

LONDON BOROUGH OF BROMLEY

MINUTES

of the proceedings of the Meeting of the
Council of the Borough
held at 7.00 pm on 4 July 2016

Present:

**The Worshipful the Mayor
Councillor Ian F. Payne**

**The Deputy Mayor
Councillor Hannah Gray**

Councillors

Vanessa Allen	Peter Fookes	Chris Pierce
Graham Arthur	Peter Fortune	Neil Reddin FCCA
Douglas Auld	Ellie Harmer	Catherine Rideout
Kathy Bance MBE	Will Harmer	Charles Rideout QPM CVO
Julian Benington	William Huntington-	Michael Rutherford
Nicholas Bennett J.P.	Thresher	Richard Scoates
Ruth Bennett	David Jefferys	Colin Smith
Eric Bosshard	Charles Joel	Diane Smith
Kim Botting	David Livett	Melanie Stevens
Katy Boughey	Kate Lymer	Teresa Te
Kevin Brooks	Russell Mellor	Michael Tickner
David Cartwright QFSM	Alexa Michael	Pauline Tunnicliffe
Mary Cooke	Peter Morgan	Michael Turner
Ian Dunn	Terence Nathan	Stephen Wells
Nicky Dykes	Keith Onslow	Angela Wilkins
Judi Ellis	Tony Owen	Richard Williams
Robert Evans	Sarah Phillips	
Simon Fawthrop	Tom Philpott	

The meeting was opened with prayers

In the Chair
The Mayor
Councillor Ian F. Payne

14 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Lydia Buttinger, Stephen Carr, Peter Dean, Samaris Huntington-Thresher, Angela Page and Tim Stevens. Apologies were also received after the meeting from Councillor Alan Collins. Apologies for lateness were received from Councillor Julian Benington.

15 Declarations of Interest

The following declarations of interest were made –

- Councillor Nicholas Bennett as a governor of Bromley College in relation to agenda item 16 (Bromley College Pension Arrangements.)
- Councillor Ian Payne, as his daughter worked in child protection for the Council.
- Councillor Pauline Tunnicliffe, as a foster carer for the borough.

16 To confirm the Minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 11th May 2016

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings held on 11th May 2016 be confirmed.

17 Petitions

There were no petitions to consider.

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

Twelve questions had been received from members of the public. These are set out in Appendix A to these minutes.

19 Questions for oral reply from Members of the Council where notice has been given

Fifteen questions for oral reply had been received from members of the Council. These are set out in Appendix B to these minutes.

20 Questions for written reply from Members of the Council where notice has been given

Thirteen questions had been received from members of the Council for written reply. These are set out in Appendix C to these minutes.

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

The Portfolio Holder for Care Services, Councillor Robert Evans, made a statement on the recent Ofsted Inspection of the Borough's Children's Services which had been published the previous Monday. The inspection had taken place in April 2016, and was based on the new, stricter, Ofsted regime. On all five graded judgements, the inspectors had given the Council the lowest of the four possible rankings – "Inadequate." Although there were some minor points that could have been challenged, the best course of action was to accept the findings and determine to take action to rectify the noted

failings of the service. Councillor Evans emphasised that everyone involved was utterly determined to act urgently on the recommendations and restore services to a level of which the borough could be proud.

The main themes in the report were failings in process and procedures, application of thresholds, case load drift, pace of working, governance structures and oversight and leadership. Although no children had come to harm, there was implicit in the inspectors' report the view that there was a potential risk to some children. There were eighteen recommendations which the Council was addressing – Ofsted would be checking progress on the recovery plan at regular intervals. In addition, the report had triggered action by the Department for Education who had appointed a Commissioner, Ms Franke Sulke CBE, latterly Director of Children's Services at LB Lewisham, to support the Council. She would be required, by 1st October, to make a recommendation to the Minister as to whether she judged Bromley to have the capacity to bring standards up to the required level, or whether services should be taken over by an external trust.

The Portfolio Holder emphasised that even as the inspection was still going on officers had been carrying out reviews and actions and starting work on an initial improvement plan. The Chief Executive had set up an Officer Service Improvement Team and to drive the whole project the Leader had set up, and was chairing, a Service Improvement Governance Board containing senior Members and Officers and representatives from Health and the Police.

Resources would be required to appoint a Director of Children's Services and additional social workers to bring down caseload numbers to the level required by Ofsted. These resources would be made available and would be agreed by the Executive at its meeting later in the month. However, money was not the only answer and effort was needed at every level to re-energise the Council's approach and consistently apply a more urgent approach. With that attitude there was nothing in the report that could not be put right. Over the next three months, aided by the Commissioner, the Council would be producing a line by line response to the Ofsted recommendations and a long-lasting change of emphasis to bring the needs of children closer to the centre of the work of the whole Council.

The Portfolio Holder responded to questions from other Members.

22 Civic Centre Development Strategy Stage 2 Report: Business Case
Report CSD16100

A motion to agree the recommendation of the Executive to approve the inclusion of the sum of £14.1m in the Capital programme (Option 2 in the report), which would be funded from capital receipts, was moved by Councillor Graham Arthur, seconded by Councillor Peter Morgan and **CARRIED**.

23 Pooling Options
Report CSD16082

A motion to approve the following resolution was moved by Councillor Diane Smith, seconded by Councillor Teresa Te Carr and **CARRIED –**

That Council:

- (1) Join the London Councils' Pensions CIV Sectoral Joint Committee, established under Regulation 11 of the Local Authorities (Arrangement for the Discharge of Functions) (England) Regulations 2012 (pursuant to the existing London Councils Governing Agreement dated 13 December 2001 (as amended)) to act as a representative body for those local authorities that resolve to participate in these arrangements (or in the alternative, should all 33 London authorities resolve to participate, that London Councils' Leaders' Committee exercise these functions and the Governing Agreement be varied accordingly;**
- (2) Delegate to the Joint Committee those functions necessary for the proper functioning of the Company, including the effective oversight of the ACS Operator;**
- (3) Appoint the Chairman of Pensions Investment Sub-Committee to the Joint Committee who will also have power to act for the Council in exercising its rights as a shareholder at any General Meetings of the Company.**
- (4) Subscribe to one, £1 ordinary A share in the capital of the Company, having the rights set out in the Articles of Association and Shareholders Agreement; (both documents are available in the Members Room);**
- (5) Contribute to the Company's Regulatory Capital requirements by way of a subscription to £150,000 £1 non-voting B shares in the capital of the Company, having the rights set out in the Articles of Association and Shareholders agreement; and**
- (6) Contribute £100,000 consisting of the start-up, early operating costs (£75,000) and annual membership cost commencing in 2016/17 of £25,000;**
- (7) Note that there will be future savings generated through lower Investment Manager fees which the London CIV indicate will more than cover the costs of entry and the annual running costs and thus deliver ongoing cost reductions to the Pension Fund.**

