

EXECUTIVE

7th February 2018

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

(B) Questions for Written Reply

(1) From Katherine Brown to the Care Services Portfolio Holder

Would the number of homeless households who are rehoused by the Council be reduced if the Government introduced legislation to give private tenants greater security of tenure and if annual rent increases were limited to the rate of inflation and if so, by how much? What savings would there be to the Council's homelessness budget if the Government introduced this change in policy and will the council make representation to the Government to change this policy and thereby save money for local council tax payers, as well as introduce greater stability for private tenants?

Reply:

Not necessarily.

Legislating for additional security of tenure and any capping of rent increases could result in an unhelpful hike upwards in rent levels ahead of such proposals becoming law. Similarly, it could potentially result in the number of available rental units falling, due to their owners placing them on the open market for sale.

Regular reports have detailed the current range and complexity of pressures being experienced in terms of homelessness.

The Council continues to work closely with private sector households to facilitate access to private rented accommodation for many households. In general terms the length of tenure has not posed a barrier to accessing or maintaining tenancies in the private rented sector. Rental levels have risen steeply and local housing allowance has not kept pace in some areas.

We continue to monitor the position and feed such information back to central government.

A review of local housing allowance levels is currently underway to assess where this may be presenting a particular pressure and what measures may be taken by central government to alleviate such pressures

(2) From Chloe-Jane Ross to the Environment Portfolio Holder

The borough's Air Quality Action plan is nearly 8 years old and based on now out of date data. When can residents expect Bromley's plan to be updated?

Reply:

Whilst it is acknowledged the Air Quality Action Plan was drafted some time ago, it remains in force providing a suite of initiatives and actions to tackle air quality issues within the Borough. The Council continues to keep under review the validity of the

plan, with an Annual Status Report (ASR) to the GLA, which takes account up to date air quality monitoring data and reviews. We are currently in the process of reviewing the Action Plan and the subsequent Report will be produced later this year.

(3) From Chloe-Jane Ross to the Care Services Portfolio Holder

How many residential properties in Bromley have been empty for six months or more? Of these, how many have been empty for two years or more, have been empty for five years or more, and how have been empty for 10 years or more? How many Empty Dwelling Management Orders (EDMO) to take over properties that have been empty for at least two years have Bromley Council used in each of the last four years?

Reply:

Empty residential properties -

over 6 months and less than 2 years	649
Over 2 years and less than 5 years	129
Over 5 years and less than 10 years	44
10 years or more	21

The Council have sought and obtained 6 interim Empty Dwelling Management Orders in total, 4 of which have had to be taken to final order stage. 2 completed renovation work to the property and sold. 1 Final Order was confirmed by Tribunal in, 2014 and 1 in 2015.

(4) From Rich Wilsher to the Environment Portfolio Holder

How much funding has been allocated to Road Safety Improvement Schemes in each of the last four years?

Reply:

Excluding public realm improvement schemes, the various schemes that have contributed to road safety improvements were made allocations as follows:-

2017/18: £2,587k

2016/17: £2,814k

2015/16: £3,340k

2014/15: £3,002k

(5) From Rich Wilsher to the Care Services Portfolio Holder

How much funding has been provided to directly support women's refuges in the borough in each of the last four years?

Reply:

2017/18 - £106,000 (Forecast for the year)

2016/17 - £106,000

2015/16 - £185,206

2014/15 - £212,000

2013/14 - £291,500