

## COUNCIL MEETING

11<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2011

### WRITTEN QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

**1. From Councillor Nicholas Bennett JP of the Portfolio Holder for  
Renewal and Recreation**

If he will give for each library in the borough;

- i. the date the building was constructed, and where a later date, the date the library opened in that building;
- ii) the annual running costs excluding staff and book costs.

**Reply:**

*(See attached schedule)*

**2. From Councillor Nicholas Bennett JP of the Portfolio Holder for  
Resources**

- i. What is the total reduction in government grant for each year from 2009-10 until 2014-15;
- ii. what is the cut in expenditure as a result of reduction in grant funding in each year to date and the forecast reductions for each year 2014-15;
- iii. what is the estimated additional spending in each of these years as a result of increased demand;
- iv. what is the out-turn figure for 2009-10, forecast expenditure for 2010-11 and the initial expenditure figure for the remaining years until 2014-15?

**Reply:**

*(See attached schedule)*

**3. From Councillor Nicholas Bennett JP of the Portfolio Holder for  
Resources**

If he will give the number of staff and the budget for each by department for each performance centre in 2010-11 and 2011-12?

**Reply:**

*(See attached schedule)*

**4. From Councillor Russell Mellor of the Leader of the Council**

Can the Leader inform me as to the number of Members of Staff who, having left the Council, have subsequently been engaged as Consultants, together with details of the contract term and fees of engagement.

**Reply:**

In the last financial year 2010/11 the Council rehired one ex employee as a consultant for one day per week from October 2010 to March 2011 @ approximately £300 per day.

**5. From Councillor Peter Fookes of the Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People**

How many pupils gained their first preference for secondary school this year and what were the corresponding figures for the last five years?

**Reply:**

Preference	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
1 <sup>st</sup>	65%	67.5%	67%	65%	66%
2 <sup>nd</sup>	16%	16.5%	16%	16%	16%
3 <sup>rd</sup>	8%	6%	6%	8%	6%
4 <sup>th</sup>	4%	3%	4%	3%	3%
5 <sup>th</sup>	2%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	2%
6 <sup>th</sup>	1%	1%	0.5%	0.5%	2%
No preference (offered nearest appropriate school as no 'preferred' school offered)	4%	4.5%	5%	6%	5%

**6. From Councillor Peter Fookes of the Portfolio Holder for Adult and Community Services**

What progress has been made in getting the former Lodge in Penge Recreation Ground back into use?

**Reply:**

An officer of the Council visited the property with the owner on 8<sup>th</sup> April to assess progress. The owner of the premises has been on site for the last five weeks, and the officer states that renovation works have been carried out to a very high standard, sympathetic to the style of the original

structure. Unfortunately the works have been hampered by periodic acts of vandalism by persons using the park, however the owner is confident that works will be completed within 3 months, at which point the property will be occupied permanently by a family member, or sold. The owner intends to install an alarm system shortly.

**7. From Councillor Peter Fookes of the Chairman of the Development Control Committee**

How many times is an applicant allowed to put in further planning applications when enforcement action is being taken against that individual?

**Reply:**

There is not a limit on the number of planning applications which can be submitted on any site provided each is accompanied by the appropriate fee. If a planning appeal has been dismissed, an identical proposal cannot be submitted within 2 years of the date of the appeal decision. However, amended applications which attempt to address the reasons for the appeal being dismissed can be submitted.

**8. From Councillor Katherine Bance of the Portfolio Holder for the Environment**

How many car clubs are there in the borough and what are we doing to promote them?

**Reply:**

One, imminently to become two.

The Borough has made a successful application for car club funding from TfL for the next two years and will be liaising with interested operators to promote further schemes where potential interest might exist.

**9. From Councillor Katherine Bance of the Portfolio Holder for Resources**

What are the implications for this borough as a result of the proposed national changes to Housing Benefit?

