

COUNCIL ASSEMBLY

(ORDINARY MEETING)

28 NOVEMBER 2018

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

1. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR SARAH KING

Could the leader of the council tell us what part the council played in securing Dulwich Hamlet's return to their stadium at Champion Hill?

RESPONSE

The council is delighted that Dulwich Hamlet FC will be returning to its home ground in Southwark and will play its first ever National League fixture at Champion Hill on 1 December 2018 vs Torquay United FC.

The club was evicted from Champion Hill in March by the owners of the ground, Meadow Partners, and were forced to seek a temporary ground-share outside of the borough at Tooting & Mitcham United FC. The council committed to do everything in its power to secure the club's return, and immediately resolved to enter into negotiations with the owners to purchase the stadium with a view to facilitating the club's return. While the owners were not prepared to sell the stadium, the council continued to call on Meadow to allow the club to return.

In October, at a meeting hosted by the Minister for Sport, Civil Society and Loneliness, and facilitated by local MPs Harriet Harman and Helen Hayes, representatives of the council and football club met with representatives from Meadow Partners to negotiate the club's return to Champion Hill. The council and club secured agreement from Meadow Partners to allow the club to return on fair and reasonable terms, including ensuring that the club retains all match day proceeds from ticket sales, bar takings and catering proceeds.

In addition, the council has also agreed to grant Dulwich Hamlet FC a new lease on the astroturf pitch at Greendale to facilitate investment to replace the unsafe pitch and provide a modern sports pitch that will be available to both the club and the wider community for sporting use. The council is also investing into the wider Greendale site to ensure that this is safe and accessible for the community to enjoy, whilst retaining its natural character and biodiverse landscape.

Together the council has successfully secured the return of Dulwich Hamlet FC to Champion Hill and ensured that it is put in a more financially stable position going forward, whilst securing investment into the open space at Greendale that ensures it meets the needs of the community.

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

How much has the council spent on 'Golden Goodbye' loss of office payments to former cabinet members in the past year? Does the leader think this has been a good use of public money? Given that Southwark is the only council in the country to make

these payoffs, what external legal advice has been sought to determine whether or not these payments are lawful?

RESPONSE

£24,429.51 – this represents 0.2% of the members allowance budget last year.

The reasons for introducing a loss of office payment were set out in the report that went to council assembly in March 2016. The council received external legal advice at the time and the relevant legislation is referenced in the report.

3. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR LEANNE WERNER

Could the leader of the council update us on the outcome of Southwark's joint bid for funding from the London-wide Strategic Investment Pot?

RESPONSE

For 2018/19, the GLA and the 33 London billing authorities are piloting 100% business rates retention. This allows London to retain an estimated £349m of funding. Of this, approximately 50% will be used for strategic investment: 15% (c£52m, Strategic Investment Pot) is to be allocated by the agreement of London government, and the balance (the GLA share of total benefit) for allocation by the Mayor of London.

Boroughs were invited to bid to the Strategic Investment Pot in April 2018 with a deadline at the end of May. In total 22 bids were received for a total funding request of £123.4m.

I am very pleased to be able to say that, of the £46.83m that was awarded, Southwark's joint bid with Lambeth, Lewisham and Wandsworth secured £8m of this pot. This funding will help us to develop the South London Innovation Corridor programme, which brings together four boroughs and a world class partnership of higher education, entrepreneur support agencies and employers – aligned around a vision to catalyse inclusive Creative and Digital Industry growth.

The programme will provide an integrated approach to cluster development in central and local growth areas under three strands of activity: 1. Workspace; 2. Business Support; 3. Talent Development. In Southwark, the programme will directly support the Council Plan commitment to deliver 500 new affordable workspaces, the development of a Creative Enterprise Zone in Camberwell and Peckham and the delivery of the Southwark Skills Strategy.

We expect the outcomes of the bid to include a £1.5m uplift in business rates income, 400 pre-apprenticeships, 200 work experience placements, 200 apprenticeships, 1,700 jobs and 750 businesses supported.

The award of £8m is welcomed and will facilitate the delivery of a programme with considerable collaboration, scope and impact.

The funding agreement is expected to be finalised early in the new year. The programme is expected to be delivered up to the end of 2019/2020.

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

Could the leader specify what youth clubs are currently available in Southwark, what are their opening hours and how much does the council intend to increase spending on each youth club?

RESPONSE

Youth centres and clubs provide valuable opportunities for our borough's young people to socialise, learn new skills, and get advice from adults and peer mentors, which is why we directly run five youth clubs and why we have pledged to re-open the Blue Youth Club and Community Centre.

The council directly runs the following youth clubs and dedicated youth club sessions for young people with special educational needs. These are:

Brandon Youth Centre, 19 Maddock Way, Cocks Road, SE17 3NH
Opening hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 6.30pm to 9pm

Damilola Taylor Centre, 1 East Surrey Grove Peckham SE15 6DR
Opening times – Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 6.30pm to 9pm.

Fast Forward Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) project, Central Venture Park, Kelly Avenue SE15 5GL
Opening times – Monday and Wednesday, 6.30pm to 9pm.

Kingswood Youth Club Kingswood House Seeley Drive SE21 8QR
Opening times – Wednesday and Friday, 6.30pm to 9pm.

Odessa - Docklands Youth Centre, Docklands Settlement 400 Salter Road SE16 5LJ
Opening times – Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 6.30pm to 9pm.

New Venture Youth Centre, Success House, 45 Coopers Road SE1 5ZT
Opening times – Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 6.30pm to 9pm.

Each youth club has an allocated budget per annum from the overall youth service budget and each club also focuses on working with partners to add value to programmes, for example additional sessions run by Millwall Community Trust, Youth Futures, Skyways and Southwark Legends. There are no plans at present to increase funding to these directly delivered clubs, although we are looking at every opportunity to consider partnerships to bring in external funding and resources as well as income generating opportunities, for example through external hall and room hire.

As part of the council plan commitment to reopen the Blue youth centre the council is recommissioning community delivery, and in the meantime a local community group "Community Opportunity" has taken out a "tenancy at will" on the building where they will provide a range of community activities including activities for young people. As part of the commissioning process consideration will be given to whether any additional revenue funding will be required for youth provision to enable the Blue Youth Club to reopen.

The council also grant funds voluntary sector youth clubs. These are Bede House, Grove Vale, InSpire, Oxford and Bermondsey Club, Salmon Youth Centre, St Faiths Youth and Community Centre, Westminster House Youth Club and Youth Futures.

5. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR BILL WILLIAMS

What are the implications for Southwark of this year's Autumn Budget?

RESPONSE

On 29 October 2018 the Chancellor of the Exchequer delivered the Budget. As well as the usual updates on the public finances and overall economic outlook, the Budget included a number of policy announcements.

The key announcements for Southwark were:

- The immediate removal of the HRA borrowing cap, allowing investment in new social housing to be considered without artificial barriers
- New funding for Adult Social Care in 2019-20 of £1.571m and a further £2.683m to support both adults' and children's social care
- New funding for pot holes in 2018-19 of £0.558m

Whilst these announcements are welcome, it is disappointing that there were no specific funding for education and schools High Needs pressures, for homelessness or for other services in London experiencing high levels of demand and price pressures.

Further details will be provided in the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement 2019-20, due to be announced on 6 December 2018. The Settlement is likely to confirm funding for the council will reduce by £8.647m in 2019-20.

