

CABINET – 22 OCTOBER 2013

ITEM 4(b) - PROCEDURAL MATTERS

Public Questions

Question (1) from Mr David Beaman

Many local authorities have either already announced or are currently in consultation over reductions in bus services arising from further known reductions in local authority expenditure. Although Surrey County Council's budgets for 2014/15 have still to be finally agreed it is known that there will be reductions in grants received from Central Government. Despite the economic pressures will Surrey County Council recognise that buses play an important part in the lives of many people and in particular the elderly, young mothers with pushchairs and those with mobility difficulties who are unable to hold a driving licence and undertake to maintain the amount available for subsidising bus services that cannot be operated commercially but meet identified social needs. The bus network provided in Farnham (population 38,000) can be at best described as being basic and used as a means of transport of last resort with any further cuts likely to result in problems of social exclusion which could result in other costs being incurred which are greater than any amount saved by any reduction in payment of bus service subsidies.

Reply:

John Furey
Cabinet Member for Transport, Highways and Environment
22 October 2013

Question (2) from Mr Peter Crews

The National Audit Office are investigating Defra's role in promoting value for money in relation to the Eco Park project.

This implies that the Eco Park project does not deliver value for money.

In order to minimize Surrey's exposure to financial risks, will the Cabinet suspend implementation of the project until the NAO's report is completed and the financial implications of any change in Defra's role and/or funding has been clarified?

Reply:

John Furey
Cabinet Member for Transport, Highways and Environment
22 October 2013