

EXECUTIVE

17th October 2018

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC - FOR WRITTEN REPLY

1. From Dermot Mckibbin to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation and Housing

Following the announcement by the Prime Minister on 19 September 2018 that £2 billion will be made available to housing associations to provide social and affordable housing, how will the Council encourage local housing associations to bid for this money to be spent in the borough?

Reply:

The Council works closely with our partner developing housing associations to increase the supply of affordable housing products in the Borough and has supported a range of bids under the current affordable homes programme. Discussions are ongoing to ensure bids are submitted in response to the latest funding announcement.

2. From Dermot Mckibbin to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation and Housing

How many local councils in London have discretionary schemes to licence houses in multiple occupation, why does Bromley Council have no such scheme and when will local private tenants be able to respond to the Council's review of its housing policy?

Reply:

According to data published by Future of London in 2017, 13 boroughs operate the additional licensing scheme (which is discretionary). In order to introduce Additional HMO Licensing schemes, local authorities are required to consult with local residents, landlords and tenants for a minimum of ten weeks. They are subsequently required to provide a robust evidence base for introducing a scheme, such as demonstrating there are significant management issues and poor property condition that need addressing within a designated area. Should such evidence be presented, the introduction of such a scheme could be considered.

3. From Dermot Mckibbin to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation and Housing

In order to tackle the housing crisis in the borough will the Council set up a housing revenue account to take advantage of the government's decision announced on 3 October to remove the borrowing restrictions to enable the Council to deliver the homes that local residents desire?

Reply:

One of the Council's strategic priorities is to increase housing supply to meet housing need. Whilst the Council does not directly develop or manage stock through an HRA, it does continue to work with a range of partners to maximise access and supply to housing. This includes for example property purchase through a joint venture SPV, refurbishment of vacant Council properties and new developments including the use of Bromley owned sites. There are a range of delivery and management vehicles that can be utilised and the Council continues to review all options and models to ensure that those models utilised provide the best value for the Borough.