

TO MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

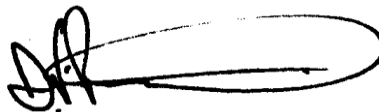
Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Council of the London Borough of Bromley is to be held in the Council Chamber at Bromley Civic Centre on Monday 14 April 2014 at 7.00 pm which meeting the Members of the Council are hereby summoned to attend.

Prayers

A G E N D A

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 Declarations of Interest
- 3 To confirm the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 24th February 2014 (Pages 3 - 54)
- 4 Petition (Pages 55 - 60)
- 5 Questions from members of the public where notice has been given.
Questions must be received by 5pm on Tuesday 8th April 2014.
- 6 Oral questions from Members of the Council where notice has been given.
- 7 Written questions from Members of the Council
- 8 To consider any statements that may be made by the Leader of the Council, Portfolio Holders or Chairmen of Committees.
- 9 Earmarked Reserve to Support Key Health and Social Care Initiatives (Pages 61 - 64)
- 10 Council tax setting - Recorded Voting (Pages 65 - 68)
- 11 Annual Policy Development and Scrutiny Report (Pages 69 - 98)
- 12 To consider Motions of which notice has been given.
- 13 The Mayor's announcements and communications.

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Chief Executive

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LONDON BOROUGH OF BROMLEY

MINUTES

of the proceedings of the Meeting of the
Council of the Borough
held at 7.00 pm on 24 February 2014

Present:

**The Worshipful the Mayor
Councillor Ernest Noad**

**The Deputy Mayor
Councillor Judi Ellis**

Councillors

Reg Adams	John Getgood	Peter Morgan
Graham Arthur	Julian Grainger	Gordon Norrie
Douglas Auld	Ellie Harmer	Tony Owen
Jane Beckley	Will Harmer	Tom Papworth
Julian Benington	David Hastings	Ian F. Payne
Nicholas Bennett J.P.	Brian Humphrys	Sarah Phillips
Ruth Bennett	Samaris Huntington-	Neil Reddin FCCA
Eric Bosshard	Thresher	Charles Rideout
Katy Boughey	William Huntington-	Richard Scoates
Lydia Buttinger	Thresher	Colin Smith
John Canvin	John Ince	Diane Smith
Stephen Carr	Russell Jackson	Tim Stevens
Roger Charsley	Charles Joel	Harry Stranger
Peter Dean	Kate Lymer	Michael Tickner
Nicky Dykes	Paul Lynch	Pauline Tunnickliffe
Robert Evans	Mrs Anne Manning	Michael Turner
Roxhannah Fawthrop	David McBride	Stephen Wells
Simon Fawthrop	Russell Mellor	
Peter Fookes	Alexa Michael	
Peter Fortune	Nick Milner	

The meeting was opened with prayers

In the Chair
The Mayor
Councillor Ernest Noad

53 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Katherine Bance MBE, David Jefferys and Catherine Rideout. Apologies for arriving late were received from Councillors Ruth Bennett and Nicky Dykes.

54 To confirm the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 2nd December 2013

The Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd December 2013 were confirmed.

55 Declarations of Interest

The following declarations of interest were made –

- Cllr Carr, as a member of the Lee Valley Trust Regional Board in relation to the budget report.
- Cllr Morgan, as his daughter was a director of Kier, who provided services to the Council.
- Cllr Papworth, as his wife was employed by a Legal Charity.
- Cllrs Colin and Diane Smith as their daughter was a part time employee of the Library Service.

56 To consider any petitions received

No petitions had been received for consideration at this meeting.

57 Questions from members of the public where notice has been given

Eight questions were put by four members of the public. These are set out in Appendix A to these minutes.

58 Oral questions from Members of the Council where notice has been given.

Seventeen questions had been received; twelve were dealt with at the meeting but five would receive a written response. These are set out in Appendix B to these minutes.

59 Written questions from Members of the Council where notice has been given

The answers to thirteen written questions were tabled. These are set out in Appendix C to these minutes.

60 To consider any statements that may be made by the Leader of the Council, Portfolio Holders or Chairmen of Committees.

One statement was made by Cllr Colin Smith, Environment Portfolio Holder, regarding the recent floods. He remarked on the awesome power of nature revealed through the recent storms and floods, and on the unprecedented threat of groundwater flooding in the more rural parts of the borough, as well as in Borkwood Court, Orpington and Courtfield Rise, West Wickham. He praised the work of Councillors Julian Grainger and Nicholas Bennett in

particular in assisting communities in these areas. A contingency sum had been set aside in the budget to support work on emergency flood damage, and he would be writing to the Treasury/DCLG to ensure that this was repaid to the Council. The Council's duty was to coordinate the work of the various agencies, including the emergency services, the Environment Agency and the Army. Councillor Smith recorded his thanks to Council staff and those from these agencies, but stated that Thames Water, the insurance companies and UK Power Networks had not been as cooperative as had been hoped.

Other Councillors added their thanks to staff and raised various related matters with Councillor Smith, including the loss of trees in the recent storms. Responding to comments, Councillor Smith agreed that it would be helpful if London Councils could be used to help address the issues around cooperation on flooding problems on a London-wide basis, although he emphasised that with groundwater flooding it was not physical barriers that were needed but an overall lowering of the water table. In West Wickham, a culvert carrying a tributary of the Bourne River had become clogged with silt and tree roots – the Environment Agency were now working on this and the water was already flowing more smoothly. At Borkwood Court in Orpington the properties involved were on low ground which was affected by water running off from higher ground. The Portfolio Holder understood that neighbouring landowners were not responsible for this, unless they had taken actions which made the problems worse. Councillor Smith agreed that it would be useful for the Environment PDS Committee to receive a full report reviewing the action taken following the floods and storms.

61 Budget (Revenue and Capital) and Council Tax setting - to consider the recommendations of the meeting of the Executive held on 12th February 2014

(1) 2014/15 Council Tax

The Director of Finance circulated supplementary information and amended recommendations.

There were no changes to the final Mayoral precept accepted by the London Assembly on 14th February 2014.

The final position on levies has now been received and there have been no further changes since the meeting of the Executive.

The Department for Education had announced funding of £382k for the Special Educational Needs (SEN) Reform Grant and £273k for the Adoption Reform Grant. Local Authorities could spend these one-off grants to recognise the programmes of change underway in the areas of SEN and adoption but may choose how to spend these monies in order to best meet local need. The 2014/15 draft central contingency already included £150k for the SEN Reform Grant and this would be increased to reflect this recent notification. The Adoption Reform Grant would also be allocated to the central

contingency and any drawdown of these grants would require the approval of the Executive.

Council were requested to set aside funding from underspends in 2013/14 for planned one-off Member initiatives as detailed in additional recommendation 2.3 below.

The above changes required the following amendments to be made to the recommendations of the Executive:

“Amended Recommendation (2.1)

- (i) Approves a revised Central Contingency sum of £12,976k to reflect the changes in (d), (f), (g) and (h) above (see also section 5 of Report FSD14014).

To note that, since the meeting of the Executive, the Council has received notification of two grant allocations from the Department for Education. £382k has been allocated for the Special Educational Needs (SEN) Reform Grant (increased from £150k already included in the central contingency) and £273k has been allocated for the Adoption Reform Grant. Both of these grants have been allocated to the central contingency and any drawdown will require the approval of the Executive.

- (m) Sets a nil variation in Bromley’s council tax for 2014/15, compared with 2013/14, and a 1.3% reduction in the GLA precept. This results in an overall reduction (including GLA precept) of 0.3%.
- (n) Notes the final position on the GLA precept, as accepted by the London Assembly on 14th February 2014.

Additional Recommendation (2.3)

- (i) Council to agree to set aside earmarked reserves totalling £1,475k funded from underspends in 2013/14 for the following one-off Member initiatives:
 - (a) Impact of Winter Damage for Repairs to Potholes and Highways (£1,000k);
 - (b) Community Fund (£250k);
 - (c) Replacement of Fallen Trees following Storm Damage (£100k);
 - (d) Provision for emergency flood damage (£100k);
 - (e) Refurbishment of War Memorials (£25k).
- (ii) Council to note that the detailed arrangements for these initiatives will be reported to the Executive.

Amended Recommendation (2.4)

Council Tax 2014/15 – Statutory Calculations and Resolutions (as amended by the Localism Act 2011).

Subject to 2.1 (a) to (o) and 2.2 above, if the formal Council Tax Resolution as detailed below is approved, the total Band D Council Tax will be as follows:

	2013/14 £	2014/15 £	Increase/decrease (-) %
Bromley	1,010.07	1,010.07	0.00
GLA	303.00	299.00	-1.32
Total	1,313.07	1,309.07	-0.30

Amended Recommendation (2.5)

3. That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2014/15 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the Act):
 - (a) £558,151k being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (2) of the Act.
 - (b) £432,711k being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (3) of the Act.
4. To note that the Greater London Authority (GLA) has issued a precept to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as indicated in the table below."

A motion to receive and adopt the recommendations as amended was proposed by Councillor Stephen Carr and seconded by Councillor Graham Arthur.

The following amendment was proposed by Councillor Tom Papworth and seconded by Councillor Reg Adams –

"After allowing for the report from the Director of Finance the following amendments are proposed to the recommendations of the Executive set out in the Blue Book on pages 35-44.

The following changes be made to the recommended budget for 2014/15:

New Recommendation (3)

Council to agree:

- (a) the 2014/15 New Homes Bonus of £5,040k be utilised for the acquisition of temporary accommodation to reduce the use of nightly paid accommodation to meet statutory housing duties. Based on equivalent

acquisition costs, refurbishment and savings already reported to Executive from the utilisation of Bellegrave (Executive 9th January 2013) potential savings of £210k in 2014/15 rising to £500k per annum from 2015/16 may be realised. If at a future date a property is no longer required, it would be available for sale and a capital receipt generated;

- (b) the creation of a Local Initiative Fund of £210k in 2014/15 increasing to £440k per annum from 2015/16 to be divided amongst Bromley's 22 wards. Funds to be used as agreed by a Local Initiative Action Group consisting of ward members, residents' association Chairs and other community leaders as identified by the Portfolio Holder of Renewal and Recreation;
- (c) the remaining £60k per annum from 2015/16 be set aside to support future year's budgets."

On being put to the vote, this amendment was LOST.

Councillor Peter Fookes stated that he would not be tabling an amendment on behalf of his party, but gave a speech about his concerns about the proposed budget.

After debate, a recorded vote was taken on the Budget and Council Tax proposals, more than one third of Members present having risen from their seats to request this.

The following Councillors voted to support the amended recommendations –

Graham Arthur, Douglas Auld, Jane Beckley, Julian Benington, Nicholas Bennett JP, Ruth Bennett, Eric Bosshard, Katy Boughey, Lydia Buttinger, Stephen Carr, Roger Charsley, Peter Dean, Nicky Dykes, Judi Ellis, Robert Evans, Roxhannah Fawthrop, Simon Fawthrop, Peter Fortune, Julian Grainger, Ellie Harmer, Will Harmer, David Hastings, Brian Humphrys, Samaris Huntington-Thresher, William Huntington-Thresher, John Ince, Russell Jackson, Charles Joel, Kate Lymer, Paul Lynch, Anne Manning, Russell Mellor, Alexa Michael, Nicholas Milner, Peter Morgan, Gordon Norrie, Tony Owen, Ian Payne, Sarah Phillips, Neil Reddin, Charles Rideout, Richard Scoates, Colin Smith, Diane Smith, Harry Stranger, Tim Stevens JP, Michael Tickner, Michael Turner and Stephen Wells.

The following Councillors voted against the amended recommendations –

Peter Fookes and John Getgood

The following Councillors abstained –

Reg Adams, John Canvin, David McBride, Ernest Noad and Tom Papworth

Accordingly, the recommendations of the Executive (as amended) were CARRIED as follows -

(1) Council -

- (a) approves the schools budget of £114.9 million which matches the estimated level of Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG);**
- (b) approves the operation of a discretionary Business Rates relief scheme based on guidance from Central Government for the period that Government funding remains available (expected to be 2014/15 and 2015/16);**
- (c) subject to agreement of (b) above agrees to delegate to officers authority to make decisions on a case by case basis, with a senior officer considering any request for a review;**
- (d) notes that the 2014/15 Draft Budget for pension fund deficit has been reduced by £200k per annum, allocated across portfolio budgets and the central contingency, to reflect the outcome of the triennial valuation reported to the Pension Investment Sub Committee on 11th February 2014;**
- (e) approves the contribution of £5,040k from New Homes Bonus to the Economic Development and Investment Fund and utilisation of Collection Fund Surplus (£2,964k) towards meeting the 2015/16 Budget Gap by creating an earmarked reserve;**
- (f) agrees to reduce the provision for unallocated inflation by £377k to reflect latest information on general inflation;**
- (g) agrees to reduce the provision for uncertainty in grants by £357k to reflect final grant settlement for 2014/15;**
- (h) agrees to reduce the provision for risk/uncertainty in the Central Contingency Sum by £160k;**
- (i) approves a revised Central Contingency sum of £12,976k to reflect the changes in (d), (f), (g) and (h) above (see also section 5 of Report FSD14014).**

(To note that, since the meeting of the Executive, the Council has received notification of two grant allocations from the Department for Education. £382k has been allocated for the Special Educational Needs (SEN) Reform Grant (increased from £150k already included in the central contingency) and £273k has been allocated for the Adoption Reform Grant. Both of these grants have been allocated to the central contingency and any drawdown will require the approval of the Executive.)

- (j) approves the following provisions for levies for inclusion in the budget for 2014/15:

	£'000
London Pension Fund Authority	486
London Boroughs Grant Committee	310
Environment Agency (Flood defence etc.)	236
Lee Valley Regional Park	391
Total	1,423

- (k) approves the revised draft 2014/15 revenue budgets to reflect the changes detailed above (see also Appendix 3 to Report FSD14014);
- (l) agrees that Chief Officers identify alternative savings within their departmental budgets where it is not possible to realise any proposed savings reported to the previous meeting of the Executive;
- (m) sets a nil variation in Bromley's council tax for 2014/15, compared with 2013/14, and a 1.3% reduction in the GLA precept. This results in an overall reduction (including GLA precept) of 0.3%;
- (n) notes the final position on the GLA precept, as accepted by the London Assembly on 14th February 2014;
- (o) approves the approach to reserves outlined by the Director of Finance (see Appendix 5 to Report FSD14014).
- (2) (i) Council to agrees to set aside earmarked reserves totalling £1,475k funded from underspends in 2013/14 for the following one-off Member initiatives:
- (a) Impact of Winter Damage for Repairs to Potholes and Highways (£1,000k);
 - (b) Community Fund (£250k);
 - (c) Replacement of Fallen Trees following Storm Damage (£100k);
 - (d) Provision for emergency flood damage (£100k);
 - (e) Refurbishment of War Memorials (£25k).
- (ii) Council to note that the detailed arrangements for these initiatives will be reported to the Executive.
- (3) Council Tax 2014/15 – Statutory Calculations and Resolutions (as amended by the Localism Act 2011).

Subject to 1 (a) to (o) and 2 above, the total Band D Council Tax will be as follows:

	2013/14 £	2014/15 £	Increase/decrease (-) %
Bromley	1,010.07	1,010.07	0.00
GLA	303.00	299.00	-1.32
Total	1,313.07	1,309.07	-0.30

(4) Council formally resolves as follows:

- (i) it be noted that the Council Tax Base for 2014/15 is 124,189;**
- (ii) it is calculated that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2014/15 is £125,440k;**
- (iii) that the following amounts be calculated for the year 2014/15 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the Act):**
 - (a) £558,151k being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act.**
 - (b) £432,711k being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.**
 - (c) 125,440k being the amount by which the aggregate at (iii) (a) above exceeds the aggregate at (iii) (b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year;**
 - (d) £1010.07 being the amount at (iii)(c) above, divided by (i) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year;**
- (iv) To note that the Greater London Authority (GLA) has issued a precept to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as indicated in the table below.**
- (v) that the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the table below as the amounts of Council Tax for 2014/15 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.**

LONDON BOROUGH OF BROMLEY

Valuation Bands							
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
673.38	785.61	897.84	1,010.07	1234.53	1458.99	1683.45	2,020.14

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

Valuation Bands							
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
199.33	232.56	265.78	299.00	365.44	431.89	498.33	598.00

AGGREGATE OF COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENTS

Valuation Bands							
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
872.71	1018.17	1163.62	1309.07	1599.97	1890.88	2181.78	2618.14

(vi) that the Council hereby determines that its relevant basic amount of council tax for the financial year 2014/15, which reflects a nil increase, is not excessive. (The Referendums Relating to Council Tax Increases (Principles) (England) Report 2014/15 sets out the principles which the Secretary of State has determined will apply to local authorities in England in 2014/15. The Council is required to determine whether its relevant basic amount of Council Tax is excessive in accordance with the principles approved under Section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.)

(2) Capital Programme

A motion to include the new scheme proposals supported by Chief Officers in the Capital Programme, subject to a fully costed feasibility study on the scheme to upgrade/replace the SharePoint Productivity Platform being approved by the Resources Portfolio Holder, was moved by Councillor Stephen Carr, seconded by Councillor Colin Smith and **CARRIED**.

62 2014/15 Pay Award

A motion to approve the following recommendations for a bottom-loaded pay increase –

- 1.7% for staff earning less than £21k pa (fte)
- 1.2% for staff earning £21k or more but less than £44k pa (fte)
- 1% increase for staff on £44k pa or more (fte)

was moved by Councillor Tony Owen, seconded by Councillor Russell Mellor and **CARRIED**.

63 2014/15 Pay Policy Statement

A motion to approve the 2014/15 Pay Policy Statement was moved by Councillor Tony Owen, seconded by Councillor Russell Mellor and **CARRIED**.

64 Members Allowances Scheme 2014/15

A motion to approve the 2014/15 Members Allowances Scheme and Mayoral and Deputy Mayoral allowances, with no increases in allowances, was moved by Councillor Tony Owen, seconded by Councillor Russell Mellor and **CARRIED**.

65 Review of Councillor IT and Telephones

A motion to approve new arrangements for Councillor IT and telephone support was moved by Councillor Will Harmer, seconded by Councillor Nicholas Bennett and **CARRIED**.

