

Council - 6th December 2021

Questions from Members of the Council for Written Reply

1. From Cllr Kieran Terry to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Services

What was LB Bromley's recycling rate in 2020-21 and how did we compare to other neighbouring boroughs?

Reply:

47.6% of Bromley's household waste was recycled in 2020/21. It is worth noting that this recycling rate has not been audited and verified by Central Government as yet, with the final national recycling dataset for 2020/21 expected to be published in December 2020/21.

Therefore, it is not possible to compare 2020/21 data with other local authorities.

2. From Cllr Kieran Terry to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Services

How much waste did LB Bromley send to landfill between July and September 2021?

Reply:

0.03% or 12.6 tonnes of waste were sent to landfill between July and September 2021 of the 40,312 tonnes of waste and recycling managed by Bromley Council during the same period.

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

Please provide a breakdown of the Council's use of Agency Staff, showing person days and net cost, by month from April 2020 to as recently as figures are available, broken down by Adult Social Care, Children's Social Care, other EHCS, ECS and other. Please also show the number of employees in FTE with the same breakdown.

Reply:

See Appendix 1 (to follow)

4. From Cllr Ian Dunn to the Chairman of General Purposes and Licensing Committee

Please provide the total number of electors in each of the new wards, and also the number of electors in each new ward who have a postal vote.

Reply:

Unfortunately, we are unable at this stage of the process to provide the information the Councillor has requested.

The polling district review has been approved by Members, but we still need to input the details into our electoral management software in readiness for the publication of the revised register (on the new boundaries) on 1 February 2022.

This part of the process could not be done before the polling district boundaries were finalised. Furthermore, it will take some time to input the details and thoroughly check the data to ensure accuracy.

In the meantime, we can only work with the projected 2025 electorate figures used by the Local Government Boundary Commission (LGBC) in regard to their (ward) review. These details were provided by the LGBC on their website and also in the Acting Returning Officer's initial proposals (published on the Council's website).

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

How much has been spent by the Council on the public realm of Bromley's town centre since 2014? Please provide a detailed breakdown.

Reply:

The capital records of outturn go back to 2017. Since 2017 £3,022,475 has been spent on Bromley High Street broken down as follows:

Sum of Amount	Financial Year				
Subjective No. & Name	2018	2019	2020	2021	Grand Total
C001 - Contract Payments (Main Contractor)	344,722	1,106,160	1,113,046	169,476	2,733,403
C004 - Consultants Fees (Other)		28,434	54,543	100,861	183,838
C029 - Miscellaneous Expenses	65,953		7,220	400	73,573
C033 - Salaries	31,662				31,662
Grand Total	442,337	1,134,594	1,174,807	270,737	3,022,475

6. From Cllr Angela Wilkins to the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Commissioning & Contract Management

In relation to government COVID funding for a) Local Support Grants and b) Winter Grants, please provide details of the following:

- The number of families receiving food vouchers and the average total value of vouchers given to each family;
- The number of households who received vouchers but were not identified as in receipt of the pupil premium or free school meals;
- The number of households and the average amount paid to them by a medium other than food vouchers.

Reply:

The Council does not hold data in the format requested. The Children, Education and Families Directorate has, through working in partnership with schools, supported approximately 9,000 pupils with £15 per week supermarket vouchers for each of the school holiday periods since Covid grant funding was introduced. Officers do not hold a

breakdown by numbers of families. Approximately 20% of the c9,000 pupils were supported through eligibility criteria other than Pupil Premium or Free School Meals, including those who are Children in Need.

Support has also been made available from the Housing Department, funded through the Covid grants for residents who have suffered financial hardship because of the coronavirus pandemic. Excluding the support of food vouchers, the total spend on other assistance has been c£285k between 804 people, for an average of approximately £355 per person.

In addition, our Early Intervention Services (EIS) staff have also supported the issuing of food parcels via the corporate COVID response team for many families.

EIS staff have not only provided some food parcels but have also provided other types of support to families such as children's activity packs, swap-shop clothing parcels, stationery sets for children returning to school, identification of children who could be eligible for support with the 'access to computers' initiative from the Department of Education.

Any family that we support in situations may potentially be eligible for practical support via Section 17 of the Children act. This support could include the practical provision of food if appropriate in emergency situations. We would not routinely keep a record of exactly how we spend s17 monies because this type of support is not uncommon. Where feasible we would also sign-post families to local charities or foodbanks for longer term support. All interventions would focus on ensuring that children and young people have access to appropriate types of food and in sufficient quantity.

