

Statement to cabinet

The matter I want to talk to you about is one of trust.

I refer you to my questions and to the letter to Tim Warren from Annie Kilvington on the subject of scrutiny and councilors legal duties.

We are here today because the people of Bath have lost trust in the council. They no longer believe you are capable of, or willing to answer legitimate questions or following due process.

Cllr Warren. You have told me that you would not have set up the LDF panel or the scrutiny panel to look at Park and Ride if you had no intention of listening to them.

I now need assurances that these bodies will be unfettered by political interference as they go about this vital work.

As you know the LDF panel meets in private and there are no minutes. The only open and transparent process we can rely on therefore is the Scrutiny Review.

We request an undertaking that there will be no attempt to tie the hands of scrutiny as it makes its deliberations

We need a public assurance that the scrutiny panel will be given the time and resources it needs to do this work, rather than face pressure to fit your cabinet timetable

Annie Kilvington has eloquently and accurately set out the legal duty of the council and its members with regard to the scrutiny process.

- The role of scrutiny is to provide a check and balance on the powers of the cabinet,
- due process must be scrupulously followed.
- Members must be free to approach the task with an open mind and cannot be whipped.
- The review has to be rigorous enquiring transparent open and fair.
- The panel must be given time to invite, interrogate and review submissions from those who have wisdom to impart,

whether they are academics, professionals, parish councils or members of the public

At the end of its deliberations the panel must be free to;

- recommend one or more suitable sites
- recommend that none of the sites are suitable, or
- that the case for park and ride has not been made.

If they are not free to do so the process will be legally flawed and you will not be in a position to make a sound decision on this matter at cabinet or council

Our trust now lies in the Scrutiny process; please promise the people of Bath that you, The tory party will not interfere in the way you did with the consultation.