24 Provisional Final Accounts 2015/16 - Transfer to the Growth Fund
Report CSD16101

A motion to approve the transfer of £7,024k to the Growth Fund as detailed in section 4.2 of the report and as recommended by the Executive, was moved by Councillor Graham Arthur, seconded by Councillor Colin Smith and **CARRIED.**

25 First Report of the Education Select Committee 2016/17 - The Education Landscape in Bromley
Report CSD16104

A motion to note the first report of the Education Select Committee and invite the Leader and appropriate Portfolio Holders to respond to the relevant recommendations in the report was moved by Councillor Nicholas Bennett, seconded by Councillor Neil Reddin and **CARRIED.**

26 To consider Motions of which notice has been given.

The following motion was moved by Councillor Angela Wilkins and seconded by Councillor Kevin Brooks -

“This Council deeply regrets the extremely poor levels of service provided to the Borough’s young people, most notably evidenced by last week’s damning OFSTED report on Bromley’s Children’s Services, and also by last year’s highly critical report on the Borough’s Youth Offending Team.

There is also considerable evidence of the Council’s organisation being “stretched to breaking point” in a number of areas; sustained delivery of services in a number of areas is at risk as a consequence.

In the light of recent failings, this Council therefore agrees the following:

- 1) To apologise to the young people, families and staff whom it has failed
- 2) To urge the Executive to ensure that the necessary remedial actions identified in the OFSTED report on children’s services are delivered as quickly and effectively as possible
- 3) To instruct the Chief Executive to carry out an urgent review of the Council to identify any further structural and managerial weaknesses and to report back with findings and recommendations that will ensure that the council functions effectively across all of its services in the future.
- 4) To request the Leader and Executive to review their policies and budgets in order to prioritise provision of competent frontline services and to report their conclusions to the next full Council.”

The following amendment was moved by Councillor Robert Evans and seconded by Councillor Colin Smith –

To delete the introductory sentences and points (1), (3) and (4) and to amend (2) as indicated below –

Amended motion -

“This Council agrees: To recognise the work already done in response to the Ofsted Report on Children Services – and further to urge the Executive both to ensure that the necessary remedial actions identified in the report are delivered as quickly and effectively as possible and to make any further recommendations that they deem necessary.”

This amendment was **CARRIED**. The substantive motion as amended was then considered and **CARRIED**.

27 The Mayor's announcements and communications.

The Mayor announced that the London Youth Games that had taken place at Crystal Palace over the weekend had been won by Team Bromley. He had sent his congratulations to the Team and would be hosting a thank you event - details would be circulated.

The Mayor and Councillors offered their congratulations to Councillor Tom Philpott, who had recently married.

The Mayor thanked Members who attended his first charity dinner at the Villagio restaurant at the end of May, the Civic Service on Sunday 5th June, the street parties (the Mayor and Deputy Mayor had between them attended 55 of the 57 street parties), the Armed Forces Day and the Whistle for the Somme ceremonies. He recorded his particular thanks to Councillor Nicholas Bennett for arranging the Whistle for the Somme.

The Mayor highlighted the following forthcoming events –

- the Volunteers Reception on Thursday 21st July.
- the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Hannah Gray, was planning a 15,000 ft Skydive with sponsorship proceeds going to the Mayor's charity fund, hopefully at the end of August. This would take place at Old Sarum Park, Wiltshire.
- a fun “Bowling” evening taking place on Thursday 22nd September at the Pavilion.
- a Christmas Masquerade Ball at the Beaverwood Club on Saturday 10th December.

The Mayor thanked Members for their support over the last few weeks and invited them to contact his office should they want him to attend any events in their wards.

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

It was moved by Councillor Ian Payne, seconded by Councillor Colin Smith and -

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 summaries
refer to matters
involving exempt information

29 Bromley College Pension Arrangements
Report CSD16083

A motion to approve the recommendations in the report was moved by Councillor Diane Smith, seconded by Councillor Teresa Te and **CARRIED**.

30 "Gifting" of Mears Scheme to Pension Fund
Report CSD16102

A motion to approve the recommendations set out in the report was moved by Councillor Graham Arthur, seconded by Councillor Colin Smith and **CARRIED**.

31 Investment Opportunity

Report withdrawn.

The Meeting ended at 9.26 pm

Mayor

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COUNCIL MEETING

4TH JULY 2016

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

1. From Julie Ireland to the Care Services Portfolio Holder

Will Bromley Council take on the Local Authority Mental Health Challenge recently developed by Mind and other mental health groups?

Reply:

The Local Authority has not taken on this challenge as it does not wish to single out and support one particular campaign and not others. The Local Authority receives regular requests to support various initiatives, campaigns and challenges from different charities and community groups. It is not possible to participate in and support all of these.

However, the Council has been doing a lot of work to improve mental and emotional well-being of Bromley residents. There has been a particular emphasis recently on people with dementia as this is one of the priorities within the Health and Well-being Strategy. A lot of work has been conducted with children and young people, particularly with the development of the Community Well-being service and work with schools. Additionally, in response to a request to appoint a Mental Health Champion for the borough, the Health and Well-being Board has instead formed a sub-committee to oversee and investigate issues of mental health.

Supplementary Question:

Will the Council reconsider the decision to abandon the School nursing Services?

Reply:

The School Nursing Service will not be abandoned. It will run for at least another year and thereafter we hope very much, and negotiations are going on with the CCG and schools, as to whether a nursing service will continue in schools.

2. From Jane Green to the Environment Portfolio Holder

A decision was taken and carried out in April to resurface the "Unadopted" section of Elwill Way at a cost to the Council's 2016/17 revenue budget of £60,212.

There being no decision to adopt this carriageway, giving the Council responsibility for its maintenance, who took the resurfacing decision and why?

Reply:

I am ultimately responsible for the decision which came about as a result of a mistake in the Highways officers team whilst assessing the state of roads most needing repair across the Borough.

The Director of Environment has since been instructed to find additional in year savings over the course of 2016/17 and 2017/18 to replenish the relevant budget header and thereby ensure that no slippage occurs within the planned maintenance schedules.

An additional procedure has also been added to ensure greater attention is paid in future to the Council's lists of un-adopted roads when formulating those schedules.

Supplementary Question:

Why was priority given to providing a new carriageway and lighting?

Reply:

This was one of the worst roads in the borough; there was a failure in that it was on the wrong list but we have taken action to ensure this cannot happen again.

3. From Sahar Awad to the Environment Portfolio Holder (written reply sent)

Does the Council acknowledge that there is a public health problem with the daily accumulation of rubbish bags along Penge High Street?

Reply:

Whilst the Council would acknowledge the dumped bags are aesthetically displeasing, no it doesn't.