66 Treasury Management - Performance Quarters 2 and 3 2013/14 and Part-Year Review

A motion to approve changes to the 2013/14 prudential indicators was moved by Councillor Graham Arthur, seconded by Councillor Stephen Carr and **CARRIED**.

67 Treasury Management - Annual Investment Strategy 2014/15

A motion to approve the Treasury Management Statement and Annual Investment Strategy for 2014/15, including the prudential indicators and the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) policy statement was moved by Councillor Graham Arthur, seconded by Councillor Stephen Carr and **CARRIED**.

68 To consider Motions of which notice has been given.

Three motions had been received as follows –

(A) Crystal Palace Park

The following motion was moved by Councillor Russell Jackson and seconded by Councillor Sarah Phillips -

“Whilst emphasising the importance of improvements to transport infrastructure in the area, this Council welcomes the potential £500m of investment in Crystal Palace Park by the ZhongRong Group and calls on the Council to safeguard and ensure the future use of the park for all residents.”

The motion was **CARRIED**.

(B) Orpington Foodbank

The following motion was moved by Councillor Peter Fookes and seconded by Councillor John Getgood -

“This Council calls on the Portfolio Holder for Resources to let the Orpington Foodbank at a peppercorn rent.”

The motion was **LOST**.

The Mayor suggested that the Executive and Resources PDS Committee should look again at the facts behind this decision.

(C) Housing

The following motion was due to be moved by Councillor Peter Fookes and seconded by Councillor John Getgood -

“This Council calls on the Executive to use the £4.2 Million in the Section 106 monies account to relieve the problems of the growing housing crisis in this borough by working with housing associations to purchase properties for renting and to reduce the demand for temporary housing in this borough.”

This motion was not considered due to lack of time.

69 The Mayor's announcements and communications.

The Mayor thanked those who had supported recent events including the Charity Appeal dinner at the House of Lords in January, the Quiz Evening and the recent BYMT concert at the Park Langley Performance Centre. All of these events had been very successful and raised generous amounts for the Mayor's Charity, Bromley Y. He also set out details of forthcoming events –

- Friday 21st March: A wine tasting evening at Ferraris Restaurant in East Street (organised by Bromley Y.)
- Sunday 23rd March: A BYMT Symphony Orchestra concert which will be held at Langley Park Performance Centre.
- Tuesday 1st April 2014: Another dinner at Mings Chinese Restaurant at Petts Wood.
- Tuesday 20th May 2014: A charity dinner at Aqua Bar and Grill.
- Tuesday 3rd June at 6.30pm: A Reception for Retiring Councillors.

70 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) (VARIATION) ORDER 2006 AND THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded during consideration of the item of business referred to below as it is likely in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings that if members of the Press and public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information.

**The following summary
refers to matters
involving exempt information**

71 Pension Fund Triennial Valuation

A motion to approve the recommendations made by the General Purposes and Licensing Committee at its meeting on 24th February 2014 was proposed by Councillor Owen, seconded by Cllr Mellor and **CARRIED**.

Mayor

The Meeting ended at 10.28 pm

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COUNCIL MEETING

24th FEBRUARY 2014

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

(1) From Margot Rohan to the Chairman of Development Control Committee

What legitimate reason does Bromley Council's Planning department have for denying residents (particularly those with disabilities and no internet access) their democratic right to speak in objection to planning applications, by not advising objectors of the committee date, when a simple emailmerge/texting system would not have significant 'resource implications'?

Reply:

The Council meets its duties on publicising agenda for its committee meetings in particular by publishing agenda at least five working days in advance.

We do appreciate that some interested parties may not have access to the internet, and the notes accompanying our standard planning neighbour notification letters advise that if you have a disability or are housebound, or need an interpreter, and find it difficult to view or understand the plans, then please let us know and we will do our best to help. It is also explained in the same notes that due to the volume of correspondence we receive, the Council is unable to inform any parties of planning meeting or decision dates, however you can track applications by using our website, or you can call or email us to check if a meeting date has been scheduled.

We don't agree that we are denying residents any democratic right to speak in objection to planning applications as there are a number of ways to receive information about the progress of an application. We are not proposing to adopt any other notification system at this time.

Supplementary Question:

Where are meeting agendas published other than on the website?

Reply:

I believe that meeting agendas are available in the libraries.

(2) From Ian Dunn to the Leader of the Council

The budget and Council Tax papers which have been considered by the Executive this year show a budget gap of £32 million in 2016/17, increasing to £52 million in 2017/18. What plans are the Executive developing to deal with this gap?

Reply:

While recognising that this is a significant challenge which will transform the way the Council works, I can advise Mr Dunn that the Administration is considering a whole range of options to deal with this funding position.

We are continually seeking service efficiencies, including shared services with other boroughs, reducing back office costs, working more closely with health resulting in potential pooled budgets, ensuring our assets work better for us, considering where appropriate further outsourcing, supporting and investing in business to increase our business rate receipts, and a series of baseline reviews to name but a few. I am very happy to meet with Mr Dunn or any other resident with a particular interest in these matters to discuss these things further.

Supplementary Question:

In three month's time the people of Bromley will be electing councillors for a four year term – do you agree that they have a right to know what is being planned before the election rather than having a nasty surprise afterwards?

Reply:

In broad terms, I agree, and the Council has been open about the challenges we face. We don't do gimmicks, we do long-term sustainable planning. As soon as plans are in place we will present them to the public. We are not going to avoid a discussion in public.

(3) From Susan Sulis, Secretary, Community Care Protection Group, to the Chairman of General Purposes and Licensing Committee (Question put by Paul Summers on behalf of Mrs Sulis)

MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES, EXPENSES AND PENSIONS.

A report to this meeting recommends a 2014/15 Members' Allowances Scheme (including Mayoral and Deputy Mayoral Allowances) totalling £1,156,900.

- (a) For 2013/14, what was the total cost of:-
 - (i) Members' Expenses?
 - (ii) Members' Pensions?

- (b) For 2014/15, What is the budget allocation for:-
 - (i) Members' Expenses?
 - (ii) Members' Pensions?

Reply:

In addition to allowances, Members can also claim to be reimbursed for other expenses such as for travel and subsistence incurred whilst on official duties outside the borough.

We have not finished 2013/14 yet, but the estimated expenditure on these expenses in 2013/14 is £200 and the 2014/15 budget is £500.

The cost of Members' pensions (which we take to mean employer's contributions) in 2013/14 is £83,000 and in 2014/15 budget is £86,000.

(4) From Susan Sulis, Secretary, Community Care Protection Group, to the Care Services Portfolio Holder (Question put by Paul Summers on behalf of Mrs Sulis)

BROMLEY'S FOODBANKS & THE COUNCIL'S "HEALTHY BROMLEY" STRATEGY.

- (a) Does this Council recognise the vital contribution of Foodbank Volunteers; the Trussell Trust and local Churches to their "Healthy Bromley" Strategy by alleviating hunger and malnutrition in Bromley?
- (b) Why does the Council not record the number of Bromley referrals, or obtain this information from the foodbanks?

Reply:

The Council does recognise the work of the various organisations running foodbanks - there is a motion later on the agenda when I will speak at greater length on that.

As far as recording the number of Bromley referrals is concerned, we have no statutory duty to collect such information (on referrals and usage of food banks) and we try to cut down the amount of statistics that we have to provide.

Supplementary Question:

Mr Summers commented that this gave the impression that the council does not care.

(5) From Susan Sulis, Secretary, Community Care Protection Group, to the Care Services Portfolio Holder (Question put by Paul Summers on behalf of Mrs Sulis)

RESEARCH BY THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING BOARD ON HUNGER; UNDERNOURISHMENT AND MALNUTRITION IN BROMLEY.

- (a) Why has scrutiny of the decision by the Resources Portfolio Holder to charge the Orpington Foodbank a commercial rent of over £8,000 p.a. been taken in private?
- (b) When will a full report on the implications of disease-related malnutrition and undernourishment in Bromley be considered by the relevant Council Committees/Boards?

Reply:

The report to the Resource Portfolio Holder concerned the financial/business affairs of the Council relating to commercial property transactions, which the Council is entitled to keep private to protect its own interests. Later in the agenda we will be talking in detail about the rent to be paid by the Foodbank.

There are currently no plans to conduct a review of disease-related malnutrition and undernourishment. There is currently no routine data collection relating to this issue. As a member of the Health and Wellbeing Board I am aware that the chairman of the Board Councillor Peter Fortune is very keen to take up any issues raised by the Director of Public Health.

Supplementary Question:

Mr Summers commented that the Church of England and the Catholic Church had recently made reference to the safety net being shredded and as an atheist he was with the vicars on this.

(6) From Kathy Smith, Bromley LG Unite Branch Secretary to the Leader of the Council

Staff representatives have been given assurances from the Leader, Chief Executive and Deputy, that the Commissioning Group would engage with them and have an open and transparent process. This has spectacularly failed to happen, what message does this send to staff about the commissioning process?

Reply:

I would take slightly exception to the phrase "spectacularly failed" but do concur that we did commit to open and transparent negotiations with all those concerned. I can point to areas such as the Customer Service Centre where I consider there was excellent communication and consultation. If that is not happening now, I apologise. The Chief Executive and the lead officer on Commissioning are here and I will ensure that that process is undertaken.

Supplementary Question:

Do you know that the staff call the Commissioning Board the Kremlin, the Politbureau would have had better secrecy than the Commissioning Board; other than on the Customer Service Centre, we have had no meetings despite being in a meeting over over a year ago when the Chief Executive told Marc Hume to arrange a meeting - since then we have had one meeting where Marc Hume did not attend. It has not happened up until now, the fear is that this is waiting until after the election.

Reply:

I did not know, I apologise for any breakdown in communication and I will do my best to make it happen in future.

(7) From Kathy Smith, Bromley LG Unite Branch Secretary to the Leader of the Council

The budget proposals mean cuts to the Library Service £300k , Youth Service Provision, £370k and Public Health functions £500k.

Do ward Councillors believe that democracy is served if they vote on cuts without information on the consequences that these cuts would have for the services the Council provides.

Reply:

I cannot speak for all ward councillors, but all Members have the opportunity to challenge myself and the Executive, and occasionally they do, but there has been no such challenge since these proposal have been made public. There is an alternative route through the Scrutiny Committees where all members are able to put their points. These cuts, whilst looking significant, will have little impact on the way we deliver services in future.

Supplementary Question:

Do you know that the lead officer for Libraries is informing library staff to expect at the beginning of April information about drastic reductions in hours in the Library service.

Reply:

I did not know that, and I do not think that it is the case. This demonstrates the point from earlier question about us not hiding things. Of course we need to take people with us. I refer to staff later on in how they are vital part of Building Better Bromley. It is right that you are asking to be communicated with and right that we should do so, but it is also right that we have a considered, thoughtful policy around budgets, dealing with the impact on local people. There has to be some discretion and confidentiality while policy is being drawn up but we take staff with us and we go to the electorate and ask us to support us and the decisions we take.

(8) From Kathy Smith, Bromley LG Unite Branch Secretary to the Resources Portfolio Holder

Do Councillors think it is fair, after years of pay freezes and a sub inflation pay award last year, to once again offer to hard working staff, another sub inflation pay award this year?

Reply:

One of the merits of adopting a local pay arrangement is that locally elected Councillors can determine staff pay increases recognising the impact of other cost pressures on the level of Council tax and the overall net budget for the financial year. Given the unprecedented financial context requiring the Council to find £60m by 2017/18 (having already achieved over £57m since 2011/12), the 2014/15 pay increase proposal including 1.7% increase for staff earning less than £21k per annum and 1.2% for staff earning £21k or more but less than £44k per annum, is a fair and affordable position for the Council. If the

proposal is agreed tonight it means that Bromley staff (apart from about 180 Management Grade Staff) will receive a pay increase higher than the 1% central government public sector pay increase cap. More importantly, it also means that Bromley staff will once again receive a higher pay increase (and on time) than their local government colleagues. The latest from the national collective pay review process between the unions and local government employers strongly indicates that the latter will offer no more than 1% across the board and any settlement is unlikely soon. Nothing unusual in that respect which is why we decided to adopt a localised terms and conditions framework, ensuring that pay decisions are taken locally by democratically elected Councillors in a timely and affordable manner.

Supplementary Question:

You have come out of national terms and conditions and cannot hide behind them anymore. Do you think it is fair that we are now £127 per month worse off now than in 2008, with food prices going up 30% and food prices going up 6% this year; do you think it is about time that some politician should decide to pay people the right amount of money and if we cannot afford it we will find the money? I'll swap my 1.7% increase with the Chief Officers' 1%.

Reply:

You are comparing loss of buying power of the salary since 2008, but that happened under the old national scheme. During the last year, people working for this borough earning under £21k received a 1.7% increase as against 1% nationally, a £200 one-off payment and this year they will receive a further 1.7% against 1% nationally. They can also obtain merit payments. This also enables local people to have self-determination rather than have pay decisions made by faceless people many miles away.

COUNCIL MEETING

24th February 2014

ORAL QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

1. From Councillor Russell Mellor of the Leader of the Council

Can you advise me if you are aware of the recent High Court and Appeal Court case of St Albans Council – v – Hunston Properties Limited?

Reply:

Yes I am aware of the case.

Supplementary Question:

The High Court overturned an appeal against St Albans Council for lack of a local plan. Can the Leader assure me that our Plan will proceed with utmost urgency in order that we are not in the same situation?

Reply:

Yes, we will do everything we can to proceed in an orderly and speedy manner.

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

If he will set out in table and graph format the following information:

- i. the annual increase in council tax for each financial year since 1999-2000;
- ii. the amount taken from the reserves to limit the increase in council tax in each year;
- iii. the increase in the years 1999-2000, 2000-2001, and 2001-2002;
- iv. the increase in the years 2002-3 to 2014-15;
- v. the party or parties in control of the Council at the time of the increases and if he will arrange for the answer to this question to be provided on the council website?

Reply:

I have circulated the answer (appendix 1). There are highlights such as the use of reserves to supplement revenue. This stopped in 2007/08. We have preserved and increased reserves since that time.

Supplementary Question:

In the three years 1998 to 2001 the Council Tax went up by an average of 10.53% per year, since then it has gone up by an average of 3.8%. What conclusions does he draw from those figures?

Reply:

The conclusions are fairly obvious – it is about careful husbandry of our resources and running our Council in a proficient manner. If you take the last four years of Council Tax increases, the total is 0.4% - if you compare that with the three year period where it exceeded 10% each year you get a good idea of the swing round in the way we handle our resources.

Additional Supplementary Question:

Councillor Reg Adams asked the Portfolio Holder if he agreed that given the real impact of the increase in Council Tax – ie discounting for the real rate of inflation at the time – the question was rather “over-egging the pudding.”

Reply:

Would he expect me to do so?

Additional Supplementary Question:

Can he explain if the rises were so terribly high can he explain why he continued to take that amount of money from 2002 onwards and indeed increase the Council tax further?

Reply:

It would have been possible, where we had taken the money erroneously, to give the money back, but you had already spent it.

3. From Councillor Michael Tickner to the Leader of the Council

What action has been taken by the Council in the past four years to promote environmentally sustainable policies in the administration of the council’s premises and services in order to ensure that Bromley remains a ‘green and clean’ borough?

Reply:

The Environment Portfolio Plan sets out how the Council continues to deliver excellent environmental services and keeps Bromley ‘clean and green’. The public is kept informed through ‘Environment Matters’.

Premises: environmental sustainability activity focusses on the Council’s Carbon Management Programme, which aims to reduce environmental impacts and costs associated with how we operate (e.g. energy efficiency, recycling and staff travel).

- The first five-year programme (which finished at the end of 2012/13) showed a reduction in the Council’s carbon emissions of 5,275t CO₂ equivalent – a reduction of 14% since the Programme’s 2006/07 baseline.
- Since 2006/07, by taking action on energy use at the Civic Centre and our Street Lighting, the Council has avoided almost 11.5 million kWh of energy consumption, and avoided unnecessary revenue spend of £580k.

- Action through the Council's Carbon Management Fund (Salix) will have avoided more than £700k in unnecessary energy costs since 2008/09

Services provided through the Environment Portfolio affect our daily lives and many services compare favourably with those provided by other councils.

- Our household waste recycling rate has risen to over 50%, the second highest in London
- The amount of waste we landfill continues to fall: now only 24% of total waste
- There are nearly 13,000 customers for the Green Garden Waste Collection Scheme
- Resident satisfaction with our Street Cleaning is high.
- The street lighting 'invest to save' project (replacing 8,000 lamp columns and 4,000 lanterns by April 2015) will significantly reduce energy use and costs.

I could go on but clearly a lot has been done in this area.

Supplementary Question:

Councillor Tickner welcomed the virtual disappearance of graffiti from the Borough's streets, but not from railway property which residents saw as threatening and suggesting lawlessness, and asked whether the Leader would be willing to raise this with Railtrack.

Reply:

This is exactly what we are trying to do. We are meeting resistance from the train operating companies but we will continue to do so as it is an important part of making the borough look cleaner and feel safer.

4. From Councillor Richard Scoates to the Renewal and Recreation Portfolio Holder

What action has been taken in the past four years to encourage business and employment in the Borough?

Reply:

We have done many things in the last four years to try to assist businesses, but having said that, my own philosophy is that the market is the best organiser of business. Our duty is to provide the correct infrastructure and not to get in the way – in other words to reduce bureaucratic barriers. Amongst the things we have done, we have organised a number of "Boost your Business" events which have provided small and medium sized businesses with opportunities to meet suppliers, we have published very regularly the Bromley Business Guide which lists about three and a half thousand local businesses, we maintain an online commercial property database for businesses to find properties more easily, we publish a bi-monthly business e-bulletin to over three thousand local businesses, we coordinate the Bromley Economic Partnership which coordinates views and tries to establish the problems

facing businesses so we can put these right, we have done a lot of work in the town centres to help local retailers to perform better, we have devised an emergency grants scheme to assist people hurt by the riots in 2011, we have developed an initiative for local parades which has already helped ten parades with a further five pending, we have developed the Business Improvement District (BID) in Orpington and we are looking at something similar for Bromley, we have developed the future jobs fund which saw in excess of a hundred young people placed into long term employment and more recently the Star Project aimed at putting people 18-24 year olds into employment, the outcome of which is that forty two people are now in apprenticeships in a six month period.

