

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.1**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Phil Bridger

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

The council is under significant budget pressure and has also declared a climate emergency. Given this context why does it continue to subsidise private vehicle owners with free parking in council owned car parks on Sundays?

**Reply**

The council's car parks mirror each corresponding Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) operation period. At present, other than CPZ B2, parking is unrestricted on Sundays. However, the council will continue to review CPZs and look to introduce Sunday parking restrictions where parking stress is evidenced.

## **PUBLIC QUESTION NO.2**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Phil Bridger

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

### **Question**

Clarendon Rise car park is going to host Lewisham's first 'Active Travel Hub' as part of ongoing levelling up works. According to the Council's 'Active Travel Strategy', which has recently been reviewed, not a single proposed 'Active Travel Corridor' comes close to this hub. Can the council explain how this makes sense and also how they will ensure that the new Active Travel Hub will be connected to the Active Travel network to ensure it is fully utilised and doesn't become a waste of money.

### **Reply**

Active Travel Hubs provide information, engagement opportunities and facilities with the aim to encourage local communities and visitors to travel more actively. They have proven to be a successful model to engage with local communities, workplaces and further education establishments.

The active travel hub on Clarendon Rise is provided as part of the Council's transformation of Lewisham Town Centre and is there to provide information on the spread of activities the Council undertakes to promote and encourage more active travel in the form of walking, wheeling and scooting.

The hub provides cycling facilities, electric vehicle charging points, secure cycle lockers, cycle stands, seating and greenery. It is located close to taxis and bus stands. It is a travel interchange and promotes a sustainable integrated transport approach, reducing car dominance, promoting better air quality and allows for safer cycling.

The hub will connect to existing cycling routes and paths that exist around Lewisham town centre, offering options for both recreational and commuting cyclists. The Waterlink Way is a popular choice, following the River Ravensbourne and connecting to various parks and green spaces. Additionally, the borough has good connections to the national cycle network, including parts of Route 21.

### **PUBLIC QUESTION NO.3**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Barry Milton

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor James-J Walsh

#### **Question**

LBL's core strategy is to "seek the maximum provision of affordable housing with a target for 50% affordable housing from all sources". The policy tries to ensure that "affordable housing will be sought on sites capable of providing 10 or more dwellings. The starting point for negotiations will be a contribution of 50% affordable housing on qualifying sites across the borough". Why is the borough not enforcing these targets or in many cases not even establishing these as base targets during initial negotiations with developers?

#### **Reply**

The London Plan now takes precedence over the previous Core Strategy policy. It sets a target for affordable housing of 35% on private land and 50% on public or industrial land.

Lewisham Council's new Local Plan follows this approach and is expected to be adopted in summer 2025.

While the overall strategic goal remains 50% affordable housing, many projects led by the Council and Registered Providers are delivering well above this - often reaching 100%.

A key example is the Thomas Lane Yards development, which is delivering 100% affordable housing.

In all early-stage planning discussions, the Council strongly promotes the importance of affordable housing and works to secure the highest possible level in every case.

## **PUBLIC QUESTION NO.4**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Barry Milton

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor James-J Walsh

### **Question**

At the core of LBL's local plan is the expectation that the Bakerloo extension (from Elephant & Castle to Lewisham town centre) will start work during the next few years. Given that the extension will cost between £10-£12 billion, should LBL try to establish a less costly back-up plan for improving rail transport links through the centre of the borough? Lack of growth in the economy and the need to fund UK military expansion surely means that the Bakerloo Line extension will not go ahead as planned.

### **Reply**

The new Local Plan is not predicated on the delivery of BLE. It is however, open to the good growth opportunities that its implementation in full could bring to the Borough. A failure to deliver the BLE in full would not prevent the delivery of the new Local Plan. Nevertheless, the Council has made strong representations to the emerging London Plan that set out the importance of delivering the BLE in full. The BLE will make a positive and significant contribution to London's challenging housing needs and national economic growth.

The potential to provide an alternative rail-based solution – to improving sustainable transport connectivity through the centre of the Borough – is constrained by the capacity and connectivity of the existing networks. Those limitations are characterised by services that route through the hubs at London Bridge Station and Blackfriars. The BLE would provide an additional routing directly into Central London – thereby releasing capacity on the two other routes.

The metroisation of existing services could contribute towards enhancements in capacity but would be dependent upon significant investment – in terms of signalling improvements; rolling stock and possibly additional stabling and maintenance facilities (at the termini). It is understood that some benefits to service frequency and capacity could be gained through automation; albeit that prospect raises sensitivities.

A further possible alternative, which the Council believes could be delivered through a lesser level of investment could be secured through extending the operation of the DLR into a nighttime service. The Council believes that this could be achieved within the confines of the existing DLR network – possibly without the need for signalling improvements. The only possible barrier to implementing this service improvement is capacity of on-board staff. The DLR is already a partially automated service – so could serve as a prototype for further improvement. This may release capacity to

allow nighttime operation. The Council has highlighted this possible option through its recent response to the emerging London Plan

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.5**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: David Chapman

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

I was told by a local councillor many months ago that a school street was planned for Sandhurst primary school. Is this still the case, and if so, what are the likely timeframes for it to be implemented?

**Reply**

The Council is presently in the planning stage of introducing a School Street scheme for Sandhurst Road School and will be placing in a bid to TfL as part of the process. A school street aims to reduce traffic volume outside schools, to favour pedestrians and cyclists at school start and finish times.

## **PUBLIC QUESTION NO.6**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Matthew Sparkes

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

### **Question**

In 2024 I asked if Lewisham Council intended to carry out any pollution monitoring on Sandhurst Road. Levels are monitored at other nearby spots, such as the South Circular, but Sandhurst Road is burdened with five bus routes - mostly serviced by diesel buses - as well as heavy private vehicle traffic, and not measured at all. The question from 2024 was passed to the Environmental Health team but nothing has happened since. Does Lewisham Council intend to measure the pollution on Sandhurst Road, which even the layperson can taste and smell?

### **Reply**

The council is currently in the process of extending the air quality monitoring network across the borough, by installing a network of 100 small air quality sensors. These sensors will monitor nitrogen dioxide and particulates, among other pollutants.

To date 50 sensors have been installed across the borough, and as part of this project a sensor has been installed in Ardgowan Road. The data from these sensors will be available through a public platform, once all 100 sensors are live. Currently the installation programme is on schedule and is expected to be complete in the autumn, by November 2025.

The original location for the sensor which has been installed on Ardgowan Road was in Sandhurst Road, but a TfL air quality sensor had already been installed in this location, which prohibited the Council from using the same lamp column.

The TfL data is not within the public domain, and the Council has requested to TfL that this data be made publicly available.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.7**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Stephen Locke

Relevant Directorate: Housing

Member to reply: Councillor Will Cooper

**Question**

Further to the Council's reply to me of 5 March, whether in the light of its proposed statistical modelling, the Council has now revised its estimate of the number of private rental dwellings in the borough, and what it now estimates to be the total number of such dwellings that still remain unlicensed?

**Reply**

Our current estimate of the number of licensable properties in Lewisham is 26,000. This includes all properties licensable under the selective, additional HMO and mandatory HMO schemes. The current estimated number of unlicensed properties is 7854.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.8**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Stephen Locke

Relevant Directorate: Housing

Member to reply: Councillor Will Cooper

**Question**

How many actions have so far been taken, or are currently pending, against landlords of rental properties that have remained unlicensed, either because they have failed to apply or because licences have been refused?

**Reply**

44 actions have been taken against individuals, of which 42 were by Civil Penalty Notice and 2 were prosecutions.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.9**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Diana Cashin

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

A school street has been implemented in Winlaton Road for the secondary school Bonus Pastor and access from the west restricted. Could you give details of the consultation with local residents including dates and media that took place before this became active?

**Reply**

Consultation letters were delivered to all local residents prior to the school street being implemented, on an experimental basis to test the scheme. Additional warning notices were posted for an extended period (3 - 4 weeks ) in and around the school to further reinforce the message.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.10**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Diana Cashin

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

NSL Ltd, part of Marston Holdings group, is contracted to work in partnership with Lewisham Council as a parking enforcement and associated services. Car clamping is happening on Sundays yet on Sunday 9th February Lewisham's emergency response service was found to have no out-of-hours contact number. What action is being taken to remedy this?

**Reply**

NSL Ltd does not operate vehicle clamping on behalf of the Council. This would likely have been a private contractor working for a private landlord.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.11**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Eric Kentley

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

A postcard is being distributed by the Council with the heading 'Do you have parking issues in your area?' Why does the Council not consider this a biased question intended to provoke complaints about just one issue on our streets?

**Reply**

Our consultation materials have evolved throughout the programme following feedback from residents, businesses and stakeholders. Also, please note respondents to the consultation are able to expand on their answer using the free text box, along with adding if they would like to see additional measures. This is an initial (stage 1) consultation to understand if residents and businesses are experiencing parking issues. Where there are issues it will be followed by a full (stage 2) consultation exercise before any changes are proposed.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.12**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Eric Kentley

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

The postcard states 'We are genuinely listening to your feedback'. What evidence will the Council provide to the public of the weighting given to residents' views, positive and negative, in the assessment of the CPZ installations?

**Reply**

As part of the Sustainable Streets programme, if residents and businesses have a desire to install measures, we would look to do this where possible. If there is an opposition to installing these measures, we would not look to introduce them unless that street will face displacement or safety issues. This is evidenced in Evelyn CPZ where the area to the north of Deptford Park, where strong opposition was received following the consultation and therefore omitted from the CPZ.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.13**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Oliver Webb Carter

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

The rubbish/recycling area outside 36 Sydenham Hill is getting out of hand, and at risk of a rat infestation. Will there be a more suitable solution to the refuse situation? There is rubbish lying on the ground at all hours.

**Reply**

The Council's waste services team will carry out an inspection of the area to evaluate the extent of the problem and assess whether the current waste storage arrangements are adequate. In addition, the Council will engage with managing agents or landlords to ensure residents are properly informed about waste disposal procedures and collection times.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.14**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Oliver Webb Carter

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

The works ongoing outside The Cedars, Sydenham Hill, the old Salvation Army building, is having a detrimental impact on the pedestrian walkway. Heavy vehicles are causing problems on the pavement, and so will the contractors fix the damage caused? It would be sub-optimal if council tax payers foot the bill.

**Reply**

Highway inspectors have visited the site and have launched enforcement action to ensure the public highway is not damaged by these works and any remedial work to the highways is covered by the contractor and not the Borough council

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.15**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Vikki O'Neill

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

In your Sustainable Streets marketing materials and consultations, it's states that if the majority were opposed you would not proceed with the CPZ.

Does this remain a promise you will adhere to when presented with evidence that the majority are opposed?

**Reply**

As part of the Sustainable Streets programme we will not introduce any parking controls or Sustainable Street measures on any streets opposed to these unless the street will face displacement from surrounding streets or there are safety issues.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.16**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Vikki O'Neill

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

With child safety in mind, have you considered any other traffic measures, such as a school street specifically for Minard and Ardgowan, considering the school has 500+ young pupils and parents accessing the area, twice on a daily basis Mon- Friday

**Reply**

The Council is presently in the planning stage of introducing a School Street scheme for these schools and will be placing in a bid to TfL as part of the process.

A school street aims to reduce traffic volume outside schools, to favour pedestrians and cyclists at school start and finish times.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.17**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Ann Wallace

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

Did the analysis of feedback and public views expressed in the Consultation (Dec to 2nd Feb) for Hither Green and Catford South Wards support ( agree) the plans being proposed for CPZ being introduced in Minard Road, SE61NP.

**Reply**

All consultation responses were taken into account during the decision-making process. The Sustainable Streets Mayor and Cabinet report has been published and a decision made on the proposals on 9-July, see

<https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=139&MIId=8785>

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.18**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Ann Wallace

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

How has the Council considered the impact of proposed CPZ being suggested for Minard Rd and Ardgowan Rd on the safety of the children (500 plus ) who attend Sandhurst School?

