

Appendix D

Council

28th February 2022

Questions from Members of the Council for Written Reply

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

Over the last two years how much have parking charges increased by in the borough?

Reply:

Parking Charges are reviewed every 4 years, with the last review being completed in 2019/20, a review is currently programmed to next take place in 2022/23.

2. From Cllr Kieran Terry to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation and Housing

How does Bromley compare with other London Boroughs in terms of the number of families housed in temporary accommodation? Please provide a graph or table detailing these figures.

Reply:

See Appendix 1.

3. From Cllr Kim Botting to the Portfolio Holder for Adult Care and Health

If the Council meets its externally imposed housing target and the new homes are spread evenly across the borough will there be sufficient GPs, Dentists and other Primary Care facilities in the Orpington Ward area? If there is predicted to be a shortfall what plans are in place to increase the capacity in the Orpington Ward area?

Reply:

The CCG has responsibility, delegated from NHS England, for commissioning local general practice (GP) services in Bromley. I have therefore been in contact with Dr Angela Bhan, Bromley Borough Director ,SEL CCG and she has provided the following statement.

"We are aware of the externally imposed housing targets; they will pose some pressures and challenges across health services, not only in terms of premises, but also workforce.

The NHS in Bromley and Bromley Council are working together and with other partners to address these issues. The CCG team in Bromley has set up an Estates

Board, which is developing a strategy that reviews and considers how we meet the primary care needs of new residents, both currently and into the future. The Board has so far established eleven work streams which include

- maximising current health space, such as seeking out new premises or expanding current sites
- exploring Digital options for people to access primary care
- support Primary Care Networks (PCNs), which are groups of general practices working together, to use their estate flexibly to best effect

Most of our current GP sites have reached or are reaching full capacity, with some in need of improvement works or new sites. However, all GP practices in Bromley still have their lists open so new residents can register with them.

We have recently undertaken detailed local estate reviews and plans for all Bromley PCNs. We have a good understanding of all the pinch points in Bromley and where expansion or different estates' solutions may be needed. The detailed health planning exercise allows for growth from some of the larger proposed housing developments as well as other sources of population growth. Various short and long term solutions to the primary care capacity issues are being identified and worked through.

The broad outcome of the estates plans, including for the Orpington area, shows that we will need more general practice capacity over the coming years to meet the population's needs.

We recognise that we may not be able to find or build new GP premises nor extend existing ones, so we are reviewing other options, as have been already mentioned. Improvements such as digitalisation of records enables space to be freed up for conversion to clinical areas. In addition, PCNs are working more closely on sharing activities (clinical services) as well as hot desking for back office staff, etc.

We are in the process of making a formal response on the most recent large development proposed in Orpington town centre, which is due by 25th of February. We have had some discussions with Bromley Council officers and the developers. We will need to carefully manage accommodation of the potential number of new patients with local GP Practices, especially as up to 19% of the units might be senior living units. As stated, we are looking at a range of options to mitigate these challenges. We will require additional resources to help to expand and reconfigure the local health facilities and implement new ways of working.“

4. From Cllr Ian Dunn to the Portfolio Holder for Adult Care & Health

Please provide the number of Safeguarding Adult Reviews the Bromley Safeguarding Adults Board has produced in each calendar year for the last five years. Also, please provide the number of Safeguarding Adult Reviews which are currently in progress?

Reply:

Two Safeguarding Adult Reviews commenced in 2019, one completed in 2019 and the other completed in 2021.

Two are currently in progress and one is awaiting a decision regarding whether it should be progressed as a Safeguarding Adult Review.

5. From Cllr Ian Dunn to the Portfolio Holder for Adult Care & Health

Please provide the number of clients of the Adult Learning Disabilities Service, broken down by those receiving residential care, those in supported living, those living at home and others, as at the end of 2021. Please also provide the annual cost for each of the groups.

