention as relevant documents were withheld from public view. The application is now pending an appeal with The Planning Inspectorate. The required public meeting could have been held in October as requested by residents and the MP. Officers insisted on mid August.

Incorrect dates of important meetings were given to objectors. Residents duly attended planning committee to find the item removed from the Agenda. The developer was always informed if the item was removed but the same courtesy was not afforded to residents.

Will the Mayor refer this issue to Overview & Scrutiny to reassure residents that this is an isolated incident? If it is evidence of a wider systemic problem in the planning process, how will this be addressed?

Reply

The planning application is going back to committee to update members on the 29th November, the agenda will be published on the 20th November. This is an open process to update members. The public are able to attend. The appeal is ongoing, and is being dealt with by the Planning Inspectorate.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 50.

Priority 3

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

28 November 2018

Question asked by: John Hamilton

Member to reply: Councillor Best

Question

Can you confirm the Council's contracted out services include a contract entitled:

'The Supply of Community Equipment and Services'

Description: Manage procurement, storage, cleaning and recycling of community equipment; to fulfil orders for such equipment from professionals across Lewisham, delivering and collecting equipment from resident's homes.

Do you accept the contract was awarded to Medequip Assistive Technology on 1st April 2017 for four years with an option to extend by a further two years? The contract value is estimated as being twenty five million pounds per year or approximately £100 per year for each and every resident of this borough.

Can you enlighten me as to why this contract is necessary and whether officers made a calculation of how much it would cost to employ staff directly to fulfil these functions and whether residents can collect and return their "community equipment" themselves?

Reply

Yes – the Council has contracted out services for the provision of its Community Equipment Goods and Services under a Framework Agreement, led by London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham.

Description: Manage procurement, storage, cleaning and recycling of community equipment; to fulfil orders for such equipment from professionals across Lewisham, delivering and collecting equipment from resident's homes.

Yes – the description noted above reflects the activity of the supplier under this contract.

Do you accept the contract was awarded to Medequip Assistive Technology on 1st April 2017 for four years with an option to extend by a further two years? The contract value is estimated as being twenty five million pounds per year or approximately £100 per year for each and every resident of this borough.

Yes – following open procedure, London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham awarded a contract to Medequip Assistive Technologies Limited to supply goods and services under the Framework Agreement, from 1 April 2017 for a period of 4 years, with option to extend for a further +1+1 (total 2) years. London Borough of Lewisham has a call-off contract to that Framework Agreement, which means it can use the services of the supplier on the Framework.

The contract value is estimated as being £25m per year or approximately £100 per year for each and every resident of this borough.

Yes –the contract value is approximately £25m pa, based on the historical activity of the 18 boroughs who call off the Framework Agreement.

Can you enlighten me as to why this contract is necessary and whether officers made a calculation of how much it would cost to employ staff directly to fulfil these functions and whether residents can collect and return their "community equipment" themselves?

Why this contract is necessary: The Care Act (2014) simplifies, consolidates and improves existing legislation, around assessment, care and support for adults. Local Authority duties are to promote wellbeing, prevent need for statutory care and support and includes the provision of community equipment within people's homes. Delivering the prevention and wellbeing agenda, community equipment ranges from small items such as bath stools to larger, complex items such as electronic hoists, profiling beds and mattresses.

Delivering the services and procurement in-house: Officers did not make a calculation of how much it would cost to employ staff directly (by the Council) to fulfil these functions, at the point of the new contract award in 2017.

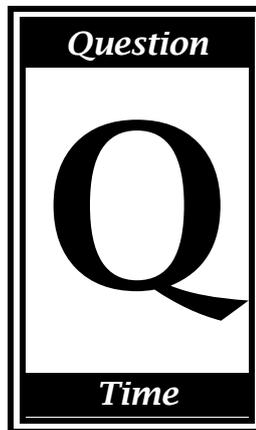
The reason for this is because the London Borough of Lewisham is a member of a London-wide consortium of boroughs who use the Framework Agreement led by London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham.