After eight years of savage cuts by both the Liberal Democrats and Conservatives, we are looking forward to the Chancellor's claim that austerity is coming to an end. This of course is subject to the Comprehensive Spending Review and the outcome of the Fair Funding Review.

6. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID NOAKES

Can the leader of the council say what additional measures and actions the council are pursuing in relation to the ongoing serious levels of knife crime and deaths of young people in Southwark?

RESPONSE

Like every member here, I am devastated by the violence and loss of life on our streets. Not just in Southwark, but across London too many young people are getting caught up in violence and too often we hear of another young life cut tragically short.

What is increasingly clear is that there is no quick fix, or simple solution. Solutions require everyone to work together, police, partner agencies and the community, to help create an environment where our young people are safe and can make positive choices about their lives and their futures.

We are already working with communities which have been directly impacted by these levels of serious violence. On the Brandon Estate for example, the council has been

working with residents, young people, parents and carers on improving safety through additional CCTV, summer youth and play provision along with looking at how we can create future community spaces and facilities to support the community. Through the creation of a Positive Futures Fund, we will be supporting community organisations to provide inspiring opportunities for young people that divert them away from crime.

Knife crime and youth violence is complex and tackling it is the responsibility of everyone in society. We have recently refreshed our local knife crime and serious violence action plan which aims to strengthen our current response, improve engagement with those most impacted, and protect and educate young people, offering them ways out of crime. Our approach has to collectively respond to both immediate concerns but also focus on long term prevention and early intervention.

The council is working hard with partner agencies and our young people and communities to address levels of knife crime in the borough. These efforts have led to an overall 15% reduction in knife crime for the last 12 months. However, we have seen several fatalities which are completely intolerable and have had a devastating impact on the community. Our volume of knife crime still remains too high and the public remain rightly concerned.

7. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR MAGGIE BROWNING

Could the leader of the council tell us how much funding Southwark was awarded from the Greater London Authority (GLA) through their Building Council Homes programme?

RESPONSE

In October 2018 Southwark Council was awarded £89,494,138 under the Mayor of London's Building Council Homes for Londoners Programme. This £89m will fund the building of 926 new homes, including 891 social rent homes and 35 shared ownership homes. This will bring us one step closer to achieving our goals of building 11,000 council homes by 2043, and building at least 1,000 new council homes by 2022.

Across London the overall programme allocation is £1,029.3m grant for 14,724 homes, of which 11,154 are based on social rent levels. Southwark received the third highest allocation in London, behind Newham on £107m and Ealing on £99m.

The full list of allocations by London Borough is available at:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/press-releases/mayoral/mayor-agrees-1bn-plan-to-build-11000-new-homes>

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

What steps will the council take to protect residents at Fountain Green Square and Fountain House from the worksite at Chambers Wharf blocking their light for the next four years?

RESPONSE

We understand the concerns of residents at Fountain Green Square and Fountain House. Unfortunately, the council has no power to amend the size or location of this imposing structure.

The works at Chambers Wharf are permitted by a Development Consent Order (DCO) granted by central government. The DCO requires the construction of a large acoustic enclosure (approximately 7 storeys high) to protect the residents by containing noise from the tunnelling works. This will inevitably impact on the view from Fountain Green Square and Fountain House.

The government DCO also requires other controls to be in place to limit the environmental impacts of the tunnel construction.

- It requires the contractors to submit codes of construction practice to detail the measures used to minimise impacts and protect surrounding residents from the works.
- It requires contractors to submit detailed environmental management plans for approval by the council. These plans cover noise, vibration, light pollution, dust and air quality and contain enforceable commitments.
- It requires all site works required by the DCO to have prior consent from the council under S.61 of the Control of Pollution Act 1974. This process allows the council to consider whether the work methods and controls are the best under the circumstances, and to place further conditions on the works.

The council has dedicated staff in the Environmental Protection, Highways and Planning Departments who monitor compliance with the DCO, the environmental management plans and the S61 prior consent permits. These staff will take action when necessary.

The DCO also approved a non-statutory off-site mitigation and compensation policy. This policy allows residents to appeal to an independent panel for appropriate and tailored support and mitigation throughout the tunnel construction works.

To assist residents we have lobbied for, and gained, additional funding from Thames Tideway to employ a Consultation and Involvement Officer. This officer is there to communicate between residents and contractors to ensure residents are fully supported.

9. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR NICK DOLEZAL

Can the leader tell me what the council is doing to encourage cycling and particularly getting young people walking or cycling to school?

RESPONSE

I am committed to making cycling and walking easier, so more people choose these ways to get around and people who would never currently think about getting on a bike feel that they too can enjoy cycling in and around our borough.

Cycling and walking is promoted throughout all of our schools as part of the School Travel Plans process.

The school community is actively encouraged to accept programmes of Bikeability cyclist training which starts with scootering and finishes with preparing the pupils to undertake a short journey to their new secondary schools by bicycle.

In addition we have made changes to infrastructure to support safe walking and cycling and encourage pupils to be active with our recent "Beat the Street" and welly walks with stories.

A recent change of emphasis on cycling training will look to introduce family cycling in an effort to win the support of parents.

In terms of improvements to the actual highway infrastructure the council is committed to its programme of school streets closures, which have had a proven effect at Bessemer Grange School in helping to encourage active travel choices.

The council also carries out a number of local improvements where a particular need is identified. Schemes that have been implemented over the last year including zebra crossings, on Maxted Road outside the Belham Primary School, and on Inverton Road outside Ivydale School, plus experimental closures of streets outside schools such as Nairne Grove for the Bessemer Grange school and Troy Town outside the new Bellenden School.

In addition to this the Quietways programme that the council is working with Transport for London to deliver is aimed directly at riders who don't feel confident cycling in traffic and seeks to create routes that parents should feel safe taking their children along.

10. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR ADELE MORRIS

Southwark Liberal Democrats welcome the appointment of Kevin Fenton as Strategic Director of Place and Wellbeing to oversee the social regeneration of the borough. Can the Leader say what immediate effects will be felt by residents of the borough, who have been expressing growing dissatisfaction with the way that their communities are being re-shaped through the regeneration process?

RESPONSE

The council plan sets out our commitment to making Southwark a great place to live, work, learn and visit. Our vision is for the borough is to be a healthy, clean, green and safe place, where everyone has a great place to live, with outstanding schools, parks and community facilities; where everyone has the opportunity to play a full part in the economy, to thrive and meet their potential; and where a person's background does not determine their life chances.

Kevin Fenton is a very welcome addition to our senior officer team and the new Place and Wellbeing department will lead much of this work.

Although the department has only been in place since September 2018, it is already actively working with local communities and the local voluntary sector in a range of areas including to:

1. Develop local social regeneration charters for major development sites across the borough

2. Introduce ballots on any new estate regeneration and a Consultation Charter to ensure local residents can hold private sector developers to account
3. Publicly consult on securing the future of the Walworth Town Hall and make it a publicly accessible cultural hub
4. Campaign for three new tube stations on the Old Kent Road including one at Bricklayers Arms
5. Develop a new faith strategy for the borough
6. Deliver a loneliness prevention strategy
7. Tackle HIV stigma and increase testing.

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

With the dramatic rise in homelessness in Southwark, many rough sleepers have sought to gain access to council blocks in order to sleep in the corridors, which can be very intimidating to vulnerable residents. Can the Leader outline what strategy the council has in place to stop this happening and to help rough sleepers access more suitable accommodation?

RESPONSE

Like many other London boroughs, during the cold winter weather the council can see an increase in rough sleepers accessing council blocks. In these situations, the council works quickly to address the problem, both to help the vulnerable person who is sleeping rough, and because we know that it can be worrying or daunting for residents.

