

**Council 25 January 2017**

**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**

### **Quietway 5 proposal**

Following consultation, residents were told a decision would be made in May 2016 regarding Quietway 5 proposals across Clapham Common. Residents are still waiting for that decision. What is the current position regarding these proposals and when will a final decision be made? If the decision is to progress what would be the new timetable?

**Party: Conservative**

### **Answer:**

As part of the Quietway 5 cycle route, the Council is developing proposals to enhance facilities primarily for people that cycle, but also for other road users including pedestrians. Improvements are being proposed on Quietway 5 through investment in a range of measures including traffic calming and new pedestrian crossings, providing the route with safety features for all road users.

Quietway 5 runs from the north to the south of the borough and includes twenty-four separate highway projects with varying degrees of complexity. Nine of these projects have now been completed, with a further 6 programmed between January and March 2017 and the remainder due to take place in financial year 2017/18. A sister project, Quietway 7, stretches from Borough to Crystal Palace and takes in Rosendale Road and Gipsy Hill. Together they will add over 11 miles of new continuous quiet routes, as well as new signs, surface and junction improvements.

The Quietway projects on Clapham Common include proposals to widen existing footpaths. The execution of such works is subject to a complex statutory process which has required Officers to seek legal advice and guidance prior to progressing proposals.

Consultation report documents in relation to the schemes that were subject to public consultation are expected to be published by March 2017. These will include decisions and a proposed implementation timetable for Clapham Common.

Quietways are one of the initiatives that have helped make Lambeth one of the most cycle friendly boroughs in London. We are proud to have delivered more secure cycling spaces and trained more cyclists than any other borough, introduced a 20mph speed limit to make roads safer, changed dangerous junctions like the Kennington Oval and funded bike hubs on local estates to provide free maintenance courses for local residents. Since 2004 when the Tory / Lib Dems ran the Council, the number of cycle journeys in the borough has increased by 68%.

## **2. Councillor Scott Ainslie**

**To: Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport - Councillor Jennifer Brathwaite**

### **Accessibility – Streatham Rail station**

On the 28th November, 2016, Green Peer, Baroness Jenny Jones, asked whether funding was still available under the Access for All programme to make Streatham Rail station more accessible by April 2018; and if so, when the work is expected to begin, and to be completed. The Baroness was informed that the work would now be delayed until after 2019.

Will the Council join the Greens in campaigning and lobbying Government to get access back on track?

**Party: Green**

**Answer:**

Network Rail has carried out feasibility work for step free access at Streatham station but have not yet provided a date for the delivery of these improvements.

Streatham Labour councillors have campaigned for the introduction of step-free access so that the station can be opened up to disabled residents, the elderly and people with pushchairs. When TfL Transport Commissioner, Mike Brown visited Streatham to talk about the area's transport needs, Cllr Peck and I stressed the importance of improved accessibility and asked him to join us in pressing Network Rail to make Streatham station a priority.

We are committed to improving Streatham's transport infrastructure and have actively campaigned for a series of improvements to rail services, the local bus and cycling network, as well as improvements to road safety as part of the 'Back on Track' Streatham transport campaign. Despite the Transport Secretary reneging on his promise to devolve control to TfL, we will continue to lead the campaign for rail devolution. Handing TfL control of these lines is the only proven way of increasing punctuality, reliability and improving the service for passengers. TfL control would also mean the Overground's service standards would be applied, meaning all-day station staffing, public information systems, improved lighting and refurbishment of stations – potentially including the introduction of step free access.

### **3. Councillor Marsha de Cordova**

**To: Cabinet Member for Adults, Councillor Jackie Meldrum**

#### **Befriending Schemes**

Chronic isolation has a dreadful impact on older people's health, estimated by some experts to be the equivalent of smoking 15 cigarettes a day. Given this, can the Cabinet Member please provide an update on what the Council is doing to tackle loneliness?

**Party: Labour**

**Answer:**

#### **Tackling social isolation**

Lambeth is tackling social isolation through a variety of means, both direct and indirect. We recognise that there is a need to develop a greater range of community based services for people who are not eligible to receive formal social care services and to encourage residents to volunteer to support these activities.

