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## COUNCIL

**Monday 12 December 2016**

The questions received for this meeting are attached.

- 4 **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHERE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN.** (Pages 3 - 6)
- 5 **ORAL QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL WHERE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN.** (Pages 7 - 8)
- 6 **WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL WHERE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN** (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

12<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2016

### QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

#### (A) QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY

**1. From Dermot Mckibbin to the Resources Portfolio Holder**

How many housing benefit claimants does the council have who are subject to the bedroom tax whose circumstances are similar to the successful claimants in the recent Supreme Court decision on 9 November 2016 and when will their housing benefit claims be paid at the full eligible amount?

**2. From Helen Alsworth to the Resources Portfolio Holder**

How much money has the Council set aside in its budget to provide discretionary Housing Benefit payments for claimants whose benefit has been cut as a result of the bedroom tax, and how much of this money has been spent in the last three years?

**3. From David Clapham to the Renewal and Recreation Portfolio Holder**

Would the Council give an update on the current progress with the installation of the Noise Monitoring and Track Keeping System which is being installed by BHAL as a condition of being granted the extra hours of operation?

**4. From Andy Richardson to the Portfolio Holder for Resources**

Can Bromley Council explain why residents pay an extra 2% on council tax for Adult Social Care and yet the Social Care Budget for this year was £2,146,000 less than 2014-15 and the proposed expenditure for Social Care in 2016-17 is £10,246,000 less than this year's expenditure?

**5. From Julie Ireland to the Portfolio Holder for Resources**

Will the council state the staff turnover rate since May 2014 (expressed as a % of total employees at May 2014) for the following departments: (a) Financial Services and Procurement (b) Children's Social Care (c) Regeneration and Transformation (d) Commissioning?

**6. From Richard Wilsher to the Portfolio Holder for the Environment**

Will Bromley Council kindly acknowledge the wishes of hundreds of Beckenham residents and upgrade current proposals for a refuge on Copers Cope Road, such that a dedicated pedestrian crossing can be installed near the junction with Park Road, thus allowing commuters and school children to cross this busy road safely?

**7. From Dermot Mckibbin to the Resources Portfolio Holder**

Does the council agree that under the Human Rights Act that the council must take steps not to discriminate against any housing benefit tenant whose circumstances are the same as in the Supreme Court decision and that they should be awarded their housing benefit in full immediately?

**8. From Helen Alsworth to the Resources Portfolio Holder**

Will the Council seek assurances from local housing associations that they will not take possession proceedings against disabled tenants who are waiting for the Government to change the Housing Benefit regulations to reflect the decision of the Supreme Court in R(Rutherford and Todd) v SSWP UKSC 0029/2016?

**9. From David Clapham to the Renewal and Recreation Portfolio Holder**

Following the departure of the Director for Transformation and Regeneration, who has been appointed/assigned to the senior role of ensuring that BHAL comply with the terms and undertakings of the current lease and with the conditions which must be fulfilled before the extra hours of operation will be granted?

**10. From Dermot Mckibbin to the Resources Portfolio Holder**

What are the implications for the council of the recent supreme court decision in this area and when will the council be publishing information for members of the public whose circumstances are similar to the successful claimants in the supreme court decision?

**11. From Helen Alsworth to the Resources Portfolio Holder**

What are the service standards used by the Council for Housing Benefit claimants and how are they publicised?

**12. From David Clapham to the Renewal and Recreation Portfolio Holder**

Will the Council assure residents that no flight movements within the extended hours will be allowed before the Council has agreed that all pre-conditions for the extended operation have been met, and that any such movements will be treated as a breach of the existing Lease?

**(B) QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**1. From Susan Sulis, Secretary, Community Care Protection Group, to the Care Services Portfolio Holder**

September 2016 Commissioner's Report into Bromley's children's Services - The report states that "there was systemic failure in Bromley's services and that vulnerable children were disadvantaged and put at risk." Despite this, areas of good practice were identified – the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub, and early intervention approaches.

What lessons can be learned from the exemplary performance of these staff?

**2. From Susan Sulis, Secretary, Community Care Protection Group, to the Care Services Portfolio Holder**

Risks of Service Failure to Bromley's Children: Community and Public Involvement. The effects of risks on many aspects of their lives may be hidden and unknown, as recent scandals demonstrate.

(a) What is the Council's plan to investigate this?

(b) Can the Council reach out to young people, families, organisations and the public to ask if they have experienced problems related to this?

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## COUNCIL MEETING

12<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2016

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

**1. From Cllr Nicholas Bennett JP to the Leader of the Council**

In the light of the Ofsted inspections on the Youth Justice Service and the Children's Service and the subsequent report of the Commissioner what action is being taken to address any generic failings across the council services?

**2. From Cllr Michael Rutherford to the Portfolio Holder for the Environment**

What steps has the council taken in 2016 to lobby for additional railway capacity and reduce overcrowding at busy stations, such as Bromley South?

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

Why are leaves not being collected this year?

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

Following the tragic deaths of Makayah McDermott and Rosie Cooper the Friends of Cator and Alexandra Parks are holding a collection to purchase a bench in their memory. They will struggle to collect sufficient money to both purchase and install the bench. Will the London Borough of Bromley be prepared to fund the installation costs?

**5. From Cllr Angela Wilkins to the Portfolio Holder for Resources.**

Please explain how it came about that members of the E&R PDS and Executive were presented with a report which stated that Cushman & Wakefield would be managing property services as part of the Amey contract and yet the truth was that no agreement had been reached between Amey and Cushman & Wakefield?