Collecting and returning equipment by residents: Residents can collect certain items themselves and some items must be arranged and delivered for them. This is further explained below:

- complex pieces of equipment such as beds, mattresses and hoists are loaned to our residents and when no longer needed are collected and refurbished and made fit for re-issue for other clients. These are heavy and expensive pieces of equipment.
- we also supply simple 'aids to daily living' such as toileting and bathing equipment, by prescription which residents can collect from our local accredited pharmacies. Residents will own the simple equipment after it is issued by Health and Social Services.

Issuing simple aids through this model meets our sustainable and recycling and health and social care policies as collection costs far outweigh the cost of the item.

We work with the supplier to ensure we collect as many items of equipment in the community as possible. We rely on the co-operation of families and individuals to tell us when they no longer need their community equipment.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 51.

Priority 3

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

28 November 2018

Question asked by: Mrs Richardson

Member to reply: Councillor Slater

Question

Adult Education in Lewisham is about to undergo considerable changes due to the change in funding route put in place by national government and so organised by the Mayor of London, and possibly accountable to the GLA. Lewisham Borough has a good record on Adult Education until now with provision available and accessible, as well as fulfilling local need. Will the council ensure that it can lobby for and provide the continuation of the service at a similar level under the new arrangements?

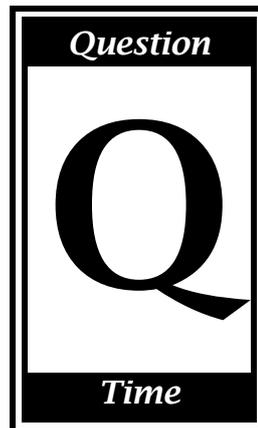
Reply

Thank you for your question. We are proud of Lewisham's record on adult education and we passionately believe that all adults deserve access to learning in order to help them thrive.

From 2019/20, the Adult Education Budget (AEB) will be devolved from the Department for Education to the GLA. We think this is a positive change, as it means decisions on funding for adult education will be made at a regional level, by decision-makers who better understand the needs of our local communities and our local economy.

We want to ensure that the devolution of the AEB is a success, and we want to ensure that we can continue to provide the high quality learning opportunities that our residents need and value. So Lewisham's officers and councillors will continue to lobby for provision of adult learning at a similar level under the new devolution arrangements.

The real threat to access to learning is the massive cuts that we have seen under the Government's austerity agenda. Since 2010, we have seen huge cuts in government funding for adult education, and a huge fall in the number of adults participating in education. We need to see these cuts reversed, and we need to see government invest in adult learning.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 52.

Priority 3

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

28 November 2018

Question asked by: Mr Da Silva Pereira

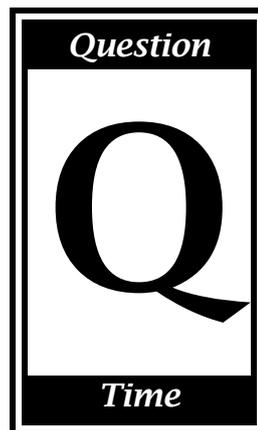
Member to reply: Councillor Bell

Question

Has there been a consultation about the Silwood Estate being incorporated into Southwark Council's boundaries?

Reply

There has not been a consultation about the Silwood Estate being incorporated into Southwark Council's boundaries.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 53.

Priority 3

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

28 November 2018

Question asked by: Kevin Howarth

Member to reply: Councillor Best

Question

Why are Lewisham Council generally not fulfilling their own obligations to the area in and around Silwood Street? e.g: Seriously dealing with Fly Tipping, security, street cleansing (the area is large and Lewisham Council only send one street cleaner to cover this area!)

