

Council

18th October 2021

Questions from Members of the Council for written reply

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

Please list the total reserves in each year since 2010 and indicate from where the additional monies accruing to the reserves came from?

Reply:

(See [Appendix 1](#))

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

Please list in table format the following:

the addresses of all properties purchased to provide income; the nature of the property - housing, retail, warehousing etc; the cost of purchase; the source of funding; the annual rent received; the current estimated value; by how much is the Council tax reduced as a result of the income received from these investments?

Reply:

Address	Use Class	Purchase Price	Purchase Date	Source of Funding
95 High Street, Bromley BR1 1JW	Retail	£1,550,000.00	11.04.2012	Investment funds
98 High Street, Bromley BR1 1JW	Retail	£2,060,000.00	07.02.2013	Investment funds
145-153 High Street, Bromley BR1 1EY	Retail	£17,875,000.00	09.09.2014	Investment funds
104 - 108 High Street Bromley BR1 1EY	Retail	£3,000,000.00	19.09.2013	Investment funds

27 Homesdale Road, Bromley BR2 9LY	Retail	£3,750,000.00	29.01.2015	Investment funds
Morrisons Supermarket, St Francis Way, Shefford, Bedfordshire, SG17 5DZ	Retail	£8,260,000.00	15.04.2015	Investment funds
33-35 Old Christchurch Road Bournemouth BH1 1DS	Retail	£5,100,000.00	18.08.2015	Investment funds
4 Tilgate Business Park Brighton Road Crawley RH11 9BT	Office	£6,380,000.00	28.08.2015	Investment funds
Unit G Hubert Road Brentwood Essex CM14 4JE	Industrial	£5,750,000.00	08.01.2016	Investment funds
1 Newbury House 20 Kings Road West Newbury Berkshire RG14 5XR	Office	£3,145,000.00	15.01.2016	Investment funds
British Gas Training Centre Colthrop Way Thatcham West Berkshire RG19 4AG	Industrial	£3,465,000.00	03.08.2016	Investment funds
Units C2 & C3, Southwood Summit Centre, Columbus Drive, Farnborough, GU14 0NZ	Industrial	£6,050,000.00	25.07.2016	Investment funds
Trinity House, Unit 110/120, Eureka Park, Ashford, Kent, TN25 4AZ	Office	£5,850,000.00	07.04.2017	Investment funds

Unit 1, Ground Floor, 54 Bridge Street, Peterborough, PE1 1DU	Retail	£3,690,000.00	21.12.2017	Investment funds
---	--------	---------------	------------	------------------

Please note that passing rent between the Council and its tenants is treated as a commercially confidential matter. In February this year a report was presented to the Executive, Resources and Contracts Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee as to the Commercial Investment Portfolio performance in both a Part 1 and 2 format. These reports were circulated to Members at the time and provide further information as to values and passing rent.

In terms of Council Tax, there is no direct correlation between the investment purchase price and Council Tax other than an estimation that an annual income of £3.5m equates to 1% of Council Tax.

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

Please advise how many penalty tickets have been issued outside schools since LBB installed CCTV cameras outside schools, broken down by school?

Reply:

PCNs/Warning notices logged as at Sep 21						
Location	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Grand Total
ALDERSMEAD ROAD, BECKENHAM				7	13	20
AYLESBURY ROAD, BROMLEY			23	20	5	48
BALGOWAN ROAD, BECKENHAM	204	152	145	83	102	686
BEAVERWOOD ROAD, CHISLEHURST	407	424	243	75	56	1205
BROMLEY ROAD, BECKENHAM					10	10
FELMINGHAM ROAD, PENGE	243	160	98	48	53	602
GENOA ROAD, PENGE			81	122	49	252
HAWES LANE, WEST WICKHAM			73	119	110	302
HIGHFIELD DRIVE, SHORTLANDS				2	3	5

KENT HOUSE ROAD, BECKENHAM		61	39	9		109
LOVIBONDS AVENUE, ORPINGTON	31					31
NORHEADS LANE, BIGGIN HILL			7	10	10	27
OLD TYE AVENUE, BIGGIN HILL					28	28
OXHAWTH CRESCENT, BROMLEY					14	14
RANGFIELD ROAD, BROMLEY			81	90	45	216
RAVENSWORTH ROAD, MOTTINGHAM				13	41	54
SCHOOL ROAD, CHISLEHURST				2	5	7
TINTAGEL ROAD, ORPINGTON				19	136	155
TOWNCOURT LANE, PETTS WOOD	215	198	107	34		554
WARREN ROAD, CHELSFIELD				6	42	48
WILLIAM BOOTH ROAD, PENGE				18	71	89
Grand Total	1100	995	897	677	793	4462

Please note that we no longer have a camera at the following schools:

- Kent House Road, Beckenham,
- Lovibond's Avenue, Orpington and
- Towncourt Lane, Petts Wood.

4 From Cllr Kathy Bance MBE to the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Families:

Please describe how our Sure Start centres have expanded their inhouse services in the last 12 months to help reduce the waiting lists for CAHMS or Bromley Y.

Reply:

Children's centres cannot reduce the waiting list for CAMHS's and Bromley Y as this is a health and CCG responsibility.