4. From David Clapham to the Renewal and Recreation Portfolio Holder

My question at the Executive of 15th June was not answered. I contend that the airport has been operating out of hours. You changed the definition from 'based aircraft' to 'account holders'. Can you now please define 'account holders' and state who defined it?

Reply:

The question was answered. The Council has no evidence that the Airport are operating 'out of hours' and has looked at your reports and others too in detail as you know and has reached the same conclusion. The 'out of hours' allegation is consistently about a small number of movements in the so-called shoulder period which will not be relevant going forwards. The new operating hours replace the shoulder periods, with enhanced morning and evening controls. Referring to definitions, no one has changed anything, with the current practices of the Airport reflecting historic practices.

Supplementary Question:

On 13th January 2016 I asked if the Council had a list of home-based aircraft and was told that it did not. The definition has now been changed, so why was I not told this then? Does the Council have a list of account holders and can this list be provided in writing?

Reply:

We probably do not have a list of account holders, but we can try to obtain this and when I have got it I can see that it is forwarded to Mr Clapham.

5. From Nick Bell to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation (written reply sent)

With regard to the monitoring of activities at Biggin Hill, now that we have the Lease, the NAP and the MIL running alongside and often disagreeing or conflicting with each other, which one will prevail?

Reply:

To be clear, both the NAP and the MIL will actually be part of the lease. The proposed Deed of Variation was published as part of last month's Executive papers. I do not believe that the NAP and MIL do conflict but rather, they complement each other. The MIL therefore actually sets out details of how the NAP will be complied with.

6. From Giuliana Voisey to the Renewal and Recreation Portfolio Holder

With regard to the cap on movements, Mark Bowen finally admitted that "the test will come if at a future date the Council needs to "enforce" the provision", which really is the whole point. Do council members at last appreciate what residents have been saying and will you start listening?

Reply:

The test will always come when the Council needs to enforce the provision and the Council was successful in the Court of Appeal the last time that the lease was tested in Court. The MIL is clear about the restrictions on flight numbers, which is significantly lower than the level agreed in the lease. The Council does appreciate what residents have been saying and that is why there has been so much scrutiny of this particular decision. I would add that residents wanted to see a binding legal agreement and that is precisely what we have here, with more control than we have had previously, which is also something residents have called for.

Supplementary Question:

What has happened to your promise on the night of the call-in that all sixty Councillors would ensure that the conditions would be complied with? Why did those Councillors not intervene to stop the Leader from pushing through ratification of conditions, the cap being one, which have proved unenforceable?

Reply:

As far as I am concerned all proper procedures have been followed, the matter has been fully debated and we now have an agreement which I think will benefit all residents.

7. From Robert Pattullo to the Renewal and Recreation Portfolio Holder

You have admitted there is a misrepresentation concerning operating hours at BHAL in Item 3 of the MIL. Will it now be corrected forthwith but, if not, when?

Reply:

The operating hours are quite clear and this is the important point. I accept that item 3 could be better phrased but the wording does acknowledge that the Airport will need to apply to the Council if they want to utilise the period 2200 to 2300 on Sundays.

Supplementary Question:

Would you please explain the difference between the legal terms "reasonable endeavours" and "best endeavours" and why best endeavours was not incorporated in the BHAL MIL as it appears the most effective to ensure compliance?

Reply:

Not being a lawyer, this is somewhat difficult, but I have asked our Legal Department about this on several occasions. Best endeavours is just so rigorous that no-one would ever get this enforced in court – if it meant flying to the planet Mars to get the last bit of something to make the thing happen you would have to do it. Reasonable endeavours does have very strong legal force and it is something that the court will enforce, and I think is satisfactory in terms of getting these conditions complied with in future.

8. From Mike Jones to the Leader of the Council (question taken by the Deputy Leader, Cllr Colin Smith)

In view of the fact that the majority of Bromley residents voted in the referendum to remain in the EU, would the Council reconsider their vote in favour of leaving the European Union that it took - prematurely - at February's meeting, so that the Council's views properly reflect the views of the electorate they represent?

Reply:

I am afraid you may have been poorly advised. The Council voted on a motion which read:

“This Council agrees that the negative impacts that the European Union has upon the efficiency and costs of Bromley Council activities mean Bromley Council would be better off if Britain was out of the European Union.”

A statement of belief, not to suggest that we vote in favour of leaving the European Union – that is clearly a personal decision.

On a personal note, whilst I suspect you will find a vast dichotomy of views across this chamber which broadly reflect the mixed opinion of Bromley's population, I for one am delighted with the outcome of the referendum and will be writing to local MPs as well as the incoming Prime Minister in a personal capacity, urging them to sign the necessary 'Article 50' document to get the process started at the earliest possible opportunity.

Supplementary Question:

Since the referendum many EU citizens living and working in Bromley have told us that they are worried about their rights here in the UK. Will the Council fight to ensure that these European citizens already settled here can continue to live work and study here, especially considering the big contribution they make to life locally and in the UK generally.

Reply:

I am not really sure that making those promises are within Bromley Council's remit, but I am aware that this is a conversation being held at national level, and I am sure that the national parties between them will make any advice that is necessary available through all the organs of the national press and media.

9. From Sahar Awad to the Environment Portfolio Holder (written reply sent)

What steps, if any, are being taken to tackle this problem?

Reply:

As you are already aware, a meeting has been convened by the Council's Head of Waste Operations to discuss possible measures which might hopefully improve the situation locally.

10. From David Clapham to the Renewal and Recreation Portfolio Holder

My question about the level of fines for non-complying aircraft has not been answered. A large business jet would pay more than £2000 in landing fees, yet the maximum fine foreseen (point 19) in the MIL is around £500. How is the condition that fines should be 5 times landing fees satisfied for large aircraft?

Reply:

The vast majority of aircraft using the airport pay nothing like this, as you know. The level of fines of up to 5 times is an important principle which is included in the MIL and it is certainly based on this multiple.

But, but we do accept that fines should not be completely disproportionate as my previous answer to you on this subject outlined. We also accept that it should not go against the advice provided in the ICAO document 9082, Policies on Charges for Airports and Air Navigation Services.

Supplementary Question:

Are you satisfied that this level of fine will dissuade people from flying out of hours?

Reply:

I would have thought that the deterrent in all these cases is not so much the fine but the real and distinct threat of an outright ban from the Airport. The Airport have proposed a range of measures to encourage compliance and these have been strengthened. We will be monitoring this in person as we will have a representative present at these meetings to make sure that tough sanctions are applied and more importantly that pilots that transgress do not use Biggin Hill.

11. From Giuliana Voisey to the Renewal and Recreation Portfolio Holder

Do the noise envelopes, based as they are on an imperfect average measure, only measure noise caused by aircraft at Biggin Hill or also Heathrow?