(There was no supplementary question, but the Mayor suggested that Cllr Morgan send the full text of his answer to Cllr Scoates.)

Full Written Reply Text:

- *Organised and hosted multi-agency one day Boost Your Business events in Bromley town centre in 2009, 2010 and 2011. These were a specific response to the economic downturn and provided small and medium sized businesses and start ups with the opportunity to talk to a range of business support agencies and relevant suppliers and attend inspirational and instructive business seminars all under one roof.*
- *Hosted smaller local versions of Boost Your Business in Bromley North Village and Orpington in 2010, and Social Enterprise Network events in partnership with Community Links Bromley.*
- *Published, distributed and promoted Bromley Business Guide in 2011/12 and 2013/14 - with an online and CD Rom directory of around 3500 local businesses – businesses based in the borough can be included in the directory free of charge and this assists them with their own marketing and encourages local business to business trade.*
- *Maintained an online commercial property database which enables businesses looking for premises in the borough to search and obtain details free of charge.*
- *Maintain a business section on the Council website – signposting businesses to both online and offline assistance both from the Council and from partner organisations.*
- *Since 2009 we have published and distributed a bi-monthly business e-bulletin to over 3000 local businesses – containing news, support and events of relevance to them.*
- *Coordinate the Bromley Economic Partnership – established in 2009 and incorporating representatives of various business sectors and public sector organisations involved in employment and business support. The Partnership enables regular sharing of information and opportunities for joint action between the various stakeholders.*

- *Work with partner organisations to develop and deliver support for the owners of small and medium enterprises including a varied range of seminars / workshops and one to one mentoring programmes, many of which are free or subsidised for businesses.*
- *Maintain up to date information about other business support on offer (for example the Start Up Loan scheme and Growth Accelerator) and provide signposting via telephone, email and web based enquiry services to appropriate support.*
- *Successfully bid for external funding to from Outer London Fund rounds 1 and 2 – and coordinated a programme of major town centre physical regeneration projects and events to encourage additional footfall and spend in town centres. Major events included the 2012 visit of Her Majesty the Queen and the HRH Duke of Edinburgh to Bromley in May 2012, the Bromley Summer Festival, the High Street Garden project 2013 (with artificial grass on High Street and Churchill Piazza) and a number of highly successful Christmas lights events across the borough.*
- *Devised and delivered an emergency grant scheme, backed by DCLG, to assist businesses worst hit by the summer 2011 riots - to provide financial assistance to those without sufficient insurance or awaiting an insurance settlement.*
- *Devised and delivered the Council funded Local Parades Improvement Initiative grant – which has been responsible for projects to enhance the local environment and attractiveness to shoppers at 10 local parades and small town centres – with projects in another 5 locations still pending or in progress.*
- *Worked with existing and forming business groups in a number of town centres – to encourage a coordinated approach amongst businesses and other stakeholder to town centre issues. Successfully re-launched the Beckenham Business Association in 2011, and oversaw the renewal of the Petts Wood and West Wickham business associations in 2013. Also assisted with the launch of Town Teams in Chislehurst, Bromley North and Beckenham.*
- *In partnership with the Orpington Business Forum, we developed the borough's first Business Improvement District in Orpington town centre – launched in April 2013 after a successful ballot in February 2013. The Business Improvement District (BID) is a partnership of business rate payers who fund an agreed improvement programme for the town centre through a ring fenced additional levy based on business rateable value. Over its 5 year term, the Orpington BID will deliver projects to enhance the customer offer for the town centre, improve accessibility and safety, increase attractiveness to inward investors and reduce costs for businesses in the BID area.*

In addition the Council has been directly involved in numerous employment initiatives over the last four years such as the Future Jobs Fund, which saw in excess of 100 young people placed into long term employment and more recently, the Star project,

aimed at putting 18 -24 year olds into work, with the outcome that 42 young people in the borough were placed into apprenticeships in a six month period.

5. From Councillor Ruth Bennett to the Care Services Portfolio Holder

What action has been taken in the past four years to ensure the well being of vulnerable elderly people and children?

Reply:

The wellbeing and safety of vulnerable elderly people and children are paramount as far as the Council is concerned. In terms of detail, I could deliver an enormous list but could I just mention the following -

- i. We have established a Re-ablement service to develop and enhance an individual's ability to manage their own care.
- ii. All front line staff have received Safeguarding "alerter" training.
- iii. Introduction of user led Quality Checkers within the LD Day and Supported Living Services.
- iv. Introduction of Telecare equipment to enhance the community alarm service.

All services undertake individual needs-led assessments and where appropriate these are joint assessments with our health partners. Where the assessment indicates a need or FACS eligibility we will work with the resident to develop a support plan to address the needs ensuring the individual is supported and is able to be as independent as possible taking part and contributing to the community.

In essence, we are working towards safe independence for our residents.

Supplementary Question:

Given the changes to Council and health authority responsibilities over the last few years, can the Portfolio Holder give a few words of explanation about the division of funding between the Council and health authorities in joint assessments.

Reply:

We are now working very closely indeed with the health authorities. With many of these assessments there is not a health element and a social services element. We are working closely with them to make sure that both of those parts of the package are dealt with fairly.

6. From Councillor Neil Reddin to the Education Portfolio Holder

What progress has been made to meet the education commitments approved by the Council?

Reply:

(The Mayor asked the Portfolio Holder to summarise his answer and send the full text to Councillor Reddin.)

The Portfolio holder set out some factors particularly pertinent to the Education Commitments established at this time last year.

In particular, with regard to choice in education, we are currently in discussion with the Arch Diocese of Southwark over opportunities for catholic families in the borough to access secondary and more primary catholic education for their children, we are in discussion with Bromley College of Further and Higher Education over the creation of a University Technical College. We support the College's ambition to increase the offer for children interested in following a more vocational curriculum. The opening of a careers college in September 2014 on the Orpington site focussing on catering is one example of this. There are three primary free schools planned to open in September this year, Harris Beckenham, Harris Shortlands and a bi-lingual free school in the central Bromley area. We are currently unable because of legislation to open any more selective schools, however I am pleased to report that Newstead Wood School enlarged its intake this year and we will look again at other opportunities in that regard. We continue to support Bromley College in its application for the University Technical College – this would be particularly to look at health related careers. One phase of Bromley Youth Employment Programme led to the creation of forty two apprenticeships this year and Bromley Education Business Partnership continues to deliver a pre-apprenticeship support programme for 16-18 year olds who are NEET or at risk of becoming NEET (Not In Employment, Education or Training) and who want to find an apprenticeship. Currently, youth unemployment in Bromley is down some 40%. In regard to school governors, we are very active in seeking to improve our school governship, and our internal drive to recruit officers to take governorships with a special leave policy has been reviewed. We are continuing to target under-performing schools to ensure that none are below "good" at an Ofsted inspection. We are particularly focussing on tracking and monitoring of children's progress and ensuring that support is brokered into those schools from whatever source can best address the school's individual needs. Individual progress of most able pupils continues to be part of Ofsted's judgements about any school. Forty four of the ninety six Bromley schools (including the Pupil Referral Unit) have converted to academy status by February 2014 – just under 50%. A further ten schools are expected to convert by the end of the 2013/14 academic year, bringing the total to 57%. Thirty three additional schools are actively exploring options for conversion as part of multi-academy trusts and similar partnership arrangements.

Additional supplementary question:

Councillor David McBride asked, with the Administration's stated policy of seeking academy status for all schools and the numbers of centrally held staff cut right back to the bone how long will it be before the post of Portfolio Holder for Education is no longer needed because there will not be any borough schools and there will not be any education staff to preside over.

Reply:

I fully expect to make myself redundant very shortly. In terms of support for schools, both primary and secondary, whether academy or maintained, what we are doing is

ensuring we broker a series of support structures for those schools based around other schools that have expertise that best addresses those needs the school has, and also around the National College. We have the largest number of National Leaders In Education of any borough in the country, that expertise and competence within our teaching staff we are seeking to ensure is spread across our borough in terms of support. There are many very clear examples of this working very well – I would highlight them recent appointment of the former Deputy Head of Newstead Wood to Clare House Primary School.

Additional supplementary question:

Councillor Reg Adams sought the Mayor’s assurance that the full text of the answers to this and earlier questions would be placed in the public domain, and the Mayor responded that they would.

Additional supplementary question:

Councillor Neil Reddin suggested that the area of lifelong learning was sometimes viewed as a “Cinderella” service and asked whether Adult Education would “go to the ball.”

Reply:

Bromley Adult Education College continues to flourish offering a diverse range of courses that include opportunities to improve basic skills in preparation for employment as well as a wide range of learning and leisure based opportunities. In the 2012/13 academic year over 7,500 people, approximately 80% of whom were Bromley residents, accessed over 1,200 courses. Partnership work with a range of community and third sector organisations ensured that residents in some of the most marginal parts of the borough such as Mottingham, the Cray Valley, Crystal Palace and Penge and Cator Wards were able to participate and benefit from local learning opportunities.

(During consideration of this question Councillor Simon Fawthrop declared an interest as his wife worked for Bromley Adult Education College.)

Full Written Reply Text:

EDUCATION COMMITMENTS 2013-14

The Local Authority will:

- 1. Believe in the right of parents (where practicable) to have as much choice of schools as possible including faith schools;
We are currently in conversation with the Archdioces over opportunites for Catholic families in the Borough as well as Bromley College of Further and Higher Education over the creation of a University Technical College. We support The College’s ambition to increase the offer for children interested in following a more vocational curriculum. The opening of a Careers College in September 2014, on the Orpington site of Bromley College and focussing on catering, is one example of this.*
- 2. Will support and encourage all Bromley LA schools to convert to academy status;*

44 of the 96 Bromley Schools (including the PRU) have converted to academy status by February 2014, just under 50%. A further ten schools are expected to convert by the end of the 2013/14 academic year bringing the total to 57% . 33 schools are actively exploring options for conversion as part of multi-academy trusts or other similar partnership arrangements.

3. *Support the creation of 'Free Schools' and, where appropriate, will encourage local parents to apply for one;
Two primary free schools are planned to open in September: the Bi-lingual Free School and Harris Shortlands. The Council is working to find appropriate temporary accommodation for both schools so that they can offer children the best of opportunities from the very first day of opening.*
4. *Will continue to support the expansion of selective education, including Grammar Schools, particularly in the central and northern part of the Borough; Currently legislation prevents the opening of more selective schools but we continue to actively support our two highly successful grammar schools and want to encourage more children from disadvantaged homes to apply for these schools.*
5. *Will continue to improve the provision of SEN education in the Borough; It is in recognition of our SEN provision that Bromley has been chosen as a pathfinder in developing the new Education, Health and Care plans which will replace statements of special need from September 2014.*
6. *Support the concept of an education voucher system which gives additional support to children with different educational needs, including academically gifted pupils;
The rapidly changing landscape in education has made this approach less relevant. Instead The Council is working hard to ensure that we have a diverse range of schools and academies in the Borough to ensure that all children and young people's needs and aptitudes are met.*
7. *Will continue to encourage all Bromley secondary schools to ensure that all suitable pupils are prepared for the universities which best meet their aspirations;
Bromley outcomes at A level continue to outperform national and there is a strong emphasis in all our schools on getting young people into the very best universities. In addition Bromley College is developing a higher education offer to enable a less traditional route for young people who require a different offer to enable them to gain a degree.*
8. *Support the concept of a University Technical College (UTC) providing high quality technical education for 14-19 year olds;
The LA continues to support Bromley College in their application for a UTC that will prepare students for health related careers.*
9. *Support the creation of 'modern apprenticeships' for a wide variety of skilled trades;
Phase One of the Bromley Youth Employment programme led to the creation*

of 42 Apprenticeships (July 2013 –Jan 2014). Bromley Education Business Partnership continues to deliver a Pre Apprenticeship Support programme for 16- 18 yr olds who are NEET or at risk of becoming NEET and who want to find an apprenticeship.

10. *Support the concept of 'lifelong learning' and the important work of adult education;
Bromley Adult Education College continues to flourish, offering a diverse range of courses that include opportunities to improve basic skills in preparation for employment as well as a wide range of learning and leisure based opportunities. In the 2012/2013 academic year over seven and a half thousand people, approximately 80% of which were Bromley residents, accessed just over twelve hundred courses. Partnership work with a range of community and third sector organisations ensured that residents in some of the more marginalised parts of the borough, such as Mottingham, the Cray Valley, Crystal Palace, Penge and Cator wards were able to participate and benefit from local learning opportunities.*
11. *Support schools in ensuring that all teachers and other staff are competent in their role;
Our school improvement and HR teams continue to deliver support to maintained schools, targeting those not making required progress. Forums are held for subject leaders and schools are able to access training to support with assessment and moderation.*
12. *Support schools in maintaining good discipline;
A key development in this area is the decision to move PRU provision to the Bromley Alternative Provision Academy (BAPA) sponsored by Bromley College.*
13. *Work to improve school governance;
There has been an internal drive to recruit officers to take on governorships and in recognition of their commitment the special leave policy has been reviewed to allow them time off to fulfil the role. The school improvement team has commissioned reviews of governing bodies where concerns have been raised. Should governing bodies fail to respond to LA expectations there will be no hesitation in issuing a warning notice or even removing the governing body and replacing it with an interim executive board, as has happened with the PRU.*
14. *Work to improve the chances for underperforming children particularly in the early years and primary years and will work to encourage the continuing development of high quality early year provision in the Borough through existing and new private and voluntary providers;
Support is targeted at all schools and early years settings who are judged to be below good by Ofsted, with a focus on the tracking and monitoring of childrens progress. Specific support is provided to early years settings and schools who provide free places for vulnerable two year olds and providers are supported to increase their two year old places. New providers are able to access support both in terms of Ofsted requirements, and to identify areas where the need is greatest or where suitable opportunities may be available.*

15. *Encourage schools to identify children with exceptional talents or academic ability and ensure that their needs are provided for; The identification and progress of the most able pupils forms part of Ofsted's judgement about a school. Bromley schools are encouraged to provide a broad and diverse curriculum and they are challenged to improve the progress of their most able pupils.*
16. *Support changes to improve the quality and rigour of the exam system; Examinations at all phases are subject to external standardisation and moderation, however where assessment is made at teacher level, for example in the Early Years Foundation Stage, this is subject to a rigorous statutory moderation process, as laid down by the Standards, Testing Agency, and this process if managed by the Local Authority.*
17. *Support measures (including reading through Phonics) to ensure that no child leaves primary school unable to read and write English and without a good competence in basic maths. The Local Authority provides specialist support in English and Mathematics for all schools judged to be below good by Ofsted. The same specialists provide training forums for subject leaders in schools, and a rigorous assessment and moderation process is carried out by the LA on an annual basis, with specific training being provided to schools to support them to make accurate judgements.*

7. From Councillor Pauline Tunnicliffe to the Resources Portfolio Holder

How much is spent on the Freedom Pass and if he will confirm there are no plans to remove it?

Reply:

The budget for 2013-14 is £9,637,960 and for 2014-15 it is £10,412,177 – excluding a small charge for Post Office contract and London Council fees. Freedom Passes are greatly valued by our older residents; there is no intention to remove them. In many years time when Councillor Bennett and I qualify they will still be there for us.

8. From Councillor Peter Fookes to the Environment Portfolio Holder

How will he fund the car park extension at New Beckenham station?

Reply:

Through the TfL LIP budget.

Supplementary Question:

Does this not fly in the face of David Cameron's pledge to lead the greenest government ever?

Reply:

No.

9. From Councillor Russell Mellor to the Public Protection and Safety Portfolio Holder

What progress has been made in reducing crime and anti social behaviour in the Borough since 2010?

Reply:

Since 2010 various initiatives have been funded by the partnership to support a reduction in crime and anti-social behaviour across the borough; examples of this include supporting crime reduction through property marking to reduce theft from motor vehicles as well as burglary from homes, gardens and allotments. Alongside this and many other projects there has been particular focus on various youth diversion activities, such as boxing sessions and the Bromley Youth Service Summer Activity Scheme. Each of these schemes helps to reduce anti-social behaviour whilst encouraging good citizenship, active lifestyles and proves an excellent mechanism for the council to engage with residents.

This year the Partnership has been successful in securing funding for the next four years from the Mayor's Office for Policing. Among the schemes being funded are youth mentoring and domestic abuse reduction projects. A fundamental part of this funding will support a four year plan to increase enforcement activity against anti-social behaviour and noise nuisance, whilst also improving the environmental surroundings of some of the borough's most deprived areas.

At the last Safer Bromley Partnership meeting in December 2013 the Police reported that with respect to overall crime targets set by MOPAC, Bromley Police were 8% ahead of target. It was also reported that the number of notifiable offences were down by 6.5% and that anti-social behaviour had fallen between July to September 2013 by 2%.

Supplementary question:

What are the Portfolio Holder's intentions for continuing the improved achievements bearing in mind the appointment of a new borough commander?

Reply:

I will cover this in my speech on the budget later in the meeting.

10. From Councillor Tony Owen to the Public Protection and Safety Portfolio Holder

What membership of the Safer Neighbourhood Board would you envisage as representative of the London Borough of Bromley?

Reply:

The Safer Neighbourhood Board will be truly representative of Bromley, it will not be dominated by Councillors or borough employees. It is there to represent residents and that is what it will do.

Supplementary Question:

Councillor Owen asked the Portfolio Holder to comment on an email from the Borough Commander from 13th December 2013 suggesting that there was a danger of “reinventing yet another stereotypical Bromley forum ie average age 80, white, middle class” and asking her staff to update her on potential representatives to provide a more diverse mix.

Reply:

I have heard these comments and I think they are totally wrong and she does not understand this borough or who we represent in this borough. This Board will not be male dominated or composed of 80 year old white males – it will be a fair representation of the residents of this this borough who we represent, young and old alike.

