

Council**12 December 2022****Questions from Members of the Council for Oral Reply****1. From Cllr Mark Smith to the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Commissioning and Contract Management**

Could he please outline the checks that are made to ensure people virtually attending Part 2 discussions at committee meetings are entitled to?

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

An eye-watering £164.4m is required to refurbish our operational property portfolio to a minimum standard. Whilst I appreciate there has been external cost factors at play, could we have avoided getting into this situation if we had undertaken smaller but more regular maintenance work across the portfolio in the past?

3. From Cllr Josh King to the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Commissioning and Contract Management

Beckenham Public Halls are an important and much loved community asset, used by a large number of groups. What is the Council doing to ensure it remains available to the public?

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

Bromley Healthcare was last year inspected by the CQC and rated as requiring improvement. An action plan was subsequently put in place to address this. Will the Portfolio Holder please comment on how she feels the progress is going and how confident should residents currently feel in the Care they are receiving?

5. From Cllr Ruth McGregor to the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Commissioning and Contract Management

Small businesses including nurseries and pre-schools are struggling due to the covid pandemic and the cost of living crisis, with some being forced to close. In light of this do you consider it is fair or reasonable to impose backdated rent increases on small business owners such as pre-schools who are providing services to local residents, and who will find it hard to pay an increase backdated to 2019?

6. From Cllr Graeme Casey to the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Commissioning and Contract Management

Would the Portfolio Holder agree that the Council can do no better with its money than to invest in the people and infrastructure of Bromley?

7. From Cllr Julie Ireland to the Portfolio Holder for Adult Care and Health

Does the Portfolio Holder agree that in the current extraordinary cost of living crisis we are fortunate in Bromley to have wonderful volunteer and community groups who we can call on, and that we should give them all our full support?

8. From Cllr Alisa Igoe to the Leader of the Council

Today, 28 November, Bexley, Lewisham and Southwark councils have a direct link on the front page of their website where residents are “one click” away from lists of advice on where they can access help with the cost of living crisis. Advice on food, energy debts, childcare, warm spaces, etc. Would the Leader agree with me Bromley should also have services in our borough highlighted clearly on our website front page?

9. From Cllr Simon Jeal to the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety

Following two incidents of cars hitting the same building in a two-year period, could you please provide an update on what action has been taken by council officers to address road safety issues at the junction of Maple Road and Penge High Street?

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

The timing of the operational property review combined with a crippling refurbishment bill is leaving the Council preparing to sell key assets at a time of falling asset prices. How will the Council avoid a fire sale - and could holding these assets be more beneficial in the long term?

11. From Cllr Chris Price to the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety

What action is Bromley taking to reduce pollution from motor vehicles?

12. From Cllr Alisa Igoe to the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways & Road Safety:

I believe you have disbanded Bromley’s Road Safety Panel, consisting of police, Council traffic officers, other professionals and residents. You have said the Panel, which highlighted safety issues across the borough, will be replaced by reports to Fix-My-Street and your one-off visits to wards. Could you please tell me why you have disbanded it and why ward councillors were not informed?

13. From Cllr Simon Jeal to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation and Housing

At the time of writing, the Council's pre-application advice scheme has been suspended for non-major enquiries due to 'high caseloads and short-term resourcing problems'. How many enquiries for the service have been rejected, and how much do you estimate the Council has lost in fees, as a result of the suspension?