

## COUNCIL

30 OCTOBER 2019

### PUBLIC QUESTIONS

**I Question from Susan Phasey, SE18, to Councillor Averil Lekau, Cabinet Member for Adult's Social and Health**

In the light of the Council's general duty to "help deliver and sustain good health among the prison population". (House of Commons, SN06844, 13.3.2014:

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN06844/SN06844.pdf> ) what response has Greenwich Council made to the recent report by the Independent Monitoring Board on some of the conditions at HMP Belmarsh?(<https://www.imb.org.uk/reports/2019-annual-reports/> \_

**Reply -**

I thank Susan Phasey for her question.

The report has been circulated to the Safer Greenwich Partnership who are arranging for the Independent Monitoring Board to present at a forthcoming SGP meeting with the Governor in attendance.

The Council provides a recognised high quality prisons and social care offer in HMP Belmarsh and the two other prisons as part of its statutory duties under the Care Act. The Prisons and Social Care team highlights issues as they come across them and works closely in partnership with the prisons and partner agencies. This includes making recommendations as necessary about the welfare of individual prisoners and any adaptations that might need to be made to the prison estate.

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## PUBLIC QUESTIONS

**2 Question from Amorel Kennedy, SE18, to Councillor Denise Scott-McDonald, Cabinet Member for Air Quality, Sustainability and Transport**

In June the Council declared a climate emergency and outlined its pledges to become carbon neutral by 2030. These included updating the Action Plan for the Greener Greenwich Strategy and developing a detailed Carbon Neutral Plan. Can the Council give an update on the draft content of these documents and advise what is the timetable for public consultation on them given that they are due to be submitted for approval to full Council by January 2020 at latest?

**Reply –**

I thank Amorel Kennedy for his question.

The Evidence Base for the Carbon Neutral Plan will be presented to full Council in early 2020, together with the full timeline for the development of the Carbon Neutral Plan. The evidence base is essential both as the starting point for our carbon reduction trajectory and to identify those measures that will be most effective.

We will engage with residents throughout the first part of 2020 through Better Together meetings, formal consultation and other channels. We will also engage with other relevant organisations through the Greenwich Partnership.

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### PUBLIC QUESTIONS

**3 Question from Maria Freeman, SE18, to Councillor Denise Scott-McDonald, Cabinet Member for Air Quality, Sustainability and Transport**

Plumstead residents have been expressing concern about parking controls for a long time now. Council questions from the public were asked in 2018 - about enforcement of the parking in bus lanes near Plumstead Station, and about the need for short stay parking to support our High Street businesses. Parking and CPZs were also raised at both Plumstead Stakeholder Forums in 2018 and 2019 and have been discussed at every Positive Plumstead Project meeting since autumn 2018. At the end of October 2019, how much closer is the Council getting to implementing the promised half hour free parking to support our High Street businesses?

**Reply -**

I thank Maria Freeman for her question.

The decision to implement the free thirty minute parking has been approved and officers are preparing the changes to the associated Traffic Management Orders (TMOs), which should be advertised next week, and progressing the necessary changes to the P&D machines. There is a statutory consultation exercise to go through in relation to the TMOs but if no objections are received it is anticipated that the changes will be operational by January.

The TMOs for proposed restrictions to the Plumstead Road bus lane will be prepared shortly. After discussions with TfL it is proposed that the restrictions operate every day between 7am and 7pm on an experimental basis and will be reviewed after six months to see if they are sufficient. In conjunction with this, and to better protect residents' parking in the neighbouring Plumstead Station (PL) CPZ, it is proposed that the operational times of PL are extended to match those of the adjacent Plumstead Central (PC) zone i.e. changing from Monday to Friday 9.30 to 11am to Monday to Saturday 9am to 5.30pm. The design of the proposed scheme has been amended to reflect this and we are currently preparing the consultation documents for delivery to residents at the earliest opportunity.

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## PUBLIC QUESTIONS

**4 Question from Maria Freeman, SE18, to Councillor David Gardner, Cabinet Member for Public Realm**

In July 2018 I asked a Public Question about the jet washing of Plumstead High St and was advised this would be taking place twice a year between March-October. Please can you provide information on the cleaning schedule for Plumstead High Street during 2019?