Reply:

The noise envelopes apply only to operations at Biggin Hill as they are intended as the measure of control on operations at that airfield. They do not include operations to or from Heathrow, or any other UK or international airport for that matter, as clearly Biggin Hill have no control over those operations.

Any concerns regarding the 'imperfect average' nature of the LAeq contours should be directed to the Government. It is their policy that 57dB LAeq,16h is the average level of daytime noise that marks the approximate onset of significant community annoyance. It is also their wish that noise envelopes be pursued as a means of controlling noise from operations at UK airports. Direct reference to these matters can be found in the Aviation Policy Framework, sections 3.17 and 3.29. I might also add that as no noise envelope existed before from a lease perspective, anything we have which reduces the noise that the Airport can make is to be welcomed. Furthermore, it would be unreasonable for the Council to seek to draw in controls relating to other airports which are outside control of Biggin Hill Airport or ourselves..

Supplementary Question:

Should the Heathrow VOR beacon be moved, although at 7,000 feet that traffic does not really bother us. Would Biggin Hill movements double or treble at 700 feet because more room is created within your selected noise envelopes which are based on the wrong measure and according to Government they are normally accompanied by other measures but you have it on its own.

Reply:

I do not know the answer to that question but we will investigate and will write to Mrs Voisey.

12. From Sahar Awad to the Environment Portfolio Holder (written reply sent)

Why is an e-petition with over 600 signatures around this issue any less valid for presentation to a general council meeting than a paper petition, when e-petitions provide names and postcodes, and are as easy to cross reference and check as paper ones?

Reply:

Although this isn't specifically an Environmental Services question, I am advised with regard to your own petition, that whilst officers can see the city and postcodes, they cannot see full addresses, making it harder and more time consuming to check the genuine nature or otherwise of the 'signatories'.

COUNCIL MEETING

4TH JULY 2016

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

1. From Cllr David Livett to the Environment Portfolio Holder

Will the Portfolio Holder set out the results of his review of the recent closure of the satellite green waste collection sites and whether his review has identified the opportunity to provide at least a rotation of collections between the three sites?

Reply:

Although the assessment remains ongoing, I anticipate being in a position to provide you with an answer over coming days, a point I have already shared with a number of Cray Valley residents directly as well.

Officers' concerns regarding rotating the sites, which I am currently working through include:

1. There is the potential to increase fly-tipping at sites where the service is not operating on the three weekly cycle. With this comes the added cost for the removal of waste and potential costs of additional resource to proactively manage the non-operational sites to discourage fly-tipping.
2. When the sites are operating at locations other than the Shire Lane site, there is greater potential that regular site users from Shire Lane and Cotmandene or Biggin Hill will choose to divert to the Waldo Road reuse & recycling centre, which would add queueing pressure on the site and potentially overload it.
3. The Biggin Hill and Cotmandene sites have site determined limitations on how many vehicles, queueing capacity and the potential to secure the site as compared to the Shire Lane site. This may have implications on the effectiveness of the sites during busy periods, especially if customer numbers increase as the site would only be operating on a three weekly cycle.
4. I would estimate a potential annual cost increase of 15-20% above the current cost (£50K) were routine enforcement monitoring to be put in place to mitigate fly-tipping at non-active sites during the operational season.

I promise that I will update you as quickly as I can from this point as I would like to make this work.

Supplementary Question:

How confident is the Portfolio Holder that he will be able to overcome these objections of his officers to restoring the service?

Reply:

I am confident that I will make the decision on a fact-driven basis. If there is little or no reason not to do what you and I would like to do for the people of the Crays and Biggin Hill I certainly will. If it is going to lead to increased fly-tipping and extra cost,

and no real benefit, that might be a problem. We will finish these investigations and I will get back to you at the earliest possible opportunity. I want to make this work, too.

2. From Cllr Angela Wilkins to the Leader of Council

Will you apologise to the families of this Borough for the appalling levels of service which the council has provided to protect our vulnerable children, as detailed in the recent Ofsted report?

Reply:

I'm afraid that I don't accept the premise of this question.

I would suggest there is a gulf of difference between the Inspector's finding that the Service was "inadequate" and the intentional over exaggeration that the service is/has been "appalling". I would also encourage the questioner to consider that using such a derogatory term is thoroughly unhelpful to hard working staffs' morale.

What has been important above all else since the time the Inspector's findings were made known to the Council has been to carefully study all criticism and correct whatever shortcomings have been discovered as swiftly as possible.

I can confirm that this process is already now well in hand. To this end, I am also pleased to advise you that Councillor Evans will shortly make a statement to the Chamber laying out his Department's position in greater detail.

Supplementary Question:

I am not going to argue about my use of the word "appalling" but I will re-phrase the question. Will the Deputy Leader of the Council on behalf of the Leader please apologise to the children and families of this borough for the inadequate service, and that is quoting the Ofsted report.

Reply:

As I have just advised, Councillor Evans is going to speak to the Council on this matter.

3. From Cllr Kathy Bance to the Portfolio Holder for Education

With rising numbers of parents selecting home education for their children does LBB support a mandatory register for all children being home schooled?

Reply:

The LBB recognises the rise in parents declaring home education and notes it is a national trend not just peculiar to Bromley. It also recognises that without mandatory registration, there will remain a cohort of young people within Bromley who have not entered mainstream education; they will have moved into Bromley and are being home educated but the LA has no means of knowing who these children are. It is for this reason that LBB has always advocated mandatory registration, and recognises the need for it to be underpinned by legislation.

We all recognise the need to balance the rights of individuals against the statutory duties of the local authority. Through its membership with London Home Education Officers and The Association of Home Education Professionals (National Officers

Body) Bromley continues to advocate for changes in legislation to make registration mandatory.

In the interim, all home schooled children that the LA is aware of, are recorded using Bromley's education database, and monitored by Education Services. Education Services continue to raise awareness, with particular agencies and voluntary services, of the need to advise the local authority of any young person that is being home schooled.

Supplementary Question:

Does the Portfolio Holder believe that the local authority should have access to assess the standard of teaching that is being given to these children by unopposed home visits?

Reply:

You will recall that we discussed this subject very recently at a PDS meeting and I believe it is coming up again very soon at the Select Committee. We are currently bound by the legislation. We believe in mandatory registration and we will continue to advocate that. Everything that will come with that legislation will help to answer what the councillor is requiring.

4. From Cllr Vanessa Allen to the Leader of the Council

In light of the EU referendum vote, what is the Council doing to re-assure the many European people who are working in our schools, hospitals, care homes etc. that they are welcome here?

Reply:

I believe that if any such reassurance is actually discovered to be necessary, it would be logical for Central Government to promote the initiative given their open and easy access to all forms of penetrative national media.

