

COUNCIL MEETING

14th DECEMBER 2015

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN REPLY FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

1. From Cllr Simon Fawthrop to the Portfolio Holder for Resources

Can I be provided with a breakdown by ward of -

A) How much council tax is raised in each ward in £.00.

B) How much council money is spent in each ward in £.00.

I appreciate that B may not be easy to calculate quickly so an estimate would be accepted if the full amount cannot be calculated. In which case please indicate that the figure is an estimate.

Reply:

It is not possible to provide a breakdown per ward as requested. The Council Tax system cannot be interrogated to provide information on a ward basis. However, tabled below is the amount of Council Tax billed in respect of 2015/16 for each of the Authority's post codes.

postcode	debit
BR1	£23,190,505.87
BR2	£28,902,703.50
BR3	£30,584,616.29
BR4	£11,827,190.25
BR5	£25,225,018.74
BR6	£29,178,606.66
BR7	£12,301,127.06
BR8	£67,508.59
CR0	£1,433.76
CR6	£23,558.05
DA14	£80,459.08
SE9	£4,259,711.43
SE12	£4,269.90
SE19	£1,994,922.39
SE20	£11,874,962.50
SE25	£1,387.30
SE26	£2,372,188.01
TN14	£561,850.22
TN16	£7,090,873.45
Total	£189,542,893.05

Our financial information system does not record actual expenditure by individual ward and many of our contracts relate to the borough as a whole and are not sub-divided into expenditure/service by individual wards

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

Whilst I recognise that the council's accounting terminology is technical and concise, it is also important that the council makes information available in terms easily understood by the public.

Please provide the following information:

- Value of available cash reserves held by the council,
- Value of commercial investment properties owned,
- Value of other properties owned (excluding school buildings),
- Value of other assets, reserves and investments (excluding school buildings),
- Value of school buildings.

Reply:

The value of assets, reserves and investments is set out in the Council's balance sheet and supporting notes as published in the annual statement of accounts. The information, as at 31st March 2015, is summarised in the table below:

	Balance at 31/03/15 £'m
General Fund Reserve	20
Earmarked Reserves	111
Capital Receipts Reserve	29
Capital Grants Unapplied	22
Total Usable (Cash) Reserves	182
Provisions	11
Other Working Capital (Creditors/Debtors/Cash)	64
Total Usable Reserves and Other Assets	257
Invested as Follows:	
Long Term Investments	196
Short Term Investments	39
Money Market Funds & Other Short-Term Liquid Deposits	22
Total Investments	257
Land & Buildings and Other Fixed Assets:	
Investment Properties	97
Other Properties (excluding Schools)	200
Assets under Construction	16
Infrastructure Assets (Roads)	92
Community Assets (Parks & Open Spaces)	1
Vehicles, Plant, Furniture & Equipment	21
Total Property, Plant & Equipment (Excluding School Buildings)	330
School Buildings	193
Heritage Assets	1
Assets Held for Sale	8
	9
Total Land & Buildings and Other Fixed Assets	629

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

How many Council staff were subsequently made redundant when the grounds maintenance contract was handed to The Landscape Group and what was the total cost of those redundancy payments to this Council?

Reply:

15 former staff were involved in total, by way of voluntary and compulsory personal circumstances.

As to the costs involved, your colleagues will I'm certain recall the following paper:

VARIATION TO THE GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT TO PROVIDE A WHOLLY MANAGED SERVICE

This appeared on the Agenda of the Environment PDS Committee on 17th March followed by the Executive meeting of 24th March 2015, which I have circulated before Members this evening and have asked to be read into the minutes. ([Appendix 1](#))

I am further advised that the costs of the severance packages was contained within the estimate provided on 'big page' 5 of that report.

More happily, I am finally advised that most who wish to have already commenced new careers in other Local Authorities and business settings.

4. From Cllr Angela Wilkins to the Portfolio Holder for Care Services

Given the government's decisions to grant right to buy to Housing Association tenants, what action is this Council taking to ensure that much needed additional social & affordable housing will be built during the next 5 years and beyond?

Reply:

The Council works closely with its housing association partners to promote the development of new affordable housing including new build and also options such as purchase and repair schemes. Housing and Planning Divisions work closely to ensure the implementation of the Affordable Planning Policy to deliver new supply. This includes promoting on site provision wherever possible through s106 negotiations.