Reply

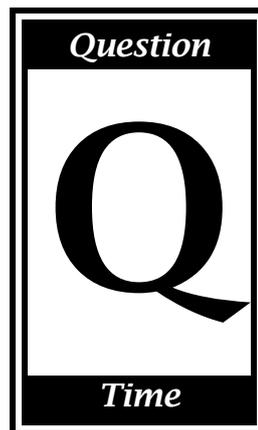
The Council takes fly-tipping and street sweeping very seriously.

Environmental Crime Officers investigate significant amounts of fly tipping incidents borough wide every month. The Council is deploying CCTV cameras at fly-tipping hotspots and has invested in three new high spec ANPR HD cameras during the past 18 months at a significant cost.

In all wards of the borough the council's Cleansing Enforcement Team take a zero tolerance approach to fly-tipping issuing on the spot fines to those fly-tipping and to those not maintaining waste disposal documents.

In Evelyn & New Cross wards a substantial number of fixed penalty notices have been issued for waste offences in the past 12 months. We continue to issue £400 fly-tipping Fixed Penalties and have doubled the litter penalty from £75 to £150 earlier this year.

Silwood Street and the surrounding roads are all residential and as with all residential areas within the borough the frequency of Street Sweeping is once per week. The whole of this area forms part of one Street Sweepers workload. The Council do not have the resources to increase this frequency or deploy additional sweepers into this area.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 54.

Priority 3

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

28 November 2018

Question asked by: Moira Kerrane

Member to reply: Councillor Bonavia

Question

Lewisham Council has set up a Local Democracy Review Working Group, made up of eight councillors to make recommendations to the Mayor and Council about transparency, public involvement and effective decision making.

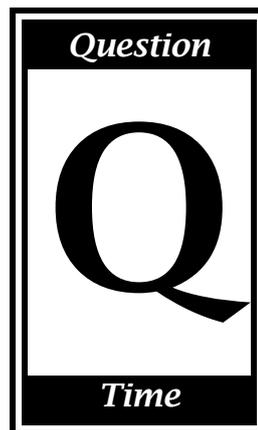
Can Lewisham Council reassure residents that all members of the working group are currently resident in the borough to make sure decision makers will also experience the results of their actions?

And can Local Democracy Review Working consultation workshops be arranged for Evelyn Ward at the Lewington, 2000 Community Action Centre and Evelyn Community Centre.

Reply

All members of the Local Democracy Review Working Group are resident in Lewisham.

As part of the review, the Working Group have been attending local events and visiting community groups across the borough and inviting suggestions from the public as to where else they would like the working group to visit. Cllr Feis-Bryce has been to events at the Albany and New Cross Learning earlier this month. Following your suggestion, the working group will organise visits to the Lewington, 2000 Community Action Centre and Evelyn Community Centre to discuss the review and gather feedback from attendees.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 55.

Priority 3

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

28 November 2018

Question asked by: Ruel Ru

Member to reply: The Mayor

Question

Is there a collective appreciation within the Council of the public outcry following your recent announcement regards, the new direction you are taking?

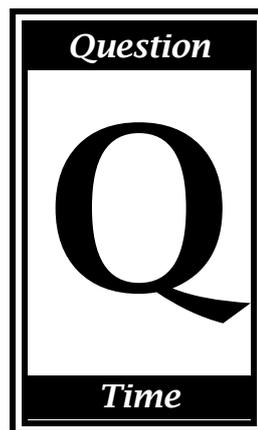
Reply

At the election in May 2018, Lewisham Labour set out a bold and radical manifesto for Lewisham. I was elected alongside 54 Labour councillors to carry out the manifesto the local Labour party created in partnership with the community.

The Council's future vision and direction will be set out in our Corporate Strategy, which will be presented to Mayor & Cabinet in December 2018. Our new Corporate Strategy will be based on the manifesto that councillors and myself were elected to deliver.

