

Council**18th July 2022****Questions from Members of the Council for Oral Reply****1. From Councillor Sam Webber to the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Commissioning and Contract management**

Now that the problematic microphones in the Council Chamber have been replaced, will the Portfolio Holder now move ahead with making recordings of Council meetings available online to residents where they are already welcome to attend in person in the gallery. If not why not and if not now when?

2. From Councillor Will Connolly to the Portfolio Holder for Sustainability, Green Services and Open Spaces

Will the Portfolio Holder now urgently consider installing air quality monitors at all schools so that we can measure the effectiveness of current measures to improve air quality, measure the performance of new measures introduced and share good practice between schools.”

3. From Cllr Kevin Kennedy-Brooks to the Portfolio Holder for Adult Care and Health

Will the Portfolio Holder agree that a large number of Bromley's carers are relatives?

4. From Cllr Igoe to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation and Housing

On 9 November 2021 the Portfolio Holder answered my query on the amount remaining within the Welfare Fund - “balance as at 1 April 2020 of £639k. During 2020/21, £147k was drawn down, leaving a balance of £492k as at 31 March 2021.” Could you please tell me how many funds have been used since that date to assist Bromley families and how much remains?

5. From Cllr Kathy Bance MBE to the Portfolio Holder for Public Protection and Enforcement

Sutton Council have achieved a White Ribbon Accreditation in its commitment to reduce VAWG and this was raised as a key issue at the VAWG Roundtable event you attended in February. Does Bromley Council have the same aspirations to achieve a White Ribbon Accreditation?

6. From Cllr Tony McPartlan to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation and Housing:

I note from recent Audit Sub-Committee minutes that ‘...audit had made the observation that the information provided on the Council website was inadequate for people to properly navigate and find solutions to their various [housing] needs.’

When can we expect this information to be online so that some of our most vulnerable residents have access to the information that they desperately need?

7. From Cllr Josh King to the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Commissioning and Contracts Management

Can the Portfolio Holder give a list of open posts across the Council broken down by department/job function and indicate those posts which have been open for (a) 3 months and (b) 6 months?

8. From Cllr Rebecca Wiffen to the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Families

Following the last minute changes to the SEND transport reports and policies issued on 15th June this year, what policy vetting procedures have you now put in place to ensure that policies are not based on incorrect or out-of-date information?

9. From Cllr Chris Price to the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Families

Hard working parents in Bromley, earning just above the income level to be able to access free school meals and other benefits, are reporting that some Academies are putting up prices on breakfast and after-school clubs, for some families with more than one child by over £700 a year (a 20% rise). Many families do not have the flexibility or savings to meet this demand.

In a time of the worst cost of living crisis since the second world war, will Bromley Council commit to step in to support families affected by these increased charges in these extraordinary times?

10. From Cllr Simon Jeal to the Portfolio Holder for Sustainability, Green Services and Open Spaces

Bromley Council owns around 70 Childrens' playgrounds across the Borough, how many of these playgrounds have equipment that is designed and accessible for children with disabilities in them?

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

With regard to delays in signing off Bromley Council's accounts, auditor EY has commented: "The Council's finance team has been run on lean principles, with limited capacity to support the reporting process". Can the Portfolio Holder please confirm numbers of staff (FTE) employed to support the reporting process at year end 2019, 2020, 2021 and today?

12. From Cllr Simon Fawthrop to the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Commissioning and Contract Management

How much is the cost of holding an additional meeting of a PDS committee in the Council Chamber including the notional value to hire the Council Chamber, postering (including web page updates), heating, lighting, sound systems, printing and distribution of agendas, staff preparation and attendance (including security)?

13. From Cllr Chloe-Jane Ross to the Leader of the Council

Only two Councils in England and Wales are not members of the Local Government Association (LGA) and Bromley is one of them. The LGA provides a range of benefits to Councillors including training, support for political groups, and shared working across issues Councils wish to influence. Can the Council reconsider, by canvassing Councillors individually, its membership of the Local Government Association?

14. From Cllr Adam Grant to the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety

What is the current position regarding Local Implementation Plan (LIP) funding from TfL for 2022-23?

15. From Cllr Colin Hitchins to the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety

What proposals are there to improve road safety outside Lessons' Primary School?

16. From Cllr Kevin Kennedy-Brooks to the Chairman of Development Control Committee

When being consulted on large Planning applications in industrial or trading areas how do Planning officers assess the economic and employment affect?

17. From Cllr Chloe-Jane Ross to the Chairman of General Purposes and Licensing Committee

All voters should be able to cast their votes at polling stations if they wish. We have heard of disabled residents having difficulty accessing polling stations in the recent local election. Please will the portfolio holder confirm which polling stations were not step free or required temporary step free solutions (such as ramps), how voters requiring step free assistance could request it on arrival to the polling station, and how many complaints were received about polling station inaccessibility for the May 22 election.

18. From Cllr Adam Grant to the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety

What restrictions are placed by TfL on the Council in respect of Local Implementation Plan (LIP) funding?