

Council

Date of Meeting: 18 May 2016

Questions from Councillors

Wards: All

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Report summary

Questions and answers submitted by Councillors, in accordance with Standing Order 12, are set out below.

1. Councillor Bernard Gentry

To: Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport – Councillor Jennifer Brathwaite

Parking Management Services

Why has the Labour administration allowed unauthorised spends of £1,236,375 and £12,375 (Enforcement Services 1 Feb - 30 Apr 2016) in Parking Management Services? These figures only came to light in a Cabinet Member Decision paper asking the member to 'note' the relevant spending.

Why has yet another failure to monitor budgets come to light at a time when the council was setting its budget for the 2016/17 financial year, and is wasting millions of pounds on a Communications department to try to convince residents that it has no money?

Can the Labour administration confirm that it will conduct a full investigation into how this situation arose, detailing who is responsible for it, who knew about it, and when?

Party: Conservative

Answer:

The contract for Parking Management Services has produced savings of £1.85 million in recent years – just one of many examples of how this administration has achieved efficiencies across the organisation. These efficiencies have allowed us to continue to provide the vital services that many of our residents rely on, in the face of huge government cuts supported by Lambeth's Conservative councillors.

Councillor Gentry has raised his concerns with the Chief Executive and a full response to his concerns was provided to him on 27 April by the Council's Monitoring Officer. The facts are as follows:

1. The Council awarded a contract for Parking Management Services (Lots 1 - Enforcement and 2 - Nuisance Vehicle Removal services) to NCP Services Ltd for a period of 5 years from 1 August 2008. The contract contained an option to extend for a further 5 year period (ie until 31 July 2018) at the Council's discretion.
2. At the end of the original 5 year contract period the contract was subsequently extended, originally until 31 July 2015 and subsequently for a further 6 month period until 31 January 2016 whilst the Council considered options for the future provision of the parking service.
3. In January 2016 the re-procurement of the contract had not been completed. In accordance with the original contract the Council still had the option to further extend the original contract by a further period of 30 months. A report was prepared to take this decision formally and the decision was originally due to be taken in January 2016, ie before the authorised extension period had expired. The report was considered by the Procurement Board on 28 January 2016, chaired by the Council's Internal Auditor. The report author was asked to clarify a number of detailed issues regarding the contract and its value and what savings had been secured. The original

report in January 2016 had requested an extension until 31 July 2016 and the Board queried whether it was realistic for the procurement to take place within that period and recommended a longer extension period until 30 September 2016 in order to ensure a more realistic timeframe.

4. We acknowledge that there were some delays in amendments being made to the report. As a result there was a gap between the report being signed off by the Chair of the Procurement Board and the contract extension period beginning. The amended report gave approval for the contract to be extended until 30 September 2016.

Both the Council's Monitoring Officer and the Council's Internal Auditor are satisfied that there is no impropriety in the contract arrangements and no "unauthorised spending" on the basis that:-

- The original contract envisaged provided for a contract extension for up to five years until July 2018.
- The extension which is the subject of the report was clearly carefully scrutinised by the procurement board back in January 2016 and was approved at that time subject to it coming back for the Chair's approval once the report had been rewritten to provide clarification around various issues, which was unfortunately subsequently delayed for the reasons set out above.
- The Cabinet Member decision report makes it clear that the so called "unauthorised spend" referred to in the report was in fact already authorised by the previous extension.
- The report records the fact that savings of £1.85 million have been achieved over the period 2013 – 2015. In many ways this is an example of excellent contract management albeit that the paperwork could have been completed in a more timely manner.

2. Councillor Scott Ainslie

To: Cabinet Member for Environment & Transport – Councillor Jennifer Brathwaite

20mph on red routes

Now that Lambeth Council has introduced a 20mph borough wide limit will it press Transport for London to introduce a 20mph limit on Red Routes within the borough, and reclassify the A23 through Streatham as a "High Street" rather than a "High Road" placing less emphasis on the movement of traffic, and more on it being a place where people live?

Party: Green

Answer:

I welcome Councillor Ainslie's support for the borough-wide 20mph speed limit, which was introduced last month and fulfils a key manifesto pledge we made to residents in 2014. Our commitment to slower traffic and safer streets has been recognised by the '20's Plenty' campaign group who said that "of all the boroughs to have taken up 20mph in recent times Lambeth has embraced it most fully."