**Reply:**

1. There are a number of changes to the Housing Benefit system over the next couple of years. These and the numbers affected are as follows :-

April 2011 new maximum caps on HB per property size.	Only small number of private rented sector households affected who have their HB reduced by up to £3 per week
April 2011 increasing the Non Dependant Deductions – which have been static for 10 years.	Affects social housing as well as private sector tenants. Considerable numbers affected and includes Rent Allowance cases as well.  Also includes a reduction in their Council Tax Benefit for each non dependant.
April 2011 cessation of the excess payment – where a household can keep up to the first £15 of the amount they can rent a property for below the LHA caps.	Currently there are 76 households in receipt of the Excess payment. For existing claimants, payment will cease on the anniversary of their claim.
April 2011 reducing the normal HB caps to the 30 <sup>th</sup> percentile of claims (currently at 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile).	There are currently c3,000 households who will receive less HB with reductions being up to c£35pw. For the vast majority the reduction will be up to £12 pw.  This change applies immediately for new claimants or when an existing claimant has a change in circumstances.  For the other existing claimants the change will come in to effect 9 months after the annual anniversary of their claim.
January 2012 for a single person aged 25 to 34 the HB maximum will be reduced to that of the reduced single room rate (currently only for those under age 25)	There are currently just over 400 claimants in single rooms whose HB will reduce by up to £25 pw. There are a further 210 aged 25-34 in 1 bed accom who will have their HB reduced by up to £140 pw. It is believed that there will be some kind of phased implementation; however details have not yet been released.

2. For households with non dependants there will be a combination of changes where their HB reduces and their non dependent deduction to their amount of HB increases.
3. The Housing Needs service is already seeing an increase in clients due to difficulties finding somewhere to rent and less landlords willing to take a tenant who is in receipt of Housing Benefit. Outward migration from inner London is also a factor due to the gaps between current and previous HB caps and rent levels being much greater.
4. The Council received a grant of £150k to support plans to mitigate the impact on households that may be affected by the proposed Housing Benefit reforms. In Bromley this includes proactive early intervention and prevention of homelessness and unnecessary financial hardship for those most affected by the changes. Work is also taking place with landlords to encourage them to continue to work with the Council and to focus on housing Bromley residents rather than enter in to arrangements with inner London Boroughs to house their households. More detail on the use of the funds is in a report to the December 2010 meeting of the Executive on the HB changes.
5. In terms of those aged 25 to 34 there will be quite a number who are vulnerable singles who might also be clients of Adult & Community Services and other partner agencies. They will have a range of problems including mental health, learning disabilities, drug, alcohol, ex offenders. Whilst any reduction in HB will be difficult for them to manage there are some who will see a significant reduction. These client groups can have a propensity to be less able to cope with such changes and this can trigger repeat episodes of their problems. Work is being done in particular with this group to identify them and work with them and their landlords on how their situation can be addressed and, if necessary, seek to help

them move and to buy time whilst attempts are made to find alternative accommodation for them.

**10. From Councillor Katherine Bance of the Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People**

What efforts did this borough make to promote the take up of free school meals and the pupil clothing and footwear grant over the last financial year?

**Reply:**

To promote the take up of free school meals and the clothing and footwear grant in the last financial year:

- Letters and application forms were sent to all previous academic year claimants.
- a supply of application forms was sent to all Bromley schools.
- Details of eligibility and method of application was given in the Admission to Primary and Secondary school booklets.
- Details and an application form were available to download from the Bromley website – there is also a direct link under free school meals to the Bromley site from the Direct Gov website.
- Many schools write to parents during the summer term and prior to the January census day to remind them to reapply or submit an application if they are in receipt of a qualifying benefit. Many schools also assist parents to complete application forms and provide details in their school prospectus.
- The Citizens Advice Bureau also advises parents of their entitlement and where necessary helps with the completion of forms.
- Information is printed on benefit advice notifications from Department for Work and Pensions and Tax Credits advising claimants to contact their Local Authority re eligibility.

**11. From Councillor Fawthrop of the Chairman of the Development Control Committee (to be asked at each subsequent Council Meeting)**

What pre-application meetings have taken place since the last full Council Meeting between Council Officers and potential planning applicants? Can these be listed as follows:-

The name of the potential applicant, the site address being considered.

