

Briefing Note for Forward Plan Committee meeting – 6th January 2009.

Petition for Changes to Consultation Process

1. In a briefing note to the Forward Plan Select Committee on 2nd December 2009, officers were able to confirm that the decision by the Executive on 19th October, that consultation documents make it clear that consultations are open to all residents within a single household, did not represent a change to the policy on consultation arrangements on traffic and parking schemes undertaken by the Transportation Unit.

The note advised that the decision in the main clarified the position for other residents within the household and made it clear that they too can comment on the questionnaire.

The note further advised that if two or more members of the same household have a different opinion and wish to express it individually they can request an additional consultation document and this would be sent out to them.

2. Arrangements are being made to amend standard documentation for consultations such that the position is clear to recipients. The amended documentation will be used for consultations commencing after 1st January 2010.
3. If, during a subsequent consultation exercise, more than one response is received from a household (or more than one household) the number and nature of these “multi-household” returns will be separately identified in any report to the decision Committee (or officer).
4. Consultation evidence is weighed against a range of other factors in deciding a course of action on a transportation scheme or initiative. The decision making authority typically has to assess whether the results from consultation indicate a consensus for a particular course of action. Accordingly it will not be necessary to weight a number of responses coming from the same household against single responses from other households. To do so would be to imply that the consultation is a referendum. The decision making authority will simply need to consider the number and nature of multi-household responses alongside the other responses and the various other factors.

Contact: Tim Jackson, Head of Transportation
Extension: 5151; e-mail: tim.jackson@brent.gov.uk