

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

28 NOVEMBER 2018

Question by Councillor Curran
of the Deputy Mayor

Question

Will the cabinet member arrange for a comprehensive review of the Borough policy on air quality, given the evidence that planning and environmental decisions may be based on incorrect evidence due to insufficient air quality monitoring and that air pollution is potentially proving fatal to Lewisham residents?

Reply

The Council is required to report yearly on air quality, to the Greater London Authority through the [Annual Status Report](#) (ASR). This is part of a statutory London Local Air Quality Management (LLAQM) arrangement.

The ASR provides progress updates on air quality actions and air quality monitoring. Lewisham has a comprehensive [air quality monitoring network](#) of 50 nitrogen dioxide diffusion tubes and three continuous air quality monitoring sites.

Where a planning application is submitted in an area where air pollution levels are high then an air quality assessment would normally be required by the applicant. This air quality assessment should provide evidence through air quality modelling on the likely impact and exposure due to the planning proposal. The modelling data should be validated through comparison with existing monitoring data and this may also require additional monitoring by the applicant. It is the responsibility of the applicant to provide sufficient confidence in modelling data.

The draft Local Plan is currently being reviewed and a revised suite of draft policies covering environmental protection are being considered. The review on air quality will be an essential part of this process.

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COUNCIL MEETING

28 NOVEMBER 2018

Question by Councillor Walsh
of the Cabinet Member for Parks, Neighbourhoods and Transport

Question

Could the Cabinet Member detail the work (past & planned) of the Council to combat pavement parking outside the Sangley Road Parade of shops? Will the Cabinet Member join me with appropriate officers on a site visit?'

Reply

The current improvement works outside the Sangley Road parade of shops aim to improve the pedestrian environment and to improve road safety at the junction of Inchmerry Road and St Fillans Road. The scheme also aims to establish clearer parking arrangements which, over time, have become problematic, with deliveries blocking traffic, and parked vehicles blocking the footway. The current design has provided a more formalised arrangement, with a designated loading bay and free short-stay parking bays inset into the pavement. This arrangement is supported by full height kerbs and yellow lines, and street furniture placed strategically to stop vehicles accessing the footway via pedestrian dropped kerbs. Unfortunately, throughout the construction period, vehicles have been observed illegally driving and parking on the footway. With any new scheme, it is anticipated that active enforcement may be required to embed new parking restrictions, and the Council's enforcement team have visited the area on a number of occasions. It is important to note there are also some limitations to the enforcement presence, especially during the construction period when temporary makings and surfaces are in place, some restrictions require a short period of observed before a PCN can be issued, and there is a section of privately owned footway which means the usual approach to parking enforcement is not applicable. However, we will continue to provide enforcement of parking restrictions at this site, at various times and days of the week, and we will monitor compliance beyond the completion of the scheme, which is expected to be finalised on site in the coming weeks. Should the problem persist, then future measures will be considered to protect the footway from illegal parking activity. Officers would be happy to accompany the Cabinet Member on a site visit to observe and discuss the issues.

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COUNCIL MEETING

28 NOVEMBER 2018

Question by Councillor Hall
of the Mayor

Question

Has any progress been made on consideration of a master plan for Bell Green and Lower Sydenham?

Reply

The potential transformation of Bell Green and Lower Sydenham has been identified through the revised Character Study (due for consultation Jan 2019) as part of the evidence base for the emerging Local Plan.

Whilst there has been no formal decision on preparing a masterplan for the area, officers have prepared a high level scoping report and are exploring potential funding options such as the GLAs Homebuilding Capacity Fund.

Any decision to progress with a masterplan for the area will be subject to Mayor and Cabinet approval.

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COUNCIL MEETING

28 NOVEMBER 2018

Question by Councillor John Paschoud
of the Mayor

Question

Over the period between 26th May 2010 and 23rd May 2018, how many appeals were submitted by applicants against planning decisions made by the Council. In how many of these cases was the Council's decision upheld, and in how many was it overturned?

Please list and total all of the sums awarded to the Council as costs in all types of Planning appeals (during this period), to be paid by appellants to the Council; and please list and total all of the sums awarded against the Council and in favour of appellants against Planning decisions made by the Council, in all types of Planning appeals (during this period).

For comparison, please list any previous analyses of such appeals and costs requested by and provided to any members of the Council during the same period, and identify where copies of any such reports may be accessed.

Reply

At this stage, the Planning Service is unable to fully answer the above Member's question. This is because of difficulties in extracting appeal data from the planning service's back office systems over the time period requested. The Planning Service are still collating data from two separate systems. There is also a need to read all the associated decision notices to collate the data on the costs awarded to and against the Council. The work should be completed by mid-December and will be available in a report to Full Council on 23 January 2019. Alternatively, if members wish, we can circulate the report to all members as soon as it is prepared.