Where rough sleeping in council blocks is identified the council will involve a number of partners to engage with those sleeping rough and also advise residents in the community about what steps they can take to resolve the issue quickly. Work is undertaken to make sure all security doors are working correctly, and residents are reminded not to let unknown people into the block. Residents are encouraged to contact Street Link which is a pan-London service which helps those sleeping rough. If Street Link are contacted about someone sleeping rough, they will then connect with the council's homelessness outreach team who will go to try and speak to the person rough sleeping.

The council's outreach team will then make an on-street assessment, and make an immediate offer of shelter to any new individual found sleeping rough. In some cases the individual found may be known to the outreach team and may have complex needs which demand a more comprehensive assessment and longer term engagement. The outreach team will make immediate arrangements to work with that person to help them. All rough sleepers who the outreach team engage and who approach Housing Solutions are guaranteed to be offered housing immediately with appropriate support.

The council has recently obtained £1.3 million from the government's Rough Sleeping Initiative fund. As a result additional support is available to provide support to rough sleepers. This includes the provision of a dedicated nurse to help address acute medical issues, and recruitment of a Solace women's aid worker to help women who are sleeping rough and to ensure that there is an accommodation pathway for women fleeing domestic violence or leaving prison. This funding has also enabled the council to sustain and enhance the council's Housing First and No First Night Out Service and it should be noted that in October 2018 42 individuals were either re-housed from the streets or prevented from sleeping rough on the streets. The council is in discussion

with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to potentially become a trailblazer for rough sleeping. This decision will be made in December 2018 and supports the council’s Homelessness Strategy which has rough sleeping as a key priority.

As described above rough sleeping can be a complex issue demanding a multi-agency approach to resolve it and to manage the associated anti-social behaviour (ASB) issues it can generate. The council is committed to tackling rough sleeping by preventing people becoming homeless and starting to sleep rough, by engaging and supporting those who are sleeping rough to access housing and long term accommodation, and where ASB or drug related activity is occurring, working with local police teams, council wardens, ASB officers and residents services officers to tackle this.

12. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR HAMISH MCCALLUM

How many new homes, broken down by tenure type, have been delivered in Southwark in each of the last five years and how many council homes have been lost through sale or demolition over the same period?

RESPONSE

Financial year	Total new homes	Net increase/decrease of homes by type			Total affordable
		Social rented	Intermediate	Affordable rent	Total
2011/12	1,421	459	134	N/A	593
2012/13	2,004	326	162	N/A	488
2013/14	1,843	299	160	24	483
2014/15	2,042	-121	169	61	109
2015/16	1,503	-165	154	132	121
2016/17	2,409	371	159	22	552
Total	11,222	1,169	938	239	2,346
Annual average	1,870	195	156	40	391

This table shows the net increase (total new homes, minus any loss through demolition on sale) by year and by type. Since 2011, there is a net increase of 2,346 affordable homes of which 1,169 are at social rent.

Our estate regeneration schemes seek to provide more affordable homes across a wider area to create mixed communities with high quality new affordable and market homes that are “tenure blind.” This approach has been successful through the “early rehousing sites” for tenants of the former Heygate estate, which has seen a total of over 530 affordable homes completed in the local area, including close to 420 for social rent and 117 as intermediate units. The final scheme, on Stead Street, SE17, has seen 84 social rent homes completed during 2016/17.

2016/17 has seen a net gain of 371 social rented units, a significant increase compared to the previous two years. This is due to the completion of several larger schemes in the 2016/17 financial year. This includes delivery of social rented units at Stead Street, SE17 (84 units) mentioned above, Dog Kennel Hill, SE22 (27 units),

Grange Walk, SE1 (34 units), Quebec Way Industrial Estate, SE16 (51 units), Long Lane, SE1 (21 units).

13. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR DORA DIXON-FYLE (CAMBERWELL COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

In the light of the recent tragic events concerning knife crime, will the Leader please commit to providing knife bins in the centre of Camberwell or within the SE5 area?

RESPONSE

Knife crime has tragically taken the lives of too many people, both in Southwark and across London in recent months and years, and we are committed to doing everything in our power to tackle knife crime and violence of all kinds on our streets.

There are currently 30 knife surrender bins across London along with additional bins located at various police stations. Southwark currently has two knife bins located in the borough at Half Moon Lane and Dog Kennel Hill along with a standalone bin close to Walworth Police Station. These bins are part of a set of operational tactics deployed by both the police and local authority to reduce the carrying of knives, knife injuries and fatalities.

The Metropolitan Police Service's Violent Crime Task Force is currently working with Word4Weapons to secure additional bins across London, and the council is currently in discussions on the feasibility of extra bins for the Camberwell and Peckham area. This is part of our wider response to tackling knife crime. As part of the process, we will be consulting with young people and the wider community in terms of locations and how knife surrender bins can be used as part of a wider educational approach to tackling knife crime.

14. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES COLDWELL (BOROUGH, BANKSIDE & WALWORTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

In light of the serious challenges Southwark faces around youth violence, can the cabinet member confirm there will be no further cuts to council-funded youth provision in the borough?

RESPONSE

There are no budget reductions planned for the council's youth services. As part of its commitment to young people the council funds a wide range of universally accessible activities for children and young people. These encompass directly delivered and grant funded services. Sports and leisure services offer extensive programmes for young people, holiday activities and the free swim and gym offer. Libraries have significant provision such as reading groups, homework clubs and coding clubs, to name a few. In addition we support many cultural voluntary sector organisations who work specifically with young people, including Theatre Peckham, South London Gallery, London Bubble and Blue Elephant.

We deliver a range of activities across the borough through direct delivery in our youth centres and with 21 voluntary partner organisations who receive grants. By using this mixed approach of direct and partner delivery we are able to ensure that youth services are available across the borough, that they are broad ranging and designed to reach as many young people as possible. The work of these services includes universal provision designed to engage young people in a range of positive activities

such as sports, music and arts. Targeted work is done to support personal development and skills. The services also work with specific groups such as young people with learning disabilities.

In December cabinet will consider a report to launch a positive futures fund which was a council plan commitment and aims to support innovative community projects designed with young people that provide inspiring opportunities to divert young people away from crime.

15. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR ANDY SIMMONS (DULWICH COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

Could the cabinet member please provide an update on the council's progress in reducing single use plastic within the council and more widely within the borough?

RESPONSE

As part of council plan commitment to ending single use plastic in the council and halving it in the borough, the council is currently developing a strategy for ending and reducing the use of single use plastic across the whole borough, which we aim to publish early next year. This will also support our wider sustainability aims of encouraging recycling and reducing landfill waste and promoting personal responsibility towards the environment.

Our recycling rate is already the best in inner London, and less than 1% of our waste goes to landfill, but we know that there is still more that can be done to reduce our environmental impact, so the strategy will include measures to target the plastics that have the worst impact on our environment and cannot be recycled at our waste depot, as well as working with our partners and businesses within the borough to reduce use and encourage user and producer responsibility.

We are lobbying for the legislative changes that are necessary to effectively tackle this problem nationally, and have supported the proposed ban on plastic straws, drink stirrers and cotton buds which DEFRA aim to implement in late 2019.

In our Tooley Street and Queens Road buildings, we have already removed single use plastic cups, drink stirrers and plastic cutlery, and brought in biodegradable cups.

