

LONDON BOROUGH OF BROMLEY

MINUTES

of the proceedings of the Meeting of the
Council of the Borough
held at 7.00 pm on 12 December 2016

Present:

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

**The Deputy Mayor
Councillor Hannah Gray**

Councillors

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

The meeting was opened with prayers

In the Chair
The Mayor
Councillor Ian F. Payne

47 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor David Jefferys. Apologies for lateness were received from Councillors Lydia Buttinger and Nicky Dykes.

The Leader of the Council drew attention to the fact that, for the first time in thirty-nine years' service, the Committee Steward, Angelo Victorio, was unable to be present due to ill-health. The Council recorded their best wishes for a speedy recovery.

48 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

49 To confirm the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 26th September 2016

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 26th September 2016 be confirmed.

50 Questions from members of the public where notice has been given.

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

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

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

52 Written questions 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.

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

The Portfolio Holder for Public Protection and Safety, Councillor Kate Lymer made a statement on the Government's announcement that drivers caught using their hand held mobile phones while driving would face much tougher penalties. The Government had also launched a further consultation on dangerous driving offences.

The Borough Commander had been successful in obtaining funding to train further local police officers in the use of speed guns, and had initiated a borough-wide road safety enforcement initiative. On average, 55 drivers had been stopped a week, most of them for driving whilst using their mobile phones, but also for a variety of other offences including speeding, not wearing seatbelts and driving without insurance or road tax. The Portfolio Holder hoped that this initiative, along with the Government's attempts to

change attitudes through education and deterrence, would improve driver behaviour in the borough.

Councillor Pauline Tunnicliffe thanked the Portfolio Holder for her statement and urged that the Council continue to support such initiatives.

54 Education Select Committee observations on responses to the recommendations in the First Select Committee Report on the Education Landscape in Bromley
Report CSD16167

A motion to note the response of the Education Select Committee to the responses received concerning the First Select Committee Report on the Education Landscape in Bromley was moved by Councillor Nicholas Bennett, seconded by Councillor Neil Reddin and **CARRIED**.

55 Second Report of the Education Select Committee 2016/17 - Alternative Provision
Report CSD16168

A motion to invite the Leader and appropriate Portfolio Holders to consider the recommendations in the report and (a) refer the recommendations to Service Directors where appropriate and (b) provide a written response to the Education Select Committee for consideration at their next meeting on 17th January 2017 was moved by Councillor Nicholas Bennett, seconded by Councillor Neil Reddin and **CARRIED**.

56 Drawdown of Section 75 Funding for the Development and Implementation of the Bromley Out of Hospital Strategy
Report CSD16176

A motion to release funds for 2016/17 (at £3.5m) to provide the funding requested by Bromley Clinical Commissioning Group, and agree in principle to the funding for 2017/18, subject to a further report being provided to the Executive at a later stage to seek approval for the release of funds (at £3.5m) for 2017/18, was moved by Councillor Robert Evans, seconded by Councillor Stephen Carr and **CARRIED**.

57 Council Tax Support/Reduction Scheme 2017/18
Report CSD16174

An amendment to include the following additional recommendation was moved by Councillor Angela Wilkins and seconded by Councillor Kevin Brooks.

“That young people leaving care should be entitled to 100% relief from the ages 18 to 25.”

The following Members voted in favour of the amendment -

Councillors Vanessa Allen, Kathy Bance, Kevin Brooks, Ian Dunn, Peter Fookes, Angela Wilkins and Richard Williams.

The following Members voted against the amendment -

Councillors Graham Arthur, Douglas Auld, Julian Benington, Nicholas Bennett, Ruth Bennett, Eric Bosshard, Kim Botting, Katy Boughey, Lydia Buttinger, Stephen Carr, David Cartwright, Alan Collins, Mary Cooke, Peter Dean, Nicky Dykes, Judi Ellis, Robert Evans, Simon Fawthrop, Peter Fortune, Ellie Harmer, Will Harmer, Samaris Huntington-Thresher, William Huntington-Thresher, Charles Joel, David Livett, Kate Lymer, Russell Mellor, Alexa Michael, Peter Morgan, Terence Nathan, Keith Onslow, Tony Owen, Angela Page, Sarah Phillips, Tom Philpott, Chris Pierce, Neil Reddin, Catherine Rideout, Charles Rideout, Michael Rutherford, Richard Scoates, Colin Smith, Diane Smith, Melanie Stevens, Tim Stevens, Teresa Te, Michael Tickner, Michael Turner, Pauline Tunncliffe, and Stephen Wells.

The Mayor, Councillor Ian F. Payne, and the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Hannah Gray, abstained.

The amendment was LOST.

A motion to note the responses to the public consultation exercise, the response from the Greater London Authority to the consultation documents and the content of the Impact assessment, and to adopt, for the financial year 2017/18, a scheme retaining the calculation of entitlement for working age claimants on 75% of the household's Council Tax liability (thereby, the maximum assistance provided to a claimant of working age is 75% of his/her Council tax), was moved by Councillor Graham Arthur, seconded by Councillor Stephen Carr and **CARRIED**.

58 Capital Programme
Report CSD16184

A motion to approve the following schemes for inclusion in the Capital Programme –

(1) A scheme of land acquisition at the end of Cornwall Drive, St Paul's Cray at a total cost of £2,709k (£2,409k to be funded by the Environment Agency and a £300k contribution from the 2016/17 Central Contingency);

(2) Capital funding of £1,145k, of which £995k is from capital receipts and £150k from the earmarked reserve, for the Beckenham Town Centre Improvement Scheme;

(3) £11.8m capital funding for investment in planned highway maintenance to be funded from capital receipts;

was moved by Councillor Graham Arthur, seconded by Councillor Stephen Carr and **CARRIED**.

59 Treasury Management - Annual Report 2015/16 and Quarter 2 Performance 2016/17 and Mid-Year Review
Report CSD16178

A motion to (1) note the Treasury Management Annual Report 2015/16 and approve the actual prudential indicators in the report and (2) note the quarter 2 Performance Report and Mid-Year Review, and approve changes to the prudential indicators, as set out in Annex B1 of the report, was moved by Councillor Graham Arthur, seconded by Councillor Stephen Carr and **CARRIED**.

60 Local Pension Board - Annual Report 2015/16
Report CSD16179

A motion to receive and note the Annual Report of the Local Pension Board 2015/16 was moved by Councillor Tim Stevens, seconded by Councillor Diane Smith and **CARRIED**.

61 Appointment of External Auditors
Report CSD16185

A motion to approve the proposal to become an “opted in” authority with Public Sector Appointments Ltd for the appointment of External Auditors was moved by Councillor Tim Stevens, seconded by Councillor Diane Smith and **CARRIED**.

62 Public Protection and Safety PDS Committee - Membership
Report CSD16183

A motion to appoint Councillor Mary Cooke to the membership of the Public Protection and Safety Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee to replace Councillor Tim Stevens was moved by Councillor Michael Tickner, seconded by Councillor William Huntington-Thresher and **CARRIED**.

63 Minor Amendment to the Constitution - Questions
Report CSD16180

A motion to add the following provisions to paragraph 10.2 Questions on Notice at full Council in the Council Procedure Rules in Part 4 of the Constitution -

“10.2.5 Members of the Executive may not submit questions on notice at full Council on executive functions.

10.2.6 Executive Assistants may not submit questions to the Portfolio Holder that they assist.”

Council
12 December 2016

- was moved by Councillor Tony Owen, seconded by Councillor Stephen Carr and **CARRIED**.

64 Updates to the Scheme of Delegation
Report CSD16173

Report withdrawn.

65 To consider Motions of which notice has been given

No motions had been received.

66 The Mayor's announcements and communications.

The Mayor drew attention to the envelopes on every desk and encouraged all Members to make a contribution to the Mayor's charity.

The Mayor thanked Members who attended his spectacular Masquerade Ball at the Beaverwood Club and the Civic Christmas Carol Service, for which he particularly thanked his Chaplains and Bromley Salvation Army.

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Hannah Gray, had raised around £2,000 for the Mayor's Charity from her sponsored parachute jump.

The Mayor also commented that a Bromley resident had won the X-Factor.

The Mayor drew attention to the following future events –

- Magic and Music Evening – 20th January 2017 at the Churchill Theatre
- The Annual quiz on 17th February 2017
- A dinner hosted by the Mayor at the House of Commons on 9th March 2017

Further details would be sent out shortly and would be available from the Mayor's Office.