Reply:

The total number of adults with a Learning Disability receiving a service at the end of year 2021 was 739. Of those 305 were living in Supported Living at a total annual cost of £18,005k, 214 were living in Residential Care at a total annual cost of £16,501k and 220 were being supported at home or in other settings at a total annual cost of £10,120k.

6. From Cllr Simon Jeal to the Mayor

Could you please confirm which councillors were invited to attend the Holocaust Memorial service on 27th January 2022? Also, please confirm which councillors attended the service?

Reply:

Due to the ongoing pandemic, and as there were a number of guests from the local Community, it was agreed that the invitations to Councillors would be limited.

In addition to myself and the Deputy Mayor, three Members were in attendance at the service – Councillors Kathy Bance MBE, Colin Smith and Diane Smith. A further nine Members were invited but did not attend – Councillors Mike Botting, Peter Fortune, William Huntington-Thresher, Kate Lymer, Peter Morgan, Angela Page, Michael Rutherford, Melanie Stevens and Angela Wilkins.

7. From Cllr Kathy Bance MBE to the Portfolio Holder for Adult Care & Health

Is Bromley Council withdrawing the cheque-paying options for most services? As this raises some problems for some elderly and disabled people who do not use internet banking or have smart phones? If so, payment process will replace this system so that we do not ignore the Disability Discrimination Act?

Reply:

I have been advised that there is no plan to withdraw cheques as methods of payment.

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

The recent fly tipping and the recycling for flats above shops pilots have closed. The statistics show a positive outcome but, our residents have seen no improvement. Is there a plan B to address either of these issues?

Reply:

The Your Waste is Your Responsibility Campaign is a long running campaign that aims to encourage businesses and residents to dispose of their waste responsibly. It is one of several actions detailed in the Council's Fly-tipping Action Plan.

The element of the campaign that is being referred to in this question is a face-to-face engagement exercise that took place in two areas of the borough, to ensure that residents are aware of all the services that can be accessed to dispose of waste responsibly. The early results were positive with just under a 70% decrease in fly-tipping incidents following the campaign in the areas targeted. The full results will be available in the next few weeks and once these have been reviewed, the next steps for the campaign will be developed. It is also worth noting that the campaign is just one of the actions within the Council's Fly-tipping Action Plan.

Unfortunately, information gathered from the flats above shops pilot indicated that it would not be financially or environmentally viable to provide a 'flats above shops' recycling service. However, the Council continues to investigate other ways of making it easier to recycle for people who live in flats above shops. In the meantime, residents can continue to use recycling sites across the borough.

9. From Cllr Angela Wilkins to the Leader of the Council

Unlike a number of councils, Bromley does not provide funding for political groups to employ an assistant. However, six members of the Executive have "Executive Assistants" who currently each receive a special responsibility allowance of £3,746. Does he agree that it would be in the interests of democracy for the largest opposition party to have the option to make a similar appointment?

Reply:

No I don't.

An Executive Assistant's function is to assist an Executive Councillor in the execution of the work they undertake on behalf of Bromley's residents.

It is most emphatically not to fund work on behalf of any political party, whether it be the Conservative, Independent or Labour Group.

10. From Cllr Angela Wilkins to the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Commissioning and Contract Management

How much has been spent in each of the last ten years on maintenance of a) commercial properties purchased via the Investment & Growth Funds and b) other properties owned by the Council?

Reply:

The properties held within the Investment Fund were acquired between April 2012 and July 2017.

During that time the properties have been let on full repairing and insuring leases, meaning that any maintenance liabilities sat with the occupying tenants, and not the Council.

Therefore £0 has been spent in the last ten years on maintenance.

With regards to other properties owned by the Council, regrettably Finance colleagues can only reference the Council's repairs and maintenance expenditure from 2016/17 at this time. The expenditure for these years is detailed below:

16/17 £2.330m

17/18 £2.135m

18/19 £2.094m

19/20 £1.978m

20/21 £2.117m

21/22 £3.255m (projected)

11. From Cllr Josh King to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation & Housing

How many people have joined the housing waiting list who were previous housing association tenants?