**Reply**

Lewisham Council is committed to reducing the number of car journeys in Lewisham and encouraging more people to walk, cycle and use public transport. This will help increase road safety, improve air quality and make Lewisham's streets greener, safer and more accessible. Parking permit schemes are designed to prioritise local residents and businesses, while discouraging unnecessary car use. By working together, we hope to make sustainable travel the easiest and most convenient choice for everyone. This supports the borough's response to the Climate Emergency and helps enhance quality of life across the borough. Sandhurst School was invited to attend stakeholder briefing sessions, but no response was received.

The Sustainable Streets Mayor and Cabinet report has been published and a decision made on the proposals on 9-July, see <https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=139&MId=8785>

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.19**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Christine Tedder

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

Could the council clarify whether residents' feedback from Minard Road SE6 1NP, the majority of which is against the Controlled Parking Zone because we have no problem with parking, has been taken into consideration with regard to the Sustainable Streets Programme?

**Reply**

All feedback was considered as part of the consultation, however the stretch of Minard Road between Brownhill Road and Hither Green Lane may face displacement from the surrounding CPZs in operation currently. Hence the road is being proposed to receive the Sustainable Street measures.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.20**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Christine Tedder

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

Could the Council provide more information on how it assessed what impact the proposed CPZ would have on the safety of the children who attend Sandhurst Road School in Minard Road and Ardgowan Road bearing in mind that the proposed restrictions will not be imposed until 9am?

**Reply**

The Council has committed to carry out a review of the CPZ after its implementation to assess impact and will aim to introduce further measures if desired by the residents and other stakeholders.

The Council will be introducing enhancement to existing double yellow lines and junction protection markings to improve safety and visibility at junctions. Parking enforcement patrols will continue during school run hours to ensure good parking compliance especially the zig zag lines outside Sandhurst Primary School on Minard Road.

Furthermore, the Council is presently in the planning stage of introducing a School Street scheme for Sandhurst Road School and will be placing in a bid to TfL as part of the process.

A school street aims to reduce traffic volume outside schools, to favour pedestrians and cyclists at school start and finish times.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.21**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Louise Eaden

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

How the proposed CPZ on local streets (including my own, Minard Road) is anything more than a tax on local residents and their legitimate visitors parking outside their own homes?

**Reply**

The council is committed to reducing the number of car journeys in Lewisham and encouraging more people to walk, cycle and use public transport. This will help increase road safety, improve air quality and make Lewisham's streets greener, safer and more accessible.

Parking permit schemes are designed to prioritise local residents and businesses, while discouraging unnecessary car use. By working together, we hope to make sustainable travel the easiest and most convenient choice for everyone. This supports the borough's response to the Climate Emergency and helps enhance quality of life across the borough.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.22**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Louise Eaden

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

What evidence the council has that parking in these areas is being carried out by people other than local residents and, if they have such evidence, to what degree local residents will benefit from a CPZ?

**Reply**

As part of the programme the council conducted parking stress tests comparing daytime parking levels to those overnight which gives an indication of commuter parking. The sustainable streets programme prioritises parking for local people via a permit scheme. Where applicable short stay parking bays are implemented for use by patrons of local businesses. These bays are limited stay and help ensure regular turnover to facilitate consistent customer parking.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.23**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Trevor Lartice

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

On the initial Commonplace Survey, (which you used to propose a CPZ), what were the figures for and against Parking restrictions (CPZ) in Minard Road?

**Reply**

At stage 2 of the consultation process five respondents said the introduction of parking permits would improve the street, 35 stated they would not. Displacement from surrounding streets that are in favour, and from existing CPZs, will put pressure on this part of Minard Road that is North of the South Circular, hence its inclusion.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.24**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Trevor Lartice

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

Some of the Minard Road residents have carried out a survey and organised a petition, which shows the overwhelming majority of residents in Minard Road and other surrounding roads are NOT in favour of a CPZ. Will you take this data into consideration when making your decision?

**Reply**

The petition received from Minard Road was received after the consultation ended, however is referenced within the July 2025 Sustainable Streets report to Mayor and Cabinet.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.25**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Paul King

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

What exactly is the nature of the perceived problem which led to the consideration of introducing a CPZ in Hither Green ward and what has been recorded in respect of this?

**Reply**

Respondents to the Stage 1 consultation in Hither Green ward expressed a concern about parking pressure in certain areas within the ward and this has led to the proposal to introduce sustainable streets measures for certain streets in Stage 2.

The Sustainable Streets Mayor and Cabinet report has been published and a decision made on the proposals on 9-July, see

<https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=139&MIId=8785>

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.26**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Paul King

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

Other than introducing a CPZ what other measures were considered to address the parking / Safer Street issues in the ward and what was recorded in respect of this?

**Reply**

Options to manage parking stress are limited and the introduction of restrictions to prioritise parking for local people are considered the most effective in deterring unwanted parking and improving road safety. Parking restrictions are part of a wider package of sustainable streets measures including electric vehicle charging, cycle hangars and street trees.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.27**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Jennifer Francis

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

As on street parking on the Corbett Estate Minard/Ardgown/Wellmeadow Road is not an issue locally and the majority of local residents are opposed to the scheme why is the Council choosing to ignore the wishes of residents and proposing the scheme?

**Reply**

Respondents in streets bordering this location expressed concerns with parking pressure. The implementation of measures in these streets will cause significant parking displacement and increase parking pressure in the area. In order to make a viable parking zone with space for vehicles to circulate and park, streets within the vicinity are proposed to be included.

The Sustainable Streets Mayor and Cabinet report has been published and a decision made on the proposals on 9-July, see <https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=139&MId=8785>

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.28**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Alan Foster

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

How many people in the Hither Green Ward, by number and by percentage of the total Ward responses, requested CPZs and how does these justify a blanket ban across the whole Ward, North of the A205?

**Reply**

The data being requested is not recorded. We did not consult on the entire ward but selected areas. The council is not proposing a blanket ban or parking restrictions across the whole ward.

The Sustainable Streets Mayor and Cabinet report has been published and a decision made on the proposals on 9-July, see <https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=139&MIId=8785>

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.29**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Alan Foster

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

What is the costs of the whole scheme? This is to include: implementation cost, running costs (ie policing, maintenance, extra bureaucracy, wages and pensions), how the initial implementation/start-up costs are to be paid for and the bad effects on businesses and the standard of living of the all inhabitants?

**Reply**

The Sustainable Streets budget is £1m. Data referring to wages and pensions cannot be provided.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.30**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Madison Lenhart

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

Tradespeople in Hither Green proposed CPZ area- without ANY paid parking on Ardgowan road or in the near area, how are we meant to complete works/maitanance on our properties?

**Reply**

Residents can purchase Resident Visitor Vouchers which allow residents' visitors to park in resident permit holder parking bays in the controlled parking zones (CPZs).

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.31**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Madison Lenhart

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

Carers in Hither Green proposed CPZ area - my mother in law has dementia, and is transitioning to living with us fulltime. She has carers who attend regularly, where are they meant to park with all the equipment they travel with?

**Reply**

The council issues free of charge Resident Carer Permit to enable parking for carer's vehicles for those residents living within a CPZ who require help in the provision of their care, whether from family, friends or professional carer. See the council's website for more information.

The council also offers residents with Lewisham-issued Blue Badges a disabled resident parking permit free of charge which allows the permit holders to park in any resident, dual or triple use bay across the borough. See the council's website for more information.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.32**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Ian Stewart

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

I would like to know the details about the costs of setting up and maintaining the proposed CPZ in Lee Hither Green scheme as I see no direct benefit to anyone as there is no viable evidence that the scheme has any benefits. I would like to understand the councils view of the cost benefit of the proposed CPZ in Lee Hither Green scheme and can only do so when you disclose that analysis.

**Reply**

We do not have the individual costs pertaining to Lee or Hither Green. The proposed cost to implement across Lee Green, Hither Green, Catford South & Brockley is approximately £175,000. Benefits will include prioritised parking for residents and sustainable streets measures where applicable.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.33**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Milena Wilczyńska

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

What evidence or data has been used to justify the introduction of a CPZ in Ardgowan Road, Minard Road, Broadfield Road, and Wellmeadow Road?

**Reply**

The roads were selected to prevent residents from facing parking displacement and higher parking stress from surrounding areas of new and existing CPZ. Respondents in streets bordering Ardgowan/ Wellmeadow Road expressed concerns with parking pressure. There are no proposals to introduce measures on Broadfield Road.

The Sustainable Streets Mayor and Cabinet report has been published and a decision made on the proposals on 9-July, see

<https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=139&MId=8785>

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.34**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Milena Wilczyńska

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

How does the Council believe the CPZ in Ardgowan Road, Minard Road, Broadfield Road, and Wellmeadow Road will benefit the local community and support local small businesses?

**Reply**

The sustainable streets programme prioritises parking for local people, including where applicable implementing short stay parking bays for use by patrons of local businesses. These bays are limited stay and help ensure regular turnover to facilitate consistent customer parking.

The Sustainable Streets Mayor and Cabinet report has been published and a decision made on the proposals on 9-July, see

<https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=139&MId=878>

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.35**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Elanor Radford

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

Where is the data showing strong local support for the proposed CPZ in Minard Road? Please provide.

**Reply**

Respondents in Minard Road showed varying levels of support for all Sustainable Street measures. Residents may face displacement from the surrounding CPZ in operation. Therefore, it is proposed to also be included.

The Sustainable Streets Mayor and Cabinet report has been published and a decision made on the proposals on 9-July, see

<https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=139&MId=8785>

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.36**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Elanor Radford

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

Please provide the data indicating there is an issue with parking and safety which the measure of introducing parking permit schemes in Minard Road would address.

**Reply**

Respondents from Minard Road had concerns about cars impacting child safety at the school around pick up/drop off times. Introducing safer crossings, resident only parking & junction protection markings will increase safety. The full consultation data is in the published Sustainable Streets Mayor and Cabinet report and a decision was made on the proposals on 9-July, see

<https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=139&MIId=8785>

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.37**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Lucy Tregear

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

CPZ proposals: why are the proposals NOT taking any notice of the huge groundswell of opinion that this is not wanted?

**Reply**

Whilst some residents may not want proposals introduced, in areas where we have received support we have looked to implement. When introducing measures, we must consider parking displacement and safety issues. Our Catford and Crofton Park, Deptford and Evelyn zones reflect areas where there has been a majority of support for these measures from those who responded to the consultation.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.38**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Lucy Tregear

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

CPZ proposals: have the proposers done any proper survey of traffic in areas they want to reap financial reward from, where, if they had, they would have encountered largely empty quiet streets with no parking issues?

**Reply**

Parking stress surveys were carried out before the implementation to understand levels of parking stress. This has also been carried out in Phase 2 areas where we are looking to introduce measures following the consultation. When introducing measures, we must consider parking displacement and safety issues.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.39**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Dave Levy

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

In March 2022, I asked the council about the provision of 24 hour public toilets in the area of Deptford High Street. There are no 24 hour public toilets in the area, although there were four publicly available toilets available during the working day. Has this policy and provision changed and does the council street cleaning services monitor requests for street cleaning of human (or dog) waste? What is the agreed response time and what does the long-term monitoring show?

**Reply**

Lewisham Council phased out traditional public toilet provision a number of years ago and replaced it with the Lewisham Community Toilet Scheme. You can find full details about the Lewisham <https://www.lewishamlocal.com/communitytoilets/>. The council does not actively monitor requests of human or dog waste but attends to reported incidents as soon as possible. You can report these here: <https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/environment/street-cleaning/animal-fouling-and-dead-animals>

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.40**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Kate Richardson

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

Whilst we all very much appreciate the benefit that trees can bring to our streets there is a growing problem of epicormic growth especially in roads like Watermead. This is causing a problem for those residents with mobility and sight issues as well as young children in buggies.

