

COUNCIL MEETING – 24 APRIL 2024

A. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC

1. From local resident Matthew Chapman to Councillor Leaf, Cabinet Member for Resources:

What is the estimate of Council officers' time and therefore the cost to Bexley's tax-paying residents in answering the numerous questions, freedom of information requests and complaints Mr Dimitri Shrovob has lodged since 2018?

B. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

1. From Councillor Asunramu to Councillor Read, Cabinet Member for Children's Services:

Can the Cabinet Member advise on what measures are being undertaken to deal with the record overspend of £13m in Children's Services as reported in the latest budget monitoring report?

2. From Councillor Asunramu to Councillor Newton, Cabinet Member for Education:

Can the Cabinet Member confirm what funding will be needed to deal with actions identified from the recent disappointing SEND area inspection report?

3. From Councillor Ward-Wilson to Councillor Newton, Cabinet Member for Education:

Will the Cabinet Member for Education provide details on the outcome of the joint SEND area inspection?

4. From Councillor O'Hare to Councillor Leaf, Cabinet Member for Resources:

Can the Cabinet Member for Resources provide the details of the total amount of Council Tax collected from Bexley residents by the Greater London Authority through the precept collected by the Mayor of London?

5. From Councillor Perfect to Councillor Newton, Cabinet Member for Education:

Can the Cabinet Member outline the ways in which the Council will ensure timely updates and actions to work effectively with parents and carers of children with EHC plans?

6. From Councillor Ball to Councillor Gower MBE, Cabinet Member for Communities and Housing:

Can the Cabinet Member tell us how many libraries are likely to be Council run by the end of the Administration?

7. From Councillor Smith to Councillor Diment, Cabinet Member for Places:

Will the Cabinet Member for Places tell us what is being done by the Council to encourage TfL to introduce electric buses to more of their routes in Bexley?

8. From Councillor Brooks to Councillor Munur, Cabinet Member for Growth:

Could the Cabinet Member for Growth please update us on the work being carried out from the secured £1.3 million from the UKSPF (UK Shared Prosperity Fund) by Economic Development?

9. From Councillor Hinkley to Councillor Diment, Cabinet Member for Places:

Can the Cabinet Member confirm whether he anticipates the Public Cabinet papers in July 2024 will propose any reductions to school crossing patrol posts?

10. From Councillor Day to Councillor Diment, Cabinet Member for Places:

Could the Cabinet Member provide an update following the response given at the November Council meeting on the solution to the disgraceful fly tipping at Ray Lamb Way involving CCTV, natural barriers, and the outcome of the viability assessment regarding the installation of high-quality numberplate recognition CCTV cameras?

11. From Councillor O'Hare to Councillor Leaf, Cabinet Member for Resources:

Can the Cabinet Member for Resources give an update on the Household Support Fund following the extension to the funding announced in the Budget on 6 March 2024 by the Chancellor of the Exchequer?

12. From Councillor Carew to Councillor Seymour, Cabinet Member for Adults' Services and Health:

Can the Cabinet Member for Adults' Services and Health outline the aims and his hopes for Adult Social Care Vision which has recently been adopted?

13. From Councillor Borella to Councillor Diment, Cabinet Member for Places:

Can the Cabinet Member update Members on the Council response to the recent TfL consultation on the proposed DLR extension to Thamesmead?

14. From Councillor Asunramu to Councillor Diment, Cabinet Member for Places:

Can the Cabinet Member please outline the Council's plan to ensure the safety of residents and visitors to Bexley, around the lakes, ponds, canals, and Thames paths that exist across the Borough?

15. From Councillor Ward-Wilson to Councillor Newton, Cabinet Member for Education:

Will the Cabinet Member for Education give an update on progress around the Shenstone Secondary School expansion?

16. From Councillor Brooks to Councillor Baroness O'Neill of Bexley OBE, Leader of the Council:

Can the Leader of the Council give her assessment of the impact of the expanded ULEZ on Bexley since 29 August 2023?

