

LONDON BOROUGH OF BROMLEY

MINUTES

**of the proceedings of the Meeting of the
Council of the Borough
held at 7.00 pm on 25 February 2019**

Present:

**The Worshipful the Mayor
Councillor Kim Botting FRSA**

**The Deputy Mayor
Councillor David Cartwright QFSM**

Councillors

Gareth Allatt	Peter Fortune	Peter Morgan
Graham Arthur	Kira Gabbert	Keith Onslow
Kathy Bance MBE	Will Harmer	Tony Owen
Yvonne Bear	Christine Harris	Angela Page
Julian Benington	Samaris Huntington-	Neil Reddin FCCA
Nicholas Bennett J.P.	Thresher	Will Rowlands
Mike Botting	William Huntington-	Richard Scoates
Katy Boughey	Thresher	Colin Smith
Mark Brock	Simon Jeal	Diane Smith
Kevin Brooks	David Jefferys	Gary Stevens
Mary Cooke	Charles Joel	Melanie Stevens
Aisha Cuthbert	Josh King	Harry Stranger
Peter Dean	Kate Lymer	Kieran Terry
Ian Dunn	Christopher Marlow	Pauline Tunnicliffe
Judi Ellis	Robert Mcilveen	Michael Turner
Robert Evans	Russell Mellor	Stephen Wells
Simon Fawthrop	Alexa Michael	Angela Wilkins

The meeting was opened with prayers

In the Chair
The Mayor
Councillor Kim Botting FRSA

73 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Marina Ahmad, Vanessa Allen, Nicky Dykes, Hannah Gray, Colin Hitchins, Chris Pierce, Michael Rutherford and Michael Tickner.

Apologies for lateness were received from Councillor Kieran Terry.

74 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Nicholas Bennett declared an interest as a user of the Spa Leisure Centre in relation to a question he had submitted.

75 Petitions

No petitions had been received.

76 To confirm the Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on 10th December 2018 and the special meeting held on 16th January 2019

RESOLVED that the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on 10th December 2018, and the special meeting held on 16th January 2019 be confirmed.

77 Questions

One question had been received from a member of the public for oral reply. The question, with the answer given, is set out in Appendix A to these minutes.

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

Fourteen questions had been received from members of the Council for oral reply. The questions, with the replies given, are set out in Appendix C to these minutes.

Eight questions had been received from members of the Council for written reply. The questions, with the answers given, are set out 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.

No statements were made.

**79 2019/20 Council Tax
Report CSD19041**

Councillor Colin Smith, seconded by Councillor Graham Arthur, moved acceptance of the recommendations made by the Executive. In moving the recommendations, Councillor Smith confirmed that there were no changes to the final Mayoral precept and the changes to Parking Charges had, since the Executive's meeting, been agreed by the Environment and Community services Portfolio Holder.

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

“The following amendments are proposed to the recommendations of the Executive set out in the Blue Book on pages 73-124.

The following changes be made to the recommended budget for 2019/20:

Additional Recommendation (2.1):

- (l) sets aside the following funding from earmarked reserves:
 - (i) £5,000k from the Investment Fund to provide capital funding for new build social housing over a period of two years;
 - (ii) £5,000k from the Invest to Save Fund for the provision of modular TA housing;
 - (iii) £3,250k from the Growth Fund to support the Local Economy;
 - (iv) £5,000k from Better Care Fund and NHS monies (S75 agreements) for investment in public health/social prescribing and CAMHS (subject to CCG agreement);
 - (v) £700k from a combination of Member Initiatives and Invest to Save to support a range of initiatives including town centre assemblies, debt advisory service and safer streets.

- (m) explores opportunities for income generation arising from the sale of out of Borough commercial property investments (capital receipt of £5,000k) and the commercialisation of some council services (revenue income of £500k per annum – assume full year impact from 2020/21);

- (n) agrees the following ongoing revenue expenditure to be met from a corresponding reduction of £199k in the central contingency:
 - (i) additional staff to support regulation of private rented sector (£50k per annum);
 - (ii) re-instate air pollution monitoring equipment (£14k per annum);
 - (iii) increase CCTV/lighting in areas affected by ASB / youth violence (£80k);
 - (iv) increased service user involvement in commissioning/contract monitoring (£5k per annum);
 - (v) improved provision of ‘easy to read’ and re-instatement of BSL interpreter service (£30k per annum);
 - (vi) exempt care leavers from council tax (£20k).

Further detail is provided in Appendix 1.

Amended Recommendation (2.3):

3. That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2019/20 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the Act):
 - (a) £537,264k being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act.
 - (b) £377,413k being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates or the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.”

Further detail was set out in an appendix (attached as Appendix E to these minutes.)

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

Accordingly, the recommendations of the Executive, as moved by Councillor Colin Smith and seconded by Councillor Graham Arthur, were **CARRIED** as follows -

That Council -

- (1)
 - (a) **Approves the schools budget of £76.722 million which matches the estimated level of Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) after academy recoupment (a reduction of £922k - see (b) below);**
 - (b) **Approves the draft revenue budgets (as in Appendix 2) for 2019/20 to include the following updated changes:**
 - (i) **DfE have refused a disapplication request by the Council resulting in increased costs of £1m (£922k reduction in DSG income due to Academy recoupment and £78k to an increase in expenditure for maintained schools). This is offset by a reduction of £788k held in the Central Contingency for additional 2019/20 High Needs (SEN) Funding. The shortfall of £212k will be met from the Government’s additional 2018/19 High Needs Funding which will be reflected in the next Budget Monitoring 2018/19 report to Executive.**
 - (ii) **Parking Income £308k.**
 - (iii) **Other minor variations totalling £65k mainly relating to Business Rate Levy funding and updated collection fund surplus.**
 - (c) **Agrees that Chief Officers identify alternative savings/mitigation within their departmental budgets where it is not possible to realise any savings/mitigation reported to**

the previous meeting of the Executive held on 16th January 2019;

- (d) Approves the following provisions for levies for inclusion in the budget for 2019/20:

	£'000
London Pensions Fund Authority	452
London Boroughs Grant Committee	249
Environment Agency (flood defence etc.)	249
Lee Valley Regional Park	312
Total	1,262

- (e) Approves a revised Central Contingency sum of £10,943k to reflect the changes in (b) and (d);
- (f) Notes that the 2019/20 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 2019/20 revenue budgets to reflect the changes detailed above;
- (h) Sets a 4.99% increase in Bromley's council tax for 2019/20 compared with 2018/19 (2.99% general increase plus 2% Adult Social Care Precept) and notes that, based upon their consultation exercise, the GLA are currently assuming a 8.9% increase in the GLA precept;
- (i) Notes the latest position on the GLA precept, as above, which will be finalised in the overall Council Tax figure to be reported to full Council (see section 12);
- (j) Approves the approach to reserves outlined by the Director of Finance (see Appendix 4);
- (k) Executive agree that the Director of Finance be authorised to report any further changes directly to Council on 25th February 2019.
- (2) Council Tax 2019/20 – 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:

	2018/19	2019/20	Increase	Increase

	£	£	£	% (note #)
Bromley (general)	1,094.18	1,128.80	34.62	2.99
Bromley (ASC precept)	64.30	87.46	23.16	2.00
Bromley (total)	1,158.48	1,216.26	57.78	4.99
GLA *	294.23	320.51	26.28	8.93
Total	1,452.71	1,536.77	84.06	5.79

* The GLA Precept may need to be amended once the actual GLA budget is set.