When was the last time that an inspection was made re the epicormic growth of trees in the area?

**Reply**

I can confirm that epicormic (Basal Growth) is an annual operation and has now been completed in Watermead Rd. The last inspection made for Bellingham/Catford South of street tree epicormic growth issues was May 2025.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.41**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Kate Richardson

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor James-J Walsh

**Question**

Residents of Sandhurst Rd are suffering from a number of issues, not only do they have to contend with 4 bus routes and a night bus travelling along their road but they do have over 32 plus HMOs ,some of which require frequent visits from the emergency services. This is putting unacceptable pressure on residents. Can the council tell me if Lewisham's accepted density of HMOs for one road has been reached?

**Reply**

Council records (planning, licensing and supported accommodation databases) show that there are 22 licenced HMOs on Sandhurst Road.

There are no current planning enforcement investigations for alleged unauthorised HMOs and we request details of the addresses in Sandhurst Road so the difference in number can be investigated by the appropriate team. Contact the enforcement team on: [planningenforcement@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:planningenforcement@lewisham.gov.uk)

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.42**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Mark Morris

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

Please state the statistics for fly-tipping that Lewisham reported to Defra for: (a) the total incidents of and fly-tipping, (b) the total of fixed penalty notice actions, (c) fixed penalty notices issued specifically for fly-tipping, with figures provided for both 2022/23 and 2023/24.

**Reply**

No. of incidents reported by the public & staff during;

- 22/23 - 24,327
- 23/24 - 27,599

No. of FPN's for fly tipping during;

- 22/23 – 524
- 23/24 – 388

No. of FPN's issued during;

- 22/23 – 1515
- 23/24 - 1021

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.43**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Mark Morris

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor James-J Walsh

**Question**

Further to the answer given to public question No.11 on 27 November 2024 please state what is Lewisham Council's understanding of the chances of the realignment of the A205 in Catford receiving funding from the Department of Transport and if funding is still expected what is the latest estimate for commencement of highways works and their completion.

**Reply**

TfL submitted the Strategic Outline Business Case in 2023, but have not yet received formal confirmation of funding from the Department for Transport. However, they have been advised by the Department for Transport to progress the Outline Business Case, which they intend to submit this summer. Subject to confirmation of the full funding settlement from the Department for Transport, planning approval and full land assembly, works are currently projected to start on site in 2026 and complete in 2028. This timescale is entirely dependant of the confirmation of DfT funding to TfL, via their Major Roads Network programme.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.44**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Chris Maines

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

Many pavements are impassable because of the growth around the bottom of trees. What is the budget and the criteria for coppicing street trees ?

**Reply**

The removal of basal growth from street trees is an annual operation. In addition, all street trees are inspected on a cyclical basis and work required is prioritised based on health and safety considerations. Tree officers also undertake ad hoc inspections as required. e.g. if a tree is reported via the Council's dedicated Trees webpage: <https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/environment/trees>. We also have a number of streets that make up a core programme of cycle works where there is a requirement to regularly pollard trees and undertake basal growth removal. The current core budget for street tree maintenance works is £183k

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.45**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Chris Maines

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Sakina Sheikh

**Question**

Please give an update on the refurbishment of Lewisham Library which has been closed since September 2023, work does not appear to have started yet, are you confident that it will reopened by next Summer with all the extra facilities promised ?

**Reply**

The contract for the construction works is currently in the process of being issued. We expect the building works to commence by early August. This would mean that completion of the building works would be in Summer 2026 with the opening of the new Lewisham Library and Exchange in Autumn 2026. Updates can be found on the council's webpage:

<https://lewisham.gov.uk/inmyarea/regeneration/lewishamtowncentre/lewisham-town-centre-improvement-programme>

The project is set to deliver all of the proposed facilities apart from the rooftop bar which has been descoped due to load-bearing issues identified during the structural survey element of the project.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.46**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Josh Matthews

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

What are the council's plans to liaise with TFL, Met Police, and the Mayor of London more broadly on behalf of the residents of Sandhurst Road? I ask regarding speeding, ineffective traffic calming measures, four daytime bus routes, and a night bus on the one road, which is leading to damage to parked cars, vibrations felt in homes, and structural damage to houses.

**Reply**

The Council has been holding regular meetings with the residents group for this location, with issues being fed back to the Met Police and TfL. The Council is looking at a proposal for the removal of footway parking, with traffic calming being realigned to help reduce the speeds at the location.

## **PUBLIC QUESTION NO.47**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Josh Matthews

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

### **Question**

To its credit, Lewisham Council comes across well in Climate Emergency UK's report, having made progress in multiple areas. But on two big spheres of influence for local government – nature and air – it falls short. Noting the immediate and ongoing dangers of poor air quality, and the biodiversity emergency (as well as the positive outcomes of improving both) what are the council's short-term plans to improve these areas as quickly as possible? Timelines for implementation and expected impact would also be welcomed.

### **Reply**

Improving air quality and biodiversity across the borough are major priorities for Lewisham and a central part of the Council's approach to climate action. Lewisham's School Streets programme and Green Flags for parks are examples of the borough's strengths and areas of work recognised by the Climate Emergency UK scoring.

Lewisham Council's Air Quality Action Plan 2022-27

<https://airquality.lewisham.gov.uk/data-and-reports/reports> sets out the measures the Council is taking to improve air quality across the borough.

Progress is reported through an Annual Status Report

<https://airquality.lewisham.gov.uk/uploads/reports/air-quality-annual-status-report-2024-67ab74400f78f089934115.pdf>

The Council's work to enhance habitats for local biodiversity is set out in the Lewisham Biodiversity Action Plan 2021–2026

<https://lewisham.gov.uk/inmyarea/openspaces/biodiversity-in-lewisham> and the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2020–2025

<https://lewisham.gov.uk/inmyarea/openspaces/parks-and-open-spaces-strategy>

Both strategies will soon be revised and will consider the forthcoming London Local Nature Recovery Strategy to ensure the Council's approach remains aligned with regional and national goals.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.48**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Jacob Bailey

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor James-J Walsh

**Question**

Why are councillors/the council/the mayor ignoring their residents and why are works taking place at ALL hours on Lewisham High Street? Please clarify why your councillors/council have no concern for the emotional or physical wellbeing of their residents.

**Reply**

Lewisham Borough Councils contractor is working within their consented hours which are 8am until 6pm Monday to Friday and 8am until 1pm on a Saturday. These are standard working hours for contractors working in the borough.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.49**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Tony Cisse

Relevant Directorate: Chief Executive

Member to reply: Councillor Amanda De Ryk

**Question**

On the June the public were restricted in attending the Pensions Investment Committee. There were around 40 people wishing to attend, however they were told that only 20 could attend as there was no chairs or space. In fact those who attended reported that only half the space was filled and at least 30 spare chairs were available in the room.

Why were numbers restricted and who authorised this? Is this a new policy and if so why is this policy not made public? Will this apply to public access to all future committee meetings

**Reply**

There is no new policy and the Council will always seek to admit the public in a safe manner for meetings being held in public, such as the Pensions Investment Committee.

Recent Pensions Investment Committee meetings have seen an increase in members of the public attending. These have varied between two and ten. The room set up, meeting resourcing, and evacuation plans for the June meeting could accommodate up to 24 members of the public. This happened and the Executive Director for Corporate Resources was the senior officer present that evening and oversaw the safe running of the meeting in line with the plans made.

The Council will plan according to the expectations for each meeting being held in public. If a particular meeting is likely to have more than the usual numbers attending, either via their Councillors or directly, Members of the Public are encouraged to let the Council know in advance so that arrangements for safely accommodating higher numbers can be made in good time if possible.

We will ensure that Committee Services and Facilities Management maximise available seating in the public gallery for future meetings.

Seating in the public gallery is allocated on a first come-first served basis and once the capacity of a room is reached, no further seating will be available. Meetings of the Pension Investment Committee are broadcast live and are available to watch as a recording for a period of time after the meeting.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.50**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Mike Mayers

Relevant Directorate: Corporate Resources

Member to reply: Councillor Amanda De Ryk

**Question**

How many Lewisham Climate Action Bonds have been issued and what is the total revenue that has been raised?

**Reply**

The Council has issued a single Community Municipal Investment and raised £659,957.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.51**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Mike Mayers

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor James-J Walsh

**Question**

How many new social homes for families on Lewisham's housing waiting list has the Council delivered since 2022 and where?

**Reply**

Between the period April 2022 - March 2025, the council has delivered 698 Social Homes - 397 via Direct Delivery and 301 through Registered Providers and Partners. Locations of schemes in the Building for Lewisham Programme can be found at [www.lewisham.gov.uk/buildingforlewisham](http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/buildingforlewisham)

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.52**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Josue Lucas

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

Many of the public textile recycling containers/banks are often full, overflowing and attracting fly-tipping in the process. What steps are being taken to ensure they are regularly emptied, and that monitoring of their use undertaken?

**Reply**

We recognise that some public textile recycling containers and banks can become full or attract fly-tipping. To help manage this, the textile banks are scheduled to be emptied on a weekly basis . In addition, when our teams are out assessing the area, they contact the office to report the overflowing banks to request an earlier collection if they notice that any banks are overflowing. Residents are also encouraged to report any overflowing banks to the number provided on the banks.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.53**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Josue Lucas

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor James-J Walsh

**Question**

Berkeley Homes has adopted a policy of ensuring that residents in Woolwich's Royal Arsenal are officially discouraged from objecting to planning applications put forward by Berkeley Homes. Will the Council take steps to prevent any developer adopting a similar policy in Lewisham?

**Reply**

The Council is unable to influence how developers' residential leases are worded. Notwithstanding, without knowing the specific detail of the Woolwich Arsenal lease wording, such a clause would not mean that a resident is forbidden from making comments or objections on a planning application. Residents will always be consulted on relevant planning applications that affect them, inviting comments to be made. The Council would need to consider any comments that are material to planning applications when deciding an application.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.54**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Janet Hurst

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

Further to Q32 of October 2024 what progress has the Council made in arranging a pilot scheme with Uze for a roaming EV charging service and what plans are there to replace the service currently at Thomas Ln car park?

**Reply**

UZE Energy operation was piloted from Holbeach Road Car Park but the provider has now re-located its operation base to a privately owned commercial site.

For more information, please see the following webpage:

<https://uze.energy/>

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.55**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Janet Hurst

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

Does the Council cross reference the list of local businesses that pay business rates with the list of businesses that have a waste contract agreement and if not, when will it do so?

**Reply**

Yes, when required as part of investigations into fly tipped commercial waste or as part of programmed work regarding businesses Duty of Care.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.56**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Mark Bennett

Relevant Directorate: Housing

Member to reply: Councillor Will Cooper

**Question**

With regard to 4 leaseholders that LBL accepts had been overcharged for building work and services (PQ21 of Jan 2025 refers), did the Council insist they sign an NDA to get a financial settlement?

**Reply**

As previously stated, the settlement agreements were not necessarily in relation to "being overcharged for building work and services". They were in order to settle disputes and save legal fees and time for both leaseholders and the council, to prevent long drawn-out legal cases. The council / Lewisham Homes did not insist on the NDA, it was by mutual agreement.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.57**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Mark Bennett

Relevant Directorate: Housing

Member to reply: Councillor Will Cooper

**Question**

Shipping containers used by the Council's contractors have been left on green space in High Level Drive and Sheenewod in Sydenham. When were the projects for which they were used, finished and when will the containers be removed?