5. From Cllr Kathy Bance to the Portfolio Holder for Recreation and Renewal

Penge & Cator Ward is supporting the Greater London National Park City Green Paper. Have any other of Bromley's Wards supported this initiative? With Bromley being one of the most green and leafy boroughs in Greater London how will the Council be promoting the Greater London National Park City?

Reply:

In Bromley Borough, only Penge and Cator Ward have signed up. We protect our Green spaces through established Planning policies at present and will continue to do so. We will monitor the progress of this initiative.

6. From Cllr Kathy Bance to the Leader of the Council

We are receiving a number of enquiries asking us to gain support from the LBB to make sure the UK does not sign up to Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). Is this something LBB is considering?

Reply:

Although I consider this to be a national issue rather than for local authorities to consider my initial response would be supportive as it helps reduce the cost of trading with partners and could lead to wider economic benefits including the creation of new jobs. I should state that this

is my personal opinion and were it to become an issue for us as local members I would seek wider opinion.

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

In February 2015, the Council agreed a schedule of 76 savings options. Can the Portfolio Holder please provide the schedule of forecast savings, with the addition of the forecast outturn savings for 2015/16 and the forecast outturn full year saving for each line.

Reply:

(See appendix 2)

8. From Cllr Ian Dunn to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal & Recreation

Can the portfolio holder provide the number of residential units for which planning permission was given in 2014/15 and for as much of 2015/16 as information is available, broken down by number of bedrooms. Can he also provide this information for affordable homes, also broken down by number of bedrooms.

Reply:

(See appendix 3)

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

Can the Portfolio Holder please provide:-

- i) The spend for the year to date, broken down by month on the Adecco Agency Worker contract and the forecast out turn for the end of 2015/16?
- ii) The number of person days provided under this contract by month for 2015/16.
- iii) The percentage of directly employed staff represented by point ii) above

Reply:

(See appendix 4)

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

Residents on roads near stations are increasingly concerned about out of borough commuters parking all day. Will the Portfolio Holder please confirm the criteria and process for the consideration and possible implementation of a Controlled Parking Zone.

Reply:

The criteria is uncomplicated and will hopefully be helpful to assist the work Cllr Brooks is currently engaged upon in his Ward.

In areas where residents have little or no off street parking opportunity available to them to park, where an interest in investigating the possibility is raised, either by a residents Group (possibly by way of Petition) or Ward Councillor, the designated area will be added to a list for consideration of such measures.

Following the design of and consultation on any given scheme, the Council will install such measures in roads where the majority of residents have indicated a positive interest in receiving such measures; in roads where residents are not in favour, no further action will be taken.

11. From Cllr Nicholas Bennett JP to the Portfolio Holder for Education

If he will list the proximity to each primary school which a child would have to live to gain admission in 2015?

Reply:

The table below shows the proximities for each school at National Offer Day April 2015 for the September 2015 reception intake.

School	Distance
Alexandra Infant	0.212
Balgowan	0.38
Bickley	0.362
Biggin Hill	ALL
Blenheim	ALL
Bromley Road	0.682
Burnt Ash	1.242
Castlecombe	0.523
Chelsfield	1.529
Chislehurst (St Nicks)	Church
Churchfields	0.856
Clare House	0.327
Crofton Infant	1.244
Cudham CE	1.071
Darrick Wood Infant	0.951
Dorset Road Infant	0.609
Downe	1.519
Edgebury	0.313
Farnborough	0.327 (extra class takes to) 1.435
Gray's Farm	ALL + D
Green St Green	0.899

Harris Pri Crystal Palace	0.612
Harris Pri Kent House	0.738
Harris Pri Beckenham	ALL
Harris Pri Shortlands	ALL
Hawes Down Infant	0.572
Hayes	0.796
Highfield Infant	0.541
Hillside	ALL+D
Holy Innocents Catholic	Church
James Dixon	0.455 (extra class takes to) ALL
Keston CE	1.844
La Fontaine	Dist 1.765 /Ballot Alloc
Leesons	ALL
Manor Oak	0.427
Marian Vian	0.342 (extra class takes to)0.624
Mead Road Infant	0.372
Midfield	1.122
Mottingham	ALL
Oaklands	ALL
Oak Lodge	0.837
Parish CE	0.426
Perry Hall	0.568
Pickhurst Infant	1.304
Poverest	ALL
Pratts Bottom	2.226
Princes Plain	ALL
Raglan	0.246