(#) in line with the 2019/20 Council Tax Referendum Principles, the % increase applied is based on an authority's "relevant basic amount of Council Tax" (£1,158.48 for Bromley) – see paragraph 6 below. Any further changes arising from these Principles will be reported directly to Council on 25th February 2019.

(3) Council formally resolves as follows:

1. It be noted that the Council Tax Base for 2019/20 is 131,428 'Band D' equivalent properties.
2. Calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2019/2020 is £159,851k.
3. That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2019/20 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the Act):
 - (a) £531,584k being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act.
 - (b) £371,733k being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates or the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
 - (c) £159,851k 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) £1,216.26 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) It is noted 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 2019/20 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	810.84	213.67	1,024.51
B	945.98	249.29	1,195.27
C	1,081.12	284.90	1,366.02
D	1,216.26	320.51	1,536.77
E	1,486.54	391.73	1,878.27
F	1,756.82	462.96	2,219.78
G	2,027.10	534.18	2,561.28
H	2,432.52	641.02	3,073.54

- (6) That the Council hereby determines that its relevant basic amount of council tax for the financial year 2019/20, which reflects a 4.99% increase (including Adult Social Care Precept of 2%), is not excessive. The Referendums Relating to Council Tax Increases (Principles) (England) Report 2019/20 sets out the principles which the Secretary of State has determined will apply to local authorities in England in 2019/20. Any further changes arising from these Principles will be reported directly to Council on 25th February 2019. 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 Gareth Allatt, Graham Arthur, Yvonne Bear, Julian Benington, Nicholas Bennett, Mike Botting, Katy Boughey, Mark Brock, Mary Cooke, Aisha Cuthbert, Peter Dean, Judi Ellis, Robert Evans, Simon Fawthrop, Peter Fortune, Kira Gabbert, Will Harmer, Christine Harris, Samaris Huntington-Thresher, William Huntington-Thresher, David Jefferys, Charles Joel, Kate Lymer, Christopher Marlow, Robert Mcilveen, Russell Mellor, Alexa Michael, Peter Morgan, Keith Onslow, Tony Owen, Angela Page, Neil Reddin, Will Rowlands, Richard Scoates, Colin Smith, Diane Smith, Gary Stevens, Melanie Stevens, Harry Stranger, Kieran Terry, Pauline Tunnicliffe, Michael Turner and Stephen Wells.

The following Members voted against the motion -

Councillors Kathy Bance, Kevin Brooks, Ian Dunn, Simon Jeal, Josh King and Angela Wilkins.

The following Members abstained -
Councillors Kim Botting and David Cartwright.

80 Capital Programme Monitoring Q3 2018/19 and Capital Strategy
Report CSD19042

A motion to agree the inclusion of the new scheme proposals listed in Appendix C to the report in the capital programme and to approve the inclusion of £1,208k of Special Provision Fund capital grant in the 2019/20 capital programme, under the Basic Need scheme was moved by councillor Graham Arthur, seconded by Councillor Colin Smith and **CARRIED**.

81 Treasury Management - Annual Investment Strategy 2019/20 and Quarter 3 Performance 2018/19
Report CSD19043

A motion to approve an increase in the limit to £50 million for investments with Housing Associations (section 3.4.6 of the report), agree that the Treasury Management Strategy be amended to clarify that only the ring fenced components of the Royal Bank of Scotland be included for future investments (section 3.4.6 of the report) and agree to adopt the Treasury Management Statement and the Annual Investment Strategy for 2019/20 (Appendix 4, pages 17-43 of the report), including the prudential indicators (summarised on page 43 of the report) and the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) policy statement (page 22 of the report) , was moved by Councillor Graham Arthur, seconded by Councillor Colin Smith and **CARRIED**.

82 Third Report of the Education, Children and Families Select Committee 2018/19 - Sustainability of the Education Budget
Report CSD19033

Councillor Nicholas Bennett asked Members to note that in recommendation 2.1 (page 2) of the report the words “special needs” should be inserted between the words “new” and “provision.”

A motion to invite the Leader and appropriate Portfolio Holders to consider the recommendations in the report and (a) refer the recommendations to service Directors and Partners where appropriate and (b) provide a written response to the Education, Children and Families Select Committee for consideration at a future meeting of the Select Committee was moved by Councillor Nicholas Bennett, seconded by Councillor Neil Reddin and **CARRIED**.

83 2019/20 Pay Award
Report CSD19044

A motion to approve the following -

(i) a flat 2.25% pay increase for all staff (excluding teachers who are covered by a separate statutory pay negotiating process;)

(ii) a further increase for lower paid staff as follows inclusive of the flat rate 2.25% increase -

Spinal Points	Proposed increase inclusive of the flat rate pay award of 2.25%
4-17	6%
18	5%
19-22	4%
23-30	3%

(iii) that the Trade Union's pay claim for staff be rejected (paragraph 3.7 and appendices to the report.)

and to note that, as in the previous years since coming out of the nationally/regionally negotiated frameworks, Bromley staff would receive the 2019/20 pay increase in time for the April pay, was moved by Councillor Pauline Tunncliffe, seconded by Councillor Michael Turner and **CARRIED**.

84 Pay Policy Statement
Report CSD19045

A motion to approve the 2019/20 Pay Policy Statement was moved by Councillor Pauline Tunncliffe, seconded by Councillor Michael Turner and **CARRIED**.

85 Members Allowances Scheme 2019/20
Report CSD19046

An amendment to the proposed scheme to require that an allowance of £52 per meeting should be paid to members of Plans Sub-Committees in place of the fixed annual allowance was moved by Councillor Simon Fawthrop, seconded by Councillor Nicholas Bennett and **CARRIED**.

A motion to approve the Members Allowances Scheme 2019/20 as set out in Appendix 2 to the report and as amended, and to approve the Mayoral and Deputy Mayoral Allowances for 2019/20, with an increase in all allowances in line with the increase in officer salaries of 2.25%, was moved by Councillor Pauline Tunncliffe, seconded by Councillor Michael Turner and **CARRIED**.

