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## COUNCIL

### Meeting to be held on Monday 26 September 2016

The questions and motion received for consideration at the meeting of the Council on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2016 are attached.

- 5 **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHERE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN.** (Pages 3 - 4)
- 6 **ORAL QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL WHERE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN.** (Pages 5 - 8)
- 7 **WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL WHERE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN** (Pages 9 - 10)
- 14 **TO CONSIDER MOTIONS OF WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN.** (Pages 11 - 12)

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

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## COUNCIL MEETING

26<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2016

### QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

#### (a) QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY

##### 1. From Sam Webber to the Environment Portfolio Holder

What progress has been made to improve disabled access at railway stations in Bromley such as St Mary Cray and Petts Wood, as announced by the Government in 2014? Has the Council had contact with Network Rail or other agencies to ensure these improvements are completed promptly?

##### 2. From Richard Wilsher to the Care Services Portfolio Holder

On what date did the Council know the Director of Children's Services position would become vacant, and when will the post be filled on a permanent basis?

##### 3. From Julie Ireland to the Leader of the Council

In June Councillor Terry Nathan made some inflammatory public comments on Facebook about killing referendum Remain supporters until Article 50 was invoked. At the time the Council and Police indicated they were investigating these comments. What were the results of the Council's investigation and has any action been taken?

#### (b) QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN REPLY

##### 1. From Susan Sulis, Secretary, Community Care Protection Group, to the Leader of the Council

In the interests of transparency, scrutiny, public accountability and value for money, since 2012/13, Bromley has been required to publish an annual "Pay Policy Statement" (PPS) which can easily be found by a simple search on the Council's website. Why is only the 2016/17 PPS accessible in this way?

##### 2. From Susan Sulis, Secretary, Community Care Protection Group, to the Leader of the Council

The remuneration of the previous Director of Children and Care Services, Terry Parkin, in 2015/16 included in the Statement of Accounts, totals £133,087. This includes a salary figure for April and May, when he left, of £33,052. Why is this £7,150 higher than his monthly pro-rata salary for 2015/14?

**3. From Susan Sulis, Secretary, Community Care Protection Group, to the Leader of the Council**

Where can the annual payments made to the Chief Executive for his electoral duties since 2009/10 be viewed?

### COUNCIL MEETING

26<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2016

#### QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

**1. From Cllr Angela Wilkins to the Leader of the Council**

How, and by whom, are decisions taken about which committee reports and papers are considered under “Part Two” (ie. not available to the public)?

**2. From Cllr Ian Dunn to the Leader of the Council**

What are the consequences for the Council of our External Auditor qualifying their conclusion on the Value for Money we provide with the following words:-

*‘We have qualified our conclusion, noting that the Authority has made proper arrangements to work effectively with partners and third parties and deployed resources to achieve planned and sustainable outcomes for taxpayers and local people except for in the areas relating to children’s services and Youth Offending Teams, where the Authority received negative reports from external inspection agencies relating to current performance in these areas, on which basis our opinion is qualified.’*

*and*

*Given one of the Authority’s core services has been rated as inadequate, it is evident that resources have not been deployed in a sustainable fashion in these areas within the Council. The way resources are currently being deployed is deemed by Ofsted to be putting children at a greater risk, which is not sustainable in the longer term.*

**3. From Cllr Kathy Bance to the Portfolio Holder for Resources**

We are seeing an increase in casework around protracted Liberata Housing Benefit claims where the resident has either been issued an eviction notice or is under threat of eviction due to rent arrears. Although all requests from Liberata for documentation are in their files the cases sit Pending Review. We Cllrs are asked to intervene by residents and suddenly the cases move to conclusion.

What is LBB doing to ensure that Liberata are fulfilling their duty to our residents and closing out queries as early as possible and so reducing the stress to our residents?

#### **4. From Cllr Vanessa Allen to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal & Recreation**

The R&R Portfolio Plan 2016/17 sets out its strategy for the year with various issues for development including for example attracting major private sector investment, attracting external funding, and securing the future of cultural assets, previously part of Marc Hume's remit. Is the Portfolio Holder aware that at last week's E&R PDS it was suggested that he - the Portfolio Holder - should become more involved with the work now that we have no director of Regeneration and Transformation? What are his plans?

#### **5. From Cllr Kevin Brooks to the Portfolio Holder for the Environment**

Does the Portfolio Holder think that there is a problem with speeding in the north of the borough?

#### **6. From Cllr Peter Fookes to the Portfolio Holder for the Environment**

When is he going to do something about the disgusting state of the carriageway under the Birkbeck Station bridge?

#### **7. From Cllr Angela Wilkins to the Leader of the Council**

Do you agree with me on the following points:

- That for the three senior figures in this council to all express “surprise” at the recent OFSTED report on Children’s Services merely reflects their poor understanding and lack of knowledge about the quality of services being delivered by this council to our vulnerable children?
- That if such a damning indictment of management competence were to have happened in the private sector, “heads would have rolled”?
- That it is time that the quality of all services provided by this council, along with the effective monitoring and scrutiny of them, are given greater priority.

#### **8. From Cllr Ian Dunn to the Portfolio Holder for Care Services**

The OFSTED report states that the Assistant Director for Children has limited authority corporately to lead, share or drive forward change and has ..... absorbed extensive additional responsibilities as part of the council’s financial pressures. How can you assure Members and the residents of Bromley that the new Director will have sufficient authority to make the necessary improvements and will not be subject to excessive financial pressures?