The information set out below gives some examples of the work to date:

#### **Extracare Services**

We have been working with colleagues in Healthwatch and have secured funding to implement the actions of their report into loneliness in Lambeth's Extracare schemes

<http://www.healthwatchlambeth.org.uk/older-people/#>

#### **Floating Support**

This service takes direct referrals from health and social care professionals and provides short and medium term 'soft support' to individuals who are not in receipt of other social care. They are mainly people in sheltered housing or in the wider community. The service has a volunteer group who will provide longer term befriending support when this is required.

## **South London Cares**

Lambeth Council works in partnership with South London Cares. Through its core programmes, SLC aims to reduce and combat isolation and loneliness through brokering new social interaction, community based events and experiences which help older people to feel vibrant, visible, included and with something to offer.

SLC works across both Lambeth and Southwark, and to date has engaged with over 600 older people over 60 years old and recruited over 350 active volunteers, young professionals in their 20s and 30s.

In Lambeth it holds regular social clubs in Brixton, Streatham, West Norwood, Stockwell and Herne Hill. Over the past year it has made 51 one-to-one matches between older people and volunteers through Love Your Neighbour, 26 of which have been in Lambeth.

## **Age UK Lambeth**

Our local Age UK provides a helpful directory which includes a befriending service - full details can be accessed via this link <http://www.ageuk.org.uk/lambeth/our-services/befriending/>

## **Project Smith**

Project Smith was established to test outcomes- based and co-produced commissioning in a local community with a focus on social isolation and older people. The area chosen for the test was Vassall and Coldharbour based on the high level of re-development and potential loss of community connections. A small grants scheme was set up via London Community Foundation called the Health and Wellbeing Fund. Thirteen groups were successful in their bids to the fund including for example:

On the Record - Memory Kitchen events. Local people will share their food memories which will be used as inspiration for two community feasts, cooked by a professional chef.

Loughborough Junction Action Group - Craft classes where older residents can pass on their skills.

Loughborough Estate Tenants and Residents Association - weekly English lessons at the Loughborough Centre that will also focus on participants being confident enough to go into the community.

Vassall Seniors – offers Tai chi classes for older people living in the Vassall and Loughborough neighbourhoods.

## **Community Connectors**

Project Smith also established community connectors scheme in Vassall and Coldharbour. In addition to Vassall and Coldharbour, Project Smith is now delivering the two work streams in Ferndale, Larkhall and Stockwell wards, and hopes to extend into South West Lambeth in the 2017.

## **Safe and Independent in Lambeth (SAIL)**

Age UK Lambeth is commissioned to provide SAIL that includes a befriending service and home from hospital service, supporting people who are discharged and in need of support.

## **Warm and Well in Winter**

Warm and Well continues its health promotion events, including a grants scheme for community groups to bring older people together during the winter months.

## **Lunch clubs**

There are a wide range of lunch clubs including the Healthy Living club, based at Lingham Court Extra Care scheme, which brings people with dementia and their carers together in a social setting, with activities and lunch.

#### **Alzheimer's Society - Side by side project**

Matching people with similar interests to those with dementia e.g. if they like going to the cinema, matching them with someone who could take them and enjoy it (only small number of people at the moment)

#### **Day Opportunities**

As part of the work being carried out as part of the review of LBL day service provision, officers have developed a week's timetable showing what is going on in the borough, broken down by north, middle, south of borough, brief description of club/activity and cost. This information will also be available on the Age UK Service Directory.

#### **4. Councillor Luke Murphy**

**To: Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Tim Briggs**

#### **Rail services**

Last month saw the shocking admission that the Secretary of State for Transport was stopping the takeover by Transport for London of failing rail services into Lambeth because he did not want "the network to fall into the hands of a Labour mayor." Will the Leader of Lambeth Tories condemn the actions of a Transport secretary who is clearly playing politics with our rail network?

**Party: Labour**

#### **Answer:**

The Conservative councillors' met with TfL bosses last autumn to push for a TfL management team to help Southern Rail run its service, to improve the service for passengers and avoid any contract issues.