As part of the development of the 20mph limit, the council worked closely with Transport for London who is committed to introducing 20mph limits under experimental traffic orders in the following red route locations within the borough:

- Brixton Town Centre
- Clapham High Street
- Stamford Street
- Westminster Bridge Road

These four schemes on the Transport for London road network are anticipated to be operational by June 2016. The council will continue to press Transport for London to introduce further 20mph controls on its network, including Streatham High Road.

3. Councillor Vaila McClure

To: Cabinet Member for Housing – Councillor Matthew Bennett

Affordable Homes

Can the Cabinet Member provide us with an update on Lambeth's programme for building affordable homes in the borough?

Party: Labour

Answer

The scale of London's housing crisis is severe and Lambeth is no exception. We have 22000 people on our waiting list for social housing, almost 1900 homeless households, including almost 5000 children, living in temporary accommodation and over 1300 families living in severely overcrowded accommodation. In the context of this housing crisis, Lambeth council is taking direct action to build more affordable housing in the borough.

We are developing surplus land such as Somerleyton Road; reducing the number of council buildings we use and building homes as part of the YNTH programme; regenerating some of our low-density estates; working with housing associations to promote more affordable homes in their schemes. The council is also working in partnership with affordable housing developers such as Pocket, who are building 125 affordable homes for first time buyers, with priority being given to those living and working in Lambeth. Unlike the government's 'Starter Homes' these homes will remain below market price and affordable to local people in perpetuity.

Our planning policies also set out our ambitions to achieve a minimum of 40% affordable housing on new developments and we have an excellent track record of negotiating with private developers to build affordable housing through s.106 agreements.

As the former Mayor of London introduced a policy redefining 'Affordable Rent' as anything up to 80% of market value, the Council set out to build more genuinely affordable properties by setting a target to providing 1,000 new properties at Council rent levels over five years.

Council Schemes

Through estate regeneration, Somerleyton Road, YNTH and infill schemes, the cabinet has already given approval for over 600 new homes in the borough at council rent levels. This is the biggest council-led building programme in Lambeth for over a generation and represents this administration's commitment to building the homes we need to house the people of Lambeth.

Significant progress is being made with the Council's development programme. Construction has started on three sites – Ackerman Road, St. Oswald's and Lollard Street – providing approximately 100 council rent properties in total. Homes at Ackerman Road are being built to the environmental gold standard Passivhaus design, which will significantly reduce energy bills for tenants.

Our estate regeneration schemes will rebuild homes for our tenants and increase the number of Council rent homes for local people. There will be no loss of social housing on any of the estates. This means that all existing tenants get a new home, built to high standards, designed to meet the needs of their family, with new, genuinely affordable, homes at council rent levels being built for those in housing need.

We've looked at other smaller sites as well and are in the process of packaging these into a portfolio of developments which will see a significant number of new homes built. These include approximately 60 new homes on the current site of Fitch Court in central Brixton and up to 47 new homes as infill on the Hemans Estate in Stockwell.

To deliver this ambitious programme the Council is setting up Homes for Lambeth, a company that will be wholly-owned by the council, which will be able to attract funds to increase development and which will be registered as a housing association so that tenants can be offered lifetime assured tenancies, matching as closely as possible their existing legal rights under a secure tenancy. This will also mean not having to work with private developers, ensuring that money that would have been lost as developer's profit can instead be recycled into building more genuinely affordable homes.

The administration is also committed to building homes at intermediate rent levels, targeted at families on wages who struggle to afford private rent levels and who will never reach the top of the waiting list for council homes; and also to build homes for private renters with securer, longer-term tenancies so that we can start to meet the housing needs and aspirations of the wider Lambeth community.

Affordable Housing Programme

In terms of the larger "affordable housing" programme for the whole of Lambeth, consisting of both the council led provision described above that being built by housing associations, there are 2,200 units that are being developed with 576 being completed in 2016/17 and 476 in 2017/18. Most of the accommodation (60%) is affordable housing to rent, and 900 units are Intermediate Accommodation to provide low-cost homeownership and a range of renting opportunities for younger people and professionals who cannot afford market prices.