All cutlery in the staff canteen is biodegradable 'veggie ware', and the council is discussing the use of 'drink to go' plastic lids and cup options with the Camden Society who operate our canteen.

Discussions are also ongoing with Interserve regarding the selection of drinks available in the vending machines; all single use plastic drinks will be replaced as soon as possible.

Officers are preparing a short, medium and long term policy to remove all single use plastic from our buildings, and we expect this early next year.

16. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND ADULT CARE FROM COUNCILLOR DORA DIXON-FYLE

Can the cabinet member for children, schools and adult care tell us how we can improve services for children and families with mental health needs?

RESPONSE

Child and adolescent mental health services are at crisis point in the UK, with more than 70% of children and young people in Southwark with mental health needs currently not receiving the help they need. Our goal is clear: we will advance from meeting just 24% of children's mental health needs to 100% of children and adolescents getting the care they need, which we aim to do by the end of 2020.

As recognised in the Southwark Council Plan, good mental health is as important as good physical health, and we are therefore determined to protect funding for mental health services for children and young people and find ways to change and improve services so that more children get the support they need when they need it.

As part of this commitment, Southwark Council and NHS Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) have recently carried out a joint review of wellbeing and mental health for children and young people, which provides a detailed insight into the challenges we face and how they can be addressed. A Reference Group has been set up to ensure that local parents and children have valuable input into this work and the opportunity to help shape how it is delivered.

Southwark was also recently invited to submit a Trailblazer bid for £1.6 million to support mental health and wellbeing in schools. The outcome of this bid is expected soon and if it is approved, we can extend some of the support we already offer in local schools.

As part of our Council Plan ambition we are prioritising a number of key areas, such as prevention and improved emotional wellbeing, a reduction in waiting times for assessment and services, and improved access to treatment and support.

We will take this very important work forward under the governance of our Health and Wellbeing Board and strive to transform the lives of children and families with mental health needs in Southwark.

17. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND ADULT CARE FROM COUNCILLOR VICTORIA OLISA

Will the cabinet member for children, schools and adult care tell us what we are doing for unaccompanied asylum seeking children in Southwark?

RESPONSE

There are many heart-breaking stories of children who are forced to flee their communities abroad due to war or other atrocities. We recognise our responsibility as a local authority to provide these children with the dignity and care that they deserve.

Common challenges identified by social workers working with this group of young people are the difficulties in forming trusting relationships. Some are wary of social workers, seeing them as representatives of the Home Office; they may be reluctant to provide information about their history and identity and stories can be inconsistent and/or incomplete. The service goes to great lengths to build good trusting relationships with these young people to ensure their needs are assessed and entitlement to services is fully understood. When issues relating to status have been resolved, many of these young people and children are very open and easy to engage. Some young people talk to social workers about the trauma they have experienced and are supported to access services that help support them with this, for

example our children and adolescents' mental health services (CAMHS) for children in care. Many unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) and former UASC have well developed independence skills, which can be more advanced than other children in care and care leavers which enables them to make particularly good transitions to more independent forms of living.

All UASC in Southwark become "looked after children" and have their needs assessed so we can provide the best quality and most appropriate care for them. They are provided with suitable accommodation according to their needs, and the council looks after them the same as any other child in our care.

In 2013 the Dublin III Regulation was made through EU law to establish which member state of the EU is responsible for determining the claims of young people seeking asylum particularly those with family members in the other countries. This gave rise to The 'Dubs' amendment of the Immigration Act 2016 passed in May 2016 leading to an increase in the numbers of UASC entering the UK.

On 5 November 2018 the council's corporate parenting committee considered the situation of UASC in some detail. A full report has been prepared by officers setting out more information about them and how they are cared for. It is available on the following link:

<http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=129&Mid=6091&Ver=4>

18. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND ADULT CARE FROM COUNCILLOR CHARLIE SMITH

Will the cabinet member for children, schools and families tell how councillors can best fulfil our duties as corporate parent for children in our care?

RESPONSE

Being a corporate parent is one of the most important responsibilities we as a council have. We need to treat all the children in our care the same way that we would treat our own children, and we are working across departments and services to make sure that all the children in our care can get the opportunities and skills they need to be who they want to be.

Councillors have a duty to raise awareness of the needs of children in care and care leavers in all the areas they work and influence, enable more opportunities to be opened for our children and encourage more people to support them and their life chances.

Building on our strong ethos of good corporate parenting, we are inviting all councillors to participate actively in the role of corporate parents, not only those councillors on the corporate parenting committee. A scheme is being set up so that each councillor will be partnered with a looked after child and given information about their key milestone dates including birthday, faith festival dates and crucially dates of exams, results of exams and education or job interview results. Councillors are invited to send a handwritten card to their respective child or young person in care with good wishes for their birthday, faith festival, or exam and employment events. This will further the important relationship between the council and a looked after child in the borough.

The scheme is planned to commence in December 2018.

19. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND ADULT CARE FROM COUNCILLOR MARIA LINFORTH-HALL

The winter months typically see a spike in hospital admissions for older people and a corresponding increase in discharges from hospital once treatment is concluded. Can the cabinet member outline what plans are in place to ensure that there is no increase in delays in discharging people from hospital due to this increased demand? Looking further ahead, can she also detail what contingency plans are in place, in the event of a hard Brexit, to deal with any resulting gaps in the social care workforce?

RESPONSE

Southwark continues to have very low delayed discharges from Hospital. Delayed days due to adult social care in September were 31 against our government limit of 196, so well within the target.

Our Hospital Social Work teams operate seven days a week, and work very effectively with NHS colleagues to ensure Southwark residents experience a safe and timely discharge from hospital to their home.

Our Reablement Service, which is integrated with the Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Trust, works with people who need extra support to regain skills that are sometimes lost or diminished following a hospital admission.

Our home care services are funded to accommodate an increase in demand and the council's investment in this area through our Ethical Care Charter means that we have maintained a healthy supply of providers. We have also directed monies from the Better Care Fund towards home care services.

Two specific projects set up to help manage the additional pressure through the winter are:

1. An extension to our Night Owls service which provides individuals discharged from hospital with night time visits to provide care and reassurance
2. We have commissioned additional Flexicare flats to provide a supported step down from hospital - these flats have 24 hour wrap-round care to support people for the first few days/weeks after discharge before they are ready to return home.

Although the full implications of Brexit for adult social care services are still unclear, we have engaged with our domiciliary residential and nursing home providers about Brexit. We have advised them to work proactively with their staff who are from other EU countries to ensure they're engaging with the EU Settlement Scheme, and from these discussions, our providers do not foresee Brexit as having a major impact on their workforce as the number of staff from other EU countries are minimal.

20. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND ADULT CARE FROM COUNCILLOR RENATA HAMVAS

Ofsted have recently looked at our special educational needs and disability (SEND) provision and given us positive feedback. What is the cabinet member for children, schools and adult care doing to help children with special educational needs and or disabilities find employment?

RESPONSE

Southwark Council takes our responsibility for those with special educational needs and disability (SEND) very seriously, and the hard work of our officers has been highlighted in our recent OFSTED and Care Quality Commission report.

We have been particularly praised for our Support, Information and Advice service (SIAS) and the work of the SEND Team. The SIAS work experience scheme helps young people to develop employability skills and personal confidence. It also helps SIAS staff to gain the views of young people about the local area first hand.

There are also examples of successful work in commissioning services that help young people who have SEN and/or disabilities who are aged 18 years and over. This includes helping them to gain entry into employment and/or to take part in work experience and supported internships.

