

OUR CROYDON

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Centrale shopping centre revamp plans as town centre regeneration continues at pace.



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Extra uniformed patrol officers on street and new mobile CCTV to make Croydon cleaner and safer.



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Wood you believe it? Beavers could be coming to Croydon.



Photography by Glenn Foster

SPOT THE MASTERPIECE!

Life-size artworks pop up across Croydon with Art on Your Doorstep P13.

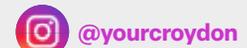
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CROYDON
www.croydon.gov.uk

Welcome to our Croydon



Jason Perry,
Executive Mayor
of Croydon

Dear Resident

As we step into spring, I'm delighted to share with you how we are making Croydon cleaner, safer and greener, whilst creating a modern and vibrant town centre.

When I was elected Executive Mayor of Croydon, I committed to listening to our residents. They told me they wanted to see our town centre thriving again - a place people wanted to visit. Change is happening and is starting to show. In this edition of Our Croydon, we bring you the latest on £40m of improvement projects; our new vision for Surrey Street Market; a new crossing for Wellesley Road and Unibail-Rodamco-Westfield (URW) plans to revamp Centrale (pages 3-5).

Fly-tipping and antisocial behaviour are a blight on our neighbourhoods - enough is enough, which is why I've taken a zero-tolerance approach to perpetrators. We've been issuing more fines, removing nuisance cars and have installed 15 new mobile CCTV cameras in hotspots. But it doesn't stop there. We are putting more uniformed officers on the streets to tackle antisocial behaviours (pages 6-8).

We are continuing to work with Croydon Police and many other partners to make our streets safer and to tackle violence against women and girls, and we are seeing results. Knife crime is down by 24% and town centre antisocial behaviour is down by 24%. Find out more about the positive results we are seeing (pages 15-16).

Croydonians are rightly proud of our borough's heritage and its 127 beautiful parks and green spaces that we're working to preserve and improve. We have invested in 10 playgrounds for children to enjoy, made parks more accessible by improving pathways and re-opened the Wandle Park cafe. I am also delighted to bring you news on an exciting rewilding project for South Norwood Country Park (pages 9-10).

Our libraries are more than a book loaning service - they are the heart of communities, a place to find out about local services and groups, join clubs and meet new and old friends.

Throughout the redesign of our libraries, our residents told us that they wanted libraries to open for longer - that is what we have done. And I have kept my promise to keep the four libraries that closed, as community bases. I'm delighted to update that these have now opened (page 18).

Our housing service has undergone huge transformation - to make sure that all residents live in warm and safe homes of a good standard. We have been working with our communities to tidy up estates and crack down on antisocial behaviour. Regina Road has reached a major milestone, with planning permission now granted for up to 340 new homes for local people (page 22).

All these services have been delivered whilst making sure that we keep our finances on track and become a more efficient and cost effective Council. Since 2020-21, we have made £229m of savings. We have made huge strides in stabilising our finances and are set to meet our savings targets for the current financial year. But there is more to do - we need to go further and faster to modernise our services through our Future Croydon programme, saving money whilst improving outcomes for our residents (page 23).

Finally, do get out and about this spring by taking part in Croydon's National Gallery: Art on Your Doorstep. Thirty life-size replica masterpieces can be visited throughout Croydon - the first London borough to take part in the project (page 13-14).

Jason Perry
Executive Mayor of Croydon

Growth Plan powers Croydon's regeneration

Croydon's regeneration is well and truly under way – and it's starting to show. Regeneration was at the forefront in 2025, driven by The Croydon Growth Plan and Town Centre Vision, launched by Executive Mayor of Croydon Jason Perry last year. With more than £40m of external funding unlocked, regeneration has accelerated.

As we move into the spring, residents will start to see the benefits of several major projects taking shape across the town centre. The transformation of Wellesley Road, George Street, and Dingwall Road is approaching completion, creating safer and more welcoming routes for everyone.

At North End, focused street cleaning and decluttering will create a tidier, safer and more pleasant space for residents to walk, shop and spend time in. Work will begin on the East Croydon Link Bridge, a project that will improve connections between the station and the town centre.

Alongside this, residents will soon notice the installation of new wayfinding signs, making it easier to navigate Croydon's cultural, heritage, and shopping destinations.

You can enjoy a major cultural moment this spring as life-sized masterpieces from the National Gallery are installed across Croydon, creating a free outdoor gallery for everyone to explore. This immersive trail will bring world class art directly into local neighbourhoods, offering a shared creative experience for families, friends, and the wider community.

PROJECTS

- Minster Green improvements to public space: subway closed and public realm works started
- College Green greenery and play: public exhibition held in December. Planning application due spring 2026
- Amplifying Surrey Street: launch of vision and visual identity in spring 2026
- Wellesley Road street level crossing: opened in December 2025, public realm nearly complete
- East Croydon pedestrian link bridge: legal agreements in progress with partners. Work expected to begin early spring
- George Street public realm improvements: completed in December
- Dingwall Road upgrade of public realm: works under way
- North End public realm improvements
- Heritage signage trail: installation in spring 2026
- **Culture:** a two-year programme to encourage visitors to support businesses. Continues in 2026 with the National Gallery: Art On Your Doorstep. See page 13 for details.



Community creates new vision for historic Surrey Street

Croydon's much loved Surrey Street is starting a fresh new chapter – and the community is leading the way. Our Amplifying Surrey Street project has created a shared vision for the historic market and surrounding streets that celebrates its heritage, while looking to the future.

A market has operated in this part of Croydon since the 1200s, making it one of the oldest in the UK. The new vision sets out six aims focused on strengthening Surrey Street Market, celebrating its heritage, and making sure improvements reflect what local people want.

An exciting new visual identity has been created, which can be used on signs, shopping bags and more. Plus designs are under way to properly mark the entrances into Surrey Street.

Other ideas on the table include refreshed market infrastructure and more greenery, bringing empty shops back into use, plus new events to attract visitors.

The council has been working hand in hand with the Surrey Street Action Group – a co-production of residents, businesses, market traders and partners,

alongside individual traders and local groups. A survey, followed by workshops and on-street conversations, helped shape the vision.

Croydon resident Nicky Selwyn, a member of the Surrey Street Action Group, said:

“I love the vibrancy and diversity of Surrey Street, but it's a bit tired. I hope this project will inject new life into the area, celebrating its history while securing a bright future.

“It has been true co production at its best – everyone's voice has been heard, respected and valued.”

The council secured £814,000 from the Greater London Authority's Civic Partnership Programme, matched with investment from Croydon's Growth Zone, which reinvests local business rates back into town centre regeneration.

Join the launch of the Surrey Street vision and visual identity at Surrey Street Market on Saturday 7 March, from 11am-3pm.

See the Urban Room website for further details: croydonurbanroom.com



Surrey Street Market rebrand



Amplifying Surrey Street session

Photography by Lee Townsend

New toucan crossing has landed in Wellesley Road

A new pedestrian crossing has opened near the Whitgift Centre in Wellesley Road – and it's already making life much easier for anyone moving between Croydon town centre and East Croydon.



The crossing sits at the Lansdowne Road junction and replaces the old underpass, which was closed last year after a fire caused by antisocial behaviour. The underpass has now been safely filled in.

The crossing stretches over six busy lanes, plus a tram route, bus lanes and a central reservation, which made it a challenging engineering project. Despite this, it was delivered on time and on budget and was opened by the Executive Mayor in December.

The council teamed up with FM Conway, Fitzpatrick Advisory and Transport for London to design and build it.

East Croydon through route nears opening

Preparations are under way to open the pedestrian through-route at East Croydon station – with work hoped to begin in spring.

Croydon has been working with Network Rail and developers Menta Regeneration to agree costs and responsibility to complete the pedestrian access and future maintenance for this element of the footbridge. The parties are in the process of agreeing legal agreements.

Network Rail has appointed a main contractor to carry out the works. The council supports a fully accessible station entrance on both sides and is continuing to work with its partners on behalf of residents and businesses.