**Reply**

The Council have a number of shipping containers which store doors. These containers are located throughout the borough. The service is currently conducting an audit of the doors with our contractors with the aim of fitting the doors and reducing the number of storage containers in use by the council.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.58**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Amanda Bingham

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

Why have the animals/Wildlife etc (in the pond at Hombase) been left to die. It's a heartbreaking and disgusting site every time I pass. Water is polluted , it's like pea soup and the fish are gasping for air. It's dire disgusting and crawl, the council should be ashamed of themselves, to allow this to happen.

**Reply**

An Officer has visited the pond on numerous occasions, most recently 04/07/25. The water level in the pond has been restored and the fountains are operational, although at reduced flow. The water is green but this is to be expected at this time of year given the sunshine and high temperatures we have been experiencing. Importantly it appears that the pond is sufficiently oxygenated as the water is not stagnant and the fish do not appear to be in respiratory distress. Officers will continue to monitor the situation and raise any issues with the company responsible for the land and the pond.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.59**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Maggie Clarke

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

Does the Council estimate it will reach a 65% recycling rate by 2030 and if so what are the projected levels of recycling that will be reached in each year between now and 2030.

**Reply**

No, the Council does not estimate it will reach the London-wide target of a 65% recycling rate by 2030. However, we are working towards achieving the Council's own target of 45% by 2030/31. To support this, food waste collections are currently being rolled out and are planned to be fully in place across the borough by March 2026. In addition, we are launching targeted recycling campaigns and initiatives to help residents reduce waste and recycle more effectively.

The Council's targets for the coming years are: 2026/27 – 33%, 2028/29 – 37%, 2030/31 – 45%. These projections reflect the expected impact of service changes and ongoing engagement work to improve recycling performance across the borough.

## **PUBLIC QUESTION NO.60**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Maggie Clarke

Relevant Directorate: Chief Executive

Member to reply: Councillor Amanda De Ryk

### **Question**

Lewisham is one of five London Boroughs that has an elected Mayor. What are the practical and financial benefits for Lewisham of having an elected Mayor rather than a Leader of the Council?

### **Reply**

Lewisham adopted the directly elected Mayor model following a public referendum in 2001, when residents voted in favour of this form of governance. The Government have recently confirmed in a written ministerial statement that it will continue to support the existing directly elected local council Mayors, including those in London such as Lewisham.

The directly elected Mayoral model offers a number of benefits to the borough.

#### **1. Democratic Legitimacy and Accountability**

The Mayor is elected directly by Lewisham residents every four years, providing a clear and visible point of leadership. This direct mandate enhances democratic legitimacy and ensures that residents know who is responsible for key decisions affecting the borough.

#### **2. Strategic Leadership with a Borough-Wide Mandate**

Unlike a Leader of the Council, who is elected by fellow councillors, the Mayor is accountable to the entire electorate.

#### **3. Efficient and Transparent Decision-Making**

The mayoral model allows for streamlined executive decision-making, while maintaining strong checks and balances through scrutiny committees, Full Council, and public engagement.

#### **4. Financial Responsibility and Public Oversight**

The Mayor is directly accountable for the Council's budget and financial decisions.

#### **5. Stronger Advocacy for Lewisham**

The Mayor is well-placed to represent Lewisham's interests at regional and national levels, including with the Greater London Authority, central government, and other key partners.

#### **6. Commitment to Public Engagement**

The Council remains committed to transparency and public involvement. Residents can engage through public questions, consultations, ward councillor casework, and scrutiny processes.

## **PUBLIC QUESTION NO.61**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Michael Bachmann

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

### **Question**

What progress has been made in creating a new 50km Lewisham Walking Path connecting the borough's towns and green spaces as set out in Lewisham Labour's 2022 manifesto? Please state the exact length of path that has been created to date for this project.

### **Reply**

The Council promotes active travel across the borough, including walking. Multiple interventions have promoted more walking opportunities through interventions. An exact number is not available but the interventions are significant. The various approaches and interventions are meant to improve healthy activities rather achieved the spirit of the pledge:

School Streets:

- 55 school street schemes in London (the highest in London), that have promoted more walking opportunities in a safer environment. The low traffic neighbourhood has provided
  - o This includes 17 new crossing points recently near schools, further promoting a safer environment for walking

Sustainable Streets Programme:

Lewisham has transformed road space especially areas dominated by on-street parking into pedestrian-friendly zones:

- Improved footways and safer crossings
- More trees and planting to enhance the walking environment
- Reduced car dominance, promoting walking

Traffic reduction:

The low traffic neighbourhood has reduced dominance of vehicles and allowed for a more pleasant environment, promoting walking.

Lewisham Healthy Walks:

The borough has partnered with Enable Leisure and Culture to run free, volunteer-led walks across parks and green spaces:

- Tailored to different fitness levels and health needs
- Focused on wellbeing, social connection, and outdoor enjoyment
- Routes include Horniman Gardens, Ravensbourne River, and Crystal Palace Park
  - o This includes a relaying of Horniman Path.

Parks refurbishment:

- Beckenham Place Park Revamp, a £3 million project that has brought sweeping changes encouraging more use of the park, promoting walking.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.62**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Michael Bachmann

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

When and how does the Council propose enforcing the use of parking bays for e-bikes and scooters and what can local residents do to report problems?

**Reply**

The council is working closely with Lime over the efficacy of virtual and physical bays for Lime bikes (we have no scooters on our network) and have impressed on Lime that bikes should only be off hired when they are physically in the bay itself where these operate. We have stressed to Lime that whilst we wish to work collaboratively with them if we do see instances of bikes being left in inappropriate locations where bays are in operation then we may confiscate these bikes and apply a fee to Lime for their storage and return.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.63**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Val Somerville

Relevant Directorate: Housing

Member to reply: Councillor Will Cooper

**Question**

Government figures published in October last year suggest there are over 37,000 vacant dwellings in London. How many are there in Lewisham and how many of them are owned by Lewisham Council.

**Reply**

There are currently 2,121 empty properties in Lewisham of which 202 are listed as Lewisham stock.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.64**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Gabrielle Nwaordu

Relevant Directorate: Children and Young People

Member to reply: Councilor Edison Huynh

**Question**

How have you assessed the impact of the changes, including on Lewisham's diverse communities? For example, Have families currently supported by Drumbeat Outreach been consulted on the changes?

**Reply**

Drumbeat Outreach Service is run and managed by Drumbeat School, not by the local authority. The service is funded through a variety of sources including a grant from the Local Authority (LA) for early years and other agreed pieces of work as defined in a Service Level Agreement (SLA). The service's main funding comes through a traded service whereby schools purchase advice and support through individual SLAs. The overall monetary value to the school of these SLAs will fluctuate, depending on the number of schools who purchase from Drumbeat (schools may also purchase ASD support services elsewhere) and the level of service required. The Outreach Service has also received time-limited external grant funding for specific pieces of work.

Drumbeat has been and remains highly valued by the LA as a delivery partner and we continue to have strong and supportive working relationships for best outcomes for our children with SEND. The Local Authority element of the outreach service has not been cut; the value of the SLA has been increased by 5% for the next academic year.

The school is undertaking this consultation as part of their work to enable them to manage within its budget, taking into account the funding they can be sure of.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.65**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Gabrielle Nwaordu

Relevant Directorate: Children and Young People

Member to reply: Councilor Edison Huynh

**Question**

Also why are Lewisham making so many decisions that significantly negatively impact autistic and disabled residents? Do Lewisham not acknowledge autism as a genuine need?

**Reply**

Lewisham offers a range of support for children and young people with ASD and is fully acknowledging and appreciating autism and neurodivergence. Lewisham is not making any decisions that would negatively impact autistic and disabled residents. We are now also offering an all age autism and wellbeing service and have significantly increased ASD specific school places, both in our special schools and in our mainstream schools.

We have also and continue to be part of the Partnerships for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS) programme, with 31 schools involved in the project in 2024/25 and another 15 schools coming on board. The PINS Programme supports neurodivergent children in mainstream primary schools, recognising the diverse needs of all students, with or without a diagnosis. Lewisham secondary schools are involved in the Emotionally Based School Non Attendance Pilot, which supports improved attendance for young people with a particular focus on neurodivergence. Lewisham Health and Care Partnership (Lewisham Council and NHS South East London Integrated Care Board) have invested in the All-Age Autism Wellbeing Service, provided by Resources for Autism, which started on 1 April 2024. The service will initially operate for two-years as a pilot and will support the aims and objectives of the Lewisham All Age Autism Strategy, 2023-2028.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.66**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Alan Hall

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor James-J Walsh

**Question**

A previous Mayor of Lewisham said: “ [There have been] a number of cases in Lewisham where we have lost locally significant buildings to developers due to a loophole in national planning legislation that limits local authorities’ ability to protect them.”

Given that the Planning and Infrastructure Bill is making progress, have the Council made any representations?

**Reply**

Your reference isn’t automatically clear to me as to which of the previous Mayors you were referring to or the context within which they were speaking. However, to your broad points, yes, the Council makes representations on all relevant consultations from the Government.

This includes submitting our view that locally listed buildings require formal protections.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.67**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Thorsten Gailing

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

For several years, residents have documented how inadequate, open-topped bins in Telegraph Hill Upper Park lead to significant, recurring litter problems. Has a formal cost-benefit analysis been conducted comparing the ongoing annual expense of reactive measures (intensive clean-ups, temporary tonne bags, park patrols) against the one-off capital investment for permanent, larger, lidded, and animal-proof bins, including separate recycling bins? If so, what was the outcome? If not, why has this basic financial diligence not been undertaken for this long-standing operational issue?

**Reply**

No formal cost benefit analysis has been conducted, However, it is important to note that the requirement for additional bin capacity is driven by seasonal demand, and is an unintended consequence of our residents being able to visit our beautiful parks in the good weather. The Council are open to changing the style and size of bins within our parks and have done this at a number of locations where additional funding has been identified and in consultation with the parks friends groups. We are also working to influence behavior change among park users and encourage park users to take their litter home with them and recycle it.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.68**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Thorsten Gailing

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

For over six years, residents have offered to crowdfund the provision of better bins for Telegraph Hill Upper Park, but have received no definitive answer from the Council on whether this is permissible or what specifications would be required. What are the specific obstacles—be they budgetary, policy, or logistical—that have prevented the Council from either installing appropriate permanent bins itself, or accepting residents' offers to help fund them, and thereby finally resolving this persistent issue?

**Reply**

The Council supports the principle of crowdfunding for park infrastructure and welcomes community involvement. However, any such initiative must be coordinated with Glendale, the Council, and the Friends of Telegraph Hill Park to agree on bin specifications, quantities, installation logistics and establish a transparent funding target. This ensures that any infrastructure installed is safe, serviceable, and compatible with existing operations. The Council will contact the questioner to arrange a stakeholder meeting to progress this collaboratively.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.69**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Suzi Gatward

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

Residents' queries about the inadequate bins in Telegraph Hill Park have been passed between Councillors, Council Officers, and the contractor, Glendale, for years without resolution. Could the Cabinet Member please confirm which specific Council department and which named senior officer holds ultimate accountability for the specification, funding, and performance of waste management infrastructure within the borough's parks, and is therefore responsible for the persistent failure to provide bins that are fit for purpose in Telegraph Hill Upper Park?

**Reply**

Responsibility for waste infrastructure in Lewisham's parks lies with the Parks, Sports and Leisure service. The senior officer accountable overall is James Lee, Director of Community Services.

Whilst the Council acknowledges that a permanent solution has not yet been delivered, it does not accept the characterisation of persistent failure. Interim measures - including additional bins, tonne bags, and support from the Parks Patrol - have been implemented in partnership with the Friends group. Notably, recent feedback from the Friends group has recognised improvements in cleansing. The Council remains committed to further enhancements as funding and operational capacity allow.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.70**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Suzi Gatward

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

Telegraph Hill Upper Park is officially rated 'Medium Intensity Use,' a classification residents and local councillors agree is inaccurate during summer. Given the Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency, why does the Council continue to pursue a policy of using open-topped bags and bins, which fails to provide any recycling facilities and does not prevent animal foraging, rather than implementing a sustainable, long-term solution with larger, segregated recycling bins that would benefit a high-intensity use park?

