

COUNCIL MEETING

21st JANUARY 2013

WRITTEN QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

1. From Councillor Nicholas Bennett JP of the Portfolio Holder for Education

What percentage of teaching staff is male in:

- i. Bromley Secondary Schools and academies;
- ii. Bromley Primary schools and academies;
- iii. SEN Schools;
- iv. Grovelands PRU;
- v. Kingswood PRU?

Reply:

- i) We do not provide an HR/Payroll service for any Bromley secondary schools or academies

ii) – v)*

	% Male Teaching Staff
Primary Schools including Academies	12.30%
Special Schools	17.24%
Pupil Referral Units	
Grovelands	33.33%
Kingswood	38.46%

*Information is only available for Schools that buy an integrated HR/Payroll Service

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

With respect to the transfer of Public Health functions to the Council will he give the following information-

- i. Number of staff being transferred by grade;
- ii. the cost of salaries and on costs;
- iii. pension arrangements and costs
- iv. accommodation and other costs;

- v. services and functions being transferred
- vi. funding from NHS for transitional arrangements
- vii. funding for transferred services and functions?

Reply:

Please see attached Appendix A.

3. From Councillor Nicholas Bennett JP of the Leader of the Council

What progress has been made in implementing the recommendations of the New IT Working Group and what proposals does he have for those not yet adopted?

Reply:

An update on progress against the Working Group's nine recommendations is currently being prepared for consideration by the Working Group itself on 24th January and the Executive and Resources PDS Committee on 31st January. This will set out what progress has been achieved and also the areas where we need to re-focus attention to harness the potential of new technology to provide services more efficiently and to communicate more effectively with our residents.

There has been considerable progress on many of the issues identified by the Working Group, but more needs to be done on some of the recommendations and I expect that Members of the Working Group and the PDS Committee will prioritise where further action needs to be taken.

4. From Councillor Peter Fookes of the Portfolio Holder for Resources

What action is being taken to get the Lodge in Penge Recreation Ground back into use given that this has dragged on now for at least 15 years?

Reply:

Since the Empty Property Officer first contacted the owner in December 2007 it has been clear that the Lodge was being renovated, albeit at a slow pace. The Empty Property Officer has remained in contact with the owner since that time and most recently discussed progress with him in December 2012 and again on the 16th of January 2013. The owner has always been open about his intentions and progress and has provided ready access to the property.

The Lodge has been completely renovated and the owner has only the living room to decorate and to purchase and fit some integrated kitchen appliances before he can let it. As he is retired, funding is an issue but he has refused all offers of financial assistance and has chosen to insist on quality and reinstatement to a high standard. He had hoped that his son would

occupy the property, but that no longer appears to be the case and as such he intends to let it through a local letting agent once complete.

He is willing to show Members around the property should they wish to view the property before it is let. It is recognised that it has taken a considerable time to renovate this property, but the owner has throughout continued to make progress without the need for enforcement action. The Empty Property Officer will seek to arrange access should members wish to visit.

5. From Councillor Peter Fookes of the Portfolio Holder for Education

Can he list all schools in the borough in terms of the percentage with special education needs?

Reply:

Please see attached Appendix B.

6. From Councillor Peter Fookes of the Portfolio Holder for Resources

What studies have been undertaken to show the unpaid overtime that Bromley staff do?

Reply:

The arrangement for overtime or alternative compensatory arrangements is covered in individual contracts of employment and associated staff handbooks. Managers and staff are aware of the arrangement, but more importantly they are encouraged to find the right work/life balance consistent with our commitment to "Excellent Council" as set out in the Building a Better Bromley Statement"

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

Please will he give an update on the proposed implementation of localised pay and conditions of Service.

Reply:

Pursuant to the Full Council decision on 12 November 2012 individual letters with 'Frequently Asked Questions and Answers' (FAQ) were issued to all affected staff. This will be followed shortly by an individual letter of contract variation asking staff to accept the change from national/regional to localised terms and conditions with no diminution or financial loss save of course for loss of consolidated PRP for less than 200 Management Grade staff. As far as new recruits are concerned they are being recruited on localised terms.

8. From Councillor Russell Mellor of the Leader of the Council

Can the Leader inform as to the number of staff Members as at the end of the Civic year 2011/2012 together with the analysis to be presented in a tabular form.

1. Total number of Staff per each Department.
2. The number of staff in each BR grade.
3. The salary bands for each BR grade.

The comparative figures for the year ending 2010/2011.

Reply:

Please see attached Appendix C.

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 14 non-householder and 23 householder meetings between 8th November 2012 and 15th January 2013.

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