**Reply:**

There have been 34 non-major pre-application meetings between 25<sup>th</sup> February and 8<sup>th</sup> April 2011. 13 of these were non-householder and 21 householder enquiries. There have also been 5 Major pre-application meetings between those dates, all were non-householder enquiries.

As you are aware details of individual applicants and sites at present is exempt information and not disclosable in response to a Council Question.

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Reply to Question 1

SITE	CONSTRUCTION DATE (APPROXIMATE)	GAS		ELECTRICITY		WATER		CLEANING		WINDOW CLEANING		RATES		MAINTENANCE		COMMENTS
		£		£		£		£		£		£		£		
Anerley	1890	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	3463.14	402.84	7396.25	5861.15	Library and Business Centre utilities are not separately metered				
Beckenham	1958	4000	4815	295	5194.71	308.76	19885	7582.71	No data	No data	No data	New building, no costs available				
Biggin Hill	2010	No data	No data	3128	No data	No data	4365	1574.66	134.22	4365	1574.66					
Burnt Ash	1930	764	789	106	865.78	201.3	15398.75	3165.07	201.3	15398.75	3165.07					
Chislehurst	1938	2893	1955	192	3463.14	201.3	7881.25	4263.55	201.3	7881.25	4263.55					
Hayes	1890	1410	1161	No data	1298.68	201.3	7760	3923.7	241.56	7760	3923.7					
Mottingham	1960	1778	1641	No data	2597.36	241.56	35950.37	10270.52	268.5	35950.37	10270.52					
Orpington	1959	9191	9232	978	6926.3	268.5	8123.75	8946.83	241.6	8123.75	8946.83					
Penge	1970	507	920	315	1731.57	241.6	10912.5	3025.68	241.6	10912.5	3025.68					
Pettis Wood	1960	1598	2354	294	2597.36	241.6	3540.5	969.23	241.6	3540.5	969.23					
Shortlands	1930	1615	884	197	2597.36	241.6	7517.5	927.79	241.6	7517.5	927.79					
Southborough	1950	1916	1028	169	3463.14	241.6	6547.5	2839.23	201.3	6547.5	2839.23					
St Pauls Cray	1960	1426	2023	219	2597.36	201.3	10427.5	1795.37	355.52	10427.5	1795.37	Maintenance and rates costs are for the whole building. It is not possible to separate the library costs				
West Wickham	1955	1601	2426	184	3463.14	355.52										
Central	1976	4632	4235	3917	27640	805.44	221887.5	34964.55								

**Question 2 from Councillor Nicholas Bennett JP of the Resources Portfolio Holder**

**A response is provided in the tables below and is based on the latest available information**

**i) What is the total reduction in government grant for each year from 2009/10 to 2014/15**

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Annual Reduction in Grant	-	1,670	12,675	7,660	4,602	8,238	<b>34,845</b>

The above represents the reduction in ongoing revenue grant funding. In 2010/11 there was also a loss of unbudgeted income of £2.9m consisting of 50% reduction in LAA Reward grant of £2.3m (payable in 2010/11 and 2011/12), loss of Local Authority Business Growth Incentive Scheme (LABGI) monies of £0.5m and loss of Planning Delivery Grant (£0.1m). There were further reductions in capital grants which were included in the Capital Programme Monitoring 2nd Quarter 2010/11, report to Executive.

**ii) What is the cut in expenditure as a result of reduction in grant funding each year to date and the forecast reductions for each year 2014/15**

The Council has had to find savings to meet a combination of factors which includes inflation and growth pressures such as Adults with learning difficulties and children's placements, as well as the impact of grant funding reductions covered in (i) above, and shows that total savings are required of:

	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Annual savings already iported to Executive	-21,661	-11,089	854	-100	<b>-31,996</b>
Annual further savings required		-3,373	-9,566	-13,739	<b>-26,678</b>
<b>Total savings</b>	<b>-21,661</b>	<b>-14,462</b>	<b>-8,712</b>	<b>-13,839</b>	<b>-58,674</b>

**iii) What is the estimated additional spending in each of these years as a result of increased demand**

The cost pressures mainly due to increase in demand, reported to Executive 14th February 2011 as shown below:

