

QUESTION No. 1
Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

25 NOVEMBER 2020

Question by Councillor Hall
of Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care

Question

How have the numbers of people with HIV and AIDS in Lewisham changed over the last ten years? Can a breakdown by sex, ethnicity and age be provided?

Reply

HIV diagnosed prevalence rate/1,000 aged 15-59

	Lewisham				London
Period	Count	Rate/1000	95% Lower CI	95% Upper CI	
2010	1,355	7.49	7.48	7.49	5.40
2011	1,442	7.72	7.33	8.13	5.35
2012	1,499	7.92	7.53	8.33	5.52
2013	1,556	8.11	7.71	8.52	5.66
2014	1,630	8.33	7.93	8.74	5.81
2015	1,597	8.02	7.63	8.42	5.89
2016	1,653	8.20	7.81	8.61	5.83
2017	1,696	8.37	7.98	8.78	5.82
2018	1,669	8.20	7.81	8.60	5.62

Source: PHE Fingertips

This is data on population prevalence, i.e. the number of people with a diagnosis of HIV at the time the data was collected. It does not show the number of new diagnoses of HIV made each year.

2018 is the most recent year for which data is available. The table shows that there has been a relatively stable trend in HIV diagnosed prevalence in Lewisham since 2012.

The data refers to the number of people with HIV infection (People Living with HIV) and does not differentiate between people that have HIV infection and people that have an AIDS-defining condition(s).

It is worth noting that the rate of new HIV diagnoses in Lewisham has fallen consistently since 2015, as the table below shows.

New HIV diagnosis rate / 100,000 aged 15+

	Lewisham				London
Period	Count	Rate/1000	95% Lower CI	95% Upper CI	
2011	127	57.0	47.5	67.8	36.7
2012	115	51.0	42.1	61.2	39.2
2013	92	40.2	32.4	49.4	36.8
2014	109	46.8	38.4	56.5	37.0
2015	123	51.9	43.2	62.0	35.9
2016	98	40.8	33.1	49.7	27.9
2017	80	33.1	26.2	41.1	23.9
2018	54	22.1	16.6	28.9	22.2

[*Source: PHE Fingertips*](#)

QUESTION No. 2

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

25 NOVEMBER 2020

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

Question

What are the Council's plan for Brexit post transition period?

Reply

Notwithstanding the current Covid-19 pandemic emergency, the future of Brexit remains a major risk in many respects both for the Council and the people of Lewisham.

At the present time, it is still uncertain as to whether the Government will reach an agreement on the relationship between the United Kingdom and the European Union following the expiry of the current transition period on 31 December 2020.

The Council has integrated Brexit planning into its ongoing emergency and business continuity planning arrangements encompassing the ongoing Covid-19 response. This has ensured that the response to the risks common to both Covid-19 and Brexit e.g.: disruption to the local economy, food insecurity, disruption to supply chains and shortages caused by panic buying, is both consistent and resource efficient.

The Council continues to plan for post transition Brexit, with key services identifying relevant Brexit related risk as well as appropriate actions to mitigate such risks. A cross-Council Brexit Co-ordinating Group, led by a Chief Officer, meets regularly to co-ordinate preparation and planning at an operational level.

In addition to the above, the Council continues to work alongside local partners to ensure borough-wide resilience. Similarly, in support of regional planning, the Council is liaising with the central co-ordinating team for London to ensure that knowledge and insight relating to existing or emerging Brexit-related risks are fed into local business contingency planning.

In terms of communications with the wider community in Lewisham, information is being provided and updated on the Council's Brexit hub on its website here: <https://lewisham.gov.uk/mayorandcouncil/brexit-guidance>

There are two particular groups to which the Council is taking pro-active steps to provide guidance and support given the specific impact of Brexit, EU nationals and local businesses and charities.

In anticipation of the 30 June 2021 deadline for the submission of EU Settled Status applications, concerted efforts are being made to promote the government's EU Settled Status programme to Lewisham residents who are EU nationals. To date, more than 38,000 Lewisham residents, who are EU nationals have applied for Settled Status, with more than 21,000 having their applications granted.

Guidance for local businesses and charities is provided here: <https://lewisham.gov.uk/mayorandcouncil/brexit-guidance/eu-nationals-running-a-business-in-the-uk> Specific communications will be targeted to this group as and when any rules and regulations for the post transition period become clear.