We no longer have Sure Start centres as that project ceased although the signage at Community Vision does have an old logo and all signage is being replaced this year at all of our centres.

However, all of our services and in particular children centres pivoted quickly to support vulnerable families during the lockdown period with moving online support services and some face-to-face visits and door stop drops and a constant weekly programme for

parents and children the setting up of Facebook page with over 1900 followers for activities and advice. In addition, space was offered to partners wanting to see clients by appointment rather than by drop-in, e.g. HVs seeing vulnerable and failing to thrive babies initially in Spring 2020, and in the last 12 months all babies with booked appointments.

We have worked with Change Grow Live's Hidden Harm worker who has seen young people using the children centres as a hub to support this ongoing work.

We do not have clinicians in the Early Intervention and Family Support Service and so are unable to reduce the pressure on Bromley Y and CAMHS other than by supporting parents more which has been done and this has been reported to Members in various papers.

Our parenting offer continues to grow and another one of our projects coming online is 4 children centre team managers trained as Trainers for the Mental Health First Aid for adults (MH1A). This is a version of the Mental Health First Aid training to parents to support to support their children, it will not reduce the pressure on Bromley Y and CAMHS, but give parents skills and knowledge to support their children and young people.

In addition, the Trailblazer in schools has continued to support young people's wellbeing through Bromley Y. The mental health toolkit has also been rolled out to schools.

Bromley Y have supported our care leavers by triaging them and referring to CAMHS if appropriate.

The Local Authority and Bromley Y had a hotline through pandemic where families and the professionals could seek advice.

The Local Authority through public health and CCG funding has secured a mental health nurse to support our care leavers to alleviate the waiting times in CAMHS which is a national issue.

5. From Cllr Angela Wilkins to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Services

Where are the railings formerly installed at Betts Park, which were removed by the Council some time ago? What is planned for their future?

Reply:

We are not aware of any railings being removed at Betts Park. There were some iron gates in disrepair on the Croydon Road park entrance that were replaced during 2019

and the originals have been in storage at Kelsey Park Depot since. There are no current plans for their use.

6. From Cllr Angela Wilkins to the Chairman of the Standards Committee

How many complaints against councillors have been received by the Monitoring Officer since May 2018? How many of these have been referred to the Standards Committee in the same period?

Reply:

The Monitoring Officer has dealt with 46 complaints against 55 Councillors since May 2018. All have been reported to Standards Committee in summary form, and as of Friday 8th October none have needed to be referred to the Committee for investigation.

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

How many employees are currently on long term sick leave, broken down by department? How many employees have left the Council's employment due to ill health since 2018, broken down by year and department.

Reply:

Long term sickness is classed as any absence of over 20 days -

Department	No. of Employees
Adult Services	3
Chief Executives	0
Children's Services	6
Corporate Services	1
Environment & Public Protection	0
Finance	0
Housing, Planning & Regeneration	6
HR, Customer Services & Public Affairs	0
Public Health	0
Total	16

Employees have left the Council's employment due to ill health since 2018, broken down by year and department -

Department/Year	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	Total
Adult Services	2	0	1	0	3
Chief Executive's	1	0	0	0	1
Children's Services	3	3	1	1	8
Corporate Services	1	0	0	0	1
Environment & Public Protection	1	0	0	1	2
Finance	0	0	0	0	0
Housing, Planning & Regeneration	0	0	1	0	1
HR, Customer Services & Public Affairs	1	0	0	0	1
Public Health	0	0	0	0	0
Total	9	3	3	2	17

8. From Cllr Ian Dunn to the Portfolio Holder for Environment & Community Services

Since May 2016, how many trees (per annum) has the Council planted, broken down by year and ward?

Reply:

Year	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
No. of Trees Planted	1115	499	404	417	1225

Information is not currently held by ward area and would require further detailed analysis.

9. From Cllr Vanessa Allen to the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Commissioning and Contract Management

Please provide a list of empty properties registered as businesses in the Borough.

Reply:

At the 27.9.21 there were 754 empty properties registered on Business rates. Attached is a list of the addresses with the property description. (See [Appendix 2](#))

10. From Cllr Vanessa Allen to the Chairman of General Purposes and Licensing Committee

Please provide details (ie names, dates & amounts) of councillors' out of borough expenses since May 2018.

Reply:

Since May 2018, there have been two expenses claims -

Cllr Mike Botting	£428.73	Paid 26 October 2018
Cllr Keith Onslow	£149.00	Paid 27 March 2020

11. From Cllr Simon Jeal to the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Commissioning and Contract Management

Could you please provide a breakdown detailing the value of Council spending in each of the past five financial years on communications, PR and marketing staff and activities?

Reply:

The staff budget, including the employer costs and the like, for the previous 5 financial years are outlined below and have naturally been included in the Council's published accounts. Communications activities are integral to the operation of council services, with almost all staff needing to communicate with residents, without which council taxpayers would not receive their council tax statement for instance nor know when their bin collection was due etc. These activities are valued by residents, with the costs included as part of operating given services.

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	Grand Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Employees	157,048	165,4501	188,019	193,292	210,217	913,977
Transport						
Supplies & Services	4,200	1,368	3,234	415	243	9,460
Total Controllable	161,248	166,769	191,253	193,707	210,923	923,436