

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 1**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**29 JUNE 2011**

Question asked by: Mr R Baptie

Member to reply: Councillor Maslin

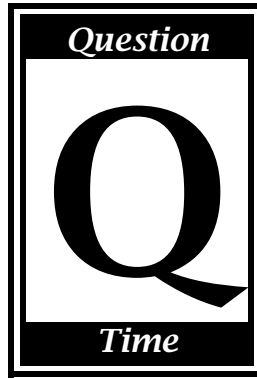
**Question**

On 1st March 2011 it was announced that Chief Executive, Barry Quirk, would be going part time, working three days a week, until he retires in 2014. The statement noted that his salary would reduce from £192,387 to £115,432 as a result, and this would result in savings of £260,000 over the next three years. It also stated that Mr Quirk would be entitled to start drawing his pension on a reduced basis.

On the assumption that the £260,000 of savings mentioned in the statement does not include the cost of this early pension payout, what is the net saving of the move to part time when taking into account the cost of pension payments to Mr Quirk that have arisen as a result of this arrangement?

**Reply**

The cost of the early release of pension benefits is recovered within the first year. The projected saving over 3 years, quoted as £260,000, is the net saving after taking those first year costs into account.



**PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 2**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**29 JUNE 2011**

Question asked by: Mr R Wooldford (on behalf of Deptford & New Cross People before Profit Campaign)

Member to reply: Deputy Mayor

**Question**

Can the Council please give a breakdown as to what they will spend the £4million pounds paid in section 106 money from the Developers of Cannon Wharf Evelyn Street London SE8. ( money for local Community need in Deptford,) at a time when Lewisham Council say it does not have the £108,000 to run New Cross Library, or the £85,000 a year needed to run Special Needs provision.

Can the Council also confirm what it will do with the extra money the Council will get from them towards education. Deptford/New Cross are in urgent need of both a primary and a new secondary school.

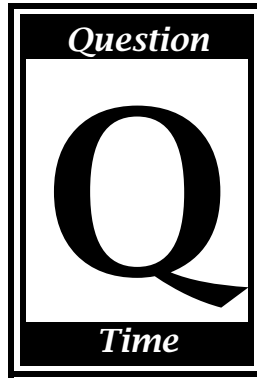
Can the Council also confirm that as these proposals will see the developer build only 20% affordable homes. (Lewisham Council state all developments must be 35% plus). What does the Council see as a fair profit to reduce the Affordable Housing ratio?

## Reply

At the time of writing the application is still to be considered by the Strategic Planning Committee on 23rd June 2011.

As part of the consideration of the application the Council has negotiated a package of financial contributions and other measures considered necessary to mitigate the impacts of the proposed development in accordance with the Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document. The timing of these payments and implementation of measures over a likely 6-7 year period is linked to the relevant phases of the development and associated triggers. A breakdown of the payments, including the amounts and purpose, are set out in Section 11 of the committee report. The package includes a financial contribution towards the capital costs of additional or improved facilities for primary and secondary education in the borough, local health facilities, and sustainable transport measures.

The level of affordable housing provision has been assessed in the context of the overall scheme viability on which the Council has received independent advice. This review of the submitted (confidential) financial appraisal concludes that given the costs and values of the proposed development (including the Section 106 package) the scheme is unable to provide additional affordable housing at this time. There will however be a financial review mechanism whereby if values increase above agreed levels then further financial payments will be made towards the provision of affordable housing.



**PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 3**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**29 JUNE 2011**

Question asked by: Mr R Stocker

Member to reply: Deputy Mayor

**Question**

At the Mayor and Cabinet meeting on Wednesday, 17th November, 2010 a report was approved titled "Local Implementation Plan". This document contained the following statements:-

**"A.10 Cycling**

Just as with Bus Stop Accessibility, efforts will be made to ensure that all Corridor/Neighbourhood project designs consider the needs of cyclist and include features to encourage and facilitate cycling. The London Mayor however, has set a target of a five fold increase in cycling. LIP performance indicators set by TfL include the proportion of trips made by bike. The LIP outputs the Council must report, include lengths of cycle lane and numbers of cycle parking spaces implemented. Hence it is recommended that £150k be used to open up barriers to cycling (one way streets, road closure etc); introduce cycle parking; create new or improve existing routes etc, away from the other planned Corridor/Neighbourhood proposals."

and

## **Action**

“Programme of events, publicity and promotion to raise awareness of sustainable modes of transport and in particular active travel including national campaigns and local events such as Bike Week, Bike & Kite event, Car Free Day, Walking Works.”