Supplementary Question:

There has been an appalling increase in hate crimes since the Referendum and also there is the misapprehension that the leave vote includes expulsion of immigrants, and that may put local residents at risk, whether they have moved here in recent years or not. They are part of Bromley society and culture; they are our friends, family, neighbours and colleagues. I therefore ask the Deputy Leader to firstly convene a public meeting of all interested parties including the Police to discuss ways and means of countering this behaviour and secondly to issue a leaflet to all households that clearly states our support for all Bromley citizens and our complete condemnation of this disgusting behaviour.

Reply:

I can only reiterate that I have seen a communication from the Borough Commander that there has been no such rise in hate crimes in the borough.

Additional supplementary question from Councillor Simon Fawthrop:

Does Councillor Smith agree that it is important that we try to calm the situation down to make sure that these attacks from both sides of the Referendum debate should be calmed down and we should concentrate on trying to move forward?

Reply:

I believe that all decisions should be based on fact and driven by what is actually happening rather than on what the media is reporting. We see far too much in the media that whips people up rather than reporting objectively and that is what I would prefer to see.

5. From Councillor Kevin Brooks to the Public Protection and Safety Portfolio Holder

Since the cuts in community projects and youth provision in Penge there has been an increase in groups loitering on estates. This has caused much local concern. Will the Council accept that this increase is not a coincidence and explain what steps are being taken to address this?

Reply:

I am aware that a large group of Somalians are hanging around the Groves Estate which is causing concern to local residents. Operation Crystal has been successful in reducing ASB in the Groves Estate, but this is a new group. I do not accept that this issue has been a result of savings made in Penge as this new group is between 16 and 24 years of age and therefore would not necessarily be the target cohort for youth diversionary activities. However, youth activities are still provided in Penge by the Council's Youth Service and other organisations. Additionally, the Council and Affinity Sutton are currently funding football on the St Hugh's Estate, and are funding basketball later this month. The Police and Affinity Sutton are putting a lot of effort into tackling this current problem and the Council's ASB Coordinator has been in contact with residents to understand their issues. He is also in regular contact with the Police Gangs Team. A meeting was held yesterday between the Police, residents yourselves and Somali elders which was a positive step forward. A follow up meeting with a more formal structure was agreed to look at ways to work together to decrease tension in the area. The situation is a delicate one to manage as the local residents are complaining that not enough is being done to deal with the group, yet the parents of the group are complaining that the Police are being over-zealous.

Supplementary Question:

The meeting last night was more about reaching out between communities and I hope that this continues. The Police are understandably reluctant to issue lots of cautions without actual offences having taken place. What action does the Portfolio Holder intend to take to prevent community tensions rising without youths receiving unnecessary records affecting them in later life.

Reply:

I cannot speak on behalf of the Police, but I know that their tactic has always been to avoid giving young people criminal records if there are other actions they can take to not damage their future. Councillor Bance emailed me about funding another football session. That is something we have been looking into in the last few days and officers have been in contact with the Director of Sports Active Coaching which works with hard to reach individuals aged 11 to 25 in Crystal Palace Park, and we have been investigating whether this group would be eligible for funding from Get Active Bromley.

6. From Cllr Peter Fookes to the Public Protection and Safety Portfolio Holder

What is the procedure for monitoring and supporting individuals in this borough who leave prison?

Reply:

The National Probation Service supervises high risk offenders released into the community. The majority of offenders in Bromley are monitored and supported by a community rehabilitation company. The London CRC works directly with offenders to tackle the causes of their offending behaviour, enable them to turn their lives around and rehabilitate them back into the community. Community involvement depends on individual cases, for example we are involved in multi-agency work with the Police, Probation and Social Services with MAPPAs – multi-agency public protection arrangements for registered sex offenders, violent offenders and those who pose a serious risk of harm to the public. Currently within Bromley we are reviewing the role the local authority plays in offender management and plans have started to reinvigorate a coordinated approach of Integrated Offender Management (IOM). Last month I agreed to redistribute of budgets within the Public Protection and Safety Division to fund a part time IOM Coordinator and at last week's Safer Bromley Partnership meeting this proposal was approved. An IOM steering group will also be set up, as recommended by the Home Office. The IOM Co-Ordinator role is currently being designed, but will essentially pull together all the excellent work that is being undertaken across the borough to support offenders in terms of opportunities for employment/training, access to mental health services and access to alcohol & drugs services.

Supplementary Question:

Does the Portfolio Holder agree that it is not acceptable that people are left with no housing having left prison or other secure accommodation, as has happened on two occasions in Penge recently? I would urge that this area of operation is reviewed very quickly.

Reply:

This is exactly the type of issue that will be taken up by the IOM coordinator and the IOM Steering Group, of which housing will be a part of.

7. From Cllr Nicholas Bennett to the Resources Portfolio Holder

Pursuant to my question on 8th December 2014 regarding the Hawes Lane Health Centre has any progress been made by NHS Property in finding a use for this property?

Reply:

Strategic Property has made enquiries of NHS Property Services, the freehold owner of Hawes Down Clinic, and has been advised that this site has been declared surplus to healthcare requirements and that it recently obtained pre-application planning advice in respect of a proposal to demolish the existing clinic and redevelop the site for residential use. NHS Property Services is currently assessing whether to seek outline planning permission, or place the property on the market without the benefit of planning permission.

8 From Cllr Angela Wilkins to the Resources Portfolio Holder

I refer to my oral question raised at full Council on 11 April (question number 8).

Having not been given a direct answer to a direct question, I ask it again:

Is he absolutely certain that no member of current or previous council staff can be held responsible for inadequate checks on the employment status of people paid by this council as consultants (or under IR35 more generally) which have led to the Council now having to pay an unexpected £343,500 to HMRC?

Has he yet received the legal clearance referred to in his reply and if so, when will this matter be put into the public domain? If not, please can he explain why the matter has to remain in part two?

Reply:

Further to my previous response in April 2016 I would like reiterate that the employment status of self-employed individuals including consultants for tax purposes is incredibly complex. Hence the government is proposing to introduce a legislative change next year hoping to simplify the matter and significantly reduce the current risks faced by employers. This is about the tax status of self-employed individuals and not their general employment status including their right to work in the UK or fitness to practice where appropriate. Having reviewed our current arrangement there are no individual culpabilities but' as also previously advised, the Audit Sub-Committee will receive a regular update on the issue.

I can now confirm that the legal advice is that this matter can now be placed in Part 1.

Supplementary Question:

My question is really about past staff who should have been responsible for looking at whether or not these people should have had contractor or self-employed status, does this apply to them?

Reply:

Yes.

9. From Cllr Kathy Bance to the Public Protection and Safety Portfolio Holder

With a reduction in the number of staff, is LBB able to ensure that the food establishments are receiving regular hygiene checks?

We have a number of newly established restaurants & takeaways which only received a 1 star rating and some well-established restaurants who have fallen from a 5* to a 1 rating.

What action is LBB taking to get these establishments to an acceptable level?

