

SOUTHWARK COUNCIL

COUNCIL ASSEMBLY

(ORDINARY MEETING)

WEDNESDAY 14 JULY 2021

RESPONSES TO MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

1. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR HUMAIRA ALI

Traditionally tenant management organisations (TMOs) have had a membership of tenants only. Today many properties are owned by leaseholders who pay full service charges yet they don't have any rights of decision making where TMOs are concerned. What will the council do to modernise the modular management arrangements (MMA) to ensure that all voices of those who pay for services are heard and that leaseholders have a right to become members of the TMO? Furthermore what guidance is in place to encourage TMOs to modernise and allow leaseholders a seat at the table? (In London Bridge and West Bermondsey this is the Leathermarket joint management board and Fair Community Housing Services.)

RESPONSE

A Tenant Management Organisation (TMO) is an organisation set up by tenants and leaseholders to manage their estate or block. In creating TMOs all residents (both tenants and leaseholders) with a property in the TMO's area have a right to vote on whether to have a TMO and all are entitled to be a member of the TMO when it is created. In all cases both tenants and leaseholders have a right to stand for election to the Board of the TMO and all members have the right to vote members onto the board.

The government has strict guidelines and legislation that has to be followed in setting up and running Tenant Management Organisations. The regulations set out the procedure to be followed in setting up a TMO, the composition of membership and the governance of the organisation.

In all cases, the rules and constitutions of Southwark TMOs embrace Leaseholders in the management of the TMOs. In the management boards of many Southwark TMOs, there are more leaseholders pro rata than Council secure tenants in the properties they manage.

Leaseholders hoping to participate in the management of the TMO must get themselves nominated onto the management board in the same way as council tenants do, at the organisation's Annual General Meeting. There is no other way to get leaseholders nominated onto the TMO management board. Leaseholders therefore have the same right to get involved in the running of TMOs as council tenants do. In the case of Leathermarket JMB and Fair Housing TMO both do

not have an exclusive council tenants membership and Fair Housing currently has a leaseholder as Chair of the Board.

With regard to how the council can modernise the Right to Manage Modular Management Agreement (MMA), this is governed by the regulations and legislation. The MMAs need to comply with the legislation and regulations set out by the government and there is very little flexibility to amend these requirements. The council does not therefore have the legal authority to amend or alter the clauses in the MMA.

2. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR RICHARD LIVINGSTONE

Can the Leader explain how the council has made it easier and safer for children and young people to travel around the borough using active transport?

RESPONSE

Active travel for children and young people has been a priority over the past year. Our school streets programme has been a key part of our response to the pandemic. We have delivered 31 school streets enabling more children to return to the classroom in a more pleasant and safer environment.

The school streets programme has been complemented by school road safety assessments where we work with schools to look at the school surrounding, where pupils generally travel from and assess safety and what can be done to improve safety.

Within the school environment, we have offered online cycle training and cycle maintenance. Despite the lockdowns and limitations on social distancing, we have delivered cycling training to 435 adults and 113 children. We have also promoted the Peddle My Wheels 'try before you bike hire' programme improving access to cycles for children and their families.

To support walking to school we created and continue to roll out walking maps for all schools. These maps identify safer routes to school, cycling, crossing points, School crossing patrols, and 5 min and 10 min walking radiuses to help with fitness and well-being. We have also provided socially distanced pedestrian training, where requested by schools.

In wider neighbourhoods and in supporting of school streets, we have delivered 10 controlled crossings (zebras, traffic signals, pelicans/puffins etc.) supported by 38 uncontrolled crossings (pedestrian islands etc.) across the borough this year, as well as nearly 3km of cycleway, including the Southwark Spine. This is a significant contribution to cyclist safety and acts to encourage all age groups to shift to a more active cycle travel mode.

Last year we also introduced 10 Low Traffic Neighbourhood schemes to reduce the dominance of motor vehicle on many of our roads through the use of modal filters, camera controlled timed closures, permanent closures, and footway widening schemes. We will be reviewing the schemes over the coming months

to hear residents' views on them and understand their impact on vehicle journeys and air pollution.

3. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR ANOOD AL-SAMERAI

Could the Leader provide an update on Maydew House? When does he think these homes, which have been empty for a decade, will be occupied again?

RESPONSE

The 144 units at Maydew House are planned to be ready for occupation in December 2023.

The Council is currently in contract with Bouygues for Maydew House where we are carrying out pre construction services identifying the risks within Maydew before we enter in to the main contract of works to refurbish.

4. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR ELEANOR KERSLAKE

Can the Leader tell us what the council is doing to work with young people to reduce serious youth crime?

RESPONSE

Southwark's Community Harm and Exploitation Reduction Plan is a comprehensive action plan that brings together the recommendations of the Cross-Party Panel on Serious Youth Violence, the Southwark Extended Learning Review carried out by the Violence and Vulnerability Unit and the Southwark Youth Violence Joint Strategic Needs Assessment into a single plan of action and delivery. The plan has been co-designed by all of the partners (council, police, health, voluntary sector and others). This has been done to ensure that it adds value to and fills gaps in existing services and initiatives and does not duplicate any existing service to support young people and their families affected by young violence. The Community Harm and Exploitation Plan was approved in April 2020 by Cabinet. It is a key commitment in the Council Plan and covers safeguarding and educating young people, diversionary activity through to supporting victims of violence and vulnerability.

The Council's Community Safety Team have been working to develop a local, Violence Reduction Unit called the Community Harm and Exploitation Hub (CHEH) as part of this commitment. The aims of the hub include:

- Providing leadership and coordination in the local response to youth violence and exploitation
- Supporting young people aged 16+ and their families affected by youth violence and exploitation

- Through working with the community and those with lived experience enhancing the understanding of those young people who are at risk along with the drivers behind youth violence and exploitation.

The direct support offer is through a multi-agency team that builds upon the work of the previous Southwark Anti Violence Unit. This holds casework and provides comprehensive and bespoke support to 16+ including mentoring, and support in the area of mental and physical health, drugs rehabilitation, mentoring in life skills, safety strategies to exit their gang or negative lifestyle, housing, education, training and employment. There are also specialist services for victims. The team currently has 67 open cases.

We have also developed an impartial Information, Advice and Guidance strand supporting young people and their families affected by vulnerabilities and disadvantage and who may be at risk of becoming involved with young violence, specialising in disadvantaged groups including those who are excluded, at risk of exclusion.