The following Members voted in favour of the motion -

Councillors Gareth Allatt, Graham Arthur, Yvonne Bear, Julian Benington, Nicholas Bennett, Mike Botting, Katy Boughey, Mark Brock, Mary Cooke, Aisha Cuthbert, Peter Dean, Judi Ellis, Robert Evans, Simon Fawthrop, Peter Fortune, Kira Gabbert, Will Harmer, Christine Harris, Samaris Huntington-Thresher, William Huntington-Thresher, David Jefferys, Charles Joel, Kate Lymer, Christopher Marlow, Robert Mcilveen, Russell Mellor, Alexa Michael,

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Peter Morgan, Keith Onslow, Tony Owen, Angela Page, Neil Reddin, Will Rowlands, Richard Scoates, Colin Smith, Diane Smith, Gary Stevens, Melanie Stevens, Harry Stranger, Kieran Terry, Pauline Tunnicliffe, Michael Turner and Stephen Wells.

The following Members voted against the motion -

Councillors Kathy Bance, Kevin Brooks, Ian Dunn, Simon Jeal, Josh King and Angela Wilkins.

The following Members abstained –

Councillors Kim Botting and David Cartwright.

(Note: There was an error in the report - the proposed allowance for Chairmen of Plans Sub-Committees should have read £2,832)

86 To consider Motions of which notice has been given.

No motions were received.

87 The Mayor's announcements and communications.

The Mayor thanked all the Members who had attended her Charity Dinner at Tamasha in January.

The annual Quiz, held on 8th February had been another great success - the Mayor thanked the quizmaster, Ian Payne, his wife, Judith and their family, for giving their time over the last fifteen years.

On Friday 22nd February the Looked after Children awards had been held, and the Mayor thanked the many Members who had attended.

The signing of the Friendship Agreement with Thunder Bay was being held on Thursday 7th March at 12 noon and the following day, on Friday 8th March at 10am there would be a visit to Canadian Corner in All Saints Church for a short service and then on to Orpington Hospital at 12pm where the Mayor, with the Mayor of Thunder Bay, would unveil a plaque marking the signing of the friendship Agreement. All Members were very welcome to attend these two events.

Later in the day, the Mayor had arranged to take the visitors to Biggin Hill Airport, as well as to the Museum and Chapel.

The Mayor's final charity event would be on Friday 5th April - a dinner at the East India Club with a wonderful speaker - Sir Alistair MacDuff, a retired High Court Judge. The Lord Mayor of Neuwied, Jan Einig and his wife would be visiting Bromley that weekend and would be attending the dinner. With sixteen Mayors already booked to attend tickets were selling very fast, so if Members wanted tickets they should contact the office as soon as possible.

The Meeting ended at 10.05 pm

Mayor

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COUNCIL MEETING

25TH FEBRUARY 2019

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC FOR ORAL REPLY

1. From Taylor Matthews to the Leader of the Council

Can the Leader of the Council explain why Bromley (the first London Council to debate and vote in favour of Brexit) is the last to put contingency plans in place, and when rate payers will be advised of said plans?"

Reply:

The Council has undertaken no independent analysis on the possible effects or otherwise of Brexit. Senior staff within Bromley Council continue to hold no reported concerns as to staffing or service issues.

In the unlikelihood any unforeseen operational or financial liabilities were to arise to the downside, the Council carries sufficient contingency reserves to ensure there will be no disruption to valued local services.

The latest general thoughts on related matters pan-London can be found on the following link from a recent London Councils Leaders Committee agenda:

<https://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/node/35057>

Supplementary Question:

Has the Council considered the impact on services that are particularly vulnerable if EU nationals do not secure a good deal, such as adult social services?

Reply:

Officers see no problems around staffing levels, particularly around services to vulnerable people of any nationality.

Additional Supplementary Question from Cllr Ian Dunn:

Has Cllr Smith read the Ernst & Young Local Government Audit Committee Briefing dated December 2018 where the briefing discusses the impact on social care provision and states that the social care workforce is particularly susceptible to the impact of Brexit?

Reply:

I did not hear which august body wrote the report in question, but what I can tell you with certainty is that those of us in this chamber, certainly on this side, know more about social services in Bromley than whoever wrote that report.

Additional Supplementary Question from Cllr Simon Fawthrop:

Is the Leader aware that the Government has given every assurance to EU nationals that after Brexit they will be welcome to remain, and we also welcome those of them living and working in this country to remain here after Brexit.

Additional Supplementary Question from Cllr Nicholas Bennett:

Would the Leader agree with me that the proposal by the Leader of the Opposition tonight to support a second referendum, which would cost this borough half a million pounds, is a complete and utter waste of money?

Reply:

I would say in the first part to Councillor Bennett's question - absolutely. It would also be an insult to democracy across this country following the referendum and a failure to deliver it.

In answer to Cllr Fawthrop, I have temporarily forgotten his question, but the answer was definitely yes.

COUNCIL MEETING

25TH FEBRUARY 2019

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC FOR WRITTEN REPLY

1. From Julie Ireland to the Renewal, Recreation & Housing Portfolio Holder

Given the Planning Inspector's refusal of the application in respect of the multi storey school at 1 Westmoreland Road, will the Council now amend the Bromley Local Plan to change the designated use of this site?

Reply:

The planning appeal process does not alter the Bromley Local Plan designation of this site but a future planning application for any use should take into account the latest appeal decision and in particular the reasons for dismissal.

2. From Julie Ireland to the Environment & Community Services Portfolio Holder

In view of the Planning Inspector's refusal of the application in respect of the multi storey school at 1 Westmoreland Road, what are the Council's plans for the much needed pedestrian and cycling improvements to this junction including plans for the safeguarded land on the corner of Masons Hill and Westmoreland Road?

Reply:

The application was not dismissed on Highway grounds. At paragraph 56 the Inspector concluded: - '*I have also found that highway safety concerns have not been borne out*'. There are not therefore direct consequences arising from the decision, as would have been the case had it been allowed.

3. From Julie Ireland to the Renewal, Recreation & Housing Portfolio Holder

What costs were incurred by the Council in the Bullers Wood School for Boys appeal in respect of St Hugh's Playing Fields?

Reply:

The Council spent £49825 on external Transport consultants; this excludes Legal costs which are subject to confidentiality of commercial information.

4. From Sam Webber to the Environment & Community Services Portfolio Holder

Following a written answer to me in December 2017 stating that the Council would "give this matter some consideration subject to available budgets and practicalities" can I ask for an update on erecting a small plaque or sign to mark the grave of Captain George Allan Maling VC in Chislehurst Cemetery?

