



Since taking office as Croydon's first Executive Mayor in May 2022, my focus has been on restoring trust and proving sound leadership, governance, and financial management of our Council.

This is the first of my new Key Performance Indicator (KPI) reports that reflect the priorities within the Executive Mayors Business Plan. Many of the indicators reflect the position my administration inherited in May last year. Though it will take time, I look forward to these indicators improving as we continue our journey of improvement.

Following the 'Opening the Books' review which I commissioned last year, we have demonstrated financial discipline by introducing good governance and taking hard decisions to address the significant financial challenges facing the Council. Our efforts have resulted in a balanced financial position for 2022/23. I have been working closely with the Improvement and Assurance Panel and had meetings with the Department for Levelling Up, Communities, and Housing (DLUCH), HM Treasury, and Parliamentary officials to discuss a sustainable long-term solution to our toxic £1.6 bn debt burden.

To continue to revitalise our Town and District Centres and restore pride in our borough, I have been hosting meetings with developers and investors. I have met regularly with URW (Westfield) to ensure we are driving development for our town centre. In Norbury, a Blitz initiative successfully removed graffiti and flyposting from 107 locations, cleaned 41 shopfronts, and conducted five days of pavement washing. Following the lessons learnt from this Blitz, we will roll this out to other District Centres to continue to address the ongoing 'Broken Windows' issues our borough faces. We are currently consulting on a new parking policy, which further underscores our commitment to the development of our town and district centres.

We have also been working on improving the service we provide to residents by introducing a new Council housing repairs contract in August this year. This was a collaborative effort closely involving tenants and leaseholders, aimed at enhancing maintenance and repairs, safety, and customer service for council home residents. The new customer contact centre has been brought in house to ensure that we maintain oversight of the new contract and uphold the quality standards our residents deserve.

Listening to Croydon residents is a key commitment in my manifesto and in recent months I have hosted 'Mayor's Question Time' sessions in Waddon, Purley and Norbury, with a further session to be scheduled before Christmas. I have been an active participant in multiple London Borough of Culture events such as the Croydon Carnival, Croydon BME's 365 Black History Month event, CR Talent, the Music Heritage Trail, and the Liberty Festival.

Reflecting on the progress of the last three months as Executive Mayor, my dedication to the residents of Croydon remains steadfast. Whilst we have made progress, I acknowledge that we are still on a significant journey of improvement. Despite the challenges ahead, the collaborative spirit both within the Council and the wider community of Croydon instils confidence in the prospect of a more promising future for our borough.