On behalf of the Council the Mayor wished all residents a happy Christmas and a peaceful 2017.

The Meeting ended at 8.50 pm

Mayor

COUNCIL MEETING

12th DECEMBER 2016

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

(A) QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY

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

Would the Council give an update on the current progress with the installation of the Noise Monitoring and Track Keeping System which is being installed by BHAL as a condition of being granted the extra hours of operation?

Reply:

It is for the Airport to properly commission their system and then to properly demonstrate their system to the Council's satisfaction. If the Council is not satisfied, the change in operating hours will not be granted. We expect the Airport to make contact when they are ready for this formal process to start. The Airport has started the installation of their noise monitoring software and has already sent calibration details of three monitors.

Supplementary question:

Mr Clapham asked to what extent had Bromley staff been involved in the testing and commissioning of the system.

Reply:

We will use experts to do this rather than our own staff as we do not have the necessary expertise within the Council to do this properly.

2. From Andy Richardson to the Portfolio Holder for Resources

Can Bromley Council explain why residents pay an extra 2% on council tax for Adult Social Care and yet the Social Care Budget for this year was £2,146,000 less than 2014-15 and the proposed expenditure for Social Care in 2016-17 is £10,246,000 less than this year's expenditure?

Reply:

The precept has protected social care from cost pressures and the need to make further efficiencies in 16/17. For example we have not made any further reductions in spending on day opportunities for older people or people with learning disabilities in 2016/17.

Budgeted expenditure has decreased in the Care Services Portfolio in the way you have indicated in confirming those figures to be correct. This is in the main due to efficiencies and savings taken from the portfolio as part of the medium term financial strategy to balance the Council budget.

Supplementary question:

Looking at the precept, it looks like we would get £2.6m in adult social care from the first year of the budget precept collection. Can you say whether or not adult social care has received that money.

Reply:

I can confirm that it has received that money – to offset against the savings that would otherwise have had to be made to balance the budget.

3. From Julie Ireland to the Portfolio Holder for Resources

Will the council state the staff turnover rate since May 2014 (expressed as a % of total employees at May 2014) for the following departments: (a) Financial Services and Procurement (b) Children's Social Care (c) Regeneration and Transformation (d) Commissioning?

Reply:

Turnover Rates since May 2014

	May 14 - Mar15	Apr 15 - Mar 16	April 16 - Dec16
Financial Services and Procurement	10.7%	12.3%	0.0%
Children's Social Care	11.3%	12.5%	12.2%
Regeneration and Transformation	10.4%	9.4%	4.8%
Commissioning	6.7%	6.7%	4.4%

4. From Richard Wilsher to the Portfolio Holder for the Environment (asked by Juliet Corbett)

Will Bromley Council kindly acknowledge the wishes of hundreds of Beckenham residents and upgrade current proposals for a refuge on Copers Cope Road, such that a dedicated pedestrian crossing can be installed near the junction with Park Road, thus allowing commuters and school children to cross this busy road safely?

Reply:

The Council readily acknowledges the outstanding local efforts of Cllrs Michael Tickner, Russell Mellor and Stephen Wells working in tandem with local residents to secure the beneficial recent safety changes along Copers Cope Road.

Whilst Bromley Council completely understands and shares Mr Wilsher's concerns regarding pedestrian safety, the additional works you seek are not possible for the reasons detailed to Mr Wilsher by email on 21st November by the Council's Mr Joyce for reasons which include:

- The number of pedestrians needs to meet a certain criteria level, which is calculated based on the number of pedestrians crossing versus the volume of traffic – and they do not.
- Accident statistics.
- Pedestrian desire lines.
- Proximity to junctions, bends and vehicle cross overs.
- Location of trees and street furniture on the footway/grass verges.
- Demand for on-street parking.
- Location of bus stops.

The above is not an exhaustive list and each site is investigated individually as other site specific issues may arise, which prevent a formal pedestrian crossing from being installed.

The underlying principle for a formal pedestrian crossing to operate correctly is that they need to be used on a regular basis throughout the day. If there are too few pedestrians using it for the majority of the day, drivers may ignore the crossing and as a result put pedestrians at risk on occasions when they do use the crossing. Conversely, if the traffic flows are low, pedestrians are able to comfortably cross in the gaps between vehicles, without the need for a formal crossing.

Informal pedestrian crossings, such as Pedestrian Refuges, can be more suitable crossing measures instead of the above mentioned formal crossings. These allow pedestrians to cross the road in stages by creating safe waiting points on the carriageway. Pedestrian refuges have and will be installed at various locations along Copers Cope Road in line with the scheme worked on by the ward councillors.

After taking all the above points into consideration, the current design for pedestrian refuges is the most suitable for Park Road and the junction with Copers Cope Road and will aid in assisting pedestrians accessing New Beckenham Station and the Schools beyond.

Supplementary Question:

Given that we do not want to wait for the accident statistics to dis-improve, and given the overwhelming weight of opinion amongst local residents who use the crossing every day, will Bromley Council agree to reconsider this decision and if so give timescales for that reconsideration?

Reply:

No, the scheme going in is the best approved scheme as agreed by traffic experts, rather than my opinion or anyone else's, and that is the scheme that will be finished on the ground very shortly.

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

Following the departure of the Director for Transformation and Regeneration, who has been appointed/assigned to the senior role of ensuring that BHAL comply with the terms and undertakings of the current lease and with the conditions which must be fulfilled before the extra hours of operation will be granted?

Reply:

The Director of Corporate Services is continuing to advise on legal and related matters with the Council's Communications Executive also continuing to be the nominated co-ordinating lead for Biggin Hill Airport, with the support of appropriate colleagues depending on the exact nature of what is required.

Supplementary Question:

Which officer will be responsible for finally confirming to the Council that all the conditions have been fulfilled, with special regard to clarifying how those conditions which include the wording "reasonable endeavors" can be considered to have been met?

Reply:

The Director of Corporate Services with advice from whatever experts we deem to be necessary.

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

Will the Council assure residents that no flight movements within the extended hours will be allowed before the Council has agreed that all pre-conditions for the extended operation have been met, and that any such movements will be treated as a breach of the existing Lease?

Reply:

As I have stated previously, until all the various conditions are satisfied, the operating hours continue to remain as they are under the existing lease.

Supplementary Question:

At which Council meeting is it anticipated that the report into the compliance with the conditions will be considered?

Reply:

It will be the Council meeting immediately following our satisfaction that they have indeed been satisfied. If they are not, we will revert to the existing lease.

(B) QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN REPLY

1. From Susan Sulis, Secretary, Community Care Protection Group, to the Care Services Portfolio Holder

September 2016 Commissioner's Report into Bromley's children's Services - The report states that "there was systemic failure in Bromley's services and that vulnerable children were disadvantaged and put at risk." Despite this, areas of good practice were identified – the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub, and early intervention approaches.

What lessons can be learned from the exemplary performance of these staff?

Reply:

During the development of the Children's Services Improvement Plan officers were able to consider areas of good practice and opportunities for sharing learning. Over the coming months these opportunities will be used to ensure that practice improves.

2. From Susan Sulis, Secretary, Community Care Protection Group, to the Care Services Portfolio Holder

Risks of Service Failure to Bromley's Children: Community and Public Involvement. The effects of risks on many aspects of their lives may be hidden and unknown, as recent scandals demonstrate.

(a) What is the Council's plan to investigate this?

(b) Can the Council reach out to young people, families, organisations and the public to ask if they have experienced problems related to this?

Reply:

(a) The Bromley Safeguarding Children Board has a key role in identifying, exploring and reporting on risks.

(b) The Bromley Safeguarding Children Board priorities include the need to engage better with children, young people and their families.

3. From Dermot Mckibbin to the Resources Portfolio Holder

How many housing benefit claimants does the council have who are subject to the bedroom tax whose circumstances are similar to the successful claimants in the recent Supreme Court decision on 9 November 2016 and when will their housing benefit claims be paid at the full eligible amount?

Reply:

The Authority is unable to advise as to the number of Bromley households with circumstances similar to those successful in the recent Supreme Court decision who are subject to "removal of the spare room subsidy". The data held in respect of applicants does not contain the information necessary to determine whether their Housing Benefit entitlement would increase as a result of the Supreme Court decision.