Full Written Reply Text:

The proposed Safer Neighbourhood Board will be represented by the following:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Representing</i>
<i>Cllr Stevens</i>	<i>Portfolio Holder for Public Protection (Chairman)</i>
<i>Cllr Lymer</i>	<i>Chairman, Public Protection and Safety PDS Committee</i>
<i>Cllr Adams</i>	<i>Lib Dem Cllr</i>
<i>Cllr Fookes</i>	<i>Labour Cllr</i>
<i>Bob Hadley</i>	<i>Federation of Residents Assoc's</i>
<i>Margaret Gubbins</i>	<i>Police Custody Visitation Group</i>
<i>Carron Schusler</i>	<i>Chief Inspector, Safer Neighbourhoods</i>
<i>TBC</i>	<i>Stop and Search Group</i>
<i>TBC</i>	<i>London Probation</i>
<i>Derec Craig</i>	<i>Victim Support</i>
<i>Alf Kennedy</i>	<i>Neighbourhood Watch</i>
<i>Terry Belcher</i>	<i>Safer Neighbourhood Panel rep (Dept Chair)</i>
<i>Ruth Wood</i>	<i>Bromley Youth Rep</i>
<i>Lulu Pearce</i>	<i>Ethnic Communities rep</i>
<i>Colin McClean</i>	<i>Community Links</i>
<i>Sarah Denton</i>	<i>MOPAC</i>
<i>Sarah Armstrong</i>	<i>Independent Advisory Group</i>

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

What action he has taken since 2010 to promote the improvement in public transport within the Borough?

Reply:

Since 2010, I have :-

- Lobbied extensively with the Leader for the extension of the Docklands Light Railway to the borough in whatever form or hybrid thereof.
- Secured improvements to a number of stations in partnership with Southeastern including -
 - Bromley South and Orpington step-free access;
 - improved access to Ravensbourne, St Mary Cray and Kent House;
 - a commitment to have a deck built at Orpington Station for extra car parking to relieve residents from parking in side roads.
- Worked with London Buses on improved bus services in the Cray Valley following the Chislehurst Bridge rebuild
- Delivered a travel planning programme in schools and workplaces to encourage the use of public transport (and active travel) for those that wish to consider doing so.

Supplementary question:

I fully support the extension of the DLR to Bromley North but that will cost £800m. In the short term will he consider lobbying the Mayor for an overground extension from New Cross to Grove Park and Bromley North which might be considerably cheaper.

Reply:

This borough's priority remains the extension of the DLR to Bromley North at least and ideally Bromley South in that order. There is however a question about funding and we may have to settle for something less to get anything at all. One of the bizarre things that TfL are adamant on is that they have a fascination with driving the Bakerloo Line to Hayes at a cost of £2bn which we do not want, and yet we are told that £800m for the DLR is too much. It does not balance. We cannot forget the extension of Tramlink to Crystal Palace – I have given my assurance before on this and offer it again – I suspect that its star can only be rising with the proposed development at Crystal Palace, because quite clearly some improvement in the transport infrastructure is necessary to make that vision come true.

12. From Councillor Ruth Bennett to the Resources Portfolio Holder

Will the Portfolio Holder advise the impact of the adoption of Local Pay and Conditions from the perspective of both our staff and the taxpayer.

Reply:

Bromley Council is the first London Borough and the first Council nationally since early 1990s to come out of national terms and conditions of service. There are 50 other Councils mainly in the South East/Kent area outside the national collective negotiating framework. Unsurprisingly other Councils including London Boroughs,

are looking to follow Bromley lead, mainly because the national arrangement has failed to respond positively to the pressure for change facing local government or provide the right leadership at a time of unprecedented financial austerity. The national collective negotiating framework is a relic in so many ways -

(i) the assumption that all local authorities irrespective of their size and location are the same is an outdated model

(ii) nationally agreed terms of employment do not reflect geographical variations and local financial and labour market factors

(iii) more importantly it disempowers local people and their elected representatives. This is not right given the size of staff pay bill as a percentage of the total Council controllable budget.

In this year's budget the Council for the first time through its democratically elected Councillors agreed a higher than national pay increase for its staff, except for about 190 senior officers (Management Grade staff). Tonight, full Council will be asked to agree a similar package, resulting once again in over 90% of our staff receiving a higher settlement for the second year running, and on time rather than the lower and delayed pay settlement at the national level. Additionally we have a Merited Reward pot for exceptional performers, thus fulfilling our unequivocal commitment to link pay to performance. We will continue to offer competitive terms to attract and retain the best staff in the organisation. We recognise and appreciate the great work our staff do on our behalf to deliver our promises and priorities to Bromley residents. Nearly 98% of our staff accepted the new contract within the agreed implementation date. They are aware of our financial challenges and the opportunities a localised pay process represents.

To encapsulate, it is supported by 98% of our staff, the pay award will be paid on time on 1st April. The national negotiations have now been put back beyond 1st April when the pay increase was supposed to be implemented – this is quite usual and our staff do not know what their pay increase is past the summer and into the autumn. With our lower paid staff we have the flexibility to use our own determination to assist those at the bottom of the pay structure. Those people so far over the two pay increases this year will have received 3.4%, plus £200, plus merit increase opportunities whereas if they had stuck with the national increase they would have received 1% plus 1% possibly in the summer time. They are infinitely better off because we are taking decisions locally and decisions are taken between the taxpayers who are paying the staff and the staff who earn that pay. We will pay what staff earn and use this as an incentive to reward the excellent staff we have.

Additional Supplementary question:

The Leader of the Council asked whether it was also true that a good number of staff also receive increments each year in addition to the increases we have heard about as part of the terms and conditions that we have promised to secure for a further year or so.

Reply:

This is an excellent point. We have guaranteed pay and conditions for staff when nationally they are talking about taking action against absenteeism etc. That is not a problem in this borough so we are not going to change terms and conditions, and we have given that guarantee. We will also honour contractual pay increases where they trigger pay increases.

Additional supplementary question:

Councillor Peter Fookes asked how many staff had received a merit payment and on what basis, and what the changes to conditions of service will be from April 2015?

Reply:

It was always intended and we made it absolutely clear that we would identify a pot of money, we would identify the people who were qualified for that money and we would match the two. That process is on-going. As of now, that has not clicked in as it was not intended to.

Additional supplementary question:

Councillor John Getgood asked whether the Portfolio Holder agreed that public sector workers had taken a disproportionate impact of the cuts forced on us by the coalition government and that this had had a very detrimental impact on their morale and on the service that they are able to offer our local residents. Can he also say why he is not prepared to introduce the London Living Wage which would have a great benefit to our lowest paid workers?

Reply:

If you look at the answers supplied earlier to Councillor Bennett the reduction in staff have fallen heaviest higher up the scale. That is right - we have been protecting front line jobs at the same time as making efficiency savings at the higher end. Staff morale is something that I am particularly concerned about and all Members should be concerned about. We are going through a time of great change and we need to take our staff with us wherever possible. It was really hoped that we would have discussions with the unions along the way, however the unions said that they did not wish to speak to us and would not consult. That has held us back, although 98% of staff have entered into the new contracts within the timescale.

The London Living Wage is something I have discussed with people over a period of time. My concern is about the structure, the items included in the London Living Wage. This has been discussed at the PDS Committee. I think that there is a fundamental flaw in the way that it is calculated. What is right and proper is that we should move from a nationally set figure to a locally set figure on a case by case basis with our staff. We were asked whether we would sign up to the National Living Wage. There are quotes in the press about our staff being paid £6.35 and there is a worry that some people will think that this is the truth. We need to establish the facts – compared to other local government employers our staff are doing quite well, and

are out-performing staff elsewhere. The budget tonight attempts to give a fair loading to the lowest paid whilst at the same time recognising the excellence of our staff at all levels.

As the time allocated to questions had now expired the mayor announced that the remaining questions (numbers 13 to 17) would receive a written reply.

13. From Councillor Neil Reddin to the Leader of the Council

What progress has been made to improve the efficiency of the Council, including joint working with other local authorities?

Reply:

I thank Cllr Reddin for his question and refer him to my answer to the question from Mr Dunn earlier. However, specifically in joint working to improve efficiency we have a strong shared service with Bexley regarding our Library provision, parking services and we also share a Director of Public Health. There are further opportunities to work with other South London Boroughs as part of the South London Growth Board which is a joint initiative involving Bromley, Merton, Croydon, Wandsworth, Richmond, Sutton, Kingston and the GLA. This initiative will be focussed on economic development in its wider sense. We seek every opportunity to consider a shared service approach where practicable.

14. From Councillor Peter Fookes to the Environment Portfolio Holder

What is the budget available for chewing gum removal?

Reply:

The gum removal budget is a variable component of the graffiti budget. Generally speaking, it sits in the region of £20k, subject to demand.

15. From Councillor Tony Owen to the Environment Portfolio Holder

What action has been considered, or is being considered, to deal with parked cars in Brookside Close and Westholme, Orpington which has resulted in refuse and private delivery vehicles driving along the pavements to reach houses?

Reply:

Possible yellow lining, possible waste collection day only restrictions and possibly nothing at all aimed at preserving the valuable flank fence parking currently available and to thereby minimise any risk of future displacement to other streets in the wider Petts Wood area.

This question will be pursued further with Ward members over coming weeks.

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

What action has he taken since 2010 to protect and enhance the street environment of the Borough?

Reply:

In recent years, in conjunction with our friends and colleagues in Public Protection the department has been involved in a range of initiatives to improve cleanliness including spring cleanups, deep cleansing, new ashtray/litter bins, recycling bins, chewing gum removal, awareness raising campaigns and a zero tolerance approach to littering.

A new contract for street cleaning has been in place since April 2012 as part of which a thorough review of our approach to street cleaning was carried out, resulting in schedule alterations which now better serve roads affected by weekday issues such as proximity to shops, schools and railway stations by switching them to weekend or evening sweeping rotas.

We have built on our agreements with the police, and our parks contractor for their officers and staff to serve Fixed Penalty Notices for enviro-crime offences. This includes the deployment of on-street enforcement targeting littering and dog-fouling.

Over the past few years we have also had significant success in reducing the incidence of fly-tipping and prosecuting offenders involving CCTV surveillance operations.

The Council offers a service for the removal and disposal of unwanted vehicles free of charge, which has contributed towards fewer dumped vehicles and has also used devolved powers from the DVLA enable us to take enforcement action against untaxed vehicles with 372 abandoned vehicles removed from the highway.

The Council has also recently introduced a free collection service for electrical and battery operated goods which we believe will further assist in the reduction of anti social fly tipping.

17. From Councillor Peter Fookes to the Care Services Portfolio Holder

Why are new referrals to day centres only being allocated a day a week?

Reply:

New referrals to day centres are assessed on the level of need and support offered as appropriate.

If new referrals are receiving one day per week I would expect that is what they have been assessed as needing under FACS. We do not have a policy for one day per

week but it is likely in many cases to be sufficient to address social isolation that may otherwise lead to mental ill health or sufficient to provide a carer break ensuring they are willing and able to continue in their caring role.

In addition to this we are involved in using Vibrance Support Planning which is a pilot to see if dedicated support planning time can succeed in finding suitable alternative day activities. All new referrals are offered to be part of this pilot which has in some cases resulted in the SU identifying an activity away from traditional services and offering them greater choice and control.

If a Service User has been offered a day activity and they do not feel it is sufficient to address their unmet needs, we can consider reviewing their situation on request.

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COUNCIL MEETING

APPENDIX 1

24th February 2014

ORAL QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

(2) From Councillor Nicholas Bennett JP to the Resources Portfolio Holder

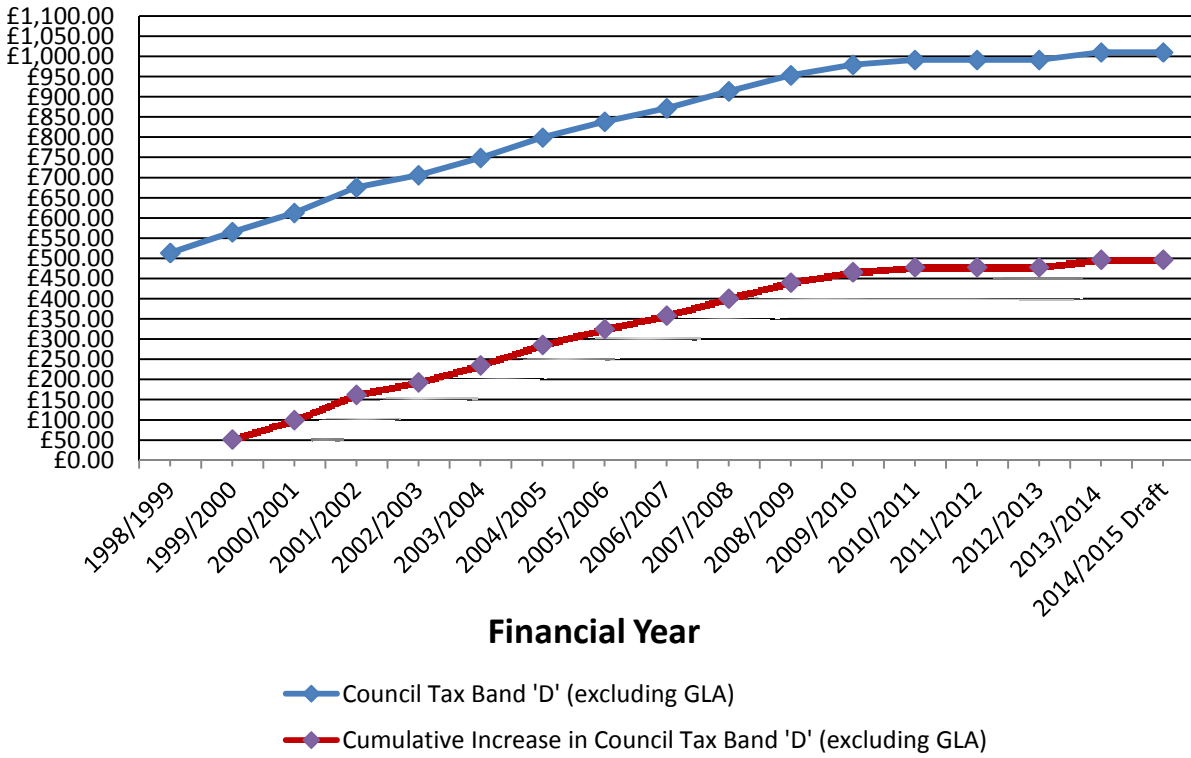
If he will set out in table and graph format the following information:

- i. the annual increase in council tax for each financial year since 1999-2000;
- ii. the amount taken from the reserves to limit the increase in council tax in each year;
- iii. the increase in the years 1999-2000, 2000-2001, and 2001-2002;
- iv. the increase in the years 2002-3 to 2014-15;
- v. the party or parties in control of the Council at the time of the increases and if he will arrange for the answer to this question to be provided on the council website?

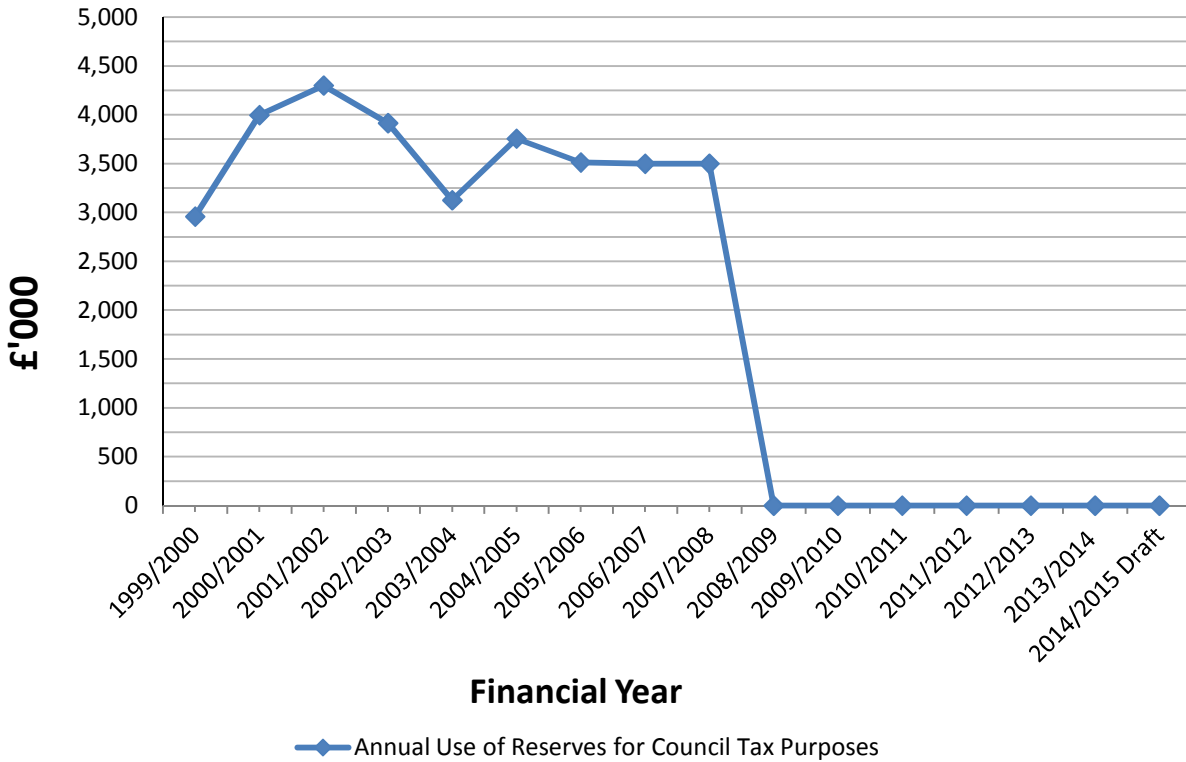
Council Tax (excluding GLA precept) and Use of Reserves

Financial Year	Band 'D' Equivalent	Annual Increase	Cumulative Increase	Annual Increase	Annual Use of Reserves for Council Tax Purposes	Party or Parties in Control of the Council
	£	£	£	%	£'000	
1998/1999	513.26					
1999/2000	564.95	51.69	51.69	10.07%	2,959	Lib/Lab Coalition
2000/2001	612.68	47.73	99.42	8.45%	3,996	Lib/Lab Coalition
2001/2002	675.50	62.82	162.24	10.25%	4,300	Lib/Lab Coalition
2002/2003	706.23	30.73	192.97	4.55%	3,915	Conservative
2003/2004	748.59	42.36	235.33	6.00%	3,125	Conservative
2004/2005	799.16	50.57	285.90	6.76%	3,756	Conservative
2005/2006	838.34	39.18	325.08	4.90%	3,513	Conservative
2006/2007	871.67	33.33	358.41	3.98%	3,500	Conservative
2007/2008	913.73	42.06	400.47	4.83%	3,500	Conservative
2008/2009	953.33	39.60	440.07	4.33%	0	Conservative
2009/2010	979.16	25.83	465.90	2.71%	0	Conservative
2010/2011	991.31	12.15	478.05	1.24%	0	Conservative
2011/2012	991.31	0.00	478.05	0.00%	0	Conservative
2012/2013	991.31	0.00	478.05	0.00%	0	Conservative
2013/2014	1,010.07	18.76	496.81	1.89%	0	Conservative
2014/2015 Draft	1,010.07	0.00	496.81	0.00%	0	Conservative
1999/2000 to 2001/02			162.24	31.61%	11,255	
2002/03 to 2014/15			<u>334.57</u>	49.53%	<u>21,309</u>	
			<u>496.81</u>		<u>32,564</u>	

Council Tax Income (excluding GLA precept)



Use of Reserves for Council Tax Purposes



COUNCIL MEETING

24th February 2014

WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

1. From Councillor Russell Mellor to the Resources Portfolio Holder

Can the Portfolio Holder provide the Staff numbers for the past 4 years 2010/2011, 2011/2012, 2012/2013 and 2013/2014 to date, showing the totals of the whole and also by Department in a tabulated form?

