

Council**18th October 2021****Questions from Members of the Council for oral reply****1. From Councillor Nicholas Bennett MA JP to the Leader of the Council**

In the preparation of 'Making Bromley Even Better' I and Councillor Fawthrop met the author and made a number of suggestions for the document. The proposals we made do not appear in the final draft. On whose authority were they removed and why were we not consulted before they were excised from the document?

2. From Cllr Angela Wilkins to the Leader of the Council

There have been numerous instances when committee reports of public interest have unnecessarily been kept out of public sight by use of s12A of the Local Government Act. Examples include the sale of Chislehurst Library and, more recently, proposals for new schools in Penge and Walden Woods.

Members of the Labour Group have repeatedly raised concerns about this practice over several years and are grateful to the Chief Executive for his assurance that in future, a report will always be published in the public domain (Part One of every agenda).

Does he agree with me that it is for officers to advise but for councillors to decide at each meeting whether to discuss a report in private?

3. From Cllr Kathy Bance MBE to the Portfolio Holder for Adult Care and Health

How many Afghan families is the Council now accommodating and how many has the Council offered to accommodate?

4. From Cllr Ian Dunn to the Portfolio Holder for Adult Care & Health

The latest budget monitoring report shows a net cumulative balance of £1.855 million in the Public Health Grant. Why is this the case over 18 months into the Pandemic, the greatest Public Health emergency in the last 100 years?

5. From Cllr Ryan Thomson to the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education & Families

What action is the Council taking to ensure that all schools, academies and other relevant education settings in the Borough are made aware of, and encouraged, to access the "Get help with connectivity grants" from the DfE?

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

Given the end of the eviction ban in March, the impending removal of the Universal Credit uplift and the threat of increased energy prices, what additional measures has the Council introduced to help prevent evictions of the most vulnerable tenants and what has this cost?

7. From Cllr Simon Jeal to the Portfolio Holder for Environment & Community Services

In a statement to Bromley News Shopper earlier this year regarding the draft Open Space strategy, you were quoted as saying "... this strategy was always about conserving and enhancing our parks and open spaces, including woodland and the like, it was never about selling parkland." Can you confirm that this Council is still committed not to dispose of open spaces in Bromley?

8. From Cllr Kevin Brooks to the Portfolio Holder for Environment & Community Services

Does the Portfolio Holder agree that if the various Friends Groups which are connected to the Council receive discounts from idverde, the same should be available for our BID teams as they are also part of LBB?

9. From Cllr Vanessa Allen to the Leader of the Council

Can you please explain the difference between meetings of the Executive (as detailed on the Council's website) and meetings of the Executive (otherwise known as the Cabinet) which are held in private and no minutes published?

10. From Councillor Nicholas Bennett MA JP to the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Commissioning and Contract Management

If he will set out in table format the number of (i) residential, (ii) Commercial (including public sector properties) which have stood empty for

1. 6 months to 1 year
2. 1 year to 2 years
3. 2 years to 5 years
4. 5 years to 10 years
- 5 more than 10 years

What is the longest time any property has remained empty; what action is being taken to bring these properties back into occupation; and how many are owned by the Council?

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

What is your assessment of the performance of Clarion Housing Association in relation to repairs and maintenance of their properties?

12. From Cllr Kathy Bance MBE to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Services

What is being done to deter persistent fly-tippers who use recycling depots as dumping grounds for household and restaurant waste?

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

Given the recent reduction in the percentage of household refuse being recycled or composted, with the year end projection well below target, what actions has the Portfolio Holder taken to increase recycling & composting?

14. From Cllr Simon Jeal to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation and Housing

What support does the Council provide to former members of the armed forces (veterans) returning to Bromley in relation to housing, employment support and other related needs?