

**DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE  
27 SEPTEMBER 2022**

**THE FOLLOWING QUESTION HAS BEEN SUBMITTED FOR ORAL REPLY**

**From Councillor Alisa Igoe:**

**Question:** The pandemic has caused significant changes in the shopping habits of our residents and footfall has been lower than previously experienced in our main shopping areas. Could the Chairman please give me her views on the current trend for owners of retail establishments in Bromley High Street to request change of use to residential for all, or part, of their retail space/ancillary retail space and should the Council now be considering encouraging a multi-purpose environment with a mix of office, residential, leisure and cultural amenities right in the centre of Bromley?

**Reply:**

Planning policy at a local, London and national level already supports a mix of commercial, leisure and residential uses in town centre locations. Any application for residential use in a town centre, either solely residential or residential as part of a mixed-use development, would be assessed on its merits, including assessment of any adverse impacts on the commercial function of the town centre (for example, through the loss of commercial space) and also any benefits such as additional housing supply. With regard to Bromley Town Centre specifically, it is noted that this is a designated opportunity area in the Local Plan and London Plan, with an indicative target of delivering 2,500 homes and 2,000 jobs, reflecting the fact that the town centre is, in principle, an area suitable for a mix of uses.