**Reply**

There is no formal policy to use open-topped bins. Their continued presence, and the use of tonne bags, reflects interim measures agreed with the Friends of Telegraph Hill Park while longer-term solutions are explored. The Council is actively working to replace open-topped bins with lidded, animal-proof alternatives as funding permits.

All Lewisham parks usage intensifies in the summer and the classification of Telegraph Hill Upper Park as 'Medium Intensity Use' is based on annual usage and the national guidance from the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and the Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse. However, the Council's own service standards exceed these minimum requirements, and it recognises that usage increases significantly in summer.

Efforts are underway to improve infrastructure and promote behavioural change, including a campaign encouraging visitors to take litter home when bins are full. The Council remains committed to sustainable waste management and is working to align operational improvements with its Climate Emergency commitments.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.71**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Dominic Clarke

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor James-J Walsh

**Question**

How is the recent considerable disruption in Lewisham town centre (at considerable public) expense is helping to improve the town centre, namely 6 months diversion of bus routes in a major transport hub, spending on new pavements and the ongoing closure of an important library.

**Reply**

Lewisham Council is investing over £24 million in Lewisham town centre to boost the local economy, create jobs, and improve the area. We understand the works may cause some disruption, but this has been unavoidable as we work to deliver these significant upgrades, safely and quickly. Thank you for your patience as we transform this important part of our borough.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.72**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Peter George

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

How much did Lewisham receive from TfL to improve the reliability of buses and what was the money spent on (Q35 of 27.11.25refers)?

**Reply**

Lewisham received a total allocation of £1,311,400 in 2024/25 and an initial allocation of £403,000 in 2025/26 through TfL's Bus Priority Programme.

These amounts funded different project stages of the following projects:

- R273 Hail and Ride Conversion
- R336 Hail and Ride Conversion
- Stondon Park / Honor Oak Park
- Baring Road bus priority
- Southend Lane bus priority
- Brockley Grove / Ladywell Road bus priority

Information for TfL Bus Priority Programme funding prior to 2024/25 can be found at:  
<https://tfl.gov.uk/info-for/boroughs-and-communities/lewisham>

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.73**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Peter George

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

Why is Landmann Way refuse and recycling site closed Saturday afternoons and how much would it cost to keep it open until 6pm on a Saturday?

**Reply**

The council understands the desire for residents to use this site on weekends and is currently reviewing how it can accommodate its use over a longer period during weekends. The review is likely to be complete by the Autumn.

## **PUBLIC QUESTION NO.74**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Andrew Kennedy

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

### **Question**

Our question relates to the Greater London Authority report monitoring the funds paid to councils by developers to offset their carbon emissions 2016-2023.

We congratulate the council for setting its own, higher rate for developers and collecting all the money from them.

However, the report states that Lewisham has spent just 10% (£251,000) of the £2,404,000 available. Please can you tell us what projects were funded by the £250,000 that the council has already spent? And also tells how the council plans to spend the rest and by when?

### **Reply**

In total £297,000 of Carbon Offset monies has now been spent.

This has been spent on:

- Lewisham Healthy Homes Fuel Poverty Advice Service
- Community Energy Fund Round 2
- Detailed feasibility for a Lewisham borough strategic heat network
- Carbon Savings Works at Dalmain School
- Mayor's Air Quality Audit St James Hatcham Primary School
- Mayor's School Air Quality Audit Deptford School
- Mayor's School Air Quality Audit Haseltine School

Circa £1m of Carbon Offset monies is allocated to projects although the money has not yet been spent.

The projects being:

- Community Energy Fund Round 3
- Lewisham Healthy Homes Fuel Poverty Project 25
- Works to Stillness Infants and Juniors, Baring School
- Schools Minor Works Programme
- Energy Sparks in Lewisham Schools
- Works to Wavelengths leisure Centre
- Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme: Honor Oak Youth Club and Community Center Project

The above projects are all at different stages and delivery will either start or continue over this financial year.

The remaining money is likely to be allocated to other schools and other public buildings and on other rounds of the Community Energy Fund and the Fuel Poverty Service.

The Council has identified in excess of £700m of potential decarbonisation works across housing, schools and Council operations. Projects approved to date under the carbon offset fund align delivery with value for money in terms of the carbon reduced and the ability to bring in other sources of funding to maximise the potential of the Carbon Offset monies collected.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.75**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Andrew Kennedy

Relevant Directorate:

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

In November 2024 the council committed to sign up to the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty. The council promised to publicise its commitment, in order to encourage other councils to sign, and to write to the Prime Minister, to encourage him to sign up for the UK.

Please can you give us an update on where the council stands in terms of its commitment to the treaty?

**Reply**

The Council have signed up to the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty (see link: <https://fossilfuel treaty.org/endorsements>)

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.76**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Martin Mckay

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

Phase 4 Lime Bike Designated Parking Bays Sydenham. Can I request an update on the proposed timeframe for the choosing of bay locations, (taking service zone boundaries into account, please), and the implementation of the bays?

**Reply**

The Sydenham ward will be included in the next phase of the dockless bike programme. The proposals are expected to be published in September. Residents on the relevant roads will be written to and information about the proposed bays will be available on our website at Lewisham Council - Dockless bikes. Officers have considered service zone boundaries as part of the identification of suitable bays.

Implementation of bays will be subject to statutory consultation and further information on this will be uploaded on our website following the Traffic Management Order.

We are working to improve the operation of dockless bikes (cycle hire, e-bikes) in Lewisham.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.77**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Nick Torry

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

This concerns the phase three Sustainable Streets consultation in New Cross and Telegraph Hill. I have talked to many residents who didn't receive the appropriate literature from the council through their door about the consultation and how to take part. This will have hindered the consultation's fairness and effectiveness. The Telegraph Hill society took it upon themselves to deliver their own leaflet to make sure that residents were informed, which is commendable. With the consultation now closed, I would like to ask whether the lack of information sent by the council can be noted in the final consultation report?

**Reply**

All efforts were made to ensure residents and businesses were made aware of the consultation including through leaflet drops, posters, door-knocking in some areas, social media and the council's website. Furthermore, the Council provided clarifications on Telegraph Hill leaflet as some of the information distributed by members of public contained incorrect information. Full explanation of the consultation process and its outcome will be included in the final Phase 3 consultation report.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.78**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Jean Branch

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Sakina Sheikh

**Question**

How far has the council got in terms of investigating how to reach hard to reach residents? (with regards to stopping funding to ward assemblies)

**Reply**

The Council carries out a wide range of engagement on a daily basis. Recently this has included the Big Catford Weekender, which involved council services including Public Health, Waste Services, Family Hubs, Libraries, Regeneration and Community Safety – as well as ward councillors, who were on hand to talk to residents about local issues.

We are currently carrying out a significant project to co-produce day services for people in Lewisham who use our adult social care services, including people with learning disabilities and/or autism, and everyone who supports them. Over the summer we are engaging with as many day service stakeholders as possible, including service users, staff, carers, friends and family. This includes sessions online, in-person and over the phone.

Our Housing Engagement Team has been carrying out an ongoing series of roadshows and repairs open days on our estates and in venues around the borough, giving tenants the opportunity to meet with staff and councillors, to share their views, ask questions and discuss local issues. Council services which have attended include the Repairs Team, Welfare Benefits Team, Fire Safety Team and the Estates Environment Team. This follows the publication of the Housing Resident Engagement Strategy earlier this year.

The broader engagement review continues, and we will be using learning from the above events to feed into our engagement strategy, to ensure residents can effectively share their views and help to shape decision making across the Council.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.79**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Jean Branch

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Sakina Sheikh

**Question**

How many 'local' meetings have taken place for Lewisham's wards in the absence of ward assembly funding?

**Reply**

There are many different ways in which 'local' meetings take place within a ward usually relating to specific changes, issues or activities in the area, examples of which are given in response to Public Question 78.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.80**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Julia Webb

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor James-J Walsh

**Question**

Livesey Memorial Hall, its front wall, and its War Memorial are each Grade II listed, yet their fabric has been deteriorating for many years under a series of landowners. The War Memorial is already on Historic England's Heritage at Risk register, and the Hall and front wall should be added to it before long.

The current landowner has failed to comply with Lewisham's requests for basic repair works, and the council's previous position was that no planning discussions of any kind would be considered until such repairs were undertaken. Can I have your reassurance that this position is unchanged?

**Reply**

The Council requested a specific set of urgent works (LB pre-app response dated 1 March 2023, ref: 130359), which were completed in October 2023. We then provided our planning pre-application response at the end of November 2023. We are aware of recent concerns about vegetation removal from the building, which may have caused damage. This is now under active investigation, and we will update the author of the comment directly. As this is a live matter, further comments will necessarily be limited.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.81**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Julia Webb

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor James-J Walsh

**Question**

The Livesey Memorial Hall and Bowls Green are leased to a commercial operator, but most of the site's sports grounds (four double tennis courts) are inaccessible. Laid out in 1911, as part of the Livesey's original design, landowners withdrew access to them with a view to redevelopment. Under the London Plan, Sports grounds, or former sports grounds, can't be redeveloped without replacement.

Given the permanent closure of The Bridge Leisure Centre, will Lewisham support a community benefit society in applying for a lease of the unoccupied Asset of Community Value sports grounds, to bring them back into use?

**Reply**

Any application for a lease would need to be considered by the owner of the property but, in general, the Council would support all efforts, where possible, to increase available space for sports and physical activity.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.82**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Martin Mckay

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

There has been a sharp increase in the number of Forest Bikes in Sydenham. My understanding is that they should not be operating in Lewisham. Are Forest being ask to remove all of their bikes?

**Reply**

There is no agreement with Forest for these bikes to be on the Lewisham network and we are making contact with Forest to have them removed or to start a conversation over the approval process for these bikes to operate on our network as we have in place with other providers of these bikes.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.83**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Alan Hall

Relevant Directorate: Housing

Member to reply: Councillor Will Cooper

**Question**

Lewisham Council has stated that its former Arm's Length Management Organisation (ALMO), Lewisham Homes was brought back in house. However, the council owned company Lewisham Homes Limited is still trading, what is the purpose of this partnership now?

**Reply**

Lewisham Homes Ltd assists the council in delivery of its housing objectives by managing a portfolio of properties, some of which are owned and some of which are leased by the company.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.84**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Mike Keogh

Relevant Directorate: Corporate Resources

Member to reply: Councillor Amanda De Ryk

**Question**

Congratulations, Lewisham, coming joint 9th (/382) in June's Council Action Scorecards. I think inspectors missed the permanently on (even at 14:25 today 1/7, hottest day of the year so far) superbright LED lamps at Wearside Rd Depot by Skanska. They light up the river, sky and up to Hilly Fields all night long. Not sustainable, affecting bats, local peoples' sleep patterns, and are an unnecessary expense and use of energy, especially since 2011's installation. I understand night-time security concerns. I asked the Council numerous QTFC since 2000. When will they be pointed down or masked at their sides please?

**Reply**

Thank you for raising your concerns regarding the floodlighting at the depot car park. Following your complaint, we investigated the matter and identified that one of the floodlight timers had failed and required replacement. This issue has now been resolved.

However, we also acknowledge the broader concern regarding the orientation of the floodlights in relation to the newly built flats that back onto the depot. Unfortunately, due to the layout of the site, the floodlights do face towards these properties. At present, there are no viable adjustments that can be made to the lights themselves to mitigate this impact without compromising their effectiveness.

