



BROMLEY CIVIC CENTRE, STOCKWELL CLOSE, BROMLEY BRI 3UH

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COUNCIL

Monday 9 April 2018

The following questions have been received -

- 5 **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHERE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN.** (Pages 3 - 6)
- 6 **ORAL QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL WHERE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN.** (Pages 7 - 10)
- 7 **WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL WHERE 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

9TH APRIL 2018

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC FOR ORAL REPLY

1. From Jason Colenso to the Leader of the Council

Since 2013 Cllr Ellis has been LBB's representative as a Governor of Oxleas NHS trust. Oxleas say, until November 2017*, she attended just 1, out of 19, Governor meetings with only 5 apologies. Was the Leader aware and is this adequate representation on a critical health trust? Or is it indicative of LBB's attitude to mental health?"

**The last month for which information is available.*

2. From Josh King to the Resources Portfolio Holder

When was the last time a contractor was required to be replaced due to financial failure and what did the Council do?

3. From Simon Jeal to the Education, Children and Families Portfolio Holder

In light of the investigations into children being groomed and subjected to horrific abuse on a massive scale in Rotherham, Telford and elsewhere, could the portfolio holder please confirm what actions have been taken to assess whether children in Bromley are likely to have become victims of such gangs?

4. From Julie Ireland to the Education, children and Families Portfolio Holder

What percentage of social workers employed in Bromley's Children's Services are on permanent contracts, and what percentage are temporary?

5. From Simon Jeal to the Care Services Portfolio Holder

The draft Bromley homelessness strategy report indicates some of the key messages that came from its consultation were that "The public felt that the best way to reduce homelessness is to reduce cuts and increase housing" and that "more affordable homes need to be built in the borough". Does the Portfolio Holder agree?

6. From Simon Jeal to the Leader of the Council, to be answered by the Resources Portfolio Holder

Could the Council Leader please comment on the gender pay gap figures published by the London Borough of Bromley Council? In particular on figures showing women's mean hourly rate was 16.5% lower than men's for the period and how this compares to neighbouring boroughs such as Lewisham, Croydon and Bexley.

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COUNCIL MEETING

9TH APRIL 2018

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC FOR WRITTEN REPLY

1. From Colin Willetts to the Environment Portfolio Holder

Noted all week ending 23/3/18 vehicle (school pick up) parking outside 115-117 Leasons Hill obstructing sight lines for school crossing person, would the Portfolio Holder install yellow zig zags (as per school side) or DYL markings to counter this persistent obstruction?

2. From Colin Willetts to the Environment Portfolio Holder

Could the Portfolio Holder (i) reinstate & post off heavily over run verge opposite 275 Chipperfield Road? & (ii) following use of cul de sac for grab lorry spoil removal by JDT contractors the edge of amenity green 238-242 Chipperfield Road has incurred severe over runs, could you contact for 'quality' reinstatement or charge them for LBB to carry out the necessary work?

3. From Colin Willetts to the Environment Portfolio Holder

Would the Portfolio Holder address for reinstatement (i) 40 foot long 8 inches deep x 3 over runs on grass area outside 33 Lullingstone Crescent? (ii) reinstate grass area via a firm standing on grass area (adj sewer drain) opposite 3 The Green due to Veolia waste collection lorry causing over runs in this narrow cul de sac?

4. From Chloe-Jane Ross to the Environment Portfolio Holder

In 2017 and so far this year how many of the following have there been? Successful fly-tipping prosecutions, litter fines issued and clean up enforcement notices issued.

5. From Chloe-Jane Ross to the Leader of the Council

Is Bromley Council a member of the Local Government Association? If not then when was Bromley Council last a member and why was membership ceased?

6. From Chloe-Jane Ross to the Renewal and Recreation Portfolio Holder

How many Planning Officers are currently in employ (full-time-equivalent) and are there any vacancies?