QUESTION No. 3
Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

25 NOVEMBER 2020

Question by Councillor Gallagher
of the Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning

Question

As a Council we have ambitious housing targets and are committed to building more social homes. Last year the housing select committee undertook work on estate regeneration and community involvement to ensure we are building with and for local communities. How are we using this work, and ensuring we work with developers with similar values and who want to work with and for communities in house-building and regeneration?

Reply

The Council considers that the best way to encourage other developers in the borough, is to set an example by following best practice on our own schemes in partnership with Lewisham Homes.

Residents are at the heart of development plans and we are working hard to support members of the community to influence designs and stay involved when the development is in delivery. We are also developing ways to enable residents to influence how social value is delivered in their areas and personally benefit from the development programme through new training and employment opportunities.

Community Design & Communication Champions have been recruited from estates that we are working with. They receive procurement training so that they are well placed to be part of the decision-making process. On the former Ladywell Leisure Centre site, Champions selected the Landscape Architect working on the development. On the Achilles Street development, Champions and Lewisham Homes worked together to develop the Achilles Resident Steering Groups Terms of Reference and Code of Conduct. The Champions formed their Steering Group with tenant and leaseholder representatives, plus a youth representative who was also elected as vice-chair.

The pandemic has led to use of technology to support the ongoing work with residents. This has included online meetings, webinars and remote training opportunities. Traditional methods of communication have continued through newsletters and phone calls to ensure that those with no or limited access to technology are not excluded.

As well as the direct contact with residents, Lewisham Homes are preparing a Social Value & Impact Strategy which will provide more information about how we intend to leverage procurement contracts (not just in development) to deliver against the two objectives of:

- 1) having a positive impact on the health and wellbeing.
- 2) having a positive impact on the financial mobility of Lewisham residents and communities.

In addition to the work being done on our own schemes, officers regularly meet with our partners who are undertaking major development in the borough.

As part of these sessions, we discuss and monitor resident engagement, share best practice and monitor social value from the contracts that they have procured to ensure that employment and business opportunities are available to local residents.

QUESTION No. 4
Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

25 NOVEMBER 2020

Question by Councillor Curran
of the Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning

Question

Please list the specific timetable for the Grove Park Neighbourhood Plan to go to examination and the date when the examiner will start the process?

Reply

Officers have recently provided the neighbourhood forum with final Regulation 16 comments, held initial discussions with the preferred examiner and set out a detailed provisional timetable to the forum and selected members. Subject to the proposed examiner fee being agreed by the Council, the following provisional timetable is anticipated:

Start Dec 2020 (Date TBD) – End of Jan 2021

- Plan to be submitted to examiner. The examination will take place over 8 days during this period. The 2-month period is due to the examiner holding multiple examinations in parallel.
- The speed of the examination will be dependent on the response time of the forum should the examiner have any qualifying questions regarding the plans content.

Feb 2021

- Results of plan examination to be published. If the plan is successful in its examination then under amended government legislation the Plan at this point will have significant material weight and will be used as part of the suite of policy documents to make planning decisions.

June 2021

- Under new government legislation responding to COVID-19 the earliest that Neighbourhood Planning referendums can take place in England is the 6th May

2021. However, due to the London Mayoral election, it is likely that the referendum for Grove Park will take place in June 2021 at the earliest, when resources are available in the Council's election team.

This timetable is subject to officer availability and may change should resources be re-deployed to assist in the Council's COVID-19 response.

QUESTION No. 5
Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

25 NOVEMBER 2020

Question by Councillor Gibbons
of the Cabinet Member for Culture, Jobs and Skills

Question

What progress is the Council making towards its living wage target?

Reply

We are proud to have been the first Living Wage council in the country. But one in four people working in our borough still earn below the Living Wage. We are determined to promote the Living Wage as part of our efforts to tackle in-work poverty, and ensure that our local economy works for the many.

In 2018, the council set a corporate target to double the number of Living Wage employers in Lewisham to 94 by 2022.

We are delighted that there are now 81 Living Wage employers in the borough, and we are on track to reach our target.

We recognise that these are very difficult times for local businesses, and that progress in increasing the number further may be tough. However, we firmly believe that the Living Wage is not just good for workers – it is good for businesses too. So we will continue to promote this locally, and encourage and support more employers to commit to the Living Wage.

QUESTION No. 6
Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

25 NOVEMBER 2020

Question by Councillor Ingleby
of the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport

Question

Can the Cabinet member provide an update on the progress towards the camera installation and the ordering of the accompanying traffic order sign with the hours of operation for the Conisborough College School Street, at the rear entrance of Forster Memorial Park, as agreed in September with Whitefoot Ward Councillors for likely installation in November? As was agreed, the current blanket use of a bollard throughout every school day is only a temporary measure until the camera is ready.

