

COUNCIL MEETING – 26 APRIL 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:

Can you please comment on the situation where an overwhelming majority of Bexley Conservative Councillors do not hold surgeries and so can complete their term without ever speaking to a constituent?

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

Can you please comment on the near-absence of any measurable, verifiable commitments in the most recent Bexley Conservatives manifesto? Is introduction of a new recycling service the only specific thing you can promise to Bexley residents?

3. From local resident Hugo Pereira to Councillor Peter Craske, Cabinet Member for Places:

Do you have any plans to do a more realistic air quality measure e.g. measuring air quality at school zones, at children height level, and at drop-off/pick-up times, so that we can obtain a more realistic measure of the air quality that our children are breathing?

4. From local resident Hugo Pereira to Councillor Peter Craske, Cabinet Member for Places:

Do you have any plans to implement School Streets in Bexley in the same way as the Royal Borough of Greenwich has a School Street initiative?

5. From local resident Paul McQuillen to Councillor Peter Craske, Cabinet Member for Places:

With reference to the replies to my questions at the July 2022 Council meeting, could the Cabinet Member for Places please advise me of the Council's response to Newham Council on London City Airport's recent Planning Application to extend operating hours, what has been the participation of the Council's representative on the London City Airport Consultative Committee and how has the Council communicated this issue to residents?

B. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

1. From Councillor Janice Ward-Wilson to Councillor Richard Diment, Cabinet Member for Education:

Would the Cabinet Member for Education join me in welcoming the investment from Government for our young people with special needs, brought about through the safety value process?

2. From Councillor Peter Reader to Councillor Sue Gower MBE, Cabinet Member for Communities and Housing:

Does the Cabinet Member for Communities and Housing think that the Baroness Casey report might result in the Mayor of London (as Police & Crime Commissioner for London) finally accepting that the Basic Command Unit model doesn't work for boroughs like Bexley?

3. From Councillor Nicola Taylor to Councillor David Leaf, Cabinet Member for Resources:

Could the Cabinet Member provide the financial details of the acquisition and sale of 89 and 89a Erith High Street to BexleyCo?

4. From Councillor Anna Day to Councillor Melvin Seymour, Cabinet Member for Adults' Services and Health:

Could the Cabinet Member please update Members on the present and future impact on residents placed in care and respite care due to the tragic Parkview Care home fire?

5. From Councillor Rags Sandhu to Councillor Melvin Seymour, Cabinet Member for Adults' Services and Health:

Will the Cabinet Member for Adults' Services and Health join me in thanking all those involved in the evacuation of vulnerable residents from the Parkview Care Home recently?

6. From Councillor Lisa Moore to Councillor Richard Diment, Cabinet Member for Education:

Can the Cabinet Member for Education update Council on the Holiday Food & Activity programme during the Easter holidays?

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

Given that the Public Cabinet Papers of 15 November 2022 outlined the budget assumptions for 2023/24 including the Deep Dives and stated, "No public consultation is currently required on the current plans as there is no impact on residents", does the Leader believe that statement was correct?

8. From Councillor Zainab Asunramu to Councillor Richard Diment, Cabinet Member for Education:

Could the Cabinet Member outline the conditions attached to the DfE Dedicated Schools grant settlement?

9. From Councillor Steven Hall to Councillor Baroness O'Neill of Bexley OBE, Leader of the Council:

Can the Leader of the Council give us an update on the current position regarding the Mayor of London's plans to extend ULEZ to Bexley?

10. From Councillor Howard Jackson to Councillor David Leaf, Cabinet Member for Resources:

Could the Cabinet Member for Resources provide an update on the Household Support Fund?

11. From Councillor Mabel Ogundayo to Councillor Peter Craske, Cabinet Member for Places:

Could the Cabinet Member for Places please update Members if Bexley is still the top London borough for recycling?

12. From Councillor Mabel Ogundayo to Councillor Peter Craske, Cabinet Member for Places:

Could the Cabinet Member update Members on the Council's response to the latest City Airport expansion planning submission?

13. From Councillor Mrs June Slaughter to Councillor Peter Craske, Cabinet Member for Places:

Would the Cabinet Member for Places agree with me that it's unfortunate that Bexley lost its place as the top recycler in London last year after holding for 17 years and what plans are in place to ensure we regain the title next year?

14. From Councillor Steven Hall to Councillor Peter Craske, Cabinet Member for Places:

Can the Cabinet Member for Places update us on the number of street parties planned for the King's Coronation next month?