To ensure the voice of the young people is at the centre of our work, we fund the Youth Independent Advisory Group. This is a community-led group aged between 14 to 19 years old (up to 25 with a disability) providing advice on issues that affect young people re: youth violence, stop and search, gangs. The young people are trained in outreach work and work across estates talking to young people and signposting them to diversionary projects and more focussed interventions if required. The group also consult with police/council on plans and policies that impact on young people.

The approach to tackling serious youth violence requires flexibility and a strong partnership with the community. Like other areas of London, Southwark has returned to pre-Covid levels of crime including violence and as part of the easing of restrictions, we have strengthened our operational and tactical arrangements. We are closely monitoring this impact and the plans in place especially over the summer.

Lastly, the cross party panel on serious youth violence will be reconvening this summer to assess progress and the impact of the work in the community.

5. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR WILLIAM HOUNGBO

The Leader has previously said; “We have to win the support and consent of residents to where we build new homes and we should only be building on land where we can get the communities support to do that” and “We’ll have conversations about all sorts of sites across the borough and some of them will clearly be non-starters because the community think it’s the wrong thing to do.” What does Southwark Council clearly define as ‘communities support’ for a specific project? How can existing residents, tenants and Leaseholders of that block withhold their support and consent to object to and prevent an unwanted development from going ahead?

RESPONSE

We face a national and city-wide housing crisis. With over 15,000 households on the waiting list for a council home in Southwark we have an urgent need to increase the number of council homes. Half of these households include children. Whilst one of Southwark's greatest strengths is the fact that we have a higher proportion of council housing that is truly affordable to people on low and average incomes, than any borough in the country, this is still not enough to meet the needs of local people. It is therefore vitally important that the council considers every option to help meet this need. We are therefore working with residents across the borough to identify sites for new council homes.

The very high price of buying land in London means that building new council homes on land that the council already owns substantially reduces the cost and therefore allows the council to build many more homes with the limited money we have available to do this. We are therefore committed to looking across the wide range of land that we own, including underused sites on our estates and in our wider ownership, to consider if it can be better used to provide much needed truly affordable council homes for local people.

Where we identify sites that could potentially be used for council housing, we undertake extensive consultation with the local community, working with residents to explore the suitability of the site, the housing needs of residents in the local area and opportunities to improve the local public realm and wider estate at the same time as delivering more council homes. In doing this, the council works to engage fully with both organised and informal resident groups and individuals residents.

In making a decision about whether to go ahead with a development on a specific site, the council always needs to balance the needs and views of those who live adjacent to a site with the members of the wider community, including the 15,000 households on the waiting list for a council home. Our aim is always to develop schemes that deliver for both.

In addition to the above, Southwark, as with all local authorities, has an independent planning function and that is where any unresolved matters can be voiced, should a planning application be made, where it will be fairly considered prior to any approval being granted or not.

6. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR RICHARD LEEMING

The level of air pollution in London is a public health emergency, and too many young people are breathing this toxic air every day; brought to public attention recently by the inquest into the terrible and unjust death of Ella Kissi-Debrah. What is the council doing to improve air quality in our borough?

RESPONSE

Southwark Council considers local air quality to be of paramount importance, a fundamental part of our Climate Emergency response and a public health

priority. Southwark has been awarded Cleaner Air Borough status by the Greater London Authority (GLA) every year since its inception. We are currently working with the Central London Air Quality Cluster Group and the GLA to build the London wide response to the Ella Kissi-Debrah Coroners' report recommendations into all London boroughs' air quality action planning processes.

Locally, Southwark have declared an Air Quality Management Area that covers 90% of the borough and a Smoke Control Zone that covers 100% of the borough. We have an Air Quality Action Plan 2017 – 2022. This strategic, living document can be found at: <https://www.southwark.gov.uk/environment/air-quality/what-we-re-doing/air-quality-strategies-plans-and-letters>

The Air Quality Action Plan began with 113 actions across a number of strategic areas to improve air quality. These include transport emissions, emissions from buildings, reducing carbon, regulation of construction and polluters, air quality management, working with key partners (such as transport planning, public health services and the GLA) and in consort with other London Boroughs, and lobbying government for improved standards and tools to improve air quality. All these actions, as they are delivered, are resulting in air pollution in London continuing to decline in real terms.

Later this year Southwark will be drafting and consulting on a new Air Quality Action Plan for the period 2022 – 2027. It is also hoped that Southwark will be able to increase our Air Quality Management Area to cover 100% of the borough.

Southwark report annually to the GLA and government, on local air quality and on the progress made in delivering our Air Quality Action Plan commitments. This is done via mandatory Annual Status Reports. Through this 'live' process, the number of air quality improvement actions Southwark has now committed to delivering is 130, of which, the vast majority have been completed or are currently in the process of being delivered. Southwark's Annual Status Reports from 2015 – 2019 can be found here <https://www.southwark.gov.uk/environment/air-quality/what-we-re-doing/air-quality-strategies-plans-and-letters?chapter=2>

The report for 2020 has been approved and is in the process of being added to the webpage.

Over the last year, Southwark has doubled the number of continuous air quality monitoring stations from 3 to 6, with the last one due to be commissioned shortly. All 6 air quality monitoring stations have been fitted with PM2.5 monitors, the pollutant of concern with regard to the Ella Kissi-Debrah Coroners report. We also monitor air quality at several other locations with lower cost Chemoluminescent monitors, and at 80 other locations with Nitrogen Dioxide diffusion tubes.

With regard to school children in particular, the council has invested significantly and has:

- Installed 25 'School Streets' (temporary Road closures) at suitable primary schools and is planning more.

- Supported the GLA air quality audits at 3 primary schools and 3 nurseries and has given grants of £10,000 each to help them deliver their air quality improvement recommendations
- Provided capital bid funding for the delivery of an air quality audit at every Southwark-supported school in a location that doesn't currently meet national air quality standards, and, to also provide schools not supported by Southwark with an audit at cost. Every participating school will get a £5000 grant to begin its air quality improvement journey. This includes primary, secondary and special schools and, if all schools that meet the criteria choose to take part, will result in air quality improvement audits, messages and actions reaching over 70 schools in the borough. Having been delayed by school closures during the pandemic, the audits were launched on Clean Air Day this year and the first phase of delivery has commenced and will continue in the next school year.
- All schools are encouraged to have STARs Gold Accreditation Travel Plans by our School Road Safety team. Many have now reached that standard with almost all schools showing improvement.
- All schools have been provided with information on grant and charity funding and several (approximately 7) schools have applied for Cleaner, Greener, Safer grants and other funding and installed green barriers and fencing to reduce pollution in their playground and school environs.
- The council is devising walking maps for each school and the first tranche will be available and publicised in the near future.
- Educational resources on air quality for schools are available on our website at: <https://www.southwark.gov.uk/environment/air-quality/educational-resources>

