

EXECUTIVE

12 January 2022

(C) Questions for Written Reply from Members of the Public**1. From Richard Maury to the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Commissioning and Contract Management**

1NAP Review presumes that the 50,000 cap on annual aircraft movements, an important safeguard for residents independent of the NAP itself, has now reverted to 125,000, despite the apparent understanding amongst Councillors in 2015 that the lower cap would continue permanently as a trigger to suspend the extended hours. Will LBB clarify the lease to confirm this permanence?

Reply:

The NAP introduced a 50,000 movement cap, while the MIL laid out how this applied to the first five years of the NAP's operation. The minutes of the June 2016 Executive Committee meeting reflect that this timing was discussed in the public arena. The Council has taken external legal advice on this point during its review of the NAP. Counsel's opinion was also that the 50,000 movement limit was not a permanent alteration to the lease, with the 125,000 movement limit continuing to be in place. Factually, movements remain under 50,000 a year.

It is important to remember that any movement cap does not alter the noise contours agreed to within the Noise Action Plan as a way of controlling the noise disruption felt by Bromley residents. These remain unchanged.

2. From Richard Maury to the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Commissioning and Contract Management

Will LBB give full, urgent consideration to commissioning work on introducing, to the NAP, Single Event noise metrics such as N70 as in Recommendation No. 1 in the July 2020 Report by ICCAN, as the NAP is not yet sufficiently effective in abating noise:

https://iccan.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020_07_16_ICCAN_review_of_aviation_noise_metrics_and_measurement.pdf

Reply:

It is important to note that the Executive first needs to agree the Council's response to the Airport's NAP review. Anything that mitigates noise from aircraft would be a positive step and could potentially be examined with the airport to assess viability. It is worth remembering that the NAP has already introduced a limit for single noise events in the early morning period, helping to control the noise between 06:30 and 07:00.

3. **From Rachel King to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Services**

Referring to the Make Bromley even Better Strategy, what specific actions have the Council taken (or are planning to take) to encourage residents to use renewable and sustainable energy and how are you measuring the success of this initiative? What targets have been set?

Reply:

The Carbon Management Team will be presenting a report at the ECS PDS meeting in June 2022, specifically about signposting residents, businesses and community groups to various grants, services and other initiatives aimed at energy savings and reducing CO₂ emissions.

A Carbon Management progress report setting out what has already been done (or is currently in progress), will be coming to the January ECS PDS meeting.

The incorporation of energy efficient systems and insulation is a preferable approach in moving to a low carbon future with the installation of renewal sources of energy following behind. Both energy efficient systems and renewable energy are better installed during construction than via retrofits. Bromley's Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) details payments that a developer will have to make if their development does not achieve the required levels of carbon dioxide reduction targets.

4. **From Rachel King to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Services**

"Children growing up exposed to PM_{2.5} are more likely to have reduced lung function and develop asthma....exposure to PM_{2.5} attributes to 29,000 premature deaths in the UK every year." How will the Council address poor air quality in Bromley, which threatens ambitions 1-5 of its corporate strategy?

Reply:

Bromley has some of the cleanest air in London. Improving local air quality and reducing air pollution is everyone's business. The London Borough of Bromley has several strategic documents that relate to issues that affect air quality. The main document is the Borough's Air Quality Action Plan 2020-25. This details action points which cover how the London Borough of Bromley will address air pollution. The document is available by following this link.

https://www.bromley.gov.uk/downloads/file/6391/air_quality_action_plan_aqap_2020-25

Other documents that also impact on air quality include the Bromley Local Plan -

[The Bromley Local Plan | The Bromley Local Plan | London Borough of Bromley](#)

And strategic policies on Sustainability and Climate Change, amongst others -

[Sustainability reports | Sustainability reports | London Borough of Bromley](#)

5. From Roger King to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Services

Referring to the 'Make Bromley even Better Strategy', in what specific ways have the Council provided (or are planning to provide) support and advice for the installation of equipment for renewable sources, such as solar and wind?

Reply:

The Carbon Management Team will be presenting a report at the ECS PDS meeting in June 2022, specifically about signposting residents, businesses and community groups to various grants, services and other initiatives aimed at energy savings and reducing CO₂ emissions.

A Carbon Management progress report setting out what has already been done (or is currently in progress), will be coming to the January ECS PDS meeting.

The incorporation of energy efficient systems and insulation is a preferable approach in moving to a low carbon future with the installation of renewal sources of energy following behind. Both energy efficient systems and renewable energy are better installed during construction than via retrofits. Bromley's Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) details payments that a developer will have to make if their development does not achieve the required levels of carbon dioxide reduction targets.

