

COUNCIL MEETING

23rd FEBRUARY 2015

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN REPLY FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

1. From Cllr Simon Fawthrop to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation

What is the largest airplane that

- a) can physically land at Biggin Hill Airport by Volume?
- b) is allowed to land at Biggin Hill Airport under the terms of the lease by volume?
- c) land at the airport by noise levels in decibels?

2. From Cllr Simon Fawthrop to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation

What is the frequency of public transport service at Biggin Hill Airport at the following times and the destination of the service (nearest railway station)

- (i) between 6.30am and 7.30am on a weekday morning
- (ii) after 9.00pm on a weekday
- (iii) before 9.00am on a weekend
- (iv) after 8.00pm on a weekend

3. From Cllr Simon Fawthrop to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation

What are the quickest journey times by public transport from Biggin Hill Airport to Bromley South and Orpington railway stations?

4. From Cllr David Jefferys to the Portfolio Holder for Education

When building work will commence on the Kingswood House Free School site and when the school will open?

5. From Cllr David Jefferys to the Portfolio Holder for Education

(a) How many pupils admitted to the Harris Kingswood Free school in September 2014 live in Shortlands Ward , and the number and percentage who live more than one mile from the Kingwood site.

(b) The same figures for the children offered places for September 2015

6. From Councillor David Jefferys to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation

What plans there are to commemorate the 350th anniversary of the opening of a Bromley College in 2016? If there are currently no plans whether the Portfolio Holder will work with the Trustees to appropriately mark the anniversary of the opening of this architectural gem in the Borough and commemorate the major contribution its residents have made to the life of Bromley over the centuries?

7. From Cllr Kathy Bance to the Portfolio Holder for Care Services

Can you please advise the number of Bromley residents/families being made homeless through no fault of their own in the last 12 months?

8. From Cllr Kathy Bance to the Portfolio Holder for the Environment

A lot of time and effort has been spent on preparation of the Ward Profiles. In what ways are LBB making use the profiles and are there plans to tackle any of the negative outcomes?

9. From Cllr Kathy Bance to the Portfolio Holder for Care Services

Is it accurate that a £7k invoice to cover the services of the Bromley Winter night shelter for 2014 / 2015 has only been partly paid by LBB at £3k? If so, is this a part payment with the outstanding £4k to be paid at a later date?

10. From Cllr Kevin Brooks to the Portfolio Holder for the Environment

Penge West Railway Station had been earmarked for step free access. Can you advise when work or consultation is expected to commence?

11. From Cllr Kevin Brooks to the Portfolio Holder for the Environment

Are there any specific scheduled dates for the company who fine people for dropping litter outside Bromley South Train Station to do any work in Penge and Cator.

12. From Cllr Vanessa Allen to the Portfolio Holder for the Environment

With a number of new schools being constructed in the Borough and other schools increasing their intake substantially, what provision is being made for school crossing patrols and other road safety measures where appropriate?

13. From Cllr Richard Williams to the Portfolio Holder for Resources

How much is owed to Bromley in council tax and what is the largest amount owed by an individual?

14. From Cllr Richard Williams to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal & Recreation

As 15% of users to the Upper Norwood library are residents of Bromley would the Council look at contributing to this service?

15. From Cllr Ian Dunn to the Portfolio Holder for Resources

Following my question at the November meeting of the E&R PDS, can the Portfolio Holder provide:-

- What is the spend to date on the Adecco Agency Worker contract and the forecast out turn for the end of 2014/15?
- Please provide this spend broken down by month for 2014/15 and for as much of 2013/14 as monthly information is available for.
- Please also provide the number of person days provided under this contract by month for 2014/15 and for as much of 2013/14 as monthly information is available for.
- What percentage of the total paid to date for 2014/15 was retained by Adecco as their fee under this contract?

16. From Cllr Angela Wilkins to the Portfolio Holder for Resources

At the full council meeting on 13 October 2014 I asked the following question:

“How many payments on account have been made to housing benefit claimants for each of the last 12 months and what is the percentage of payments on account of all claims for each of these months?”

In reply, the following answer was provided (Council agenda 8 December):

“Unfortunately, information as to the number of Payments on Account is not available. However, I can confirm that the Authority attempts to make the initial payment on new claims as soon as possible.”

Having had two local residents who were entitled to and not given housing benefit payments on account, I remain determined to pursue my original questions. Therefore, at Executive & Resources PDS on 4th February, when Liberata presented their report on Housing Benefit Administration, I asked for an explanation as to why this information was not available.

Having – in vain - asked the question a total of four times at that meeting, I was finally promised that an answer would be provided. It has not.

Members of the E&R PDS will be aware that I have serious concerns about the administration of housing benefit by this authority, and that this matter is now being addressed elsewhere.

In the meantime however, please could the Portfolio Holder assure me that he will now give his personal attention to my questions and ensure that I am promptly given adequate and accurate answers?

17. From Cllr Peter Fookes to the Portfolio Holder for Resources

What are the current electoral registration figures in % terms for each ward in the borough?

18. From Cllr Peter Fookes to the Leader of the Council

What are Bromley doing to commemorate 50 years of the borough in May?

19. From Cllr Peter Fookes to the Portfolio Holder for Resources

How many people in the borough have been sanctioned?

20. From Cllr Nicholas Bennett to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation

If he will list by Plans Sub-Committee the number of applications since May 2014 which have been recommended for;

- i. approval
- ii. refusal
- iii. and the number in each case where the committee took a contrary view and the number of appeals registered as a result and where available the outcome of the appeal?

21. From Cllr Nicholas Bennett to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation

What information he has as to the average number of applications dealt with by a single planning meeting in 2014-5 at the following boroughs:

Bromley
Hillingdon
Kensington and Chelsea
Wandsworth?

22. From Cllr Nicholas Bennett to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation

If he will list the reasons which require a planning application to be automatically referred to a Planning sub-committee for decision?

23. From Councillor Ruth Bennett to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation

If he will provide in table format the monthly average and annual figures for 2013-4 and up to the latest available date the following information about each library:

- i. Number of visitors
- ii. Number of book issues
- iii. running costs
- iv. Cost per visitor
- v. Cost per book issue?
- vi. What has the percentage increase or decrease in book issues since 2007?