

**Ebbsfleet Development Corporation
Board Meeting - 24 January 2018**

The following questions, received from the public, and responses issued on behalf of the Board of EDC can also be found on the Corporation's website at www.ebbsfleetdc.org.uk

Question 1

The 19-July-2017 EDC Board answer to a question about Pepperhill Waste Transfer Station, (used by Dartford, Gravesham and EGC), was,

“... The site is ... forecast to be at capacity by 2020 due to increasing waste volumes. KCC has commissioned an independent review of the waste infrastructure as population is forecast to increase by 26% up to 2033. ... Consultation is planned in November 2017”

KCC now say, “A consultation ... due ... in November 2017, ... has since been delayed and is now scheduled for the Spring/ Summer of 2018. ... Pepperhill WTS and the pressures surrounding the site will not be highlighted independently. The independent review undertaken will not be published”.

Are EDC confident the privately operated Pepperhill WTS will cope with Ebbsfleet Garden City, when it struggles to serve Dartford and Gravesham?

Response:

Waste management is the responsibility of Kent County Council and we have asked them to respond directly to the questioner, copied to EDC, as promptly as possible. Their response will be reported to the EDC Board.

Question 2

Will the Board be discussing any lessons from the Carillion liquidation?

Response:

Not yet. EDC has no contracts direct with Carillion and our investigations to date suggest there are no other indirect consequences in the immediate area that would affect our activities. Our procurement procedures are subject to Government rules applying at the time. The Board will review any risks to EDC activities which involve the employment of contractors more generally, anyway.

Question 3

The Website says ‘*You can ask a question to our board at their next meeting*’. If questions and answers are not read to the Board, is this still correct?

Response:

Yes this is still correct. All reasonable questions received from the public are responded to. The Corporation's website states that you can ask a question regarding matters to be discussed at the next board meeting and sets out the timeframe in which to submit your question. That has not changed, indeed, this was reconfirmed in response to a question last month. Members of the public can still ask a question via email or the website. We publish online answers to the questions ahead of the board meeting, making it more widely accessible to the public. We ask for the questions in writing so that they can be answered properly, with due consideration. We put the questions and the answers on the website to reach the widest possible audience, particularly those for whom attending the actual meeting is not always possible.

Question 4

On 4th January 2018, the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government) published the Scoping Opinion for the Proposed A2 Bean and Ebbsfleet Junction Improvement. Page 3 of Appendix 1 says, “The Greater London Authority (GLA) have also been identified as a consultation body under the EIA Regulations because the proposed application relates to land within Greater London”. Do PINS know something about boundary changes or is their map reading awry?

Response:

We have asked the Planning Inspectorate to respond directly to the questioner, copied to EDC, as promptly as possible. Their response will be reported to the EDC Board. We would suspect that PINS are referring to the fact that the A2 runs into Greater London, across invisible administrative boundaries, but PINS can clarify this point direct.

Question 5

In the KCC Cabinet Reshuffle, Mathew Balfour (EDC Planning Committee) was replaced by Mike Whiting as Member for Planning, Highways, Transport and Waste. The January EDC Planning Committee Agenda shows the Deputy Cabinet Member, Michael Payne will attend. Is that permanent?

Response:

Kent County Council has nominated a Councillor to replace Councillor Matthew Balfour on the EDC Planning Committee and this nomination has been put forward to the Secretary of State for approval. In the meantime, Cllr Michael Payne is the current approved KCC substitute member and he has confirmed he will attend committee this month.

Question 6

At the 25th September 2017 Board it was stated that, “The £45m investment from the EDC towards this scheme” [A2 Bean and Ebbsfleet Junction Improvements] “will ... be paid to Highways England in stages to coincide with their work activities on the project.

Do the “work activities” include the costs of the Formal Consultation?

Response:

The EDC has agreed to pay a proportion of the total overall costs for the junction improvements to Highways England with a cap of £45m. Any activities which are genuinely and reasonably required to implement the scheme are regarded as eligible. We would consider the costs of the formal consultation process to be eligible.