Reply:

The parks and greenspace service provider's Director, Mr Frank Kleinhans (Frank.Kleinhans@idverde.co.uk), is aware of the desire to erect a small plaque at this location. He would welcome your thoughts, including any further historic background, in order to ascertain how this is best delivered at the location.

5. From Sam Webber to the Environment & Community Services Portfolio Holder

I have been advised that grave ownership 'in perpetuity' in reality lasts only for 25 years under the 1972 Local Government Act.

In light of this would LBB consider issuing a public notice of intent to transfer ownership of grave number A2017 at Chislehurst Cemetery from the executor of the estate of the grave owner to the Victoria Cross Trust which would like to take over ownership and restore the gravestone of Captain Maling VC?

Reply:

Before the Local Authorities' Cemeteries Order 1977, the main legislation relating to burial was governed by the Burial Acts 1852 – 1906 (15 in total), and the Cemeteries Clauses Act 1847. Many of these Acts have now been repealed.

With regards to defining the period of rights to a grave, the issue of perpetuity is covered in the Local Authorities' Cemeteries Order 1977 – the Order allows an authority to determine a right of burial if the grave has never been used and 75 years has elapsed since the date of the grants. The Order also allows agreements to maintain a grave to be determined (returned to the council) after 100 years, even if these were made in perpetuity. The Order limits the time that any new grants of exclusive right of burial can be made for to a maximum of 100 years. It does not, however, give any provision for limiting grants made in perpetuity prior to the order or provide a mechanism for reclaiming or shortening those rights where they have been exercised. The implication therefore is that any rights that were granted in perpetuity under any previous legislation remain in perpetuity.

We would be pleased to engage with the Victoria Cross Trust regarding the potential of restoring the gravestone of Captain Maling VC.

6. From Chloe-Jane Ross to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation & Housing

What are the latest estimates of homeless people in the borough, including counts of those living on the streets? Is data available for area (Beckenham, Bromley, Orpington etc)?

Reply:

Bromley's Homeless Strategy sets out detailed data regarding homeless trends and estimates. However in summary there are currently estimated to be approximately 3,500 households who are homeless or in insecure accommodation in Bromley. The vast majority of these households are currently accommodated in forms of temporary accommodation or under interim arrangements and as such are not 'roofless'.

The last rough sleeper head count was held in November 2018. A total of 6 people were found; 3 in Bromley, 2 in Orpington and 1 in Penge. Contact was made with all of these rough sleepers to offer support and assistance with rehousing.

7. From Chloe-Jane Ross to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation & Housing

What support did the Council provide to shelters and homeless charities over the Christmas period?

Reply:

Bromley's rough sleeper outreach services are funded by central government alongside the no second night out programme and emergency accommodation hubs. Support was offered by these services throughout the Christmas period. Bromley also provides dedicated caseworkers and housing advice surgery support across the borough including through churches, charities and the shelter. This includes 24/7 365 day access to emergency advice and temporary accommodation provision. In addition, in line with the severe weather emergency provision requirements (SWEP), the Council has directly provided accommodation during the Christmas and cold weather periods for anyone found to be homeless and sleeping rough, with referrals able to be made directly by shelters and homeless charities for support. Funding support is then provided to assist directly with move-on to settled accommodation secured.

8. From Chloe-Jane Ross to the Portfolio Holder for Environment & Community Services

When will the 2010 Air Quality Action Plan be updated?

Reply:

The Mayor of London's revised draft Air Quality Action Matrix was only received by the Council in October 2018, with the consultation period closing in November 2018 and now that this has been agreed by the Mayor (we're checking the date), the Council is now refining its draft Air Quality Action Plan for consultation in due course.

9. From Rich Wilsher to the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education & Families

How many children in the care of the Council care are currently placed outside of the borough?

Reply:

We currently have 61 children placed at distance out of the borough –31 of these children are in specialist placements.

10. From Rich Wilsher to the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education & Families

Are the Council planning to review casework and policies in light of the recent media attention of a Bromley parent and the use of out-of-borough placements of children in care?

Reply:

The Council are not planning on reviewing casework policies.

COUNCIL MEETING

25TH FEBRUARY 2019

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL FOR ORAL REPLY

1. From Cllr Tony Owen to the Environment & Community Services Portfolio Holder

The report recommending cycle lanes between Orpington station and Crofton Lane mini roundabout reported that 91 cycle journeys were made along this stretch of Crofton Road during a 12 hour period on a sunny summer day.

TfL reported that they have identified 21,000 potential journeys that could be made if there were cycle lanes.

How many journeys need to be made for you to consider the scheme a success and worthwhile spending of £673,000 taxpayers' money?

Reply:

TfL have identified 21,000 potentially cycle-able journeys to/from Orpington Station and Town Centre from all directions, not just on that road, if the facilities are improved. This scheme represents part of the improvements. The project you refer to both offers improved cycling and walking facilities, including improved crossings and will link up with the cycle hub at Orpington Station. Here in Bromley we have always looked at providing residents with travel options rather than compulsion. The improvements will also address an accident history at the Crofton Lane/Road roundabout.

How should we measure the success of a walking and cycle route? Reduced or no further increase in congestion past Orpington Station as our population grows? Reduced peak hour congestion around the Darrick Wood schools? Reduced on street parking and resident dissatisfaction around destinations in the area? Whilst speaking with residents regarding cycling they have commented that narrow painted lanes on busy roads are not conducive to them taking up cycling. Aspects of this scheme are therefore more of a trial to assess the degree that quality of cycle routes is limiting residents' travel options. I therefore do not, at the current time, have a precise number in mind; I would expect numbers to increase over time, particularly as these cycle lanes here become a cycle route. We will monitor the progress of this scheme.

Supplementary Question:

I am surprised that I cannot be told what constitutes success. I have also had an answer to my first written question, from which I learn that there is going to be a consultation and an exhibition on this scheme. Will that be telling the emergency services and the public what is going to happen, or will it be a genuine consultation with the possible cancellation of this folly?

Reply:

Two aspects to that. In the first case, it will be an exhibition in terms of the intention of the scheme. As with all works, when they are advertised, that is the point for the emergency services to respond with their concerns, and for the scheme to be

updated to address those concerns that the emergency services and other statutory consultees might have.

Additional supplementary question from Cllr Simon Fawthrop

Given that we are not entirely sure what success looks like, can he tell us what failure looks like?

Reply:

I thought that I did indicate what success looks like. Success looks like not seeing gridlock around Orpington Station, looking to see reduced peak hour congestion around the schools and other issues regarding on-street parking as more people cycle. We are not like central London, imposing things like the Ultra-Low Emission Zone that might be designed to compel people to do certain things; we are giving residents the options. We do need to give residents options as they pay their Council taxes.