Housing associations are also contributing to the 1,000 new homes target, with the Council and housing associations having either started the construction or completed just over 250 homes (25%).

4. Councillor Rezina Chowdhury

To: Deputy Leader of the Council (Investment and Partnerships) – Councillor Paul McGlone

Council Tax Support

Could the Cabinet Member give us an update on how he expects Lambeth's council tax support scheme to benefit vulnerable residents in Lambeth in the year ahead?

Party: Labour

Answer:

Despite the cut in funding when the former universal Council Tax Benefit was transferred to councils in 2013/14, Lambeth council has continued to protect and support the most vulnerable residents through our own Council Tax Support scheme.

In 2015/16, the scheme helped 33,000 people. Of those, 11,000 are pensioners. The remaining 22,300 are 'working age', of which 9,200 or 41% fall into Lambeth's exempted 'Protected' categories (Disabled, Carers, those subject to the Benefits Cap, and War Widows and Widowers). Lambeth therefore has fully protected just over 20,000 households or 61% of those eligible for CTS. For 2016/17 the CTS scheme remains unchanged, as agreed at full council in January 2016.

Lambeth's local CTS scheme has become a key element of the council's financial resilience strategy. This brings together all available help for vulnerable residents in one place as well as providing financial advice to help residents better manage their finances and avoid debt.

Unfortunately, funding has continued to decline for Council Tax Support in line with overall local government funding settlement cuts. Therefore the 'gap' between what we spend in Council Tax Support (CTS) and what the government gave us funding for is projected to be £4.8m by 2017/18. This is a pattern we have seen repeated in many areas under this government: they claim to believe in devolving powers and responsibilities to local councils but do so in a way that places extra burdens on us without the appropriate funding to cover them.

5. Councillor Iain Simpson

To: Councillor Tim Briggs

Housing Bill

Given that the Housing Bill is currently undergoing defeat after defeat in the House of Lords, will the Leader of the Opposition Group end his indifference to this piece of legislation and finally come out against a Bill which does nothing for those aspiring to buy a home and would be disastrous for council housing throughout this borough?

Party: Labour

Answer:

Only a council with councillors who vote as they are ordered to, rather than according to their own consciences, would see amendments to parliamentary Bills as 'defeats', rather than a proper and useful constitutional process.

Those aspiring to buy a home

The whole point of the Bill is to enable housebuilding across the UK, not to provide even more resources to councils like Lambeth that have shown themselves to be poor housebuilders and even worse landlords.

This Labour administration either concentrates on high-end unaffordable developments in Vauxhall, or council housing, but nothing for the majority of people in between.

The Housing and Planning Bill will make it easier for local communities and builders to develop houses, and will reform the planning system to do that. Annual housing supply in England amounted to 170,690 net additional dwellings in 2014-15, which is a 25 per cent increase in net additional dwellings from 2013-14. The Bill once enacted should help increase those numbers significantly.

Council housing throughout this borough

Labour nationally has a poor record on building council houses. More council houses have been built in the UK since 2010 under the Tories than under Labour in the previous 13 years.

As a result the Labour administration in Lambeth is desperate to prove itself a housebuilder, but it does so by demolishing people's homes without a mandate, in order to build new flats. Since Myatt's Field is the only example we have to go by, these will be poorly constructed, badly managed and unaffordable for residents, and taking away the right to buy means that tenants end up stuck and unable to move.

Cllr Simpson could spend time scrutinising the disaster of capital works and major repairs in Lambeth carried out by Lambeth Council and its suppliers, as a result of contracts designed under the Labour administration which have proved wasteful, ineffective and lacking in accountability.

6. Councillor Sally Prentice

To: Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Business and Culture - Councillor Jack Hopkins

Obesity and Physical Fitness

What action is the Council taking to reduce obesity and improve physical fitness among the Lambeth population?

Party: Labour

Answer:

Active Lambeth Plan – the Lambeth Physical Activity and Sports Plan 2015 to 2020 was agreed by Cabinet in October 2015. The plan which was developed with a range of partners including Public Health sets out our approach to improve community health and wellbeing by increasing participation in physical activity and sport. The plan consists of 5 steps to physical activity and sport:

1. Identify those in need
2. Define each individual's physical activity and barriers to participation
3. Provide a physical activity and sports programme over 10 to 12 weeks to meet individual needs
4. Provide an exit route pathway for continued once per week participation
5. Follow up with participants at 3, 6 and 12 months to evaluate success and maintain participation.