Major refresh for Centrale shopping centre

Centrale shopping centre is set for a big makeover, and it's another sign that Croydon's town centre regeneration is really picking up pace.

Unibail-Rodamco-Westfield (URW), owner of Centrale and Whitgift Centre, have submitted plans to Croydon Council for a fresh new look to the North End entrances and the building's frontage. It's all designed to make the area feel brighter, safer and more modern.

Executive Mayor Jason Perry has welcomed the proposals, which support his wider Growth Plan for a town centre that feels vibrant for everyone who lives, works or spends time here.

The plans include smart new glass frontages, eye catching lighting and a large digital screen. The old colonnades in North End would be enclosed, removing hidden corners and helping open up the walkway with sleeker, more modern shopfronts.

This makeover is just the first step in URW's bigger North End Masterplan, which aims to reshape the area into a mix of shops, culture, public spaces and new homes. It follows other positive changes, like the recent reopening of part of the old Allders building with six new shops and food spots, called Allders Parade.

The Centrale improvements sit alongside council led regeneration works, including the new pedestrian crossing at Wellesley Road and improvements to George Street and Dingwall Road, which are nearly finished. This spring, the council is also planning targeted cleaning, decluttering and new wayfinding signs from West Croydon station through to North End.

Centrale will stay open throughout the first phase of the works, and the planning application is now live and open to comments on Croydon Council's Planning Portal.



Image by Unibail-Rodamco-Westfield (URW)

Dingwall Road revamp creates safer, greener route

Improvement works are continuing in Dingwall Road, at the junction with Lansdowne Road, to transform the area into a safer, more attractive pedestrian-friendly environment, while maintaining cycle routes.

The junction is used by hundreds of local workers during lunchtimes and people visiting the Home Office or local restaurants and shops. We have listened to local groups about what was needed and aim to deliver a safer and more user-friendly layout.

The revised layout will improve connectivity for people walking between East Croydon station and the wider town centre and enhance the route for residents, businesses and visitors. The changes include:

- Removal of street clutter, new planting, upgraded street furniture and feature lighting and improved drainage.
- Further south along Dingwall Road: pavements resurfaced and cycle lane defenders replaced with kerb segregation to improve cycle safety.
- At the junction with George Street: an improved traffic signal crossing outside Boxpark will increase safety at the tram crossing for cyclists and pedestrians.



Most work will be complete by the end of March, with some resurfacing and traffic signal works taking place in April to complete the scheme. The council has been working in partnership with partners at TfL, including trams and buses, to carry out the works, which are part of the £40m of external funding secured as part of Croydon's Growth Plan.

Fun Fact: The name 'Dingwall' originates from Old Norse words 'thing' (assembly, parliament) and 'völlr' (field), signifying a place of assembly, a meeting place.

Cleaner Croydon - cleaning up our streets, restoring pride



Dynamic cleaning duo The Maka Twins join Cleaner Croydon!

Since the summer of 2023, as part of our Cleaner Croydon campaign we've completed 12 blitz cleans boroughwide. From Norbury to New Addington, Coulsdon to Crystal Palace, each clean up has been tailored to the local area - sorting things that residents and businesses told us needed doing.

We were joined by some special guests at the Selsdon blitz clean. Famous for cleaning places no one asked them to - and with more than 420k followers on social media - Croydon's Maka Twins joined us in Selsdon during its blitz clean.

Maka Twin James said: "I was impressed seeing the high street very, very clean. It actually shocked me! So, well done to the council and the people taking part to make sure Selsdon was clean. We also realised it's not just about the council doing their bit, we can do our bit to maintain it to that standard that's been set."

John added: "Remember if you see rubbish on the floor, pick it up. Or just don't drop it. Dropping it on the floor - what is the point? You're not looking after your local community."

The blitz cleans continue. By the end of March every district centre across Croydon will have had a clean. Please help us keep our neighbourhoods looking great by using the bins and reporting any issues to us via Love Clean Streets.



“Remember if you see rubbish on the floor, pick it up. Or just don't drop it. Dropping it on the floor - what is the point? You're not looking after your local community.”

12 blitz cleans completed... and more to come.

Mobile recycling pop ups in neighbourhoods

As part of our waste contract with Veolia, we've been trialling something new. Mobile recycling centres have been popping up across Croydon, bringing recycling to people's doorsteps.

Held in council owned spaces like car parks, the centres provide a way for locals to get rid of things that they no longer want or need, that they can't get to one of the borough's household reuse and recycling centres.

Sofas, chairs, tables, cookers and other electronics have all been collected as part of the pop-ups. Veolia staff then do what they can to recycle or reuse the items.

Abbey Oludimu, Thornton Heath resident, said: "It's been very good to be able to get rid of this old oven locally as it's big and hard to get in the car."

Look out for more information on the mobile recycling centres on the council's social media.



Veolia crews collecting items at a mobile recycling centre in Thornton Heath



Abbey Oludimu of Thornton Heath



Jagan and his son at the Selsdon mobile recycling centre

**CLEANER
CROYDON**
WORKING TOGETHER
FOR A CLEANER BOROUGH



Cleaner Croydon – zero tolerance

Our Cleaner Croydon campaign is about restoring pride – and as part of that, Executive Mayor of Croydon Jason Perry has launched a zero-tolerance approach to crime and antisocial behaviour on Croydon's streets.

That means tough action on fly-tippers, fraudsters and anyone who breaks the law and blights our borough.

From new enforcement squads on street, to cameras in hotspots, we're cracking down on offenders - and sending a strong message that we will not tolerate crime in Croydon.



Extra uniformed patrol officers to make Croydon cleaner and safer

Croydon is increasing the number of uniformed patrols across the borough to help tackle antisocial behaviour and support residents and businesses, building on the success of current safety measures already in place.

Fully uniformed officers will be carrying out regular patrols across the town centre and surrounding areas.

Officers will provide a more visible presence in Croydon town centre supporting the work of the Town Centre Taskforce.

The patrols will be carried out by Parkguard, our accredited community safety officers who work alongside the council and police.

This will include supporting businesses with any concerns and engaging with people who may be sleeping rough in public spaces, signposting individuals to the right services.

Following resident feedback, the officers will also work alongside housing services and community safety teams in estates to support with action on issues such as nuisance gatherings and drug-related trespassing.

Key areas will be regularly patrolled to deter behaviours that can make people feel unsafe. While

they will not have arrest powers, officers will have direct radio contact with the police so they can quickly escalate situations where enforcement action is needed.

The patrols will provide daily reports about what they have seen, actions taken and details of any further action needed such as tenancy enforcement or fly-tip removal.

Executive Mayor of Croydon, Jason Perry, said: "We have been clear that antisocial behaviour will not be tolerated in Croydon. Residents and businesses should be able to go about their day without feeling intimidated or unsafe.

"These extra officers are a direct response to what people have told us they want to see: more visibility and quicker action. Working closely with the police and our partners, they will help us crack down on antisocial behaviour hotspots and make sure concerns are acted on quickly."



15

New mobile CCTV cameras deployed to deter crime

Mobile CCTV deployed in crackdown on crime and antisocial behaviour



We've deployed 15 new mobile CCTV cameras to deter crime, crack down on persistent antisocial behaviour – and make Croydon's streets cleaner and safer.

The cameras have been deployed in hotspots where residents have repeatedly reported issues such as fly-tipping, drug dealing, knife crime and late-night disturbances. They can be moved quickly in response to emerging issues, so that resources are focused where they are needed most.

Locations include Selhurst, Broad Green, Woodside, Thornton Heath, South Norwood, East and West Croydon and the town centre. Cameras have also been installed on housing estates where there have been ongoing reports of antisocial behaviour.

One of the new cameras has been installed at the Winterborne Road entrance to Thornton Heath Recreation Ground, where residents have raised concerns about late-night noise, drug use and other disruptive behaviour.

We are working with local police teams and the footage will be used to identify offenders and take action against offenders.