Additional supplementary question from Cllr Robert Mcilveen

Would the Portfolio Holder agree that it is very important to give people options to cycle where there is good potential for greater journeys, but also that failure would look like a badly delivered cycle path, and I am thinking here particularly of Bromley Common on the A21, which is, I think, the worst designed cycle path that I have ever seen. If he ever has any moneys going for it I would very much appreciate it.

Reply:

The A21 is a TfL road and therefore TfL are responsible for the cycle lane along there. Speaking to residents and asking what they see as the barriers to them cycling, that is, those who own a bike and would like to cycle, it is in terms of the quality of the infrastructure that we offer to our residents to make an informed choice about what they want to do. Although we seem to be focussed on cycling, walking is obviously a key component here and is also part of the scheme. Obviously, active lifestyles starting at school is something we should be encouraging.

2. From Cllr Josh King to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation & Housing (to be answered by the Leader)

Many of us will have seen the plight of residents and leaseholders in the Northpoint block recently on national TV news. What is the Council doing to resolve the situation given the announced by the Secretary of State for Housing the Communities and Local Government in November last year?

Reply:

The Council remains in an position of advanced lobbying with the Minister of State and his team, along with and supporting Bob Neill MP and the three local Ward Councillors, each of whom have expended a significant amount of time and effort seeking to move this matter forward for their residents over a number of months.

Supplementary Question:

Given that the statement I referred to in the question stated that (talking about the financial support) this would include financial support where this is necessary for local authorities to carry out emergency remedial work, how is this stopping the Council from proceeding?

Reply:

I can confirm that the Council has had no promise of financial assistance to take the works forward and be refunded.

3. From Cllr Kathy Bance MBE to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation & Housing

Is there a process for identifying and mapping historic signage or cultural artefacts in Bromley?

Reply:

Cultural artefacts that are identified as meeting Bromley Historic Collection's collecting policy are accessioned and recorded on CALM, which is an online catalogue.

Supplementary Question:

Can you send that information to me?

Reply:

I shall be delighted.

4. From Cllr Ian Dunn to the Portfolio Holder for Public Protection & Enforcement

The minutes of the November meeting of the Safer Bromley Partnership state that you would be meeting with the Leader & Deputy Chief Executive to discuss the Home Office Locality Review on Serious Violence & Gangs in Bromley. Can you please inform us of the actions which came out of that meeting.

Reply:

Following the numerous meetings that I have had with the Leader, the Chief Executive and the Cabinet, the Chief Executive chaired a round table discussion regarding gangs on Friday, 8th February 2019.

Key actions from the meeting were as follows:

- A Strategic multi-disciplinary group similar to MEGA to be set up to consider gang and serious youth violence related issues for residents above the age of 18. Terms of reference for this new group are to be drafted and, additionally, an information sharing protocol is to be drafted and signed by all agencies.
- The new group will report directly to the Bromley Safer Partnership Board, and the Executive Director will brief the Executive Portfolio Holder with updates.
- The new group will also undertake resource mapping and a local authority single point of contact will be identified for gangs and serious youth violence.
- The Chief Executive will update the Leader on all the above actions.

Supplementary Question:

The original report into serious violence and gangs in Bromley stated that there was a perceived lack of governance and over-arching strategy. Could you explain where the over-arching governance and strategy will come from? Will it come from this Council?

Reply:

The over-arching governance is the Safer Bromley Partnership Board, which I am the chairman of, and we are in the process of identifying a single point of contact at officer level, so that they will be the go-to person or officer at the Council to hold all the different strands and all the different things we do here at the Council and with our third parties and residents. So, we will have a strategic officer in place and that officer and the rest of the MEGA type panel which is lots of agencies will report into the Safer Bromley partnership.

Additional supplementary question from Cllr Kevin Brooks

It is very welcoming to hear that there have been some meetings. However, over here we represent some of the wards which are most affected by gangs and I would like to ask what meetings has the Portfolio Holder had, or is planning to have, with the local MP in Lewisham West and Penge, considering that there is a problem with Lewisham and Bromley. Can she update us on any meetings that have been held or are coming up?

Reply:

I have not had any meetings with Ellie Reeves, and she has not requested one with me either. I am very happy to meet with her. We are still in the process of trying to arrange a Safer Neighbourhood Board meeting in the Penge, Anerley and Crystal Palace area. We were hoping to twin-up with the Safer Neighbourhood Panel who have got one at the St Hugh's Community Hall on Thursday this week, but after several weeks of going round in circles they have decided that it was not appropriate. Unfortunately that has not been organised yet, but we will be organising one of our Safer Neighbourhood Board Panel meetings in your area.

5. From Cllr Angela Wilkins to the Portfolio Holder for Environment & Community Services

Is it correct that the fees charged for events on Bromley's parks and open spaces have been/will be increased by 20% this year?

Reply:

The fees and charges for events in Bromley's parks and open spaces have not increased by 20%.

Subject to the size and type of event, fees in 2019/20 have increased an average of 5% factoring in little change the previous year with administration fees associated with event activities remaining unchanged. Some fees have in fact been reduced due to a simplification of the fees process. As an example, market traders have had the fee structure removed completely and now only pay a basic fee and not a fee on the amount of stalls. There is a biannual meeting with all other London Boroughs, "The Events Forum", which looks at pricing mechanisms, along with other aspects of enabling events and activities in parks, as well as how improvements in the service and quality for organisers and the public can be achieved. Idverde represents the Council as a member of the Forum. Pricing for events is benchmarked against other outer London Boroughs that include Bexley, Croydon, Hounslow and Barnet. The

Council's fees generally continue to be substantially in the lower quartile than the surrounding boroughs that can be up to 20% higher.

Supplementary Question:

Can you clarify please where the final decision is made on increase - whether it is made by idverde or whether it is made by the Council?

Reply:

I am not completely sure whether this is part of the delegated authority to idverde or it is between idverde and council officers. It does not at the moment come to me, but I can get more information to clarify that. Obviously there is an agreed structure to how we go about setting fees.

6. From Cllr Kevin Brooks to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation & Housing

How much did the Council spend on external advisers for the various Bullers Wood School planning appeals?

Reply:

The Council spent £49,825 on external Transport consultants; that does not include the legal costs which are subject to a confidentiality agreement.

Supplementary Question:

Considering the budget cuts we are asked to consider tonight, do you believe that the money that has been spent (both what you are able to tell us and what you are not able to tell us) has been the best use of Bromley taxpayers' money?

Reply:

I am sure that everybody in this room can think of a better way to spend this money than on consultants, but nevertheless these planning appeals have to be faced and we have to use the best advice we can get in every particular occasion in order to either defend or propose our cause whatever it is, so we have little choice.