This has been a long and bitter dispute, with fault on both sides, the train company and the trade unions. For example, Sean Hoyle, president of the RMT, declared in November that "rule No 1" for his union was to bring down the Government and "strive to replace the capitalist system with a socialist order". This is not what passengers want. They don't care about Labour's socialist order.

What passengers do want is trains that run, and on time, with greater capacity – and that is what the changes seem designed to bring about. The unions' remaining issue is stated to be about drivers operating train doors, which has been happening elsewhere in the UK for at least 30 years, and here in London on the tube, with the independent rail regulator saying this is completely safe.

This strike is very unfair on passengers, and the Conservative councillors in Lambeth urge all parties involved to get the strike ended.

#### **5. Councillor Michelle Agdomar**

**To: Leader of the Council, Councillor Lib Peck**

#### **Compensation scheme**

I would like to welcome the Leader of the Council's statement in December 2016 apologising for the abuse and poor care suffered by children at the Shirley Oaks Care Home, prior to its closure in 1983. Can the

Leader of the Council provide an update on the arrangements for the compassionate draft redress scheme?

**Party: Labour**

**Answer:**

The report by the Shirley Oaks Survivors Association (SOSA) contains heart-breaking testimony from those who were abused, shining a light on the suffering of those entrusted into the care of Lambeth Council. As I said at the report launch, the report highlights a very, very dark period in Lambeth's history which I feel ashamed to be in any way associated with.

The Council is committed to developing a redress scheme that properly reflects the extent of abuse that people suffered as children and the effect it has had on their lives. Details of the scheme and how it will operate are due to be taken to Cabinet within the next few months. The scheme itself is expected to become operational sometime before June.

Further information and guidance on the redress scheme will be published on the Council's website and a helpline will also be available for survivors of abuse to register details of their claim ahead of the scheme becoming operational. A briefing note for members will also be produced to outline key details of the scheme and assist them with any enquiries which they may receive from constituents. This note will be circulated ahead of the publication of the scheme.

In the meantime we will keep the Council's website updated with the latest position and on the range of support and advice that is available to survivors of abuse.

**6. Councillor Vaila McClure**

**To: Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Tim Briggs**

**Adult and social care funding**

Recent announcements on adult and social care funding demonstrate the Government's total lack of understanding of the challenges facing these key services. Could the Leader of the Conservative Group explain his party's strategy to deal with increased demand on adult and social care, which is one the biggest challenges facing local authorities like Lambeth?

**Party: Labour**

**Answer:**

The Conservative Group recognises that there are pressures on adult and social care, and we want everyone in Lambeth that needs it to receive professional and dignified care as they get older.

We understand that the Government will announce a new Care Strategy soon, but in the meantime extra money has gone into adult and social care with an extra £7.6 billion in dedicated social care funding over the next 4 years. The Better Care Fund, which has made £5.3 billion extra available in 2015-16, will continue to 2019-20, specifically targeting money towards councils like Lambeth with social care responsibilities, and Sustainability and Transformation Plans should bring local services together more effectively. The fact that over half of social care delayed discharges are in just 24 local authorities shows that this issue is not solely about money – it's also about better use of resources and better management.

What does show a total lack of understanding is the suggestion that the Labour party has some special status in relation to adult and social care. The national Labour party completely failed to reform adult and

social care during its 13 long years in government, and in 2010 it was planning huge cuts to local authority budgets of £52 billion by 2014-15.

## **7. Councillor Martin Tiedemann**

**To: Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport - Councillor Jennifer Brathwaite**

### **Borough wide 20mph limit**

Many Brixton Hill residents have written to us concerned by rat running and speeding traffic along residential roads in the area. Can the Cabinet Member please outline how we will ensure the borough wide 20mph limit is observed, how we can address concerns in roads such as Dumbarton, Lyham and Kildoran Roads about road safety, and what plans she has to address serious concerns about the zebra crossing on King's Avenue that residents report cars routinely ignore?