Southwark also work to protect health vulnerable groups, including children, the ill and the elderly, from poor air quality. The Environmental Protection Team is a member of the SE London Children and Young People Asthma Network and has presented seminars to the network on air quality and health. We have worked with clinicians to ensure GPs and other relevant health professionals have access to appropriate prompts, advice and information for use in patient consultations. These leaflets are also publically available on our website at: <https://www.southwark.gov.uk/environment/air-quality/what-you-can-do?chapter=3>

Southwark Council is also delivering air quality improvement projects and actions across the piece and across services with Low Emission Neighbourhoods in Walworth and Camberwell and Low Transport Networks to prevent rat-running and encourage walking and cycling for local journeys. Much more information on our air quality improvement activities can be found here: <https://www.southwark.gov.uk/environment/air-quality>

7. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR NICK JOHNSON

What steps are the council taking to ensure that the vision for South Dock Marina and Boatyard as a 'Marine centre of excellence' is delivered and what steps are the council taking to work and co create the above vision with South Dock Marina Bertholders Association (SDBHA) members as agreed at the last meeting of SDBHA committee members and senior Southwark staff and directors?

RESPONSE

The Council continues to recognise the unique identity of the Marina and Boatyard and the role it plays not only in relation to its residents but also in terms of its role supporting the wider River Thames area. Significant consultation work to explore the development of the boat yard took place with the Berth Holders Association before the pandemic began but unfortunately that had to be temporarily put on hold whilst the council focused on the COVID response effort. Officers are now looking to re-start this process in the coming weeks and re-engage with the berth holders to move this project forward. The council will be exploring with berth holders how to provide the best possible facilities that are right for this location and to ensure the Marina and Boatyard continue to thrive and also serve the wider Thames marine community.

8. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR SANDRA RHULE

According to the Office of National Statistics, young adults are the age group most hesitant about receiving a Covid-19 vaccination. What plans is the council putting in place to encourage those aged 16-24 to take up the vaccine when offered?

RESPONSE

In January and February 2021, we jointly commissioned research with Lambeth Council to look at residents' views of the vaccine and what their concerns were. We have used the information gathered, alongside specific research with younger adults conducted by the GLA, to inform our comprehensive plans and messaging to encourage younger adult residents to take up the vaccine.

The vaccine has only been available to younger adults (18+) for a few weeks and take up so far has been steady, although there is still a long way to go. We have been communicating our key messages about how and why to get vaccinated, through all our channels, the VCS, businesses and other partners, whilst we awaited the supply of the appropriate vaccine to enable a bigger push among younger cohorts.

We are now in a position in Southeast London where we have been able to arrange mass vaccine events suitable for all ages, and the council has supported our partners to promote events at Millwall FC, the Tate Modern, and the Oval, targeted specifically at younger adults. We have used incentives to attract this audience, including being put into a prize draw for tickets to the Euros final.

We will also be running a targeted social media campaign for younger adults, and working with our Young Advisors, the voluntary and community sector, schools, universities, employers, and all relevant partners to help get the message out that the vaccine is the best way to protect yourself against the virus, at a time when rates are rising most in the younger age groups.

We await the joint committee of vaccination and immunisation advice on whether vaccines will be offered to 16-17 year olds. If the vaccines are approved for this cohort we will work on a specific communications campaign for this age group, recognising that their concerns may be different.

9. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR DAMIAN O'BRIEN

Given Southwark's requirement for student planning development applicants to provide affordable student accommodation, could developers please be required to prioritise this accommodation to Southwark students presently living in over-crowded accommodation?

RESPONSE

Student Homes policy (P5) of the New Southwark Plan deals with developments relating to student accommodation.

The policy requires direct lets to provide the maximum amount, with a minimum of 35% as conventional affordable housing by habitable room subject to viability.

The policy requires nomination schemes to provide the maximum amount of affordable student rooms with a minimum of 35% affordable student rooms.

Further research and consideration would be needed to assess the potential for requiring developers to prioritise Southwark students when allocating their student rooms. Consideration could be given to whether planning could secure this type of allocation through a s106 agreement but detailed analysis of the current allocation process and the ability for the council to require this is needed.

10. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR MARTIN SEATON

The Elim Daycare centre in Peckham is an important part of our provision for older black and minority ethnic residents in Southwark. What steps will the council be taking to work with the users and trustees of the centre to secure the future of this much needed culturally appropriate day care provision for the people of the borough?

RESPONSE

The provision of a high-quality culturally-suitable day centre is important for our borough. However, we recognise that the premises currently occupied by Elim House Community Association (EHCA) at 86-88 Bellenden Road is in need of significant investment to bring it up to a modern standard. The council would therefore like to work with EHCA and the wider community to find the best way to secure the day centre that local people need.

The council would like to work with EHCA and other key stakeholders to develop a proposal that could incorporate a day centre and if feasible a level of housing provision. The council would seek to appoint a black-led architectural design

team to take forward this proposal in consultation with ECHA and other key stakeholders. The council are open to discussion about the most effective future management of the building.

Councillor Akoto has recently requested a meeting with the trustees of ECHA to take this proposal forward.

11. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR JANE SALMON

Could the Leader please provide an update on how it is engaging with private and housing association residents to help them with cladding and snagging in the borough and what has been achieved to date? How many EWS1 forms has the council helped residents obtain since February 2021 council budget funding was agreed for this area of the council? (noting the Fire Safety Bill was passed into law – and duly became the Fire Safety Act 2021 – on Thursday 29 April).

RESPONSE

The council has established an ‘all tenure’ fire safety strategy group with the London Fire Brigade (LFB).

442 privately owned residential buildings over 17.7m have been identified and uploaded on to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) database DELTA.

14 buildings have been identified as having aluminium composite material (ACM). Of these nine have had remediation works completed and five have remediation work imminent.

We also meet regularly with MHCLG to provide assistance on Housing Association engagement with the Building Safety Programme. MHCLG Terms of Reference requests data directly from housing associations, and where this is not forthcoming we the council have undertaken inspections with our Enforcement team including the LFB.

Each month we have a partnering meeting with MHCLG and the LFB to discuss the impact of ACM and how best we can support charities who have been impacted by insurance and other factors. We have been providing professional advice and support to these organisations and assisting them in achieving the removal of their ACM.

The council has set up a website providing updates on Building Safety and dedicated email address answering any concerns or queries.

