

**COUNCIL MEETING****11<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2017****QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN REPLY FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL****1. From Councillor Ian Dunn to the Resources Portfolio Holder**

Please provide the number of residential properties which have been empty for over two years, broken down by Council Tax band.

**Reply:**

There are currently 181 residential properties in Bromley that have been empty for more than 2 years. The table below categorises these properties by Council Tax band:

<b>Council Tax Band</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>Total</b>
Number of properties empty for more than 2 years	6	28	56	45	24	11	9	2	181

**2. From Cllr Ian Dunn to the Environment Portfolio Holder**

Please provide the process used to monitor the performance of our street cleaning contractor and the criteria used to determine whether a default will apply.

**Reply:**

- Neighbourhood Officers (NOs) complete inspections the day after scheduled cleansing activities using the Nautoguide system.
- Nautoguide will prompt the NOs to visit a random sample of locations each day.
- NOs will grade each location in accordance with the nationally recognised DEFRA Code of Practice on Litter and Detritus (attached) with 'A' being the best grade through to 'D' being the worst grade. 'A' and 'B' grades are passes; 'C' and below is a failed grading.
- Failed grades 'C', 'C-' or 'D' are counted as defects – these are liable for a £50 fine paid for by the contractor. Where an NO issues a failed grade, they will take and attach photographs along with a brief explanation for the failure. These are emailed directly and instantaneously to the contractor and LBB.
- Gradings and defects feed into KPI data and the contract management process; they are discussed between Kier and LBB at monthly contract meetings.
- Neighbourhood Management is tasked with completing just under 2,000 inspections a month, which translates to approx. 8-10 per day, per NO.

**3. From Councillor Nicholas Bennett JP to the Education, Children and Families Portfolio Holder**

How many Bromley looked after children are:

1. with permanent foster parents;
2. with temporary foster parents;
3. adopted;
4. in residential homes?

**Reply:**

On the 1<sup>st</sup> December we had 291 children Looked After

1. with permanent foster parents; 62
2. with temporary foster parents; 136
3. adopted; Placed for adoption; 17 (plus children with adoption order this year = 8)
4. in residential homes? 56

The remaining 20 were 10 children placed at home, 7 in independent living, 2 in prison/YOI and 1 in foster to adopt placement.

**4. From Councillor Nicholas Bennett JP to the Environment Portfolio Holder**

How many incidents of fly-tipping have been recorded in each of the past three years

- i. in the Borough;
- ii. West Wickham Ward.

and how many alleged offenders have been prosecuted for fly-tipping in each of these years?

**Reply:**

The figures are:

	<b>Borough</b>	<b>West Wickham</b>
<b>2015</b>	5,109 reports	96 reports
<b>2016</b>	5,208 reports	102 reports
<b>2017 to date</b>	4,394 reports	61 reports

2015 – 3 prosecutions/25 warning letters/15 FPNs

2016 – 4 prosecutions/10 warning letters/17 FPNs

2017 – 2 prosecutions/17 warning letters/30 FPNs

**5. From Councillor Nicholas Bennett JP to the Education, Children and Families Portfolio Holder**

If he will give the following information;

- i. The number of children in each category of Black and Minority ethnic group in Bromley school schools;
- ii. the number of pupils on free school meals;
- iii. the percentage of male and female teachers in (a) primary schools, (b) secondary schools in the Borough?

**Reply:**

(i) The number of children in each category of Black and Minority ethnic group in Bromley school schools;

<b>BME Group / Number of Pupils by School Type</b>	<b>Primary</b>	<b>PRU</b>	<b>Secondary</b>	<b>Special</b>	<b>Total</b>
Asian Bangladeshi	154	1	134	7	296
Asian Indian	708	2	541	7	1258
Asian Other	553	3	562	10	1128
Asian Pakistani	104		111	4	219
Black African	1454	21	1324	46	2845
Black Caribbean	665	28	745	22	1460
Black Other	349	6	285	7	647
Chinese	345		229	7	581
Mixed Other	1163	16	813	29	2021
Mixed White & Asian	638	1	375	9	1023
Mixed White & Black African	409	1	237	10	657
Mixed White & Black Caribbean	890	15	639	24	1568
Info not Obtained	289		155	2	446
Any Other Ethnic Group	385	4	294	8	691
Refused	184		245	6	435
White British	16275	69	14078	377	30799
White Irish	165		114	3	282
White Irish Traveller	13		4	3	20
White Other	2430	8	972	17	3427
White Gypsy/Roma	122	1	42		165
<b>Total</b>	<b>27295</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>21899</b>	<b>598</b>	<b>49968</b>

(ii) the number of pupils on free school meals;

	<b>Eligible for Free School Meals Number</b>	<b>Eligible Free School Meals %</b>
Primary	2482	9.09%
PRU	101	57.39%
Secondary	1558	7.11%
Special	216	36.12%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4357</b>	<b>8.72%</b>

(iii) the percentage of male and female teachers in (a) primary schools, (b) secondary schools in the Borough?

School workforce information is published by LA only, and not by primary/secondary. The 2016 School Workforce Census for Bromley showed 26% of teachers were male, 76% female

**6. From Councillor Peter Fookes to the Environment Portfolio Holder**

When will the trees at the rear of 4 Collingwood Close, Penge be pruned?

**Reply:**

The trees at the rear of Collingwood Close are not subject to a programme of regular maintenance. Pruning is currently undertaken on an ad-hoc risk basis when significant defects require remediation in accordance with LBB's adopted Tree Policy.

**7. From Councillor Peter Fookes to the Resources Portfolio Holder**

How much were the costs of the 13 day employment tribunal case of Kathy Smith and given the merits of this case, why didn't the Council put Unite the Union on notice that they would seek costs?

**Reply:**

The legal cost (excluding the input and support of the in-house legal and HR officers and management witnesses' attendance at the tribunal) is approximately £33k including VAT.

Under the Employment Tribunal Rules of Procedure there is no automatic award of costs. Each application for cost award is considered on its merits, taking into account the conduct of the litigant, the merit or otherwise of the claims, etc.

**8. From Councillor Peter Fookes to the Resources Portfolio Holder**

Will he implement a procedure for informing councillors of the staff changes that occur, particularly for those officers who have regular dealings with members?

**Reply:**

The Chief Executive uses the email and the Internal bullet (Inform) to share significant staff changes with Councillors and senior officers, respectively. I also expect Directors and their Heads of Service to keep their Members and key Members (including Portfolio Members and Leaders of the minority parties) informed on key staffing changes with significant service implications.