

COUNCIL MEETING

23RD SEPTEMBER 2013

WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

1. From Councillor Nicholas Bennett of the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation

If he will provide in table format the monthly average and annual figures for 2012-13 following information about each library (including the mobile library)

- i. Number of visitors
- ii. Number of book issues
- iii. Running costs
- iv. Cost per visitor
- v. Cost per book issue?

Reply:

See Appendix 1.

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

If he will in table format give the following information for the financial years 2009-10, 2010-2011, 2011-12, 2012-13 and at the latest available date for the current financial year;

The number of staff employed and salary costs in each department on a

- i. full-time basis
- ii. part-time basis

Of the above how many are:

- i. agency staff
- ii. employed on a fixed term contract?

Reply:

See Appendix 2.

We are unable to provide data for 2009/2010 as this was before the introduction of the Employee Budget Monitoring System (EBM). Any figures for 09/10 would have been misleading as they would not include agency staff.

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

If he will list by location the estimated value of each property and land holding owned by the Council and the total sum?

Reply:

The Council keeps a register of its property assets, grouped by service area. The properties are valued on a five year rolling programme in accordance with CIPFA requirements. A schedule of the properties and their values is available. The properties are valued on varying bases, depending on the asset type and whether there is an established market for the asset or whether it has a specialist use. The schedule sets out the valuation type. Those identified as OMV or MV have been valued on a market value basis. Operational properties have to be valued on the basis of their existing use - these are identified as OMVEU where there is a market for such uses, or DRC, where such properties are not usually traded on the open market and therefore a depreciated replacement cost approach has to be adopted. The OMVEU values do not necessarily represent the value that could be achieved if the property were offered for sale on an unrestricted basis, and the DRC values do not represent the sale price that would be likely to be achieved on an open market sale. Thus the values that can be provided do not represent the realisable value of the Council's portfolio.

The Council is not required to hold values for open spaces, such as parks and amenity areas, or for small, undeveloped areas such as grass verges.

4. From Councillor John Getgood of the Portfolio Holder for Care Services

How many Bromley Looked After Children, cared for in residential homes, are placed in Bromley and how many out of Bromley?

How many Bromley Looked After Children, cared for in foster care placements, are placed in Bromley and how many out of Bromley?

What is the council's policy towards caring for Bromley children within the Borough?

Reply:

Total Looked after Children in Residential – 37

Looked after Children in Residential in Borough – 1

Looked after Children in Residential out of Borough – 36

Total Fostered – 212

In Borough – 122

Out of Borough - 90

Total out of Borough Looked after Children in Residential within 20 miles – 15/36 (41.6%)

Total out of Borough Fostered within 20 miles – 57/90 (63.3%)

Bromley's policy is to place children in borough unless it is not in the child or young person's best interest e.g. gang affiliation.

All figures are a snapshot as of 18/09/2013.

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

How many tree pits in the borough are waiting for new trees?

Reply:

I refer the questioner to Appendices 3 and 4 attached for inclusion within this evening's minutes.

This Council is extremely proud to be the London Borough which hosts more street trees than any other, despite the well chronicled funding difficulties which have faced us over recent years.

As can be seen quite clearly, the previous Administration's policy of allowing the number of Borough trees to decline and empty tree pits to increase year on year, was an unhealthy trend set to undermine Bromley's renowned environmental credentials had it not been halted and reversed following their removal from office.

Although the current number of 2,494 tree planting sites is still somewhat higher than I would personally prefer to see, and indeed, a figure I remain determined to drive to a significantly lower number still over time as and when the Council's financial circumstances improve, it should be remembered that that total contains existing disused 'pits' as well as other fresh opportunity sites.

As evidenced by the figures in the appendices, it is however a significantly lower overall number than would otherwise have been the case had this Administration not immediately discontinued the previous poor practice adopted by our predecessors.

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

How many complaints have been received about the road closures as a result of the Bromley North Village scheme?

Reply:

I am advised that to date that there have been zero "complaints" albeit there has been the odd enquiry related to diversions, road safety and parking.

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

How many people have been given a Discretionary Housing Payment since April 2013?

Reply:

As at the 14th September, 321 Bromley households have received a Discretionary Housing Payment in 2013/14.

8. From Councillor Simon 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 20 householder pre-application meetings and 16 non-householder pre-application meetings between 25th June and 6th September 2013.

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

Appendix 1 (Question 1)

Branch	Number of visitors		Number of book issues*		Running costs		Cost per visitor	Cost per issue
	Annual total	Monthly average	Annual total	Monthly average	Annual cost	Monthly average		
Anerley	54,107	4,509	29,492	2,458	145,140	£12,095	£2.68	£4.92
Beckenham	177,477	14,790	233,254	19,438	606,378	£50,532	£3.42	£2.60
Biggin Hill	247,462	20,622	73,311	6,109	239,357	£19,946	£0.97	£3.26
Burnt Ash	28,221	2,352	17,928	1,494	132,651	£11,054	£4.70	£7.40
Central	475,447	39,621	356,613	29,718	£1,737,661	£144,805	£3.65	£4.87
Chislehurst	88,440	7,370	91,673	7,639	£231,124	£19,260	£2.61	£2.52
Hayes	33,236	2,770	33,929	2,827	£137,956	£11,496	£4.15	£4.07
Mobile	20,561	1,713	22,046	1,837	£95,424	£7,952	£4.64	£4.33
Mottingham	41,870	3,489	28,788	2,399	£156,682	£13,057	£3.74	£5.44
Orpington	319,180	26,598	233,988	19,499	£728,554	£60,713	£2.28	£3.11
Penge	81,902	6,825	33,187	2,766	£148,624	£12,385	£1.81	£4.48
Petts Wood	102,727	8,561	102,598	8,550	£256,654	£21,388	£2.50	£2.50
Shortlands	34,706	2,892	41,196	3,433	£157,177	£13,098	£4.53	£3.82
Southborough	33,662	2,805	54,583	4,549	£188,391	£15,699	£5.60	£3.45
St Paul's Cray	44,121	3,677	29,149	2,429	£171,593	£14,299	£3.89	£5.89
West Wickham	130,344	10,862	118,671	9,889	£269,854	£22,488	£2.07	£2.27
TOTAL BOROUGH	1,913,463	159,455	1,500,406	125,034	£5,403,218	£450,268	£2.82	£3.60

