FULL COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY, 16 NOVEMBER 2016

Written question from Steve Ray to Councillor Shirley Smart, Executive Member Public Transport, Tourism, Recreation and Heritage

In a response that Lee Wilson received from the Cabinet Member for Public Transport, Tourism, Recreation and Heritage at last Thursday's Executive meeting, I was advised that the council does not consider that, if it emerged that Christopher Garnett had undertaken paid consultancy work for the DfT or any government agencies in the past five years, it could give rise to legitimate questions about his much-vaunted "independence" in his work leading the council-administered Infrastructure Transport Taskforce.

Given that members of the public may well disagree with the council on this, and in the interests of transparency (as set out in the current administration's Framework for Change) will Cllr Bacon ask Mr Garnett whether he has undertaken paid consultancy work for the DfT or any government agencies in the past five years, and then publish the response received?

Response

Mr Garnett has confirmed he has never had a consultancy from the DfT. He is currently undertaking some work for Transport for London.

As I have repeatedly set out, the members of the task force; including Mr Garnett, are not receiving any remuneration for their input. They are all making a voluntary and constructive contribution to improving the Island's overall wellbeing. All of the taskforce members are spending a considerable amount of their own time on the project.

As I have also set out; it will be for the Council to consider whether it supports the recommendations of the task force. They cannot be simply taken as read when they are received.

Supplementary

If Cllr Bacon will not ask Mr Garnett this, why does he consider that the public is not entitled to know whether or not the chairman of the taxpayer-funded influential Taskforce has paid connections to the DfT or government agencies?

Response

Answered above (there is no need to ask the supplementary, given the answer to Q1)