Please could you say what progress has been made on the cycling £150k and when this information will be shared with stakeholders (such as Lewisham Cyclists); what is the delivery plan for this expenditure; what the consultation strategy will be.

Please could you say what progress has been made on the £32k Travel Awareness budget; what is planned for 2011 Bike Week; what is planned for 2011 Car Free Day/Mobility week; Will any of this funding be used to promote active transport to/from local shopping centres e.g. Brockley, Crofton Park and Honor Oak Park so as to encourage Lewisham residents to use local shops rather than multi-national supermarkets.

## **Reply**

Some £150k has been allocated via the LIP programme for cycling measures in the borough for 2011/12. Officers are currently looking through existing studies previously carried out as part of the London Cycle network to help inform a programme of improvements .

This programme is currently being developed further, which will form the basis of a Project Implementation Document which will include the key milestones of delivery .

The detailed programme for Travel awareness is being developed and will support measures to raise awareness of national campaigns and local events.

## **Supplementary Question No. 3**

### **Mr Stocker**

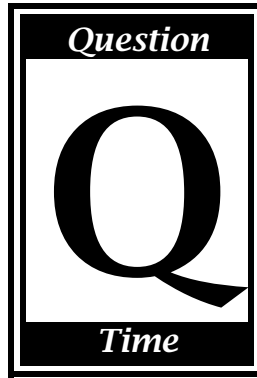
Given the recent report highlighting obesity levels in schoolchildren, notably reception children, and the alarming rise in type 2 diabetes, both conditions partially alleviated by regular exercise that cycling can bring, I am concerned that given funding of £350,000 and the £30,000 as well was approved by Transport for London last December some might detect a reluctance from Lewisham officers to take this 2011/12 funding forward, which if you have not spent it by March 2012 disappears back to TfL. Does the Council have a date when interested stakeholders might be consulted?

## **Action**

### **The Mayor**

Let me just explain something to begin with. I will be taking the supplementary questions to both Councillor Smith and Councillor Egan as well as my own. However, that does mean that you may not get quite the erudite answer you would have received from Councillor Smith and I am afraid I will have to take advice on that one and will drop you a line.

**ED Regen.**



**PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 4**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**29 JUNE 2011**

Question asked by: Mr R Stocker

Member to reply: Deputy Mayor

**Question**

Next Wednesday is Lewisham Cyclists AGM. Would it be possible for you to let us have information on the following:-

1. details of this years cycling projects with timescales and when we can expect draft designs for comments
2. details of proposed new cycle parking (especially those linked to last years car club project)
3. a response to our earlier query about CSH designs
4. any feedback from your departments discussions with Lewisham Housing about secure cycle parking
5. some highlights of your departments input to planning applications
6. When there will be a LCN+ project closure report given the 10 year lifespan of this project. Much was delivered and this would be very useful.

## **Action**

### **Reply**

1. The programme is currently being developed.
2. New Cycle parking for new developments is secured via the
3. Planning process. In terms of Car clubs, some 56 sites are
4. included in the designation of car club bays as part of the Traffic
5. order. This information was published last month.
  
6. The Cycling Super Highways (CSH) proposals are part of the
7. London Mayors initiative, design questions need to be addressed
8. by TfL. If there are specific design issues these should be sent
9. to TfL and borough officers copied in.
  
10. The management of Council housing is provided by separate
11. management companies, so secure parking for cycles in these
12. properties would be a matter for these bodies.
  
13. We are consulted on all planning applications and where appropriate
14. Transport improvements are always considered, including pedestrian
15. and cycling enhancements.
  
16. There may be some merit in developing a project closure for the
17. LCN+ generally, but funding would need to be identified as LCN is
18. no longer funded from TfL.

