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## COUNCIL

### Meeting to be held on Monday 10 December 2018

The following questions have been submitted for this meeting -

- 5 **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHERE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN (A) AND (B) (Pages 3 - 6)**
- 6 **QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL WHERE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN (Pages 7 - 12)**
- 7 **QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN REPLY FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL WHERE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN (Pages 13 - 16)**

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

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### COUNCIL MEETING

10<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2018

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

**1. From Byrom Mark Lees to the Environment and Community Services Portfolio Holder**

When are Bromley Council going to recognise that roads are not simply about getting motorised vehicles from A to B as quickly as possible, but are byways for everyone to feel confident that they can traverse safely in a variety of ways. Will Bromley therefore consider imposing a default speed limit of 20mph across the Borough?

**2. From Dylan Evans to the Portfolio Holder for Education, Children and Families**

In this year's Make Your Mark campaign, young people in Bromley voted knife crime, mental health and ending period poverty as the issues they considered most important. What are the Council's plans for the coming year on addressing these important issues for young people?

**3. From Vicki Hunt to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Services**

Other than the school entrance on Bishop's Avenue to Bickley Primary and La Fontaine schools, how many school entrances in the Borough do NOT have zigzag yellow lines to warn motorists they cannot park, wait or stop?

**4. From Nelson Pallister to the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Commissioning and Contract Management**

How much unused contingency money in the last 3 completed years has been used to increase the Council's reserves and what was the total value of the reserves (total assets owned by the Council) at the end of each of the years?

**5. From Julie Ireland to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Services**

Parents with children at the Unicorn school have been campaigning for a weatherproof path from where the lollipop lady stands at the junction of South Eden Park Road with Cresswell Drive across the grass to Eden Park Avenue between the two football pitches exiting by the side of St Johns Church. Discussions and site visits have taken place with staff of Idverde, and in June 2017 Idverde indicated that funding for the project had been secured. However, since then Idverde have told the parents that funding is no longer available. Would the Portfolio Holder please advise the estimated cost of the path, whether there were any reasons apart from cost for not proceeding with the path and whether there are plans to revisit this decision?

**6. From Laura Vogel to the Leader of the Council**

Could the Council please inform the chamber of any Brexit analysis that it has undertaken, or received, to assess the impact of the United Kingdom leaving the European Union on 29th March 2018 on the London Borough of Bromley?

I would like to know the Council's understanding of how the Government's deal, or lack of a deal, is anticipated to affect council finances, staffing, services, investments.

**7. From Dylan Evans to the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Families**

Several secondary schools in Bromley do not currently have access to in school counsellors, who can provide help for students with mental health issues, especially around the time of exams. Does the council have any plans to review funding for local agencies, such as Bromley Y, who provide this?

**8. From Nelson Pallister to the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Families**

What is the local authority plan towards reaching families with children/young people with disabilities within the BAME community in Bromley who struggle with their caring roles and do not have the necessary support?

**9. From Julie Ireland to the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Commissioning and Contract Management**

During the recent by-election in Kelsey and Eden Park, the Liberal Democrats were refused access to the Langley Estate in South Eden Park Road in order to distribute election material. The residents' association were asked but replied by email "we do not want Lib Dem deliveries here". The Conservative candidate who lives on the estate and who is active on the residents' association was allowed to distribute leaflets, but we believe that other political parties were also refused permission. Does the Council have any by-laws or best practice advice for residents associations in private estates regarding the distribution of election material during an election period to ensure that all parties with candidates are allowed to leaflet without censorship?

**10. From Nelson Pallister to the Portfolio Holder for Adult Care and Health**

Why are commissioned projects targetted at upskilling and engaging people with learning disabilities in the borough not being renewed?

**11. From Julie Ireland to the Portfolio Holder for Public Protection and Enforcement**

The Council produces a free magazine "Safer Bromley News" that is distributed across the borough. What were the publication dates in 2017 and 2018, and what is the publication schedule for 2019?

**COUNCIL MEETING****10<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2018****QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC FOR WRITTEN REPLY****1. From Rich Wilsher to the Renewal, Recreation and Housing Portfolio Holder**

Can the Council outline how it plans to take advantage of recent policy changes intended to tackle the housing crisis and increase house building in London, including the Community Secretary's announcement to scrap the Housing Revenue Account cap, and will the Council commit to respond to the G15 'Offer to London' report, which details how leading housing associations can work with London Councils to increase the supply of affordable and social housing?

