

Councillors Written Questions to Cabinet Members and the Responses

Full Council – 26 February 2020

1. Question to Councillor P Smith from Councillor Lunnon.

“The removal of the right turn out of Williams Way is of interest to a number of people and the justification for the removal is subject to a number of questions and concerns. Please explain why it has not been possible to identify a viable option for the continuance of a right turn as part of the Three Bridges station improvement scheme? Please provide more information on the results of the recent scheme traffic modelling exercise approved by West Sussex County Council Highways”.

Response –

Crawley Borough Council, West Sussex County Council and Project Centre have looked at a number of options to try and retain the right hand turn out of the station for the 2 to 4% of station users that need to make that manoeuvre, but they have found that it is not viable to do so and maintain all the features and benefits of the Station Forecourt Scheme.

They also looked at two options that maintained the right hand turn in 2014, and at least 6 options from 2017 to date (and most recently one submitted by a Councillor) - all at a very high level. These options were narrowed down to those in the attached summary table for a more detailed assessment. All options were ultimately discounted as being unviable for various reasons, including: insufficient land available; too great an interference with the road highway network; cost prohibitive, out of scope of the project, too many major changes on the main road network to make it viable etc. Officers from the Highway Authority at West Sussex County Council were very much part of the assessment of all these options and they have ruled out the creation of a new signalised right hand turn out of the station as being unviable.

WSSCC have advised that the County Council would find it very difficult to approve a scheme that would disadvantage users of the bus network in Crawley at peak times in order to provide for traffic entering the public highway network from the station car park and a private road, Williams Way. This would be in direct conflict with the County Council’s approved transport policies and objectives to promote sustainable modes of transport whilst maintaining the passage of traffic on the main highway routes in the town.”

The attached table shows a number of key considerations that were used to determine the current preferred proposal and also provides a summary of comments from our partners.

2. Question to Councillor Lamb from Councillor Burrett.

Question 1

Please detail the total number of Council staff employed on 1 April for each of the following years, both in terms of the total number of FTEs employed, and the total head count:

- (i) 2010
- (ii) 2011
- (iii) 2012
- (iv) 2013
- (v) 2014
- (vi) 2015
- (vii) 2016
- (viii) 2017
- (ix) 2018
- (x) 2019

Question 2

Please detail the total number of (a) staff disciplinary cases, and (b) staff grievance cases dealt with by the Council during each of the following financial years:

- (i) 2010/11
- (ii) 2011/12
- (iii) 2012/13
- (iv) 2013/14
- (v) 2014/15
- (vi) 2015/16
- (vii) 2016/17
- (viii) 2017/18
- (ix) 2018/19
- (x) 2019/20 thus far

Question 3

If the answers to Questions 1 and 2 above reveal an increase in the ratio of staff disciplinary and grievance cases to the overall total number of staff, have any reasons been identified for such a trend, and are there any common causes recognised and issues identified, which need to be addressed in order to improve the Council's relationship with its staff?

Response –

Unfortunately it has not been possible to formulate a response to this question, however Councillor Burrett will be sent a response from the Head of Legal, Democracy and HR in due course.