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

What has been the increase or decrease in the London Mayoral precept in the following Mayoralities?

Ken Livingstone 2000-8

Boris Johnson 2008-16

Sadiq Khan 2016-

Reply:

During his period in charge, if that is the right term, of London, Mayor Livingstone increased by 152%; during his time in charge, Boris Johnson reduced his cumulative increase by 10% and thus far during his term in charge Mr Khan has increased his precept by 16%.

Supplementary Question:

What conclusions does the mayor draw from that question and answer?

Reply:

I wish very strongly to include TfL in this response, who are responsible for a good tranche of this. I think it proves, as conclusively as numbers ever can, that whether it is at government level, council level or mayoral London level, that if you want good value for money, high quality low cost services you would be better off supporting the Conservatives.

Additional Supplementary Question from Cllr Angela Wilkins:

Does the Leader remember how much Boris Johnson spent when he was Mayor on (a) the water cannon and (b) the garden bridge?

Reply:

No, I have no idea whatsoever, but I do know that he save Council Tax payers across London 11% during his time in charge, that Mayor Livingstone increased costs by 152% and thus far Sadiq Khan has increased his by 16% and he appears to have some way to go to fix his budget deficit.

Additional Supplementary Question from Cllr Simon Fawthrop:

Is Cllr Smith aware that Sadiq Khan continues to spend money on his Press Office and in-house stuff rather than on front line policing, and that had he supported the Conservative budget at the GLA we would now be having more police officers on our streets.

Reply:

I am aware of that, and it is very regrettable in my view that the Conservative Group on the GLA did not have their budget amendments taken seriously because it would, as Cllr Fawthrop correctly says, have resulted in more police on the street in short order, which has already been mentioned in this evening's debate and may very well be mentioned again as a pressing priority for this borough.

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

What progress has been made in attempting to have a meeting and discussion with a member of the planning inspectorate to consider a common approach to determining planning decisions in the Petts Wood Area of Special Residential Character? (question 11 - last Council meeting.)

Planning appeal verdicts have been so inconsistent that it is impossible for planning sub-committees to make logical and informed decisions.

Reply:

I am very much aware of your concerns about a series of inconsistent and illogical planning appeal decisions that have been taken on several Petts Wood appeals, including those relating to the Area of Special Residential Character. To this end, I have now written to Phil Hammond, the Director of Casework at the Planning Inspectorate to ask him to consider the matter and to come up with a more sensible and consistent method of decision making on local appeals in your ward. I have also requested that he comes to pay a visit to Petts Wood in person to meet you and your ward colleagues to discuss a better way forward. I await his reply with interest.

Supplementary Question:

No further question, but I have seen a copy of Cllr Michael's letter and I thank her for what she has done so far.

9. From Cllr Josh King to the Portfolio Holder for Environment & Community

Will the portfolio holder please supply the numbers of vehicles owned and leased by the Council, including those allocated to car clubs, in the following categories: petrol, diesel, hybrid and electric only?

Reply:

Under the lease car scheme, there are 147 vehicles, none of which are owned by the Council; 83 are petrol, 44 are diesel, 19 are hybrid and 1 is electric. The allocated commercial fleet, which includes car, vans, gritters, school minibuses etc, 12 vehicles are leased, 40 vehicles are owned by the Council; there are no petrol vehicles, 50 are diesel, 1 is hybrid with 4 hybrid vehicles on order to replace diesel vehicles, and there is 1 electric vehicle, which is a works truck.

Supplementary Question:

Given that a recent report has shown that electric and hybrid vehicles are now cheaper to run and own than fossil fuel powered vehicles, what is the Council's policy on moving towards these cheaper and more environmentally friendly vehicles?

Reply:

In summary, the policy was consulted on in our LIP, which is a progressive move towards electric and hybrid vehicles. As with all environmental aspects it is also worthwhile considering the remaining economic life, rather than jumping to a particular aspect. Whilst running costs is a considerable element, there is also the environmental cost of building the battery and mining the battery that needs to be considered. We are taking a cost-based approach in terms of running out the remaining life in vehicles rather than just looking at the current cost. We have also got to include the capital cost and assessing when it is best to update those vehicles, and the regulatory costs as well.

10. From Cllr Kathy Bance MBE to the Leader of the Council

Given that many of the reports for PDS Meetings are appropriately very detailed but very lengthy, would it be helpful to Councillors to include an Executive Summary at the beginning of each report?

Reply:

Although it is only a matter of personal opinion, I tend to respectfully take a different point of view on this particular question.

Whilst an Executive Summary at the head of a report would clearly offer both a firm steer and the conclusion which any report's author could choose to present 'differently', there surely has to be a danger that it would also reduce the amount of highly necessary in depth scrutiny and challenge required by Members into the grinding points of detail which sit below, particularly in cases where an Executive Summary broadly reaffirms a Member's own views and preferred way forward on a given subject.

In addition, I am reminded by officers that the Council's report template starts with a section titled "Reason for Report," the recommendations and then a page where various implications can be summarised – financial, legal, staffing implications etc.

Although anything can of course be changed and challenged in terms of format, their suggestion is that this lead-in already acts as something of an executive summary in

itself, as well, that if officers are not providing the summary information Members require in the “Reason for Report” section, that we as Members need to make Officers aware of that fact.

For historic context for those colleagues in the Chamber not here at the time and others who were who might perhaps have forgotten, I am further reminded that the current report template was designed by a Member Working Group approximately ten years ago, although it has been updated as necessary since that time.

The aim of Members at that time was for the first two pages of any report to contain enough summary information for them to know whether they needed to read the whole report.

Committee Services did briefly print these first pages on blue paper just to make them stand out, and some Members opted to receive just these “blue sheets” rather than whole reports and it is over this last point in particular, that I personally hold the concern I raised above, which is why I tend to believe that what we have today continues to adequately serve the purpose it is intended to.

Supplementary Question:

I believe it is every Councillor’s duty to read the whole of every report that they receive. Do you not agree that having an executive summary may have flagged up the problem that we had with the Schools Forum recently?

Reply:

I see no reason why it should have.

11. From Cllr Ian Dunn to the Leader of the Council

The report from the House of Commons Public Accounts Committee into Local Government Spending dated 6 February 2019 states that “there is still no sign that the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government has a clear plan to secure the financial stability of Local Government in the long term”. How is the Leader ensuring that this uncertainty from Central Government is fully taken into account in the Transformation Programme?

Reply:

The Council produces a four year financial forecast which is included within the 2019/20 Council tax report sitting before Members this evening. Against the backdrop of future uncertainty, medium term financial planning becomes even more important. The 2019/20 Council Tax report refers to measures in place to deal with the medium term financial position between 2020/21 and 2022/23.