The Corporate Strategy will recommend that the Council adopts these priorities for our borough:

- **Open Lewisham** - Lewisham is a welcoming place of safety for all where we celebrate the diversity that strengthens us.
- **Tackling the housing crisis** - Everyone has a decent home that is secure and affordable.
- **Giving children and young people the best start in life** - Every child has access to an outstanding and inspiring education and is given the support they need to keep them safe, well and able to achieve their full potential.
- **Building an inclusive local economy** - Everyone can access high quality job opportunities, with decent pay and security in our thriving and inclusive local economy.
- **Delivering & defending: health, social care and support** - Ensuring everyone receives the health, mental health, social care and support services they need.
- **Making Lewisham greener** - Everyone enjoys our green spaces and benefits from a healthy environment as we work to protect and improve our local environment.
- **Building safer communities** - Every resident feels safe and secure living here as we work together towards a borough free from the fear of crime.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 56.

Priority 3

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

28 November 2018

Question asked by: Mr Richardson

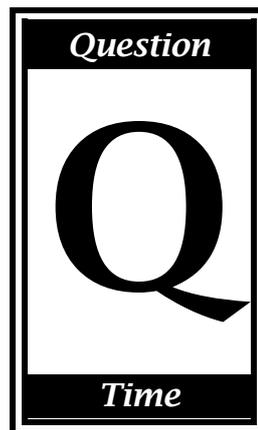
Member to reply: Councillor Slater

Question

I understand that the roof of Sydenham Library is in need of repair. Can the Council confirm this and advise who will be responsible for its costs?

Reply

The leaseholder is Eco Communities who are responsible for repairs to the roof of the building.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 57.

Priority 3

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

28 November 2018

Question asked by: Anthony Crowther

Member to reply: Councillor Dacres

Question

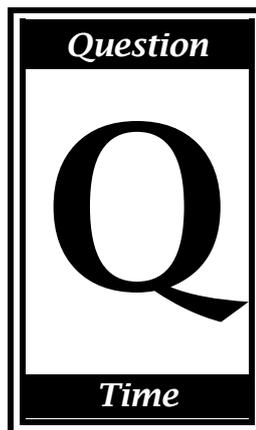
Idling vehicles are a major cause of localised air pollution. What specific anti-idling activities do Lewisham Council intend to carry out during this financial year? How much funding will be allocated to these activities?

Reply

This is now the 2nd year that Lewisham have provided idling action initiatives within the borough. In 2017/18 there were 3 events held in local Primary schools. These initiatives included an assembly for the children and training for volunteers. The volunteers, during pickup time for the school, approached drivers to make them aware of the problem and encouraged those drivers that were idling to turn off their engine.

We spent £3,500 of the Council funds across the 7 events with 3 events being funded by previous MAQF funding.

In the 2018/19 school year we have a further 7 events planned. One such event was held at Rathfern Primary School on [2nd November](#). The children and school produced a video of the event and the Mayor's Air Quality Champion, Cllr Krupski added her voice to the anti-idling campaign.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 58.

Priority 3

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

28 November 2018

Question asked by: Rosalind Huish

Member to reply: Councillor Bonavia

Question

Is the current administration carrying on with its predecessors drive for continuous improvement? If yes, how does the council put this into practice and are there examples of where process and/or decisions have changed as a result.

Reply

The current administration is building on the achievements of its predecessors with a determined focus on the radical manifesto on which we were elected. Plans are being implemented to deliver over 100 manifesto commitments, including providing 1,000 new social homes, welcoming an additional 100 refugee families and bringing council services in-house wherever possible.

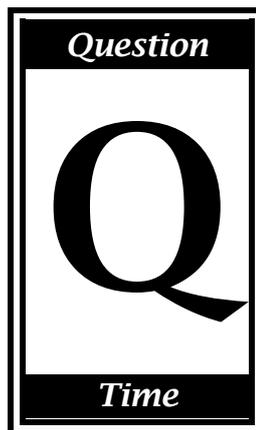
At the same time, all Council services are being kept under regular review and areas for improvement identified. Below are a number of examples of ongoing work.