This initiative builds on the borough's recent progress in reducing crime. Croydon recorded a 4.1% drop in overall offences in 2025, and the new cameras will help accelerate this positive trend by providing clear evidence for enforcement action.

As part of the rollout, Executive Mayor Jason Perry visited the Tamworth Estate in Central Croydon to see the cameras in operation and hear directly from residents. Many welcomed the move, describing it as another positive step towards improving safety and quality of life on the estate.



Kelly, Chair of Tamworth Road Residents Association with one of the new cameras

Kelly, Chair of Tamworth Estate Residents Association, said: "This is wonderful news for the Tamworth estate. We are working hard with Croydon Council so that we all feel safe on the Tamworth. We are so grateful that all parties are working together and we have been listened to."

Mayor Perry said the cameras send a clear message: "Croydon is no longer a soft touch. If people break the law in our borough, we will find them, we will fine them, and we will work with the police to bring them to justice." He said that the technology will help the council to respond swiftly to residents' concerns and take tough action where necessary.



Officers will provide a more visible presence in Croydon town centre supporting the work of the Town Centre Taskforce.

"This is wonderful news for the Tamworth estate. We are working hard with Croydon Council so that we all feel safe on the Tamworth. We are so grateful that all parties are working together and we have been listened to."

Zero-tolerance to Blue Badge misuse ramps up

Seven drivers have been prosecuted and ordered to pay nearly £6,000 in fines after being found guilty of misusing Blue Badges, depriving disabled residents of essential parking.

The prosecutions are part of our zero-tolerance approach to antisocial behaviour.

The offenders, whose cases were heard at Croydon Magistrates' Court, have been ordered to pay fines, court costs and victim surcharges. Each also now has a criminal record - which has serious consequences, with many professions requiring employees to resign if they receive a conviction.

Offenders were caught using badges that did not belong to them, including stolen and counterfeit badges, or using a legitimate badge while the holder was not present.

Since May, enforcement has been stepped up, with more than 90 people caught, 32 vehicles seized, badges confiscated, and fines issued.

Where cars were seized, owners have faced release fees of £360 plus £55 per day in storage charges. Three unclaimed vehicles have already been crushed.

With further prosecutions scheduled, we want to send a clear message: abusing a Blue Badge is an expensive mistake. Many offenders were attempting to avoid parking charges of less than £10, only to end up with heavy fines and a criminal conviction.



£1,180
fine for using a stolen Blue Badge

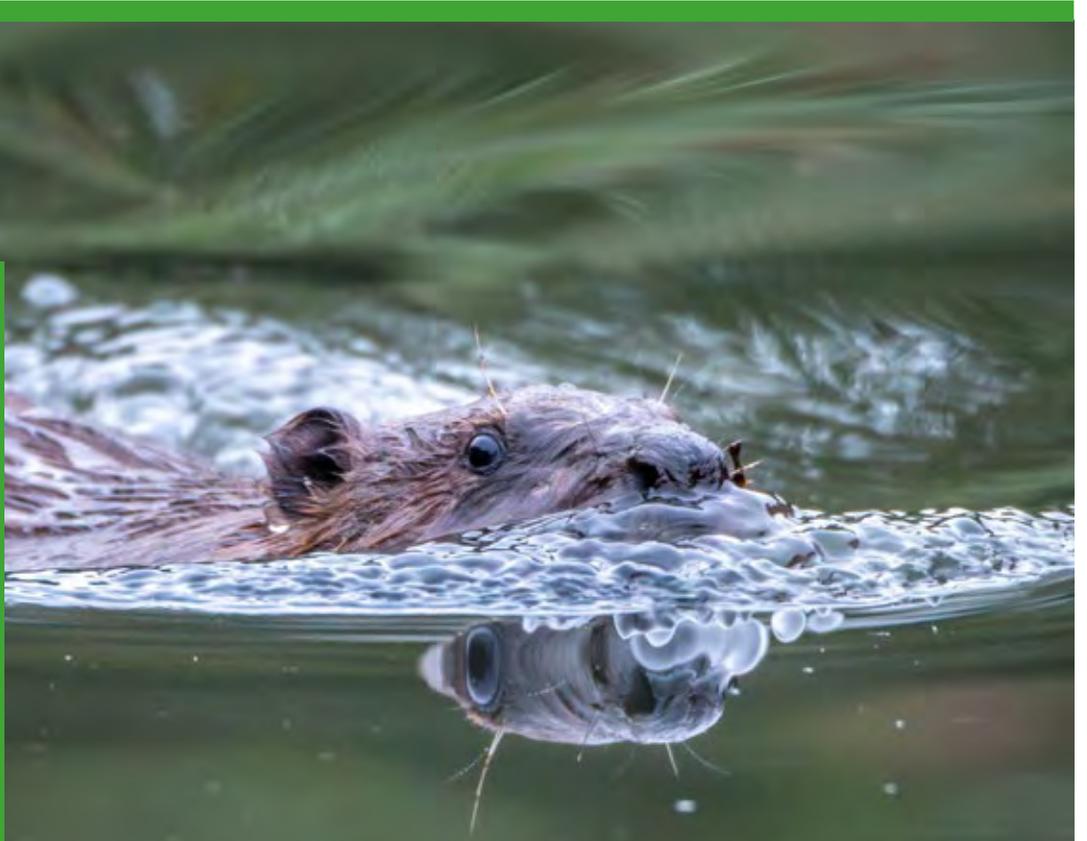
Wood you believe it? Beavers could be coming to Croydon

Photography by Caroline Farrow (Ealing Wildlife Group)

South Norwood Country Park could soon welcome some very special new residents with plans to introduce a family of beavers to the much-loved park.

The council is working closely with Citizen Zoo, a leading urban rewilding organisation with a strong track record in bringing nature back into city environments.

Their team, alongside partners formed the Ealing Beaver Project, which successfully introduced London's first openly accessible urban beaver population in Ealing.



Beavers are often described as 'ecosystem engineers', and for good reason. Through dam-building and wetland creation they naturally improve water quality, reduce flood risk and support a thriving mix of wildlife, from fish and insects to birds and small mammals.



Croydon Council has been investing in parks and green spaces and the project is an exciting opportunity to restore natural habitats, boost biodiversity and create something new for everyone to enjoy.

Before any decisions are made, the council and Citizen Zoo will be making sure the park has the right conditions for a beaver family to flourish. Early signs are encouraging and if the project progresses, further funding will be needed, and licences must be approved by Natural England. Residents will play an important role in shaping the future of the proposal. A public consultation is currently taking place, offering opportunities to learn more, ask questions and share views. This includes a questionnaire, community talks and guided nature walks around the park.

If approved in around two years' time, the beavers would live within a secure, purpose-built enclosure - the largest of its kind in London - designed to be fully accessible to

visitors, including dog walkers.

Alongside this, the council plans to rebuild the park's visitor centre, restoring the vandalised building to its original purpose as a hub for nature education and community learning.

Find out more about the project and how you can get involved croydon.gov.uk/beavers

Robert Espin said: "As a frequent user of the park, I am elated at the prospect of beavers being introduced into our local natural area. These iconic ecosystem engineers could transform our park for everyone's benefit."

Trevor Taylor said: "I love the idea of introducing beavers into the Country Park to help support local wildlife and biodiversity."

Sue Takwani, Chair, Friends of South Norwood Country Park, said: "We are delighted that Citizen Zoo consider our local nature reserve as an ideal location for the introduction of beavers. The benefits for our wetlands habitat will be enormous."

Stop by for a coffee in Wandle Park's new cafe

The cafe in Wandle Park has been given a new lease of life. We've been working with owner Glen Patnelli since last summer to carry out essential repairs to the building and bring the space back into use for the community.

Glen's vision goes far beyond serving food and drink. He hopes the cafe will become a lively hub for local people, with plans to host an exciting programme of events throughout the year.

