



BROMLEY CIVIC CENTRE, STOCKWELL CLOSE, BROMLEY BRI 3UH

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COUNCIL

Meeting to be held on Monday 14 December 2015

Please see the attached questions received for this meeting -

- 5 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC (Pages 3 - 4)
- 6 ORAL QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL (Pages 5 - 8)
- 7 WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL (Pages 9 - 12)

Copies of the documents referred to above can be obtained from
<http://cds.bromley.gov.uk/>

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COUNCIL MEETING

14th DECEMBER 2015

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

(1) From Hon. Alderman Sue Polydorou JP to the Portfolio Holder for Resources

Reserves

The Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for 2014/15 show Council balances on 31.03.2015 as follows:

Total Authority Reserves: £666,193,000, with Usable Reserves of £182,520,000

At the recent Council public consultation meeting regarding the budget on 26 November Cllr Graham Arthur stated usable reserves were £131,000,000, some £50,000,000 less than indicated in the final accounts on 31.3.2015.

Please confirm the Total Authority Reserves and Usable Reserves to date and if Cllr Arthur's statement is correct please explain the reason for the reduction in usable reserves since March.

(2) From Hon. Alderman Sue Polydorou JP to the Portfolio Holder for Resources

As of 31.3.2014 Investment Property assets were £71,548,000. On 31.3.2015 Investment Property assets were £96,724,000.

Please outline the reason for this increase in Investment Property for this period and what is the figure for Investment Property to date?

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COUNCIL MEETING

14th DECEMBER 2015

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

1. From Cllr Russell Mellor to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation

May I ask the Portfolio Holder if he is aware of my resident: Mrs Julie North?

2. From Cllr Vanessa Allen to the Leader of the Council

Since the Communities Secretary, Greg Clark, is urging councils to not only save for the future but also to make efficient use of assets to provide services, how does the Leader propose to follow the Minister's recommended course of action and use non ring-fenced reserves to provide the services local people expect to see?

3. From Cllr Angela Wilkins to the Leader of the Council

In parallel to cuts to services, Members are often asked what actions the Council will be taking to reflect austerity in its own running costs. In this context, please give details of any plans to change the number of councillors to be elected in the Borough at the local government elections to be held in 2018.

4. From Cllr Kathy Bance to the Portfolio Holder for Care Services

Will the LBB consider appointing a "member champion" for the Mental Health Challenge so that we can ensure we are being as effective as we can in promoting the improvement of mental health in Bromley across the full range of authority's activities and responsibilities?

5. From Cllr Ian Dunn to the Leader of Council

You are on record from the September Executive & Resources PDS meeting as saying that you wanted to see budgets planned for three years ahead. Can you please explain to the Council how you plan to do this, with particular reference to the forthcoming budget?

6. From Cllr Kevin Brooks to the Portfolio Holder for Public Protection and Safety

With Bromley becoming an emerging gangs borough and more gang related violence occurring in Penge earlier this month, do the Council believe the closure of the Hub at Snowdown Close with its positive youth provision was the right decision? Will the Council pledge money gained through any sale of the building to fund an increase in youth activities in the north of the borough?

7. From Cllr Nicholas Bennett JP to the Leader of the Council

If he will comment on the claim made in the 'Open Letter' to him dated 16th November 2015 from the Leader of the Opposition that 'the Council's assets and reserves are approaching £400m' and these could be used 'to fund council expenditure and protect services'?

8. From Cllr Tony Owen to the Portfolio Holder for the Environment

Given that developers at Berwick House, Orpington and the former police station are selling parking spaces at £10,000 and £20,000 respectively, what approach will be taken when the inevitable request for residents parking permits is received?

9. From Cllr Angela Wilkins to the Leader of Council

Please can you provide a list of those Residents' Associations (and any other groups) invited to attend the two budget consultation meetings held recently and the dates on which invitation letters were sent?

Given the absence of any representation from Crystal Palace and Penge & Cator wards on these lists, can you please explain how this list was compiled and why many other interested RAs and community groups were not invited?

10. From Cllr Kathy Bance to the Portfolio Holder for Education

Bromley has 77% of its primary school pupils in Academies, the highest percentage in England. With the poor Ofsted results for our Bromley Primary Schools shown in the recently published Ofsted Annual Report, should we hold off pushing further primary schools into Academies?

11. From Cllr Kevin Brooks to the Portfolio Holder for Care Services

In the wake of the Chancellor's statement allowing a 2% Council Tax precept to help Social Care funding, will the Portfolio Holder seriously and actively consider supporting projects and places such as Melvin Hall which is used by Age Concern to provide help and companionship to elderly residents.

12. From Cllr Nicholas Bennett JP to the Leader of the Council

What estimates he has as to projected increase in the Borough's population to 2030 and the impact that this will have on the Borough's facilities and services?

