



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

3rd June 2019

Labour councillors slam Tory no-show to key Transport Committee

Bexley Labour's Group of councillors slammed the hypocrisy of Tory councillors at the Annual Meeting of Bexley Council held on 29th May 2019 as it transpired, they had failed to attend London's key transport committee with representation from all London Councils for over a year.

The Transport and Environment Committee (TEC) of London Councils has one representative from every London borough and jointly makes decisions on pan-London transport matters within the remit of the boroughs and recommendations to Government and the Mayor of London on transport matters within their control.

At Bexley Council's Annual Meeting in 2018, the council elected a Conservative councillor to represent them on TEC and named a further two Conservative councillors to attend if they are unable to attend the meeting. Despite having three named councillors able to attend the committee, Bexley's Conservatives have failed to send a representative to ensure the borough can agree decisions at any of the four meetings held during 2018-19.

At the meeting, Cllr Stef Borella outlined that as a result Bexley council had been unable to partake in important discussions to agree policy regarding electric car charging points, air quality, fly tipping, dockless bikes, concessionary fares and the freedom pass, the TaxiCard, the re-appointment of Environment & Traffic Adjudicators and the implementation of the ULEZ along with discussions with the Deputy Mayors for London for Environment and Transport.

Speaking after the meeting, Councillor Stef Borella (Slade Green and Northend Ward) Shadow Spokesperson for Transport said: "Over the last year, we have consistently seen Conservative councillors criticise the Mayor of London and it has now transpired they have failed to attend the committee which agrees a London wide response to these policy areas for over a year. Our request for a Labour representative to take this place was rejected at Annual Council which shows Bexley Conservatives would prefer the borough not be represented at London wide discussions, due to their continual non-attendance at this key meeting.

-ENDS-



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Notes to editors

The terms of reference of the Transport and Environment Committee were implemented to ensure a statutory involvement of Transport for London in the Committee's work for certain functions.

TEC is a statutory committee with specific responsibility for:

- Functions under the Road Traffic Act 1991 – including appointment of parking adjudicators and determining penalty charge levels and fees for declamping, vehicle recovery storage and disposal
- The provision of an independent appeals service for Parking on Private Land in England and Wales (POPLA)
- Operation of the TRACE service for locating towed-away vehicles
- Operation of the Health Emergency Badge scheme for medical practitioners
- Implementation and enforcement of the Greater London (Restriction of Goods Vehicles) Traffic Order 1985 (“The London Lorry Control scheme”)
- Travel concession arrangements under section 244 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999 – including negotiation of settlements with Transport for London, the Association of Train Operating Companies (ATOC) and independent bus operators
- Setting of fixed penalties, issuing of Codes of Practice and other functions under the London Local Authorities Acts 2004 and 2007
- Operation of the London Taxicard scheme

TEC also initiates and develops policies across a range of areas:

- transport policy issues (including road, rail and airports)
- environment issues (including air quality and biodiversity)
- trading standards and public protection issues
- waste issues

In considering transport and environment matters which have implications and relevance to Londoners, TEC aims to ensure that:

- The transport and environment needs of London are recognised and promoted
- The allocation of resources and the development of policies and legislation influenced to the best effect for London; and
- Borough interests (financial and otherwise) are represented and protected.

For further information, please contact Councillor Stef Borella on Stefano.borella@bexley.gov.uk