

## ECS PDS: January 23<sup>rd</sup> 2024

### Oral Questions from the public with answers:

#### 1) Question from Ann Garrett to the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety:

Nuclear waste trains which carry highly radioactive fuel rods, have been travelling through Bromley from Dungeness to Sellafield for many years. These trains which travel very close to people's homes, continuously emit low level radiation increasing the risk of cancer and strokes. There is also the danger of an accident, which would release highly radioactive material, were the flasks to break open.

Has Bromley Council done a recent risk assessment in relation to the impact on people's health, and how would local emergency services deal with an accident were it to occur?

#### Response to Question 1 from the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety:

The Council is not notified of trains, or the routes of trains or any other vehicles, which may carry nuclear waste through the borough. The method of transporting nuclear waste is subjected to rigorous regulation, control, and continued risk assessment.

#### Supplementary Question:

The transportation of nuclear waste through the borough is due to be de-commissioned soon. I feel it is important that councillors be informed about what has been happening. I would like to ask if councillors knew about the nuclear waste travelling through the borough before I asked the question?

#### Response to the Supplementary Question from the Chairman:

We will get back to you and write to you concerning this.

#### 2) Question from Alex Hudson:

When will Bromley deliver on its commitment to Net Zero and Bromley Air Quality Action Plan targets, by providing residents without offroad parking or access to SEN transport, financially viable and convenient home EV charging options, generating revenue, utilising section 106 Carbon Offset Fund and avoiding additional street furniture?

#### Response to Question 2 from the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety:

I refer you to the report on tonight's agenda.

#### Supplementary Question:

What are the alternatives that the Council offers for residents to make the switch away from fossil fuel motoring to electric?

Response to Supplementary Question:

The report sets out what we're doing for the future in terms of the provision of gullies and electric charging. 65% of residents in the borough have off road parking, and the Council encourages those who have off road parking to charge their vehicles at home.

3) Question from David Boswell:

*Following the wholesale removal and imposition of cashless payments for parking using the RingGo app, I have a question for the PDS Committee to be held on the 23 January 2024, it is:*

*“At the PDS Meeting of the 22 November 2022, Members were given a Report and also an Equality Impact Assessment, to be read in conjunction with the Report, regarding the removal of every pay and display machine in the Borough and the imposition of parking payments using the cashless payment app RingGo, with there being no alternative payment method. The Council imposed cashless payments in April 2023 without any prior and relevant public consultation. The Report and EIA referred to there having been two previous rounds of consultations to which there were no objections. Those two rounds of consultations were undertaken to establish public attitudes regarding the removal of some pay and display machines while still retaining 131 pay and display machines.*

Why was there no public consultation before 22 November 2022 Committee Meeting debated the removal of every P&D machine and imposition of RingGo, which was a completely different and not comparable proposition to the partial removal of P&D machines while retaining opportunities for drivers to pay by cash for parking?

Response to Question 3 from the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety:

The reasons for the Council moving to a cashless system was clearly set out in the report to elected Members of this PDS Committee in November 2022 and after an exhaustive debate, the proposal to remove all machines was supported based on the best use of public money. With regard to public consultation, I refer Mr Boswell to Legal implications in Paragraph 11 of the report on November 22<sup>nd</sup> 2022. I took the decision following a report on the outcome of the public consultation.

Supplementary Question from Mr Boswell:

I am very deaf and finding it hard to hear anyone speak in this chamber. Please speak slowly and with good diction.

(At this point the answer is re-read again, slowly and clearly, by the Portfolio Holder—Cllr Dunbar also offered to provide the T Loop facility.)

The Government advice regarding the undertaking of public consultations has been published in a document issued by the Cabinet Office. The report of the 23rd refers to a traffic management order. Does the Council regard the publication of traffic management orders to be public consultation for the removal of every pay and display machine?

Response from the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety:

Yes.

Supplementary Question from Cllr Alisa Igoe:

Public consultation is a fundamental principle of the EIA. The inclusion of the views of the affected interested public helps to ensure that the decision making process is equitable and fair and leads to more informed choice and better environmental outcomes. Do you think that we have really had a proper formal public consultation?

Response from the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety:

Yes, and it was confirmed by the Director of Legal and Corporate Affairs in response to correspondence from members of the public and was also supported by the Local Government Ombudsman in four separate reports that they have issued in response to public applications to them.