

TO MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Council of the London Borough of Bromley is to be held in the Council Chamber at Bromley Civic Centre on Monday 9 April 2018 at 7.00 pm which meeting the Members of the Council are hereby summoned to attend.

Prayers

A G E N D A

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 Declarations of Interest
- 3 To confirm the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 26th February 2018
(Pages 3 - 66)
- 4 Petitions
- 5 Questions from members of the public where notice has been given.

Questions must be received by 5pm on Tuesday 3rd April 2018.
- 6 Oral questions from Members of the Council where notice has been given.
- 7 Written questions from Members of the Council where notice has been given
- 8 To consider any statements that may be made by the Leader of the Council, Portfolio Holders or Chairmen of Committees.
- 9 Policy Development and Scrutiny Annual Report 2017/18
(Pages 67 - 90)
- 10 Third Report of the Education, Children & Families Select Committee 2017/18
(Pages 91 - 106)
- 11 Fourth Report of the Education, Children & Families Select Committee 2017/18
(Pages 107 - 118)
- 12 Annual SACRE Report for 2016/17
(Pages 119 - 132)

- 13 Code of Conduct
(Pages 133 - 144)
- 14 Local Pension Board - Appointment of Board Members
(Pages 145 - 160)
- 15 To consider Motions of which notice has been given.
- 16 The Mayor's announcements and communications.

LONDON BOROUGH OF BROMLEY

MINUTES

of the proceedings of the Meeting of the
Council of the Borough
held at 7.00 pm on 26 February 2018

Present:

The Worshipful the Mayor
Councillor Kathy Bance MBE

The Deputy Mayor
Councillor Kevin Brooks

Councillors

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

The meeting was opened with prayers

In the Chair
The Mayor
Councillor Kathy Bance MBE

71 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Richard Williams.

72 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Peter Morgan declared in relation to the Council Tax report that his daughter was a Director of the Council's contractor, Kier.

73 To confirm the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 11th December 2017

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 11th December 2017 be confirmed.

74 Petitions

No petitions had been received.

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

Nineteen questions had been received from members of the public for oral reply. These are set out, with the answers given, in Appendix A to these minutes.

Eight questions had been received from members of the public for written reply. These are set out, with the answers given, in Appendix B to these minutes.

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

Twenty-two questions had been received for oral reply from members of the Council. These are set out, with the answers given, in Appendix C to these minutes.

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

Fifteen questions had been received for written reply from members of the Council. These are set out, with the answers given, in Appendix D to these minutes.

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

Councillor Graham Arthur, Portfolio Holder for Resources, made a statement on the annual pay award, recognising the need for staff to be rewarded and developed, the vital role of the Dep Reps Forum, and the need to reduce the over reliance on agency social workers. He also mentioned the £550k set aside for an apprenticeship scheme and the £500k allocated to the Bromley Youth Employment (YES) Scheme.

Councillor Arthur announced that, in addition to the 2% increase for all staff, the following increases would be recommended –

£700 per annum for staff on spinal points 4-7
£500 per annum for staff on spinal points 8-11
£330 per annum for staff on spinal points 12-15

He confirmed that, as in previous years, £200k would be set aside for additional awards for exceptional performance, and that as a gesture of appreciation all staff would be allowed an extra half day's holiday in 2018/19.

79 Budget and Council Tax Setting 2018/19
Report CSD18025

The Director of Finance circulated the following supplementary information and amended recommendations –

“Changes required to the Council Tax Resolution (recommendations from the Executive to Council).

There were no changes to the final Mayoral precept accepted by the London Assembly on 22nd February 2018.

Since the last meeting of the Executive, there have been further changes on levies and the final position is shown in recommendation 2.1 (d) below.

Members are requested to note that, since the last report to Executive, a further sum of £504k has been allocated from the Central Contingency into Portfolio budgets to reflect updated estimates of salary costs relating to the recommended 2018/19 pay award (agenda item 12).

It is important to note that the 2018/19 Central Contingency sum includes significant costs not yet allocated to Portfolio budgets at this stage. Therefore, there will be further changes to the Central Contingency to reflect allocations to individual Portfolio budgets prior to publication of the Financial Control Budget.

The above changes will require the following proposed amendments to be made to the recommendations of the Executive:

Amended Recommendation (2.1)

- (b) Approves the draft revenue budgets for 2018/19 to include the following updated changes:
 - (ii) a reduction of £504k in the 2018/19 Central Contingency to reflect allocations to Portfolio Budgets.

- (d) Approves the following provisions for levies for inclusion in the budget for 2018/19:

	£'000
London Pensions Fund Authority	455
London Boroughs Grant Committee	248
Environment Agency (flood defence etc.)	245
Lee Valley Regional Park	314
Total	1,262

- (e) Approves a revised Central Contingency sum of £14,465k to reflect the changes in (b) and (d);
- (h) Sets a 3.99% increase in Bromley's council tax for 2018/19 compared with 2017/18 (1.99% general increase plus 2% Adult Social Care Precept) and a 5.1% increase in the GLA precept;
- (i) Notes the final position on the GLA precept, as accepted by the London Assembly on 22nd February 2018.

Amended Recommendation (2.2)

Council Tax 2018/19 – Statutory Calculations and Resolutions (as amended by the Localism Act 2011).

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

	2017/18 £	2018/19 £	Increase £	Increase % (note #)
Bromley (general)	1,072.00	1,094.18	22.18	1.99
Bromley (ASC precept)	42.02	64.30	22.28	2.00
Bromley (total)	1,114.02	1,158.48	44.46	3.99
GLA	280.02	294.23	14.21	5.07
Total	1,394.04	1,452.71	58.67	4.21

- (#) in line with the 2018/19 Council Tax Referendum Principles, the % increase applied is based on an authority's "relevant basic amount of Council Tax" (£1,114.02 for Bromley) – see paragraph 6 below.

Amended Recommendation (2.3):

- (4) Notes that the Greater London Authority (GLA) has issued a precept to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as indicated in the table below.
- (6) That the Council hereby determines that its relevant basic amount of council tax for the financial year 2018/19, which reflects a 3.99% increase (including Adult Social Care Precept of 2%), is not excessive. The Referendums Relating to Council Tax Increases (Principles) (England) Report 2018/19 sets out the principles which the Secretary

of State has determined will apply to local authorities in England in 2018/19. The Council is required to determine whether its relevant basic amount of Council Tax is excessive in accordance with the principles approved under Section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.”

Councillor Colin Smith, seconded by Councillor Peter Fortune, moved acceptance of the recommendations, subject to the following additional amendments –

“After allowing for the report from the Director of Finance the following amendments are proposed to the recommendations of the Executive set out in the Blue Book on pages 43-104.

The following changes be made to the recommended budget for 2018/19:

Amended Recommendation (2.1):

(b) Approves the draft revenue budgets for 2018/19 to include the following updated changes:

(iii) in addition to a flat 2% pay increase for all staff (as set out in agenda item 12 – 2018/19 Pay Award), agree a further increase of:

£700 per annum for staff on spinal points 4 – 7
£500 per annum for staff on spinal points 8 – 11
£350 per annum for staff on spinal points 12 – 15

The cost of this proposal can be met within the existing overall budget.

(iv) agree to provide short term assistance of £140,250 in 2018/19 by waiving rent charges for a period of 12 months whilst finalising the Council’s longer term plans in the ‘Strategy for the Older Person’. The funding relates to Bertha James, Saxon Centre, Rachel Notley and St Edwards day centres and will be met from underspends in the 2017/18 Central Contingency Sum.”

The following amendments were moved by Councillor Angela Wilkins and seconded by Councillor Ian Dunn –

“After allowing for the report from the Director of Finance the following amendments are proposed to the recommendations of the Executive set out in the Blue Book on pages 43-104.

The following changes be made to the recommended budget for 2018/19:

Additional Recommendation (2.1):

- (I) Sets aside funding from the balance of the Investment Fund (£8.097 million Page 122) and the Invest to Save Earmarked Reserve (£16.403 million) to be invested in services over the years 2018/19 to 2021/22 broken down by year as follows:

	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Investment	£3.5 million	£7 million	£7 million	£7 million

Labour Supplementary Information

The funding set out above is to be invested in the following areas:

- Housing, including development and provision of affordable and social housing, regulation of landlords and rented property;
- Audit all contracts over £200k per annum to ensure all are properly monitored and managed; review all contracts to ensure savings promised are being achieved. Review the 60:40 price:quality split where contracts are being re-tendered and give more consideration and support for services remaining or returning in-house;
- Road Safety, including the extension of 20 MPH zones;
- Improved recycling, including business recycling;
- Other environmental improvements, including clean air;
- Public Health;
- Invest in early intervention and preventative work in areas such as children's centres, youth services, CAMHS and public health services;
- Paying all staff the London Living Wage."

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

The following Members voted in favour of the motion -

Councillors Vanessa Allen, Ian Dunn, Peter Fookes and Angela Wilkins.

The following Members voted against the motion -

Councillors Graham Arthur, Douglas Auld, Julian Benington, Nicholas Bennett, Ruth Bennett, Eric Bosshard, Kim Botting, Katy Boughey, Lydia Buttinger, Stephen Carr, David Cartwright, Mary Cooke, Peter Dean, Nicky Dykes, Judi Ellis, Robert Evans, Simon Fawthrop, Peter Fortune, Hannah

Gray, Ellie Harmer, Samaris Huntington-Thresher, William Huntington-Thresher, David Jefferys, Charles Joel, David Livett, Kate Lymer, Russell Mellor, Alexa Michael, Peter Morgan, Terence Nathan, Keith Onslow, Tony Owen, Angela Page, Ian F Payne, Sarah Phillips, Chris Pierce, Neil Reddin, Charles Rideout, Richard Scoates, Colin Smith, Diane Smith, Melanie Stevens, Tim Stevens, Teresa Te, Pauline Tunncliffe and Stephen Wells.

The following Members abstained -

Councillors Kathy Bance, Kevin Brooks, Alan Collins, Will Harmer, Tom Philpott, Catherine Rideout, Michael Rutherford, Michael Tickner and Michael Turner.

The following amendments were moved by Councillor David Livett and seconded by Councillor Terence Nathan –

“After allowing for the report from the Director of Finance the following amendments are proposed to the recommendations of the Executive set out in the Blue Book on pages 43-104.

The following changes be made to the recommended budget for 2018/19:

Amended Recommendation (2.1):

- (b) Approves the draft revenue budgets for 2018/19 to include the following updated changes:
 - (iii) approves expenditure of £300k on professional fees and other costs associated with the introduction of a special purpose vehicle in 2018/19 to be met from a corresponding reduction in the 2018/19 Central Contingency.
- (e) Approves a revised Central Contingency sum of £14,165k to reflect the changes in (b);

UKIP Supplementary Information

The proposal is for a change of investment policy, such change to be validated and implemented within six months of the start of the budget year and enacted over an eighteen month period. The full financial impact of the change will be reported back to full Council prior to implementation. Funding will be used to commission professional advice associated with the introduction of a special purpose vehicle to:

- a) receive the proceeds arising from the disposal of investment properties, such proceeds being targeted as £130 million over an eighteen month period;
- b) administer the investment of those funds with residents of Bromley through a shared equity scheme that will invest in the

domestic property purchases of first time buyers who are long term residents of Bromley;

- c) manage those investment and funding activities including the administration of the property investments, cash flow, taxation and profit recognition and distribution.

The expenditure will be met by a reduction of the Central Contingency budget in 2018/19 leaving the budget for the year unchanged in total. The change of investment policy is prudently projected to be at least income neutral and the administration budget in future years is also unchanged in total.”

(At this point the Mayor drew attention to the fact that it was 10pm, and Members decided to continue the meeting for a further 30 minutes until the business was concluded.)

On being put to the vote, the motion was **LOST**.

The following Members voted in favour of the motion -

Councillors David Livett and Terence Nathan.

The following Members voted against the motion -

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

The following Members abstained -

Councillors Kathy Bance, Nicholas Bennett, Kevin Brooks, Peter Fookes, Will Harmer and Diane Smith.

Accordingly, the recommendations of the Executive, with the changes proposed by the Director of Finance and as moved by Councillor Colin Smith and seconded by Councillor Peter Fortune were **CARRIED** as follows –

That Council -

- (1) (a) Approves the schools budget of £76.771m million which matches the estimated level of Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) after**

academy recoupment (an increase of £75k.)

(b) Approves the draft revenue budgets for 2018/19 to include the following updated changes:

(i) as part of the final settlement, additional one-off funding of £744k was announced through a new Adult Social Care Support Grant. This sum will be held in the Central Contingency pending the receipt of awaited grant conditions. The utilisation of this funding will be subject to a further report to Executive.

(ii) a reduction of £504k in the 2018/19 Central Contingency to reflect allocations to Portfolio Budgets.

(iii) in addition to a flat 2% pay increase for all staff (as set out in agenda item 12 – 2018/19 Pay Award), agree a further increase of:

£700 per annum for staff on spinal points 4 – 7
£500 per annum for staff on spinal points 8 – 11
£350 per annum for staff on spinal points 12 – 15

The cost of this proposal can be met within the existing overall budget.

(iv) agree to provide short term assistance of £140,250 in 2018/19 by waiving rent charges for a period of 12 months whilst finalising the Council's longer term plans in the 'Strategy for the Older Person'. The funding relates to Bertha James, Saxon Centre, Rachel Notley and St Edwards day centres and will be met from underspends in the 2017/18 Central Contingency Sum.

(c) Agrees that Chief Officers identify alternative savings within their departmental budgets where it is not possible to realise any savings reported to the previous meeting of the Executive held on 10th January 2018;

(d) Approves the following provisions for levies for inclusion in the budget for 2018/19:

	£'000
London Pensions Fund Authority	455
London Boroughs Grant Committee	248
Environment Agency (flood defence etc.)	245
Lee Valley Regional Park	314
Total	1,262

- (e) Approves a revised Central Contingency sum of £14,465k to reflect the changes in (b) and (d);
 - (f) Notes that the 2018/19 Central Contingency sum includes significant costs not yet allocated and there will therefore be further changes to reflect allocations to individual Portfolio budgets prior to publication of the Financial Control Budget;
 - (g) Approves the revised draft 2018/19 revenue budgets to reflect the changes detailed above;
 - (h) Sets a 3.99% increase in Bromley’s council tax for 2018/19 compared with 2017/18 (1.99% general increase plus 2% Adult Social Care Precept) and a 5.1% increase in the GLA precept;
 - (i) Notes the final position on the GLA precept, as accepted by the London Assembly on 22nd February 2018.
 - (j) Approves the approach to reserves outlined by the Director of Finance (see Appendix 4 to the report);
 - (k) Executive agreed that the Director of Finance be authorised to report any further changes directly to Council on 26th February 2018.
- (2) Council Tax 2018/19 – Statutory Calculations and Resolutions (as amended by the Localism Act 2011).

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

	2017/18 £	2018/19 £	Increase £	Increase % (note #)
Bromley (general)	1,072.00	1,094.18	22.18	1.99
Bromley (ASC precept)	42.02	64.30	22.28	2.00
Bromley (total)	1,114.02	1,158.48	44.46	3.99
GLA *	280.02	294.23	14.21	5.07
Total	1,394.04	1,452.71	58.67	4.21

- (#) in line with the 2018/19 Council Tax Referendum Principles, the % increase applied is based on an authority’s “relevant basic amount of Council Tax” (£1,114.02 for Bromley) – see paragraph 6 below.

- (3) That Council formally resolves as follows:

1. It be noted that the Council Tax Base for 2018/19 is 130,004 'Band D' equivalent properties.
2. Calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2018/19 is £150,607k.
3. That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2018/19 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the Act):
 - (a) £529,211k being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act.
 - (b) £378,604k being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates or the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
 - (c) £150,607k being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year.
 - (d) £1,158.48 being the amount at 3(c) above, divided by (1) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year.
- (4) Notes that the Greater London Authority (GLA) has issued a precept to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as indicated in the table below.
- (5) That the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the table below as the amounts of Council Tax for 2018/19 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.

Valuation Bands	London Borough of Bromley £	Greater London Authority £	Aggregate of Council Tax Requirements £
A	772.32	196.15	968.47
B	901.04	228.85	1,129.89
C	1,029.76	261.54	1,291.30
D	1,158.48	294.23	1,452.71
E	1,415.92	359.61	1,775.53
F	1,673.36	425.00	2,098.36
G	1,930.80	490.38	2,421.18
H	2,316.96	588.46	2,905.42

- (6) That the Council hereby determines that its relevant basic amount of council tax for the financial year 2018/19, which reflects a 3.99% increase (including Adult Social Care Precept of 2%), is not excessive. The Referendums Relating to Council Tax Increases (Principles) (England) Report 2018/19 sets out the principles which the Secretary of State has determined will apply to local authorities in England in 2018/19. The Council is required to determine whether its relevant basic amount of Council Tax is excessive in accordance with the principles approved under Section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

The following Members voted in favour of the motion -

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, Simon Fawthrop, Peter Fortune, Hannah Gray, Will Harmer, Samaris Huntington-Thresher, William Huntington-Thresher, David Jefferys, Charles Joel, Kate Lymer, Russell Mellor, Alexa Michael, Peter Morgan, Keith Onslow, Tony Owen, Angela Page, Ian F Payne, 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 Tunnicliffe and Stephen Wells.

The following Members voted against the motion -

Councillors Vanessa Allen, Ian Dunn, David Livett and Angela Wilkins.

The following Members abstained -

Councillors Kathy Bance, Kevin Brooks, Robert Evans, Peter Fookes, Ellie Harmer and Terence Nathan.

80 Capital Programme 2018/19
Report CSD18026

A motion to agree the inclusion of the new scheme proposals listed in Appendix C in the Capital Programme, and to agree the increase of £4.1m on Property Investment Fund scheme to reflect the funding from a recent disposal of property as detailed in paragraph 3.3.3 of the report was moved by Councillor Graham Arthur, seconded by Councillor Colin Smith and **CARRIED**.

81 Treasury Management - Annual Investment Strategy 2018/19
Report CSD18027

A motion to adopt the Treasury Management Statement and the Annual Investment Strategy for 2018/19 (Appendix 1 on pages 7-31 of the report), including the prudential indicators (summarised on page 31 of the report) and the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) policy statement (page 11 of the report) was moved by Councillor Graham Arthur, seconded by Councillor Colin Smith and **CARRIED**.

82 2018/19 Pay Award
Report CSD18028

A motion to approve the following –

(i) a flat 2% pay increase for all staff (excluding teachers who are covered by a separate statutory pay negotiating process), with the following further increases as agreed in the 2018/19 budget –

£700 per annum for staff on spinal points 4-7;
£500 per annum for staff on spinal points 8-11;
£350 per annum for staff on spinal points 12-15;

(ii) that the Trade Union's claims including the revised pay claim for staff be rejected;

and that it is noted that, as in previous years since coming out of the nationally/regionally negotiated frameworks, Bromley staff will receive the 2018/19 pay increase in time for the April pay, and that the Unions' revised summary pay claim be noted as set out in the report, was moved by Councillor Ian F Payne, seconded by Councillor Stephen Wells and **CARRIED**.

83 Pay Policy Statement 2018/19
Report CSD18029

A motion to approve the 2018/19 Pay Policy Statement was moved by Councillor Ian F. Payne, seconded by Councillor Stephen Wells and **CARRIED**.

84 Members Allowances Scheme 2018/19
Report CSD18030

A motion to agree the Members Allowances Scheme 2018/19 (with one amendment that payments for attendance at Licensing Sub-Committee and the Fostering and Adoption Panel should be paid monthly), and the Mayoral and Deputy Mayoral Allowances for 2018/19, was moved by Councillor Ian F. Payne, seconded by Councillor Stephen Wells and **CARRIED**.

85 Second report of the Education, Children and Families Select Committee 2017/18
Report CSD18023

A motion to approve the recommendations in the second report of the Education, Children and Families Select Committee 2017/18 was moved by Councillor Nicholas Bennett, seconded by Councillor Neil reddin and **CARRIED**.

86 To consider Motions of which notice has been given.

The following motion was moved by Councillor Alexa Michael, seconded by Councillor Michael Turner and **CARRIED**.

Mayor of London's Draft London Plan

"This Council notes with concern proposals to double Bromley Borough's housing targets and that several of the policies contained within the Mayor of London's Draft London Plan are contrary to national planning policy and guidance, especially the proposal to remove protection against development taking place on back gardens. This Council has exceeded its housing targets to date but believes that uncontrolled housing development will lead to significant long-term problems for our Borough. This Council therefore resolves to object to any Draft London Plan policy that runs contrary to national policy and guidance and to register our strong concern that arbitrary housing targets will lead to poor quality developments that will seriously harm the future of our Borough."

87 The Mayor's announcements and communications.

The Mayor reported that the annual Mayor's Quiz had been a great success and had raised approximately £1,200 for her two charities. She reminded Members that the Mayor of Bromley Awards 2018 would be held on 15th March, explained that although the dinner at the House of Commons on 22nd March was sold out a waiting list was being kept and thanked Members for their support.

The Meeting ended at 10.30 pm

Mayor

COUNCIL MEETING

26th FEBRUARY 2018

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC FOR ORAL REPLY

1. From Josh King to the Education, Children and Families Portfolio Holder

With reference to the published local plan, can the education portfolio holder explain the planning process used to ensure that the Council fulfils its statutory duty to provide school places, particularly at a secondary level?

Reply:

The draft Local Plan considered the need for education places over the plan period (to 2029/30) on the basis of the GLA's School Roll Projections and identified an adequate supply of sites to meet that need. The Council's Secondary Schools Development Plan illustrates how the existing and proposed school infrastructure can meet the identified need and address the Council's statutory duties under the Education Act 1996. The draft Local Plan has responded to the identified need for secondary provision in draft Policies 27 (Education), 28 (Education Facilities), 29 (Education Site Allocations) and under draft Policy 55 (Urban Open Space). At that point, it is up to the individual trusts, free schools, SFA to make planning applications in the usual way.

Supplementary Question:

Do you agree that academisation of schools in Bromley has made the planning of school places difficult and that a return to the local education authority would allow a more coherent plan to be developed?

Reply:

I would certainly agree that as a result of Bromley's drive towards academisation, Bromley being one of the fastest academising local authorities in the country, we have found certain challenges as a result of that and we will be feeding back to the SFA and partners around some of those challenges and what we have discovered. To suggest that we bring this back in-house is not something that can happen at this point.

**2. From Paul Rudling to the Leader of the Council
(answered by the Environment Portfolio Holder)**

Re Bullers Wood Boys planning application: In light of the Planning Inspector's report which resulted in permission being rescinded by the Development Control Committee on 25th January 2018 what action has the Council taken to mitigate the risks to the Girls attending Bullers Wood Girls using these same roads and pavements.

Reply:

None in this area in recent times.

Although not ideal, there are not regarded as being any obvious, necessary or practical mitigation measures which need to be taken for the smaller cohort of girls walking past this site, nor thankfully, accident statistics to support that is the case either.

The safety issues raised by Independent Traffic Consultants and the Government's Planning Inspectorate refer to the far larger cohort of boys who would be arriving and congregating at the site, in conjunction with the overloaded local road network.

I am reminded by Traffic Engineers that the Planning Inspector's main concerns were related to the Bickley Road exit and the parking of vehicles on street near to the 2 access points. He also raised concerns regarding the lack of footway on the south side of Chislehurst Road but that would not affect the girls accessing their school.

Supplementary Question:

With the safety of schoolchildren in mind, would the Councillor agree with me that the decision made by the Portfolio Holder for Environment in 2011 to allow withdrawal of funding for school crossing patrols was foolhardy, considering that a Freedom of Information request has confirmed that at that time the cost to the Council per pupil was less than £5 per year.

Reply:

No, I would not. We have continued to provide school crossing patrols in association with schools and linked in with their school travel plans. We do have to consider the finances of the Council, however, the school crossing patrols have continued to be jointly provided between the Council and the schools who wish to have them.

**3. From Andrew Ruck to the Leader of the Council
(answered by the Chairman of Development Control Committee)**

The Bullers Boys Development Control Committee meeting on 25th January: The published minutes of the DCC meeting show that a motion to refuse planning permission was not proposed. The motion which was carried was to "not ratify the October 2017 decision". However this does not constitute a motion to refuse planning permission. It therefore seems that the Council has yet to vote to refuse planning permission and yet it has issued a refusal determination notice. How can this be?

Reply:

A motion to ratify had already been rejected and the report made it clear that it was for members of the committee to decide whether to change the decision they had made on 4th October or not.

It was clear that the motion not to ratify the decision would result in the refusal of the application, and this was clarified in the agreement of the Committee to the previously suggested refusal ground set out in the October 2017 Development Control Committee report at the time the motion was voted upon at the meeting. The Planning Officer read out the reason for refusal.

The applicant's agent was advised that a refusal notice would be issued. This notice has since been issued.

Supplementary Question:

On 25th January, who voted to refuse planning permission for Bullers Wood School for Boys?

Reply:

I refer you back to my previous answer. By virtue of the fact that the ratification was not done it follows that the ratification was refused.

Supplementary Question from Cllr Angela Wilkins

I am not a regular Member of Development Control Committee, but I did stand in that evening. I do not agree with Councillor Dean. There were not reasons given for refusal, no vote for refusal was taken. There is legal advice, which I have had sight of over the weekend, that this planning application is undecided and I would ask you therefore to take the matter back to Development Control Committee so that it can be decided.

Reply:

I refer the Member to my previous answer to Mr Ruck as I consider the Committee did make a decision. Further, you are asking me to agree to accept a referral back to the next meeting of Development Control Committee based on legal advice which you have been shown but neither myself nor the Council's Director of Corporate Services, or the Chief Executive, have been party to this advice. At this point therefore I cannot agree to your request, of course, the applicant does have the right of appeal against the decision made by the Development Control Committee on 25 January.

Additional supplementary question from Councillor Nicky Dykes:

I think it is important that we clarify this. Please clarify if there was an actual vote for refusal, because I sat on that Committee and there was not.

Reply:

The legal advice that I have been given is that by virtue of the fact that the decision was not ratified, it is not ratified.

Additional supplementary question from Councillor Will Harmer:

With a planning application, when it is decided, there are three outcomes – it is permission, refusal or deferral. Why does the decision not to grant permission automatically mean refusal?

Reply:

That is the advice that I have been given.

4. From Rhian Kanat to the Environment Portfolio Holder

Please provide details of all TfL grants applied for by the Council to fund road safety, pedestrian walkway and cycling improvements in the Borough in the last 4 years and how such grants were spent.

Reply:

The Borough has bid successfully for funding from a number of TfL funding streams, however some bids were not successful.

TfL funded schemes that have contributed to road safety, pedestrian and cycling improvements in Bromley were made allocations as follows:-

2014/15: £2,554k

2015/16: £2,774k

2016/17: £3,304k

2017/18: £2,805k

Funding was used to facilitate schemes such as road safety education for pre-driving age teenagers, cycle training for all ages, location-specific casualty reduction schemes, improved crossing facilities and new cycle routes. I have included the cost of congestion reduction and parking schemes, as these help make improvements for all road users and reduce what is commonly known as “rat-running” along residential roads.

Bromley has also successfully bid, in terms of pedestrian facilities, for £2.9m of Major Scheme Funding for Bromley North Village and £2.85m for the ongoing public realm works in Beckenham.

The Borough was supportive of a number of Quietways, some of which have not been progressed by TfL, but two of which are well developed for implementation next year. Because it is at an early level, no precise funding can be quoted at this time, but this would represent a significant investment in cycling and walking in the Borough.

The Borough also previously bid for £600k of Cycle to School partnership funding which was not supported by TfL.

Supplementary Question:

Why did the Council not apply for a Liveable Neighbourhoods Grant in October last year?

Reply:

The Liveable Neighbourhoods Grant was a new area where we wanted to understand what would represent a successful bid going forward, plus we were delivering the Beckenham scheme so at that time we did not consider that it was appropriate to put the effort into a bid, however, that is an area that we will be addressing going forward.

5. From Julie Ireland to the Chairman of Development Control Committee

If there were genuine and overriding concerns about road safety on Chislehurst Road, why did the Development Control Committee approve the inclusion of a school on the St Hugh’s playing field site in their Draft Local Plan?

Reply:

The concerns raised about road safety relate to the specific scheme put forward in the planning application considered by the Development Control Committee, and do not preclude a different scheme being granted planning permission. The site allocation does not mean that all other planning considerations are set aside, including road safety.

**6. From Georgette Purdey to the Leader of the Council:
(answered by the Chairman of Development Control Committee)**

Now that there is specific data on pupils applying for Bullers Wood School for Boys and the fact that 176 pupils will live within 1.2 miles of the school, does this not represent a similar material impact to the Traffic Report that led to the recall of the planning decision to the Development Control Committee on 25th of Jan 2018? As

such, will London Borough of Bromley now consider another recall of the planning application in light of this factual data - as opposed to a speculative report on 25/01 - and vote again of the planning permission for Bullers Wood School for Boys? If not, why not?

Reply:

The decision to report back to Development Control Committee the second planning application for St Hugh's Playing Fields was based on a significant planning decision made by a Government Inspector being published prior to the issue of the planning decision on that application. This was a new material planning consideration. The decision has now been issued on that application and therefore reconsideration is no longer possible. However, the applicant has a right of appeal against the decision and has had the ability to appeal since 31 January 2018. The applicant could also submit a new planning application but that is a matter for the applicant to consider.

The refusal was issued on 31st January 2017 and the appeal lodged on 1st August 2017, which was the very last day of the 6 month window for submitting an appeal.

(At this point the time allowed for questions expired, but the Mayor stated that she would allow question time to continue to allow all first questions to be answered.)

7. From Jayne Burman to the Education, Children and Families Portfolio Holder (answered by the Environment Portfolio Holder)

Bullers Wood School for Boys has been proven to be needed to address the current and projected shortfall of secondary school places in the Borough and given the current cohort of applicants it can be determined that 98% live within a 1.2 mile or 22 minute walk of the school. Given that the road safety concerns apply to the same stretch of road that girls walking to Bullers Wood school for girls, why hasn't the Council addressed the pedestrian road safety concerns and proposed or made changes to the roads to solve the problem rather than refuse the school?