However, during the period 26 May 2010 and 23 May 2018, the Planning Service is unaware of any costs that were awarded to the council by either the

Planning Inspectorate or the Courts, but this will be confirmed in the full report.

As an example of the amount of costs awarded against the council we have the following appeals:

Baring Hall Hotel – £21,500 plus

Postal Sorting Office, Silverdale - £2,724

Haywards Yard - £12,675

New Cross Road - £15,000

The Member should note that in addition to the award of costs, if the application is refused by the Council or delegated officers the applicant has the right to submit a fresh planning application as a “free go”. The new application has to be processed with full public consultation, assessed and a decision made at the Council’s own expense.

The Planning Service is unaware of any previous analysis undertaken to review appeal costs, but we are still checking the Planning Service’s document archive to confirm.

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

28 NOVEMBER 2018

Question by Councillor Bernards
of the Cabinet Member for the Community Sector

Question

What is the Council doing to tackle child poverty in Lewisham?

Reply

Lewisham Council is committed to tackling child poverty in the borough and to campaigning for national changes to reverse the shocking increase in child poverty. In October 2017, Lewisham's Poverty Commission published its report containing 52 recommendations for tackling poverty in the borough including a suite of recommendations to reduce child poverty. Action on these recommendations is being taken forward.

As well as the above, the Council is launching a new Children and Young People's Plan. It is worth noting that over the life of the previous plan, the Council and its partners exceeded our target for the number of cases where homelessness was prevented and met the target to reduce the number of young people not in education training or employment. The new plan will build on the above successes, address areas for improvement and add further impetus to the work of the poverty commission in improving outcomes for children living in poverty.

It is worth noting that the above measures are in addition to others that the Council continues to implement to tackle child poverty. For example, Lewisham was one of the first local authorities in the country to become a Living Wage accredited council.

In addition, the Council has introduced a business rate incentive to promote the London Living Wage. Last year Lewisham also offered a local Council Tax discount of 100% (after the award of any other qualifying discounts / benefits) to Care Leavers up to the age of 25 from 1 April 2018. In addition many council services are targeted at those children facing poverty including free childcare, Children and Families Centres, youth clubs and 'early help' support for families.

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COUNCIL MEETING

28 NOVEMBER 2018

Question by Councillor Curran
of the Mayor

Question

During the period from May 2006 to the present, how many appeals to the Planning Inspectorate against planning committee decisions, have been upheld or refused by the Inspectorate and please break these figures down into a) planning committee decisions that supported planning officer recommendations and b) those decisions that that refused planning officer recommendations?

Reply

At this stage, the Planning Service is unable to fully answer the above Member's question. This is because of difficulties in extracting appeal data from the planning service's back office systems over the time period requested. The Planning Service are still collating data from two separate systems and will then need to read the relevant officer or committee reports. The work should be completed by mid-December and will be available in a report to Full Council on 23 January 2019. Alternatively, if members wish, we can circulate the report to all members as soon as it is prepared.

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COUNCIL MEETING

28 NOVEMBER 2018

Question by Councillor Hall
of the Cabinet Member for Democracy, Refugees and Accountability

Question

Since the Electoral Registration Working Party reports in the last administration, what progress has been made to increase registration?"

Reply

On 1 December 2015 the landscape of electoral registration changed significantly. Individual electoral registration came into force meaning all new additions to the register could be done online but must pass a strict verification procedure.

Before 2015, the vast majority of registrations took place during the annual canvass (September to December). Since 2015 the vast majority of registrations have occurred in the last 6 weeks before an election (2016 being a particularly busy year with the GLA elections followed by the EU referendum). In 2017 we saw a similar spike in registration before the parliamentary election. In 2018 however, despite a spike before the local elections, new registrations did not reach the same peaks.

Month	2017	2018
January	968	494
February	1,139	797
March	2,146	1,012
April	1,797	2,683
May	1,428	2,201
June	7,813	2,978

Month	2017	2018
July	9,563	767
August	570	738
September	1,234	1,688
Canvass	8,801	9,561
Total	35,459	22,919

What have we done?

Registration activity has been continuous since the start of 2017. We've undertaken registration campaigns using various communication methods. We've led London-wide digital registration campaigns. We've worked with Goldsmiths and the London Student to target students. The Young Mayor's team have done regular engagement activities encouraging people to register. In 2018 we ramped it up in scale and sent out multiple letters to every household and resident in the borough to encourage registration. Our canvass at the end of 2017 was the biggest and most successful of the IER era.

Our Engagement Plan outlines all aspects of our efforts to maximise the completeness and accuracy of the register. It shows the data analytics we have used to establish target groups and methodologies. We believe we have been successful in so far as everyone who wants to participate in our elections is enabled to register to vote. But we are also realistic that the work of engaging residents to register to vote is a continuous process that never stops. We will keep working with local groups, the communications team, the Electoral Commission and neighbouring boroughs to engage with residents and encourage people to register to vote.