The council continues to work on behalf of leaseholders to push for the national action needed to address the issue of EWS1 forms. Whilst EWS1 inspection is not a regulatory requirement for landlords, we fully recognise that this continues to be a national issues for leaseholders in multi-storey, multi-occupancy buildings where the financial sector (mortgage lenders) have made this a requirement. I have now twice met with the Minister for Building Safety and

Communities to raise this specific issue with him and the urgent need for government action to address it, as well as further action by the mortgage lending, insurance and surveying industries. Whilst recent guidance issued by Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors in March 2021 has sought to clarify when an EWS1 form is needed, it is still not being applied consistently by lenders and there continues to be a national shortage of people to undertake the assessments.

EWS1 inspections are a complex task that can require the removal and inspection of a number of building elements, often at height, as well as remediation works to be completed if issues are identified that do not meet the EWS1 requirements. There is a well-documented national shortage of qualified companies and personnel to undertake these inspections. As a result, landlords across the country, including the council, are finding it extremely difficult to access qualified people to undertake the assessments. These factors combined have prevented the completion of any EWS1 forms by the council up to this point. However the council has now secured the services of a certified fire engineering company to undertake this work. And as a result the council have engaged in a programme commencing in July/August 2021 relating to in scope (18m+) buildings initially where an EWS1 inspection will be undertaken as part of our wider programme of fire safety surveying to our buildings.

12. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR ELIZA MANN

What was the maximum waiting time for the call centre to answer the phone calls by the residents and tenants? I had many calls from tenants and residents that they have been waiting about 45 minutes and their mobile phone credits run out and asked me to call the call centre on behalf of them. I too experienced the similar waiting time. It is not acceptable. Elderly and disabled people gave up calling the call centre.

RESPONSE

The contact centre has seen significant volume increases throughout the pandemic with average call volumes increasing from 25-30,000 per month to an average of 45,000 per month. Staff were also redeployed to ensure sufficient resources were available to deliver the Community Hub there to offer support to the most vulnerable in Southwark.

There have also been a number of challenges during this period not least repeat callers due to the need to suspend some services during this time. The Centre has also remained fully operational despite staff working from home for the first time during the pandemic.

The contact centre has met its performance target of 70% of calls answered within 2 minutes over the last 15 months but of course there remain times when it is particularly busy - leading to long waiting times for some customers.

On average over this time calls have been answered within two and a half minutes.

As we start to renew services within the council, some of the additional pressures the contact centre has experienced will subside and further improvements in the customer experience are expected.

13. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLIMATE EMERGENCY, AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FROM COUNCILLOR HAMISH McCALLUM

When will the council start acting on its action plan for the Climate Emergency? Will this action plan detail what the council plans to spend the £101m in capital it announced was put aside for the Climate Emergency earlier this year?

RESPONSE

I can reassure you that the council is already taking action to address the climate emergency.

The strategy and action plan which was agreed by cabinet yesterday (13 July 2021) sets out the approach that the council will take to achieve our ambition for Southwark to be carbon neutral by 2030. It details much of the progress we have made and work, which is already underway, as well as new actions that we must now take.

In February, we announced around £101m of capital expenditure that has been allocated in areas related to climate change. This money will build on existing work and deliver many of the priorities in this strategy. For example, £800,000 for cycle hangers, £5.2m for tree planting and £3m for the cycle super highway project. In addition, the council is spending over £13m over four years on works to our parks and over £2m on investing in carbon reduction.

In February 2021, the council announced £25m of capital investment for further work on climate change. With the strategy now published, Officers are identifying capital programmes which will be funded from this additional investment.

In addition, the council is significantly investing in housing improvements, much of which will contribute to reducing carbon and ensuring that the borough's council homes are more sustainable in the future.

The capital costs are around £3.92bn over the next decade. The council will use its resources to tackle the climate emergency but the scale of the challenge means government must also invest if we are to reach net zero. We will do all we can in the borough but also be a strong voice to government about the urgent need for investment.

14. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLIMATE EMERGENCY, AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FROM COUNCILLOR VICTOR CHAMBERLAIN

Please could the Cabinet Member advise the carbon footprint of building and separately running the Bakerloo Line Extension, the estimated cost of offsetting this, and who will pay these costs to ensure Southwark stays carbon neutral?

RESPONSE

While Southwark Council has been campaigning in support of the Bakerloo Line Extension, it is not a Southwark Council run project. It is a Transport for London (TfL) project and any carbon offset fund contributions will be paid by TfL. As only part of the Bakerloo Line Extension will run through Southwark and Southwark is likely to have two new Bakerloo Line Stations, it will only be the emissions generated by the buildings and infrastructure to support the extension of the line and stations in Southwark that carbon offset financial contributions will be paid on. What these are, what the scale of the emissions are and the carbon footprint of the building will be unknown until planning permission is sought for these buildings.

The Bakerloo Line Extension is still proposed at this stage, and it is not confirmed. It is therefore not known yet what the carbon footprint of building and separately running the Bakerloo Line Extension, or the estimated cost of offsetting this. However this will be an important area for consideration given the net zero commitment shared by both Southwark Council and the Mayor of London.

Once it is confirmed that this extension will go ahead, planning permission will be required and these details will be submitted with the planning application.

15. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLIMATE EMERGENCY, AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FROM COUNCILLOR SARAH KING

Can the cabinet member provide an update on Southwark's Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan, and outline emerging priorities for the borough?

RESPONSE

Yesterday, 13 July 2021, cabinet agreed the council's climate change strategy and action plan – "Tackling the Climate Emergency Together". This ambitious plan sets out our vision for a carbon neutral borough and the steps we will take to lead the borough over the next decade to achieve that aim.

We published a draft strategy last summer, and since then have been engaging with our residents and consulting with the community. We have commissioned expert research to ensure we have a robust understanding of the borough's carbon emissions and a pathway to net zero. Through this process we have updated and improved our draft strategy to publish a plan for the borough which the whole borough can help deliver for a greener and more sustainable future.

Our strategy reflects our values. We want to be ambitious, transparent and inclusive and for this to shape everything that we do. We are committed to just transition where the actions we take reduce inequality and create a fairer and more equal borough for all.

The strategy outlines the scale of the challenge and that it is only through partnership at the individual, borough and national level that we will achieve our ambition. We all can and must do more but to support our work and the work of people throughout the borough we need the government to step up and invest in the changes that are needed.