**Reply -**

I thank Maria Freeman for her question.

The 2019 pavement washing schedule for Plumstead High Street was as follows:-

|  |                           |         |
|--|---------------------------|---------|
| Plumstead High Street -<br>from Lakedale Rd to<br>Foreland St    | 10 April - 7 June<br>2019 | 9 Weeks |
| Plumstead High Street -<br>from Lakedale Rd to St<br>Nicholas Rd | 17 July - 13 Sept<br>2019 | 9 Weeks |

The schedule was provided as a guide to residents and the public.

We did not keep to the exact dates in the schedule for 2019 due to unforeseen circumstances. There is a small section outstanding due to building works outside one of the business premises (Lakedale Road to Gallosson Road) and we aim to complete this within the next 2 weeks.

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### **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

**5 Question from Eileen Glover, SE9, to Councillor Jackie Smith, Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Community Safety**

With the ending of funding for VOCU in April has there been any progress on the Council initiatives for its replacement?

**Reply –**

I thank Eileen Glover for her question.

In place of the VOCU, and as a more responsive and cohesive approach to tackling serious youth violence and exploitation, the Royal Borough is currently trialing a new integrated unit – ReSET. This saw an injection of £650k funding provided by the Council and additional funding secured from other sources including the Home Office Violence Reduction Unit.

ReSET (Reduction in Serious Youth Violence and Exploitation Team) launched on 1st October 2019 and is a partnership initiative led by the Royal Borough of Greenwich (RBG) that will add to existing efforts to tackle knife crime, violence and the exploitation of children and young people, whether for sex, crime, or other purposes. It is a multi-agency team that has been designed to enhance existing Greenwich services and bring the most effective current approaches to tackling these problems.

The ReSET unit consists of a range of practitioners/services including Youth Offending, Community Safety, Early Help, Probation, St Giles, Police and Greenwich Local Labour and Business (Education and Employment advice). A Systemic Family Therapist, Specialist Girls Worker and Intelligence Analyst will also be part of the team. Being a multi-agency team means that services work more effectively with each other through co-ordinating their efforts. It also means that children, young people and families have access to a range of specialist services under a single roof to meet their needs.

ReSET has four closely related areas of work:

- Direct support – Supporting young people aged 10-25 who are experiencing (or are at risk of) issues of Serious Youth Violence/Exploitation. ReSET would either be the lead agency supporting the child/young person, or work to support another lead agency such as Children’s Social Care or the Youth Offending Service (YOS). ReSET will also use the full range of disruption and enforcement measures at its disposal to safeguard children/young people and the public from the risks of serious youth violence and exploitation.
- Place - Identifying and responding to places and environments that are of concern in a serious youth violence/exploitation context. Dependent on the situation, this may include ReSET providing a fast response if an incident occurs that affects the community.
- Intelligence - ReSET will gather and analyse information from a variety of sources to form a fuller picture of youth violence and exploitation issues in Greenwich. It will use this analysis to share information appropriately and shape multi-agency responses to these issues.
- Community - ReSET will engage with the community to better understand the range and nature of youth violence and exploitation issues. It will then work with the community to share resources and coordinate efforts to tackle these issues. Members of the community will be represented in ReSET’s Engagement and Challenge Group; the purpose of the group is to give the community and other stakeholders the opportunity to influence the delivery and direction of the service ReSET’s work with Children / Young People.

At time of writing, and just over three weeks on, ReSET is currently working with 33 young people and young adults. Early pieces of work have included additional planning and monitoring functions around prison releases (resulting in the swift prison recall of a dangerous young adult), a joint piece of work with a school, the police, and community safety teams to assess and respond to a place of emerging concern, and the use of ReSET’s intelligence function and skillset to enhance other services work.

The work of ReSET will be subject to the Community Safety Scrutiny Panel in February 2020.