**Party: Labour**

### **Answer:**

Lambeth's borough-wide 20mph speed limit came into force on 4 April 2016. In order to assess the impact of the speed limit change the Council will be undertaking speed and volume counts on 360 roads in the borough in the final 2 weeks of January 2017, including Dumbarton, Lyham and Kildoran Roads. A similar survey took place in January 2015, prior to the introduction of the 20mph limit.

The data collected as part of this survey work will provide a key part of the evidence base to determine how the future budget for traffic calming schemes will be apportioned.

Speed enforcement is the responsibility of the Police. However, Lambeth is working with the Police in order to ensure that a level of speed enforcement does take place in the borough. In addition, Transport for London and the Metropolitan Police have launched Community Roadwatch in Lambeth; this is an enforcement programme working with residents to reduce speeding in residential areas - <https://tfl.gov.uk/corporate/safety-and-security/road-safety/community-roadwatch>. One such event, which took place on Lyham Road on 23 November 2016, was led by the Lambeth Safer Transport team.

There are proposals in place to address the concern about the existing zebra crossing on Kings Avenue, between Clarence Avenue and Rosebury Road, as part of the Our Streets (NEP) programme. The proposed changes include the raising of this existing zebra crossing to create an improved facility that encourages vehicles to slow in this location and increase the level of priority afforded to pedestrians. The statutory (formal) consultation in relation to the changes is scheduled to commence on 18 January 2017.

## **8. Councillor Sally Prentice**

**To: Cabinet Member for Healthier and Stronger Communities, Councillor Jim Dickson**

### **Health and fitness programmes**

It is disappointing that the Government continues through its budget cuts to neglect health and fitness programmes, especially those targeted at young people. Can I ask the Cabinet Member what Lambeth's approach is to dealing with this situation?

**Party: Labour**

**Answer:**

The Government's reduction to the public health budget is a false economy. We are working with Public Health officers to ensure that we are using the limited resources available to yield the best possible health and wellbeing outcomes for Lambeth residents. We are fully aware that we have to prioritise these resources according to local needs to avoid further increasing health inequalities. Physical activity is associated with numerous health and wellbeing benefits. Specifically for children and young people it is associated with muscle and bone strength, fitness, improved quality of sleep, maintenance of a healthy weight and improved academic performance and wellbeing. Tackling childhood obesity continues to be a priority in Lambeth and a significant amount of work has been done locally to promote healthy eating and physical activity; and although we still have high levels of childhood obesity, we have made significant progress in stemming the tide.

Physical activity includes all forms of activity, such as structured programmes, walking or cycling for everyday journeys, active play, dancing, swimming, playing games as well as competitive and non-competitive sport. The approach Lambeth is taking is to support children, young people and their families to incorporate all forms of physical activity into their everyday lives. This obviously cuts across school, work, home and leisure life. Lambeth continues to co-ordinate local initiatives that promote physical activity such as school travel plans, walking, cycling and scooter training, community and leisure fitness programmes.

In addition, Lambeth will seek to enhance and create opportunities to promote physical activity through the built environment and regeneration by implementing "Health and Wellbeing in all Policies". This is based on the commitment within the Lambeth Health and Wellbeing Strategy. We will also work to ensure that our initiatives are informed by what works, taking into account evidence based and national good practice guidance, such as National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guidance. We are aware that from time to time external funding is available for us to bid for. Lambeth continues to work with partners such as TfL, Sport England, sports bodies, the NHS, schools, charities and voluntary sector providers to attract suitable external funding for evidence based initiatives that will contribute to the local work to meet our local needs and priorities.

**9. Councillor Louise Nathanson**

**To: Deputy Leader for Finance, Councillor Imogen Walker**

**Reduction in public health spending**

Given the increase in Council Tax and additional social care levy that the Council introduced in April this year, and their rhetoric that spending on care services are reduced because of reductions in central government funding, why is the Labour administration in Lambeth reducing spending on public health by £1.04m **more** than the reduction in grant from the Government?

**Party: Conservative**

**Answer:**

Lambeth Council must make £55m savings over the next three years (in addition to the £183m saved due to government cuts since 2010). These cuts come at a time when we need more resources to pay for the rising costs of social care and an increasing population, and they are the direct result of the Government's failed austerity agenda.

