

Interim Report

Background

1. In coming to a decision to review this topic, the Scrutiny Management Team recognised certain key objectives and the following remit was agreed:

2. **Aim**

To identify ways including Local Transport Plans 1 & 2 (LTP1 & LTP2) and other evidence, of reducing present levels of traffic congestion in York, and ways of minimising the impact of the forecast traffic increase.

Objectives

Having regard to the impact of traffic congestion (based on external evidence and those measures already implemented in LTP1 or proposed in LTP2), recommend and prioritise specific improvements to:

- i. Accessibility to services, employment, education and health
- ii. Air Quality, in particular looking at the five hotspots identified in the LTP2
- iii. Alternative environmentally viable and financially practical methods of transport
- iv. CO² Emissions
- v. Journey times and reliability of public transport
- vi. Economic Performance
- vii. Quality of Life
- viii. Road Safety

Information Gathered

3. At meetings held on 25 September and 16 October 2007, Members considered a draft table containing the findings in relation to objectives (i)-(v). This table included:
 - the possible solutions identified by this committee in regard to the issues raised in relation to objectives (i)-(v);
 - the recognised impact of the suggested solutions;
 - draft recommendations
4. Members agreed to provide further information for inclusion in the table shown at Annex A and to date, one response has been received.

5. At a meeting on 19 November 2007, Members considered a paper from the Assistant Director of City Development & Transport which gave an overview of cycling in York. As a result, a number of issues were identified and Members were able to suggest various solutions. These, together with some draft recommendations, have been added to the table in Annex A.
6. Once all Members have provided feedback on the information in the table, an updated version together with an interim report can be presented to SMC requesting an extension to the timeframe for this review.

Outstanding Issues

7. In regard to objectives (vi) and (vii), work is still ongoing to agree a revised remit for the Consultants to provide a quotation. Members recognised the need for a more focused remit to ensure the findings were less about providing statistics and more about identifying what the Council could practically do to make improvements.
8. It has also been suggested that residents be consulted on the draft recommendations arising from the findings of this Ad-hoc Scrutiny Committee, with the intention that their views be included in the final draft report. At the meeting on 19 November 2007, Members considered two suggested options for how to do this from Marketing & Communications but neither proved viable on the basis of the costs involved and that they were unlikely to provide a wide enough range of public views. As an alternative, Members suggested putting the survey in either the 'YORCITY' or 'Your Ward' magazine. These options are currently under investigation and further information together with the costs involved will be circulated at this meeting.
9. It is recognised that it will be necessary to increase the scrutiny budget available for this review, in order to finance the commissioning of the consultants, and completion of a residents survey. Any request for this will need to be included in the interim report to SMC referred to in paragraph 4 above.

Options

10. Having regard to the aims and objectives of this topic remit, and having considered the information provided in this report, Members may wish to agree:
 - any further information to be added to the table relating to key objectives (i) – (v) ;
 - how to proceed with the investigation of objectives (vi) & (vii) in light of a revised quote to be provided by the Consultants
 - how to proceed with a survey of residents on the draft recommendations from this review
 - how much of an increase in scrutiny budget to request from Scrutiny Management Committee to cover:

- i) the cost of the use of Consultants
- ii) the costs of the residents' survey

Corporate Priorities

11. It is recognised that any recommendations made as a result of this scrutiny review could contribute to Corporate Priority no 2 – To increase the use of public and other environmentally friendly modes of transport.

Implications

12. There are no known HR, Equalities, Legal, Crime and Disorder, or IT implications associated with this report, but there will be some financial implications associated with recommendation (iii). As yet the exact amount is unknown.

Recommendations

13. Members are asked to:
- i. note all of the information provided, and agree arrangements for finalising any further information to be included in the table, as referred to in paragraph 4 above
 - ii. agree how to proceed with the investigation of objectives (vi) & (vii)
 - iii. agree how to proceed with the survey of residents
 - iv. agree whether to request an increase in scrutiny budget for this review

Reason: To ensure full consideration of all the objectives

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Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers: Interim reports dated 4th & 25th September 2007, 16th October & 19 November 2007

Annexes

Annex A – Revised draft table of findings, identified solutions with impact evaluation, and draft recommendations