The Department of Work and Pensions in an Urgent Bulletin dated the 9/11/16 advised the following:

"No immediate action needs to be taken by local authorities following the judgment. The Court did not strike down the legislation underpinning the size criteria. As such local authorities must continue to apply the rules when determining Housing Benefit claims as they did before today's judgment and the judgment does not require any local authority to re-assess the HB of existing claimants. Local authorities should continue to award DHPs to claimants who they consider require additional financial support.

The Department is considering the Court's judgment and will take steps to ensure it complies with its terms in due course. The Department will notify local authorities once a decision has been taken."

4. From Dermot Mckibbin to the Resources Portfolio Holder

Does the council agree that under the Human Rights Act that the council must take steps not to discriminate against any housing benefit tenant whose circumstances are the same as in the Supreme Court decision and that they should be awarded their housing benefit in full immediately?

Reply:

The Authority seeks to make all its decisions in accordance with legislation, taking into due consideration the particular circumstances of each case and guidance received from the Department of Work and Pensions.

5. From Dermot Mckibbin to the Resources Portfolio Holder

What are the implications for the council of the recent supreme court decision in this area and when will the council be publishing information for members of the public whose circumstances are similar to the successful claimants in the supreme court decision?

Reply:

Implications of the Supreme Court decision and the requirement for publishing of public information will be fully evaluated on receipt of the updated information from the Department of Work and Pensions.

6. From Helen Alsworth to the Resources Portfolio Holder

How much money has the Council set aside in its budget to provide discretionary Housing Benefit payments for claimants whose benefit has been cut as a result of the bedroom tax, and how much of this money has been spent in the last three years?

Reply:

The Authority's Discretionary Housing Payment expenditure relating to the removal of spare room subsidy was £394,803 in 2013/14, £403,399 in 2014/15 and £309,554 in 2015/16. In each of these 3 years total Discretionary Housing Payment expenditure exceeded the Government contribution.

The Authority does not have a specific amount set aside for providing Discretionary Housing Payments for those whose entitlement has been restricted by the removal of the spare room subsidy. Rather than further supplement the Discretionary Housing Payment scheme, the Authority utilises alternative resources and funds to provide assistance to those at risk of eviction and/or requiring assistance in obtaining accommodation.

Additional information – DHP Expenditure

<i>Financial Year</i>	<i>Govt contribution</i>	<i>Total expenditure</i>
13/14	£700,174	£707,425
14/15	£683,179	£684,878
15/16	£509,406	£509,475

7. From Helen Alsworth to the Resources Portfolio Holder

Will the Council seek assurances from local housing associations that they will not take possession proceedings against disabled tenants who are waiting for the Government to change the Housing Benefit regulations to reflect the decision of the Supreme Court in R(Rutherford and Todd) v SSWP UKSC 0029/2016?

Reply:

The Authority is not in a position to seek assurances from Housing Associations with regard to rent arrear proceedings they may be considering. However, the Benefit Section has relayed to the Associations the provision of Discretionary Housing Payments as a way of providing assistance in addition to the calculated Housing Benefit entitlement. If brought to the Benefits Section's attention, claimants with circumstances similar to those

successful in the Supreme Court decision would have been looked at favourably in any Discretionary Housing Payment application.

8. From Helen Alsworth to the Resources Portfolio Holder

What are the service standards used by the Council for Housing Benefit claimants and how are they publicised?

Reply:

The Benefits Section reports its performance against the main service standards on a bi-annual basis. This performance is reported to the Executive & Resources PDS, with report, appendices and minutes being entered on the website. The areas covered in the report include:

- Level of outstanding work
- Speed of processing
- Accuracy levels
- Level of complaints
- Rate of Housing Benefit overpayment recovery
- Call Centre performance
- Caseload

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COUNCIL MEETING

12th DECEMBER 2016

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

1. From Cllr Nicholas Bennett JP to the Leader of the Council

In the light of the Ofsted inspections on the Youth Justice Service and the Children's Service and the subsequent report of the Commissioner what action is being taken to address any generic failings across the Council services?

Reply:

Cabinet Members, Directors and Assistant Directors have considered the issues raised in the Inspection report and made changes to operating practices where necessary. Additionally, the corporate leadership team is addressing a number of generic points such as performance management, risk management, breaking down of silos and our partnership working. We have also reviewed the workforce within the organisation. Councillor Bennett will also be aware that the Constitution Improvement Working Group is looking at issues of governance that might lead to better outcomes in future. Indeed, I will be meeting with Mr Adetosoye and the Chief Executive again tomorrow to discuss further these governance issues.

2. From Cllr Michael Rutherford to the Portfolio Holder for the Environment

What steps has the council taken in 2016 to lobby for additional railway capacity and reduce overcrowding at busy stations, such as Bromley South?

Reply:

LBB officers have been engaged in lobbying Network Rail throughout 2016 as part of the Kent Route Study process in the hope of securing a range of rail enhancements to benefit our Borough.

Details of specific projects under consideration will be available in the Draft Kent Route Study, which I am advised is going to be released for public consultation shortly. An outline briefing on the Route Study was also provided to the Public Transport Liaison Group in June by Network Rail.

I am pleased to confirm that Officers continue to regularly engage with train operating companies serving the Borough and will remain actively involved in lobbying for the best possible services for Bromley as part of any franchise renewal process, when these occur.

Supplementary question:

What steps would he encourage the train operating companies and Network Rail to put in place at Bromley South to deal with overcrowding both in terms of current demand and also increased demand in the future with all the new homes in Bromley Town ward?

Reply:

It has become apparent to many of us that Bromley South is one of England's most overcrowded stations. I think we need to begin thinking about something more radical than new lifts. We definitely need more trains to ease the overcrowding and I think the stage is coming when we need to be thinking in terms of new entrances to ease footfall through the station. That will involve a massive amount of infrastructure funding and those are the sort of conversations that officers will be engaging in with both Network Rail and the train operating companies as part of this evolving process.

Additional Supplementary Question:

One way to ease overcrowding at Bromley South would be to increase the capacity at Bromley North with a direct line through to East London by the extension of the Overground through New Cross. This is a point that has been made before. Are the Council making any attempts to lobby Network Rail or TfL on this matter?

Reply:

This is an aspiration that we both share. Whether we can get the DLR down to Bromley North looks less and less likely. Mayors past and present appear to hold different spending priorities. Clearly whether the sweeping route around New Cross can be achieved we will have to see. I have not been updated on it in recent months which tends to suggest that the question is lying dormant, but we will dust that off for Councillor Bennett and advise him of the findings.

3. From Cllr Peter Fookes to the Portfolio Holder for the Environment

Why are leaves not being collected this year?

Reply:

Cllr Fookes is very badly misinformed.

Supplementary question:

I have witnessed this myself in Kings Hall Road, where the reality is, certainly in the north of the borough, as with street cleaning, residents are asking why they should be paying Council Tax when this Council is not delivering. I have never seen any leaves being cleaned.

Reply:

If Councillor Fookes has never seen any leaves being collected then I suggest he needs to get out more often. Self-evidently, the roads are swept every single day of the week, including weekends. I would mention to the Group opposite that they have been repeatedly asked in this chamber to list particular roads in their wards that require sweeping at different times of day to the standard to enable a schedule to be put together to enable streets in their ward to be swept more efficiently, if not more regularly. I have yet to receive a single call from any of them and I think that suggests that they are more interested in politicking than looking after the interests of their residents.

Additional supplementary question:

Councillor Angela Wilkins drew attention to the answer to written question 12, where the number of notifications for street cleansing in Penge and Cator ward was 956. I have already requested that Selby Road, which is another source of frequent complaints, should have weekend cleaning.

Reply:

Councillor Smith stated that he was not aware that Councillor Wilkins had asked for Selby Road to be swept at the weekends, and he was sure that officers would treat the request with due diligence.

Additional supplementary question:

Councillor Kathy Bance stated that she had requested that Newlands Park be swept at the weekend, and this had been agreed.

Reply:

Councillor Smith responded that he was not aware of this request.

4. From Cllr Kathy Bance MBE to the Portfolio Holder for the Environment

Following the tragic deaths of Makayah McDermott and Rosie Cooper the Friends of Cator and Alexandra Parks are holding a collection to purchase a bench in their memory. They will struggle to collect sufficient money to both purchase and install the bench. Will the London Borough of Bromley be prepared to fund the installation costs?

Reply:

I am sorry to have to confirm that policy dictates that the Council would charge for such features.

However, given the involvement of the Friends Groups, which I take particular pride in trying to grow across the borough, I will consider recommending possible match funding subject to the design, cost and planned location.

