

COUNCIL MEETING

4th JULY 2011

WRITTEN QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

1. From Councillor Colin Smith of the Portfolio Holder for Public Protection and Safety

- 1) In respect of Police Resources across London could you please advise in table form:

The Resource Allocation figure for Police Officers proper serving each Borough as of 1st May 2008 and the number of Officers actually serving each Borough as of 1st May 2011.

Please rank the chart in descending order in terms of the number of officers the 2008 figure represents per capita for each Borough's population according to the 2001 census.

- 2) In respect of Safer Neighbourhood Teams, could you please advise in table form:

i) The total number of ward based PCSO's allocated to each Borough ranked in descending order.

ii) The composition of each of Bromley's SNT's as at 1st May 2011 ranked in descending order of total number of officers, broken down by Sergeants, PC's and PCSO's.

Please include any unfilled posts as within these figures, indicating any voids which may exist separately.

- 3) In respect of financial contributions paid to the Metropolitan Police Authority via Council Tax / Mayoral Precept by each Borough, could you please advise in table form:

How much each Borough contributes, ranked in descending order of contributions made please.

Reply:

The information in response to the above questions is set out in the attached schedules – Appendices A-D

2. From Councillor Nicholas Bennett JP of the Portfolio Holder for the Environment

Will the Portfolio Holder list in table format the following information regarding school crossing patrols ('lollipop')

- i. location
- ii. annual cost
- iii. schools served
- iv. estimated number of pupils assisted per day?

Reply:

Please see attached schedule – Appendix E.

(Director of Resources Note: Councillor Bennett had asked for the annual cost which figure had not been included in the information circulated at the meeting. The Portfolio Holder agreed that the figure be included after the meeting and is as follows:

Annual Cost: £233,000)

3. From Councillor Nicholas Bennett JP of the Portfolio Holder for Resources

To ask the Portfolio Holder if, in the light of the national strike on June 30th regarding public sector pensions, he will give the following information regarding the Bromley local government pension scheme:

1. number of retired beneficiaries
2. number of staff still contributing
3. number of deferred pensioners
4. total membership of fund
5. type of scheme
6. benefits (including age at which member may claim pension)
7. percentage contribution according to salary
8. employee contribution 2010-11
9. percentage contribution from council
10. total fund value at latest estimate
11. annual contribution from Council in each of the past five years including estimated contribution in 2011-12?

Reply:

As at 31 March 2011:

1. number of retired beneficiaries: 3,816 plus 706 widows/dependents = 4,522

2. number of staff still contributing: 5,246
3. number of deferred pensioners: 3,859
4. total membership of fund: 13,627
5. Defined benefit occupational pension scheme, based on length of membership and final salary
6. Benefits:
The scheme retirement age is 65 for both men and women. Benefits may be paid earlier on ill health at any age, and on redundancy, business efficiency, or flexible retirement from age 55. A member may elect to retire from age 60 onwards, or from age 55 with employer consent, with reduced benefits. In some cases where a member meets the former '85 year rule' the benefits are not reduced.

For periods of membership up to 31st March 2008:

Pension = Final pay x period of membership x 1/80

Lump sum = 3 times pension

For periods of membership from 1 April 2008

Pension = Final pay x period of membership x 1/60

Lump sum = not automatic, produced by exchanging £1 pension for £12 lump sum

7. A part-timer pays the rate for the whole time pay rate for the job.

Standard pay band table 2010/11	
If the whole time pay rate is:	the contribution rate is:
up to £12,600	5.5%
£12,600.01 - £14,700	5.8%
£14,700.01 - £18,900	5.9%
£18,900.01 - £31,500	6.5%
£31,500.01 - £42,000	6.8%
£42,000.01 - £78,700	7.2%
Over £78,700	7.5%

8. Employee contribution 2010-11: £6,040,000
9. Percentage contribution from Council: 2010-11 = 14.7% plus £8.6m, 2011-12 = 14.7% plus £5.5m
10. Total fund value at latest estimate: at 31/3/11 = £489,365,000
11. Annual contribution from Council in each of the past five years including estimated contribution in 2011-12?"
12.

2006/07	£18,364,000
2007/08	£19,110,000
2008/09	£19,417,000

2009/10 £21,466,000
2010/11 £20,734,000
Current estimate for 2011/12 is £21m.

4. From Councillor Peter Fookes of the Portfolio Holder for Adult and Community Services

What training is given to staff who are working with people with Alzheimer's?

Reply:

Dementia training is provided for staff across our Social Care services as follows:

For Care Management staff:

A 1 day course entitled 'Person Centred Dementia for Care Managers' For staff delivering care – both internal and staff employed by contracted agencies:

A 1 day course plus access to a workbook and dementia ready material – 'Dementia Care Person Centred Working'

In 2010/11 50 staff attended these two programmes.

We are also working closely with Bromley MINDcare who are delivering a *Dementia Skills Training and Coaching Programme* which is specifically aimed at developing the skills of staff working within Extra care Housing schemes, including the new Crown Meadow Court. In 2010/11 80 Extra Care Housing staff went through this programme.

Work is also underway planning a multi agency conference on improving the carer pathway for people with Dementia.

5. From Councillor Peter Fookes of the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation

What progress has been made on bringing The Studio in Beckenham back into action?

Reply:

The documentation for the letting of 28, Beckenham Road to Citygate Church has been agreed for some time and we have a signed agreement. The Director of Resources is awaiting payment of a deposit to provide security in case there is a problem in the carrying out of the renovation works. When the deposit is paid, and as planning permission was granted last October, Citygate will be able to exchange contracts with the Council. At that point they will be allowed access to carry out the first stage of the works. Citygate's builder is on standby to go in and start. Once the first stage is completed, the lease will be granted and they will finish the works while occupying the part they have already refurbished. The contract

allows Citygate up to 12 months to carry out the first stage of the works although they actually expect to finish all the work within 12 months.

6. From Councillor Peter Fookes of the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation

What is the level of youth unemployment in Bromley?

Reply:

The level of youth unemployment in Bromley, as defined by the number of people in the age group 16 – 24 in receipt of Job Seekers Allowance, is as follows: 1300 people, which is 4.3% of the total number of people in that age group (May 2011 figures).

7. From Councillor John Getgood of the Portfolio Holder for Resources

Does the council insist that all its contractors pay the current London Living Wage of £7.85? If not, will it introduce such a requirement into future contracts?

Reply:

The Council has no formal policy on this matter, as a consequence of which this is not something which is addressed in its contract documentation. The inclusion of such a requirement within its contracting arrangements – beyond the statutory requirement to pay the Legal Minimum Wage – (which is set at a maximum payment of £5.93 per an hour at age 21 and above) would involve the Council in considerable extra expense for which it would be required to identify additional funds.

8. From Councillor Kathy Bance of the Portfolio Holder for Resources

Will the council accept responsibility for the repair of the fence alongside Beckenham and Penge CAB in Royston Field, Penge?

Reply:

The Council is responsible for the fence alongside Beckenham and Penge CAB Royston Field. The Property Division are aware that there is damage to this fence and an order has been placed with a contractor to carry out the necessary repairs.

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

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

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

Reply:

There have been 7 non-major pre-application meetings between 11th April and 1st July 2011. 6 of these were non-householder and 1 householder enquiries.

As you are aware details of individual applicants and sites at present is exempt information and not disclosable in response to a Council Question.
