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COUNCIL

Monday 24 February 2020

5 QUESTIONS (Pages 3 - 12)

The questions received for this meeting are attached.

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

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COUNCIL MEETING

24th February 2020

QUESTION FROM A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC FOR ORAL REPLY

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

In the event of a disciplinary foster panel, under what government legislation or local rules, regulations or guidance -

(a) is the panel permitted to hold a pre-meeting with Social Services from which the accused foster carers are excluded, and

(b) are the accused foster carers forbidden to have anyone speak on their behalf, bearing in mind that foster carers, whose expertise is in offering care not engaging in legal activities, may well be totally unfamiliar with the formality and confrontational approach of a panel meeting, whilst Social Services has access to all the legal and other resources of the Council as well as having individuals trained in appearing before a panel?

2. From Sheila Grace to the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Commissioning and Contract Management

Why, when there is a widely accepted Climate Emergency and the Council has committed to achieving net zero from its own emissions by 2029, is the Council's Annual Investment Strategy completely silent on the impact and risks of fossil fuel investments on the climate and makes no moves to divest from such harmful investments?

3. From Sheila Grace to the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Commissioning and Contract Management

Is the Council satisfied with the PDS scrutiny of the Annual Investment Strategy, given that it dismisses consideration of the environmental policies of organisations in which it invests on the grounds that 'it would be a significant piece of work to conduct the necessary due diligence' and 'the market was "doing a good job" filtering out companies that had a more negative impact on the environment'? (Page 156, 2nd paragraph)

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COUNCIL MEETING

24th February 2020

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC FOR WRITTEN REPLY

1. From Peter Holyoake, London Energy Risk, to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Services

Residents with children in Borough schools are all in support of “improving the air quality and reducing emissions” – particularly outside schools. At present Bromley has no PM2.5 air quality monitors accessible on-line. What initiatives will Bromley take to install on-line PM2.5 monitors outside schools and other traffic hot spots?

2. From Dave Marshall to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Services

Will the Portfolio Holder consider an amendment to the times of parking restrictions near to the Bromley Reform Synagogue at Highland Road? On Saturdays the Shabbat services starts at 10:30 and does not usually end until 13:00, but parking restrictions restrict parking between 12-2. It would be helpful to the community who use the Synagogue if the times of this restriction could be changed to e.g. 13:00 to 15:00.

3. From Dave Marshall to the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Families

What progress has been made about appointing a Director of Children’s Services to replace Ade Adetosoye?

4. From Chloe-Jane Ross to the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Families

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

5. From Chloe-Jane Ross to the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Families

An initial special-needs assessment with a Development Paediatrician is a crucial step towards assessing any special-needs provision for a child. Would the Portfolio Holder please provide average and maximum waiting times for Development Paediatrician appointments in the borough from 1 Oct – 31 Dec 2020?

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

At the Council meeting in December 2018, the Portfolio Holder undertook to liaise with the parents with children at the Unicorn school who had 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. Please state how much contact he has had with this parents' group (for whom I provided email addresses) and what progress has been made towards providing this path.

7. From Julie Ireland to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation and Housing

What assistance has the Council been able to offer the residents of Northpoint who have the same type of cladding as Grenfell Tower on their building? While this is a central government issue there is still a role for the Council including supporting the residents and ensuring interim safety measures are in place with the fire service.

COUNCIL MEETING24th February 2020**QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL FOR ORAL REPLY****1. From Cllr Kieran Terry to the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Commissioning and Contract Management**

How much debt interest did the London Borough of Bromley pay during 2019? In answering please indicate how much debt The London Borough of Bromley carries and a comparison to other neighbouring local authorities.

2. From Cllr Angela Wilkins to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Services

Is he confident that the provision of £875k in 2020-21 (with no funding provision for future years) is adequate to deliver this Council's target of its direct activities being carbon neutral by 2029?

3. From Cllr Josh King to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation and Housing

The Library Service recently had an issue with online renewals where items were not renewed for the expected period. Can the Portfolio Holder give dates when GLL were aware of the issue and when Library Contract managers were informed.

4. From Cllr Kathy Bance MBE to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation and Housing:

Can the Portfolio Holder explain why councillors are not invited to the Tackling Homelessness meeting or Forum on 11 March 2020?

5. From Cllr Simon Jeal to the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Commissioning and Contract Management

How many freedom passes issued to Bromley residents have been deactivated since the start of the year, and why was this done ahead of their stated expiry date in March?