Far from being rhetoric, those are the facts; and the many thousands of Lambeth residents who rely on the services that Lambeth Council provides would be shocked to see how dismissive Lambeth Conservatives are of their needs and of the reality for local services.

The adult social care precept introduced by the Government has raised approximately £1.8m in 2016/17. While any extra funding is welcome for vital social care services, the amount raised by the precept does not come close to matching the scale of the pressure on adult social care under this Government. Local authorities in London alone face a £1.7 billion shortfall by 2020 – the Government must stop burying their heads in the sand and act urgently to stop a full-blown national crisis emerging in our health and social care services.

Given the scale of local government cuts, it simply makes no sense to single out spend on Public Health services for complete protection. To do so would mean that other areas like social care or community safety would have to contribute more savings. We have prioritised making savings from efficiencies and non-frontline services in order to protect services for the most vulnerable, but there is no area of the Council that has not felt the impact of the Conservative Government's unfair, unnecessary and ineffective fiscal policy.

It is also wrong to assume that it is only the public health grant funds services that improve the public's health and well-being. The Council spends on a range of services and activities which improve the public's health and well-being (e.g.: housing support, welfare and debt advice, parks and leisure facilities, etc.) and is investing considerably in employment and housing – two of the major determinants of public health.

We have consistently called on the Government to reconsider these cuts to local services in Lambeth and we look forward to having Councillor Nathanson's support for that in the future.

## **10. Councillor Liz Atkins**

**To: Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport - Councillor Jennifer Brathwaite**

### **Community Safety**

#### **Thames Water**

Can the Cabinet Member outline what actions Lambeth will be taking to ensure Thames Water fulfils its obligations to reduce water leaks and burst main pipes, following a recent spate of such incidents across Streatham?

**Party: Labour**

#### **Answer:**

We are aware about the large number of incidents in Streatham in recent months and although Lambeth Council has no statutory ability to ensure Thames Water fulfils its obligations, I have written to them to ask what they are doing to reduce water leaks and burst main pipes.

Any complaints about the conduct of Thames Water should be referred to Ofwat. However, the Assistant Director Neighbourhoods, Raj Mistry, is the representative for London Central South at the Thames Regional Flood and Coastal Committee. Part of his duties in this role include chairing a meeting between Lambeth and Southwark officers, Thames Water and the Environment Agency. The purpose of this meeting is to encourage partnership working between all stakeholders regarding flooding and to share best practice. The unacceptable amount of recent water leaks and burst main pipes has already been added to the agenda to discuss at the next meeting in February.

The Council seeks to make it as easy as possible for Thames Water to excavate a highway to repair a leak. Wherever possible the Council will grant the necessary permit without requiring the usual notification period so that leaks can be rectified as quickly as possible.

#### **11. Councillor Tim Briggs**

**To: Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Matthew Bennett**

##### **Special Purpose Vehicle**

The Special Purpose Vehicle 'Homes for Lambeth' will be a private company with the Council as its sole shareholder. All council members will have access to its financial information, which will need to be in the public realm, and the presumption of openness will apply to its dealings. As part of its commitment to openness and transparency, will the Labour Council have opposition members sitting on its board or will it revert to type and only include Labour members?

**Party: Conservative**

##### **Answer:**

The governance arrangements for Homes for Lambeth are yet to be finalised as they are undergoing further legal due diligence and therefore we cannot yet advise as to whether opposition members will sit on its board.

#### **12. Councillor Ed Davie**

**To: Cabinet Member for Children and Schools, Councillor Jane Edbrooke**

##### **Schools**

The National Audit Office has released figures suggesting that, based on current projections, per pupil spending in England will fall by an average of 8% by 2020. Could the Cabinet Member outline the other cuts the Tory Government is making to schools in Lambeth?

**Party: Labour**

##### **Answer:**

The Government's proposals on the National Funding Formula, Early Years Funding and the Dedicated Schools Grant will reduce funding for schools in Lambeth at a time when we should be investing in our children's education, not cutting the funding.

