

Council

12 December 2022

Questions from Members of the Public for Written Reply

1. From Dermot Mckibbin to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation and Housing

How many times and by how much has the budget for temporary accommodation for homeless households been exceeded in the last 4 years and which committee has authorized the extra spending? What public scrutiny at committee has taken place of this budget and if not why?

Reply:

The budget has been exceeded, in order to meet our statutory duties in respect of homelessness, in 3 out of the last 4 years as detailed below:

2018/19 - £46k overspend

2019/20 - £271k overspend

2020/21 - £234k overspend

2021/22 - £22k underspend

The draft budget is scrutinised by the Renewal Recreation and Housing PDS Committee in January of each year prior to agreement by the Executive and Full Council, and during the year there are quarterly budget monitoring reports to the Renewal Recreation and Housing PDS Committee and the Executive.

Questions received from members of the public and their answers are included within the published minutes of individual committee meetings. However these are not available in a reportable format.

2. From Dermot Mckibbin to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation and Housing

What is the budget forecast for temporary accommodation for the next four years and what the demand for homeless accommodation for the same period? What representation has the Council made to central government on this issue?

Reply:

The net budget forecast for TA would be:

2022/23 - £3,825k

2023/24 - £3,280k

2024/25 - £3,799k

2025/26 - £4,271k

2026/27 – not yet available

Please note that these budgets reflect an expected mitigation of TA growth from new housing supply schemes including Meadowship Homes acquisition scheme and Affordable Housing Development schemes.

The Council has raised the pressures regarding homelessness and temporary accommodation regularly with central government through a variety of channels including regular liaison meetings held with the GLA and DLUHC, direct visits and discussions with representatives and pan-London groups for housing and finance. The Council has also made representation as part of pan-London representations to central government through London Councils.

3. From Ric Piper to the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety

Would the Portfolio Holder consider free parking on Weekdays for those who satisfy *all* the conditions of:

- Resident in London Borough of Bromley
- Elderly
 - 70 & over - based on no longer eligible to be a Magistrate; or
 - 75 & over - based on no longer eligible to be a Juror
- Driving Licence

Valid for one car registration number.

Reply:

No.

Management of scarce road space requires charges in busy locations.

4. From Helen Alsworth to the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety

I would like the Council to consider taking action to calm and reduce traffic in Foxcroft Road now that Westgate Bridge is remaining one way access. Residents in Foxgrove Road cannot help but be concerned about the volume and speed of traffic in what was once a fairly quiet road. At school arrival and pick up times parking in the road and adjacent streets exacerbates the situation, with road rage incidents and worse. Pedestrians and cyclists are also at risk. I hope the Council will act in the interests of safety rather than prioritizing the convenience of motorists.

Reply:

If you would please contact Officers in the Traffic team (traffic@bromley.gov.uk) with any specific suggestions you might have, they will be very happy to look into the matter for us.

5. From Susan Sulis to the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety

Environment and Community Services Portfolio 2022/23 Priority 4(61): Implement a Flood Risk and Resilience Plan

The Assistant Director Highways has a wide remit, and multiple responsibilities. (a) How many professional staff are employed in the Flood Team to fulfil the Council's statutory duties regarding Flood Management? (b) What are their job titles, qualifications and responsibilities? (c) In view of the increasing threats of Climate Change, is this enough?

Reply:

The Council does not have a dedicated Flood Team, functions relating to flooding are shared between officers in the Highways and Neighbourhood Management teams.

6. From Susan Sulis to the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety

How have the Flood Team: (a) "Increased Flood Risk awareness"? (b) "Developed Resilience"? (c) "Implemented the Flood Plan"? (d) Which "other flood risk areas in the Borough have they identified"? (e) What is the definition of "serious flooding"? (f) In Seymour Drive, how many properties were flooded internally? (g) What improvements were implemented?

Reply:

The Council does not have a dedicated Flood Team

- (a) No direct action has been taken by the Council to increase flood risk awareness, a task undertaken by Thames Water and the Environment Agency
- (b) No direct action has been taken to develop flood resistance
- (c) Bromley have implemented their Flood Risk Management Plan
- (d) All flood risks areas are included in the Flood Risk Management Plan
- (e) From the local flood risk management strategy Bromley will adopt the South East London Boroughs Partnership common standard to trigger a formal flood investigation. The trigger levels are set as one or more of the following;
 - (i) 5 properties (residential or commercial) internally flooding in any one event
 - (ii) 1 or more properties flooded internally more than 3 times in a 5 year period
 - (iii) 5 gardens or more flooded with risk of internal property flooding which was only prevented by active intervention (e.g. pumps or other measures).
 - (iv) Any property flooded within a Critical Drainage Area (CDA), recognised catchment or recognised flow path
- (f) No reports were received of internal flooding
- (g) Working with local landowners the Council arranged for the Ordinary Water Course to be improved