

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC FOR ORAL REPLY

From Mr David Clapham to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation

1. Does the Council have a current list of aircraft based at Biggin Hill? If so can a copy be provided to me in writing.

Reply

No, we don't have a list.

2. In preparation for the call-in for consideration by the Executive and Resources PD&S Committee it was said by a Councillor that there had been no minutes taken for the negotiation meetings between LBB and BHAL. Can the Executive confirm whether or not this is correct? If it is not can the minutes be made public?

Reply

I can confirm that no minutes were taken of these meetings.

Supplementary Question

Mr Clapham enquired how it was possible to have negotiations without them being recorded.

Reply

The Portfolio Holder suggested that minutes would not be taken of a negotiating meeting. Officers would continue to take action (irrespective of whether minutes are produced). If notes were taken they would in no sense be formal minutes.

3. I understand from Cllr Morgan's comments at the Executive and Resources PD&S Committee that one reason the 50,000 cap has been considered no longer necessary was due to leases granted by LBB many years ago to businesses on the airport, which allowed 125,000 movements. Is this correct?

Reply

The reason is indeed because of wording in leases originally granted by the Council.

From Mr Tony Trinick FREng to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation

1. Do the Council now intend, as a Judicial Review has been issued, to see good sense and review the BHA extended hours decision before incurring unnecessary legal and other costs, particularly in a period of austerity with Local Authority budget cutbacks?

Reply

We have yet to be served with either the required protocol letter or any proceedings. We will respond appropriately when we are.

Supplementary Question

Mr Trinick indicated that if a Judicial Review had not been served, measures would be taken to serve again. As such Mr Trinick repeated his question.

Reply

The Portfolio Holder indicated that the Executive's decision in regard to operating hours for Biggin Hill airport would not be reviewed (call- in of the decision for Executive review having not been supported by the Executive and Resources PDS Committee at their meeting on 5th January 2016) and the Council would seek to recover costs in dealing with proceedings.

2. Why should we trust the Council to protect Bromley residents' interests and money when it does not understand the importance nor care about scrutinising a decision between the Council and the airport?

Reply

The Council understands the importance of scrutiny and this is evidenced by two special Council and Executive meetings dedicated to considering the merits of the application. The Council has a long and proud record of protecting Bromley residents' interests, and that is precisely what has happened in the case of this application.

Supplementary Question

Mr Trinick enquired whether the Leader would ensure that the Scrutiny Committee properly scrutinises rather than the process be “stage-managed”.

Reply

The Leader confirmed that he and other Executive Members are not involved in the Council’s scrutiny process.

3. Why does the London Borough of Bromley have a constitution that allows Councillors to both make a final decision and then some of those same Councillors scrutinise that same decision?

Reply

It doesn't.