5. From Cllr Angela Wilkins to the Portfolio Holder for Resources.

Please explain how it came about that members of the E&R PDS and Executive were presented with a report which stated that Cushman & Wakefield would be managing property services as part of the Amey contract and yet the truth was that no agreement had been reached between Amey and Cushman & Wakefield?

Reply:

The award of a contract to Amey Community Limited was conditional upon legal and financial provisions being satisfactory. For the provision of Strategic and Operational Property Management Services and Facilities Management Services, both Amey and Cushman and Wakefield had indicated their ability to deliver the contract and any subsequent contractual arrangements between the two organisations would be completed post the decision of the Council to appoint, which was subsequently proved to be the case.

Supplementary question:

My concern here is primarily for those members of staff who, shortly before the contract was due to be implemented, were left in a position where they were not going to go to Cushman and Wakefield and they did not know who their employer was going to be. Is that satisfactory?

Reply:

Throughout the negotiations with Amey and Cushman and Wakefield we were very keen to point out that they would have to have individual conversations with our staff on a one to one basis. The services which have been taken over are high performing services and the reason for this is that they are high performing people, so it was very necessary from day one to get them on our side and keep them on our side throughout the negotiations. The negotiations became more protracted than I would have liked and the problem may have been that it was some considerable time after these conversations that the contract kicked in. I am very aware of the sensitivities surrounding the contract and the members of staff, but I am also quite confident, having spoken to senior managers, that those conversations did take place.

6. From Cllr Vanessa Allen to the Portfolio Holder for Education

The Draft Local Plan shows the requirement for an additional 15 forms of entry for secondary schools required by 2023 and more beyond that. Why then does the Draft Local Plan include

the Kentwood site as a new academy with four forms of entry, with no interest being shown in developing this site by any education provider, while the 8 form entry Eden Park site at Balmoral Avenue, with an outline planning application and provision already being temporarily made at Ravensbourne, is not in the Draft Local Plan at all?

Reply:

I will attempt to answer in four stages – looking at the need, how the developments work, the Local Plan itself then the specific sites.

Looking at the need, colleagues will be aware that we have done a lot of work with Rob Bollen and with Councillor Philpott to look at where specific need is in all the specific wards and all members have been invited to talk to us about where those specific needs are. In terms of the GLA school roll projection, we are looking at needing an additional 23 forms of entry at Year 7 entry to secondary school by 2022. I am aware that this number has shifted since the PDS papers in May and it will probably shift again early next year when we get the full analysis through from the GLA so we have a proper idea of what we need.

Re-emphasising again how it works, whilst the local authority does need additional school places the creation of those school places and the acquisition of sites falls to the Education Funding Agency. It is up to the Education Funding Agency to acquire the land and carry out the planning application process.

In terms of the Local Plan, this sets out the local authority's, i.e. the Council's future policy for land use. This means that we have to make sufficient land available to meet future educational needs. This includes the designation of sites and policies for future education development. It is the Council's view that the Draft Local Plan is compliant with meeting future demand. The Draft Local Plan does not make any judgement on the merits of any particular school or application, merely that sufficient land is available.

Moving to the sites that are mentioned in the question, the Ravensbourne School site was designated for education use. The Council has chosen not to resist the appeal and that is now going through. In terms of the Balmoral Avenue site, that is not included within the Draft Local Plan for education use. The applicant, i.e. the Trust and the Education Funding Agency, would need to make a case at the point of application that the educational merits of that site outweigh any other planning considerations. Regarding the Kentwood site, we are expecting there to be some interest in that site over the life of the Local Plan.

7. From Cllr Kevin Brooks to the Portfolio Holder for Care Services

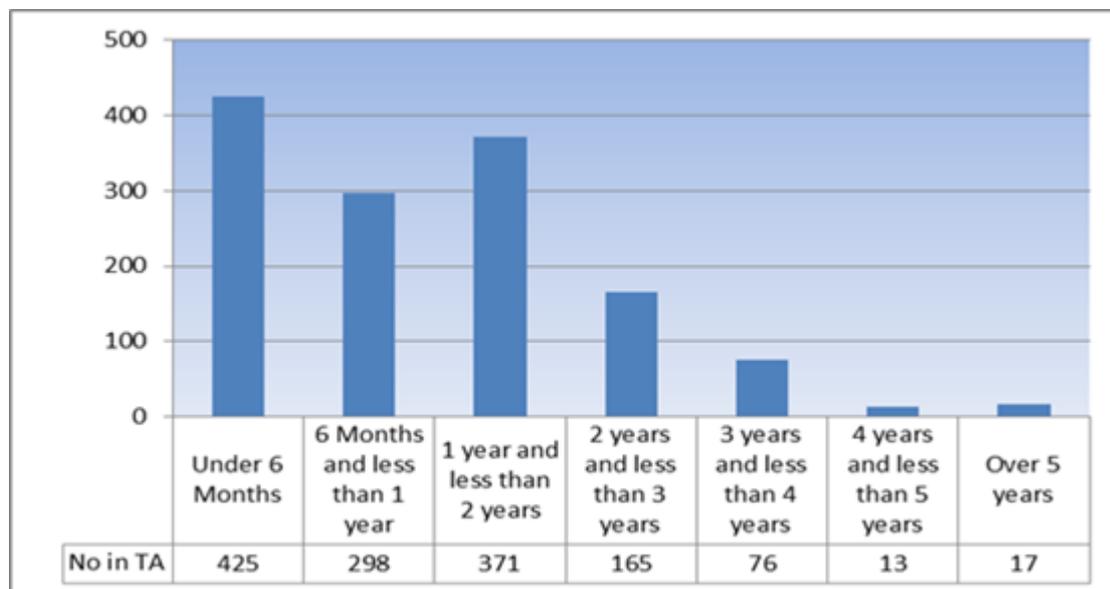
Can the Portfolio Holder please tell me how many temporary housing placements have extended beyond the two year benchmark?

Reply:

Under the provisions of the homelessness legislation, households to whom the Council has accepted a rehousing duty must be provided with temporary accommodation until such time as the rehousing duty can be discharged by securing settled accommodation. This may be done through a range of settled options including, for example, the offer of private rental accommodation, reconciliation with family, shared ownership or the offer of a housing association tenancy. There is no set timescale or benchmark for the length of stay in temporary accommodation and this will vary depending upon the availability of the accommodation needed in terms of size, location, property type etc. In the case of securing an offer of housing association accommodation, the individual's own bidding patterns on

Bromley Homeseekers will also have an impact upon the length of time spent in temporary accommodation.

(The table below provides a breakdown of the length of time households have currently been in temporary accommodation.)



Of 1,365 family units in temporary accommodation at the moment, 1,094 have been in temporary accommodation for less than two years. Only 17 have been in temporary accommodation for more than five years.

Supplementary question:

We have an instance of a family of three, a mother and two girls who have been in temporary accommodation for over two years. They are in one room; the girls are now aged 13 and 17, an age when you are looking for a certain sense of privacy. What actions will you take in order to prevent such circumstances and enable a family of three who have lived in temporary accommodation for two years to find suitable and appropriate housing?

Reply:

All I can say is that the department works extremely hard and the pressure is enormous in terms of finding temporary accommodation. If there is a particular case to which Councillor Brooks refers then if he would like to refer it to me then, as always with all Members, I am very happy to chase up with my officers what the situation is with those individual cases.

8. From Cllr Ian Dunn to the Portfolio Holder for Care Services

Does this Council feel that it has had adequate involvement in the development and review of the Sustainability & Transformation Plan which has been prepared for South East London?

Reply:

Councillor Dunn will be aware that nationally there has been a great deal of concern about the lack of local authority engagement in the STP process, despite acknowledgement by NHS leaders that local authorities and the NHS have to work together to tackle the scale of the problem facing our services. Indeed Simon Stevens has commended local authorities' ability to manage budget pressures in ways in which the NHS has signally failed to do.

As the democratically elected representatives of the people of Bromley, who will be directly affected by the proposals, we believe that there should have been more formal opportunities for engagement at the strategic level. The Leader has written to the Chairman of Bromley CCG expressing our concerns. We appreciate that the STP has been subject to some very tight timescales and a shifting expectation on the part of the Department for Health and NHS England of what it was intended to be. We noted with some disappointment the changing focus from potentially a plan for full integration of health and social care to one which focuses entirely on the NHS budget deficit and which no longer requires any real engagement and certainly not sign off from local authorities. The Chairman and Chief Officer of the CCG have expressed their regret at not having engaged the Local Authority more fully in development of the Plan.

