

COUNCIL MEETING

21st JULY 2014

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

(A) Questions for Oral Reply

(1) From Alison Regester to the Portfolio Holder for Education

The New SEN Code of Practice reinforces the need for the joint commissioning of services between Education, Health and Care. Will Councillors revert to the original plan for market testing, allowing time to negotiate and decide on the lease for the Phoenix Centre and for the necessary discussions between all services?

Reply:

This Local Authority service is currently both the commissioner of a considerable number of services and provider of education services. The process of market testing will consider how the services will be best provided in the future. Whatever the outcome of the market testing, the Council will continue to work in partnership with Health Services to plan and commission services. Service delivery will need to be flexible to be able to respond to changing policies and priorities whether the provider is the Local Authority or any other agency. In the market testing it is the intention that the issue of the quality of provision being as good or better is the precursor to any discussion regarding market testing.

The issues of the lease of the Phoenix will need to be resolved regardless of who may be delivering services in the future. Consideration and decision on the options available to us is expected to be made in advance of any decision on the outcome of market testing. The market testing process will accommodate whatever decision is made.

Supplementary Question:

Can the timescale for the market testing process be extended so that there is full consultation prior to the release of any documentation whether it is written for those interested in tendering, for families currently receiving services or those involved in the delivery of them. This would ensure that the brief of the specification and the consultation questions are truly reflective of the concerns already raised, of recent statutory reforms and written in such a way that it is clear that retaining existing services is an option. This would indicate that

Bromley Council is not rushing the process, that there is no preferred outcome and that there is a strong commitment to partnership working.

Reply:

There is no question of this process being rushed in any way, it is a very long process and I would refute that there is any intention of seeking a particular outcome at this time. There is a substantial period for this market testing. I think there is ample opportunity for all those who are currently or who may wish to be providers of services to make their intentions known to the council officers and I suspect that we will have a plethora of opportunities to discuss this further and to look at the vast number of service providers who will seek to offer services within this area.

(2) From Alison Register to the Portfolio Holder for Education

Do all Councillors feel well enough informed about the full implications of the new SEN Code of Practice, the ramifications of moving out of the Phoenix Centre and the complexity of discussions with Health to enable joined up working to continue, or do they feel that more time is needed to clarify understanding on these important issues before market testing can proceed?

Reply:

The Council will continue to work in partnership with Health Services to plan and commission services in the context of the new SEN Code of Practice which will then shape service delivery. This can take place whether the provider of services is the Local Authority or any other agency acting on behalf of the Local Authority.

No decision has been taken on the future location of the services currently delivered at the Phoenix Centre. When considering the options available to us, the continued integration of education, care and health services must be at the heart of our decision making process. There is no indication and no implication at this time that in-house provision will not be considered along with any other providers who may wish to come forward to provide services.

Supplementary Question:

When this issue was discussed at last week's Executive meeting, the chair of the meeting referred favourably to a letter which had been received by Executive Members and which highlighted some of the concerns surrounding this issue. Would it be useful for this letter together with feedback already received from interested organisations and individuals to be circulated more widely to all Councillors and PDS Committee Co-opted members so that they are fully appraised.

Reply:

I am aware of the letter that you wrote in this regard, which has been circulated to the Members of the Executive as indicated. The intention at the moment is to be very extensive in the way in which the market testing process is to go ahead. I do not at this time think that it will be necessary to widen the circulation of your letter however, parts of your letter do cover areas which are being discussed at the moment in terms of the parameters of the market testing process and I anticipate that your letter may well colour ways in which we will continue to seek the widest possible market testing process to ensure that the best services, as I indicated earlier, as good or better, are provided to SEN children in this borough in the future.

(B) Questions for Written Reply

(1) From Mrs Mary Ion to the Chairman of the Development Control Committee

CPRE London have found that the All London Green Grid is not reflected in your planning policies. Will you review the recommendations in their recent report, make a clear commitment to the implementation of the All London Green Grid, and commit to integrating the ALLG in all relevant local policies as they are renewed?

Reply:

The 'All London Green Grid' (ALGG) is supplementary planning guidance to the GLA's London Plan, which aims, for example, to conserve landscapes and increase access to open space. A report was published this month by CPRE London reviewing the implementation of the ALGG GLA in London Boroughs.