Reply:

Staffing of the Food Safety Team has reduced since 2009, but this is not a unique situation to Bromley – almost all London Boroughs have seen pressure on resourcing in their Food Safety Teams. Following a report to the Public Protection and Safety

PDS Committee in January this year additional short-term resources were agreed for the team these are still in place. It has also been decided to move one post from the Health and Safety Team to the Food Safety Team to provide further support. The food safety team undertakes inspections based on risk. 100% of high risk businesses were inspected last year. Only ten newly established businesses were rated one star in the past year and well established businesses falling from five stars to one are extremely rare – less than a handful in the past year. In these cases, these businesses receive greater attention, intervention and support and are re-visited more frequently. They will be served more formal notices and prosecutions if they do not improve. I am satisfied that we are doing all we can in the current circumstances to meet our responsibilities.

Supplementary Question:

Is there any plan or action to make the “scores on the door” mandatory?

Reply:

It is not called “scores on the doors” any more, but it is something that the FSA are looking to implement nationwide.

10. From Cllr Peter Fookes to the Environment Portfolio Holder

Why are Penge and Cator Councillors getting more complaints from residents about street cleaning and rubbish in the area?

Reply:

I obviously have no way of knowing how Penge and Cator colleagues measure and compare your casework between the three of you, if indeed you do, so it is pointless me speculating.

What I do know is that the cumulative number of Street Sweeping and Fly-tips reports received year to date for Penge & Cater Ward is lower in 2016 compared to the same period in 2014 & 2015.

Although the challenge locally remains a constant one, I hope that you will join with me in congratulating Officers for the headway they have made so far. I have circulated the relevant figures this evening for inclusion in the minutes -

Penge and Cator Ward			
	1/1/14 to 30/6/14	1/1/15 to 30/6/15	1/1/16 to 30/6/16
Street sweeping reports	261	260	198
Fly-tip reports	277	275	308

Supplementary Question:

Given the headline in the Bromley Times last Thursday over the performance of this borough, and in particular the fact that there was a million pound underspend in his department last year, is it not time for the Portfolio Holder to consider his position?

Reply:

Service is improving in his ward and he is still not happy – perhaps he should consider his position.

11. From Cllr Nicholas Bennett to the Environment Portfolio Holder

Has he read The Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions (TSRGD) 2016 and what action can be taken to reduce 'street clutter'?

Reply:

No I haven't. Officers do advise me, however, relating to it, that currently, most of the documentation issued by the DfT regarding street clutter is in the "Traffic Advisory Leaflet 01/13 – Reducing Sign Clutter."

However, with regard to the new TSRGD document enabling the reduction of street clutter, the aim is to set out the design and conditions for the use of official signs and road markings that can be lawfully placed on the highway.

There are changes that are potentially going to enable more clutter to be removed. Officers' caution at this time is that until there is evidence available as to how the Parking Adjudicator and the Courts will interpret the correct use of the signage we are reluctant to move too quickly. I do ask that, across the Council, colleagues remain aware of the borough's desire to de-clutter where possible and I would encourage all Members to continue reporting any such clutter they believe they have found for consideration as to its removal.

Supplementary Question:

Could I ask him to look at the question of parking places. There are many streets in this borough where every single parking place has a pole with the hours on it. It does not seem that we need to have these poles in future – can we have them removed?

Reply:

I share the frustration, and the aesthetics are appalling. However, the current legislation is that any unbroken row of bays needs its own pole and timeplate to make it enforceable. Some roads do look appalling. More recently we have been introducing the lower poles set to wall level height to help reduce that, and wherever poles are damaged we will continue to try to increase that rate.

12. From Cllr Angela Wilkins to the Leader of Council

The ruling party in this council take great pride in the fact that they made Bromley one of the first councils to out-source services, and that this policy began back in the 1990s. You, as Leader, and members of your Group are frequently heard extolling the merits of being what you call "a commissioning council." Given that Bromley Council has had in excess of 20 years' experience of "commissioning", do you feel that the Council's management and scrutiny structures and processes of contracts have been adequate?

Reply:

Yes, personally I do, very much so, albeit a sub Committee has recently been set up to provide extra vigilance and attention to the awarding and subsequent policing of new Contracts as everyone will be aware.

I am comfortable that this will act as a double lock, if indeed same is needed, to ensure that quality of service and value for money are achieved across the Council's suite of services, rolling into the 2020's and beyond.

Supplementary Question:

Is there anything that you on behalf of the Leader can do to raise the profile of the reports that go through Audit Sub-Committee which are often very critical of the management and delivery of contracts and also to ensure that these reports are read by the relevant Portfolio Holder and PDS Chairmen and hopefully those committees too?

Reply:

I would encourage all colleagues to read the audit reports. Some of them are very enlightening, some of them do not make good reading, but there are lessons to be learnt there for all of us.

13. From Cllr Kathy Bance to the Education Portfolio Holder

With the changes to academies and an increase in free schools, will LBB continue to maintain a SACRE committee?

Reply:

SACRE is the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education.

At present the statutory requirements related to the SACRE duty have not been changed by the Department for Education so the committee remains. The academisation context may impact the work plan of SACRE but that will be determined locally.

14. From Cllr Peter Fookes to the Recreation and Renewal Portfolio Holder

How many jobs will be lost in Bromley if Britain leaves the European Union?

Reply:

Clearly jobs come and go all the time, that is the nature of the market. If the question is asking me whether jobs will be lost because we leave the European Union I sincerely hope not and I do not expect that we will.

Supplementary Question:

According to a report by Pricewaterhouse, and subsequently picked up by the new Mayor of London, 17,000 jobs will be lost in Bexley and Bromley as a result of that decision. What are Bromley Council going to do to replace those jobs?

Reply:

I do not accept the premise of this question. How Pricewaterhouse can divine that we are going to lose 17,000 in these two boroughs I have no idea. There is no reason for it. It seems to me that trade in this country will increase dramatically following this decision and the likelihood is that there will be more jobs, not fewer.

Additional supplementary Question:

Can you confirm that Bromley will have a positive attitude and will be more geared up to an international outlook as a result of the Referendum, rather than that of a little Europeaner.

Reply:

I can confirm that we will have a positive attitude and welcome new companies from all over the world to establish themselves in Bromley.

15. From Cllr Nicholas Bennett to the Education Portfolio Holder

What information he has as to the impact of inward migration on schools in the Borough?

Reply:

It is very difficult to provide an accurate picture of the impact of migration on Bromley Schools. Bromley has seen a significant increase in the demand for school places. This is driven by a number of factors, primarily an increase in the birth rate but also migration into Bromley.

ONS live birth data indicates that calendar year births have increased from 3,414 in 2001 to 4,086 in 2014. This increase closely matches the increase in children in reception year in primary schools in the borough over the past 7 years.