Prior to and since the inspection we have been working across the council to develop a strategy that focuses on pathways to employment to improve employability of young people with SEND.

We are using the SEND capital grant to open Park College from January 2019, to provide education and vocational training focused on securing employment for young people with SEND.

We are also using the Department for Education employment grant to support the work already in place to provide supported internships for young people with SEND alongside local employers and further develop job coaching. We are working with Southwark Works to support young people with SEND into employment options.

21. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND ADULT CARE FROM COUNCILLOR ELEANOR KERSLAKE

Adult social care is changing in Southwark. Can the cabinet member for children, schools and adult care tell me how the changes will benefit people who need our services?

RESPONSE

The implementation of the Care Act has brought about some changes in Adult Social Care which have enhanced our support to local residents, particularly in respect of reablement and support to careers. When taken with very local initiatives such as the Southwark Ethical Care Charter, this has resulted in a more stable, better supported care and support network in the borough with satisfaction levels up from just 53% to over 90% and positive outcomes. All this has been achieved while maintaining a balanced budget and further integrity with NHS and voluntary sector partners.

We are also creating our All Age Disability Service which brings together support for children, young people, adults with disabilities and their families – getting rid of the stressful and worrying “transition” for one service to another – and working with families to support them better.

22. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT AND AIR QUALITY FROM COUNCILLOR RICHARD LEEMING

What progress is the council making in providing charging points for electric vehicles?

RESPONSE

Electric vehicles both reduce air pollution and do not emit greenhouse gases, which is why in the council plan we have committed to adapting lamp posts to charge electric cars so that every home is within walking distance of a charging point. By the end of the financial year, we are aiming to deliver 75 charging points and a further 75 in the 2019/20 financial year.

The council is delivering the lamppost charging system through the Go Ultra Low City programme which runs until March 2020. These charge points allow for overnight charging and are generally for residential use. Since installing the first last month, there are already 10 up and running, with a further 140 planned.

In new developments, electric charging capability is required by the London Plan and is being secured as new developments come forward, again this serves residential use.

At present we have seven rapid charge points all located on the Transport for London Road Network for the use of taxis, with one being publicly accessible. Officers are working with Transport for London (TfL) and have identified further rapid charge point locations, including Choumert Road car park and the waste management centre. Both of these sites will be publicly accessible.

The rapid chargers are complemented by 17 fast charge points that are publicly accessible. These points are owned and maintained by Bluepoint London.

Southwark is the first London Council to install electric vehicle charge points using the recently announced London Go Ultra Low Cities Scheme (GULCS), a residential charging fund via the Mayor, TfL and London Councils framework.

The council will be developing a strategy on charging points to ensure that we have a strong mixed economy of lamppost charging and rapid charging points.

23. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT AND AIR QUALITY FROM COUNCILLOR VICTOR CHAMBERLAIN

Passenger numbers on the RV1 bus service have recently risen, yet TfL still intends to scrap the bus route altogether. Can the cabinet member detail what interventions he has personally made to either the Mayor or to TfL in order to save the RV1 and to reinstate it to six services an hour?

RESPONSE

I am committed to the campaign to reinstate the frequency of the RV1 bus service, and oppose TfL's proposal to scrap the service entirely. We recognise the vital service that the RV1 bus provides for our residents, which is why in the Southwark Labour manifesto, and in the council plan, we have committed to campaigning to reinstate the frequency of the service.

In July, I met with the Deputy Mayor for Transport, Heidi Alexander, along with the leader and the cabinet member for growth, development and planning, to discuss the issue, and had a further telephone conversation with the Deputy Mayor when the new proposal to cut the service completely was made in the autumn.

I have made a personal representation to TfL officials on the reasons to review the RV1 decision at the Travel Watch meeting held on 23 October.

I have written to TfL as part of the consultation on the proposed bus changes, making the point that TfL have not looked at recent data showing the increase in the use of RV1 since both its route has been restored and the traffic delays caused by the London Bridge station work have ended.

I have made the case to TfL that the RV1 is a key route for connecting to London Bridge, Waterloo and Guy's and St Thomas's hospitals. The route supports tourism in the borough and provides an alternative offer to private tourist services (at least 4 different services run along Tooley Street and over Tower Bridge).

I have made clear our borough's view that the evidence supporting the proposals are not appropriate as the evidence of usage has been significantly impacted by the road diversions and traffic delays created by the construction of Thameslink and the rebuilding of London Bridge Station, therefore the assessment was not based on the typical usage of the service as it runs now.

It has been observed that passenger numbers have been returning to the RV1 route since TfL gathered the information used in its assessment. TfL needs to assess the numbers now that passengers have returned.

The alternatives proposed are not a satisfactory replacement for the RV1. In fact consideration should be given to extend the route from Tower Gateway to Liverpool Street station to provide capacity and increase viability of the service. There is likely to be new demand from Southwark to the City as a result of new development under construction at Bishopsgate.

24. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT AND AIR QUALITY FROM COUNCILLOR DAMIAN O'BRIEN

What programme does Southwark have in place or plan to put in place to increase the number of electric vehicle charging points across the borough?

RESPONSE

See question 22

25. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT AND AIR QUALITY FROM COUNCILLOR MARGY NEWENS

In May, the Labour Party promised to close roads around schools at drop off and collection time. Could the cabinet member update us on how this is progressing?

RESPONSE

We are committed to improving air quality around schools and encouraging children to walk to school through closing roads around schools at drop off and collection time.

The council implemented the first school streets closure, at Bessemer Grange School, earlier this year and are currently reviewing the outcome of this trial.

So far the results suggested that there has been a noticeable improvement in perceptions of road safety which has, in turn, driven a demonstrable shift towards

more walking and cycling.. We are monitoring these schemes to measure the benefits and help improve the programme going forward.

A further experimental closure of Troy Town outside the new Bellenden School has also been well received. I have agreed that this street closure should now become permanent, subject to the outcome of consultation on this proposal.

The council is now in advanced discussions with two further schools about implementing closures in the next calendar year.

Further opportunities are being assessed to continue and expand the programme.

Southwark is the first borough to sign up to Sustrans School Streets proposal to have 100 school street closures in London by 25 March 2019. Sustrans School Streets is a test programme that aims to ease the congestion, poor air quality and road safety concerns that many schools experience during drop-off and pick-up times, by facilitating timed traffic restrictions on the road outside the school gates.

26. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT AND AIR QUALITY FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES MCASH

Given TfL's proposed reductions in local bus services, what steps are being taken to work with other boroughs to protect our bus routes?

RESPONSE

With other boroughs affected by the proposed reductions in London bus services, we have responded to the TfL's bus consultation and have made clear that we do not support their proposals. Our residents value the ability to be able to travel directly to a wide range of destinations in central London from different areas of the borough. The proposed changes will significantly restrict this. The requirement to change buses is a major disincentive to travel, particularly for the older people and people with mobility impairments, in particular wheelchair users. This is of significant concern to the council and our neighbouring boroughs as well as the Central London Partnership.

If we are to persuade people of the benefits of public transport, it is critical that buses go where people want to travel to, rather than kicking them off where it is most convenient for the operator.

The impacts of the proposed changes stretch beyond our borough which is why we are co-ordinating with our neighbouring boroughs on this issue. For example, we are actively campaigning alongside Greenwich and Lewisham against the changes to the 53 bus route, which would see both its route and frequency reduced.