We continue to lobby hard to secure a fair deal for Bromley and recent successes include the removal of the negative revenue support grant in 2019/20 (benefitting the borough to the tune of £2.3m) and receiving one of the highest levels of transitional fund in 2016/17 and 2017/18 of an additional £4m. I readily recognise, as will every other Council leader of any political hue, presenting this year’s budget, that the long awaited Spending Review, Fair Funding Review, devolution of business rates and the emerging Green Paper on Adult Social Care, whenever that might eventually surface, adds to the extremely difficult and complicated financial uncertainty that we do currently face.

However, thanks in large part to this Council's strong financial management since 2001, as well as remaining the only debt free Council in London whilst maintaining adequate levels of reserves meaning that we don't have debts or interest payments to make to lenders and can instead benefit from revenue income from our assets, we remain relatively well placed to face the threatened financial challenges which unquestionably lie ahead.

All of these factors feed in to the Council's evolving Transformation Programme as will become ever clearer to Members over coming months as policies are honed and papers appear before the relevant Committees.

Supplementary Question:

Yes, I agree about the amount of uncertainty about what lies ahead, and it is cross party. I would like to repeat the last sentence of my question, which is how is the Leader ensuring that this uncertainty from Central Government is fully taken into account in the Transformation Programme and the various work-streams within it?

Reply:

I can understand why Cllr Dunn would probably like me to tell him how we are going about forming and drawing together the Transformation projects. I am not going to do that at this point in time, because it is work in progress but what Members on all sides of the chamber will see over the course of the coming months is how these policies are being drawn together and how they are capturing all the various aspects of current service and current spend versus projected income and projected reduced income. It is at that point that there will be a big debate to be had and there will be some very difficult decisions made.

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

On what terms were Bromley's housing stocks handed over to housing associations?

Reply:

The ownership of Bromley's social housing stock was transferred in full to Broomleigh Housing Association (now Clarion Housing) in 1992 in compliance with the terms of a large scale voluntary stock transfer (LSVT). The Legal documents setting out the full terms and conditions run to many hundreds of pages. If Councillor Wilkins has a specific question I will instruct the legal officers to get the documents out of the Archive and clarify for you.

Supplementary Question:

My concern arises from whether or not extremely large maintenance costs, such as the replacement of a roof, should be passed on to tenants? It is pretty much unaffordable for some of them.

Reply:

I understand that concern - I will look into that for you.

13. From Cllr Nicholas Bennett JP to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation and Housing

How many lockers there are in the wet changing area of the Spa Leisure Centre and how many are available for customer use?

Reply:

There are apparently 406 lockers (I have not counted them myself, but that is what I am assured) in the wet changing area of the Spa, out of this currently approximately 151 are out of operation.

Supplementary Question:

Unfortunately, this is not accurate. I did a survey last night when I was at the pool. There are 140 lockers which are broken, there are 19 that do not have a door on them, and there are 74 that do not have a key. As I did the survey after the last member of the public had left I think we can be sure that the keys were there. That is 233 lockers, which is 57% of all the lockers in the changing room. Given that he gave me an answer on 16th July last year, when he told me that there were something like 60 lockers that were broken, and that Mytime were working on it, can he tell me why, today, they have a notice on the lockers saying that they are working on solutions? Either they have locks or they have new lockers. It is not Brexit, and they are not looking at the Irish backstop.

Reply:

This is a mystery, isn't it? I am advised that an order has been placed to replace lockers. It was placed on 5th February, with a five week delivery time. We shall see whether that is met and I shall certainly speak with the Managing Director of Mytime about this on a personal basis to find out what is going on. Apparently a contributory factor to the current high incidence of faulty lockers is due to break-ins and vandalism, and although CCTV is available I don't know if they spotted you there, Councillor Bennett and what you were wearing at the time, but apparently it appears not to be a deterrent. There are people in Beckenham who like performing before the cameras and breaking into lockers. In all seriousness, it is a serious problem and I will speak to Mytime about it to see if we can rectify it.

14. From Cllr Nicholas Bennett JP to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation and Housing

Whether Bromley will be participating in the Open House weekend in 2019?

Reply:

Yes.

Supplementary Question:

Thank you.

COUNCIL MEETING

25TH FEBRUARY 2019

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL FOR WRITTEN REPLY

1. From Cllr Tony Owen to the Environment & Community Services Portfolio Holder

The report for the proposed Crofton Road cycle lanes between Orpington Station and the Crofton Lane mini roundabout indicated that the emergency services had not been consulted.

An officer email tells me that this would be done once the scheme was approved. Will you please publish the replies received from each service for the Council meeting, ready for inclusion in the minutes?

Reply:

Once we have a detailed design that has gone through the Stage 2 RSA we will consult with the emergency services as part of the normal consultation process. Additionally, because of the scale of the Project, we will also be holding a public exhibition.

2. From Cllr Ian Dunn to the Leader of Council

Please provide an organisation chart showing the direct reports of the Chief Executive with their direct reports, including a summary of each post holder's main responsibilities. Please show on the chart where a post is vacant or occupied by an interim post-holder.

Reply:

(See appendix 1 attached. Further details are available to all Members on the Council's intranet.)

3. From Cllr Ian Dunn to the Leader of the Council

Please provide the number of staff who have left the Council's employment since 1 January 2014, broken down by calendar year, department and reason for leaving (Retirement, redundancy, resignation, other.) How much has been spent on redundancies since 1 January 2014, broken down by calendar year and department?

Reply:

(A) The number of staff who have left the Council's employment since January 2014, broken down by calendar year.

From 01/01/2018 to 31/12/2018	Department		
Leaver Reason	Chief Executives	Education, Care & Health Services	Environment & Community Services
Other	4	17	6
Redundancies	3	5	1
Resignations	13	118	32
Retirements	5	15	4
Total	25	155	43

From 01/01/2017 to 31/12/2017	Department		
Leaver Reason	Chief Executives	Education, Care & Health Services	Environment & Community Services
Other	12	58	136
Redundancies	1	5	3
Resignations	12	102	23
Retirements	4	15	8
Total	29	180	170

From 01/01/2016 to 31/12/2016	Department		
Leaver Reason	Chief Executives	Education, Care & Health Services	Environment & Community Services
Other	7	13	15
Redundancies	4	101	9
Resignations	10	120	24
Retirement		16	9
Total	21	250	57

From 01/01/2015 to 31/12/2015	Department		
Leaver Reason	Chief Executives	Education, Care & Health Services	Environment & Community Services
Other	6	127	30
Redundancies	5	18	16
Resignations	12	118	32
Retirement	3	31	7
Total	26	294	85