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### **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

**6 Question from Eileen Glover, SE9, to Councillor Denise Scott-McDonald, Cabinet Member for Air Quality, Sustainability and Transport**

With the possibility of a planning application for a school on the Mansion Site in Avery Hill Park would this not be a good time to resurrect the long delayed Parking Zone for the Area?

**Reply -**

I thank Eileen Glover for her question.

The Council have been pressing for this scheme for some years now but have been thwarted in implementing it by a continuing objection by Bexley Council because of their concerns about parking displacement. Current legislation states that where such objections are made and cannot be resolved they are passed to the Mayor of London for consideration. You may be aware that this matter was passed to the then Mayor in 2013 although no decision was made. We continue to have discussions to try and move this matter forward.

## **COUNCIL**

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### **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

**7 Question from Victoria Rance, SE3, to Councillor Danny Thorpe, Leader of the Council**

Following Councillor Danny Thorpe's welcome call for the Mayor of London to pause the Silvertown project to allow time for a review, and given the Council's declaration of a climate emergency and the conclusion of the legal case halting the contract, will the Leader of the Council join with other London Mayors and Leaders in jointly, urgently and publicly calling for the Mayor not to sign the contract until there is a thorough review and independent conclusive evidence that any project will have an overall positive impact on air quality, congestion and modal shift

**Reply -**

I thank Victoria Rance for her question.

As you say, I recently wrote to the Mayor of London, asking him to pause work on the Silvertown Tunnel, whilst a full review of alternative options to reduce congestion and pollution around the Blackwall Tunnel are examined.

We are awaiting a response to that letter and consequently have nothing further to add at this stage.

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## PUBLIC QUESTIONS

### 8 Question from Victoria Rance, SE3, to Councillor Averil Lekau, Cabinet Member for Adult's Social Care and Health

Can you give me the statistics of asthma related admissions to hospital by age range of Greenwich residents from 2010 until present? And what are the forecasts for the next ten years?

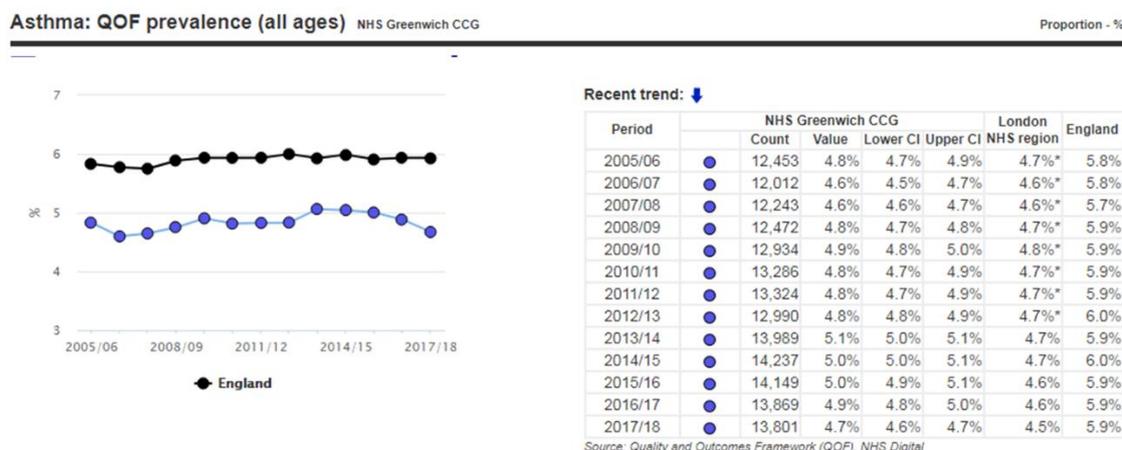
#### Reply -

I thank Victoria Rance for her question.

There are different types of asthma which can have different levels of severity (from mild intermittent to severe persistent). It isn't clear why some people get asthma and others don't, but it is likely to be due to a combination of environmental and genetic (inherited) factors.

The prevalence of asthma across all ages in Greenwich is 4.7%. This has remained relatively steady in the last 10 years. Asthma prevalence is slightly higher than the London average (4.5%) but significantly lower than the England average (5.9%) (Chart 1).

