

**RENEWAL, RECREATION AND HOUSING PDS COMMITTEE  
4 OCTOBER 2022**

**QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**1. From Councillor Julie Ireland to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation and Housing**

Judging from the number of vacant retail premises in Bromley High Street, our town centre seems to be finding it more difficult to recover from Covid than many other London Boroughs. I have lodged my concerns about current state of the High Street including various cases of litter, stained pavements, dying trees and plants, tarmacked repairs where paving stones should have been used, and trip hazards on crossings. Would the Portfolio Holder agree that presenting a High Street in such a poor state cannot help the efforts to attract new businesses and outline what steps are being taken to urgently improve the appearance of our town centre?"

**Reply:**

Bromley High Street has been affected by a high representation of chain retail which was particularly badly hit by the recent Covid pandemic and changes in consumer behaviour.

We have been working with *Your Bromley*, the Bromley BID, to help the High Street recover as quickly as possible. Examples of initiatives to revitalise our local economy include use of some of the Additional Restrictions Grant to incentivise businesses to move into vacant units in the borough and also successfully bidding for £140K from the GLA's High Streets for All Challenge, which will be wholly directed to projects aimed at revitalising Bromley High Street.

We are also committed to maintaining the appearance the town centre. In answer to the specific points raised :

- Unfortunately, the plants and trees were badly affected by the hot weather during the summer even though additional measures were introduced to protect them. They will be replanted for the autumn.
- Temporary tarmac reinstatement areas exist where utilities have carried works, but these will be replaced with natural stone materials shortly
- The Council has a weekly cleaning schedule for the town, in addition to which *Your Bromley* BID provides regular jet washing of the High Street.

A panel is arranged for 21 September 2022 for Heads of relevant Council service teams and *Your Bromley* to discuss the high street environment and public realm.

## **2. From Carol Pitman to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation and Housing**

How does the Council monitor its compliance with the National Planning Policy Framework, to provide a range of homes to meet the needs of present and future generations?

### **Reply:**

The National Planning Policy Framework has no specific monitoring indicators; it is national planning policy which informs the production of Development Plan policies. In Bromley, the Development Plan consists of the London Plan and the Local Plan.

The Local Plan is monitored through the Authority's Monitoring Report (AMR); production of the AMR is a statutory requirement although there is no statutory requirement to produce monitoring reports at certain intervals. A new AMR is currently being worked but you can see previous AMRs here:  
<https://www.bromley.gov.uk/planning-policy/authority-monitoring-reports-housing-trajectory>

The London Plan monitoring report can be viewed here:  
<https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning/implementing-london-plan/monitoring-london-plan>

In addition, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities produces a range of statistics relating to housing -  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/local-authority-housing-data>