

COUNCIL MEETING

14th DECEMBER 2015

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

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

May I ask the Portfolio Holder if he is aware of my resident: Mrs Julie North?

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

Since the Communities Secretary, Greg Clark, is urging councils to not only save for the future but also to make efficient use of assets to provide services, how does the Leader propose to follow the Minister's recommended course of action and use non ring-fenced reserves to provide the services local people expect to see?

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

In parallel to cuts to services, Members are often asked what actions the Council will be taking to reflect austerity in its own running costs. In this context, please give details of any plans to change the number of councillors to be elected in the Borough at the local government elections to be held in 2018.

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

Will the LBB consider appointing a "member champion" for the Mental Health Challenge so that we can ensure we are being as effective as we can in promoting the improvement of mental health in Bromley across the full range of authority's activities and responsibilities?

5. From Cllr Ian Dunn to the Leader of Council

You are on record from the September Executive & Resources PDS meeting as saying that you wanted to see budgets planned for three years ahead. Can you please explain to the Council how you plan to do this, with particular reference to the forthcoming budget?

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

With Bromley becoming an emerging gangs borough and more gang related violence occurring in Penge earlier this month, do the Council believe the closure of the Hub at Snowdown Close with its positive youth provision was the right decision? Will the Council pledge money gained through any sale of the building to fund an increase in youth activities in the north of the borough?

7. From Cllr Nicholas Bennett JP to the Leader of the Council

If he will comment on the claim made in the 'Open Letter' to him dated 16th November 2015 from the Leader of the Opposition that 'the Council's assets and reserves are approaching £400m' and these could be used 'to fund council expenditure and protect services'?

8. From Cllr Tony Owen to the Portfolio Holder for the Environment

Given that developers at Berwick House, Orpington and the former police station are selling parking spaces at £10,000 and £20,000 respectively, what approach will be taken when the inevitable request for residents parking permits is received?

9. From Cllr Angela Wilkins to the Leader of Council

Please can you provide a list of those Residents' Associations (and any other groups) invited to attend the two budget consultation meetings held recently and the dates on which invitation letters were sent?

Given the absence of any representation from Crystal Palace and Penge & Cator wards on these lists, can you please explain how this list was compiled and why many other interested RAs and community groups were not invited?

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

Bromley has 77% of its primary school pupils in Academies, the highest percentage in England. With the poor Ofsted results for our Bromley Primary Schools shown in the recently published Ofsted Annual Report, should we hold off pushing further primary schools into Academies?

11. From Cllr Kevin Brooks to the Portfolio Holder for Care Services

In the wake of the Chancellor's statement allowing a 2% Council Tax precept to help Social Care funding, will the Portfolio Holder seriously and actively consider supporting projects and places such as Melvin Hall which is used by Age Concern to provide help and companionship to elderly residents.

12. From Cllr Nicholas Bennett JP to the Leader of the Council

What estimates he has as to projected increase in the Borough's population to 2030 and the impact that this will have on the Borough's facilities and services?

13. From Cllr Tony Owen to the Portfolio Holder for the Environment

Why is Environmental Services raising no objections to planning proposals for flats with no parking provision in Station Square, Petts Wood?

14. From Cllr Kathy Bance to the Portfolio Holder for Public Protection and Safety

Our local police, traders and residents have asked for support from the Council to assist them to deal with the growing numbers of rough sleepers who are bedding down in rear shop doorways after drinking throughout the day. With money being scarce to address the problem directly, would the Council consider a Ward wide drinking ban to discourage the influx of problem drinkers to the area?

15. From Cllr Nicholas Bennett JP to the Portfolio Holder for the Environment

How often are the containers, situated at sites around the borough for the disposal of bottles, paper etc, emptied?