Reply:

The planning application considers the road at the time. There are not any obvious, necessary or practical mitigation measures which need to be taken for the smaller cohort of girls walking past the site. Thankfully, accident statistics support this to be the case, and the safety issues raised by Independent Traffic Consultants and the Government's Planning Inspectorate refer to the far larger cohort of boys who would be arriving and congregating at the site, in conjunction with the overloaded local road network.

I am reminded by Traffic Engineers that the Planning Inspector's main concerns were with the Bickley Road exit and the parking of vehicles on-street near to the two access points. He raised concerns regarding the lack of footway on the south side of Chislehurst Road but that would not affect the girls.

Supplementary Question from Councillor Ian F. Payne:

My understanding is that 98% of 170 plus boys would be walking to school. Now we have 170 boys – they will be driven. Is that not going to create a problem for the roads in that area and snarl them up?

Reply:

The decision was made by Development Control Committee. I am not able to explain how they came to their decision – I was not at the meeting.

(With the agreement of Members, the Mayor extended question time for an additional fifteen minutes.)

8. From Rich Wilsher to the Resources Portfolio Holder

The Council is taking part in a Voter ID pilot scheme for the May elections. In answers to questions about this scheme at the last Council meeting you talked of a “communications plan delivering a tailored and comprehensive awareness raising campaign” to encourage voters to bring ID to polling stations. We are now only 2.5 months away from the elections. Please provide full details of that communications plan.

Reply:

With the help and support of the Cabinet Office, we have developed an extensive campaign plan reflecting the needs and preferences of Bromley.

Our campaign has already started with the Council website being updated, our Customer Contact Centre being fully briefed, posters and leaflets being distributed in prime locations across the borough, social media (both Facebook and Twitter) being used and local press releases being issued. We will build on this in the lead up to the election and publicity will be extended throughout the borough and will include posters in bus shelters and shopping centres, bill boards in railway stations, community facilities, places of worship, full page adverts in local newspapers, mobile ads and so on.

We will be sending posters and leaflets to some 500 community organisations across the borough as well as emailing resources to them with information on how to obtain more if required. In addition, we are working with one of our partners – Community Links – both through the Borough Officers Strategic Partnership Forum and through the associated Communications Leads Group to identify what opportunities there are to spread the word through existing meetings, forums and events with the wide range of community groups with which they work.

We are planning to place a particular emphasis on the hard to reach groups. Using the expertise that Community Links has built up working with these groups we will identify where, in their view, groups may benefit from further face-to-face communication.

We have also persuaded the Cabinet Office to let us provide posters and leaflets to candidates and parties engaged in the election so they can spread the message as well.

We will keep the campaign under constant review to ensure that we are engaging with all the communities in the borough so that every eligible elector is able to identify themselves and vote on 3 May 2018.

Supplementary Question:

All of this sounds very reassuring, but how will the Council gauge empirically or otherwise the success of this pilot scheme?

Reply:

It is worth reflecting that the information that we are requesting that people provide is the same as they would provide if they were collecting a parcel from the post office, and I think you would agree with me that the democracy of this country is more important than the collection of an individual parcel. In terms of identifying whether it is a success or not, that is what the pilot is intended to do. There will be considerable feedback after the election and our input will shape the way that it is spun out across the country. What we do know is that it has been well-established that there has been voting fraud, not just in Labour areas where they have had to re-run the election of Mayors and so on, but elsewhere as well. That is why the pilot is important and the information that we feed back to the Cabinet Office subsequently is going to influence the way that it is rolled out afterwards.

Additional supplementary question from Councillor Peter Fookes:

Would there not be a better way of spending £150,000 of public money, with regard to this issue? I notice that in response to my written question tonight that over 8,000 people registered to vote late in the run-up to the General Election - Why are we not looking at ways of extending the voter registration deadline? I am aware that in certain other countries you can register to vote on polling day itself.

Reply:

We are actually receiving £150,000, not paying it. I think you would accept on behalf of the people you are here to represent that an income of that nature is something worth having, rather than turning away. It is also worth reflecting that 98% of people in this borough are registered and that is something we should be very proud of and one of the reasons why we have been chosen as a pilot.

Additional supplementary question from Councillor Simon Fawthrop:

Would the Portfolio Holder agree that one person committing fraud in the election is one too many because everybody's vote deserves to be a valid vote.

Reply:

Yes.

Additional supplementary question from Councillor Stephen Carr:

I have supported this initiative for a long time and I am delighted that it is happening and Bromley has been given the opportunity to be a pilot in this area. I was very pleased with Councillor Arthur's response outlining the benefit and the help we are getting from our partners. Did he mean, for example, the support from Community Links, when I notice the communication that has come out at 5pm this afternoon to all Members which identifies to those readers of the Bromley Mencap Newsletter, for example, where ID would be needed for members of the public when they go to the polls, and can I be assured that all those partners will be getting similar correspondence? My understanding is that they will be – can that be confirmed?

Reply:

I have not seen that particular response to Bromley Mencap, although I do see that they have sent me something to read. It is something that we should be very proud of that we have over the years developed special language and leaflets which we get approved by Community Links in order to ensure that we can reach these hard to reach groups. It is absolutely essential that we do. There is no reason because if

somebody has a particular learning difficulty they should be excluded from the democratic process. We need to reach these people, and that is what is done.

**9. From Josh King to the Leader of the Council
(answered by the Resources Portfolio Holder)**

Following the collapse of Carillion and the news that another major provider of public services is under financial pressure, can the Leader outline what contingency plans the Council has to ensure continuity of services, particularly those for the vulnerable, such as adult care services and those for children and young people?

Reply:

In the unlikely event of any Council Contractor falling into financial difficulty, the service would be taken back in-house for an interim period and the staff in question employed under TUPE arrangements to ensure the seamless provision of services to Bromley residents, forward planning and the setting aside of financial reserves to adjust to potential shocks of this nature offering a very good reason as to why long term financial planning and the holding of responsible levels of reserves is vital. A strength of this Council's, completely misunderstood and frequently criticised by the party Dr King seeks to represent from May.

Talking of children and young people in particular, and as a relevant point to note, the Council has a proven track record of successfully managing in-sourcing of Council services as was demonstrated by the youth offending service.

Supplementary Question:

When was the last time a contractor was required to be replaced and what did the Council do?

Reply:

If you had given me notice of that question you would have got a precise reply. (The Mayor suggested that a written reply should be provided.)

10. From Andrew Ruck to the Leader of the Council:

A typical school planning application costs £1M of public money. Bullers Boys will now need at least 3. Did the Council do all it could to work with the applicant prior to it being brought to committee to mitigate the cost to the public purse?

Reply:

Yes it did.

The applicant knew from day one that they faced very serious planning issues in terms of congestion and road safety. Planning officers confirm that all reasonable steps were taken to alert the applicant to their ongoing concerns throughout the entirety of the application periods.

Ultimately, only the applicant can decide upon the specific details of the scheme that they wish to seek approval for and on both occasions they chose not to adapt their plans to address the concerns that had been raised.

11. From Rhian Kanat to the Education, Children and Families Portfolio Holder

With no permanent site currently confirmed for Bullers Wood for Boys, Shaw Futures Academy and the new Harris Sydenham School and the Council's recent track record of refusing planning permission for new schools what is the Council's plan to deliver sufficient school places to meet the projected shortfall which on your own figures hits 22 forms of entry by 2022?

Reply:

The first thing to have a look at is the figures for the number of places we are expecting by 2022 – we are expecting to find 12 forms of entry, rather than 22. I think the figures being referred to are LGA figures, and they do not include government centrally funded schools, so for example it does not have Eden Park School in there which was given approval last year.

The Council will continue to work with the Education and Skills Funding Agency to help them provide Bullers Wood for Boys (we are doing an awful lot of work at the moment to try to get a temporary solution open for this week), Shaw Futures Academy (there was quite a bit of opposition to that including from the Liberal Democrats and a lot of local people, but I am sure that they will put in an appeal), and the new Harris Sydenham school (which has not yet applied for planning permission.) If there are any delays to these proposed schools, the Council will work with existing schools to ensure there are sufficient places available, and we will continue to do that over the long term.

Supplementary Question:

What specifically does the Council do to assist applicants with planning permissions for schools?

Reply:

In terms of the Education department, with the Shaw Academy, when that application was going forward, I met with the school leadership team, we tried to put their planning people in touch with the planning department at this local authority and tried to make sure that there was communication with residents and with the Council as well. Moving forward, with the Harris Sydenham, which is the first one that has been approved by the DfE since I have been in this role, I have met a number of times with the Harris Academy people and again we are starting that process to make sure that there is communication all the way through the process.

Additional supplementary Question from Councillor Dykes:

Can he confirm that we have identified sites that we would like for the schools, Bullers Wood being St Hugh's and Shaw on Westmoreland?

Reply:

Both of those sites are in the Local Plan for education. I know that Bullers Wood for Boys is going to push ahead with an appeal – I know that work is going on at the moment. I know that the Shaw Academy Trust is looking for an appeal on the Westmoreland Road site.

12. From Julie Ireland to the Environment Portfolio Holder

What consultation of key road user groups was undertaken in respect of the new proposals for a shared pedestrian cycle path from Bromley South to Shortlands via Queen Anne Avenue?

Reply:

Officers have consulted with the following groups/people - Cycle Touring Club, Bromley Mobility Forum, Disability Voice Bromley, Experts by Experience, Bromley Association of People with Disabilities, London Ambulance Service, Bromley Cyclists, Kent Association for the Blind, London Fire Brigade, Metropolitan Police, London Buses, Licensed Taxi Drivers Association, Southeastern, Transport for London, St. Marks C of E Primary School, Harris Primary Academy School, LBB Road Safety Team and all residents along Valley Road, Hillside Road and Queen Anne Avenue (including any side roads from these).

Consultation started on 20th February.

Supplementary Question:

How come none of the residents I have spoken to over the last two months have been consulted? If the consultation only started on 20th February I am guessing that is going to be your answer?

Reply:

Yes it would be.

(At this point the time allocated for questions expired and the remainder of the questioners received written replies.)

13. From Georgette Purdey to the Leader of the Council:

Can we have full disclosure of the amount of money spent on legal advice to allow the planning consent given in Oct 2017 for Bullers Wood School for Boys to be recalled to the January DCC meeting. Can we also have full disclosure of all exchanges and document pertaining to the precise grounds for returning planning consent to a second meeting once it had been given. If not, why not?

Reply:

Given the sensitive and unusual nature of this matter advice was sought from leading counsel. Counsel's fees are commercially sensitive as independent advice of the highest quality was required. Correspondence in respect of the decision to report back to Development Control Committee is not publicly available as it involves internal discussions between Officers of the Council and the documents are the subject of legal professional privilege.

14. From Jayne Burman to the Education, Children and Families Portfolio Holder

How much public money has so far been spent by the Council on the Bullers Wood School for Boys process?

Reply:

In total, the Council has received a sum of £38,277 relating to the planning application for Bullers Wood School for Boys.

This sum includes pre-application fees of £10,948 to cover its costs of providing that service, and £27,329 for planning application fees.

The planning application fees are set at national level and are intended to substantially cover the Council's planning costs, which in this case would include the cost of a transport consultant, £8,366.

The planning application processing costs are not recorded by timesheets at a case-by-case level but overall costs are monitored in total at service level.

In addition, it has been estimated that the Highway Development Team have spent approximately 72 hours on this application, with an estimated cost of £2,560.

So overall, the Council would have incurred net costs of £2,560.

This excludes legal advice – counsel's fees are commercially sensitive and we do not propose to disclose the fees at this time."

15. From Rich Wilsher to the Resources Portfolio Holder

How many Freedom of Information requests did the Council receive from 1/7/17 - 31/12/17 and how many were answered in the regulatory 20 days?

Reply:

We received 678 new requests of which 459 were answered within 20 working days (68%.) Of those responded to outside the timescale then these would often require the Council seeking clarification applicants or taking time to consider the applicability of permissible exemptions under the Act.

16. From Josh King to the Leader of the Council

Can the Leader provide categorised details of legal expenses and those awarded against the council following cases lost over the last two years in planning cases, industrial tribunals, and freedom of information appeals?

Reply:

Over the past two years the costs awarded against the Council in planning appeals amounts to £268,801. Of that figure, £150,000 was incurred in the defence of the Sundridge Park Manor appeal, a particularly important case to defend given the Manor's key architectural Importance to our Borough's heritage.

There have been no settled awards of costs against the Council in respect of freedom of information request or industrial tribunals.

Any Council will need to defend decisions made on behalf of residents of the Borough at planning appeals from time to time and also against claims subsequently made in pursuance of them, leading to the need to instruct external counsel to do so.

17. From Rhian Kanat to the Environment Portfolio Holder

The announcement 2 weeks ago that the Council would finally agree to make some road safety improvements in the vicinity of St George's, Bickley Primary and the new

La Fontaine academy rather than defer to La Fontaine's own travel planning is most welcome. However the school started last week and no substantive changes have been made. What is the timetable for those changes and why has it taken so long to get to this point given that La Fontaine were confirmed on this site over a year ago?

Reply:

The Council did not consider siting 3 primary schools in a very small area to be the wisest decision; the decision did not fall to the Council. Prior to La Fontaine opening at the new location, new parking arrangements were introduced in a section of Nightingale Lane, to aid traffic flow in an already congested part of that street. Some additional safety signs are to be introduced to Tylney Road, Nightingale Lane and Bishops Avenue shortly. Further changes are being considered, some will be subject to consultation with residents. Even with knowledge of the pupils' postcodes it is difficult to predict actual travel patterns and we are now observing travel patterns to gauge the need and location for further measures particularly in the Homesdale Road area. We will continue to work with schools through the School Travel Planning process.

18. From Julie Ireland to the Leader of the Council

What are the minimum membership numbers that are required for a residents' association to be considered by Ward Councillors as representative of an area and does that RA need to prove that it genuinely consults with its members on issues before representing their views to ward councillors?

Reply:

Whether a resident is a Member of a Residents Association or otherwise misses the point completely. If a resident of Bickley holds a material planning concern and seeks our advice and possible intervention, the answer is one.

You would need to ask individual Residents Associations yourself as to how, if at all, they structure their internal constitutions.

19. From Rich Wilsher to the Public Protection and Safety Portfolio Holder

Why has Bromley not signed up to the London Rogue Landlord Database?

Reply:

The London Rogue Landlord Database was only launched at the end of December and Officers are currently assessing whether to sign up. Having said that, over the past few years we have not received a single complaint about rogue landlords, therefore if or when we do sign up, we currently have nothing to add to the database.

COUNCIL MEETING

26TH FEBRUARY 2018

**QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC
FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

1. From Colin Willetts to the Environment Portfolio Holder

Could the Portfolio Holder tell us how many environmental reports have been submitted to CSC agent from 22/5/2014 to 31/1/2018 by Councillors (i) Angela Wilkins, (ii) Kevin Brooks, (iii) Kathy Bance, (iv) Vanessa Allen, and (v) Colin Smith?

Reply:

- Angela Wilkins – 27 reports in total (0 via CSC)
- Kevin Brooks – 1 report in total (1 via CSC)
- Kathy Bance – 15 reports in total (12 via CSC)
- Vanessa Allen – 36 reports in total (0 via CSC)
- Colin Smith – 186 reports in total (1 via CSC)

Numbers do not include Waste Services as taken from CONFIRM.

2. From Colin Willetts to the Environment Portfolio Holder

Alleyways –

(i) Who is the owner of the alley adjacent 43 Ravensbury Road?

Reply:

We maintain the alleyway through to Clarendon Green. We have recently completed a repair to a cycle barrier in this footpath.

(ii) When is the fencing scheduled for repair alley adjacent 52 Curtismill Way?

Reply:

We have made contact with Mr Willetts as he was able to supply us with a letter from a previous Area Manager apparently confirming that LBB have taken responsibility for the maintenance of this fence in the past. The local Highway Inspector has subsequently checked the fence line and can only find a small section of minor damage that would not currently qualify for repair. We are proposing Mr Willetts meets with our Highway Inspector to confirm if we are indeed looking at the correct locations he/the resident are concerned about and to confirm then whether a repair is actually required in the view of LBB, we have contacted him directly to make arrangements.

(iii) Could you address serious footway ponding (during heavy rainfall) obstructing safe passage for school children in alley (lead into from 8 Arbrook Close)?

Reply:

The Highway Inspector has investigated on site and is now discussing the issue with our drainage section to look at potential solutions.

3. From Colin Willetts to the Environment Portfolio Holder

(i) All bus stops Chipperfield, when will you be carrying out improvements ref 12597-02?

Reply:

The bus stops near the junction with Petersham Road and outside numbers 297/299 have been passed across to the highways team to be up-graded which should be carried out by the end of March.

(ii) ref 12597-01, factually the existing 17 metre hardstanding is opposite 281- 283! why not address parking either side?

Reply:

The bus stops at the junction with Ravenscourt Road and opposite numbers 281/283 have been improved. Parking controls were not considered necessary at this time.

Why has white line not been remarked at rear vehicle entrance Leasons School?

Reply:

When the development works are completed the Council will look to install suitable road markings.

(iii) when will you be addressing disability access obstructions (lamp column/bin) at junction Petersham Drive?

Reply:

The current location of the lamp column adjacent to the bus stop near the junction with Petersham Drive would appear to be an obstruction to passengers boarding and alighting and we have therefore arranged for the column to be relocated clear of the stop. Although we do not have a date this could take up to 3 months.

4. From Adam Bambrough to the Environment Portfolio Holder

Please could the Council share the results of their recent road safety tests on Village Way and explain why a pedestrian crossing has been ruled out when such crossings are installed across the borough in areas that share an equally low footfall in off peak times?

Reply:

A pedestrian crossing is being proposed for Village Way near to Whitmore Road, but not a controlled crossing. The proposed crossing will take the form of a pedestrian refuge island. The type of crossing considered at any location will depend amongst

other things on the volume of traffic, number of pedestrians crossing through the day, presence of driveways, junctions, bends and trees, accident data, 85th percentile speed of traffic and proximity to bus stops. Thus each request for a crossing is considered on a case by case basis.

The results of the road safety tests are shown in the table below. A speed survey was also undertaken in Village Way. The speed of all passing traffic was recorded over a seven day period from 27/11/17. . The average speed recorded was 27mph. This 85th percentile speed, measured here at 30mph, was relatively low for a busy residential street such as this.

In technical terms it is the PV² calculation that guides the requirement for a crossing. The results for Village Way are also shown in the table below. The PV² value obtained was 60,000,000, this indicates that an uncontrolled crossing point would be best suited to the site. This analysis also confirms my previous replies, that it is the increased number of pedestrians crossing, with the new school, that drove this need, not the traffic on the road.

There is a concern that lowly used zebra crossings might lure pedestrians into a false sense of security if they incorrectly presume all drivers will stop. Thus, a crossing with central refuge, where pedestrians only have to negotiate one stream of traffic at a time and cross a shorter distance can actually be safer. The School Travel Planning process will allow the Council and the School to periodically consider changes in travel patterns.

ROAD NAME Village Way
DATE 21/11/2017
WEATHER Fine/Dry
 PEDS: the pedestrian flow (pedestrians / hour) across a 100m length of road centred on the proposed crossing site
 VEHICLES: the number of vehicles in both directions (vehicles / hour)

TIME	PEDESTRIANS	VEHICLES	V ²	PV ²
07:30-08:30	150	798	636804	95,520,600
08:30-09:30	15	832	692224	10,383,360
12:00-13:00	12	517	267289	3,207,468
13:00-14:00	20	494	244036	4,880,720
15:00-16:00	117	707	499849	58,482,333
16:00-17:00	116	748	559504	64,902,464
17:00-18:00	35	825	680625	23,821,875
4 BUSIEST		AVERAGE	THRESHOLD	CONSIDER
95,520,600		60,681,818	100,000,000	No
64,902,464				
58,482,333				
23,821,875				

5. From Adam Bambrough to the Environment Portfolio Holder

Please could the Council elaborate on the promised consultation process on a refuge in Village Way? How will you determine who should be consulted? When will the process begin and end?

Reply:

The Council will shortly be consulting those residents directly affected by a proposed central refuge located near to their property. When installing a central refuge, people with driveways may be adversely affected as well as those who may lose parking on the approach and exit to the central refuge. These people will be consulted for their views and opinions and be given at least 21 days to respond.

6. From Chloe-Jane Ross to the Resources Portfolio Holder

How much in pounds of the Council "Property investment fund" was invested outside of the borough last year and the year before?

Reply:

During 2016 £19,459K was invested outside the borough and £6,326K in 2017 to purchase investment properties.

7. From Chloe-Jane Ross to the Resources Portfolio Holder

What were the large investments and where, i.e. a shopping centre in Birmingham, land, commercial/residential property etc?

Reply:

The properties purchased in 2016 and 2017 are as follows;

2016 Industrial Warehouse – Brentwood
Offices – Newbury
Industrial Warehouse – Thatcham
Industrial Warehouse – Farnborough
2017 Offices - Ashford

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

How many Bromley Borough children were provided school places in neighbouring boroughs this year and the year before?

Reply:

The Council plans for school places on the basis of the Education Act 1996 that makes local authorities responsible for securing sufficient school places for children of compulsory school age in their local area. However, the 1990 Greenwich Judgement made it unlawful for a local education authority to give priority in school admissions to its own residents. Parents have a right through the admissions process to state a preference for a school in any borough and their eligibility will be on the basis of each school's admissions policy.

Bromley for many years has been a net importer of pupils from other boroughs at secondary transfer. The most recent data available information from the DfE on cross borough movements indicates that in 2016 there were 742 more pupils coming into the Bromley from other boroughs for their secondary education and 562 for their primary education than Bromley residents crossing into other boroughs.

The number of children transferring to secondary schools in other authorities at Year 7 is:

	Reception	Year 7
2016/17 school year	615 children	630 children
2017/18 school year	605 children	467 children

The number for 2018/19 can be confirmed after National Offer Day on 16 April 2018 (primary) and 1 March 2018 (Secondary).

This page is left intentionally blank

COUNCIL MEETING

26TH FEBRUARY 2018

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

1. From Cllr Michael Rutherford to the Portfolio Holder for Education, Children and Families

Please can the Portfolio Holder outline which schools the 180 pupils who would have attended Bullers Wood for Boys this summer have gone to; and (if appropriate) how larger classes will be accommodated without impacting the quality of education?

Reply:

There are sufficient places available in the borough for the local authority to confirm that every applicant who applied on time through the co-ordinated admissions process will receive an offer of a school place on National Offer Day. We are unable to comment on where applicants will be offered a place in advance of National Offer Day.

All but one Bromley secondary schools are academies which make their own decision about their internal organisation, for example the size of classes. However, the number of applications for a secondary school place would not create any reason for schools to increase class sizes.

2. From Cllr Nicky Dykes to the Chairman of Development Control Committee

Was the planning appeals team given prior knowledge of when the independent inspector would be doing a site visit in relation to the Bullers wood secondary school application?

Reply:

Basically, no. The Planning Inspector's site visit was not an 'accompanied' site visit and the planning appeals team were neither made aware of the date by the Planning Inspector or invited to attend.

Supplementary Question:

I think that is actually different to the response that I got in the meeting, which said that they had. Does he not think that it would be prudent for them to at least highlight the fact that there were three sets of emergency works which probably did heavily influence what he saw on that day and did not give a true reflection, and surely, we would want to see a true reflection of the site by an Inspector, so why was that not highlighted to them?

Reply:

I actually agree with you, and it did not happen.

3. From Cllr David Livett to the Leader of the Council

The Leader will be aware that the Pension Fund lost £1.75m from a single transaction after a failure to follow UKIP advice to the Pensions Investment Sub Committee, advice that had received strong cross party support. What action does the Leader propose to take to address the failings highlighted by this loss?

Reply:

Cllr Livett has added his own very positive contribution to the Committee in recent years, despite what follows next as it is not accepted that a loss of any description arose within the context when considering how a pension fund is operated and advised on longer term horizons, rather than short term variations to stock market levels.

I am advised that the matter in question was discussed at the Pensions Investment Sub Committee meeting on 16th May 2017 and the minutes, which were agreed at the subsequent meeting, are publicly available. At that meeting, as indicated in the minutes there was a discussion about the sale of assets with different views expressed but no decision was made at the meeting relating to the final arrangements for a sale.

Any member of that committee acts as a trustee of the pension fund to protect pension fund member interests and council tax payers, and party politics do not play any part in that role. In fact the committee, with Councillor Livett as a member, has raised concerns previously, that politics has no role to play when the committee has discussed the governance of the London CIV, which is a disastrous story in motion.

UK pension Law requires that those charged with governance need to take professional advice in respect of their fiduciary duties towards beneficiaries.

A decision was made to sell global equities to meet the transfer value relating to the transfer of pension fund liabilities for various college staff to the London Pensions Fund Authority. Advice was received from the Council's independent financial advisors and their recommended action was agreed by the Chairman and Vice Chairman of Pensions Investment Sub Committee, under the delegated authority on behalf of Pensions Investment Sub Committee. The advice received and a brief commentary is provided below.

(The Council's independent advisers, Allenbridge, advised that the Council sell global equities (Blackrock) up to the transfer value for the following reasons:

- *The asset allocation strategy has been revised to reduce the council's holding of Global Equities and Diversified Growth Funds;*
- *The allocation for global equities is significantly overweight compared with the existing and future strategic benchmark (81% prior to Blackrock sale when it should be 70% and reducing to 60%) – the significant overweight position highlights a key risk, particularly when retaining a more volatile asset. The actuary recognised the position of the pension fund and the need to reduce the element of higher risk assets;*
- *They viewed equities as having high volatility and with their strong performance there was a greater risk of a price correction which has recently been evident in the financial markets – there are many articles referring to the risk that equities are overpriced but I accept no one can be certain.*

The decision made had to take into account any down side risks that could be realised. If the downside risk was realised I am sure this question would not have been asked. There were many risk factors in the market at the time including uncertainty relating to North Korea.

Being a trustee in a pension fund is not about making short term judgements but it is about making long term decisions, managing risk, being able to meet pension liabilities and achieving a sustainable high funding position.)

What has this approach achieved in recent times?

The longer term approach the Trustees have achieved is remarkable. We should be celebrating that we have achieved the first of its kind in the country in the “gifting” of assets to the pension fund which has led to direct financial savings (£1.5m per annum, which is expected to increase in future years). The Council’s pension fund has received national recognition for being the best performing local government pension fund last year, over 3 years, over 5 years, over 10 years and the second best over a 20 year period – this is what we should be judged on. A high performing fund not only benefits the members and employers of the pension scheme but also keeps costs low for council taxpayers.

Supplementary Question:

He confuses long term performance with a single investment decision. That single investment decision was buy or sell. That was a loss of £1.75m. What we have here is some confusion over the way this Pension Fund is run. It has been successful, but that is very largely due to enormous foreign exchange profits. The Local Government Pension Scheme regulations require that the Council has four members of its Pensions Board, the Council has only two. And has knowingly been in breach of the law since July 2017. Its actions to rectify this have failed, what does he propose to do about it?

Reply:

I suggest that if Councillor Livett thinks that the Council has acted outside of the law in any way he should have an urgent conversation with Mr Bowen because that would be wrong on every level and I would agree with that. The only aspect that I would respectfully disagree with Cllr Livett on, as a fellow old-timer in the city, is that whilst you could have made a short-term trade that would indeed have made more in the short-term, had the market gone the other way and there would have been a loss you would not be having this conversation today. Pension funds do not work on short termism – they work on long ten, twenty, thirty forty year stretches of investment, and that is possibly where we are set to disagree.

Additional Supplementary Question from Councillor Angela Wilkins:

The Pensions Board has not met and it is not constituted. That is in breach of the law. Is the Leader concerned about that and if so what is he going to do about it? Does he think it is appropriate to introduce a question that was never asked of him into his reply in order that he can give a speech and a sermon on how well that pension fund is performing?

Reply:

In response to the second question, absolutely, because Councillor Wilkins answers her question without any big preamble herself. In answer to the first part, I would suggest that if we are acting outside of the law in any way Councillor Wilkins discusses it with Mr Bowen, because that is not my information.

Additional Supplementary Question from Councillor Graham Arthur:

Can I just pick up on something the Leader has said and suggest that Councillor Wilkins looks at this. This is the award that was given to Bromley Pension Fund for being the most outstanding Pension Fund in the country. Is the Leader aware of this, and would he join with me in suggesting that people in the opposition parties should celebrate excellence and not criticise it?

Reply:

Very much so. Furthermore, if I could pay a compliment and give real praise to all Members of the Pension Fund over the last five to ten years of all political parties, achieving awards like this does not happen by chance - it is hard work. Intelligent people making the right decisions. No trader on earth gets every trade right – markets do not work like that. That is a testament to how good our guys are.

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

If he will set out the timeline of actions taken by the Planning Department subsequent to the decision of the Development Control Committee on 4th October 2017 to approve the application for the proposed Bullers' Wood Boys School and, in particular, why the decision had not been implemented prior to the publication of the Inspector's report into the first appeal on December 12th?

Reply:

The reason that the decision had not been issued by 12th December was that the section 106 legal agreement had not been completed by that time. As the report to the 4th October meeting recommended refusal, conditions and heads of term for a section 106 had to be formulated and then worked up with the Developer's agents to enable a planning permission to be issued. The application was also referred to the Mayor of London and the Secretary of State.

The timeline of all this is as follows -

- 4th October 2017 – Development Control Committee resolution to grant planning permission.
- 19th October 2017 – Set of conditions and s106 heads of terms finally agreed between applicant and Council as far as possible.
- 20th October 2017 – Conditions and section 106 heads of terms sent to DCC Chairman for consultation as per committee resolution.
- 7th November 2017 – After internal consultations as to the matters to be secured a draft section 106 for second application provided to developer's solicitor for comment. Also it was confirmed the draft could be sent to the GLA concerning referral to the Mayor.
- 23rd November 2017 – The developer's solicitor was advised that the Mayor and Secretary of State have declined to intervene in the second application.

24th November 2017 – 11th December 2017 - Continued exchanges of emails between the Developer's solicitor and the Council's Legal Section to work up the draft section 106 agreement into an agreed form.

11th December 2017 – The two outstanding details between the Developer's solicitor and the Council's Legal Section concerned the carbon offsetting contribution and the timing of the Highway Works (and in particular whether a signal crossing on Bickley Road could be in place prior to the use of the temporary buildings). The Council's Legal Section, before the issue of the Inspector's decision on 11th December 2017, regarded engrossment of the section 106 to be imminent.