6. From Roger King to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Services

Bromley is London's largest borough, yet it only has one operational air monitor situated on Harwood Avenue. Bexley, Greenwich, Lewisham, Southwark, Lambeth, and Croydon councils each have multiple, operational air monitoring sites. Does Bromley have plans to increase the monitoring of its air quality?

Reply:

Bromley is a member of the London Air Quality Network. All monitoring stations operated by all London Boroughs are part of this city-wide network and provide monitoring data which both underpins and checks the GLA's London air quality model. The London network and model are global leaders in city wide air quality management. The London air quality modelling system provides a very reliable overview of air quality within Bromley without the need for a boroughwide network of monitors. It should also be noted that the quality of the air in Bromley is, overall, significantly better than in some of our neighbouring boroughs. Since air moves with the wind, the air monitoring points locally, including those in neighbouring authorities will be able to detect if an event occurs that has a noticeable impact on air quality either good or bad.

The air quality monitoring station at Harwood Avenue contains three analysers measuring Oxides of Nitrogen (NOx) and airborne Particulates (PM10 and PM2.5). NOx is also monitored, using the more affordable technology of diffusion tubes, at a further 32 additional locations across the Borough. More recently Node monitors were installed at the PRUH and Poverest Allotments. These monitor NOx and PM2.5 as part of the Breathe London Network.

Monitoring stations are expensive to install, service, maintain, calibrate, and operate. Bromley Council takes a strategic, prudent and proportionate approach to air quality monitoring. That said, there is an action point within Bromley's current Air Quality Action Plan to continue to seek further opportunities to fund more air quality monitoring as they arise.

7. From Peter Noorlander to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Services

Bromley is London's largest borough, yet it only has one operational air monitor. From 01/12/2020 to 01/12/2021, that air monitor measured an annual mean of 9ug/m3 of PM2.5 particulates. The World Health Organisation's air quality guideline annual average for PM2.5 is 5ug/m3. What will be done about this?

Reply:

Please see answers to Roger and Rachel King's questions in relation to monitoring within the London Borough of Bromley.

In October 2021 the WHO updated its recommended guidelines for air pollutants. For PM2.5 it tightened the recommended annual average guideline to 5µgm⁻³, while retaining 10µgm⁻³ as an interim guideline which the Mayor of London has committed to meet by 2030 (the legal annual average limit is 25µgm⁻³).

New data issued on 16th December 2021 for PM2.5 concentration maps showed that there was a 19 percent reduction in PM2.5 across the whole of London since 2016 with many parts of outer London meeting the WHO interim guideline of 10µgm⁻³ for the first time.

Commitments to reduce air pollution within the London Borough of Bromley are detailed in the Borough's Air Quality Action Plan 2020-2025, including measures relating to PM2.5.

8. From Peter Noorlander to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Services

Under the heading Carbon Emissions in the draft budget, the Council states that addressing Borough-wide emissions would require significant investment from central Government. How much funding will be required, what steps have the Council taken to secure those funds, and what success have they had?

Reply:

Work to identify the exact amount required to achieve borough wide net zero emissions is still ongoing, but the investment required is estimated to be several billion pounds per borough.

Achieving the national target for net-zero emissions, is going to require a national co-ordinated effort. It will be of no benefit to shift emissions from one part of the country to another. Industries such as energy and food production typically have emissions distant from the point of consumption, with integrated supplies and networks (e.g. the gas network) and therefore action needs to be co-ordinated either regionally or nationally. Bromley Council intends to work with the different layers of Government to play our part in achieving the National ambition set out by our Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

Despite the large scale investment required, work has already begun, for example with the recent successful application for £920,000 under the Local Authority Delivery scheme (LAD2). The programme will enable the retrofit of an estimated 130 domestic properties. The funding criteria will ensure works tackle poorly insulated homes – ensuring residents save money on their energy bills whilst also mitigating the most amount of carbon emissions. Some 50 homes have already been identified for site visits and further evaluation.

A Carbon Management progress report setting out what has already been done (or is currently in progress), will be coming to the January ECS PDS meeting.

9. Jamie Devine to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Services

Bromley's corporate strategy will fail to achieve its five ambitions if it does not amend its net zero plan: an unstable climate is incompatible with a stable community. Will Bromley urgently review its plan to account for the greenhouse gas emissions embedded in the products and services it purchases?

Reply:

The Council acknowledges the significance of its indirect Scope 3 emissions arising from the procurement of its services and products. These emissions are directly owned by our suppliers, however we recognise that the council can play a valuable role in helping to reduce them by working closely with its contractors. Every time the large contractors are scrutinised by the Environmental Services PDS, the senior leaders of the company are asked by Councillors about their net zero plans, and they have all responded positively. For example, you may have seen our press release when, our Highway contractor moved to the lower Carbon method for road maintenance using warm mix asphalt. [Bromley leading the way with more sustainable road network | London Borough of Bromley](#)

All of the environmental contracts are currently being reviewed and a position regarding our contractors' carbon commitments will be reported back via the ECS PDS committee in January 2022.

