

COUNCIL

11th MARCH 2024

MOTIONS

(A) Police Base Re-Openings

Proposed by Councillor Thomas Turrell and seconded by Councillor Hannah Gray

“The Council thanks the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, Sir Mark Rowley, for coming to Bromley last summer to present his ‘New Met for London’ plan.

This Council broadly welcomes the measures in the plan, especially the commitment to restoring community policing. In line with this, Council calls on the Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) to provide the necessary funding so the Metropolitan Police can re-open bases in Penge/ Crystal Palace and West Wickham, as well increasing the number of bases it has in the rural parts of the Borough. Council welcomes the reopening of the base at Green Street Green in Chelsfield. This will help to achieve the Commissioner’s target of ensuring that no Police officer is more than 20 minutes away from the communities which they serve.

Council also calls on the Metropolitan Police to review the bureaucracy around volunteers covering front desks at the local police bases.

In addition, this Council is concerned that too many of the Borough’s Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNTs) are based out of Bromley Police Station. As such, their ability to patrol local neighbourhoods depends on the availability of public bus transport. Council calls on MOPAC to ensure all SNTs have access to Police vehicles so they can travel to these neighbourhoods whenever necessary, not when a bus can take them.”

(B) ULEZ and the Mayor of London

Proposed by Councillor Colin Hitchins and seconded by Councillor Josh Coldspring-White

This Council believes that the best interests of the people of Bromley have not been served by the premature extension of ULEZ and profligate spending by the Mayor of London resulting in enormous increases in his precept on council taxpayers.

(C) Household Support Fund

Proposed by Councillor Alisa Igoe and seconded by Councillor Chris Price

“Council notes:

The Department for Work and Pensions launched the Household Support Fund on 6 October 2021 and has extended it three times over subsequent years, providing over £2billion for local authorities, with Bromley Council receiving £9.3million since 2021.

The Fund has provided support for the most vulnerable residents in Bromley, for essentials including food, toiletries, bedding, boiler repairs, cookers, fridges, and arrears in utility bills, rents, mortgages and Council Tax.

The Household Support Fund will close on 31 March 2024.

From 1 April 2024 the financial burden of providing crisis support to vulnerable households in Bromley will fall solely to the Council.

Bromley Council resolves to:

Call on the Government to continue the Household Support Fund for another 12 months beyond 31 March 2024.”

(D) Live Streaming Council Meetings

Proposed by Councillor Chloe-Jane Ross and seconded by Councillor Sam Webber

Council Notes:

(1) Online access to Council meetings improves local democracy by encouraging more residents to engage in council business with convenient access, whilst increasing transparency and accountability in Council decision making.

(2) That an increasing number of local authorities are recording and streaming Council meetings live routinely and maintaining the recordings for public access thereafter.

(3) Bromley Council has successfully live streamed Council meetings during COVID and after.

(4) That most Bromley Council meetings are already hybrid meetings, with attendees in the Council Chamber and Council Officers and Councillors viewing and/or participating online (noting Councillors are not permitted to vote online), and many hybrid meetings are already being recorded for internal purposes.

(5) There are cost and resourcing implications in providing a 5-star live streaming service, however the Council has existing resources to offer basic streaming and to upload recordings of Council meetings online with minimal cost implications.

Therefore, Council moves to:

- (1) Livestream all future Full Council meetings and Committee meetings.
- (2) To maintain recordings of meetings online for an appropriate length of time.
- (3) Continue to investigate affordable enhancements to live streaming and availability of recordings online to improve the service without incurring significant costs.