

**REIGATE AND BANSTEAD BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL: 9<sup>th</sup> February 2017**

**Questions by Members**

<b>Question by:</b>	<b>To be answered by:</b>	<b>Subject:</b>
Cllr J. White	Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services, (Councillor Dr L.R. Hack)	Pet Litter waste
Cllr J. Godden	Executive Member for Community Support, (Councillor Mrs R. Renton)	Homelessness

**Council Meeting:** 9 February 2017

**Councillor J. White** will ask the **Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services**, **Councillor Dr L.R. Hack** the following question:

### **Pet Litter waste**

Can the Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services please advise whether residents should dispose of household pet litter (which has been picked up and bagged from gardens or public verges) in the domestic dry waste bins or in with the food waste?

### **Observations**

**Small amounts of bagged pet litter can be disposed of in the green residual waste bin. Pet litter should not be placed in the brown garden waste bin.**

**Large amounts of animal litter, such as waste from aviaries and stables, should not be disposed of within the household waste stream.**

### **Supplementary Question**

Does the Executive Member know how many dedicated pet waste bins we have in the Borough; how much it costs to service these bins and could the Executive Member offer the public any other useful advice as how to dispose of their pets' litter please?'

**There are presently around 350 dog waste bins in the Borough's parks and open spaces. We also provide 550 'on-street' litter bins. Small amounts of bagged pet litter may be placed in any of these receptacles.**

**Reigate & Banstead Borough Council currently spend around £1,032,000 per annum on cleansing activity and servicing our bins is included within this expenditure.**

**Council Meeting:** 9 February 2017

**Councillor J. Godden** will ask the **Executive Member for Community Support, Councillor Mrs R. Renton** the following question:

### **Homelessness**

Can the Portfolio Holder for Housing please outline for me the progress made in dealing with those people/families presenting themselves at the Town Hall as homeless requiring immediate help such as Bed & Breakfast and how does this compare to the situation a year ago?

### **Observations**

Thank you Cllr Godden for your question.

Two years ago the Council was accommodating over 50 households in expensive emergency B&B accommodation, mainly outside the borough. This time last year we reduced that figure to 30. Since then the Housing Service has gone through a thorough review including a restructure and, as a result, processes have been redesigned to focus on early intervention and prevention first in all cases. If that fails staff are proactive and look at a range of other housing solutions for service users.

A reflection of the hard work over the past year, I am very pleased to advise you that last night we only had 7 households accommodated in emergency B&B accommodation. This level has been the case since before Christmas.

Other comparisons include: at the end of quarter three last year we reported 150 positive outcomes, that is where a household is threatened with homelessness and case work by officers has resulted in homelessness being avoided. At the end of quarter 3 this year positive outcomes were up by 23%. This is a key indicator of timely interventions by the team.

Other planned interventions to continue to manage this issue include our purchase of a local B&B and an enhanced pilot for finding extra private rental properties which will look to assist more households into private rentals each year.

With the advent of the Homelessness Reduction Bill, we will need to be even more creative in tackling the challenges that face us in this area.

This is the first time in many years that we are forecasting a budget underspend for emergency B&B accommodation.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the team for their hard work and dedication.