The plan has identified a number of priority areas including Women and Girls, people with disabilities and older adults.

As a first step to the delivery of the Active Lambeth Plan the Council has a 3 years partnership project, partly funded by Sport England that will focus on 14 to 25 year old females. The project is aimed at increasing participation in areas of low participation and high deprivation and for those at risk of preventable health conditions. The value of the project including in kind support is over £600,000. This is the first project in a programme of commissioned activity planned over the next few years.

The Public Health, Staying Healthy portfolio of services currently commission a range of services and programmes which aim to reduce obesity, improve people's awareness of diet and nutrition and improve people's physical fitness.

The Lambeth Early Intervention and Prevention Service (LEIPS) is commissioned to deliver an integrated Early Intervention and Prevention service to people with identified risk factors associated with cardiovascular disease (CVD) including low levels of physical activity. Within LEIPS there is a 12 week structured community based adult physical activity and weight management programme for clients to access who are at increased risk of CVD and other associated condition. This is called the Healthy Heart Healthy Weight programme. The programme consists of a 1 our physical activity session combined with group based healthy

eating workshops which are client centred focusing on practical supportive approaches to help participants to understand, change their behaviour and thereby manage their weight and health condition.

There are also two structured community based physical activity programmes, otherwise known as Exercise on Referral. One of these programmes aims to deliver physical activity sessions along with self-care skills training and can provide a step down service from Pulmonary and Cardiac rehab to ensure that clients maintain positive changes. There is also a separate Exercise on Referral service available for those adults who are identified as not meeting the national recommendations for physical activity and have a diagnosed common mental illness, such as mild to moderate depression.

The Council also commissions personalised individual support in the form of Health Trainers. Health Trainers will work with the individual on a one: one basis to support them to realise their health goals, which are frequently around weight loss and improving physical activity and fitness levels.

7. Councillor Michelle Agdomar

To: Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care – Councillor Jackie Meldrum

Social Care and Housing

We know many of our tenants are vulnerable and elderly people. Of our adults eligible for social care, how many are living in Lambeth Housing as tenants or leaseholders? Are similar figures available from our registered social landlords?

Party: Labour

Answer:

Providing adult social care for older and disabled residents in Lambeth is one of the council's key statutory responsibilities – these services account for more than a quarter of our net expenditure every year and we provide packages of care for between 4,000 and 5,000 residents each year. People want to live in their own homes and play a part in the Lambeth community. To reduce the number of people living in institutions making sure that suitable housing is available is vital.

The data and information collated by Lambeth's Housing Management shows us how many tenants identify themselves as 'vulnerable', however, this does not tell us whether they would meet the threshold to be eligible for social care services. Out of 23,422 Lambeth council tenants, 1,807 (8%) have told us that they have some form of vulnerability or disability. For 5,057 of tenancies (22%), the main tenant is over 65 years old. Of tenants reporting a disability over 60% have physical disabilities.

There is a great deal more to be done to integrate this information from Housing Management with the data we hold on adults receiving social care services, as there are separate data recording systems. These are being upgraded and an integrated approach will help the council identify and support vulnerable residents better. In November 2015

Cabinet agreed a Task Force to look at this issues. Further work will be needed with our Housing Association partners.

8. Councillor David Amos

To: Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Business and Culture - Councillor Jack Hopkins

Business Growth in the Borough

Can the Cabinet Member provide an update on business growth in the borough?

Specifically:

