

COUNCIL MEETING – 8 NOVEMBER 2023

A. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

1. From local resident Dimitri Shvorob to Councillor Baroness O'Neill of Bexley OBE, Leader of the Council:

What steps did you take in response to complaints (addressed to you) about the unfair and effectively unusable Bexley Petition Scheme?

2. From local resident Dimitri Shvorob to Councillor Diment, Cabinet Member for Places:

What action is planned based on the findings of this year's survey of road-safety arrangements around Bexley's schools?

3. From local resident Robert Bearsby to Councillor Newton, Cabinet Member for Education:

As parents of a year 6 child at Shenstone School, can you advise us if either planning permission is not granted for the proposed temporary accommodation for our children or works are not finished in time for September 2024 for the current year 6's, what are your plans for the education of our children?

4. From local resident John Browning to Councillor Baroness O'Neill of Bexley OBE, Leader of the Council:

How many of the photographs used in the Conservative political leaflet distributed last August and September were the property of the Council?

5. From local resident Pat Styles to Councillor Diment, Cabinet Member for Places:

Why is it that street cleaning is regularly not taking place and why is it public money is being spent on a service that is not being provided or adequately monitored by Bexley Council?

B. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

1. From Councillor Ward-Wilson to Councillor Diment, Cabinet Member for Places:

Will the Cabinet Member for Places explain what are the financial benefits to residents if they put rubbish in the recycling bins rather than the residual waste bin?

2. From Councillor Hall to Councillor Leaf, Cabinet Member for Resources:

Will the Cabinet Member for Resources provide details of the costs of the judicial review legal challenge to the expansion of the ULEZ to Bexley and the whole of Greater London?

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

Does the Leader of the Council agree with me that vandalism is not a victimless crime and perpetrators should be condemned for their actions?

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

Will the Leader of the Council confirm that she is part of the LGA Conservative Group Executive that published the LGA Conservative Group manifesto in September 2023 which calls on the Government to remove caps on Council Tax?

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

Can the Cabinet Member for Resources provide an update on the support being provided to residents with costs of living pressures?

6. From Councillor Hall to Councillor Leaf, Cabinet Member for Resources:

Can the Cabinet Member for Resources give us the details of action taken to survey for RAAC on properties owned by the Council and the outcome of those surveys?

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

Could the Cabinet Member state how many tonnes of waste are collected from our streets, from kerbside collection, from Bexley litter bins, from fly tipping and from litter picked from the roads and pavements?

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

Could the Cabinet Member confirm if we have made representations to Kent County Council in relation to the potential closure of the Civic Amenity site at Dartford Heath?

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

Can the Cabinet Member for Growth update us on the progress of the Welling banking hub?

10. From Councillor Carew to Councillor Seymour, Cabinet Member for Adults' Services:

Could the Cabinet Member for Adults' Services outline the aims of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy?

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

Could you please update us on when we will receive the results of the outstanding schools Council commissioned surveys of which schools have RAAC present?

12. From Councillor Ferguson to Councillor Diment, Cabinet Member for Places:

Considering Bexley's fly-tipping and litter problem, will the Council return all bins removed from areas around the Borough for non-financial reasons separate to the funding received for a new allocation of bins?

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

Can the Cabinet Member for Places advise the levels of funding received for Transport schemes from the Mayor of London?

14. From Councillor O'Hare to Councillor Gower MBE, Cabinet Member for Communities and Housing:

Could the Cabinet Member update us on the action the Council and partners have taken to address crime and disorder issues around Abbey Wood station?

15. From Councillor Day to Councillor Seymour, Cabinet Member for Adults' Services:

Could the Cabinet Member advise how sure he is that the Government will provide further funding to Bexley in November once our discharge funds are exhausted?

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

Could the Cabinet Member please provide an update on the steps being taken by the Council with key stakeholders, to address the disgraceful illegal fly tipping at Ray Lamb Way?

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

Would the Cabinet Member for Adults' Services update us on the recent 'Bexley on your Radar Event'?

18. From Councillor Reader to Councillor Munur, Cabinet Member for Growth:

Can the Cabinet Member for Growth lay out the plans for the £1.3m secured from the UKSPF to support local businesses?

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

Will the Leader of the Council tell us whether she believes the Council should ask the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to commission an update of their "Local Government Finance Review – London Borough of Bexley" report of December 2021, to allow independent assessment on whether the Council has successfully implemented the recommendations within the report?

20. From Councillor Gill to Councillor Diment, Cabinet Member for Places:

Could the Cabinet Member please state the progress to introducing a trial of 1-hour free parking in Mill Road Car Park, Northumberland Heath?