### **Supplementary Question No. 4**

#### **Mr Stocker**

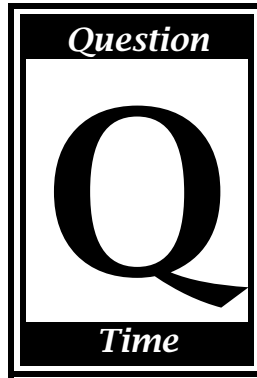
This initial email was sent to Lewisham Transport in February of this year. It was followed up in April of this year. Neither one has been responded to. It was relating to last year's cycling schemes. There seems to be a reluctance from Lewisham officers to talk to interested stakeholders, so most of the answers to this question are not answering the exact question. I just thought I would clarify that. I would more than welcome a meeting with Councillor Smith to discuss any of these issues, because I understand it is trying times these days.

#### **The Mayor**

I will endeavour to see if I can arrange that.

**ED Regen.**





**PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 5**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**29 JUNE 2011**

Question asked by: Ms G Raggett

Member to reply: Councillor Best

**Question**

In respect of the library at Age Exchange in Blackheath:

- 1) What is the actual cost to Lewisham council of fulfilling orders for books?
- 2) Did the 50p previously charged cover the full amount?
- 3) Given the very small number of books on the shelves at Age Exchange, with almost none at all until the reopening in autumn 2012, how many book orders has Lewisham budgeted to fulfil, both this year and in subsequent years?
- 4) Can you confirm that ALL books, whether in Lewisham's catalogue or obtained from elsewhere, will be available free of charge?

**Reply**

- 1) The Library & Information Service supplies the libraries with new books on a regular basis. This service also allows for the circulation of the stock. This logistical task is covered by the Service's driver and will include the cost of his salary and the cost of maintaining and running the

van, e.g. £59,359.

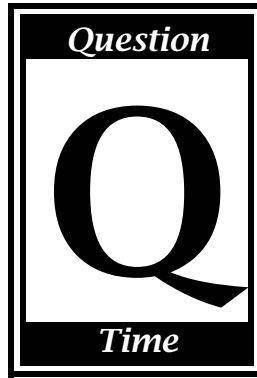
We estimate that 40% of the workload of the driver relates to moving requests from library to library in Lewisham.

We had 33,143 requests from library to library last year.

On the above premises and given the administrative charge of 50p on each request, the Service is subsidising each request with 22p.

Transport costs	£	59,359
Requests in 2010-2011		33,143
Cost of request on 40% workload	£	0.72
Administrative charge	£	0.50
Subsidy per request	£	0.22

- 2) Officers are clear that they can make efficiency savings in the delivery of stock without impacting on the quality of the service. We do estimate however that the development of the community libraries provision will yield increased requests for this service. It is estimated that the cost will be £20,000 to the service but this will also provide a free service for requests from Lewisham's catalogue. Reservations from other catalogues will be charged for, including Inter Library Loans, London Requests, London Library Consortium, and British Library loans.



**PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 6**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**29 JUNE 2011**

Question asked by: Mr R Stocker

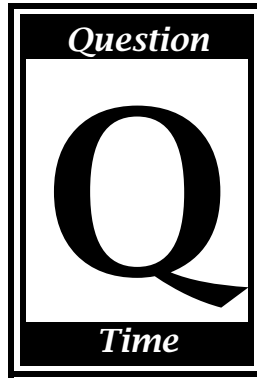
Member to reply: Deputy Mayor

**Question**

Is there a public record of approved planning applications with S106 funding specifically for walking and cycling over the last 3 years?

**Reply**

There is currently no publically available summary for walking and cycling contributions secured through Section 106, however, all of the Council's Section 106 agreements are available on-line via the Council's Website and for viewing on the Planning Register at Laurence House. The recently adopted Planning Obligation Supplementary Planning Document has introduced the intention to publish annual reports on the Council's Section 106 activities and these reports will include a summary of Section 106 monies secured, received and spent in each financial year. The first report will be published to cover the 2011/2012 financial year and will be made available on the Council's website.



**PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 7**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**29 JUNE 2011**

Question asked by: Mr R Stocker

Member to reply: Deputy Mayor

**Question**

In a response to a mayoral question from John Biggs AM (Question No: 1460 / 2011), Mayor Johnson stated:-

"If Barclays Cycle Superhighway Route 2 had continued to Ilford, the London Borough of Newham would have been given the opportunity to bid for up to a further £20,000 of cycle training funding. Newham would have also been able to bid for up to around £100,000 for residential and estate cycle parking, and around £5,000 for bicycle safety checks."