In addition, a pan-London carbon accounting methodology is being developed for use by all London Boroughs. Consideration is being given to the accounting of Scope 3 emissions including procured services and consumption-based emissions.

10. From Jamie Devine to the Portfolio Holder for Public Protection and Enforcement

The emergence of covid-19 and storm Arwen starkly illustrate the importance of community resilience and the necessity to plan for the worst. Has Bromley considered the impacts posed by climate change on systems - food, water, sanitation, energy, transportation, economic etc - and does it have a resilience strategy?

Reply:

In terms of resilience, the Council chair the Bromley Borough Resilience Forum which is a statutory forum for local multi-agency emergency preparedness, response and recovery planning within the borough as defined within the Civil Contingencies Act 2004. The Forum's vision statement is 'a resilient and prepared Bromley'. Its overall

purpose is to facilitate co-operation and information sharing at the local operational level and to working in partnership to further develop the resilience agenda.

One such output is the Community Risk register. The Bromley Borough Resilience Forum coordinates the completion of this risk assessment and agrees the assessments contained within this document using local knowledge and experience which is informed by National and London risk advice and guidance. The document details identified risks that could affect the borough and are grouped into various categories, including severe weather and flooding, human health, transport and infrastructure.

As part of our Transforming Bromley Agenda, one of our key priority themes is Maintaining organisational Resilience; to be able to identify and address potential changes, challenges and threats that may have an impact upon the Council to effectively discharge its organisational responsibilities. To assist in further developing Resilience across the Borough, the Council have adopted the Resilience Standards for London. Our activities are compared against these standards and are used as part of a broader assurance framework for the council, with the aim of continually improving performance across its emergency planning and resilience activities.

The council continues to work with a number of third sector organisations and community groups in respect of improving resilience. This work was further strengthened during COVID with over 4000 residents coming forward to volunteer to assist the Council and our partners in terms of food provision, befriending and assistance for families shielding.

The resilience of the community is an area the Council is continually seeking to improve. The above measures outline how we are developing resilience for our residence. This is further supported through the promotion of advice and guidance on our emergency planning and business continuity web pages. Please see attached links.

https://www.bromley.gov.uk/info/200039/emergencies/1355/emergency_planning

https://www.bromley.gov.uk/info/200039/emergencies/671/business_continuity

11. From Tim Webb to the Portfolio Holder for Adult and Community Services

What is going to happen to the existing facilities offered by the Saxon Centre if the proposed Walnuts Redevelopment goes ahead. This Centre offers invaluable services to those vulnerable members of our Society who are physically frail and may also have Dementia and in addition offers their Relatives or Carers a valuable and well-earned respite.

Reply:

I have been advised that the plans for the Walnut redevelopment include the reprovision

of the Saxon Day Centre. The plans for the site allow for the current provision to be maintained until the new centre is completed. Age Concern, who run the Saxon Day Centre, have worked with Council officers and the developer on the design of what will be a brand new and modern-day activities resource.

12. From Gill Webb to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation & Housing

What alternative facilities will be on offer for Parents/Carers whose children use The Buzz zone at the Walnuts Leisure Centre if it is closed for 2 years?

Reply:

If the Areli development goes ahead there will be significant disruption to users of the Walnuts Leisure Centre. However there are many other public, as well as private, leisure centres and sports clubs across the borough that will continue to provide leisure services and children's activities. We realise this will be less convenient for local residents, however it is an impact of providing a new leisure facility.

13. From Julie Ireland to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation and Housing

What report or information has the Council received from Countryside Properties in connection with the development of the Churchill Quarter following the public consultation carried out during 2021?

Reply:

To date the Council has not received any report or information from Countryside Properties following the public consultation carried out during 2021. Officers are working with Countryside Properties closely and it is envisaged that they will submit planning in the near future accordingly.

14. From Julie Ireland to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation and Housing

What is the status of the proposed compulsory purchase orders for the homes in Ethelbert Close?

Reply:

Until Countryside Properties submit Planning and such an application is determined, the Council cannot progress a formal CPO for those properties whom do not wish to consider disposing of their interests at this stage. However, in the mean-time the Council is committed to purchasing properties, subject to negotiation, ahead of any such CPO scheme.

15. From Jon Webb to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation and Housing

What will happen to all the swimming lessons that take place at the Walnuts Leisure Centre if Orpington doesn't have a leisure centre for 2+ years?

Reply:

The borough is home to many other public, as well as private, leisure centres which will continue to offer swimming lessons. We expect these sites to respond to demand as much as practicable and increase provision where possible.