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

Would the Cabinet Member for Places tell us what happens to each of the recycling waste streams collected from homes in Bexley?

22. From Councillor Reader to Councillor Diment, Cabinet Member for Places:

Can the Cabinet Member for Places update Members on progress with the 2023/24 road maintenance programme?

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

Will the Leader of the Council confirm how many individuals elected as a London Borough of Bexley Councillor since May 2018 does she believe have been issued a fixed penalty notice for breaches of Covid-19 regulations?

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

Will the Cabinet Member confirm which schemes within the current capital programme are anticipated to experience overspends?

25. From Councillor Jackson to Councillor Diment, Cabinet Member for Places:

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

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

Can the Cabinet Member for Places tell us what progress is being made in the roll-out programme for new street waste bins?

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

Will the Leader of the Council confirm which schemes within the current capital programme have experienced tender processes where a contractor was unable to be appointed and the reasons for this?

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

Will the Cabinet Member confirm how many residents have requested to opt out of Council Tax reminders received by text message and email?

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

Will the Cabinet Member for Children's Services please update us on Bexley's recent Corporate Parenting Week?

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

Will the Cabinet Member for Children's Services please tell us the latest situation regarding foster carer recruitment?

31. From Councillor Ball to Councillor Diment, Cabinet Member for Places:

Could the Cabinet Member update us on the spending this financial year 23/24 on pothole repairs?

32. From Councillor Ball to Councillor Diment, Cabinet Member for Places:

Could the Cabinet Member outline the monitoring of the weed spraying schedule for the Borough?

33. From Councillor O'Hare to Councillor Read, Cabinet Member for Children's Services:

Will the Cabinet Member for Children's Services please tell us how the current number of children in the care of Bexley compares with this time last year?

34. From Councillor Chris Taylor to Councillor Gower MBE, Cabinet Member for Communities and Housing:

Given the events in Israel and Gaza, can the Cabinet Member reassure residents of the Council's support at this time - both in terms of community cohesion and reporting of Hate Crimes?

35. From Councillor Perfect to Councillor Leaf, Cabinet Member for Resources:

Could you outline what surveys have been undertaken to determine if any of the buildings owned by the Council have been affected by RAAC?

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

Could the Cabinet Member tell us the latest figures we have for attendance across the Borough for each level of education (primary, secondary)?

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

Could you please outline what the Council is doing to support teachers and ensure that there is no child with undiagnosed SEN within our schools?

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

Could the Cabinet Member state the number of care experienced children and young people we currently have in the Criminal Justice System?

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

Could you please update us on the current exclusion rates within the Borough and outline the work the Council is doing to eradicate those numbers and move towards becoming a no exclusions Borough?

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

Can we get an update on how the Council is implementing the recommendations and initiatives in the Government's latest Children's Social Care Implementation Strategy?

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

As Bexley already has a £7m overspend which looks set to continue rising, what is the projected figure by the end of the financial year and how will it be addressed?

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

With Climate Change having more of an effect, what measures does Bexley have in place for dealing with extreme weather conditions and how they affect residents?

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

Please confirm whether Bexley Council Homeless Service has already or will be imminently taking part in this year's rough sleeper count which is carried out by Councils across London to collect an annual picture of rough sleeping in each borough?

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

Could the Cabinet Member join me in placing on the record the dissatisfaction at the length of time taken by some of the Borough's largest housing providers to respond to enquiries or respond to residents' urgent housing issues?

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

What assessment has been made on the Council's financial position if Kent County Council use a Sec114 notice which will effectively be declaring municipal bankruptcy?

46. From Councillor Borella to Councillor Leaf, Cabinet Member for Resources:

With the latest budget monitoring report showing that £2.4m of the expected £5.5m from the 2022 deep dive mitigations will not be delivered, what is the impact on the Council's financial position?

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

With the existing selective licensing area expiring on 31 August, what is the reason for the for much delayed selective licensing consultation process?

48. From Councillor Amaning to Councillor Seymour, Cabinet Member for Adults' Services:

Could the Cabinet Member comment if there is a considered and sensitive way that data on people taking their life could be reported to the relevant authorities to aid a reduction in suicide and self-harm?

49. From Councillor Amaning to Councillor Gower MBE, Cabinet Member for Communities and Housing:

Could the Cabinet Member confirm what discussions have been had with the Bexley Borough Superintendent on practicing effective stop and search in Bexley that does not discriminate unfairly against young black boys?

50. From Councillor Amaning to Councillor Seymour, Cabinet Member for Adults' Services:

Has the Council made an assessment on the effect that the closure of the BCU life skills centre in Bexleyheath will have on residents with mental health issues?