Our priorities for a greener future are:

Greener Buildings

- Commit to carbon neutral buildings in the borough
- Require embedded building techniques such as green roofs and solar panelling
- Repurpose existing buildings that are no longer fit for purpose or need modernising where possible
- Use and create buildings that protect and enhance our green spaces
- Ensure buildings are built to minimise carbon emissions in their use
- Strengthen all policy documents including the New Southwark Plan with a carbon neutral commitment.

Active Travel

- Reduce car journeys to a minimum by 2030
- End freight and commercial delivery in polluting vehicles
- Encourage and support residents and businesses to switch away from petrol and diesel vehicles
- Improve the accessibility and sustainability of public transport
- Be a borough where walking and cycling becomes the default way to get around.

Thriving natural environment

- Improve biodiversity and introduce new green corridors to help wildlife to move
- Make our streets a green place to walk, play and relax
- Further increase tree canopy coverage across the borough with more planting, ensuring any loss of existing trees cover is a last resort and that those trees are replaced
- Increase food growing in the borough, expanding allotments and community gardening
- Enable building and development that works alongside and enhances our natural environment.

A circular economy with green jobs

- Deliver a green new deal which creates 5,000 green jobs over the next decade and invests in green skills training to support green jobs of the future.
- Encourage a more circular economy that reduces consumption, keeps resources in use for as long as possible, and recycles used materials

- Change how the council, businesses and organisations procure and invest, ending investment in fossil fuels, and considering the carbon impact of doing business
- Support local supply chains and local businesses to be more sustainable
- Work with large businesses to move away from carbon heavy methods of delivery and production.

Renewable energy

- Deliver a decarbonised heat strategy for all residential housing that ends our reliance on gas and other fossil fuels and improves reliability for residents
- Work with government to make retrofitting of homes and businesses affordable and deliverable
- Increase local and community sustainable energy production
- Tackle fuel poverty by promoting and providing cleaner, more affordable sources of energy
- Reduce energy demand and cut energy waste.

Looking forward, as well as work across these five areas, we will continue our engagement with our residents and the conversation with the borough. We are setting up a citizens' jury to report back at the end of the year, and alongside that will reach out and engage with every part of our community including through an annual conference and report back to Southwark.

16. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLIMATE EMERGENCY, AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FROM COUNCILLOR SIRAJUL ISLAM

As the largest social landlord in the country, what steps can Southwark take to respond to the Climate Emergency in the management of its housing stock, and through the delivery of new council housing?

RESPONSE

In relation to the provision of New Homes, the council has already commenced consultation with industry experts in minimising the carbon impact of building works. All schemes seek to establish the most suitable construction form and strive to push the boundaries of environmental and ecological opportunities. We acknowledge that there will be a continual cycle of industry led initiatives and advances and as such we remain receptive to incorporating the most up to date and efficient development methodologies.

Additionally, we are looking at new and innovative pilot schemes for net zero carbon housing. Ann Moss Way is a low embodied energy pilot and has already achieved an initial key stage and is now expected to complete the next stage in early 2021/22. Lessons learned are being integrated into future schemes and the wider low carbon initiatives. Furthermore, the Tustin estate is planned as a low embodied carbon project and 9 additional rooftop homes have also been added to the programme will be classed as 'Low embodied energy projects' as it is reasonable to assume that the potential construction methods would lend themselves to benefits in carbon neutrality.

When undertaking major repairs or improvement projects we undertake feasibility study and information from existing Energy Performance Certificate (EPC), which assists us in determining the measures of insulation required.

The council is already on site with water source heat pump projects to significantly decarbonise three large housing estates heat networks, totalling 2,175 homes.

To build on the success of the existing South East London Combined Heat and Power (SELCHP) heat network which serves 2,650 council homes in Southwark, we are now planning to extend this network west towards the Old Kent Road and on into Peckham. This will reach a further 3,000 existing council homes as well as schools and planned new developments.

In accordance with the updated Heat Networks (Metering and Billing) Regulations, the council is working on a policy and investment plan for installing more heat meters within our communally heated properties.

17. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLIMATE EMERGENCY, AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FROM COUNCILLOR JACK BUCK

Can the cabinet member give an update on the process for adoption of the New Southwark Plan, and what this will mean for the delivery of genuinely affordable housing in the borough?

RESPONSE

Hearings on the New Southwark Plan (NSP) concluded in April 2021.

On 28 May 2021, the Inspectors issued a post-hearings letter to the council to confirm the matters discussed at the Hearings and confirm the main modifications required for the soundness of the Plan.

The council has since sent the final list of main modifications and any relevant updates to documents to the Inspectors for approval. Following confirmation from the Inspectors, the NSP will go out to consultation.

Consultation is expected to start imminently (following confirmation from the Inspectors) and as advised by the Inspectors, will run for approximately seven weeks. The Plan will be ready for adoption following this final round of consultation. It is expected that the Plan will be adopted before the end of 2021.

With regards to affordable housing, policy P1 social rented and intermediate housing sets out the requirements for future development in the borough and is underpinned by a robust evidence base of housing need in Southwark.

The policy has been amended to require all developments proposing housing to provide the maximum viable amount of social rented and intermediate housing.

Major developments (10 units or more) will be required to provide the maximum viable amount of social rented and intermediate housing with a minimum of 35% genuinely affordable housing to be provided. This is to be provided in a tenure split of 25% social rented and 10% intermediate housing. This is in response to the acute need for social rented and intermediate housing in the borough.

Where social rented and intermediate housing cannot be provided on site or off site, a payment in lieu towards the delivery of new council homes will be required.

Policy P1 also introduces a fast track route, where development providing 40% social rented and intermediate housing and 60% social rented and intermediate housing in the Aylesbury Action Area Core with a policy compliant tenure mix, is not required to undergo viability testing. This will encourage a higher provision of affordable housing and speed up the planning application process for these developments where viability negotiations are not required. The fast track requirement of Policy P1 goes further than the London Plan, which allows schemes providing 35% affordable housing to follow the fast track route.

As required by Policy P5 student homes, where student housing schemes are being provided for direct lets, there is a requirement to provide the maximum amount, with a minimum of 35% as conventional affordable housing by habitable room, as well as affordable student homes.

Collectively, these policy requirements are ambitious and integral to increasing the provision of social rented and intermediate housing in the borough.

18. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLIMATE EMERGENCY, AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FROM COUNCILLOR ADELE MORRIS

Two years ago, I attended a planning conference, where the council proudly presented the digitisation tools it had invested in – one of which was for monitoring affordable housing, and which had cost circa £230,000. Please could the cabinet member therefore confirm using this expensive tool or otherwise, how many of the affordable housing units that were due to be delivered as part of S106 agreements have in fact been delivered? And provide me a list of the number of shortfalls identified by site and Developer? And where any shortfall is identified, what steps is the council taking to insist on the delivery of those units?