Reply:

(See Appendix 1)

2. From Cllr Nicholas Bennett JP to the Renewal and Recreation Portfolio Holder

What actions have been taken since 2010 to improve sporting and leisure facilities in Bromley?

Reply:

The Council has since 2010 undertaken a number of capital schemes to improve sporting and leisure facilities across the borough. In particular, the Council:

Major projects:

- Invested £5.5m in a new 25 metre swimming pool and library at Biggin Hill which was opened in the Spring of 2010
- Invested £1.5m in a new town centre library at Orpington which opened in May 2011
- Invested £5.5m in conjunction with Mytime Active to refurbish the Pavilion Leisure Centre with the inclusion of a new 10 pin bowling alley, this facility opened in May 2012.
- Contributed £150,000 match funding to a Football Foundation Community Development scheme at the Priory Dual use Centre, which was completed in 2012

Ongoing Investment in conjunction with Mytime Active

- £96k into new fitness equipment and upgrades at West Wickham in 2012
- £45k in upgrades to Walnuts Leisure Centre pool and lighting in 2012
- £50k in upgrades and improvements at Beckenham Spar 2012

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

In the current municipal year to date how many;

- i. Flooding incidents
- ii. Fallen trees have been dealt with by his department?

Reply:

We have received 1,166 service requests relating to flooding matters involving the public highway.

The current figure stands at 716 trees in total over the period in question, although following the storm over the weekend of 14/15th February additional trees are still being attended to or removed and this figure will therefore increase. I hope to announce later in this evening's meeting my plan and intention to set about replacing those lost to us in recent times.

4. From Councillor Nicholas Bennett to the Leader of the Council

If he will make a statement on the Council's policy on supporting voluntary service in the Borough and the action taken by the Council to encourage such service?

Reply:

The following information concerning Streetscene & Greenspace Volunteer Support underlines the strength of our support for voluntary service in the borough -

Street Friends

LBB provides the 3700 volunteers with

- A dedicated Officer to administer the scheme
- 6 Street Environment Officers who arrange regular community cleanup days working with volunteers
- Free provision of graffiti kits, litter picking sticks and bin liners.
- Free collection of litter via the Purple Sack Scheme
- Leaflets and E-correspondence

Snow Friends

LBB provides the 380 plus groups, who support over 4000 snow friends, with

- A dedicated Officer to administer the scheme
- An annual Snow Conference
- Free shovels, salt and leaflets. Last year 630 scoops and 2500 salt bags were delivered to residents homes
- Regular snow reports and E-correspondence

Park & Countryside Friends

LBB provides the 56 groups with:

- Dedicated Officers who work side-by-side with groups
- Tools and personal protective clothing
- Insurance cover & risk assessments
- Training
- Organised work days which supports 45000 volunteer man hours per year
- Officer/s support at volunteer community events
- Officer attendance at Friends meetings and AGM's
- Two social events per annum paid for by the Council
- Support and advice with grant securement – the Friends secured an additional £401K external grants securement and £175k of sponsorship and partnership funding for betterment of parks 2012/13

- Direct links to the Ranger Team and Ward Security services. Rangers assisted with 160 Friends activities last year (386 staff hours)
- Officers provide a 'Responsible Dog Ownership' campaign to reduce dog fouling within Friends parks
- The Brook Lane Community Plants Nursery and Leaves Green Tree Nursery provide free training and plants to volunteers to repopulate community greenspace
- Officers encourage groups to be nationally recognised – Friends of Chislehurst and Walden Rec received the 'Team London Achievement award and Southill Woods and Kingswood Glen LEAF Tree and Woodland awards from the Mayor of London
- Bromley funds the Friends Forum website and provides a small annual grant of £2K for the Forum to cover their costs
- Bromley provides each Friends Group with £100 p/a to cover their basic running costs

Additionally

All volunteers have full support from Ward Councillors & senior officers who attend various work days, committee meetings and events

All volunteering is promoted on the LBB website and in the local press

A budget of £60K is provided to accommodate this service

The Council celebrates volunteers achievement with the Mayors Awards and the Parks Unsung Heroes campaign – both held annually

All Parks & Greenspace officer phone numbers and e-mail addresses are shared with volunteers making it a very direct and personalised service

5. From Councillor Richard Scoates to the Resources Portfolio Holder

- What was the Mayoral precept for the years 2001-2002 to 2008-2009;
- What was the Mayoral precept for the years 2009-2010 to 2014-2015?

Reply:

Mayoral (GLA) Precept 2001/02 to 2008/09			Mayoral (GLA) Precept 2009/10 to 2014/15		
Financial Year	Total Precept £'000	Band 'D' Equivalent £	Financial Year	Total Precept £'000	Band 'D' Equivalent £
2001/02	19,511	150.88	2009/10	41,045	309.82
2002/03	22,548	173.88	2010/11	41,153	309.82
2003/04	29,187	224.40	2011/12	41,308	309.82
2004/05	31,425	241.33	2012/13	41,119	306.72
2005/06	33,442	254.62	2013/14	37,008	303.00
2006/07 *	38,110	288.61	2014/15	37,133	299.00
2007/08	40,240	303.88			
2008/09	41,036	309.82			
Total Precept 2001/02 to 2008/09	<u>255,499</u>		Total Precept 2009/10 to 2014/15	<u>238,766</u>	

* 2006/07 was the first year Council tax payers were required to make a contribution to the Olympics @ £20 per Band D equivalent.

6. From Councillor Peter Fookes to the Resources Portfolio Holder

How many people in this borough are entitled to a freedom pass but are not claiming it?

Reply:

There are 65,353 older person pass holders currently in Bromley, this would need to be compared to the Census data to ascertain the number of non-pass holders.

7. From Councillor Peter Fookes to the Renewal and Recreation Portfolio Holder

What was the cost of employing a tree consultant re the TPO for 10 Crab Hill, Beckenham?

Reply:

The cost of employing the tree consultant for advice to the Council on the 10 Crab Hill Beckenham TPO was £1075 excluding VAT.'

8. From Councillor Peter Fookes to the Care Services Portfolio Holder

What financial checks are carried out on care agencies during the period that they have been awarded a contract by the London Borough of Bromley?

Reply:

Current Domiciliary Care contracts were awarded in August 2012. Comprehensive credit checks were undertaken on agencies as part of the initial procurement procedures. The Contract Compliance officers undertake an annual credit check for providers of each contract.

The Council uses the Company Searches Made Simple tool which alerts the Council to any changes in the company. Any alerts are then investigated further.

There are 23 Domiciliary Care providers on the framework, so if any concerns are raised about a provider's viability we can offer the work to other providers.

9. From Councillor Katherine Bance MBE to the Environment Portfolio Holder

Can the Council review the lack of facilities for household refuse storage on High Street, Penge? At present the Council's plan for the tax payer to continue picking up other people's waste is a waste of money and effort.

Reply:

The Council is currently reviewing the provision of waste containment on High Street, Penge. Officers are considering the most practical and economic option, and will consult with Members before implementing any scheme.

10. From Councillor Katherine Bance to the Care Services Portfolio Holder

The number of street sleepers in the borough is increasing. Is there money in a budget to support voluntary run night shelters?

Reply:

Data is contradictory on this matter. We see 30 identified cases in LBB this year against 21 for the previous year. However the annual headcount carried out in November which uses all sources to estimate the number actually bedded down on the street on any one night was slightly lower at 5 than in the previous few years (4 of these 5 currently known but refusing to engage). This suggests that whilst the number of people faced with sleeping rough may be increasing the services are working effectively to provide increased options to come off of the streets.

In addition to the few who are sleeping rough but refuse to engage there is also a number of people in the borough who whilst they have accommodation are perceived as sleeping rough because they continue pursue a visible street lifestyle which makes the numbers appear higher than they really are.

There are a number of services funded centrally, sub-regionally and locally to assist rough sleepers in Bromley:

No Second Night Out: Focuses on helping those who find themselves sleeping on the streets for the first time. The service aims to provide a rapid response to new rough sleepers and provide an offer that means they do not have to sleep out for a second night.

London Street Rescue/Thames Reach: Provide outreach and support services to rough sleepers. They seek to find rough sleepers and engage them to assist them to move away from the street and access accommodation.

Both services work at a pan London level but provide local provision within Bromley. They also operate on a 24 hour basis and have telephone and website facilities where any suspected rough sleeping can be reported to enable them to provide a rapid response verifying contacting the rough sleeper.

The Council's Options & Assessment Service provides a range of housing advice and assistance to rough sleepers. They will assess whether there is a statutory duty to provide accommodation and make the appropriate arrangements and can also refer to a number of accommodation schemes. These include hostels, the sub-regionally funded staging post accommodation which provides short term shelter accommodation pending longer term resettlement plans to be put in place and 2 private rented schemes assisting rough sleepers to access and sustain private rented accommodation..

In addition Bromley currently provides financial assistance through its allocated DCLG homeless prevention grant funding to the annual winter shelter. The shelter operates as part of the cold weather provision between December and March.

The homelessness prevention grant is fully utilised across the priority and statutory housing duties and at present there is no available additional funding to increase the level of services currently provided to rough sleepers. Funding for the staging posts shelter and private rented sector housing schemes however has been secured across the sub-region and contracts extended accordingly.

11. From Councillor Katherine Bance to the Care Services Portfolio Holder

With the number of residents in high priority bands often with severe disabilities and / or mental health issues is it right that they need to actively continue to bid for properties? Can they not be

offered more support rather than being advised to seriously consider widening their areas of choice and considering the private sector?

Reply:

The Council operates a choice based lettings (CBL) scheme which effectively allows housing register applicants to bid on available accommodation. In brief, properties are then allocated to the applicant bidding with the highest housing priority and longest waiting time for that type of accommodation. The scheme only applies to general needs housing stock for those applicants assessed as able to live independently. It does not apply to supported or specialist housing schemes or extra care housing, where they might be assessed through a single panel process.

Extensive consultation was undertaken before the launch of the scheme and the feedback provided overwhelming support for the choice based lettings system being open to all applicants for general needs stock including adapted properties. In particular service users and support groups were keen that no client groups were excluded from the ability to exercise choice.

The CBL scheme does seek to ensure that all applicants are supported and empowered to fully utilise the system and that safeguards are in place should any user experience difficulties in being able to use the system. This includes:

- Training for support workers and a range of agencies to enable them to actively support and guide their clients to use the system
- Support and assistance to bid from the housing allocations team. This includes a dedicated worker where necessary who can assist in identifying potential suitable properties and make bids on the applicants behalf.
- Monitoring of access and bidding patterns to identify those applicants who may require additional advice or support to bid.
- Ring-fencing of adapted/specific properties to ensure only those applicants requiring this type of accommodation are allocated to those vacancies.
- Automated bidding where an applicant is unable to access or actively bid on the system either independently or with support.

The scheme has now been in operation for nearly 5 years and to date the above mechanisms have enabled the vast majority of applicants to make full use of the system without difficulties. Only a very small number of clients have required automated bidding or for someone to bid on their behalf.

The purpose of advising applicants to be flexible about location and to consider private rented sector accommodation are options presented to all applicants due to the limited supply of accommodation which becomes available through choice based lettings. The purpose is to ensure that applicants understand the limitations on supply of accommodation and are able to make informed choices about the housing options available to them. Where appropriate exercising flexibility about the location of accommodation or considering private rented accommodation will effectively widen the pool of potential properties and reduce the waiting time for a suitable property to become available.

12. From Councillor John Getgood to the Environment Portfolio Holder

When will the new park in Kings Hall Road be ready for public use?

Reply:

Cyphers Gate will be opened in the late spring/early summer of 2014.

13. From Councillor Simon Fawthrop to the Chairman of the Development Control Committee *(to be asked at every Council Meeting)*

What pre-application meetings have taken place since the last full Council Meeting between Council Officers and potential planning applicants? Can these be listed as follows:-

The name of the potential applicant, the site address being considered.

Reply:

Between 3rd December 2013 and 19th February 2014 the Major Developments Team have had 5 non-householder pre-application meetings.

Between 3rd December 2013 and 19th February 2014 the Non-Major Developments Team have had 35 householder pre-application meetings and 26 non-householder pre-application meetings.

Details of the individual applicants and sites at present is exempt information and not disclosable in respect to a Council Question.

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(1) Council Question from Cllr Mellor

* Includes staff with multiple contracts

** Includes non BR grade staff eg centrally employed teachers, TUPE staff etc

Appendix 1

	As at 31.03.11	
Department	Headcount*	FTE*
Chief Executive's	92	80.39
Education, Care & Health Services	1578	1212.59
Environmental & Community Services	294	274.47
Renewal & Recreation	367	275.23
Resources	321	289.33
Total	2652**	2132.01**

	As at 31.03.12	
	Headcount*	FTE*
	78	67.01
	1384	1118.00
	284	264.17
	324	251.22
	305	274.83
Total	2375**	1975.23**

	As at 31.03.13	
	Headcount*	FTE*
	402	364.21
	1277	1030.87
	466	382.83
Total	2145**	1777.92**

	As at 31.01.14	
	Headcount*	FTE*
	349	317.00
	1276	1026.55
	445	365.43
Total	2070**	1708.98**

Grade	Headcount	FTE
BR1	13	4.83
BR2	6	3.19
BR3	83	27.69
BR4	43	35.07
BR5	333	236.69
BR6	381	281.30
BR7	206	179.21
BR8	150	128.20
BR9	216	196.33
BR10	113	102.92
BR11	175	161.53
BR12	110	101.28
BR13	193	180.64
BR14	64	57.85
Total	2086	1696.73

	Headcount	FTE
	13	4.60
	5	3.19
	72	26.38
	41	31.99
	266	189.12
	367	270.84
	191	168.17
	133	112.60
	196	179.42
	113	102.88
	166	151.16
	118	109.26
	199	184.81
	58	53.93
Total	1938	1588.35

	Headcount	FTE
	12	4.33
	3	1.69
	83	35.08
	31	24.26
	236	163.44
	323	226.36
	166	145.42
	133	113.47
	174	155.90
	108	100.69
	157	143.70
	118	109.47
	185	172.86
	68	63.26
Total	1797	1459.93

	Headcount	FTE
	13	4.60
	1	0.56
	83	34.79
	36	26.83
	223	157.92
	299	213.49
	149	128.30
	129	109.80
	166	149.43
	103	92.41
	154	143.82
	110	102.50
	188	174.68
	66	62.66
Total	1720	1401.79

Grade	Headcount	FTE
MB	6.00	6.00
MG1	3.00	3.00
MG2	12.00	11.58
MG3	16.00	16.00
MG4	23.00	23.00
MG5	54.00	53.80
MG6	122.00	118.75
Total	236.00	232.13

	Headcount	FTE
	5.00	5.00
	3.00	3.00
	9.00	9.00
	13.00	12.60
	19.00	18.90
	53.00	52.80
	114.00	110.86
Total	216.00	212.16

	Headcount	FTE
	5	5.00
	3	3.00
	8	8.00
	9	8.80
	20	19.80
	45	44.80
	95	93.07
Total	185	182.47

	Headcount	FTE
	5	5.00
	3	3.00
	8	8.00
	9	8.80
	19	19.00
	38	37.80
	89	86.07
Total	171	167.67

Report No.
CSD14063

London Borough of Bromley

PART ONE - PUBLIC

Decision Maker: Council

Date: 14th April 2014

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

Title: Petition

Contact Officer: Graham Walton, Democratic Services Manager
Tel: 020 8461 7743 E-mail: graham.walton@bromley.gov.uk

Chief Officer: Mark Bowen, Director of Corporate Services

Ward: N/A

1. Reason for report

1.1 Under the Council's Petition Scheme, if petitioners are dissatisfied with the Council's response to a petition they can request that the issue be brought before a meeting of the full Council for consideration, provided that the number of verified signatures exceeds the threshold required. The lead petitioner or their nominee can address the Council for up to five minutes.

1.2 A petition has been received from the Stop the Bedroom Tax Campaign calling on the Council to use its powers to ensure that no Bromley resident faces eviction or forced relocation as a result of the bedroom tax or the benefit cap limit. The petition and the Council's initial response, provided by the Resources Portfolio Holder, Councillor Graham Arthur, are set out below in paragraph 3.2 and Appendix A respectively.

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

Council is requested to consider the case made by the petitioners.

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy: Petitions are dealt with according to the Council's agreed Petition Scheme.
 2. BBB Priority: Excellent Council:
-

Financial

1. Cost of proposal: No Cost:
 2. Ongoing costs: Not Applicable:
 3. Budget head/performance centre: N/A
 4. Total current budget for this head: £N/A
 5. Source of funding: N/A
-

Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): N/A
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: N/A
-

Legal

1. Legal Requirement: None:
 2. Call-in: Not Applicable: This report does not involve an executive decision.
-

Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): N/A
-

Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Not Applicable
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: Not Applicable

3. COMMENTARY

3.1 The Council's Petition Scheme allows for petitioners to present their case to full Council if they are dissatisfied with the Council's response to a petition, provided that the number of verified signatures exceeds the threshold required of 500. The lead petitioner or their nominee can address the Council for up to five minutes. Once Council has considered the matter, it can choose whether or not to recommend any action. If there are any recommendations for action by councillors or officers then a report back to the next scheduled full Council meeting is required, setting out the action that has been taken.