From 01/01/2014 to 31/12/2014	Department		
	Chief Executives	Education, Care & Health Services	Environment & Community Services
Leaver Reason			
Other	31	11	8
Redundancies	6	9	5
Resignations	8	117	33
Retirements	6	15	6
Total	51	152	52

(B) Redundancy costs By Department - Financial Years 2014/15 to 31/12/18
(The redundancy payment information is only available by financial year)

Total from 1 April 2014 to 31 December 2018

ECHS	453,614.82
ECS	442,502.00
CEX	464,746.73
TOTAL	1,360,863.55

2014/15	
ECHS	56,204.00
ECS	33,590.00
CEX	94,916.00
TOTAL	184,710.00

2015/16	
ECHS	178,169.00
ECS	157,993.00
CEX	143,851.00
TOTAL	480,013.00

2016/17	
ECHS	911,497.00
ECS	213,859.00
CEX	130,526.00
TOTAL	1,255,882.00

2017/18	
ECHS	191,140.00
ECS	37,060.00
CEX	19,446.00
TOTAL	247,646.00

2018/19	up to 31/12/18
ECHS	28,101.82
ECS	-
CEX	76,007.73
TOTAL	104,109.55

4. From Cllr Ian Dunn to the Leader of the Council

Please provide the number of current vacancies, broken down by department.

Reply:

Department	Current Number of Vacancies
Chief Executives	27
Education, Care & Health Services	175
Environment & Community Services	39
Total	241

5. From Cllr Angela Wilkins to the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Commissioning and Contract Management

How much has been spent in the last 2 years on refurbishing the toilets used by Children's Social Care staff?

Reply:

The toilets on the ground floor St Blaise were refurbished in 2017 at a cost of £36k. The building is predominantly, but not exclusively used by Children's Social Care staff and the toilets serve all staff in the building.

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

Please provide detailed plans for how the £3.3m of s106 monies available for housing are actually going to be spent and when.

Reply:

Spending plans are more detailed where the s106 obligations approach short to medium term spending deadlines. In the case of Housing the Executive approved detailed expenditure plans close to the end of 2018, mainly comprising grants to Clarion for Affordable Housing provision in the Borough. These are subject to regular scrutiny by the E&RC PDS. The uses of s106 Affordable Housing funds are subject to approval in the usual way as for other Council expenditure.

7. From Cllr Angela Wilkins to the Portfolio Holder for Environment & Community Services

What is the Council's policy in relation to advertising erected on Council owned properties, including fences to parks etc?

Reply:

The Council's policy is that all advertising erected on Council property should comply with the relevant Town Planning Acts with regard to size and duration of display. To ensure the content of any advertisements are acceptable, the Council has an advertising policy which is available online -

https://www.bromley.gov.uk/info/200116/websites/617/advertising_policy.

Specifically to Parks, all events through the application process require any advertisements to comply with all applicable planning requirements and this is further qualified with specific reference to the precise legislative requirements in the application information.

The Council also needs to receive a benefit, either through our advertising contracts, a paid for event in our parks or on behalf of a Friends Group. Friends Groups provide an extensive number of volunteer hours in our Parks, Greenspaces, Streets and Snow clearance.

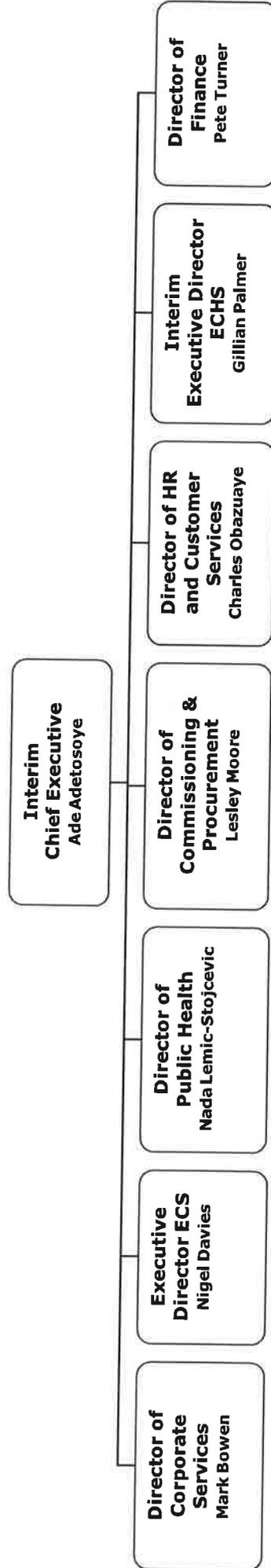
8. From Cllr Nicholas Bennett JP to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation and Housing

If he has seen the article in the Times of February 14th 2019 by David Aaronovitch and the subsequent correspondence on Feb 15th, 17th, 18th and 19th regarding a statue for Richmal Crompton and her creation Just William and whether he will consider approaching Macmillan, the publishers of the William books and Wetherspoons, the owner of the Richmal Crompton pub at Bromley South to see whether they would be prepared to help sponsor a statue at this location?

Reply:

In short no, but I would be willing to endorse you in your role as the borough's Heritage Champion in pursuing your idea of attracting sponsorship for the creation of a statue.

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Labour Budget Amendment - Appendix 1

Appendix E

Theme	Action	Cost 000s	Notes /Sources	Funding source
Housing				
	Additional staff to support regulation of private rented sector	£50		General Fund
	Capital funding for new build social housing	£5,000	Over two years	Investment Fund
	Provision of modular TA housing	£5,000		Invest to Save
Safer streets				
	Reinstate air pollution monitoring equipment	£14	2010 action plan suggested less than £10k pa. 2006 paper gives est costs. Add say 40% for RPI growth.	General Fund
	Lower speed limits plus increased enforcement /signage / use of IT	£300		Member Initiatives/Invest to Save
	Set up Youth Violence Commission	£100		Member Initiatives/Invest to Save
	Increase CCTV / lighting in areas affected by ASB / youth violence	£80		General Fund
People				
	Investment in public health / social prescribing	£2,000		BCF
	Investment in CAMHS	£3,000	over 2 years	NHS
	Increased service user involvement in commissioning/contract monitoring	£5		General Fund
	Improved provision of 'easy to read' & reinstatement of BSL interpreter service	£30		General Fund
	Town Centre Assemblies	£100		Member Initiatives
	Debt advisory service	£200		Invest to Save
	Exempt care leavers from council tax	£20		General Fund
Local Economy				
	Purchase of existing profitable Bromley business(es)	£3,000		Growth Fund
	Support for new & small businesses / small parades	£250		Growth Fund
Income generation				
	Sale of out of Borough commercial property investments	£5,000		
	Commercialisation of some council services eg. Step up to care	£500		

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