Red Hill	0.62
St Anthony's RC	Church
St George's CE	0.942
St James' RC	Church
St John's CE	Church
St Joseph's RC	Church
St Mark's CE	Church
St Mary Cray	0.65
St Mary's Catholic	Church
St Paul's Cray CE	ALL
St Peter & St Paul Cath	Church
St Philomena's RC	Church
St Vincent's RC	Church
Scotts Park	1.561
Southborough	0.824
The Highway	0.281
The Pioneer Academy Stewart Fleming	0.362 (extra class takes to) 0.764
Tubbenden	2.921
Unicorn	0.593
Valley	0.275
Warren Road	1.229
Wickham Common	1.458
Worsley Bridge	ALL

* ALL indicates that all pupils were offered a place;

* CHURCH refers to the Church of England or Roman Catholic Schools who include children of parents who attend the local church or from a particular religious background as a selection criteria within their admissions policy.

12. From Cllr Nicholas Bennett JP to the Portfolio Holder for Education

What action has he taken and is taking to provide sufficient school places in the Borough?

Reply:

I have continued to work with officers and the EFA to ensure the delivery of sufficient school places in the borough. This includes the delivery of the Council's primary and secondary school development plans that were agreed in January 2015 that will be reviewed and updated in the New Year.

Over the past 12 months we have made significant progress in the delivery of our primary school development plan. We have completely rebuilt Clare House Primary School and have delivered or funded works to permanently expand Churchfields Primary School, Clare House Primary School, Harris Academy Crystal Palace, Midfield Primary School, Parish Primary School, St Paul's Cray Primary School Worsley Bridge Primary School. Other expansion schemes such as Edgebury Primary School, St George's Bickley CE Primary and Stewart Fleming Primary School have received planning permission and will be proceeding to construction. Together these schemes make a significant impact on delivering the 600 additional primary school places now needed in the borough.

I have continued to work with Free School providers and the EFA to give what support I can to new schools where they meet our basic need.

We shall also strive to achieve effective communication with stakeholders, parents and ward Councillors to ensure that local communities work together to continue to provide the best educational opportunities for our Borough's children.

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

If he will list by Plans Sub-Committee the number of applications recommended for permission and how many of these were refused by the sub-committee in each year since 2012?

Reply:

The numbers of overturned recommendations for each year sorted by PSC number are as follows (these do not include deferrals):

2015

Total 2015 PSC cases where recommendation overturned: 36:

PSC 1 – 7

PSC 2 - 14

PSC 3 - 5

PSC 4 - 10

2014

Total 2014 PSC cases where recommendation overturned: 70:

PSC 1 - 15

PSC 2 - 18

PSC 3 - 21

PSC 4 – 16

2013

Total 2013 PSC cases where recommendation overturned: 56

PSC 1 - 15

PSC 2 - 15

PSC 3 - 10

PSC 4 - 16

2012

Total 2012 PSC cases where recommendation overturned: 44

PSC 1 - 14

PSC 2 - 13

PSC 3 - 6

PSC 4 - 11

14. From Cllr Peter Fookes to the Portfolio Holder for Care Services

How many legal challenges has Bromley received over the poor quality of temporary housing accommodation?

Reply:

During the current financial year the Council has received 40 requests for a review of the suitability of the temporary accommodation offered. Of these 15 have been upheld that the accommodation did not meet the suitability criteria and alternative provision has been made. In all cases this was resolved at the review stage without progressing to full legal proceedings.

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

What progress has been made in getting the former lodge in Penge Recreation Ground back into use?

Reply:

The works to the lodge have now been completed and the property is carpeted. The owner has indicated that he will let it early in the new year and agents have visited the property to advise on rent levels and potential tenants. It has previously been reported that given its condition that there is no legal action available to the officers to require the owner to bring the property back into use and this remains the case. Last year Members were invited to visit the property and I understand that this was done.

16. From Cllr Peter Fookes to the Portfolio Holder for Care Services

When will the new health clinic/pharmacy be opening in Oakfield Rd, Penge?

Reply:

Community pharmacy services are commissioned by NHS England and we are not aware of an opening date.