

QUESTION NO. 1

Councillor Ballsdon to ask the Chair:

Bus Lanes

Will the Lead Member for Strategic Planning and Transport explain to me, as a newer member of this Sub-Committee and also for members of the public, why some bus lanes are closed to motorcyclists whilst others are open to them ?

REPLY by the Chair of the Traffic Management Sub-Committee.

I invite Councillor Page, the Lead Councillor for Strategic Environment, Planning and Transport to make the response on my behalf.

REPLY by the Councillor Page, Lead Councillor for Strategic Environment, Planning and Transport:

I thank Councillor Ballsdon for her question.

Motorcyclists have access to most bus lanes within the Borough. A bus lane is defined as a lane alongside a general traffic lane.

Some of the bus lanes within Reading have existed for many years so there will be historic reasons for any differences.

Some bus only restrictions, defined as bus only streets or bus gates, are restricted to limit motor vehicle access, for example pedestrianised and semi-pedestrianised areas of the town centre.

There is a report on today's agenda that recommends a review of bus only restrictions and will consider the rationale behind the vehicle type exclusions. We can expect a further report should the sub-committee agree to the officer recommendation.

QUESTION NO. 2

Councillor White to ask the Chair:

Cutting Air Pollution Outside Schools

Air pollution is an invisible killer. Can I be updated on the number of drivers who have been warned, and the number of drivers who have been fined, for failing to turn off their polluting car engines outside of schools or other areas targeted by the Council ?

REPLY by the Chair of the Traffic Management Sub-Committee.

I invite Councillor Page, the Lead Councillor for Strategic Environment, Planning and Transport to make the response on my behalf.

REPLY by the Councillor Page, Lead Councillor for Strategic Environment, Planning and Transport:

I thank Councillor White for his question.

To date no Fixed Penalty Notices have been issued for unnecessary vehicle idling.

Although officers have the backup of being able to issue Fixed Penalty Notices (where someone refuses to turn off their engine after being warned), the planned approach is to work with drivers in Reading to change driver behaviour.

The Council plan to carry out a campaign similar to that undertaken across a number of Boroughs of London.

There will be a presentation on the proposed Idling Campaign at the meeting of the Strategic Environment, Planning and Transport Committee on 15 November.