That takes us to 12th December when the decision was received from the Inspector.

Supplementary Question:

Can he tell us what happened between the 20th October, when it was referred to the Chairman, and the 7th November? When did the Chairman come back to him with his approval? What is the normal procedure, when a decision is made by a Committee, that it should take something like nine weeks before it is published?

Reply:

I cannot answer the first part of the question – the Councillor to my right (Councillor Dean) knows the answer to that, but it was replied to in reasonable time. As to whether this is normal, who knows – section 106 agreements are sometimes extremely complicated. It requires two to tango and I think our Legal Section was not at fault – I wish the same could be said about the applicant.

5. From Cllr Peter Fookes to the Education, Children and Families Portfolio Holder

How much public money has been wasted in not delivering a new secondary school at Bullers Wood Boys?

Reply:

This does answer Jayne Burman's question from earlier about Council spend on planning decisions on Bullers Wood school for Boys.

In total, the Council has received a sum of £38,277 relating to the planning application for Bullers Wood School for Boys.

This sum includes pre-application fees of £10,948 to cover its costs of providing that service, and £27,329 for planning application fees. The planning application fees are set at a national level and are intended to substantially cover the Council's planning costs, which in this case would include the cost of the transport consultant, £8,366. The planning application processing costs are not recorded by timesheets at a case-by-case level, but overall costs are monitored in total at service level. In addition, it has been estimated that the Highway Development Team have spent approximately 72 hours on this application, with an estimated cost of £2,560.

So overall, the Council would have incurred net costs of £2,560.

Supplementary Question:

I think it was a very disingenuous answer from Councillor Fortune, because I am certain that it was far more than the figures he quoted there, although I accept that he is doing his best to resolve this fiasco, and that is what it is. Would this fiasco not have occurred if this local education authority was still in charge of planning and running school places in this borough? Is it not really down to his government, and your friends in government at the time in the Liberal Democrat party for their fiasco – they have got to take some responsibility as well.

Reply:

I cannot answer a hypothetical question about whether or not if we still had planning for schools in-house it may have been different. I do genuinely take issue with Councillor Fookes' remark about being disingenuous, and I would be very grateful if he would withdraw that remark. (Councillor Fookes stated that he stuck by his statement.)

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

What does he think are the key differences between being a ward councillor and being Leader of the Council?

Reply:

One never stops becoming a ward councillor, no matter what role you move on to fulfil. Clearly being the Leader of the Council holds significantly more responsibility, gives you responsibility for oversight of many of the committees, but interestingly not General Purposes and Licensing, Development Control or the Health and Wellbeing Board, all of which sit outside of the executive function of which I am the chairman.

Supplementary Question:

Do you now concur with your Deputy Leader and the Portfolio Holder for Education, Children and Families that there is a shortage of school places in this borough? That we do have an allocated site on St Hugh's playing fields and you might like to support that campaign? Would you like a free sticker if you are going to say yes?

Reply:

I absolutely do accept that there is a school place shortage in the borough of 12 forms of entry, on this Council's measurement, and, when you add in the GLA's 5% variation, up to 19 forms. I note that I said 2022. In the pipeline we have, potentially, Harris at Sydenham, which offers six forms of entry, possibly more, in the north-west of the borough. We have two applications in the centre of Bromley, the Shaw Academy at Bromley South, offering up to six forms of entry, we have the potential for a school site at Bullers Wood in central Bickley, offering the potential for six forms of entry, and we also have the potential for a long awaited, long rumoured Roman Catholic School in the north of the borough, in the Chislehurst direction, which actually fulfils, if they are all granted, twenty four forms of entry extra before 2022, and on that basis you could actually be running a surplus.

Additional Supplementary Question:

Do you support the creation of the Bullers Wood Boys School on the St Hugh's site, and if not why not?

Reply:

My position is constant and has been from the first application on 25th January, and if Councillor Dunn listens to the tape he will hear me say that, in principle, the ward councillors have never had an issue with this, and indeed some of the applicant's own team will confirm those very conversations. What we have said throughout is that the traffic and the road safety do not work, that there is a danger caused there and an overloading of congestion on a busy road network, a key arterial road for the borough, and until those road safety measures are mitigated I am opposed to them, because road safety trumps all.

Additional Supplementary Question from Councillor Nicholas Bennett:

Would the Leader of the Council agree with me that it is entirely right that no planning committee should be asked to pre-determine an application, that they should go into a meeting with an open mind to listen to the debate, but it is important, and would he not agree that, for the future of the Council, we should be looking to ensure that planning committees are aware of the strategic objectives of the Council when they make their decisions?

Reply:

I do not oversight of Development Control or planning committees, which are not executive functions. My own view is that, legally, members of planning committees cannot be dictated to as to which way they vote. They need to be left to judge each application on its merits based on the evidence before them. There were clearly Members of the Committee on 4th October, just as there were on 25th January, who had made up their minds in both directions, whether they were for, or against. Whether that is a good thing or a bad thing is to a degree subjective – some people thought that school places should carry prioritisation, others thought that road safety was most important, and that is the current mismatch.

Additional Supplementary Question from Councillor Vanessa Allen:

I am not sure who Councillor Smith is referring to with the predetermination. Those Members who sat through the Local Development Plan Working Group meetings were obviously supporting the school here. I am concerned about the numbers because we have been told about the increased risk of road safety problems. According to the website there are 1,500 girls, and the proposed school is 900. We were given the impression earlier that there were more boys than girls, but that does not appear to be the case. I would like confirmation of why the road safety is being given a higher priority than the numbers would suggest.

Reply:

I am not clear that you can match the numbers up in that way. I can only repeat that I do not have oversight of the Development Control Committee, far from it. When I spoke against the application on 4th October I was roundly ignored and it was approved, so that is how much attention they paid to me. All I would say is that road safety, I believe, is paramount and that the applicant has had two years to present a scheme that works in congestion and road safety terms and they have failed to do so, which is why I continue to support those colleagues who voted against it on the night.

7. From Cllr Ian Dunn to the Environment Portfolio Holder

The Neighbourhood Teams are the Council's "Front Line" in ensuring that our Contractors clean our streets and empty our bins properly. There have been

numerous vacancies in the West Neighbourhood Team in recent months. Please provide the number of officer weeks of vacancy at both Neighbourhood Manager and Neighbourhood Officer level for the West Team in 2017 and 2018 year to date.

Reply:

The West Area Team was reorganised on an interim basis when the vacancies of the Neighbourhood Officer 1 and the Neighbourhood Manager (Parks Service) arose. The interim management solution employed for the West Area since 20th August 2017 has been Jim Cowan, Neighbourhood Manager and the Neighbourhood Officer for the West Area has been Laura Bond for waste service related matters and Catherine Heard and Anthony O'Donnell for parks, grounds maintenance and street cleansing matters. The interim officer solution for this area has been in place since July 2017.

The current progression for recruitment is as follows; the vacant Neighbourhood Officer is now filled (vacant for 36 weeks) and the Neighbourhood Manager post (vacant for 26 weeks) is expected to be filled soon as it is being finalised through the collecting of appropriate references.

Supplementary Question:

Your response in December said that a Neighbourhood Officer ought to do about ten inspections a day, so if we have had twenty six weeks of vacancy by my reckoning that is over a thousand inspections that have not been carried out. Is it any wonder that our streets are not as well cleaned as they ought to be?

Reply:

My response in December was that the Area Manager had been acting down to carry out those extra inspections.

Additional Supplementary Question by Councillor Angela Wilkins:

Can I ask whether the other Neighbourhood Offices have experienced the same difficulties – absences of staff for a prolonged period of time.

Reply:

In these cases the employees of the Council have chosen to move on, rather than been absent for illness or anything else. Officers were allocated to individual wards a good period ago – I do not think there is any connection between which wards they represent and those officers who have chosen to move on for career reasons.

Point of Personal explanation:

Councillor Angela Wilkins explained that what she was getting at was that two officer posts had been vacant for a number of months. Some staff had been listed, but they were not dedicated to these wards, and the wards were suffering as a consequence. Was this happening in the other Neighbourhood Offices in the borough?

Councillor Huntington Thresher explained that the Team reacted to cover illness, holidays etc. Where officers moved on for career or other reasons this just happened to be where they moved on. Officers in other areas had not moved on and they had not needed to fill posts in those areas.

8. From Cllr Vanessa Allen to the Resources Portfolio Holder

With reference to the Voter Identification Pilot in Bromley, the Cabinet Office website clearly states that the form of identification to be used will be set by the Council. Why

then have we been saddled with some of the most onerous conditions of any of the five participating councils?

Reply:

I am not sure you have done your homework on this one. The purpose of the pilots is to test a variety of options.

Voters at Bromley will be able to use 24 separate types of photo and non-photo ID. Voters at Gosport, for instance, will be able to use 19 types of photo and non-photo ID. Voters at Woking will be able to use 11 types of ID, but this is limited to photo ID only. Voters at Watford and Swindon are piloting using poll cards with Swindon using enhanced IT to scan those cards, but for the many voters who may turn up without a poll card then at Watford there are only 6 acceptable types of photo and non-photo ID which can be used and at Swindon only 5 types of photographic ID will be accepted.

Bromley has the widest overall range of ID and in common with most of the pilots also includes provision for a Certificate of Identity for those voters who do not have the necessary ID.

Supplementary Question:

Who exactly made the decision for us to participate and for the forms of identification which we require to be produced?

Reply:

It was left to each of the pilots to determine what they were going to do, individually. We have obviously taken a lead in the way that is done currently in other parts of the United Kingdom - in Northern Ireland where it has worked successfully for some time - and we have taken the same sort of ID requirements. I do not believe that the electors of Bromley are any less savvy than the electorate of Northern Ireland. I think that we should have confidence in the way that we are spinning this out in Bromley and we should be very proud of the way it is being done. The Returning Officer is taking the lead on it. It would be helpful as this is spun out in the next two and a half months if a briefing document is given to Members because Members do have a big role to play in this in terms of spreading it out amongst their residents and electors.

Additional Supplementary Question from Councillor Tony Owen:

What is required from Proxy Voters?

Reply:

I am unaware of the answer – we will write with the answer.

Additional Supplementary Question from Councillor Simon Fawthrop:

Can the Portfolio Holder explain why the Labour Party seems so opposed to Voter ID, one would have thought that they would want to make sure that every voter was accurate going to the polls.

Reply:

I feel inadequate to explain how the Labour Party works or thinks, but it is worth reflecting that this has all party support.

Additional Supplementary Question from Councillor Wilkins:

Can the Portfolio Holder explain why letters such as DWP benefits letters and their equivalent have not been included on the list and does this not disadvantage lower paid people who are less likely to have photo ID? My Post Office requires just ordinary ID – not photo ID. I am suggesting that they are less capable of affording things like passports in some circumstances.

Reply:

I am at disadvantage – you are asking a very specific question. Are you suggesting that someone who is unemployed or claiming benefits is less capable?

I think if you ask the majority of people to turn out their pockets they would have the necessary ID on them – it could be a driving licence, other photo ID. Most people would say that they have a passport that they could produce. If somebody does not have any of the requirements they can get a certificate in advance so that they can vote, so nobody is prohibited from voting.

Additional Supplementary Question from Councillor Dunn:

I do not think I heard an answer as to who made the decisions?

Reply:

The Returning Officer.

Additional Supplementary Question from Councillor Payne:

My understanding is that the Cabinet Office asked us if we could do it and we said yes and we are getting on with it. If they have no certification whatsoever they can apply for certification. What is the last point at which they can ask for the certification? I believe it is the day before – is that correct?

Reply:

It is the day before.

(At this point the time allowed for oral replies expired; the remainder of the questions received written replies.)

9. From Cllr Russell Mellor to the Renewal and Recreation Portfolio Holder

Can the Portfolio Holder advise me as to his understanding of the 56 day prior approval, for certain planning applications?

Reply:

The 56 day 'prior approval' process for Planning applies to a number of different types of prior approval applications. These are applications where the principle of permitting the development is granted by the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development)(England) Order 2015, however some matters subsequently require the 'prior approval' of the Local Planning Authority. These matters vary in each case, but range from siting and appearance to highways impacts and noise. Such applications are time limited and the legislation sets out that the applicant benefits from an automatic approval should a decision not be delivered to the applicant within the 56 day time frame.

10. From Cllr Ruth Bennett to the Leader of the Council

What financial and other assistance has the Council provided to London South East College for the establishment of an Aerospace and Aviation Technology College at Biggin Hill?

Reply:

At this point in time no financial assistance has been provided to London South East College (LSEC) for the establishment of an Aerospace and Aviation Technology College at Biggin Hill.

The borough has been party to discussions with the College about the Technical College at Biggin Hill over the past twelve months. More recently these have focussed on the possibility of providing a commercial loan facility which the College is currently considering.

Given that no formal decision has been made and that we are also dealing with the business and financial affairs of another organisation then you will appreciate that I cannot say too much in Part 1 at this stage.

I am pleased to confirm that the Council will require appropriate security and insurance arrangements, as well that any recommendations eventually arrived at, will be subject to wider Member scrutiny in the usual manner.

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

In response to the Grenfell Tower disaster last year, the Renewal and Recreation PDS Committee has sought confidence that residents of the London Borough of Bromley are safe at home, regardless of whether they live in public or private sector accommodation. Please can the Portfolio Holder outline the steps the Council has taken to gain assurance that tall buildings are safe, and any further steps that are planned?

Reply:

Social Housing:

Immediate action was taken by senior councillors and officers during the summer 2017 to meet with those housing associations that have tower blocks in Bromley to gain reassurance that these met fire safety standards and had all the necessary risk assessments and procedures in place. All tower blocks underwent full inspections and it has been confirmed that none of the tower blocks were identified as having any high risk factors and none have flammable cladding requiring any remedial work. At this time the leader issued a statement confirming the position. Housing associations also contacted residents directly to provide assurances.

Since this time ongoing monitoring continues to take place in partnership with the fire brigade and GLA to work with all social housing providers in the borough to confirm that all necessary measures are in place to ensure the safety of residents. This work has also included all commissioned accommodation and placements included supported housing, temporary accommodation and care homes.

Private accommodation:

Through a combination of contact with the persons responsible (usually the freeholders and their agents) and visual inspection of buildings, it has been found

that either the buildings do not have cladding or the persons responsible have already addressed the assessing and testing of the cladding materials to the exterior of the buildings. No significant risks have been identified and where necessary the persons responsible have ongoing arrangements in place for the continued investigation and assessments to safeguard residents. The Council is monitoring information and advice that the Government is publishing.

12. From Cllr Nicky Dykes to the Chairman of Development Control Committee

Has the Development Control Committee approved the Council's Local Plan?

Reply:

Yes the Development Control Committee recommended the approval of the submission draft Local Plan to the Executive, it being an Executive function. The Local Plan is currently at Examination stage.

**13. From Cllr Nicholas Bennett to the Leader of the Council
(answered by the Education, Children and Families Portfolio Holder)**

How many additional school forms of entry and pupil places will be required by 2022-3 and what steps the Council is taking to ensure it meets its' statutory duty to ensure sufficient places?

Reply:

In addition to the capacity from projects which already have planning consent, at Eden Park High School (8 forms of entry) and the expansion of Bishop Justus (2 forms of entry), the 2017 GLA school roll projections indicate the need for an additional 12 forms of entry by 2022/23. The proposed schools at Harris Sydenham, Shaw Futures Academy and Bullers Wood for Boys would provide 18 forms of entry.

The Council will continue to work with the Education and Skills Funding Agency to help them provide these schools and, if there were delay to these schemes, the Council will work with existing schools to ensure there are sufficient places available in the long term.

14. From Cllr Peter Fookes to the Environment Portfolio Holder

Why have residents with parking permits in the proposed Penge CPZ now been informed that they can't use the pay and display bays without being charged further?

Reply:

I understand that the wording of a letter sent to residents was incomplete as it omitted the rules that applied outside the hours of the permits validity, the department has apologised for this. In light of the recent correspondence received from concerned residents I am inclined to make changes to this scheme to try to ensure that no resident feels disadvantaged. You and your colleagues' views were requested on a proposed way forward by email last Friday. I would hope that the precise nature of the new proposals can be communicated to all affected residents by letter within the next two weeks.

15. From Cllr Angela Wilkins to the Leader of the Council

As the minutes of the February Executive meeting have not been published, please can you repeat your response to Andrew Ruck's question: "Why did Cllr Dean not manage and direct the DCC meeting on 25 January in accordance with the Chief Exec's brief to ratify the decision from October and follow the guidance of the Planning Officer that the decision could be ratified?"

Reply:

The draft minutes have now been circulated to all Councillors and therefore they are available to Cllr Wilkins.

16. From Cllr Ian Dunn to the Resources Portfolio Holder

Please explain the difference between using Reserves to fill gaps in the revenue budget, with the use of £17.5 million, representing several years surplus from the Council Tax Collection Fund to partially fill the revenue budget gap of £22.7 million in 2019/20?

Reply:

A collection fund surplus cannot be used to support the revenue budget in the year it arises. The timing of its use is set out in relevant Fund Regulations and is dependent on when it is reported. In practice this means that the transfer from the collection fund will take place in either of the two financial years following the year in which it was generated.

In this case, rather than using in the year it became available, £13.5m of prior year surplus has been set aside in an earmarked reserve so that it can be carried forward into 2019/20 to mitigate against the budget gap over financial years. It has been estimated that a further collection fund surplus of £4m will be available towards the budget in 2019/20.

Reserves are not subject to the same Regulations and can be utilised at any time, subject to the council's approach to reserves as set out in appendix 4 of the 2018/19 Council Tax report.

Neither source of funding will provide ongoing support to the revenue budget and should only be considered as one-off support in the short term.

17. From Cllr Ruth Bennett to the Education, Children and Families Portfolio Holder

Would the Portfolio Holder give a statement on the current situation with regard to the proposed Bullers Wood School for Boys?

Reply:

The Council is in communication with the DfE about the proposed school. A decision is still awaited from the DfE about whether the school will be opening in temporary accommodation for September 2018 entry.

18. From Cllr Nicky Dykes to the Chairman of Development Control Committee

What is the justification for Development Control Committee refusing to ratify previous approval of the Bullers Wood application?

Reply:

The justification for Development Control Committee refusing to ratify previous approval of the Bullers Wood application is as set out in the minutes of the January 2018 meeting.

19. From Cllr Nicholas Bennett to the Environment Portfolio Holder

On what dates and times Parking Enforcement Officers have been in The Mead and Hawes Lane, West Wickham, since 2nd October 2017 and how many tickets have been issued for parking contraventions on each occasion?

Reply:

There has been one patrol which resulted in a penalty charge issued to a vehicle for being parked on the footway in The Mead.

There have been 11 patrols which resulted in 25 penalty charges issued to motorists for parking on single / double yellow lines and on the footway in Hawes Lane.

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

How many police officers and PCSO's have been lost in Bromley since 2010?

Reply:

We asked Bromley Police for the figures that you have requested, and they replied that it is too difficult to break it down into actual numbers for the past 8yrs. In that period of time they have moved from Neighbourhood policing, to the local policing model and they are now beginning the transition to Basic Command Units. Over that period the Borough's working strength has fluctuated in accordance with the Home Office and MPS requirements.

21. From Cllr Angela Wilkins to the Care Services Portfolio Holder

How is this Council performing in relation to extra care provision and delayed discharges?

Reply:

Against last year, significant improvements have been seen in Bromley's reported Delayed Transfers of Care (DToC) as a result of exemplary integrated working of health and social care to support people who no longer need to remain in hospital. This includes step down beds in ECH which are supporting the overall improved DToC position.

22. From Cllr Ian Dunn to the Environment Portfolio Holder

What are your thoughts about the recent extremely serious accident on Elmers End Road, where bollards, a front garden wall and a part of the front of a house were destroyed?

Reply:

This was a dreadful incident which must have caused terrible shock to the residents and neighbours especially since it happened in the early hours of the morning when they were probably asleep.

We have had very little information about this case but we understand it is part of an ongoing Police Investigation. Reports we have seen state that the driver ran away from the scene and we are not aware of the driver being apprehended yet. As a result of the driver decamping we suspect that this incident was a result of some kind of driver error rather than a specific fault on the highway but if the Police investigation suggests that any highway improvements are required we will look into them.

This page is left intentionally blank

COUNCIL MEETING

26TH FEBRUARY 2018

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN REPLY FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

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

What steps are being taken to encourage the use of modular home construction to meet housing demand?

Reply:

The Council is actively seeking to encourage the use of modular constructed homes to meet housing need. In January 2018 the Executive approved, subject to full consultation and planning permission, the use of the site at York Rise for the provision of modular constructed homes. The report approved to proceed to formal tender for the provision and management of modular homes for the York Rise site and on a preferred supplier basis for any subsequent sites identified. This report further requested that officers look to identify any other potentially suitable sites for the provision of modular constructed homes to meet housing needs.

2. From Cllr Nicholas Bennett to the Education, Children and Families Portfolio Holder

If he will make a statement on the implications for Bromley parents and young people of the proposals outlined in the Secretary of State for Education's interview in the Sunday Times of 18th February and in particular the abolition of the 50% cap on admission to Church schools, the creation of new Grammar Schools and the opportunities for non-university technical education?

Reply:

Like Cllr Bennett, I read with interest the report of the interview with the Secretary of State. I welcome the emphasis the Government is placing on technical education. Parity of esteem between technical and academic pathways has been much talked about but, until recently, little has been achieved. To that end, Bromley Council welcomes the proposed Shaw Futures Academy which will offer a technical education and widen the choice of secondary education for Bromley children and their parents.

Of course, our secondary school offer in Bromley is enriched by our grammar schools, St Olave's and Newstead Wood Schools. It is entirely fair that, as the Sec of State suggests, selective schools should have the same options and opportunities to develop and expand as every other school. I would like to take this opportunity to applaud the commitment of Newstead Wood School to working with their neighbouring primary schools to help raise the ambitions of our children.

Equally, I welcome the renewed commitment of the Secretary of State to lifting the 50% cap on faith admissions in new schools and we have re-opened discussion with the Roman Catholic Diocese about the opportunities this may create in Bromley.

I have written to the Secretary of State to congratulate him on his appointment and to invite him to visit our schools in Bromley, of which we are justifiably proud.

3. From Cllr Nicholas Bennett to the Environment Portfolio Holder

On what dates and times Parking Enforcement Officers have been in Corkscrew Hill, Courtfield Rise and Addington Road West Wickham, on the occasion of sporting fixtures at Sparrows Den in the past year and how many tickets have been issued for parking contraventions on each occasion?

Reply:

The number of penalty charges issued against sporting days (Saturday or Sunday) for each location from 01.01.2017 and 31.12.2017, (last calendar year) is:

Location	No of penalty charges issued	No issued on sporting days (Saturday or Sunday)
Corkscrew Hill	14	14
Courtfield Rise	2	1
Addington Road	30	30

Support Statistics:

Location	Dates of patrols	No of PCNs and date of issue	Reason for PCN issue
Corkscrew Hill	01.10.17	1 at 11:24 and 1 at 11:28 and 1 at 11:30	Parked on the footway
Corkscrew Hill	29.10.17	10 between 13:26 and 13:46	Parked on the footway
Corkscrew Hill	19.11.17	1 at 11:31	Parked on the footway
Corkscrew Hill	10.02.18	1 at 13:36 and 1 at 13:37	Parked on the footway

Location	Dates of patrols	No of PCNs and date of issue	Reason for PCN issue
Courtfield Rise	04.04.17	1 at 12:02	Parked on the footway
Courtfield Rise	29.10.17	1 at 13:54	Parked on a double yellow line

Location	Dates of patrols	No of PCNs and date of issue	Reason for PCN issue
Addington Road	12.03.17	19 between 10:38 and 11:08	Parked on the footway
Addington Road	19.03.17	11 between 10:43 and 11:07	Parked on the footway

4. From Cllr Peter Fookes to the Environment Portfolio Holder

When will the blocked drains outside 118 Oakfield Rd, Penge be dealt with?

Reply:

Penge was part of the cyclical gully cleansing schedule which commenced in April 2017 last year - and the gully outside 118 Oakfield Road was cleansed on 26/06/2017. However, as there was a potential blockage, as highlighted by Cllr Fookes' in his question above, Neighbourhood Management arranged for the location to be visited early on Friday the 23rd February and for all gullies in the road to be assessed and cleansed as necessary, and Neighbourhood Management can confirm that the gully outside 118 Oakfield Road was free flowing with no issues.

5. From Cllr Peter Fookes to the Environment Portfolio Holder

When will door to door textile recycling begin in Bromley?

Reply:

Following a Policy Development report to the Environment PDS, door to door textile recycling has been considered, but it was found to be economically unviable. We provide textile recycling bins at the majority of our bring sites and at our waste and recycling centres.

6. From Cllr Peter Fookes to the Resources Portfolio Holder

How many people in Bromley missed out on voting at the 2017 General Election because they did not register in time?

Reply:

I find this rather a strange question as of course as the law has made it clear for many decades that it is an Individual's responsibility to ensure that they register to vote.

The Labour government paved the way for the current system of Individual electoral registration in the Political Parties and Elections act 2009 – which was designed to achieve more accurate electoral registers and to counter electoral fraud – although individual voter registration was finally introduced by the coalition government through the Electoral Reform and Administration Act 2013.

The legislation has a cut off point for registration 12 days before an election. This is a statutory time limit and local authorities are unable to extend it and modern electoral law has always included a comparable provision.

Having said that at Bromley we do everything we can to encourage residents to register and exercise their vote including undertaking the Annual Canvass which involves sending multiple forms and undertaking personal visits to non-responding properties, along with a poster and leaflet campaign through the Borough. Bromley also identifies and contacts those properties where a change in residency may have occurred, such as new Council tax payers, to encourage any new residents to register to vote.

This works as Bromley has consistently been in the top 3 councils for Household Enquiry Form responses which means we have one of the most accurate registers in London

We increase publicity around election time and this works as in the period between the general election being called and the statutory cut-off date we registered 8875 new voters on the register.

We do monitor instances where residents attend polling stations to vote and are unable to do so because they have not ensured they have registered and at the general election 93 individuals out of a polling station electorate of 192,255 (total electorate was 232,436) had not registered to vote.

7. From Cllr Angela Wilkins to the Leader of the Council

The meeting of the Executive held on February 7th was asked numerous questions by members of the public and an unusually high number of people had made the effort to attend the meeting. As Chair of the Executive, you have it within your power to extend the allocated time for public questions. Given that the meeting did not have a long agenda and ended shortly after 8pm why did you not show respect to Bromley residents and extend the time allowed in order that more questions and responses could be heard?

Reply:

There were indeed numerous questions, but the Council's Constitution allocates 15 minutes for public questions, and this is what was allowed on 7th February.

To that end it is something of a shame that Political Activists from opposition parties choose to pre fill the available slots to pose their wares for self-serving purposes on such occasions, thereby denying others the chance to do so themselves.

You appear to have overlooked the fact that I specifically permitted supplementary questions to be asked to the unanswered oral questions too, which was the first time that offer has ever been made in my 16 years on the Council, such was my alleged "disrespect"

8. From Cllr Angela Wilkins to the Leader of the Council

A meeting of Constitution Improvement Working Party is overdue. Council passed a resolution in September 2017 requesting a report on improving transparency. There is also the option of making the Contracts Sub Committee into a main Committee. When will a meeting be held to discuss these matters?

Reply:

As you are aware, a meeting of the Constitution Improvement Working Group has been set up for next month.

9. From Cllr Richard Williams to the Resources Portfolio Holder

Can the Portfolio Holder say how many care leavers under the age of 25 have been in arrears for council tax for each of the last 3 financial years?

Reply:

The Authority's council tax database does not indicate the accounts that relate to care leavers, I am therefore unable to advise as to the number that have been in arrears over the past 3 years.

Furthermore, Bromley would be unaware of any care leavers residing outside of the borough who may have council tax arrears.

10. From Cllr Richard Williams to the Resources Portfolio Holder

Can the Portfolio Holder say how many care leavers under the age of 25 in arrears for council tax at any point in the last 3 financial years have had enforcement action taken against them, including how many have had court action taken against them?

Reply:

As advised in my response to the previous question, this information is unable to be obtained from the Authority's council tax database. Bromley would also be unaware of enforcement action taken by other local authorities in respect of sums owing to them.

However, where the Council Tax Section is made aware of enforcement action being taken against a care leaver, consideration would be given to assisting the individual through the discretionary hardship fund, budgeting assistance and/or a sympathetic payment plan.

11. From Cllr Richard Williams to the Resources Portfolio Holder

What would be the actual cost for 2017/18 and the projected cost for 2018/19 of introducing council tax exemption for our care leavers up to the age of 25, taking account any current discounts they may be eligible to? What percentage of the (i) Children's Services budget and (ii) council's budget would they represent?

Reply:

It is not possible from our records to identify the cost of providing council tax exemption for care leavers up to the age of 25 taking into account any current discounts to which they may be entitled. However, below are figures based on the following assumptions:

- all 195 care leavers reside in the borough;
- they all have a council tax liability;
- they receive no other discounts;
- they all live in a band "D" council tax property; and
- there are no care leavers from other local authorities resident in Bromley

On the basis of these assumptions, the potential annual cost for 2017/18 of providing assistance would be £217,706 (after deducting the GLA contribution). This figure would increase to £226,392 in respect of 2018/19.

For 2017/18 this represents 0.66% of the Children's Services budget and 0.15% of the council's budget (Council Tax Requirement budget). For 2018/19 this represents 0.66% of the Children's Services draft budget and 0.15% of the council's draft budget (Council Tax Requirement budget.)

12. From Cllr Ian Dunn to the Environment Portfolio Holder

Please provide the number of “Fix My Street” records raised during calendar year 2017 broken down by Ward and subject. Please also provide the percentage completed within the SLA also broken down by Ward and subject.

Reply:

Please see attached data for the calendar year 2017 for FMS reports by ward and subject (Appendix 1.)

We do not have SLA info for wards and subjects but we have included the average time for enquiries to be resolved.