As Cycle Superhighway 5 will coming to Lewisham next year can you please let me know:-

- 1) Have timescales been indicated by TfL for bids for this funding?
- 2) What will the timeframe be for the preparation and submission of these bids?
- 3) What preparatory work has been done to identify which estates/areas in the zone might benefit from secure cycle parking?

- 4) Have there been any communications with local residents/tenant associations regarding this opportunity?
- 5) Have local councillors been contacted about this project?

### **Reply**

- 1) A preliminary timescale has been circulated indicating the programme from now until the Project is due to commence in June 2013. Detailed design is progressing and TfL are undertaking a large modelling exercise to inform the design. Officers are not aware of details being received relating to funding bids for any complementary measures. This will be raised with TfL.
- 2) This is dependent on TfL, when these are known Lewisham will consider a bid.
- 3) The Route 5 programme is due to commence in June 2013, so officers will establish if any preliminary work has been undertaken. The key priority appears to be establishing the base model and detailed design.
- 4) This can be raised with TfL, as it is their proposal.
- 5) It is understood that TfL are willing to provide a briefing to raise awareness about the project.

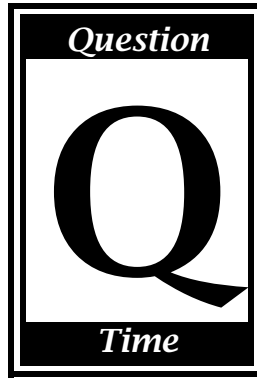
### **Supplementary Question No. 7**

#### **Mr Stocker**

This question was put forward because I feel that a lot of advance preparation needs doing to work with tenants and residents within 1.5 kilometres of the proposed cycle superhighway site. That means making sure that local councillors are aware that up to £100,000 is available for secure cycle parking in residential properties, something that is lacking and I think the Council would welcome that. Again, I would welcome a meeting with Councillor Smith or any other Lewisham officers as deemed appropriate.

#### **The Mayor**

I am not sure I can add to my previous response. Thank you.



**PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 8**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**29 JUNE 2011**

Question asked by: Mrs P Richardson

Member to reply: Councillor Best

**Question**

The budget for Community Education Lewisham was not available for the Healthier Communities Select committee meeting on 8th June 2011. Therefore how much is the grant allocated from Central government? What are all the other funding streams and how much is each worth?

How will this money be allocated to provide the CEL service for the next academic year from September 2011 to July 2012?

**Reply**

The majority of funding for Community Education Lewisham (CEL) is allocated by the Skills Funding Agency (SFA), an agency of the Department for Business Innovation and Skills. The funding for the 2011/12 academic year has been allocated to CEL under the following funding streams:

Adult Safeguarded Learning - £1,873,761

Adult Skills - £1,397,747

First Steps- £440,364

Additional Learning Support - £186,057

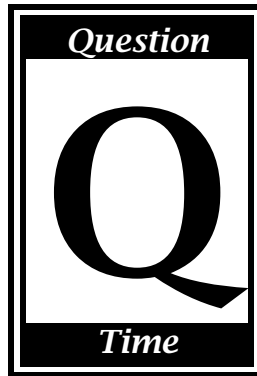
CEL employs the funding in accordance with the priorities set out by the Skills Funding Agency. Accordingly, the Adult Skills funding focuses upon Skills for Life (Adult Literacy, Numeracy and ESOL) Childcare and ICT; First Steps funds courses which provide the first 'step' on the ladder before progression to an accredited qualification; Adult Safeguarded funding is used to support Family Learning, Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Communities and Personal and Community Development learning.

Additional Learning Support funding is used for activities that provide direct support for learning to individual learners, which may arise from a learning difficulty and/or disability.

In addition to the programmes funded from the SFA funding, CEL now provides a range of courses through the 'Extras' programme. These offer specially designed short courses in popular subjects and are self financing.

In addition to the funding from the SFA, in 2010/11, CEL also received £400k from course fees, including those from the Extras programme.

For 2011/12 the Council has also provided funding of £250,000 to support non-accredited learning and associated running costs.



**PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 9**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**29 JUNE 2011**

Question asked by: Mrs P Richardson

Member to reply: Councillor Best

**Question**

Is the council still paying the rent on the Blackheath Village Library building?  
When do they expect to be able to sublet it?

How many expressions of interest have they had? How many interested parties are still interested and who are they? Who does the council deem the preferred new occupant?

**Reply**

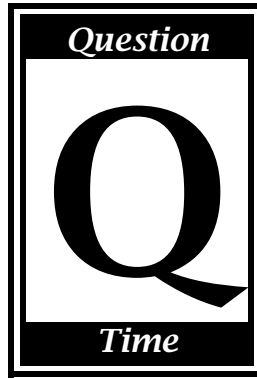
The Council is still paying rent for Blackheath Library.

The Council is proposing to assign the residue of its lease and is aiming to complete this as soon as possible, but is bound by the requirements and time scale of the landlord.

There have been two expressions of interest. One from a firm of solicitors who have withdrawn as the premises are too large for them. The other from a Preparatory School already located in Blackheath.



The Council is proceeding to negotiate an assignment of the lease with the landlord and the preparatory school as soon as possible.



**PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 10**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**29 JUNE 2011**

Question asked by: Mr G Ambrose

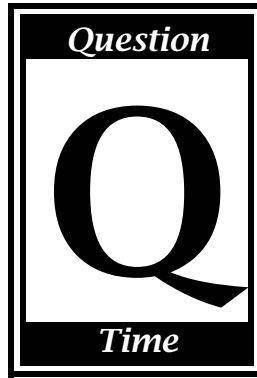
Member to reply: Councillor Best

**Question**

How much are the annual buildings insurance costs underwritten by Lewisham council for each of the former library buildings of Crofton Park, Grove Park and Sydenham from 28th May 2011? How much is this? From which budget does it come? Is this cost being borne solely by the council or is a contribution coming from another organisation? If so, which organisation? How much is being contributed?

**Reply**

The Council has cover under an all Risks Policy for these 3 buildings. The cost of £3,529 will be charged to the lessee, all other insurance costs are the responsibility of the lessee.



**PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 11**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**29 JUNE 2011**

Question asked by: Mr G Ambrose

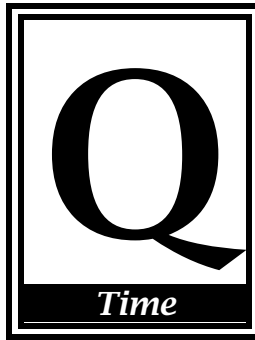
Member to reply: Councillor Best

**Question**

Was Lewisham Council paying rent for the use of the Lewisham Homes building which formerly housed New Cross library? If so how much was this rent and from which budget was it paid?

**Reply**

Lewisham Council did not pay rent to Lewisham Homes for New Cross Library as the company and the building are wholly owned by the Council.



**PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 12**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**29 JUNE 2011**

Question asked by: Mr G Ambrose

Member to reply: Councillor Best

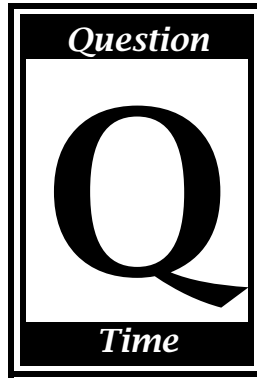
**Question**

Will the Mayor, any Lewisham councillors or officers be attending the Olympic opening ceremony, closing ceremony or events, courtesy of donated tickets? Have any tickets been purchased for these events by the tax payers of Lewisham for these people?

**Reply**

No tickets have been purchased for any events or ceremonies for the Mayor, Councillors or any officers. There have also not been any courtesy invitations to any of the above.

The Council has contributed £5,000 to purchase tickets for sports clubs in the borough. We will be announcing the criteria for distribution of these later in the year.



**PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 13**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**29 JUNE 2011**

Question asked by: Mr G Thurley (on behalf of Friends of Brockley & Ladywell Cemeteries)

Member to reply: Councillor Wise

**Question**

When is it expected that the repair of the only toilet in the Ladywell and Brockley Cemeteries will commence, and how long will the work take?

**Reply**

The work has already began and all works should be completed by end of June. Unfortunately because of the current financial constraints facing the Council we will only be able to repair rather than improve the toilets.

