

COUNCIL MEETING

8th April 2019

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC FOR WRITTEN REPLY

1. From Norman Dix to the Renewal, Recreation and Housing Portfolio Holder

How many homeless people and how many rough sleepers are there in the LBB?
How does the LBB intend to comply with and implement the Homeless Reduction Act 2018 in Bromley and are there any plans to make these public?

Reply:

There are currently 1568 homeless households accommodated in temporary accommodation and approximately 3,500 households on the Housing Register who are either homeless or in a priority housing need category for rehousing. The last annual rough sleepers headcount was undertaken in November 2018 and found 6 rough sleepers bedded down in Bromley. London Street Rescue undertakes the outreach services for rough sleepers in Bromley. During the past year 47 rough sleepers have been identified and assisted.

The Council refocused its homelessness and housing advice services ahead of the introduction of the Homelessness Reduction Act to place an increased emphasis on housing advice and preventative services and has now fully implemented the requirements of the Homelessness Reduction Act. Full details relating to statistics and of the approach taken to tackle and prevent homelessness in compliance with the legislation are set out in the Council's published Homelessness Strategy.

2. From Andrew Ruck to the Resources, Commissioning and Contract Management Portfolio Holder

Given it was nearly 30 years ago that Parliament started broadcasting in the House of Commons on Television, could L.B. of Bromley consider sharing Council meetings live in lieu of edited recordings and transcripts?

Reply:

We have considered it on several occasions and continues to be kept under review as technology improves There does not appear to be a great demand from residents and given the financial challenges the Council faces then we still need to be convinced that the necessary investment would deliver material benefits.

As you will be aware the law also recently changed to allow residents to make their own recordings of Council meetings in many circumstances which allows for a record to be taken by those who have an interest in a matter.

3. From Derek Holl to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation and Housing

What is the latest position on the provision of planned modular homes in Bromley Borough, how many units will be deployed and at which sites in the borough?

Reply:

As previously approved by the Council's Executive, officers are exploring the potential to use off-site modular construction methods for the development of new affordable homes on a number of smaller sites across the borough with work currently underway to secure suppliers. The aim is to provide relatively speedy delivery of new affordable homes to meet the acute housing need being faced in Bromley and relieve the current budgetary pressures in relation to homelessness and temporary accommodation provision. There are currently 3 sites being explored: namely York Rise, Bushell Way (formerly Banbury House) and Anerley Town Hall overflow carpark. Overall it is estimated that across these 3 sites in the region of 80 new homes could be accommodated. Decisions to proceed will be subject to Executive approval of the full business cases, full consultation and planning permission.

4. From Derek Holl to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation and Housing

How many people can these units accommodate when full and what is the process for allocating people to these units?

Reply:

All units would be fully self-contained new homes and as such the number accommodated would be dependent upon the size of each new home. Each site would include a range of property sizes up to a maximum 3 bedroom home but these would predominantly be 2 bedroom family sized homes which could accommodate a couple plus 2 children.

Allocation would be to those local people to whom the Council owes a rehousing duty in line with the Council's approved allocation policy for affordable and temporary accommodation.

5. From Derek Holl to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation and Housing

How will support be provided?

Reply:

The new homes proposed would be offered to those families who are fully able to sustain independent accommodation and comply with the responsibilities set out in the tenancy agreement, predominantly those facing housing difficulties purely because they are unable to afford accommodation in the current housing market. A full housing management and maintenance service would provide tenancy management and support to tenants. The Council's Housing Resettlement and Floating Support can also provide some additional advice and support when setting up their new home.