There is no specific source that monitors the impact of inward migration on schools. The primary source of information regarding pupils in Bromley schools is the school census. However, from the school census we have information about pupils with English as an additional Language. The proportion of pupils with English as an additional language is increasing in Bromley schools although the rate is below the national average.

Pupils with English as an Additional Language (%)	Jan 2014	Jan 2015	2016
Primary	12.6% (18.7%)	13.4% (19.4%)	14.1%
Secondary	8.0% (14.3%)	8.6% (15.0%)	9.3%
Special	9.6% (13.2%)	11.3% (13.9%)	12.8%

Estimated data is also available from the Office for National Statistics on net migration into Bromley from other London boroughs. This indicates significant levels of net migration into Bromley of younger children which will have an impact on the local demand for school places. According to the estimate migration of 0-3 year olds into Bromley increased by 123% between 2009 and 2014 and 65% for 0-15 years olds.

We have some additional figures that we will get across to him by email which he can share with colleagues.

Supplementary Question:

Can I ask what information he has about in-year admissions to Bromley schools which I understand are at a record high.

Reply:

In terms of demand for school places, there is an increase across all the various fields that we monitor, and that is why we are taking pro-active steps, working with ward councillors, to determine where the need is and to meet that specific need.

COUNCIL MEETING**4TH JULY 2016****QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN REPLY FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL****1. From Cllr Ian Dunn to the Resources Portfolio Holder**

Can the Portfolio Holder provide the number of electors entitled to vote, broken down by ward, for the GLA Elections on 5 May and the European Referendum on 23 June, with postal votes shown separately?

Reply:

	GLA Postals	Total Eligible Electorate	EU Ref Postals	Total eligible Electorate
Bickley	2118	11418	2434	11408
Biggin Hill	948	7627	1138	7814
Bromley Common & Keston	2033	12097	2268	12145
Bromley Town	1872	12637	2162	12180
Chelsfield & Pratts Bottom	1665	11076	1994	11155
Chislehurst	2228	11827	2610	11832
Clock House	1497	11470	1798	11306
Copers Cope	2000	12033	2354	11840
Cray Valley East	1748	10833	1897	10729
Cray Valley West	1507	11528	1658	11484
Crystal Palace	1051	8662	1192	8300
Darwin	671	4020	789	4164
Farnborough & Crofton	1965	11530	2272	11646
Hayes & Coney Hall	1872	12376	2197	12413
Kelsey & Eden Park	1989	12152	2279	12123
Mottingham & Chislehurst Nth.	861	7026	884	6805
Orpington	1815	11773	2117	11730
Penge & Cator	1399	11781	1668	11511
Petts Wood	1688	10597	2020	10638
Plaistow & Sundridge	1467	11098	1684	10981
Shortlands	1222	7511	1439	7494
West Wickham	1859	11717	2175	11773
Total Eligible electorate	35475	232789	41029	231471

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

Can the Portfolio Holder provide the number of cases where Independent Reviews Ltd have been used to carry out reviews on housing decisions in the past year and the numbers of cases where a review has led to the reversal of the original decision? How much has been spent on these reviews?

Reply:

Independent Reviews Limited are used to assist the Council in undertaking the Council's duty under section 202 of the Housing Act (1996) (as amended by the Homelessness Act 2002) in relation to reviewing homelessness decisions and the suitability of accommodation offered in discharge of homelessness duties under part VII of the Act. During the last financial year, Independent Reviews Limited assisted the Council with 78 section 202 reviews. Of these following further investigation 19 decisions were eventually overturned, with 8 out of the 19 receiving revised decisions due to additional information and material changes in circumstance which occurred during the review decision thus overriding the original decision.

3. From Cllr Richard Williams to the Public Protection and Safety Portfolio Holder

As we have seen an increase of 57% in hate crime especially against the LGBT community what is the Council doing to address the issue? Also with the result of the EU referendum, what action is the Council taking to protect our BME and faith groups?

Reply:

A report published on the National Police Chiefs Council website states that following the referendum there has been no major spikes in tensions but they are monitoring reports very closely in order that they can understand the reaction of residents. There has been no increase in reported hate crimes in Bromley since the EU referendum.

The report includes a reference to the 57% increase in reporting to True Vision (online reporting website) since Friday compared to this time last month (85 reports between Thursday 23 – Sunday 26 June compared with 54 reports the corresponding 4 days four weeks ago.) These figures only take into account reports through one mechanism, reports are also made directly to forces and other community groups like Tell Mama and Community Security so this is not an overall national figure. This should not be read as a national increase in hate crime of 57% but an increase in reporting through one mechanism.

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

At the meeting of the Executive on 18 May there was discussion about the Council's Growth Fund, during which Cllr Arthur commented that it would be useful to have a Borough strategy to support new businesses.

You also commented that because there was little available by way of land and property for business use, businesses do not see Bromley as a viable option and that the Borough needs bigger and better projects than contained in the report, plus more land and more marketing of the Borough's potential for new businesses.

Can you please update Members on what actions you are taking to ensure that these ambitions will be realised? Do you feel that the council currently has sufficient resources and expertise to deliver these ambitions?

Reply:

You are correct in saying that there is little land available for new development, certainly we have not allocated large tracts of land as all of these are in the Green Belt or equivalent.

I did not say (or certainly did not intend to say) that businesses do not see Bromley as a viable option, only that with little space or land available, they do not consider Bromley as a location.

If members were to decide that some Green Belt land could be re-zoned for business (particularly somewhere near the M25 junctions), I am sure that the Borough would attract interest from businesses.

In general terms we are trying hard to promote new business premises at the Klinger site on the A20 at Swanley and at Biggin Hill where we are making good progress with a project on West Camp which might provide serviced offices.

Additionally, following the final confirmation of the extended hours at the airport, Bombardier and another company have signed to take on the Rizon Jet hangar and there are other aviation related companies looking hard at opportunities around the airport.

In Bromley town centre we are talking to a developer about the provision of 20,000 sq ft of offices close to Bromley South station.

We are always open to new ideas and prospects and are of course working hard to try to attract a department store to Bromley town centre.

You ask whether we have sufficient in-house skills and resources to deliver our programme and the answer is that we can and do employ the best outside consultants where justified and will continue to do so.

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

It is more than a year since the Council agreed in principle to grant a 40 year lease to CPCDT to take over Anerley Town Hall. Heads of terms for this lease were agreed in March 2016 with the intention that the lease be signed by 1 April 2016. This deadline passed and 1 June was agreed. We are now hoping for 1 August.

Can the Portfolio Holder please both explain the delays and also guarantee that this August deadline will now be met?

Reply:

There has been a delay in agreeing final terms with the CPCDT and issuing the draft lease. The draft lease is not a standard commercial lease and the Trust's solicitor is now negotiating the detailed terms agreed. We are now working towards completing the lease on 1 August 2016, but this will depend upon the reasonableness and co-operation of both sides.

