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DATE: 20th June 2017

COUNCIL

Monday 26 June 2017

The following questions have been received -

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

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

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COUNCIL MEETING

26th JUNE 2017

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

(A) QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY

1. From Sophie Shaw to the Chairman of Development Control Committee

Given the dire shortage of social and affordable housing in Bromley, why is the Council not enforcing the minimum 35% provision for this type of accommodation on developers?

2. From Sam Russell to the Portfolio Holder for Care Services

Following the tragic events in Grenfell Tower, residents in and around Essex Tower in Penge are rightfully concerned about their safety. Given the privatised nature of the Council's housing stock, is the Portfolio Holder satisfied that the information provided by the housing association is accurate, timely and independently verified?

3. From Sam Russell to the Portfolio Holder for Care Services

Given the unique nature of Essex Tower within Bromley, and to reassure residents, would the Portfolio Holder agree to support and encourage some additional inspections led by council officers and the fire brigade and including the housing association?

(B) QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN REPLY

1. From Simon Jeal to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation

Could the portfolio holder please explain why pavement works on Penge High Street have stopped before completion, why they are apparently not going to resume for at least eight weeks and whether the reason for the stoppage is that the contractors completing the work have not been paid?

2. From Simon Jeal to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation

After the pavement has been re-laid, could the portfolio holder explain why it is then being dug up again two weeks later by UK Power Networks and how long this further work is expected to take?

3. From Simon Jeal to the Portfolio Holder for the Environment

Since pavement works on Penge High Street have now stopped, the bollarded-off areas have become full with litter. Does responsibility for cleaning these areas rest with the council and will they commit to ensuring the areas are cleared of litter throughout the eight weeks in which the works have stopped?

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COUNCIL MEETING

26th JUNE 2017

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

1. From Councillor Nicholas Bennett JP to the Portfolio Holder for Public Protection and Community Safety

What action has been taken by the Police and Ward Security in the light of the reports of knife point robberies of bicycles in West Wickham, Hayes and other parts of the Borough?

2. From Councillor Peter Fookes to the Leader of the Council

What discussions have been held with the Mayor's Office with regard to the future of Crystal Palace Park?

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

What is the total number and value of the Penalty Charge Notices identified as being issued as a result of malpractice or issued by Civil Enforcement Officers who did not have the right to work in this country, in the report by the Royal Borough of Greenwich into our former parking enforcement contractor?

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

Whilst there may be a 'de facto' contract, have you managed yet to find the Waste Services contract (the full contract as required to be kept under legal seal) which was identified as missing in a recent internal audit and which I asked about at the last full Council?

5. From Cllr Vanessa Allen to the Portfolio Holder for Environment

Further to the question asked at the April Council meeting, please provide information on where in the borough the additional £500k allocated for Environmental Initiatives in the 2017-18 budget is to be spent.

6. From Councillor Nicholas Bennett JP to the Portfolio Holder for the Environment

How many electric car charging points there are in the Borough and if he will list their locations?

7. From Councillor Peter Fookes to the Portfolio Holder for Care Services

What progress has been made on dementia hubs?

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

When Adecco came to the May E&R PDS, neither their contract manager nor the officer managing the contract could answer a question on whether compensation would be paid to the Council should Adecco not meet its targets. Can you please confirm the consequences of Adecco not meeting their targets?

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

Given that in excess of £1 million has been lost to this Council by poor management of the waste contract with Veolia, will he agree with me that the decision to try to save £60k by allowing Veolia to supervise the weighbridges was an extremely bad one?

10. From Cllr Vanessa Allen to the Portfolio Holder for Public Protection & Safety

A recent News Shopper report highlighted once again the number of food outlets in the borough which have poor ratings for food hygiene, including 4 with zero rating and 68 on one star. In February the Food Standards Agency found over 70 places rated zero or one star, and a year ago 160 rated two stars or fewer. A well known local ice cream producer waited 18 months for an inspection which never happened and then moved premises. This highlights the need for:-

- inspections of new premises
- regular inspections of all premises
- follow up inspections where food standards are poor
- more inspectors

In view of the above can the citizens of Bromley look forward to recruitment of more inspectors in order to safeguard their health, deal with this long running problem, and also to help the businesses concerned to improve and thrive.

11. From Councillor Nicholas Bennett JP to the Portfolio Holder for the Environment

How many car clubs have been established in Bromley and what are their locations?

12. From Councillor Peter Fookes to the Portfolio Holder for Care Services

What are the latest figures for homeless households in temporary accommodation?