#### **9. From Cllr Kathy Bance to the Portfolio Holder for Education:**

When will you be in a position to present the options for alternative arrangements for School nurses and will these arrangements have taken into consideration the rise in the number of children self-harming or with some form of emotional or mental illness so that we can ensure there is early detection and intervention for every child.

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

What assurances can the Portfolio Holder provide that any future audits and inspections across all of Bromley Care Services will not highlight other deficiencies in the department.

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

How many people in Bromley were refused access to the housing register last year?

**11. From Cllr Angela Wilkins to the Portfolio Holder for the Environment**

Whilst being pleased that the long-running troubles at the former Waste 4 Fuel site appear to have been resolved and clear-up work can now begin, can he please update the council on the uncertainty discussed at the Executive on 2<sup>nd</sup> September regarding the Environment Agency's stated position that any "unforeseen" clear-up costs would have to be borne by Bromley Council?

**12. From Cllr Kathy Bance to the Portfolio Holder for the Environment**

LBB recently introduced a charge for Remembrance Day Parade Services apparently brought about by the police's demand for formal road closures - The cost to be borne by the organiser. The organisers are our communities, uniformed cadets, Ministers, local councillors and residents all who made a promise "not to forget" past sacrifices. Will LBB agree to budget for these services or write to Central Government and strongly advise them that present day cost cutting and budget constraints should not jeopardise this service of gratitude to those who gave their lives for our country and so ensure that future generations can continue to honour them in this formal and public display of gratitude and remembrance.

**13. From Cllr Peter Fookes to the Leader of the Council**

Given that we are always being told about the parlous state of the finances of Bromley Council, when are we going to see an income generation strategy being produced?

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## COUNCIL MEETING

26<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2016

### QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN REPLY FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

#### 1. From Cllr Ian Dunn to the Leader of Council

Please provide an organisation chart showing the direct reports of the Chief Executive with their direct reports, including a summary of each post holder's main responsibilities.

#### 2. From Cllr Ian Dunn to the Portfolio Holder for Resources

Please provide a breakdown of the Council's use of Agency Staff, showing person days and net cost, by month from January 2015 to as recently as figures are available, broken down by Adult Social Care, Children's Social Care, other EHCS, ECS and other. Please also show the number of employees in FTE with the same breakdown.

#### 3. From Cllr Ian Dunn to the Portfolio Holder for the Environment

Please provide the number of "missed collection" reports for refuse and recycling collection received for the year April 2015 – March 2016, broken down by business/residential and by ward.

#### 4. From Cllr Angela Wilkins to the Chairman of General Purposes & Licencing Committee

Please supply a list of all internal audit reports provided since 2011, indicating which are or will shortly be available in full to the public, which are available only in redacted form and which it is not intended to make public.

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

Please provide details and results of all CQC (or other similar agency) reports for services provided either directly by the council or by contractors employed by the council within Care Services since 2011.

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

Please provide a list of how many safeguarding concerns have been reported for both adult and children's services, per annum since 2011.

#### 7. From Cllr Kathy Bance to the Portfolio Holder for the Environment

Over recent years we have seen a decrease in the levels of graffiti in the borough. However, between Sydenham Station and Penge West Station, walls and buildings are covered in unsightly graffiti. Would the London Borough of Bromley work with

TfL, London Overground, Network Rail and Lewisham council as appropriate to co-ordinate removal of the graffiti?

#### **8. From Cllr Kathy Bance to the Portfolio Holder for the Environment**

Fly tipping statistics for my ward are on the increase and a recent incident involved a fully loaded skip being dropped into a parking bay in a residential road. The skip was rusted through and so could not be lifted with the load. That skip sat there for 5 weeks with residents/visitors adding daily to the load. It took 4 sessions on different days to remove the pile. Can LBB investigate the use of the nearby CCTV cameras in bus lanes to capture and make examples of such flagrant breaches of the law?

#### **9. From Cllr Richard Williams to the Portfolio Holder for Resources**

We are still waiting for the lease to be signed for Crystal Palace Community Development Trust to take over Anerley Town Hall, something which should have been completed close to six months ago.

Could he please provide a definite and guaranteed date by which this will be done?

#### **10. From Cllr Peter Fookes to the Chairman of Development Control Committee**

How many cases of planning enforcement are still outstanding?

#### **11. From Cllr Peter Fookes to the Portfolio Holder for the Environment**

In respect of footway and highway repairs, what is the performance target between the white line markings and the job being done?

#### **12. From Cllr Peter Fookes to the Portfolio Holder for the Environment**

When will the blocked drain outside 118 Oakfield Rd, Penge be fixed?

#### **13. From Cllr Mary Cooke to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation**

As you know there was a tragic event in Shortlands on 8th July when as a result of a road traffic incident the local War Memorial was destroyed.

Ward Councillors were told, in early August, that a named senior officer had been appointed to oversee the reinstatement and associated work and that an expert conservator was to be appointed.

Since then my residents have been asking for an update but despite two e mails to the officers concerned and the appropriate director on 5th and 18th September there has been no reply or information forthcoming.

Can you advise me what is happening and advise what to say to my constituents who are naturally very concerned about this very sensitive issue and there has been no statement since just after the incident nearly three months ago.

### COUNCIL MEETING

26<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2016

### MOTION

**To be moved by Councillor Nicholas Bennett JP and seconded by Councillor Neil Reddin FCA**

This Council welcomes the announcement by the Prime Minister that new Grammar Schools may be opened. The Council notes the massive over subscription for the two selective schools in the Borough and resolves to encourage and, if appropriate, support applications by existing schools and new free schools to provide selective education especially for able but disadvantaged children.

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