**Supplementary Question No. 13**

**Mr Thurley**

Thank you, Councillor Wise, for your reply on the work to be done on the Ladywell and Brockley toilets, but as of this morning it appeared that no work had started – members of the Friends group do obviously go through the cemetery very regularly. Therefore, your reply that work should be finished by

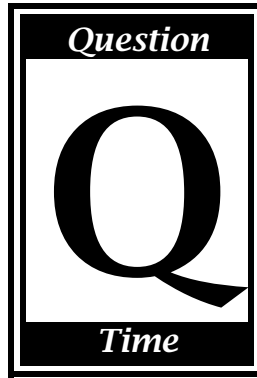
tomorrow is, I think, a little bit optimistic. I would be grateful if you could pursue this and find out what is happening. Thank you.

**Councillor Wise**

Thank you very much for your question, Mr Thurley. I have asked officers to move the date on this further back, because although we had thought we could do it earlier it was obvious that was not going to happen. However, I am told it should be done by tomorrow, but I am very happy to meet you perhaps on Friday and see if it has not happened. I will be chasing it up in the meantime though, okay? Thank you very much.

**Action**

**ED Cust.  
Serv.**



**PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 14**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**29 JUNE 2011**

Question asked by: Mr G Thurley (on behalf of Friends of Brockley & Ladywell Cemeteries)

Member to reply: Deputy Mayor

**Question**

The Ladywell Training Centre at 1 Slaygrove Place, Ladywell, was recently sold for £730,000. Is it possible for some of these monies to go towards refurbishing (as opposed to just repairing) the toilet in the Ladywell and Brockley Cemeteries, and towards essential work on the Ladywell Playtower, Ladywell Road?

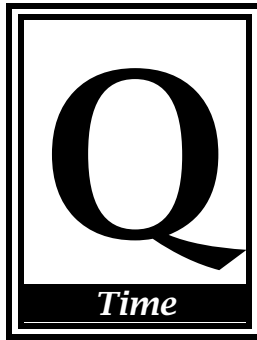
**Reply**

The receipt from the sale of the Ladywell Training Centre will be used to finance the Council's capital programme. Capital receipts are not usually earmarked for specific projects or programmes; they go into the overall capital programme funding pot and are allocated to projects based on need.

Priorities for the Council's Capital Programme are agreed annually and in the very tightly constrained financial climate in which we operate the toilets in Ladywell & Brockley Cemeteries were not considered sufficiently high priority to receive an allocation. They will be considered for funding again next year. This year limited resources have however been allocated to Ladywell Playtower (and another listed building) to avoid further deterioration to the

fabric of the building. The Council continues to work with English Heritage to identify further funding for essential repairs on the building. There is also ongoing work with a consortium of local organisations who have recently formed themselves into a Trust for the sole purpose of refurbishing the Playtower and bringing it back into beneficial use.





**PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 15**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**29 JUNE 2011**

Question asked by: Mr D McKibbon

Member to reply: Councillor Wise

**Question**

Please list the housing associations in the borough that operate fixed and variable service charges for their weekly assured and assured shorthold tenants. In view of the fact that weekly tenants with variable service charges can apply to the leasehold valuation tribunal for a determination of their service charges and such an application can be backdated for up to 7 years will the council use its influence to ensure that in any future development work that housing associations are required to use variable service charges for their weekly tenants? Are the relevant council staff trained in the availability of this remedy for weekly housing association tenants? See LON/OOAL/LSC/2007/0422 for an example of where a weekly tenant successfully challenged their service charges.

**Reply**

Lewisham Council is not responsible for setting the rents or service charges for housing association properties. Where possible the Council will influence the levels of service charges but ultimately it is the housing associations' decision.

We would also not be directly involved in any tribunals between a tenant and their housing association landlord.

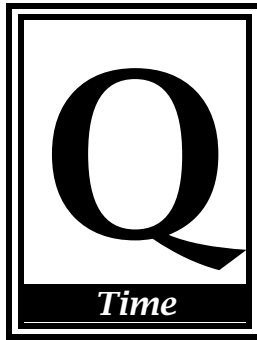
The Tenant Services Authority set guidelines for housing associations, one of which is "Registered providers should endeavour to keep increases in Housing Benefit-eligible service charges to no more than the guideline limit of RPI+0.5%." but do not state whether charges should be fixed or variable. L&Q and Hyde HA, two of the boroughs largest housing association landlords have variable service charges on some of their properties.