With respect to children's social care, a new cross-directorate board chaired by the Lead Cabinet Member is overseeing a programme of improvement and change across children's social care services. Actions taken by the board have ensured that services that safeguard the well-being of children are appropriately co-located. It is also ensuring that the systems and processes that safeguard vulnerable children are better able to meet the current and future demands of social workers.

Within Public Services, new on-line forms and individual accounts have been developed allowing residents on-line access to benefit and council tax information, to upload information in support of claims or submit enquiries where clarification or more information is needed. The on-line access is available 24/7 meaning that residents can submit evidence, enquiries or make a claim for benefit or a council tax concession whenever they want to do so and without leaving their home.

The financial assessment team within Customer Services have also made significant progress in speeding up processes for adult social care plan packages. Assessments for determining contributions are now completed using third party information to establish income rather than home visits that have resulted in significant processing improvements, the average assessment now being completed in 7.4 days.

The Council is also re-building our website to provide a better experience for citizens. We are doing so by refreshing and optimising the user's experience, testing our current website with real users and identifying areas for improvement, reviewing all the content on our website and improving and modernising the technology behind it.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 59.

Priority 3

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

28 November 2018

Question asked by: Carole Hope

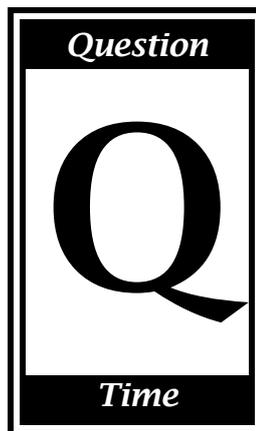
Member to reply: Cllr de Ryk

Question

Subsequent to the appointment of the new Chief Executive Officer the Mayor has decided on a change of direction. As the CEO is a paid employee rather than an elected member, can the Council explain why it needs to part company with its CEO?

Reply

As with any member of the Council's staff, from senior management to junior officers, the Council does not comment on individual employment matters. This is to protect the privacy and confidentiality of individuals and is in line with a best practice employer approach.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 60.

Priority 4

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

28 November 2018

Question asked by: John Hamilton

Member to reply: The Mayor

Question

It has been reported that the new administration wishes to change direction and that this necessitated sacking the new Chief Executive, Ian Thomas.

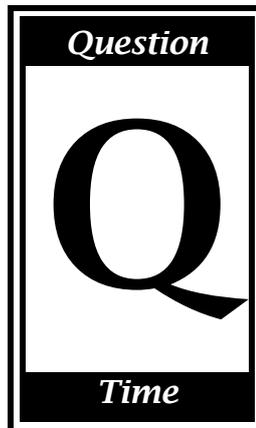
Can you confirm that Mr Thomas was investigating corruption in the Council?

Have any council staff resigned due to irregularities coming to light in Mr Thomas's investigations?

Reply

Ian Thomas was not sacked from his role as Chief Executive

There is no truth in such allegations and therefore there have been no resignations on this basis.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 61.

Priority 4

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

28 November 2018

Question asked by: Mrs Richardson

Member to reply: The Mayor

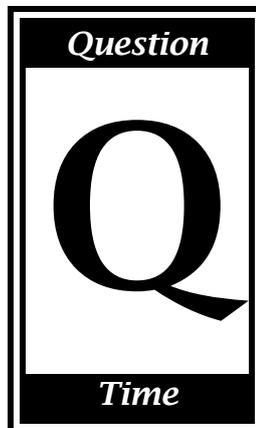
Question

Earlier this year I put a question to the Conservation department concerning the boundary stone on the Lee High Road, south side, between Lenham Road and Old Road. On receiving a reply, I forwarded the issue to a local resident who had originally asked me to follow this up. To date there has been no further contact from the council officers, so, could someone from the Conservation Department give an up-date?

Reply

We apologise that you have not received a further response since your enquiry. The Council is currently revising the local list of buildings and structures which are of historic or architectural importance to the borough. As a reminder of our built history this sounds like a candidate to be added to our local list!