Instead of levelling up the funding for areas that haven't received sufficient funding previously, the Government is cutting budgets in a way that will disproportionately impact inner city schools. 70% of schools in London will see reductions in their allocations in 2019-20 for example, which is much higher than all other regions.

A total of 19 London boroughs will lose funding under the proposed schools national funding formula when compared to their current allocations. The table below shows that losses range from -0.1 per cent to -2.8 per cent, offset by gains of 5.6% for some boroughs.

In keeping with this Government's attitude to funding areas with high levels of deprivation like Lambeth, our schools will see some of the biggest reductions, at 2.8%. Many head teachers and parents have expressed concern about these plans and have supported the administration's campaign to protect the

investment that has seen education in this borough transformed in recent years. In the last ten years, this has seen Lambeth move from one of the worst performing education authorities to the top 15 in the country, with 96% of all schools now rated good or better.

We will continue to make the case that all pupils deserve the investment in great teaching, support and facilities that will ensure they have the best opportunities in life – it is shameful that we have a Government that continues to undermine that ambition.

### **13. Councillor Tim Briggs**

**To: Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Matthew Bennett**

#### **Myatt's Field North estate**

The Myatt's Fields North estate is the flagship project for Lambeth's regeneration plans, but has seen a high degree of resident discontent over poor design, poor plumbing and a lack of parking. In addition, its management is an ongoing concern for residents as no-one, including Lambeth Council, know who to contact for repairs – the building contractor, private partnership owner or Lambeth Council. As a result repairs are not done or done badly, contractors do not turn up, and problems remain ongoing, with residents complaining that their lives are made a misery.

The Labour administration is now setting up a 'Special Purpose Vehicle' private business called 'Homes for Lambeth' in order to demolish people's homes and build the same kinds of developments across Lambeth.

Can the Labour administration clarify what lessons have been learnt from the way Myatt's Fields North is managed, its management structure and how liability for repairs is ascribed, and how the same mistakes will be prevented from happening again?

**Party: Labour**

#### **Answer:**

The Myatts Field North project has delivered 305 newly built council homes and the refurbishment of a further 172 under the Government's private finance initiative (PFI) scheme. This has been achieved despite the cut in government funding for affordable housing by the incoming Conservative Government in 2010. In March 2017 the rest of the additional 357 homes for sale and 146 for shared ownership will be completed. The scheme has also provided a new Community Centre, a café and a local housing office, and the majority of the new park area was opened in December 2016. The PFI arrangements meant that the scheme had to be delivered by a private sector partner under a 25 year contract, however the estate regeneration programme will be delivered by Homes for Lambeth, which will be set up, owned and controlled by the Council.

All residents of Myatt's Field North are advised of a clear repairs reporting procedure, not only when they move in, but also through continuous reminders on noticeboards and by regular newsletters. There is also a housing office physically located on the estate where repairs may be reported in addition to the 24 hours repair reporting line. Furthermore all the Myatts Field North properties have a flag on the Council's housing database, giving all the details of the repairs contacts, should any repair be attempted through Lambeth Housing. Repairs to new build properties still under the initial one-year defects liability period are undertaken by the building contractor, rather than the repairs contractor, but the reporting route is the same in either case to ensure it is not confusing for residents.

We acknowledge that there have been some issues during the development stage and we have worked hard to resolve these. However there is no evidence of an unusually high level of instances of poor repairs or failure to keep appointments, and customer satisfaction surveys, undertaken monthly on all repairs, show a high level of satisfaction with both operatives and quality of repairs.

Communications and engagement with residents at Myatt's Field North is continuing to improve. The Council conducts audits of all aspects of the service undertaken by Regenter and their sub-contractors, including housing management and the repairs process, with recommendations for service improvement by the contractor to be implemented. This is all part of the Council's on-going client monitoring of Regenter and the Council is working in partnership with residents to ensure housing management services are delivered on the estate to a good standard.

Lessons have been learned from the Myatt's Field North project and have helped shaped key aspects of the estate regeneration programme, including the development of design principles, wide-ranging and extensive resident engagement initiatives and the development of the Key Guarantees. Detailed mechanisms for the delivery of the programme through Homes for Lambeth (HfL) are currently being developed which will ensure hundreds of new high quality homes at rents in line with the Council's are provided for our residents.