7. From Alison Davis to the Care Services Portfolio Holder

How many homeless Bromley families/people have been rehoused in the Medway towns in 2017 and so far in 2018.

8. From Alison Davis to the Resources Portfolio Holder

Would the Portfolio Holder agree that if one person is disenfranchised by the Council's Voter ID project, it is one too many?

9. From Alison Davis to the Resources Portfolio Holder

Would the Portfolio Holder share the evidence and analysis that led to the selection of acceptable ID documents for the Council's Voter ID project?

10. From Rich Wilsher to the Resources Portfolio Holder

Why were Young Persons Railcard and 16+ Oyster Card excluded from the list of acceptable Voter ID, whilst the Freedom Pass and 60+ Oyster Card was included?

11. From Rich Wilsher to the Resources Portfolio Holder

How much in pounds of the Council "Property investment fund" has been invested outside of the borough so far in 2018 and what were those investments?

12. From Rich Wilsher to the Renewal and Recreation Portfolio Holder

How much in pounds has the Council spent on legal costs and external consultants in regard to Bullers Wood School for Boys?

13. From Ian Catchpole to the Environment Portfolio Holder

What plans do the council have to allow parking meters in Crofton Road, Farnborough High Street and Crescent Way to accept the new £1 coin? How many of the parking meters across Bromley accept the new £1 coin?

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9TH APRIL 2018

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL FOR ORAL REPLY

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

Whilst I thank Councillor Morgan for his written reply to my oral question at the last Council meeting, may I enquire as to number of 56 day prior applications which have been received in the last four years and the number which were determined by a planning Committee?

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

What do you consider are the main functions of the Internal Audit Department in a Commissioning Authority?

3. From Cllr Angela Wilkins to the Care Services Portfolio Holder

Could you please explain the delays in awarding the nursing care beds contract which was only agreed at last week's Executive?

4. From Cllr Vanessa Allen to the Environment Portfolio Holder

Government is being urged to bring forward the ban on petrol and diesel cars, at the same time as superfast charging points are becoming available and there are already funding schemes for the installation of on street charging points. As the Portfolio Holder is aware, demand is growing for electric charging points in areas where many houses do not have off street parking, such as my own ward of Clock House. What will he do to ensure that my residents and those in similar areas in other wards are able to take advantage of this new technology?

5. From Councillor Nicholas Bennett JP to the Environment Portfolio Holder

What research has been conducted into the effectiveness and economic viability of establishing a Material Recovery Facility to enable co-mingled waste collection as opposed to separate waste collections?

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

What representations has he made to the Secretary of State to ensure that local authorities have a key role in determining the location of new schools in the borough?

7. From Cllr Tony Owen to the Renewal and Recreation Portfolio Holder

The report on Biggin Hill Memorial Museum presented to R&R PDS on 5th July 2017 and Executive on 19th July states at paragraph 3.4 that funding is in place to deliver THE SCHEME. At paragraph 3.19 it states that PHASE 1 delivers the BASIC SCHEME and that PHASE 2 will see the FULL SCHEME implemented with the delivery of the learning space and wall. It says no funding is identified for this phase.

Can you please -

- (i) Confirm that the full £2 million treasury grant only requires PHASE 1 to be completed and is not conditional on the full scheme being completed.
- (ii) Confirm that the local taxpayer will be required to contribute £1 million to the full scheme (all but £60k.)
- (iii) Indicate the latest funding position.

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

Can the Portfolio Holder advise me as to the number of planning applications in the last four years which have been called in by the applicant due to non-determination by the Council within the prescribed time?

9. From Cllr Ian Dunn to the Care Services Portfolio Holder

Why did an article on stopping smoking appear on the front page of the Council's website shortly after an article appeared in the British Medical Association News, criticising the council for stopping its Smoking Cessation service?

