

COUNCIL MEETING

20th July 2020

(B) QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL FOR ORAL REPLY

(Questions 1 and 2 were withdrawn by Cllr Kieran Terry.)

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

Does she wholeheartedly endorse the four priorities identified in the Bromley Community Safety Partnership Strategy? (Agenda Item 8)

Reply:

It is a Partnership document. The partnership as a group endorse the priorities.

Supplementary question:

Councillor Wilkins asked about efforts to tackle hate crime, which was what many residents had to face on a daily basis.

Reply:

Hate crime is indeed in the Strategy. The second part of the question about racism in the borough is not directly connected to agenda item 8 so I do not think that is a valid supplementary question. But with regards to hate crime, I was given the figures on 7th July this year by the Police. They said between March and May last year there were 117 hate crimes and between march and May this year there were 120 hate crimes, so 3 more than last year. As she rightly says, hate crime is a priority in the Strategy for the Police, the Mayor and MOPAC and we shall seek to tackle these issues at future Safer Bromley Partnership meetings.

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

Section 3.5 of agenda item 7, the paper on the option for a Housing Revenue Account, mentions the establishment of a 'delivery, ownership and management vehicle to enable delivery of housing programmes. The paper explains that this may run alongside the HRA. A meeting of the Renewal, Recreation and Housing PDS Committee previously scrutinised a decision to authorise a significant amount of money for consultancy to determine the correct vehicle structure. Can the portfolio holder provide information on how much money has been spent on this task, whether a conclusion has been arrived at or if not when a recommendation is likely to be ready?

Reply:

The total spent on the consultancy was £17,900.83 plus VAT.

The consultancy work provided support to undertake the options appraisal on potential delivery, ownership and management vehicles to enable delivery of the

affordable housing programme. This work has been completed and the recommendation relating to the opening of an HRA directly arises from this – essentially the HRA is the vehicle.

As set out in the report, the practicalities of establishing the management and maintenance mechanisms, developing the full business plan and pipeline supply will flow from the decision relating to the HRA with further reports being presented during this autumn.