6. From Cllr Ian Dunn to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation and Housing

When were you first aware that the Supplementary Planning Guidance for the Elm Road Conservation Area, where Beckenham Library stands includes the following words:-

“All the principle buildings are deemed to make a positive contribution to the character and appearance of the Conservation Area and therefore the Council will resist demolition of any building”.

7. From Cllr Vanessa Allen to the Chairman of General Purposes and Licensing Committee

The report on Members' Allowances states “the allowance for Leader of the Council should be increased to £40,000 to reflect the extent of the responsibility, the pressures and the competencies required for the role”. Please would the Chairman of General Purposes and Licensing Committee describe the competencies required?

8. From Councillor Kevin Brooks to the Portfolio Holder Adult Care and Health

Will the Portfolio Holder please provide an update on how far Penge residents will have to travel to see a G.P if the Trinity Medical Centre in Croydon Road closes?

9. From Cllr Kieran Terry to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Services

How much waste did Bromley Council send to landfill during the period September-December 2019?

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

Indoor bowling facilities at the Cyphers Club in Penge have ceased and Crystal Palace Indoor Bowls Club (CPIB) are facing the prospect of closing within the next two years because of increasing costs. Both clubs provide valuable social and health benefits for our Borough, and in particular for our older residents.

The CPIB own their own site, one that has the potential to provide in excess of 50 new housing units which, if ‘affordable’, could assist the Council in meeting the policy requirement of the Mayor of London in relation to housing development proposed by LBB for Crystal Palace Park.

Is he prepared to give his assurance that he will undertake to explore the range of options available to both retain indoor bowling facilities in the Crystal Palace / Penge area and to think imaginatively about how the potential of much needed housing provision can be simultaneously delivered?

11. From Cllr Josh King to the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Commissioning and Contract Management

A recent report (<https://brave.com/ukcouncilsreport/>) has shown that some councils' websites allow firms to track user information when users seek assistance. When did the Portfolio Holder become aware of this and what is being done to rectify this?

12. From Cllr Kathy Bance MBE to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation and Housing

The new LBB Housing IT system demands that everyone on the Housing Register must reapply via the new portal. Why haven't we been able to exclude people with severe mobility issues in this reapplication?

13. From Cllr Simon Jeal to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Services

What has been the annual cost of the Council's Carbon Monitoring Unit from its inception to the end of this financial year?

14. From Cllr Ian Dunn to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Services

How did the Council respond to the recent public consultation on the Bakerloo Line Extension?

15. From Cllr Kevin Brooks to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Services

Will the Portfolio Holder be able to ensure idverde provide the necessary repairs to Alexandra Recreation Ground's paddling pool in time for summer?

16. From Cllr Vanessa Allen to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation & Housing

LBB adopted its Local Plan a year ago, and has an agreed 5 Year Housing Land Supply. Please will the Portfolio Holder outline what he is doing to encourage and enable housebuilding on the sites identified in these documents?

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COUNCIL MEETING

24th February 2020

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL FOR WRITTEN REPLY

1. From Cllr Tony Owen to the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Commissioning and Contract Management

Can you please confirm the name of Bromley's monitoring officer for Biggin Hill Airport, the job description for the post and how they can be contacted by me and members of the public by email or telephone?

2. From Cllr Kieran Terry to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Services

In light of the recent blight of emergency roadworks undertaken by utility companies in Chislehurst, what powers does the Council have to act against antisocial emergency roadworks?

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

On what dates in the last 12 months has fouling by pigeon on the pavements, central reservation and road around Birkbeck been cleaned and what dates in the same period has this area been inspected by council officers?

4. From Cllr Vanessa Allen to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation & Housing

Please provide the number of visitors to and books borrowed from every library for calendar years 2018 and 19, broken down by library, year and month.

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

Please provide a list of the requests for new infrastructure to enhance walking and cycling and reduce road danger received in the last two years, including the source of the request and the outcome.

6. From Cllr Ian Dunn to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Services

Please provide a list of activities required to complete the Air Quality Action Plan. Please also confirm that sufficient officer time will be made available so that the draft Air Quality Action Plan can come to the March meeting of the PDS for scrutiny.

7. From Cllr Kevin Brooks to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Services

Will the Portfolio Holder please explain what the current situation is with Parking Permits in Wordsworth Road, Penge as they were going to be initiated, now have been suspended without any timeline provided?