

COUNCIL MEETING

9th December 2019

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL FOR WRITTEN REPLY

1. From Cllr Ian Dunn to the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Commissioning & Contract Management

Please provide a breakdown of the Council's use of Agency Staff, showing person days and net cost, by month from April 2018 to as recently as figures are available, broken down by Adult Social Care, Children's Social Care, other EHCS, ECS and other. Please also show the number of employees in FTE with the same breakdown.

Reply:

(See Appendix 1)

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

Please provide the value of the maintenance backlog and the date it was last assessed for the following properties; Beckenham Spa, Beckenham Public Hall, Crofton Hall, Biggin Hill Leisure Centre, The Pavilion, Darrick Wood Swimming Pool, The Great Hall at the Civic Centre, the remainder of the Civic Centre, Anerley Town Hall, the Walnuts Leisure Centre, West Wickham Leisure Centre, the Kentwood Centre, the Widmore Centre, Central Depot, Churchfields Depot and each Library.

Reply:

Of the list of buildings included in the question, the Council has no repairing liabilities at the following sites for the reasons listed below:

Beckenham Spa	Leaseholder has full repairing insuring lease
Crofton Hall	Leaseholder has full repairing insuring lease
Biggin Hill Leisure Centre	Leaseholder has full repairing insuring lease
The Pavilion	Leaseholder has full repairing insuring lease
Anerley Town Hall	Leaseholder has full repairing insuring lease
The Widmore Centre	Now La Fontaine School, leaseholder responsible for all repairs

With reference to the other sites, for which the Council has repairing obligations, the current value of backlog maintenance is not known, as no surveys have been carried out at these sites since 2014/15.

3. From Cllr Kevin Brooks to the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Commissioning & Contract Management

Please provide the justification for the Council applying the same price:quality ration of 60:40 when assessing such diverse contracts as Waste Services, Domiciliary Care and professional services for architectural design work.

Reply:

The Council's standard evaluation methodology is based on a 60:40 ratio for price and quality respectively. The Council's Contract Procedure Rules specify that Award Criteria for contracts must be based on the 'Most Economically Advantageous Tender' ('MEAT') where considerations other than price (e.g. quality) apply.

However, regardless of the price/quality ratio that is applied, any bid must be deemed acceptable in terms of quality in order to be considered for an award of contract. Any bid that is evaluated as failing to meet the acceptable quality threshold for any one quality element may be disqualified, regardless of price offered.

The standard 60:40 price/quality ratio serves us well but may be adjusted where there is a clear rationale for doing so as happens from time to time. For procurement with a value of less than £500k, this will be an Officer decision subject to consultation with the Head of Procurement and the relevant Head of Finance. For procurement with a value greater than £500k, this will be a Member decision and the rationale for the proposed evaluation methodology (where it is proposed to deviate from the standard ratio) should be detailed in a Gateway report to Members prior to proceeding to procurement.

In addition, where it is agreed to use a framework, the price/quality ratio to be used may be specified by the framework.

4. From Cllr Marina Ahmad to the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education & Families

Please provide the ten highest monthly rates paid for children in care for 2018 and 2019 to date.

Reply:

All fees are quoted on weekly basis in accordance with provider quotes:

2018/19 (per week rates)

£11000.00
£8765.00
£7300.00
£7300.00
£7360.00
£7093.02
£6755.00
£6500.00
£6500.00
£6385.00

2019/20 (per week rates)

£9,875.60
£9,760.00
£6,500.00
£7,735.00
£7,300.00
£7,093.02
£5,950.00
£5,950.00
£5,488.20
£5,480.00

5. From Cllr Josh King to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation & Housing

Can the Portfolio Holder provide a timetable for occupation by tenants of the modular housing schemes currently in progress?

Reply:

All of the proposed schemes are at various stages. It is currently envisaged that the schemes proposed for Burnt Ash Lane, Anerley Overflow Car Park and Bushell Way, Chislehurst will be built (subject to planning permission) and occupied by the end of 2020.

6. From Cllr Josh King to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation & Housing

Would the Portfolio Holder please supply details of the expenditure on consultancy fees on housing projects within the housing department in the last twelve months?

Reply:

The Council has not spent any money on consultancy fees directly related to any housing projects in the last 12 months.

7. From Cllr Angela Wilkins to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation & Housing

Given that the government announced funding to address the problem of non-fire-resistant cladding on blocks of flats in May of this year, please provide an update on what the Council has done since then to expedite repairs to Northpoint Tower? Please also provide an anticipated start date for remedial works to take place.

Reply:

Officers responded as quickly as possible to the request from the Northpoint Directors for the building control approval certificate, which was provided to assist with their ACM funding application to Government. This followed close liaison with the Directors prior to the Government funding announcement and whilst the outcome of this is not yet known, the Directors have been asked to let the Council know about the outcome.