*n.b. includes Books, CD, DVD and audio book issue

Appendix 2 (Question 2)

2010/11							
	Net Budgeted FTEs	Budgeted Posts	Head Count	Actual Spend £000	% Full Time Employees	% Part Time Employees	%fixed Term Employees
Adult & Comm Services	656.98	787	728	25,274	57.61	42.39	4.66
Children & Young People	781.98	993	894	31,257	51.00	49.00	25.80
Education & Care Services							
Environmental Services	295.77	321	317	11,032	83.73	16.27	10.93
Renewal & Recreation	406.72	526	488	14,707	55.31	44.69	19.70
Chief Executive	69.61	81	78	2,813	68.83	31.17	17.52
Legal & Democratic Resources	135.29	154	141	4,712	71.32	28.68	8.70
	158.73	171	162	6,467	73.82	26.18	6.38
Total	2,505.08	3,033	2,808	96,262	60.50	39.50	8.38

2011/12							
Adult & Comm Services	620.12	740	620	21,495	62.15	37.85	2.31
Children & Young People	708.26	835	708	28,449	51.27	48.73	7.61
Education & Care Services							
Environmental Services	280.89	310	287	10,270	81.47	18.53	10.84
Renewal & Recreation	370.65	463	407	13,476	57.00	43.00	3.91
Chief Executive	78.49	92	84	3,230	69.84	30.16	7.94
Legal & Democratic Resources							
	265.13	295	268	10,170	71.72	28.28	4.04
Total	2,323.54	2,735	2,374	87,090	61.79	38.21	5.68

2012/13							
	Net Budgeted FTEs	Budgeted Posts	Head Count	Actual Spend £000	% Full Time Employees	% Part Time Employees	%fixed Term Employees
Adult & Comm Services							
Children & Young People							
Education & Care Services	1,321.60	1,565	1,335	47,060	50.30	49.70	4.77
Environmental Services	264.85	285	278	10,729	80.88	19.12	9.19
Renewal & Recreation	259.39	305	286	8,022	55.29	44.71	4.78
Chief Executive	68.67	80	74	2,738	69.57	30.43	7.25
Legal & Democratic Resources	261.92	284	250	10,601	73.48	26.52	3.48
Total	2,176.43	2,519	2,223	79,150	57.01	42.99	5.16

2013/14 (To August)							
Adult & Comm Services							
Children & Young People							
Education & Care Services	1,220.15	1,443	1,278.00	18,178	50.00	50.00	4.53
Environmental Services	397.55	459	434.00	6,170	64.67	35.33	9.11
Renewal & Recreation							
Chief Executive	393.80	433	398.00	7,189	73.91	26.09	5.63
Legal & Democratic Resources							
Total	2,011.50	2,335	2,110	31,537	56.75	43.25	5.59

Notes

- FTE's relate to equivalent full time posts (36 hours) - whereas Budgeted Posts is how many people in post (part time/full time) plus vacancies
- Head Count is how many people were in post at that point in time
- The information included above is based on information extracted from the Finance "Employee Budget Monitoring System" at the end of year financial year.

Appendix 3 (Question 5)

Street Trees: planted, removed, net+/-

	1998/99	1999/2000	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03
Trees Planted	0	0	0	0	700
Trees Removed		340	340	340	340
Net +/-		-340	-340	-340	360

	2003/2004	2004/2005	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Trees Planted	700	500	500	500	500
Trees Removed	340	230	430	430	430
Net +/-	360	270	70	70	70

	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Trees Planted	1,200	900	633	296	334
Trees Removed	430	250	455	542	408
Net +/-	570	650	178	-246	-74

Appendix 4 (Question 5)

London street trees by borough 2012/13

Borough	Street trees
Bromley	36094
Croydon	33000
Barnet	31000
Ealing	24000
Enfield	23500
Brent	22000
Sutton	21500
Redbridge	21300
Havering	21000
Waltham Forest	20000
Merton	18000
Newham	17800
Richmond	16000
Hillingdon	16000
Southwark	15711
Bexley	13000
Haringey	11500
Hounslow	11000
Islington	10460
Kingston upon Thames	10100
Lambeth	10000
Hackney	9500
Hammersmith & Fulham	9137
Camden	8938
Westminster	7500
Kennington and Chelsea	7000
Wandsworth	1500
City of London	479
Lewisham	unknown
Barking and Dagenham	unknown
Greenwich	unknown
Tower Hamlets	unknown
Harrow	unknown