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## COUNCIL MEETING

10<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2018

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

**1. From Cllr Angela Wilkins to the Portfolio Holder for Public Protection & Enforcement**

The Home Office has recently published its Violence & Vulnerability (Locality) Review of Bromley. The review comes from a series of focus groups with agencies working in the field. Criticisms of the poor levels of service in Bromley are too numerous to list, but specific criticisms of this council include:

- *“Bromley is in denial about the problem it has with gangs and has been for years”*
- *“Bromley has no idea how to engage with the Afro Caribbean community around this issue”*
- *“There is still silo working with in the borough – in other boroughs staff know who to speak to, and they know who leads this agenda”*

The report’s summary concludes:

*“It was not clear to most of those we talked to who owns this agenda and roles of various partnerships and agencies. This indicates an issue around communication and leadership that will need resolving in the form of a clear recognition of the problem, a strategy to tackle it and a clear operational plan shared between police, the local authority, social landlords, schools, health agencies and the voluntary and community sectors.”*

Will the Portfolio Holder please give her response to this report?

**2. From Cllr Ian Dunn to the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education & Families**

The internal audit report into Leaving Care dated 15 October 2018 gave limited assurance and had 6 priority 1 recommendations. What are the implications of this for our ongoing Ofsted Inspections, particularly given that Pathway Plans were found not to be being reviewed every six months as required?

**3. From Cllr Kathy Bance MBE to the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education & Families**

Can you confirm that at least one of the Harris Academy Secondary Schools will only be accepting pupils from Harris Primary Schools? If so, can you advise which of the Harris Academies will be affected and when is this likely to happen?

**4. From Cllr Josh King to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Services**

Which areas in Bromley benefit from street or pavement cleaning with high pressure water and / or scrubbing machines?

**5. From Councillor Simon Jeal to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation and Housing**

Is the Portfolio Holder aware that a number of crowd funding schemes for projects in the Borough are currently trying to achieve funding by the 17<sup>th</sup> December, including for Beckenham Green and a bridge to access the Crystal Palace Dinosaurs. Does the London Borough of Bromley support these schemes and would he encourage local residents and organisations to donate towards them?

**6. From Cllr Vanessa Allen to the Leader of the Council**

Why, unlike in recent years, will there be no public meetings about the budget this year, where residents can ask questions of the portfolio holders?

**7. From Cllr Kevin Brooks to the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Commissioning and Contract Management**

On 12/12/18 Universal Credit is due to have completed its roll out throughout the country. As councillors one of the main issues we encounter is vulnerable residents unable to cope with the new payment structure. What is the Council doing to ensure residents do not slip into debt and face possible eviction.

**8. From Cllr Simon Fawthrop to the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Commissioning and Contract Management**

In relation to the written reply to my questions 10 and 11, would the Portfolio Holder please detail with a year by year summary of the extra costs this Authority would have had to bear, had it passed the 'alternative budget' proposals of the Labour Party opposition since 2002/3 to date, summarising:

(i) The financial effect such action would have had on the current level of the Council's useable reserves, accruing the extra deficit incurred (or gained) each year at the 'Base Rate' of that time.

(ii) The financial effect such action would have had on the Council's current budget deficit, ahead of preparing the budget for 2019/20?

**9. From Councillor Angela Page to the Portfolio Holder for Public Protection and Enforcement**

How many CCTV cameras do the Council currently have and how is success measured?

**10. From Cllr Nicholas Bennett to the Leader of the Council**

If he will make statement on the implications of the Local Government Settlement for 2019-20 for Bromley and on the plans to balance the budget in 2019-20 and subsequent years?

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

How do you suggest the Council responds to the erratic and inconsistent planning appeal decisions, especially in the Petts Wood Area of Special Residential Character?

After recent 'rogue' decisions, especially three by one planning inspector, officers and planning sub-committees have no idea where things stand and how they should judge future applications.

**12. From Cllr Nicky Dykes to the Portfolio Holder for Public Protection and Enforcement**

Could the Portfolio Holder please set out the representations made by the Council on the plans to merge Bromley's policing units with Sutton and Croydon? Can she provide an update?