13. From Cllr Tony Owen to the Portfolio Holder for the Environment

Why is Environmental Services raising no objections to planning proposals for flats with no parking provision in Station Square, Petts Wood?

14. From Cllr Kathy Bance to the Portfolio Holder for Public Protection and Safety

Our local police, traders and residents have asked for support from the Council to assist them to deal with the growing numbers of rough sleepers who are bedding down in rear shop doorways after drinking throughout the day. With money being scarce to address the problem directly, would the Council consider a Ward wide drinking ban to discourage the influx of problem drinkers to the area?

15. From Cllr Nicholas Bennett JP to the Portfolio Holder for the Environment

How often are the containers, situated at sites around the borough for the disposal of bottles, paper etc, emptied?

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COUNCIL MEETING

14th DECEMBER 2015

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN REPLY FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

1. From Cllr Simon Fawthrop to the Portfolio Holder for Resources

Can I be provided with a breakdown by ward of -

- A) How much council tax is raised in each ward in £.00.
- B) How much council money is spent in each ward in £.00.

I appreciate that B may not be easy to calculate quickly so an estimate would be accepted if the full amount cannot be calculated. In which case please indicate that the figure is an estimate.

2. From Cllr Angela Wilkins to the Leader of the Council

Whilst I recognise that the council's accounting terminology is technical and concise, it is also important that the council makes information available in terms easily understood by the public.

Please provide the following information:

- Value of available cash reserves held by the council,
- Value of commercial investment properties owned,
- Value of other properties owned (excluding school buildings),
- Value of other assets, reserves and investments (excluding school buildings),
- Value of school buildings.

3. From Cllr Angela Wilkins to the Portfolio Holder for the Environment

How many Council staff were subsequently made redundant when the grounds maintenance contract was handed to The Landscape Group and what was the total cost of those redundancy payments to this Council?

4. From Cllr Angela Wilkins to the Portfolio Holder for Care Services

Given the government's decisions to grant right to buy to Housing Association tenants, what action is this Council taking to ensure that much needed additional social & affordable housing will be built during the next 5 years and beyond?

5. From Cllr Kathy Bance to the Portfolio Holder for Recreation and Renewal

Penge & Cator Ward is supporting the Greater London National Park City Green Paper. Have any other of Bromley's Wards supported this initiative? With Bromley being one of the most green and leafy boroughs in Greater London how will the Council be promoting the Greater London National Park City?

6. From Cllr Kathy Bance to the Leader of the Council

We are receiving a number of enquiries asking us to gain support from the LBB to make sure the UK does not sign up to Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). Is this something LBB is considering?

7. From Cllr Ian Dunn to the Portfolio Holder for Resources

In February 2015, the Council agreed a schedule of 76 savings options. Can the Portfolio Holder please provide the schedule of forecast savings, with the addition of the forecast outturn savings for 2015/16 and the forecast outturn full year saving for each line.

8. From Cllr Ian Dunn to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal & Recreation

Can the portfolio holder provide the number of residential units for which planning permission was given in 2014/15 and for as much of 2015/16 as information is available, broken down by number of bedrooms. Can he also provide this information for affordable homes, also broken down by number of bedrooms.

9. From Cllr Ian Dunn to the Portfolio Holder for Resources

Can the Portfolio Holder please provide:-

- i) The spend for the year to date, broken down by month on the Adecco Agency Worker contract and the forecast out turn for the end of 2015/16?
- ii) The number of person days provided under this contract by month for 2015/16.
- iii) The percentage of directly employed staff represented by point ii) above

10. From Cllr Kevin Brooks to the Portfolio Holder for the Environment

Residents on roads near stations are increasingly concerned about out of borough commuters parking all day. Will the Portfolio Holder please confirm the criteria and process for the consideration and possible implementation of a Controlled Parking Zone.

11. From Cllr Nicholas Bennett JP to the Portfolio Holder for Education

If he will list the proximity to each primary school which a child would have to live to gain admission in 2015?

12. From Cllr Nicholas Bennett JP to the Portfolio Holder for Education

What action has he taken and is taking to provide sufficient school places in the Borough?

13. From Cllr Nicholas Bennett to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation

If he will list by Plans Sub-Committee the number of applications recommended for permission and how many of these were refused by the sub-committee in each year since 2012?

14. From Cllr Peter Fookes to the Portfolio Holder for Care Services

How many legal challenges has Bromley received over the poor quality of temporary housing accommodation?

15. From Cllr Peter Fookes to the Portfolio Holder for Resources

What progress has been made in getting the former lodge in Penge Recreation Ground back into use?

16. From Cllr Peter Fookes to the Portfolio Holder for Care Services

When will the new health clinic/pharmacy be opening in Oakfield Rd, Penge?

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