

COUNCIL MEETING

8th April 2019

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL FOR WRITTEN REPLY

1. From Cllr Kathy Bance MBE to the Children, Education and Families Portfolio Holder

How many children or young adults who are on the Gangs Matrix or identified as associated with County Lines have a history of being excluded from school at some point?

Reply:

Eight children were excluded at some point and are known to the Local Authority MEGA (Missing, Exploitation and Gangs Affiliation) panel. The MEGA panel meets fortnightly with multi agency partners to consider support and managing any safeguarding risk.

2. From Cllr Ian Dunn to the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Commissioning and Contract Management

What preparations are being made for the devolution of business rates and the government's policy that local authorities become largely self-funding?

Reply:

More detailed proposals around the devolution of business rates are still awaited. The current plans are that the current devolution of 100% business rates across London (including GLA) will reduce to 75% from 2020/21 and it remains unclear whether there are opportunities for the London Business Rate Pool which provided additional financial incentives compared with devolution to individual local authorities. We are some way from the final proposals.

We continue to support businesses in the borough and support economic growth. Economic development creates employment opportunities, potentially reduces the cost of council tax support and generates income through business rates share. It will also help improve the wellbeing in the borough.

A note of caution relating to business rate devolution is that any Government plans are expected to be fiscally neutral and after allowing for planned future reset periods the incentives are only short term – this does not help for longer term financial planning.

As illustrated in the earlier response to a question (Questions from Councillors for oral reply - question 11), 42% of the Council's income is met from Government grants and although this percentage continues to fall the Council becomes 'more' self-sufficient but not self-sufficient. Given the level of statutory duties facing the Council

there will continue to be a dependency on Government funding in the short and medium term, particularly given the retained responsibilities to meet housing and social care needs.

3. From Cllr Ian Dunn to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Services

Can the Portfolio Holder provide the names of the Primary and Secondary Schools whose travel plans are accredited as gold, silver and bronze and the schools whose travel plans are not yet accredited?

Reply:

Please refer to attached document (Appendix 1.)

4. From Cllr Angela Wilkins to the Portfolio Holder for Public Protection & Enforcement

Please provide details of police numbers allocated to Bromley in 2010 and 2018?

Reply:

This data is not held by the Public Protection Team and has to be requested directly from the Police. The Police have confirmed that they will not meet the deadline and will send the information as soon as possible.

5. From Cllr Tony Owen to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Services

What is the detailed timetable for 'consultation' on the £1 million per mile Crofton Road cycle lane proposals?

Reply:

The Crofton Road scheme is a walking and cycling scheme. The consultation and engagement exercise will take place in the summer building on the extensive face to face engagement that has taken place to date, much of which was completed prior to the decision to fund the scheme. Aspects of the consultation such as the location have been developed in consultation with local members and residents including VI residents.