From community meet ups and live music to comedy nights, sip and paint sessions and children's activities, he aims to create a welcoming space where residents can connect, relax and enjoy the park in new ways.

Regular park goers are also encouraged to stop by and try what's already becoming a local favourite: Glen's signature lemon, lime, hot honey and jerk chicken sandwich. While it's proving popular, he's keen to shape the menu and events around what the community wants most.

Residents are invited to share their ideas - whether it's a type of activity you would love to see, a dish you would like added to the menu, or a way the cafe could better serve the neighbourhood. Next time you're having a wander in Wandle Park, pop in, say hello, and help shape this new community space as it grows.



Slide into spring at our new and improved playgrounds!

More of Croydon's 127 parks and green spaces have benefited from fantastic upgrades over the past year, thanks to our parks improvement programme.

We've invested in improving 10 playgrounds, based on feedback from residents - making them fresh, fun spaces for children and families to enjoy.

And it doesn't stop there. We're working with partners and local people to develop plans for three more playgrounds due to be completed this spring. They are Bourne Park, Kenley, North Down at New Addington and Trumble Gardens in Thornton Heath.

Residents have also welcomed the new paths we've added to some of our parks. This is a game changer for visitors to green spaces where there had previously been no pavement, making them hard to use during winter months.

Locals to Norbury Park, Norbury Hall Park, South Norwood Country Park, Shirley Church Recreation Ground and Sanderstead Recreation Ground are all now able to enjoy these amazing open spaces all year round.

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OUR DISTRICT CENTRES

Restoring pride in Croydon's district centres

Work is starting on site in four district centres as part of Croydon's priority to back our high streets and local businesses. A total of £600,000 is being invested across Norbury, Addiscombe, South Croydon and Coulsdon and work is expected to start in February and March.

The projects are part of a wider £1.4m package of programmes driven by Executive Mayor Jason Perry, to support the Croydon Growth Plan and restore pride in the borough. These are all funded through the government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF).

We have been working with local communities to design projects that will celebrate each high street's unique identity, support local businesses and improve public spaces.

Addiscombe: buying festive lighting and a new community noticeboard for Lower Addiscombe Road, plus improvements to Addiscombe triangle.

Coulsdon: marking local landmarks with new wayfinding maps, seating, raised planters and an insect habitat sign for The Hive community garden, located behind Coulsdon Library.

Norbury: improvements to Green Lane Shopping Parade and St Helen's Green, with pavement resurfacing works and greening to improve the look and feel.

South Croydon: celebrating the Restaurant Quarter's identity with public art banners, greenery and feature paving, and new street signs in Selsdon Road. This will support local businesses and events such as Croydon Food and Music Festival.



Improvements planned for South Croydon

Wooderson Close sales pave way for Selhurst Park expansion

The council has now sold all five houses in Wooderson Close, Selhurst – clearing the way for Crystal Palace FC to redevelop their main stand.

With the sale complete and all residents rehoused, the properties will soon be prepared for demolition so construction can begin.

Once finished, the new glass-fronted main stand - inspired by the original Crystal Palace - will welcome 13,500 fans and help secure the club's place as a long-standing Premier League team. The overall stadium capacity will increase from 25,486 to more than 34,000.

The stand will include three tiers of seating, better access for disabled supporters, and a new club shop, museum and cafe. Local community groups and the Palace for Life Foundation will also be able to use the new spaces. The project will create new jobs, improve the public realm around the stadium, and make the area safer for pedestrians.

The council's planning, housing and regeneration teams have been working closely with the club on the project, which will give the Selhurst Park area a boost and help support the local economy.



The plans for Selhurst Park

Celebrating and protecting Croydon's historic character

Some of Croydon's much-loved neighbourhoods could soon receive extra protection as the council considers designating nine new conservation areas across the borough.

Croydon is already home to 21 areas of special architectural or historic interest which are protected from development. The nine new possible areas span a wonderful mix of styles. From the 18th century charm of Sanderstead Village, with its medieval parish church, to the striking modernist design of Fairfield Halls in the Civic Quarter.



Sanderstead Village

The locations being considered are:

- Whitgift Estate
- South End, Ye Old Market
- London Road
- Sanderstead Village
- Court Avenue, Coulsdon
- Croham Park Estate
- St Peter's Road
- Fairfield Civic Quarter
- Brighton Road, Purley

We'll be asking residents which areas they believe should be protected. Stay tuned for updates as we reveal our new conservation areas soon.

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OUR CULTURE

Spot the masterpiece: Art On Your Doorstep here in Croydon



Photography by Glenn Foster

Jan Gossaert, The Adoration of the Kings at Croydon Minster.

If you've noticed some famous masterpieces on display in your neighbourhood recently, you're not seeing things! The National Gallery: Art On Your Doorstep has officially arrived, transforming our borough into a huge, open-air art gallery.

Thirty life-sized replicas of world-famous paintings are on show across Croydon until 5 July. From Monet and Michaelangelo in The Queen's Gardens to Picasso in the town centre, Rousseau in the Whitgift Shopping Centre and Seurat in Thornton Heath.

It's part of the National Gallery's nationwide programme that brings the nation's art collection directly into local communities. Croydon is one of just 12 towns selected to showcase the stunning reproductions, offering residents a unique chance to get close enough to see every brushstroke and hidden detail.

The works were selected with help from local community groups and students, including New Addington Pathfinders, Scratchley Hall Age UK Art Group, Coulsdon College Art Students and St John's Upper Norwood.

Neal Vaughan is deputy head of learning, creative and digital at Coulsdon College. He

said the students there are really enjoying having a masterpiece on display at their school: "Coulsdon Sixth Form College is so proud to be a part of this amazing opportunity. We value the positive connections art can have on our community, and our students have hugely benefited from the workshops run by Croydon Council. William Turner is a perfect fit for the college, and his work has taken pride of place outside our building for all to enjoy."

Other featured masterpieces include Gentileschi, Stubbs, Renoir, Turner and Van Eyck in locations ranging from Croydon Minster and New Addington to Purley and Upper Norwood.

Elizabeth Knapp lives in Thornton Heath and is delighted to have Georges Seurat's Bathers at Asnières on display opposite her local library. She says: "Seurat was my first favourite artist when I was growing up, at a time when I was only really able to access art via books.

How lovely that now we can view life-size reproductions of iconic artworks locally and for free. It really is accessible art for all."

Download a trail map at culturecroydon.com or pick one up from your local Croydon library. Look out for news about events and activities taking place throughout the exhibition.

Outdoors and free to enjoy until 5 July 2026

Please note: One artwork will be indoors at the Whitgift Shopping Centre and accessible only during opening hours.



Joseph Mallord William Turner, The Fighting Temeraire at Coulsdon Sixth Form College.



George Stubbs, Whistlejacket at Park Hill Park, Croydon.



Georges Seurat, Bathers at Asnières at Trumble Gardens, Thornton Heath.

Matching Masterpieces at The Museum of Croydon

Opening on 4 March, The Museum of Croydon will present a new exhibition drawn from the borough's more than 2,000-strong art collection. The display brings together over 30 rarely seen works, including paintings, drawings, and mixed-media creations.

From early 17th century classical artworks to modern masterpieces by Norman Partridge and Cicely Mary Barker, these paintings have been selected to complement the themes and compositions displayed in Art On Your Doorstep.

It's free to visit the Museum of Croydon which is open every Wednesday to Saturday and the exhibition will be on display until 13 June. Find out more at:

museumofcroydon.com



Start your musical journey here in Croydon

Has your child ever wanted to learn an instrument? Croydon Music and Arts (CMA) offer fun, inclusive music and arts sessions for children and young people of all abilities.

With centres in Shirley, Croydon and across the borough, CMA runs weekly sessions from early years music to bands, orchestras and performance groups. Whether your child is just starting out or ready to take the next step, CMA is a supportive place to learn, build confidence and make music together.

One Croydon parent shared: "I couldn't be more grateful for the kindness and opportunities Junior Access Music Class has given my son... It's the first place he has truly been accepted and loved for who he is."

