

COUNCIL MEETING**19th OCTOBER 2015****QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL****1. From Cllr Russell Mellor to the Chairman of Development Control Committee**

Can the Chairman advise me as to why the application in respect of No: 32 Church Avenue, No: 15/01541 was 'pulled' from the Planning Sub-Committee agenda when due for determination resulting in the proposal being referred to the Planning Inspectorate?

2. From Cllr Michael Tickner to the Portfolio Holder for the Environment

I have been told by your traffic engineers that mini roundabouts may only be installed where a junction has 3 significant roads meeting. Is this correct?

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

The meeting of E&R PDS in July was extremely critical of the levels of service reported by Liberata on both the Revenue & Benefits and the Customer Service contracts.

Is the Portfolio Holder aware of DWP data on housing benefit administration which shows that in 2014/15, LB Bromley was ranked 380th out of 382 local authorities for the length of time taken to process new claims and 357th equal for processing changes to circumstance? If not, why not? If so, is he still of the view that Liberata's performance is improving and can he please give the figures for the first quarter of 2015/16 to support this assertion?

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

Can the portfolio holder provide the number of Collection Orders obtained for bailiffs to pursue Council Tax and Business Rates arrears in 2014/15, the value of each type of debt and the percentages recovered?

5. From Cllr Kathy Bance to the Portfolio Holder for Education

Has LBB revised their admission guidelines in line with the Government Guidelines, to allow parents of Summer-born children to delay their schooling by one year and then allow them to start in reception and receive the seven years of primary schooling in line with other UK children?

6. From Cllr Kevin Brooks to the Portfolio Holder for Public Protection and Safety

Following Bromley's recent reclassification as an emerging gangs borough we need to engage with our youths to break the cycle of gangs. Has LBB any plans to step up support for youth based activities in Penge and Cator where the gangs are predominantly based?

7. From Cllr Vanessa Allen to the Leader of the Council

The refugee crisis in Europe continues with no end in sight, resulting in major hardship for many people who have fled their homes due to war and other issues such as persecution, whether in Syria, Sudan, Afghanistan or elsewhere. Please would the Leader update us on progress with the register which was proposed for Bromley, contact details, whether it is available on line, for coordination of home owners, charities and other bodies such as churches, who may be offering to provide accommodation or other assistance for refugees?

8. From Cllr Russell Mellor to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation

Can the Portfolio Holder inform as to the number of planning applications in the last Civic year which when presented to a Planning Sub-Committee have requested Members Views?

9. From Cllr Angela Wilkins to the Leader of the Council

The Local Government Transparency Code 2015 sets out “..to place more power into citizens’ hands to increase democratic accountability and make it easier for local people to contribute to the local decision making process and help shape public services. The code requires all (English) local authorities to publish the following information:

Quarterly:

- expenditure exceeding £500
- Government Procurement Card transactions
- procurement information

Annually:

- local authority land
- social housing assets
- grants to voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations
- organisation chart
- trade union facility time
- parking account
- parking spaces
- senior salaries
- constitution
- pay multiple
- fraud

Can you please clarify on which of these requirements the Council is fully compliant? Where the Council is not complaint, please explain why not and by what date the Council will comply?

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

For many children living in temporary accommodation their school has been the one consistent in their lives. How successful are LBB being in housing people with school aged children into temporary accommodation within a reasonable distance from the child’s schools?