We welcome the focus of the NHS on dealing with its significant budget deficit and potential growth pressures and we support the focus of the STP on efficiency and consistency and improving the delivery of planned care. The primary aim of keeping people as independent as possible and avoiding hospital stays and long term institutional care is consistent with our Building a Better Bromley agenda and we are pleased to see that reflected in the STP.

The changes which the NHS is proposing represent a significant financial challenge to local authorities and it is important that there are mechanisms to divert resources from acute or other areas of health spend where the implementation of the STP results in additional cost for social care.

We acknowledge that the STP for South East London reflects many of the existing priorities for the NHS locally as set out in Our Healthier South East London. However it is at this stage still only a plan and the challenge will be to ensure that it is implemented and delivers real change for the health and social care economy and our patients and residents.

The Leader and I will be having further discussions next week with the CCG about how we will ensure real and effective participation from the local authority in governance arrangements.

That was the long answer. The short answer is no, we certainly were not involved.

Supplementary question:

The STP is underpinned by a memorandum of understanding which sets out how health and care interact. I have seen the memorandums of understanding for other parts of England which have allowed for a local authority to sign. What specific assurances will you need before recommending that this Council signs the memorandum of understanding for south east London.

Reply:

The answer is that we will have to be assured that it is for the good of our residents in Bromley. We have a great deal of talk about south east London arrangements but as far as I am concerned, whilst we recognise some issues, like admittance to Kings, that are spread across more than one borough my main thrust is to get the best for residents in Bromley.

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

What were the dates of the last 3 planning sub-committee reports to contain the recommendation 'Members views are requested'?

Reply:

It would take a great deal of time to work out exactly the dates you are asking for. However, we have not had a “Members Views” recommendation since 2012.

Supplementary question:

Who is overtly or covertly defying the wish of democratically elected councillors to have “Members Views” reinstated?

Reply:

I think personally that the recommendation “Members Views” is somewhat overrated. I arranged a seminar in June or July this year where an ex-inspector came along to discuss with us how appeals were dealt with. It was not well attended but those who did attend enjoyed it and learnt a great deal from it. When inspectors look at appeals, recommendations from officers are not paramount in their thinking. They look at the evidence that is presented and that is from where they make their decision.

The decision is made on evidence. Planning is very subjective – what is an overdevelopment, what is out of character, what is inappropriate design – so there is subjectivity. The inspector may disagree with planners or with Members, provided we are giving substance to the decisions we are making we will never lose costs.

I have seen so many applications refused on the basis of local knowledge. Local knowledge can only be used where examples of that local knowledge are brought into the equation. For instance, local knowledge often applies to traffic. If we are saying something should be refused because of a traffic consideration then we should get examples of that.

We employ a professional planning department. All of these officers are professionally qualified people who are asked to make a recommendation. We cannot ask them to sit on the fence with “Members Views.” I think it is absurd to ask them to give a view one way or the other.

Additional Supplementary Question:

Councillor Owen protested that his question had not been answered. If you look at the minutes of the Development Control Committee chaired by Councillor Nicky Dykes on 9th June it is absolutely clear that members wish to have “Members Views.” Who is stopping that happening? Somebody clearly is.

Additional Supplementary Question:

Given the undemocratic nature of what has happened to “Members Views” can I ask is there a European Directive involved?

Additional Supplementary Question:

Given that there will always be those planning applications that are finely balanced, and could quite reasonably go either way, does the Chairman not think that where a finely balanced application is recommended for permission but where Members subsequently refuse it does he not think that this will automatically put the Council on the back foot at any subsequent appeal?

Additional Supplementary Question:

I was present at the meeting in June. That meeting expressed a desire to have “Members Views.” Who is blocking that issue?

Reply:

In response to Councillor Michael, no, I do not think we are on the back foot if we refuse something that has been recommended by officers. I think the appeal is dealt with on its merits.

As far as Councillors Auld and Owen's question is concerned, nobody is blocking "Members Views." The planning officers have complete right to recommend "Members Views" if they want to – they have that option open to them. Personally, I do not think it is an option they should use, but nobody is blocking it.

10. From Cllr Nicholas Bennett JP to the Portfolio Holder for the Environment

- (I) If he will list the locations in the Borough with width restrictions?
- (ii) For each location the number of times, one or more width restrictions have been removed maliciously or by accident in the past year?
- (iii) The action taken to apprehend and charge offenders for the damage?

Reply:

- (I) Locations of width restrictions:

Sundridge Avenue, Chislehurst
Yester Road, Chislehurst
Thicket Road, Penge (more a gate than a width restriction)
Manor Park Road/Watts Lane, Chislehurst
Main Road, St Paul's Cray
Red Lodge Road, West Wickham
Fox Hill/Belvedere Road Crystal Palace
Auckland Road, Crystal Palace
Hayes Lane, Hayes
Queen Anne Avenue, Shortlands
St Dunstan's Lane, Beckenham

- (ii) Sundridge Avenue has its protector damaged five times, Yester Road has had locks removed five times, Hayes Lane is having locks removed three times a week, St Paul's Cray bollard has been damaged weekly and Red Lodge Road's bollard has been damaged or replacement locks required weekly during the past last twelve months.

- (iii) If anyone witnesses and can provide both the vehicle registration number and is willing to provide a witness statement we would pursue everyone for repair or replacement costs.

Supplementary question:

It would be useful if perhaps on a future occasion we could find out how much it is costing to do this on a weekly basis or more often. Are we using CCTV at some of these locations where it is happening on a three or four times a week basis to try to catch these offenders? In respect of Red Lodge Road in my ward, the bridge, I believe, is a network rail bridge. Are they contributing towards the cost of the width restriction, and if not, why not?

Reply:

It is not a serious enough issue to have CCTV required, the costs are largely covered by the contractor who puts the posts back in and replaces locks free of charge on a weekly basis. Concerning the bridge, I understand that as the local highway authority the responsibility for maintaining the equipment that we installed falls to the London Borough of Bromley.

11. From Cllr Peter Fookes to the Portfolio Holder for Care Services

What was the outcome of the recent conference on sofa surfing in Bromley?

Reply:

The Hidden Homeless seminar was one of a number of seminars on a variety of subjects being hosted by Bromley Voices – Community Links team for their member organisations. Officers from the Bromley Housing Division were invited to attend the seminar and gave a presentation on the current housing and homelessness pressures. The seminar was well attended and organisations were engaged in looking at their respective roles in helping to prevent and tackle homelessness. It was a good opportunity to talk about the forthcoming review of the homelessness strategy and how to use this multi-agency forum to help develop the new strategy. A particular strand of work identified was to look at how organisations can assist in identifying households at risk of homelessness at the earliest possible stage to ensure that they are sign posted to access appropriate advice and assistance to maximise the effectiveness of preventative intervention.

Supplementary question:

Given the fact that, in response to Councillor Brooks' question, the reality is that people in temporary accommodation in this borough are four times the number they are in neighbouring Labour controlled Lewisham, when are we going to do something about this problem?

Reply:

Our housing department fulfils an excellent role. They are one of the most efficient departments in the Council - 90% of the people who apply to them to be registered as homeless are actually helped and are found other ways to avoid the homelessness issue. We recognise that this is a real problem, not just for Bromley but throughout London and the South-East. There is a big homelessness problem; we are doing what we can to combat that.

(As the time limit for this item of thirty minutes had been reached, the Mayor announced that the remaining questions would receive written answers.)

12. From Cllr Kathy Bance MBE to the Portfolio Holder for Public Protection

We have established that the CCTV camera located in Evelina Road, Penge is working and owned by the London Borough of Bromley. Can you advise what service this camera provides to the residents of Penge?

Reply:

The CCTV camera at the end of Evelina Road is part of the Bromley public space CCTV system. It views the Croydon Road shops and is used in tackling local crime and anti-social behaviour.

This camera has the added benefit to residents in that it views the entrance to the estate as well as the road entrances, which have previously been used as escape routes.

The camera is also a visual deterrent to participants in crime and anti-social behaviour in this area.

13. From Cllr Angela Wilkins to the Portfolio Holder for the Environment.

Please explain why it has taken so long to see a new contractor for Parking Services agreed and exactly why the six month extension of the Vinci contract was required earlier this year?

Reply:

I don't accept it has taken "so long" personally.

I have mentioned previously and am very pleased to repeat, that I would far rather see a robustly written contract which better protects the Council's interests moving to the future even if it does take longer to deliver, than a poorly structured 'quick fix' which failed to do so.