Caveat being there is no set SLA against a subject as issues are diverse and can be complex but we do monitor SLA against enquiry status to ensure that through any enquiry lifespan it is being managed and not forgotten. This SLA covers all enquiries not just FMS and for 2017 for Environmental Services was 96.66%

13. From Cllr Ian Dunn to the Environment Portfolio Holder

The 2017/18 budget contained a proposal to set aside an earmarked reserve of £500k for Environmental Initiatives. Please provide a schedule of what this was spent on showing how much was spent on each initiative and in which ward.

Reply:

(See appendix 2.)

14. From Cllr Russell Mellor to the Resources Portfolio Holder

Can the Portfolio Holder advise me as to the sum of the Contingency Reserve as at the commencement of the current financial year, the number of drawdowns during the year, the value of each drawdown together with details and purpose of the drawdowns with final sum as at the date 26 February 2018.

Reply:

Details of the original 2017/18 Central Contingency and the drawdowns allocated during the year are shown in the table below (appendix 3). The drawdowns were approved by Executive or Council or by Portfolio Holders following consideration by the relevant PDS Committees. The detail and purpose of the drawdowns is included in individual reports to those Committees on the dates shown below. There will be further changes to the Central Contingency in the 2017/18 Budget Monitoring report to Executive on 28th March 2018.

15. From Cllr Russell Mellor to the Resources Portfolio Holder

Can the Portfolio Holder advise me within his remit of Contracts, as to the number of Contracts awarded to the Kier Group, or their subsidiaries, and the value of each contract together with the total number of tender invitations submitted during a 4 year period ending on the 26th February 2018.

Reply:

Three contract records have been identified within the specified four year period as being awarded to Kier Group – only one of which is currently active.

Street Environment (Lot 1 - Street Cleansing)

The contract, which runs from 29 March 2012 to 28 March 2019, forms part of the Street Environment Contract (originally let as four lots). It deals with day-to-day routine street cleaning activities and response to service requests incorporating operations such as mechanical and manual sweeping, fly-tipping and fly-poster removal, emptying and replacing street litter bins, weed control, autumn leafing and, in the event of severe winter weather, snow clearance and pavement salting. The value of this contract is £22,476,552.

Street Lighting Maintenance and Improvement Services Contract

The contract (which commenced 1 April 2013) was due to expire 31 March 2023. This contract was for improvements and maintenance of the Borough's lighting stock including street lighting columns, and both lit and unlit signs and bollards and nameplates. However, service issues led to a 'walk away' agreement between LB Bromley and Kier Services Ltd, with the contract becoming dormant on 30 April 2017. The Major Highways contract (with FM Conway Ltd) has been varied to include provision for this service from 1 May 2017 to 31 July 2018. The value of the Street Lighting contract with Kier was £11,887,000.

Street Environment (Lot 3 – Public Convenience Cleansing)

There was a contract with Kier for servicing Public Conveniences, which was let as a five year contract from 29 March 2012 to 28 March 2017. A full Council decision was made on 28th February 2011 to agree closure of public conveniences as part of the Council's savings proposals. A phased closure of the Borough's facilities took place, including town centre conveniences, and was completed by 31st March 2015. This was in conjunction with the expansion of the Council's Community Toilet Scheme as an alternative provision. The value of this contract was £281,983.

This page is left intentionally blank

WARD AND SUBJECT	NUMBER OF REPORTS	AVERAGE TIME TO RESOLVE
BICKLEY	697	14
ABANDONED VEHICLES	79	10
DRAINAGE	8	30
ENFORCEMENT	44	15
GRAFFITI	26	5
HIGHWAYS	124	18
NETWORK MAN	1	72
PARKS	33	11
STREET CLEANSING	215	7
STREET LIGHTING	100	18
STREETWORKS	3	4
TREES	64	32
BIGGIN HILL	669	19
ABANDONED VEHICLES	52	18
DRAINAGE	15	17
ENFORCEMENT	65	40
GRAFFITI	17	5
HIGHWAYS	126	21
NETWORK MAN	2	26
PARKS	52	22
STREET CLEANSING	198	9
STREET LIGHTING	108	24
STREETWORKS	2	6
TREES	32	23
BROMLEY COMMON & KESTON	1420	12
ABANDONED VEHICLES	79	17
DRAINAGE	21	14
ENFORCEMENT	57	14
GRAFFITI	26	3
HIGHWAYS	161	22
NETWORK MAN	2	14
PARKS	149	13
STREET CLEANSING	702	5
STREET LIGHTING	155	18
STREETWORKS	2	3
TREES	66	35
BROMLEY TOWN	1616	14
ABANDONED VEHICLES	89	23
DRAINAGE	37	34
ENFORCEMENT	99	16
GRAFFITI	140	5
HIGHWAYS	268	19
NETWORK MAN	1	28
PARKS	61	13
STREET CLEANSING	694	8
STREET LIGHTING	149	25
STREETWORKS	2	16
TREES	76	28
CHELSEFIELD & PRATTS BOTTOM	914	19

Appendix 1: Council Question 12 from Cllr Dunn (Members written)

ABANDONED VEHICLES	88	21
DRAINAGE	13	32
ENFORCEMENT	83	21
GRAFFITI	17	7
HIGHWAYS	132	27
NETWORK MAN	1	106
PARKS	61	14
STREET CLEANSING	317	11
STREET LIGHTING	125	27
STREETWORKS	3	14
TREES	74	26
CHISLEHURST	1126	18
ABANDONED VEHICLES	95	12
DRAINAGE	18	16
ENFORCEMENT	91	24
GRAFFITI	34	9
HIGHWAYS	273	24
PARKS	53	16
STREET CLEANSING	378	13
STREET LIGHTING	135	17
STREETWORKS	1	37
TREES	48	36
CLOCK HOUSE	1014	12
ABANDONED VEHICLES	67	18
DRAINAGE	19	14
ENFORCEMENT	43	16
GRAFFITI	41	6
HIGHWAYS	124	16
PARKS	20	17
STREET CLEANSING	548	7
STREET LIGHTING	66	21
STREETWORKS	1	11
TREES	85	23
COPERS COPE	862	16
ABANDONED VEHICLES	92	25
DRAINAGE	18	17
ENFORCEMENT	61	18
GRAFFITI	33	6
HIGHWAYS	95	19
PARKS	30	13
STREET CLEANSING	403	9
STREET LIGHTING	67	24
STREETWORKS	4	25
TREES	59	38
CRAY VALLEY EAST	1402	12
ABANDONED VEHICLES	112	29
DRAINAGE	19	17
ENFORCEMENT	68	19
GRAFFITI	21	4
HIGHWAYS	136	19

Appendix 1: Council Question 12 from Cllr Dunn (Members written)

PARKS	122	16
STREET CLEANSING	779	6
STREET LIGHTING	83	19
STREETWORKS	13	14
TREES	49	21
CRAY VALLEY WEST	1034	14
ABANDONED VEHICLES	83	22
DRAINAGE	9	19
ENFORCEMENT	72	17
GRAFFITI	24	7
HIGHWAYS	127	26
PARKS	65	16
STREET CLEANSING	487	6
STREET LIGHTING	125	19
STREETWORKS	3	10
TREES	39	37
CRYSTAL PALACE	1168	13
ABANDONED VEHICLES	84	24
DRAINAGE	10	17
ENFORCEMENT	42	11
GRAFFITI	171	5
HIGHWAYS	69	26
PARKS	111	16
STREET CLEANSING	598	9
STREET LIGHTING	44	26
STREETWORKS	1	9
TREES	38	44
DARWIN	534	20
ABANDONED VEHICLES	27	35
DRAINAGE	5	61
ENFORCEMENT	30	35
GRAFFITI	6	6
HIGHWAYS	141	25
PARKS	47	15
STREET CLEANSING	207	9
STREET LIGHTING	47	31
STREETWORKS	4	10
TREES	20	33
FARNBOROUGH & CROFTON	776	17
ABANDONED VEHICLES	48	30
DRAINAGE	19	16
ENFORCEMENT	69	18
GRAFFITI	18	12
HIGHWAYS	181	17
NETWORK MAN	1	5
PARKS	78	13
STREET CLEANSING	172	8
STREET LIGHTING	115	20
TREES	75	32
HAYES & CONEY HALL	1043	16

Appendix 1: Council Question 12 from Cllr Dunn (Members written)

ABANDONED VEHICLES	53	18
DRAINAGE	16	19
ENFORCEMENT	66	11
GRAFFITI	15	3
HIGHWAYS	198	27
NETWORK MAN	1	11
PARKS	122	13
STREET CLEANSING	345	8
STREET LIGHTING	121	17
STREETWORKS	1	2
TREES	105	30
KELSEY & EDEN PARK	981	15
ABANDONED VEHICLES	79	21
DRAINAGE	18	33
ENFORCEMENT	78	10
GRAFFITI	46	3
HIGHWAYS	131	20
PARKS	37	11
STREET CLEANSING	437	9
STREET LIGHTING	74	25
STREETWORKS	2	29
TREES	79	36
MOTTINGHAM & CHISLEHURST NORTH	370	14
ABANDONED VEHICLES	50	10
DRAINAGE	4	8
ENFORCEMENT	20	10
GRAFFITI	9	4
HIGHWAYS	33	21
PARKS	19	9
STREET CLEANSING	178	12
STREET LIGHTING	34	19
TREES	23	36
ORPINGTON	862	13
ABANDONED VEHICLES	87	16
DRAINAGE	24	31
ENFORCEMENT	57	17
GRAFFITI	59	3
HIGHWAYS	100	22
NETWORK MAN	2	18
PARKS	76	10
STREET CLEANSING	301	6
STREET LIGHTING	109	21
STREETWORKS	6	8
TREES	41	22
PENGE & CATOR	1555	14
ABANDONED VEHICLES	115	20
DRAINAGE	26	35
ENFORCEMENT	62	12
GRAFFITI	59	6
HIGHWAYS	102	26

Appendix 1: Council Question 12 from Cllr Dunn (Members written)

PARKS	70	16
STREET CLEANSING	965	8
STREET LIGHTING	56	17
TREES	100	41
PETTS WOOD & KNOLL	806	16
ABANDONED VEHICLES	47	23
DRAINAGE	16	16
ENFORCEMENT	57	13
GRAFFITI	36	4
HIGHWAYS	184	23
NETWORK MAN	1	55
PARKS	31	13
STREET CLEANSING	228	9
STREET LIGHTING	153	15
STREETWORKS	2	16
TREES	51	33
PLAISTOW & SUNDRIDGE	669	14
ABANDONED VEHICLES	94	16
DRAINAGE	11	20
ENFORCEMENT	42	17
GRAFFITI	10	6
HIGHWAYS	94	22
PARKS	9	5
STREET CLEANSING	315	7
STREET LIGHTING	43	26
STREETWORKS	2	16
TREES	49	26
SHORTLANDS	519	14
ABANDONED VEHICLES	29	12
DRAINAGE	14	11
ENFORCEMENT	41	19
GRAFFITI	9	2
HIGHWAYS	109	21
PARKS	14	10
STREET CLEANSING	216	6
STREET LIGHTING	44	21
STREETWORKS	2	4
TREES	41	34
WEST WICKHAM	763	19
ABANDONED VEHICLES	70	18
DRAINAGE	27	17
ENFORCEMENT	64	16
GRAFFITI	15	17
HIGHWAYS	149	24
PARKS	43	23
STREET CLEANSING	225	8
STREET LIGHTING	83	24
STREETWORKS	4	7
TREES	83	34
Grand Total	20800	15

Appendix 2: Council question 13 from Cllr Dunn

Members' Initiatives 2017/18

	Portfolio	Original Allocation	Balance as at 01.04.17	2017/18 spend to date	Commitments	Uncommitted balance 17/18
		£	£	£	£	£
1	Fly-tipping Scheme	250,000	250,000	30,583	4,794	214,624
2	Mottingham targeted Action Neighbourhood Pilot Project	150,000	106,237	0	5,000	101,237
3						
*	Tree Planting Parks and Highways	250,000	59,768	32,733	26,839	196
6	Friends Groups	250,000	247,500	6,185	56,448	184,867
7	Environmental Initiatives	500,000				
	- Behavioural change regarding recycling		125,000	0	0	125,000
	- Leafing		125,000	0	0	125,000
	- Street Cleansing Enhancement		125,000	0	30,000	95,000
	- Litter bins - emptying of and new ones		125,000	0	0	125,000
	- School Crossing			0	36,000	-36,000
		1,400,000	1,163,505	69,501	159,081	934,924

2017/18 Central Contingency	£'000	Committee	Report Title
Original Contingency Provision	14,957		
Items Carried Forward from 2016/17	447		
Total Contingency Provision	15,404		
2017/18 Drawdowns			
General:			
Allocation of Contractually Committed Inflation	366	n/a	Director of Finance (Delegated Authority)
National Living Wage	60	Executive 22/03/17	Extra Care Housing Contract Award
National Living Wage	852	Executive 06/06/17	Impact of Changes in National Living Wage
Increased Cost of Homelessness / Impact of Welfare Reforms	310	Executive 24/05/17	Homelessness Contingency Drawdown for Early Intervention and Visiting Resources
Increased Cost of Homelessness / Impact of Welfare Reforms	844	Executive 10/01/18	Contingency Drawdown: Homelessness & Temporary Accommodation Pressures
Operational Building Maintenance Programme	125	Executive 22/03/17	Operational Building Maintenance Budgets and Planned Programme 2017/18
SEN Assessments - Transfer to ECHP Plans	115	Executive 19/07/17	Budget Monitoring 2017/18
Library Service - One Off Funding	1,257	Executive 19/07/17	Contract Award for the Provision of Library Services
TFM Contract	100	Executive 23/03/16	Gateway Report Commissioning - Proposed Total Facilities Management Contract
Additional Resources for Environment & Community Services	238	Executive 09/08/17	Additional Resources for Environment & Community Services
IT Mobilisation	62	Executive 09/08/17	Transfer of Remaining ISD Service to BT
Waste4Fuel	47	Executive 19/07/17	Waste Clearance - Cornwall Drive
General Data Protections Regs 2016	495	Executive 06/12/17	The General Data Protection Regulations 2016
Impact of NNDR Revaluation	559	Executive 06/12/17	Budget Monitoring 2017/18
Contribution to Investment Fund	3,500	Council 11/12/17	Budget Monitoring 2017/18
	8,930		
Grant Related Expenditure:			
SEND Implementation Grant	225	Executive 24/05/17	Drawdown and Carry Forward of Contingency Government (New Burdens) Grant Funding - SEN Reforms
Tackling Troubled Families	201	Executive 07/11/17	Update on Tackling Troubled Families Project - Update on Outcomes
Adult Social Care (IBCF)	4,184	Executive 10/10/17	Improved Better Care Fund (IBCF)
SEN Pathfinder	27	Executive 24/05/17	Drawdown and Carry Forward of Contingency Government (New Burdens) Grant Funding - SEN Reforms
Step Up to Social Work	915	Executive 20/06/17	Release of Government Funding - Step up to Social Work Programme
Flexible Homelessness Support / Homelessness Reduction / IT Upgrade	2,371	Executive 10/01/18	Contingency Drawdown: Homelessness & Temporary Accommodation Pressures
Funded by Grant Income	Cr 7,923		
	0		

2017/18 Central Contingency (cont'd)	£'000	Committee	Report Title
Draw Down of Items Carried Forward from 2016/17			
General:			
Audit - Additional Investigation Works	40	E & R PDS 13/07/17	Budget Monitoring 2017/18 - Drawdown of Carry Forwards from Central Contingency
Debt Management System	25	E & R PDS 13/07/17	Budget Monitoring 2017/18 - Drawdown of Carry Forwards from Central Contingency
Contracts Register /Summaries Database	50	E & R PDS 13/07/17	Budget Monitoring 2017/18 - Drawdown of Carry Forwards from Central Contingency
Biggin Hill Airport - Noise Action Plan	44	E & R PDS 13/07/17	Budget Monitoring 2017/18 - Drawdown of Carry Forwards from Central Contingency
Legal Counsel Costs	50	E & R PDS 13/07/17	Budget Monitoring 2017/18 - Drawdown of Carry Forwards from Central Contingency
Green Garden Waste - Debt Management System	120	Env PDS 12/07/17	Provisional Outturn 2016/17
Local Plan Implementation	37	R & R PDS 05/07/17	Provisional Outturn 2016/17
	<u>366</u>		
Grant Related Expenditure:			
Better Care Fund	185	CS PDS 04/07/17	Care Services Portfolio Budget Monitoring 2017/18
Helping People Home	40	CS PDS 14/11/17	Budget Monitoring 2017/18
Preventing Homelessness	152	CS PDS 04/07/17	Care Services Portfolio Budget Monitoring 2017/18
Fire Safety	57	CS PDS 04/07/17	Care Services Portfolio Budget Monitoring 2017/18
Community Housing Fund	62	CS PDS 04/07/17	Care Services Portfolio Budget Monitoring 2017/18
Implementing Welfare Reform Changes	56	CS PDS 04/07/17	Care Services Portfolio Budget Monitoring 2017/18
New Homes Bonus - TCM and Regeneration	329	R & R PDS 05/07/17	Provisional Outturn 2016/17
Planning Strategy & Projects	30	R & R PDS 05/07/17	Provisional Outturn 2016/17
Electoral Services - Cabinet Office Funding (IER)	47	E & R PDS 13/07/17	Budget Monitoring 2017/18 - Drawdown of Carry Forwards from Central Contingency
Debt Management System Project	99	E & R PDS 13/07/17	Budget Monitoring 2017/18 - Drawdown of Carry Forwards from Central Contingency
SEN Reform	21	Executive 24/05/17	Drawdown and Carry Forward of Contingency Government (New Burdens) Grant Funding - SEN Reforms
SEN Pathfinder	14	EC&F Sub 18/07/17	Budget Monitoring 2017/18
Early Years	15	EC&F Sub 18/07/17	Budget Monitoring 2017/18
LA Conversion Academies Sponsor Support	28	EC&F Sub 18/07/17	Budget Monitoring 2017/18
High Needs Strategic Planning Fund	140	EC&F Sub 18/07/17	Budget Monitoring 2017/18
Tackling Troubled Families Funded by Grant Income	595	Executive 07/11/17	Update on Tackling Troubled Families Project - Update on Outcomes
	<u>Cr 1,870</u>		
	<u>0</u>		
Balance in 2017/18 Contingency	6,108		

Report No.
CSD18065

London Borough of Bromley

PART ONE - PUBLIC

Decision Maker: COUNCIL

Date: Monday 9 April 2018

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

Title: POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT
2017/18

Contact Officer: Philippa Gibbs, Democratic Services Officer
Tel: 020 8461 7638 E-mail: Philippa.Gibbs@bromley.gov.uk

Chief Officer: Mark Bowen, Director of Corporate Services

Ward: (All Wards);

1. Reason for report

The Council's constitution requires that a report is made each year to full Council summarising the work of PDS Committees. The report for 2017/18 is attached and includes contributions from all PDS Committee Chairmen on the work of their respective Committees. The report was considered by Executive and Resources PDS Committee at its meeting on 21st March 2018.

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

That Council receives the annual Policy Development and Scrutiny Report for 2017/18.

Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children

1. Summary of Impact: The report includes summaries of the work of the Care Services PDS Committee and the Education Select Committee.
-

Corporate Policy

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

Financial

1. Cost of proposal: No Cost:
 2. Ongoing costs: Not Applicable:
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Democratic Services
 4. Total current budget for this head: £343,810
 5. Source of funding: 2017/18 Revenue Budget
-

Personnel

1. Number of staff (current and additional): 8 Posts (7.27 fte)
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: Not applicable
-

Legal

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

Procurement

1. Summary of Procurement Implications: Not Applicable
-

Customer Impact

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

Ward Councillor Views

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

Non-Applicable Sections:	Vulnerable Adults & Children/Policy/Financial/Legal/Personnel/Procurement
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Article 6, LBB Constitution



THE LONDON BOROUGH

Policy Development & Scrutiny Annual Report 2017/18

For submission to Full Council on 9th April 2018

Contents

	Page
1. Foreword	3
2. Policy Development & Scrutiny Committee Chairmen	5
3. Policy Development and Scrutiny in Bromley	7
Reports from PDS Committees –	
4. Executive and Resources	9
5. Care Services	11
6. Education, Children & Families	13
7. Environment	15
8. Public Protection and Safety	18
9. Renewal & Recreation	21

1. Foreword

1.1 On behalf of all my colleagues who are engaged in Policy Development and Scrutiny Committees in the London Borough of Bromley, I have pleasure in presenting our Annual Report for 2017/2018, which summarises the work that has been carried out by the Committees during the Council year.

1.2 The continuing Government reductions in funding support for local councils and the ongoing cost pressures faced by Bromley Council leaves a long term funding gap. The gap remains at £5.2M for 2019/20, £30.7M for 2020/21 and £38.7M for 2021/22 which totals around £75M over the next 4 years. The Council has a legal obligation to set a balanced budget, so effort is needed to generate income and find additional savings over this period. The Government will also allow Bromley as part of Greater London Boroughs to retain the business rates it collects (subject to equalisation) to fund council services. This will offer an opportunity as well as challenges as new business rates can be retained by Bromley Council, currently only a one year deal has been agreed. Over the next few years this will mean that the Growth fund will be very important to drive additional business rate revenue.

1.3 Against this tough fiscal background 2017/18 cost savings have been achieved, which have allowed the Council to formulate a balanced budget, without significantly impairing the delivery of frontline services. However, in light of the looming budget gap, the Council has increased Council Tax this year by a Bromley element of 3.99%, including the 2% increase to fund social care. In addition the Labour London Mayor and GLA also increased its precept by 5.1%, making the net overall increase of 4.21% for Bromley residents. Current forecasts indicate a similar 3.99% increase in Bromley's Council Tax share in 2019/20. Bromley Council continues to be debt free, meaning our residents Council Tax is spent on services and not on interest payments.

1.4 The Council continues to promote significant change, both in organisational terms and in its ability to continue to provide services expected by residents. The Council has over 1300 statutory obligations to discharge, which cost several millions of pounds per annum. These take priority over discretionary spending. The funding gap can't be closed without taking some difficult decisions and halting some services all together. Due to its prudent financial management, Bromley Council is able to deal with these challenges but needs to ensure that early decisions are taken and adequate reserves are retained and where appropriate invested to maintain sustainable finances.

1.5 In addition to the financial challenges ahead and the need to become a different organisation with fewer resources, the Council should grasp opportunities for wider integration across public services including health and local government and look at cooperation with Other Local Authorities to drive efficiencies. The Council will need to identify new investment opportunities to help protect key services. This might need a new look with an investment and revenue generation sub-committee, to help grow revenue outside the usual call on tax payer funds. Scrutiny will remain key to ensure that there is adequate control and stability. The Council should consider a dedicated Commissioning PDS to ensure that scrutiny can drill down to an appropriate level when looking at opportunities for value for money.

1.6 The PDS Committees will have an increasingly important role over the coming years to formulate acceptable solutions for the reduction in service provision, which has to come, whilst continuing to deliver quality services to the residents of Bromley.

1.7 Finally, I would like to thank all Committee Chairmen, members, and the Council's officers for their diligence and hard work during last year in finding practical solutions, which have ensured that Bromley Council could formulate a balanced budget and is able to continue to provide essential services next year, which are important to our residents.

Cllr. Simon Fawthrop
Chairman, Executive and Resources PDS Committee

2. Policy Development and Scrutiny Chairmen 2017/18



Cllr Simon Fawthrop
Executive & Resources



Cllr Mary Cooke
Care Services



Cllr Nicholas Bennett JP
Education, Children & Families Select
Committee



Cllr Samaris Huntington-Thresher
Environment



Cllr Alexa Michael
Public Protection and Safety



Cllr Michael Rutherford
Renewal & Recreation

3. Policy Development and Scrutiny in Bromley

Introduction

- 3.1 Six Policy Development and Scrutiny (PDS) Committees at Bromley discharge the overview and scrutiny functions conferred by sections 21 and 32 of the Local Government Act 2000 and successive legislation. The Executive and Resources PDS Committee has an over-arching, co-ordinating role on behalf of the other five PDS Committees and is required by the Council's Constitution to present Full Council with an Annual Report "on the Policy Development and Scrutiny functions and PDS budget, and amended working methods if appropriate" (Article 6, Section 6.03 (d) of the Constitution).
- 3.2 The PDS Committees mirror the Council's executive portfolios:
- Executive and Resources
(covering both the Resources Portfolio and the Executive)
 - Care Services
 - Education, Children and Families Select Committee
 - Environment
 - Public Protection and Safety
 - Renewal and Recreation
- 3.3 In addition to these Committees there are three PDS Sub-Committees:
- Education, Children and Families Budget and Performance Monitoring Sub-Committee
 - Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee
 - Contracts Sub-Committee
- 3.4 Although they have no decision-making powers, PDS Committees and Sub-Committees have key roles in contributing to policy development and scrutinising the decisions of the Executive and individual Portfolio Holders.

Policy Reviews

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

One-Off Reviews

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

Performance and Budget Monitoring

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

Call-in

- 3.9 The call-in process is a key means by which PDS Committees can hold the Executive to account. Any five Councillors can call in a decision and prevent it from taking immediate effect until it has been re-considered by a PDS Committee. The Committee can then interview the Portfolio Holder and officers and consider whether the decision is appropriate, within the Council's policy framework, and whether it should be reconsidered. If the Committee feels that the decision should be reversed or altered, it can make a recommendation to the Executive, which then has to reconsider the matter.
- 3.10 The continued low level of call-in reflects an emphasis given to pre-decision scrutiny leading to better and more robust decisions which are less likely to be challenged.

4. Report from Executive & Resources PDS Committee

Chairman: Cllr. Simon Fawthrop

Vice-Chairman: Cllr. Keith Onslow

1. Introduction

4.1 In 2017/18 the Committee held 9 scheduled meetings, and 3 additional meetings. The regular meetings included the scrutiny of items to be decided at the Executive's meetings, in addition to matters reported to the Committee. The Committee also has Contracts Sub-Committee, chaired by Cllr Wells with support from Cllr Neil Reddin as Vice-Chairman, which has undertaken some very useful work in coordinating the end to end contract scrutiny process and analysing gaps in the processes, there is a case for promoting this committee to become a full Contracts and Commissioning PDS Committee.

2. Scrutiny of the Executive and the Resources Portfolio Holder

4.2 The Committee's principal role is to scrutinize the decisions of the Executive and to hold the Leader of the Council, the Chief Executive Officer and the Resources Portfolio Holder to account. This Committee has discharged its responsibilities diligently and competently during the year. I would like to thank all the above for their valuable contributions. I would also like to thank the PDS Chairmen for their regular reports and contributions, as well as Committee members for bringing their insight and wisdom to the meetings.

3. Review of Council Activities

4.3 The Committee has been very conscious of the need to reduce costs and has diligently scrutinized budget and capital programme reports and measures to bring costs under control, including overspends across some budget headings. The Committee has monitored the performance of the revenue, housing and council tax benefit services managed by Liberata, IT Services contract provided by BT (my particular thanks to Cllr Onslow), updates on the financial progress with regard to the additional provisions for the poor OFSTED rating. The contracts register and the disposal of various surplus assets, the performance of the Council Tax support scheme and issues concerning homelessness and temporary accommodation including a modular homes pilot, the progress of the Special Purchase Vehicle (Mears scheme), treasury performance which continues in the top 10% of Local authority performances, the various invest-to-save projects, as well as details on the growth fund and investment fund initiatives and the risk register were also considered.

4. Outlook

4.4 The Government's cost reductions have continued to impact on the Council's finances. The task to find the savings necessary to balance the Council's budget has been a major factor across this year. The structural overspend in Children's Care Services has been accommodated though use of contingency funds which having been built into the budget should be controllable in future years. The main challenge is closing the funding gap of £38.7 million by 2021/22, a lot of hard work remains to ensure the Council continues to set legal budgets over the coming years.

5. Conclusions

4.5 The Council is undergoing significant change, both in organisational terms and in its ability to continue to provide services expected by residents. The era of streamlining, re-organising and cost cutting, whilst continuing to provide services “as usual” is becoming harder and difficult decisions will now have to be taken about reducing certain service provision. Statutory obligations will have to take precedence over providing discretionary support.

4.6 The challenges for Bromley Council in the coming years are the need to make the wider public fully aware of the Council’s financial position of balancing on-going service pressures against a backdrop of less central Tax payer support year on year and to ensure that planning is in place for dealing with the budget gap in future years. This will include both cost reductions and revenue generation within the confines of the Building a Better Bromley, Clean and Green approach adopted by the Conservative administration.

Councillor Simon Fawthrop
Chairman, Executive & Resources PDS Committee

5. Report from Care Services PDS Committee

Chairman: Cllr. Mary Cooke
Vice-Chairman: Cllr. Pauline Tunnicliffe

5.1 The Care Services PDS Committee held five scheduled meetings and two special meetings during 2017/18.

5.2 It has been a taxing year for the Committee with the need to balance the requirements of a growing ageing population, many with complex conditions, with the need to work within a decreasing budget. We have been fortunate in that two previous Chairmen of Care Services PDS Committee, a previous Portfolio Holder for Care Services (including Public Health) and the Chairs of the Bromley Safeguarding Adults Board, Healthwatch Bromley and Bromley and Lewisham Mind all sit on the Committee. I would like to thank these Councillors and Co-opted Members for sharing their expertise so generously. I would also like to thank Kerry Nicholls, the Clerk to the committee for her good humour, efficiency and guidance on process. The strong emphasis on partnership working outlined in last year's report continues.

Hospital Discharge

5.3 The Local Authority has a statutory responsibility to ensure that it is not contributing to an unnecessary delay in patients being discharged from hospital. The Committee has therefore recommended that additional beds be commissioned from an existing provider for a period of nine months in time to support winter pressure demands as well as additional nursing home beds. The Committee recognises the benefits of improving joined-up working between Health and Social Care services so that discharge from hospital is facilitated and readmission rates are minimised, and has striven to work closely with both the Bromley Clinical Commissioning Group and the Princess Royal University Hospital to achieve this aim.

Budget

5.4 The Committee has worked diligently to scrutinise the budget position of the Care Services Portfolio at each meeting, resulting in a significant reduction in the budget overspend predicted at the start of 2017/18. The budget for 2018/19 is balanced.

