

Report of the Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee

A-boards Scrutiny Review Final Report - Cover Report

Introduction

1. This cover report presents the final report from the A-boards Scrutiny Review and asks Cabinet to approve the recommendations arising from the review.

Background to Review

2. In March 2013, this Committee were asked to consider whether or not to carry out a scrutiny review on the use of A-boards, with the aim of identifying suitable requirements/ guidelines that could be implemented across the whole city. At that time some members of the Committee argued strongly that instead of carrying out a review of that nature they should be recommending a total ban on A-boards across the whole city.
3. In April 2013, CYC's Traffic Network Manager provided information which suggested that whilst a total ban would benefit the appearance of the city and the safety of the partially-sighted, there would likely to be an adverse consequence to the small business community. There would also be resource implications around the ability of the Traffic Network Team to enforce a city wide ban.
4. The Committee was also made aware of a petition on A Boards submitted by Micklegate traders in March 2009 to a meeting of the then Executive Member for City Strategy and Advisory Panel (EMAP), which led to the Executive Member approving the development of intervention guidelines for an enforcement policy for the removal of A-boards and the like from the Public Highway.
5. Noting that the introduction of guidelines had previously been agreed but not acted on, and having agreed that some permanent action was required, the Committee agreed not to proceed with a report

recommending that the Cabinet approve a total ban of A-boards. Instead they agreed to undertake a review to identify suitable guidelines for the use of A-boards, taking into account other issues such as alternative ways of advertising and health and safety issues.

6. A Task Group made up of the following members was subsequently set up to carry out the review on their behalf:

- Cllr Helen Douglas
- Cllr Keith Orrell
- Cllr Gerard Hodgson

7. The Task Group worked on the review between June 2013 and December 2014.

Review Recommendations

8. In January 2015, the Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee considered the Task Group's review findings as presented in the final report at Appendix 1 and endorsed their draft recommendations listed below:

- i) The introduction of a policy allowing the use of A-boards under strict criteria.
- ii) The policy to include a list of streets where the use of A-boards is prohibited at all times due to the limited widths of footways.
- iii) That appropriate resources be identified to ensure the full and proper enforcement of the new policy. This to include consideration of the potential for improved cross directorate/team working outlined in paragraph 44 of the review final report.

9. The Committee also agreed to make a further recommendation that:

- iv) The Policy (based on Option E, as detailed in Recommendations (i) & (ii) above) be trialled for a two year period.

Council Plan 2011-15

10. Ensuring the public highway remains free of obstruction and safe for all users (particularly for those with mobility difficulties or who are blind /

partially sighted), contributes to the corporate priorities of building safer inclusive communities, and protecting vulnerable people. The use of A-boards also encourages and supports new and existing small businesses to set up and grow, thereby helping to create jobs and grow the economy.

Options

11. Having considered the final report at Appendix 1 and its associated annexes, Cabinet may choose to amend and/or approve, or reject the recommendations arising from the review as set out in paragraphs 8 & 9 above.

Implications & Risk Management

12. The implications and risks associated with the recommendations above are detailed in paragraphs 51-53 of the review final report at Appendix 1.

Recommendations

13. Having considered the final report and its annexes, the Cabinet is recommended to approve the recommendations shown in paragraph 8 & 9 above.

Reason: To conclude the Scrutiny Review in line with CYC Scrutiny procedures and protocols.

Contact Details

Author:

Melanie Carr
Scrutiny Officer
Scrutiny Services
Tel No.01904 552054

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Andrew Docherty
AD Governance & ICT

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Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers: None

Annexes:

Appendix 1 – A-boards Scrutiny Review Final Report