17. From Councillor Day to Councillor Gower MBE, Cabinet Member for Communities and Housing:

Please could the Cabinet Member join me in thanking the emergency services, Orbit staff, Council staff and the community spirit and patience of Slade Green residents on the morning of Saturday 16th when a fire broke out at an Orbit property, Grange House, in Slade Green?

18. From Councillor Hinkley to Councillor Diment, Cabinet Member for Places:

Can the Cabinet Member confirm whether he anticipates the Public Cabinet papers in July 2024 will propose any reductions to the frequency of household refuse collections?

19. From Councillor Reader to Councillor Leaf, Cabinet Member for Resources:

What is the Cabinet Member for Resources assessment of the proposed course of action by the Government to address the backlogs, delays and other problems identified with the external auditing of local authority accounts?

20. From Councillor Adams to Councillor Baroness O'Neill of Bexley OBE, Leader of the Council:

Can the Leader of the Council advise the financial and resource implications of continuous questions/ complaints and FOIs from some residents?

21. From Councillor Nicola Taylor to Councillor Seymour, Cabinet Member for Adults' Services and Health:

Could the Cabinet Member outline what discussions with NHS are being undertaken to improve healthcare capacity, in particular Erith Hospital to meet present and future healthcare demands across the Borough?

22. From Councillor Borella to Councillor Gower MBE, Cabinet Member for Communities and Housing:

Can the Cabinet Member confirm the new arrangements for the management of Hurst Community Centre?

23. From Councillor Curtois to Councillor Munur, Cabinet Member for Growth:

Would the Cabinet Member for Growth join me in congratulating Bexleyheath BID on reintroducing the Bexleyheath night markets?

24. From Councillor Brooks to Councillor Diment, Cabinet Member for Places:

Would the Cabinet Member for Places tell us what is being done to target fly-tipping in Bexley?

25. From Councillor Day to Councillor Gower MBE, Cabinet Member for Communities and Housing:

Could the Cabinet Member please provide an update on the number identified and assistance given from the rough sleeper count on the 23-24^h November?

26. From Councillor Borella to Councillor Diment, Cabinet Member for Places:

Will Cabinet Member join me in congratulating the Mayor of London on introducing the SL3 Super Loop bus route through Bexley?

27. From Councillor Slaughter to Councillor Diment, Cabinet Member for Places:

Can the Cabinet Member for Places explain what is being done to improve the appearance of the roundabouts outside the Civic Centre and at the junctions of Albion Road with Gravel Hill, Highland Road and Townley Road?

28. From Councillor Chris Taylor to Councillor Newton, Cabinet Member for Education:

Can the Cabinet Member for Education provide an update on the Safety Valve programme?

29. From Councillor Ferguson to Councillor Leaf, Cabinet Member for Resources:

Can the Cabinet Member confirm how many Bexley residents have applied for a Voter Authority Certificate?

30. From Councillor Francis to Councillor Leaf, Cabinet Member for Resources:

Can the Cabinet Member confirm how many Overseas Voters have been added to Bexley's electoral register since 16 January 2024?

31. From Councillor Moore to Councillor Newton, Cabinet Member for Education:

Will the Cabinet Member for Education provide some details on the Winter and Easter Holiday Activity and Food programmes in the Borough?

32. From Councillor Ward-Wilson to Councillor Leaf, Cabinet Member for Resources:

Can the Cabinet Member for Resources provide an update on his assessment of the Council's financial position and the steps being taken over the medium term?

33. From Councillor Francis to Councillor Leaf, Cabinet Member for Resources:

Can the Cabinet Member confirm how much of the discretionary support element of the Government's 2023/24 Council Tax Support Fund has been administered since 1st March 2024 and how many households have received this?

34. From Councillor Amaning to Councillor Diment, Cabinet Member for Places:

How are the Council managing the considerable number of emergency works from private utility companies which are causing excessive traffic and disruption across the Borough?