	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Adults with learning disabilities and physical disabilities	1,384	234	561	890	<b>3,069</b>
Childrens placements and additional referrals	1,500	500	0	0	<b>2,000</b>
Other demand led services	928	182	32	32	<b>1,174</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,812</b>	<b>916</b>	<b>593</b>	<b>922</b>	<b>6,243</b>

**iv) What is the out-turn figure for 2009/10, forecast expenditure for 2010/11 and the initial expenditure figure for the remaining years until 2014/15**

Council Tax Requirement for 2009/10, projected Council Tax Requirement for 2010/11 and forecast Council Tax Requirement for future years is as follows. This assumes an illustrative increase of 2.5% from 2012/13.

Outurn	Projected				
2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
129,715	131,670	132,166	135,470	138,857	142,330



**Question 3**

**FULL TIME EQUIVALENT STAFF NUMBERS AND STAFFING BUDGETS BY DEPARTMENT  
2010/11 & 2011/12**

	2010/11		2011/12	
	Full Time Equivalent Staff Nos.	Latest Approved Budget £000s	Full Time Equivalent Staff Nos.	Original Budget £000s
<b>ADULT &amp; COMMUNITY SERVICES</b>				
<i>Care Services</i>				
Assessment & Care Management	142	5,478	134	4,856
Direct Services	330	8,903	268	6,950
Learning Disabilities Care Management	24	954	23	834
Learning Disabilities Day Services	81	2,176	80	2,148
Learning Disabilities Housing & Support	47	1,898	46	1,746
<i>Commissioning &amp; Partnership</i>				
Procurement & Contract Compliance	11	488	11	399
Commissioning & Partnerships	10	425	9	458
Drugs & Alcohol	4	139	4	152
Learning Disabilities	10	383	2	126
Mental Health	3	168	2	96
<i>Housing &amp; Residential Services</i>				
Housing Needs	56	1,840	56	1,805
Housing Strategy & Development	8	342	8	346
Residential Services	19	737	17	606
<i>Strategic Support Services</i>				
Customer Services	25	670	15	470
Performance & Information	21	1,016	20	902
Quality Assurance	5	226	5	228
Transforming Social Care	9	490		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>805</b>	<b>26,333</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>22,122</b>

	2010/11		2011/12	
	Full Time Equivalent Staff Nos.	Latest Approved Budget £000s	Full Time Equivalent Staff Nos.	Original Budget £000s
<b>CORPORATE SERVICES</b>				
<b>Resources Department</b>				
<i>Financial Services &amp; Procurement</i>	110	4,232	110	4,340
<i>Information Systems</i>	30	1,317	24	1,170
<i>Management</i>	1	168	-	-
 <b>Customer Services</b>				
Bromley Knowledge	4	143	4	143
Contact Centre	36	850	38	830
 <b>Democratic, Electoral and Registrar Services</b>				
Customer Service Development	1	89	1	89
Electoral Services (incl canvassers)	6	287	5	267
Democratic Services	14	564	14	527
Registration of Births, Deaths & Marriages	12	421	12	342
 <b>Legal &amp; Facilities</b>				
Legal Services	30	1,426	30	1,348
Facilities & Support	31	885	23	741
Management & Other (LDCS)	1	120	1	124
<b>Sub Total Resources Department</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>10,502</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>9,921</b>
 <b>Chief Executive's Department</b>				
<b>Organisational Improvement</b>				
Organisation & Improvement	6	344	5	308
Policy	2	81	1	45
<b>Communications</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>Management &amp; Other (C.Exec)</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>336</b>
<b>Internal Audit</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>724</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>443</b>
<b>Human Resources</b>				
Health & Safety	5	185	4	152
HR Management	3	303	2	246
HR Strategy / L & D and Graduate Scheme	15	501	14	457
Operational HR	29	966	29	923
<b>Sub Total Chief Executive's Department</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>3,577</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>2,990</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>14,079</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>12,911</b>