**13. From Cllr Angela Wilkins to the Portfolio Holder for Adult Care & Health**

The following failings were identified in a recent internal audit investigation of the Council's Adult Mental Health Contract with Oxleas:

- the contract has run for 14 years without review or variation to ensure it is relevant and fit for purpose;
- performance measures are obsolete and there are no defined monitoring measures in place;
- there is no Mental Health Board in place;
- care package reviews for the majority of clients were overdue until recently.

In relation to Direct Payments, internal audit reported the following:

- direct payment terms and conditions were not being met;
- instances where there was no evidence that payments made were being used for purpose intended;
- evidence found of over-payments being made to clients;
- a number of DP5 forms missing.

Were you surprised by these findings?

**14. From Cllr Ian Dunn to the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Commissioning & Contract Management**

Eight London Boroughs including Barnet and Hillingdon and Sevenoaks and Tonbridge & Malling Districts in Kent have signed up to a Council Tax Protocol developed by the Local Government Association & Citizens Advice which asks that Councils:-

- Work with enforcement & advice agencies to help people pay their Council Tax bills while accessing debt advice,
- Endure all communications with residents about Council Tax is clear,
- Use the Standard Financial Statement when calculating repayment plans,
- Offer flexible payment arrangements to residents,
- Do not use enforcement agencies where a resident receives Council Tax support,
- Publish their policy on residents in vulnerable circumstances.

What consideration has Bromley given to signing up to this protocol?

**15. From Cllr Kathy Bance MBE to the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education & Families**

What involvement has the London Borough of Bromley had with Harris Academy Kent House in respect of the maladministration over the annulled SATs results of some Year 6 pupils?

**16. From Cllr Josh King to the Portfolio Holder for Environment & Community Services**

What proportion of waste collected for recycling in Bromley is sent overseas for processing?

**17. From Cllr Simon Jeal to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation & Housing**

This year, volunteers from the Bromley Homeless Shelter and local churches will be starting to run a second winter shelter in the Borough, to increase capacity to provide beds and meals to rough sleepers. How is the council's homeless strategy addressing the support needed for the increasing number of Bromley residents becoming homeless?

**18. From Cllr Vanessa Allen to the Leader of the Council**

Bromley Council seems to be the only body in the country who do not consider that any planning needs to be done concerning Brexit. Why does the leader consider he knows better than the Local Government Association, the CBI, the NHS confederation, chambers of commerce and so on?

**19. From Cllr Kevin Brooks to the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education & Families**

How much of a priority does the Portfolio Holder see Religious Education in Bromley and, in the light of Bromley being dominated by academies, what influence does he have on advising schools on syllabuses?

**20. From Cllr Simon Fawthrop to the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Commissioning and Contract Management**

What is the total number of employees for LBB (split by both full and part time not just FTE) and of those how many have the ability to work from home?

**21. From Cllr Nicholas Bennett to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation and Housing**

What requirements are in the current arrangements with Mytime Active to ensure health and safety training for poolside staff to ensure the following don't occur:

- (i) movement of heavy 25m swim lane markers whilst swimmers are in the lane;
- (ii) placing of metal lane marker holders so they project over the poolside;
- (iii) a single poolside member of staff being distracted from watching the pool whilst moving lane markers and other ancillary activities;
- (iv) removal of slip mats in changing rooms before all users have vacated the area?

**22. From Cllr Angela Wilkins to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation & Housing**

Given that original proposals were to spend £1.3m on a few mirrored canopies planned for Bromley High St, exactly how much you are prepared to spend on them?

**23. From Cllr Josh King to the Portfolio Holder for Environment & Community Services**

The Mayor of London has recently confirmed the location of twenty public water fountains to help reduce single use plastics with the added benefit of discouraging the consumption of high sugar carbonated drinks. Would the portfolio holder support similar water fountains in Bromley and does he have plans for any?

**24. From Cllr Simon Jeal to the Leader of the Council**

Please provide a summary of the events, campaigns and other initiatives the London Borough of Bromley plans to run, fund or support in 2019 to mark events such as LGBT History Month, Black History Month, Holocaust Memorial day, World Disabled Day, International Women's Day, International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Human Rights Day.

