

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

15 October 2009

**Question by Mr I Chittenden to the
Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways & Waste**

Following the removal of the Highways Advisory Board, the recent cancellation of the meeting of the Kent Transport Board and the continuing rumours that Joint Transport Boards are also to be discontinued, how is the portfolio holder proposing to ensure the input into the strategic highways and transportation planning decision making process of the views of Local Members, Borough Council Members and members of the public?

Answer

The Highways Advisory Board has been subsumed into the EHW POC.

Where a non contentious recommendation is made by a JTB to the Cabinet Member there is little merit in delaying the decision making process by adding another layer of bureaucracy; any contentious items can go to POC.

As Cabinet Member I have instigated meetings of JTB Chairmen where issues of concern can be debated and items for note be disseminated; from the first meeting it was agreed to hold a seminar for all JTB Members on 4th November 2009 to discuss Scheme Prioritisation System (SPS).

I have also arranged for regular email communication with all County & District Members to better inform them of Kent Highway Services issues.

The Kent Transport Board met around every six months to share information with representatives of both District and County, this will now be happening in a wider and more timely way by email contact.

I have no plans to alter the terms of reference for JTB's, they fulfil a valuable service and allow members of the public to contribute to highway matters.