Homelessness

5.5 Bromley has an excellent track record in preventing homelessness and in increasing the supply of temporary accommodation. The Committee recognises that homelessness in the Borough is increasing, due in part to the actions of private landlords. In order to increase the available housing stock, the Committee made recommendations concerning the Empty Homes Property Grant and agreed principles to proactively engage with the housing market. It recommended the use of a site in Orpington for the provision of modular homes, subject to the granting of planning permission. The Committee also reviewed progress towards the adoption of a new homelessness strategy in 2018 that places a greater emphasis on early intervention to prevent homelessness, and recommended it be published for public consultation. The Committee received a presentation from the Mears Group on the progress of the 'More Homes in Bromley' scheme to acquire 400 properties to be used as temporary accommodation within the Borough and sub-region.

Public Health

5.6 The Committee noted the Commissioning Intentions of the Public Health service and recommended the continuation of Bromley's participation in pan-London commissioning arrangements for Sexual Health Services. It has also reviewed and supported the activity and performance of the Public Health's provision of support for schools which is funded by the Better Care Fund.

Briefings received and commented on included

- Delayed Transfer of Care
- Healthwatch
- Bromley Safeguarding Adults Board
- Discharge to Access Pilot
- Occupational Therapy Services
- Domiciliary Care Services Monitoring
- Learning Disabilities

5.7 There has been a full programme of visits to Care Homes, Day Care providers and Supported Living Accommodation to give Members an insight into service provision.

Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee

5.8 The Committee met three times during the year and provided a forum for reporting by and scrutiny of King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (including Princess Royal University Hospital), the Bromley Clinical Commissioning Group and other health providers by invitation. During the year there was a high level of satisfaction for inpatient care at the PRUH but issues were identified in outpatient services in respect of appointment booking and clinic waiting times. An electronic record system was rolled out in November 2017 which it was hoped would streamline discharge processes. Demand for urgent and emergency services continued to rise with particular influences due to winter pressures.

5.9 Cllrs Judi Ellis and Ian Dunn represented the London Borough of Bromley at the South East London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

5.10 The Chief Officer, Bromley Clinical Commissioning Group provided the following:

- An Evaluation of Winter Schemes
- Report on Reablement Services
- Update on Cancer Care
- Primary Ophthalmology and Pharmacy Services

Conclusion

5.11 The scrutiny of both services and contracts has been intense this year and again I thank all Members of the Committees and of partner organisations for their active participation. I also thank Officers of the Local Authority for the detailed work they have presented to me personally and to the Committees. The CQC inspection of the PRUH has sharply focussed our minds on our responsibility to all Bromley residents, and with this in mind I have asked that an additional Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee meeting be added to the 2018/19 programme. Furthermore, Paul Feven, Director: Programmes (LBB) and Graham Mackenzie, Director: Transformation and Integration (CCG) have joined the Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee as Strategic Lead Officers.

Councillor Mary Cooke

Chairman, Care Services PDS Committee

6. Report from Education, Children & Families Select Committee

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

6.1 The Select Committee replaced the Policy Development and Scrutiny (PDS) Committee in May 2016.

6.2 We outlined the main changes in our 2016-17 report in the way which the Select Committee works as opposed to the former PDS Committee

6.3 2017-18 saw the remit of the Select Committee widened to include Children and Families social care in line with expansion of the responsibilities of the Portfolio.

6.4 A further innovation in 2017-18 was the expansion of the responsibilities of the Education Budget Sub-Committee under the chairmanship of the Vice Chairman of the Select Committee, Cllr Neil Reddin. The Sub-Committee was renamed in line with main committee change and now also has responsibility for Performance Monitoring. The membership was also widened to include co-opted members.

6.5 Once again the final reports and recommendations of the Select Committee have been referred to Full Council for consideration and also provided to the relevant Executive committees so they can respond on recommendations within their remit. The Select Committee has subsequently published all responses along with its observations.

6.6 During the year the Committee has held four full inquiries and four mini sessions.

1.1 The topics covered were:

- i. Children's Services Landscape (June 2017)
- ii. Child Mental Health Services (October 2017)
- iii. Early Intervention and Troubled Families (January 2018)
- iv. Early Years, Child Minding and the 30 Hours Challenge (February 2018)

1.2 The four mini sessions;

- i. Progress on implementing the Children's Services Improvement Plan (June 2017)
- ii. Adult Education Reforms (June 2017)
- iii. Youth Offending Service update (January 2018)
- iv. Preventing Permanent Exclusion from School (February 2018)

6.7 In addition the Portfolio Holder has attended each meeting and has been questioned extensively on his regular updates to the Select Committee.

6.8 The Committee also held scrutiny sessions with the interim Director of Education Mrs Gillian Palmer and the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Education, Care and Health, Mr Ade Adetosoye.

6.9 The Select Committee was delighted to receive a presentation from members of the Living in Care Council at its October 2017 meeting.

6.10 Under the new 'Call in' procedure for the Committee there was one request by the Chairman with regard to the Child Sexual Exploitation Support Services Contract. This was 'called in' prior to decision by the Portfolio Holder because it had not been subject to pre-scrutiny because of the timescale involved. At its meeting in September 2017 the Education, Children and Families Budget and Performance Monitoring Sub-Committee examined the contract and recommended that it be approved.

6.11 The Education, Children and Families Budget and Performance Monitoring Sub-committee met four times during the year.

6.12 A report evaluating the success or otherwise of the Select Committee experiment was published in April 2017. The conclusion was that the members of the Select Committee found the new way of working much more effective and interesting and enabled Members to delve into greater detail and scrutiny than under the previous system.

6.13 We were delighted that our report on Alternative Education was supplied to Lord Soley as part of his preparation for his private members' bill on reforming Home Education.

6.14 I would like to thank my Deputy Chairman Cllr Reddin for his support and chairmanship of Sub-Committee, all members of the Select Committee for their work in examining witnesses and their contributions to the final reports and to the staff of the Department; led by Ade Adetosoye, Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director (ECHS), Janet Baily, Director of Children's Social Care, former Director of Education Jane Bailey and Gillian Bailey, interim Director of Education. We thank Cllr Peter Fortune for his courteous response to our examination of his work as Portfolio Holder and his Executive Assistant Cllr Tom Philpott. Last but not least we thank our hard working and ever cheerful clerk Philippa Gibbs for excellent minutes produced in good time and for drafting the Select Committee's reports.

Cllr Nicholas Bennett, MA, JP
Chairman
Education, Children and Families Select Committee

7. Report from Environment PDS Committee

Chairman: Cllr. Samaris Huntington-Thresher
Vice-Chairman: Cllr. Catherine Rideout

Introduction

7.1 The services provided within the Environment Portfolio affect every resident of Bromley, from residential services such as the collection of waste through to the condition and congestion of our roads and the ability to enjoy our parks and open spaces. In addition residents are wanting to interact with the service in much greater numbers than ever before in order to report concerns, make suggestions or to increasingly access services through online channels.

Scrutiny of the Portfolio Holder and Executive

7.2 The Committee seeks to fulfil this role through:

- Scrutiny of the draft Environment Portfolio Plan, followed by a mid-year review of progress.
- Regular monitoring of service performance.
- Pre-decision scrutiny of relevant Portfolio Holder and Executive decisions.
- Budget monitoring and scrutiny of budget proposals.
- Policy Development

Development and Scrutiny of the Environment Portfolio Plan

7.3 The Committee values the Portfolio Plan as a clear record of priorities and how implementation, improvement and innovation are to be achieved but also as an ongoing assessment of progress and performance against agreed targets that can be tracked to ensure our high standards are being maintained and to reassure residents of their importance. The Committee contributes to the Plan as part of its policy development role and through scrutiny of the Portfolio Holder and Portfolio Plan twice a year, ensuring that progress is analysed and recommendations from the Committee are taken forward.

7.4 During 2017/18 the Portfolio Plan priorities included:

- Improving the Street Scene
- Minimising Waste & Increasing Recycling
- Enhancing Bromley's Parks & Green Spaces
- Managing our Transport Infrastructure & Public Realm
- Improving Travel, Transport & Parking
- Improving Customer Service & Business Management

7.5 The Committee scrutinises progress of these priorities during the year in several ways, such as through ongoing reviews of agreed work programmes and pre-decision scrutiny of Portfolio Holder and Executive decisions.

7.6 These include programmes such as: the Highway Maintenance Investment Strategy where progress and decisions relating to this programme have been regularly reviewed, feedback and recommendations made to the Portfolio Holder; review of LIP works and road improvement schemes that have been developed to relieve traffic congestion, improve safety for road users, or address parking concerns. Review of these traffic schemes ensures consistency of approach and a framework for feedback prior to implementation. This year has also seen an increased number of cycling and walking schemes where review by the Committee has provided valuable input. Support and review of strategies for the regeneration of Crystal Palace Park and investment in the enhancement of Scadbury Park Moated Manor are additional areas that have been investigated by the Committee.

7.7 A further major area that the Committee has been involved in is the Commissioning Programme for Environmental Services where the new contracts will have significant impact in future years and updates of proposals, strategy and progress are under continuing consideration and review.

Monitoring

7.8 A key role of the Committee is in undertaking regular monitoring of the budget and review of the capital programme to ensure transparency, understanding and challenge for changes. In addition the committee has received updates on the contract register and database and the risk register to enable proper scrutiny and management.

Service Reviews

7.9 Partner reviews within the department are an important aspect of the Committee scrutiny role to ensure that our partners are delivering on their remit and providing a responsive quality service in line with their contract. The Committee invited APCOA, the new parking service contractor to address the Committee in order to scrutinise their performance and to highlight to them the importance that the committee attaches to provision of this service. The change of contractor led to greater teething problems than anticipated and these issues were being resolved with considerable support from officers. However, the Committee felt that it was important to understand the reasons behind these issues and through the review to have confidence in the commitment and ability of the contractor to continue to improve. A second partner review was undertaken with Kier who manage the Street Services contract. This is a major contract with significant resident interaction and risk to reputation for the Council and the Committee has an important role in reviewing performance, understanding concerns and discussing future opportunities.

Policy development

7.10 Policy development is integral to many areas of the Committee's work. This year has included work in areas such as: ensuring our continuing reduction of waste going to landfill; the enhancement of measures to improve recycling including improved take-up of the green garden waste service and online resources to promote this; initial groundwork in the development of a policy and trials for Electric Vehicle charging points in response to changing needs.

7.11 Plus, an in-depth review of our customer service function and interaction with residents was undertaken in light of the increasing expectation of residents to have a more fluid relationship with the way the Council provides services and reacts to reports and suggestions through different channels such as Fix My Street. This also covered the development of Neighbourhood Managers to be the local face of the Council within the community. The Committee recognised the need for the Council to be pro-active and have up-to-the-minute information readily accessible in order to react in a timely manner in a rapidly changing online environment and the limitations of current practices, with a working party developing these ideas further.

Conclusion

7.12 My thanks go to all members of the Committee for their enthusiasm and commitment to ensuring that we provide effective scrutiny of the service and for their contribution to policy development. I would also like to thank the Portfolio Holder and officers for their unwavering support and our partners and contractors for their positive contributions to help the committee to deliver a challenging work programme in the past year.

Councillor Samaris Huntington-Thresher
Chairman, Environment PDS Committee

8. Report from Public Protection and Safety PDS Committee

Chairman: Cllr. Alexa Michael

Vice-Chairman: Cllr. Christopher Pierce

8.1 The Public Protection & Safety Policy Development and Scrutiny (PP&S PDS) Committee will have met five times during the 2017-18 Council year. (The final meeting of the year is scheduled for Tuesday 6 March 2018).

Portfolio Priorities and PDS Reports

8.2 At the first PP&S PDS meeting held on 29 June 2017, the Public Protection & Safety Portfolio Holder, Cllr Kate Lymer, outlined the Public Protection and Safety Draft Portfolio Plan priorities for 2017-18. These were to:

- Support the Safer Bromley Partnership and co-ordinate the Council's response to its statutory duty under PREVENT.
- Tackle the sale of age-restricted products, particularly knives, alcohol and tobacco through test purchase operations.
- Take action against rogue traders, particularly those who target the vulnerable, through preventative and enforcement activity with banks and adult safeguarding partners.
- Inspect 100% of high-risk food businesses (Risk Category A and B hygiene) to ensure food safety standards are met.
- Contribute to maintaining a safe environment by providing the CCTV monitoring service for town centres and other key areas.

8.3 The PDS agreed that the Portfolio Plan be adopted with these outcomes as the policy priorities for the year.

8.4 In line with agreed policy priorities, during the course of the year Members received detailed written and / or verbal reports on:

- Gate Zero Report Animal Health and Welfare Service
- Food Standards Agency Audit of Food Hygiene Service Delivery
- Food Safety Service Plan 2017 to 2018
- Trading Standards Service Plan
- Dogs and Pest Control Contracts
- CCTV Procurement Strategy
- Gate Review for Mortuary Service
- Counter Terrorism/Prevent Updates
- Domestic Violence and VAWG Report
- Emergency Planning and Business Continuity Service Update Reports
- Crime and Disorder in the Night Time Economy
- MOPAC Updates
- Asset Recovery Incentivisation Scheme (ARIS)

8.5 The Chairman invited a report on *Adults who misuse drugs: the findings of a health needs assessment in Bromley*. The report provided a summary of the findings of a health

needs assessment of the population of adults with problematic drug use in Bromley Borough.

Police Scrutiny

8.6 All Public Protection & Safety PDS meetings included a comprehensive Police Update presented by the Bromley Borough Commander or Deputy Commander, allowing Members to scrutinise the work of the Police and to raise questions. The main focus of the Police Update at the June 2017 meeting was knife crime although other Police Updates tended to be more general. Members were very concerned about the spate of moped-enabled crime in London and the fact that the Police are not allowed to give chase. It was agreed that the Chairman would draft a letter to the Mayor of London on behalf of the PDS urging that the Police be permitted to pursue mopeds when a crime had been committed. A letter was duly sent and a non-committal response received from the Mayor.

8.7 Members showed grave concern at proposals to link Bromley with Croydon and Sutton Boroughs in a new tri-borough Basic Command Unit (BCU). The sheer size of the three Boroughs meant that Police would be likely to experience difficulty in meeting crime response times. In addition, Police resources would be likely to be diverted to Croydon at the expense of Bromley (and Sutton). Strong representations were made to Sophie Linden, the Deputy Mayor for Policing. In addition, a tri-Borough trial between Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge found that Police response times to crimes in these Boroughs dropped sharply and that the new set-up had “no positives”. Despite further lobbying of the Deputy Mayor from both the Portfolio Holder and her counterpart in Sutton, Bromley is set to be partnered with Croydon and Sutton in the new BCU.

8.8 During the course of the year, both the Police and the Portfolio Holder also provided comprehensive updates on how the different agencies are working together to combat gang activity in the Borough.

Funding

8.9 A visit by the Food Standards Agency in April 2017 found that the existing system of food hygiene inspections was excellent but more people were needed to reduce the backlog of visits to food premises. To this end, a total of two full-time permanent and three full-time temporary food safety officers (up to 18 months) were recruited in 2017. In addition, a full-time temporary Business Continuity Officer was recruited in October 2017 for two years to strengthen this very important area of the Portfolio’s work.

Presentations

8.10 The PDS received several presentations from various groups engaged in public protection and safety (or whose work impinges on them), namely:

- British Transport Police
- Sarah Armstrong (Say No 2 Knives) on knife crime
- The Borough Police Gangs’ Team
- London Fire Brigade
- London Probation Service
- London Ambulance Service
- South London and Maudsley (SLaM) NHS Trust
- Bromley Youth Council

Member Visits

8.11 Two Member visits were arranged during 2016-17. A visit to the refurbished CCTV control room at the Civic Centre took place in the summer. On 22 January 2018, a number of Members visited the Victim Support (VS) HQ at Elephant and Castle where they met the VS staff and learned about the various aspects of VS's work in supporting victims of all kinds of crime. Members also have an open invitation to attend Community Impact Days and test purchasing exercises of age-restricted goods as observers.

Safer Neighbourhood Board

8.12 Both the Chairman and Vice Chairman took part in meetings of the Safer Neighbourhood Board (SNB), which scrutinises the Police and helps to choose various bids to help fight crime. They also attended SNB public meetings, including the annual Crime Summit held on 30 September. The Chairman attended a workshop at City Hall in September which looked at public access to Police services and the make-up of SNBs in the different London Boroughs.

Cllr Alexa Michael
Chairman, Public Protection and Safety PDS Committee
March 2018

9. Report from Renewal and Recreation PDS Committee

Chairman: Cllr. Michael Rutherford
Vice-Chairman: Cllr. Julian Benington

9.1 The Committee met four times this municipal year. Each meeting has scrutinised the reports for decision by the Renewal and Recreation Portfolio Holder and considered policy development for key areas across the Portfolio. Alongside the elected Members on the PDS Committee, we were also pleased to welcome a co-opted member from the Bromley Youth Council, Mr. Nicolas Weaks. Through this past year, the R&R PDS Committee has scrutinised a range of proposals and performance metrics and added further scrutiny to the planning service.

9.2 The Committee have monitored performance against the Renewal and Recreation strategic outcomes for the municipal year, which it agreed to support in the July 2017 meeting.

9.3 Topics the PDS Committee have focused on include:

Town Centres

9.4 *Bromley:* The R&R PDS Committee scrutinised proposed Bromley High Street public realm improvements and the relocation of the market. It expressed concerns about the consultation being performed on the proposals and asked for further engagement with market. The portfolio holder took these comments and additional consultation led to changes to market layout, an increase in the number of stalls and an additional focus on stall branding and advertising the market. The Committee also scrutinised proposals for Site G. Following its scrutiny a proposed land swap in Library Gardens was withdrawn.

9.5 *Beckenham:* Through its Sub-Committee, the Beckenham Town Centre Working Group, it supported an architectural student competition to design the Beckenham Green Canopy. The Working Group was also crucial in enabling Beckenham to get its Purple Flag status for a safe night-time economy. The PDS Committee strongly supported the proposed Beckenham Business Improvement District and is pleased that traders voted in favour of it.

9.6 *Orpington:* At the Committee's final meeting of the civic year, it will review development opportunities for Orpington town centre. It will hear and challenge the potential opportunity sites in the town for sustaining and improving the local economy and for new homes. Earlier in the civic year it gave its input to the second Orpington BID term and its comments were taken into account in the Executive meeting.

9.7 *Penge:* The Committee discussed updates throughout the year on the scheme to improve Penge town centre. The PDS Committee strongly supported the proposed Penge Business Improvement District and is pleased that traders voted in favour of it.

Leisure and Culture

9.8 *Library Service:* In the July 2017 meeting, the Committee gave its support for Greenwich Leisure Limited being awarded a contract to run the library service for 10

years. It was assured that the number of libraries and opening times would not reduce and that savings would be achieved for the Bromley taxpayer in every year of the contract.

9.9 *Cultural Activities*: Continued support was given to the Biggin Hill Memorial Museum, and progress on the scheme was tracked throughout the year. It thanked officers for their excellent work on the museum for their work on the proposals and fundraising support.

9.10 *Crystal Palace Park*: The Committee was pleased to support plans for the regeneration of Crystal Palace Park. It considered both the proposals and the business case and considered that the proposals would both improve the park and deliver an appropriate number of new homes.

Planning

9.11 The performance of the planning service was assessed, with a particular focus on the performance of planning enforcement. The Committee also scrutinised planning appeals, considering those appeals received and decided and the costs incurred by the council.

9.12. The Committee succeeded in bringing about a change of approach to ensuring tall buildings in the borough are safe. Following the Grenfell Tower disaster the committee wanted reassurance that Bromley did not have tall buildings that contained similarly flammable cladding. It was satisfied with the Council's proactive approach with public sector providers and housing associations, but wanted a similarly rigorous approach with private sector tall buildings. As a result of the committee's scrutiny, the Council has confirmation from landlords that there is no such cladding in Bromley's tall buildings.

Scrutiny of the Portfolio Holder

9.13 The Committee scrutinised the portfolio budget, requesting that officers and the portfolio holder explained areas where spending was increasing. Particular attention was given to ensure that where third parties run council services, the quality remains unchanged or better and that cost reduces throughout the contract.

9.14 The Committee also analysed the contract register twice throughout the year, challenging on specific contracts to ensure that contracts avoid being managed effectively and there is suitable foresight of where new contracts are required.

Presentations

9.15 The Committee is grateful to MyTime and GLL for visiting and presenting to it.

Thanks

9.16 I would like to thank all the Members of the Committee for their diligence and hard work throughout the year. A lot of work has been carried out, which has covered a very broad range of subjects. I would also like to thank the officers in the R&R department and Mrs. Lisa Thornley for their tireless work at the Committee meetings and the ongoing day to day running of the Department.

Councillor Michael Rutherford
Chairman, Renewal and Recreation PDS Committee

Report No.
CSD18066

London Borough of Bromley

PART ONE - PUBLIC

Decision Maker: COUNCIL

Date: Monday 9 April 2018

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

Title: THIRD REPORT OF THE EDUCATION, CHILDREN & FAMILIES
SELECT COMMITTEE 2017/18

Contact Officer: Philippa Gibbs, Democratic Services Officer
Tel: 020 8461 7638 E-mail: Philippa.Gibbs@bromley.gov.uk

Chief Officer: Director of Corporate Services

Ward: (All Wards);

1. Reason for report

To report the recommendations made by the Education, Children and Families Select Committee following its third meeting on 23 January 2018.

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

That Council be recommended to:

1. **Comment on the second report of the Education, Children and Families Select Committee 2017/18;**
2. **Invite the Leader and appropriate Portfolio Holders to consider the recommendations and**
 - (a) **refer the recommendations within the report to Service Directors and Partners where appropriate; and**
 - (b) **Provide a written response to the Education, Children & Families Select Committee for consideration at a future meeting of the Select.**

Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children

1. Summary of Impact: it is likely that the recommendations within this report, if implemented, would have a positive impact on vulnerable children.
-

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Not Applicable
 2. BBB Priority: Not Applicable
-

Financial

1. Cost of proposal: Not Applicable:
 2. Ongoing costs: Not Applicable:
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Democratic Services
 4. Total current budget for this head: £343,810
 5. Source of funding:
-

Personnel

1. Number of staff (current and additional): 8 posts (7.27fte)
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours:
-

Legal

1. Legal Requirement: None:
 2. Call-in: Not Applicable:
-

Procurement

1. Summary of Procurement Implications:
-

Customer Impact

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

Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Not Applicable

Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Minutes of the Education, Children and Families Select Committee held on 23.01.18
--	--

**THIRD REPORT OF THE EDUCATION, CHILDREN & FAMILIES
SELECT COMMITTEE
2017/18**

**IMPACT OF
EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES**

Meeting Date: Tuesday 23 JANUARY 2018

The Committee gives its sincere thanks to the witnesses for their contribution to the Select Committee.

This page is left intentionally blank

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Education Children and Families Select Committee met on 23 January 2018 to undertake a review on the Impact of Early Intervention Services in Bromley
- 1.2 The Committee also received an update from the Education, Children and Families Portfolio Holder, and undertook scrutiny of the Council's Director of Education. Details can be found in the [minutes](#)¹ from the meeting.

2. Executive Summary of Recommendations

- 2.1 **That Early Intervention be given greater prominence and that there be a greater emphasis on Early Intervention and the savings and efficiencies that Early Intervention can deliver across multi-agency partnership boards, such as the Bromley Health and Wellbeing Board.**
- 2.2 **That consideration be given to including the Head of Early Intervention and Family Support as a member of the Bromley Health and Wellbeing Board to ensure a continued focus on Early Intervention.**
- 2.3 **That a comprehensive, independent review of communication between schools and the Council, including services within the Children's Social Care division, to see where improvement may be made.**
- 2.4 **That the budget for Early Intervention in Bromley be protected in future years, as far as practicable, to ensure the continued success of Early Intervention services.**
- 2.5 **That Bromley Children Project continue to increase and strengthen partnership working and identify new partners, with a focus on services that support sustained changes for families.**

3. Impact of Early Intervention in Bromley

- 3.1. The Select Committee's main inquiry for this meeting was the impact of Early Intervention Services in Bromley. The purpose of the review was to assess the impact of Early Intervention Services on the future prospects of families receiving services.
- 3.2. A range of written evidence was provided to Members in advance of the meeting. This included report explaining the early intervention offer in Bromley and setting out the background to the Tackling Troubled Families agenda and how this had been integrated within Early Intervention and Family Support Services, the Ofsted Inspection Framework, An executive summary

¹ Minutes can be found on the London Borough of Bromley Website at:
<http://cds.bromley.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=584&MId=6079>

Third Report of the Education Children and Families Select Committee 2017/18

of the review into integration and opportunity in isolated and deprived communities undertaken by Dame Louise Casey DBE CB, and *Breaking the Lock: a new preventative model to improve the lives of vulnerable children and make families stronger*. In addition to this the Select Committee was provided with feedback that had been received from families attending Children's Centres and some relevant Case Studies.

3.3 The Committee heard evidence from five witnesses at the meeting:

- Rachael Dunley, Head of Early Intervention and Family Support (LBB),
- Deborah Cole, Team Manager: Children and Family Centre and FSPP (LBB),
- Barrie Cull, Internal Auditor (LBB),
- PS Alex Komoroczy (Metropolitan Police), and
- PCSO Sue Kennedy (Metropolitan Police)

3.4 What is Early Intervention?

3.4.1 Early intervention is targeted and preventive activity which supports people who are at risk of experiencing adverse and costly life outcomes, in order to prevent those outcomes arising. The activity is not early in terms of a particular stage of life, but early in the onset of problems – before the occurrence of such outcomes in order to prevent the cost associated with them.² Early Intervention is about taking action as soon as possible to tackle problems for children and families before they become more difficult to reverse. Its purpose is to improve the life chances of children and families and benefit society at large, whilst being cost-effective.

3.4.2 Services should be provided from conception to early adulthood because intervention should not just be about a child's early years but also about preventing adolescents and young adults from developing problems.

3.4.3 The early stages of developing and growing up, present a crucial opportunity to provide children with the life skills and support they need. It is much more difficult if a child has dropped out of school, become involved with youth crime or developed a serious mental health problem. If left unchecked these behaviors would mean those children are at greater risk in adulthood of unemployment, mental health problems, substance abuse, early pregnancy/early fatherhood, criminal offending, multiple arrests and imprisonment, higher rates of domestic violence and shortened life expectancy³. Early intervention involves identifying children and families that may be at risk of running into difficulties and providing timely and effective support. Early Intervention is about enhancing the capabilities of every parent to provide a supportive and enriching environment for their children to grow up

² Early Intervention Foundation, Chaowdry & Oppenheim (2015) *Spending on Late Intervention: How We Can do Better for Less* Page 19

³ <http://www.incredibleyears.com/about/incredible-years-series/>

in. This will ensure that the next generation has the best chance to flourish with the skills to engage in and replicate positive parenting themselves.

3.4.4 Early intervention spans an array of different sectors including education, health, and crime. It can take the form of a parenting programme for a pregnant mother and her partner or a behaviour class for adolescents who are at risk of being involved in crime.⁴ Children and families can experience an array of problems all at once; therefore early intervention requires a multilevel, holistic approach. For example, in a local area early intervention may involve health visitors and a youth offending team working together to get to the root of a family's issues and refer them to the best support for their particular situation. Early intervention is about working with children and families to help them. It is a collaborative approach to providing effective support

3.5 Why Early Intervention?

3.5.1 Early intervention represents an intelligent approach to spending. It requires small investments to deal with root causes, rather than the much greater costs of dealing with the after-effects. It enables a less intrusive, more cost-effective intervention earlier on to prevent high cost interventions down the line.

3.5.2 For children, better social and emotional skills, communication, the ability to manage their behaviour and mental health provides a stronger foundation for learning at school, an easier transition into adulthood, better job prospects, healthier relationships and improved mental and physical health.

3.5.3 In England and Wales, approximately £17 billion was spent in 2015/16 on addressing damaging problems that affect children and young people such as mental health problems, going into care, dropping out of school, unemployment and youth crime. To reduce this cost and prevent substantial suffering and wasted potential, Early Intervention is more crucial than ever.

3.6 Early Intervention Services in Bromley

3.6.1 The London Borough of Bromley is delivering many of its Early Intervention services through the Bromley Children Project, part of the Early Intervention and Family Support Team sitting within Children's Social Care (see **Appendix 1**). The Bromley Children Project is a borough-wide service that delivers Early Help and Family Support to families living in Bromley. It is linked to the six Bromley Children and Family Centres and works with private, voluntary and independent Early Years providers in the borough to create a safe, secure and happy environment for all children⁵. This is the Local Authority's "early help" offer under the thresholds of need.

⁴ [The Early Intervention Foundation](#)

⁵ London Borough of Bromley Thresholds of Need (May 2017)

Third Report of the Education Children and Families Select Committee 2017/18

3.6.2 Children and Family Centres

3.6.2.1 The early help offer for families in Bromley starts with Children and Family Centres which offer a range of services, activities and courses to all families in line with the Core Purpose as described in the Children's Centre statutory guidance. These are to improve outcomes for young children and their families and reduce inequalities between families in greatest need and their peers in relation to: child development and school readiness, parenting aspirations and parenting skills, and child and family health and life chances.

3.6.2.2 There are six operational Children and Families Centres in the Borough, covering the areas of highest need where there are recognised pockets of significant deprivation⁶. In terms of the location of the Children and Family Centres, the Borough has been divided so that the whole of the Borough is covered by one of the six Children and Family Centres which are located within the wards of Penge and Cator, Plaistow and Sundridge, Mottingham and Chislehurst North, Orpington, Cray Valley East and West, and Biggin Hill. The Council had also worked closely with Bromley's Health Visitor provider so that their 'patches' now mirror those of the Children and Family Centres, facilitating easier and more productive joint working.

3.6.2.3 Data demonstrates that registrations at Children and Family Centres continue to increase year-on-year. In addition to this footfall shows a distinct and steady increase.

3.6.3 Parenting Courses

3.6.3.1 These are an essential part of the early help offer within the Early Intervention and Family Support service and are delivered in house by Tackling Troubled Families (TTF) Family Support and Parenting Practitioners (FSPPs) to ensure quality and consistency of the parenting messages given to parents.