Find out more and sign up at:

croydonmusicandarts.co.uk

Croydon Through the Lens of Charles Harrison Price

Don't miss this fascinating exhibition in the Atrium Gallery in Croydon Clocktower, which offers a window into life in Croydon during the early 20th century.

Featuring 50 photographs taken between 1903 and 1939 by Croydon-based photographer Charles Harrison Price, the display reveals everyday scenes, local people and events that tell the proud story of the borough's past.

The collaboration between the Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society (CNHSS) and the Bourne Society is back by popular demand after a shorter run in 2020.



All images are courtesy and copyright of CNHSS.

When: Mon-Sat | 9am-5pm

Where: Atrium Gallery, Museum of Croydon, Level 0, Croydon Clocktower, Katharine Street, CR9 1ET

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Cutting crime, making Croydon safer

CROYDON COMMUNITY SAFETY: AT A GLANCE

- **Total crime: +4.1%**
(LAST 12 MONTHS)
- **Violence against the person: +1.1%**
(LAST 12 MONTHS)
- **Knife crime: +24%**
(SINCE 2023)
- **Personal robbery: +29%**
(SINCE 2023)
- **Burglary: +19%**
(SINCE 2023)
- **Town centre antisocial behaviour: +24%**
(LAST THREE YEARS)

Source: Metropolitan Police crime data

New figures from the Metropolitan Police show that crime in Croydon has fallen by 4.1% over the past year, highlighting real improvements in community safety. The council has been working with the police, residents, community groups and partners to tackle crime, reduce antisocial behaviour and provide stronger support for those most at risk.

Key actions have included:

- The reintroduction of Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) in Croydon town centre and a new PSPO for Thornton Heath. These give police and council officers extra powers to deal with antisocial behaviour in hotspots, helping to make our public spaces safer and more welcoming.
- We have stepped up our response to serious incidents by working more closely with the voluntary, community and faith sector (VCFS), to make sure we can act fast in an emergency to support the communities most affected.
- The Town Centre Taskforce brings together the council, police and other partners to tackle issues ranging from litter and fly-tipping to drug use and business crime.
- Croydon developed its first Youth Safety Delivery Plan, offering more support to young people at risk of violence or exploitation. This includes increased funding to local partners and neighbourhood community groups. These partners work directly with young people on streets across the borough, through regular groups, workshops, and practical engagement sessions that helps keep them safe and away from violence.

This is positive change in action achieved through the Safer Croydon Partnership. The partnership agreed its Community Safety Strategy for 2026-2029 at Cabinet on 11 February. See democracy.croydon.gov.uk for more details.

No more silence - end the violence against women and girls

Since 2020, 13 Croydon residents have lost their lives at the hands of an abusive partner or family member. As part of the national 16 Days of Activism campaign, residents, businesses and partners from across Croydon came together to challenge violence against women and girls (VAWG).

More than 100 people joined an awareness walk through Croydon town centre to highlight VAWG and share information on the support available for those experiencing violence. The walk was followed by the unveiling of a commemorative bench in The Queen's Gardens, which includes a QR code linking directly to support services.

With every seat taken at Croydon's first ever VAWG Conference, attendees came together to recognise the work achieved so far and the work still needed to prevent violence and provide timely support to anyone affected.

One attendee shared: "It was heartwarming to see so many people come out in support of the movement. Hearing the speakers' aspirations and the strategies already being put in place gave me real hope for a safer future."

Another participant added: "The event left me feeling deeply moved and inspired to be more involved in supporting our community. It opened my eyes to the challenges many people face and reinforced my commitment to spreading awareness and offering support wherever I can."



One life lost to domestic abuse is one too many.

We are calling on residents to become Domestic Abuse Community Ambassadors. Free training will be provided to help you recognise signs of abuse, understand the support available, and connect victims with local services. To register your interest, please visit: croydon.gov.uk/da-ambassador

Targeted safety measures see knife crime fall by 24%



Croydon Council is working closely with the Metropolitan Police and local partners to deliver a range of crime prevention measures aimed at making streets safer.

Early results are encouraging. Recent crime data shows robbery has fallen by 16%, shoplifting by 18.7%, knife crime by 24%, and knife-enabled robbery by 26.8%.

The work has included supporting the Metropolitan Police’s trial of Live Facial Recognition technology in Croydon town centre. Cameras mounted on existing structures, such as lamp posts, can identify individuals on police wanted lists. In just three months, this has led to more than 100 arrests, many linked to serious offences, including violence against women and girls.

Lindsey Chiswick, the Met Police lead for live facial recognition, said:

“The number of arrests we have made in

just 13 deployments shows the technology is already making a real impact and helping to make Croydon safer. Public support remains strong, with 85% of Londoners backing the use of live facial recognition to keep them safe.”

We’ve also secured £495,000 in government funding to tackle knife crime and antisocial behaviour. This money will support the use of high-visibility cameras, the removal of street furniture associated with loitering, and the rollout of Safer Croydon Partnership Pods - where residents can get help in locations including North End, West Croydon and Thornton Heath.

In addition, the council has been supporting a national government campaign to reduce the number of dangerous weapons on the streets, by encouraging residents to hand them in safely and anonymously.

People in Croydon can safely dispose of weapons, such as knives and ninja swords, with no questions asked and without fear of prosecution.

DEDICATED KNIFE SURRENDER BINS ARE LOCATED IN:

- West Croydon station car park, 10 London Road CRO 2TA
- Outside New Addington Library, 61 Central Parade CRO 0JD
- Garnet Road car park, Thornton Heath CR7 8RD
- Croydon University Hospital car park, Thornton Heath CR7 7YE



STUDY A DEGREE IN ADULT NURSING OR CHIROPRACTIC IN CROYDON

LSBU Croydon, located in the iconic Electric House, is a home for students who want to make a difference to the lives of people and communities in the Borough and beyond.

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- Get real work experience, with integrated placements at local and leading London NHS Trusts and hospitals.

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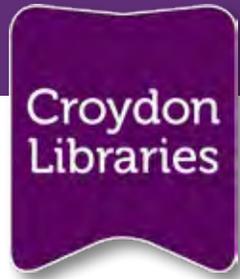
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Find Out More





LIBRARY STORIES



New chapter as library buildings reopen as community bases

Photography by Adnan Ghor



Opening of Broad Green community base



Shirley community base

Four much-loved buildings, previously used as libraries, are turning a new page as they reopen for communities to enjoy.

The buildings in Old Coulsdon, Broad Green, Sanderstead and Shirley have relaunched as hubs run by community organisations.

PlayPlace has opened at the former Shirley Library building providing library services for the community. Visitors can borrow books, use printers and join community clubs and workshops.

The Story Sanctuary - a creative health and wellbeing hub - has opened at Sanderstead. Led by A Collective, the hub hosts book clubs, workshops for children and teens, exercise classes, food and craft markets, and events such as silent discos. The popular Croydon Libraries Rhymetimes and other

family friendly activities will also be part of the regular timetables.

Old Coulsdon will be getting a new nursey and community hub under the leadership of Blue Bells Pre School at Bradmore Green. Part of the building will serve as a nursery, while the other will become a community hub offering fitness classes, arts sessions, teen gaming and health sessions.

And the Asian Resource Centre Croydon has now settled into their new home in Broad Green. With a focus on delivering outreach library services that celebrate Asian heritage and culture, and activities for the local community, the hub is already proving to be a hive of activity.

Ima Miah, CEO of ARCC said: "This space will really be about learning and education. It will be about socialisation. It will be about cultural exchange. It will be about supporting enterprise. We want it to be a truly welcoming space for all communities."

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DID YOU KNOW



Croydon libraries are now open more days in the week-including Saturdays?

This means more time to use the library facilities and join fun activities!

Find your library



croydon.gov.uk/libraries

Discover library events



libraries.croydon.gov.uk/events



OUR CARE

Putting Croydon carers first

Are you a carer looking for support or hoping to connect with others? With around 28,000 people in Croydon providing unpaid care for a relative or friend, you are far from alone. Although for many, it can feel like you are.

