

**REIGATE AND BANSTEAD BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL: 14<sup>th</sup> December 2017**

**Questions by Members**

<b>Question by:</b>	<b>To be answered by:</b>	<b>Subject:</b>
Cllr J.C.S. Essex	The Leader of the Council, (Councillor V.W. Broad)	Surrey County Council Property Partnership
Cllr S. McKenna.	Executive Member for Community Safety, (Councillor G.J. Knight)	Air Quality Management Areas
Cllr M.J. Selby	Executive Member for Planning Policy, (Councillor K. Foreman)	Green Environmental Transport Initiatives
Cllr J.C.S. Essex	Executive Member for Planning Policy, (Councillor K. Foreman)	Register of Brownfield Sites (Written response)

**Council Meeting:** 14 December 2017

**Councillor J.C.S. Essex** will ask the **Leader of the Council, Councillor V.W. Broad** the following question:

**Surrey County Council's Joint Property Development**

Could the Leader of the Council confirm whether Reigate and Banstead are participating in the property agreement with Surrey County Council as a Joint Property Development partner, as proposed by Surrey County Council at their cabinet meeting this afternoon (14 December 2017), and if so which Reigate and Banstead Borough Council sites are included, and

**Observations**

Thank you Councillor Essex for your question.

Although SCC's report proposes that the Joint Venture contract structure is made available to additional participating authorities, including Surrey's District and Borough Councils, Reigate & Banstead BC has no current intention to participate in the contract, assuming that it is awarded.

If this position changes, a report will be brought to Executive.

**Council Meeting:** 14 December 2017

**Councillor S. McKenna** will ask the **Executive Member for Community Safety, Councillor G.J. Knight** the following question:

### **Air Quality Management Areas in Reigate and Banstead**

Could the Executive Member please confirm for the Air Quality Management Areas in Reigate and Banstead:

- i) when and why they were each established,
- ii) what resources are available to help deliver the plan, and what progress has been made in delivering the plan, and
- iii) when are these AQMAs expected to be revoked?

### **Observations**

- i) There are currently nine air quality management areas in the borough that were established between 2003 and 2013, and all bar the Horley AQMA were established due to a breach of the UK air quality objective for the pollutant nitrogen dioxide arising from road traffic.

The Horley AQMA was also established due to breaches of the nitrogen dioxide air quality standard but from a combination of road traffic and aviation emissions.

- ii) There is one officer who deals with air quality issues as part of their role, and through a series of grants from DEFRA and other sources over the years this has covered various schemes aimed at improving air quality. To date all of the current AQMAs are showing an improvement in air quality.
- iii) To date three AQMAs have already been revoked, and of the current nine AQMAs five are on a 'watching brief' as the air quality standards have now been met but there is not yet sufficient 'headroom' to warrant them being revoked.

Unlike petrol vehicles, over the past 12 years diesel vehicles real world performance has consistently failed to match that shown on the test cycle, and so in practice it is difficult to forecast when an AQMA is likely to be revoked

Within the Horley AQMA while there is currently a breach of the UK objective for nitrogen dioxide primarily due to road traffic emissions, there is evidence now that aircraft movements have returned to pre-recession levels of increasing emissions from the airport itself, and some uncertainty as to the impact of proposals currently being explored by the airport of using the emergency runway at the airport as a second runway.

**Council Meeting:** 14 December 2017

**Councillor M.J. Selby** will ask the **Executive Member for Planning Policy, Councillor K. Foreman** the following question:

### **Green Environmental Transport Initiatives**

Could the Executive Member with responsibility for Transport please respond to the following question:

In his autumn statement the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced a budget provision of about £400m of funding for green environmental transport initiatives which local authorities can access for clean transport schemes.

Will the Executive Member please tell the meeting how much funding has been secured by this Council to encourage transport operators to purchase ULEV (Ultra low emission vehicles) buses so residents can live healthier lives in less polluted atmospheres?

### **Observations**

Thank you for your question, Cllr Selby.

Surrey County Council is the local transport authority for the county, and works in partnership with bus providers to ensure delivery of local bus services. This is not an area that the Borough Council is actively involved in.

The Council is – however – very supportive of work by Surrey County Council to promote buses as a sustainable mode of transport.

For example, in July, the Executive agreed to use some of the Community Infrastructure Levy that we collect to support the County Council's bid for funds to make bus travel more attractive to local residents.

Our Core Strategy, and the draft DMP, encourage initiatives to promote sustainable transport (such as buses), and reduce the use of private car (for example via car pools and car clubs) and support the installation of electric vehicle charging points in new developments.

We will continue to work closely with Surrey County Council to promote sustainable transport initiatives; and when it comes to our own fleet, our fleet management business plan highlights the opportunity for this Council to purchase the most cost effective and environmentally friendly vehicles.

**Council Meeting:** 14 December 2017

**Councillor J.C.S. Essex** will ask the **Executive Member for Planning Policy**, **Councillor K. Foreman** the following question:

### **Register of Brownfield Sites**

Could the Executive Member for Planning Policy please confirm when Reigate and Banstead Borough Council will publish its register of brownfield sites that it considers as suitable for development, as required by the government by the end of this month?

Please confirm that this will be included as part of the consultation for the Development Management Plan early next year?

### **Observations**

The Brownfield Register is a new Government national initiative which requires local authorities to publish information about brownfield sites that are appropriate for housing development (irrespective of their planning status).

I can confirm that the Council will have compiled and published a Brownfield Register that complies with the parameters set by Government by the due date i.e. 31<sup>st</sup> December. This will be available on the council website.

The Brownfield Register will not be consulted upon as part of the consultation to be carried out by the Council for the Development Management Plan under Regulation 19 (pre-submission publication) arrangements. It is separate from the DMP.

The DMP will in due course, after Regulation 19 publicity and the independent examination, become part of the Development Plan (Local Plan) for Reigate and Banstead. The Brownfield Register will then be reviewed to consider whether there should be any change in the site entries to reflect the adopted DMP, and will continue to be reviewed annually in line with statutory requirements.