3.6.3.2 National evidence based programmes include:

- The Nurturing Programme (0-16 years)
- The Webster Stratton Incredible Years (3-6 years)
- Positive Parenting Skills (3-12 years)
- Strengthening Families, Strengthening Communities (5-18 years)
- New Forest Parenting Programme (for parents of children with ADHD)

3.6.3.3 In addition to national programmes, specialist courses are also offered such as:

- Caring for your child (Neglect programme)
- Keys to Freedom/freedom (DVA programme)
- AVA Children's Group Work Programme (DVA programme)
- Understanding Anger in the Family

⁶ Within the top 20% of national deprivation, 'Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2010 for England'.

Third Report of the Education Children and Families Select Committee 2017/18

- Improving Self Esteem
- SHEEP (Safety in the home, inc. e-safety programme)
- Bambino (new parent programme)
- Young Active Parents ('YAPS')

3.6.3.4 A new course is currently under development. This course will support parents concerned that their child is at caught up in the growing gangs culture, or is at risk of being caught up in it.

3.6.3.5 Parenting Plus runs alongside the courses listed above for families on Children in Need (CIN) or Child Protection (CP) Plans. The Parenting Plus model works through the parent attending a course as part of the plan around their child. Each week a Family Support and Parenting Practitioner will visit the home, discuss the parenting strategies from that week's session, observe the parent with their child and offer support and role modelling to help them embed the strategies.

3.6.4 Tackling Troubled Families Programme

3.6.4.1 This is a Government programme led by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), in partnership with the Departments for Education, Health, Work and Pensions, and Ministry of Justice. The programme has been delivered in two phases: Phase One ran for three years and ceased on 21 March 2015. Phase Two will run for five years and officially launched on 1 April 2015.

3.6.4.2 In Bromley, the Tackling Troubled Families programme is co-ordinated through the Bromley Children's Project. Intervention and support is delivered through a number of work streams, primarily within Early Intervention and Family Support but also key partners, such as the anti-Social Behaviour Unit, Youth Offending Service, Education Welfare Service and services supporting families not in work. These key partners are drawn from a number of Council departments and partner agencies and an integrated approach is therefore required. Two staff from Job Centre Plus are seconded into the Bromley Children's Project on a part-time basis to support the efforts to decrease the number of adults out of work in a more targeted and structured way.

3.6.4.3 The Committee notes that, in line with the recommendations in *Breaking the Lock*, the model in Bromley has been developed to ensure a multi-agency approach to supporting families with multi-faceted problems. The model is built on structures that were already in place, further developing innovative interventions with troubled families with the ability to respond to changing need without creating additional management structures.

3.6.4.4 It is noted that Phase Two of the Targeting Troubled Families programme remains a payment by results programme. The focus is now more holistic and has been broadened to allow for earlier intervention. In order to achieve payment by result outcomes it is now a requirement to evidence that there

Third Report of the Education Children and Families Select Committee 2017/18

has been *holistic family assessment*, there is an allocated lead professional, the family are working towards change through an agreed plan with SMART goals, and that the family has achieved *significant and sustained improvement* compared with all their problems at the point of engagement. A comprehensive Outcomes Plan has been developed to support this. Phase Two of the Tackling Troubled Families Programme is different to Phase One. It is easier to attach a family but more difficult to evidence 'turn around' in light of the 'significant and sustained' change requirements and the extension of the 'in education' element of the programme to all school aged children in the household.

- 3.6.4.5 The Committee notes that during Phase One of the Tackling Troubled Families programme Bromley achieved maximum attachment and maximum payments by results reward payments against the target of 490 families. This was achieved by working with more families than the local target in order to achieve success. For Phase Two it has been confirmed that Bromley's target number of families is an additional 1,700. The attachment of families is spread across five years. In addition to the 1,700, as an Early Adopter Bromley has been required to attach a further 249 families during the early adopter period (September 2014-March 2015), making a total of 1,949 families for Phase Two. To date Bromley remains on schedule to achieve this target.
- 3.6.4.6 The number of referrals into the Bromley Children Project for family support, including those which achieve the Tackling Troubled Families criteria for attachment, is increasing year on year with the majority of referrals received from colleagues across social care, education and health. Caseloads fluctuate on a daily basis, however on 31 December 2017, there were 331 families with over 689 children open to the Tackling Troubled Families Bromley Children Project team, supported by 21 Family Support and Parenting Practitioners. This team also delivers all of Bromley's evidence based parenting programmes out of the Children and Family Centres.
- 3.6.4.7 The Tackling Troubled Families programme began in April 2012 and as at December 2017 the Bromley Children Project has supported 2,453 families, producing 3,254 cases for the team. Bromley Children Project is the recognised step-down route for families who have received support from Children's Social Care that has resulted in the safeguarding concerns being successfully managed, but for whom there remain other areas with which they require support to effect sustained change.
- 3.6.4.8 It is to be noted that the number of referrals to Children's Social Care has reduced, whilst the number of referrals including step-downs from social care into Bromley Children Project Tackling Troubled Families has increased in recent years.
- 3.6.5 Success of the Early Intervention Approach

Third Report of the Education Children and Families Select Committee 2017/18

- 3.6.5.1 There is a wealth of research which supports an Early Intervention approach to working with families in order to increase the likelihood of effecting sustained change towards positive outcomes and so reducing the longer term impact on statutory services such as Children's Social Care. If children at risk can be helped early on and their needs prevented from becoming entrenched, they are less likely to require statutory intervention or acute services. This would then free up resources and reduce pressure on the system. Adopting an Early Intervention approach such as the model in Bromley minimises the demand for statutory services and reduces spending on more costly acute statutory services.⁷ The Committee notes that there is clear evidence in Bromley that with the right support it is possible for families to make sustainable changes that provide long-term benefits.
- 3.6.5.2 The success of Early Intervention depends on the skill of frontline practitioners in building relationships with families, identifying need and providing the appropriate support or opportunity. However, the responsibility should not just lie with Family Support and Parenting Practitioners; all local authority employees who come into contact with families, as well as partners such as schools, health colleagues, the Police, and voluntary organisations supporting the wider community, should feel able to spot and help a struggling family, parent or young person.⁸ Providing effective Early Intervention in a local area requires commitment across the relevant partners in place.
- 3.6.5.3 The Committee heard that Police Officers and PCSOs work closely with Children and Family Centres across the Borough to identify families who would benefit from support and to signpost them to relevant services. The Committee notes evidence from the Police that a number of the issues dealt with by the Police with stem from poor parenting. Children and Family Centres provide valuable services to vulnerable families and help to address a number of social issues within communities. By working in partnership the Police and Children and Family Centres are able to provide support and advice to some of the hardest to reach families in the Borough, families who are otherwise distrusting of services.
- 3.6.5.4 The Committee further notes that a great deal of support is offered to all families through partner agencies such as the Health Visiting Service and GPs, who provide support with issues such as post-natal depression. In February 2015, the Early Intervention Foundation recommended a multi-agency approach suggesting that Early Intervention for children and young people should be a key focus for Health and Wellbeing Boards. In light of the recommendation from the Early Intervention Foundation, the Committee notes with interest that the Head of Early Intervention and Family Support is not a Member of the Bromley Health and Wellbeing Board and does not regularly attend meetings.

⁷ Early Intervention Foundation, Chaowdry & Oppenheim (2015) *Spending on Late Intervention: How We Can do Better for Less* Page 9

⁸ *Ibid.* Page 7

Third Report of the Education Children and Families Select Committee 2017/18

Recommendation 1: That Early Intervention be given greater prominence and that there be a greater emphasis on Early Intervention and the savings and efficiencies that Early Intervention can deliver across multi-agency partnership boards, such as the Bromley Health and Wellbeing Board.

Recommendation 2: That consideration be given to including the Head of Early Intervention and Family Support as a member of the Bromley Health and Wellbeing Board to ensure a continued focus on Early Intervention.

3.6.5.5 The Committee notes that one area for improvement which has already been identified by the Bromley Children Project is information sharing with schools and ensuring that schools are kept informed. It is notable that the need to improve communications with schools has been a recurring theme throughout the Select Committee's consideration this municipal year.

Recommendation 3: That a comprehensive, independent review of communication between schools and the Council, including services within the Children's Social Care division, to see where improvement may be made.

3.6.5.6 At the meeting of the Education, Children and Families Budget and Performance Monitoring Sub-Committee on 17th January 2018, the Independent Chairman of the Bromley Safeguarding Children Board, Jim Gamble, described Bromley's Early Intervention offer as "the jewel in Bromley's crown". During the Ofsted Inspection in May 2016, Inspectors acknowledged that whilst Children's Services in Bromley were judged to be Inadequate there was "*evidence of better practice in early help services through the Bromley Children's Project, where the work of family support is well embedded. Assessments for early help intervention are timely and lead to a range of appropriate services. The borough commissions an extensive range of effective early help...services for children and families*".

3.6.6 Early Intervention in Bromley Going Forward

3.6.6.1 With the ever growing squeeze on local authority budgets, the success of Bromley's Early Intervention model reverberates throughout the Council. In *Breaking the Lock*, Amanda Kelly argues that as a conservative estimate every pound spent on prevention could save two pounds on more complex interventions⁹. Over the past 10 years the numbers of looked after children have risen steadily with the lengths of individual episodes also rising. Nationally, this surge in demand has increased costs by more than £350 million in placement costs alone. The fastest rising primary reason for children in need is family dysfunction¹⁰. The success of the Troubled Families agenda has demonstrated that timely, targeted and integrated Early Intervention can have a demonstrable positive impact on children's lives, breaking the cycle of repeated failed interventions from a multitude of different agencies. Protected funding for timely and targeted Early

⁹ Impower (2015) *Breaking the Lock*, Amanda Kelly, Page 8

¹⁰ Ibid, page 9

Third Report of the Education Children and Families Select Committee 2017/18

Intervention, would in the long-term the reduce the costs of intervention. This would have a significant impact on Council budgets in the future.

Recommendation 4: That the budget for Early Intervention in Bromley be protected, as far as practicable, in future years to ensure the continued success of Early Intervention services.

3.6.6.2 Bromley's Early Intervention Services, delivered through the Bromley Children's Project form a key component of Bromley's Thresholds of Need. When used effectively, Early Intervention ensures that families receive the right support at an early stage before a small need grows into a larger one, thus preventing the need for more costly acute statutory services.

3.6.6.3 In order to continue to improve the services and support available to the most vulnerable families, whilst achieving the requirement to provide universal services alongside the targeted offer, there will need to be an firm focus on increasing and strengthening partnership working.

Recommendation 5: That Bromley Children Project continue to increase and strengthen partnership working and identify new partners, with a focus on services that support sustained changes for families.

3.7 Conclusions of the Education Children and Families Select Committee

3.7.1 It is clear from the evidence considered by the Select Committee that in order to meet future demands and manage a number of future public service budgets there needs to be a continued focus on timely, effective universal and more targeted Early Intervention. Once children enter the statutory assessment process they are more likely to remain in this more costly system.

3.7.2 Alison O'Sullivan (President of the Association of the Directors of Children's Services), summed up the position very succinctly: "*We may live to regret not investing in Early Intervention...we may not just be shooting ourselves in the foot, we may be shooting ourselves in the head.*"¹¹ Bromley, through the Bromley Children Project, has shown the foresight to commit to and invest in Early Intervention Services.

3.7.3 The evidence considered by the Select Committee, feedback from service users and testimony from the Police and Council Officers, demonstrates that Bromley's Early intervention Services are delivering positive and sustained changes for the most vulnerable families in the Borough and are highly regarded – truly deserving of the accolade of *the Jewel in Bromley's Crown*.

¹¹ MJ Future Forum 2015

This page is left intentionally blank



RACHEL DUNLEY
Head of Service
Early Interventions and Family Support

CENTRAL SERVICES
Intelligence & Operations,
Finance & Admin,
Community Outreach

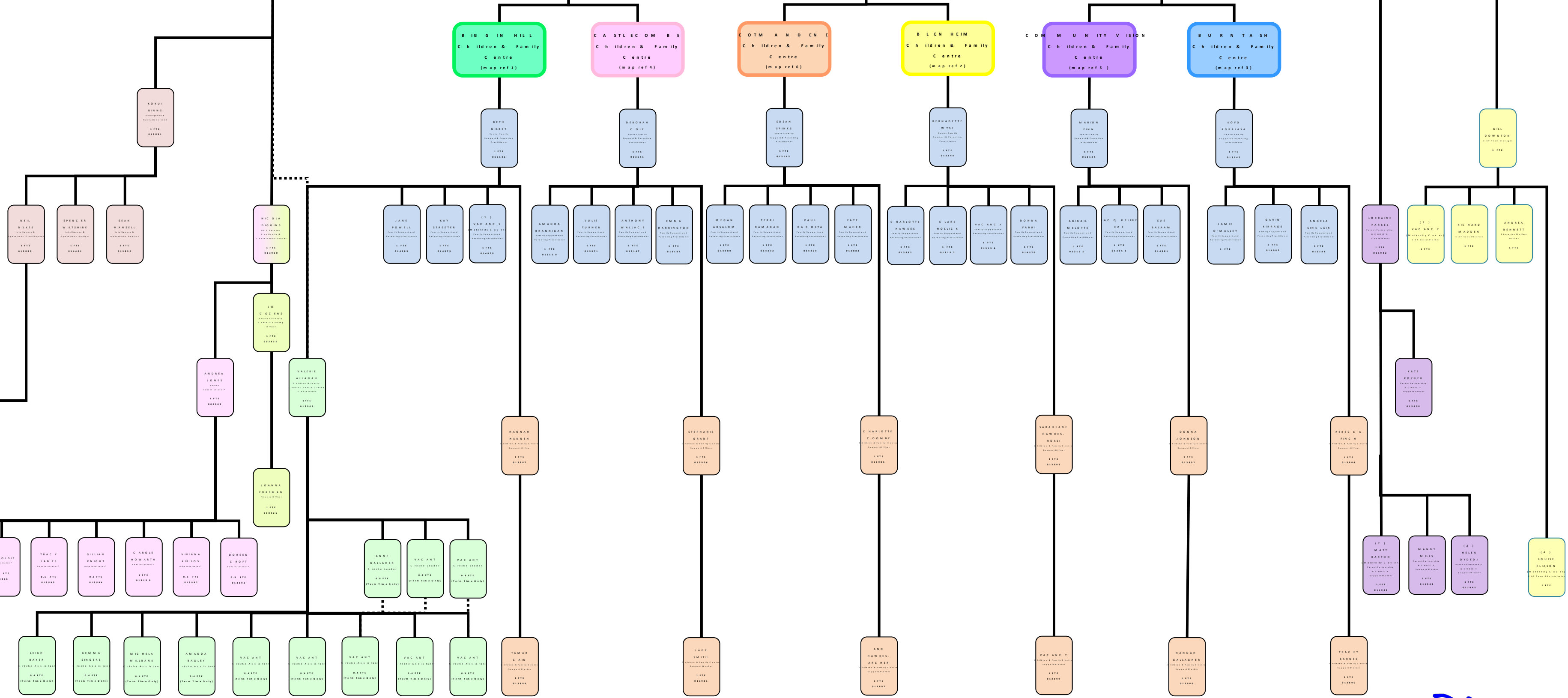
EARLY INTERVENTION LOCALITY 2
CENTRAL

EARLY INTERVENTION LOCALITY 3
EAST

EARLY INTERVENTION LOCALITY 1
WEST

SEND
Information Advice
& Support Service

CAF
Common Assessment
Framework
Team



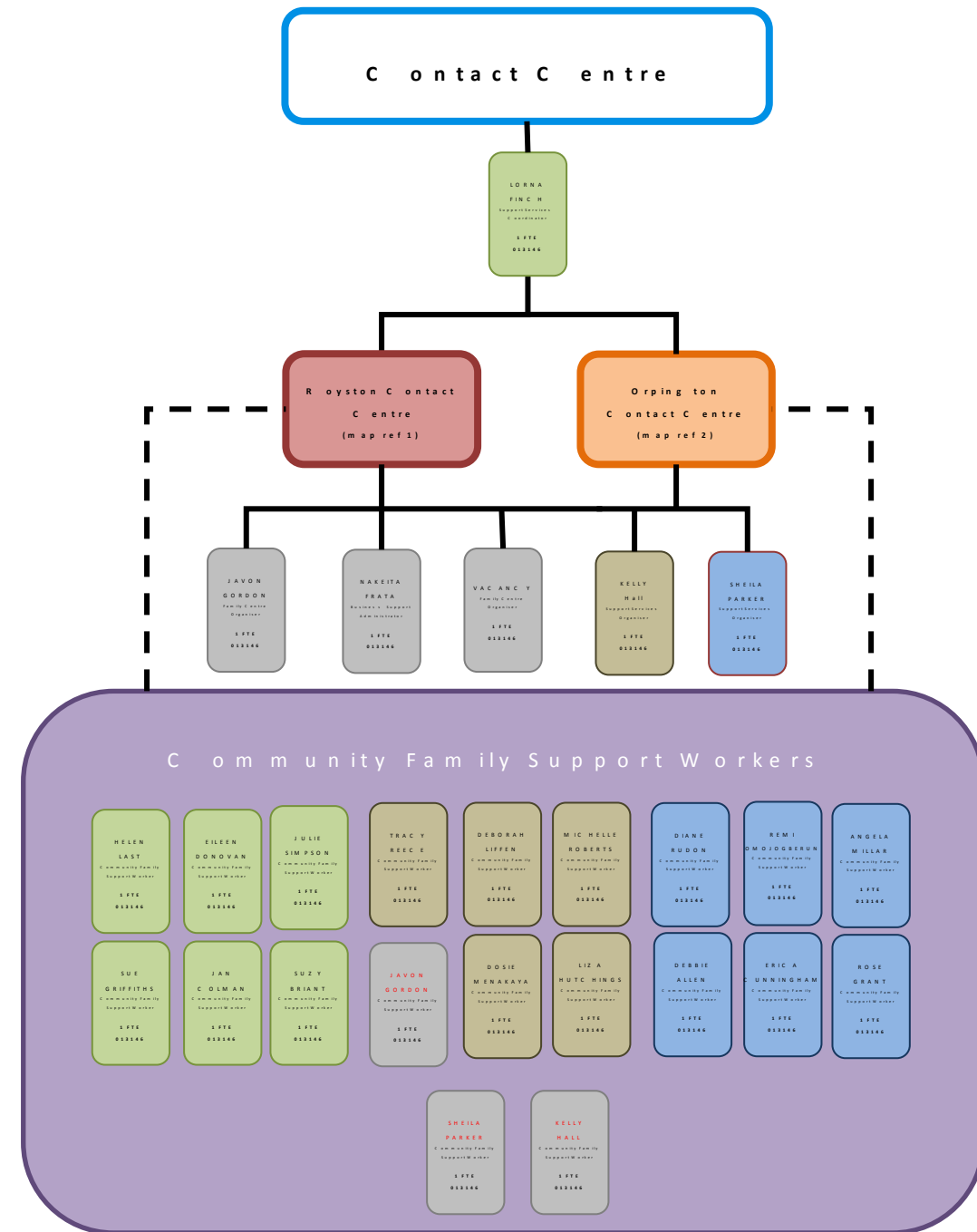
Page 105

Employees on Maternity Leave

- (1) IM A SHAW
- (2) C LAINE
- (3) RAYLEIGH

* Supporting BC P + Early Years Childcare & / or peripatetic on rotation as members of staff at Bromley Children & Family Centres





Report No.
CSD18067

London Borough of Bromley

PART ONE - PUBLIC

Decision Maker: COUNCIL

Date: Monday 9 April 2018

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

Title: **FOURTH REPORT OF THE EDUCATION, CHILDREN & FAMILIES SELECT COMMITTEE 2017/18**

Contact Officer: Philippa Gibbs, Democratic Services Officer
Tel: 020 8461 7638 E-mail: Philippa.Gibbs@bromley.gov.uk

Chief Officer: Director of Corporate Services

Ward: (All Wards);

1. Reason for report

To report the recommendations made by the Education, Children and Families Select Committee following its fourth meeting held on 27 February 2018.

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

That Council be recommended to:

1. **Comment on the fourth report of the Education, Children and Families Select Committee 2017/18;**
2. **Invite the Leader and appropriate Portfolio Holders to consider the recommendations and**
 - (a) **refer the recommendations within the report to Service Directors and Partners where appropriate; and**
 - (b) **Provide a written response to the Education, Children & Families Select Committee for consideration at a future meeting of the Select.**

Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children

1. Summary of Impact: the recommendations in this report may have an impact on vulnerable children across the Borough although any impact has not been quantified.
-

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Not Applicable
 2. BBB Priority: Not Applicable
-

Financial

1. Cost of proposal: Not Applicable
 2. Ongoing costs: Not Applicable
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Democratic Services
 4. Total current budget for this head: £343,810
 5. Source of funding:
-

Personnel

1. Number of staff (current and additional): 8 posts (7.27fte)
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours:
-

Legal

1. Legal Requirement: None
 2. Call-in: Not Applicable
-

Procurement

1. Summary of Procurement Implications:
-

Customer Impact

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

Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Not Applicable

Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Minutes of the Education, Children and Families Select Committee held on 27.02.18
--	--

**FOURTH REPORT OF THE
EDUCATION, CHILDREN & FAMILIES SELECT COMMITTEE
2017/18**

**EARLY YEARS, CHILDMINDING
AND THE 30 HOURS CHALLENGE**

Meeting Date: Tuesday 27 FEBRUARY 2018

The Committee gives its sincere thanks to the witnesses for their contribution to the Select Committee.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Education Children and Families Select Committee met on 27 February 2018 to undertake a review on the Early Years, Child Minding and the 30 Hour Challenge
- 1.2 The Committee also received an update from the Education, Children and Families Portfolio Holder, undertook scrutiny of the Council's Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director for Education Care and Health Services, considered a report on Preventing Permanent Exclusions from Schools and conducted pre-decision on a Part 2 Portfolio Holder decision concerning Bromley Academy Trust Pupil Referral Units. Details can be found in the [minutes](#)¹ of the meeting.

2. Executive Summary of Recommendations

- 2.1 That steps be taken to ensure wider promotion of the requirement to register for those providing care in their home for more than two hours a day.**
- 2.2 That Early Years Provision be included in any review of Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Reform, including co-production and the Local Offer.**
- 2.3 That an Early Years version of the Bromley Schools' Circular be produced with support from other Council services, such as design and communication, as appropriate.**
- 2.4 That the potential for marketing the new bespoke IT system to other local authorities with comparable IT infrastructure be explored.**
- 2.5 That work continue to explore the potential to develop the two Local Authority maintained nurseries as 'training hubs' for students and apprenticeships and the Committee be provided with an update in March 2019.**
- 2.6 That the excellent quality of the Early Years provision available in Bromley as well as upcoming opportunities for training and employment in the Early Years sector be more widely publicised.**

3. Early Years, Childminding and the 30 Hour Challenge

- 3.1. The Select Committee's main inquiry for this meeting was Early Years, Childminding and the 30 Hour Challenge. The purpose of the review was to consider and review Early Years provision across the Borough.

¹ Minutes can be found on the London Borough of Bromley Website at: <http://cds.bromley.gov.uk/ie/ListDocuments.aspx?CId=584&MId=6165>

Fourth Report of the Education Children and Families Select Committee 2017/18

3.2. A range of written evidence was provided to Members in advance of the meeting. This included a report explaining the position in relation to Early Years, Childminding and the 30 Hour Challenge in Bromley together with a link to the DfE Evaluation of the pilot schemes run in relation to 30 hours funded child care.

3.3 The Committee heard evidence from three witnesses at the meeting:

- Carol Arnfield, Head of Early Years, School Standards and Adult Education (LBB),
- Liz Hodgeman, Early Years Strategy Manager (LBB), and
- Angela Leeves, Early Years Provider and Chairman of the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.

3.4 Statutory Duties in relation to Early Years Provision

3.4.1 Local Authorities have duties pursuant to Section 2 of the Childcare Act 2016 and Sections 6, 7, 7A, 9A, 12 and 13 of the Childcare Act 2006. These are set out in the February 2018 Early Education and Childcare Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities²

3.4.2 The main duties are to:-

- ensure there is sufficient high quality childcare to meet the needs of working parents;
- secure funded childcare provision including the 30 hours extended entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds, 15 hours universal provision and 1am2 places;
- provide information, advice and assistance to parents and prospective parents;
- provide information, advice and training to childcare providers; and
- meet the requirements under the Equality Act 2010.

3.4.3 The Local Authority has a strategic role in the provision of childcare locally as a market facilitator rather than provider (with the exception of two maintained nurseries within the London Borough of Bromley: Blenheim and Community Vision) and local authorities are expected to support providers across the sector to meet the needs of working parents and carers so far as is reasonably practicable.

3.4.4 The quality of provision is regulated and assessed by Ofsted. However local authorities have a responsibility to improve quality. Bromley's Early Years Quality Improvement Team (consisting of 3.6 FTE staff) undertake individual support as well as delivering training and supporting events and activities. The current staff structure chart is attached at Appendix 1.

²

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/682005/Early_education_and_childcare_Statutory_guidance_for-LAs.pdf

3.5 30 Hours Funding

- 3.5.1 Prior to September 2017, the Government's Early Education Entitlement offered 15 hours of early education for 38 weeks each year to all three and four year old children and the most disadvantaged two year olds in England.
- 3.5.2 In September 2017, with the national rollout of 30 hours funded childcare, this universal offer for three and four year olds was extended to 30 hours for children of working parents³.
- 3.5.3 While the universal entitlement is focused on supporting child development, the aim of this extension is that "Additional free childcare will help families by reducing the cost of childcare and will support parents into work or to work more hours should they wish to do so"⁴.

3.6 Early Years Provision in Bromley

3.6.1 Non-Domestic

- 3.6.1.1 Bromley has a higher number of childcare settings on non-domestic premises (premises which are not residential homes) than any other London borough. Between them they provide 8,299 childcare places (Ofsted Early Years and Childcare data as at 31st August 2017).
- 3.6.1.2 Settings are a mix of pre-schools (116), day nurseries (61), maintained nurseries (11) and other providers on non-domestic premises (15). 74.3% of all Ofsted registered early years places within the borough are provided by these settings.
- 3.6.1.3 The different providers offer a range of flexible childcare packages. Pre-schools generally offer morning or afternoon sessions whilst day nurseries often open at 7:30am and close at 6:30pm to accommodate the working pattern of parents. Pre-schools are typically only open during term time and day nurseries offer all year-round care.
- 3.6.1.4 The cost of childcare varies widely across the Borough depending on locality and demand. Hourly rates can vary from £6 to £8 per hour. Babies require higher child to staff ratios (3 babies to 1 adult) so care for babies is usually charged at a higher rate.

³ Working parents are defined as those who earn or expect to earn the equivalent to working 16 hours each week at the national minimum or living wage. This currently equates to earnings of £115.20 a week (or around £6,000 per year) for parents aged 25 or older.

⁴ Department for Education (2015), *Childcare Bill: policy statement*, DFE-00177-2015, December, https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/482517/Childcare_Bill_Policy_Statement_12.03.2015.pdf, page 4.

Fourth Report of the Education Children and Families Select Committee 2017/18

3.6.2 Childminders (Domestic)

3.6.2.1 Bromley also has a higher number of childminders than any other London Borough. Between them they provide 2,877 childcare places, 25.7% of all Ofsted registered early years places.

3.6.2.2 Often, childminders can provide greater flexibility for parents, such as wrap around care (caring for children before and after pre-school for example). Ratios are normally lower and some parents prefer a home environment for their children.

3.6.2.3 People who provide care in their home for more than two hours a day as a paid provision are required to register as childminders unless they have a close family relationship with the child they are caring for.

Recommendation 1: That steps be taken to ensure wider promotion of the requirement to register for those providing care in their home for more than two hours a day.

3.6.2.4 The Committee notes that all Early Years providers are expected to offer care to children with special educational needs and disabilities to meet their individual needs. Within the Borough, the Phoenix Centre offers a range of Early Years Services to children with special educational needs and disabilities but there is a clear emphasis on supporting children to remain within mainstream settings where appropriate.

3.6.2.5 During the Autumn Term of 2017, early years providers claimed the Early Years Pupil Premium for 420 children. This is additional funding for early years settings to improve the education they provide for disadvantaged 3 and 4 year olds.

Recommendation 2: that Early Years Provision be included in any review of Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Reform, including co-production and the Local Offer.

3.6.2.6 The Early Years sector in Bromley is predominantly made up of private, voluntary and independent (PVI) providers. This is a very different profile to other London Boroughs who have a high number of maintained nursey classes. This PVI landscape brings with it its own challenges for information sharing and managing transitions.

3.6.3 Quality of Provision

3.6.3.1 A good Early Years education helps to build a strong foundation for a child's emotional, social, physical and mental development. It helps to give them confidence and prepare them for school. Studies have shown that children who participate in early education (between the ages of 2 and 4) progress better in school.

Fourth Report of the Education Children and Families Select Committee 2017/18

3.6.3.2 The Committee notes that in Bromley there is a higher percentage of Ofsted graded Outstanding childcare than the London average. Any Early Years providers graded below Good are supported to improve by the Bromley Quality Improvement Team who undertake regular visits to these providers and offer regular support, challenge and guidance.

3.6.3.3 Thirteen proposed child minders are currently awaiting registration with Ofsted. These providers are being supported by the Quality Improvement Team to ensure that they fully comply with the Ofsted standards. One to one support continues to be provided post registration until the provider has their first full inspection grading (within 2 years).

3.6.3.4 The Quality Improvement Team provides the following training on a regular basis to all childcare providers:

- Child Protection for Childminders and Child Protection Designated Lead
- General Child Protection training for practitioners
- Workshop raising awareness of Prevent.

The Quality Improvement Team are also developing a workshop on preparing for an Ofsted Inspection.

3.6.3.5 Regular Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) information sessions are held on a termly basis at different locations around the Borough to provide updates on national and local issues and to encourage sharing of best practice. These sessions are well attended by providers. Regular e-bulletins outlining changes to funding are supplied to Early Years providers by the Early Years Funding Team.

3.6.3.6 The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) results for the 2016/17 academic year demonstrate that Bromley continues to perform higher than the national average. Bromley's good level of development at 77.4% is above both the Inner London Average (72.8%) and the Outer London Average (73.2%). The percentage of children achieving at least expected level and good level of development has continued to rise year on year. Girls continue to do better than boys and the gender gap has increased slightly in all three key measures.

Recommendation 3: That an Early Years version of the Bromley Schools' Circular be produced with support from other Council services, such as design and communication, as appropriate.