Croydon Council introduced its Carers Strategy last year, which is about making sure local carers get the support and recognition they need and deserve. It also supports our commitment to helping residents live healthier and more independent lives.

Following conversations with our carers, many told us they wanted stronger, more tailored support. That's why we commissioned three new organisations who are now working alongside our carers' community.



A trip to the David Lean Cinema, one of many events Carers First hold for carers.

Carers First support adult carers, Off the Record help our young carers and young adult carers, and Mind in Croydon offer mental health and counselling. Together, these partners will help make sure every carer receives the right help at the right time.

TOM'S STORY

Tom, who has cared for his mother, Pauline, for six years, understands the impact of this support firsthand. Pauline lives with Alzheimer's dementia and other long-term conditions, meaning Tom cannot leave her alone and often feels cut off from everyday life. A carers assessment revealed just how much this was affecting his wellbeing.

Tom was put in touch with Carers First, who offer a wide range of activities designed to give carers a break and help them connect with others. From free Carers Cafe sessions and knitting groups, to art workshops, yoga, writers' groups and more.

Carers First also helped Tom access the financial benefits he was entitled to, arranged respite so he could attend the Carers Cafe, signposted him to counselling and supported him with emergency planning.

Tom says this has really helped: "I have started to feel less isolated since attending the Carers Centre. The volunteers and other carers are very friendly. It's nice to chat over tea or coffee, and a biscuit! I highly recommend it to other carers."

Tom has found friendship, confidence and company. Could you, or someone you know, benefit too?

Visit the following websites for more information:

carersfirst.org.uk

talkofftherecord.org

mindincroydon.org.uk

New Croydon care plan focuses on early help and independence

We have launched Croydon's new five year Adult Social Care and Health Strategy, setting out how we'll support older people, disabled adults and unpaid carers across the borough.

This updated plan builds on the 'Good' rating our adult social care services received from the Care Quality Commission last October, which recognised our commitment to delivering high quality, person centred care.

More than 1,000 people helped shape the strategy, including over 850 residents. Their experiences have directly influenced what we're prioritising for the next five years.

A major focus is helping people to live independently for longer - which is what residents told us that they want. That means offering practical support like therapy, equipment and life skills development, and making sure we step in earlier with help before situations reach crisis point.

We're also working to improve and broaden the range of accommodation available, so residents can stay in their own

homes for as long as possible or move into more independent housing when extra support is needed.

Croydon is proudly diverse, and one clear message we heard during the engagement is the importance of delivering high quality care for everyone, regardless of background.

Local partners have welcomed this approach. Ima Miah, CEO of the Asian Resource Centre of Croydon, said: "The early engagement with Asian residents created space for honest conversations about access, trust and quality of care, and it is encouraging to see those insights shaping future priorities."

Croydon will continue working closely with health and community partners to put the strategy into practice and create more joined up and easier to access services.



Calling all Croydon creatives: discover your new home in Centrale

Are you a local artist or entrepreneur looking for a place to work, connect and showcase your talent?

Croydon CEZ, the new creative space on the lower ground floor of Centrale Shopping Centre offers an affordable, welcoming environment to create and host events right in the heart of the borough.

Supported by the Mayor of London and Croydon Council as part of the Creative Enterprise Zone, the new space opened in November. It launched with Made By Croydon, a festive market presented by the Croydon Creative Network that celebrated local talent.

Lizzie Lambie, Chair of Croydon CEZ, said: "It's a space that feels both supportive and full of possibility. With dedicated creative workspace, event areas, collaboration opportunities and hands-on training, this unit is here to help Croydon's creators grow with confidence and continue strengthening our borough's creative economy."

Croydon designer Fola Oworu of Flakies Fashion said: "There's no other space like this where we can afford to showcase our art. It's been brilliant to be part of this and have this exposure."

Esther Julius, of Starest Natural Skincare, added: "It's wonderful to have a place here in Croydon where we can shine and meet other artists."

The Creative Enterprise Zone programme is a Mayor of London initiative that supports artists and creative businesses to put down roots in the city and grow - with access to affordable creative workspace.



Fola Oworu of Flakies Fashion



Croydon became one of the first Creative Enterprise Zones in 2018 and has just received reaccreditation until the end of 2028.

To find out how you can make use of Croydon CEZ email:

hello@croydoncreativedirectory.com

Follow @croydoncd_ on Instagram for more updates.

Local Plan review moves forward

The Planning Inspectorate has confirmed that Croydon's Local Plan can now move on to the next stage.

The updated Local Plan outlines how the borough could grow and change up to 2040. It supports Executive Mayor Jason Perry's aim to provide the homes Croydon needs while still protecting what makes each area unique.

The plan focuses on sustainable development across the borough, prioritising good design rather than simply building at higher density. It aims to meet London-wide housing targets, protect green spaces, and create well-designed neighbourhoods where people can live, work and spend time.

The next step will involve going back to residents, local businesses and community groups to get their views on the changes suggested by the Inspectorate. Their feedback will help shape the final version of the plan.

Jason Perry, Executive Mayor of Croydon, said: "This Local Plan Partial Review strikes the right balance between meeting housing needs and safeguarding our neighbourhoods, green spaces and sense of place. Thank you to all our residents who shared their views and helped to shape this plan."

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If you're pregnant or have children under the age of four, you could get help to buy food and milk.

Apply online for NHS Healthy Start.



www.healthystart.nhs.uk

[@NHSHealthyStart](https://www.facebook.com/NHSHealthyStart)



SCAN ME

OUR HOMES

Housing improvement highlights in 2025

Waiting times to our repairs contact centre cut from over eight minutes to less than three minutes

84%

satisfaction with the repairs contact centre

£30m+

of home improvements

100%

compliance for asbestos, fire, lifts and water safety regulations

95%

of our stock condition surveys completed

5 Year

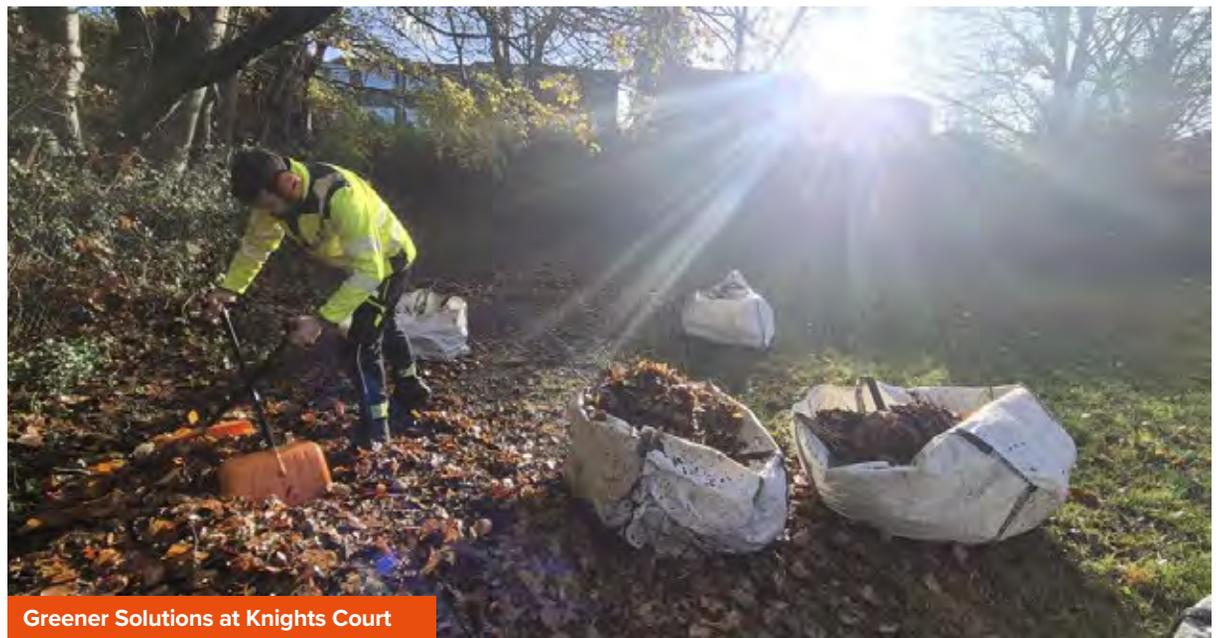
new grounds maintenance contract introduced



500 square metres of Narcissus bulbs across Longheath Gardens and Auckland Rise

Progress that's making a difference to homes across Croydon

We are responsible for over 16,000 council homes across Croydon. Since 2021, we've been on a huge journey to improve Croydon's housing services, raise standards and make services better for residents.