**25. From Cllr Kevin Brooks to the Portfolio Holder for Public Protection & Enforcement**

There have recently been violent stabbing and shootings in the North of the borough. In addressing this, what action is the Portfolio Holder undertaking to bring together the police and specialist services both within Bromley and across neighbouring boroughs?

**26. From Cllr Nicholas Bennett to the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Commissioning and Contract Management**

For what reasons has the Commissioning Board been suspended and when will it resume scrutiny of Departmental proposals?

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## COUNCIL MEETING

10<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2018

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

**1. From Cllr Josh King to the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Commissioning & Contract Management**

How many instances of voter impersonation were reported during the recent Kelsey and Eden Park by-election?

**2. From Cllr Josh King to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation & Housing**

What was the cost of running the competition for a performance canopy on the Beckenham Green and why was it not possible to include the maintenance costs in the renegotiated parks contract?

**3. From Cllr Ian Dunn to the Portfolio Holder for Environment & Community Services**

How many residential parking permits have been issued in the last 12 months at £40 and £80, broken down by the number of permits per household?

**4. From Cllr Ian Dunn to the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Commissioning & Contract Management**

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.

**5. From Cllr Ian Dunn to the Portfolio Holder for Environment & Community Services**

Please provide the total number of Fix My Street jobs raised in the last 12 months, broken down by month, ward and type of issue.

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

Please provide a list of Councillors (by party) and which committees they are members of.

**7. From Cllr Angela Wilkins to the Portfolio Holder for Environment & Community Services**

Please provide the schedule / rota for enforcement of parking restrictions across the Borough.

**8. From Cllr Angela Wilkins to the Portfolio Holder for Adult Care & Health**

Please provide a summary and breakdown of the Council's expenditure (under Invest to Save) of the team employed to deliver cuts in the care packages for residents with learning difficulties. Please also provide details of any savings identified and implemented by this team?

**9. From Cllr Kevin Brooks to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation & Housing**

Can anything be done to address the fact that the mobility centre in the Glades is not under cover, leading to difficulties for disabled people using the service in bad weather?

**10. From Cllr Simon Fawthrop to the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Commissioning & Contract Management**

Would the Portfolio Holder please detail the savings made to the Council's revenue budget on a year by year basis since 2010/11 to date, including this years proposed savings within the list?

Would the Portfolio Holder please advise the overall cumulative total of these savings over the same period?

**11. From Cllr Simon Fawthrop to the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Commissioning & Contract Management**

Can the level of Council Tax rises each year from 1999/2000 to 2018/2019 be presented as a bar graph which is colour coded by the party/parties responsible for setting the budgets of the day be presented to Council?

**12. From Cllr Nicholas Bennett to the Portfolio Holder for Adult Care and Health**

How many Deprivation of Liberty Orders have been made in each year since they were introduced and what are the three main reasons such orders have been issued?

**13. From Cllr Nicholas Bennett the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Families**

- (i) How many children are in care at the latest available date;
- (ii) what is the average length of a placement for a child placed in care;
- (iii) what is the average number of placements an individual child will have;
- (iv) the breakdown by age and ethnicity for those currently in care;
- (v) the number of children in care with physical and/or mental disabilities;
- (vi) the number of children in care who are unaccompanied minors;
- (vii) the principal reasons why children have been taken into care?

**14. From Cllr Nicholas Bennett the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation and Housing**

If he will list for each library in table format the following information for 2017-18:

- (i) the annual and monthly average of visitors;
- (ii) the annual and monthly average number of books issued;
- (iii) the annual and monthly average running costs;
- (iv) the cost per visitor;
- (v) the cost per book issue;
- (vi) the percentage of the Borough population who used a library?

**15. From Cllr Tony Owen to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation and Housing**

Residents and I have asked numerous questions about Bromley Council undertaking its duty under its lease to scrutinise Biggin Hill Airport operations.

Please can you suggest the most suitable committee for me to request an agenda item that does just this?

**16. From Cllr Tony Owen to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Services**

In each of the the last 5 years (for which statistics are available) how many fatalities have occurred on Bromley's Roads?

If all roads, other than main roads, had had 20 mph speed restrictions in place how many fatalities might have been avoided?

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