It shows that of the 32 London Boroughs 15 have not made specific reference to the ALGG in either their plans or supplementary documents.

It is acknowledged that at present no specific reference is made to the ALGG in the adopted or emerging Local Plan for Bromley.

However, the retention, protection and enhancement of the green infrastructure have always had a high profile in this Borough and are embodied in the Council's adopted policies and in the draft new Local Plan.

Whilst it is felt that the current adopted plan and Draft Policies embody all the concepts, principles and intentions of the ALGG, we further consider incorporating references to the 'All London Green Grid' in our new Local Plan.

(2) From Peter Robinson JP., Panel Member, Cray Valley East Residents Panel to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation
(All questions stem from the Bromley Joint Strategic needs Assessment 2012)

What sports facilities are available for the young children in the Cray Valley East Ward?

Reply:

In respect to the Councils provision:

St Mary Cray Recreation Ground, has a multi-use ball court and one junior football pitch, which can be booked through the delegated football manager, the contact details are: Nick Barclay nicky.barclay@gmail.com 07412 336251

Poverest Recreation Ground, has one junior football pitch that can be booked through the delegated managers, St Mary Cray Athletic FC, the contact details are: Gary Merrett smcfootball@live.co.uk 07826915783 / 07585 042456. The former tennis courts are used as a ball court and for basketball practice.

Although not in the Cray Valley East Ward, the local leisure centre operated by Mytime Active at the Walnuts in Orpington has a swimming pool, sports hall, fitness rooms and a soft play area. It also hosts a number of clubs who provide activities for young people such as, martial arts, trampoline, and gymnastics, and provides a wide range of children's activities such as roller discos. The centre also offers children's holiday activities and day camps, offering multi sports activities and come and try sessions.

Mytime Active also manage and operate the Orpington Golf Centre and driving range off Sandy Lane which provides activities for young people.

In addition to the Councils provision, there are a number of clubs and fitness gyms listed on the sports directory Get Active London.

(3) From Peter Robinson JP., Panel Member, Cray Valley East Residents Panel to the Portfolio Holder for Education

What youth services are available in the Cray Valley East Ward and at what time are they available for use?

Reply:

2.1. Sexual Health and Contraception services

Osbon Pharmacy:

Mon-Sat 8:30am to 6pm.
Sunday 11am-5pm

Cray Hill Chemist:

Mon-Fri 9am-6pm

Sat 9am-4pm

Ramsden estate contraception clinic: Mon 3-7.30pm

Poverest Medical Centre:

Opening Times

The reception is open:

Monday - Friday 8.00am - 6.30pm

The practice offers a limited availability of routine appointments Tuesdays from 6:30 - 8:45pm & Saturday mornings 9.30 - 11.45am.

Broomwood Surgery:

Surgery opening Hours

	Morning	Afternoon
Monday	08:00 – 12.30	13.30 - *18:00
Tuesday	08:00 – 12.30	13.30 - *18:00
Wednesday	08:00 – 12.30	13.30 - *18:00
Thursday	08:00 – 12.30	<i>closed</i>
Friday	08:00 – 12.30	13.30 - *18:00
Weekend	<i>closed</i>	<i>closed</i>

2.2. Summer programme for children in the parks – throughout August

2.3. Gypsy and Travellers project – Mon, Tues, Thurs 10-4pm, Fri by appointment only -advice on healthy lifestyles, NHS health checks, Health Visitor and named mid-wife

2.4. Cotmandene shop : Mon-Thurs 9.30 – 1 pm, 2-4 pm

Drugs and alcohol service, emotional well-being, lifestyle advice, smoking cessation

2.5. Youth Hubs:

East Hub at The Link Youth Centre, Midfield Way, St Paul's Cray, Orpington, BR5 2QL

What's on and when

Day	Time	Activity
Monday	2-5pm (drop in)	Advice and information - The Link
Monday	5.15 -7.45pm	Allotment project Yr 6 -