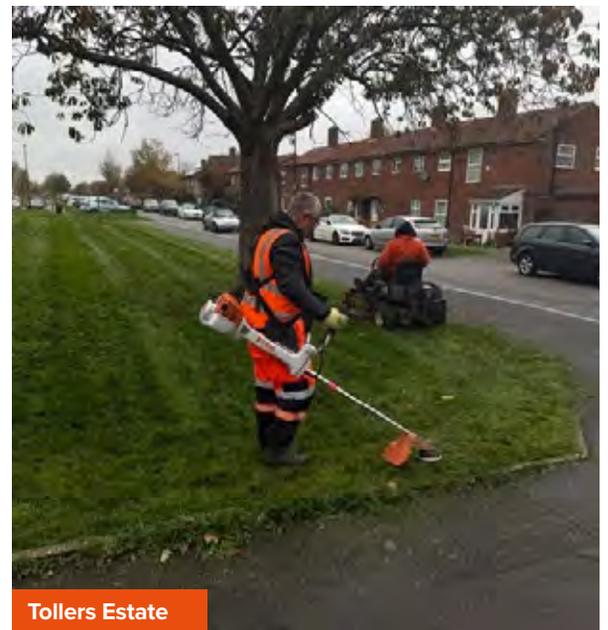
Greener Solutions at Knights Court

Keeping housing improvements on track

The Housing Improvement Board (HIB) has supported the council since 2021. It helped drive real improvements and helped the council to reach a key milestone in April 2025, when the Regulator of Social Housing removed its regulatory notice.

The board - a group of independent experts advising on and challenging change, showed the real value of having a separate group overseeing improvements.

That's why Croydon now has a new Housing Assurance Board to make sure our housing improvements stay on track. Eamon McGoldrick has been appointed as the independent chair of the board. Eamon brings more than 45 years of housing experience. The board will also include councillors and independent housing experts and residents with experience of using housing services.



Tollers Estate

Croydon is one of the first councils in the country to make a board like this a formal part of how housing services are monitored. In simple terms, it will help us keep our residents at the heart of our decisions and stay focused on what matters most for residents - safe, good quality homes. A clear sign that we're serious about openness, improvement, and keeping standards high.

Tackling tenancy fraud, protecting homes for local people

In the past year, our work to tackle tenancy fraud has recovered 36 council homes and saved an estimated £2.8m for Croydon.

That means more homes can go to residents who have been waiting years for safe, secure accommodation, and less public money is lost to fraud.

Last year alone, we completed 141 investigations into cases where homes were being misused, such as illegal subletting or people living elsewhere while holding a council tenancy. Each case we tackle helps make sure council housing is being used properly and fairly, by the people it is meant for.



Taking pride in our estates

2025 has been about pride, presence and practical action on our estates. Estates feel better when the basics are done well, which is why we've focused on the everyday issues residents notice most, from fly-tipping and waste to overgrown shared spaces. This includes joined-up work with partners like Veolia, alongside more estate action days where residents can meet staff and raise concerns face-to-face.

100+ staff and volunteers supported estate action days across Croydon



Taking action against antisocial behaviour on our estates

Antisocial behaviour can range from noise nuisance and dumped rubbish to graffiti and drug-related activity. It can make neighbourhoods feel unsafe and affect how people enjoy their homes. In 2025, we've taken firm action when behaviour crosses the line, including:

10	4	8	1	5
COURT POSSESSION HEARINGS	LEGAL NOTICES SERVED TO START EVICTION ACTION	PREMISES CLOSURE ORDERS	POSSESSION ORDER	EVICTIONS

Alongside enforcement, we also work with partners including the police and support services to deal with issues early. A new Community Patrol Service has also been introduced to increase visibility on estates where residents have asked to see more action.

Planning green light for Regina Road regeneration

Regina Road has reached a huge milestone, with final planning permission now granted for up to 340 new homes for local people in South Norwood, backed by approval from the Greater London Authority.

This is one of the biggest regeneration projects Croydon has seen in decades and will replace ageing blocks with safer, better-designed homes and a stronger neighbourhood. The plans include green open spaces, improved lighting and security, a multi-use games area, a new preschool, a community hub, and improved walking and cycling routes.

Lovell has been appointed as the preferred contractor for the main redevelopment. Build works are expected to start later this year, following the demolition of 1-87 Regina Road, which is nearing completion.

Residents have been at the heart of shaping the plans from the start, and more recently were closely involved in selecting the contractor. That resident voice will continue to play a key role as the new homes are delivered.

Daniel Blundell, Regina Road resident said: "It is amazing news that planning permission has finally been given the go-ahead. I am really excited to watch these new homes being built."

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seven days a week

Did you know, it can now also
chat in seven languages



Improving our council, fixing the finances and protecting services



Croydon Council is set to meet its savings target for this year and reduce its request for extra financial support from the government next year by £34m – while protecting essential services.

And the council has pledged to go further and faster in its work to modernise - saving money and improving outcomes for residents.

The council's budget proposals include savings of £34m in 2026-27 and £30m savings every year until 2029. These are backed by a commitment to make extra savings where possible - provided it is safe to do so.

Since 2020-21, Croydon has made £229m savings - while significantly improving how the council is run.

External partners from the council's external auditors to Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission and the Regulator for Social Housing have reported on the positive changes at Croydon.

Croydon's financial position is also improved by the government's Fair Funding Review. As a result of the review, the council will receive an extra £59.6m government funding over the next three years.

Despite this, the council still has significant financial challenges because of rising demand for services and increased costs, as well as the council's historic £1.4bn debt burden. This debt will cost £86m in repayments this year.

So while Croydon has reduced its original request for extra financial support from the government by £34m, the council will still need £119m from the government next year.

That exceptional government support is not a grant, but permission to borrow more money. This means that even though the council has stabilised its debt, the cost of the repayments keeps rising.

In its budget plans, the council says it plans to step up action to improve its financial position.

Of the savings planned for next year, £19m will come from changes the council is making to become

more modern, efficient and cost effective - providing better services for residents.

These range from using technology to improve customer experience, to becoming a smaller council, prioritising prevention and working more closely with partners to deliver services in a more cost effective way.

In the last edition of Our Croydon we shared some examples of how we're doing this.

These included opening a new children's home to provide a safe, supportive space for children with complex needs, while also saving money from the cost of placements.

Other improvements include making it quicker and easier to get in touch with us, such as our new AI Assistant - Ask Croydon Council - which has now been rolled out across the council's website.

It means you can get information from the council 24/7, while reducing pressure and costs for the council's contact centre.

Another new change is our improved package for foster carers - see page 24.

£229m

saving since 2021-2022

£59.6m

extra government funding
over the next three years

£19m

savings will come from
making our council more
efficient and cost effective

Council tax setting

The council's budget plans proposed a 4.99% council tax increase. This is in line with Executive Mayor Jason Perry's promise to residents not to raise council tax above the 4.99% government cap for London boroughs.

At the time of Our Croydon going to print, the council has not yet met to make a final decision on the budget proposals, including setting council tax levels.

The Budget Council meeting is due to take place at the end of February. Residents will receive confirmation of council tax levels with their first bills in March.