15. From Councillor Anna Day to Councillor Baroness O'Neill of Bexley OBE, Leader of the Council:

Given that as Councillors, we are expected to hold ourselves to a high standard and apologise and undertake training when we fall short of that standard, could you please share what further action you believe should be taken when a Councillor continuously receives public complaints regarding their behaviour?

16. From Councillor Esther Amaning to Councillor Melvin Seymour, Cabinet Member for Adults' Services and Health:

Following the tragic death of the mother and her sons in Belvedere, could the Cabinet Member please share how the Council is ensuring details of mental health support and services are visible and readily available to all residents?

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

Would the Cabinet Member for Children's Services confirm how many other Councils have received consecutive Ofsted Outstanding judgements for their Children's Service since the present Children's Service inspection framework was introduced in 2018?

18. From Councillor Peter Reader to Councillor Melvin Seymour, Cabinet Member for Adults' Services and Health:

Would the Cabinet Member for Adults' Services and Health update us on our Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Vision for Health?

19. From Councillor Esther Amaning to Councillor Sue Gower MBE, Cabinet Member for Communities and Housing:

Following the release of the Casey report, which cited that racism, homophobia and misogyny are rife within the police force, could the Cabinet Member please detail actions Bexley police have shared with the Cabinet Member as to how they will address these issues going forward?

20. From Councillor Esther Amaning to Councillor Sue Gower MBE, Cabinet Member for Communities and Housing:

Can the Cabinet Member give us an update of work which has been undertaken with charitable organisations such as Mind, Food Banks, and the Samaritans to support communities in this desperate time?

21. From Councillor Christine Catterall to Councillor Richard Diment, Cabinet Member for Education:

Can the Cabinet Member for Education tell us what is in place to support opportunities for people in Bexley to undertake apprenticeships?

22. From Councillor Andy Dourmough to Councillor David Leaf, Cabinet Member for Resources:

Can the Cabinet Member for Resources update Council on the annual council tax billing process?

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

Are the present Code of Conduct sanctions as determined by the Localism Act 2011, robust enough to deal with Member indiscretions?

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

With the first 'call in' of an executive decision in 11 years, by Conservative Members of the Places OSC regarding the fair charging policy at reuse and recycling centres, is it time to change the 'call in' threshold, to allow more effective scrutiny of executive decisions?

25. From Councillor Chris Taylor to Councillor Richard Diment, Cabinet Member for Education:

Would the Cabinet Member for Education update Members on developments at the Learning & Enterprise College Bexley?

26. From Councillor Andy Dourmough to Councillor Peter Craske, Cabinet Member for Places:

Could the Cabinet Member for Places update the meeting on the latest developments with our Libraries?

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

Why are there a large number of Cabinet Member decisions in the Places directorate still in the forward plan that would normally require public consultations through the budget process, as agreed at the Budget Council on 8 March 2023?

28. From Councillor Anna Day to Councillor Sue Gower MBE, Cabinet Member for Communities and Housing:

Could the Cabinet Member confirm whether Mental Health and Suicide Prevention training is mandatory for Housing Officers or could be implemented to ensure the best support is provided to homelessness applicants approaching with mental health issues?

29. From Councillor Andrew Curtis to Councillor Cafer Munur, Cabinet Member for Growth:

Could the Cabinet Member for Growth update us on the activity of Bexley Business and Employment working with Council tax Reduction scheme claimants?

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

Can the Cabinet Member provide an update on the provision of services to Bexley residents following the cyber-attack on Capita on 31 March 2023?

31. From Councillor Daniel Francis to Councillor David Leaf, Cabinet Member for Resources:

Could the Cabinet Member provide a statement of the arrangements for the auditing of the expenditure of the Household Support Fund (Round 3)?

32. From Councillor Sally Hinkley to Councillor Peter Craske, Cabinet Member for Places:

Could the Cabinet Member for Places please update the progress of locations and implementation of the yellow box junction review?

33. From Councillor Wendy Perfect to Councillor Peter Craske, Cabinet Member for Places:

Could the Cabinet Member for Places please update the progress of locations and implementation of the limited parking bay review?

34. From Councillor Baljeet Singh Gill to Councillor Peter Craske, Cabinet Member for Places:

Could the Cabinet Member for Places please update the progress and impact of the drainage cleaning and gritting service review?

35. From Councillor Larry Ferguson to Councillor David Leaf, Cabinet Member for Resources:

Could the Cabinet Member provide the financial comparison between the agreed Highways capital programme for the 2022/23 financial year against the actual spending for 22/23?