3.6.4 Uptake of Provision

3.6.4.1 A total of 642 children (71% of all those eligible), are claiming their entitlement to lam2 funding which provides 15 hours of funded childcare for 38 weeks per year.

Fourth Report of the Education Children and Families Select Committee 2017/18

3.6.4.2 Bromley has a high uptake of children accessing their universal entitlement (15 hours for all 3 and 4 year olds) and the joint third highest percentage of take up of 3 and 4 year old funding in London.

3.6.5 The 30 Hour Challenge

3.6.5.1 In September 2017, the 30 hours extended entitlement was launched. In the Autumn Term 1,295 children aged 3 and 4 years accessed this additional entitlement through Bromley providers and childminders. The Committee notes that currently an average of 21 hours is booked.

3.6.5.2 Bromley has the highest number of children in a 30 hour place across all London Boroughs and the fourth highest number of eligibility codes (1,221) issued by HMRC of all the London Boroughs. In addition, 193 children are accessing the 30 hour entitlement because whilst their parents do not reside in Bromley, they work within the Borough and elect to use childcare local to work.

3.6.5.3 The Committee notes that 97% of day nurseries and 70% of pre-schools in Bromley currently provide 30 hour funded places. Many of the remaining providers support the scheme by working in partnership with others. As at 31 December 2017, 140 childminders (27%) signed up to offer funded childcare with 106 children accessing their extended entitlement with a childminder during the autumn term 2017. Early Years providers are able to charge for any hours over and above the funded entitlement.

3.6.5.4 The Local Authority has been supporting providers by taking steps to ensure that Early Years providers are delivering funded provision in accordance with statutory guidance. The Committee notes that Early Years Providers are required to submit their admissions policy when agreeing provider contracts. The Committee heard evidence from the Chairman of the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership who confirmed that submissions of the admissions policy had been a useful exercise. It had ensured that the Policy was up-to-date and had also assisted with the identification of budget implications in relation to changes to funded entitlement.

3.6.6 IT Systems

3.6.6.1 The increased complexity and volumes of funding claims from providers has put pressure on the Local Authority's capacity. The Local Authority has received £31,000 from the Department of Education to develop a bespoke system that could interact with the Local Authority's Oracle system in processing funding claims for Early Years entitlement. It is anticipated that this new portal will provide an improved experience for providers and parents, reduce the data entry workload and provide better information.

Recommendation 4: That the potential for marketing the new bespoke IT system to other local authorities with comparable IT infrastructure be explored.

Fourth Report of the Education Children and Families Select Committee 2017/18

3.6.6.2 The Committee notes that there has been a nationwide issue with some parents struggling with the online eligibility system provided by HMRC. This has resulted in confusion and delay in obtaining eligibility codes, something which had been well documented in the national press.

3.6.7 Future Capacity

3.6.7.1 It is clearly evident that the demand for 30 hour places will increase as more children meet the eligibility criteria and parents choose to work longer hours now they can claim additional childcare funding.

3.6.7.2 The Committee notes that there are four wards where demand is likely to outstrip capacity in the 2017/2018 Summer Term: Cray Valley West; Darwin; Orpington; and Shortlands. A further six wards have low capacity levels: Biggin Hill; Bromley Common and Keston; Kelsey and Eden Park; Mottingham and Chislehurst North; Petts Wood and Knoll; and West Wickham.

3.6.7.3 It is pleasing that the Local Authority was successful in its bid to the Department of Education's 30 Hours Delivery Support Fund for 9 projects totalling £69,000. These projects aim to increase capacity within the Early Years sector.

3.6.7.4 The Committee notes that there is both a national and local shortage of qualified Early Years Practitioners and this prevents providers from expanding their places. To address this, work is underway to explore the potential to develop the two Local Authority maintained nurseries as 'training hubs' for students and apprenticeships working in partnership with Bromley Adult Education Service, local training providers and Children and Family Centres.

Recommendation 5: that work continue to explore the potential to develop the two Local Authority maintained nurseries as 'training hubs' for students and apprenticeships and the Committee be provided with an update in March 2019.

3.6.7.5 The predicted increase in demand in the 2017/18 Spring and Summer terms may have a detrimental impact on the number of funded places available for 2 year old children. Providers are able to achieve a higher rate of funding for 3 and 4 year olds if they are entitled to deprivation funding and Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP). This coupled with lower staffing costs for older children (as a result of higher child to staff ratios) makes it financially more beneficial for a provider to offer places to 3 and 4 year olds.

3.6.7.6 The Committee also notes that a consequence of the extended provision may be an increase in the number of children who choose to remain within their Early Years childcare setting rather than taking up a place in a reception class.

3.6.8 Conclusions and Recommendations

- 3.6.8.1 Many families will have benefitted from the extended entitlement 30 hours offer. Research from the early implementers of the funding demonstrates that there have been improvements to many family budgets with parents being able to work more hours. The family life for some has significantly improved with parents no longer having to work opposing shifts to reduce the cost of paying for childcare. However, there are undoubtedly challenges for providers in ensuring that their early years provision remains financially viable and in order to ensure the continued success of the scheme, the burden on providers will need to continue to be well managed.
- 3.6.8.2 The Committee considers that as a Borough, Bromley is in the enviable position of having an abundance of high quality, affordable Early Years provision. This affords working families a great deal of choice in terms of childcare options. The Committee further notes the importance of promoting the excellent quality of the Early Years provision available in Bromley as well as upcoming opportunities for training and employment in the Early Years sector.

Recommendation 6: That the excellent quality of the Early Years provision available in Bromley as well as upcoming opportunities for training and employment in the Early Years sector be more widely publicised.

Report No.
CSD 18068

London Borough of Bromley

PART ONE - PUBLIC

Decision Maker: COUNCIL

Date: 9th April 2018

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

Title: ANNUAL SACRE REPORT FOR 2016/17

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

Chief Officer: Mark Bowen, Director of Corporate Services

Ward: All

1. Reason for report

- 1.1 At its meeting on 21st March 2018, the Bromley Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) approved its annual report for the academic year 2016/17. The annual report is required to be sent to the Secretary of State for Education; Members at the meeting resolved that their report should also be referred to Council for information.

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

That the SACRE Annual Report for 2016/17 be received and noted.

Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children

1. Summary of Impact: Not Applicable
-

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy:
 2. BBB Priority: Children and Young People:
-

Financial

1. Cost of proposal: No Cost:
 2. Ongoing costs: Not Applicable:
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Democratic Representation
 4. Total current budget for this head: £1,068,450 (2017/18)
 5. Source of funding: 2018/19 Revenue budget
-

Personnel

1. Number of staff (current and additional): Not Applicable
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: Not Applicable
-

Legal

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

Procurement

1. Summary of Procurement Implications: Not Applicable
-

Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): Not Applicable
-

Ward Councillor Views

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

Non-Applicable Sections:	Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children/Policy/Legal/Finance/Personnel/Procurement
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	-

BROMLEY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL
ON
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

BROMLEY SACRE

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2016-2017



BROMLEY SACRE is a member of the National Association of SACREs

Introduction to the Annual Report 2016-17

Bromley Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Every Local Authority is required to have a SACRE which is made up of four groups; (A) Faith representatives, (B) The Church of England, (C) Teachers and (D) Councillors. The committee should reflect the faiths within the community.

SACREs have responsibility for advising a Local Authority (LA) on religious education and collective worship in its schools. SACREs have a duty to publish an annual report. The main purpose of the annual report is to hold the LA to account, by informing the Secretary of State and key partners what advice SACRE gave the LA during the year and how that was responded to; this includes advice on RE and Collective Worship in those schools for which the LA has responsibility.

Contacts:

SACRE Chairman

Rev. Roger Bristow

020 8462 1280

SACRE.Chair@bromley.gov.uk

Clerk to SACRE

Mrs Jo Partridge

Bromley Council

020 8461 7694

joanne.partridge@bromley.gov.uk

Overview

This report covers the academic year 2016-2017. Three meetings of SACRE were held at Bromley Civic Centre on the following occasions;

7th December 2016

8th March 2017

12th July 2017

Chair's Introduction

I continue to be indebted to Joanne Partridge who, in her role of Clerk to SACRE, is providing invaluable support to both the Committee and to me. We are grateful to Kieran Osborne for his input to the work of SACRE as LA advisor during the course of the academic year, and were very sorry that his commitments elsewhere meant that his time with us was all too short-lived.

The world which we inhabit seems to become increasingly complex and fragile, especially with the apparently inexorable rise in religious ignorance and intolerance in our society. I am convinced that our role as SACRE is a vital one in helping to ensure that the children in Bromley's schools are given every opportunity to discover for themselves the role of faith in everyday life for many people. In pursuit of this aim Bromley SACRE seeks to encourage and support those who deliver RE and lead Collective Worship in Bromley's schools (whether maintained or not) and I commend this report of the past year's activity in this respect.

Rev. Roger Bristow

Advice to Statutory Bodies

Local Authority

During the year the Bromley SACRE met three times, in December 2016, March 2017 and July 2017. All meetings were held at the Bromley Civic Centre. The topics under discussion at these meetings included:

- School visits, their value and impact.
- Networking meetings for teachers.
- The challenges of working within a largely local academised landscape and without a dedicated SACRE budget.
- Collective Worship within schools.
- Findings from the Committee self-evaluation process using the SACRE Reporting and Evaluation Toolkit.

During the year the Chairman attended the NASACRE AGM. Members were provided with feedback from the event and information from the AGM has informed various discussions at meetings since.

Schools

Members of Bromley SACRE went on visits to four schools during the year, two secondary academies and two primary schools, one of which was a member of an Academy Trust, the other was Local Authority maintained. One of the primary school visits was in response to an invitation from the school to attend their RE Day alongside representatives from within the local faith community.

At the time of the Bromley SACRE self-evaluation exercise in July 2017, visits to local schools were identified as one of its main successes, helping to establish communications and stronger relationships with school leaders. The Chairman and Educational Advisor also attended meetings of the Primary and Secondary Headteachers, and both indicated that this resulted in invitations to visit some of the schools as well as raise the profile of SACRE.

Government

The 2015-16 annual report was sent to the Secretary of State for Education and was acknowledged by the Ministerial and Public Communications Division at the Department for Education.

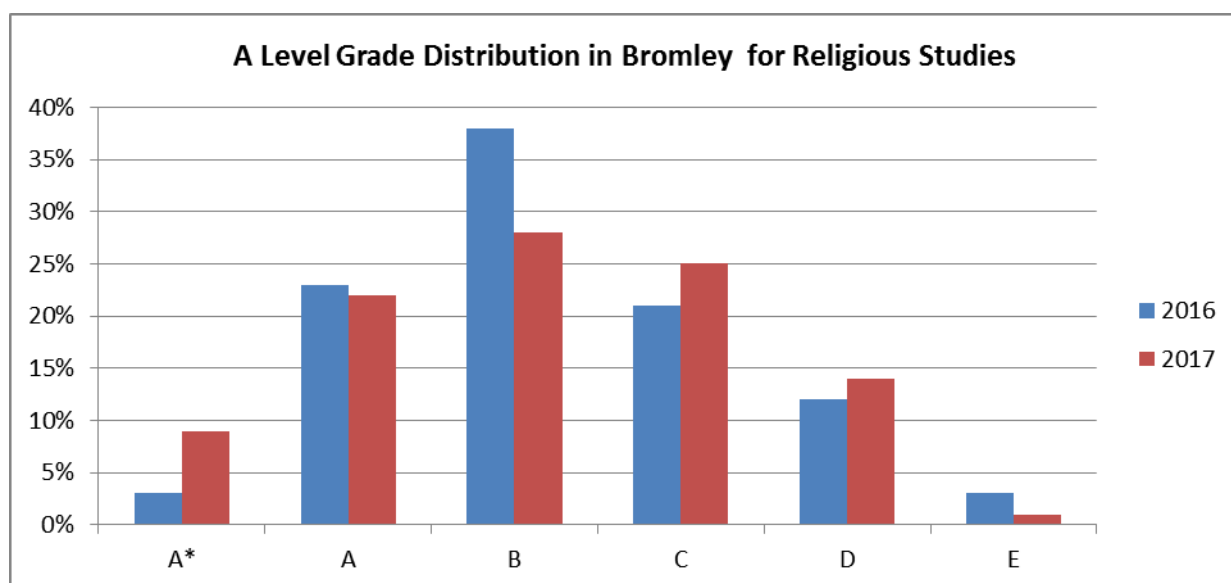
Standards and Quality of Provision of RE 2017 - Public Examinations

The public examination results give SACRE information on standards and are provided for SACRE by the LA and include Academies.

The full course GCSE results for Bromley schools are very good and well above the national average. The number of pupils entered compared to the previous year increased by 130 but the overall percentage of pupils gaining A*-C grades fell by 3 percentage points to 75%. The national average remained at 70%.

For AS Level Religious Studies, 2017 is the first year reporting the reformed AS Level qualifications. An AS Level in Religious Studies no longer counts towards the A Level qualification and as such is a standalone qualification. This is reflected in the drop in the number of entries in 2017 by 98 to 141 entries, reflecting the drop in number of entries nationally. The results also show a drop in the percentage of students gaining A-B and A-E grades, both in Bromley and nationally, although the drop in A-B grades in Bromley is significantly greater than nationally.

The results at A Level show an increase in the overall percentage gaining A* and A grades, but a decrease in the percentage gaining A*-B Grades. 100% of students gained an A*-E. The table below shows how the distribution of grades changed between 2016 and 2017 leading to this change in results. The number of entries at A Level decreased from last year, but the results remain significantly higher than the national averages.



GCSE Full Course in Religious Studies 2013-2017

Year of examination	Number of Bromley schools	Number of Bromley Candidates	Bromley % of students with A* - C	National % of students with A* - C
2013	13	1,484	80%	72%
2014	16	1,987	74%	70%
2015	15	1,537	78%	71%
2016	16	1,588	78%	70%
2017	17	1,718	75%	70%

SCHOOLS (no. of entries 2017):

Bishop Justus (175), Bullers Wood (35), Charles Darwin (1), Chislehurst School for Girls (180), Coopers (5), Darrick Wood (237), Harris Academy Beckenham (88), Harris Girls' Academy Bromley (106), Harris Academy Orpington (163), Hayes (215), Kemnal Technology College (12), Langley Park Boys (62), Langley Park Girls (79), Newstead Wood (135), Ravens Wood (22), St Olave's & St Saviour's (9), The Ravensbourne (194)

AS Level in Religious Studies 2013-2017

Exam Year	Number of Bromley schools	Number of Bromley Candidates	Bromley % A-B grades	National % A-B grades	Bromley % A-E grades	National % A-E grades
2013	13	185	49%	42%	97%	92%
2014	15	239	39%	42%	90%	91%
2015	14	270	46%	43%	96%	92%
2016	13	239	48%	45%	93%	93%
2017	11	141	35%	40%	89%	91%

SCHOOLS (no. of entries for 2017):

Bishop Justus (27), Chislehurst School for Girls (1), Darrick Wood (13), Harris Academy Beckenham (2), Harris Girls' Academy Bromley (19), Hayes (4), Langley Park Boys (17), Newstead Wood (8), Ravens Wood (2), St Olave's & St Saviour's (9), The Ravensbourne (39)

A level in Religious Studies 2013-2017

Exam Year	Number of Bromley schools	Number of Bromley Candidates	Bromley % A*-A grades	National % A*-A grades	Bromley % A*-B grades	National % A*-B grades	Bromley % A-E grades	National % A-E grades
2013	13	138	30%	22%	62%	51%	99%	99%
2014	13	137	30%	21%	57%	49%	100%	98%
2015	14	156	27%	21%	56%	50%	98%	99%
2016	13	177	26%	20%	64%	51%	100%	100%
2017	13	142	31%	24%	59%	51%	100%	99%

SCHOOLS (no. of entries for 2017):

Bishop Justus (12), Bullers Wood (16), Chislehurst School for Girls (11), Darrick Wood (4), Harris Girls' Academy Bromley (5), Harris Academy Orpington (4), Hayes (16), Langley Park Boys (10), Langley Park Girls (12), Newstead Wood (11), Ravens Wood (10), St Olave's & St Saviour's (15), The Ravensbourne (16)

Attainment and Quality of RE

Currently the main way of monitoring RE and CW is through visiting schools. Schools visited during this academic year displayed very good Religious Education with a good number of RE specialists teaching in the secondary schools. In the primary schools some RE teaching is carried out by teaching assistants during teachers planning time.

The Bromley SACRE page on Fronter has a number of resources and the syllabus can be found on it and on the Council website along with the Collective Worship guidance document.

During the year there were no complaints about Religious Education referred to SACRE.

Agreed Syllabus

Bromley's Agreed Syllabus was launched in the autumn term of 2013, and is now due for revision with the process starting in the new academic year. Visits to schools indicated that it is being used in the majority of Bromley schools, although some schools have either supplemented it or are using a different syllabus (i.e. the CofE schools use the Rochester Diocesan Syllabus).

Collective worship

During their visits to schools members are able to view how Collective Worship is conducted. Bromley guidance on Collective Worship with ideas and suggestions for quality collective worship is on the Fronter system accessed by some schools and is available as a hard copy for schools who request this.

There have been no determinations regarding Collective Worship this year.

Management of SACRE

The Chair of Bromley SACRE is Rev. Roger Bristow from the Church of England representative Group B and the Vice Chair is Councillor Keith Onslow from the Councillor representative Group D. During this year the Council representative changed. The Local Authority appointed Kieran Osborne as the RE Advisor.

A development plan is produced for SACRE each year aligned with the financial year of the council and during the year the committee updated the self-evaluation of SACRE document (Appendix 1), and also looked at and discussed the challenges for SACREs nationally.

One of the priorities has continued to be to involve more teachers in the SACRE. A number of teachers from both primary and secondary and Academy and maintained schools have responded to an invitation to explore joining the committee. All new members are given a copy of the NASACRE SACRE handbook when they join.

Membership of Bromley SACRE during 2016-17

A – Other Faith representatives		
A	Mrs Samantha Barnett	Jewish
A	Mrs Patricia Colling	Roman Catholic
A	Mr Sanjay Gupta	Hindu
A	Mr Ray Hagley	Free Church
A	Mr Saiyed Mahmood	Muslim
A	Mr Arvinder Nandra	Sikh
A	Mrs Edlene Whitman	Free Church
A	Mrs Sue Polydorou (until March 2017)	Humanist Co-opted

B – Church of England representatives	
B	Rev. Roger Bristow (Chairman)
B	Mrs Virginia Corbyn
B	Mr Christopher Town
B	Rev. Steve Varney

C – Teachers representatives	
C	Mrs Denise Angell
C	Ms Hannah Arnold
C	Ms Stella Odusola
C	Mr Jed Stone
C	Ms Anna Winson

D – Councillor representatives	
D	Councillor Kevin Brooks
D	Councillor Robert Evans
D	Councillor David Jefferys
D	Councillor Russell Mellor (until May 2017)
D	Councillor Keith Onslow
D	Councillor Sarah Phillips

Officers

Mrs Carol Arnfield – Head of Service, Education

Mr Kieran Osborne – Educational Advisor

Mrs Jo Partridge – Clerk

Attendance of Bromley SACRE during 2016-17

Wednesday 7th December 2016	
A	Mr Sanjay Gupta Mr Arvinder Nandra Mrs Edlene Whitman
B	Rev. Roger Bristow (Chairman) Mrs Virginia Corbyn Mr Christopher Town Rev. Steve Varney
C	Mrs Denise Angell Ms Hannah Arnold
D	Councillor Kevin Brooks Councillor Robert Evans Councillor David Jefferys Councillor Russell Mellor Councillor Keith Onslow Councillor Sarah Phillips
Apologies	Mrs Samantha Barnett Mr Ray Hagley Mr Saiyed Mahmood Mrs Sue Polydorou

Wednesday 8th March 2017	
A	Mr Saiyed Mahmood Mr Arvinder Nandra
B	Rev. Roger Bristow (Chairman) Mrs Virginia Corbyn Mr Christopher Town Rev. Steve Varney
C	Ms Hannah Arnold Mr Jed Stone
D	Councillor Kevin Brooks Councillor Russell Mellor Councillor Keith Onslow
Apologies	Mrs Denise Angell Mrs Samantha Barnett Mr Ray Hagley Mrs Edlene Whitman Councillor Robert Evans Councillor David Jefferys Councillor Sarah Phillips

Wednesday 12th July 2017	
A	Mr Saiyed Mahmood Mrs Edlene Whitman
B	Rev. Roger Bristow (Chairman) Mr Christopher Town Rev. Steve Varney
C	Ms Hannah Arnold
D	Councillor Kevin Brooks Councillor Robert Evans Councillor Keith Onslow
Apologies	Mrs Virginia Corbyn Mrs Samantha Barnett Mr Ray Hagley Mr Arvinder Nandra Mrs Denise Angell Councillor David Jefferys Councillor Sarah Phillips

Contribution of SACRE to the wider Local Authority Agenda

Bromley SACRE does not have the opportunity to contribute to the wider agenda of the Local Authority.

The Muslim representative once again organised the annual competition for schools on the 'True Meaning of Islam'. This competition involves students in years 7 and 8 producing a project on the topic. A report on the prize giving event in Darul Uloom School in Chislehurst can be found in Appendix 2.

Key Area		Developing	Established	Advanced
Standards and Quality of Provision of RE				
1A	RE provision across the LA		x	
1B	Standards and achievement		x	
1C	Quality of learning and teaching		x	
1D	Quality of leadership and management		x	
1E	Recruitment and retention of skilled specialist RE staff		x	
1F	Relations with academies and other non-LA maintained schools			x
The effectiveness of the locally Agreed Syllabus				
2A	Review of the Agreed Syllabus		x	
2B	The quality of the Agreed Syllabus		x	
2C	Launching and implementing the Agreed Syllabus	x		
2D	Membership and training of the Agreed Syllabus Conference		x	
2E	Developing the revised agreed syllabus		x	
2F	Making best use of National Guidance		x	
Collective Worship				
3A	Supporting pupil entitlement in LA's schools		x	
3B	Enhancing the quality of provision of collective worship		x	
3C	Responding to requests for determinations		x	
Management of SACRE				
4A	How purposeful, inclusive, representative and effective are SACRE meetings?		x	
4B	Membership and Training		x	
4C	Improvement/development planning		x	
4D	Professional and financial support	x		
4E	How well informed is SACRE to be able to advise the LA appropriately?	x		
4F	Partnerships with key stakeholders		x	
4G	Relations with the Academies sector		x	
Contribution of SACRE to promoting cohesion across the community				
5A	Representative nature of SACRE in the local community			x
5B	SACRE's understanding of the local community in its religious, cultural and ethnic dimensions		x	
5C	SACRE's engagement with the community cohesion agenda	x		
5D	SACRE's Links to LA initiatives promoting community cohesion	x		

The True Meaning of Islam – Summary of Projects 2016

As a member of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE), I am honoured to be part of a team working within the Borough of Bromley to help and support religious education in schools. I am very thankful to Mufti Mustafa, the Principal of Darul Uloom London, for sponsoring this competition to encourage interest in RE and, in particular, an understanding of the true meaning of Islam. This competition was organised with the support of SACRE and the generous help of teachers.

The title of the project set was “The True Meaning of Islam”. Pupils have been asked to explain what they consider to be the essential teachings of Islam, to discuss their implications for important issues of today and to finish with a statement about what they have gained from their work.

This year 31 students aged 11 and 12 years from four schools; Hayes, Harris Academy Orpington, Bullers Wood and Bishop Justus have submitted projects. Most of the students have understood the basic foundations of Islam correctly and presented the key aspects of religion clearly. Almost all have documented that Islam means ‘submission to Allah’ which leads to ‘peace’. For a Muslim, obedience to Allah’s commands, as embodied by the last Messenger of Allah, is the path to inner peace. They also understood that Muslims believe that the Holy Qur’an is the word of Allah in its entirety, not a single word of which has been changed since its revelation, and that it will always remain so, protected forever by Allah.

Overall, the quality of projects submitted was very impressive and their presentation often innovative. The majority of the students have understood Islam and Muslims. They have presented well-researched information and have documented their findings beautifully. The snapshots, the art and decorative style of presentation are admirable.

Marking was carried out relative to the best performer who was awarded first prize for outstanding work. 75% of marks were for content including breadth of scope, accuracy and clarity of explanation and 25% of marks were for presentation and organisation of information. Marks were deducted for mistakes and inaccuracies; which includes sensitive pictures. I am pleased to say that everyone has understood that pictures of the prophets are strictly forbidden in Islam. Several students understood the purpose of Zakat but not how it is calculated. In Islam, Zakat is 2.5% of wealth not income.

This year, in addition to first, second and three third prizes, 15 consolation prizes and 11 commendations were awarded. Each participant is acknowledged by a prize of a book about Muhammad written by the late Afzalur Rahman, who was both a London school teacher and an Islamic scholar. Also, a small booklet on ‘Islam’ by Dr Manazir Ahsan, Director of the Islamic Foundation is to be presented. A certificate from Darul Uloom London is also provided to each student.

Mahmood, 10th November 2016

This page is left intentionally blank

Report No.
CSD18060

London Borough of Bromley

PART ONE - PUBLIC

Decision Maker: COUNCIL

Date: 9th April 2018

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

Title: CODE OF CONDUCT

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

Chief Officer: Mark Bowen, Director of Corporate Services

Ward: All

1. Reason for report

- 1.1 At its meeting on 6th July 2017 the Standards Committee considered attached report suggesting areas where the Members' Code of Conduct could possibly be amended for the 2018/22 Council. The Committee agreed that no changes should be made except that the dispensation system should be changed to allow a member with a disclosable pecuniary interest to remain in a meeting providing that they do not address the Committee, where that right would be available to a member of the public. The minutes from that meeting are attached as Appendix A. The Committee has subsequently met again (on 22nd February 2018) but has not recommended any further changes – the draft minutes from that meeting are attached as Appendix B.
- 1.2 The Code of Conduct, with the proposed amendment included on the third page, is attached as Appendix C.
-

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

That the following provision be added to the Members's Code of Conduct, with effect from the start of the 2018/22 Council -

“You may attend a meeting where you have a disclosable pecuniary interest where that right would be available to any member of the public, provided that you do not address the meeting on the matter in which you have an interest. “

Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children

1. Summary of Impact: Not Applicable
-

Corporate Policy

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

Financial

1. Cost of proposal: No Cost:
 2. Ongoing costs: Not Applicable:
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Democratic Representation
 4. Total current budget for this head: £1,068,450 (2017/18)
 5. Source of funding: 2018/19 Revenue budget
-

Personnel

1. Number of staff (current and additional): Not Applicable
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: Not Applicable
-

Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Statutory Requirement:
 2. Call-in: Not Applicable: This report does not involve an executive decision.
-

Procurement

1. Summary of Procurement Implications: Not Applicable
-

Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): Not Applicable
-

Ward Councillor Views

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

Non-Applicable Sections:	Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children/Policy/Financial/Personnel/Legal/Procurement
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Standards Committee 6 th July 2017 – report and minutes

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held at 7.00 pm on 6 July 2017 (extract)

Present:

Councillor Ian F. Payne (Chairman)
Councillor Vanessa Allen (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor David Livett and Councillor Michael Tickner

Also Present:

Dr Simon Davey and Mr Nicholas Marcar

6 CODE OF CONDUCT
Report CSD17106

The Committee received a report on the operation of the standards system in Bromley, noting the current arrangements and in particular the limited sanctions available other than for breaches of the Code of Conduct in relation to declarable pecuniary interests (DPIs) which would be investigated by the Police, with the Director of Public Prosecutions responsible for considering whether criminal charges should be brought. Censure and adverse publicity were the main sanctions, with the Localism Act 2011 envisaging sanctions should be through the ballot box rather than the standards system. Requiring a Member to take training was possible, but there was no way to enforce this. Members could be removed from membership of committees, but this could only be decided by full Council on the recommendation of the party group.

The Committee also discussed the resources available should it be necessary to conduct a standards investigation, with a co-opted member expressing concern that the Police might be reluctant to investigate while the Council might not have the resources and expertise to conduct a forensic audit. Members accepted that they would have to find the appropriate resources, based on legal advice. A co-opted member also suggested that the profile of standards issues and the Committee's role needed to be raised; at the same time it was important not to encourage unnecessary complaints.

The report sought the Committee's views on whether any changes were required to the standards regime for the new Council to be elected in May 2018. The following potential issues had been identified –

(1) Dispensations

The Committee considered whether to allow a Member with a disclosable pecuniary interest to remain in a meeting provided they did not speak or

address the Committee where that right would be available to a member of the public. The Committee concluded that the Code should be amended to allow this.

(2) Gifts and Hospitality

Members considered whether to retain the need to register gifts and hospitality and, if so, whether they wished to retain the current threshold of £25. It was concluded that the £25 threshold should remain.

(3) Registerable Interests

Members considered whether to revise the details of interests which were registerable under the Code of Conduct – in particular whether the interests of other family members, such as siblings or children, should be declared. The Committee decided that the Rules should remain as they were.

(4) Significant Interests

Members considered whether to treat significant interests in the same way as disclosable pecuniary interests. It was noted that there was no legal requirement to do this, and that such a move would be likely to mean an increase in requests for dispensations. The Committee decided to make no change.

(5) Independent Persons

Members were asked whether it was necessary to undertake a new recruitment process for the appointment of Independent Persons to support the standards system. Members concluded that given the level of standards complaints this was not necessary.

The Committee noted that no meetings had been called for several years, and discussed how frequently they should meet. It was decided that there should be at least one meeting each year. It was also proposed that the Chairman be appointed at the annual Council meeting, as with most other Committees.

RESOLVED that, having considered the potential changes to the Standards system set out above, no changes be made for 2018 except that the dispensation system be changed to allow a Member with a disclosable pecuniary interest to remain in a meeting providing that they do not address the Committee, where that right would be available to a member of the public.

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held at 7.00 pm on 22 February 2018 (extract)

Present:

Councillor Ian F. Payne (Chairman)
Councillor Vanessa Allen (Vice-Chairman)
Dr Simon Davey, Councillor David Livett, Mr Nicholas Marcar, Councillor Michael Tickner and Councillor Stephen Wells

14 MONITORING OFFICER'S GENERAL REPORT
Report CSD18033

The Committee considered a report from the director of Corporate Services as Monitoring Officer summarising a number of issues for consideration.

