

Follow Up Questions from Overview &Scrutiny 15 June 2023

See meeting information here:

[Agenda for Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Thursday, 15th June, 2023, 7.30 pm | Reigate and Banstead Borough Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

Agenda Item 6

Q4 2022/23 Performance Report

Question 1 – KPI 10 – The percentage of household waste that is recycled and composted - what effect will the completion of rollout of services to flats have on the percentage of household waste that is recycled and composted?

Written Answer

Using the collection data we hold, from across the borough, we estimate that the completed rollout of the full recycling service to flats would increase our recycling rate from between 1 and 1½ percentage points.

Question 2 – KPI 10 – The percentage of household waste that is recycled and composted - are details available for fines issued to residents or information on repeat offenders for contamination of recycling collections?

Written Answer

We do not issue fines to residents for repeat contamination of recycling bins. We manage contamination at street level when the crews empty the bins.

If contamination or the wrong items are placed in a recycling container, the container is not emptied, but a notice (sticker) of contamination is placed on the bin, advising that the incorrect items will need to be removed before we will empty the bin.

For communal bins that are found to be contaminated, we liaise with the Managing Agents/landlords of the properties.

Question 3 – KPI 1 – the percentage of Council Tax collected – what are the approximate figures for Council Tax long-term debt?

Written Answer

Outstanding Council Tax Debt

Year	Outstanding Council Tax Debt
1993	£256.94
1994	£0.00
1995	£0.00

1996	£0.00
1997	£0.00
1998	£0.00
1999	£1,889.90
2000	£5,548.88
2001	£5,257.80
2002	£3,089.28
2003	£7,950.74
2004	£16,465.92
2005	£30,266.88
2006	£27,076.43
2007	£54,062.68
2008	£73,634.64
2009	£104,332.90
2010	£132,420.63
2011	£140,626.26
2012	£140,737.56
2013	£168,281.63
2014	£93,627.53
2015	£90,780.63
2016	£164,469.24
2017	£222,024.90
2018	£321,767.26
2019	£563,396.59
2020	£850,382.63
2021	£1,209,536.23
2022	£2,027,226.38
Total	£6,455,110.46

Prior year debt is regularly reviewed, and many of the accounts will already be in recovery i.e., taxpayers have made arrangements to repay the debt, or we have arrangements in place with their employers or have instructed enforcement agents. Therefore, the Revenues Team is already chasing this debt as part of business as usual activity.

Where debts cannot be recovered, for example the debtor is deceased, has moved abroad, or has a Debt Relief Order, these debts will be written off, and an annual report is presented to Executive for approval each year in March.

Question 4 – Budget Monitoring Summary 2022/23 – Members requested confirmation of the reasons for the Communications budget variance.

Written Answer

The reported overspend relates to additional one-off costs incurred during the year by the service that are to be funded through an agreed call on the Corporate Plan Delivery Fund Reserve. The Reserve drawdown had not been processed when the report was

published resulting in the reported 'overspend'; the service's records have now been updated.

Question 5 – Capital Projects – A written response on the budget forecasts for Cromwell Road, Pitwood Park, Lee Street and The Rise development at Marketfield Way was requested.

Written Answer

The requested briefing notes have been circulated to O&S Members.

In addition, following the meeting, it has been agreed with the Chair of O&S Committee that:

1. A response would be circulated in advance of the next O&S Committee meeting on 6 July, regarding the Cromwell Road, Pitwood Park and Lee Street developments. Lead officers and the Portfolio Holder will attend the meeting on 6 July to respond to any further questions from O&S Members.
The written response was circulated to O&S Members on 5 July 2023. This response contained confidential information and will therefore not be published.
2. A further report on the lessons learnt from these developments will be presented to O&S Committee on 12 October 2023. Officers and the Portfolio Holder will attend that meeting as well.

Question 6 – Capital Budget - Members requested confirmation on where the costs for installation of electric vehicle charging points appeared in the budget monitoring report

Written Answer

This will depend on what model is used for the charging point installation. Costs for charging points being installed at Horley Central Car Park are incorporated within the wider project budget / reporting. The Banstead EV charging points installation was funded through a combination of SCC grant funding and the Environmental Sustainability revenue reserve.

Question 7 – Capital Budget - Members also asked for a progress update on the CCTV project.

Written Answer

The Council's contractors have completed the installation of the CCTV system in the Clarendon Road car park. Works to install the new CCTV cameras in the Bancroft Road car park will commence on 6th July and once these works have been completed the contractors will then install new cameras in Priory, Memorial and Lady Neville Parks. We have been informed by BT that Openreach intend to complete their fibre installations by the end of July.

Question 8 – Capital Budget Housing Allocation - Members asked for clarification on the definition of criteria for a “suitable project” for the £30 million housing budget allocation.

Written Answer

The Capital Programme budget allocation enables the delivery of housing schemes that will be brought forward to and approved by Executive. That approval will include confirmation, on a case by case basis, how each scheme will be funded.

They can include the purchase of properties for use as emergency and temporary accommodation as well as the development of general needs social housing.

The Local Authority Housing Fund project that was approved by Executive in March 2023 is the first scheme to be brought forward since the £30m allocation was approved. It is being funded from a combination of Government Grant and a call on Reserves.

Other Council schemes will be brought forward as and when the opportunity arises. This question reinforces the recognition that the Council requires an adopted document to help articulate its housing development ambition. The Housing Delivery Strategy 2020 – 2025 was a start and much has been delivered off the back of that but we now need a more specific document regarding our current ambition and development pipeline work.

Agenda Item 7

Treasury Management Strategy 2023/24

Question 9 – Commercial Assets - Members asked whether the Horley Business Park LLP loan is included in the table (page 94-96).

Written Answer

Confirmed: the Horley Business Park LLP Loan is included in the total sum stated for Service Investment Loans in the table

Service Investment Loans	31.3.22 £000	31.3.23 £000	Forecast 31.3.24 £000
Greensands Holding Ltd	10,400	8,950	7,924
Horley Business Park LLP	82	32	-
Total	10,482	8,982	7,924