

Council**11th April 2022****Questions from Members of the Public for Oral Reply****1. From Freddie Price to the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Families**

What is the percentage change on funding for youth centres & services in Bromley since 2010 and how many new youth centres and programs have been opened and how many have been closed during this period?

2. From Alisa Igoe to the Leader of the Council

Reference: The Local Government Association - Impact of in-person council meetings survey: October – November 2021 -“Almost three quarters of respondents (73%) thought that attendance by members of the public is lower since returning to in-person council meetings.”

As a regular attendee in the public gallery I've always been surprised at how few residents attend to watch Council committee meetings. Would you agree that providing live streamed meetings to enable residents, including carers and those unable to access the chamber, to watch from home, would be a logical and excellent improvement?

3. From Tony McPartlan to the Portfolio Holder for Public Protection and Enforcement

I welcome the introduction of the Enviro-crime reward against fly tipping (https://www.bromley.gov.uk/news/article/2847/enviro-crime_reward_against_fly_tipping) but why should residents have any confidence that their information about fly-tips will lead to a prosecution when there was only one fly-tipping prosecution in the whole of 2021/22?

4. From Jessica Arnold to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation and Housing

Empty shop units are a blight on high streets and local parades - as well as being unsightly and causing building problems if left long term, they are an opportunity wasted towards creating vibrant local areas with shopping and eateries of choice.

Does Bromley Council have any incentive schemes to avoid persistent empty shop units? If so, what are these and where can more information for businesses be found? And if not, is Bromley Council willing to scope and consider introducing such measures to help reduce empty units by retaining and attracting local businesses?

5. From Helen Brookfield to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Services

Does Bromley Council have an Officer responsible for ensuring that there are safe walking routes to schools, shops and local amenities that meet the needs of all pedestrians including those with sight/hearing loss, people with mobility issues/slower walking speeds, wheelchair users, carers with young children and children?

6. From Jeremy Adams to the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Commissioning and Contract Management

Will Bromley Council commit to remaining debt free for the 2022-2026 term? Or would borrowing become necessary?

7. From Freddie Price to the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Families

What is the Council doing to provide preschool and school aged children with activities outside of the home and school curriculum to help progress childhood development and to tackle the current rise in anti-social behaviour in the Borough?

8. From Alisa Igoe to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation & Housing

Reference: Gov.uk Spring Statement 2022 - "To help the most vulnerable households with the cost of essentials such as food, clothing and utilities, the government is also providing an additional £500 million for the Household Support Fund from April, on top of the £500 million already provided since October 2021, bringing total funding to £1 billion."

During their first £1.8million tranche, Bromley experienced high demand, adjusting its response time from 5 days to 3 weeks, then to 6 weeks. I believe extra staff were enlisted to operate it midway through. Does the Council have the appropriate number of staff to work on this second tranche from April and what will be the guaranteed response time?

9. From Tony McPartlan to the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Commissioning and Contract Management

Rising household bills are likely to hit millions of people hard, none more so than care leavers. In light of this, will the Council reconsider its decision not to exempt care leavers from paying council tax?

10. From Helen Brookfield to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Services

Having recently read Bromley's Council's 3 year Local Implementation Plan for the period from 2019-2022, I was very disappointed to note that very few, if any, of the stated objectives and plans to improve conditions for pedestrians and cyclists and reduce car journeys have yet been met or carried out in the Beckenham area, where I live. What actions will the Council now be taking to ensure that they meet their own objectives and aims?