When will the missing 'Keep Clear' road painting by the upper school gate here be done, which we understood to have been scheduled as part of the initial school street works in September?

Reply

The use of the bollard for the School Street scheme at Conisborough College continues to be a temporary measure until we are in a position to deliver the camera enforced scheme. Unfortunately due to a national shortage of camera equipment to enforce such restrictions there has been a delay and unfortunately we are not able to meet the November timescale as initially anticipated. We are now expecting these cameras in mid-January, but will continue to press for delivery of the equipment as soon as possible.

The 'keep clear' markings at the upper and lower school gates and at the park entrance have all be implemented.

QUESTION No. 7
Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

25 NOVEMBER 2020

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

Question

Complaints are a valuable resource for the Council to improve and refine services, what are the expected timescales to respond to formal complaints now?

Reply

Corporate complaint enquiries timescales have been revised temporarily because of Covid 19 with effect from 09 November 2020 as follows:

Complaint Casework /	Response Time	Revised Response Time	Responsibility
Stage 1 Corporate Complaint	10 working days	20 working days	Service Manager
Stage 2 Corporate Complaint	20 working days	25 working days	Corporate Complaints & Casework Team
Stage 3 Corporate Complaint	30 working days	35 working days	Independent Adjudicator
Enquiries – General	10 working days	20 working days	Corporate Complaints & Casework Team
Enquiries – MP, Mayor, Members, Chief Executive	10 working days	20 working days	Corporate Complaints & Casework Team
Information Requests	Response Time		Responsibility
Freedom of Information requests (FOIs)	20 working days		Corporate Complaints & Casework Team
Subject Access Requests (SARs)	One calendar month (2 month extension – complex cases)		Corporate Complaints & Casework Team
Disclosure Requests	10 working days		Corporate Complaints & Casework Team

QUESTION No. 8
Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

25 NOVEMBER 2020

Question by Councillor Davis
of the Cabinet Member for Culture, Jobs and Skills

Question

Could the Cabinet member confirm when he expects Greenwich Leisure Limited to be in a position to provide residents with (a) further information concerning membership and (b) a point of contact for each Leisure Centre?"

Reply

Greenwich Leisure Limited are planning to write to all previous Fusion members during early in the week commencing 23rd November at the latest. This communication has been delayed due to the second lockdown as a phased reopening of facilities was planned from 16th November which had to be delayed.

Due to the ongoing changes I have, to date, requested that communication with GLL is undertaken via Council Officers to ensure a prompt response as a number of GLL staff remain on furlough due to lockdown. However, email addresses have been created for each site and these will be available once we receive clarity on the end date for the current restrictions and operational staff return from furlough. In the meantime Council Officers remain willing and able to answer any site specific queries that you may have.

QUESTION No. 9
Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

25 NOVEMBER 2020

Question by Councillor Gallagher
of the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport

Question

Can you update us on how much LIP funding we have lost as a council due to COVID-19 and what impact this has had on our planned programme of works?

Reply

At the start of the financial year all Local Implementation Plan (LIP) funding that the Council usually receives from Transport for London (TfL) was withdrawn. This meant that we were not able to progress the planned programme of works, which was approved in October, at all.

In early November we received notification from TfL that as a result of the financial deal that they have reached with Government they are able to reinstate LIP funding within limits for the remainder of the financial year. As part of this Lewisham will receive £761,000 LIP Corridors funding (compared to £1.94m for the full year). This will enable us to deliver some of the previously agreed programme of works, but not all. Consideration is currently being given to which parts of the programme will be progressed.

QUESTION No. 10
Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

25 NOVEMBER 2020

Question by Councillor Curran
of the Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning
Question

Does the Cabinet member share my concern that the evidence to the Local Plan regarding Hither Green Sidings SINC is flawed and inaccurate because it does not recognise the existence of the priority habitat wet woodland contained within this SINC and can therefore be brought to question at examination?

Reply

In consultation, the Planning Service is satisfied that the 2015/2016 SINC review is a sufficiently robust evidence base for the Local Plan and that the absence of a reference to wet woodland does not mean that it is flawed.

The Planning Service is working to support local residents and save our valuable green spaces and habitats. There are many demands on the service with increased workloads, the loss of income due to the pandemic, the re-assignment of staff to the Council's Covid-19 response and massive government-imposed cuts that are making resourcing extremely difficult. I am more than happy to discuss why Cllr Curran feels the Hither Green Sidings SINC is flawed.