3.2 One qualifying petition, with over 670 validated signatures, has been received from Ms Paula Peters of Bromley Disabled People Against Cuts as follows -

“Stop the Bedroom Tax Campaign

- **No Evictions**
- **No forced relocations**

We the undersigned demand that the Council will give a guarantee that they will use all the powers they have to ensure that no Bromley resident will face eviction or forced relocation as a result of the bedroom tax or the benefit cap limit.”

3.3 In line with the Council's Petition Scheme, the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Councillor Graham Arthur, responded to the petition – his letter is set out at Appendix A.

Non-Applicable Sections:	Policy/Financial/Legal/Personnel
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	None

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Councillor Graham Arthur
Portfolio Holder, Resources
LONDON BOROUGH OF BROMLEY

Ms Paula Peters

12th March 2014

Dear Ms Peters

I write with reference to the petition that you submitted to the LB Bromley on the 24th February 2014. For ease of reference I have entered the subject of the petition below.

"We the undersigned demand that the council will give a guarantee that they will use all the powers they have to ensure that no Bromley resident will face eviction or forced relocation as a result of the bedroom tax or the benefit cap limit."

Our key principle relating to the benefit cap changes is that workless households should no longer receive more in benefits than the average earnings of working households. Removal of the spare room subsidy aims to ensure support is provided only for the number of bedrooms that a household needs. These changes affect claimants of working age, but there are a number of groups exempted from the changes. The reduction in benefits also contributes to the need to reduce public spending.

The Authority shares the Government's vision of supporting individuals into training and employment, as well as providing the means for them to have a greater say on decisions affecting their health and wellbeing. However, linked to this empowerment comes responsibility and, where deemed possible, the Authority will expect the individual to be taking active steps to improve their standard of living and that of any dependent family member. The Authority's decisions also need to be viewed in light of increased financial pressures.

To assist as a safeguard against hardship resultant from the removal of the spare room subsidy and the introduction of the benefit cap, the Government's Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) contribution for Bromley increased from £226,883 in 2012/13 to £700,174 in 2013/14. In recognition of the increase, the Authority's policy was presented to Members of the Executive and Resources PDS on the 18th July 2013. Some of this support is time limited to enable claimants to find more affordable accommodation.

The London Borough of Bromley does not own a housing stock and Registered Social Landlords (RSL's) provide the social housing in the borough. As such, Bromley has very limited information as to the "state" of an individual's rent account,

or the reason as to why any arrears have accrued. As such we are unable to provide the guarantee that you are seeking in respect of evictions.

However, the Benefits Section does meet regularly with representatives from the RSL's, both at an operational and management level. Attendees of these meetings have all been advised as to the existence of DHP's and the content of Bromley's policy. Publicity of the scheme, both locally and nationally, has led to a large request in DHP applications (estimated at a 300% increase in Bromley) for consideration against the said policy.

The Housing Needs Service has a dedicated team of officers who work with those households in the borough affected by the welfare reform changes, including the spare room subsidy. The officers' work in partnership with representatives from the DWP and housing associations with stock in the borough to provide advice and assistance regarding a range of options, including accessing training and employment, moving to more affordable accommodation, budgeting and so forth. In this, moves away from the local area for tenants affected by the spare bedroom subsidy would be purely on a voluntary basis where the household decides that this is an option they wished to pursue.

The majority of housing associations with stock in Bromley have specialist officers working with their tenants who are affected by the spare room subsidy. The officers aim to support those households to ensure that they do not fall into rent arrears and face eviction. The housing associations have also worked with the South East London Housing Partnership to develop a protocol setting out the advice and support they provide to their tenants. The protocol seeks to give a clear commitment to working with households to enable them to pursue a range of options to minimise the risk of eviction. For example, where a household is actively seeking to transfer to smaller accommodation, the housing association would provide support to find a suitable vacancy and would not pursue any action to evict because of rent arrears arising from the spare room subsidy arrangement.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Graham Arthur', written in a cursive style.

Cllr Graham Arthur

Report No.
CSD14066

London Borough of Bromley

PART 1 - PUBLIC

Decision Maker: Council

Date: 14th April 2014

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

Title: **EARMARKED RESERVE TO SUPPORT KEY HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE INITIATIVES**

Contact Officer: Graham Walton, Democratic Services Manager
Tel: 020 8461 7743 E-mail: graham.walton@bromley.gov.uk

Chief Officer: Mark Bowen, Director of Corporate Services

Ward: N/A

1. Reason for report

- 1.1 At its meeting on 2nd April 2014, as part of the Budget Monitoring report, the Executive will be asked to consider recommending to Council that a sum of £1.7m be set aside in an earmarked reserve to ensure the support of key health and social care initiatives. Subject to confirmation of the Executive's decision, Council is recommended to approve the proposal.

2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That, subject to the decision of the Executive on 2nd April 2014, Council agrees that a sum of £1.7m be set aside as an earmarked reserve to ensure the support of key health and social care initiatives.

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: N/A.
 2. BBB Priority: Excellent Council.
-

Financial

1. Cost of proposal: Estimated cost The proposal involves the transfer of £1.71m
 2. Ongoing costs: N/A.
 3. Budget head/performance centre: N/A
 4. Total current budget for this head: £N/A
 5. Source of funding: N/A
-

Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): N/A
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: N/A
-

Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Statutory requirement. Section 256 of the National Health Service Act 2006
 2. Call-in: Call-in is not applicable. Decisions by Council are not subject to call-in.
-

Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): N/A
-

Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? No.
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: N/A

3. COMMENTARY

3.1 At its meeting on 2nd April 2014 the Executive is due to consider its latest budget monitoring report based on expenditure and activity levels up to the end of January 2014. The report contains the following request –

“3.5.11 Bromley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) have requested the transfer of funding in 2013/14 of £1.7m under the terms of an agreement under Section 256 of the National Health Service Act 2006, which will also require Council approval. The Executive are requested to recommend the transfer of the monies to be set aside as an earmarked reserve on the basis that the utilisation of the monies will be determined on the conditions set out in the Section 256 agreement which relate to funding towards health and social care initiatives.”

3.2 Subject to confirmation of the Executive’s decision, the Council is requested to agree that £1.7m is set aside as an earmarked reserve to ensure the support of key health and social care initiatives.

Non-Applicable Sections:	Policy/Financial/Legal/Personnel
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Budget Monitoring Report – Executive 2 nd April 2014

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Report No.
DCS14064

London Borough of Bromley

PART ONE - PUBLIC

Decision Maker: Council

Date: 26 March 2014

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

Title: COUNCIL TAX SETTING - RECORDED VOTING

Contact Officer: Graham Walton, Democratic Services Manager
Tel: 0208 461 7743 E-mail: graham.walton@bromley.gov.uk

Chief Officer: Mark Bowen, Director of Corporate Services

Ward: N/A

1. Reason for report

- 1.1 The Government has recently introduced regulations requiring Councils to take a recorded vote on their Budget and Council Tax setting decisions. The requirement came into force on the day after Bromley set its 2014/15 Council Tax. The General Purposes and Licensing Committee received a report at its meeting on 26th March 2014 proposing a minor change to the Council's Constitution to reflect the new requirement in the Council Procedure Rules in the Constitution. The Committee approved the proposed change and recommended that it be agreed by Council.
-

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

That, as requested by General Purposes and Licensing Committee, Council be recommended to adopt the following additional words (*in italics*) in the Council Procedure Rules in the Constitution -

15.5 Recorded vote

If one third of the Members present at the meeting demand it, the names for and against the motion or amendment or abstaining from voting will be taken down in writing and entered into the minutes. A demand for a recorded vote will override a demand for a ballot. *A recorded vote will be taken on Budget and Council Tax setting matters and where required by law.*

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy:
 2. BBB Priority: Excellent Council:
-

Financial

1. Cost of proposal: No Cost:
 2. Ongoing costs: Not Applicable:
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Democratic Services
 4. Total current budget for this head: £367,636
 5. Source of funding: 2013/14 revenue budget
-

Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): 10 (8.75fte)
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: N/A
-

Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Statutory Requirement: The Local Authorities(Standing Orders) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2014 (SI 165 2014)
 2. Call-in: Not Applicable: This report does not involve an executive decision
-

Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): 60 members of the Council
-

Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? No
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: N/A

3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 The Local Authorities(Standing Orders) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2014 (SI 165 2014) came into effect on 25th February 2014. Regulation 2 provides that the votes at key budget decision meetings by local authorities should be recorded. Local authorities are required to modify their standing orders as soon as reasonably practicable after the regulations came into force. The Regulations came into force on the day after the recent meeting of the Council when the 2014/15 budget and Council Tax decisions were made, but Members will recall that a recorded vote was taken in line with the Local Government Minister’s encouragement for all Councils to adopt this practice immediately.
- 3.2 General Purposes and Licensing Committee proposes that Council should amend the Council Procedure Rules in Part 4 of the Constitution with the following additional wording (*in italics*) –

15.5 Recorded vote

If one third of the Members present at the meeting demand it, the names for and against the motion or amendment or abstaining from voting will be taken down in writing and entered into the minutes. A demand for a recorded vote will override a demand for a ballot. *A recorded vote will be taken on Budget and Council Tax setting matters and where required by law.*

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Council is required to implement the Local Authorities(Standing Orders) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2014 (SI 165 2014) so that its rules of procedure require a recorded vote on budget and Council Tax setting decisions.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 None

Non-Applicable Sections:	
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	The Local Authorities(Standing Orders) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2014 (SI 165 2014) Letters from the Local Government Minister to Council Leaders and the DCLG to Council Chief Executives (4/2/14) Report to General Purposes and Licensing Committee on 26 th March 2014, and corresponding minutes.

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Report No.
CSD14065

London Borough of Bromley

PART ONE - PUBLIC

Decision Maker: COUNCIL

Date: 14th April 2014

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

Title: POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY -
ANNUAL REPORT 2013/14

Contact Officer: Graham Walton, Democratic Services Manager
Tel: 0208 461 7743 E-mail: graham.walton@bromley.gov.uk

Chief Officer: Mark Bowen, Director of Corporate Services

Ward: All

1. Reason for report

1.1 The Council's Constitution requires that a report is made each year to full Council summarising the work carried out by PDS Committees. The report for 2013/14 includes contributions from all the PDS Chairmen on the work of their respective Committees, and was approved for submission to full Council by Executive and Resources PDS Committee on 24th March 2014, subject to a minor change to the Environment PDS Committee's report. The Renewal and Recreation PDS Committee is receiving their Chairman's report at their meeting on 1st April. The final report for 2013/14 is attached.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

2.1 That Council receives the Annual Policy Development and Scrutiny Report 2013/14.

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy: Section 6.03 (d) of the constitution sets out the requirement for an annual PDS report.
 2. BBB Priority: Excellent Council
-

Financial

1. Cost of proposal: Not Applicable: The cost of preparing the annual report is met from within existing budgets.
 2. Ongoing costs: Recurring Cost:
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Democratic Services
 4. Total current budget for this head: £367,636
 5. Source of funding: 2013/14 revenue budget
-

Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): 10 posts (8.75fte)
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: N/A
-

Legal

1. Legal Requirement: None
 2. Call-in: Not Applicable: This report does not involve an executive decision.
-

Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): All members of the Council and interested members of the public.
-

Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? N/A
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: N/A

Non-Applicable Sections:	Policy/Financial/Legal/Personnel
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Constitution of the London Borough of Bromley, Article 6 Previous annual PDS reports



THE LONDON BOROUGH

Policy Development & Scrutiny Annual Report 2013/14

For submission to Full Council on 14th April 2014

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1. Foreword

- 1.1 On behalf of all my colleagues who are engaged in Policy Development and Scrutiny Committees in the London Borough of Bromley, I have pleasure in presenting our Annual Report for 2013/14, which summarises the work that has been carried out by the Committees during the Council year.
- 1.2 We have again conducted a most challenging budget process this year against the backdrop of a reducing local government settlement. The task of finding the significant budget savings demanded by the Government has again dominated the Committees' activities and it is very pleasing to report that they rose to the challenge and achieved the necessary cost savings, which allowed the Council to formulate a broadly neutral budget for 2014/2015 and introduce measures to reduce the "budget gap" in 2015/16 without significantly impairing the delivery of frontline services. It has also allowed the Council to freeze council tax for the coming year.
- 1.3 The continuing squeeze in the Government's funding support for local councils and the ongoing cost pressures faced by Bromley Council have opened a significant funding gap of over £50 million, which has to be closed by 2017/18. This is a serious challenge as there are not many further efficiency savings which can be made in the present set-up.
- 1.4 Considerable changes to the Council's organization are under way, which should produce cost savings, but in themselves will not be enough to bridge that gap. Difficult decisions will now need to be made about the type, manner and delivery of Council services in order to close this gap. The ongoing drive by the Government to reduce the deficit and its aim to generate a surplus by 2020, including the funding of potential tax cuts, means that the Council's funding situation cannot be expected to improve in the short to medium term, rather the opposite, despite a general recovery in economic activity in the country.
- 1.5 The challenge for Bromley Council is therefore on the one hand to continue to reduce its cost base and on the other hand the urgent need to develop compensatory income streams, whilst continuing to deliver essential services. Generating new income streams will take time to bear fruit and the Council is conscious that this must be pursued with vigour.
- 1.6 The role of the PDS Committees will remain critical for contributing to achieving the changes, which are required, in order to ensure that we continue to deliver the best possible services to the residents of Bromley whilst retaining one of the lowest Council Tax levels.
- 1.7 All PDS Committees deserve praise for having achieved their targets and I would like to thank all committee chairmen, members, and the Council's officers for their diligence and hard work in finding practical solutions, which ensure that Bromley Council can continue to provide the essential services, which are so important to our community

Cllr. Eric Bosshard
Chairman, Executive and Resources PDS Committee

2. Policy Development and Scrutiny Chairmen 2013/14



Cllr Eric Bosshard
Executive & Resources



Cllr Pauline Tunnickliffe
Care Services



Cllr Nicholas Bennett JP
Education



Cllr William Huntington-Thresher
Environment



Cllr Kate Lymer
Public Protection and Safety



Cllr Ian Payne
Renewal & Recreation

3. Policy Development and Scrutiny in Bromley

3.1 Six Policy Development and Scrutiny (PDS) Committees at Bromley discharge the overview and scrutiny functions conferred by sections 21 and 32 of the Local Government Act 2000 and successive legislation. The Executive and Resources PDS Committee has an over-arching, co-ordinating role on behalf of the other five PDS Committees and is required by the Council's Constitution to present Full Council with an Annual Report "on the Policy Development and Scrutiny functions and PDS budget, and amended working methods if appropriate" (Article 6, Section 6.03 (d) of the Constitution).

3.2 The PDS Committees mirror the Council's executive portfolios:

- Executive and Resources
(covering both the Resources Portfolio and the Executive)
- Care Services
- Education
- Environment
- Public Protection and Safety
- Renewal and Recreation

3.3 In addition to these Committees there are two PDS Sub-Committees:

- Education Budget Sub-Committee
- Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee

Although they have no decision-making powers, PDS Committees and Sub-Committees have key roles in contributing to policy development and scrutinising the decisions of the Executive and individual Portfolio Holders.

Policy Reviews

3.4 PDS Committees advise Portfolio Holders, the Executive and full Council on policies, budgets and service delivery. PDS Committees can commission groups of Councillors to review an issue or policy, so assisting a Portfolio Holder or the Executive to improve a service or function affecting local people. This can be linked to a forthcoming decision by a Portfolio Holder or the Executive or to assist in formulating fresh, new policy. In each case detailed, evidence-based assessments are carried out and recommendations made in a report. In the process, Councillors can speak to a broad range of people to help gather information for their evidence-based reports.

One-Off Reviews

3.5 In addition to in-depth policy reviews, PDS Committees can also review a topical issue at Committee with comments and recommendations referred on to the Portfolio Holder. These reviews are often based around a presentation or an evidence-giving session with expert witnesses.

Performance and Budget Monitoring

- 3.6 PDS Committees monitor the performance of services and functions within their remit, assessing performance against key performance indicators and policy objectives. Concerns are reported to a Portfolio Holder who can then, if necessary, be called to a PDS Committee meeting to account for the performance of his or her Portfolio.
- 3.7 PDS Committees are also involved in the budget setting process and provide considered comment and recommendations for the Executive to take account of when formulating the Council's annual budget. Similarly, PDS Committees also monitor in-year spend of budgets and raise concerns where there is any possibility of overspend or other issues affecting spending priorities.

Call-in

- 3.8 The call-in process is a key means by which PDS Committees can hold the Executive to account. Any five Councillors can call in a decision and prevent it from taking immediate effect until it has been re-considered by a PDS Committee. The Committee can then interview the Portfolio Holder and officers and consider whether the decision was appropriate, within the Council's policy framework, and whether it should be reconsidered. If the Committee feels that the decision should be reversed or altered, it can make a recommendation to the Executive, which then has to reconsider the matter.
- 3.9 At the time of writing, no call-ins have been made during 2013/14. This continued low level of call-in reflects an emphasis given to pre-decision scrutiny leading to better and more robust decisions which are less likely to be challenged.

4. Report from Executive & Resources PDS Committee

Chairman: Cllr. Eric Bosshard
Vice-Chairman: Cllr. Russell Mellor

Introduction

- 4.1 In 2013/14 the Committee held 8 scheduled meetings and additional working group meetings. The regular meetings were timed to precede the Executive's meetings so that its decisions could be scrutinised. One policy development meeting was dedicated to a Financial Seminar in July 2013 by the Director of Finance to keep members informed of the general financial situation affecting the Council and the changes in local government finance and health provision introduced by the central Government. Another meeting was held at which the Director of Finance presented the Council pension scheme.

