

REIGATE AND BANSTEAD BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL: 12th April 2018

Questions by Members

Question by:	To be answered by:	Subject:
Cllr M. J. Selby	Councillor V.W. Broad, Leader	Political Structure System
Cllr J.C.S. Essex	Councillor Dr L. Hack, Deputy Leader, Neighbourhood Services	Recycling Progress
Cllr J.C.S. Essex	Councillor K. Foreman, Executive Member, Planning Policy	Development Management Plan – public consultation and next steps

Council Meeting: 12 April 2018

Councillor M.J. Selby will ask the **Leader of the Council, Councillor V.W. Broad** the following question:

Political Structure System

Apart from 3 years at the end of the last century, this Council has always had a Conservative administration since its inception in 1974. Would this Leader revert to the committee system of Political structure which has served this Council well for many years and disband this Socialist ideology of a two-tier structure brought in by the last Labour government and get back to basic grass roots Conservative Party Policy as permitted under current legislation?

Leader's Response

Thank you Mr Mayor and thank you Councillor Selby for your question

I have a principal tenet that I try to adhere to at all times and that is based on the principle, that if it isn't broken don't fix it.

In my experience those who nostalgically hanker for bygone days do so because they believe that the current system is not working or that decisions have been taken to which they disagree. With this in mind I have to ask myself that in the light of the excellent performance of this Council, why would anyone wish to alter the current system.

Whilst the present system of having a Leader and Cabinet model as an alternative to the Committee system was introduced by a Labour Government, under the Local Government Act of 2000, I can assure you that the vast majority of Councils, prefer the present system that we currently operate.

In the age we now live in, some of the very important initiatives we have taken, have been in a climate where the essence and decision making process, has of necessity had to be quick and decisive. The introduction of the Committee system would result in undue delay to the detriment of the Council. In saying that I am reminded of the frequently used comment that a camel is a horse designed by a committee. Having said that all Councillors have the comfort of being able to scrutinise the major decisions of the Leadership and the Executive, through the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, which is I would add politically balanced.

Whilst I welcome any suggestion from the other side of the chamber, that we should disband Socialist ideology and get back to grassroots Conservative Party policy, I am comforted by the fact that the Conservative party has a long record of embracing change that improves the way we operate, irrespective of where it comes from.

Although this may disappoint you, I must inform you that we fully intend to adhere to the present system we currently operate.

Council Meeting: 12 April 2018

Councillor J.C.S. Essex will ask the **Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Dr L.R. Hack, Executive Member for Neighbourhood and Infrastructure Services** the following question:

Recycling Progress Update

Questions have previously been asked of the Portfolio Holder for Parks and Recycling in relation to the recycling service, could the portfolio holder please give an update on the progress and plans for the extension of the new recycling service to our residents with communal bins and living in flats. This new recycling service - with plastics, glass and food waste as well as paper and cans has been rolled out to all other residential properties across the borough. The roll-out of this new recycling service to communal properties, including flats has taken longer. In October 2014 it was confirmed that 8,700 flats will be added to the new service by October 2015, and the new service offered to all flats and homes with communal bin areas by 31 March 2016.

Please could the portfolio holder give a further update. In particular to confirm:

- a) How many flats and homes with communal bins now have the new recycling service, as at the end of the financial year 2017/18, and how many do not. Please provide a breakdown of the number of communal properties and flats by ward area across Reigate and Banstead, noting the number with and without the new recycling service in each.
- b) Please confirm when this will be completed and what capital budget and staffing is allocated to complete this task.

Reply

In 2012 a new kerbside recycling service was introduced to 45,000 properties with individual refuse and recycling bins. At the time our intention was to expand the service to flats and homes with communal bin stores.

However, once the introduction of the new service to flats was implemented it became clear that there is an increased risk of contamination of recycling (refuse and non-recyclable material being placed in recycling bins) associated with flats.

Contaminated loads sent to processors for recycling are likely to be rejected and subsequent transport and disposal by incineration or landfill is recharged to the Borough. Therefore a decision was made only to introduce recycling services to flats that engage with the service and produce good quality recycling.

- a) At the end of the 2017/18 financial year 3806 flats and properties with communal bin stores have the new recycling service.

Of the remaining 9991 almost all have access to paper and card recycling, and 7,700 have access to can recycling. This figure includes properties that were converted to the new service, but subsequently had to be removed, because of serious contamination of recycled material.

Data is not recorded by ward boundaries, but by geographical area, the breakdown you request is in the table below. Including properties that are currently scheduled for conversion

Town	No. of properties Converted	Still to be converted	No. of properties Total	No. of Properties Scheduled
Banstead	356	691	1047	
Burgh Heath	40	64	104	
Chipstead	83	22	105	
Epsom Downs	90	231	321	
Hooley	6	21	27	
Horley	1041	1096	2137	
Kingswood	99	92	191	
Lower Kingswood	47	21	68	
Merstham	209	477	734	48
Netherne On the Hill	0	124	124	
Redhill	904	2720	5101	1477
Reigate	576	1601	2704	527
Salfords	23	81	104	
Sidlow	0	3	3	

Tadworth	289	512	801
Walton On the Hill	43	70	113
Woodmansterne	0	113	113

- b) The task of conversion will be complete when all properties with communal bin areas that are capable of receiving the kerbside recycling service, without the risk of contamination, are converted.

Furthermore, progress is reliant on an agreement being reached between the Borough and Surrey County Council on the retention of income generated from the sale of material and the levels of financial transactions made between the two authorities (recycling credits) that share cost savings made by recycling.

No capital budget is set aside for the introduction of the new service and any future conversions will be funded from existing revenue accounts.

Staff resources include a Waste Operations Manager, a Recycling Officer, the waste Administration team (4 FTE's), and an officer seconded from Surrey Waste Partnership for a period of five months. Collection crews comprise 63 FTE's.

Council Meeting: 12 April 2018

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

Development Management Plan – public consultation and next steps

The final stage of public consultation on the Development Management Plan was scheduled to close on February 23rd. However, the Council is understood to still be open to receive comments until the 4th May. Please confirm that this is indeed the case and what the next steps will be going forward and likely date for hearing with the planning inspector.

Written Response

Thank you for your enquiry regarding progress on consultation on the Development Management Plan (DMP) and next steps.

You are correct in that the Council is still open to receive comments on the DMP Proposed Submission document (Regulation 19) until 4 May. The original publication period for the DMP was extended to ensure the Council is in a robust position entering the examination period and does not run the risk of challenge. There were various reasons for this extension, including ensuring that all those who had responded at the earlier Regulation 18 Stage had a further opportunity to comment and extending the time period for Natural England to receive, consider and advise on the additional work requested by them, and being undertaken on behalf of RBBC, for the purposes of Habitat Regulations Assessment.

The next stages are for the Council to formally submit the DMP to the Secretary of State for examination. This will involve sending the DMP, representations, background evidence and other supporting information to the Planning Inspectorate. This is anticipated to take place on 11 May. A Planning Inspector will be appointed and the Council will be notified of the dates of the formal Examination Hearings where the Inspector will hear representations about the Plan. These are likely to be approximately 10 weeks from the date of submission, or 14 weeks if the Inspector wishes to hold a Pre-Hearing Meeting. The Council will be notified about the Issues and Matters that the Inspector wishes to raise at the Hearings and will be afforded the opportunity to respond to those before they commence.