

**COUNCIL ASSEMBLY
(ORDINARY MEETING)**

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 15 2004

URGENT QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY GROUP LEADERS

**1. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR
KIM HUMPHREYS**

To ask the leader of the council what correspondence was received by him or the chief executive, and from whom, with regard to abuse of council IT facilities by a consultant in August 2004.

RESPONSE

Several councillors, including some executive members, received an anonymous letter containing allegations of improper behaviour by a consultant hired by the Traffic and Transport Group and including photographs. I did not receive a copy of this anonymous letter, and have not subsequently received any correspondence on the matter.

The chief executive received a copy of the anonymous letter on 29 July. He also received letters from Councillor Humphreys (on 30 July) and Councillor Simmons (on 9 August) asking that he investigate the allegations and attaching the anonymous letter and photos. Councillor Humphreys was advised on 2 August that the contract for the temporary member of staff had been terminated; a reminder of council policy given to staff in regeneration and a review of IT access controls initiated. Councillor Simmons was advised on 10 August that the regeneration department management team were aware of the allegations and the consultant's contract had been immediately terminated.