On 2 November 2018, I joined with councillors and concerned residents from Greenwich and Lewisham to travel along the route of the 53 bus from Woolwich, and speak to bus users about the TfL consultation and what TfL's proposals would mean for their journeys. My conversations with bus users clearly showed what a significant impact reducing the 53 bus service would have, and I am committed to continuing to work with Greenwich, Lewisham, and other boroughs to oppose TfL's planned bus cuts.

27. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT AND AIR QUALITY FROM COUNCILLOR JON HARTLEY

What steps are being taken to create safer cycling routes in Southwark?

RESPONSE

I am committed to improving cycling safety and encouraging cycling in Southwark making cycling in Southwark a safer and more pleasant experience.

Southwark is undertaking a number of steps to create safer cycling routes in the borough.

- We recently consulted on creating a section of Quietway 7 along Champion Hill.
- We are looking to build Quietway 8 from Kennington Park to Burgess Park in 2019.
- We have consulted on Quietway 9 from Bermondsey to Peckham. We have created a section of Quietway 14 from Blackfriars Road to Tower Bridge Road.
- We are working with TfL to extend this cycle route by building Cycle Superhighway 4 from Tower Bridge Road to South Dock starting in July 2019.
- We are also creating the Southwark Spine in the middle of the borough from Cooper's Road to Peckham.

We are also working with TfL to introduce the first 20mph speed limit on their roads in Southwark in 2019 along Peckham Road and Peckham High Street, which includes improvements to the cycle lanes here.

28. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT AND AIR QUALITY FROM COUNCILLOR DAN WHITEHEAD

Earlier this year we were assured by the cabinet that discussions were being had with the Mayor of London regarding the raising of sufficient capital funding to extend the Transport for London (TfL) cycle hire scheme to Bermondsey and Rotherhithe. Could the cabinet member provide us with a progress update and confirm how much funding has so far been allocated to extend the scheme?

RESPONSE

We continue to make progress in our work helping to expand the Santander Cycle Hire scheme in the Bermondsey and Rotherhithe areas. The council has identified, with TfL, what the costs involved would be.

The council is working to secure contributory funding through new developments nearby to help provide cycle hire in the area. This includes ongoing discussions with the Canada Water developers who want to fund approximately 120 cycle docking points in the area.

Once funding is in place, TfL (who would manage the delivery of the expansion) envisage that it would take 9-12 months to install these new cycle hire facilities.

29. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT AND AIR QUALITY FROM COUNCILLOR GRAHAM NEALE

Can the cabinet member explain how the currently high levels of incineration in Southwark align with the ambition to substantially improve air quality, decreased CO2 emissions and increased recycling rates?

RESPONSE

The council is committed to the best practise approach of Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Recover, Dispose.

Southwark's waste management facility at Devon Street, just off Old Kent Road, is one of the most up to date of its kind and helps the council to handle the waste produced in the borough in accordance with the best practise approach set out above.

Reduce: The council consistently works to implement initiatives aimed at reducing the amount of household waste collected. Growth in waste tonnage has slowed in Southwark recently and actually gone into reverse last year with 5,000 tonnes less waste collected than the year before. This is despite the increased number of households in the borough.

The amount of waste produced per household in Southwark is now less than the average for London.

Reuse: The council encourages residents to re-use items such as furniture, clothes and tools, for example by using social media to rehouse them or taking them to charity shops and by providing a re-use area at the public recycling centre that is part of our waste facility off Old Kent Road.

Recycle: The council provides a comprehensive doorstep household recycling collection service and the materials collected are efficiently separated for recycling in our waste facility. The public recycling facility at the Old Kent Road site also provides the space to allow for a wide range of materials that are not collected at the doorstep to be recycled such as electrical goods and paint.

Other measures are in place to separate recycling from waste where it is feasible to do so, for example from waste collected from estate and street cleansing activities. The recycling rate achieved last year by Southwark was the best of any inner London borough.

Recover: Black bag type waste collected from households is processed through a dedicated section of a waste facility, called the 'Mechanical Biological Treatment' plant. Here, some recyclable material is recovered from the 'black bag' waste before a drying process is carried out that reduces the weight of the waste by 25%.

Once this drying process is complete, the remaining waste is capable of being used as a fuel, for example in cement kilns, which reduces the consumption of fossil fuels. It can also be sent to an 'Energy from Waste Facility'.

In the case of Southwark, waste that is sent to the South East London Combined Heat and Power (SELCHP) facility is used to generate electricity for the national grid and to produce hot water that is used to heat 2,500 homes in Southwark through a district heating system. The hot water generated by SELCHP means gas is no longer used to heat the homes and this saves around 7,000 tonnes of CO2 emissions per annum.

SELCHP therefore plays an important role in both reducing the use of fossil fuels and avoiding the use of landfill.

The SELCHP facility must adhere to very tight regulations governing emissions which must be treated and filtered to ensure that particulates and other emissions do not worsen local air quality. This is regulated by the Environment Agency. Data is published online at the following link:

<https://www.selchp.com/about-selchp/Our%20Emissions/>

Around 98% of Southwark's waste is recovered, with less than 2% going to landfill which is the least favourable type of disposal and one of the most harmful for the environment due to the emission of greenhouse gases.

The rates of recycling and recovery achieved by Southwark, and the way it manages waste, ensures that the impact on air quality and CO2 emissions from collecting and handling waste is kept to an absolute minimum.

30. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT AND MODERNISATION FROM COUNCILLOR SANDRA RHULE

Can the cabinet member give an update on the progress being made on the Queens Road 4 site?

RESPONSE

The building at 133-137 Queens Road has now been demolished and the site cleared ready for a new development.

In response to feedback gathered during public consultation earlier this year, new architects, Allies and Morrison, have been appointed to review the brief, listening to residents' concerns to design a building that better suits the context of the local area.

Engagement with residents is underway to support this. The current timeline indicates that designs will be available to share with the public in spring 2019, with further consultation on the developed design (including a review panel) in the summer.

Our housing solutions service and services for children and families are currently located in six old, out of date and unsuitable buildings across the borough that are no longer appropriate for the delivery of these services. Building a dedicated customer facing space and associated staff offices at 133-137 Queens Road Peckham (QR4) will allow the council to provide appropriate accommodation for these vital front-line services in a well connected location at the heart of the community. QR4 is being custom-built and designed so that the space supports the vital work that the council delivers.

The services moving into the building are intrinsically linked, with users often accessing a number of different functions across both housing and children's services. Bringing together associated teams onto a single site offers the benefit of increased knowledge sharing and collaboration as well as providing staff with access to modern and more efficient ways of working.

It is currently forecast that there will be two further rounds of consultation with the public which are currently scheduled to take place in spring and summer 2019. These consultations will provide residents with the opportunity to view and provide feedback on the revised design before the planning application is submitted in late summer 2019. The council will continue to engage with local residents and businesses

throughout the lifecycle of the project, including conducting regular drop in sessions to provide updates, the next drop in is scheduled for Thursday 29 November, details below:

Date: Thursday 29 November

Time: 6-8pm (drop in at any time)

Location: Queens Road 1, 132 Queens Road, London, SE15 2HP

We are working hard to ensure that public engagement remains a priority throughout and that the new building enhances and contributes positively to the local environment.

31. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT AND MODERNISATION FROM COUNCILLOR RADHA BURGESS

How is the shared ICT service with Brent and Lewisham progressing and what are the next steps in the process?

RESPONSE

After a year in operation Brent, Lewisham and Southwark share a common view that the shared ICT service continues to provide the best way for delivering high quality, reliable and efficient modern capability that supports our services. As part of that joint commitment, the three councils have jointly conducted a review of ICT services provided to all three boroughs through the shared ICT service.