Reply:

The housing waiting list comprises of both general waiting list and housing association transfer lists for those housing association who have joined the allocation as a common register. This includes Clarion Housing Association. The housing legislation requires assessment of the last 5 years housing history and whilst this information is held and assessed on each individual case file, It is not possible to provide the information requested in a collated reportable format.

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

If he will set out in table format the % council tax increases for each London Borough for 2022-23?

Reply:

	2022-23			
	% General (Band D)	% ASC Precept (Band D)	Total (Band D)	Rank (Band D)
	%	%	%	
Barking & Dagenham	1.99%	1.00%	2.99%	13
Barnet	0.00%	1.00%	1.00%	3
Bexley	1.99%	1.00%	2.99%	13
Brent	1.99%	1.00%	2.99%	13
Bromley	0.00%	1.00%	1.00%	3
Camden	1.99%	1.00%	2.99%	13
City of London	1.00%	0.00%	1.00%	3
Croydon	1.99%	1.00%	2.99%	13
Ealing	1.99%	1.00%	2.99%	13
Enfield	0.00%	1.00%	1.00%	3
Greenwich	1.99%	1.00%	2.99%	13
Hackney	1.99%	1.00%	2.99%	13
Hammersmith & Fulham	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	2
Haringey	1.99%	1.00%	2.99%	13
Harrow	1.99%	1.00%	2.99%	13
Havering	1.99%	1.00%	2.99%	13
Hillingdon	0.90%	1.00%	1.90%	9
Hounslow	1.99%	1.00%	2.99%	13
Islington	1.99%	1.00%	2.99%	13
Kensington & Chelsea	0.99%	1.00%	1.99%	11
Kingston-upon-Thames	0.99%	1.00%	1.99%	11
Lambeth	1.99%	1.00%	2.99%	13
Lewisham	1.99%	1.00%	2.99%	13
Merton	1.99%	1.00%	2.99%	13
Newham	1.99%	1.00%	2.99%	13
Redbridge	1.99%	1.00%	2.99%	13
Richmond-upon-Thames	0.94%	1.00%	1.94%	10
Southwark	1.99%	1.00%	2.99%	13
Sutton	1.99%	1.00%	2.99%	13

Tower Hamlets	0.00%	1.00%	1.00%	3
Waltham Forest	1.99%	1.00%	2.99%	13
Wandsworth	-1.00%	0.00%	-1.00%	1
Westminster	0.00%	1.00%	1.00%	3

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

If he will set out in table format the debt for each London Borough for 2022-23, the percentage of each council tax bill which is for debt servicing and the money cost for a Band D council taxpayer?

Reply:

See Appendix 2.

14. From Cllr Tony Owen to the Chairman of Development Control Committee

In the last 5 years how many flats (including conversions from offices) have been built or granted planning permission in Orpington? What is figure for houses with gardens?

Reply:

We do not have a breakdown of housing delivery to show how many flats or houses with gardens were delivered, nor do we have a specific breakdown of delivery for Orpington. The Government's live tables on net additional housing supply, specifically table 123, sets out total net additional housing delivery in Bromley between 2012/13 and 2020/21. This supply is broken down into different components of supply, including new build, conversions and housing delivered through permitted development rights. The live table can be accessed here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1035592/Live_Table_123.ods Individual years can be accessed by clicking the tabs at the bottom of the spreadsheet.

15. From Cllr Tony Owen to the Portfolio Holder for Adult Care and Health

Following my wife's collapse at home with a perforated bowel, the ambulance service not being able to provide transport for the necessary emergency operation, no response from 13 calls to 111 and A&E not recognising an emergency if the person does not arrive by ambulance, do you have any plans to review the availability of local medical infrastructure?

Reply:

I am very sorry to hear about your recent experience of NHS Services.

As I believe you are aware I have been in contact with Dr Angela Bhan the Bromley Borough Board Director, SEL CCG , who will respond to us in due course with

regard to the concerns you have raised. These issues may with the agreement of the Chairman be something that the Health Scrutiny Sub Committee would like to consider.