10. From Cllr Angela Wilkins to the Environment Portfolio Holder

On 9th August 2017 the Executive agreed additional resource of £238k for Environment & Community Services 2017/18 to ensure frontline services had a sustainable level of staff to fulfil the corporate requirements for contract monitoring, business support and to deliver the expected standard of service in key areas. Of this money, £146k has been spent. Please explain on what exactly given that two posts in the Neighbourhood Team (West) have been vacant for 9 months?

11. From Cllr Vanessa Allen to the Public Protection and Safety Portfolio Holder

Since 1 October 2017, food hygiene inspections in Bromley have awarded ratings of two on 21 occasions, one on 31 occasions and zero on five occasions. How many of these inspections would have taken place had we not have increased staffing in the Food Safety Service as a result of the adverse report we received from the Food Standards Agency dated April 2017?

12. From Councillor Nicholas Bennett JP to the Education, Children and Families Portfolio Holder

Has he seen the article in the Sunday Times of March 25th 2018 entitled “Revealed: How the Met is ignoring the lessons of Holly, Jessica and Baby P”? Is he satisfied that there is full co-operation by the local police in the creation of pre-assessment check (PAC) requests on Merlin? How many such requests have been made in each year since 2010?

13. From Councillor Peter Fookes to the Public Protection and Safety Portfolio Holder

How much of the extra £60million allocated by the Mayor of London to protect frontline policing will be spent in the borough?

14. From Cllr Tony Owen to the Environment Portfolio Holder

When was St John's Road, Orpington last resurfaced? What communication took place with the gas authorities before this was done? What did they say?

15. From Cllr Ian Dunn to the Environment Portfolio Holder

What are the options under consideration for the repair of the Betts Park gates?

16. From Cllr Angela Wilkins to the Public Protection and Safety Portfolio Holder

What action is being taken in response to the recent increases in gang and other violent incidents taking place in the north of the Borough?

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

What use has the Council made of the provisions in the Crime and Policing Act 2014 to counter anti-social behaviour?

18. From Councillor Peter Fookes to the Resources Portfolio Holder

When will accommodation on this site (the Civic Centre) which has lain empty for the best part of ten years be brought back into use?

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QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL FOR WRITTEN REPLY

1. From Cllr Ian Dunn to the Resources Portfolio Holder

Please provide a breakdown of the Council's use of Agency Staff, showing person days and net cost, by month from April 2017 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.

2. From Cllr Angela Wilkins to the Public Protection and Safety Portfolio Holder

Will you agree that this Borough needs a Youth Violence Strategy and will you agree to lead the development and implementation of such?

3. From Cllr Angela Wilkins to the Education, Children and Families Portfolio Holder

This Council now has an over-spend of £716k on Independent Foster Carers and an additional overspend of £166k on in-house foster carers. Whilst acknowledging that the increased demand for placements explains some of this overspend, please provide calculations and evidence to support your Group's decision that it was right to cut allowances for in-house foster carers, given the disproportionately high overspend on 'agency' carers?

4. From Councillor Nicholas Bennett JP to the Resources Portfolio Holder

What information he has as to the debt figures for London Boroughs in the latest year for which he has statistics and if he will set out the information in table and graph format?

5. From Councillor Nicholas Bennett JP to the Resources Portfolio Holder

What information he has as to the Council tax rates at Band D for Outer London Boroughs for 2018-19 and if he will set out the information in table and graph format?

6. From Councillor Nicholas Bennett JP to the Resources Portfolio Holder

What information he has as to central government grants for each London Borough both in global and per head of population and if he will set out the information in table and graph format?

7. From Councillor Peter Fookes to the Resources Portfolio Holder

What efforts are being made to cut down on the bureaucracy of getting 10 signatures to stand for election to Bromley Council and surely this can be done electronically in this day and age?

8. From Councillor Peter Fookes to the Resources Portfolio Holder

When will all outstanding repairs to Melvin Halls be completed?

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

When will Bromley be consulting with residents on the proposal by the Harris Federation to give priority to Harris Primary attendees to access their secondary schools?