Code of Conduct

At its last meeting, the Committee had agreed that no changes were needed to the Code of Conduct except that a Member with a disclosable pecuniary interest should be allowed to remain in a meeting provided that they did not address the Committee where that right would be available to a member of the public.

One area where the Code could be made more consistent was in the issue of declaration of non-pecuniary, personal interests. Bromley's Code of Conduct went beyond the statutory provision in requiring Members to register a range of personal interests and gifts and hospitality. Although most Members routinely declared such interests when they arose in meetings, there was no requirement to do so in the Council's Code of Conduct. The Committee concluded that the current Code of Conduct worked well and there was no need to make a further change. It was suggested that a print-out of the Register of Interests could be brought to each meeting so that it could be inspected by members of the public.

It was confirmed that new Councillors would be provided with a copy of the Code of Conduct.

RESOLVED that no further changes to the Code of conduct be recommended.

This page is left intentionally blank

**LONDON BOROUGH OF BROMLEY
CODE OF CONDUCT FOR COUNCILLORS AND CO-OPTED MEMBERS**

You are a member or co-opted member of the London Borough of Bromley and, hence, you shall have regard to the following principles – selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.

Accordingly, when acting in your capacity as a member or co-opted member -

You must act solely in the public interest and should never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person or act to gain financial or other material benefits for yourself, your family, a friend or close associate.

You must not place yourself under a financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might seek to influence you in the performance of your official duties.

When carrying out your public duties you must make all choices, such as making public appointments, awarding contracts or recommending individuals for rewards or benefits, on merit.

You are accountable for your decisions to the public and you must co-operate fully with whatever scrutiny is appropriate to your office.

You must be as open as possible about your decisions and actions and the decisions and actions of your authority and should be prepared to give reasons for those decisions and actions.

You must declare any private interests, both pecuniary and non-pecuniary, that relate to your public duties and must take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest, including registering and declaring interests in a manner conforming with the procedures set out in the box below.

You must, when using or authorising the use by others of the resources of your authority, ensure that such resources are not used improperly for political purposes (including party political purposes) and you must have regard to any applicable Local Authority Code of Publicity made under the Local Government Act 1986.

You must promote and support high standards of conduct when serving in your public post, in particular as characterised by the above requirements, by leadership and example.

Registering and declaring pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests

You must, within 28 days of taking office as a member or co-opted member, notify your authority's monitoring officer of any disclosable pecuniary interest as defined by regulations made by the Secretary of State, where the pecuniary interest is yours, your spouse's or civil partner's, or is the pecuniary interest of somebody with whom you are living with as a husband or wife, or as if you were civil partners. A copy of the current Regulations which sets out details of disclosable pecuniary interests is attached to this Code and will be up-dated as necessary if the Regulations change.

In addition, you must, within 28 days of taking office as a member or co-opted member, notify your authority's monitoring officer of any disclosable pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest which your authority has decided should be included in the register.

In addition you must:

1. register any gift or hospitality with a value of over £25.00 with the Monitoring Officer within 28 days of receipt. Notification should include details of the gift/hospitality and the identify of the donor;
2. in addition to registering your disclosable pecuniary interests, you should also register the following non-pecuniary interests, namely:
 - (a) membership of outside bodies (as appointed by the Council);
 - (b) membership of other public organisations;
 - (c) membership of charities;
 - (d) membership of campaigning groups, political parties and trade unions.
3. You must notify the Monitoring Officer of any change to your disclosable pecuniary or other interests within 28 days of the change occurring so that your Register of Interests may be kept up-to-date.

If an interest has not been entered onto the authority's register, then the member must disclose the interest to any meeting of the authority at which they are present, where they have a disclosable interest in any matter being considered and where the matter is not a 'sensitive interest'.¹

¹ A 'sensitive interest' is described in the Localism Act 2011 as a member or co-opted member of an authority having an interest, and the nature of the interest being such that the member or co-opted member, and the authority's monitoring officer, consider that disclosure of the details of the interest could lead to the member or co-opted member, or a person connected with the member or co-opted member, being subject to violence or intimidation.

Following any disclosure of an interest not on the authority's register or the subject of pending notification, you must notify the monitoring officer of the interest within 28 days beginning with the date of disclosure.

Unless dispensation has been granted, you may not participate in any discussion of, or vote on, or discharge any function related to any matter in which you have a pecuniary interest as defined by regulations made by the Secretary of State. You may attend a meeting where you have a disclosable pecuniary interest where that right would be available to any member of the public, provided that you do not address the meeting on the matter in which you have an interest. Additionally, you must observe the restrictions your authority places on your involvement in matters where you have a pecuniary or non pecuniary interest as defined by your authority.

2012 No. 1464

LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENGLAND

The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests)
Regulations 2012

<i>Made</i> - - - -	<i>6th June 2012</i>
<i>Laid before Parliament</i>	<i>8th June 2012</i>
<i>Coming into force</i> - -	<i>1st July 2012</i>

The Secretary of State, in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 30(3) and 235(2) of the Localism Act 2011^(a), makes the following Regulations.

Citation, commencement and interpretation

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012 and shall come into force on 1st July 2012.

(2) In these regulations—

“the Act” means the Localism Act 2011;

“body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest” means a firm in which the relevant person is a partner or a body corporate of which the relevant person is a director, or in the securities of which the relevant person has a beneficial interest;

“director” includes a member of the committee of management of an industrial and provident society;

“land” excludes an easement, servitude, interest or right in or over land which does not carry with it a right for the relevant person (alone or jointly with another) to occupy the land or to receive income;

“M” means a member of a relevant authority;

“member” includes a co-opted member;

“relevant authority” means the authority of which M is a member;

“relevant period” means the period of 12 months ending with the day on which M gives a notification for the purposes of section 30(1) or section 31(7), as the case may be, of the Act;

“relevant person” means M or any other person referred to in section 30(3)(b) of the Act;

“securities” means shares, debentures, debenture stock, loan stock, bonds, units of a collective investment scheme within the meaning of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000^(b) and other securities of any description, other than money deposited with a building society.

(a) 2011 c.20.

(b) 2000 c.8.

Specified pecuniary interests

2. The pecuniary interests which are specified for the purposes of Chapter 7 of Part 1 of the Act are the interests specified in the second column of the Schedule to these Regulations.

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government

Grant Shapps
Minister of State

6th June 2012

Department for Communities and Local Government

SCHEDULE

Regulation 2

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Prescribed description</i>
Employment, office, trade, profession or vacation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
Sponsorship	Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the relevant authority) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expenses incurred by M in carrying out duties as a member, or towards the election expenses of M. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992(a).
Contracts	Any contract which is made between the relevant person (or a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest) and the relevant authority— (a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and (b) which has not been fully discharged.
Land	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the relevant authority.
Licences	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the relevant authority for a month or longer.
Corporate tenancies	Any tenancy where (to M's knowledge)— (a) the landlord is the relevant authority; and (b) the tenant is a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest.
Securities	Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where— (a) that body (to M's knowledge) has a place of

(a) 1992 c. 52.

business or land in the area of the relevant authority; and

(b) either—

(i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or

(ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

Section 30 of the Localism Act 2011 provides that a member or co-opted member of a relevant authority as defined in section 27(6) of the Localism Act 2011, on taking office and in the circumstances set out in section 31, must notify the authority's monitoring officer of any disclosable pecuniary interest which that person has at the time of notification. These Regulations specify what is a pecuniary interest. Section 30(3) of the Act sets out the circumstances in which such an interest is a disclosable interest.

A full impact assessment has not been produced for these Regulations as no impact on the private or voluntary sectors is foreseen.

© Crown copyright 2012

Printed and published in the UK by The Stationery Office Limited under the authority and superintendence of Carol Tullo, Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office and Queen's Printer of Acts of Parliament.

Report No.
CSD 18061

London Borough of Bromley

PART ONE - PUBLIC

Decision Maker: COUNCIL

Date: 9th April 2018

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

Title: LOCAL PENSION BOARD – APPOINTMENT OF BOARD MEMBERS

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

Chief Officer: Mark Bowen, Director of Corporate Services

Ward: All

1. Reason for report

- 1.1 At its meeting on 20th March 2018 the General Purposes and Licesning Committee considered the attached report proposing the appointment of two Employer Representatives to the Local Pension Board. The expressions of Interest submitted by each candidate were provided to the Committee in a part 2 appendix which is available to Members on request. The Committee agreed to recommend the two candidates to Council for appointment, and also agreed the minor changes to the Board's Terms of Reference set out in the report.
-

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

That Josepha Reynolds and Pinny Borg be appointed as Employer representatives to the Local Pension Board.

Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children

1. Summary of Impact: Not Applicable
-

Corporate Policy

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

Financial

1. Cost of proposal: No Cost:
 2. Ongoing costs: Not Applicable:
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Democratic Services
 4. Total current budget for this head: £343,810 (2017/18)
 5. Source of funding: 2018/19 Revenue budget
-

Personnel

1. Number of staff (current and additional): Not Applicable
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: Not Applicable
-

Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Statutory Requirement:
 2. Call-in: Not Applicable: This report does not involve an executive decision.
-

Procurement

1. Summary of Procurement Implications: Not Applicable
-

Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): Not Applicable
-

Ward Councillor Views

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

Non-Applicable Sections:	Impact on Vulnerable Cadults and Children/Policy/Financial/Personnel/Legal/Procurement
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Report and minutes, GP&L Committee on 20 th March 2018

Decision Maker: GENERAL PURPOSES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE
COUNCIL

Date: Tuesday 20 March 2018
Monday 9 April 2018

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

Title: LOCAL PENSION BOARD – APPOINTMENT OF BOARD
MEMBERS

Contact Officer: David Kellond, Pensions Manager
Tel: 020 8461 7503 E-mail: David.Kellond@bromley.gov.uk

Chief Officer: Director of Finance

Ward: (All Wards);

1. Reason for report

- 1.1 This report seeks the required approval for the appointment of new Employer Representatives to the Local Pension Board following the resignation of the two previous members.
 - 1.2 This report also seeks agreement for amendments to the Local Pension Board Terms of Reference.
-

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

2.1 The General Purposes and Licensing Committee is requested to:

- (i) note that Brian Toms and Jane Harding have resigned as Employer Representatives on the Local Pension Board;
- (ii) nominate the two Employer Representatives to be recommended to Council for appointment (paragraph 3.8);
- (iii) formally approve changes to the Local Pension Board Terms of Reference (paragraph 3.13).
- (iv) approve the revised terms of reference (appendix 1)

Recommend that Council

- (i) subject to recommendation (ii) formally appoint the two Employer Representatives to the Local Pension Board.

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy: The Council's pension fund is a defined benefit scheme operated under the provisions of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) Regulations, for the purpose of providing pension benefits for its employees.
 2. BBB Priority: Excellent Council:
-

Financial

1. Cost of proposal: No Cost:
 2. Ongoing costs: Not applicable:
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Any costs associated with the reimbursement to Board Members of directly incurred expenses are chargeable to the Pension Fund
 4. Total current budget for this head: £38.3m expenditure (pensions, lump sums, etc); £41.9m income (contributions, investment income, etc); £998.0m total fund market value at 31st December 2017)
 5. Source of funding: Contributions to Pension Fund
-

Personnel

1. Number of staff (current and additional): The Local Pension Board comprises of 2 Employer Representatives and 2 Member Representatives. The Board is supported by the Pensions Manager.
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: n/a
-

Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Statutory Requirement: The Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013 (as amended)
 2. Call-in: Not Applicable:
-

Procurement

1. Summary of Procurement Implications: n/a
-

Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): 6,089 current employees; 5,181 pensioners; 5,453 deferred pensioners as at 31st December 2017
-

Ward Councillor Views

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

3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 At its meeting on 27th May 2015 the General Purposes and Licensing Committee formally appointed two Member Representatives to the Local Pension Board (LPB) (Glenn Kelly and Lesley Rickards). Following the resignation of Glenn Kelly from the Board, the Committee appointed a replacement Member Representative (Tony Conboy) at its meeting on 14th September 2016. Mr Conboy then resigned from the Board and Geoffrey Wright was appointed as a replacement by the Committee at its meeting on 28th November 2017.
- 3.2 At the meeting of the General Purposes and Licensing Committee on 27th May 2015, it was agreed to recommend to Council the appointment of Brian Toms and Jane Harding as the two Employer Representatives to the LPB for a period of three years from 1st July 2015. Council subsequently approved their appointment at its meeting on 29th June 2015.
- 3.3 In November 2017 the two appointed Employer Representatives (Brian Toms and Jane Harding) resigned from the LPB. Two new Employer Representatives are therefore required to be appointed.
- 3.4 In accordance with Regulation 107 of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) Regulations 2013, the Board must consist of an equal number of Employer and Scheme Member Representatives with a minimum number of four in total. In line with the Council's approved composition and, as set out in the Terms of Reference, Bromley's LPB is made up of two Employer and two Member representatives. Currently the Board has only two Member Representatives.
- 3.5 In line with the current Terms of Reference the process for appointing new members to the LPB is as follows:
- **Member Representatives** - expressions of interest are sought from the Departmental Representatives and relevant Trade Unions with further nominations sought via an advert placed on the Council's website and by way of a written appeal to all scheduled and admitted bodies. Where the number of Expressions of Interest exceed the number of vacant roles on the Board, candidates are considered, shortlisted and interviewed by an appointments panel who will then make recommendations to the General Purposes and Licensing Committee to formally appoint. The appointments panel consists of the Chief Accountant, the Pensions Manager and an officer from Human Resources.
 - **Employer Representatives** - nominations are sought from all fund employers including the London Borough of Bromley. Formal appointments are then made by full Council on the recommendation of the General Purposes and Licensing Committee. Employer Representatives must be nominated by a Scheme Employer within the Bromley Fund. Should the Employer they are representing wish to withdraw their nomination, they will no longer be eligible to sit on the Board.
- 3.6 Following the resignation of the two Employer Representatives in November 2017, expressions of interest were sought for new Board members the following month. The window during which expressions of interest could be made remained open until 7th January 2018. Unfortunately, no expressions of interest were received. Subsequently, a further invitation for expressions of interest was extended in February 2018 and closed on 4th March 2018.

3.7 The response was again disappointing, but two expressions of interest were received from the following individuals:

- Pinny Borg (currently employed by LBB in the role of Senior Accountant)
- Josepha Reynolds (currently employed by LBB in the role of Strategic Commissioner)

The expression of interest forms are included elsewhere on the agenda as a confidential appendix to this report (appendix 2).

3.8 Both candidates appear keen on the role and have expressed an interest in the LGPS. Although the Regulations do not specify that Employer Representatives be employed by a scheme employer, both applicants are currently employed by the London Borough of Bromley. No nominations were received from other scheme employers. The General Purposes and Licensing Committee is therefore requested to nominate both applicants to act in the capacity of Employer Representatives and recommend that Council formally appoint.

3.9 Subject to Members approving the appointment of the two Employer Representatives, as detailed in paragraph 3.7 a meeting of the Local Pension Board is provisionally arranged for 10th April 2018.

3.10 The approved LPB Terms of Reference require that the term of office for all Board members is ordinarily a period of three years. However, where members leave the LPB mid-term, replacement members are appointed to serve the balance of the remaining 3 year period. The current term of office is due to expire on 30th June 2018.

3.11 As the appointments will not be confirmed until April 2018 the two new Board members would only serve for a period of three months before their term of office expires and the recently appointed new Member Representative would only serve for a period of seven months. In order to allow these newly appointed members a reasonable period to establish themselves on the Board it would seem reasonable to extend the term of office by one year to 30th June 2019. This would allow time for them to determine whether they wish to be considered for reselection and continue as Board members before the Council is required to advertise for expressions of interest for the second term of office. It will also allow a meeting of the Local Pension Board to take place this municipal year, following the postponement of the meeting scheduled in November 2017. This change requires an amendment to the current terms of reference.

3.12 Following informal feedback received from current and previous LPB members, it is felt that the provision for the Local Pension Board to only hold a single annual meeting may not always be sufficient. Although this is supported by an invitation to attend meetings of the Pension Investment Sub-Committee as observers, there are sometimes occasions when it is felt a further meeting of the LPB would be beneficial. It is therefore proposed that the Board be given a degree of flexibility allowing them to determine the frequency of meetings, up to a maximum of four in any one year. As a consequence, it is proposed that the LPB terms of reference be amended to enable this flexibility.

3.13 The required amendments identified in paragraphs 3.11 and 3.12 will necessitate the following changes to the LPB Terms of Reference:

- Current terms of reference – paragraph 7

The Local Pension Board shall meet on an annual basis to discharge its duties and responsibilities. Members of the Board are invited to attend the meetings of both the Pensions Investment Sub-Committee and the General Purposes and Licensing Committee as observers, to aid them in fulfilling their role.

- Amended terms of reference – paragraph 7

The Local Pension Board shall, at its discretion, meet up to a maximum of four times per annum, but no less than once per annum to discharge its duties and responsibilities. Members of the Board are invited to attend the meetings of both the Pensions Investment Sub-Committee and the General Purposes and Licensing Committee as observers, to aid them in fulfilling their role.

- Current terms of reference – paragraph 13

The term of office for all members of the Board is ordinarily a period of three years. However, where members leave mid-term, a replacement will be sought to complete the balance of that three year period. Members may at the end of their term, express the wish to be considered for reselection.

- Amended terms of reference – paragraph 13

The term of office for all members of the Board is ordinarily a period of four years. However, where members leave mid-term, a replacement will be sought to complete the balance of that four year period. Members may at the end of their term, express the wish to be considered for reselection.

3.14 A revised Terms of Reference reflecting the changes set out in this report is attached at Appendix 1.

3.15 Authority to agree changes to the Terms of Reference has previously been delegated to the Director of Finance in consultation with the Chairman of General Purposes and Licensing Committee and the Chairman of Pensions Investment Sub-Committee. The Director of Finance and the Chairman of both Committees have confirmed their agreement to the proposed amendments, subject to consideration by this Committee.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The Council's Pension Fund is a defined benefit scheme operated under the provisions of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) Regulations for the purpose of providing pension benefits for its employees.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Although permitted under Regulations, Local Pension Board members are not paid an allowance. As set out in the terms of reference, remuneration for Board members will be limited to a refund of actual expenses incurred in attending meetings and training.

- 5.2 As the administering authority the Council is required to facilitate the operation of the Local Pension Board including providing suitable accommodation for Board meetings as well as administrative support, advice and guidance. This is currently done within existing in-house resources.
- 5.3 Any costs arising from the establishment and operation of the Local Pension Board are treated as appropriate administration costs of the scheme and, as such, are chargeable to the Pension Fund.

6. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 All Local Government Pension Scheme employers and members must have an equal opportunity to be nominated to become Board members through an open and transparent process.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The Public Service Pensions Act 2013 provides primary legislation for all public service schemes including the LGPS 2014. A requirement is the establishment of Local Pension Boards.
- 7.2 The LGPS (Amendment) (Governance) Regulations 2015 – were laid before Parliament on 28th January 2015 and came into force on 1st April 2015.

Non-Applicable Sections:	Personnel Implications, Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children, Procurement Implications
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Public Service Pensions Act 2013; Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013; Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment) (Governance) Regulations 2015; Local Pension Board – Appointment of Board Members, General Purposes and Licensing Committee and Council 27 th May and 29 th June 2015; Local Pension Board – Appointment of Board Members, General Purposes and Licensing Committee 14 th September 2016; Local Pension Board – Appointment of Board Member, General Purposes and Licensing Committee 28 th November 2017;



The London Borough of Bromley

Local Pension Board

Terms of Reference

Terms of reference for the Local Pension Board of the London Borough of Bromley Pension Fund

1. This document sets out the terms of reference for the Local Pension Board of the London Borough of Bromley Pension Fund as required by the Public Service Pensions Act 2013 and the Local Government (Amendment) (Governance) Regulations 2014.

Scheme Management

2. The London Borough of Bromley, as administering authority, is the Scheme Manager. Its functions are discharged in accordance with the Council's scheme of delegation by:
 - General Purposes and Licensing Committee
 - Pensions Investment Sub-committee (Sub-committee to the General Purposes and Licensing Committee)
 - Director of Finance

The Local Pension Board

3. The role of the Local Pension Board is to:

Assist the London Borough Bromley, as the administering authority

 - to secure compliance with the scheme regulations and other legislation relating to the governance and administration of the scheme;
 - to secure compliance with requirements imposed in relation to the scheme by the Pensions Regulator;
 - in undertaking any relevant work as requested;
 - in such other matters as the scheme regulations may specify.
4. The Local Pension Board will ensure that the Code of Practice on governance and administration issued by the Pensions Regulator is complied with. The Board will also ensure that it complies with the knowledge and understanding requirements in the Pensions Regulator's Code of Practice.
5. The Local Pension Board is accountable to the Pensions Regulator, the National Scheme Advisory Board and the Administering Authority in their role as Scheme Manager. The National Scheme Advisory Board will advise both the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and the Bromley Pension Fund. The Pensions Regulator will report to DCLG but will also be a point of escalation for the Local Pension Board for matters such as whistle blowing or similar issues (supplementary to the whistle blowing policy and anti- fraud and corruption policies operated by the administering authority).

6. The principal functions of the Local Pension Board shall include, but not be limited to:
 - Reviewing decision making processes, policies and procedures to ensure they are compliant with relevant Regulations;
 - Seeking assurance that these are followed and adhered to with regard to Pensions decisions;
 - Seeking assurance that administration performance is in compliance with the Council's performance framework and that monitoring arrangements are adequate and robust;
 - Considering the effectiveness of communication with employers and scheme members including a review of the Communication Strategy;
 - Considering and commenting on internal audit recommendations and external auditor reports.

Any complaint or allegation of a breach of the Regulations brought to the attention of the Local Pension Board shall be dealt with in accordance with the Code of Practice as published by the Pensions Regulator.

Frequency and Notice of Meetings

7. The Local Pension Board shall, at its discretion, meet up to a maximum of four times per annum, but no less than once per annum to discharge its duties and responsibilities. Members of the Board are invited to attend the meetings of both the Pensions Investment Sub-Committee and the General Purposes and Licensing Committee as observers, to aid them in fulfilling their role.
8. To ensure that the Local Pension Board can effectively undertake its role, it would be expected that all papers considered by the Pensions Investment Sub-Committee and, where relevant, the General Purposes & Licensing Committee (including papers considered to be confidential) are made available to the Local Pension Board. If in exceptional circumstances, those Committee's considered that this was not possible or not appropriate then the Local Pension Board will be provided with an explanation why this is the case.
9. The Pensions Manager shall give notice to all Local Pension Board members of each meeting of the Board, including the date, location and time of the meeting and shall ensure that a formal record of the Local Pension Board proceedings is maintained.
10. Papers will be provided at least one week before each of the formal Local Pension Board meetings.
11. All agendas and non-confidential Local Pension Board papers and minutes of meetings will be published on the London Borough of Bromley website, together with the Board Terms of Reference and details of the Board membership.

Membership

12. The Local Pension Board shall consist of 4 members and be constituted as follows:

Number	Constituency	Definition / Constraints
2	Employer	To represent all employers within the fund
2	Scheme Member	To represent all members of the scheme (active, deferred and pensioner)

13. The term of office for all members of the Board is ordinarily a period of four years. However, where members leave mid-term, a replacement will be sought to complete the balance of that four year period. Members may at the end of their term, express the wish to be considered for reselection.
14. Local Pension Board members must meet key training requirements to retain their membership during this period.
- a member must attend all meetings of the Board.
 - the training plan produced by the Pensions Manager must be complied with by each member.
 - the Pension Regulator's Code of Practice must be complied with.
15. All employers and members within the Bromley Fund must have an equal opportunity to be nominated for the role of employer and member representative respectively.
16. For the purpose of appointing employer representatives to the Board, nominations will be sought from all fund employers including the London Borough of Bromley. Formal appointments will then be made by full Council.
17. For the purpose of appointing member representatives to the Board, expressions of interest will be sought from the Departmental Representatives of the London Borough of Bromley and from the relevant Trade Unions (GMB, Unite and Unison). With further nominations being sought via an advert placed on the Council's website and by way of a written appeal to all scheduled and admitted bodies. Where the number of Expressions of Interest exceed the number of vacant roles on the Board, candidates will be considered, shortlisted and interviewed by an appointments panel who will then make recommendations to the General Purposes and Licensing Committee to formally appoint. The appointments panel will consist of the Chief Accountant, the Pensions Manager and an officer from Human Resources.
18. A Local Pension Board member acting as an employer representative must be nominated by a Scheme Employer within the Bromley Fund. Should the Employer they are representing wish to withdraw their nomination, they will no longer be eligible to sit on the Board.

19. In the event of non-attendance of a Board member, or for failure to meet with training requirements as set out in (14) above, the tenure of that membership will be reviewed. In the case of a member representative, this will be done by the appointments panel who may make recommendation to General Purposes and Licensing Committee for the membership to be revoked if considered necessary. In such event, there will be a right of appeal to the Director of Finance prior to any recommendation. In the case of an employer representative, any such decision will be considered by Council.
20. If an employer or scheme member representative wishes to resign they must write to the Pensions Manager, giving at least one months' notice.
21. In the event of the death of a Board member, a replacement will be sought for the remainder of the term of office, in the ways set out in paragraphs 16 and 17, dependant on whether an employer or member representative is being sought.
22. The Chairperson of the Local Pension Board will be rotated on an annual basis between a member representing employers and those representing scheme members.
23. It will be the role of a representative acting as Chairperson to
 - Agree and set the agenda for a meeting of the Board
 - Manage the meetings to ensure that the business of the meeting is completed in the agreed time
 - Ensure that all members of the Board show due respect for process and that all views are fully heard and considered
 - Strive as far as possible to achieve a consensus as an outcome
 - Ensure that the actions and rationale for decisions taken are clear and properly recorded.
24. Personal attendance is expected of all Board members, at all meetings with no provision for a substitute.
25. The Board may, with the approval of the Chief Accountant, co-opt persons who are not members to aid the Board for a period of time or for a specific task where this would provide additional skills, knowledge or experience. The co-opted members would not be permitted to vote.

Quorum

26. Three of the four Board members must be present for a meeting to be quorate. If the Chairperson is absent at a meeting and there is a quorum then the attending members must choose a Chairperson to preside over that meeting.

Knowledge and Skills

27. A member of the Pension Board must become conversant with
 - The legislation and associated guidance of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS).
 - Any policies, procedures or decision making processes about the administration of the LGPS adopted by the London Borough of Bromley Pension Fund.
28. It is for individual Pension Board members to be satisfied that they have the appropriate degree of knowledge and understanding to enable them to properly exercise their functions as a member of the Pension Board.
29. Pension Board members are required to be able to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding and to refresh and keep their knowledge up to date. Pension Board members are therefore required to maintain a written record of relevant training and development.
30. Pension Board members will undertake a personal training needs analysis and regularly review their skills, competencies and knowledge to identify gaps or weaknesses.

Standards of Conduct and Conflicts of Interest

31. The role of the Local Pension Board members requires the highest standards of conduct and therefore the 'seven principles of public life' will be applied to all Local Pension Board members. Board members will be required to observe both, The Code of Conduct for Councillors and Co-Opted members and Data Protection policies of the London Borough of Bromley. The Board is required to always act within these terms of reference. In accordance with the Public Service Pension Act 2013 a Board member must not have a financial or other interest that could prejudice them in carrying out their Board duties. This does not include a financial or other interest arising merely by virtue of membership of the LGPS.
32. As such all members of the Pension Board will be required to declare any interests and any potential conflicts of interest in line with the requirements of the Public Service Pensions Act 2013 and The Pension Regulator's code. These declarations are required as part of the appointment process, as well as at regular intervals throughout a member's tenure.

Reporting

33. The Board is expected to produce a single Annual Report to the Pensions Manager which should include:
- A summary of the work of the Local Pension Board and a work plan for the coming year
 - Details of areas of concern reported to or raised by the Board and recommendations made
 - Details of any conflicts of interest that have arisen in respect of individual Local Pension Board members and how these have been managed
 - Any areas of risk or concern the Board wish to raise with the Scheme Manager
 - Details of training received and identified training needs
 - Details of any expenses and costs incurred by the Local Pension Board and any anticipated expenses for the forthcoming year.
34. Should the Board have concerns believed to be sufficiently serious that they should be reported at a higher level than is standard (to the Pensions Manager) they should report to the Chief Accountant or the Director of Finance. This may include, but not be limited to, occasions where the Board feel that previous recommendations have not been acted upon. In extreme cases such as a fundamental breach of Regulations or a fundamental failure by the Administering Authority to ensure effective governance of the fund, the Board may consider reporting to the National Scheme Advisory Board and/or the Pensions Regulator.

Expertise and Advice

35. It may be necessary for the Local Pension Board to draw on particular experts or expert groups to aid and support its responsibilities. This may include, but is not limited to, actuaries and lawyers. This will be done on an 'as required' basis, via the Pensions Manager. Any expert advisor attending a meeting of the Board is not a Board member and does not have a vote. The Board is not permitted to create sub-boards or working groups.

Below is a list of some of the potential advisers that may be considered appropriate to advise the Board.

- A Governance Adviser
- The Fund's Actuary
- The Fund's Administrator (external contractor)
- The Fund's Legal Adviser
- The Fund's Investment Manager(s)
- The Fund's Investment Adviser(s)
- The Pensions Manager

Remuneration

36. Remuneration for members of the Local Pension Board will be limited to a refund of actual expenses incurred in attending Board meetings and training. It is expected that employers of board members will provide appropriate capacity to allow the member to perform this role within their normal working day without any reduction to pay.

Expense claims should be submitted no later than 1 month following the incursion.

Publication of Local Pension Board Information

37. Up to date information will be posted on the London Borough of Bromley website showing:
- Names and information of the Local Pension Board members
 - How the scheme members and employers are represented on the Local Pension Board
 - Responsibilities of the Local Pension Board as a whole
 - Full terms of reference and policies of the Local Pension Board and how they operate
 - Local Pension Board appointment process

Review

38. These terms of reference will be formally adopted by the Board at its first meeting and be reviewed after the Board has been fully operational for a period of one year.

The Pensions Manager is authorised to make minor amendments, consequential upon statutory or regulatory change, or to update arrangements consequential on other external factors.