A member of our Conservation team will be back in touch with you this week to explain how to get this boundary stone marker nominated for the Council's Local list.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 62.

Priority 4

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

28 November 2018

Question asked by: Mr Da Silva Pereira

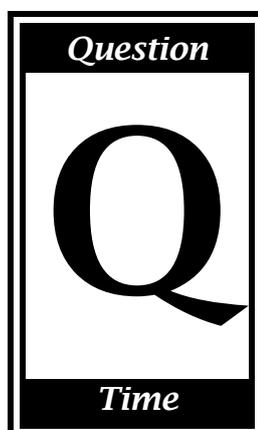
Member to reply: Councillor Bell

Question

Please could you confirm how L&Q and Notting Hill Genesis apportion their Estate charges to their residents on the Silwood Estate?

Reply

L&Q and Notting Hill Genesis are Housing Associations operating independently from Lewisham Council, meaning that Lewisham Council do not have access to how these Housing Associations apportion their Estate charges.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 63.

Priority 4

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

28 November 2018

Question asked by: Mr Richardson

Member to reply: Chair of Council

Question

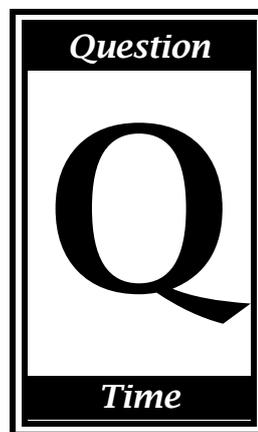
It is clear that Questions to Council from the public now outnumber those posed by elected councillors at Full Council meetings - perhaps because there are no longer any elected opposition members within the Council.

However, only 30 minutes of Council time is currently allowed at Full Council meetings and this includes invitations to the public questioners who may be in the gallery to ask a single verbal supplementary question to the one(s) they have written. In the interest of democracy, could this limited period be extended? Perhaps to 1 hour?

Reply

There has not been a meeting in the last 5 years when public question time has exceeded the current 30 minute allocated time period, so there does not appear to be a compelling case to alter current practice. However, I do recognise the recent growth in the number and complexity of public questions, so it is an area which will be kept under review. I can confirm public questioning is one of the many areas being examined by the Local Democracy Working Group and should that body have suggestions to make to improve the process, these will be considered by the Council in 2019

In addition to the formal avenues which are available, I should also point out that all members of the Council are readily available for constructive dialogue by email, phone or face to face at Surgeries.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 64.

Priority 4

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

28 November 2018

Question asked by: Rosalind Huish

Member to reply: Councillor Bell

Question

Please can the policy and process for deciding which social housing new builds are part of the May 2018-22 1000 target be outlined.

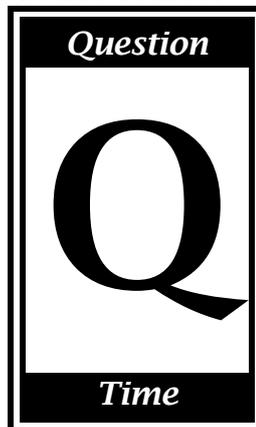
Reply

The new Mayor has pledged to deliver 1,000 social homes during the next four years. Social housing is a high-priority for Lewisham Council and we will do everything we can to maximise supply.

Officers are currently in the process of identifying a range of potential sites to enable this commitment to be met. It is anticipated that the social homes will be delivered in a range of ways and by a number of partners.

This process will consider all available opportunities with a particular focus on poorly used public land, on which development could both provide new homes and wider improvements to the local neighbourhood.

Officers are compiling options for this now. These will be fully considered by the Housing Select Committee and M&C in due course.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 65.