#### **14. Councillor Adrian Garden**

**To: Cabinet Member for Children and Schools - Councillor Jane Edbrooke**

##### **Sudbourne Primary /Orchard Primary**

Brixton Hill ward is blessed with many successful and popular schools. Can the Cabinet Member please update us on progress to bring about the expansion of Sudbourne Primary School and the new buildings and refurbishment at Orchard Primary School?

**Party: Labour**

##### **Answer:**

The expansion of Sudbourne Primary School on to the proposed site between Acre Lane and Sudbourne Road involved complex arrangements to acquire the site (as part of a land swap) involving several different parties. This complex transaction has been ongoing for a number of years, and the Council is of the opinion that the prolonged nature of these negotiations is not helpful to anyone, least of all the school who require certainty to effect their expansion plans from a one and a half form entry school to a two/three form entry, to cater for the increased demand for school spaces at this Ofsted outstanding school. Despite the Council working hard to reach an agreement it is now clear that this is not possible and the Council wrote to the land owners in December 2016 to express our disappointment.

The Council is now working closely with the school on alternative options for expansion. This is likely to involve either redevelopment on their existing site or making use of the Mandrel Road site which originally would have been "swapped" for the site on Acre Lane/Sudbourne Road. It is hoped to resolve a clear way forward in the next two months so that work can begin as soon as possible on expanding this outstanding school. We understand this uncertainty and delay has been frustrating to the school and parents.

The work on the Orchard Primary School is part of the Government's Priority Schools Building Programme which is funded and managed directly on behalf of the Department for Education by the Education Funding Agency. The Council therefore has no direct role in it but is assisting the EFA where it can. It will also have a role as Local Planning Authority once a Planning Application has been submitted.

In response to a request for advice on the progress and likely programme the EFA has advised as follows:

“The Orchard School has been included in the £4.4 billion Priority School Building Programme (PSBP) which is transforming run-down buildings into state-of-the-art facilities, targeting funding at those school buildings in the worst condition.

The current plan is for planning to be submitted later this spring, with work due to start on site later this year and the school due to open at the beginning of 2019. We have faced some delays up to this point concerning emergency access to the school, but they are almost resolved, allowing us to proceed with the programme of works. We will continue to keep the school and the local authority up to date as work on the school progresses.”

**15. Councillor Kevin Craig**

**To: Cabinet Member Healthier and Stronger Communities - Councillor Mohammed Seedat**

**Community safety**

I am pleased that this Council passed a motion last year condemning any form of hate crime, racism or xenophobia in this borough. Can I ask the Cabinet Member to update the Council on the issue of hate crimes in the borough and Lambeth's work since last summer?

**Party: Labour**

**Answer:**

The table below shows numbers of hate crimes related Total Notifiable Offences (TNOs) recorded by the police for 2015/16 compared to the same time period in 2014/15. There has been a London wide increase in all hate crime offences and this is reflected by a small increase in racist and religious hate crime and Islamophobic hate crime in Lambeth.

	Nov 15 to Nov 16		Nov 14 to Nov 15	
	Lambeth	London Total	Lambeth	London Total
<b>Racist &amp; Religious Hate Crime</b>	618	16,083	588	13,802
<b>Homophobic Crime</b>	152	2,012	154	1,776
<b>Anti-Semitic Crime</b>	2	494	2	448
<b>Islamophobic Crime</b>	52	1,265	31	946

The police hold the main responsibility for dealing with hate crime and it is a high priority for the Metropolitan Police. As a council we provide support to this and have an officer in community safety with hate crime expertise to provide advice and support as part of their role should it be required

The Council also has a process in place to support the most vulnerable victims of crime. However so far we have had no victims referred specifically for hate crime.

We also continue to maintain our hate crime blog and twitter account (@lambethhcc), which contains information for residents on hate crime and how it can be reported. The blog is available at: <https://lambethhcc.wordpress.com/>.