The floodlights remain on a timer system, which is essential due to the high level of vehicle movement within the depot. Reducing the operating hours further would pose a risk to staff safety and hinder our ability to conduct security checks and maintain visibility for CCTV monitoring during darker hours.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.85**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Rosie Hattersley

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor James-J Walsh

**Question**

Can the council give an update on the steps being taken where a high court ruling found in the Council's favour regarding an illegal HMO conversion and development on Ellerdale Street?

**Reply**

There has not been high court action on this property, but the Council on 19 March 2025 was successful in defending a planning appeal. This appeal agreed that the HMO use was not lawful. Residents of the property have since had time to find alternative accommodation. A Planning Enforcement officer will now make a site visit to confirm if the HMO use has ceased, and if a continued HMO use is found then the Council will seek to use its planning enforcement powers.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.86**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Rosie Hattersley

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor James-J Walsh

**Question**

There is a property on Ellerdale Street that was bought up for development, but the owner ran out of money. The house has been sitting vacant, with no roof and open to the elements for three years. Is the council able to compulsorily purchase it so it can be brought back to market or into use as a home for one of the many families or individuals in need of places to live in this borough of sanctuary.

**Reply**

The owner of the building has not made further repairs, nor replied to correspondence from the Council. Their consultants have separately made a pre-application request, and this will provide an opportunity to discuss the condition of the building and the required maintenance and restoration. However, the Council is aware of some recent changes/removal of vegetation from the building brought to out attention by the author of this comment and we are looking into this matter and will communicate directly with the writer.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.87**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Francesca Skirvin

Relevant Directorate: Children and Young People

Member to reply: Councilor Edison Huynh

**Question**

Why is Lewisham's most valued service for autistic children being cut?

**Reply**

The Council is not cutting services for autistic children. Drumbeat Outreach Service is run and managed by Drumbeat School, not by the local authority. The service is funded through a variety of sources including a grant from the Local Authority (LA) for early years and other agreed pieces of work as defined in a Service Level Agreement (SLA). We have worked with the school to make sure they can deliver the requirements of the SLA and increased the value of the SLA by 5% for the coming academic year.

However, the service's main funding comes through a traded service whereby schools purchase advice and support through individual SLAs. The overall monetary value to the school of these SLAs will fluctuate, depending on the number of schools who purchase from Drumbeat (schools may also purchase ASD support services elsewhere) and the level of service required. The Outreach Service has also received time-limited external grant funding for specific pieces of work.

Drumbeat is and remains highly valued by the LA as a delivery partner and we continue to have strong and supportive working relationships for best outcomes for our children with SEND. The Local Authority element of the outreach service has not been cut; the value of the SLA has been increased by 5% for the next academic year.

The school is undertaking this consultation as part of their work to enable them to manage within its budget, taking into account the funding they can be sure of.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.88**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Francesca Skirvin

Relevant Directorate: Children and Young People

Member to reply: Councilor Edison Huynh

**Question**

How have you assessed the impact of the changes, including on Lewisham's diverse communities?

**Reply**

The Council is not cutting services for autistic children. Drumbeat Outreach Service is run and managed by Drumbeat School, not by the local authority. The service is funded through a variety of sources including a grant from the Local Authority (LA) for early years and other agreed pieces of work as defined in a Service Level Agreement (SLA). We have worked with the school to make sure they can deliver the requirements of the SLA and increased the value of the SLA by 5% for the coming academic year.

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Drumbeat is and remains highly valued by the LA as a delivery partner and we continue to have strong and supportive working relationships for best outcomes for our children with SEND. The Local Authority element of the outreach service has not been cut; the value of the SLA has been increased by 5% for the next academic year.

The school is undertaking this consultation as part of their work to enable them to manage within its budget, taking into account the funding they can be sure of.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.89**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Lucy Hattersley

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor James-J Walsh

**Question**

Is the council aware of the prevalent leafleting of private properties by both estate agents and prospective developers keen to buy up homes for HMO conversion and financial exploitation?

**Reply**

Yes. The Council is aware of this practice. However, the Council is not able to dictate who individual home owners can sell their homes to.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.90**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Lucy Hattersley

Relevant Directorate: Housing

Member to reply: Councillor Will Cooper

**Question**

How many HMOs are there in Lewisham and how up to date is the register, given that such properties and their landlords now need to be licensed and this register is presumably being used to ascertain whether or not there is a prevalence of such properties in specific wards.

**Reply**

The most recent estimate (March 2020) is that there are 6,000 HMOs in Lewisham. There are currently 2,285 HMOs which are either licenced or have applied for licences. The HMO register is not currently complete. We are introducing new software and are currently working between two systems, and this process should be completed by September 2025. Any council service, such as planning, which is required to assess the prevalence of HMOs in a specific ward has access to all systems and can obtain this information from them.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.91**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Helga Wittmann

Relevant Directorate: Housing

Member to reply: Councillor Will Cooper

**Question**

How are bins allocated for HMOs? A property in Ellerdale Street now has 5 black bins and 1 green bin. There were more initially, and the bins block the pavement for days each week as no-one takes responsibility for them. Is each occupied bedsit treated as a separate unit for bins allocation purposes?

**Reply**

All HMOs are subject to The Management of Houses in Multiple Occupation (England) Regulations 2006. Regulation 9 obliges HMO Managers to provide adequate waste disposal facilities for each household to store refuse, pending disposal. The number of bins required by an HMO would depend upon the needs of the residents.

Where there are issues with bins being poorly managed by a HMO Manager or landlord, advice can be sought by emailing the Private Sector Housing team at [pshe@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:pshe@lewisham.gov.uk). We will investigate the property in question.

## **PUBLIC QUESTION NO.92**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Helga Wittmann

Relevant Directorate: Housing

Member to reply: Councillor Will Cooper

### **Question**

How often are HMOs inspected and what criteria is used to assess how well such properties are being managed, and how is this information made available to neighbours and affected parties?

### **Reply**

All HMOs are inspected prior to licensing. We aim to inspect all HMOs at least once during the 5 year licence. We inspect all properties following complaints.

The council has powers in relation to:

a) Management of the fabric of the building:

The condition of the building and facilities are assessed using the Housing Health and Safety Rating system and must be free from significant hazards, the Management of Houses in Multiple Occupation (England) Regulations 2006 which regulate the maintenance of the property, Lewisham's HMO Licensing Standards which set out the facilities required for the number of residents and the Housing Act 2004 sets out the mandatory licence conditions.

b) Facilities and tenancy management:

In relation to ASB, all HMO licences have a condition that the licence holder has to manage their tenants, deal with ASB and account for their actions to the Council on request.

Information about any enforcement action would not be made available to neighbours. If a Civil Penalty Notice is issued and not overturned on appeal or a prosecution leads to a finding of guilt, then this information is placed on the Mayor of London's Rogue Landlord Checker database. [Check a landlord or agent | London City Hall](#)

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.93**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Florence Murphy

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

Please can we have recycling facilities for items that do not go in green bins, and facilities for disposing of unwanted household items that are spread across the borough and conveniently located for people on foot or bicycle?

**Reply**

Currently, the recycling contract only allows us to collect a specific range of items through the green bin service. Unfortunately, this means the Council is unable to extend the types of materials collected at the kerbside. However, these items can be taken to the Landmann Way Reuse and Recycling Centre, where they can be disposed of free of charge. We appreciate that this location may not be convenient for everyone, especially those without access to a car, and we are actively looking at ways to improve signposting and awareness of existing facilities to help reduce fly-tipping. For larger household items like furniture, there are also free disposal options at Landmann Way, or you can arrange collection through services such as LoveJunk or Emmaus, which offer more flexible and often low-cost or free solutions.

More information can be found about small electrical recycling sites at <https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/wasterecycle/recycling/recycling-small-electricals-and-mobile-phones>.

The web page lists several public recycling banks where residents can drop off small electrical items and mobile phones. These sites are available for all residents and are emptied weekly.

## **PUBLIC QUESTION NO.94**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Sonia Arscott

Relevant Directorate: Children and Young People

Member to reply: Councilor Edison Huynh

### **Question**

Given that Lewisham has a notably high number of diagnosed autistic individuals under the age of 18—as highlighted in the Lewisham All-Age Autism Strategy Report 2023–2028—why would cuts be made to a service whose job it is to support these young people across the borough, without consulting those directly affected?

### **Reply**

Lewisham Council has made no cuts to Drumbeat Outreach Service; in fact the Council funding for the commissioned service has increased by 5% for the coming academic year. This is just one element of the funding received by Drumbeat, including traded work with schools and education settings commissioning the service directly.

Lewisham offers a range of support for children and young people with ASD and is fully acknowledging and appreciating autism and neurodivergence. Lewisham is not making any decisions that would negatively impact autistic and disabled residents. We are now offering an all age autism and wellbeing service and have significantly increased ASD specific school places, both in our special schools and in our mainstream schools.

We are part of the Partnerships for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS) programme, with 31 schools involved in the project in 2024/25 and another 15 schools coming on board. The PINS Programme supports neurodivergent children in mainstream primary schools, recognising the diverse needs of all students, with or without a diagnosis. Lewisham secondary schools are involved in the Emotionally Bases School Non Attendance Pilot, which supports improved attendance for young people with a particular focus on neurodivergence.

Lewisham Health and Care Partnership (Lewisham Council and NHS South East London Integrated Care Board) have invested in the All-Age Autism Wellbeing Service, provided by Resources for Autism, which started on 1 April 2024. The service will initially operate for two-years as a pilot and will support the aims and objectives of the Lewisham All Age Autism Strategy, 2023-2028.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.95**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Sonia Arscott

Relevant Directorate: Children and Young People

Member to reply: Councilor Edison Huynh

**Question**

How does Lewisham intend to support neurodivergent children and families in light of the reduced provision resulting from cuts to Drumbeat Outreach?

**Reply**

Lewisham Council has made no cuts to Drumbeat Outreach Service; in fact the Council funding for the commissioned service has increased by 5% for the coming academic year. This is just one element of the funding received by Drumbeat, including traded work with schools and education settings commissioning the service directly.

Lewisham offers a range of support for children and young people with ASD and is fully acknowledging and appreciating autism and neurodivergence. Lewisham is not making any decisions that would negatively impact autistic and disabled residents. We are now offering an all age autism and wellbeing service and have significantly increased ASD specific school places, both in our special schools and in our mainstream schools.

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**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.96**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Sophie Maxwell

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor James-J Walsh

**Question**

When assessing whether a property is suitable for HMO conversion, to what extent do planning officers and councillors consider principles of good design and the overall size of the building? Specifically, do they make site visits to see for themselves how small proposed rooms—such as the two attic bedsits in the Embleton Road application ( planning application —DC/25/139339 would actually be?

**Reply**

Applications are assessed against relevant policies, including QD9, HO8, and Lewisham's Standards for Licensable HMOs, based on the submitted plans. Site visits are undertaken where necessary. These policies are outlined in the Lewisham Local Plan, which is available on the Council's website.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.97**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Sophie Maxwell

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor James-J Walsh

**Question**

To what extent does Lewisham Council resolve issues with existing HMOs before approving new ones—especially in the same area? For example, just a few hundred yards from the proposed HMO on Embleton Road, an HMO on Ellerdale Street is experiencing serious ongoing problems, with a landlord who has breached multiple regulations. Yet the Council has not taken effective action. Shouldn't existing HMO issues in the immediate area be addressed before granting further permissions?

**Reply**

Any rogue developer and property manager can cause misery to a locality. Lewisham has a HMO licensing scheme that aims to nature better stewardship and compliance for those who operate them. This includes impacts from them that result in antisocial behaviour. This process is distinct from the planning process. The Council must determine planning applications within statutory timescales set by the Government, assessing each on its own merits. Enforcement issues elsewhere, potentially with different operators, cannot prevent or delay a decision. There are a number of active enforcement cases that we are pursuing.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.98**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Danny Bartlett

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor James-J Walsh

**Question**

On a recent call (24th June), Lewisham planners suggested the proposed HMO at 52 Embleton Road wouldn't result in a permanent loss of a family home, as it could revert from C4 back to C3. But given the scale of the plans—including two top-floor bedsits and en-suites in every room—a future reconversion seems highly unlikely. Can the Council acknowledge this for what it is - a permanent loss of a family home? If not, please provide clear evidence of similarly sized properties in Ladywell that have been converted back into family homes.