Priority 5

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

28 November 2018

Question asked by: John Hamilton

Member to reply: The Mayor

Question

Do you recall that the hustings for the mayoral election organised by the Pensioners Forum you said: "We will not sell council land to private developers" Link to video here: [Damien Egan's broken promise - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h8U45-eTZVM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h8U45-eTZVM)

Could you give your explanation for how the sale of land at Reginald Road and Frankham Street to Peabody conforms with your promise to the electorate in April this year?

Reply

Peabody is a not-for-profit housing developer, not a private developer.

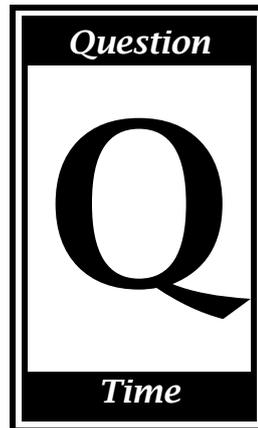
Our new political administration has pledged to create 1,000 social homes over the next four years. The development at Tidemill will provide over 100 new social homes, on lifetime tenancies, for those in need in our community. For a development of this size, it is the highest percentage of social housing in our borough in a generation and the highest proportion of social housing on a development of this scale in the whole of London for the last three years.

Officers are currently in the process of identifying a range of potential sites to enable this commitment to be met. It is anticipated that the social homes will be delivered in a range of ways and by a number of partners.

Lewisham is facing the severe effects of the housing crisis. There are over 10,000 households on the housing waiting list and 600 households in emergency accommodation. It is vital we deliver more social homes for residents who are in urgent housing need.

The development of Tidemill will:

- Provide 104 new social homes
- Reprovide 13 new social rented homes to existing residents, with lifetime tenancies on the same rent
- Deliver improvements to the local neighbourhood, including increasing the number of trees from 49 to 73



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 66.

Priority 5

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

28 November 2018

Question asked by: Mr Da Silva Pereira

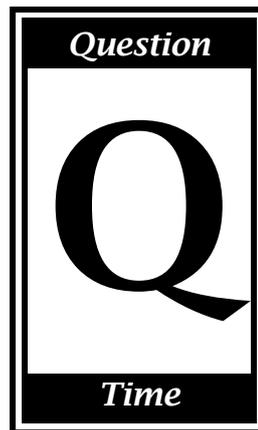
Member to reply: Councillor Reid

Question

What is the Council doing to ensure the safety and security of the residents and councillors that attend public meetings in the Evelyn Ward?

Reply

The vast majority of public meetings in the borough take place without any incident. However, unfortunately from time to time there is the need to discuss issues that people have strong views about, and on very rare occasions this can require the council to undertake a risk assessment for the public meeting and put in place additional measures to ensure that the meeting can take place safely. These measures could include providing security, liaising with the police, managing attendance at the meeting to ensure it does not become overcrowded and assessing the suitability of the venue.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO 67.

Priority 6

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

28 November 2018

Question asked by: Mr Da Silva Pereira

Member to reply: Councillor Slater

Question

Does the Council audit local community groups to ensure that they comply with their own constitutions and financial reporting requirements in the Evelyn Ward?

Reply

Lewisham Council's auditing of local community organisations receiving Lewisham Council grants operates as follows:

Main Grants: We undertake full due diligence for organisations awarded funding under the Council's Main Grants programme. This includes:

- Financial due diligence, including audit cycle and other reporting requirements
- Overall governance and constitution
- Partnerships

Our Grant Aid general terms and conditions also require that any organisation which is a registered charity should comply fully with the requirements of the Charities Act 2006 and any related legislation with regard to the preparation and completion of accounts and otherwise. They should also comply with the current accounting requirements of the Charity Commission and, of course, of their own constitution.

Organisations are required to submit examined/audited annual accounts within 8 months after the end of their financial year.

Small Grants and Assembly funds: In the interests of proportionality, organisations awarded funding under Small Grants and Assembly Funds are monitored on project delivery but are required to provide appropriate documentation to provide satisfaction on governance and financial standing.

