

Residents Consultation Survey

Background

1. Members have spent a long time gathering information to support the ongoing Traffic Congestion Ad-hoc Scrutiny Review, as detailed in the draft final report to be considered at this meeting.
2. As part of concluding the review, Members recognised that it would be beneficial to engage the wider York community as well as particular interested parties. The Committee therefore agreed to issue a city-wide survey outlining the review findings and the possible solutions, as this was deemed crucial to identifying views on future transport policy, given both the difficult and critical choices to be made, and the need for York residents and businesses positive co-operation.

Consultation

3. Officers within Marketing & Communications have been consulted on the best methods for producing and carrying out the survey and an analysis of the costs involved is shown at Annex A. It was previously agreed that the survey would be distributed as an insertion within 'Your Ward / Your City', and officers have confirmed that the next possible opportunity for doing this, will be September 2009. The Head of Marketing & Communications will be in attendance at the meeting to answer any queries Members may have.
4. Finance officers have confirmed that the budget allocated for carrying out the survey is no longer available given that the money was allocated for the financial year 2008/09, and the review has since stalled with no meetings being held since June 2008. In order for the survey to be carried out the Committee will need to request that SMC ask for a carry forward of the monies allocated, into the scrutiny budget for the financial year 2009/10.

Information Gathered

5. The Committee previously agreed to model this consultation on the LTP1 consultation document, in particular part 2 where the broad strategic choices were outlined - see copy attached at Annex B.
6. In order for the Committee to agree the contents of the survey, due consideration should be given to the draft final report arising from the review (see copy attached to another report on this agenda). A list of possible survey questions has been drawn up for Members consideration – see Annex C.

Options

6. Having fully considered the content of the draft final report arising from the Traffic Congestion scrutiny review, together with all of its associated annexes, Members may choose to agree:
 - a. to request a carry forward of the scrutiny budget allocated for carrying out the review from the 2008/09 scrutiny budget into the 2009/10 scrutiny budget.
 - b. that given the time taken to complete the Traffic Congestion scrutiny review, and the comprehensive nature of the final report arising from the review, that a residents survey is no longer warranted

Implications

7. **Financial** – The financial implications of carrying out the survey are outlined in Annex A. The Head of Marketing & Communications has confirmed that the costings originally produced in February 2008 as shown, are still valid.
8. **Legal, HR, Equalities, Crime & Disorder, Property or Other** – There are no known implications associated within the recommendations within this report.

Corporate Priorities

9. The implementation of the recommendations arising from this review will support the delivery of the following corporate priorities:
 - 'Reduce the environmental impact of council activities and encourage, empower and promote others to do the same'
 - 'Increase the use of public and other environmentally friendly modes of transport'.

Risk Management

10. There is a risk that by not including the right level of information in the new consultation document referred to in paragraph 95 above, it may limit the number of residents who choose to engage in the consultation. This in turn may effect the strength of the argument for the Executive to agree to the recommendations arising from this review. Plus, the cost of carrying out a city wide consultation is high therefore in order to justify the expense the exercise would need to be productive. There is also a financial risk attached to carrying out the survey, in that the added value of the survey findings may not warrant the high costs involved in carrying out the survey, given the delays in getting to this stage in the review and the already comprehensive nature of the final report and annexes.

Recommendations

11. Having considered all of the information within the draft final report from the Traffic Congestion Review, the information contained within this report, and the length of time taken to complete the review, Members are recommended to consider carefully whether to:
- Not carry out the survey as part of the Traffic Congestion scrutiny review in view of the costs involved and time delay in getting to this stage in the review, and instead;
 - To request that residents views be sought as part of the Short/Medium Term Recommendation (iv) arising from the Traffic Congestion Review which states that the following should be a key priority – *‘Adopt an on-going public engagement strategy in terms of the future transport strategy and solutions for the City’*

Reason: In order to conclude the review

12. If Members agree to go ahead with carrying out survey, it is recommended that the Committee make a formal request to SMC to have the funding for the survey originally allocated from the scrutiny budget of 2008/09, carried forward into 2009/10.

Reason: To enable the survey to be carried out.

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Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers: Traffic Congestion Draft Final Report dated

Annexes

Annex A – Costings for Consultation

Annex B – LTP1 Consultation Documents

Annex C – Suggested Questions for Survey