RESPONSE

The affordable housing data for development has been updated on the council website to include detailed information on the total [housing approvals and completions figures since 2004](#). There is now considerable data setting out tenure, family units and other information borough wide and by area.

A second audit of affordable housing units has taken place in March 2021 to gain the most up to date information for the affordable housing monitoring online tool. 41 registered social landlords (RSLs) were contacted and requested to populate an excel template to provide details of their affordable housing stock located in Southwark. Details of approximately 20,000 affordable units have been confirmed.

This data is currently being crosschecked and prepared for upload to the online tool which will be going live imminently.

If shortfalls or discrepancies are found in the data, then officers will further investigate and look to take enforcement action where necessary.

The affordable housing monitoring tool will improve the accuracy and accessibility of our affordable housing data. Using the affordable tool, we are able to present a full list of every affordable home in Southwark and to assign each home a unique reference number. The tool will be updated on a live basis as new planning applications are approved, and as developments are completed, to ensure that the information remains accurate and up to date and so that we can confirm that developers are complying with the details of Section 106 agreements. In this way, the council can track the status of every affordable home in the borough and can take action against the loss of affordable homes if necessary.

A public facing version of the tool is also being prepared. Once this is available, you will be able to explore:

- How many and what type of affordable homes have been granted planning permission in Southwark?
- Have developers delivered what was agreed within the S106 agreement?
- What has happened to the affordable homes after they were delivered?

Going forward, all affordable housing data relating to each planning application will be entered into the affordable housing monitoring tool by a planning officer when the application is approved. We will then require the developer to confirm these details again (and to provide the address of each affordable home) on completion of the development. Alongside this new requirement for data reporting, we have prepared an updated standard Section 106 agreement to include a requirement for the developer to submit as-built development plans and to allow a site visit to take place if requested before any homes are occupied.

This means that in the future, you can expect to be able to view clear, accessible, accurate and up-to-date information on affordable housing in Southwark on demand.

19. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLIMATE EMERGENCY, AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FROM COUNCILLOR GRAHAM NEALE

A recent Greater London Authority (GLA) monitoring report on carbon offset funds noted that Southwark is legally entitled to £6.802m of carbon offset funds since 2016, but has collected less than 30% of this (£4.868m outstanding). Further, despite over 2 years since declaring a Climate Emergency, there is no mention of plans on how this money will be spent. As at end June 2021, how much still remains uncollected, when will it be collected by year, indicating which developers owe these funds, and on what exactly is Southwark planning to spend this money to offset the carbon impact of development?

RESPONSE

With regards to the collection of the carbon offset fund, as of July 2021, £10,127,568.40 is agreed by legal agreement. However, it is unlikely the council will collect the full amount as some permissions may not be implemented, some may be superseded, and others may have a Section 73 agreed to alter the financial contribution requested. Therefore, the number could be overestimated, and is only a potential figure. The payments received by the council from applicants totals £2,356,342.14.

In terms of collection of these financial contributions, the trigger points can vary on when this point is. The trigger point can be implementation, on occupation, or on completion depending on the application. The financial contribution is usually collected on implementation.

There are a number of schemes that are yet to make payment as payment may not have been triggered as set out above. To name a few these include some council owned schemes, Elephant and Castle Shopping Centre, Ruby Triangle, Capital House, 1-5 Paris Gardens and the Biscuit Factory.

A report is going to cabinet in autumn 2021 to confirm the governance and management of the Carbon Offset Fund. This money will be used on schemes, which reduce carbon and will be decided in line with the priorities set out in the climate emergency strategy, which was agreed at cabinet yesterday.

20. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLIMATE EMERGENCY, AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FROM COUNCILLOR LORRAINE LAUDER

Trees and green spaces bring a multitude of ecological, physical and mental benefits to the borough. How are the council's planning policies ensuring that existing green space and trees are protected?

RESPONSE

The emerging New Southwark Plan includes policies that protect trees and open space in the borough. These policies recognise the ecological, physical and mental benefits to the borough of protecting these trees and open spaces in the reasons underpinning the policy and how these policies contribute to the adaption to and mitigation against climate change.

Emerging policy P56 Open Spaces sets out the strategy in planning for the protection and expansion of Metropolitan Open Land (MOL) and Borough Open Land (BOL), and the exceptional circumstances in which development is permitted.

Emerging policy P60 Trees sets out the strategy for development to retain and protect existing significant trees. Furthermore, P59 Biodiversity requires development to contribute to net gains in biodiversity which includes trees.

The planning policies to protect green spaces and open spaces are supported by council wide evidence base documents.

The protection of trees is also set out in the Southwark Nature Action Plan (SNAP) 2020. This document sets out the importance of trees in Southwark, how trees are protected in Southwark and considers in what circumstances their removal may be considered.

With regard to green spaces, the Open Spaces Strategy (2013) and the Southwark Open Space Strategy Evidence Report (2013), set out the need to protect open space in Southwark, the role of open space and the benefits of its protection.

21. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR EQUALITIES, NEIGHBOURHOODS AND LEISURE FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID NOAKES

How many LGBTQ+ venues have closed in Southwark by type of venue since 2010 by year? How many LGBTQ+ venues have replaced them by type and when? What is the council doing to encourage more LGBTQ+ night venues in Southwark?

RESPONSE

A key report which provides new evidence to inform the Mayor of London's Cultural Infrastructure Plan is LGBTQ+ Cultural Infrastructure in London: Night Venues, 2006-present. The report evidenced the recent intensity of closures among London's LGBTQ+ nightlife and makes a contribution to what has been an under-researched topic in policy-related literature.

Since 2006, the number of LGBTQ+ venues in London has fallen from 125 to 53, a net loss of 58% of venues. This compares to a drop of 44% in UK nightclubs. We recognise that there is a need to ensure that LGBTQ+ venues are protected and that they are recognised as cultural and community assets.

We are committed to building a new LGBTQ+ cultural space as part of the Bankside Yard development – the first such venue secured through planning powers in London working with the LGBTQ+ community to ensure it meets their needs. The Memorandum of Understanding signed by the developer securing this important space for a minimum term of 25 years for the LGBTQ+ community is the first of its kind in the UK and the GLA have indicated it will be used as a template for future projects across London. We are also currently working with LGBTQ+ groups to identify meanwhile LGBTQ+ community space for Summer 2021.

The New Southwark Plan requires an Equality Impact Assessment when a LGBTQ+ venue, or one which regularly hosts LGBTQ+ events, is proposed for development. This is set out in policies P45: Leisure, arts and culture, and P46: Community Uses.