**Reply**

Permitted development rights allow a C4 Small HMO to revert to a C3 family dwellinghouse without planning permission. The Council does not hold records of such changes, as they are not subject to formal applications and therefore not recorded.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.99**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Danny Bartlett

Relevant Directorate: Housing

Member to reply: Councillor Will Cooper

**Question**

What is Lewisham Council's current position on HMOs, and has it changed?

**Reply**

Lewisham's position on licensing and housing standards within HMOs has not changed. We continue to licence those properties that are licensable under the Additional and National Mandatory Schemes. All properties are expected to comply with [Lewisham Council - Standards for licensable Houses in Multiple Occupation, The Management of Houses in Multiple Occupation \(England\) Regulations 2006](#) Licence conditions and to be free from significant hazards as defined in Part 1 Housing Act 2004.

An Article 4 Direction applies throughout Lewisham. This requires all properties that are or have been converted into HMOs after 19<sup>th</sup> January 2024 to seek planning consent.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.100**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Paula Snasdell

Relevant Directorate: Children and Young People

Member to reply: Councilor Edison Huynh

**Question**

In 2024, Ofsted's SEND inspection concluded that in some schools, pupils' needs are not "robustly understood". They noted that "As a result, some children and young people struggle to learn in their mainstream school and only have their needs identified once they attend AP." Given Drumbeat Outreach's crucial role in supporting mainstream schools to identify and meet pupils' needs, how will the restructure and loss of jobs in a highly skilled and experienced team contribute to efforts to address Ofsted's criticism?

**Reply**

Drumbeat outreach is directly commissioned by schools, which continues to be the case. This is one part of a wider offer of ensuring children's diverse needs are understood and met by and in their schools. Schools also receive support from Educational Psychologists, SEND Advisors, Specialist Health Services, Mental Health Support in Schools Teams, and many other providers and partners.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.101**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Paula Snasdell

Relevant Directorate: Children and Young People

Member to reply: Councilor Edison Huynh

**Question**

A petition signed by 1800+ people concerned about the plans to restructure Drumbeat Outreach earlier this year highlighted the fact that councillors in relevant roles were unsighted on the plans. Since then, how many councillors have met with Drumbeat Outreach staff to ensure they have a first hand understanding of this highly-valued service before it is restructured?

**Reply**

I have met with Drumbeat staff and have also visited staff on site with Mayor Brenda Dacres. In terms of first-hand understanding of this highly-valued service, there are several ward councillors who have been school governors and teachers in Lewisham including myself, and so are aware of the good work that Drumbeat does both onsite and as part of their outreach service.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.102**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: James Evans

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

How many fixed penalty notices have been generated in the SE26 postcode for the offence of depositing litter in 2024 and 2025?

**Reply**

2024 – 298

2025 – 161

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.103**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: James Evans

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

When will Bell Green (Lower Sydenham) be receiving new bins?

The bins are old, outdated and dilapidated and many have been removed so that large areas of high traffic areas have no bins or the bins are full (because they are not emptied regularly enough). They have no recycling facilities and provide nowhere to dispose of cigarettes. They are open to rainfall, allow large items to be deposited (household waste) and are open for birds and foxes to pull out the litter.

**Reply**

The council is aware of the concerns of litter bins around the borough. Presently a borough wide roll out is dependant on obtaining adequate funding for a systematic roll out. Some wards have prioritised NCIL funding for new covered bins, programmed for delivery by the end of this financial year and these are:

- Blackheath
- Brockley
- Catford South
- Deptford
- Hither Green
- New Cross Gate
- Rushey Green

Bell Green is situated in Perry Vale and Bellingham, Lower Sydenham lies within Sydenham, and these wards did not allocate NCIL funding. Roll out to these and other areas will be subject to identifying necessary funds.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.104**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: William Samman

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor James-J Walsh

**Question**

Lewisham Gateway, Heathside, Square Roots Lewisham—and now a proposed 1,700 new flats on the Lewisham Shopping Centre site—all sit about a mile from Embleton Road, where the Council is considering yet another HMO. Does approving yet another HMO for single renters help solve the housing crisis—or would protecting an existing family home do more to meet the real local need?

**Reply**

Conventional C3 housing remains the highest priority in the borough, although HMOs remain a legitimate and recognised form of accommodation. The number of HMOs is managed by the Planning application process and the delivery of HMOs is far outweighed by new housing delivery in the borough.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.105**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Libero Colimberti

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

People have been campaigning over the issue of the crossing between Woolstone & Cranston Roads in the SE23 for decades.

After signing multiple petitions about it, I would like to enquire directly about an issue which is to the utmost urgency to my community, as I drive, walk and cycle through said crossing every day while taking my children to school.

The most dangerous time to cross is between 8:15 and 9:00am.

Will the council take any action to make the crossing safer, through lights and zebra crossings?

**Reply**

We have engaged with the local members and community groups to under take various surveys and with the aim of looking at a new crossing along the route. A site visit was conducted at the junction and some quick wins were carried out which included the relocation of the signage at the junction to improve visibility at the location. Further engagement has been carried out and a feasibility design for a new crossing has been shared with the group for comment. The design is currently being developed to allow this to be costed and funding secured for the introduction.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.106**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Libero Colimberti

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

Will the council divert some traffic elsewhere or at least help the families crossing with children coming from Bell Green avoid said crossing by adding add a zebra crossing and possibly speed bumps in the middle of Houston Road, where there's much better visibility?

**Reply**

We have engaged with the local members and community groups to under take various surveys with the aim of looking at a new crossing along the route. A site visit was conducted at the junction and some quick wins were carried out which included the relocation of the signage at the junction to improve visibility at the location. Further engagement has been carried out and a feasibility design for a new crossing has been shared with the group for comment. The design is currently being developed to allow this to be costed and funding secured for its introduction.

## **PUBLIC QUESTION NO.107**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Edward Sutton

Relevant Directorate: Corporate Resources

Member to reply: Chair of Pensions Committee

### **Question**

Will this council recognise that a genocide is being carried out by Israel upon the Palestinian people, and that the council therefore has a moral duty to divest from complicit companies that aid and abet Israel's genocide and apartheid of the Palestinian people? E.g. companies in the pension fund it oversees and procurement contracts with companies such as Barclays

### **Reply**

It is for the Government of the UK to set the foreign policy of the UK and the Council respects and supports that.

#### **Pension investments**

The Pensions Investment Committee (PIC) is doing everything it can to ensure that Lewisham's pension funds are reflective of the Council's aims and values. However, this is not public money, it is money belonging to the people who paid into the fund or who are currently paying into the fund. The PIC has an overriding legal duty to act in the best financial interest of pension members to ensure their pensions can be paid – the fiduciary duty.

The PIC, in line with its primary fiduciary duty for the Fund, has undertaken detailed work to assess the potential exposure of all of its listed investment holdings and compliance with its Responsible Investment Beliefs and overall investment strategy. This has focused on any exposure to arms and controversial weapons, companies associated with potential human rights abuses, and companies that operate within areas considered to be occupied under international law.

The committee has taken the following actions:

- In the last year it has reviewed and rewritten its responsible investment statement. <https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s117313/6a%20Appendix%206a.%20-%20Draft%20RI%20Beliefs%20Statement%20tracked%20changes.pdf>
- At the end of 2024 it launched a new engagement strategy, launching two sessions on its largest funds: the LCIV PEPPA and Storebrand, giving the committee dedicated time to ask questions of the fund managers to ensure compliance with the responsible investment statement.

Recent Counsel's advice ([Updated legal opinion on fiduciary duty in the LGPS Jan 2025](#)) makes it clear that in taking decisions these must be in accordance with its Investment Strategy Statement (ISS), and accord with the views of its members. As part of the tri-ennial valuation work the Pension Fund is seeking to consult with its members and will use the response to this consultation to help inform its revised ISS.

All future investment decisions will then be taken in accordance with this ISS and ancillary policies.

### **Council Procurement**

It is not lawful for the Council to refuse to enter into contracts or terminate contracts solely because the supplier has operations or dealings in Israel. This is because such considerations are deemed non-commercial matters under the Local Government Act 1988, section 17, which mandates that public authorities must exercise their functions without reference to non-commercial matters, including the location of the business activities or interests of contractors.

The Procurement Act (PA) 2023 and related regulations provide specific grounds for the exclusion of suppliers, which include mandatory and discretionary exclusion grounds. These grounds are primarily focused on issues such as criminal convictions, insolvency, and breaches of environmental, social, and labour laws. It does not list the location of a supplier's operations or dealings as a valid ground for exclusion.

Furthermore, the PA 2023 requires contracting authorities to ensure that any exclusion or termination of contracts is based on the criteria set out in the legislation, which do not include the geographical location of the supplier's business activities.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.108**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Osama Shoush

Relevant Directorate: Chief Executive

Member to reply: Mayor Dacres

**Question**

There seems to have been no official presence by the Mayor at any of the Eid celebrations held in the last few years, despite Muslims being the second largest religious group in Lewisham. Can the Mayor account for the seeming disparity in the religious ceremonies they attend in Lewisham and that are officially recognised by the council?

**Reply**

Since becoming the Mayor of Lewisham on 8 March 2024, the Mayor has engaged with the many different faith groups that make up the borough of Lewisham, including the Islamic faith. These include attending Open Iftars at the Lewisham Islamic Centre and joining all faiths on the annual Lewisham Interfaith Walk.

It is not possible for the Mayor of Lewisham to attend absolutely every event that she is invited to, and where it is possible a representative of the Council, such as the Speaker, will be asked to attend on her behalf.

## **PUBLIC QUESTION NO.109**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Mia Morgan

Relevant Directorate: Chief Executive

Member to reply: Mayor Dacres

### **Question**

On 28 January 2025, Surviving Universal UK issued a public statement expressing a complete loss of trust in Lewisham Council's leadership over its handling of a scandal involving the UCKG — a statement I stand by as a survivor of abuse at their Catford branch. We were particularly horrified when the Mayor dismissed public concern at January's Full Council meeting as a "political football." In light of this, will the Mayor issue a public apology to survivors for the Council's response to this matter?

### **Reply**

Thank you for your question, and I want to begin by saying how deeply sorry I am to read that you are a survivor of abuse at the UCKG Catford branch. I recognise the courage it takes to speak out, and I would absolutely encourage you to contact our safeguarding service to share your experience so that it can be properly investigated.

You can speak to our safeguarding team confidentially via the details on our website, emailing [gateway@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:gateway@lewisham.gov.uk) or by calling 020 8314 6000.

As Mayor of Lewisham I take safeguarding concerns extremely seriously and I resolutely stand against coercion, spiritual abuse, financial exploitation, conversion therapy or any form of abuse. At every opportunity, I have referred reports made in the media about UCKG Catford to our safeguarding team to ensure they can be investigated independently by our multi-agency safeguarding service.

Following concerns raised by Surviving Universal UK earlier this year, I met with the lead representative of the group who was accompanied by Councillor Shrivastava. This was to hear their specific safeguarding concerns which they intended to raise on behalf of survivors of abuse at UCKG Catford that they had shared they were in direct contact with. I offered support to enable them to make safeguarding referrals on behalf of victims they were in touch with and to that end arranged for a safeguarding officer to be present in the meeting to facilitate that process.

At that meeting, no safeguarding concerns or referrals were made. To my knowledge the Council has not received any other reports regarding the Catford branch of UCKG besides those made by me as Mayor.