There is a recognition that services and systems resilience need to improve and that the shared service needs to become a more clearly identifiable independent joint service with its own managing director and top management team reporting to the governance board that is made up of representatives from the three councils.

The review has recently concluded and a number of recommendations are now being taken forward with the intention of making immediate service improvements; building a more resilient and better focussed service in the medium term, and setting out possible wider ambitions over a longer period.

We have appointed an interim managing director supported by a team of suitably qualified technical professionals, who will ensure stability now and help managers in the three boroughs to develop a new shared service strategy to guide us over the next few years. This person reports to the strategic director of housing and modernisation at Southwark and is accountable to all three boroughs through the member-led board. This work is expected to take a few months as we want to ensure the strategy reflects the wants and concerns of services in each council. When we have a new strategy and an IT roadmap that will come from it, we will recruit a permanent shared ICT service managing director.

An important component of Southwark joining the Shared ICT Service (SICTS) is the migration of our data and application hosting from the legacy Capita data centres into those hosted by SICTS. This work is well underway, with a substantial programme of work established to ensure it is completed successfully. Core to this is ensuring that disruption to vital council services is kept to a minimum. It is anticipated that the work will be completed by summer 2019, which will include fully decommissioning the old data centres. During this migration work, we are also upgrading technology and versions of software where required to ensure that we have appropriate security, stability and performance for our ICT going forward.

32. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT AND MODERNISATION FROM COUNCILLOR PETER BABUDU

How successful has the Digital Futures Month been and what are the next steps for improving use of technology and smarter ways of working across the council?

RESPONSE

There are over 70 events during November and so far over 500 places booked and 15 sold out events. The events cover the four themes of:

- Resident-led change - Learn how we are applying user research techniques and putting residents at the centre of improving and building services.
- Smarter Southwark - A series of presentations from national and international experts highlighting the role of technology in improving citizens' lives - both now and in the future.
- Data and analytics - Learn and be inspired by initiatives within the council and other organisations, and see how to deliver amazing services that are driven by smart use of data.
- Ways of working - Find out about how we're transforming the way we work, what we've been piloting in Modernise and how to collaborate better using the new office design and technology.

Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and include comments such as "truly inspirational", "great session, cannot wait to start working together", and "very informative". Our next steps in improving technology and smarter ways of working across the council include:

- Launch the Digital Innovation Fund to seed fund and support innovative ideas
- Support digital service transformation using our new digital service design principles and toolkit
- Develop and improve digital skills across the council
- Continue to pilot use of laptops and collaborative tools.

Digital Futures Month has been a great success and will benefit our staff and residents. A workforce which has digital awareness and capabilities will be able to better utilise new technologies to improve services for our residents.

33. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT AND MODERNISATION FROM COUNCILLOR ALICE MACDONALD

Now that the Innovation Fund has been launched what positive differences will this mean for our residents?

RESPONSE

In February 2018, council assembly agreed to invest £200,000 into a new digital innovation fund to support teams within the council to innovate, modernise and to be truly fit for the future. We are seeing a change in the way that residents want to interact with the council and how they access our services and it is important that we continue to adapt and evolve in order to meet these changing needs.

As part of our Digital Futures Month, the Digital Innovation Fund has been launched. The scope of the fund is to allow anyone in the council to propose an experiment, discovery, seed fund or prototype for an innovative idea. The aim is that the idea should be game changing and that it leads to tangible benefits for our residents and the services they use and that the proposal delivers on our fairer future vision, strategies and council plan. The fund will support new and innovative projects and will not be used to fund business as usual activities or fund budget shortfalls.

We will be looking at projects that very much fit in with the four themes of the Digital Futures month:

- Resident-led change: putting residents at the centre of improving services.
- Smart Southwark: the role of technology in improving residents' lives both now and in the future.
- Data & Analytics: delivering services that are driven by smart use of data.
- Ways of Working: transforming the way we work.

Proposed projects can access up to £30,000 and will be decided by a Digital Innovation Fund Board which will assess the first set of applications in December 2018.

This is a really exciting and unique opportunity for new ideas and technology to help support our vision for a fairer future.

34. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT AND MODERNISATION FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL FLEMING

Can the cabinet member give an update on the new in-house repairs service?

RESPONSE

This time last year, cabinet took a decision which acknowledged that the council's previous approach to providing repairs inside our residents' properties was not working as well as we would have liked. Our reliance on market impacted on quality, with contractors 'pricing to win, rather than pricing to deliver', this increased the need for robust contract management and reduced resident satisfaction.

Southwark Building Services (SBS) were asked to take on internal repairs for the whole borough, so allowing:

- New pricing models to be tested safely (without the risk of external contractors making excessive profits), stripping out the need to place a price on every job and moving to a generic 'price per property' budget
- A review of all job processes, moving the emphasis away from contract monitoring and focussing on what works best for residents
- Our repairs staff to have the freedom to undertake the work that is actually needed rather than what is stated on the 'job ticket' without having to refer back to the office.

A delivery team was established in January 2018 comprising of representatives from across the council - with the aim of delivering a successful, customer focussed, cost effective repairs service to our residents.

This team reported to a fortnightly strategic board to ensure the project stayed on track and delivered the aspirations set out by cabinet last year.

On 1 October 2018, the new service launched. 65 staff transferred from Mears, the outgoing contractor, to Southwark. Mears were the previous contractor for the south of the borough. The transition went very well with staff being welcomed by the Chief Executive on Monday 1 October 2018. They then had an extensive induction into Southwark over the following days.

SBS are now undertaking all internal repairs, void works, minor adaptations for residents with disabilities and works to temporary accommodation across the borough.

A suite of performance indicators have been developed which place the resident's experience at the heart of judging the service and these will be monitored and scrutinised closely in coming months.

On top of these formal performance measures, the service has started calling residents as soon as the job has been closed on the computer system to make sure the work is complete and to check if we could do anything better. So far, over 97% of the residents are reporting the job has been completed and they are happy with the service provided.

Clearly, it is early days for the service but I am encouraged by the results to date and the commitment I have seen from all staff involved in this project.

35. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR GROWTH, DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING FROM COUNCILLOR NICK JOHNSON

In response to a question to Councillor Whitehead, during council assembly held on 14 March 2018, the leader of the council stated that no request had been made by Transport for London (TfL) to the council for funding from community infrastructure levy (CIL) developer contributions in respect of the planned Rotherhithe Bridge. Given that TfL have now publicly stated that they expect to receive a contribution to the funding of the bridge from the respective local councils (Tower Hamlets and Southwark), will the cabinet member now publicly commit to a major contribution from the CIL that has been generated from the Canada Water Opportunity Area to help ensure that this much needed and long delayed bridge is built?

RESPONSE

TfL aim to consult on the Rotherhithe to Canary Wharf bridge this spring and then again later in the year. Assuming that both these consultations are successful then discussions will begin on funding the bridge. The council are not currently aware of any approach from TfL for CIL to fund the bridge.

The bridge remains a priority for the council: we are committed to working with the Mayor of London to build a new pedestrian and cycling bridge from Canada Water to Canary Wharf in the council plan, and we have identified the bridge as an infrastructure project that could be part funded from the CIL.

36. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR GROWTH, DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING FROM COUNCILLOR MICHAEL SITU

Can the cabinet member update us on what the council is doing to ensure local people are able to contribute to the Old Kent Road Area Action Plan?