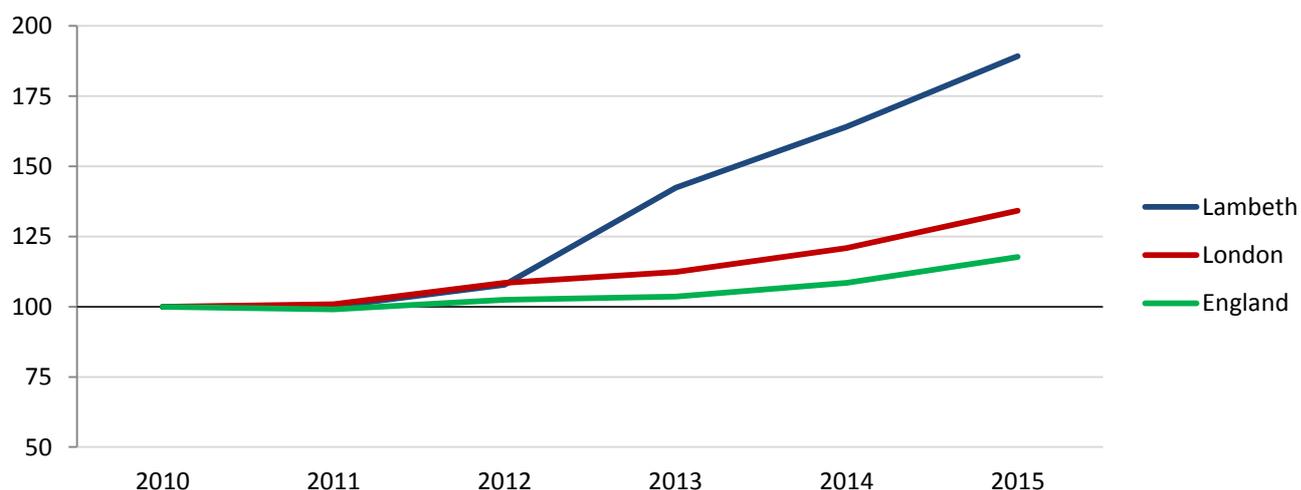
- The number of active enterprises in Lambeth compared to i) London ii) England?
- The rate of growth of these enterprises since 2010 compared to i) London ii) England
- Business survival rates in Lambeth compared to i) London ii) England
- The rate of business ‘births compared to i) London ii) England

Party: Labour

Answer:

The total number of enterprises registered in Lambeth increased by 84% from 2010-2015, compared to just 24% across London (see figure 1). Lambeth saw the highest rate of growth for any London borough during this period.

Figure 1: Index of active enterprises (2010 = 100)



Count of active enterprise for 2009 to 2014						
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Lambeth	11,360	11,315	11,480	14,820	17,925	20,900
London	402,315	413,260	421,185	439,405	466,135	500,825
United Kingdom	2,341,900	2,351,425	2,342,595	2,372,960	2,448,745	2,550,890

Source: ONS Business Demography,

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/businessindustryandtrade/business/activitysizeandlocation/datasets/businessdemographyreferencetable>

Business survival rates in Lambeth compared to i) London ii) England

	Births	1-year survival	1-year %	2-year survival	2-year %
Lambeth	1,445	1,345	93.1	1,050	72.7
London	50,575	44,665	88.3	35,635	70.5
United Kingdom	236,030	214,410	90.8	174,165	73.8

	3-year survival	3-year %	4-year survival	4-year %	5-year survival	5-year %
Lambeth	840	58.1	665	46	560	38.8
London	28435	56.2	23125	45.7	19545	38.6
United Kingdom	140695	59.6	115320	48.9	98480	41.7

9. Councillor Louise Nathanson

To: Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Business and Culture - Councillor Jack Hopkins

Clapham Common Events Re-investment

Given Lambeth's commitment to re-invest a third of all income from events held on Clapham Common, can they clarify how much revenue has been made from events over the last year, and how much has been spent during that time on new projects, that were not already planned and costed before making this commitment?

Party: Conservative

Answer:

The forthcoming Events Strategy looks at how income is reinvested into the parks and Commons and we look forward to this being presented shortly. Our position in Lambeth is already unique in that we reinvest in our parks and green spaces through the Environmental Impact Fee. The strategy has been developed in consultation with local parks groups.

In 2015/16, for Clapham Common we gave £81,224 from events EIF income which goes towards local community projects for the Common.

The events strategy will strengthen this reinvestment so that local residents can see the benefit from local events. The events income is not tied in to specific commitments because it will vary according to venues and times of the year. However it is a positive contribution to

local open spaces and one that we welcome and we look forward to strengthening this commitment through a new events strategy.

10. Councillor Adrian Garden

To: Deputy Leader of the Council (Investment and Partnerships) – Councillor Paul McGlone

Your New Town Hall Project Update

Can the Deputy Leader provide an update on progress for the Your New Town Hall project?