I am very pleased to say that this has now been achieved.

In summary, the BPA contract originally appeared to meet the requirements of a Parking Service. However, during the contract development process it became apparent there were better options available given the scope and scale of the contract being let.

These have subsequently been captured and addressed within the recently approved Contract.

14. From Cllr Kevin Brooks to the Portfolio Holder for Care Services

Based on the Health Inequalities report from Healthwatch to the December meeting of the Health & Wellbeing Board, do you now recognise that there is a problem in Bromley with people suffering from financial hardship also suffering from lower standards of physical health and mental wellbeing. What do you propose to do to address this?

Reply:

It is well recognised that deprivation is associated with poor health outcomes and the role of Public Health is to improve the health of the population and to reduce health inequalities.

For the period 2012 to 2014, there was an 8.6 year difference in life expectancy at birth between males living in the most and least deprived areas of Bromley, and 6.2 years for females. This represents an increased difference over the last ten years.

Public Health services are targeted to disadvantaged groups e.g. routine and manual workers for smoking cessation, and outreach to deprived areas for NHS Health Checks. In addition, Public Health work with Primary Care, highlighting deprivation in practice populations so that increased resources can be directed to those most in need of health care. There is ongoing work on assessing the need of the homeless population to inform commissioning of health and care services (JSNA 2016).

15. From Cllr Peter Fookes to the Portfolio Holder for Education

Why are parents of children with severe disabilities being refused transport for their offspring?

Reply:

They are not. If there is a specific concern that Cllr Fookes would like to raise then I encourage him to do so. So far he has not contacted me regarding any case. If he does have a specific concern I would implore him to think of the welfare of the child and raise it with either me or the department immediately rather than wait for a full Public Meeting to raise a non-specific concern.

16. From Cllr Angela Wilkins to the Portfolio Holder for Resources.

Please explain why a one-off drawdown of £33k was required for a recent increase in employment tribunal work? (See paragraph 3.4.3 of the November Budget Monitoring Report.)

Reply:

The straightforward answer is because we had work which temporarily exceeded the capacity of the in-house resource.

The Council has seen a recent increase in both contentious and non-contentious work which required additional temporary resources to ensure that external timetables were met whilst dealing with work supporting service needs and providing general advice on commissioning work.

17. From Cllr Michael Rutherford to the Leader of the Council

Would he like to wish the council and residents of the borough a Merry Christmas?

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COUNCIL MEETING

12th DECEMBER 2016

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN REPLY FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

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

If he will list in table format the following information for each of the past three years;

1. Each planning application which has gone to appeal;
2. whether the original application was recommended for approval or refusal;
3. whether the application was refused by committee or under delegated powers;
4. the outcome of the appeal;
5. if costs were awarded in full or in part;
6. the sum awarded?

Reply:

Question withdrawn – the information will be provided in a report to Renewal and Recreation PDS Committee on 26th January 2017.

2. From Cllr Nicholas Bennett JP to the Portfolio Holder for Resources

If he will make a statement of the progress made across the Council in commissioning services since 2014?

Reply:

A Commissioning Board has been set up to provide a management overview of all commissioning activity and the validation of information being provided to members. As part of this the Board have taken steps to develop their own and staffs knowledge of the basis of strategic commissioning across the authority. It is a forum for sharing information and intelligence and provides an important (much needed) role in scrutinising and co-ordinating service activities to provide a consolidated pipeline of commissioning across the Council.

The Board has taken steps to embed efficient business practices across the organisation requiring that different models of service delivery are considered and that commissioning decisions are evidenced based looking both at the need and demand for the service. This is now all captured in the outline Business Case Gate 1 Report which is reported to members for values above £500k.

A new contracts database has been commissioned (to be implemented early in the new year) which will further provide transparency and support the organisation to work in a more efficient and effective manner.

The team have also explored different commissioning models such as Joint Ventures, Shared Services, SPVs and Joint Contracting. It is an enabling and facilitating group to challenge and support strategic commissioners. It acts as a peer review.

A commissioning library has been developed which holds all commissioning information such as model specifications, structures for client units, approach around pension liabilities, best practice for contract management and contract monitoring. Best Practice guidance notes are held on the Managers Toolkit along with “Lessons Learnt” from previous commissioning activity for officers to access.

Stronger links with the central procurement team are in place to advise and support on procurement activity for complex commissioning, contracting models and their placement within the market, with the required inputs from legal, finance and procurement staff, particularly with regard to Financial Regulations and Contract Procedure Regulations.

The Contracts Register is now ragged red or amber to highlight issues of concern around meeting contract deadlines, which is overviewed by the Director of Commissioning.

Training has been rolled out for members and officers on the commissioning & procurement cycle

Additionally the Director of Commissioning has consolidated management arrangements around the overview and support of service commissioning. A Programme & Project team has been created to ensure that service reviews are completed in a consistent and timely manner.

There is now improved clarity around the work programme of the various commissioning teams and the potential budget savings that might be realised over the next few years.

Examples of the savings delivered in the last two years are:-

				FYE		
				£'000		
Parking				453		
TFM				210	(plus £1m)	
Customer Service Centre				68		
Financial Assessment Team				121		
Parks & Green Spaces				279		
Transport				143		
Mears				4,200	(including gifting)	
Public Health				200		
Supported Living Schemes				628		
				6,302		

Further savings from commissioning that will be reported over the next few

months are likely to be around £500k p.a. relating to changes in how the Council provides its Library services, Extra Care Housing & Occupational Health

New work streams are currently being reviewed by the Commissioning Board, which includes testing of the foster carer recruitment service and block booking arrangements for children's residential placements, both of which should deliver further savings to the Council.

Setting up the Commissioning Board and putting in place clear governance arrangements have and will continue to embed confidence in processes, ensuring accountability and compliance, and ensure that Best Practice and Value for Money is part of normal working practice with key risks identified, quantified and managed.

3. From Cllr Michael Rutherford to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation

What is the proposed timetable for compulsory purchase orders (if required) for opportunity site G and when will residents be informed of the process?

Reply:

The Council has shortlisted two bidders for the next phase of the redevelopment of Opportunity Site G and officers are currently evaluating these submissions. It is anticipated that an award of tender report will be considered by the Council's Executive in February 2016 following the completion of the tender evaluation process. This report will advise Members on the details of the bidder submissions, the results of the evaluation process and provide an Officer recommendation for the preferred bidder.

Following the Council's confirmation of the preferred development partner, the developer will be expected to enter into the development agreement within 3 months. The following indicative timetable has been updated to illustrate the estimated length of each stage in the process:

- Council decision to confirm preferred partner – February 17
- Development Agreement signed May/June 17
- Submit Planning Application and Prepare Compulsory Purchase Order documentation Autumn 2017
- Secure Planning Consent Spring 2018
- Compulsory Purchase Inquiry Autumn 2018
- Commence Development Autumn 2019
- Completion Spring 2022

Officers have recently written to update the owner/occupiers in the development site on the proposed timetable and provide them with further guidance on the compulsory purchase order process.

4. From Cllr Peter Fookes to the Portfolio Holder for Resources

When a service is contracted out, why are e mails not automatically forwarded to the contractor?

Reply:

It is difficult to give a specific answer to such a general question but reasons can include the agreed responsibilities between client and contractor, the need for client filtering of matters, the fact that e-mails can include matters which may be relevant to a contractor and elements which aren't, the fact the writer may not want their e-mail forwarded and the fact that an e-mail forwarding system isn't able to intelligently judge what to automatically forward.

There are also concerns over forwarding e-mails to all users whether deliberate or accidental and the impact that can sometimes have.

Also if an e-mail is classed as junk mail and we forward it we could be blacklisted by their provider for sending junk mail.

5. From Cllr Peter Fookes to the Chairman of Development Control Committee

Given the vast number of planning enforcement cases outstanding, when will more resources be allocated to this service?

Reply:

Additional resources have been applied to the Planning Enforcement team and the number of outstanding cases has reduced, however, we will be monitoring this closely.

6. From Cllr Peter Fookes to the Portfolio Holder for Care Services

Given the increasing numbers of people across all parts of the borough presenting with problematic alcohol abuse, what support is available for the children of those affected?

Reply:

All patients presenting to the Bromley Drug and Alcohol Service for structured treatment (e.g. treatment of alcohol dependence) undergo an assessment which includes establishing whether any children have significant levels of contact with the individual. If there are children in contact, a safeguarding visit is undertaken and a referral made to LBB Safeguarding Services if there is any concern.

