

**COUNCIL MEETING****4<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2016****QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN REPLY FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL****1. From Cllr Ian Dunn to the Resources Portfolio Holder**

Can the Portfolio Holder provide the number of electors entitled to vote, broken down by ward, for the GLA Elections on 5 May and the European Referendum on 23 June, with postal votes shown separately?

**Reply:**

|                                  | <b>GLA Postals</b> | <b>Total Eligible Electorate</b> | <b>EU Ref Postals</b> | <b>Total eligible Electorate</b> |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Bickley                          | 2118               | 11418                            | 2434                  | 11408                            |
| Biggin Hill                      | 948                | 7627                             | 1138                  | 7814                             |
| Bromley Common & Keston          | 2033               | 12097                            | 2268                  | 12145                            |
| Bromley Town                     | 1872               | 12637                            | 2162                  | 12180                            |
| Chelsfield & Pratts Bottom       | 1665               | 11076                            | 1994                  | 11155                            |
| Chislehurst                      | 2228               | 11827                            | 2610                  | 11832                            |
| Clock House                      | 1497               | 11470                            | 1798                  | 11306                            |
| Copers Cope                      | 2000               | 12033                            | 2354                  | 11840                            |
| Cray Valley East                 | 1748               | 10833                            | 1897                  | 10729                            |
| Cray Valley West                 | 1507               | 11528                            | 1658                  | 11484                            |
| Crystal Palace                   | 1051               | 8662                             | 1192                  | 8300                             |
| Darwin                           | 671                | 4020                             | 789                   | 4164                             |
| Farnborough & Crofton            | 1965               | 11530                            | 2272                  | 11646                            |
| Hayes & Coney Hall               | 1872               | 12376                            | 2197                  | 12413                            |
| Kelsey & Eden Park               | 1989               | 12152                            | 2279                  | 12123                            |
| Mottingham & Chislehurst Nth.    | 861                | 7026                             | 884                   | 6805                             |
| Orpington                        | 1815               | 11773                            | 2117                  | 11730                            |
| Penge & Cator                    | 1399               | 11781                            | 1668                  | 11511                            |
| Petts Wood                       | 1688               | 10597                            | 2020                  | 10638                            |
| Plaistow & Sundridge             | 1467               | 11098                            | 1684                  | 10981                            |
| Shortlands                       | 1222               | 7511                             | 1439                  | 7494                             |
| West Wickham                     | 1859               | 11717                            | 2175                  | 11773                            |
| <b>Total Eligible electorate</b> | <b>35475</b>       | <b>232789</b>                    | <b>41029</b>          | <b>231471</b>                    |

**2. From Cllr Ian Dunn to the Care Services Portfolio Holder**

Can the Portfolio Holder provide the number of cases where Independent Reviews Ltd have been used to carry out reviews on housing decisions in the past year and the numbers of cases where a review has led to the reversal of the original decision? How much has been spent on these reviews?

**Reply:**

Independent Reviews Limited are used to assist the Council in undertaking the Council's duty under section 202 of the Housing Act (1996) (as amended by the Homelessness Act 2002) in relation to reviewing homelessness decisions and the suitability of accommodation offered in discharge of homelessness duties under part VII of the Act. During the last financial year, Independent Reviews Limited assisted the Council with 78 section 202 reviews. Of these following further investigation 19 decisions were eventually overturned, with 8 out of the 19 receiving revised decisions due to additional information and material changes in circumstance which occurred during the review decision thus overriding the original decision.

**3. From Cllr Richard Williams to the Public Protection and Safety Portfolio Holder**

As we have seen an increase of 57% in hate crime especially against the LGBT community what is the Council doing to address the issue? Also with the result of the EU referendum, what action is the Council taking to protect our BME and faith groups?

**Reply:**

A report published on the National Police Chiefs Council website states that following the referendum there has been no major spikes in tensions but they are monitoring reports very closely in order that they can understand the reaction of residents. There has been no increase in reported hate crimes in Bromley since the EU referendum.

The report includes a reference to the 57% increase in reporting to True Vision (online reporting website) since Friday compared to this time last month (85 reports between Thursday 23 – Sunday 26 June compared with 54 reports the corresponding 4 days four weeks ago.) These figures only take into account reports through one mechanism, reports are also made directly to forces and other community groups like Tell Mama and Community Security so this is not an overall national figure. This should not be read as a national increase in hate crime of 57% but an increase in reporting through one mechanism.

**4. From Cllr Angela Wilkins to the Renewal & Recreation Portfolio Holder**

At the meeting of the Executive on 18 May there was discussion about the Council's Growth Fund, during which Cllr Arthur commented that it would be useful to have a Borough strategy to support new businesses.

You also commented that because there was little available by way of land and property for business use, businesses do not see Bromley as a viable option and that the Borough needs bigger and better projects than contained in the report, plus more land and more marketing of the Borough's potential for new businesses.