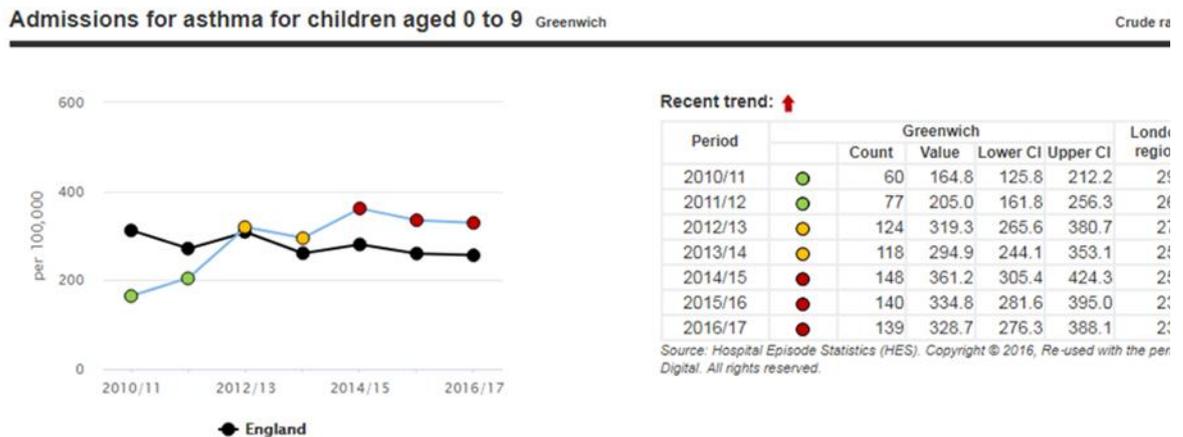
#### Chart 1



For young people under 19 years we have comparative data that is published by Public Health England. Over the last 10 years, the rate of

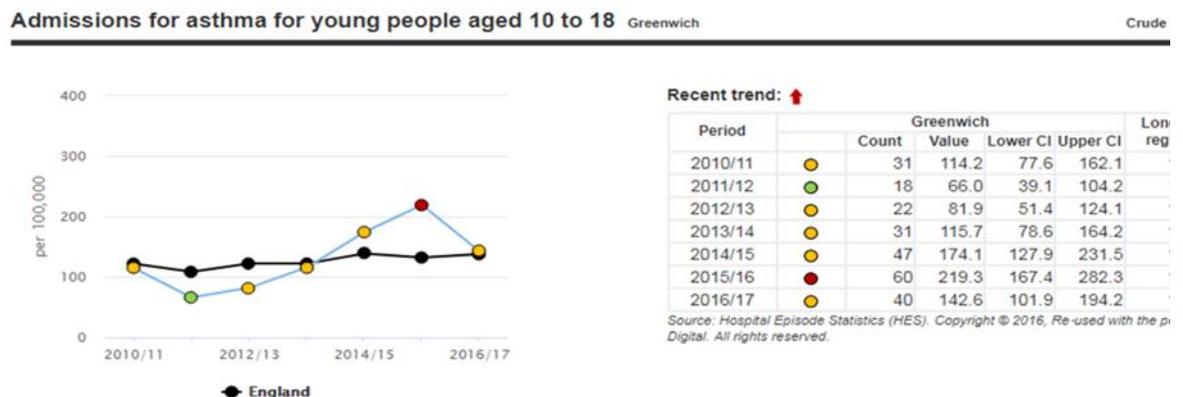
hospital admissions (emergency admissions) for children under 10 year olds showed a significant increase between 2013/14 and 2014/15. Since that time (to 2016/17 the latest comparable figures) the rate has decreased slightly but it is still significantly above the rate of admissions for London and England (Chart 2).

Chart 2



For young people aged 10 to 18 years, over the same time period there was an unusual increase in 2015/16 but overall the rates of emergency admissions in this age group have remained at or below the London and national average (Chart 3).