Scrutiny of the Executive and the Resources Portfolio Holder

- 4.2 The Committee's principal role is to pre-scrutinise the decisions of the Executive and the Resources Portfolio Holder. This Committee has worked diligently to discharge its obligations and the workload of some meetings has been heavy.
- 4.3 The Committee invited the Leader of the Council, the Resources Portfolio Holder and the Chief Executive to report on their activities and to answer questions. These bi-annual meetings are pertinent for keeping members of the Committee up to date with the changes, developments and challenges faced by the Council and I would like to thank the incumbents for their valuable contributions.
- 4.4 The Leader of the Council and the Resources Portfolio Holder have attended all our meetings and senior officers have been in attendance to answer questions on matters in their areas of responsibility. I would like to thank them all for their assistance and diligence.

Review of Council Activities

- 4.5 The Committee reviewed the operation of section 106 agreements, the performance of the revenue, housing and council tax benefit services, the disposal of various surplus assets, care services contracts and gateway reviews, the purchase of investment properties, the administration of public health contracts, and reports from the Audit Sub-Committee. It monitored the Council's budget and capital programmes, the provision of environmental and building services, Beckenham town centre improvements, the Orpington Priory upgrade, repairs to Anerley Town Hall, and the proposed Queens Gardens restaurant development. It scrutinised the proposed Bromley Local Plan, the activities of the HR department, plans for the implementation of the Council Tax support scheme and issues concerning homelessness, the Council's insurances and the performance of the Youth Employment project. It received reports from the Cost and Charges Working Group, a progress report from the New Technology Working Group and proposals for Councillor IT and telephone support services, and updates on developments in Public Health.

Policy Development and Working Groups

- 4.6 We again held a Finance Seminar this year to update members on issues which affect the Council's finances and its ability to continue to fund essential activities and services. This seminar was presented by the Director of Finance and was very successful.
- 4.7 A seminar on the Council's pension scheme was also held in order to inform members about the issues and challenges faced by the scheme, which has a significant funding requirement. Following the actuary's review of the scheme later in the year, a proposal by the Pensions Investment Sub-Committee on how to deal with the scheme's funding issues was reviewed.
- 4.8 The Committee scrutinised many care services proposals, discussed and agreed the implementation of a Youth Employment contract, and the Council's procedures for calculating costs and charges.

Conclusions

- 4.9 This Committee has scrutinised the Executive's and the Resources Portfolio Holder's decisions and reviewed many aspects of the Council's business. The Government's austerity drive has continued unabated and has impacted on the Council's finances. The task to find the significant savings necessary to balance the Council's budget has again been the dominant challenge this year. It is very pleasing to report that the Council has managed to stay within budget in 2013/2014 and has succeeded in formulating a broadly neutral budget for 2014/2015 and introduce measures to reduce the "funding gap" in 2015/16, without significantly impairing the delivery of frontline services.
- 4.10 Looking ahead, the continuing reduction in the financial settlement from the Government and on-going cost pressures on the Council have opened a significant funding gap over the next four years, which it will be challenging to close. Difficult decisions will now need to be made about the type, manner and delivery of Council services in order to close this gap. In order to assist in providing sustainable financial solutions we will continue to explore opportunities to review radically service provision, seeking opportunities for income maximisation, mitigate against future cost pressures, explore wider partnership opportunities including community budgets, and prepare for a different organisation in the future with overall resources reduced.
- 4.11 Following persistent lobbying by Bromley Council and others, the Government agreed to incorporate the council tax freeze grant into the revenue support grant and to defer a further funding cut, allowing the Council to freeze council tax for 2014/15. We will continue to support any ongoing "lobbying" for a better financial settlement for Bromley residents

Councillor Eric Bosshard
Chairman, Executive & Resources PDS Committee

5. Report from Care Services PDS Committee

Chairman: Cllr. Pauline Tunnicliffe
Vice-Chairman: Cllr. David Jefferys

Introduction

- 5.1 The Committee have met four times this year with a final meeting to be held on March 11th 2014. It has been a particularly challenging year for the Care Services PDS with particular pressures in Adult Social Care, Housing and Children's Social Care.
- 5.2 Significant changes are taking place in Adult Social Care with the service being redesigned into three main areas - assessment and quality assurance, commissioning and delivery. Tremendous growth has been seen in homelessness within Bromley and we have yet to see the full impact of welfare reform. All children and young people will have an individual Education, Health and Care Plan under reforms in Children's Social Care.
- 5.3 Our key role has been to contribute to policy development and to scrutinise the decisions of the Executive and the Portfolio Holder through the Portfolio Plan.

5.4 Care Services – Key areas

- Review of Partnership Arrangements
- Welfare Reform changes and impact
- Tackling Troubled Families
- Updates on Pathfinder Project
- Short breaks for children with disabilities
- Looking at the impact of the changes to the Citizens Advice Bureaux
- Financial implications of changes to Youth on Remand
- Strategy for Social Care Recruitment and Retention
- Impact of the Care Bill
- Day Care Opportunities & Respite for Older People
- Services for people with Learning Disability (supported living, day opportunities and employment schemes)
- Future of Nursery Provision
- Monitoring of Domiciliary care, Care Homes and Children's Placements
- Contract Activity Reports
- Report from the Mobility Forum on the work undertaken during 2013/14

5.5 Consideration of the following Annual reports

- ECHS Complaints 2012/13
- Bromley Safeguarding Children's Board 2012/13
- Corporate Parenting 2012/13
- Independent Reviewing Officer
- Annual Fostering Statement of Purpose
- Bromley Adoption Agency
- Fostering Panel

- Bromley Safeguarding Adults Board
- Substance Misuse Annual Report 2012/13

5.6 Consideration also of Briefing papers containing information to help Members with their background knowledge.

5.7 **Contracts**

Award for Supported Employment
 Tenancy Support contracts across a range of vulnerable groups
 Awards Spots - community based services
 Children and Adolescent Mental Health Issues
 Public Health Health-Check and Weight Management projects

5.8 **Housing**

Annual Performance Report and Updates 2013/14
 Social Housing Fraud Initiative Grant
 Temporary accommodation
 Access to the private rental sector
 Housing options and homelessness prevention

Significant work has been undertaken to progress all priority areas, however, the continuing high volume of statutory homelessness and emerging impact of welfare reform together with the shortage of affordable housing have impacted on the number of households in temporary accommodation exacerbating budgetary pressures.

5.9 **Budget**

Challenging targets have been set by members and officers continue to review contracts to ensure that they deliver in the most cost effective way to generate budget savings whilst protecting key services.

5.10 **Questions**

The Committee welcomes and has answered all questions from members of the public.

5.11 **Conclusion**

Finally I would like to thank all Members of the PDS for their commitment to Bromley Care Services, particularly my Vice-Chairman Councillor David Jefferys who has been extremely supportive. His knowledge of the Health Service has proved invaluable to the work of this Committee. It has been a great pleasure and most interesting to be Chairman of Care Services this year. I would also like to thank the Director, the Assistant Directors and particularly Angela Buchanan for their expertise and patience. Also, Helen Long and all supporting officers/NHS staff who write the reports and attend meetings.

Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee of the Care Services PDS Committee

- 5.12 Terms of Reference were confirmed. The Committee has met twice this year with a final meeting in April due to additions to the work plan.
- 5.13 The first meeting in October had presentations from Public Health England and NHS England, also Dr Lemic and Dr Bhan gave presentations on the priorities and challenges faced locally due to the impact of change at National level.
- 5.14 A good debate took place followed where members raised some concerns in some areas, for example the 111 service. The future work plan will keep members updated of progress.
- 5.15 The Executive Medical Director of Kings College Hospital gave a presentation on improving quality at the PRUH. He also gave an update on the future plans for Orpington hospital.
- 5.16 The Committee agreed the recommendations for the Contract for Intermediate Care.
- 5.17 In January, a meeting was held with members of the Health and Wellbeing Board primarily for an update on Urgent Care performance at the PRUH. Unfortunately, the CQC held a summit on the same day and therefore no one was able to attend from Kings. Dr Bhan updated the Committee with regards to the Clinical Commissioning Group and answered questions from members. There was also an update from the Promise Programme which is proving to be a success.
- 5.18 An e-mail was sent to Kings requesting their presence at the PDS in March for an update on the PRUH. Three representatives have confirmed that they will be attending. The Committee will continue to scrutinise the A&E performance at the PRUH as over the last quarter this has been at levels below the agreed performance level, with some very significant daily and weekly fluctuations.

Councillor Pauline Tunnicliffe
Chairman, Care Services PDS Committee

6. Report from Education PDS Committee

Chairman: Cllr. Nicholas Bennett JP
Vice-Chairman: Cllr. Neil Reddin

- 6.1 The overall objective of the Education PDS Committee for 2013-14 was, as in the previous year, improving pupil, school and governance performance. To this end the Education PDS Committee had, at each of the five meetings, a report on Ofsted inspections and where necessary the steps being taken by schools to respond to matters highlighted in the inspections. The Education PDS Committee commissioned a number of reports to assist its work in this field, including an updated risk analysis based on a wide range of data on each school. The School Governance Working Group was reconvened and its conclusions for improving the work of Local Authority Governors are to be considered shortly by the Education PDS Committee.
- 6.2 The Education PDS Committee also considered, with members of the Public Protection and Safety and Renewal and Recreation PDS Committees, a report on those young people 'not in education, training or employment' (NEET). The Committee Members were impressed by the wide range of targeted opportunities that are being provided for this group and the substantial reduction in young people in the Borough with no purposeful employment. The Education PDS Committee also received a report on the progress of young people looked after by the Local Authority, although due to the small number of Looked After pupils in Year 11 no meaningful conclusions could be made.
- 6.3 The Education PDS Committee's second objective was to encourage schools to become academies and for there to be an expansion of pupil places across the Borough to meet rising pupil numbers over the next few years. Significant progress has been made with supporting schools to move to academy status, and by the end of the academic year the majority of schools in the Borough will be academies. A number of primary schools have had expansion plans approved and four 'free schools' have been approved by the Secretary of State for Education. Positive discussions with the Catholic Archbishop of Southwark (Rt. Rev Peter Smith) took place at Bromley Civic Centre, and it is hoped that a Catholic Secondary School can be established in time for the 2016-17 academic year.
- 6.4 As schools convert to academies, the Local Authority is considering its future role as an education authority. Although it will cease to have operational control for the Borough's schools, it will still have more than 250 statutory responsibilities including pupil place planning, child safeguarding and school improvement. In July 2013, the Full Council, having received a report on the future role of the Local Authority in education services, agreed the Education PDS Committee's landmark '*Education Covenant*' – the first in the UK. The Education Covenant sets out what the local community has a right to expect from everybody involved in education and what the community may also contribute.
- 6.5 One of the key changes which this new role brings is a radical re-examination of the traditional service provided by the Education, Care and Health Services Department. Should the Education Service continue to be provided by the Local Authority or be undertaken by contract by other providers? To establish whether they can be run at

lower cost whilst at the same time maintaining and improving standards of service, a market testing review is taking place. Before any decisions are taken, the Education PDS Committee has committed to a full public consultation and debate on the findings, and has made clear that better value for taxpayers' money means provision as good as or better than already in place, or it will not be considered better value.

- 6.6 Two key areas of current provision have been subject to scrutiny by the Education PDS Committee - the Pupil Referral Service and the Bromley Adult Education College. The Pupil Referral Unit is converting to academy status, and it is hoped will be run by Bromley College of Further and Higher Education from September 2014. The Council's 17 Education Commitments includes support for 'Lifelong Learning' and the key role of adult education, and in the coming months it too will be market tested.
- 6.7 As a result of a review by the New Technology Working Group which showed that applications for school places were largely paper-based and that only 26% of applications were made online, the Education PDS Committee placed great emphasis on channel shift to computer-based applications and in the current year 96% of Primary admission applications and 94% of Secondary admission applications were made by this route.
- 6.8 The Education PDS Committee has also kept child safeguarding, the Special Educational Needs Pathfinder project, literacy in early years and provision of speech and language therapy under close review. Areas which will be examined in the remainder of the municipal year include children's Special Educational Needs transport and education welfare and truancy.
- 6.9 The Education PDS Committee has expressed its concerns about the Darul Uloom School in Chislehurst which has been judged 'inadequate' by Ofsted. Representations have been made to the Department for Education on the Local Authority's behalf by the Leader of the Council.
- 6.10 This brings to an end the second report of the Education PDS Committee and the current Council. I should like to pay tribute to all the Members of the Education PDS Committee for their dedication and harmonious co-operation. I also thank Councillor Neil Reddin for his support as Vice-Chairman and Chairman of the Education Budget Sub-Committee, and Councillor Sarah Phillips for chairing the School Places Working Group. The Education PDS Committee also places on record the work of Dr Tessa Moore, Assistant Director: Education, who retired in October, her successor Jane Bailey, Interim Assistant Director: Education, Terry Parkin the Executive Director: Education, Care and Health Services, and all his staff. Finally none of our work would have been possible without the cheerful and efficient hard work of our committee clerk, Kerry Nicholls.

Councillor Nicholas Bennett JP
Chairman, Education PDS Committee

7. Report from Environment PDS Committee

Chairman: Cllr. William Huntington-Thresher
Vice-Chairman: Cllr. Samaris Huntington-Thresher

Introduction

- 7.1 The services provided within the Environment Portfolio affect every resident of Bromley. Clean streets, traffic congestion, the condition of highways and pavements, parking facilities, and parks provision, are all considered important by residents.

Scrutiny of the Portfolio Holder and Executive

- 7.2 The Committee seeks to fulfil this role through:
- Scrutiny of the draft Environment Portfolio Plan, followed by a mid-year review of progress.
 - Regular monitoring of service performance.
 - Pre-decision scrutiny of relevant Portfolio Holder and Executive decisions.
 - Budget monitoring and scrutiny of budget proposals.

Development of the Environment Portfolio Plan

- 7.3 The Committee considers the Portfolio Plan to be an important document, highlighting to residents the importance of environmental services and showing how value for money is delivered. The Committee contributes to the Plan as part of its policy development role, ensuring that recommendations from the Committee itself and its working groups are taken forward. During 2013/14 these included:
- Improved street cleaning methods following the review of service performance in January 2013
 - Expanding the green garden waste collection scheme
 - Introduction of Fixed Penalty Notices for littering and dog fouling
 - Implementation of the street lighting replacement 'invest to save' programme
 - A revised approach to highways planned maintenance methods, as recommended by the 2012/13 transport and highway assets working groups

Review of the Environment Portfolio Plan

- 7.4 The Committee combines scrutiny of the Portfolio Holder and the Portfolio Plan at the mid-year and end-of year review points, focusing on progress in implementing the Plan. Specific issues discussed with the Environment Portfolio Holder last year included:
- Kerbside collection of textiles for recycling – this was being investigated to find the most suitable method. In the interim, bring-banks were being successfully used.

- Leaf Clearance – Bromley has more street trees than other boroughs. Leaf collection depends on when particular trees shed their leaves, and a flexible approach is needed with extra crews brought in when and where needed.
- Street Lighting replacement Invest to Save scheme - Project management had been tightened up and a project board put in place chaired by the Environment PDS Chairman to oversee progress. 100 columns per month were now being replaced, ensuring that installation did not run too far ahead of electrical connections. The aim now is to complete each new column within 10 working days. Since the start of the year over 2,000 columns had been installed.

Budget Monitoring

7.5 During the year the Committee identified a number of priority budget issues.

- Residents are recycling smaller quantities of paper than previously, reducing the Council's income. The cause is likely to be increased use of the internet for communication and media.
- Storm damage has increased tree maintenance and replacement costs and required additional street cleaning, following the St Jude's and Christmas storms.
- The Environment Agency has advised that leaves swept from roads should not be composted, due to concerns about contaminated material entering the food-chain. This has reduced compost income. The Council has lobbied on this issue, supported by evidence from testing.

2014/15 Budget Consultation

7.6 In considering the 2014/15 budget proposals, the Committee focussed on:

- The successful Green Garden Waste collection scheme - a marketing campaign should start in spring 2015. Collection is likely to expand, financed by income from new customers
- Budget pressures faced by waste services include the impact of landfill tax and a recent upturn in household waste quantities
- The potential impact of Government proposals to prevent camera enforcement of parking. This had been the subject of recent consultation and the Council had responded, focussing particularly on the need to ensure safety around schools

Major topics addressed by the Committee during the year

7.7 The PDS Committee devotes significant time to pre-decision scrutiny of major decisions.

On-Street Enforcement

- 7.8 The Committee has kept under review the effectiveness and viability of the pilot enforcement service serving fixed penalty notices (FPNs) for littering offences. It supported a budget neutral service, and a proposal to review the service to integrate it more closely with street cleaning and environment enforcement.

Implementation of the Flooding and Water Management Act 2010

- 7.9 The Committee reviewed the Council's strategic role as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) in managing local flood risk, and considered planned activities for the coming year. Committee endorsed a £220k programme of activity, with a further £33k reserved to meet new responsibilities for drainage.

Friends Annual Report

- 7.10 The Committee was updated on work carried out by the Council in partnership with Friends Groups. The Committee recorded its thanks to Friends Groups for their contribution; and acknowledged the significant difference that their work makes to the borough.

Street Environment Contract Review

- 7.11 In addition to pre-decision scrutiny of recommended contract awards, the Committee carries out detailed reviews of existing contracts. This year's main review focused on the street cleaning contract. The Committee interviewed senior managers from Kier, the Council's contractor. Improvements in tackling overflowing litter bins, and the cleaning of rural roads, were noted. A postal survey across the borough, carried out in August 2013, had shown a high level of satisfaction with street cleanliness.
- 7.12 A programme of deep cleansing was being provided, along with targeted weekend road channel cleaning for streets with heavy weekday parking. Heavy leaf fall had been experienced following recent prolonged rain, requiring the use of heavier sweeping machines to clear gutters and road gullies. The contractor expected to clear all residual leaf fall waste by early February 2014.
- 7.13 The Committee received an update on the 'linkage' pilot scheme involving residents associations in Shortlands Ward, which was taking forward greater community engagement. Sharing local intelligence was working well and residents had been able to highlight street sweeping issues.

Traffic Schemes

- 7.14 The Committee regularly reviews traffic schemes before implementation. Some schemes address local safety or parking issues; others contribute to the Council's priority of reducing traffic congestion in the borough. Review by the PDS Committee ensures that a consistent approach to these issues is taken across the borough.