Can you please update Members on what actions you are taking to ensure that these ambitions will be realised? Do you feel that the council currently has sufficient resources and expertise to deliver these ambitions?

**Reply:**

You are correct in saying that there is little land available for new development, certainly we have not allocated large tracts of land as all of these are in the Green Belt or equivalent.

I did not say (or certainly did not intend to say) that businesses do not see Bromley as a viable option, only that with little space or land available, they do not consider Bromley as a location.

If members were to decide that some Green Belt land could be re-zoned for business (particularly somewhere near the M25 junctions), I am sure that the Borough would attract interest from businesses.

In general terms we are trying hard to promote new business premises at the Klinger site on the A20 at Swanley and at Biggin Hill where we are making good progress with a project on West Camp which might provide serviced offices.

Additionally, following the final confirmation of the extended hours at the airport, Bombardier and another company have signed to take on the Rizon Jet hangar and there are other aviation related companies looking hard at opportunities around the airport.

In Bromley town centre we are talking to a developer about the provision of 20,000 sq ft of offices close to Bromley South station.

We are always open to new ideas and prospects and are of course working hard to try to attract a department store to Bromley town centre.

You ask whether we have sufficient in-house skills and resources to deliver our programme and the answer is that we can and do employ the best outside consultants where justified and will continue to do so.

**5. From Cllr Angela Wilkins to the Renewal & Recreation Portfolio Holder**

It is more than a year since the Council agreed in principle to grant a 40 year lease to CPCDT to take over Anerley Town Hall. Heads of terms for this lease were agreed in March 2016 with the intention that the lease be signed by 1 April 2016. This deadline passed and 1 June was agreed. We are now hoping for 1 August.

Can the Portfolio Holder please both explain the delays and also guarantee that this August deadline will now be met?

**Reply:**

There has been a delay in agreeing final terms with the CPCDT and issuing the draft lease. The draft lease is not a standard commercial lease and the Trust's solicitor is now negotiating the detailed terms agreed. We are now working towards completing the lease on 1 August 2016, but this will depend upon the reasonableness and co-operation of both sides.

**6. From Cllr Angela Wilkins to the Resources Portfolio Holder**

Please give a date by which service level agreements and key performance indicators (as contained in the newly provided contracts register, and as required by transparency legislation) will be available online for public inspection?

**Reply:**

Currently The Governments Transparency Legislation, as identified in the Local Government Transparency Code 2015, only requires the publication of the Procurement Information identified in Para 31 and 32 of the Code. The Council produces the required details on legally enforceable agreements. Currently the Code does not require the publication of Key Performance Information Indicators, the issue and detail of which is currently a discretionary requirement and not compulsory.

**7. From Cllr Kathy Bance to the Education Portfolio Holder**

The Health and Wellbeing Board Report (Part 2, Support for Adolescent Mental Health Issues) mentions the growing waiting lists and demand for support services. Please can you provide waiting list figures for the last 5 years?

**Reply:**

The figures we have are set out below. This service is commissioned by the CCG and we will have to ask whether they have further data going back five years.

**Average Wait from Referral to First assessment**

|                     | <b>Feb 15</b> | <b>Mar 15</b> | <b>Apr 15</b> | <b>May 15</b> | <b>Jun 15</b> | <b>Jul 15</b> | <b>Aug 15</b> |
|---------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>Overall</b>      | 4 Weeks       | 5 Weeks       | 4 Weeks       | 5 Weeks       | 6 Weeks       | 6 Weeks       | 8Weeks        |
| <b>Adolescent</b>   | 2 Weeks       | 3 Weeks       | 2 Weeks       | 2 Weeks       | 3 Weeks       | 3 Weeks       | 3 Weeks       |
| <b>Generic Team</b> | 6 Weeks       | 6 Weeks       | 5 Weeks       | 7 Weeks       | 7 Weeks       | 8 Weeks       | 11 Weeks      |
| <b>LAC</b>          | 4 Weeks       | 6 Weeks       | 5 Weeks       | 5 Weeks       | 5 Weeks       | 5 Weeks       | 4 Weeks       |
| <b>Neuro</b>        | 5 Weeks       | 6 Weeks       | 14 Weeks      | 5 Weeks       | 5 Weeks       | 15 Weeks      | 9 Weeks       |

|                     | <b>Sep 15</b> | <b>Oct 15</b> | <b>Nov 15</b> | <b>Dec15</b> | <b>Jan 16</b> | <b>Feb 16</b> | <b>Mar 16</b> |
|---------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>Overall</b>      | 7 Weeks       | 7 Weeks       | 7 Weeks       | 7 Weeks      | 7 Weeks       | 7 Weeks       | 8 Weeks       |
| <b>Adolescent</b>   | 3 Weeks       | 2 Weeks       | 2 Weeks       | 3 Weeks      | 4 Weeks       | 2 Weeks       | 2 Weeks       |
| <b>Generic Team</b> | 11 Weeks      | 11 Weeks      | 11 Weeks      | 11 Weeks     | 10 Weeks      | 14 Weeks      | 13 Weeks      |
| <b>LAC</b>          | 7 Weeks       | 1 Week        | 5 Weeks       | 6 Weeks      | 6 Weeks       | 3 Weeks       | 7 Weeks       |
| <b>Neuro</b>        | 6 Weeks       | 5 Weeks       | 5 Weeks       | 5 Weeks      | 6 Weeks       | 7 Weeks       | 6 Weeks       |

**8. From Cllr Peter Fookes to the Renewal and Recreation Portfolio Holder**

What steps are being taken to ensure that the whole of the borough has Broadband access?