Day	Time	Activity
Monday	6.15 -8.45pm	The Link School years 9 + - The Duke
Tuesday	6.15 -8.45pm	School years 6-9 - The Link
Wednesday	6.15 -8.45pm	School years 9-13 - The Link
Thursday	6.15 -8.45pm	School years 6-9 - The Duke
Friday	Closed	Closed
Saturday	1.15 - 3.45pm	Open Club School years 6+ - The Link
Sunday	Closed	Closed

(4) From Peter Robinson JP., Panel Member, Cray Valley East Residents Panel to the Portfolio Holder for Care Services

The joint Strategic needs Assessment published in 2012 in conjunction with the NHS. For the Crays, adopted key performance indicators which highlighted high levels of deprivation, high levels of crime, low levels of employment and a life expectancy below the Bromley average.

The report also contained a wide range of recommendations to address these matters, what progress has been made in implementing the report recommendations, and what improvements have there been in the key performance indicators?

Reply:

The Cray Valley East is an area of relative deprivation in Bromley with the life expectancy at birth below the Bromley average.

The overarching evidence is pointing to a significant impact of circulatory disease and cancer on the difference in life expectancy at birth (which is used to measure health inequalities in a population). The relative contribution of these two diseases to the life expectancy gap is approximately 50%. In the light of that, significant work effort has been conducted on prevention and appropriate management of circulatory disease and cancer. The relevant risk factors (e.g. hypertension, diabetes and obesity) have also been identified as priorities within the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

Life expectancy

There has been a significant improvement in the life expectancy at birth in Cray Valley East between 2005-2009 and 2006-2010:

	2005-2009	2006-2010
Male	77.6	78.5
Female	81.1	83.0

The above improvement in life expectancy is partially due to the improvements made in the mortality of circulatory disease and cancer, both of which have decreased.

These good outcomes are the result of many years of concentrated efforts on prevention and good management of the two diseases. For example:

Hypertension

This is one of the most important risk factors for circulatory disease which has been increasing and as such has been identified as a priority within the Health and Wellbeing strategy. A detailed action plan was developed and implemented for early detection and tighter management of hypertension in primary care. This year we have seen a reduction in the rate of hypertension.

Smoking

Smoking is another key risk factor for both circulatory disease and cancer. Our smoking cessation service has targeted areas with high smoking rates with great success – the highest number of people setting their quit date has been in Cray Valley East.

NHS Health checks

This is a Public Health programme that identifies people at high risk of circulatory disease and offers appropriate management. The Public Health nurses have conducted special outreach programmes in the Cray Valley with excellent results. The uptake of the NHS health checks has been above the target in Cray Valley East last year.

(5) From Patricia Trembath, Crystal Palace Community Development Trust to the Portfolio Holder for Resources

Anerley Town Hall: Will the Council ask the officers to share all building condition reports/surveys that have been carried out with the Board of CPCDT, so that the Trust and the Council can work together to potentially secure funding from sources not otherwise available to the Council as a statutory body?

Reply:

The only report that the Council has was provided by Calford Seadon, structural engineers, dated 28th February 2014. This reported on the condition of the building in the area which was going to be underpinned in January 2014. It reported that there were no immediate stability issues, and, subject to continued monitoring, the underpinning could be postponed until at least next year.

This report was commissioned by and for the purposes of the Council. On my instruction officers have asked Calford Seadon if it is prepared to share the report and I am happy to advise that they are as long as the Trust confirms that it understands that the report was provided specifically for use by the Council and undertakes that it will neither rely on the report nor seek any redress

against Calford Seadon should the Trust, despite that undertaking, directly or indirectly seek to rely on any aspect of the report. The Trust has confirmed that it accepts the report on this basis and a copy of the report has been sent to the Trust.

(6) From Patricia Trembath, Crystal Palace Community Development Trust, to the Portfolio Holder for Resources

Will the Council also confirm that underpinning will be carried out at Anerley Town Hall as scheduled in January/February 2015?

Reply:

The Council has commissioned a full condition survey of Anerley Town Hall to update and properly inform the Council about its existing condition and the extent of the maintenance back log. This survey will be undertaken shortly and the report will be provided to the Council by 8th August. A full report on Anerley Town Hall will then be put to the Executive. One of the issues to be considered will be the underpinning of the front wall of the building.