Party: Labour

Answer:

On 21 April 2016 the Development Agreement with Muse Developments became Unconditional for the first phase of development. This means that all the necessary conditions to allow development had been achieved and a price representing value for money for the Council had been concluded. We are now therefore in contract with Muse for the construction of our new Civic Building on Town Hall Parade and refurbishment of the Town Hall, and demolition in preparation has already commenced.

Internal strip out (including asbestos) has been completed and the external demolition has commenced on 1-7 Town Hall Parade. Access to Buckner Road is now restricted and controlled by on-site security – there is an agreed access route for the Electric nightclub to ensure business continuity. The Resident Liaison office (appointed by Morgan Sindall) has now started and will act as the central point of contact between the local residents and the contractor in conjunction with the Council's press team.

Muse is contracted to complete the main front part of the Town Hall, where the public and community spaces will be, towards the end of 2017. The Civic Building, including the Customer Service Centre and the main office accommodation, and the rear of the Town Hall, will be available for occupation in spring 2018. It is following this that the full savings in excess of £4.5m per year will be achieved by the Council.

Muse is still working to conclude a construction price representing best value for the residential accommodation on the Hambrook and Ivor House sites in what remains a difficult construction market, but expect to start construction on those later this year. Muse is held to paying a minimum price to the Council and must start within a year. Construction of homes on the Olive Morris House site will begin after we have moved into the new accommodation and vacated the site in 2018.

11. Councillor Tim Briggs

To: Deputy Leader for Finance and Investment – Councillor Paul McGlone

Lambeth's long-term economic plan

Under left-wing administrations in Lambeth, poverty, poor services and a lack of local opportunities have become entrenched. Lambeth is now the 29th poorest borough in the whole of the UK, despite having the largest construction site in Europe within its borders.

In 2015 the Conservative government was given a fresh mandate to carry out its long-term economic plan and repair broken Britain. The UK is now one of the fastest growing developed nations, to the benefit of all UK and Lambeth residents.

What is the Labour administration's long-term economic plan in Lambeth, or will it just continue to not listen and blame central government for its own failings, whilst closing libraries and turning them into gyms, trying to pedestrianise busy junctions and demolishing people's homes?

Party: Conservative

Answer:

Once again the leader of the Conservative Group continues to cheerlead for the huge cuts his party have imposed on the people of Lambeth while pretending to care about their impact. Despite being a borough with significant challenges, Lambeth has received one of the largest cuts to its budget of any council in the country, with a 56% reduction in core government funding. In February, the Government found an extra £300 million to help some councils; but astonishingly 83% of this went to Conservative councils, which have already suffered the least cuts. Not a penny of that money was given to Lambeth.

Despite these cuts, this administration has protected hundreds of vital public services that residents rely on. Despite rising demand and falling funding, we continue to improve the services we provide, with rising resident's satisfaction, greater value for money in every area and increasing income from areas like collection rates. These improved services and our continued protection of the services our most vulnerable residents rely on, is testament to our values of fairness and ambition for all, in contrast to the unfair Tory dogma of austerity.

This administration has a proud record of encouraging investment and growth in the borough and of ensuring that investment is felt fairly by all residents. Since 2010, Lambeth has the highest rate of growth for new businesses of any borough in London. In recent years, we have embarked on:

- An ambitious programme of regeneration across the London Plan designated opportunity areas in Waterloo and Vauxhall which has led to the implementation of for example, the redevelopment of the Shell building, now on site; two new hotels for Park Plaza, and a third in Vauxhall; new homes being built on the embankment, including affordable housing; and agreement from Transport for London to invest £50m in the Borough to remove the Vauxhall gyratory following on from £45m being spent to upgrade Vauxhall station and the implementation of the northern line extension.
- The redevelopment of council buildings in Brixton as part of the Your New Town Hall project, reducing office costs, investing in the heart of Brixton and developing new homes, including hundreds of new affordable homes. Further regeneration is occurring with the redevelopment of Brixton Central and the delivery of 300 new homes at Somerleyton Road by the Council.

- The adoption of the Local Plan in September of 2015, clearly setting out the opportunities and the requirements of the Borough for investors including robust planning policies in relation to affordable housing.
- Progress towards the delivery of Business Improvement Districts across every town centre, with anticipated success in West Norwood last this year. Lambeth has the most BiDs of any other London Borough.