RESPONSE

The council has been consulting on the future of the Old Kent Road (OKR) and the Area Action Plan (AAP) since early 2015. Over 2,000 people have responded to the plan over two major consultations and overall the plans are supported, with particular support for the Bakerloo Line extension. Over 7,000 people have supported the campaign to 'Back the Bakerloo' online.

Since the last formal consultation on the draft AAP closed in March, the council has continued consultation with local people through attending meetings with local residents' groups about particular parts of the plan, including Pages Walk residents, Canal Grove residents, Glengall Road residents and Stevenson Crescent TRA. Amendments to parts of the masterplan are being shared with resident groups in response to feedback. The council will be publishing a 'You Said, We Did' consultation summary document shortly.

The council continues to meet individual businesses, and will be running area focused meetings with the business community. The council is currently re-surveying all businesses in the area to maintain an up to date contact list. This will contribute to the ongoing OKR Business Network and Creative OKR group.

The council has also been running workshops in local schools to engage with both primary and secondary school children about the future of the Old Kent Road.

The OKR Forum has been established, which is a monthly discussion forum for local people with workshops with myself and Old Kent Road ward councillors which takes place in Christ Church Peckham, on Old Kent Road. Feedback from the forum is published monthly and is used to help shape the AAP.

The council has launched a new website for Old Kent Road with all the information about the regeneration plans easily accessible and regularly updated. The website includes an interactive planning map which shows the information about planning applications and how to comment.

Residents who would like email updates on consultation on Old Kent Road are encouraged to sign up for a My Southwark account and opt in to receive planning policy notifications.

The council has acquired a shop unit at number 231 Old Kent Road which will be opening in the next few months. This will be a flexible space that will be shared for exhibitions about the plans for Old Kent Road including a permanent 3D model. The space will also be shared with the community to hold exhibitions or events about the Old Kent Road and its businesses.

37. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR GROWTH, DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING FROM COUNCILLOR BARRIE HARGROVE

I was very pleased that the Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts opened its new venue in my ward in September. Could the cabinet member update me on plans for Peckham Palms?

RESPONSE

Mountview Academy opened to staff and students on 21 September 2018 after a 17 month build. As part of the agreement with the council, Mountview are delivering a package of community benefits. To date 22 Southwark residents have been employed during the construction contract, 23 jobs have been created in the building, 3 bursaries have been awarded to local residents, 3 community taster sessions have been held and 2 performances have taken place in Peckham at discounted rates for Southwark residents.

Mountview will also be working with the council in its delivery of Council Plan commitments, creating opportunity for young people of the borough to access the arts.

Peckham Palms was developed by the council in direct response to the need to address the property and business needs of the Afro-Caribbean hairdressers affected by the Peckham Rye Station Square project. The building will celebrate the importance of these businesses to the economy and culture of Peckham. I am very much looking forward to it opening next week.

38. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR GROWTH, DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING FROM COUNCILLOR HELEN DENNIS

Could the cabinet member update us on the adoption of the New Southwark Plan?

RESPONSE

The New Southwark Plan (NSP) represents the most up-to-date planning and regeneration strategy for the borough. Extensive consultation over 5 years has taken place and reflects a much needed update to outdated policies adopted over 10 years ago. It is a statutory requirement to have an up-to-date plan in place and adopting the plan is crucial to achieving the ambitious strategy for planning and regeneration in the borough, including delivering more social housing and genuinely affordable homes for local people.

The NSP translates six of the council's Fairer Future promises and the Social Regeneration agenda into the development plan. These promises provide a structure and golden thread for achieving successful development and regeneration in the borough. This includes the strategy and policies for building quality affordable homes, achieving social regeneration to revitalise neighbourhoods, maintaining a strong local economy, ensuring everyone has the best start in life and a cleaner, greener, safer borough. The NSP also contributes to helping residents lead healthy active lives, with health and wellbeing of residents being at the heart of planning policy.

Some proposed revisions to the NSP will be reported to cabinet in January 2019 and to council assembly in March 2019. There will be consultation until May 2019. The document will then be submitted to the Secretary of State for Examination which will take place later in 2019 and it is expected that the plan will be adopted before the end of 2019.

39. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR GROWTH, DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING FROM COUNCILLOR JACK BUCK

Can the cabinet member let us know what progress has been made towards delivering more social and affordable housing as a part of the Aylesbury Estate regeneration?

RESPONSE

The first two phases of the regeneration of the Aylesbury Estate delivered 150 social rent and 60 intermediate homes managed by L&Q. This development replaced 70 social rented homes, resulting in an increase of 80 social rented homes.

The masterplan for the Aylesbury Estate approved in 2016 agreed up to 1,323 social rented and up to 479 intermediate homes. Notting Hill Genesis is committed to ensuring that opportunities to increase the level of social rented homes over the life of the development are taken forward.

The recently approved revisions to the planning permissions for the first development site and Plot 18 site have increased the amount of social rented homes and the amount of shared ownership to provide more options for resident leaseholders. Following the recent confirmation of the compulsory purchase order by the Secretary of State, it is anticipated that a start on construction on these two sites will be made in spring 2019. These two developments also provide a new library, Early Years Centre, Health Centre, GP practice, community facilities, open spaces, extra care housing and specialist homes for residents with learning difficulties. It is anticipated that these social rented homes will be pre-allocated to remaining residents of Aylesbury Estate next year.

Notting Hill Genesis is currently developing proposals for Phase 2 of the redevelopment. Following recent discussions with the council, they are looking at the potential of increasing the amount of social rented homes developed in this phase in order to accelerate the rehousing of the rest of the estate. These changes are subject to planning and the provision of grant subsidy. Notting Hill Genesis want to work with the council and the Mayor of London to explore how as part of the overall programme we can get closer to the objective of no net loss of social rented provision.

Following discussions with affected leaseholders, earlier this year the council agreed a number of variations to the shared equity policy which make it a more attractive option for leaseholders wanting to remain in the neighbourhood.

40. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, PERFORMANCE AND BREXIT FROM COUNCILLOR HUMAIRA ALI

A Freedom of Information request by the human rights organisation Project 17 showed that Southwark Council has employed Home Office immigration officials to sit in on interviews with destitute families who are requesting support. This practice has been widely condemned by human rights lawyers, charities and politicians on the grounds that it serves to intimidate and dissuade people and children who are in dire need from getting the support they are entitled to.

Can the cabinet member confirm how many such interviews these officials have attended in each of the last three years, what role they have played in decision making and whether there any plans to discontinue their participation in these interviews in future, as Haringey and Lewisham councils have done?

RESPONSE

Southwark Council paid for a Home Office official to work in a back-office role with the No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) team. He did not sit in on any interviews that council staff conducted with service users to establish their need for support. Decisions on supporting families under the Children's Act or vulnerable adults

under the Mental Health Act or Care Act have always been made by social workers. Where the embedded official did meet with service users this was on a direct Home Office to client basis and helped establish an individual's immigration status and not their need for council support. In the great majority of cases service users did not meet with the Home Office official as it was possible to establish immigration status without face-to-face contact.

The memorandum of understanding between the council and the Home Office had an end date of 30 September 2018 and it was decided not to renew the arrangement. This took effect on 2 October 2018. The council is currently using the NRPF Connect tool to undertake initial immigration checks and progress existing cases as required by law. However, the council continues to review the best arrangement for undertaking immigration checks and particularly progressing the most historic NRPF cases so that service users do not spend years without the recourse to public funds that would allow them to move on with their lives.