QUESTION No. 11
Priority 3

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

25 NOVEMBER 2020

Question by Councillor Hall
of the Cabinet Member for Culture, Jobs and Skills

Question

What is the Council's playing fields strategy?

Reply

Lewisham Council's Playing Pitch Strategy was approved by Mayor and Cabinet on 11 December 2019.

Full details are available on the Council's website with the link to the report here:
<https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=69860>

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

25 NOVEMBER 2020

Question by Councillor Gallagher
of the Cabinet Member for Culture Jobs and Skills

Question

Can you update us on the plans for Borough of Culture and what work is currently happening?

Reply

The Culture Team have had regular meetings throughout lockdown with the GLA to prepare for restarting the mobilisation for Borough of Culture in 2022. The Albany have been appointed as the council's lead delivery partner, two Senior Producers are being recruited to join the Culture Team and will hopefully take up their posts at the end of January 2021. The Culture and Diversity Advisory Forum has been established to support the delivery team in ensuring the programme reflects Lewisham's diverse communities. We are on track to deliver our programme of Cultural Activism in 2022. Further details available at www.iamlewisham.uk

QUESTION No. 13
Priority 3

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

25 NOVEMBER 2020

Question by Councillor Curran
of the Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning

Question

In the light of my priority question 2, when will they update the SINC Review 2015/16 to accurately reflect the priority habitat contained within the SINC?

Reply

The Planning Service will continue to rely on the 2015/2016 SINC review which is a sufficiently robust evidence base for the Local Plan and will not be able to meet the cost of updating this study. As with my previous answer, I am more than happy to discuss why Cllr Curran feels the Hither Green Sidings SINC is flawed.

QUESTION No. 14
Priority 4

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

25 NOVEMBER 2020

Question by Councillor Hall
of the Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning

Question

The charity, Homeless Link have reported on the number of rough sleepers in London Boroughs for over ten years, what are the latest figures for Lewisham and London respectively and the current trends?

Reply

There are a number of ways of calculating rough sleeping within the London Borough of Lewisham. There are reports from the London-wide Rough Sleeper data base, CHAIN, bi-monthly street counts that restarted in September following lockdown, and a weekly intelligence gathering meeting attended by the council's rough sleeper team, as well as the London Street Rescue worker leading in this borough.

We feel that the most accurate figure is that provided by our intelligence meeting, as it includes data from both other methods.

Using this method, the last quarter trend is as follows:

04/08/2	01/09/2	08/09/2	15/09/2	22/09/2	29/09/2	06/10/2	13/10/2	03/11/2	10/11/2
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22	28	29	34	31	29	22	22	25	24

This is notwithstanding the opening of the Lewisham Rough Sleeper Pathway accommodation, a temporary accommodation based night shelter, on Monday 16th November.

The latest information available for Greater London as a whole is 2020 Qtr2 where the number of new people found sleeping rough in the quarter was 1,901, with a further 1,239 intermittent rough sleepers and 336 people deemed to be living on the streets.

Lewisham is committed to ending rough sleeping. During the 'Everyone In' earlier in the year, homelessness on the streets was almost ended, albeit using hotels and

temporary accommodation. Where there is a political will, we can innovate and solve our problems. It is a human tragedy that anyone has no home to call their own. We need a government that has the will and commitment to value all human life. Our officers and the teams they work with outside of the Council have done an incredible amount of work during the pandemic. It is through them that we have helped so many. This will continue despite the horrendous cuts forced on us, not because it is their job but it is their passion. They value all people and that pushes them forward beyond the words on a paper to the real people behind the numbers.

QUESTION No. 15
Priority 4

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

25 NOVEMBER 2020

Question by Councillor Gallagher
of the Cabinet Member for Culture, Jobs and Skills

Question

Can you give us an update on the work that we are doing to encourage the Living Wage within the borough?

Reply

We are determined to build an economy that works for the many. Tackling in-work poverty is central to this, and that is why we are so committed to promoting the Living Wage.

Lewisham was the first Living Wage accredited council in the country, and we are continue to encourage the take-up of the Living Wage (LLW) within the borough. We have a corporate target to double the number of LLW employers in Lewisham to 94 by 2022. We are in now the proud home to 81 LLW employers

We are promoting the Living Wage through a number of initiatives:

- We have a Living Wage incentive scheme, which provides newly accredited Living Wage employers with a business rate discount equivalent to five times the cost of accreditation.
- The Lewisham Deal brings together key anchor institutions across the borough. The Living Wage is one of the key social value commitments as part of the Lewisham Deal, and we are delighted that Lewisham Homes, Phoenix Community Housing and Goldsmiths, University of London are now Living Wage employers. This not just ensures their directly employed workers pay the Living Wage; it ensures that any regular contractors employed by the organisation are also paid fairly.