7. From Cllr Josh King to the Portfolio Holder for Environment & Community Services

How many visits to the area around Birkbeck Bridge have been made by the Council's staff and its contractors in the last 12 months to either clean pigeon waste or clear water from the blocked drains.

Reply:

Elmer's End Road is scheduled for a weekly carriageway cleanse and twice weekly footway cleanse. Outside of that intervening cleanses with a jet wash have been undertaken at the start of each month.

Regards drainage, there have been 4 visits by the service provider in the past 12 months that undertook drainage cleansing in this location. The most recent visit was overnight on 19th November 2021 and Highways are reviewing the outcome report.

8. From Cllr Kathy Bance MBE to the Portfolio Holder for Environment & Community Services

Can you give an update on the KSI figures by Bromley roads over the past 3 years?

Reply:

Officers are in the process of analysing collision casualty data and prioritising locations for potential safety schemes, based on a cost-benefit analysis, so that we can prevent the greatest number of casualties per pound spent. I have asked Officers to share this work with you as soon as possible, which should be in the next few weeks.

9. From Cllr Kathy Bance MBE to the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education & Families

Can you advise the number and ethnicity of pupils who were permanently excluded from Bromley Schools over the past 2 years in comparison with the previous two years?

Reply:

Permanent exclusions have reduced by 42% when comparing the past 2 years, with the previous 2-year period. The rate of permanent exclusion in Bromley is now 0.04, which is 50% below the national average of 0.06. The Bromley rate of exclusion of all ethnic groups is at or below the national average. The attached table ([Appendix 2](#)) provides a breakdown of permanent exclusions by ethnicity with the national average comparator.

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

Could you please provide a monthly breakdown, covering the past four years up to the most recent month for which data is available, detailing:

- The number of people presenting to the council as homeless;
- The number of people the council placed into temporary or permanent; accommodation following their presenting as homeless;
- The number of people who were placed in accommodation outside of the borough;
- The reasons why any resident who presented to the council as homeless was not placed in accommodation.

Reply:

	2019/20	2020/21	2021 / October 21
Number of Approaches	2081	1074	1918
New TA Placements	781	773	483
Proportion of new placements in Borough	27%	18%	22%

** please note that this information has been taken from a new Housing system introduced in 2019. Historic data can be retrieved although will require additional time to compile. All Housing statistics can also be found at www.gov.uk

There are a number of reasons that someone who presents as homeless may not be placed into temporary / or permanent accommodation.

- They may have accommodation available for their occupation in the immediate / short term, for example where a notice has been served but does not expire for some time.
- The Housing Options team may intervene and stave off an eviction, for example negotiation with a family member in the event of a parental / relative eviction.
- They may be offered but turn down an offer of either temporary / permanent accommodation.
- They may not be eligible for assistance i.e. because of their status or due to an existing connection with another Local Authority.

11. From Cllr Vanessa Allen to the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education & Families

Please provide details of how and when the remaining £435k of Holiday Activity & Food grant monies will be distributed.

Reply:

The Holiday Activities and Food programme has been a great success in Bromley, running for the first time in 2021, with positive feedback received from families and professionals.

Due to Covid restrictions and Public Health advice at the time, a scaled down programme was provided at Easter through our Youth Hubs. For our summer programme, Bromley was able to facilitate over 10,000 individual attendances by our eligible children, covering all of the Borough geographically, whilst targeting areas with

higher levels of deprivation. Additionally, we successfully applied to the DfE to release additional funding for our most vulnerable children and young people.

In accordance with the strict grant conditions, the Council does not receive a direct allocation and is only able to draw down grant retrospectively to cover eligible expenditure, up to a maximum figure. The Council has no discretion to provide HAF funds directly to families or allocate grants to other programmes and will draw down the maximum grant possible to provide our well received HAF programme.

Bromley's HAF winter programme has now been published, incorporating 14 experienced providers and an exciting range of activities for all ages and all wards of the Borough.

12. From Cllr Vanessa Allen to the Portfolio Holder for Adult Care and Health

Under grant monies for the clinically extremely vulnerable, how many households (or individuals) received food parcels in 2020-21 and how many additional/new staff were employed to distribute these parcels? During 2021-22, how many LBB staff were employed on the Shielding, Volunteering and Assistance Programme and how many new staff were recruited for this work?

Reply:

During 2020/21 under the shielding, volunteering and assistance programme, of the 21,903 clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) residents in Bromley, 3201 of them indicated a support need. Of those residents, the majority received a food parcel from the government directly during Wave 1 of the pandemic. A total of 259 households received food parcels provided by Bromley Council (either because their government supplied food parcel had not arrived on time or because of ongoing dietary needs that could not be met by the regular government supplied parcel).