For cases involving council owned stock (managed by either Lewisham Homes, Regenter B3 or Tenant Management Organisations) we have specialist housing lawyers and where necessary can outsource legal representation.

For information please see below details of housing association service charges.



PEABODY TRUST							10 7.9 4	7.8 3	11 5.7 7	11 9.8 4	7. 8 0	12 7.6 4			
PHOENIX COMM HAL	70. 09	4.8 9	74. 27	80. 35	2.3 5	81. 29	88. 07	1.2 0	88. 33	95. 11	0. 8 8	95. 27	12 0.1 6		120 .16
PRESENTATION	81. 61	11. 30	92. 73	96. 03	10. 08	2.3 7	11 1.3 5	2.3 2	11 2.3 6	12 0.1 2	5. 2 7	12 0.8 2	12 9.7 2	1. 1 4	129 .83
RAGLAN	79. 17	11. 99	91. 16												
SERVITE	81. 37		81. 37	87. 28		87. 28	85. 53		85. 53						
SOUTHERN HGL	76. 84	5.8 5	82. 69	85. 27	5.9 3	91. 20									
THE RIVERSIDE GROUP LIMITED	74. 12	8.7 6	82. 88	79. 85	9.0 7	88. 92	95. 04	1.5 2	95. 68						
WANDLE	77. 25	9.7 5	86. 29	90. 73	7.0 5	97. 63	11 2.6 9	2.9 4	11 4.7 5	12 1.8 9	2. 2 3	12 4.0 0	13 7.2 2		137 .22
<b>Lewisham average /total</b>	76. 50	6.7 2	80. 69	86. 86	5.6 4	89. 56	96. 25	3.4 1	97. 26	11 0.3 7	2. 6 2	11 1.3 5	12 9.5 2	1. 5 0	129 .90



**PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 16**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**29 JUNE 2011**

Question asked by: Ms U Michel

Member to reply: Deputy Mayor

**Question**

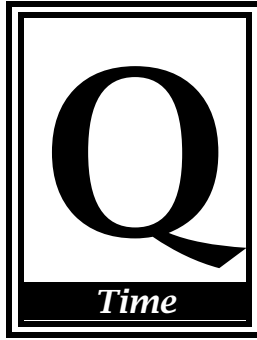
Are there plans to replace the cycle racks on Lewisham Road which were removed when the pavement in front of the shops in the shopping parade near the railway arch at Lewisham station, opposite the petrol station, was renewed recently?

If yes, what is the timeframe?

If no, why not - especially considering that some of the shops attract not just local customers?

**Reply**

These were removed to facilitate other works at this location. Officers have instructed the contractor to put them back.



**PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 17**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**29 JUNE 2011**

Question asked by: Mr P Richardson

Member to reply: Councillor Best

**Question**

Have any library staff been given redundancy notices since January 2011? If so, how many?

How many library staff are due to be made redundant between 1st April 2011 - 31st October 2011?

How many library staff will take retirement between 1st April 2011 - 31st October 2011? How many are being retired early?

**Reply**

Up to 1 April 2011 no library staff were issued with notice of redundancy as consultation on the proposals were still taking place.

It is anticipated that a total of around 14 library staff will have been issued with notice of redundancy in the period 1 April to 31 October 2011.

Staff are no longer required to retire at the age of 65 and can continue working to the age of 70. No member of staff has indicated to us at this time that they wish to retire before 31 October 2011.

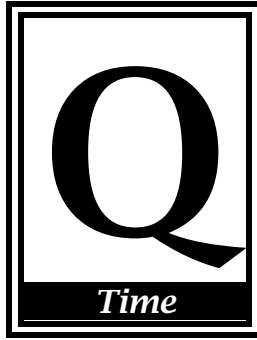
## **Supplementary Question No. 17**

### **Mr Richardson**

Thank you very much and thank you, Councillor Best, for your written reply to my question 17, but in view of the fact that there have been no redundancies yet made when can we expect to see some of the £830,000 of savings on which the decision to close the five libraries in Lewisham was made? Thank you.