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE (EXCLUDING DELEGATED TO SCHOOLS)	2010/11		2011/12	
	Full Time Equivalent Staff Nos.	Latest Approved Budget	Full Time Equivalent Staff Nos.	Original Budget £000s
<b>Strategy &amp; Performance</b>				
Partnership and Planning	4	197	3	160
Research & Statistics	7	323	7	344
Workforce Development	13	359	12	316
Information Systems	5	182	1	58
<b>Learning &amp; Achievement</b>				
Standards & Achievement	85	4,160	-	-
14-19 Strategy	14	799	-	-
Integrated Youth Services	55	1,948	-	-
<b>Access &amp; Inclusion</b>				
Standards & Achievement Services	-	-	36	2,096
Commission & Business Services	-	-	32	1,153
Bromley Youth Support Services	-	-	33	1,204
Access	111	4,199	109	4,150
SEN & Inclusion	166	5,402	160	5,718
Bromley Children & Family Project	98	3,383	79	3,047
<b>Preventative Social Care</b>				
Youth Offending Team	34	1,211	31	1,132
Children in Care Education	5	254	7	279
Referral & Assessment	50	2,011	49	2,062
Safeguarding & Care Planning	49	2,037	51	2,111
Care & Resources	78	3,124	76	2,915
Safeguarding & Quality Assurance	47	1,662	51	1,585
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>821</b>	<b>31,251</b>	<b>737</b>	<b>28,330</b>
<b>TOTAL COUNCIL NON DELEGATED BUDGETS</b>	<b>2,689</b>	<b>97,581</b>	<b>2,420</b>	<b>87,008</b>
<b>DELEGATED TO SCHOOLS</b>				
Teachers	2,780	131,207	2,636	123,926
Non Teachers	1,776	45,753	1,789	45,488
<b>Sub Total Delegated to Schools</b>	<b>4,556</b>	<b>176,960</b>	<b>4,425</b>	<b>169,414</b>
<b>TOTAL COUNCIL BUDGETS INCLUDING DELEGATED TO SCHOOLS</b>	<b>7,245</b>	<b>274,541</b>	<b>6,845</b>	<b>256,422</b>

	2010/11		2011/12	
	Full Time Equivalent Staff Nos.	Latest Approved Budget £000s	Full Time Equivalent Staff Nos.	Original Budget £000s
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES</b>				
<i>Customer Support Services</i>				
Parking	23	706	22	683
Support Services	33	1,369	33	1,355
<i>Public Protection</i>				
Emergency Planning	2	85	2	85
<i>Street Scene &amp; Green Space</i>				
Area Management & Street Cleansing	25	991	24	897
Parks & Green Spaces	38	1,475	42	1,621
Street Regulation	16	502	15	477
Waster Services	13	482	14	583
<i>Highways and Transport</i>				
Highways	28	1,089	25	1,014
Highways Planning	3	147	3	137
Traffic & Road Safety	35	1,181	35	1,191
Strategy	9	382	6	317
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	225	8,409	221	8,360
<i>Public Protection &amp; Safety</i>				
CCTV	2	80	2	80
Public Protection	57	2,298	46	1,970
Community Safety	7	301	11	450
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	66	2,679	59	2,500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>11,088</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>10,860</b>

	2010/11		2011/12	
	Full Time Equivalent Staff Nos.	Latest Approved Budget £000s	Full Time Equivalent Staff Nos.	Original Budget £000s
<b>RENEWAL &amp; RECREATION</b>				
<i>Adult Education Centres</i>				
	59	2,916	57	1,859
<i>Planning</i>				
Building Control	20	940	20	941
Land Charges	5	157	5	160
Planning	54	1,983	54	1,986
Renewal	24	1,122	24	1,124
<i>Recreation</i>				
Culture	50	1,372	14	613
Libraries & Museums	143	3,991	139	3,875
Town Centre Management & Business Support	7	281	7	268
<i>Property</i>				
	47	2,068	47	1,959
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>409</b>	<b>14,830</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>12,785</b>

Large variation due to Future Job Fund ending on 31/03/11, resulting in a large number of posts being deleted., these posts were not in the original budget. Also 9 staff were transferred from Culture to ES.