Council - 6ᵗʰ December 2021

Questions from Members of the Public for Oral Reply

1. **From Tony McPartlan to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Services**

Fly-tipping and poor street cleanliness is a continued problem in many areas but particularly around Southover in Plaistow and Sundridge ward. These are reported on FixMyStreet, but what preventative measures are the Council taking? Signage and posters simply aren't enough.

Reply:
All reports received will be directed straight through to our service provider and actioned in a timely manner according to contractual SLAs. Street cleansing outputs are monitored through our client officer team who undertake randomised inspections to ensure satisfactory standards are being achieved across the borough. The local officer for P&S will review and address any issues with the service provider to rectify any underperformance issues. Signage is deployed throughout the Borough as an initial educational tool raising awareness of the illegal depositing of waste. Fly-tips will be investigated to recover any identifying evidence that can lead to successful enforcement action being taken against the perpetrator. Further tools utilised to combat this Anti-Social Behaviour include installation of barriers to prevent deposit & the deployment of CCTV at known hotspots.

Supplementary Question:
In September the PDS Committee was informed about a 25% increase in fly-tipping. Is it time for a report on the various enforcement options?

Reply:
This is an issue of on-going concern, and some have attributed it to the closure of the Waste and Recycling Centres during lockdown. I am discussing this with the Portfolio Holder for Public Protection and Enforcement.

2. **From Tony McPartlan to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Services**

In Rangefield Road, the 20mph zone literally only covers the width of Burnt Ash School and doesn't cover any of the surrounding area. Is there any scope to expand the coverage of this and other 20mph zones around schools to keep children safe as they travel to and from school?

Reply:

The approach taken by the Borough is to focus such 20mph limits on the roads in the immediate vicinity of schools, so that drivers can easily see the purpose of the speed limit. It appears that drivers are more likely to adhere to speed limits, warning signs, speed-activated signs etc. when they are directly associated with the hazard, in this case the school and children travelling to it.

Supplementary Question:

These zones are designed only for the areas just outside schools – is it not more important to cover areas where children actually cross the road?

Reply:

Each school has a Travel Plan and we work with the schools – Travel Plans are driven by the schools, and we work with them to see what their local issues are.

3. From Alisa Igoe to the Leader of the Council

In addition to the "2 or 3 British families" mentioned at the Executive, Resources and Contracts PDS Committee on 13 October, could the Leader of the Council kindly tell me how many refugee families from Afghanistan Bromley Council have accepted and resettled through the two Afghan Resettlement Schemes between 18 October and today's question deadline of 22 November, since his reply to a public question at full Council on 18 October.

Reply:

There has been no change to either Bromley's position, or that of that of any other London Borough which I have been made aware of since 18th October. All concerned continue to await the Government's 'next steps' and direction with very close interest

Supplementary Question:

It is disappointing that no councils have taken people from Afghanistan. Our borough is very wealthy, as the Treasury Management report shows. Despite the Government giving no indication of what will happen, should the Council not take it upon itself to invite Afghan families to join us here?

Reply:

There are schemes available for residents to host immigrants.

(The questions from Richard Seabrook and Jamie Devine were added to the list of questions for written reply.)