Chart 3



In terms of future projections, local data for young people under 20 years old for 2017/18 and 2018/19 shows that the number of admissions have fallen consistently. This suggests that admissions maybe declining. However, as asthma is a complex condition with many triggers, future projections on emergency admissions are very unreliable.

For Adults there is no nationally available comparative information as the numbers (and rates) of emergency admissions for asthma for adults are very small. It is not possible to draw any meaningful conclusions from this data.

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### PUBLIC QUESTIONS

**9 Question from Siobhàn Trethewey, SE18, to Councillor David Gardner, Cabinet Member for Public Realm**

A few months ago a tree was chopped down in Plumstead at the corner of Wickham Lane and Plumstead High St. Please advise what consultation processes are in place in relation to cutting down mature trees and publish the reason for this tree being cut down?

**Reply -**

I thank Siobhàn Trethewey for her question.

I recognise the tree was a grand, mature London Plane tree that took a prominent position at the junction and I also recognise the feeling locally about the felling of the tree. Unfortunately, there were a number of issues with the tree meaning it was becoming more and more difficult to manage and maintain it.

The tree's roots were causing pavement damage and were pushing the kerbs out causing expensive repairs. Working on the tree was very disruptive and expensive due to the requirement to close the junction and the tree was encroaching on the nearby building requiring regular attention.

Earlier in the year an assessment was made, in accordance with the Council's previously approved Street Tree Policy, leading to a decision by our professional arboriculturalist to fell the tree. By way of offsetting the loss, five new trees will be planted just up the road and more trees will be planted locally. As I previously responded to a similar question, we have now revised our tree policy to put greater emphasis on mature trees preservation, with wider public consultation, and final approval by the relevant Cabinet member.

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### **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

**10 Question from Siobhàn Trethewey, SE18, to Councillor Sizwe James, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Growth**

What can the Council do with the Public Market (within available powers) to stop it sitting vacant and make it useable and open again?

**Reply -**

I thank Siobhàn Trethewey for her question.

There is currently a lease in place with the previous tenant which expires on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020. The Council will discuss with the developer, to assess the potential for meanwhile uses for the Former Public Covered Market whilst they consider options for a revised scheme for the whole of the Spray Street Quarter site.

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### **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

#### **11 Question from Shaun Slator, SE18, to Councillor Sizwe James, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Growth**

Can the Council explain what process(es) they have in place for ensuring the acquisition and disposal (buying and selling) of property is conducted in a joined up manner?

Can the Council explain how these processes were used during the sale of the Kinara building at 236 Plumstead High Street, SE18 1JL with a floorspace of 294SqM for £550,000 and the purchase of the nearby, uninhabitable property at 318 Plumstead High Street, SE18 1JT with a floorspace less than half of that of the Kinara building for £448,000?

#### **Reply -**

I thank Shaun Slator for his question.

The Council's property disposal and acquisition activities are undertaken within the Property team and the need for new property is considered carefully when properties are identified for disposal. In deciding whether Council-owned buildings can be converted from one use to another, all the relevant factors must be considered.

236 Plumstead High Street and 318 Plumstead High Street are two very different buildings. They were built for entirely different purposes and the current planning use of each building reflects the purpose for which they were constructed; albeit that 318 Plumstead High Street now comprises two flats rather than a single large house. There is a significant difference in value between residential property and buildings in D1 use (residential values being considerably higher) and it is therefore incorrect to assume that a large D1 building is worth more than a smaller residential building.

The former Kinara building at 236 Plumstead High Street has not yet been sold, although the sale process is in hand. The anticipated sale price is substantially higher than the figure quoted in the question. It is a locally listed building, built in 1925 as a health centre and dental clinic. Its current planning use is D1, not residential and, as such, the current market value is

substantially lower than a building of equivalent size with planning permission for residential use. The sale price will reflect the physical characteristics of the building as well as the restriction to D I use.

318 Plumstead High Street is a residential property, currently arranged as two self-contained two bedroom flats. The property was acquired as part of a programme of acquisitions utilising Right to Buy receipts and will be used as much needed temporary accommodation. The flats are in need of refurbishment and the purchase price of £425,000 for both flats reflects this.