

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Council Meeting –19th July 2018

Question 1 from Councillor Aylen to the Cabinet Member for Public Protection

Question

The Cabinet Member for the environment, Cllr Flewitt, suggested in the press that people should be encouraged to use public transport.

Would Councillor Flewitt explain why he has not therefore encouraged the new chair of the Public Transport and Buses Working Party to hold a meeting?

Answer

Regular liaison meetings are held with the bus and train operating companies and Network Rail in order to discuss a variety of current issues and future improvement plans.

In addition to these discussions, the SEAT (South Essex Active Travel) project, which operates across the South Essex region is successfully working with the operators and business to promote modal shift with initiatives that include offering personal travel plans that demonstrate the benefits of switching to bus and train use.

A meeting of the Public Transport & Buses Working Party is being arranged for September.

Question 2 from Councillor Aylen to the Cabinet Member for Growth

Question

Would the Cabinet Member responsible for the airport please explain why the Council has allowed training flights to occur every 6 minutes from London Southend Airport by a large jet airliner that continues for hours during the day?

Answer

As part of the planning permission granted in 2012 for the expansion of the airport new controls on the airports activities were put in place through planning obligations in a Section 106 Agreement. These included more stringent controls on flights, especially night time movements, than was previously the case.

Ensuring that the Airport operator complies with its planning obligations is very important to the Council. In this regard, the Council receives and retains regular data on Air Traffic Movements (ATMs) and noise complaints from the Airport. Compliance with operational controls is monitored by the Airport Consultative Committee and the Council. An Airport Monitoring Working Party has been established to formally review the position annually. The next meeting of the Airport Monitoring Working Party will be held in the autumn. Checks carried out by officers, including spot checks of reporting data compiled by the Airport for the Civil Aviation Authority and the Council, have not cast any doubt on the integrity of the data supplied.

Operational controls on flights include limits on the overall number of ATMs and night time movements and preferential flight paths. It is acknowledged that training flights can be more noticeable, due to the circuits that the aircraft make for training purposes. However, there are no restrictions on training flights during the daytime and this activity does not breach the operational controls, provided that the Airport does not exceed its overall annual limit of 53,300 ATMs within which the number of training flights are included.

The information available provides no evidence that there has been any breach of the operational controls imposed on the airport.