I want to stress that it is critical for survivors and witnesses to come forward and report their experiences of any form of abuse. This is the only way we can ensure

that allegations are properly investigated and that abusers are held accountable. Our safeguarding team is here to listen, support, and act. You can speak to our safeguarding team confidentially via the details on our website, emailing [gateway@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:gateway@lewisham.gov.uk) or by calling 020 8314 6000.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.110**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Jessica Carlisle

Relevant Directorate: Children and Young People

Member to reply: Councilor Edison Huynh

**Question**

Drumbeat Outreach observed and wrote a report as part of my son's EHC needs assessment. This was crucial in informing practical adaptations that have made all the difference in ensuring he can cope and learn in a mainstream school. Will Drumbeat Outreach still be invited to provide needs assessment reports after the restructure?

**Reply**

The Council is not making or proposing any cuts to its funding to Drumbeat Outreach Service, which is passed to the school through a Service Level Agree (SLA). The SLA covers work with Early Years settings and other specific pieces of work, such as training to schools, contributions to EHC Needs Assessments for identified children and young people, some training for parent and carers. Drumbeat Outreach Service will continue to provide statutory contributions to EHC Needs Assessments where required and requested by the LA. We know that these assessments are highly valued by schools, parents and our young people.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.111**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Jessica Carlisle

Relevant Directorate: Children and Young People

Member to reply: Councilor Edison Huynh

**Question**

In light of the “hall of shame” report in Special Needs Jungle that identifies Lewisham as the second most likely local authority to refuse to assess EHC needs in 2024, what efforts are Lewisham making to ensure refusal to assess decisions are lawful?

**Reply**

We can confirm that Lewisham was not the second most likely England local authority (LAs) to refuse to assess EHC needs in 2024. At 43%, Lewisham was 8th amongst England LAs in refusing ECH needs assessments in 2024. However, it should also be noted that in 2024, 4.02% of Lewisham residents (0-25 years old) had an EHCP. This is higher than the national average of 3.64% (placing Lewisham 48th highest of all England Local Authorities for percentage of 0-25 year old population with EHCP). Also, 1.5% fewer Lewisham assessments made resulted in a decision not to issue EHCP. Lewisham ranked 116th amongst England LAs, as nationally 6.4% of assessments made resulted in a decision not to issue EHCP in 2024.

The decision on whether to conduct an EHC needs assessment is made at our special educational needs multi agency panel and is based on the information and evidence gathered from the request information. Decisions are made in line with the special educational needs and disabilities code of practice.

## **PUBLIC QUESTION NO.112**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Rashid Irshad

Relevant Directorate: Corporate Resources

Member to reply: Chair of Pensions Committee

### **Question**

Wes Streeting, a cabinet member of the current labour party has referred publicly to the Israeli settlers in the west bank of Palestine as terrorists and referred to their actions as acts of terrorism and violence. Bearing in mind a current serving member of the Labour party has recognised terrorism is taking place with the complicity of the Israeli government. Is it not about time Lewisham council actively began divestment of its pension funds from a government that is encouraging terrorism against Palestinians.

### **Reply**

The Lewisham fund already excludes those companies not meeting its responsible investment beliefs through its selected mandates. For the companies currently held through the fund's mandates, the pension strategy is one of engagement to effect change. This work is ongoing with the summary, previously shared, of the Council's approach set out below.

The Pensions Investment Committee (PIC) is doing everything it can to ensure that Lewisham's pension funds are reflective of the Council's aims and values. However, this is not public money, it is money belonging to the people who paid into the fund or who are currently paying into the fund. The PIC has an overriding legal duty to act in the best financial interest of pension members to ensure their pensions can be paid – the fiduciary duty.

The PIC, in line with its primary fiduciary duty for the Fund, has undertaken detailed work to assess the potential exposure of all of its listed investment holdings and compliance with its Responsible Investment Beliefs and overall investment strategy. This has focused on any exposure to arms and controversial weapons, companies associated with potential human rights abuses, and companies that operate within areas considered to be occupied under international law.

The committee has taken the following actions:

- In the last year it has reviewed and rewritten its responsible investment statement.

<https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s117313/6a%20Appendix%206a.%20-%20Draft%20RI%20Beliefs%20Statement%20tracked%20changes.pdf>

- At the end of 2024 it launched a new engagement strategy, launching two sessions on its largest funds: the LCIV PEPPA and Storebrand, giving the committee

dedicated time to ask questions of the fund managers to ensure compliance with the responsible investment statement.

Recent Counsel's advice ([Updated legal opinion on fiduciary duty in the LGPS Jan 2025](#)) makes it clear that in taking decisions these must be in accordance with its Investment Strategy Statement (ISS), and accord with the views of its members. As part of the tri-ennial valuation work the Pension Fund is seeking to consult with its members and will use the response to this consultation to help inform its revised ISS. All future investment decisions will then be taken in accordance with this ISS and ancillary policies.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.113**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Edward Sutton

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor James-J Walsh

**Question**

Almost 2000 people have signed a petition calling on the Council to finally take action and make progress on Ladywell Playtower, a Grade II listed building on Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register. It is 8 years since the Council chose developer Guildmore to restore and redevelop the Playtower, with promises of housing and a local cinema, yet there has been no progress and the building continues to deteriorate. What action is the council taking to move this development forward and how does it propose to consult the community on the future of a much-loved heritage asset?

**Reply**

Ladywell Playtower is one of Lewisham's most important Grade II listed buildings. It is a much-loved local landmark, and the Council is committed to seeing it brought back into use and restored to a high standard.

The financial challenges facing local government are well known, and we must be realistic that it is simply not possible for the Council to do this alone. In 2022, the Council announced an agreement with a private developer to bring the building back into public use and secure its future.

Planning consent was granted; however various factors mean that the developer no longer believes their plans are viable. We have been supporting the developer to identify additional opportunities to bridge the funding gap and make the project viable once again. Unfortunately it has become clear that this developer is unable to move the project forward.

This is a complex project, involving a heritage building and significant local interest. The Council is committed to working with the local community to identify new opportunities to restore the building, and we hope to make a further announcement about our next steps in the coming months.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.114**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Fiona Sim

Relevant Directorate: Corporate Resources

Member to reply: Councillor Amanda De Ryk

**Question**

Lewisham Council's historic boycott of Shell UK in solidarity with the anti-apartheid struggle is part of Lewisham's proud anti-racist, anti-apartheid history. By 1985, more than 120 local councils across Britain engaged in some form of anti-apartheid protest.

Barclays Bank faced significant criticism and targeted boycotts for its financial ties with South Africa during apartheid, leading to its eventual withdrawal from the SA apartheid regime.

Would this Council take a similar stance today by protesting and/or boycotting Barclays for complicity in an apartheid regime?

**Reply**

It is not lawful for the Council to refuse to enter into contracts or terminate contracts solely because the supplier has operations or dealings in particular countries. Unless those countries or companies are sanctioned by the Government, this is because such considerations are deemed non-commercial matters under the Local Government Act 1988, section 17, which mandates that public authorities must exercise their functions without reference to non-commercial matters, including the location of the business activities or interests of contractors.

The Procurement Act (PA) 2023 and related regulations provide specific grounds for the exclusion of suppliers, which include mandatory and discretionary exclusion grounds. These grounds are primarily focused on issues such as criminal convictions, insolvency, and breaches of environmental, social, and labour laws. It does not list the location of a supplier's operations or dealings as a valid ground for exclusion.

Furthermore, the PA 2023 requires contracting authorities to ensure that any exclusion or termination of contracts is based on the criteria set out in the legislation, which do not include the geographical location of the supplier's business activities.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.115**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Eleonora Aiello

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

What is the Council doing to improve residential waste management and collection for residents who live in properties which are not provided with bins, like flats above shops in Hither Green Lane?

**Reply**

For properties like these, the Council operates a bagged waste collection service rather than providing standard bins, as space constraints and access issues often make bin storage impractical. As part of this service, residents should receive refuse and recycling sacks delivered quarterly. More widely, the Council is looking at ways to improve recycling for these types of properties, including: Working with managing agents and landlords to identify locations where communal recycling bins could be safely and practically installed. Providing information and guidance to residents and landlords on how to recycle effectively, even when space is limited. Investigating the possibility of introducing time banded collections at certain locations to ensure waste is placed out and collected within the agreed time frames.

## **PUBLIC QUESTION NO.116**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: Eleonora Aiello

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

### **Question**

What is the Council doing to improve recycling of residential waste in the borough, particularly for residents in properties where bins are not provided, like flats above shops in Hither Green Lane, considering it is failing to provide said residents with the bin bags mentioned on the council website?

### **Reply**

For properties like these, such as flats above shops or homes without space for bins the Council operates a bagged waste collection service rather than providing standard bins, as space constraints and access issues often make bin storage impractical. As part of this service, residents should receive refuse and recycling sacks delivered quarterly.

If bags are not delivered please contact:

- Order online: Visit the Lewisham Council's Recycling and Rubbish page to request new residual waste bags.  
<https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/wasterecycle/>
- Contact the council: If you're having trouble ordering online or need clarification, you can reach out via the Lewisham Council website. <https://lewisham.gov.uk/>

More widely, the Council is looking at ways to improve recycling for these types of properties, including:

- Working with managing agents and landlords to identify locations where communal recycling bins could be safely and practically installed.
- Providing information and guidance to residents and landlords on how to recycle effectively, even when space is limited.
- Investigating the possibility of introducing time banded collections at certain locations to ensure waste is placed out and collected within agreed time frames.

## **PUBLIC QUESTION NO.117**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: John Mcgrath

Relevant Directorate: Corporate Resources

Member to reply: Chair of Pensions Committee

### **Question**

The Pension Investment Committee ammended its resposible investment strategy in November 2023 to, among other things, limit exposure to any company whose activities facilitate human rights abuse in occupied Palestine. Six months later, is the council able to report on any companies that have been excluded from the pension fund since the updated responsible investment strategy was adopted?

### **Reply**

In short, no. The fund had already excluded those companies not meeting its responsible investment beliefs through its selected mandates. For the companies currently held through the fund's mandates, the pension strategy is one of engagement to effect change. This is ongoing with the summary, previously shared, of the Council's approach set out below.

The Pensions Investment Committee (PIC) is doing everything it can to ensure that Lewisham's pension funds are reflective of the Council's aims and values. However, this is not public money, it is money belonging to the people who paid into the fund or who are currently paying into the fund. The PIC has an overriding legal duty to act in the best financial interest of pension members to ensure their pensions can be paid – the fiduciary duty.

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The committee has taken the following actions:

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- At the end of 2024 it launched a new engagement strategy, launching two sessions on its largest funds: the LCIV PEPPA and Storebrand, giving the committee dedicated time to ask questions of the fund managers to ensure compliance with the responsible investment statement.

Recent Counsel's advice ([Updated legal opinion on fiduciary duty in the LGPS Jan 2025](#)) makes it clear that in taking decisions these must be in accordance with its Investment Strategy Statement (ISS), and accord with the views of its members. As part of the tri-ennial valuation work the Pension Fund is planning to consult with its members and will use the response to this consultation to help inform its revised ISS. All future investment decisions will then be taken in accordance with this ISS and ancillary policies.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO.118**

**16 July 2025**

Question asked by: John Mcgrath

Relevant Directorate: Corporate Resources

Member to reply: Councillor Amanda De Ryk

**Question**

Will the council extend its contract with Barclays or are other banks actively being researched and scored as an alternative?

**Reply**

At its Mayor and Cabinet meeting on the 9 July an approval to procure report was tabled seeking Mayor and Cabinet's approval to commence the procurement exercises for both its corporate banking services (including the Lewisham Pension Fund and Lewisham Homes) and its client money management services. The report can be accessed via the link below and sets out the compliant routes to market which will be adopted, ensuring that there is both competition and value for money secured.

<https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s121209/Banking%20Contract%20Report.pdf>