

MINUTES of the meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT SELECT COMMITTEE** held at 10.00am on Wednesday 15 June 2011 at County Hall, Kingston-upon-Thames.

These minutes are subject to confirmation by the Select Committee at its meeting on 30 June 2011.

Members:

- * Mr Steve Renshaw (Chairman)
- * Mr Mark Brett-Warburton (Vice-Chairman)
- * Mr Mike Bennison
- * Mr Stephen Cooksey
- * Mr Will Forster
- Mrs Pat Frost
- * Mr Chris Frost
- * Mr John Furey
- Mr Simon Gimson
- * Mr David Goodwin
- Mrs Frances King
- Mr Geoff Marlow
- * Mr Chris Norman
- * Mr Tom Phelps-Penry
- * Mr Michael Sydney

Ex officio Members:

- Mrs Lavinia Sealy (Chairman of the Council)
- Mr David Munro (Vice-Chairman of the Council)

Substitute Members:

- * Mr Bill Barker (for Frances King)
- * Mr David Ivison (for Simon Gimson)
- * Mr Stuart McLeod (for Pat Frost)

In attendance:

- * Mrs Angela Fraser
- * Mr David Hodge (Deputy Leader of the Council)

* = Present

PART 1

IN PUBLIC

11/11 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS [Item 1]**

Apologies were received from Pat Frost, Simon Gimson and Pat Frost. Bill Barker, David Ivison and Stuart MacLeod substituted.

Apologies were also received from Ian Lake. David Hodge substituted.

12/11 **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS [Item 2]**

Mike Bennison and Tom Phelps-Penry declared personal interests as residents of Elmbridge in relation to Item 4.

13/11 **QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS [Item 3]**

Two public questions were received from Mr. Roger Collins and Mr. Richard Catling.

(1) From Mr Roger Collins, Chairman Banstead Residents' Association:

"In regard to the decision on 24 May of Surrey County Council's Cabinet, to introduce on-street parking charges, how can the County Council justify excluding Elmbridge and Reigate & Banstead from the remit of the Task Group set up in February 2011 'to review .the countywide on street charging initiative', thus depriving these two districts of the full consultative process being accorded to other districts; and will the County Council rectify this by recommencing the consultation process in full?"

Response: Elmbridge and Reigate & Banstead were not included in the remit of the Task Group when it was established because the proposals for those areas were already subject to a process of public consultation. However, Elmbridge and Reigate & Banstead have not been deprived of the full statutory consultative process. Both Local Committees debated the proposals that were formally advertised in March 2011 with everybody wishing to comment having the opportunity to do so. Cabinet considered the way forward on the basis of their views, together with the principles agreed by the Task Group and the original proposals have been amended to reflect this. The decisions of the Cabinet are, of course, subject to review by the Select Committee at today's meeting.

Before any revisions are determined, an amendment notice will be advertised, and residents, trade associations, councillors and the Local Committees will again have full opportunity to comment.

Mr. Collins asked the following supplementary question:

"How can this Council justify forcing through a policy that is so unpopular?"

Response: The Chairman stated he would give Mr. Collins a response outside of the meeting.

(2) From Richard Catling, Chairman Claygate Chamber of Commerce:

In the Task Group report to Cabinet the Group stated that at a meeting between Local Committee Chairman and the Task Group:

"ALTHOUGH A NUMBER OF MEMBERS WOULD HAVE LIKED THE TASK GROUP TO CONSIDER A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF DETAIL, THIS WAS NOT POSSIBLE WITHIN THE TIME FRAME AVAILABLE. THE MAIN FOCUS WAS THEREFORE AROUND THE PRINCIPLES INVOLVED"

As the Task Group did not have the “time frame available” to consider the amount of locally sourced Data when formulating their recommendations and based their financial projections on Data gained from London, larger centres and America, how have the Task Group reconciled these shopping patterns in larger centres with smaller villages when determining viability without delegating the decision process to Local Committees?”

Response: The Task Group did not need to undertake a full “street by street” assessment but considered local input at an area level to refine proposals, knowing that the Local Committees would subsequently consider the relevant level of local detail. It is through this methodology that the proposal for “half an hour free” was developed.

Mr. Catling asked the following supplementary question:

“On the basis that current policy is incompatible with the projections made in the business case, does the Committee believe this decision should be referred back to Cabinet so that it can be brought into line with current policy?”

Response: The Chairman stated he would give Mr. Catling a response outside of the meeting.

14/11 **CALL-IN OF CABINET DECISION 24 MAY 2011 [Item 4]**

Officers: Richard Bolton – Local Delivery and Customer Service Group
Manager

David Curl – Parking Strategy and Implementation Team Manager

Members: David Hodge – Deputy Leader of the Council

Mike Bennison and Tom-Phelps Penry declared personal interests as residents of Elmbridge.

The Cabinet decision of 24 May 2011 was called-in for the following reason:

‘This decision did not have the same level of scrutiny and member involvement as the other Boroughs and Districts covered by the On-Street Parking Task Group of the former Transportation Select Committee and therefore failed to address issues raised by the Task Group or to benefit from the extended consultation afforded to other parts of the County.’

Key points raised during the discussion:

- Stephen Cooksey, Will Forster and Chris Frost were given the opportunity to explain the reason for the call-in. The key issue regarded the process involved. Specifically, that Reigate & Banstead and Elmbridge had been treated differently in comparison to the other Boroughs and Districts in Surrey. This was because the process of public consultation began before the On-street Parking Task Group commenced its work and as such, Reigate & Banstead and Elmbridge were excluded from its recommendations and thus did not receive the same level of scrutiny as the other Boroughs and Districts of Surrey. It

was also requested that the Task Group reconvene in order to address the issues surrounding Reigate & Banstead and Elmbridge. However the Chairman stated he did not believe this would be beneficial as details of the Task Group's findings in relation to the other Boroughs and Districts were already publicly available to help inform discussions as necessary. It was confirmed that the public consultation process in Elmbridge and Reigate & Banstead was the same as that underway, or planned, for the other nine Boroughs and Districts, and therefore it was not appropriate to repeat that part of the consultation.

- Mrs Angela Fraser was granted permission to speak to the Committee as the Local Member for an area affected by the decision, and expressed concern over the fact that the local Members of Reigate & Banstead were not given the opportunity to speak with the Task Group. Mrs Fraser also felt that the decision of Cabinet on 24 May should be rescinded in order to uphold the values expressed in a recent Chief Executive report including 'listening to residents' and 'the transfer of decision-making'.
- The Select Committee concluded that, in order to ensure a consistent approach to the handling of on-street parking decisions across the County and to allow those decisions to be fully informed by the local knowledge of Members, the Cabinet should be asked to review its decisions of 24 May 2011 in relation to Elmbridge and Reigate & Banstead. It was therefore unanimously agreed to recommend to the Cabinet that its decision in relation to on-street parking in those areas should be referred back to the relevant Local Committees.
- The Deputy Leader was invited to comment, and endorsed the Select Committee's decision to refer the matter back. It was noted that the Cabinet has the power to call-in decisions of Local Committees.

Actions/further information to be provided:

None.

Recommendation (to Cabinet):

That the proposals in relation to on-street parking in Elmbridge and Reigate & Banstead be referred back to their respective Local Committees for reconsideration, and that the Local Committees can agree amendments to the proposals for their Borough within the framework, timeframe and criteria agreed by Cabinet.

Select Committee next steps:

The Committee will receive a response from the Cabinet at its next meeting.

15/11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING [Item 5]

Thursday 30th June at 10.00am in Committee Room C.

[Meeting Ended: 10.52am]

Chairman