In line with the approach in the London Plan, and the recommendations of the evidence base, the planning policy team intend to map LGBTQ+ venues as part of a review of social infrastructure in Southwark. This review will also help inform

the potential designation of existing and future LGBTQ+ night-venues as Assets of Community Value.

22. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR EQUALITIES, NEIGHBOURHOODS AND LEISURE FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES COLDWELL

Can the cabinet member tell us what investment we have made in our libraries this year?

RESPONSE

This year we have continued our investment in libraries and continued to prioritise the improvement of onsite facilities to ensure that our residents have access to the best services possible while also opening brand new spaces for our residents to access. This year we were proud to open the brand new Walworth Library and Heritage Centre, the fourth new library opened in the last decade.

The total gross expenditure was £7,500,000 for 2020/21. Capital investment this year has totalled £4,200,000. Of this investment, £3,800,000 relates to construction and fit out costs at Walworth Library and Heritage Centre and £342,000 for Libraries IT. In the coming year we have budgeted a further spend of £889,000, £668,000 relates to Walworth Road Library and Heritage Centre and £221,000 for Libraries IT.

£6,000,000, of which £4,000,000 spend to date, is also budgeted to spend on the new Aylesbury Library currently being project managed by Notting Hill Housing as part of the Aylesbury Regeneration Project.

Our facilities management investment for the year 2020-21 was £81,000.

23. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR EQUALITIES, NEIGHBOURHOODS AND LEISURE FROM COUNCILLOR KATH WHITTAM

Can the cabinet member tell us how much has been invested into supporting local community organisations and groups during the COVID-19 pandemic?

RESPONSE

Throughout the pandemic the council has invested just over £8.7 million in local community organisations. As well as ongoing grants to keep essential services running through the pandemic these have included:

- The Community Hub/ Southwark Community Support Alliance that was a partnership between the council, Health and the voluntary and community sector to meet the welfare needs of residents impacted by the covid pandemic and provided a wide range of welfare support including food for those who could not access it
- A range of voluntary sector grants (VCS) grants from departments across the council many of which were re-purposed to support the emergency

response this included support for our tenants and residents associations for their work on supporting residents affected by the pandemic

- Three waves of covid community grants to local community and voluntary sector groups to support the emergency response
- Support for the connected at Christmas campaign that supported older and vulnerable people over Christmas and aimed to tackle loneliness and isolation
- Covid-19 prevention grants for innovative projects to help prevent Covid-19.

24. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR EQUALITIES, NEIGHBOURHOODS AND LEISURE FROM COUNCILLOR DORA DIXON-FYLE

Can the Cabinet Member tell us what progress has been made under the Southwark Stands Together programme that was launched in response to George Floyd's murder?

RESPONSE

On 25 May 2021, we commemorated the death of George Floyd through providing early progress of all the work to date. This involved our webpage going live with a strong message from the Leader of the Council that re-confirmed our commitment to the Southwark Stands Together pledges.

We also published a series of video conversations on healing and reconciliation, and the progress of some key themes such as education, interaction with policing, renewing and reinventing our public spaces. These videos can be found here: <https://www.southwark.gov.uk/engagement-and-consultations/southwark-stands-together/video-conversations>

The full progress and impact of the Southwark Stands Together programme was published in its annual report. The annual report was presented to cabinet yesterday (13 July 2021). I was pleased to be joined by community leaders who have played a key role in the work we have undertaken, and our achievements to date.

I would recommend that everyone read the report in full to see what we have achieved, but also to gain a full understanding of what work we still must do. The report includes examples of good practice in implementing the pledges and key learning around areas such as community engagement, language and communication.

The report also sets out the actions we have taken so far, for example agree anti-racist pledges, which are now deeply embedded onto all our work. In addition, we have establishing a new Youth Independent advisory group to improve relationships with the police. Alongside this, we are reviewing our grants and taking action to make our council workforce more representative. All of this work has been underpinned by £300,000 of additional investment.

I know there is still a huge amount to do. That is why the report published yesterday sets out the path forward, highlighting lessons and the next steps we

must take. Every journey begins with a first step and I hope this annual report, will reflect on our progress so far and will give us the confidence to keep on walking towards a better, fairer and more just future for all in our community.

The full report can be found here:

<https://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/documents/s99892/Southwark%20Stands%20Together%20Annual%20report.pdf>

25. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR EQUALITIES, NEIGHBOURHOODS AND LEISURE FROM COUNCILLOR BILL WILLIAMS

Can the cabinet member tell us what the council is doing to address the Windrush scandal and failing compensation scheme?

RESPONSE

It is not known how many Southwark residents may be entitled to compensation through the Windrush compensation scheme (WCS), as Government does not publish the data at a local authority level, but it is estimated to be around 2,000. Families of those affected can also make a claim and courts recently ruled that family members would no longer have to pay immigration fees to reunite families in the UK. The 2011 census found 7,750 Southwark residents born in the Caribbean of whom 5,500 held a UK passport and 2,000 held Caribbean/Americas passports.

The WCS was launched in April 2019 to compensate members of the Windrush generation and their families for the losses and impacts they have suffered as a result of not being able to demonstrate their lawful immigration status. The scheme was revised in March 2020 to raise the minimum and maximum awards to between £10,000 and £100,000. In May 2021, the National Audit Office reported that 'By the end of March 2021, the Department had paid £14.3m in compensation, of which £11.6m has been paid since December 2020.'

Following the Windrush Lessons Learned Review by Wendy Williams in March 2020, as a hugely diverse London borough, home to many families with Caribbean origins, Southwark Council and its partners promised to do everything possible to support residents affected, but as the pandemic took hold, work had to be postponed. Work has now begun again to raise awareness of this issue, including a live, online event organised by the Windrush Justice Clinic and Southwark Law Centre, on Windrush Day (22 June 2021).

The Windrush Justice Clinic was set up at the end of 2020 and is run by a collaboration of partners, including the legal advice clinics at the University of Westminster, University of Greenwich and London South Bank University; North Kensington Law Centre, Southwark Law Centre, the Claudia Jones Organisation, the Windrush Compensation Project and the Jigsaw House Society. The Clinic provides free and confidential advice that aims to support people to get the compensation they deserve. It is working with victims across Southwark as well as in other London Boroughs. Southwark Law Centre is launching a new legal support service to help Windrush victims with their claims from September 2021,

though they will aim to support people in the meantime and the council is promoting this service.