Parking Working Group

- 7.15 Membership: Councillors William Huntington-Thresher; Samaris Huntington-Thresher; and Julian Grainger.
- 7.16 The Working Group met to examine the progress of the new shared service with LB Bexley, future development of the service, and the effectiveness of debt collection. The Working Group also reviewed Bromley's approach to parking concessions for motorists with disabilities and health problems.

Highway Assets Working Group

- 7.17 Membership: Councillors William Huntington-Thresher, Adams, Ellis and Samaris Huntington-Thresher
- 7.18 The Working Group met to help develop a revised policy for the treatment of vehicle crossovers and hard footway verges during planned maintenance schemes.

Local Investment Plan (LIP) Working Group

- 7.19 Membership: Councillors William Huntington-Thresher, Ellis, Grainger and Milner
- 7.20 The Working Group met to consider proposed revisions to the draft LIP Delivery Plan for 2014/17.

**Councillor William Huntington-Thresher
Chairman, Environment PDS Committee**

8. Report from Public Protection and Safety PDS Committee

Chairman: Cllr. Kate Lymer
Vice-Chairman: Cllr. Gordon Norrie

Introduction

8.1 The Committee met 5 times this municipal year. Alongside the elected Members on the Committee we also have co-opted members representing the Bromley Community Engagement Forum, the Bromley Federation of Residents Associations, Bromley Neighbourhood Watch, Bromley Victim Support and Bromley Youth Council.

Policy Development & Scrutiny

8.2 During the year the Committee reviewed various services and initiatives as well as decisions by the Executive and the Public Protection & Safety Portfolio Holder.

8.3 Key areas scrutinised by the Committee this year were:

- The Portfolio Plan
- Budget Monitoring
- Food Safety Service
- Proposed Fees for Animal Boarding & Riding Establishments and Stray Dogs
- Portfolio Holder Initiative to increase Enforcement Activity against those who commit Enviro Crime offences
- Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013
- Summer Diversionary Activities
- Financial Implications of Changes to the Youth Remand Framework
- Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme
- Safer Neighbourhood Boards & Safer Bromley Partnership Strategy Group
- Capital Bid for the CCTV Control Room
- The Draft 2014/2015 Budget
- Proposed Joint Mortuary Service with London Borough of Bexley

8.4 Updates were received on the following:

- A Police update received at every meeting by either the Borough Commander or Deputy Borough Commander
- MOPAC Crime Prevention Fund
- Bethlem Royal Hospital Update, given by the Medical Director of SLaM
- Bromley Youth Council Manifesto
- Waste 4 Fuel Ltd
- Enforcement Activity
- Duke of Edinburgh Awards
- Bromley Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report
- Crime Summit
- Targeted Action Project in Mottingham

- Tackling Gangs in Bromley
- Annual Update on the Bromley Youth Offending Team Partnership
- Annual Update on Substance Misuse
- Operation Payback
- Annual Update on Youth Services

8.5 Presentations were given to the Committee by:

- The Environment Agency – regarding Waste 4 Fuel Ltd
- Crown Prosecution Service
- Bromley Neighbourhood Watch
- Bromley Ambulance Service

Budget Savings

8.6 For the year 2013/14 savings totalled £351k. For the year 2014/15 further savings of £175k have been identified.

Community Safety Funding

8.7 The Department has secured £1.2m of MOPAC (Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime) grant monies over the next four years. The total for the year 2013/14 was £278k.

8.8 The projects and initiatives that are being funded are:

- **Domestic Abuse and Violence against Women and Girls** – a wide range of projects and interventions in partnership with Victim Support to reduce the harm caused by domestic abuse and violence against women and girls within Bromley including multi-agency drop in advice service, education and skills courses to raise self-esteem and assertiveness, and a project for male perpetrators challenging abusive beliefs and behaviours.
- **The Safer Bromley Van** - providing home security measures for victims of crime and vulnerable residents.
- **Community Safety Mentoring Programme** - extending the existing Community Safety Mentoring Programme (CSP) which targets those young people identified as being most at risk of developing criminal and antisocial behaviours.
- **Anti-Social Behaviour Initiatives** – Including a targeted neighbourhood noise enforcement programme and 'Operation Crystal', sixteen 'hot spot' antisocial behaviour multi-agency operations in areas identified in conjunction with the Police and other partners.

Police

8.9 The Met's new 'Local Policing Plan' went live in September. During our Police Update at every meeting the Committee robustly scrutinised the transition process and continue to monitor the new arrangement. The new model divides our borough into 4 'neighbourhoods' – North East, North West, South East and South West. Each neighbourhood has one Inspector who will have the flexibility to direct officers to

where they are needed un-restricted by ward boundaries. Concerns remain around certain Police Stations and Front-Counters having been closed and sold, and the Committee continues to scrutinise the Police about this issue.

Safer Neighbourhood Board

- 8.10 In his Manifesto for the 2012 election Mayor Boris Johnson stated that he will; “Establish Safer Neighbourhood Boards in every borough giving local Londoners and victims a greater voice”. In Bromley this has resulted in the Bromley Community Engagement Forum being dismantled and being incorporated into the SNB. The ‘Safer Bromley Partnership’ is now smaller, more strategic, meets less frequently and renamed ‘Safer Bromley Partnership Strategy Group’. The Committee evaluated the proposals for Bromley alongside MOPAC guidance.

Joint Mortuary Service with Bexley

- 8.11 The current arrangements for the provision of Mortuary Services for the London Borough of Bromley has come to an end. The Committee agreed and supports the proposal to discuss utilising a contract placed by the London Borough of Bexley as an alternative to the re tender process on the open market.

Enforcement Initiative

- 8.12 The Committee agreed to support an increase in enforcement activity targeting Enviro Crime types offences. Enviro Crime activities such as fly tipping, littering, graffiti and dog fouling cost Bromley a significant amount of money per annum. This is a joint initiative by the Public Protection & Safety Portfolio Holder Cllr Tim Stevens and the Environmental Services Portfolio Holder Cllr Colin Smith aimed at sending out a strong message to offenders and acting as a deterrence.

Oral Presentation by the Environment Agency

- 8.13 Members received a presentation by two Managers from the Environment Agency concerning the Waste 4 Fuel site at Cornwall Drive, Orpington. Members of the Committee and visiting Members from Cray Valley West ward asked many questions and conveyed to the EA that they felt very disappointed that the situation had continued to for so long.

Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 – Fees

- 8.14 This Act replaced the previous registration system for scrap metal dealers and establishes a new licensing regime administered by local authorities with every scrap metal dealer required to have a licence. Operation without a licence is a criminal offence with the definition of a scrap metal dealer now including motor salvage operators. The Act also creates a site licence, a collector’s licence and mobile collector’s licence, to operate in the area of the local authorities. The Committee debated and agreed which fees for each licence would be set.

Proposed Fees for Animal Boarding & Riding Establishments Licences and Stray Dogs

- 8.15 The Committee supported proposals for a revised fee structure for animal boarding and riding establishments to make them fairer. The new fee structure proposed a basic fee element common to all businesses plus an additional fee per head of animal. The proposed fees structures would achieve a wider spread of fees which more fairly reflects the number of animals involved.
- 8.16 Members also supported proposals related to Stray Dog Fees. Fees were rationalised to a flat fee of £100 for the collection and return of a dog making the fees fair and in line with neighbouring London Boroughs, replacing a more complicated arrangement where fees were inconsistent.

Food Safety

- 8.17 The Committee scrutinised and supported the Annual Food Safety Service Plan. The Committee agreed that the risk to the residents of Bromley was too great to shrink the Food Safety Team any further, and conveyed that they didn't want to get into the mess that Bexley has after cutting too far resulting in them having the worst Food Safety Team in England.

Visits by Members

- 8.18 Visits have been made by Committee members and other Councillors to Bromley Ambulance Station on Bromley Common, London Ambulance Control Room at Waterloo, and the Bromley Youth Offending Team. Arrangements are being made for the Committee to visit the Metropolitan Police Headquarters in Lambeth.
- 8.19 Lastly I would like to thank all members of the Committee for their hard work and excellent input this municipal year to our meetings, which was reflected in their high attendance to our Member visits during this year.

Councillor Kate Lymer
Chairman, Public Protection and Safety PDS Committee

9. Report from Renewal and Recreation PDS Committee

Chairman: Councillor Ian F Payne
Vice-Chairman: Councillor Julian Bennington

- 9.1 The Committee will have met 5 times this municipal year. Each meeting has scrutinised the reports for decision by the Renewal and Recreation Portfolio Holder and considered policy development of key areas of the Portfolio. Alongside the elected Members on the PDS Committee we were also pleased to welcome a co-opted member from the Bromley Youth Council, Mr Ross Stanford.
- 9.2 The committee have monitored performance against the Renewal and Recreation Department's Building a Better Bromley priorities, namely
- Vibrant, thriving town centres
 - Protection, conservation and enhancement of the natural and built environment
 - Enhanced opportunities for leisure, recreation and the arts, and employment and skills
 - Supply good quality affordable housing that best meets local statutory and priority housing needs.

Economic Development

- 9.3 The Government has provided new financial incentives impacting on the way Local Government will be funded in the future. It has introduced reforms to the collection and spending of business rates, with a focus on local retention (30%) to incentivise local authorities to financially bolster their economy and business rates base. In response to this and wider Planning issues, the council commissioned a study by G L Hearn Ltd (GLH) into the potential land use options for stimulating the economy in Bromley. This was aimed both at creating employment and economic growth and with increasing business rates through commercial development.
- 9.4 The main preferred option for the three growth areas suggested and agreed were Bromley Town Centre, Biggin Hill and the Cray Business Corridor.

Town Centre Developing and Planning

Site A: Bromley North

- 9.5 The Council has received the judgement with regards the Statutory Challenge to Policy OSA. An Order was issued that quashes Policy OSA in its entirety. It requires the Council to prepare, publish, consult upon and promote a new policy for the OSA site. It is proposed that this be dealt with in the forthcoming Local Plan, as it is at an appropriate stage of development.

Site B: Tweedy Rd

- 9.6 The site is currently being used as a (temporary) compound for storing materials and plant relating to Bromley North Village for a two year period.

Site C: Town Hall

- 9.7 Site allocated for mixed use development comprising Hotel and/or offices. Contracts have now been exchanged with the Cathedral Group based on their proposal to convert the Town Hall to a hotel, conference centre and associated restaurants. Cathedral aim to submit their planning application within 6 months of entering into the conditional contract. They aim to open the hotel and conference centre in the Spring of 2016.

Site F: Civic Centre

- 9.8 Following a review of the options, it has been agreed that in the short term, up to 2015, the Council will concentrate on meeting its accommodation needs through the more efficient use of the campus site, undertaking limited investment in maintenance. A report on options for the short term use of Ann Springman and Joseph Lancaster blocks is being prepared.

Site G: West of High Street

- 9.9 Major site in the AAP, allocated for mixed use development incorporating residential, retail and community and health facilities. AAP Inspector recommended that a Masterplan should be prepared for the site and adopted by the Council as supplementary planning guidance. Officers are continuing to work with Muse Developments on agreeing a viable scheme proposal and partnering arrangements that will deliver the Council's objectives. Muse are amending their original scheme design following the commencement of the Crest Nicolson residential scheme in Ringers Road.

Site J: Bromley South

- 9.10 Network Rail have improved the station, in particular; access, drop off facilities, disabled access, internal layout, repairs and refurbishment of the building. A permanent kiss and drop off point on the Waitrose access road has been completed as part of the Outer London Fund round 2 allocations. The development potential of the station site is being reconsidered as part of the Local Plan review, which will include supporting massing and viability assessments. The results of which will form part of the Local Plan draft policy development.

Site K: Westmoreland Road car park

- 9.11 Mixed use development site comprising cinema, A3/4/5 uses, residential, hotel and reprovision of public car parking. Cathedral Group selected as the Council's development partner in December 2008 after a competitive process. The proposal includes a multi-screen cinema, 200 residential units, 130 bedroom hotel, restaurants and cafes, plus associated parking and public realm enhancements. Work is progressing in accordance with the programme plan and is due for completion by Autumn 2015.

Site L: Former DHSS

- 9.12 Planning Permission for the redevelopment of the site for a mixed use residential and office scheme was, (subject to a Planning Agreement and GLA referral) approved by the Development Control Committee on 6th October 2013. Telereal Trillium, the owners of the Crown Buildings have sold the site to the Education Funding Agency. The EFA are proposing to use the site to house a 3 form entry bi-lingual (French) primary school commencing in September 2014.

Bromley North Village

- 9.13 In support of transformational public realm improvements an Area Based bid to the Transport for London, as part of the Mayor's 'Great Spaces' initiative, has been successful in providing access to £3.3M . £1.5m has been allocated in the Council's Capital Programme 2012/13 in support of this project and a further £800k has allocated from round 2 of the Outer London Fund. Works are underway and on-schedule in East Street and Market Square. However, the issue with the water main in the High Street has caused some programming issues. Thames Water will commence replacing the main from 13th January 2014, which is scheduled to take 3 months. The remaining works are being reprogrammed to 'catch up' and to reduce the impact of road closures.

Orpington Town Centre

- 9.14 The new owner of the Walnuts are seeking to implement a comprehensive improvement programme for the Walnuts Shopping Centre which will see Crown Buildings redeveloped for additional retail floorspace and a cinema.

At the ballot of Business Rate payers to establish a Business Improvement District (BID) for Orpington town centre had been successful.

The Priory

- 9.15 The development work undertaken to date, which included a number of surveys and investigations (including a full condition survey) revealed that there were a number of backlog maintenance issues affecting the total project cost of the work. After reporting the increased project costs to the Executive Committee, officers have been asked to review the business case for the project. As a result, project work has been delayed to enable a full range of options for the future of the Priory site to be considered and the business case for each of these to be reviewed so that a fully informed decision may be given full and proper consideration. Officers continue to have regular discussions with the Heritage Lottery Fund on the future of the project

Beckenham

- 9.16 It was reported at 18th September 2013 Renewal and Recreation PDS Committee that a revised Beckenham Town Centre Step 1 scheme bid had been submitted to Transport for London's Area Based Programme. The Council received notification on 16 December that the Initial Scheme Design bid had been successful and that TfL had allocated funding to complete the initial scheme design commencing in April 2014.
- 9.17 Officers have been working on implementation of short term improvements to Beckenham Town Centre following the recommendations agreed by the Beckenham & West Wickham PDS Working Group – including the launch of a new town heritage trail. The Town Centre Manager has also supported the launch of the new

Beckenham Town Centre Team which first met and agreed its constitution and terms of reference on 26 September

Business Support Programme

- 9.18 The Bromley Town Business Growth Club continues to be delivered in partnership with ActionCOACH Business Coaching and is supported by the Mayor of London's Outer London Fund – with a planning workshops and a webinar during the autumn. In addition to the Business Growth Club, officers have also been working closely with other organisations to organise and host joint support events - such as a Start Up Loans evening in November (co-hosted with Prospects Business Services) and a networking event in December (co-hosted with Metrobank and the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales (ICAEW)).
- 9.20 Also in the past year congratulations are due to Alison Stammers, Chairman of the Chislehurst Town Team, who was given the Mary Portas High Street Champion Award for 2013.

Business Improvement District

- 9.21 A Business Improvement District (BID) is now a tried and tested model to deliver sustainable investment, through a levy of rateable properties based on typically 1-2% of rateable values. There are now over 160 formal BIDs in operation in the UK and Republic of Ireland – Given the successful establishment of Orpington 1st, Members have asked Officers to explore the business case for establishment of BIDs in other town centres.

Penge

- 9.22 Plans were developed for the provision of a new library service to serve the Penge/Anerley area. Work on the detailed design for the new Library at 46 Green Lane has now been completed. The design of the Library fit out has also been finalised. It is anticipated that the new library will open at the end of May or early June 2014 subject to the contractors programme.

Leisure & Culture

- 9.23 Support communities, voluntary clubs and individuals in the development and planning of sports and physical activities and initiatives to raise the levels of participation and to contribute to healthy lifestyles. Officers have applied to Pro Active South London for funding a capacity building officer and have been advised they have been successful in achieving £20k. Pro Active Bromley meetings are taking place regularly, facilitated by Council officers.
- 9.24 Procurement of a management contractor to manage and operate the athletics track at Norman Park has been carried out and the contract was awarded to Norman Park Track Management Limited following the R&R Committee on 18th September.

Crystal Palace Park

- 9.25 Although the application to English Heritage for funds to undertake survey work to identify appropriate remedial work was successful, the appointment of specialists is currently under consideration as the area is now covered by an Exclusivity Agreement with the ZhongRong Group who are developing plans for a Crystal Palace at the park.
- 9.24 The Executive Group of the Management Board met on 20th November and discussions focussed on the ZhongRong Group's proposals for the park. In particular, the design selection process to identify an appropriate design team was

discussed, and ARUP, the ZhongRong Group's appointed advisors, set out their planned community engagement activity. The Heritage & Environment Stakeholder Group met on 5th December, the Community Stakeholder Group met on 24th October and 21st November and the Site Management Stakeholder Group met on 9th December. All groups were given an update on the ZhongRong Group's investment proposals.

Housing

- 9.25 Produce and maintain the new London Borough of Bromley Housing Strategy. An initial Member Group meeting was held in July to consider the type and content of the forthcoming Housing Strategy. A draft Housing Strategy formulated by Strategic Housing in consultation with a corporate officer team. A further Member Group meeting was undertaken in October to consider proposed draft Strategy in detail. The final draft Strategy and action plan is currently being reviewed by officers in light of the publication of the Mayor's draft Housing Strategy in December 2013.
- 9.26 A corporate Property Acquisitions Project Group has been established to drive delivery. To date, three suitable properties have been identified and offers have been accepted by vendors. Of the offers accepted, one purchase is expected to complete by late January 2014. The conveyancing progress is progressing for the other two properties with exchange/completion expected estimated for February 2014.
- 9.27 Finally I wish to thank all the members of the Committee for an excellent year, a lot of work has been carried out, including lot of conversation and passion within this area of the Council. Also I would like to thank all the officers in the R&R Department, for not just their tireless work at the committee meetings, but the ongoing day to day work being carried out at a time of great pressure and economic challenge - you are all to be congratulated.

Councillor Ian Payne
Chairman, Renewal and Recreation PDS Committee

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