6. From Cllr Angela Wilkins to the Resources Portfolio Holder

Please give a date by which service level agreements and key performance indicators (as contained in the newly provided contracts register, and as required by transparency legislation) will be available online for public inspection?

Reply:

Currently The Governments Transparency Legislation, as identified in the Local Government Transparency Code 2015, only requires the publication of the Procurement Information identified in Para 31 and 32 of the Code. The Council produces the required details on legally enforceable agreements. Currently the Code does not require the publication of Key Performance Information Indicators, the issue and detail of which is currently a discretionary requirement and not compulsory.

7. From Cllr Kathy Bance to the Education Portfolio Holder

The Health and Wellbeing Board Report (Part 2, Support for Adolescent Mental Health Issues) mentions the growing waiting lists and demand for support services. Please can you provide waiting list figures for the last 5 years?

Reply:

The figures we have are set out below. This service is commissioned by the CCG and we will have to ask whether they have further data going back five years.

Average Wait from Referral to First assessment

	Feb 15	Mar 15	Apr 15	May 15	Jun 15	Jul 15	Aug 15
Overall	4 Weeks	5 Weeks	4 Weeks	5 Weeks	6 Weeks	6 Weeks	8Weeks
Adolescent	2 Weeks	3 Weeks	2 Weeks	2 Weeks	3 Weeks	3 Weeks	3 Weeks
Generic Team	6 Weeks	6 Weeks	5 Weeks	7 Weeks	7 Weeks	8 Weeks	11 Weeks
LAC	4 Weeks	6 Weeks	5 Weeks	5 Weeks	5 Weeks	5 Weeks	4 Weeks
Neuro	5 Weeks	6 Weeks	14 Weeks	5 Weeks	5 Weeks	15 Weeks	9 Weeks

	Sep 15	Oct 15	Nov 15	Dec15	Jan 16	Feb 16	Mar 16
Overall	7 Weeks	7 Weeks	7 Weeks	7 Weeks	7 Weeks	7 Weeks	8 Weeks
Adolescent	3 Weeks	2 Weeks	2 Weeks	3 Weeks	4 Weeks	2 Weeks	2 Weeks
Generic Team	11 Weeks	11 Weeks	11 Weeks	11 Weeks	10 Weeks	14 Weeks	13 Weeks
LAC	7 Weeks	1 Week	5 Weeks	6 Weeks	6 Weeks	3 Weeks	7 Weeks
Neuro	6 Weeks	5 Weeks	5 Weeks	5 Weeks	6 Weeks	7 Weeks	6 Weeks

8. From Cllr Peter Fookes to the Renewal and Recreation Portfolio Holder

What steps are being taken to ensure that the whole of the borough has Broadband access?

Reply:

The Council is aware that there is variable provision of superfast broadband across the borough, and that this has a negative impact on business growth rates. The Council is therefore supportive of increased provision, and has lobbied Central Government and GLA for improvements and has also promoted government initiatives to improve connectivity, especially for businesses. However take up of these has sometimes been patchy due to the lack of network infrastructure in certain areas. The development of network infrastructure is primarily the responsibility of providers (such as BT Open Reach and Virgin Media) – but unfortunately in some areas investment into extension of network infrastructure is not considered commercially justifiable by these organisations. In this case it is difficult for a number of reasons for the Council to intervene directly. However, there are a number of cases across the UK and locally where local community groups have worked with providers to privately fund and commission new broadband infrastructure – and the Council is ready to assist and support such initiatives within this borough.

9. From Cllr Peter Fookes to the Leader of the Council

How much of the new housing on the Civic Centre site will be affordable?

Reply:

Applications will be subject to normal Planning rules.

10. From Cllr Peter Fookes to the Care Services Portfolio Holder

Where will the new dementia hubs being introduced in July be located?

Reply:

Staff will be located at Bromley and Lewisham Mind's 'anchor' organisation in Orpington but there will also be facilities available at their Beckenham Centre, Bridgeways in Bromley, Yeoman House in Penge and Carlton Parade in Orpington. There will also be outreach work and clients will be visited in their own homes where appropriate.

11. From Cllr Nicholas Bennett to the Chairman of the Development Control Committee

What is the Council's planning policy with regard to the construction of 'tall buildings'?

Reply:

Proposals for tall buildings in the Borough would be assessed against Unitary Development Plan (UDP) Policies BE1 and BE17, Policy BTC19 in the Bromley Town Centre Area Action Plan and London Plan (2015) Policies 7.4 and 7.7. Relevant Draft Local Plan policies do not carry any significant weight at this time.

In particular UDP Policy BE17 states:

Proposals for buildings that significantly exceed the general height of buildings in the area will be expected to provide the following:

- (i) a design of outstanding architectural quality that will enhance the skyline;
- (ii) a complete and well-designed setting, including hard and soft landscaping, so that development will interact and contribute positively to its surroundings at street level;
- (iii) mixed use at effective densities; and
- (iv) good access to public transport nodes and routes.

Applications should be accompanied by a design statement outlining the approach in relation to the local and wider context and how the above criteria and those of Policy BE1 will be achieved. When considering proposals for redevelopment, where appropriate, opportunities will be sought to replace high buildings with others that fit more sympathetically in their context.

12. From Cllr Nicholas Bennett to the Environment Portfolio Holder

How many accessible bus stops have been created in Bromley and how many are planned?

Reply:

There are 1040 bus stops in Bromley, of which 621 (60%) are “accessible”. A further 11 stops are planned to be made accessible in 2016/17 in association with other complimentary schemes.

13. From Cllr Nicholas Bennett to the Chairman of the Development Control Committee

If he will list the planning decisions called in by the Mayor of London and refused in each Mayoralty since the establishment of the office in 2000 -

2000-2008 (Mayor Livingstone)
2008-16 (Mayor Johnson)
Since May 5th 2016 (Mayor Khan)

and if he will make a statement?

Reply:

It's not clear whether this question relates to all applications across London or just in Bromley. There is a search facility on the Mayor's website at <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning/planning-applications-and-decisions/planning-application-search> however we have not kept a specific record and to answer fully I will need to look at each case we have referred over the past 16 years. I am working on getting the information but we do not have it at present.

Additional information received since the Council meeting:

I can find five occasions when the Mayor directed refusal for planning applications in Bromley (as distinct from applications referred to the Mayor):

- Blue Circle Sports Ground, Bromley Common (00/03728) - Mayor Livingstone
- Bishop Justus School, Bromley Common (01/02282) - Mayor Livingstone
- St James Squash Club (00/03356), direction subsequently cancelled - Mayor Livingstone
- Tesco Orpington (06/1277), direction subsequently cancelled - Mayor Livingstone
- Flamingo Park (15/03653) - Mayor Khan

That is since 2000 and out of about 150 applications referred from Bromley in that time.

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