16. From Mary Ion to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Services

Under the heading Carbon Emissions in the draft budget the Council suggests that addressing borough-wide emissions is just a future possibility. In October 2021 the OBR '...concluded that acting early could halve the net fiscal cost of getting to net zero by 2050'. What justification is there for delaying?

<https://obr.uk/box/climate-related-measures-in-the-budget-and-spending-review/>

Reply:

The Council has already introduced a Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document to establish Carbon Offset Contributions with payments in lieu of on-site provision.

The Council has set its own target for net zero for Council operations by 2029, which is one of the most ambitious in London. This is intended to set an example to residents and as appropriate showcase methods to reduce carbon emissions. The Council's committees are also highlighting this issue to our contractors and challenging them on their emissions.

Achieving the national target for net-zero emissions, is going to require a national co-ordinated effort. It will be of no benefit to shift emissions from one part of the country to another. Industries such as energy and food production typically have emissions distant from the point of consumption, with integrated networks (e.g. the gas network). We intend to work with the different layers of Government to play our part in achieving the National ambition set out by our Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

The Council is already moving forward its work to tackle borough-wide emissions (as and when appropriate funding is made available).

The Carbon Management Team will be presenting a report at the ECS PDS meeting in June 2022, specifically about signposting residents, businesses and community groups to various grants, services and other initiatives aimed at energy savings and reducing CO₂ emissions borough wide.

A Carbon Management progress report setting out what has already been done (or is currently in progress), will be coming to the January ECS PDS meeting.

17. From Mary Ion to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Services

Draft Budget: You state that addressing borough-wide carbon emissions presents a major financial risk. A UCL study published last September shows that by 2100, global GDP could be 37% lower than it would be without the impacts of warming. Will the Council commit to investing heavily now to mitigate against the impacts of climate change already baked-in?

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/news/2021/sep/economic-cost-climate-change-could-be-six-times-higher-previously-thought>

Reply:

The Carbon Management Team will be presenting a report at the ECS PDS meeting in June 2022, specifically about signposting residents, businesses and community groups to various grants, services and other initiatives aimed at energy savings and reducing CO₂ emissions borough wide.

The Council established its Carbon Management Programme back in 2008 with many actions and investments starting from then to reduce Carbon emissions. The Council announced a significant investment (an invest to save) back in 2013 when it committed to replace 14,000 street light lanterns with efficient LED lanterns. Further investments followed and the Council is currently delivering the final phase of the LED lantern conversion programme. Street lighting did represent a significant portion of the Council's energy consumption and was responsible for a high proportion of LBB's direct carbon emissions.

The Carbon Management Team team works continuously to source funding opportunities that will support the council with borough-wide initiatives. One such example is the recent successful application for £920,000 under the Local Authority Delivery scheme (LAD2). The programme will enable the retrofit of an estimated 130 domestic properties. The funding criteria will ensure works tackle poorly insulated homes – ensuring residents save money on their energy bills whilst also mitigating the most amount of carbon emissions. Some 50 homes have already been identified for site visits and further evaluation.

One element of our approach to tackling borough wide emissions is through the Renewables for London Steering Group which Bromley is a member of. Work has been undertaken to develop a detailed delivery plan which includes accessing funding to support boroughs in this work and to support with resident awareness activities and decentralised energy programmes.

A Carbon Management progress report setting out what has already been done (or is currently in progress), will be coming to the January ECS PDS meeting.

18. From Lynn Sharman to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation and Housing

The closure of the Walnuts Leisure Centre and redevelopment, for two years, will effect mental health, physical fitness and community well being. Why can we not build a new bigger leisure prior to closure of the old one to keep the community happy and healthy?

Reply:

The Walnuts site is considered the best location for a leisure centre. Given the scale of the building works proposed as part of the Areli development it is not practically and financially feasible to build the new leisure centre first prior to the closure of the old site.

(D) Questions for Written Reply from a Councillor

(1) From Cllr Nicholas Bennett MA JP to the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Commissioning and Contract Management

To ask the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Commissioning and Contract Management if he will set out in table format what the council tax would be for each council tax band in 2022-23 if it was increased by 1%, 2% and 3%?

(2) From Cllr Nicholas Bennett MA JP to the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Commissioning and Contract Management

To ask the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Commissioning and Contract Management if he will set out in table format what the council tax would be for each council tax band in 2022-23 if in addition to an increase of 0%,1%, 2% and 3%, the GLA increased their precept by 5% or 10%?

Reply (both questions):

See attached sheet.

Given the London Mayors recent consultation on his 2022/23 Budget which represents a potential increase in GLA precept of 8.8%, additional information has been added to the response below to reflect this.