Foster carer payments boosted by up to 30%

We have increased payments for Croydon foster carers by up to 30%, making us one of the most competitive and supportive councils in the South of England.

These changes recognise the rising cost of living and the essential role foster carers play in providing warm, stable homes.

The key improvements include:

- Standard weekly payments increased to £325 per child
- Advanced carers now receive £450 per child
- Introduction of a new category for complex needs placements at £600 per child
- Council tax reimbursement for foster carers based on length of service (from April)
- £1,500 annual retention payment after three years of service

Croydon has 146 fostering households, but we need around 20 more every year to meet the needs of children coming into care.

We have introduced these new benefits - and increased support for foster carers - to help attract new carers and keep the brilliant ones



Foster Carer Christine Claire

we already have. The changes also support our priority to make sure every child in Croydon has the chance to thrive.

Christine Claire is a foster carer for Croydon Council. She said: "I think the changes are absolutely fantastic. It will be beneficial because of the increased cost of living and will help us to support our young people."

Christine added: "I support them to reach their full potential, especially teenagers who are often misunderstood. I see them growing in confidence and self-esteem and building their self-worth for when they go out into the world. It is wonderful to be able to support them."

We welcome foster carers from every background.

Anyone with the space, patience and kindness to support should get in touch. Find out more:

croydon.gov.uk/foster-croydon

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CROYDON
www.croydon.gov.uk

— CROYDON FOSTER CARERS — WELCOME NEW SUPPORT PACKAGE

Foster carers across Croydon are welcoming a new fees and support package that recognises the vital role they play in the lives of local children and young people.

The package not only financially rewards foster carers through enhanced payments and benefits such as council tax reimbursement but also supports their professional development through a new system that recognises their skills and expertise as care givers to vulnerable children and young people.



“The new fee package really enhances the rewards for people who foster for their community. It shows that Croydon values the work we do and wants to support us to keep doing it well.”

Trevor, Croydon Foster Carer.



A key part of Croydon's support is the male foster carers group, which offers a space for men to connect, share experiences and support one another.

“It's a supportive and positive environment. We have fun, we share experiences, we hear from speakers and most importantly, we understand each other.”

King, Croydon foster carer.

Croydon foster carers receive:

- Payments of up to £922 per week per child
- Council tax reimbursement
- Loyalty and referral bonuses
- Access to a clinical therapist for the fostering household
- Mentor and buddying scheme

If you want more information on becoming a foster carer for Croydon please:

Call: **0300 222 2112**

Visit: www.croydon.gov.uk/fostering

Email: iwanttofooster@croydon.gov.uk



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THE FOSTERING
NEWSLETTER



Work with us

Whether you're just beginning your career or are looking for something new, we have lots of different career options and roles on offer.

We work alongside many great partners, community organisations and resident groups - join us and make a difference in Croydon's communities. Meet Sean, in the transformation management team.



Sean

“

I changed my career to find more meaningful work and recently completed a Project Management apprenticeship with the council as a part of this move. I now work in the Transformation Management Team, helping improve service delivery and build a council ready for the future, helping to make a real difference for nearly 400,000 Croydon residents.

”

Why choose Croydon Council?

- **An inclusive workplace:** We value diversity and inclusion. We want to be a workforce that represents our communities, where you can be yourself at work. We've maintained a 0% gender pay gap since 2022.
- **Proud to be Croydon:** Over 60% of our staff live in the borough.
- **Total reward package:** We offer competitive salaries and employee benefits, including membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS), shopping discounts, and much more. We're also a London Living Wage employer.
- **Work/life balance:** We understand the important of balance and offer roles with flexible, hybrid working options. We offer good parental leave and paid volunteering days; as well as special leave to support you when you might need it most.
- **Growing talent:** We take training and development seriously and offer on the job training and access to our diversity talent development programmes.
- **Changing for the better:** We're working to transform how we do things, to provide the best possible services to our residents. Our transformation is a chance to be part of the future council, putting customers first, investing in digital channels and restoring pride.

Apply today

Take a look at our current vacancies. Visit: croydon.gov.uk/jobs or scan the QR code.



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SHOW UP FOR CROYDON

There's a membership to match your lifestyle and goals, helping you move more, save more, and feel good every day.

better.org.uk/croydon



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Garden waste

RECYCLING

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Sign up today!





FAMILY HUBS



Croydon Family Hubs

Advice and support for families, young people and children

Croydon Family Hubs are run by local services working together to support you, such as health services, the council, and the voluntary and community sectors.

To help you access the right advice, help and support, you will be asked to register your family's details. It's simple and easy to do.

Contact familyhubs@croydon.gov.uk to find out more



FAMILY HUBS



CROYDON
www.croydon.gov.uk

SUSAN FROM THORNTON HEATH



Walking without coughing is amazing.

FEEL FREE



ACCESS FREE STOP SMOKING TOOLS AND HELP. SEARCH LIVE WELL CROYDON

CROYDON
www.croydon.gov.uk

LIVE WELL CROYDON

Feel free when you stop smoking for good

We're encouraging residents who smoke to give up and feel free to enjoy life more and be healthier.

If you want to feel free to spend more time with your family, save money, and have more energy, then quitting smoking is the best way to achieve this.

We want younger generations in the borough to grow up in communities where a smokefree future is within reach.

It's never too late to quit, and with the right support, stopping smoking is easier than you might think.

The council's stop smoking service, Live Well Croydon, offers free, tailored support including one-to-one advice, vape starter kits, and nicotine replacement therapy - which means smokers are four times more likely to succeed.

When you stop smoking, good things start to happen. Your health will improve, you'll be more present in your relationships, and your pocket will benefit too. The average smoker spends around £4,800 a year on cigarettes. Over 20 years, that's a huge £96,000.

Thornton Heath resident Susan, who has quit, said: "Don't ever give up trying to quit smoking. My skin looks better, and no longer feels dehydrated. I can now go for long walks without being out of breath. There will be that day when you will do it. Anyone can do it!"

David from South Croydon said: "Now that I've stopped smoking, I feel much more present. You have more time for people in your life. I'm no longer hiding my habit from my children. I used to be afraid to quit because I didn't know what to expect - now my life feels so much better."

New Addington resident Charlotte, says why she's motivated to quit for good: "My parents passed away from smoking. I don't want smoking to cut short my life, and also impact my career, which is really important to me. There's lots of support available to help you to quit and there's no shame in getting help. Just go for it. Even if you cut down slowly - just try!"

For support to quit smoking, visit:

croydon.gov.uk/livewell



Smoke Free Croydon

There's also a stop smoking service in Croydon for people who use mental health support services, those going through drugs and alcohol treatment, and anyone affected by homelessness.

The Smoke Free app for London

Get 12 weeks of free Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) or a vape kit, delivered to your door, plus 24/7 advisor access, craving tips and trigger support.

ADVERTISEMENT

Protect your teenager for life



We provide vaccinations for school-age young people, in school and in the community.

NHS
South London Children and Young People's Community Immunisation Service

MMR vaccine

For those with missing doses

HPV vaccine

Year 8

3-in-1 teenage booster (DTP vaccine)

Year 9

Meningitis ACWY vaccine

Year 9

We visit all schools during the spring and summer terms to offer young people their immunisations.

If you have any questions, or would like more information, please contact the **Croydon Immunisation Team**:

Phone: 020 3903 3360

Email: KRFT.CroydonImms@nhs.net

Scan the QR code for our website



YOUR VOTE. **DON'T LOSE IT.**

**HAVE YOUR SAY IN THE MAYOR OF CROYDON AND
CROYDON COUNCIL ELECTIONS ON THURSDAY 7 MAY.**

Voting in person? You must bring photo ID
to the polling station.

No ID? Apply for a Voter Authority
Certificate by **5pm, Tuesday 28 April.**

Register to vote by **midnight,
Monday 20 April.** Visit
gov.uk/register-to-vote
(or scan below).



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www.croydon.gov.uk