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

There has been a worrying increase in reports of Bromley residents with care needs not be able to attend services due to cuts in benefits and increases in transport charges. How will the Portfolio holder ensure that no resident will be denied essential services due to financial restrictions?

14. From Cllr Angela Wilkins to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal & Recreation

This year, the Crystal Palace Overground Festival moved from Westow Park in LB Croydon to CP Park, delivering a much bigger event on Saturday 18th June than in previous years.

The sun was shining, the music was playing, and the event was a huge success.

Will the Portfolio Holder join me in congratulating the organisers and the very many local volunteers who did an amazing job in bringing this festival into LB Bromley, so boosting our local economy and providing entertainment for many thousands of families?

15. From Cllr Vanessa Allen to the Portfolio Holder for Resources

As part of the effort to combat global warming and climate change, fossil fuels should stay in the ground and not be exploited. The cost of global warming is often picked up locally, for example in the shape of damage by extreme weather such as storms.

Bromley is one of many local authorities investing in companies involved with seeking new fossil fuel resources. As it is possible and indeed almost mainstream nowadays to invest in and make returns from fossil free fuels, please would the Portfolio Holder look into the options and make the appropriate changes.

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COUNCIL MEETING

26TH JUNE 2017

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN REPLY FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

1. From Cllr Nicholas Bennett JP to the Portfolio Holder for Education, Children and Families

What progress is being made in investigating my suggestion that the care services and education bus fleets be combined and the schedules be aligned to as to use the same vehicles for both services?

2. From Councillor Nicholas Bennett to the Portfolio Holder for Education, Children and Families

If he will list the number and percentage of children above the age of 7 in each school receiving free school meals?

3. From Councillor Nicholas Bennett to the Portfolio Holder for Education, Children and Families

If he will give the number of male teachers in each school and the percentage that represents for the primary and secondary sectors overall?

4. From Councillor Peter Fookes to the Portfolio Holder for the Environment

What is the backlog for tree pruning in the borough?

5. From Councillor Peter Fookes to the Portfolio Holder for Education, Children and Families

As it is not on the agenda for this week, when will a report on future school funding be going to committee?

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

What long term support is available for people who have been subjected to sexual abuse?

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

Please provide the number of applications to Bromley's Council Tax Hardship Fund, the number accepted and the total sum paid in each of 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17.

Please describe the way in which the Hardship Fund is publicised to residents who have difficulties paying their Council Tax.

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

Please provide the cost of defending the Freedom of Information application by a former Civil Enforcement Officer to obtain the Internal Audit report into the Council's former parking enforcement contractor, including the cost of appealing against the decision of the Information Commissioner on how much of the report could be provided to the applicant, dated 19 September 2016.

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

Please provide a summary of the policies the Council has in place to monitor the compliance of our contractors with health & safety legislation and any specific health & safety requirements in our contracts with them.

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

Please provide details of how many default penalties have been given for street cleaning by ward and by year, from May 2014 to May 2017.

11. From Cllr Angela Wilkins to the Portfolio Holder for Education & Children's Services

Was the £495,419 transferred from reserves to the CSC recruitment & retention fund included in previous sums allocated to work necessary post-OFSTED inspection or should it be considered as a further additional corrective expenditure?

The Executive has just agreed to spend £915k on "Step up to Social Work", a scheme designed to support recruitment of social workers, and one supported by this Council since 2011. How much has been spent to date on this scheme and how exactly has its effectiveness and value for money been evaluated given the serious problems this council has had recruiting and retaining social workers?

12. From Cllr Angela Wilkins to the Portfolio Holder for Resources

A recent FOI question revealed that the average increase in gross spend on temporary accommodation in London since 2010 is 53%. (Details here: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-39305950>)

For Bromley, the increase over the same period is 1197% - the highest in London and 360% higher than Wandsworth who experienced the second highest increase. Please provide a full explanation for this astonishing statistic.

13. From Cllr Richard Williams to the Portfolio Holder for Public Protection

Over the last few months we have seen over 200 killings of cats and foxes that appear be the victims of the 'Croydon cat killer'. What action is LBB Is taking with our local police and neighbouring local authorities to put an end to this horrendous spree?

14. From Cllr Richard Williams to the Portfolio Holder for Environment

Please explain why on-street parking did not deliver the budgeted -for income stream in 2016-17.

As we have experienced delays in delivering both consultations and decisions on various parking proposals in Crystal Palace ward, is your team of officers under-resourced?

15. From Cllr Kevin Brooks to the Portfolio Holder for Public Protection

Given the recent incident in Penge involving a machete, what additional steps are being taken to stop the escalation of gang related violence in Penge?

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