### **Councillor Best**

Thank you for that question, Mr Richardson. In the second part of my answer I say 'it is anticipated that around 14 library staff will have to be issued with notice of redundancy in the period 1 April to 31 October', so obviously we will need to keep that money in reserve so that we can work through that period. It may be staff are in the pool and get other opportunities within the Council, but obviously we still need to keep our reserves available.



**PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 18**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**29 JUNE 2011**

Question asked by: Mr P Richardson

Member to reply: Councillor Best

**Question**

How many Agency Staff have been employed by the Council in the Library Service since 1st April 2011? How many of these have been used in the new "Community Libraries"? What is the cost of each group?

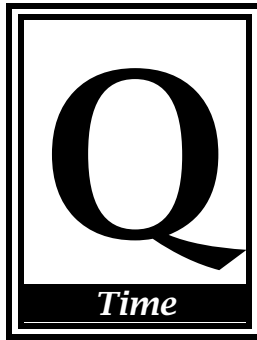
How many 'Workfare' employees have been used in Lewisham's Library Service since 1st April 2011?

**Reply**

Two agency staff have been employed since April 2011 to cover existing vacancies but not within the community libraries. The cost of this to date is £8,835.00.

The Council and the Service have not knowingly employed staff at risk of losing their benefits, nor do they have a policy of recruiting on the basis of a 'workfare' system. Indeed, a workfare system does not yet exist in the country.





**PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 19**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**29 JUNE 2011**

Question asked by: Mr P Richardson

Member to reply: Councillor Best

**Question**

How is it that a small business can take over 3 library buildings (Grove Park, Crofton Park and Sydenham), assets of Lewisham Council, at peppercorn rents and why is a Community Group in New Cross asked to pay £30,000 p.a. rent for New Cross Library?

Did Lewisham Council pay such a rent to Lewisham Homes in the past?

**Reply**

The rents for Grove Park, Crofton and Sydenham are based on the tenant having a long term full repairing lease and the cost reflects the current physical condition and location of the buildings.

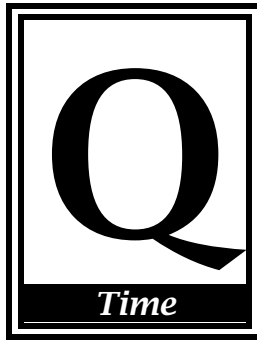
The Council was not paying rent to Lewisham Homes for New Cross library as the company and building are wholly owned by the Council. The potential rent for New Cross library estimated to be £25,000 reflects its High Street location.

**Supplementary Question No. 19**

Yes, thank you, and also thanks again to Councillor Best for her written reply, but has there yet been any decision made for the future of New Cross Library?

**Councillor Best**

No, no decision has been reached, although a lot of work is going on. There has been a lot of discussion with key stakeholders in looking at whether we can provide a further opportunity to run the community library. We have talked about a cafe and many other items have been raised and discussed. We can say that officers are working very hard to bring this to a conclusion as soon as is practical, working with local people so we can meet local needs.



**PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 20**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**29 JUNE 2011**

Question asked by: Mr P Richardson

Member to reply: Councillor Best

**Question**

In view of the advice on the risks identified by officers, (financial, viability of the Company and building case) and given to Mayor and Cabinet (11th May 2011 Report) by offering the leases of 3 library buildings, (Grove Park, Crofton Park and Sydenham) to Eco Computer Systems for a period of 25 years, what measures, provision and/or conditions have been made for the return of these assets to the Council in the event of the failure of the Eco Computer Systems Company?

Who, in the Council becomes accountable?

**Reply**

Should Eco Computer Systems Ltd become insolvent or, the terms of the leases otherwise fail to be met, the Council will have the right to terminate the leases. The Head of Asset Strategy & Development would be responsible, on the advice of the Executive Director for Community Services and the Head of Law.

**Supplementary Question No. 20**

Yes, please. This is also a thank you to Councillor Best for her written reply. However, although I am familiar with the Head of Law in Lewisham Council I

would appreciate knowing the name of the Head of Asset Strategy and Development, please.

**Councillor Best**

We do not normally name officers in this arena, but indeed the said member of staff is with us this evening, one Steve Gough.