35. From Councillor Bishop to Councillor Read, Cabinet Member for Children's Service:

Will the Cabinet Member for Children's Services please update us on foster care recruitment?

36. From Councillor Jackson to Councillor Leaf, Cabinet Member for Resources:

Will the Cabinet Member for Resources give us his estimate of the number of businesses that have benefited from the freeze in the business rates multiplier for small businesses in the Borough?

37. From Councillor Ball to Councillor Gower MBE, Cabinet Member for Communities and Housing:

While levels of crime in Bexley remain historically low, why then is recorded rate of Domestic Abuse in Bexley much higher than many other boroughs?

38. From Councillor Ferguson to Councillor Baroness O'Neill of Bexley OBE, Leader of the Council:

What timescale does the Leader think reasonable for the BexleyCo development in Lesney Park to be initiated?

39. From Councillor Chris Taylor to Councillor Read, Cabinet Member for Children's Services:

Will the Cabinet Member for Children's Services please tell us how many children are in the care of Bexley?

40. From Councillor Slaughter to Councillor Diment, Cabinet Member for Places:

Could the Cabinet Member for Places provide an update on progress with the partnership between the Council and the Lawn Tennis Association to improve public tennis courts in Bexley?

41. From Councillor Ball to Councillor Gower MBE, Cabinet Member for Communities and Housing:

Could the Cabinet Member update Members on what is the relationship like between Bexley Council and the key local residential house building companies?

42. From Councillor Day to Councillor Diment, Cabinet Member for Places:

Do we have an outcome for the bid for funding from Defra which would provide funds for realignment of the ditches and installation of a natural barrier to prevent access by fly-tippers, and new culverts on Ray Lamb Way?

43. From Councillor Ward-Wilson to Councillor Seymour, Cabinet Member for Adults' Services and Health:

Can the Cabinet Member for Adults' Services and Health update us on the new community hubs for service users with a physical disability?

44. From Councillor Chris Taylor to Councillor Seymour, Cabinet Member for Adults' Services and Health:

Can the Cabinet Member for Adults' Services and Health provide some detail on the recently launched Bexley Barbershop Project?

45. From Councillor Amaning to Councillor Newton, Cabinet Member for Education:

Could the Cabinet Member confirm that assessments for children with autism are being made in the recommended timeframes?

46. From Councillor Chris Taylor to Councillor Seymour, Cabinet Member for Adults' Services:

Can the Cabinet Member for Adults' Services and Health provide some detail on the Shared Lives Scheme which provides support for young adults?

47. From Councillor Ward-Wilson to Councillor Seymour, Cabinet Member for Adults' Services and Health:

Does the Cabinet Member for Adults' Services and Health welcome the recent 6 month update on ASC Direct Payments?

48. From Councillor Brooks to Councillor Diment, Cabinet Member for Places:

Will the Cabinet Member for Places update Members on the performance of the waste collection service in Bexley?

49. From Councillor Bacon to Councillor Diment, Cabinet Member for Places:

Can the Cabinet Member for Places update the Council on the progress with installing EV charging points across Bexley?

50. From Councillor Chris Taylor to Councillor Read, Cabinet Member for Children's Services:

Will the Cabinet Member for Children's Services tell us what percentage of the Children's Services staff are permanently employed, as distinct from being agency workers?

51. From Councillor Jackson to Councillor Newton, Cabinet Member for Education:

Will the Cabinet Member for Education join me in congratulating the team which put on the Bexley Apprenticeship and Participation event held during Apprenticeship Week?

52. From Councillor Moore to Councillor Read, Cabinet Member for Children's Services:

Will the Cabinet Member for Children's Services please provide us with information on progress in the reorganisation of Bexley's Children's Centres?

53. From Councillor Ward-Wilson to Councillor Read, Cabinet Member for Children's Services:

Will the Cabinet Member for Children's Services please update us on the number of children and young people being supported by the Children with Disabilities team?