**Reply:**

The Council is aware that there is variable provision of superfast broadband across the borough, and that this has a negative impact on business growth rates. The Council is therefore supportive of increased provision, and has lobbied Central Government and GLA for improvements and has also promoted government initiatives to improve connectivity, especially for businesses. However take up of these has sometimes been patchy due to the lack of network infrastructure in certain areas. The development of network infrastructure is primarily the responsibility of providers (such as BT Open Reach and Virgin Media) – but unfortunately in some areas investment into extension of network infrastructure is not considered commercially justifiable by these organisations. In this case it is difficult for a number of reasons for the Council to intervene directly. However, there are a number of cases across the UK and locally where local community groups have worked with providers to privately fund and commission new broadband infrastructure – and the Council is ready to assist and support such initiatives within this borough.

**9. From Cllr Peter Fookes to the Leader of the Council**

How much of the new housing on the Civic Centre site will be affordable?

**Reply:**

Applications will be subject to normal Planning rules.

**10. From Cllr Peter Fookes to the Care Services Portfolio Holder**

Where will the new dementia hubs being introduced in July be located?

**Reply:**

Staff will be located at Bromley and Lewisham Mind's 'anchor' organisation in Orpington but there will also be facilities available at their Beckenham Centre, Bridgeways in Bromley, Yeoman House in Penge and Carlton Parade in Orpington. There will also be outreach work and clients will be visited in their own homes where appropriate.

**11. From Cllr Nicholas Bennett to the Chairman of the Development Control Committee**

What is the Council's planning policy with regard to the construction of 'tall buildings'?

**Reply:**

Proposals for tall buildings in the Borough would be assessed against Unitary Development Plan (UDP) Policies BE1 and BE17, Policy BTC19 in the Bromley Town Centre Area Action Plan and London Plan (2015) Policies 7.4 and 7.7. Relevant Draft Local Plan policies do not carry any significant weight at this time.

In particular UDP Policy BE17 states:

Proposals for buildings that significantly exceed the general height of buildings in the area will be expected to provide the following:

- (i) a design of outstanding architectural quality that will enhance the skyline;
- (ii) a complete and well-designed setting, including hard and soft landscaping, so that development will interact and contribute positively to its surroundings at street level;
- (iii) mixed use at effective densities; and
- (iv) good access to public transport nodes and routes.

Applications should be accompanied by a design statement outlining the approach in relation to the local and wider context and how the above criteria and those of Policy BE1 will be achieved. When considering proposals for redevelopment, where appropriate, opportunities will be sought to replace high buildings with others that fit more sympathetically in their context.

## **12. From Cllr Nicholas Bennett to the Environment Portfolio Holder**

How many accessible bus stops have been created in Bromley and how many are planned?

### **Reply:**

There are 1040 bus stops in Bromley, of which 621 (60%) are “accessible”. A further 11 stops are planned to be made accessible in 2016/17 in association with other complimentary schemes.

## **13. From Cllr Nicholas Bennett to the Chairman of the Development Control Committee**

If he will list the planning decisions called in by the Mayor of London and refused in each Mayoralty since the establishment of the office in 2000 -

2000-2008 (Mayor Livingstone)  
2008-16 (Mayor Johnson)  
Since May 5th 2016 (Mayor Khan)

and if he will make a statement?

### **Reply:**

It's not clear whether this question relates to all applications across London or just in Bromley. There is a search facility on the Mayor's website at <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning/planning-applications-and-decisions/planning-application-search> however we have not kept a specific record and to answer fully I will need to look at each case we have referred over the past 16 years. I am working on getting the information but we do not have it at present.

**Additional information received since the Council meeting:**

I can find five occasions when the Mayor directed refusal for planning applications in Bromley (as distinct from applications referred to the Mayor):

- Blue Circle Sports Ground, Bromley Common (00/03728) - Mayor Livingstone
- Bishop Justus School, Bromley Common (01/02282) - Mayor Livingstone
- St James Squash Club (00/03356), direction subsequently cancelled - Mayor Livingstone
- Tesco Orpington (06/1277), direction subsequently cancelled - Mayor Livingstone
- Flamingo Park (15/03653) - Mayor Khan

That is since 2000 and out of about 150 applications referred from Bromley in that time.