**6. From Cllr Vanessa Allen to the Portfolio Holder for Education**

The Draft Local Plan shows the requirement for an additional 15 forms of entry for secondary schools required by 2023 and more beyond that. Why then does the Draft Local Plan include the Kentwood site as a new academy with four forms of entry, with no interest being shown in developing this site by any education provider, while the 8 form entry Eden Park site at Balmoral Avenue, with an outline planning application and provision already being temporarily made at Ravensbourne, is not in the Draft Local Plan at all?

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

Can the Portfolio Holder please tell me how many temporary housing placements have extended beyond the two year benchmark?

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

Does this Council feel that it has had adequate involvement in the development and review of the Sustainability & Transformation Plan which has been prepared for South East London?

**9. From Cllr Tony Owen to the Chairman of Development Control Committee**

What were the dates of the last 3 planning sub-committee reports to contain the recommendation 'Members views are requested'?

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

- (i) If he will list the locations in the Borough with width restrictions?
- (ii) For each location the number of times, one or more width restrictions have been removed maliciously or by accident in the past year?
- (iii) The action taken to apprehend and charge offenders for the damage?

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

What was the outcome of the recent conference on sofa surfing in Bromley?

**12. From Cllr Kathy Bance MBE to the Portfolio Holder for Public Protection**

We have established that the CCTV camera located in Evelina Road, Penge is working and owned by the London Borough of Bromley. Can you advise what service this camera provides to the residents of Penge?

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

Please explain why it has taken so long to see a new contractor for Parking Services agreed and exactly why the six month extension of the Vinci contract was required earlier this year?

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

Based on the Health Inequalities report from Healthwatch to the December meeting of the Health & Wellbeing Board, do you now recognise that there is a problem in Bromley with people suffering from financial hardship also suffering from lower standards of physical health and mental wellbeing. What do you propose to do to address this?

**15. From Cllr Peter Fookes to the Portfolio Holder for Education**

Why are parents of children with severe disabilities being refused transport for their offspring?

**16. From Cllr Angela Wilkins to the Portfolio Holder for Resources.**

Please explain why a one-off drawdown of £33k was required for a recent increase in employment tribunal work? (See para 3.4.3 of the November Budget Monitoring Report.)

**17. From Cllr Michael Rutherford to the Leader of the Council**

Would he like to wish the council and residents of the borough a Merry Christmas?

### COUNCIL MEETING

12<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2016

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

**1. From Cllr Nicholas Bennett JP to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation**

If he will list in table format the following information for each of the past three years;

1. Each planning application which has gone to appeal;
2. whether the original application was recommended for approval or refusal;
3. whether the application was refused by committee or under delegated powers;
4. the outcome of the appeal;
5. if costs were awarded in full or in part;
6. the sum awarded?

**2. From Cllr Nicholas Bennett JP to the Portfolio Holder for Resources**

If he will make a statement of the progress made across the council in commissioning services since 2014?

**3. From Cllr Michael Rutherford to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation**

What is the proposed timetable for compulsory purchase orders (if required) for opportunity site G and when will residents be informed of the process?

**4. From Cllr Peter Fookes to the Portfolio Holder for Resources**

When a service is contracted out, why are e mails not automatically forwarded to the contractor?

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

Given the vast number of planning enforcement cases outstanding, when will more resources be allocated to this service?

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

Given the increasing numbers of people across all parts of the borough presenting with problematic alcohol abuse, what support is available for the children of those affected?

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

Can the Portfolio Holder provide the number of residential units for which planning permission was given in 2015/16 and for as much of 2016/17 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?

**8. From Cllr Ian Dunn to the Portfolio Holder for Resources**

In February 2016, the Council agreed a schedule of 64 savings options (cuts). Can the Portfolio Holder please provide the schedule of forecast savings (cuts), with the addition of the forecast outturn savings (cuts) for 2016/17 and the forecast outturn full year savings (cuts) for each line?

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

Can the Portfolio Holder please provide the number of mobile phone masts on Council Property and the annual income from these?

**10. From Cllr Ian Dunn to the Portfolio Holder for Resources**

Can the Portfolio Holder please provide the number of working age claimants who received Council Tax Support, the percentage these residents were required to pay, the collection percentage for these residents and the general collection percentage for Council Tax for financial years 2013/14, 14/15, 15/16 and 16/17, with the figures for 2016/17 being for year to date? Please also provide the number of claimants who were charged for arrears in 2015/16 and the total amount they were charged?

**11. From Cllr Richard Williams to the Portfolio Holder for the Environment.**

There are problems across the Borough with the environment around supermarkets, for example wire cages being left on pavements for long periods of time. What pressure can the Council put on supermarket operators to ensure that these problems are minimised.

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

Please provide a ward breakdown of Fix My Street notifications, including the nature of the complaint and the time taken to resolve it for the last year.

**13. From Cllr Tony Owen to the Leader of the Council**

A constituent of mine asked -

“I've seen some recent Biggin Hill Airport publicity that indicates that the Noise Monitoring and Track Keeping System will be signed off this autumn and introduced during the spring or summer of next year.”

Do you have any information where the equipment will be (or has been) located and to what extent LBB have been involved in its commissioning?

There were also quite specific promises that the data from the monitors would be accessible by residents and about what sort of data would be available. Will LBB be involved in testing this user interface and how will residents be made aware that they can use it? What will happen if it doesn't fulfil all the promises that were made? Will the interface be up and running before LBB gives the go-ahead for the extended hours?'

Who is currently the lead council officer for Biggin Hill matters?

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