- We have a dedicated Social Value Officer, who focuses on promoting the Living Wage in the borough, as well as other aspects of good employment practice.
- Each year we celebrate Living Wage Week, to celebrate the Living Wage employers we have, and encourage more to commit to the Living Wage. This year's Living Wage Week included promotion on social media, marketing to local businesses, and an employer event with our tri-borough partners in Lambeth and Southwark, focused on encouraging more businesses to commit to the Living Wage.
- We work with employer organisations locally, including the South East London Chamber of Commerce, and the FSB, to promote the Living Wage to their members.
- We are happy to support any trade unions in campaigning for the Living Wage for their members.

Thanks for the question, and thanks for your support for the Living Wage. We're always keen to consider anything else we can do to promote the Living Wage.

QUESTION No. 16
Priority 4

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

25 NOVEMBER 2020

Question by Councillor Curran
of the Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning

Question

What is the current situation regarding the potential Site of Metropolitan Importance for the Grove Park Railway Corridor?

Reply

The London Wildlife Trust is currently undertaking further desktop studies to determine if Hither Green Sidings SINC (LeB29) together with the surrounding SINCs and open spaces meet the criteria of Metropolitan SINC. The report is expected to be finished by the end of November.

QUESTION No. 17
Priority 5

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

25 NOVEMBER 2020

Question by Councillor Curran
of the Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning

Question

Does the Cabinet member recognise that a woodland TPO is needed for the site behind the Ringway Centre Grove Park known locally as the Horse Meadow given the imminent threat to the wildlife from the owner including the number of protected species on site and on surrounding sites? In particular the Common Lizard recorded in May 2019 that has been lodged with the London Wildlife Trust and the GIGL (Greenspace Information for Greater London) register?

Reply

The Council made an Area TPO for the land to the rear of Baring Close & 252 – 328 Baring Rd also known as ‘Horse Meadows’ on the 1st October 2020. This Area TPO protects all trees with immediate effect and applies to all trees irrespective of size and species at the time the order was made.

The use of an Area TPO was deemed a practical, expedient solution to respond to an immediate concern.

The making of a Woodland TPO requires officers to undertake a detailed assessment of the land, all the trees on site and their species. The Council does not currently have the capacity to undertake this work and this is not part of the proposed work programme for officers.

I have also published a [statement](#) on this issue to provide local residents and ward Councillors with an update on the current situation, which has been emailed to you and the ward Councillors.

QUESTION No. 18
Priority 6

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

25 NOVEMBER 2020

Question by Councillor Curran
of the Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning

Question

Will the Cabinet member give an update on the Green Corridors along the railway line lands between Hither Green and Elmstead Woods?

Reply

The railway line between Hither Green and Elmstead Woods is designated as a Green Corridor (please see [Policies map](#)) and this designation will be retained in the new Local Plan.

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

25 NOVEMBER 2020

Question by Councillor Curran
of Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning

Question

It appears that the evidence given regarding the Hither Green Railway sidings land to Arup, the consultants carrying out the Metropolitan Open Land (MoL) Review may have been insufficient for them to conduct accurate findings. It appears that they may not have been informed that the Network Rail works to the site were temporary and that Network Rail therefore have a duty to restore/rewild the site once their works are completed. Therefore, Arup's recommendation that the land in question should be released from MoL designation does not appear to be based on the full facts and could lead to this de-designation being challenged at examination of the Local Plan. Will the Cabinet member consider reviewing this designation before the Local Plan goes out to consultation?

Reply

The MOL Review (2020) prepared by ARUP is an evidence base report that will inform preparation of the plan and officers are satisfied that it is sufficient. As an evidence base, the consultant's findings are not to be read prescriptively.

With respect to the MOL land flagged, the consultants found that this part of the MOL does not meet the criteria for MOL set by the NPPF and London Plan. This is a matter of fact and not an error. However, we have assessed all sites that the report identifies in this way - against our own local tests of exceptional circumstances – and we are not proposing to de-designate.

The schedule of changes to the policies map, which was presented to at M&C in March this year, set out the details of which MOL sites we are proposing to de-designate; this is limited to a small proportion of MOL at Catford to enable the re-routing of the South Circular.

For the avoidance of doubt, no other MOL sites are being proposed for de-designation in the emerging Local Plan.