No additional staff were employed to distribute these parcels – the delivery was made entirely through volunteers. LBB mobilised 1307 volunteers to support with food deliveries, grocery shopping, prescription collections and befriending.

A total of 140 LBB staff were at some point employed through informal secondments to the programme over the two waves, mostly on a part time basis of 1 or 2 days per week. No new staff were recruited for this work.

A proportion of the grant funding was provided through LBB to the Voluntary Sector (food support organisations) who were also delivering food parcels separately. A total of 155 referrals to the food organisations were made directly through the programme but many thousands of parcels were provided to vulnerable residents during the pandemic by the food support organisations.

13. From Cllr Ryan Thompson to the Leader of the Council/Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation & Housing

Please provide a schedule of the Council's communications with Emma Raducanu in relation to consideration of awarding her the Freedom of the Borough.

Reply:

13 th September	LL emailed CH	Generally, about borough wanting to celebrate Emma and asking for discussion and feedback on the options.
17 th September	LL emailed CH	Generally, about borough wanting to celebrate Emma and asking for discussion and feedback on the options.
21 st September	CS wrote to ER	Generally, about borough wanting to celebrate Emma and asking for discussion and feedback on the options.
15 th October	LL emailed CH	Asking if they would like the Council to stop making contact with them on this matter as no responses had been received.
15 th October	CH emailed LL	First response, asking for more details.
15 th October	LL emailed CH	Detailing five suggestions: mural, Christmas lights switch on, ceremonial response, meet and greet with young people, or open bus tour.
18 th October	CH emailed LL	Confirm they are considering the most low-key options and asking for details on the Christmas lights switch on option.
19 th October	LL emailed CH	Switch on date confirmed.
20 th October	LL emailed CH	Confirming a ceremonial response to ER's achievements are being considered but that the Council wants to respect ER's views on how the borough celebrates her.
20 th October	CH emailed LL	Acknowledges and says will come back to us.
8 th November	LL emailed CH	Chasing whether ER turning on Christmas lights.

11 th November	CH emailed LL	Confirmed ER not available to turn on Christmas lights. No response on other options.
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14. From Cllr Ryan Thompson to the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Commissioning and Contract Management

Please provide examples of how and when the Council's social value policy and strategy have influenced or affected the commissioning of services.

Reply:

As set out in the Social Value Act (2012), consideration of social value is most effective at the pre-procurement stage in the design of the service. Prior to procurement, Officers must complete a Gateway report setting out the business case and key considerations for the proposed procurement. This report includes a requirement to set out how social value has been considered in both the design of the service and the proposed procurement – social value considerations should influence every proposed procurement.

An example would be the Primary and Secondary Intervention Service in which social value considerations influenced the design of the service, including the development of greater community based support to service users as well as strengthening the role and support to Bromley third sector providers. These considerations were set out in the subsequent specification and evaluation process.

Social value policy can also directly influence the evaluation and contract award process for each tender. The tender evaluation policy recommends that Officers consider social value when setting quality evaluation criteria, including where appropriate a specific question with suitable weighting.

Recent examples would include the tender for Environmental Services which included evaluation criteria on the economic, environmental and social sustainability impact of provider proposals, accounting for 10% of the overall marks, as well as being embedded (recycling, waste reduction) within other evaluation criteria. Similarly, the recent Supported Living for Adults with Learning Disabilities tender included specific evaluation criteria on the economic, social and environmental opportunities for added value and innovation within their proposals.

For lower value contracts, the Local Rules OK policy has even more impact, especially on the social value aim of supporting the local economy. Local Rules OK is a requirement to ensure, as far as possible, that a Request for Quotes process includes at least one Bromley based provider.

15. From Cllr Nicholas Bennett to the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Commissioning and Contract Management

If he will show in graph form the amount of grant received from central government for each London Borough and the Council tax levied in band D for each London Borough in 2020-21?

Reply:

See [Appendix 3](#) attached.

16. From Cllr Nicholas Bennett to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Services

How many tonnes of waste was recycled by the Council in the latest year for which records are available and what percentage of total waste this represents and it compares with each of the other London Boroughs?

Reply:

The up to date and published Government recycling data for 2019/20 is summarised below for Bromley and its neighbouring boroughs:

Council	Total Waste Recycled in 2019/20 (tonnes)	Household Recycling Rate 2019/20
Bromley	62804	50.90%
Bexley	51313	54.20%
Croydon	58419	49.20%
Lewisham	26106	26.60%
Southwark	38940	35.10%
Greenwich	34038	33.20%