The council is working to ensure the Windrush generation is compensated by the government for past injustices by raising awareness of the Windrush Compensation Scheme, including who can apply and what they may be eligible for. The scheme has been promoted by the council through a number of media channels including Southwark Life and the next phase will be face to face engagement with Southwark residents born in the Caribbean working with our voluntary and community sector partners.

We are also advocating for changes to the scheme. On 22 June 2021, Councillor Alice Macdonald, cabinet member for equalities, neighbourhoods and leisure, wrote to the Home Secretary, together with 20 local and charitable organisations, the three local MPs and our London Assembly member in reference to the compensation scheme to ask for greater clarification and support for those affected. The letter specifically challenges the Government on compensation, stating that ‘Since 2019, thousands of people have been affected by this scandal, but many are reluctant, and often frightened, to ask for help. As of May 2021, only an estimated 19% of those people known to be eligible for help have come forward. By the end of May 2021, 2,367 claims had been made, but only 687 people had been awarded payments.’

The council has asked the Home Secretary, as a matter of urgency, to provide extra funding and support to help those affected to access free high quality legal and immigration advice, and to clarify data on how many people in Southwark have applied for or received compensation.

26. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, PERFORMANCE AND DEMOCRACY FROM COUNCILLOR DAN WHITEHEAD

The council has noted that there is insufficient land in Southwark to achieve its council house building programme. Please could the cabinet member advise how much council land in hectares, by year has been sold since 2010, and the total revenue received by year versus the hectares of land purchased back into council control and costs of such purchase?

RESPONSE

The second part of your question related to revenue received vs the cost of acquisitions breakdown as follows; since 2010, the total Capital Receipts from the disposals of land was £549,747,338. The total acquisition cost, including the cost of regeneration leaseholder buyback, investment, operational offices, regeneration projects and affordable housing totals £545,049,657. It should be noted that the data from 2010 – 2012 is no longer held so these second set of figures are a record from 2012.

The information to answer the “hectares” part of the question is not recorded centrally. It is spread across a number of sources, both paper and electronic. Depending on the definition of the question over 1,000+ files might need to be searched to provide an answer. It might be possible to interrogate the council’s

digital mapping to establish changes in the amount of land the council owned, year on year. However, at the time of compiling this data the mapping system is unavailable whilst undergoing an overhaul.

27. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING FROM COUNCILLOR MARIA LINFORTH-HALL

Whilst the council is planning much for youth on mental health, what additional services and investment is the council planning to help adults with mental health issues amid intense pressure on NHS services and increased demand following the pandemic and what is the timetable for implementing them?

RESPONSE

I am proud of the mental health services we already have in place, the Southwark Wellbeing Hub provide information, advice and improved access to services for anyone in Southwark experiencing problems with their mental wellbeing. In July 2018, the Hub became the adult social care single point of access for Southwark residents, to make better use of mental health resources which focus on adults with higher level mental health needs.

In addition to the Wellbeing Hub, Southwark has invested in increasing its mental health social care service over the past few months. There is now additional funding, approximately £400,000, to increase its mental health social workers/care/peer mentor workers to support the increasing mental health needs in Southwark.

In addition to this, the council, in collaboration with 'Partnership Southwark', has also invested approximately £1,000,000 to have workers in Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic community engagement/outreach and trauma informed work following the pandemic, including hoarding specialists, welfare and benefit workers, psychologists and specialist community workers in eating disorders. There are now social prescribers based within primary care and over the next few weeks primary care mental health workers will also be introduced.

28. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, PARKS AND SPORT FROM COUNCILLOR GAVIN EDWARDS

Following a number of accidents and near misses, could the cabinet member explain what action the council is taking to address the serious traffic and pedestrian safety issues in Nunhead and Queen's Road Ward, in regard to the junction between Kimberly Avenue and Evelina Road?

RESPONSE

Following a recent Peckham and Nunhead Ward forum and a meeting with ward councillors and representatives of Nunhead Lives, we have identified a number of road safety issues and community priorities for traffic management in and around Nunhead. I am grateful for the contributions that residents and ward councillors have made and look forward to further engagement work.

Our top priority is to work swiftly in relation improving safety at this junction and ensure there are safe crossing points along Evelina Road. As a result, our Highways team recently arranged for traffic, pedestrian and junction counts to be conducted at the junction of Kimberley Avenue and Evelina Road. The Highways team are in the process of producing a full technical note with recommendations to improve safety.

This is likely to include a proposal for a pedestrian crossing near the new Co-Op on Evelina Road, as well as additional traffic calming measures in response to complaints of speeding along this specific stretch of road.

In the short term, Highways have reviewed the parking restrictions on the south-eastern arm of the junction adjacent to the café. It is proposed that the existing double yellow lines to be upgraded so that no loading or waiting is permitted at any time.

As a result of this work, we are actively exploring the relevant sources of funding to ensure that the findings of the technical report can be delivered and safety improved with new crossings, speed reduction measures and better enforcement regimes that meet the needs of residents and local businesses along this vibrant and busy community high-street. It is the start of a process to ensure that Nunhead can benefit from safer roads, healthier streets, less through traffic, improved bus services and more active travel.

29. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, PARKS AND SPORT FROM COUNCILLOR VIKKI MILLS

The entire length of Peckham Rye East is a major north-south commuting route for cyclists which forms part of London Cycle Network Route 22 and is signposted as such. However, for the great majority of Peckham Rye East there are no dedicated cycle facilities and cyclists are frequently endangered by motor traffic. Draft plans for a segregated route have previously been drawn up and consulted on and, crucially, these plans did not affect the Common, rather they would see the road narrowed for motor vehicles. The segregated route would ideally link the existing cycle slip lane that ends at The Rye pub and go as far as Stuart Road. With no recent developments on the scheme, will the Cabinet Member commit to urgently progressing this important route for cyclists?

RESPONSE

The council is keen to improve the cycle facilities along the east side of Peckham Rye and it is appreciated that this could form a really beneficial link into the centre of Peckham. As correctly stated, the outline of a proposal has been put together and Highways are keen to progress this, although there are a number of issues that must first be resolved.

Highways have recently installed a segregated cycle facility at the north end of the common, under an Experimental Traffic Management Order.

Currently, highways are reviewing the impact of this trial section and, if it can be shown that there is support from the community for this, then Highways will be

able to make the provision permanent. Once that has happened, the southern section becomes a logical development.

There is currently no funding to extend the route southwards but if the outcome of the consultation on the section north of Nunhead Lane is favourable, it will provide a strong case for prioritising funding for the section south of Nunhead Lane in the coming years.