7. From Cllr Vanessa Allen to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal & Recreation

Can the Portfolio Holder provide the number of residential units for which planning permission was given in 2015/16 and for as much of 2016/17 as information is available, broken down by number of bedrooms? Can he also provide this information for affordable homes, also broken down by number of bedrooms?

Reply:

The attached table shows the total number of residential units for which planning permission was given in 2015/2016 broken down by the number of bedrooms. We do not have these details of the 2016/2017 period available or the sub division by tenure at present and the data is provisional.

Residential Unit Permissions Broken Down by Number of Bedrooms (FY2015)

No. of Bedrooms	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	(blank)	Grand Total
Grand Total	326	394	47	11	30	1	1	-41	769

8. From Cllr Ian Dunn to the Portfolio Holder for Resources

In February 2016, the Council agreed a schedule of 64 savings options (cuts). Can the Portfolio Holder please provide the schedule of forecast savings (cuts), with the addition of the forecast outturn savings (cuts) for 2016/17 and the forecast outturn full year savings (cuts) for each line?

Reply:

The savings list and its progress are attached (appendix 1). It should be noted that whilst there are some timing issues on the delivery of the savings, the vast majority of savings are on track to be delivered and all will be delivered within the full year forecast outturn. It must be appreciated that certain projected figures are subject to verification and approval by Members as part of the Councils procedures.

9. From Cllr Ian Dunn to the Portfolio Holder for Resources

Can the Portfolio Holder please provide the number of mobile phone masts on Council Property and the annual income from these?

Reply:

According to our records there are four current lettings in respect of “mobile phone masts” on Council property.

West Wickham Leisure Centre, Station Rd, West Wickham BR4 0PY
Current rent £4,250.00 per annum
World of Golf, Sidcup By-Pass, A20, Chislehurst BR7 6RP
Letting 1 - Current rent £1,875.00 per annum
Letting 2 – Current rent £3,269.78 per annum

In addition the Council is finalising a renewal of the phone mast at the Central Depot which will provide for an additional £8,250pa.

Thus making a total of £17,644.78 pa.

10. From Cllr Ian Dunn to the Portfolio Holder for Resources

Can the Portfolio Holder please provide the number of working age claimants who received Council Tax Support, the percentage these residents were required to pay, the collection percentage for these residents and the general collection percentage for Council Tax for financial years 2013/14, 14/15, 15/16 and 16/17, with the figures for 2016/17 being for year to date? Please also provide the number of claimants who were charged for arrears in 2015/16 and the total amount they were charged?

Reply:

Please find provided in table format the information requested in the above question to the Council meeting of the 12 December 2016.

	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17 (as at 7/12/16)
Number of working-age claimants receiving Council Tax Support (CTS)*	11,572	10,514	9,964	9,493
Minimum percentage working-age claimants were required to pay	8.5%	19%	19%	25%
Collection rate for working-age CTS claimants**	98.71%	98.63%	92.89%	67.55% ***
Collection rate for all CTS claimants**	97.07%	97.18%	92.63%	67.74% ***
Collection rate for non-CTS households	99.8%	99.68%	99.51%	85.69% ***
Collection rate as at the end of the relevant financial year (in-year)	97.6%	97.7%	97.8%	76.55%
Number of working-age claimants where court costs applied			2627	
Value of court costs applied to working-age claimants			£366,091	
Number of CTS claimants where court costs applied			3368	
Value of court costs applied to CTS claimants			£486,118	

*Number of working-age households receiving CTS anytime during the year

** % collected of outstanding sum after CTS applied

*** Please note when comparing current years collection rates, there is a marked difference between CTS households and non-CTS households in the number opting to pay by 12 monthly instalments. In respect of the current financial year the percentages are as follows:

	% paying by 12 monthly instalments
All accounts	9.13%
CTS claimants	29.33%
Working-age CTS claimants	45.5%
Non-CTS claimants	6.44%

11. From Cllr Richard Williams to the Portfolio Holder for the Environment.

There are problems across the Borough with the environment around supermarkets, for example wire cages being left on pavements for long periods of time. What pressure can the Council put on supermarket operators to ensure that these problems are minimised.

Reply:

If the obstruction is on the public highway then the Council can take enforcement action under the Highways Act.

The relevant Enforcement officer for that area will visit the offending shop / store, instruct them that what they are doing is an offence under the Act and issue an £80 fine for any subsequent infractions.

12. From Cllr Angela Wilkins to the Portfolio Holder for the Environment.

Please provide a ward breakdown of Fix My Street notifications, including the nature of the complaint and the time taken to resolve it for the last year.

Reply:

It should be noted and emphasised that Fix My Street is a mechanism for reporting street faults, rather than lodging complaints per se.

The appended table (appendix 2) identifies the number of Street Environment enquiries by type per ward for the last 12 months.

Whilst it is not possible to report on the time taken to resolve each individual report, the table does include the % of reports that have been managed within the relevant published Service Standards (across all channels of contact including FMS, CSC and emails/back office).

13. From Cllr Tony Owen to the Leader of the Council

A constituent of mine asked -

“I've seen some recent Biggin Hill Airport publicity that indicates that the Noise Monitoring and Track Keeping System will be signed off this autumn and introduced during the spring or summer of next year.”

Do you have any information where the equipment will be (or has been) located and to what extent LBB have been involved in its commissioning?

There were also quite specific promises that the data from the monitors would be accessible by residents and about what sort of data would be available. Will LBB be involved in testing this user interface and how will residents be made aware that they can use it? What will happen if it doesn't fulfil all the promises that were made? Will the interface be up and running before LBB gives the go-ahead for the extended hours?'

Who is currently the lead council officer for Biggin Hill matters?

Reply:

We are aware that the Airport have started the installation of their noise monitoring software and have already been sent calibration details of three monitors. We are presently seeking further information on the proposed locations for the fixed monitors and the mobile unit. In terms of signing off a suitable system, we would expect this to occur once the two fixed monitor locations are 'hard-wired' in place, and working correctly and giving the data required to ensure that all operations can be properly monitored and suitable checks made against the noise limits. It is for the Airport to properly commission their system and then to properly demonstrate their system to the Council's satisfaction. The agreement with the Council is quite clear and noise monitoring software does need to be installed to the Council's satisfaction before any change of operating hours can take place. If the Council is not satisfied, the change in operating hours will not be granted. We expect the Airport to make contact when they are ready for this formal process to start. The Council's Communications Executive is continuing to be the nominated co-ordinating lead for Biggin Hill Airport, with the support of appropriate colleagues depending on the exact nature of what is required.

Appendix 1 (Question 8)

PORTFOLIO SAVINGS LIST					Forecast Outturn Savings 2016/17 £'000	Forecast Outturn Full Years Savings 2019/20 £'000
	2016/17 £'000	2017/18 £'000	2018/19 £'000	2019/20 £'000		
Education	0	0	0	0	0	0
Care Services						
Care Services - Adult Social Care						
1 LD Day Care/Supported Living/Short Breaks	-200	-200	-200	-200	-200	-200
2 Contract awards and price negotiations	-430	-430	-430	-430	-430	-430
3 Adult's Transport Service	-243	-243	-243	-243	-243	-243
4 Closure of Lubbock House ECH unit	-70	-70	-70	-70	-70	-70
5 Commissioning - Further contract savings	-280	-280	-280	-280	-280	-280
6 Mental Health	-180	-180	-180	-180	-180	-180
7 Supporting People	-120	-120	-120	-120	-120	-120
8 Day Opportunities - continuation of invest to save	-100	-100	-100	-100	-100	-100
9 In-house Extra Care Housing / Carelink	-40	-40	-40	-40	-40	-40
10 Supported Living contracts	-100	-100	-100	-100	-100	-100
11 Adult Learning Disabilities Services	-1,390	-1,900	-1,900	-1,900	-1,293	-1,900
12 Review of Domiciliary Care packages for Older People (OP) and People with Physical disabilities (PD) *savings will be realised but there are emerging cost pressures in 2016/17 which means that it will not be achieved in 2016/17	-600	-600	-600	-600	0	-600
13 Reablement - recruit to vacant facilitator posts / ensure all service users suitable for reablement are referred to the service *delay in savings, savings will be realised	-250	-250	-250	-250	-57	-250
14 Review of respite provision (OP and PD)	-50	-100	-100	-100	-50	-100
15 Focus on management of ECH voids re residential nursing placements	-334	-334	-334	-334	-334	-334
16 Review all service users aged above 65 whose placements are above the ceiling rates *savings will be realised but there are emerging cost pressures in 2016/17 which means that it will not be achieved in 2016/17	-380	-380	-380	-380	-23	-380
17 Review of service users needing Appointeeship & Deputyship	-60	-60	-60	-60	-60	-60

