

Environment and Transport Select Committee- 12 June 2014

Item 4: Members questions

Submitted by: Cllr Ian Beardsmore

1. The current parking and safety guidance produced by Surrey County Council by-passed all direct democratic input, can you explain why?
2. Given that it is in all practical sense policy rather guidance, is it even legally safe?
3. A partial review at least is to be carried out of the guidance. What is the scope of that review and what will be the democratic input?

Response:

1. With all due respect, this is not the case. The current guidance was approved by the Cabinet Member for Environment in September in 2011. In early 2010 Boroughs and Districts requested that the County produce some revised parking guidance that better reflected changing policy. Following an informal round of officer consultation with the 11 Planning Authorities, on 5th July 2010 authority was given by the Cabinet Member at the time to refer the guidance to the Environment and Economy Select Committee and the Transportation Select Committee. Both committees recommended that the guidance be taken to the Surrey Planning Officers' Association, the House Builders' Federation and selected Transport Consultants for formal consultation. This took place in October 2010 and resulted in 16 responses. The final version of the Guidance was amended to take account of these comments and then agreed by the then Cabinet Member.
2. As explained above, it was produced as Guidance to the eleven Districts and Boroughs in Surrey. It has been applied in Surrey as Policy.
3. The extent and all other matters have yet to be determined.

David Harmer
Chairman of the Environment and Transport Select Committee

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