Going forward the focus is on attracting even more new business into the borough and growing existing businesses through business support and development including promoting the possibility of affordable work space. This activity follows a period of investment in culture and leisure with the development of 3 new leisure centres in Clapham, West Norwood and Streatham, the refurbishment of town centre libraries in Brixton and Streatham, a new library at Clapham, the construction of the Black Cultural Archives, and the delivery of public open space improvements including Jubilee Gardens.

Notwithstanding the challenges of the severe cuts in public sector funding, the council is maximising its resources and assets to improve the quality of life for residents in the Borough.

12. Councillor Annie Gallop

To: Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport – Councillor Jennifer Brathwaite

Loughborough Junction Steering Group

Can the Cabinet Member update us on the progress of the Loughborough Junction Steering Group, set up between residents, community groups and the Council following the road closures at Loughborough Junction?

Party: Labour

Answer:

The Loughborough Junction Steering Group has been running for five months and includes representatives from local businesses, ward councillors, Loughborough Junction Action Group, Loughborough Estate Board Loughborough Estate TRA and LJ Road Madness.

These groups have worked very constructively together and have now agreed a concept design for the junction area. This is based on a shared vision to improve the public space in Loughborough Junction, make it a safer and more pleasant place to live and help the area become a destination in its own right.

We are now looking at further engagement and consultation options to cast the net wider amongst the rest of the community. A schedule of consultation events will follow in the coming weeks.

13. Councillor Paul Gadsby

To: Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport – Councillor Jennifer Brathwaite

Parking Stress Review

Can the Cabinet Member provide an update on the parking stress review currently taking place in the borough, particularly the timelines for the next phase in Vassall?

Party: Labour

Answer:

The parking feasibility study is based around two main stages of reporting.

An interim report, which will be produced in July 2016, is intended to focus on the non-Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) areas of Vassall / Coldharbour and Brixton Hill wards. This will include an assessment of the existing parking situation, along with a full survey, design and costings relating to the implementation of potential new CPZs in these areas.

The main report, which will be produced in November 2016, will incorporate a comprehensive review of the parking situation for the rest of the borough, and may include recommendations to change the geographical boundaries of existing zones and / or the hours of operation, in order to address existing and future parking issues and reduce confusion for residents and visitors. The work will also include detailed on-street parking surveys of many non-CPZ areas in the borough, which will inform a priority list of new CPZ schemes to be taken forward to public consultation.

14. Councillor Jack Holborn

To: Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Business and Culture - Councillor Jack Hopkins

Can the Cabinet Member provide reassurance to residents in Herne Hill about the Council's plans for the future of Carnegie Library?

Party: Labour

Answer:

We are keen to reassure residents that Carnegie Library will reopen in early 2017 and will remain free and available for the whole community. It has not closed permanently. However, the scale of funding cuts that the council faces under this government means that we are not able to retain the service exactly as it is. In order to avoid Carnegie closing permanently, as hundreds of libraries have done up and down the country since 2010, the nature of the services there will change.

The re-opened Carnegie building will have a new gym in the currently unused basement to help fund the running of the re-opened library and to help cover the costs of maintaining and running the building. The ground & first floors of Carnegie will be used as community space, including the re-opened library, as well as other activities such as space for local businesses or a cafe. The building including the library will be open for up to 70 hours per week an

increase from the current 36. The building will be fully staffed at all times and dedicated Lambeth library staff will be on site regularly.

The Herne Hill community has expressed an interest in taking community ownership of the building and the council continues to support these ambitions. The Carnegie Community Trust, which has been working on a business plan for the building for a number of years, has submitted an expression of interest for asset transfer. The Friends of Carnegie Library has also indicated an interest in taking over the building. Any bid for an asset transfer will go through a thorough formal process. The council has never had - and will never support - plans to sell the Carnegie building.

There will be a local exhibition shortly to include more detailed floor plans as well options and opportunities for rest of building. This will be an opportunity for local residents to see the plans, provide feedback and get involved in the discussion about the future of the building.

A letter to residents about the Carnegie Library and other information about all of the libraries is available on the Council's website: <http://www.lambeth.gov.uk/lambeth-libraries-faq>