PORTFOLIO SAVINGS LIST		2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	Forecast Outturn Savings 2016/17	Forecast Outturn Full Years Savings 2019/20
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
18	Increased income from Day Care and Transport	-200	-200	-200	-200	-200	-200
19	Additional recurring underspends - Commissioning	-20	-20	-20	-20	-20	-20
20	Additional charging income generated by legislative changes * not achieved, covered by contingency in 2016/17 only. Will re realised in later years	-503	-503	-503	-503	0	-503
21	Better Care Fund Grant	-1,000	-1,000	-1,000	-1,000	-1,000	-1,000
22	Invest to save - reablement *delay in savings, savings will be realised	-150	-150	-250	-250	0	-250
23	Supporting People - Increased efficiencies *delay in savings, savings will be realised	-250	-250	-250	-250	-174	-250
24	Further savings to be identified through efficiencies	-500	-1,000	-1,000	-1,000	-500	-1,000
25	Better Care Fund - increase in negotiated funding of social care	-631	-631	-631	-631	-631	-631
	Total Care Services - Adult Social Care	-8,081	-9,141	-9,241	-9,241	-6,105	-9,241
	Care Services - Children's Social Care						
26	Reduce overall net cost of Placements through efficiencies and obtaining health income. Currently 33 Residential and 345 Fostering placements *delay in savings, savings will be realised	-500	-500	-500	-500	0	-500
27	Savings from remand placements (LAPSO). Service has operated for two years (achievable)	-250	-250	-250	-250	-250	-250
28	Review of fostering arrangements	-119	-119	-119	-119	-119	-119
29	Management Savings/Restructure - Care & Resources	-160	-160	-160	-160	-160	-160
30	Children with Disabilities	-120	-120	-120	-120	-120	-120
31	Section 17 - Preventative Payments (Children's Act - Provision of services for children in need, their families and others)	-25	-25	-25	-25	-25	-25
32	Section 18 - Children's Act - Day care for pre-school and other children	-25	-25	-25	-25	-25	-25
33	Full year saving of 2 residential placements (currently 33 residential placements)	-250	-250	-250	-250	0	-250
34	Virtual School efficiencies	-75	-75	-75	-75	-75	-75
	Total Care Services - Children's Social Care	-1,524	-1,524	-1,524	-1,524	-774	-1,524
	Public Health						
35	Sexual Health	-104	-104	-104	-104	-104	-104
36	NHS Health Checks	-126	-126	-126	-126	-126	-126
37	Health Protection	-7	-7	-7	-7	-7	-7
38	Childhood Obesity Programme		-188	-188	-188	0	-188
39	Adult Obesity Programme	-59	-59	-59	-59	-59	-59
40	Physical Activity	-30	-30	-30	-30	-30	-30
41	Substance Misuse	-420	-420	-420	-420	-420	-420
42	Smoking and Tobacco	0	-726	-726	-726	0	-726
43	Miscellaneous Public Health Prog	-12	-202	-202	-202	-12	-202
44	School Nursing	-958	-958	-958	-958	-958	-958
45	Public Health Staff	-325	-325	-325	-325	-325	-325
46	Public Health Unallocable	-36	-36	-36	-36	-36	-36
	Total Public Health	-2,077	-3,181	-3,181	-3,181	-2,077	-3,181

PORTFOLIO SAVINGS LIST					Forecast Outturn Savings 2016/17 £'000	Forecast Outturn Full Years Savings 2019/20 £'000
	2016/17 £'000	2017/18 £'000	2018/19 £'000	2019/20 £'000		
Public Protection and Safety	0	0	0	0	0	0
Environment						
47 Additional parking Income - details to be confirmed	-350	-350	-350	-350	-150	-350
48 Reduce provision in graffiti and chewing gum removal contract (proposed that reduction in town centres to be undertaken by traders)	-60	-60	-60	-60	-60	-60
49 Deletion of outstanding balance for cleansing contract in central contingency (replace by one off Environment Fund, value to be determined)	-60	-60	-60	-60	-60	-60
50 Income generation - parks and greenspace	0	-50	-50	-50	0	-50
51 Overachievement of savings on change in collection frequencies in regards to residual waste and recyclable materials	-250	-250	-250	-250	-250	-250
52 Additional savings from closure of garden satellite sites (may be rephased to reflect a specific interim arrangement)	-20	-20	-20	-20	-20	-20
53 Street Lighting - extend invest to save repayment period by 3 years	-353	-353	-353	-353	-353	-353
Total Environment	-1,093	-1,143	-1,143	-1,143	-893	-1,143
Renewal and Recreation						
Recreation						
54 Eliminate Churchill Theatre subsidy	-321	-321	-321	-321	-321	-321
55 Commissioning of Libraries (savings represent 10% of budget)	0	-446	-446	-446	0	-446
Total Recreation	-321	-767	-767	-767	-321	-767
Resources (including Chief Executive's)						
56 Operational Property	-20	-20	-20	-20	-20	-20
57 Facilities and Support	-116	-116	-116	-116	-116	-116
58 Property Investment (FYE of properties actually purchased & those in the process of being purchased, will meet savings target)	-685	-850	-850	-850	0	-850
59 Office accommodation - site reconfiguration	0	0	-600	-600	0	-600
Resources (including Chief Executive's)						
60 Chief Executive's	-319	-319	-319	-319	-314	-319
61 Retendering of IT contract (IT general £73k and Libraries £46k)	-119	-119	-119	-119	-119	-119
62 Continuation of Liberata contract for a further 2 years and investment of £200k to generate changes in debt management and customer portal		-448	-633	-726	0	-726
63 Interest on balances	-650	-650	-650	-650	-650	-650
64 Increase in minimum contribution for council tax support	-685	-685	-685	-685	-685	-685
Total Resources	-2,594	-3,207	-3,992	-4,085	-1,904	-4,085
Total Savings to date	-15,690	-18,963	-19,848	-19,941	-12,074	-19,941

WARD	DRAINAGE CLEANS- ING	ENFORCE- MENT	GRAFFITI	HIGH- WAYS	PARKS & GREEN- SPACE	STREET CLEANSIN G	STREET LIGHTING	STREET- WORKS	TREES	Grand Total
BICKLEY	16	119	5	141	32	213	99		59	684
BIGGIN HILL	16	125	5	160	30	199	91		52	678
BROMLEY COMMON & K	24	134	29	174	165	762	148	2	56	1,494
BROMLEY TOWN	49	125	45	205	66	612	152	2	58	1,314
CHELSEFIELD & PB	25	177	16	182	65	310	89	4	73	941
CHISLEHURST	33	184	50	293	72	311	115	4	61	1,123
CLOCK HOUSE	19	136	38	117	30	693	54	2	64	1,153
COPERS COPE	19	145	29	102	30	337	64		46	772
CRAY VALLEY EAST	37	233	47	183	134	798	100	6	70	1,608
CRAY VALLEY WEST	11	144	37	174	50	459	122	5	40	1,042
CRYSTAL PALACE	20	116	235	68	126	697	46	2	28	1,338
DARWIN	7	66	3	137	67	184	47	3	30	544
FARNBOROUGH & CROF	25	112	14	193	73	190	119	1	94	821
HAYES & CONEY HALL	9	94	21	262	122	218	133	6	90	955
KELSEY & EDEN PARK	20	129	19	125	71	430	81	1	81	957
MOTTINGHAM & CN	16	90	14	66	33	199	31		30	479
ORPINGTON	20	104	19	126	67	285	104	5	55	785
PENGE & CATOR	20	189	114	125	70	956	91	1	68	1,634
PETTS WOOD & KNOLL	31	102	20	174	28	234	135	1	49	774
PLAISTOW & SUND	16	112	11	105	12	289	89		68	702
SHORTLANDS	12	48	8	127	18	246	61		37	557
WEST WICKHAM	18	96	13	156	31	174	68	2	95	653
Grand Total	463	2,780	792	3,385	1,392	8,796	2,039	47	1,304	21,008
% of enquiries within SLA*	98%	90%	99%	98%	99%	98%	87%	95%	99%	

*across all enquiries not just FMS